

My most immediate career goal is to push my feature-length screenplay, *Ravenscrag Road*, into production. This Sundance-style family drama tells the story of a young auto painter and his tomboyish little sister, who risk it all to pay their ne'er-do-well mother's debt in an 18-wheeler bound for the US border. I have been working on this script for the past two years, with help from professional story consultant Jefferson Lewis (*French Immersion, Emotional Arithmetic*). The screenplay has twice received development funding from Quebec's SODEC and was a semi-finalist in the highly competitive Slamdance Screenplay Contest (2011).

The scene I chose for the Main Scene exercise (from *Ravenscrag Road*) is one I worked at perfecting over a long period of time. I chose this particular scene because there is a lot to work on with the actors and it showcases my greatest dramaturgical strengths, namely dialogue and character development. Dave and Michelle, son and mother, have just been reunited after having been estranged for several years and their feelings towards each other are very raw. Dave is grappling with his emotions and trying not to let them get the better of him; meanwhile, Michelle is up to old tricks, lying and manipulating him. I think it would be a great challenge to firmly establish the relationship and the history between the characters in this one scene—a great exercise for when I actually make the movie in the coming future.