

# Writers In Treatment



[www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org)

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# WRITERS IN TREATMENT

## 'Supporting Recovery and The Arts'

### **Our Mission:**

Writers In Treatment helps men and women in the writing industry suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction and other self-destructive behaviors get treatment for their disease. We produce free educational and cultural events that celebrate recovery and reduce the stigma of addiction.

### **Our Vision:**

Rebuilding one's life need not be a solitary effort. Our vision is to provide the treatment and support individuals need to take their first step toward recovery. We believe it's important for people in recovery and those on the cusp, to have entertaining and culturally stimulating events that inspire enthusiasm for living clean and sober.

### **About Us:**

Writers In Treatment is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization grounded in recovery and the arts. W.I.T.'s primary purpose is to save lives by providing scholarships for treatment, as the best first-step solution for addiction. We also offer referrals to local and national treatment providers. Our program is funded by individual contributions and free sponsored events. (Tax ID# 26-3550390.)

### **Board of Directors:**

Leonard Buschel; Founder, Chairman  
Robert Downey Sr.; Vice Chairman  
Travis Koplow, Ph.D.; Secretary, Treasurer  
David Glaser, M.D.  
Darren Kavinsky  
Joanna Cassidy  
Paul Moen

# Writers In Treatment Presents:

## FESTIVAL of LAUGHS

Saturday, December 12, 2009, 7:30 PM

Gala Holiday Fundraising

### Party in Malibu

Master of Ceremonies

Reverend Leo Booth

Christopher Kennedy Lawford



Honored Guest signing and discussing Moments of Clarity...

Our line up of amazing comedians includes:

Ritch Shydner-Star of I Am Comic

Betsy Salkind

Mick Betancourt

David Zasloff

Celebrity talk-show host "Green T" will be interviewing celebrities and guests.

Gourmet Dinner at 7:30PM Show at 9:00

12-Step Store, Book Store and So much More!

All guests receive a valuable GIFT BAG with books, DVDs, a free facial, gift certificates, treatment information packets and lots more.

Tickets are \$50

Proceeds go to Writers In Treatment a 501(c)(3) charity

R.S.V.P 818.762.0461

[www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org)





# Writers In Treatment Events:



Reverend Leo Booth



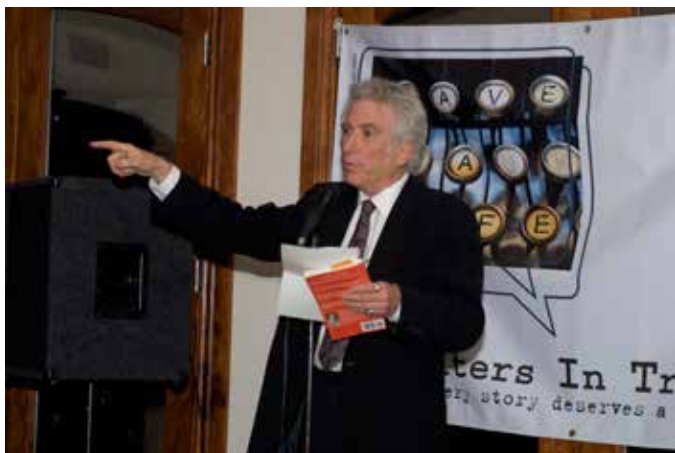
Chris Lawford with comedian Ritch Shydner & friend



Author Stephen Schwartz with Tyson Cornell



Comedian and composer David Zasloff



Leonard Buschel at the first Festival of Laughs



Tamara Henry interviewing comedian Betsy Salkind

# Writers In Treatment Presents:

## The Essential Screenwriter's Seminar

### Create Evil Characters that Live Beyond the Page

Host: Dr. Howard Gluss



In this seminar we take an in-depth look at the personalities of some of the most evil characters in film. We'll gain an understanding of the psychopathology of serial killers, murderers and anti-social misfits. Learn how to make all your characters psychologically consistent.

Participants will view selected clips from classic films such as Dillinger, Kiss of Death, Natural Born Killers and Pulp Fiction. Through effectively integrating psychological theory into the creative process you will learn to psycho-analyze your own creations - to "put them on the couch" and in the process make them come to life.

Howard M. Gluss, Ph.D. is a psychologist based in Beverly Hills, CA. He writes for Hollywood Scriptwriter Magazine and The American Screenwriters Association. Dr. Gluss is the author of *Reel People: Finding Ourselves in the Movies*, and host of The Dr. Howard Gluss Show on wsRADIO.com and LIFE w/Dr. Gluss on KFNX 1100 AM radio, Phoenix, Arizona.

**DATE:** Saturday July 25, 2009

**LOCATION:** Los Angeles Film School, 6353 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90028

**TIME:** 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Coffee, Tea and Snacks.

**FEE:** 50 % off \$60.00 \$30.00 All proceeds benefits Writers In Treatment a 501(c) (3) charity.

**INCLUDES FREE COPY Reel People: Finding Ourselves in the Movies. (Hardcover) \$24.95 value.**

Please support our co-sponsors T-Salon, Write Brothers, Inc., Law Offices of Lawrence Wolf, , Recovery View, Film Makers for Alcohol Awareness, Milestones Ranch Malibu, LA Film School, Soba Living and Detox Malibu.

Leonard Buschel, 310-767-6970 or [info@writersintreatment.org](mailto:info@writersintreatment.org)

# Writers In Treatment Presents:

Writers In Treatment, Malibu Beach Recovery Center &  
Recovery View present:

## KEVIN GRIFFIN



## IF THE BUDDHA WAS AN ALCOHOLIC

The 11<sup>th</sup> Step and the Path of Recovery

Friday, February 5, 7:30PM

Against the Stream Meditation Society  
4300 Melrose Ave. Los Angeles, CA. 90029

R.S.V.P [www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org)

818-762-0461

\$10.00 For CEU credit \$20.00

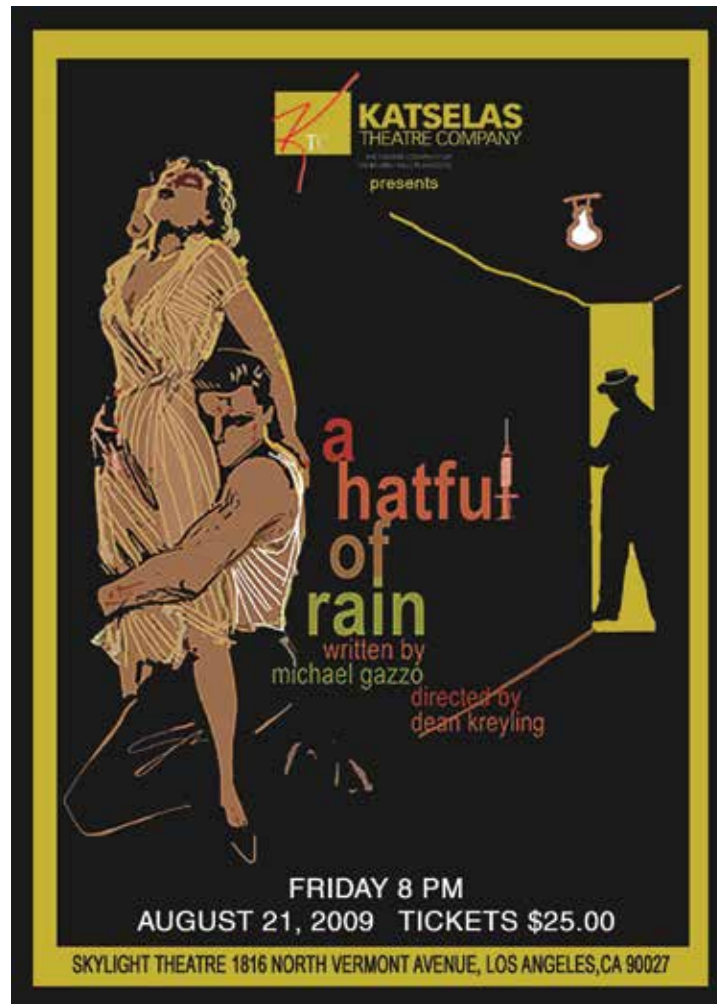
### Continuing Education Credit:

Pegasus/Villareal & Associates, Inc. PCE 4240. CE credit for MFT's and LCSW's.,CAADE:CP25  
832 C 0411.,CAADAC: 1N-08-512-05

Kevin Griffin author of: "ONE BREATH AT A TIME: Buddhism and the Twelve Steps" and  
"A Burning Desire: Dharma God and the Path of Recovery."



# Writers In Treatment Presents:



**Writers In Treatment** is hosting a party and networking event at the Skylight Theater Friday, August 21st, 2009 to celebrate the closing weekend of the astounding production of *A Hatful of Rain*, the classic 1956 play about drug addiction and its effects on family.

There will be a catered reception with cast members in the Skylight Theater courtyard.

The evening revolves around an extraordinary performance of the Tony Award winning play, *A Hatful of Rain* by Michael Gazzo.

This production is one of the most heartbreaking, tender and redemptive tales about drug addiction ever staged. We experience the cunning nature of this baffling disease while being powerfully engaged and entertained.

For reservations call  
Leonard Buschel 310.767.6970

In a recent revival, *Variety* affirmed, “...with a satisfying combination of solid craftsmanship and raw honesty, it’s a play that has withstood the test of time very well.”



# Writers In Treatment Press:



## **A FILM FESTIVAL BENEFITS MEMBERS OF A PROFESSIONAL GROUP** **Proceeds from REEL Recovery will send writers to treatment**

by Gary A. Enos, Editor

Using the tagline “Every story deserves a great second act,” the nonprofit organization Writers in Treatment is trying to assist professional writers who might need financial help to pursue addiction treatment and recovery services. The two-year-old group’s signature event has become a Los Angeles-based film festival that showcases movies with addiction subject matter.

This year’s REEL Recovery Film Festival will be held from Oct. 27-30 in Los Angeles, with plans for a smaller-scale presentation Dec. 13-14 in Nashville, Tenn. Writers in Treatment co-founder Leonard Buschel says last year’s inaugural event, which featured weekly film showings at a rented Hollywood theater, attracted a number of clinicians as well as persons in recovery and non-recovering people.

Some treatment centers sent groups of clients to the screenings last year, and the event included some facilitated process group meetings afterwards. Buschel, a former publisher and addiction counselor who has been in recovery for 15 years, recalls his own emotional experience in early sobriety after he watched the film “Leaving Las Vegas” starring Nicolas Cage.

“I immediately went to a location where meetings were held and waited for the next meeting to start,” he says.

Buschel recalls that while he was aware of other efforts on behalf of specific professional groups, such as musicians, he had never heard of an effort to help writers. People in California often assume the nonprofit was created to assist screenwriters only, but it’s for anyone who derives at least one-quarter of total income from the written word.

Scholarships are available to individuals with or without health insurance. Applicants must agree to participate in a relapse prevention program along with the primary treatment they attend, and must submit—what else?—a written essay of up to 750 words about their addiction and treatment history.

“We’d like to get at least one person a month into treatment,” Buschel says.

Besides the film festival, Writers in Treatment also sponsors educational events featuring authors and field professionals. The group tries to be sensitive to the needs of writers, who like other artists often find it difficult to resume with their craft in early recovery, Buschel says.

For more information about the REEL Recovery Film Festival, visit [www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org). Writers in Treatment is seeking corporate sponsors for this fall’s event. In addition, film and video entries for possible screening at the festival are being accepted through midnight on Sept. 17

# Writers In Treatment Presents:

## FREE SCREENING

Writers In Treatment & ModeraXL Presents:  
30th Anniversary Screening of Stanley Kubrick's



## ***THE SHiNiNG***

THE SHINING

by Stephen King

Introduction by Dr. Seth Kadish, author of the seminar,  
A World of Fright: Alcoholism and the Work of Stephen King

Wednesday, May, 19th at THE ARENA STAGE THEATRE in Hollywood  
RSVP 818-762-0461 for time and location

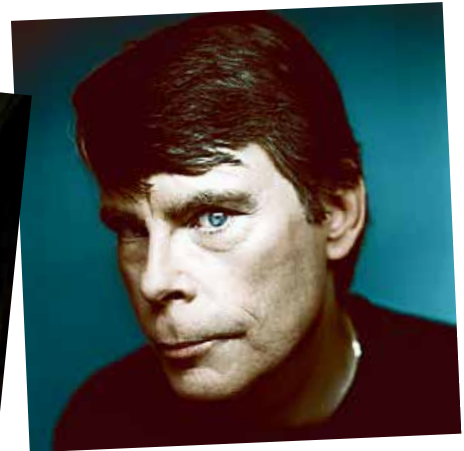
[WritersInTreatment.org](http://WritersInTreatment.org)



Modera XL-A Vital Step in Recovery HERE  
Receive a 10% discount. Enter code: AFF10

# Writers In Treatment Presents:

## A World of Fright: Alcoholism and the Work of Stephen King Thursday May 20th at 7:30



Writers In Treatment & KLEAN CENTER present:  
"A World of Fright: Alcoholism and the Work of Stephen King" by Dr. Seth Kadish.

Against the Stream Meditation Society  
4300 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90027

Limited Seating  
818-762-0461

1 CEU \$10 at the door

Dr. Kadish will explore King's addiction history, the art of writing and the use of alcohol. We will take a look at several of the author's books, including Salem's Lot and The Shining. This program will also attempt to draw a parallel between alcoholism and vampirism. Sign up for a thought-provoking and spine-tingling night of lecture and discussion--writers, alcoholics and vampires are all welcome.



Writers In Treatment Presents:

Writers In Treatment Presents

# REEL RECOVERY FILM SERIES

2009

Issue 1

[ EVERY TUESDAY +  
IN APRIL & MAY 2009 ]

Permanent Midnight. 4.7.09

The Lost Weekend. 4.14.09

Leaving Las Vegas. 4.21.09

Sid & Nancy. 4.28.09

Days of Wine and Roses. 5.5.09

Less Than Zero. 5.12.09

Barfly. 5.19.09

Ivansxtc. 5.26.09

The Silent Movie Theater. 611 N. Fairfax St. Hollywood

Henry (MICKEY ROURKE) toasts "To all my friends."

[www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org)



# Writers In Treatment Press:

February 27, 2009

# VARIETY

In what seems like an almost too-obvious connection, nonprofit organization Writers In Treatment, or WIT, has announced that it will host the Reel Recovery Film Series, an (wait for it) addiction-themed film festival.

The eight films that will screen on Tuesdays in April and May at the Silent Movie Theatre in Los Angeles are “Permanent Midnight” (frustrated novelist writes for sitcom, becomes heroin addict), “Lost Weekend” (unsuccessful writer goes on four-day drinking binge), “Leaving Las Vegas” (alcoholic writer has final fling with prostitute while drinking himself to death), “Sid and Nancy” (rock star and codependent muse become heroin addicts), “Days of Wine and Roses” (alcoholic flack marries, introduces bride to Brandy Alexanders), “Less Than Zero” (preppy college student returns to LA to find that his friends have become addicts), “Barfly” (alcoholic writer falls in love with fellow barfly; his agent fights her for him, loses) and “Ivans xtc” (top Hollywood agent becomes addicted to everything, dies).

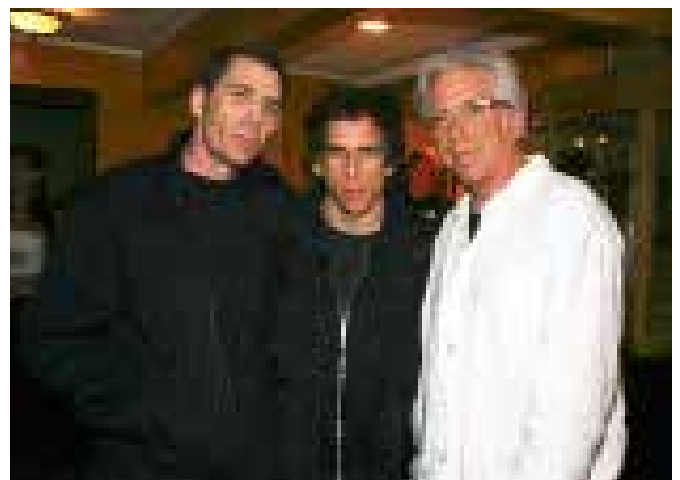
To be clear, WIT is dedicated to helping “writers addicted to alcohol and/or drugs get effective treatment for their disease.” Membership is open to those over 18 who derive at least 25% of their income from writing, commit to residential treatment “and agree to participate in a relapse prevention program such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous.” A candidate must also submit an essay of up to “750 words describing their addiction, its consequences and any previous or current treatment history.”



With that audience, this lineup might run the risk of being mistaken for documentaries. However, WIT co-founder Leonard Lee Buschel says, “This series isn’t just for addicts or alcoholics. It’s for anyone who has ever been impacted or just wants to learn more about the disease and its treatment in a less traditional and entertaining environment.”

“Permanent Midnight” author Jerry Stahl and “Ivans xtc” director Bernard Rose are expected to attend, while additional invites are out to thespians including Ben Stiller, Danny Huston and Robert Downey, Jr. (Downey’s father, director Robert Downey Sr., sits on WIT’s board.)

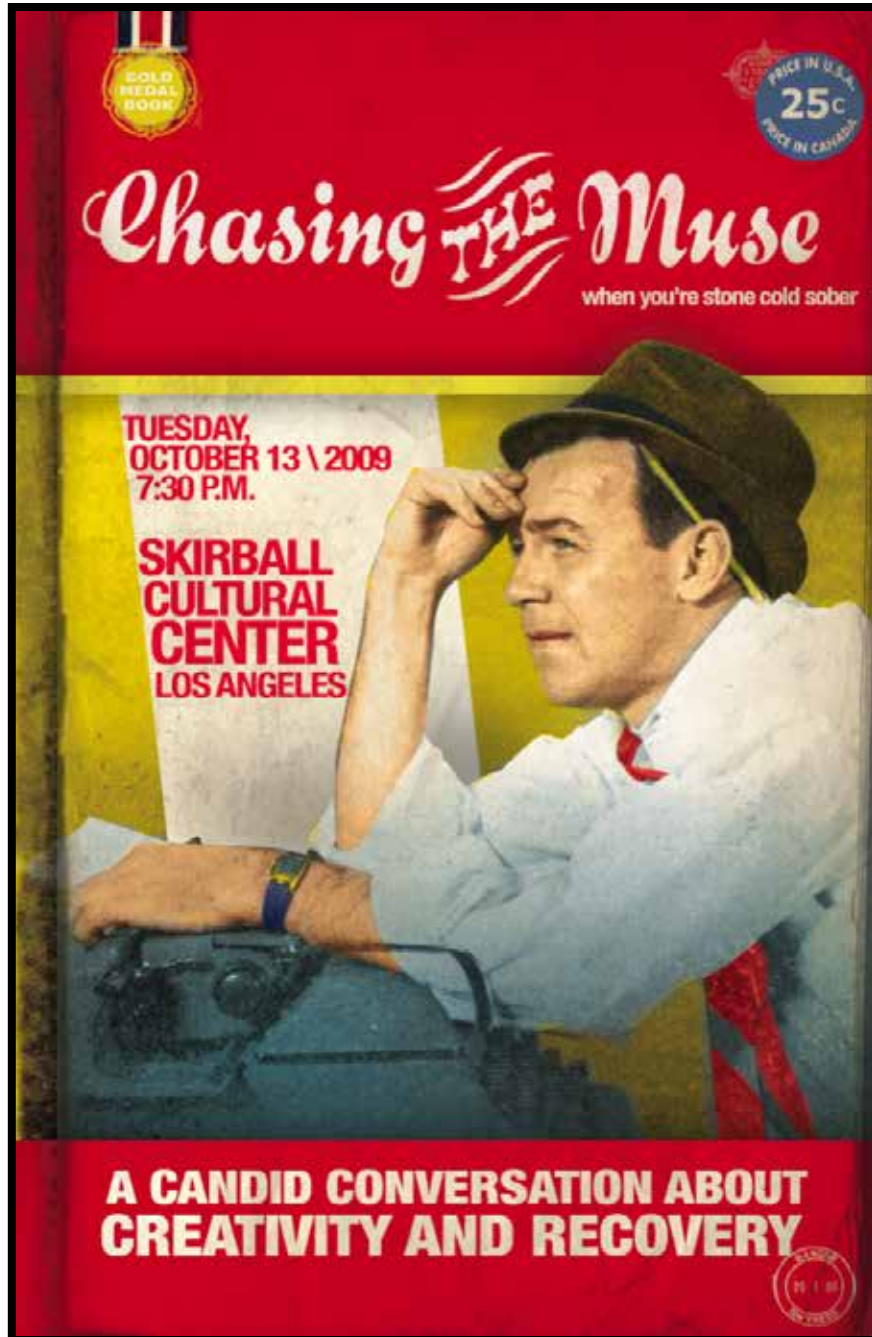
Attendees will be treated to a live jazz preshow, a post-screening discussion, free popcorn and presumably, a variety of soft drinks.



Jerry Stahl, Ben Stiller & Leonard Buschel

# Writers In Treatment Presents:

## Chasing the Muse



Starring:

**William Cope Moyers**  
Author

**Dan Fante**  
Author/Poet

**Katey Sagal**  
actress/singer

**Kurt Sutter**  
writer/creator of Sons of  
Anarchy

**Michelle Huneven**  
Novelist

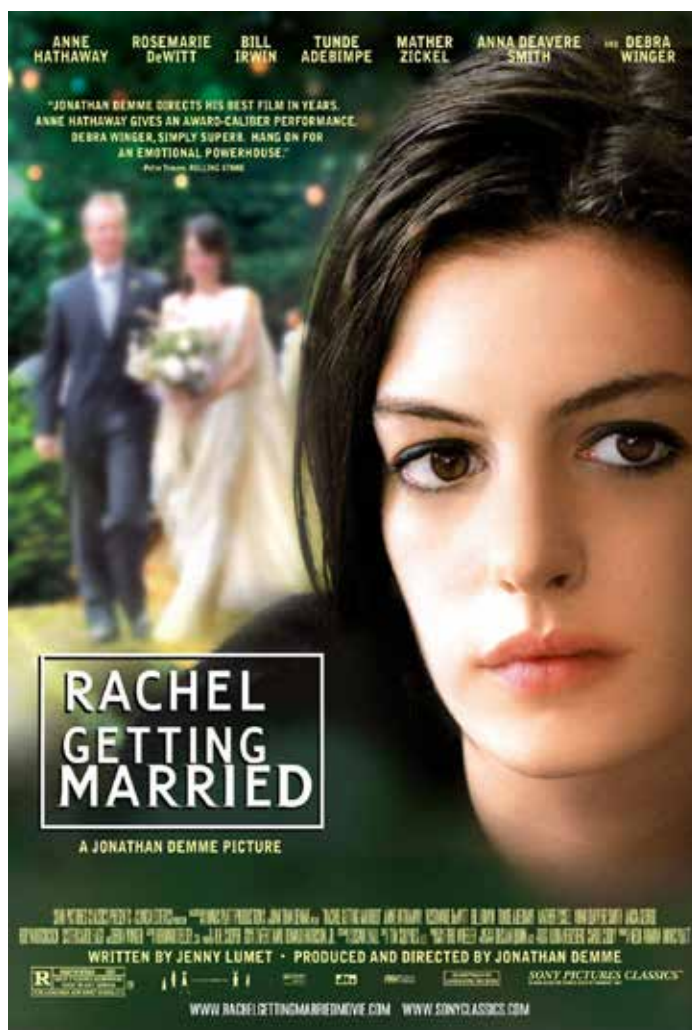
**Mark Ebner**  
bestselling author and  
journalist

The evening will be moderated by William Cope Moyers, Director of Hazelden's Center for Public Advocacy, and author of the bestselling memoir, *Broken*. There will also be clips of the panelists' work. Dessert reception.

[www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org)

Writers In Treatment Presents:

**FREE SCREENING**



Dr. Mark Pirtle would like to invite you to attend  
the wedding of Rachel & Sidney  
Attire: Casual Open Bar (beware)

Sunday, August 8th at 7:00 PM  
Hollywood, California

Presented by The Reel Recovery Film Festival and RecoveryView.com  
Arena Stage Theater 1625 North Las Palmas Avenue Hollywood, CA 90028



# Writers In Treatment Presents:

{ WRITERS IN TREATMENT }  
&  
{ TWIN TOWN TREATMENT CENTERS }  
present:

## REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

with [ LEE McCORMICK ] and [ RECOVERY NOW TV ] and [ MALIBU HORIZON ]

**FREE  
SCREENINGS**

October  
27, 28,  
29, & 30

**RSVP** Leonard Buschel 818.762.0461  
[www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org)

arena stage theatre  
1625 N. Las Palmas  
Hollywood, CA 90028

A man in a grey suit and tie stands on the right side of the poster. Instead of a head, he has a large, vintage-style movie camera mounted on his neck. He is pointing his right hand towards the dates of the festival.



# Writers In Treatment Press:



## Drunk on cinema: The Reel Recovery Film Festival

By Jay A. Fernandez | September 14th, 2010 at 4:37 pm | [View Comments](#)

retweet 0

[Like](#) 0

Writers in Treatment is wheeling out its second annual **Reel Recovery Film Festival** from Oct. 26-30 in L.A.

Addiction and recovery are the focus of this nonprofit event, and like an intervention for cinephiles, the program will include the features "Pollack," "Basquiat," "The Basketball Diaries" and "Ciao! Manhattan." Fest organizers have arranged for surprise guests to show up for post-screening discussions (Ben Stiller and Jerry Stahl talked "Permanent Midnight" last year).



The Betty Ford Center is hosting an opening-night screening of "The Honour of All," about the miraculous sobriety of the Alkali Lake Indian Tribe in British Columbia, Canada. Elders from Alkali Lake will lead a drum circle around several square blocks in Hollywood on Tuesday night. "Shut Yer Dirty Little Mouth!" will screen during the week as well.

My own addiction favorites include "The Boost" (1988), "Requiem for a Dream" (2000) and "Days of Wine and Roses" (1962). Just don't watch them all in a row.

# Writers In Treatment Presents:

## **Lou Gossett Jr. receives** ***“Experience, Strength and Hope Award”***



Writers In Treatment’s 2nd Annual Festival of Laughs  
March 8th at 7:30 Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles.



Tony Denison



Jack McGee



Joanna Cassidy

Master of Ceremonies: **Jack McGee**, co-star of The Fighter. The “**Experience, Strength and Hope Award**” presented by **Tony Denison**, co-star of The Closer. Performing is legendary comedian **Barry Diamond** with **Mick Betancourt** and **Wendy Hammers**. The evening celebrates

*a new freedom and a new happiness*  
plus the importance of humor and creativity in the recovery process.

Special appearance by **Joanna Cassidy** (Blade Runner, Six Feet Under, Boston Legal)

**FREE** to the public! Suggested donation \$15.00 No one will be turned away.

**FREE** valuable gift bags include books and **RENEW** magazine!

**FREE** Parking

**RSVP:** [info@writersintreatment.org](mailto:info@writersintreatment.org) or: 818-762-0461

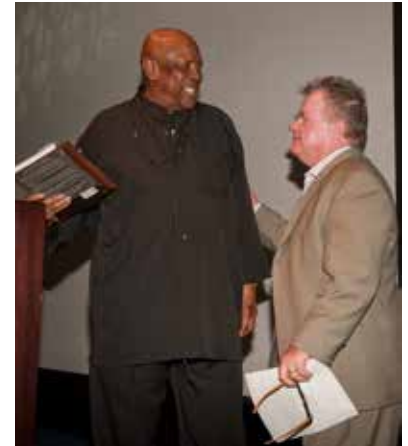
# Writers In Treatment Events:



Headliner, Comedian  
Barry Diamond



Tamara Henry, aka Green "T", The Closer's Tony Denison,  
Barry Diamond



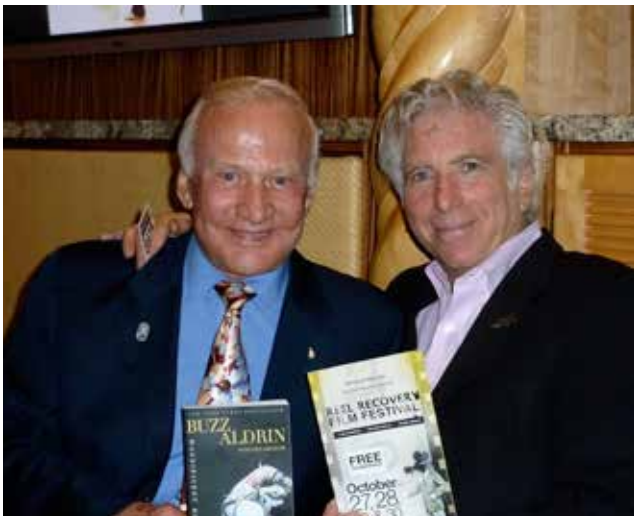
Louis Gossett Jr. and Actor  
Jack McGee



Raine Phillips with Leonard Buschel



Founder, Leonard Buschel



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin with Leonard Buschel



Celebrity Interventionist Rod Espudo





## *Certificate of Congratulations*

*As Mayor of the City of Los Angeles and on behalf  
of its residents, it is my pleasure to congratulate*

### *Writers In Treatment*

*on the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of Laughs and Awards Show, and  
to recognize you for your outstanding and invaluable service to the  
community.*

*Your commitment to the support and growth of writers and artists  
in the community plays a vital role in shaping local talent.*

*We commend you for your passion and dedication to both the recovery and  
success of these individuals through your support and scholarship programs.*

*Your dedication continues to make the City of Los Angeles a better place to  
live.*

*Best wishes for continued success!*

*March 8, 2011*

  
*Antonio R. Villaraigosa*  
*Mayor*





## THE JEWISH JOURNAL

September 23, 2009

### Industry Pros Point Way to Post-Addiction Creativity

BY RACHEL HELLER

[http://www.jewishjournal.com/arts/article/industry\\_pros\\_point\\_way\\_to\\_post-addiction\\_creativity\\_20090923/](http://www.jewishjournal.com/arts/article/industry_pros_point_way_to_post-addiction_creativity_20090923/)



*Leonard Buschel*

Some recovering addicts call it their "moment of clarity." Others call it their "bottom."

For Leonard Buschel, it happened on a chilly summer evening in 1994 on his way to visit friends in Big Sur. He and his fiancée had just split up, and his nerves were frayed by alcohol, Ecstasy and painkillers. From a roadside pay phone off Route 1, he called his brother in New York, distraught.

"He said, 'What is it this time?'" Buschel recalled recently. "I said, 'I can't stop shaking.'"

Buschel, then 44, called the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage and told them he needed help. When they offered to book him for a 28-day stay, he started to cry. "My life, as I knew it, was ending," he said.

Fast-forward to last fall, when the former publisher-turned-substance abuse counselor decided to dedicate his hard-won sobriety to helping other writers recover from their addictions. Buschel founded Writers in Treatment (WIT), a nonprofit that connects writers who have drug, alcohol or process addictions (eating disorders, gambling and sex addictions) with rehabilitation programs that help them battle what modern psychology largely considers a disease.

For Buschel, the mission is personal. Call it his redemption — or, as Yom Kippur approaches, his teshuvah.

"There are so many writers who are suffering, who don't know there's a way out," said Buschel, now 58. "I want to be able to give them that kind of help."

As part of that goal, WIT on Oct. 13 is calling attention to the issue of addiction in the creative industries with a panel discussion on recovery and creativity. The Skirball Cultural Center event, called "Chasing the Muse ... when you're stone-cold sober," will feature actress and singer/songwriter Katey Sagal ("Sons of Anarchy," "Married ... With Children," "Futurama"), screenwriter and producer Kurt Sutter ("Sons of Anarchy," "The Shield") and independent filmmaker Tim Disney ("American Violet"). Co-sponsored by the Minnesota-based Hazelden rehabilitation center, the panel will be moderated by author and former broadcast journalist William Cope Moyers, son of veteran journalist Bill Moyers and Hazelden's vice president of community relations. Cope Moyers in 2006 penned the memoir "Broken" (Viking), an account of how cocaine wrecked his career and family, and his efforts to transcend addiction.

Being a writer with a drug or alcohol problem is especially risky compared with many other professions, said Buschel, who for years published health and nutrition books and wrote on the side. Writers work in relative isolation, and the solitary nature of the job allows addictions to develop unnoticed by co-workers or peers.

"A musician, for example, has to appear on stage, where people will notice if you're drunk or high," he said. "With writers, it's not a collaborative type of work. You can file from bed, or you can file from the bar — no one sees it. And in the meantime, you're getting deeper and deeper into your addiction."

WIT caters to writers of all stripes — from novelists and screenwriters to journalists — as long as they make at least a

quarter of their income from writing. The organization places clients in residential or outpatient treatment programs according to their needs, regardless of health insurance. For those without insurance, WIT offers no-interest loans to help cover the cost of care. These loans are given directly to the treatment facility, to be repaid by the writer when he or she finishes the program and can return to work. On top of that, WIT maintains partnerships with top-tier rehabilitation facilities, including Betty Ford, that give referred writers discount rates.

Psychologists and certified counselors on WIT's advisory board also supplement treatment programs by offering free therapy sessions to recovering writers.

But seeking help is not easy for some. Many writers choose not to treat their dependencies because they believe drugs and alcohol stoke their creativity, Buschel said. With images of alcoholic writers like Ernest Hemingway, Hunter S. Thompson and Charles Bukowski romanticized in literature and on screen, the lifestyle still holds a lurid allure.

Once addiction sets in, said Howard Gluss, a clinical psychologist and member of WIT's advisory board, the line becomes blurry between natural talent and the bottle or joint.

"There's a fear that if [writers] heal their addiction, they'll lose their creativity," said Gluss, a radio show host, author and film consultant. "They think, 'If I lose that angst, I won't be who I am anymore.'"

But after detox, most find that their chemical dependencies actually stunted their abilities. In recovery, Gluss said, "they start creating from a place that's much more powerful, a more positive place that offers them many more creative options."

Rediscovering the "muse," however, can be a long and tortuous process. WIT recognizes that, and keeps clients in the loop with relapse-prevention seminars and referrals to post-treatment programs that bolster their sobriety and provide support.

It's the kind of non-judgmental aid that could have helped Buschel during his 26 years of addiction and saved him from an episode that nearly cost him his life.

It was around 6 a.m. and Buschel, then 37, had been up all night drinking and doing cocaine. He suffered a massive asthma attack brought on by dehydration and slumped against his roommate's door, unable to breathe. When he woke up in the hospital, he learned he'd been unconscious for two days. The doctor had told his mother that she might have to fly him home in a body bag.

But even this wasn't enough to make him realize he needed to quit — it would be another seven years before his "moment of clarity" struck.

"Unfortunately, addiction is a disease that people like having for a while," Buschel said. "People can have catastrophic events happen, but the idea of quitting does not occur to them. My story is unique, and yet there are thousands of people living through the same thing."

Buschel has come a long way since then. As a teenager in Philadelphia, he would hide bags of marijuana in his tallit case so family friends in his Jewish neighborhood wouldn't know what he'd been up to. Now, that's where he keeps his literature from the Betty Ford Center, a reminder of the faith it took to turn his life around.

Five years ago, Buschel got his certification as a substance abuse counselor. He has worked at Beit T'Shuvah, a residential treatment center and Jewish congregation in West Los Angeles; The Canyon in Malibu; and Cri-Help in North Hollywood, helping others whose shoes he'd been in.

Through WIT, he wants other writers to experience the liberation he felt getting sober — a feeling he describes as "waking up from a horrible nightmare, and the birds are singing."

*"Chasing the Muse" will take place Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. The program will be followed by a dessert reception. Tickets are \$25. To register, call (888) 257-7800, ext. 4204, or visit [hazelden.org/creativity](http://hazelden.org/creativity). To learn more about Writers in Treatment, visit [www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org).*

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# Writers In Treatment Events:



Author & Sex Addiction Expert Dr. Alexandra Katchakis  
with Douglas Evans



Actor & Filmmaker Eric Edwards



David Weisman-  
Director of Ciao! Manhattan



RENEW MAGAZINE Publisher  
James Moorhead



A Fan with Lou Gossett Jr.



Caley Chase and Ben Buschel

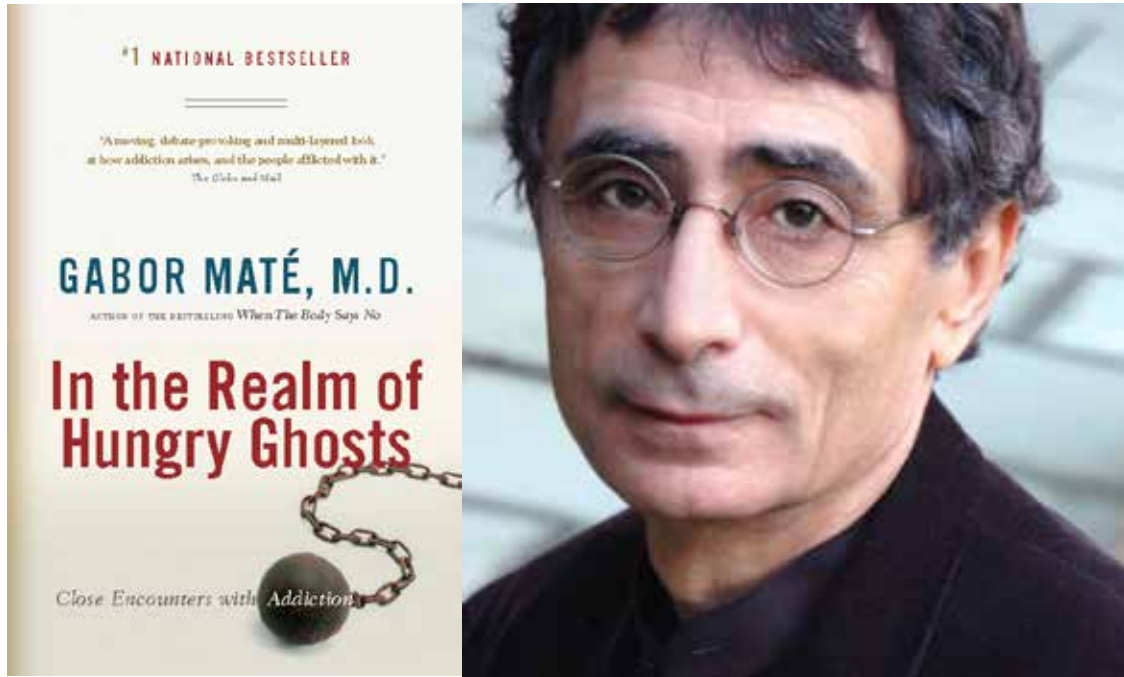


Dr. Howard Samuels with Lou Gossett Jr.



# Writers In Treatment Presents:

## Dr. Gabor Maté



**Sponsored by Pasadena Recovery Center**  
**Media Sponsor: KPFK - Pacifica Radio 90.7**  
**April 29th at 7:30PM**

**FREE**

Skirball Cultural Center  
2701 North Sepulveda Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Suggested donation \$15 (no one will be turned away)  
RSVP: [info@writersintreatment.org](mailto:info@writersintreatment.org) 818.762.0461  
Two CEUs offered by Pegasus/Villareal & Associates, Inc.

Reception and book signing:  
6:00PM, food and beverages available.  
VIDEOS at: [www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org)



# Writers In Treatment Presents:

## **TREATMENT WORKS... INCARCERATION DOESN'T**

June 17, 2011



**40 YEARS OF INJUSTICE:** Luncheon and panel discussion in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Nixon's War On Drugs.

**HOST:** Darren Kavinsky, criminal attorney, CNN pundit, legal analyst & correspondent for The Insider



**PANELISTS:** Lt. Diane Goldstein of LEAP, a 21-yr veteran of CA drug law enforcement  
Julia Negron, activist and LA Chapter President of A New PATH  
Burl Barer, Edgar Award-winning true crime author  
Judge Harold Shabo, Los Angeles Superior Court  
Doreen Garcia, Executive Director, Casa De Las Amigas

**WHEN:** 12PM-2PM

**WHERE:** Amistad De Los Angeles, 3745 S. Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA, 90007

**COST:** \$25

**Sponsored By:**

Drug Policy Alliance - Amistad De Los Angeles - Casa De Las Amigas  
Practical Recovery - Law Enforcement Against Prohibition - Balboa Horizon's Holistic Healing Program

**Produced By:**

Writers In Treatment is a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization grounded in the arts and recovery.  
W.I.T.'s primary purpose is to save the lives by providing access to treatment.



Certificate of Recognition  
is hereby presented to

## *Reel Recovery Film Festival*

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, I thank you for this eclectic display of contemporary and classic films, documentaries and short films from first-time filmmakers and industry veterans. This festival recognizes the invaluable contribution made by talented individuals to entertain society. I commend your dedication to supporting the recovery and success of these individuals throughout the year.

October 14, 2011

  
RICHARD ALARCON  
Councilmember 7th District





# Writers In Treatment Press:

Support Recovery and the Arts  
Become a Sponsor of the 3rd Annual  
**REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL**



**FREE**  
Screenings

October  
Beverly Garland Theater  
www.

## PRAISE for the REEL Recovery Film Festival...



**VARIETY**

In what seems like an almost too-obvious connection, nonprofit organization Writers In Treatment, or WIT, has announced that it will host the REEL Recovery Film Festival, an (wait for it) addiction-themed film festival. "Permanent Midnight" author Jerry

Stahl and "Ivans xtc" director Bernard Rose are expected to attend, while additional invites are out to thespians including Ben Stiller, Danny Huston and Robert Downey, Jr. (Downey's father, director Robert Downey Sr., sits on WIT's board.)

"The REEL Recovery Film Festival has shown itself to be of great value. The idea of capitalizing on this potent media to tell the story of addiction and its devastation is critical. I believe a great deal of gratitude is owed to the Reel Recovery Film Festival Director, Leonard Buschel, for his amazing efforts in bringing this festival into reality".

-Patrick Haggerson, Betty Ford Institute



"Bed Ridden" Dir. Jonathan Heap



"Drunk in Public" Dir. David Sperling

Using the tagline "Every story deserves a great second act," the nonprofit organization Writers in Treatment's signature event has become a Los Angeles-based film festival that showcases movies with addiction subject matter.

**ADDICTION**  
MAGAZINE

The much anticipated networking event is intended to help anyone struggling with addiction or affected by a loved one's mental health or substance abuse disorder to cope with these difficult challenges and to become informed. After its successful debut in 2009, the REEL Recovery Film Festival is continuing to celebrate prevention, intervention, and recovery from life-debilitating substance addictions and the preservation of natural creativity.

**elements**  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
(CREATING EXTRAORDINARY LIVES)

Contact: Leonard Buschel 818-762-0461 [info@writersintreatment.org](mailto:info@writersintreatment.org)  
W.I.T. thanks The Monroe Institute (Faber, VA)



Orchard Recovery Center  
*presents*

# REEL RECOVERY

F I L M F E S T I V A L

October 21-23

DISTRICT 319

Vancouver, BC



Excerpt from an online article posted by  
Leonard Buschel, Los Angeles USA 10/27/2011  
[reneweveryday.com/BLOGS/ReelRecovery](http://reneweveryday.com/BLOGS/ReelRecovery)

Vancouver hosted the first international edition of the REEL Recovery Film Festival on Oct. 21-23. The Orchard Recovery Center brought this three-day event to Vancouver's notorious Eastside at the perfect venue, District 319. Mayor Gregor Robertson hosted opening night, giving a sincere welcome to addicts (both in and out of recovery), counselors, doctors, healing professionals and all the other festival attendees. Al Arsenault, police officer and director of "Tears for April," spoke about the remarkable lives and stories of the denizens of Vancouver's Eastside that his film so sympathetically portrays.

Director Dena Ashbaugh talked about her brilliant film on eating disorders, "No Numbers." The finale was a screening of the Canadian classic, "The Honour of All," the extraordinary story of the Alkali Lake tribe and how its community went from an alcoholism rate of nearly 100% to a sobriety rate of more than 75% today. Patrick Haggerson and the Esketemic First Nation members did a drum ceremony on the street outside the theater. Audience members and local residents were transported to a place beyond words, beyond addiction and beyond suffering by the transcendental beats of the tribal drums as the sun set over the beautiful city of Vancouver, bringing the ceremony to a warm close.



left to right:  
Leonard Buschel,  
Lorinda Strang,  
Gregor Robertson (Mayor),  
Constance Barnes,  
Pat Dixon,  
AnnMarie McCullough,  
Patrick Haggerson



above:  
District 319  
theater space



left:  
Gala guests  
purchase raffle  
tickets

right:  
Orchard's  
Quintin Anthony  
memorable as MC

below:  
Alkali Lake  
drummers in  
front of  
venue



ORCHARD

You can get there from here.

Toll free **1-866-233-2299**

# THE BILL WILSON AND DR. BOB SMITH STAMP PROJECT





# Writers In Treatment Events:



William Cope Moyers



Author, Lori Hanson



Celebrity Rehab's Bob Forrester



Actor Danny Huston with Kate Bosworth



A Night at the Cinema



"Electroboy" Author Andy Behrman



Chris and Karen Walsh at The Festival of Laughs 2011



Chasing the Muse-Katey Sagal, Kurt Sutter, Mark Ebner, William Moyers, Dan Fante, Michelle Huneven



# Writers In Treatment Events:



**Writers In Treatment is proud to present The REEL Recovery Film Festival~New York City Edition, a seven-day film festival and recovery forum, Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2012 at the Quad Cinema, 34 West 13th Street, New York, NY 10011. Admission is FREE.**

**The REEL Recovery Film Festival ~ New York City Edition** celebrates film, the arts, writing and creativity. We showcase artists who make honest films about addiction, alcoholism, behavioral disorders, treatment and recovery. This year's program features an eclectic lineup of contemporary and classic films, documentaries and shorts from international and American first-time filmmakers and industry veterans.

## **Some highlights include:**

- IN PERSON: **Robert Downey Sr.**, on the newly restored classic, "On The Bowery"
- IN PERSON: **Dir. Johnny Hickey**, reformed criminal who bought, sold and abused OxyContin and every other narcotic imaginable, with his award winning "OxyMorons"
- IN PERSON: **Lily Scourtis Ayers**. "Last Fast Ride -The Life, Love and Death of a Punk Goddess"
- IN PERSON: Author **Steve Geng**, ("Thick As Thieves"), will present "Let's Get Lost" Bruce Weber's classic film about jazz great and life-long heroin addict, Chet Baker
- IN PERSON: **Dr. Gabor Maté**, "Beyond Addiction-Who We Are When We Are Not Addicted-The Possible Human."
- IN PERSON: **Keirda Bahruth**, director of "Bob and the Monster" with Bob Forrest
- IN PERSON: Jazz great **David Sanborn**, discussing creativity and drug addiction
- IN PERSON: Boston Celtic, **Chris Herren** & ESPN documentary "UNGUARDED"
- IN PERSON: Actor **Joey Pantoliano** (aka Joey Pants), director of NO KIDDING! ME 2!!
- IN PERSON: **Tio Hardiman**, filmmaker and peacemaker (The Interrupters) from Chicago presenting, "Death Of An Addict: The Tio Hardiman Story"
- IN PERSON: **Tian Dayton**, MA, Ph.D., presenting "The Process"
- IN PERSON: **Luke Bradford**, Executive producer from London with "NO ALCOHOL- NO RISK" a documentary on the risks and dangers of drinking alcohol whilst pregnant

**Writers in Treatment** is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization grounded in the arts and recovery whose primary purpose is to save lives through promoting and providing "treatment" as the best first step for alcoholism and other addictions. Call 818-762-0461.



# WritersInTreatmentClientTestimonials:

I just wanted to express my immense gratitude for not only helping me, but probably for saving my life. Your help has been a Godsend, as I am truly grateful to have this opportunity for change and a new life. So, thank you and your organization for enriching not only my life, but also my soul, and for giving me another chance at life and happiness. That chance, I am taking.

Erica M.  
Dallas, TX

Writers In Treatment, and Mr. Buschel especially, were instrumental in forcing myself to really re-examine my life to the point where obvious changes had to be made. Allowing a glimpse into the possible world of health, Writers In Treatment was there to make the necessary connections so that treatment was made available in such a way, it was almost like having a fast-pass, anti-red tape expeditor to get through an otherwise complex system. It is comforting to know that Writers In Treatment is there for you when you need it.

Eduard R.  
North Hollywood, CA

Thank you for finding an exclusive Malibu treatment facility that would accept my SAG insurance, and scholarshiping me for the balance. I never knew how important nutrition would be to my recovery process.

Joanna C.  
Natchitoches, LA

I am sober today, I am grateful to you, and I am with the program now. When people ask me how I got to rehab, I tell them it was a "God Shot" -- which meeting you was. I truly hope I can be of service to Writers in Treatment one day.

Mary K.  
Los Angeles, CA

I can't believe the time has gone so fast! My 30th day of sobriety is tomorrow! I wish you could see me now, Leonard...I'm so healthy! This month flew by and I feel like I'm a completely different person than I was when I arrived. I can't thank you enough for that. THANK YOU.

Katherine L.  
Kirkland, WA

## Event Testimonials:

It was really cool seeing Ben Stiller talk about preparing for his role in “Permanent Midnight” with Jerry Stahl. As an aspiring screenwriter, having a chance to listen to an actor discussing his craft with the author of the book the screenplay was based on was an invaluable aid to my writing. I can’t wait for next year’s film festival! Thank you!

Carlos E.

Los Angeles, CA

THANK YOU for inviting all of us from my sober living house to attend the Experience, Strength, and Hope Award Festival of Laughs!!! We loved seeing Lou Gossett Jr. “up close and personal”... what a great night!!! He was really inspirational too.

Rosalie G. Pasadena, CA

Just wanted to thank WIT for all the support you give to the local recovery community. Quality sober events are few and far between! Especially loved seeing Dr. Gabor Maté at the Skirball...Please keep me on your mailing list for all future events. Keep up the great work.

Tracy R.

San Diego, CA

Would like to RSVP for the film fest...very excited about seeing the restored version of “On The Bowery” on the Big Screen. Kudos to Writers in Treatment for bringing this classic film back to Hollywood the way it should be s

I took my father to see several REEL Recovery films because I didn’t know how to talk about my concern for him. He is a very heavy drinker but when I (or my sister) confront him about his lifestyle, he angrily denies having any kind of a problem. After we watched the first film, Dad was willing to concede that our concerns were based in love for him, not in a desire to control or humiliate him. After the second feature, he was willing to discuss the possibility of making some changes in his drinking with our support. Color me amazed! For 15 years Dad wouldn’t even hear of having that conversation, but after two films he was able to tell me that he thought he might need some help to quit. This letter is getting long but I really wanted to tell you that your film festival changes lives for the better. Thank you, thank you, thank you for helping Dad to finally talk about his problem...

Jerry W.

Encino, CA

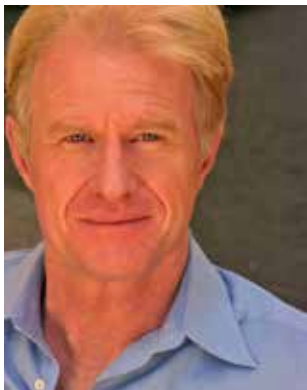


# Writers In Treatment Presents:

## *3rd Annual* *“Experience, Strength and Hope Award” honoring* **Astronaut & Author** **Buzz Aldrin**



Writers In Treatment’s 3rd Annual “Experience, Strength and Hope Award”  
February 17, 2012 Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles.



Ed Begley, Jr.



Danny Trejo



Joanna Cassidy

Master of Ceremonies: Actor and Activist **Ed Begley, Jr.** The “Experience, Strength and Hope Award”  
presented by actor **Danny Trejo**. Performing is legendary comedian **Barry**  
**Diamond** with **Stevie Mack** and the **12-Step Girl**. The evening celebrates

*a new freedom and a new happiness*  
plus the importance of humor and creativity in the recovery process.

Special appearance by **Joanna Cassidy** (Blade Runner, Six Feet Under, Boston Legal)

**FREE** Parking

**RSVP:** [info@writersintreatment.org](mailto:info@writersintreatment.org) or: 818-762-0461

**SUGGESTED DONATION:** \$50

# Writers In Treatment Events:



Sara Kitnick and Goliath



Ed Begley Jr.



Danny Trejo, Buzz Aldrin and Leonard Buschel



Friends of Bill



Joanna Cassidy



Comedian Barry Diamond with fans



Frankie Norstad-The 12 Step Girl



Tamara Henry and Ed Begley Jr.



Vancouver, BC welcomes  
REEL Recovery Film Festival



Frank Ferrante and Cat Maida



Jasmin Rogg and Leon Hendrix



Comedian Stevie Mack and fans

# Writers In Treatment seeks a partner in Your City

## REEL Recovery Film Festival ~ Your City-2013

The **REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL** is a social, educational, networking and recovery forum showcasing first-time filmmakers and experienced professionals who make films about addiction and recovery. Our audience is treatment professionals, people in recovery, members of the entertainment industry, media representatives, educated moviegoers and the general public.

The realistic portrayal of these issues in cinema are a catalyst for honest conversation and transformation. This is a unique, one-of-a-kind yearly film festival.

**What makes this possible and feasible NOW is the convergence of five main factors:**

- The national awareness of addiction and recovery through the success of commercial broadcast programs (A&E's Intervention, Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew, The Cleaner), and Oprah's continuing focus on addiction, alcoholism and recovering memoir authors.
- The 24-hr news cycle, exploiting the mishaps and misfortunes of famous personalities, such as Whitney Houston, Amy Winehouse, Charlie Sheen, Lindsay Lohan, and Robert Downey Jr.
- The availability of professional filmmaking equipment for under \$1000 so anyone can make a high-quality film capable of being projected, duplicated, streamed, and broadcast.
- The efficient and cost-effective marketing capabilities of the Internet (blogging, website linkage, social media blasts, podcasts, etc.)
- Writers In Treatment, a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization, has equal footing in the arts & recovery fields. We have produced two hugely successful REEL Recovery Film Festivals in Los Angeles with one planned for Vancouver, BC. ***It's time to bring this unique event to your city.***

If your organization seeks to target additional markets and attract new constituents, the REEL Recovery Film Festival is the perfect vehicle. As a cultural non-profit event that promotes recovery, creativity, education, awareness and prevention, Writers In Treatment has the advantage of experience and efficiency.

In addition, similar to your organization, the main theme of Writers In Treatment has always been TREATMENT WORKS. This is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of the growing popularity of addiction films, television shows and honest celebrity autobiographies revealing journeys to sobriety.

**The main advantage of sponsoring this film festival is that your outreach and marketing departments have a reason to invite EVERY conceivable treatment-related business, professional, therapist and lay person to become part of this recovery celebration.**

This prestigious event can be the marketing and public relations highlight of the year.

### Praise for the REEL Recovery Film Festival

"The Reel Recovery Film Festival has shown itself to be of great value. The idea of capitalizing on this potent media to tell the story of addiction and its devastation is critical. I believe a great deal of gratitude is owed to the Reel Recovery Film Festival Director, Leonard Buschel, for his amazing efforts in bringing this festival into reality".

-Patrick Haggerson, Betty Ford Institute



# Writers In Treatment seeks a partner in Your City

## PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY:

### Benefits of Hosting the REEL Recovery Film Festival:

- a service to the recovery community
- positive publicity for your organization
- a built-in opportunity to network with ALL treatment, therapeutic, medical, recovery, media and healthy life-style businesses in your area
- because it's a free event, the only requirement to attend is to RSVP an email-you keep all the acquired RSVPs to add to your contact list

### Co-sponsorships advantages:

- logo and marketing material in networking lobby
- logo on printed festival schedule
- logo and hotlink to your website
- reserved seats for selected screenings
- you conduct post-screening discussions
- press releases for local media

Venues for the festival: Any room with 60-160 seats can be converted into a wonderful screening room with very little expense.

Your organization is encouraged to seek additional sponsors for the event. Suggested sponsor fee is \$500-1,500.

**Special Note:** It is common to have hundreds of potential sponsors connect with you, and even if they do not participate, you have still shared about your organization.

### Promoting the Event In Your Area:

- solicit submissions for inclusion in film festival
- promote via PR and news articles and the gifting of a local resident with a residential treatment stay
- most communities have a local sobriety newspaper or magazine, use them to alert local fellowships.
- use social media constantly
- send several rounds of press releases focusing on different aspects of the festival
- enlist local treatment organizations to join and promote our efforts
- audition local musicians and performers to help create a buzz about the RRFF coming to town
- partner with Intherooms.com, Thefix.com, RENEW Magazine, reneweveryday.com, Faces and Voices, SAMHSA and It's All in the Journey Magazine for constant national exposure
- use treatment marketing companies and your own organization for e-mail blasts
- give your organization a prime space in networking lobby

### (YOUR NAME HERE) Presents The REEL Recovery Film Festival-Your City

Fee: Call for information. This includes:

- start-to-finish consultation
- images, copy, and verbiage
- PR/marketing
- travel and accommodations
- choice of 30+ films to screen
- your name FIRST on all promos

**To sponsor this event in your area, contact Leonard Buschel 818.762.0461**

Writers In Treatment P.O. Box 1745 Studio City, CA 91614 [www.writersintreatment.org](http://www.writersintreatment.org)

Writers In Treatment is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax I.D. 26-3550390.

Writers In Treatment Presents:

# REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL



**Los Angeles**

**October 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>**

## Current Projects Include:



**Stevie Mack**

*Writers in Treatment* presents a night at the theatre. The brilliant new one man play, **Diary of a Crackhead**.

Written and performed by Stevie Mack.  
Hollywood Improv  
May 14, 2012



**Dr. Gabor Mate**

Internationally acclaimed author, physician/philosopher and addiction expert.

Presented by Pasadena Recovery Center & *Writers in Treatment*. Invitation only event. Lecture, reception and book signing.  
May 16, 2012



**February 2013 Experience, Strength and Hope Award** honors sober celebrity memoirists. Previous recipients include, Christopher Kennedy Lawford, academy award winner, Lou Gossett Jr, astronaut Buzz Aldrin. This year we honor **John Taylor**, co-founder of Duran Duran. Mr. Taylor's new book is called, "**In The Pleasure Groove: Love, Death and Duran Duran**" published by Little, Brown and Sphere. This fall.

### **The 2012 REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL schedule:**

This multi-city international film festival and recovery forum is unique in its focus on drug addiction, alcoholism and living sober. The realistic portrayal of these issues in cinema can be a catalyst for honest conversation and personal transformation.

**New York City, NY**  
Quad Cinema  
34 West 13th Street,  
New York, NY 10011

September 28th-October 4th

**Vancouver, BC**  
District 319  
319 Main St  
Vancouver, BC V6A 1K7, Canada

Oct. 20-21

**Los Angeles, CA**  
Location: TBA

October 25-28

**Ft. Lauderdale, FL**  
Hyatt Bonaventure Resort & Spa  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33326

November 2-4

Floridians for Recovery & Caron Renaissance/The Hanley Center with Writers in Treatment presents the first south Florida REEL Recovery Film Festival



# Support Recovery & The Arts

For more information please contact  
Leonard Buschel at 310.767.6970  
[info@writersintreatment.org](mailto:info@writersintreatment.org)