

Another pitchfest another series of post pitchfest annoyances. Gonna share a few of them with you so that YOU don't make the same mistakes.

First though I wanted to talk about NAPTE. I went to their Pitchcon last week and endured 3 hours of TV pitches.

For those of you that don't know, NAPTE is purely TV, no film stuff at all.

TV is not normally what we do at my company, but breaking into TV has been thrown around so I figured I would go and see what was what.

I have a couple of observations about people that work in TV land. First, ladies rejoice, it seems like TV is where its at for you. There were woman ALL over the place on both sides of the table. Its been my observation that there are usually more men then women at "regular" pitchfests.

Second, y'all take that shit seriously. See, TV is more a business than film is. Hell TV was pretty much invented for the purposes of selling products. Commercials, ad revenues... this is their bread and butter.

That being said, all of the executives were dressed up. Slacks, dresses, power suits, polished shoes.

Me... in my Adidas kicks, destructed jeans and my trusty Lions hat. Total fucking film scrub hanging out with the power brokers of the television industry. Whatever. Fuck 'em.

The pitches were the same. People coming in with their slick one sheets and little packages. Blah blah blah.

Absolute worst part? The pitches were fucking 15 minutes long!

It was BRUTAL.

I don't need 15 minutes...hell I rarely need the 5 we get at other pitchfests.

And 15 minutes really fucking sucks when you're trying to get some fucktard up from your table.

One woman actually did this... I politely passed on her project in the first couple of minutes. She asked if she could pitch me something else, I said sure. She did. Wasn't good. I passed on that.

So there we were, staring at one another with 10 minutes still on the clock. She looks at me and goes, "Well we have time. Why don't you tell me about you. What's your story? How'd you get here?"  
Really lady? GET UP FROM MY TABLE!

You don't actually HAVE to use the whole 15 minutes.

Sigh.

Here's the last thing: Why don't people think about things before they decide to use words?

As you know, the people that were there to pitch were called PITCHERS. Makes sense. That's pretty much what everyone else calls them. But because they were called PITCHERS, that made us, the executives, CATCHERS.

Now, I know that I'm not like everyone else. I have a pretty dirty mind and go to the gutter in a snap... but really? NO ONE CAUGHT THIS ONE?

Might as well just call us TOPS and BOTTOMS... although, now that I think about it, a few of those pitches really made me feel like I was getting fucked in the ass... so maybe the name IS appropriate.

Okay, nuff about that... on to more "what not to do's."

Let me start first by saying, as a writer, I get it. You have to do whatever you have to do to get your script in front of someone. Trust me, I understand. I'm in the boat with you.

But as an executive... fuck you writers! :)

There's a new trend going on post pitchfest and I'm not sure I like it. When you go to a pitchfest you will usually get a book or a packet that has all of the numerous companies in attendance and their info. Including contact information.

Now, MOST of the time, this is for you, the attendee and you alone. But SOMETimes, this shit slips out to the general public and slackers that DIDN'T pay hundreds of dollars to attend now have everyone's contact information.

So this new trend I'm talking about... post pitchfest emails that go a little something like this (and yes, these are actual emails):

*Dear Mr. Fonseca,*

*I truly enjoyed attending the Great American Pitchfest last week. I met with so many producers and I am very pleased with the interest I received for my screenplay, "Timeless".*

*Given the long queue for your production company, I did not get the chance to meet with you and I believe my story may be of interest to you as well.*

or...

*Good Morning Manny,*

*I recently attended the Great American Pitchfest in Burbank, CA and wanted to reach out to you to introduce myself.*

*As a screenwriter, I had a great experience at the GAPF but was not able to visit personally with you, much to my regret.*

or...

*Dear Mr. Fonseca;*

*I'm sorry I didn't have the opportunity to meet with you at the Great American Pitch Festival last weekend.*

or...

*Hey Manny -*

*Didn't get a chance to pitch you at Pitchfest*

or...

*Dear Manny:*

*Since I did not have the opportunity to meet you at the The Great American Pitchfest, I thought I'd send along a written introduction.*

*We getting the idea yet?*

*Damn those "long lines" and your inability to meet with me.*

*Two people took it a step further...*

*the interest I received from my screenplay, HIS FOR THE TAKING, was excellent; 13 out of the 15 production companies I visited with were interested and 8 of them requested copies of my script.*

WOW! And?

But this guy took the cake...

*14/17 production companies asked me to send the treatment, so I figured you'd probably be interested too.*

Really? Is that what you figured? And if you only visited 17 companies how did you not get to pitch to me? You had time.

You're full of shit and knock it off. Don't do this people. Please.

Lastly, I want to share with you a special email so that you guys KNOW that I am not making this shit up.

Let's take a look...shall we?

*Hi Mr. Fonseca,*

*My name is Myke (last name removed to protect the fucktarded). I am representing two outstanding scripts that may fit what you are looking for. They are both well written and among the few I have ever given a Recommend grade. Consider reading a few pages, I know you will enjoy. Thanks.*

*FROST BITE: (Christmas Rom -Com) A greedy CEO learns the true meaning of wealth when street corner Santa puts a spell on him making him uncontrollably generous.*

*TAGLINE - Frost Bite – A Christmas gone from bad to curse.*

Number 1 and I've said this before, we are LITERALLY the company that put Gwyneth Paltrow's head in a box. Why the fuck do you think we'd make a Christmas movie of ANY kind?

Number 2 you know what? Let's wait on number two until you hear the other brilliant script he wants to share with me...

He continues...

*STIFFED: (Buddy action/comedy) - A rookie cop uses an experimental potion to bring back the dead witness that could put his father's killer behind bars. Together, they battle*

*the clock and each other in a night-long darkly comic manhunt through the bowels of New York City.*

*TAGLINE: Stiffed – You have the right to remain dead.*

Okay, so number 2: Platoon, Seven, The Fugitive, Outbreak, Falling Down, The Devil's Advocate, Eraser... these are the movies that we, as a company, have made. How do you read that list of movies and think...

"These movies TOTALLY fit with what they're doing! I'll send it to them!"

And this is from a manager of sorts. Think he's doing the best job for his client?

What the FUCK!?

This is the shit we get pitched. All the time. Do you understand why I fucking yell at you people every week? Do you get why I jump on the table and foam at the mouth with anger?

AAAAAHHHHHHH!!!!

Fuckin' knock it off already!

Till next week...