



## **Palestra: Love & Death in 3 Minutes or Less: The Screenwriter's Role in New Media**

**Orador:** Prof. Stuart Kelban

**Data:** 24 de Junho de 2008 - 18h00

**Local:** Auditório 1 da FCSH/UNL (Av. de Berna, nº 26C, 1º Piso)

### **Resumo:**

Recently, the Writers Guild of America went on strike, largely over financial issues related to writing for new media. Screenwriters in the United States were willing to shut down Hollywood for four long months, at great risk to both the industry and their own careers. And yet, no one - not the film studios, the television networks, nor the writers themselves -- truly knows what shape "writing for new media" is going to take.

During this new form's long, drawn-out birth, there have been some notable successes ("Lonelygirl") and some very public failures ("Quarterlife"). Using clips from recent web-series, we'll explore the directions that writing for new media may take in the near future, along with the implications for traditional cinematic story-telling. Will the same classic Aristotelian dramatic principles apply to both a two-hour feature and a three-minute webisode? What happens to characterization, story and structure when you write films that will be shown on cellphones? And most importantly, will the next "Citizen Kane" premiere on YouTube?

Esta palestra está inserida no Summer Institute in Digital Media 2008.

### **Biografia do Orador:**

Stuart Kelban is a professional screenwriter with experience writing for feature films and television, for both network and cable outlets. A Writers Guild of America member, he has sold screenplays to many of the major studios and productions companies in Los Angeles.

Stuart's original feature screenplays include:

**End-Game**, a spy-thriller bought by Mandalay Pictures and Paramount Studios, with Peter Guber producing, and Sean Connery attached as actor and producer. **Shades of Grey**, a legal drama set in Brooklyn, New York, developed for 20th Century Fox Studios, with Denzel Washington attached as actor and producer. **Black September**, an action-drama, developed for Sony Studios, with John Woo attached as director and producer. **Double-Play**, a con movie, financed by Stratus Pictures, developed with the director Dean Perisot. **Stealing Hearts**, a romantic road-movie, optioned by Warner Brothers Studios, with Goldie Hawn attached as actor and producer; Arnold Kopelson producing.

Stuart's television work includes:

**Killer Elite**, a 6-part miniseries written for HBO, based on the American Society of Magazine Editors award-winning book *Generation Kill* by Evan Wright, a "Rolling Stone" journalist embedded with the first Marine platoon to cross into Iraq during the current war. **The Samurai**, a drama pilot, written for NBC, with NBC Productions producing. Jeff Goldblum attached as actor. **Three Card Monte**, a drama pilot, written for UPN, with Mel Gibson and Icon Productions producing. **Paradise Pawn**, spec drama pilot.

Stuart's short fiction has been published in several national literary journals, including *The Carolina Quarterly*, *The Crescent Review* and *Padan Aram*—several of his humor pieces were also published in *The Harvard Lampoon*, where he served as an editor. Stuart received his MFA in fiction-writing from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, where he studied under a Henry Hoyns' Fellowship, and was awarded The Griffis Prize for short fiction. His award-winning story "Foreigners" was based on his experience working in a United Nations sponsored refugee camp for Cambodian refugees, where Stuart supervised a printing press with over 50 workers, printing over 25,000 reading books, medical manuals and educational materials - the largest printer of Khmer-language texts outside of Phnom Penh.

Before coming to the University of Texas at Austin, Stuart taught screenwriting, fiction-writing and literature at various Boston-area schools, including Emerson College, Boston College, Harvard University and Northeastern University.