



**The Greater Erie Film Office and the Greater Erie Arts Rental at Penn State Behrend announce a filmmaking competition.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**—May 1, 2017—The Greater Erie Film Office (GEFO), a program of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania (FSNWPA) 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and Greater Erie Arts Rental at Penn State Behrend are proud to announce the winners of its Screenplay Competition and the second part of the competition which is now open to all Pennsylvania filmmakers.

First Place – “Secret in the Pines” by Stella Ruggiero and Heidi Dugan

Second Place – “End Game” by Nick Blake

Third Place (three-way tie)

“CUB” by Chris Cummins

“How Tommy Left Us” by Erik Brown

“Gjenganger” by Jesse Olszewski

Short Film Competition entrants will adapt “Secret in the Pines”, the 25 page winning script falling in the theme of ‘Revenge’.

Stewart Nash, Film Commissioner for the Greater Erie Film Office, said, “This script received an all-time record high score in our competition. There are some significant challenges to bring this piece to life in terms of production and imagery, and we can't wait to see who will take the story and run with it. Interested filmmakers should be creative when adapting this piece for the screen, to keep the heart of the story alive while also allowing shooting within your means.

***Secret in the Pines*, by screenwriters Stella Ruggiero and Heidi Dugan, is a true capture of the nature of revenge. In a 1930's orphanage, a young girl struggles to understand the oppressive horrors she bears witness to; only to return decades later, driven by a childhood promise, to confront age old wounds and seek revenge.**

The script starts in the 1930's and transitions partway through to twenty years later when the protagonist returns to the orphanage, now an adult. We urge entrants to keep the original period and setting of the script as Pennsylvania, and in particular Erie, has a number of locations and resources that would support shooting a film in the 1930's and 50's. This competition offers filmmakers a chance to explore a variety of concepts like a strong female protagonist, dark historic issues of a patriarchal society, overcoming evil, creative research for setting and costuming, and the potential for child actors.

**Submission Deadline: October 31, 2017 at 11:59 PM (EST)**

### **KEY DATES**

- June 1, 2017 – PayPal Registration Opens
- October 31, 2017 (Midnight EST) – Short Film Upload Deadline
- November 1-8, 2017 – Submissions reviewed by Judges
- November 9, 2017 – Top 3 Filmmakers will be Contacted and Invited to November Event
- TBD Screening Event – Public Screening of Judge’s Top 3 Films and Awards

### **ENTRY FEE**

- Regular: \$40.00 USD
- Student Directors: \$30.00 USD

Entry fees are in U.S. Dollars, are per film and are non-refundable. The Greater Erie Film Office (GEFO) reserves the right to disqualify a submission, without refund of any kind, if eligibility requirements are not met including if eligibility status changes post-submission.

**Students:** Entry fees for Student Directors will be discounted at US\$30, upon receipt by GEFO of a photocopy of a current and valid student ID card or a letter from an accredited school, verifying enrollment (K-12 or College/Secondary). Student films made with funding from a university or other institution are welcome, but if the school or institution holds the rights to the film, you will need their permission for entry.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for consideration:

- (1) Entrants must fully comply with the competitions Rules & Terms, including all deadlines, film length, entry material and other requirements.
- (2) Non-English language works must have English subtitles embedded on-screen at the time submitted. Dialogue lists will not be accepted.
- (3) The film MUST maintain World Premiere status prior to Contest’s Public Screening on Wednesday, November 18th at 6:00 p.m.

### **RULES & TERMS**

ALL ENTRANTS AGREE TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Only Pennsylvania residents are eligible.
2. Submissions will not be accepted without PayPal payment via [filmerie.com](http://filmerie.com). PayPal submission information must be filled out completely. There are no fee waivers.
3. Submissions must use the screenplay “Secret in the Pines” by Stella Ruggiero and Heidi Dugan.

4. In order to protect our competition screenplay, you will be emailed the complete “Secret in the Pines” script once PayPal receipt has been confirmed.
5. Filmmakers may submit more than one film; however, a separate submission form and payment will be required for each film.
6. Entrants shall retain full rights to their submissions.
7. No stock footage will be allowed.
8. All music used must be original and proper permission granted from the artist. Entrants are encouraged to work with a Pennsylvania state composers and/or musicians to write and record music for the films.
9. Any talent, crew, and locations (and any other applicable releases) included in the film must have signed release waivers.
10. All costs associated with film productions are at the candidates’ own expense.
11. Entries are limited to a total run time of 25 minutes, including end credits. The narrative must end before the closing credits begin. No outtakes or bonus scenes.
12. Deadline: Entrant agrees to upload their finished work and email the direct viewing link (via YouTube, Vimeo, etc) to [info@filmerie.com](mailto:info@filmerie.com) by Midnight on October 31, 2017. Links will be verified by GEFO for judging purposes to avoid technical problems. No physical entries will be accepted.

After films have been reviewed for official rules and terms, the films will be forwarded to our judges. If your film becomes an official selection of the Greater Erie Film Office and the 2017 Short Film Competition you will be notified via in November of 2017.

By submitting to the Greater Erie Film Office and the 2017 Short Film Competition you finalists grant the organizers permission to display the film, stills and information on the GEFO website, social media outlets, and in other marketing and promotional actions.

Judges are final and they will critique the submissions in three general areas:

### **Content**

1. Creativity and Innovation
2. Originality
3. Coherence

### **Visual creativity**

1. Cinematography
2. Sound design and soundtrack
3. Editing
4. Effective use of visual effects

### **Overall impression**

1. Enjoyment factor
2. Acting
3. Meaningfulness

#### 4. Replay value

#### **PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover credit and debit cards accepted for submission payment through PayPal at FilmErie.com. DO NOT send cash or checks.

#### **RESTRICTIONS**

No entry fee refunds.

#### **NOTIFICATION AND PRIZES**

Notifications will be sent to finalists via email in early November 2017. The Top 3 finalists will be invited to a public screening of their work and prizes will be announced and awarded at a TBD event in late November 2017.

#### **First Place Grand Prize:**

\$500.00 CASH (USD), \$500.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE to GREATER ERIE ARTS RENTAL, Free admission to all 2016 GEFO Seminars (\$60 Value), Film Society NWPA Membership Card (\$50 Value), Judges Notes.

#### **Second Place Prize:**

Judges Notes, Free admission to all 2016 GEFO Seminars, and Film Society NWPA Membership Card.

#### **Third Place Prize:**

Judges Notes, Film Society NWPA Membership Card.

#### **SECRET IN THE PINES SCREENPLAY BREAKDOWN**

The screenplay is 25 pages, and a rough breakdown follows.

#### **CHARACTERS (18 Actors playing 19 Characters) (Various extras are required)**

Principal Characters (There are 20 speaking characters; numbers denote character age)

Olivia 6

Young Melanie 7

Young Carmen 8

Congressman/Governor Hewitt 40-60

Ted 30-40

Uncle Vic 35-40

Sara 60-70

Melanie 25-30

Hannah 12

Minor Characters

Nurse Quinn 20-25

Addie 10  
Older Girl 8-13  
Anna 8-13  
Rachael 40-45  
Little Latina Girl 6  
Hannah 12  
Adult Caretaker (O.S.)  
Waiter 20-25  
Robby 20-25  
Old Man 50-70

## **LOCATIONS (2)**

### Outdoors

Pasture – EXT  
Woods – EXT  
Cold Ridge Grounds – EXT

### Indoors

Car – INT  
Train Car - INT

### Cold Ridge Orphanage

Dining Hall – INT  
Dining Hall Balcony – INT  
Girls Dorm Room – INT  
Terrace – EXT  
Entrance – EXT  
Foyer – INT  
Headmasters Office – INT  
Hallway – INT  
Melanie's Room – INT  
Stairwell – INT  
Kitchen – INT  
Basement – INT  
Nurse Quinn's Office – INT  
Storage Room – INT  
Kitchen Back Door – INT

