

Here we go again, more writers that you do NOT want to be. Lets just jump right in, shall we?

THE JUST SHOPPING THE IDEA AROUND WRITER

This cock stain is the is nothing but a stripper with big tits that well shake ‘em in your face, promise you a good time, lead you into the VIP room, grind on you till you’re ready to explode and then as soon as the song is over, get off of you and say thanks.

Tease.

Don’t be a tease.

So what do I mean? Well, it’s best explained in a small anecdote.

During one pitchfest, this writer sat down and pitched a great story. It was a comedy and I could totally see Will Ferrell playing the lead role. The writer was charming, interesting and sold me on the idea. At that point, I was hooked. All I had to do was find out if he could write, so I ask him for the script.

His response?

“Oh, I haven’t written it yet. I’m just pitching it to get feedback as to whether I *should* write it.”

INSERT RECORD SCRATCH

Song’s over baby. Gotta hit the stage. Sorry to leave ya hanging with that.

Let’s take a moment to break this person down.

First, he’s spending money to just “find out” about his idea.

Stupid.

Second, as stated above, he’s just teasing me.

Now, what happens when, in six months, he writes his opus?

Will I remember him?

Do you know how many writers I meet and read in a week?

HUNDREDS.

I’m not going to remember him. If I do, I won’t care. I’ve moved on.

This leads me to the second kind of writer I’m going to talk about this week:

THE NOT PREPARED WRITER

This is the type of writer that’s not prepared to present their script. They’re pitching prematurely.

They'll tell me their idea, I'll love it and I'll ask for the script.

That's when I get the, "I have to do a re-write, I'll send it to you after I do that" line.

Why are you here?

Again, see above, I read hundreds of scripts, by writers that think their shit is up to snuff.

After a couple of weeks (sometimes a month) I'll get an email that says, "hey! Remember me?"

The answer? No. I don't.

Have your shit ready. Have copies in your bag. Hand it to me if I ask for it. If you don't have a copy, than email it to me THAT night or the next morning.

If you wait, if you don't follow-up, you're going to miss the window. You don't want to miss the window.

I come from a small company. My hundred scripts don't even match the thousands that a bigger studio gets. Your window for me is MAYBE three days. MAYBE. The window for them? Maybe three hours. Get my drift?

Be prepared, be ready. If you're not, don't pitch.

The last pitchfest I went to was two days long. Two days, nine hours, 50 pitches a day. I only did one day, but had I done both days? I wouldn't even remember you from the day before. Have I drilled it in yet? Get your shit together. Be a professional. This is a business! See the window. Love the window. Take advantage of the window.

To put it simply, strike while the iron is hot.

In this business?

The iron gets cool QUICK.

Speaking of not being prepared, let's jump into the next writer...

THE "I WROTE MY SCRIPT IN WORD" WRITER

I'm going to give you a VERY cheap lesson here:

Take your craft seriously.

Nothing says amateur like someone who doesn't know the format that they are writing in.

A quick search on Amazon for "screenwriting format," comes up with a slew of books written on the subject. Have you read any of them? Why not?

Screenwriting has VERY specific rules that you have to follow. If you don't know them, why are you here?

Final Draft, which is the industry standard screenwriting program, does everything for you. It gives you the font, the margins, everything you need to write a script. In fact, not to belittle the program, but it basically makes screenwriting dummy proof.

Final draft costs anywhere between \$179 to \$89 if you're a student. That's a one-time payment. Do you feel that your career isn't worth that much money? Hell, you probably spent that much, if not more, on the pitch fest!

Cheap ass!

This is your CAREER!

This is your life. Your passion. The thing that you have, decidedly, chosen as your destiny. You can't drop the cash for your destiny?

The biggest thing you convey?

A lack of proper format shows that you didn't take the time, as a screenwriter, to properly discover the tools at your disposal. It shows me that you don't take it serious. Thus, I don't want to read your script.

One look at your script, when it's in improper format, is a one way ticket to the garbage can. I've seen it. A script was sent to our company and it was immediately given to the head of development. The president of the company.

He took one look and tossed it across the room. He then passed it off to an idiot intern, saying that he couldn't even read it.

That what you want?

Please don't be cheap. I beg of you.

In fact, don't even waste our time. If you're reading this and you have a script, written in word, STOP PITCHING TO US!! We don't want it! EVER!

I tell you these things, not because I see them. I tell you these things because I see them ALL THE TIME! I don't want you to be any of these writers. I'm telling you to save yourself the embarrassment of being the butt of a joke when you leave my table.

You're nervous already, so why cripple yourself even more by not being ready when you sit down at my table?

Take the time. Get it right.

It'll save us both a LOT of time.

Till next week...