

# WRITING FOR REALITY TV WITH RICH TELLES & HOWARD MARCH

moderated by Mark Rappaport

Reality show veterans **Rick Telles** and **Howard March** discussed how today's reality shows are created and produced with the emphasis on the role of the writer in the process.

Topics included:

- Main Genres (& Sub-Genres) of Reality TV
- Writers Function During Pre-production, Shooting & Post
- Pitching Your Series Idea
- Breaking Into Reality TV From Writer's Perspective



**Rick Telles** began his career 25 years ago with NBC's Movie of the Week, "High School Reunion." He was in charge of the creative direction of "Road Rules" for 7 seasons. His production company, Brass Ring Entertainment, co-created and produced VH1's "The Surreal Life," NBC's "Next Action Star," FX's "Hitch Hiker Chronicles" on FX, and "Surf Girls" and "Battle for Ozzfest" on MTV. Rick recently moved to the scripted world with "Paranormal Housewives" and "Seized" (both based on reality show ideas/talents).

**Howard March** got his start working for John Sayles and other independent filmmakers in New York. His first writing job was crafting Music News stories for the original VJs on MTV. He wrote a "Seinfeld" spec which got him an agent, and moved him to Los Angeles, where he wrote for ABC's, "Coach." In 2012, Howard started working as a Story Producer on "The Bachelorette." Now, a Senior Story Producer, he has worked on all subsequent shows in "The Bachelor" franchise, "The Bachelorette," "The Bachelor," "Bachelor in Paradise" and "Bachelor Pad."

**Mark L. Rappaport** entered the TV business as writer on ABC's "Roseanne" and has since worked as a writer, producer and director on numerous documentary, non-fiction and reality series including Discovery's "Renovation Nation," Bravo's "Real Housewives of NYC," and SOAPnet's "I Wanna Be a Soap Star." At Discovery Communications/Travel Channel, Mark was a showrunner, writer and director on "The Short List," then he created, wrote and directed a celebrity travel show which included "Wayne Newton's Las Vegas" and "Francis Ford Coppola's Napa & Belize." Mark still has his hand in scripted television as co-writer of the very popular "Flower Girl" on Hallmark.