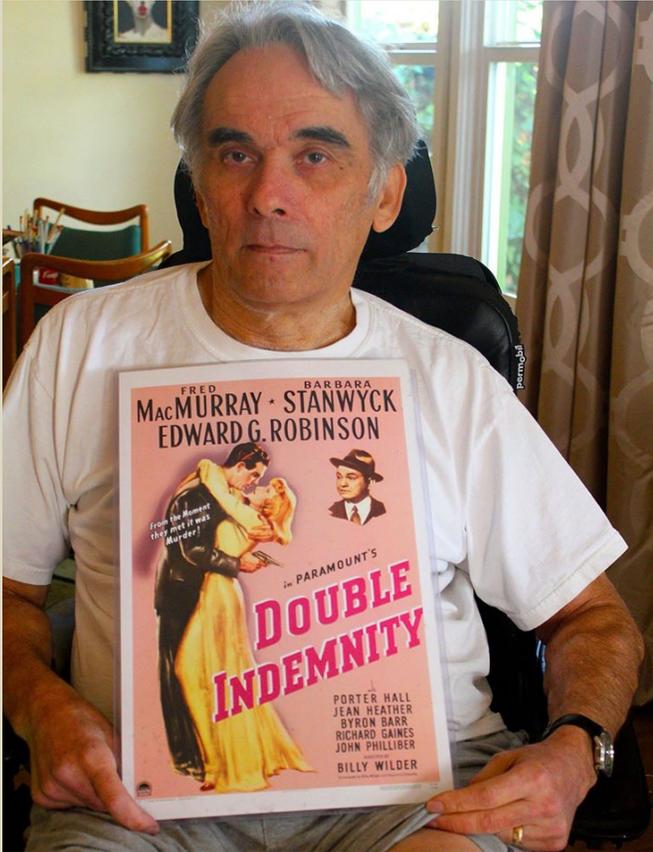


GARY CIFRA, LEGALLY BLIND SCREENWRITER

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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.”

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 up on my writing career. But through discipline and determination, through my experiences as a rock climber, iron worker and now a person living with disability, I’ve learned to overcome obstacles. Despite being in a wheelchair and legally blind, I developed a unique writing method using a voice recorder, and I transcribe my notes into Final Draft with assistance. I was the subject of a short film, **“WRITING BLIND”**: <https://vimeo.com/439840004>

I was persuaded to submit my screenplay, **“ALWAYS PLAY SOME BLUES”**, to several competitions. It won Quarterfinalist at the 2013 Page Awards, scored in the top 10% at the 2012 Austin Film Festival. **“ALWAYS PLAY SOME BLUES”** is a 1966 Coming of Age

Drama about a white teen guitarist, mentored by a veteran Bluesman, who becomes talent show and romantic partners with his high school’s first black student, and must sabotage a dangerous prank planned by his racist pals.

My other screenplay, **“SAFE AT HOME”**, a Neo-Noir Western/Erotic Thriller, won at the 2019 L.A. Neo Noir Novel, Film, and Script Festival, and won as a Semifinalist in both the 2021 Scriptapalooza and 2021 Your Script Produced screenplay contests.

To read samples of Gary’s work, visit: <https://linesonpaper.com/screenplays.html>

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.

I’m passionate about Lowbrow Art and Sequential Art (comic books and graphic novels), and have amassed a nifty collection of both, documented in another short film, **“GARY’S HOUSE”**:

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9bwaha>

In 2002, I founded LINES ON PAPER, a sequential art and comic appreciation society: www.linesonpaper.com

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