

Re-purposing Assignment
Notes and Comments
Zachary Bucholtz

This assignment takes an original play that I wrote, called “Casting Call,” and repurposes it as a screenplay for a documentary. The original was a narrative, in which 12 famous actors and actresses audition for the same two parts in a new movie directed by Judd Apatow. The new script follows the characters in the hours after the audition, picking up a few storylines, but mostly serving to reflect and comment on the audition in the form of an interview-documentary.

The script is meant to not only follow up on the play, but be an effective, well-written screenplay in screenplay format, an informative “mockumentary” and it should be funny. It was also written with the same actors and actresses from the play in mind, and certain lines and scenes were written to work with their individual skills and comedic styles.

Comments:

Pg. 1 – This cold open is not in perfect screenplay format, but is adjusted to suit the needs of the director (me).

-I like the cold open, because it sets up the tone nicely, I hope.

-Penelope Cruz’s lines will be written in shooting by the actress playing her.

Pg. 2 – The montage should last at least 30 seconds and include most, if not, all of the characters. The goal is to establish context for anyone who did not see the play.

-The “Judd Apatow is an asshole” line will be shot in close-ups.

Pg. 3 – I will be reading the “interviewer” dialogue. Ideally, this will work. If I don’t like how it sounds, I’ll have someone overdub the dialogue in post-production.

-The actor playing Judd Apatow will kill these scenes.

-Paul and Kristen are in a diner because they decided to get something to eat after the audition (that’s in the original script).

Pg. 4 – These next couple pages were re-written after a conversation with a good friend of mine who has a lot of experience in theater and suggested having the characters answer the same couple questions in their own way. Editing will help a lot, here. The desired effect is that it’s at least amusing.

Pg. 6 – Various clips from the auditions will be interspersed in editing.

Pg. 9 – I’ll have “Penelope Cruz” read this line in English and Spanish (“irrational”).

-Katie Holmes only has a brief scene here because the actress playing her has a very tight schedule. Likewise, De Niro and Ferrell have small parts because the actors did not respond to requests for their services prior to the rough draft.

Pg. 10 – I like this entrance for Robert De Niro

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Pg. 11 – The Meryl Streep scene: it was suggested by a friend (the actress who plays Kristen Bell) that Streep be doing extraordinary things very nonchalantly during the interview to give her an aura.

Pg. 14 – Note the bathroom is the same one from earlier. Hooray continuity!

-The idea to put a bunch of them in a room came from my peer review in class. I'll shoot one version, where the actors read the script, and one where they improvise a scene in character, and take pieces from both.

-A joke about September 11 was removed. I thought it was too far.

-The scenes in the "meeting room" will require a lot of re-setting the camera. It will be the most difficult scene to shoot.

Pg. 15 – the first line is a reference to the sloth video. We made fun of it in the play, but her last line was inaudible because of laughter, so we are recycling it here.

-The actor playing Paul Rudd loves his Molly Ringwald stuff

Pg. 19 – The Al Pacino beating up Lindsay Lohan scene will be done tastefully, I promise.

-The "car chase" will be tricky to shoot. I have some ideas on how to do it but it will be difficult.