

~~☞~~ The Frustrated Screenwriters[©] (or, "Desperately Seeking Inspiration!")

So, wise guy, you think you know the score! *No, scratch that, too cliché.* "Now you're in over your head!" *That sucks - try again!!!* "It was a dark and stormy night. The muggy air clung to him like mayonnaise to a jar." *Wow - clichéd and bizarre!* ~~"He had loved her the way a crack addict loves his pipe, and now it was time to break the habit."~~ *Shit!!! Writer's block again! This screenplay will never be finished!!!*

Face it - none of your screenplays are finished. You've been in California - how long is it now? - and not one screenplay in an agent's hands. Some days, you don't even turn the computer on. And the only pads of paper you've gone through have been for work. You figured that your job would provide you with story ideas and a way out; now you're trapped with bills to pay and no stories - at least no complete ones. How did you let this happen? Too much self-doubt, not trusting your instincts... You've vacillated on every issue, from subject matter to grammatical style to artistic integrity. "Should I try a ~~WESTERN~~ or a ~~STEPHEN KING-STYLE CHILLER~~, **SCIENCE FICTION** or a sophisticated comedy? Should I write for Hollywood or for myself? Is it still art if it's an action-thriller? Should I use a Southern dialect for my main character? Is my imagination enough, or should I write about my family?" Enough already! Without realizing the passage of time, you've let a major deadline sneak up on you. If you didn't have a finished screenplay accepted by an agent by Labor Day 1996, you'd move back home. Well, wake up, Rip van Winkle, because guess what time it is!!! No more time to stare at the walls, to sit transfixed by your Screen Saver[®]. But you also have an unprecedented opportunity. A gal in San Francisco who produces documentary shorts knows as friend who's having a party for some major Hollywood players - including agents, directors and producers! Now all you need to do is show up with a script! But what idea are you going to pitch? You need inspiration...

1. Your head is swimming in panic and fear
And all because a deadline's near
No more excuses! No more delay!
At this point, you're ready to pray
Maybe it is time to look for help from on high
Begin your ascent up to the sky
Molimo starts you on your way
We hope you don't have feet of clay
Use "Myra Breckinridge" as inspiration
Left to acquire heavenly manifestation
Think Marilyn in "Bus Stop", it'll help you now

As farther up the hill you plow
Heavenly help is worth the effort
So on your feet; eschew comfort
Your left-wing leanings will help you here
At the top of the trail, you're in the clear

2. You were inspired, but it wasn't enough
You still have no script, not even a rough
The pressure's on, you're feeling sick
You better get an idea quick
But from where does inspiration come?
At this point, you'll settle for crumbs
Back down the hill from whence you came
Maybe Teresa helps you find fame
You need someone in the Market to buy a story
So you can pitch your ideas of glory
On the way maybe something yummy
Can calm the feeling in your tummy

3. Despite the high, this solves nothing
Time for you to find your calling
That kind of rush just won't sell
Today's market needs the story from hell
Something topical, something hip
Like watching some poor kid's trip
Hmm, drugs are hot, and so are gangs
Maybe "Girlz N the Hood" would make a bang
The movie "Kids" showed life on the streets
Characters like these you have to meet
Aged 19 or 20, they're too old to play
Their dismal lives you could portray

4. No inspiration, no lightning hit there
You're starting to hit the wall of despair
Maybe it's true that you're no writer
Perhaps you should go out and just get tighter
Hey! That's it! The best writers were drunks
Fitzgerald and Williams and the other lunks
Perhaps your new mission is as plain as your ass
You'll find inspiration at the bottom of a glass 🍷

Go north, young man, as the newsman said
And drink until your eyes turn red
Line up 12 martinis, and when you're through
Hopefully, you'll finally have a clue

- 5 ♣. That place provided quite a distraction
You could drink to Absolut inaction
But that should not be your goal
You need a little self-control
But when you try some introspection
You sink further into dejection
Where oh where will you get the plot
To propel you from this dismal lot?
Maybe there simply is no way
To pull you from your creative decay
Maybe it's time to end it all
Sink in the water like a cannonball
Follow the same bluesy street
And when the water you do meet
Hang a Louie (morbid, I know)
Now you don't have far to go
Soon you'll be with the fish in the bay
Without any worries of writing a play
6. You're saved! Pulled back from the brink!
Now your mission you must rethink
Just like in "Frenzy", her body was floating
So of your hero, you started emoting
Public be damned! Sponsors damned twice!
Your art you will not sacrifice!
You'll climb any obstacle, no matter how high
So your work will satisfy
Why have you made your life so stressful?
You can have class and be successful
Look at **Hitchcock** - he's your favorite
He made money, and was still literate
Today **Chris Columbus** makes "Home Alone"
A millionaire whose movies make you moan
But you're willing to take *any steps*
To give your career some much needed pep
Baghdad-by-the-Bay has much to offer
If, like an artist, you're willing to suffer
Embarc north till you reach a general

(A movie about this man is a natural)
Some say you're *nutty*, but between us
When you're famous, they'll be jealous

7. Apparently you set your sights too high
A Hitchcock screenplay, on the first try?
It's hard for a novice to reach that quality
Why not go for the easy money?
Ezsterhaus made millions on "Showgirls"
(Though at the screen, Ebert hurls)
Does it matter that you're not great
If you can afford a palatial estate?
Westward now, toward the Pacific
(Don't you wish I was more specific?)
Drive past the "capital", you don't need a Turk
Continue south to pursue your work
Remember the Alamo, but don't stop there
Historical dramas aren't for millionaires
You need something sexy, wild and spicy
Perhaps you should experiment with a fantasy
The old HAYES code will turn in its grave
When it sees how your characters will behave

8. Perhaps this tactic isn't really you
You're not quite ready for the public screw
Inside your gut, a feeling grows
You'd like to make a statement with your prose
But what message at this point would be really new?
Other than scenery, the plot still comes through
After all, most great dramatic plays
Are simply classics, paraphrased
Hate your dad? Try Oedipus Rex
Mom kills kids? Think Medea next
If you want to give your script finesse
Try watching a classic villainess
The greatest classics are of course Greek
So the wisdom of Sophocles you must seek
East on this street, then make a left
You're feeling Divided about your plot theft
You definitely need to improve your mind
Head towards the water for something fine

9. Well, yea, that was great, but you still don't see
How this translates into reality
No words on paper! Not even a thought!
How very little this trip has wrought
You need to escape the bustle of the city
If you are to write with any clarity
Through the Gate, under the rainbow
Don't hit the Sauce, or you'll go too slow
The binary system speeds you ahead
When you meet a Saint, use your head
In the Center of town, a little west
You'll find the Culture you like best
Follow the alphabet, it's really Easy
For a wordsmith like you, this should be breezy!

10. The place was tucked away from urban blight
Your new idea is within sight
You just need to start much smaller
If financing you are to collar
Jim Jarmusch makes cheap underground movies
He's a hit with critics, who think he's groovy
"Slacker" was made with very little dough
The writer/director stole the show
You could exercise more control
If you play this dual role
Don't pitch your script to Hollywood
Make your own film, and make it good
Eureka! The revelation hits you
That you can make a film that Sundance will view
They always venerate independent flicks
When showered with *petals*, don't act too dramatic
North by northwest on your first president
You're following a time honored precedent
The curvy road to success often starts small
But with good reviews, you'll be the envy of all
Listen to Siskel and Ebert's show
For underground films, they're all aglow
You can follow the guard, though you don't need more training
At last your excitement needs restraining
If hungry, tamales could be the taste
Proceed carefully; your life you can't waste
Hopefully at this middle point you're not too jaded
I'd hate for them to say "He almost made it"

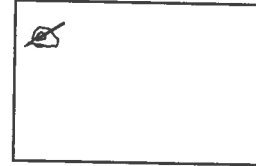
11.

That was truly inspiring; you now have a plan
You don't want to end up like that man
If you want to really be great
You must be master of your own fate
An image is forming in your mind
A script idea starts to unwind
They always say to write what you know
In this case you're a virtuoso
I've heard it's a mad mad mad world
Wait till the Road Rally movie is unfurled!
Matt Dillon stars as you; Julia Roberts as your 'friend'
And in the movie version, your team can always win
You're busting with enthusiasm; you can hardly keep it in
But at 4:24 the movie length you must trim
But editing is the easy part! Now you're on the way
Find three cute babes and find us at the Rally house to play!

Little Clues

{from Mt. D. to Sweet Inspiration}

2. You've looked for heavenly inspiration
(And acquired some perspiration!)
Now back down to the Pretty View
Then a couple of lefts will see you through
Right through the Portals, down the street
Soon you'll wind up where men like to meet
As Dr. NO was wont to do
You can have your cake, and eat it, too
Just talk to _____, and before long
You'll be singing an inspired song!



{Sung to the tune of Shop Around}

Just because you've got writer's block now
Doesn't mean that your life's in hock now
You can still be another Hitchcock now
If you sit down and stop your talk now
My momma told me: "You better write a script!"

There's some things that I want you to know now
Just as sure as the wind's gonna blow now
The words will come, and the words are gonna go now
Before you tell yourself that you're just a psycho
My momma told me: "You better write a script!"

Try to get yourself an agent, son
Don't you be sold on the very first one
Michael Ovitz' come a dime a dozen
Try to find you one who's gonna give you good luncheon

Before you give up and say "I quit" now
Make sure that you've gone to the limit
My momma told me: "You better write a script!"

3. baked in cake from Sweet Inspiration to Victoria Theater or Scary Park

MISSION

PLAYGROUND

VALENCIA

{from Scary Park to Hamburger Mary's}

4. You know, that neighborhood's kinda scary
Getting close to a story can sure get hairy
And you certainly did not connect with a kid
So character development is now wasted

see attached puzzle version

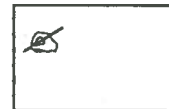
You're starting to feel worse than before 

With your inner self you must implore:
"Stay focused! Stay on track!
Now's not the time to turn slack!"
Maybe with some liquid courage
You'll come up with inspired verbiage
That last place made you wary
So maybe you need a Bloody Mary
You know you're doing the right thing
When a street sign makes you want to sing
But you don't want no Prison Blues
Just a place to suck down brews
Make sure your animal has your sign
Don't just grab and yell it's mine

From 19th, go north in a van
Then stick with Howard's
your man

{from Hamburger Mary's to Embarcadero fishing 'pier'}

- 5a. Mmm, the drinks are yummy here
You could stay all day drinking beer
But you still haven't written a single word
Perhaps your plans were too absurd
Maybe now you'll admit you've failed
Your worst nightmares have prevailed
Your inner demons tell you to quit
So toward the bay you will flit
Embarc now on a scary journey
Leave a will with your attorney
Your condition's Terminal; you're at the END
As Charon ferries you, you comprehend



- 5b. In doll's head - Leads to newsstand at pier

If like me you don't want to be
Find a newsstand to set you free
I died by necktie in a frenzy
Now your feet are less than sixty