Another week, another column...

A lot of you have written in telling me how much you've all enjoyed showing you my process of how I work through things when it comes to re-writing.

Seeing how that has seemed to work for you, I figured I'd share some of my process when it comes to actually writing.

First and foremost, I don't outline.

Why?

Simple...I can't fucking stand outlining!

To me it's writing the story before writing the story. It's boring to say the least. I'd rather just start writing. I want to get in there and get working.

Now, not to say that I don't have a plan. a lot of times the plan has either been worked out in my head or I'll have a general idea of where I want to go.

Sometimes, if I really feel like I need to work something out before writing, I'll either hit the white board, or take some notes on the iPhone or iPad or I'll create a Post-it Map.

What is a Post-It Map you ask? It's kind of like the pinning index cards to a board but, for me, index cards were too much work.

How lazy is that?!

So in grad school I turned to the 3M corporation for help.

It never seems to fail that I have a giant empty wall in every apartment I have (I'm not that great of a "wall decorator.")

SO, I use it to create a Post-It Map. It's basically a very THIN outline of what the story should be. None of the Post-It's have more than a couple of words on them. Just something that lets me know where I'm going.


For example, the first Post-It might read: INTRO: Car Chase.

Then the next one might read: 48 Hours Earlier. Meet Hero.

And so on and so forth until I have a good visual representation of the story that I want. With the Post-It's, I can easily move them around if I need to or replace "scenes" all together.

At the end of everything it'll look something like this:

It's also nice because I can look up at the wall while I'm writing and just follow along. If I get into the script and feel things aren't working out or I want things to go a different way, I can
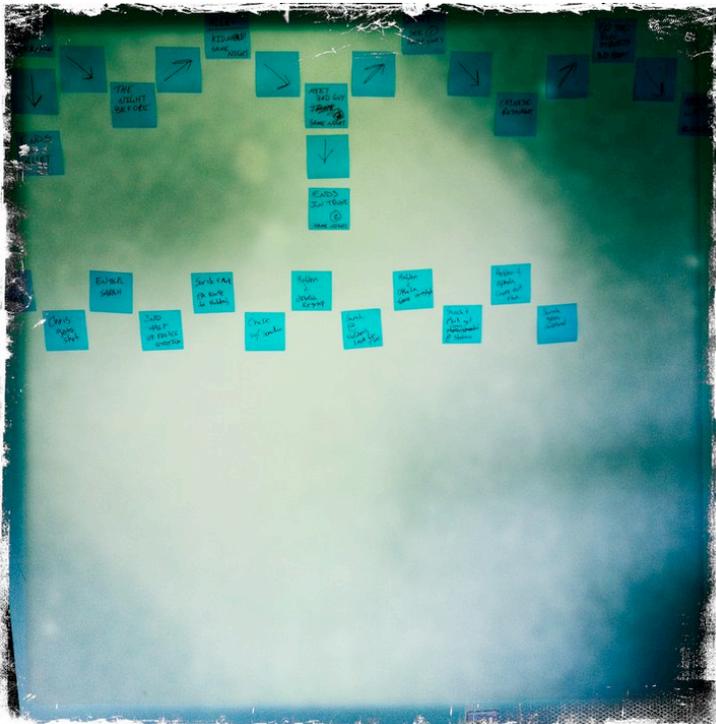
easily go back to the wall and remove large chunks of the story and replace it with the new scenes that I came up with.

Just to make sure the spine is still intact.

Please, use it if it helps.

Once I actually get down to the writing it's all about just sitting there and doing it. Trust me, I can find a lot of reasons to not sit there and do it. Some people have that itch where they have to do something, they have to be working, writing and re-writing every day.

I don't.

Never have, never will.

For me it's all about deadlines. I have to wait till the last minute and let the pressure push me through. I was always the kid that had the entire weekend to write my paper but still ended up doing it before class on Monday morning.

I don't know what it is, but I just don't like sitting at the keyboard. Now, don't get me wrong, I love creating, I just don't like the physical act of pounding ion the keyboard. It usually fucks up my back and my neck too. After a couple of hours of writing, I have to do something else because my body just can't take it.

That's when I walk around or crash on the couch with some Call of Duty.

Then it's back to the keys for a couple more hours.

If I'm in a particularly "eh" mood, I'll usually write a couple of pages and then check Facebook or watch a movie or clean something.

When I'm in writer mode I have the cleanest apartment ever. I've said this before amd it still rings true. My closet is right next to my desk and being a typical guy, I'll just throw shit on the shelves and close the door, but when I'm writing I have to have eveything neat. Mainly because cleaning is more fun then sitting at the keys (again, physically, not creatively) so I'll fold and put shit away.

Then back to the keys when I realize that I never filled the dishwasher. Well I certaintly can't write with a sink full of dishes, can I?

Gotta go to that...and then back at the keys.

Then I'll remember that thing I was supposed to tell my mom two weeks ago so I'll call her up, tell her what I wanted to tell her...then like two hours later after I hang up with her and curse myself out for calling in the first place I'll get back tot he keys.

And after a page or so, I'll rationalize that five pages is more than most writer's goals. I mean what's the norm they tell you to write? Like three pages? Well shit, I wrote five. So I'm good. Wonder if Law and Order is on...

On the brighter side of things, I've never had writer's block...just writer's laze.

One thing that I make sure I do is never put pressure on myself to finish anything. I know it needs to get done and I know it has to be good, but one thing I DO know is that if I force it on to the page it's going to be shit.

I mean it's shit already because I haven't re-written it yet, but it would be even shittier if I forced it.

Which brings me to the thing you see on every corner in Hollywood.

The Coffee House Writer.

It's so fucking cliche people. I went to go get breakfast at the local mom and pop coffee shop this past sunday. I walked in and there wasn't a single seat open...thie place is small, maybe fits 20-25 people. TOPS.

Every single one of them was rocking a macbook and had final draft open. Their earbuds in rocking along. It was pretty funny actually.

That being said, real writers write in bars. Be an adult. Write in a dive bar. That's how you get shit done.

Till next week...