

David R. Beshears 2016 In Review

I hit a lot of milestones on a number of projects this past year. I published several titles, completed a few screenplays, completed first draft on others, and I set the foundations for a number of literary and screenwriting projects in the queue 2017.

One area where I could have done more in 2016 is marketing, both my books and my screenplays. The few marketing opportunities I pursued were somewhat successful, and I wish I could have invested more time and resources to marketing in both areas. I do have plans for several campaigns in 2017, and with time and resources I anticipate significant positive results.

Here are some of the accomplishments of 2016...
(Note: Find "Coming in 2017" following 2016 review)

Sisters in Space

Completed and published Sisters in Space collection.
Completed set of screenplays (for television short series)

I completed development of the seven episodes of Sisters in Space, brought them together into a single volume, published in print and ebook format. I also completed the screenplay adaptations for all seven episodes, workable as a short series.

The stories were designed and structured to be developed as a radioplay series, each episode twelve to fifteen minutes long. Look for this in 2017; also adapting to a webseries.

Reunions

Completed Reunions short script screenplay.

I adapted my Reunions short story to short script format. Reunions was first published a number of years ago in a magazine leaning to macabre tales in the vein of H.P. Lovecraft, was later included in several collections.

I will be marketing the short script adaptation to independent producers looking to put together a short film to show in festivals. The script is 13 pages long and I will be looking for opportunities to get the word out on the project in 2017.

Greybeard's Art of Self-Publishing

Completed 45 page Self-Publishing guide.

I completed this 45 page guide just in time for the holiday bazaars, and as expected we sold a few. During these events I'm often asked how to go about getting a book published, and I'm always happy to take them through it. But I'm always concerned that most walk away, their heads filled with dreams of self-publishing the great American novel, only to get home and recall maybe ten percent of all that wisdom I've laid on 'em. Well, now when they get home they'll have this as a reference to turn to.

What I've tried to do with this guide is talk to the reader as I might talk to that fair goer, as if we're sitting at my author booth and I'm explaining how we publish our books, and how they can do the same.

Planet of Stones

Completed first draft of Planet of Stones screenplay.

I spent several months outlining and then several months more developing the first draft of a very unique science fiction screenplay. More to come as I develop the final draft in 2017. I will also simultaneously be writing and publishing the novel adaptation.

Movie Novella Series

Completed movie novella series environment / published omnibus collection.

This year I pulled together the set of novellas that I've adapted from screenplays into a collection called the Movie Novella Series, subtitled the "two-hour books collection". I created a module in the Greybeard Publishing website to present this series, describing the titles. Each novella is available in print, large print, ebook and audiobook formats.

I then brought five of the novellas together into the omnibus volume "At Variance", which is available in both print and ebook format.

The Librarians Episode Script

Completed development of an episode for The Librarians series.

I had wanted for some time to try my hand at writing an episode for an existing television series, and I set about to do that this past year. Looking about for a series, I chose The Librarians. I binge-watched the first two seasons to familiarize myself with the characters and story-structure. I then decided to rework a short-short story I wrote a number of years ago, Last Day at Sharp Park as an episode for the show. In the end, the story served primarily as a jumping off point for a new storyline.

An issue with writing an episode script for an existing series is that the producers of that series will absolutely not look at your script. Their concern? What happens if they later produce an episode that resembles your script?

So, while I might be able to offer this as an example script to producers of other existing series, I am looking to again rework this script, this time as a feature or tv movie. I will remove all Librarians-specific components while keeping the storyline that moved my original Last Day at Sharp Park from short-short to a much-expanded project. This is coming in 2017.

Serpent's Keep – Reader's Favorite

Serpent's Keep received Readers' Favorite 5 star placement award.

I submitted the novel Serpent's Keep to Readers Favorite website early in 2016 hoping it would get selected and that it might get a nice review. I was very pleased when it received 5 stars and was listed as a "Readers' Favorite". Serpent's Keep is a science fiction / fantasy adventure labeled Young Adult but really a great book for anyone of any age. It wasn't written to a specific audience, is intended for the whole family.

Reviews website

Developed Reviews website.

My titles have collected a number of positive reviews over the years, these for the print, ebook and audiobook formats, as well as feedback for the screenplay adaptations. This year I developed a website to present many of these reviews. The site is structured much like my screenplay projects website and lists each title's key data, logline, description and review quotes.

Climb the Mountain Royalties

Royalties donated to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization.

100% of royalties from print, ebook and audiobook sales of Climb the Mountain are donated to the VFW organization. In 2016 we donated from \$20 to \$50 each month. Thanks to all who helped make this possible.

Producers looking at scripts

I didn't market my screenplays nearly as much as I would have liked this past year, but I did manage to send out a couple of queries, and I did get a few requests to view the scripts. Of these, two of my screenplays generated serious consideration. The Christmas Cave in particular was given a second and then third look, and I believe was eventually given a pass due to special effects requirements. While production cost overall would likely be low budget, the minimal SFX requirements may have been too much for the two independent producers that each had been considering the project.

Coming in 2017...

I have a rather ambitious development schedule in place for 2017, including completion of 3 screenplays, 3 novels or novellas, and a seven episode radioplay series. In addition to the development projects, I also have six marketing campaigns prepped for development and execution in 2017.

Below is a brief description of each of the projects in the queue.

Sisters in Space

Complete Sisters in Space radioplay series.

As noted earlier, the seven episode Sisters in Space series was written with the idea that it would subsequently be developed as a radioplay series, and hopefully then as a webseries.

I have begun writing the radioplay episode scripts. The plan is to complete the scripts by late spring and to begin audio production this summer. I will also be developing a website on which to place the episodes.

Once the radioplay episodes are completed, I will begin scripting the webseries and marketing the project to webseries producers, noting that the series has also already been adapted to miniseries screenplay format is being marketed to the entertainment industry as a seven episode short series.

Planet of Stones

Complete Planet of Stones screenplay and a novel adaptation.

I completed the first rough draft of the Planet of Stones screenplay in late November and then began outlining the novel adaptation. I will be developing the manuscript over the first few months of 2017, after which I will develop the final draft of the screenplay and then the second draft of the novel adaptation. I hope to finalize the screenplay and then complete and publish the novel adaptation mid-year, and begin marketing the screenplay to the entertainment industry by the end of the summer.

Cemetery Shadows

Complete Cemetery Shadows Short Screenplay and Kindle Single Short Story.

I put together a rough outline for a bit of a unique screenplay several years ago, after which it sat in my "future development" queue until this past year. I have now reworked the outline for development in two distinct formats: the first is a short script and the second is a Kindle Singles short story. I am on schedule to complete both projects this year. Once completed, the short script will join my one other short script (Reunions) in a marketing campaign to the entertainment industry looking to produce short scripts.

The completed short story will be submitted for inclusion in Kindle Singles, an Amazon program for titles between 5,000 and 30,000 words in length fitting specific criteria. This will be the first project submitted to Kindle Singles.

Serpent's Keep sequel

Complete a first draft of Serpent's Keep sequel novel.

There has been a call from Serpent's Keep fans over the last few years for a sequel to the novel. I have put together a rough concept for such a project and will begin work on developing a first draft in the fall of 2017. The draft should be completed by the end of the year and development on the final draft will begin early the next year. I hope to publish in Spring 2018.

Last Day at Sharp Park

Complete a feature film screenplay adaptation of Last Day at Sharp Park.

Last Day at Sharp Park was originally written as a short-short story, later completely reworked as a one hour episode screenplay for an existing television series. I have now outlined a rewrite of the episode screenplay as a feature film. All elements specific to the television series are removed while the expanded storyline that took it from short-short story to one hour screenplay remains.

Marketing Campaigns

Design, develop and initiate marketing campaigns.

I have outlined the basic concepts for three screenplay marketing campaigns and three book title campaigns; also concepts in the queue for additional literary project campaigns. The goal is fully develop and then schedule and initiate the campaigns across the 2017 year.

Hiking Mountain Trails

Beyond the world of writing, I have my mountains. Sorry to say I didn't get out on the trails much in 2016. Of the six hikes that I went on all year, four were in the Spring, only two this past Fall. With all that went on this past year, it was just too easy to put them off, until all too often they didn't happen at all.

Well, big plans for this year. Prior to last year, I always put my planned hikes on the calendar and tried to follow the schedule. I'm returning to that in 2017. I'm scheduling twelve hikes, with tentative plans for three more. And when one of my scheduled Lake Cushman or Rainier hikes just can't happen, rather than cancelling altogether I'll substitute it with a Capital Forest hike.

I am so psyched...

I hope you have a great year.

I plan to...

Thanks!

David

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