

Got a lot I kind of want to talk about this week and I have no fucking idea where to start.

First, I had an interesting situation happen with an intern recently...

Wait, isn't that how congress gets in trouble?

Anyway...this very shy intern came in after the weekend and asked me: "How do you network, cause you seem really good at it?"

For a moment or two, I was really thrown for a loop. I never REALLY thought about it. How do YOU network with people and get in the club? I mean, that's what we all want, right? To be a part of this big club that is Hollywood?

So I told her what I thought was a decent answer:

You have to know how to bullshit a little.

I always use football as my go to example. I'm from Detroit and any Detroiter knows that our football team is one of the worst fucking teams of all time. We NEVER make the playoffs. In Detroit we have a joke that we like to make, every year we joke that "we're in a transitional year." You know, just getting better and NEXT year we're going to make it.

I was at a game once (yes, we're season ticket holders) and saw a guy with a shirt that said: "Detroit Lions, 52 years in transition!"

So we know the score.

Now, anyone who knows football, knows the score too.

I have two pieces of Lions apparel. My Calvin Johnson special edition black jersey that I wear on game days and my black Lions hat that I wear EVERYWHERE.

Since moving out to LA, I get a LOT of comments about the hat. I mean, only a real Detroiter would get caught in a Lions hat.

So when I get faced with a comment, I gotta bullshit a little...cause guess what? I love football, but I don't have the time to know shit about shit about football.

Here's what I know about the Lions: We suck. We play at Ford Field. We always have a great team, but never a winning team. Our quarterback is Matthew Stafford who used to play at the University of Georgia (which I know cause I have a friend who was WAY into UGA on Saturdays) and we have one of the league's best receivers, Calvin Johnson.

That's it.

I'm not that guy that knows fucking stats or any of that shit. Got more important things to remember. Fuck, sad to say, but I could actually name more porn stars than I could players currently playing in the NFL.

BUT, and here's the key...I know how to bullshit a little and turn barely knowing anything, into seeming like I know everything.

During the offseason, the NFL was in a lockout, which put having a season in jeopardy. I knew this thanks to A) my dad (the season ticket holder) and B) my iPad's handy dandy Sportscenter app.

Here's how the conversation would go:

Person A: Wow, a Lions fan huh?

ME: Yup, season ticket holder.

Person A: You guys got a strong draft choice this year. I think this could be a good year for you.

ME (with a smile): Hey, it's Detroit, you know us, it's always a transitional year!

Person A (laughing): Nah, I think this the Lions are gonna be good this year.

ME: Hey, that's if we have a season!

Person A (big smile): Right, right! Man I hope we have a season. So anyway, what have you got for me?

See that? Totally related with that dude and didn't say shit about shit. I gave this speech so many times, that Cheryl, who I've talked about before and always found herself next to me when this talk happened, memorized it. She knows even less about football than a nerd virgin at a Star Trek convention.

After hearing this conversation so many times (and my patented responses) she started jumping into the conversation.

Before I could drop my, "if we have a season" line, she would pipe up and say it. Not only did Person A connect with me, but now thought Cheryl was some football expert and totally thought she was bad ass.

"That's great Manny, but the lockout is over. Now what?"

Simple. Change, "That's if we have a season" to "Hey, at least we're having a season!"

Done and done.

Football experts. I can hang with the boys and sound cool talking sports.

See how you just bullshit a little and WHAM, you're in like Flynn?

Maybe you're in a situation where they're talking about something you know NOTHING ABOUT. I mean REALLY nothing. I'm going to stay with the sports example for a second, cause it comes up a LOT.

Let's say you're in a group and they're talking about baseball.

Well, FUCK BASEBALL. Jesus I'd rather watch fly's fuck on a wall of wet paint while it dries. NEVER take me to a baseball game unless you want to hear me complain for 3 hours. It's SO fucking boring. And fuck, being Mexican I probably got some relatives in the sport that I don't know about and I STILL don't care about baseball.

Anywhoozel...All I know about baseball is the following: Detroit Tigers. New York Yankees pay a lot of money for players and buy world championships. Red Sox used to be cursed, but apparently aren't any more. Cubs. Dodgers. Dr. Dre doesn't want chrome to the side of his White Sox Cap and there's a lot of steroids in the game.

Am I close?

If I'm in a group of people talking baseball, I stay silent. Like a lion (pun intended) stalking its prey. Then when I see a window I jump in with: "Hey, as far as Detroit sports go, we have the Lions...so whatever."

Everyone laughs and guess what? Brought it back to football. And then this happens:

Person A: That's right, you're from Detroit, you a Lions fan?

ME: Season ticket holder.

Person A: Jesus, that's fucking die hard. Looks like you guys have a good team this year.

Yadda yadda yadda all the way up to, "Hey, at least we're having a season!"

See that? Totally jumped in the convo, made some jokes, talked about the shit I knew and BAM. I'm networking, plain and simple.

Easy, huh?

That's all networking is...just being able to shoot the shit, make a couple of jokes, show people you aren't weird and get them to like you. If they like you, they'll want you around. TA DA!

I know jack shit about current events and politics. I get my news from the Daily Show. But guess what, you know how fucking much watching the Daily Show saves my ass on a weekly basis?

Here's the one secret to the art of bullshitting: You have to seem like you know what you're talking about, even if you don't. Easiest way to do that is by having knowledge and knowing how to use that knowledge to your advantage.

But get your own fucking team. I got dibs on the Lions.

Hey, on the shitty, straight-to-DVD sequel front: Please check out Quarantine 2: Terminal. If you really want to see some fucking lazy screenwriting, this is the movie for you. I know many of you don't really have lofty goals with your writing, so this flick will be right up your alley!

YAY! Condescending Manny is back!! Did ya miss him?

There are some decent boo moments, but really it's just a great example of what NOT to do in a script.

(AUTHOR'S NOTE: If any reader had anything to do with the script for Quarantine 2: Terminal, note to self... if a character is wearing thermal imaging goggles, that does not mean they can see the cold, steel pistol laying on the floor of the terminal.)

Lastly, next couple of weeks are very special for me...it's my one year anniversary here at BOSI! So I thought it might be fun for all of you to write in and ask questions, make comments and maybe share some of your favorite lines or moments from the past year. If you would like to jump in, good or bad, drop me an email and share your thoughts. There will also be some never before seen material popping up over the next two articles!

Cool, huh?

Till next week...