

First things first, let's get some business off the table. Thank you for everyone that has submitted their loglines. I've decided, because of the holidays to extend it another week. So please, get me your logline by Tuesday the 4th in order to be eligible. Don't worry if you miss the opportunity. Given the overwhelming number of responses, I plan on doing this again.

Next, please. PLEASE. Remember to include a logline...not a pitch. As explained next week, I will pick the top 5 loglines for ideas and publish them. People will vote and I'll ask the top three to submit pitches. From there, we'll vote again and the top pitch will be asked to submit their script to me.

Everyone clear?

Good. Now onto this week's article...

I will admit that how I say things isn't for everyone. I have a certain kind of voice and it sometimes strikes a nerve.

But you know? I don't give a fuck.

You know why?

Because I, like many others, I believe that if you don't like what someone is saying, then change the channel.

I say this because I received my first piece of "hate mail."

I really struggled with whether or not I was going to give this a public forum, but then I thought...why wouldn't I? That's who I am. I wouldn't be me if I didn't attack my attackers. Hopefully proving a point along the way.

So here, in all its glory, unedited and with my comments thrown in, is my first piece of hate mail...

(told you guys the bad would be posted with the good.)

Manny,

First of all, please don't take this as a personal attack but rather as constructive criticism.

Anyone who starts an email out like this totally intends it as a personal attack. Duh. (p.s. don't think of this response to your constructive criticism as a personal attack, but rather as constructive criticism. Wink, wink.)

Although I initially found the content of your columns interesting I will no longer read them

Ouch. Given the fact that I assumed NO ONE was reading the shit I spew, which I have publically declared in this very column, you're not really hurting me.

and here is why:

Oh goodie! Break it down for me. That's exactly what constructive criticism is all about!

I find it somewhat unprofessional and quite distracting when you find it necessary to use language that is neither impressive, proper or relevant.

Depends on your point of view, but you have me hooked, where are you going with this?

Understand here that I am not sensitive to choice words.

Um...didn't you just attack my choice of words? This, folks, is what we call "hypocritical."

As a previous Sheriff's Deputy, Military Officer and corporate jet pilot and instructor, I know these words quite well.

Sooooo...the problem is?

I am just selective on when, where and how I use them.

Right! Got it. So others should follow your philosophy as well. You're stuck in the 40's and others should be as stuck there too, right? You know who else thought they were right and stuck in the 40's?

Nazi's.

Hey everyone! Erik wants us all to be Nazi's! You get the shiny black boots, I'll get the gas. Party at my house!

There are few of us readers out here that are what younger folks might consider "Over the Hill"...

I promise to turn down the ZZ Top pops.

...as well as younger folks perhaps only in their teens, although as I'm sure you know with all your industry experience, age is irrelevant in terms of creativity.

This is very true. One of the guys I work for is 4 years younger than me. He says fuck more than I do, to a lot older people than you.

I would venture to guess that the ages of readers of these columns range greatly, and that should be taken into account when they are written.

Why?

Are you saying I should change my opinion to suit your comfort level? I should censor myself to make you feel a little bit better about the words you read?

I find your conservatism a little disheartening. I thought, in this day and age, we'd be over trying to tell people what they should and should not say. You're right Erik. Censorship is definitely much better for this world.

Maybe I should have a rating system for every article. You know, let the readers know that this one's only going to have ONE fuck in it, and not in a sexual way...so it gets a PG-13.

Hey, as long as you can sleep a little better at night because you didn't read anything YOU didn't want to in an online article.

An article that you choose to read by the way. Oh wait...you're stopping. My bad.

These columns are read for insight and tools in order to learn the inner working of the industry and can and should be written professionally - being that a professional supposedly writes them.

You know what my problem is, and I agree with you on this point, is that professionals write articles all the time. There are books after books written by "professionals."

But people still do what they are "professionally" told what not to do.

So you know what? The things I say in this column are the things that are laughed about at the bar afterwards.

I'm the guy that says the shit that everyone thinks but doesn't say. The column is entitled "Confessions of a Hollywood Gatekeeper."

HELLO! (and yes, I realize that phrase is like so, 10 years ago, but whatever. And yes, I realize "whatever" is so like, 5 years ago...but...nevermind...)

I'm here to hit you over the head with a frying pan and get you to stop what you're doing. You don't like it? Tough. Not everyone does.

There are a lot of great scripts out there that will probably never be read simply due to the industry's arrogance and that is truly a shame.

I agree. It's a fucked system. You know what you should totally do though? The thing that will get you "in?"

Criticize one of those gatekeepers. That's the FASTEST way to get your script read.

How many scripts have you personally sold...

I freely admit. None.

That's not the point.

The point is that people have trusted me enough to put me in the position to read scripts and recommend the ones I like.

Soooo...um, yeah..."Hollywood Gatekeeper."

...and are you where you want to be for the next twenty to thirty years?

Um...no.

I found the column you wrote a week ago to be most interesting when you commented that when you found the word "straight" incorrectly written as "strait" on a script that you were reading you simply stopped reading it because I believe you said the writer didn't care enough to check his work.

I was making a point. The script sucked LONG before I got to that point. That was just the last straw.

Plus, the kid was so fucking arrogant about his work, that the last thing I expected was him to have such a fucked up typo in his "brilliant pilot."

This could have been the next big blockbuster and you didn't finish it because of a few typos? Wow! Arrogance at its best perhaps? Was there another way your point could have been stated?

Yup. I could have called him a fucktard.

Your latest column is no better; "Those people were fucktards in high school and apparently they're fucktards as adults." Really?

Ooops. Probably not going to like what I said above then.

You couldn't have come up with another way to say this?

What's wrong with fucktard? Did "fucktard" produce a negative image in your head? Did I use the more politically incorrect word "retard?"

No, because that would be insensitive.

Bet you have a problem with the phrase, "that's gay" don't you?

So how about I bust out my new hybrid word, "gaytarded?"

You know, just so we can offend everyone in one fell swoop?

I can assure you that if I were running the company you work for...

You're not.

...and an employee of my company who uses my company as a basis for writing columns for publication and does so like this, we'd be talking.

Oh, Erik. If you only knew. Poor naïve Erik. Watch an episode of Entourage and see how old school Hollywood works. Do you think Ari Gold is a mythical creature not based on any amount of fact?

I'm not a professional writer although I have and still write both screenplays as well as novels (7). So, have I been published? Yes.

It didn't take long to find your books. (Way to re-tap that well, by the way.)

Tom Berenger has made Sniper 1, 2 and 3...but does anyone really care?

Have any of my screenplays been optioned? Yes, even with typo's!

That is AWESOME, Sir! I congratulate you. That is a very hard feat. Hey listen? Have you considered Tom Berenger? Gonna go out on a limb and say he might be free.

Do I presently have screenplays under consideration? Yes.

Eric Roberts might be free too. After the Best of the Best series, he might be looking.

Do I have a few inside industry connections? Yes.

That's a little vague, Erik. I know a lot of the Hostesses at major restaurants in Beverly Hills. They all deal with assistants and producers. Any of them will tell you, hands down, that they have industry connections.

If I walked out of my apartment right now and threw a rock, I'd probably hit an "industry connection."

Manny, my point here is that you might consider backing off the choice words in your columns because I can assure you it is not impressive.

Given the fact that I received several emails from people asking if they could steal "fucktard" for their next script...gotta say, sir...you're wrong.

Your readers are looking for answers and you are in a position to do so but it can and should be done without arrogance and unprofessionalism.

The Sinatra song isn't called "Your Way," Erik.

Believe it or not, there are probably a few readers out here that actually know a think a two as well.

I LOVE that you put in "a think or two as well." This was the line that got me and my friends. I know you were trying to be a little funny at the end, but really? That's the joke you pull?

Kindest regards,

Erik

I know this article is longer than most, but let me just put some final thoughts together.

My idols include:

George Carlin, Richard Pryor, Sam Kinison, Chris Rock, Eddie Murphy and many other comedians that have made their way based on using language for the purpose of exaggeration and hyperbole.

Are they stupid and unprofessional because they said "fuck?"

No.

They have a voice.

Would you say that Don Rickles is a racist? I hardly think so.

The bottom line is this:

The most juvenile thing that happened here was that Erik thought to take the time to attack my way of speaking. My constitutional right to say what I want to say and how I want to say it.

If you don't like it? Fine.

Change the channel.

Till next week...