

How to Break Into the Film Industry Without Any Connections

[Scott Myers](#)

The screenwriters of the smash hit movie *A Quiet Place* share the ins and outs of their journey to Hollywood.

Over the course of three decades working in the movie and TV business, I've met hundreds of screenwriters. I can honestly say Scott Beck and Bryan Woods are two of my favorites.



Bryan Woods and Scott Beck

Is it because they originated and co-wrote the compelling and hugely entertaining horror movie [A Quiet Place](#)?

Is it because they gave [one of the best interviews](#) I've ever conducted?

Is it because they visited DePaul University to [participate as panelists](#) in the School of Cinematic Arts annual *Courier 12* screenwriting conference?

Is it because they are fellow [Los Angeles Galaxy](#) soccer fans?

Yes, all that. Plus this: They have one of the best Twitter feeds (@beckandwoods) about the craft of screenwriting. For example, this:



Beck/Woods ✓
@beckandwoods



Sometimes we get asked how to break into the film industry without any connections. Here's how we did it...

- Make cute shorts with your action figures that you never show anyone except your parents
- Start casting your friends & family in increasingly ambitious but still unwatchable shorts
- Read novels and screenplays for fun, wonder how they were written
- Turn every class project into opportunity to film something
- Start making no budget features that bore your friends & family, but learn why
- Get rejected by every major screenplay competition before graduating high school
- Become finalist on Project Greenlight and MTV Best Film on Campus, but lose
- Get rejected by every major film festival before graduating college
- Develop list of young industry contacts who don't like your work but maybe one day will
- Get rejected by every major agency after they tell you they want to sign
- Write screenplays no one wants to make or read, learn why
- Write screenplays some people want to make or read, but can't
- Get frustrated, make one last go-for-broke short film
- Show short to shortlist of industry contacts developed after years of networking
- Get rejected by many managers but sign with one
- Build industry recognition through your work with help of manager
- Write passion project that people think is crazy but you believe in
- Sell your passion project and spend next three years of your life making it
- Get your first professional film released and have it score 14% on Rotten Tomatoes
- Go to sleep terrified you'll never be allowed to make a movie again
- But keep making movies anyways, because you fucking love it

**this journey has taken 23 years and counting....*

Reading this list, it occurred to me the guys embody the spirit of something I wrote about a while back: [10 Screenwriting Skills and Traits You Need](#).

Five Screenwriting Traits

[Part 1: Passion](#)

[Part 2: Courage](#)

[Part 3: Consistency](#)

[Part 4: Flexibility](#)

[Part 5: Persistence](#)

Five Screenwriting Skills

[Part 1: Talent](#)

[Part 2: Knowledge](#)

[Part 3: Experience](#)

[Part 4: Voice](#)

[Part 5: Conviction](#)

These are areas of personal development we all need to be working on, but here's a really easy first step: Follow @beckandwoods on Twitter. Feel free to tweet a question about the craft at them. Even though they are busy, I wouldn't be at all surprised if they responded to you.

Then do this: Sometime this week, take an hour to sit down and take stock of what you are doing and not doing to learn the screenwriting craft. Ask yourself: *What habits can I develop to make me a better writer?*

Read Bryan and Scott's list again. Note: They started where their **passion** was. Movies and telling stories.

Lean into your **own** passion and use that to fuel your growth as a creative.

And one more time, remember: @beckandwoods.