



2026-27 Short Dramatic Film Script Contest

Deadline: February 1, 2027

The Video Club of Laguna Woods is looking for scripts for a 10-20 minute dramatic film (may be a comedy, mystery, romance, etc.).

The selected script may be produced by the Video Club's **Short Films Project** during 2027 for broadcast on Village Television, possible submission to film festivals, streaming on YouTube, and other distribution.

Seven such films have already been produced: “Write It Down” (2019), “What, You, Too?” (2021), “The Hole in One” (2022), “Bowling Ball Debacle” (2023), “Seeking Online Adventures” (2024), “Twilight Time” (2025), and “One Script/Five Genres” (a learning/recruitment experiment, 2026).

*All of these films are (or soon will be) available for viewing on **YouTube.com**> **Video Club of Laguna Woods**>**Playlists**>**Short Dramatic Films**.*

CONTEST GUIDELINES

- Submission is open to residents of the Laguna Woods Village retirement community, Laguna Woods, California, and members or past members of Village clubs.
- The script should be of interest to Laguna Woods residents, i.e., seniors.
- The script should use mainly 55+ actors and should be relatively easy to produce, using locations within Laguna Woods Village as much as possible.
- The script must be original by the author, although retelling of old stories (e.g. Shakespeare, the Bible, folklore, etc.) is permitted.
- The author must be willing to give the Video Club of Laguna Woods written permission (license) to produce and rewrite the script as we see fit. (The original script would remain the property of the author.)
- To be broadcast legally, the script should not contain profanity or obscenity. The Federal Communications Commission defines those terms to mean what would be seen as profane or obscene in the community in which it is shown
- We encourage scriptwriters to think cinematically – to tell stories through juxtaposition of images, through sound, lighting, and composition, in addition to telling stories through dialog.
- We encourage (but do not require) scriptwriters to submit their scripts in dramatic film script format. For free scriptwriting software, visit <https://nofilmschool.com/free-screenwriting-software>.

The contest deadline is Monday, February 1, 2027.

Submit your script in PDF format attached to an email to gilazalon@icloud.com.

Questions? Email Bill Cartwright, wmcartwright@gmail.com.