

How to get Your Script on the Screen

All roads lead to Rome and quite a few ways from a screenplay to the screen.

Student Projects: Use your rhetorical capacities to convince a group from your or some other film school of your script's quality, or try to write one in a co-authorship with these people. You can count on high motivation and, mostly, use the school's facilities to make a short film.

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The Tolkien-Way: Create a whole world, write one or more novels about it, and wait. Once you are famous, it will be more likely to convince an agent or producer that you are worth the millions of dollars necessary to produce your novels, that is, the screenplays you will have made of them.

Agent-Producer: Go out to where the filmmakers are. Meet a producer; tell him you have a script, provoking his interest. But do not push him to read it. Tell him that you will send it through your agent. As you do not have an agent (yet), the next day you call as many as possible, telling them that you happen to know an important producer who wants to read your script and that you now need an agent...

Actor: Become an actor. Get in touch with important people of the film scene. Write your script and ask some of your well-chosen friends if they would like to read it or if they know anyone who needs your script.

No matter which way you go and how good your screenplay is, you have to convince people and sell yourself, including your script. Therefore, focus on rhetoric and practise it whenever you can. That is the other side of the screenwriting coin: your ability to sell a story.