

As many of you know, I've been knee deep in rewrites on this current script. I've basically decided to do a page 1 rewrite where I've kept the basic spine of the script but decided to go in a completely different direction in terms of HOW things happen.

Let me say that it has been COMPLETELY stressful, but hey, that's the job right?

Because of this I wanted to talk this week about being done.

When do you know that you're done?

If you have a deadline, then obviously, being done is the day that it's due.

But most of us don't have a deadline. Sure we may have deadlines that we've set for ourselves, but we can always rationalize those away or "extend" them if we need to.

I've really been struggling with the idea that a script has to be perfect before sending it out. That's what I preach to you right?

Well on this one, I'm actually working with a producer already so there's no chance he WON'T read it because of a typo on page three. He's a lock. So what I'm going to try is to just let this one go.

No notes from friends.

No proofreading.

Just finishing it and turning it in and seeing what he's got for me.

I have never done this before. EVER.

So why now?

Well to tell you the truth, I've come to the realization that I need to rely on my gut a little more and less on the value of other people's opinions.

That sounds a little harsh, but it's not. Let me explain it this way...

What happens when you give your script to friend A?

She comes back and say "I love the explosions!"

Then you give it to friend B and they say "Script is great but I hated the explosions!"

Then you give it to friend C and they say “It’s good.” Nothing more. Nothing less. just “good” or, God forbid the “it was interesting.”

So after you get all of these people’s notes you get flustered and can’t decide who to listen to or whatever and you try to make people happy and blah blah blah you sit down and write, and write, and write and write...hoping that whatever you’re doing will somehow solve EVERYBODY’S problem.

Sucks, right?

Try this scenario...

You give your script to friend A and they say, “Loved it, but the characters seem unauthentic and a little cliché.”

Then you give your script to friend B and they say, “Loved it, but I don’t know, the characters seem a little cliché...kinda cartoony.”

Then you give your script to friend C and they say “It’s good.”

Okay, best thing we’ve learned so far is that Friend C is a fucktard and he/she doesn’t get to read our shit any more.

But what about Friend A and B’s comments? Two separate people have virtually said the same thing about your script.

That’s good, right? You know what the problem is.

But is it good?

We’re no longer talking about the number of explosions here. We’re talking about a complete character that starts on page 1 and goes through page 120.

AND to make it worse...do you even understand what they mean? Friend A and B weren’t THAT clear about what makes the characters cliché.

Okay, so we ask them and get “I don’t know, they just...well you know...”

So we have to step away and address the problem. Figure it out. Get in there and change some dialog, fix the things they do, make them a little more rooted in reality. get the tone right that best serves the characters.

That’s REAL writing. That’s dealing with real problems in a script. Not going in there and changing the SIX EXPLOSIONS to FOUR EXPLOSIONS.

Sometimes you have to get rid of characters or combine them or change a setting or yadda yadda yadda.

You get the point, so now, back to the problem at hand. While you're doing all of this, what are you NOT doing with your script?

FINISHING IT!

Now yes, you're right. You are TECHNICALLY making it better and fixing problems but to what end? Everyone is always going to have an opinion and everyone is always going to have notes.

Have you ever gone to a movie and loved, literally, EVERY MINUTE OF IT.

No, of course not. So even after your script gets shot, it's still going to have problems that people want to bitch about.

Here's a quick example: I went to go see The Avengers with a long time friend of mine. Someone who has actually given me notes on my stuff. This was the second time I've seen it.

Afterwards I asked what she thought and she said the following:

"I gotta say, I was a little disappointed. The first and second acts really dragged ass. I mean did we have to see them getting together and then not working well together. It took two hours to finally get them to get along and frankly, I have to say...didn't think there was enough action."

Now, for those of you that have seen the movie...PLEASE send in comments. Cause that was some fuckarded shit that just spewed out of her mouth.

So see, you could make a gazillion dollars at the box office and people will still bitch about it.

So why keep taking notes? Why keep writing? Let it go. Get it out there and get started.

So, as an experiment, that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to just let it go and see what happens. Maybe he'll like it, maybe it'll launch my career or maybe he'll come back and say "this isn't even fucking close to what I wanted...see ya."

Either way, I have to be okay with that. I can't just keep "trying to get it right" in order to avoid the inevitable.

And, more importantly, when you're dealing with a exec, isn't HIS (or HER) notes worth more than any of your friends? Pretty sure your friends aren't going to cut you a check or send your shit to a manger or agent or get you on the blacklist.

Unless of course your friends are connected...if that's the case why are you reading MY shit? Go work that!

I just want to repeat myself for the cheap seats...

You eventually have to be done. You have to give it up and get it out there and hope that the person likes it and you enough to buy your script, pass it on or sign you.

After that it's just "champagne wishes and caviar dreams," right?

Hey, just wanted to throw out a shout out to everyone pitching at the Great American Pitchfest this weekend. I'll be there so feel free to come by and say hello. If not, good luck. I hope to fucking God you listened to me.

JUST

BE

NORMAL!

Till next week...