

CREATING AND CELEBRATING OLDER CHARACTERS WITH MARILYN ATLAS AND ELIZABETH LOPEZ

In this workshop, a mix of presentation, interactive discussions and targeted exercises, Marilyn and Elizabeth worked with our writers to help humanize their older characters in order to create vivid, compelling, complex, and memorable characters by learning to use their own past adventures, lingering regrets, and hard-won knowledge. To write a role that will snag an actor who can attract production financing, they must create compelling characters by looking at what they really know, vs. what they think they know, breaking the traps that lock them into choices that don't challenge or inspire them.



Marilyn Atlas is an award-winning producer and personal manager of actors and writers, equally at home in the worlds of film, television, and live theater. Among her producer credits are “Real Women Have Curves” for HBO, which won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival, “A Certain Desire,” starring Sam Waterston, and “Echoes,” which won the Gold Award at the Texas International Film Festival. Marilyn co-produced the award-winning play “To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday.” She has sold numerous first time novels to several large publishers. Marilyn is also a founding member of Women in Film's Luminas Committee which supports the portrayal of women in non-stereotypical roles in film and television. She is a guest lecturer at USC, where she teaches a class on creating three-dimensional, non-stereotypical characters.



Elizabeth Lopez attended Vassar College, majoring in English Literature. She was a screenwriting fellow of the L.A. Latino Film Festival and has had several articles published online and in print for entertainment-oriented magazines such as “Storylink” and “Gideon's Screenwriting Tips.” She has taught screenwriting classes at the Ojai Writers Festival, The Writers Store.

She started her Hollywood career as a story analyst for talent managers and production companies, including Vincent Cirrincione & Associates and The Little Company. As VP of Literary Development at Marilyn Atlas Management, she has been managing writing talent, recently editing and selling Jonisha Rios' comic novella “The Curse” to Café con Leche press. Along with other projects she's shepherding, she is partnering with Marilyn Atlas on an MFT about 60s rabble-rouser and iconoclast Abbie Hoffman.