

ADAPTATION

Presented by Stephen CLEARY

“If you are working in the Film & TV industry then sooner or later, if you haven’t already, you are going to work on an adapted screenplay. Adaptations pose particular challenges for writers, directors, producers, developers and everyone else! Arista’s 2-day Adaptations workshop offers a path through the technical complexities of the art and craft of the adapted screenplay.”



Stephen Cleary

Stephen Cleary’s “adaptations” workshop came along at the perfect moment. We had just optioned a book and the process of deciding which elements of the novel we wanted to adapt and how we would set about doing it became so much clearer. I can’t recommend it enough!”

Natasha Marsh, Producer, Academy Award Winner, “Wasp”

Like all of Stephen’s courses I have attended I got a lot out of Adaptations. It made me aware of what I should think about when tackling an adaptation and gave me valuable tools to use when working with a writer.

Sarah Gavron, Director, “Brick Lane”, “This Little Life”

ADAPTATION COURSE TIME TABLE

Day ONE

9.30 **Registration**

10:00 **Introduction**

- The importance of the adapted screenplay in the film and TV industry, the peculiar problems of adaptation in development.

11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:30 **Approaching Adaptation**

- The three types of Adaptation and how they relate
- Example: Three visions of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet

13:00 **Lunch**

14:00 **The Novel & The Cinema**

- Wrestling with the commonest original form

15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:45 **Identifying Theme, tone and meaning**

- The Theme of the original
- The theme of your adaptation

17.30 *END DAY ONE*

Day TWO

09:30

The Narrative Voice

- The adapting writers' problem: your voice vs the original writer's voice
- Locking off your Narrative Perspective

11:15

Coffee Break

11:30

Case Study "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"

Adapting Plot, Character and identifying theme

13:00

Lunch

14:00

Case Study continued

15:30

Coffee Break

15:45

10 Things the Screenwriter needs to know:

- About The Novel
- About Adapting from Real Life
- About The Play

17.30

END DAY TWO – END OF WORKSHOP

Stephen Cleary

In 1996 Stephen Cleary, then Head of Development at British Screen, founded **Arista Development**, to provide the first serious development skills training for Development Executives, Producers and Writers in Europe.

Stephen first designed, organized and presented his celebrated **Story Development Workshops** for Arista, and the Workshops have travelled all over the world, training over 1500 filmmakers to date. Over 80 features brought to the Workshops have been produced. Stephen's 2-day **Development Skills seminars, Business of Development Conferences** and '**Specials**' on screenwriting craft and genre have also played to packed houses from Copenhagen to Dunedin and many points in between.

In 2006 Stephen closed Arista and moved with his family to south-west France. He works as an international story consultant, lecturer and screenwriter. He produced the feature film, *NEW YEARS' DAY* in 2000, co-produced another, *GOODBYE CHARLIE BRIGHT*, in 2001, co-wrote the feature *ALEXANDRIA* in 2002 and has rewritten a number of feature scripts as an uncredited writer. He is also the co-writer of the autobiography of the singer Nina Simone, *I Put a Spell on You*, which has been published in over a dozen countries.

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