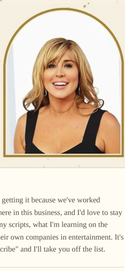
B STORY MEDIA

Behind the scenes with Barbara J. Ross

OCTOBER 2026 · BARBARAJROSS.COM



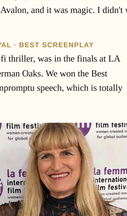
Hi there,

Welcome to The B Story, my very first newsletter. You're getting it because we've worked together, written back and forth, or crossed paths somewhere in this business, and I'd love to stay in touch. Once a month I'll share what's happening with my scripts, what I'm learning on the business side, and news from women who are building their own companies in entertainment. It's short, I promise. And if it isn't for you, just reply "unsubscribe" and I'll take you off the list.

FESTIVAL NEWS

Two Scripts, Two Festivals



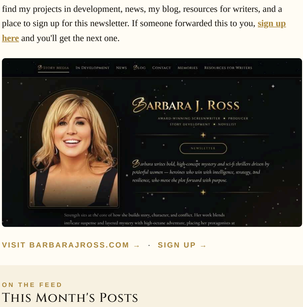


CATALINA FILM FESTIVAL · FINALIST

My thriller *What the Body Holds* was a screenplay finalist at the Catalina Film Festival. Mike and I spent the weekend in Avalon, and it was magic. I didn't win, but I loved the screenplay that did.

LA FEMME INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL · BEST SCREENPLAY

The Cleopatra Project, my female-led sci-fi thriller, was in the finals at LA Femme, October 22 to 25 at the Regal Sherman Oaks. We won the Best Screenplay award, and I had to make an impromptu speech, which is totally different than writing a speech.



With Catherine Hardwicke, who won Best Director the same night.

THE B STORY

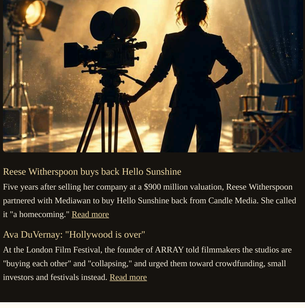
What I'm Up To

Every month I post The B Story, a look at what I'm actually working on. This month the big one is learning to produce. I hired a company to teach me, and my first assignment was creating a cast list. It's not as easy as it seems. There are more variables than you think. You can't just pick who you like, and finding a casting director isn't as easy as it seems either. More posts to follow on this experience.

NEW LOOK

My Website Got a Makeover

My website has a whole new look, in black and gold with a little stardust. You'll find my projects in development, news, my blog, resources for writers, and a place to sign up for this newsletter. If someone forwarded this to you, sign up here and you'll get the next one.



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ON THE FEED

This Month's Posts

SEP 25 We're at the Catalina Film Festival →

SEP 29 NDA or Not to NDA →

SEP 30 35% of Everything Except You →

OCT 1 One Finds the Buyer. One Is the Buyer. →

OCT 2 The Woman Who Wrote Hollywood →

OCT 5 Do You Pay the Sales Agent and the Distributor? →

OCT 6 The First Scene Is the Only One Without Context →

OCT 7 Writing the Text Message Scene →

OCT 8 Intercutting Scenes →

OCT 9 Anne Carson Just Won the Nobel →

BY THE NUMBERS

What We're Talking About...

You showed up for Catalina. My festival post drew nearly 3,500 views. Before that, Writing the Sex Scene was my most engaging post, with more than 1,100 views. Shocking, I know. It turns out sex sells, even on LinkedIn. The Frances Marion post got the best craft conversation. Then LA Femme happened, and a trophy finally beat sex. My Best Screenplay post became my most popular ever, with more than 2,000 views. The next day, my post on AFM got 4,765 views, the most of anything I've posted, which proves writers will read anything that mentions a price tag. I think I surprised you all with the video from LA Femme, but you have to cut loose sometime. Thanks for engaging.

WOMEN-OWNED COMPANIES

Women Who Own the Room

Reese Witherspoon buys back Hello Sunshine

Five years after selling her company at a $900 million valuation, Reese Witherspoon partnered with Mediawan to buy Hello Sunshine back from Candle Media. She called it "a homecoming." Read more

Ava DuVernay: "Hollywood is over"

At the London Film Festival, the founder of ARRAY told filmmakers the studios are "buying each other" and "collapsing," and urged them toward crowdfunding, small investors and festivals instead. Read more

IN MY OPINION

Build the Table

> Two women made news this month, and they were saying the same thing. Reese bought back the company she built. Ava stopped waiting for a studio and built ARRAY to get her films seen.
>
> That's why B Story Media exists. I don't want my scripts to be something that happens to me after FADE OUT. I want a seat where the decisions get made, and I'm learning the surest way to get one is to build the table yourself.

Thank you for reading. Reply anytime, I read every one.

Barbara Ross
WRITER

BARBARA J. ROSS · SCREENWRITER · FOUNDER, B STORY MEDIA · BARBARAJROSS.COM

REPRESENTATION · Judith A. Moose, Midwest Talent Management

Content organized by Claude. Images include artwork created with Higgsfield.

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