

Funny that the week I write about censorship, Brett Ratner loses his job at the Oscars for saying naughty words.

Don't care cause that means Billy's back! Hoo-ray! For those of you that remember, Back on March 4<sup>th</sup>, I started the move to get Bill Crystal back hosting the Oscars...to quote...

*"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."*

Facebook page was created and 36 of you fine men and women decided to join me in a courageous quest. Now, I'm not saying our Facebook page got him back at the helm of Hollywood's longest night, but I'd like to think that...in some way...we had a little something to do with that.

So yay for us!

On that same topic...in this-just-happened-while-I-was-writing-this-breaking-news, Ricky Gervais is officially hosting the Golden Globes!

Fuck yes people! Love it. And yeah, Trish...I get it, no need to send me an email.

As many of you remember from last year, I championed his slaying of the Hollywood audience and look forward to some fresh kills this year!

(as long as he leaves Tim Allen alone.)

Speaking of the Oscar's...it's my favorite time of the year. Academy Screener time! I would highly suggest that if you haven't, you try and see Warrior. I know mixed martial arts fighting isn't for everyone, but fuck if Tom Hardy isn't bad ass. SO can't wait for The Dark Knight Rises. Bane didn't do much in the shitty, Joel Schumacher Batman, but with Nolan and Hardy behind him, I think it's really going to be bad ass.

Sorry...popped a comic boner and let me geek flag fly for a hot minute.

One other comment I want to make on Warrior is...well, I'm not really sure where Nick Nolte stands in the eyes of Hollywood. His mug shot is LEGEN – wait for it – DARY. But, if Hollywood is totally cool with him right now, I have to put it out there...totally deserves an Oscar nom for his performance. He's so good in it.

Okay, 'nuff about that...

Quick update...I'm knee deep in re-writes and I have to say, things are going REALLY well. It's nice working with collaborative people who can catapult your ideas and writing into the next level. Sometimes, just being able to bounce things off of them is important. Not because they will give you a solution, but say something that makes you think of a way out of whatever scenario that you're in.

So yeah, hoping to get that done really soon and then I'll have more to tell you.

So I am off to Detroit this week. Back home for the Holiday. Not going to slow down on the writing, but so looking forward to a vacation. It's the one vacation I get a year. Real like, travel travel vacation. It's going to be nice. Also get to spend Thanksgiving Day at the Detroit Lions game. Boo-yah! Of course they're going up against the undefeated Green Bay Packers.

Fingers crossed for a HUGE upset.

Anyway, I tell you that so that so you guys can let me off the hook if I "phone it in" next week. I might actually phone it in for the second half of this article as I'm typing feverishly because I have to go home and pack and get ready for an early morning flight.

Clearly the more I tell you about my life the more the word count goes up. So yeah, deal with it.

Okay, one thing about screenwriting and then I'm out...

Recently I was asked, "How do you know when it's okay to not have conflict in a scene?" And then was quickly followed up with "You know, because everyone always tells you that "every scene must have conflict."

At first, I got into a discussion about the answer to the question, but then I stopped.

"Every scene must have conflict." Is such a fucking text book phrase. Whether you believe the statement or not, when you utter those words I immediately know who you are. You're a noob that's reading the books and going to the classes and the seminars.

At a certain point, when you get over the "how do I do it" and get to the just doing it, you drop those kind of phrases. Remember, you can't get into a discussion about screenwriting by regurgitating what you read in a book.

That's so fucking Good Will Hunting...and you know how those apples turned out.

Read it. Understand it. Apply it. Then make it your own. You want to be a writer? Then act like a writer.

I was going through some of the old newsletters and I saw the title of an oldie..."Talk like a duck." It was the article when Marvin was talking about language and expressing the attitude that "I am a writer."

It's true. Spouting off McKee to me is going to ensure two things will happen. 1) I'll immediately write you off as a wannabe and then 2) tell you to go fuck yourself with McKee's book on stage at his next weekend bullshit session.

Pretty sure you don't want any of those things to happen...well unless you've been fantasizing about fucking yourself with McKee's book at his next weekend bullshit session while masturbating.

If that's the case...well...I'd probably sign up for THAT session. Then, just as McKee came out and after everyone quieted it down, right after he utters his first sentence, I'd stand and yell out "Just get to the guy fucking himself with your book part!" All Homer Simpson style.

Anyway...That was a fucking weird left turn in the article? Don't care, burned up the word count and I'm sure a couple of you giggled and the rest of you were appalled that I put those images in your head.

The point is, regurgitating clichéd phrases isn't going to make you "talk like a duck." You have to know this shit and be comfortable in being able to turn it into your own words. Then, you can sit down, have a great discussion and actually seem like you know what you're talking about.

Which then makes people like me, have a little more faith in you.

Till next week...