




PAUL RUSSELL SMITH

Screenwriter · Punch-up Specialist · On-Camera Storyteller

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PROFILE

Versatile, deadline-tested **WGA-member produced screenwriter** and story consultant with a strong track record in produced features, short-form editorial content, and on-camera hosting. Expert at crafting tight comedic and dramatic beats, rapid punch-ups, and audience-first scripts. **Senior Contributor & On-Camera Talent — Popular Mechanics**. Former union ironworker whose real-world grit informs a distinctive voice and grounded storytelling.

SELECTED WRITING CREDITS (spotlight)

- **Grace Point** — Theatrical release (Jan 10, 2025); **streaming on AppleTV & Amazon (Jan 28, 2025)**. Feature drama; credited writer.
- **Operation Cowboy** — Feature written for producer **Mark Canton**. Historical drama in active packaging.
- **Black Wave** — Feature (in-development); selected drafts & packaging experience.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Senior Contributor & On-Camera Talent — Popular Mechanics

2025–Present

- Create short-form narrative editorial pieces and on-camera segments requiring tight pacing, punchy language, and platform-optimized humor.
- Serve as a public-facing voice for the brand across social platforms; collaborate with production teams to refine timing, cadence and visual jokes.

Freelance Screenwriter & Story Consultant

2000–Present

- Developed and wrote produced and in-development features (Grace Point, Operation Cowboy, Black Wave).
- Collaborated with producers and Emmy-winning writers (including Adam Mazer) on development, rapid rewrites, and punch-ups.
- Provide script coverage, editorial notes, and hands-on rewrite sessions focused on structure, character, and marketability.

Founder & Instructor — Kensho Screenwriting Workshop

2010–2020

- Ran a decade-long workshop in Lambertville, NJ teaching structure, rewriting, and voice to hundreds of students; led timed writers’-room exercises and punch-up sessions.

Story Analyst — Weintraub Entertainment Group

Early Career

- Evaluated material for producer Jerry Weintraub; provided concise notes used for creative decisions and rewrite direction.

Union Ironworker — NYC Local 40

2002–2011

- High-steel construction experience; real-world perspective that informs authentic dialogue and character work.

SKILLS & TOOLS

Feature & short-form screenwriting · Serialized storytelling · Punch-ups & monologue writing · Rapid editorial notes · Asynchronous collaboration · Final Draft · Google Docs · Slack · Trello · Zoom · On-camera hosting · Short-form video scripting

AVAILABILITY

Remote; flexible for freelance contracts and 10–20 hrs/week asynchronous work. Immediate start.

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