

You have no idea how much I wish I could start this column with news of how I finished the re-writes on my script and popping the bubbly to celebrate.

The reality is...I just don't have the motivation to crank out page after page of re-writes. Re-writing is such a slow process for me. Whoever designs and builds a machine that will read your thoughts and type them up is going to be a fucking gazillionaire.

Just please take out the hammering at the keys process...please.

Yeah, yeah...I know...there's dictation software, but it doesn't work with scripts. Doesn't understand the INT./EXT. formula as well as all of the other short-hands.

I swear I always try to find other things to do then sit at the keyboard.

I'm not a slob or anything but I shit you not I have the cleanest fucking apartment when I'm writing. I mean, how can I write a page of a script when there are dishes in the sink?

Really? You expect me to put words together when the tub needs a good scrubbing? Come on!

Anyway...so I have a script that I'm still trying to get through and if any of you were to come over to my "bachelor pad" you wouldn't find a hint of mess anywhere.

Okay...that last part might be a bit of a lie, but you get the drift.

SO...anyway...

Sometimes I wish this column was more of a discussion. I'd much rather be sitting in some cozy bar somewhere sharing stories and having deep discussions about writing and making movies.

It's hard sitting here having a conversation with myself a lot of the time. Just sitting in front of a laptop typing AT you rather than talking with you.

We would be able to talk about movies we saw or TV shows that we're watching.

Actually, maybe that's not such a good idea now that I think about it. Then you would know that the last movie I saw in the theaters was The Muppets and you'd also find out that I watch Glee every week.

Sad. I know.

Man card revoked.

Fuck it, whatever. I defend my choices! That and the fact that I also peeped 50/50 and Larry Crowne yesterday so boo-yah!

So speaking of movies just watched, I have to Segway into a movie that I watched last night that got me thinking. I was having a conversation the other day about stages you go through as a kid.

Meaning like, going through your “dinosaur stage” or your “civil war stage.” Just shit that would grab your imagination as a kid.

Well, anyway...in this discussion I realized that so many of my “stages” as a kid was sparked by movies.

One of those movies I totally rewatched last night and I have to say, even with the advancement of technology, it still holds up. That movie?

Spacecamp.

Yup. Spacecamp. With a young Lea Thompson, Kelly Preston and Tate Donovan. Not to mention Leaf (soon-to-be-known-as Joaquin) Phoenix.

I loved Spacecamp as a kid because, I too, wanted to go to Spacecamp. Every year...so wanted to go but my parents never had enough money to send me.

Funny too, because I actually kind of fucking loathe the camp atmosphere. As you can imagine I’m not the most social person.

Anyway, so I’m watching Spacecamp last night and I realized something...it’s a movie from the 80’s that can’t be remade.

Cause there’s no space program anymore!

I racked my brain for hours last night and I couldn’t come up with an angle to redo it. Not that I wanted to, just thought it was fun to play with the idea of redoing it.

The bottom line is that they would have to end up back in space on the shuttle and that ain’t happening. Maybe in like 10 or 20 years when we celebrate the anniversary of something for the space shuttle...we can hull it out and do an engine test just for old times sake and the kids could somehow be involved.

Hmmm...okay no one steal that! Dibs!

Speaking of remakes...another interesting idea that I heard the other day. I was listening to a podcast and they were talking about 80’s movies that could be remade. Not if they should, but if they could. One of the films that came up was Back to the Future.

Yeah yeah....I know, sacrilegious to even mention it. BUT, what was interesting about the discussion was that we’re so far removed from the original that in order to remake it Marty wouldn’t be able to go back to the 50’s...that’s too far. He’d have to go back to the 80’s. So if we were to remake Back to the Future, we would literally send Marty back to the year that the original was made.

Mind bending!

Okay...enough about that...to the mailbag!

Jim wrote me the other day and asked a question that, again, would be beneficial for all of you to “hear” the answer. So here we go...

As said before, I love your column for cutting through the crap and giving usable, real life wisdom and insights for the world known as Hollywood. You make it accessible for us. Thank you.

In your experience, is it best, or preferred, to submit screenplays to producers, production companies or actors and their agents? I don't know if one is a better shot than another, and if there is some sort of protocol with this.

**Thanks much, Manny,
Jim**

Okay, I know a lot of you think that getting an actor attached will help get your script sold. Honestly, it's true, but really tough. Unless you know a famous actor. If that's the case you and I should do lunch cause I want to hang with you guys sometime.

Unless the famous friend is Charlie Sheen...no wait, scratch that...totally want to party with Ma-Sheen.

Anyway, unless the above example is available to you, then you're going to have to go through a LOT more people to get your script in their hand.

Managers, Agents, Assistants...blah blah blah.

Now, most actors these days have their own production companies to sort of circumvent the system. This is where they get to find little passion projects and develop their own material. (and lets face fact, it's a MAJOR tax write off!) A lot of these production companies to accept submissions. So I would go that route and hope that shit lands in the right person's lap.

So, with that said, I would always send it to production companies first and foremost. Obviously, as stated above, sending it to a specific actors production company is the same as sending it to any production company. The only difference is that the letter would be a little different because you would include a “hey this script would be great for [insert celebrity name here]!”

Now, if you want an actor that doesn't have a production company (trust me, most of them do whether its listed or not...see tax write off) then I just wouldn't waste your time. Again, managers, agents, asisistants...blah blah blah. They have MANY walls to keep your plebian brain away from them. So stay safe, go for production companies.

Unless the actor is your friend. Then...duh. If he/she likes you and your prepared to show them what a giant fucktard with your script about dogs battling cats in the 5th dimension...totally. Give it to them. They'll thank you for your brilliance!

Till next week...