

Shawn Duenas
Week 1 Assignment
Sep 2015

Mission Statement:

I commit myself to entertaining audiences and making them leave the theater with hope and happiness in their heart. I intend to stimulate viewers by telling stories that excite them, make them ponder, help them dream, and inspire them into action. Movies have a power to change and influence people and it is my responsibility as a filmmaker to create role models and justify the existence of malevolent characters as examples of the dark side of the human condition and as characters who need help. Finally, I vow to value science and rational thought and glorify smart characters while making them accessible to those without formal education.

Goals:

My long-term goal is to direct a big-budget "spectacle": action-adventures like Pirates or Indiana Jones, action-comedies like Bad Boys or 21 Jump Street, and science fiction films like The Matrix or Minority Report. Although I would helm an existing franchise such as a DBZ or Superman production in a heartbeat, I'd also like to start a new franchise with a new action star.

My goals for this mentorship program:

1. Become a working film director and quit my day job.
2. Get experience directing a professional crew.
3. Direct 2 short films with potential festival buzz.
4. Complete a Director's Demo Reel.
5. Finish a first draft of a screenplay with mass market appeal.
6. Master the craft of directing.
7. Build the Duenas Films brand.
8. Build a strong relationship with my mentor that will last through my career.
9. Build relationships with other filmmakers.
10. Learn how to network.
11. Get to know industry insiders.
12. Learn how to produce a film and make money making films.

Three Pitches:

1. A young millennial goes from believing it all to believing in nothing at all. But when he meets a special someone, he learns to put that all behind him and believe in love above all. **#BelievingItAllBehind**
2. Two black teens change the world when they are shot dead by racist cops and magically awakened with the power to appear like anyone they want. One infiltrates the corrupt police department on a mission to serve justice all the way to the white house as judge, jury, and executioner. The other tries desperately to non-violently change the hearts of everyone around him before they all start the next civil war. Is a high school dropout smart enough to bridge the racial divide? Or is it true that PEOPLE. DONT. CHANGE. **#BlackInBlue**
3. A structural engineer's world view falls apart when she discovers that gross negligence in her and her coworker's work has lead to the death of 91 building tenants in a collapse eerily similar to 9/11. Her firm scrambles to push blame on construction as she's forced to choose between career or family in the fight of her life, the lives of her family, and the lives of the families she's willing to blame for their mistake. **#Patterns**

Copyright Shawn Duenas 2015