

DEADLINE

“Sharing Great Stories”: Deadline x The 2024 Black List 20th Celebration Photo Gallery



The Black List and Deadline celebrated the 20th installment of the Black List annual compilation of the “most liked” unproduced screenplays in Hollywood on Tuesday evening, December 10.

Guests and writers representing 83 screenplays by 91 writers gathered at the Santa Monica Proper Hotel for a celebration sponsored by Johnnie Walker. The selection of these screenplays was made by a record 500 film executives, the largest number of voters in Black List survey history.

Travis Braun, a two-time top-ranked screenwriter on the Black List, was joined by Julia Cox and Franklin Leonard on the panel moderated by Deadline Executive Editor Dominic Patten. His latest script, “One Night Only,” follows two strangers scrambling to find someone to sleep with on the one night of the year when premarital sex is legal.

“Twenty years can feel like a long time or a blink of an eye depending on the moment,” said Black List founder Franklin Leonard. “Throughout that time, this is always the best part: Finding and sharing great stories well told with the rest of the community of folks who care about them. I look forward to these scripts finding the success and audience that previous annual Black List scripts have found and to watching these movies in theaters as soon as they’re available.”

Since 2005, the annual Black List has functioned as a highly popular screenwriting oracle and arbiter of taste, serving the industry early notice of countless screenplays that subsequently garnered commercial and critical success upon production. At least 450 Black List scripts have been produced, grossing over \$30 billion at the box office worldwide. Black List movies have won 54 Academy Awards from 273 nominations, inc.

A big thank you to Johnnie Walker and the Santa Monica Proper Hotel, our partners for last night’s shindig. Scroll down to see the photos.

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The Black List Launches Adaptation List In 20th Anniversary Celebration; 61 Novels Primed For Film & TV Projects

Last night at the Deadline-hosted celebration of the Black List 20th anniversary, founder Franklin Leonard told attendees that there was more to come.

Now that more to come is here.

Just one day after the Travis Braun-topped 20th anniversary list came out, the Black List Wednesday revealed the inaugural Adaptation List. The selection highlights 61 novels published since the first list came out in 2005 that are primed to be made into big screen and small screen projects.

“There was only one real way to celebrate twenty years of annual Black Lists, make another list that celebrates writers and in so doing makes it more likely that great film and television gets made,” Black List chief Leonard said Wednesday of the list that includes books by Jennifer Egan, Jeffrey Eugenides, and N. K. Jemisin (see the full list below). “Once it was clear that we were going to expand into fiction in September, the Adaptation List was an obvious way to mark the occasion. Selfishly, I also wanted a fiction reading list for 2025. Here’s hoping others do the same.”

The latest evolution and expansion of the Black List’s scope and depth to spotlight scribes’ originality and talent, the Adaptation List surveyed 84 publishing industry editors and literary agent.

Having added the wide-ranging Diversity Lists in recent years, the Black List stepped into the publishing world earlier this year with the launch of a fiction list with manuscript submissions and connections to the world of adaptation for TV and film. Led by led by Randy Winston, the fiction initiative also has the Unpublished Novel Award, that will hand out \$10,000 to writers in seven genres, and partnerships with Simon Kinberg’s Genre Films and Onyx Collective that will award \$25,000, as a part of the package.

Now the Black List’s publishing package has gone even larger.

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Deadline x The 2024 Black List 20th Celebration: Writing Is The “Lifeblood Of This Business,” Franklin Leonard Says; Black List Praised For Validating Scribes’ Work & Talents On Anniversary Panel



“I think we celebrate in this industry great scripts after they become great movies through our award system, which is inherently complex and political and commercial anyway,” screenwriter Julia Cox said of the work of writers last night on the Deadline X Black List 20th Celebration panel.

“So for there to be validation for the work as it exists, as a literary document, it’s not only validating to that script, but to our whole existence,” the acclaimed *Nyad* scribe added of the Franklin Leonard founded survey before an invite only crowd in Santa Monica.

The event came just hours after the 20th installment of the Black List was made public in the morning of December 10.

With her *Love of Your Life* script on the 2024 tally of the most like unproduced screenplays in town, the CAA and Project D Media repped Cox was joined on Tuesday’s panel by Leonard and back-to-back Black List topper Travis Braun, who was #1 with *One Night Only* this year and *Bad Boy* in 2023. As you can see in the video above the trio discussed the history of the Black List, the importance of writers, and the power of the word and the Black List stamp in the too often IP bound executive suites of Hollywood.



Founded in 2005 by former studio suit Leonard, the annual and expanding Black List has seen at least 450 scripts have been produced, grossing over \$30 billion in box office worldwide. Black List movies have won 54 Academy Awards from 273 nominations, Since 2007, that's included four Best Picture Oscars and 11 Best Screenplay Oscars.

The King's Speech, *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Argo* and *Spotlight* were all Oscar best picture winners and they were all Black List screenplays before they were made into movies.

Taika Waititi's 2020 Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar winner *Jojo Rabbit* and 2021 Best Original Screenplay winner *Promising Young Woman* were among the most recent standouts in a unique process that has provided critical and commercial success with some of the most original writing the industry has even see.

And, it continues.

Challengers by Justin Kuritzkes was a 2021 Black List script. The Luca Guadagnino directed and the Zendaya, Mike Faist, and Josh O'Conner starring film scored a Golden Globe Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy nomination this week and is widely seen as a major awards contender.

"This is a place to celebrate the craft of screenwriting," Braun told the crowd at last night's panel near the end of an admittedly big day for him. "There's, there's an art form to ...a good line, a good action line, that you're like, this just tickles me, or this is so interesting," the UTA and Echo Lake repped creator of Disney's *Pupstruction* series added.

Having said that, even while rightly calling writing "the lifeblood of this business," Leonard wasn't wearing any rose-tinted glasses about the realities of the industry today, and how hard it has always been for new voices and diverse voices to get their scripts read, let alone made.

"The value of writers, I think, is sorely underappreciated in this industry, sort of on a moral standpoint, but also just on a purely economic one," the BL founder pointed out. "If the industry invested more in writers and writing and the work that undergirds the entire system, we would get significantly better economic outcomes."

"And I think that's why the writers had to go on strike, and ...it's why that sort of one of the basic tenets of the Black List as a whole is we will all do better if we all begin to recognize the value of writers vis a vis the contributions that they actually make."

Indeed.

After last night's panel on the roof of the Santa Monica Proper Hotel, there was a party downstairs for Black List writers, past, present and maybe future, with a few other well known faces and names in attendance too. – as you can see more of in our photo gallery.

As well the Santa Monica Proper Hotel, thanks to Johnnie Walker, our other partner for last night's Deadline X Black List 20th Celebration.