

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

By Christie Taylor and Diana Maiocco

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF CARL SAUTTER.

Photo courtesy of Debra Frank



Carl and Debra Frank hang around the Blue Moon door on the set of *Moonlighting*.

The Scriptwriters Network is a non-profit, volunteered based organization created by writers for writers. The network serves its members by enhancing the awareness of the realities of the business by providing access and opportunity through alliances with industry professionals as well as furthering the cause and quality of writing in the entertainment industry.

Carl Sautter was a good friend and frequent speaker at the organization back

in its formative days in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He suggested that the network start a screenwriting competition, which they did back in 1991, calling it the "Door Opener Derby." Carl was a judge and handed out the award to the winning writer that first year. Besides being a staff writer on *Moonlighting* and co-writing the famous black-and-white episode *The Dream Sequence Always Rings Twice*, Carl also was a writer on such shows as *Beverly Hills 90210* and *Trapper John MD*, as well as working on the feature films *My Stepmother Is An Alien* and *The Jetsons Movie*. In addition, he wrote the popular screenwriting book *How To Sell Your Screenplay: The Real Rules Of Film*

and *Television*.

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When Carl died in February 1993, Scriptwriters Network felt a need to honor him. A plaque was made up and was given to his life partner, Paul Waigner, at the awards dinner. In 1994, permission from Carl's estate was granted to officially change the name of the competition to the Carl Sautter Memorial Scriptwriting Competition for Film and Television.

Scripts are judged in three categories: Features/TV Movies, Sitcoms, One Hour Dramas. Many writers have gone on to great success after winning the competition. Past winners include the original writer on *Sweet Home Alabama* and current staff writers on *Frasier* and *The West Wing*.

We would like to thank Mr. Bill Lundy, Chairman of the Scriptwriters Network, for sharing with us the origination of the Carl Sautter Memorial Scriptwriting Competition. It is a fitting tribute to very talented writer who gave back.

If you would like to learn more about the competition, please log onto www.scriptwritersnetwork.com.

ORIGINALITY

IS THE ONLY STANDARD WE IMPOSE.

Submit your original work into *Moonlighting Strangers*.