

And it continues...

Some more what not to do's from writers. Again, a lot of these SEEM like they should be common sense, but no...apparently not.

As I said last week, I get it. I'm a screenwriter too. I understand all of the anxiety that comes well waiting for someone to read your script. Are they going to like it? Are they going to "get it?" Will this start me on the journey to fame and fortune?

I understand.

But that doesn't give you the excuse of acting like a fucktard. You don't get a free pass. We're not all sitting around going, "Oh, well they're new. I'll let them slide."

No.

We don't have time for that shit. And we sure as hell don't have time to sit around and teach you some shit.

(AUTHOR'S NOTE: I truly recognize the irony in the fact that I just said that I don't have time to teach you shit, yet take time out of my week, every week, to write a long ass article that teaches you some shit.)

We want you to be prepared, be professional, be ready.

Is the horse dead enough, or should I beat on it some more?

So here's "what not" number 1.

The anxious screenwriter.

I heard a pitch that I actually kinda dug and asked to see the script. I was pleasantly surprised about 30 minutes later when my phone went off, while still at the pitchfest, alerting me to email. It was the script.

I thought, "YES! Awesome. This guy gets it. That's what I would have done."

(Do you know of the 15 or so projects that I asked for over the span of two pitchfests, I've only received 4? What the fuck people? You want people to read your shit and then when they ask to read it you don't send it? That's fucktarded.)

I didn't get a chance to read it over the weekend, but had planned to get to it during the week.

This all happened on a Friday.

Tuesday morning, I woke up to the following email:

*Manny,*

*Thanks for your interest in reading the script. Any update or interest?*

Sigh.

Okay, maybe none of you know this so I'll fill you in on how shit works. There's a thing in the industry called a "weekend read list" (get the email addy now?) It's comprised of all of the things we HAVE to get to over the weekend.

You see, Hollywood never stops working. EVER. Especially in development as there's just SO much material to get through.

Anyway, the weekend read list is changing all the time during the week. Some projects get pushed down, others get moved up, some get bumped off at the last minute because something bigger and better comes along.

Normally the list for the weekend is locked on Friday. I've seen some executives LOAD up their kindle's and iPads for the weekend and actually get through it all. Some have delegated certain scripts to interns and then just read the coverage. Some have a cut off number. And then there's people like me that have a plan and don't always get to stick to that plan.

I work just as hard as anyone, but I'm not one of those guys that just ignores... what's it called? Oh yeah... living.

Okay, that being said, if you go to a pitchfest on a Friday or during the weekend, there is NO way you're shit is getting read that weekend.

So for you to write me on Tuesday means you are literally giving me a DAY to read your script.

Yeah, that's not going to happen.

I politely responded with a "didn't get to it yet."

That should have been it. It wasn't.

The following Monday I got this email:

*Any update on the interest level of my script?*

Notice I didn't even get a "Hey Manny" or any type of greeting at all.

It's all about you and your shit, isn't it?

You do not EVER check in with a company twice in a week. Now, I'm annoyed and don't want to deal with you... so why would I want to read your script?

Now, I can see the hate mail rolling in. The "Fuck Manny he's an arrogant prick. Blood, sweat and tears go into these scripts and he's not going to read it because some dude asked a question" emails.

Fine write it and send it. Call me names and throw your stones.

Here's my response, which will hopefully save you a little time:

It's not just me MOTHERFUCKER! It's EVERYONE. The shit I rant about every week is the shit we talk about behind your backs! There's a REASON the fucking column is called CONFESSIONS of a Hollywood gatekeeper! Did you just think we were being funny? NO! I'm just the messenger people. Clueing you in on all the dumb shit I see and hear.

Do you know how many times I've heard an executive say: "Yeah I was gonna this guy's script, but then he bugged me about it, so I just tossed it. Don't have time for pricks like that."

People honestly say this. About YOU!

So yeah. I'm the bad guy. For being your friend and telling you not to do some shit. Got it.

Which leads me to the next fucktard and this one's CLASSIC.

When I first got to L.A. which was a few years ago, I attended a couple of pitchfests for friends who had production companies. I didn't have any snazzy email or anything, just my personal email.

I was new to the game and thought a pitchfest sounded cool and thought I was gonna get all of these AWESOME scripts to read.

HA! Fucking youthful ignorance, huh?

Anyway... so I gave people my personal email account to have them send me a script.

The other day, I get this email (at my personal account):

*G'day Manny,*

*Any thoughts on the script I just finished?*

*Title: Tanker*

*Genre: Action*

*Logline: After enormous storms, a sailboat sinks with a cursed sailor, rescued by a oil tanker he now fights for survival as Somali pirates hijack the vessel.*

*Ciao for now*

That was it. Nothing more, nothing less.

I have 4 email accounts. One for you guys. One for work. One for when my iPad got stolen and then one for like, my mom and shit.

He emailed me at the one for my mom and shit.

I have very specific reasons as to why I keep things separate now.

I assumed, it was someone from here that was emailing me... which, kinda freaked me out a little as I have stripped my personal email from anything public since the start of writing this column.

So I wrote him back and said that I didn't know how he got my email, but to please send these kind of requests through the column and to please not email me at this address again.

He responds with this:

*Opps Sorry, but I met you a few years ago (2010) at a screenwriting function at the Sky bar in Hollywood.*

*I was a screenwriter from Australia. We exchanged emails at the time.*

First, which I'm not calling him a liar, but I've never been to a screenwriting function at the Sky Bar in Hollywood which means HE doesn't even fucking remember how he met me.

Second, that was 2 years ago! Why are you just randomly sending people emails about scripts without an introduction!? That's just fucking INSANE. Especially when it's clear YOU don't even remember it right!!

So I'm annoyed and fire back a: "And I should remember you?"

That's when I get this:

*Your not required to remember me at all.*

*I was being polite in that I'm now back in LA and getting in touch with people I have meet amongst my travels and screenwriting contacts that's all.*

*So, sorry if I bugged you at the email address you had given me. If you can understand I wasn't to know it upset you.*

*No need to respond I get the message*

*peace/out*

No. You DON'T get the fucking message.

It literally took three fucking emails and me being a dick to get him to tell me WHAT he should have told me in the FIRST email!

All of this could have been avoided by sending this:

*Hey Manny,*

*You probably don't remember me, but we met a few years ago at a thing. I'm an Australian screenwriter and I finally moved to LA! Now that I'm here, I wanted to get in touch with all of the people I've met and as you gave me your email addy, I thought I'd drop you a quick note and reintroduce myself. If you're up for it, we should totally grab a drink sometime.*

*Happy to be here,*

*Not-a-fucktard*

See how easy that is? I reintroduced myself. I REMINDED you how I met you. I invited you to a drink.

And do you know how I would have responded had I gotten that email?

*DUDE! Welcome! Drinks sometime would be awesome. I'm pretty busy but lets definitely put something on the books. Enjoy the awesomeness that is california.*

*Manny*

And do you want to know why you would have gotten that email? Because I respect people who pick up their lives and move from the other side of the world to come chase their dreams. So yeah, I woulda totally met with that dude and hung out with him.

“But Manny! In your version of the email you didn’t talk about your script!”

That’s right. I didn’t. You know why? Cause you have some class and bring that up casually over drinks. Don’t solicit me via email without even an introduction. Get drinks in me and then say “Hey, I wrote this script...”

Hey, whatever... do it your way. You know what you’re doing, right? Got all of those Hollywood people lining up to read your shit, right? Cool. Good luck with that.

Till next week...