

THE HERO'S 2 JOURNEYS

Chances are I'm never going to get the opportunity of visiting the United States any time soon to catch a class with screenwriting/storytelling lecturers, Michael Hauge (*Writing Screenplays That Sell*) and Chris Vogler (*The Writer's Journey*). Nice thought, but a better thought would be to invite both gentlemen into my home and help me make my screenplay a better and stronger sellable story.

Better yet, I could get them to instruct me at my own pace and at a time suitable for me. I'm of course referring to their DVD, *The Hero's 2 Journeys*, a three-disc set (over four hours) where both men present, before a classroom, their perspectives on "uniting the outer journey of plot structure with the inner journey of Character Arc."

The journey, you soon find out, is in part the ability or essence of these two excellent teachers to stand before an audience (in a classroom or your living room) and work together with the knowledge they have accumulated, and submit it in an interesting, informative, and finally, an understanding manner, that has you reaching for the remote to back-track and go over certain key points again.

"The biggest advantage to the DVD is the ability to watch it in smaller pieces over time, and repeat sections until the principles are internalized," says Michael. "Chris and I packed an immense amount of information into this event, and it was a lot for the audience to absorb all at once. With the DVD, writers and filmmakers can go at their own pace, and go back to it whenever they're working on a new project."

An interesting observation is watching how these two teachers work in partnership and sometimes reinforce some of the key elements in storytelling. Michael reflects, "I just love sharing the stage with people I have great respect for, and whose approach—both to writing and to lecturing—is different from mine. It creates more energy, gives viewers two points of view with twice as many tools, and it shows that there is no ONE WAY to tell a story or write a script. It's also a lot of fun—making fun of each other is part of the game."

As with writing, voice is everything and they both partake in providing humor at times with all this insightful knowledge they're sharing with us. They bring to the table their much developed paradigms and ideas with various steps to assist you in making your screenplay stronger and more compelling, or as Michael explains at the start of the disc, "How to elicit emotion."

As said, it's two journeys where Michael and Christopher spend well over four hours (a

full day's course thoughtfully edited for our enlightenment) contributing back and forth their ideas for you to ponder.

Diagrams are provided intermittently on some of the key elements throughout as we look on paths and obstacles facing our characters and then move closer to the inner considerations of emotion and changes brought about by certain goals and catalysts.

Disc 1 looks at the outer journey, and Disc 2, the author's favorite discussion piece, the inner journey, where character is revealed as a crucial consideration for defining a compelling story. Disc 3 (was this a subconscious effort to use three discs for a beginning, middle, and end?) looks at considering commercial factors for successful movies that leads into a closer study of *Erin Brockovich*, and a few questions and answers looking over the whole course.

Both new and established writers will gain great benefits from the techniques and tips shared here. It's about passion, and most certainly these teachers have that in front of a camera. As Michael quipped recently, "I love playing to the camera—it keeps me sharp, and insures that the tools are presented as powerfully as possible. And since the crew was small, it didn't intrude on the live audience's experience. I dressed better, too."

What better way to take a class with Michael Hauge and Christopher Vogler over and over again, in tandem with your story creation arc?



WHAT'S ON THE DISCS?

Disc 1: The Outer Journey

- Introduction
- The Foundation of All Story
- The Six Stage Plot Structure
- Using Myth and Archetype to Strengthen Your Story
- The 12 Steps of the Hero's Outer Journey

Disc 2: The Inner Journey

- Defining the Inner Journey
- The Inner Life of the Hero
- Uniting the Six Stage Plot Structure with Character
- The Power of Love Stories
- Myth and Archetype as Symbols
- Uniting the 12 Steps with the Hero's Inner Journey

Disc 3: The Journeys of *Erin Brockovich*

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