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## Lab Talk

Your diarist was at a suburban five-star where the cream of Bollywood and Hollywood gathered to raise a toast to Anand Mahindra's unique project for screen writers. The Sundance-Mumbai Mantra brunch introduced the eight participants of the Writing Lab, who will get to work with some of the best names in the business, and develop their scripts. Among those present were creative advisors Michael Goldenberg (screenwriter of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*), Howard A Rodman (screenwriter, novelist, educator), Kasi Lemmons (actress-director-writer also known for her work in *Silence of the Lambs* and *Hard Target*), the epic Guillermo Arriaga (*Amores Perros*), Marcos Bernstein (*The other side of the Street, Samba for Sherlock, Oriundi*), Asif Kapadia,



NILESH WAIRKAR

besides committee members Subhash Ghai, Anjum Rajabali, Anurag Kashyap, Kalki, Rohan Sippy, Parven Dabbas, Anil Kapoor, Sudhir Mishra, Vinod Khanna, Zoya Akhtar, Javed Akhtar, Shabana Azmi and Shekhar Kapoor (who will also mentor the screen writers).

Azmi, who flew down from Rajkot for the event, flew back after a brief and eventful appearance. The actor seemed in no mood to indulge in small talk with the media, and summarily

cut short the opening session, insisting that journalists read the press release first. On a brighter note, the eight writers - Charudutt Acharya, Shonali Bose and Nilesh Maniar, Vikas Chandra, Rajneesh Domalpalli, Prashant Nayar, Anusha Rizvi and Mohammed Farooqui, Ajit Pal Singh, Kartik Singh along with the creative advisors will now move to the Mahindra property in Lonavla, where they will chip away at their craft over five days. We like.