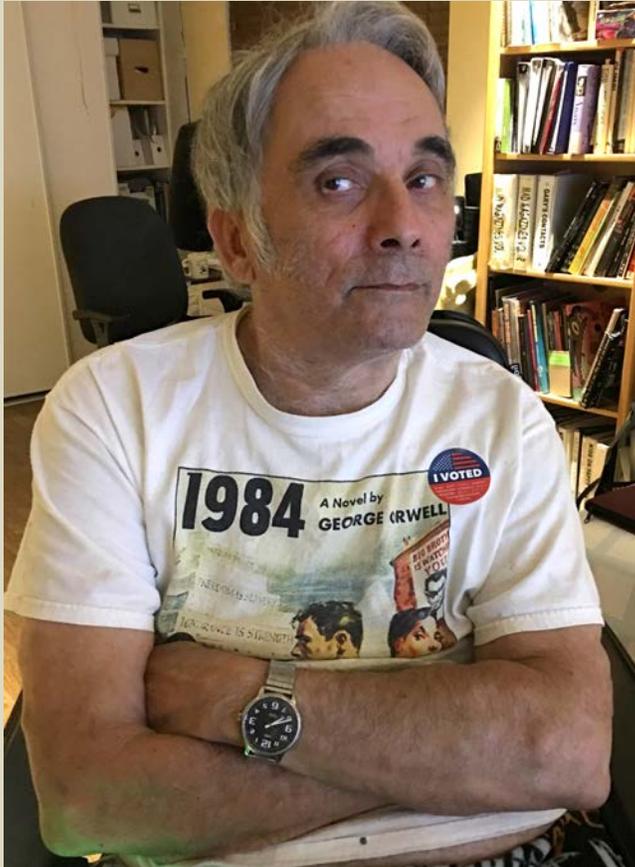


GARY CIFRA, SCREENWRITER

Former Rock Climber, Union Ironworker, Vintage Clothing Store Owner, Animal and Disability Rights Activist, Mid-Century Aficionado, Cinephile, Lowbrow Art and Comic Book Collector, Founder and Director of LINES ON PAPER and KIDS ON PAPER (501c3 nonprofits)

“Though I’ve lost much in life, I now greatly appreciate things I once took for granted.”



I’m in a wheelchair and legally blind, yet able to write using a voice recorder and assistance of my wife. Early on I dreamed of becoming a screenwriter. Years ago I had a Hollywood agent and was a co-writer on a TV drama that ended up in turnaround. My career was starting to go places... then I developed Multiple Sclerosis.

Discouraged, I almost gave upon my writing career, but was persuaded to submit my screenplay “ALWAYS PLAY SOME BLUES” to several competitions. It won Quarter Finalist at the 2013 Page Awards, scored in the top 10% at the 2012 Austin Film Festival, and received a Certificate of Merit from the International Screenwriters Association. “ALWAYS PLAY SOME BLUES” is a Coming of Age Drama set in 1966, about a white teen guitarist who becomes talent show partners with his high school’s first black student. He learns the true meaning of the Blues when his racist pals find out about their interracial romance.

My other screenplay, “SAFE AT HOME”, a neo-noir Western thriller, scored in the top 10% at the 2019 L.A. Neo Noir Novel, Film, and Script Festival.

I also co-wrote “THE ABILITIES CLUB”, a TV series featuring characters with a wide range of disabilities.

My writing focus is realistic stories that touch upon important social issues. I strive to put the total of everything I’ve learned in life into my writing and feel very passionate about it. I care deeply about providing guidance to young people, and tell them that the choices they make today can have life-altering consequences. I made some poor choices along the way and learned some valuable life lessons. Consequently, I developed discipline and determination from within to overcome obstacles, through my experiences as a rock climber, iron worker, activist, and now a person living with disability.

I’m also passionate about Lowbrow Art (inspired by pop culture) and Sequential Art (comic books and graphic novels), and through the years have amassed a nifty collection of both! My collection was documented in a short film by award-winning documentary filmmaker Robin Scovill, “GARY’S HOUSE”.

In 2002, I founded LINES ON PAPER, a sequential art and comic appreciation society. In 2005, I started a 501(c)(3) nonprofit called KIDS ON PAPER that promotes literacy, fosters artistic development and inspires kids to explore their imaginations through reading, writing and drawing comics. www.kidsonpaper.org

To read Gary’s screenwriting samples and view his short films, visit: www.linesonpaper.com/info

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