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AFF Is Bringing Us Writers All Year Long

By [Jordan Gass-Poore](#) on February 18, 2014 - 2:30pm in [AFF](#)

Awards season is in full swing, and the [Austin Film Festival](#), known for its recognition of screenwriters, announced last week that Academy Award-winning writer/director [Jim Sheridan](#) (*My Left Foot*) will receive this year's Distinguished Screenwriter Award, joining past award recipients Harold Ramis and Robert Altman, among others. Sheridan will accept the award at the fest's annual awards luncheon on Oct. 25 and will also speak on panels during the 2014 conference.



Other confirmed panelists at the [21st annual AFF and Screenwriters Conference](#), which will take place Oct. 23-30, 2014, include writers and producers from such television series as *Breaking Bad*, *Girls* and *Seinfeld* and movies like *Fight Club* and *Donnie Darko*. Some of these industry insiders will be present for meet and greets and roundtables during the conference, as well. Read the [full list of 2014 panelists](#) at the bottom of this article.

But you don't have to wait until October to stay up to date on the movie industry. This Saturday, Beau Willimon -- creator of the Netflix Original Series *House of Cards* -- will discuss the show's creative process at 2 pm at the Harry Ransom Center through [AFF's Conversation in Film Series](#).

AFF continues the [conversation](#) on Sunday, March 2 with the executive producer and co-showrunner of the Fox comedy *Bob's Burgers*, [Jim Dauterive](#), at 2 pm at the Harry Ransom Center. Dauterive will discuss the various roles of a television series writer. The native Texan previously served as one of the original writers for *King of the Hill*.

On Monday, March 3, last year's AFF Audience and Jury Award-winner [Beside Still Waters](#) will [screen](#) at 7 pm at the Alamo Drafthouse Village. The screening is in anticipation of a [live script reading](#) of the movie's co-writer/director Chris Lowell's and co-writer Mohit Narang's sophomore feature, *Isolation/Tribes* on Tuesday, March 4 at 7 pm at Clay Pit.

Austinite [Bastian Gunther's Houston](#), about an alcoholic on the hunt for a top CEO in Houston, makes its Austin premiere through [AFF](#) at 7 pm on March 26 at Galaxy Highland. The film premiered at Sundance in 2013.

And finally, join Texan short filmmakers [Kat Candler](#), [David Lowery](#) and [Miguel Alvarez](#) as they discuss the creative process and how to overcome the hurdles of this medium as part of [AFF's On Story event series](#) at 2 pm on March 30 at the Harry Ransom Center.

If you're unable to attend these events but are still interested in screenwriting, the advice of screenwriters who have appeared on AFF's weekly public television and podcast series *On Story* and who have spoken at AFF have been compiled in the book [On Story: Screenwriters and Their Craft](#).

In AFF alumni news, last year's Official Selection [The Great Chicken Wing Hunt](#), about a man's search for the world's best Buffalo chicken wing, is now available on [Hulu](#). The documentary was mentioned on [ABC World News with Diane Sawyer](#) as part of the television show's coverage of this year's Super Bowl.

Here's the list of confirmed panelists -- so far -- for AFF 2014:

- Michelle Ashford: creator, *Masters of Sex*
- Elie Attie: writer/executive producer, *Mind Games*; writer/co-executive producer, *House MD*; and writer/supervising producer, *The West Wing*
- William Broyles: writer, *Cast Away*, *Apollo 13*, *Jarhead*, *The Polar Express*, *Unfaithful*, *Entrapment* and *China Beach*
- Cary Fukunaga: director, *True Detective* and *Jane Eyre*; writer/director, *Sin Nombre*
- Terry George: writer/director, *Hotel Rwanda*, *Some Mother's Son* and *Reservation Road*; writer, *The Boxer* and *In The Name of the Father*
- Peter Gould: writer/producer/director, *Breaking Bad*; creator, *Better Call Saul*
- John Hamburg: writer/director, *I Love You, Man*; writer, *Meet The Parents* and *Zoolander*

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- Richard Kelly: writer/director, *Donnie Darko*, *Southland Tales* and *The Box*; writer, *Domino*
- Brian Koppelman: writer, *Rounders*, *Ocean's Thirteen* and *Runaway Jury*; writer/director, *Solitary Man*
- Franklin Leonard: creator, *The Black List*
- Kelly Marcel: writer, *Saving Mr. Banks* and *Fifty Shades of Grey*
- Craig Mazin: writer, *Identity Thief* and *The Hangover* part two and three; cohost, *ScriptNotes*
- Peter Mehlman: writer/co-executive producer, *Seinfeld*
- Scott Myers: host, *Go Into The Story*; writer, *K-9*, *Alaska* and *Trojan War*
- Alvaro Rodriguez: writer, *Machete*, *Shorts*, *From Dusk Till Dawn 3: The Hangman's Daughter* and *From Dusk Till Dawn: The Series*
- Dan Sterling: producer, *Girls*, *The Office* and *The Daily Show with John Stewart*; writer/producer, *The Sarah Silverman Program*; writer, *King of the Hill* and *South Park*
- Whit Stillman: writer/director, *Metropolitan*, *Barcelona*, *The Last Days of Disco* and *Damsels in Distress*
- Jim Uhls: writer, *Fight Club*, *Jumper* and *Semper Fi*

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