

Before I get into what I want to talk about this week, I want to make a few comments about Sunday night's Oscars.

WORST OSCARS EVER.

I'm not exactly sure what James Franco was doing up there, but he needed to get the stick out of his ass, do a shot and a line of coke or something. All he did was stand there with a stupid grin on his face, because of this Anne Hathaway over compensated and gave us WAY too much.

It was embarrassing to watch.

I've decided to take matters into my own hands. If an online Facebook campaign can get Betty White to host SNL than we can do the same thing to get Billy Crystal back hosting the Oscars.

So please show your support by going to: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Lets-Get-Billy-Crystal-Back-to-Host-the-Oscars-in-2012/149935348400879> and like it. Share it with your friends. Get the word out. The Academy needs your help!

Okay...enough of the politics. Let's talk actual awards...

I made some minor last minute changes to my picks from last week. I had to suck it up and admit that King's Speech was going to win. So I bailed on Social Network. I still thought Fincher would win and it was kind of a shock he didn't. As one "Hollywood Insider" who worked with him closely on a certain flick told me, "He doesn't play the game and if you want to get the achievements you gotta play." Let me say this... if I can have Fincher's career WITHOUT playing the game, then um... YES, PLEASE!

At the end of the day I got 21 out of 24 right and that was only because I guessed REALLY fucking good with the shorts and the doc categories. Shoulda laid money down.

On to the topic of the week:

Patience.

You have to have it.

Before I go off on you budding writers, let me share a story with you. This should definitely be taken as a what NOT to do story.

I was talking to a friend of mine the other day who is a Creative Executive at a reputable production company. We started going on about working with writers and finding new material. She proceeds to tell me about this writer that she was working with. It was a pilot for a TV series. They had optioned the script and wanted to get it ready to go out for the upcoming pilot season. This particular CE was working with the writer to develop the script.

She had been working on the script for less than a month.

The writer had become a total pain in her ass. He called her every other day and sent her email after email. In the emails he would send her a lot of shit that started with "You know what you should do..." or "You know what we should do..."

It comes across as: "You clearly have no idea how to handle my project so I'm going to do it for you."

The funny part about this? He was young and fucktarded about the business. The pilot was clearly at a CW level and he kept pushing for it to be taken to Showtime or HBO.

Guess whose calls started going unanswered?

They dumped the pilot AND the writer a week later. The CW had passed and they didn't feel like putting up with him anymore.

Think about it: Do you really want to annoy the people that are giving you your first chance?

So how does Guns n' Roses help us out? They taught us that all we need is a little patience. I have stories upon stories of writers that habitually contact me asking me if I read their script. I tend to tell them the same thing, if I decide to tell them anything at all: "I'll get to it when I get to it."

I can hear it now:

"But Manny...I heard that it's okay to 'check-in' after a month or so."

Sure...whatever. Do what you want. But do you think that you are the ONLY writer that an exec is reading? Really?

Hundreds of scripts a week come in which means that's hundreds of writers calling and emailing asking if their script was read.

You don't think that's annoying?

Don't be that guy.

I have a very Zen philosophy when it comes to my scripts. I write them. I re-write them. Then, when I'm absolutely sure that it's ready to go out, I send it and I move on with my life. I have faith in my abilities and I'm going to just put it out there and good things will come from it.

More importantly, I don't want to become known for being an annoying prick.

One of the people that I sent my script to is the President of Production of a company that I think my script fits at. He knows me pretty well and I know him. I can easily call him a friend.

That was three weeks ago. I've hung out with him since then. Never asked him about the script. Never asked him if he read it.

In fact, he was the one who brought it up: "Dude, I'm so sorry that I haven't read your script yet."

I told him not to worry about it...read it when you can read it.

People get busy. Something always comes up. In this town you could have NOTHING going on Tuesday and then have a movie greenlit and rolling on Thursday. Shit happens fast and often.

I know it's hard. I know you're sitting there thinking that your script is the winning lottery ticket. That someone will read it, love it, love you and make all of your dreams come true.

And I promise you that it COULD happen...but don't fuck it up for yourself by pissing off the people that you're relying on.

You don't want to shoot yourself in the foot before you have to run the race.

I know a lot of you are going to write in and tell me that you don't do that. Let me clue you in on something, and listen CAREFULLY: If you write me to tell me that you're not annoying...guess what, you're probably annoying. ;) Keep it in mind.

ON THAT NOTE:

Please send all of your questions and comments to weekendread@gmail.com. As always I love any and all feedback and will respond to everyone who takes the time to write me.

PLEASE don't forget to jump on the bandwagon and help get Bill back in 2012!

Till next week...