

# **“RAININ’ IN MY HEART”**

## **GARY CIFRA - SCREENWRITER BIO**

**Disabled Screenwriter, WGA Disability Committee Member,  
Lowbrow Art and Comic Book Collector, Mid-Century Aficionado,  
Founder/Director of Kids On Paper, a Sequential Art Nonprofit ([www.kidsonpaper.org](http://www.kidsonpaper.org))**

**Former: Rock Climber, Union Ironworker, Vintage Clothing Store Owner,  
Animal and Disabled Rights Activist, Wannabe Blues Guitarist**

**Oh yeah...Smart, Funny, Inspiring Wheelchair Guy!**



My emotionally gripping coming of age romantic drama “RAININ’ IN MY HEART”, winner of an American Screenwriters Association Award, is a story of tolerance triumphing over intolerance. It conveys the inner conflict and torment a young man faces in choosing between impressing his friends by doing something reckless and cruel, or doing the right thing and following his conscience and heart.

“RAININ’” is based on a racist attack my high school friends and I foolishly planned (luckily it never happened). Then I heard Leadbelly play blues guitar on public radio, an experience that stirred my soul as a 1960’s suburban white teenager, and I began to grow up and overcome prejudice. The power of “the blues” to transcend cultural divides also profoundly affects Dennis, the story’s teenage protagonist.

I’m in a wheelchair and legally blind (due to Multiple Sclerosis), yet I’m able to write using special software that allows me to speak into a microphone to write and reads back

to me. I strive to be a role model, and care deeply about providing guidance to young people. I know from my own personal experience 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 about finding the discipline and determination from within to overcome obstacles.

I’ve always loved movies and seen millions of ‘em. Early on, I dreamed of becoming a screenwriter. Years ago I had a Hollywood agent and even earned a little money as a co-writer on a made-for-TV drama that unfortunately went into turnaround. Discouraged, I almost gave up on my screenwriting career, but my wife persuaded me to submit my “RAININ’” script to several screenwriting competitions this year. I’m seriously committed to getting it produced. I also have a second script in development, “Safe At Home” (a suspense thriller), and a third project (a comedy about disability) in the works.

**“Though I’ve lost much in life, I now appreciate things I once took for granted.”  
– Gary Cifra**