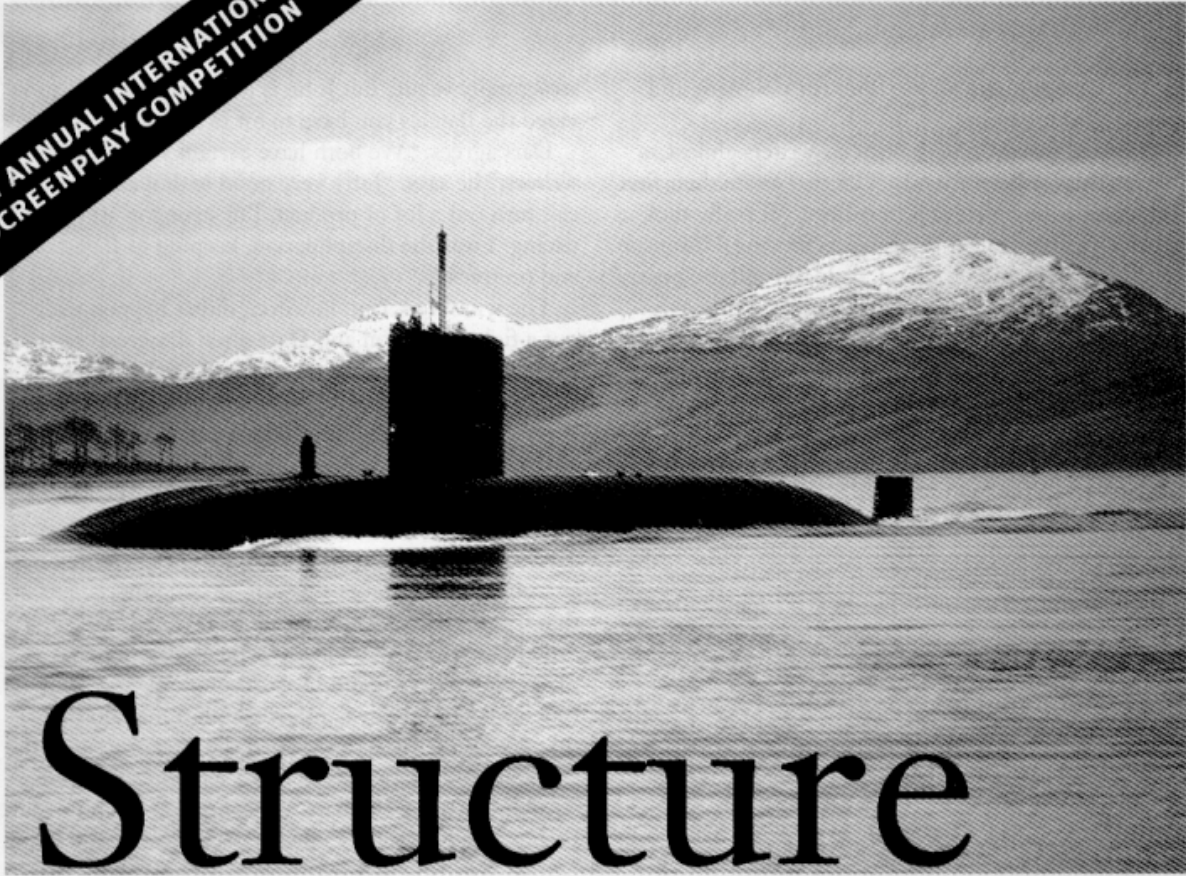


7TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
SCREENPLAY COMPETITION



Structure *Meets* Magic

BY CHRISTINE MERSCH

Full-time business owners John Dart and Jeff Swanson—a real-estate appraiser and computer consultant, respectively—don't get a lot of free time to write. But by combining talents and splitting writing duties, the lifelong friends were able to put together a screenplay that's being honored as the grand-prize winner in the 7th Annual American Screenwriters Association/*Writer's Digest* International Screenplay Competition.

A pair of lifelong friends joins forces to compose a winning script.

The idea for the script, titled "The Snowmen," was hatched when Swanson and Dart learned about a group of soldiers stationed in Greenland during World War II. The soldiers' orders were to keep an eye on the weather and

regularly report their findings back to the mainland. Their information helped the military in planning attacks.

These soldiers spent the majority of their active duty in a remote area of the world, which often left them bored and restless. This idea completely fascinated Swanson, and he and Dart began toying with the idea of a story centered on one of the soldiers. The uniqueness of the concept—the story highlights a different aspect of WWII in an unusual setting, while adding an internal character struggle—helped catapult the script to the top of the competition entries.

Says judge Carolyn Carpenter: "The Snowmen" is a succinctly written script with an intriguing story. The characters interact in a genuine fashion. The story remains suspenseful, and the desperate circumstances