

This email needs a little setup.

I was involved in a virtual pitchfest a few weeks ago and had just an awful experience with one person in particular.

First, I have to say, I was getting annoyed. It was a Saturday morning and I had an 11:30 Skype appointment with him. He was late. Majorly late. He was my last appointment and I really wanted to fucking start my weekend. But no, I have to wait around for this fucktard to get his shit together.

Fine.

I do. Ya know, cause I'm fucking nice.

So another half hour goes by and I'm still waiting for this dipshit. I'm pissed. I'm cranky and you all know how nice I am when I get cranky.

The pitchfest hostess IM's me and tells me that "it'll just be another minute." I type back "fine, but this motherfucker better have the next Schindler's List for me to be interested at this point." She totally LOL'd.

Unfair? Yeah. It was, but whatever. Arrogant statement of the day: Writer's wait around for me, I don't wait around for writer's.

If you haven't gotten the point in that last statement I'll drive it home here: DON'T MAKE PEOPLE WAIT FOR YOUR ASS! You have ONE shot. Making ANYONE wait to give YOU a shot? Do you understand how fucktarded that is?

I finally get on cam with him and it's clear that I'm annoyed. He goes into this long diatribe about how it's not his fault, he started blaming the organization and then threw in that he was jet-lagged.

It was pretty annoying, but whatever. I gave him the benefit of the doubt and softened up a little. He FINALLY got into his pitch. It wasn't the greatest pitch in the world, but the story seemed interesting.

He finished his pitch and then asked if I had any questions. I did. So I open my mouth to speak and he cuts in with:

"Let me just interrupt you and say that I have a website to the script."

I tell him that I was on his site as we speak.

He says the following: "Okay, good. There you can see all of the awards I've won for this script."

Okay, look...here is MY opinion on screenwriting awards.

FUCK THEM.

Who gives a shit?!

First off, most people claim to have won awards and then state that the "award" was runner-up in such and such competition. Okay peeps...second place is not "winning an award." It's LOSING AN AWARD!

Even better is the cock-knockers that put "quarter-finalist."

Oh. Top four? Wow. Give me that fucking script. Kudos.

Second...

No one gives a shit about every little screenwriting competition. Coming in as a quarter-finalist in Bob's basement screenwriting festival is NOT something you should brag about. One guy had 52 different "awards" listed for one of his scripts. Oh really? Then why haven't you fucking sold anything?

Exactly.

Screenwriting awards mean jack fucking shit!

When you can say, "I sold my last script to..."

THAT is your fucking award.

But guess what? If you're selling scripts, you're not fucking around at a pitchfest.

Anyway...I tell this guy to send me the first 10 pages and I would give them a read. If I liked what he was doing, I'd ask for the rest.

He said he'd send it to me. He never did.

Until yesterday...

Now, I won't copy the whole email, but I will highlight the major portion and make comments. FYI, this is something you should NEVER do. Do not read this shit and emulate him. Here we go...

Dear Manny -

I apologize.

I've avoided writing to you because you showed absolutely zero interest in my pitch. But - you did say "send it" - so, I figure - a contact is a contact.

Whether or not I showed interest or not, I DID say to send it. So just fucking send it, I don't need some long ass email re-hashing the negative experience I had with you.

Look people, the one thing you DON'T want to do is remind people how much your experience with them SUCKED ASS when you're trying to get them to read your script.

Had he just sent an email with the pages I asked for, I would have read them. But now, he's trying to be cute and I say, fuck 'em. Not reading shit.

Unfair? You better fucking believe it. Welcome to Hollywood bitches. Sorry, but this is the way shit works. This is why I'm telling you this shit.

TO GET YOU TO STOP DOING IT!

Since I know you to be a writer, and since I have a lot of friends who read scripts all day -- just like you do -- and the drudgery of it, I wanted to send you another example of my writing as well. I'll attach it below.

Right. Good idea. Send me MORE shit to read instead of making it "easier" on me.

The reason?

Because I don't think you'll read the script - And unless I get your attention some other way --- the script is gonna end up in the trash.

Hmmm...you are SO winning me over here. I've just gotten a free pass. Totally don't have to feel bad for dumping your shit in the trash. Sweet. Moving on.

Too bad, because if you're the writer I THINK you are --- you'd like it.

YAY ASSUMPTIONS! You've turned me around.

To refresh your memory, I'm getting a lot of interest in this script.

LOVE this sentence. First, I'm going to remind you how many people want this script. Remind me? Really. You're a dick.

Second, if you're getting SO much interest in this script, then why are you grasping at straws by sending it to someone who you clearly feel won't read it?

Yup. I believe you buddy.

[TITLE] is a Western with a strong Female lead -

**You asked for a reminder that Italia Ricci (ICM), has read it - and is interested in the role.
(That's "Italia" -- not "Christina")**

I didn't ask for any reminder about shit. I couldn't get a word in edge wise cause you were going on about your fucking "awards." I tried to ask questions. You cut me off. Smooth move ex-lax.

And yeah, thanks for the "Ricci lesson."

Also a good fit for a Kristen Stewart or a Rachel McAdams type --

Don't fucking tell me how to do MY job! If, and this is a BIG if, it moves up the ladder, the last person asked about casting is the fucking writer.

Unless you're Quentin Tarantino. Are you Quentin Tarantino? No? Then shut the fuck up and sit down.

As someone who HATES to read scripts, I wrote it in a style which was intended to make it a FUN read, so I really believe that if you read the first 7 or 8 pages, you'll see its different -- and that I know what I'm doing.

That's what I asked for. Why can't I just get what I asked for? Why do you have to pontificate? Just fucking send me what I asked for!

Manny - I know you spoke to dozens of people that day, and trust me, so did I. But I do remember our conversation in particular.

I didn't. I could have, but I was sitting around waiting for your dumb ass and you SHOULD remember our conversation. If you remembered me "in particular," then you should have guessed not to send me this long fucking email full of your bullshit!

Didn't get that from me? Hmm. Way to pay attention.

I'm telling you this with absolutely NO HOSTILITY whatsoever -- really -- NONE. I'm actually smiling as I write this.

Wow. At this point in the email, I can honestly say, and I'm telling you with absolutely NO Hostility whatsoever...I DON'T GIVE A FUCK!

Save your feelings for the therapy couch cause I don't give two shits.

You gave me no reason in the universe to believe that you would EVER be interested in anything I've written.

You're right. Starting with this long ass fucking email.

So, obviously -- I've got nothing to lose!

Sure you do. You could have emailed an Exec with a column who will blast you publically for being a fucktard.

This script is in the hands of some heavy hitters. I'm not worried - just undecided.

Again, if so, why are you contacting me.

I'm not worried - just undecided.

If you're undecided, let me help you out...GET OUT OF THIS BUSINESS! WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE!

I wrote the first 3 drafts of a script (seven years ago) which went on to become the vehicle for an Oscar winning performance last year.

And you guys think I'M arrogant? HA! Add to the fact that you're telling me that this piece of shit has been floating around Hollywood for several years. Wow. And it hasn't been picked up? Really? Are you sure? From what you've told me you've got "heavy hitters interested."

Hmmm. Think I might have to call bullshit, Bob.

Take a look down below --- AFTER the loglines ----If nothing else, perhaps you'll be amused. and Buddy, you sure looked like you could've used some cheering up that day!

BECAUSE OF YOU! YOU MADE MY DAY SHITTY!

UGH! FUCKTARD!

Bob goes on for several more pages listing every fucking idea he's ever thought of. He also comments on his one loglines. I can't tell you much about it. I tuned out pretty quickly in.

All the best to you, Manny!

Bob

Do you see why I'm always so cranky sounding? Cause I have to deal with THIS shit. Don't be like Bob, I implore you. I'm trying to teach you from the mistakes of the fucktards. Get it through your head.

Send comments and questions to weekendread@gmail.com. Warning...email me and tell me that I was "too harsh" on Bob and I promise you I will fuck you up in next week's column. You've been warned ☺

Till next week!