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Film Connection Quiz – Chapter 12

Crappy First Drafts

1. What is the element of your first draft that you’re most satisfied with? What element are you most dissatisfied with?

I think what I’m working on seems to be a coming of age type story. I can’t seem to figure out if it’s a comedy or a drama. It really just depends on the day and that is extremely dissatisfying. My screenwriting mentor and I have talked 5 times and it has gone from a drama to a comedy by meeting #5. I’ve told him that I am going to try to get more done between now and when we talk in a week.

Phil introduced me to some interesting films and TV shows including “The Unbreakable Kimmy Schnmidt” which has really inspired me.

The prospect of making it a comedy is satisfying and I think that formatting it as more of a comedy will make it easier for me to stay committed to writing it and persevering. I don’t know at what point the whole thing will stop feeling completely self indulgent. I guess the most gratifying thing that would encourage me to keep going would be if someone got a good chuckle out of it. Maybe striving for that would help me regain momentum.

1. What is the best single narrative idea that is currently in your first draft?

Someone has a mystical experience and they spend the entire story trying to prove that the experience is amazing. (“Fire theft” motif – Joseph Campbell)

1. What narrative area needs the most work? What are you going to do to fix the problems in this area? Why is this area of your script a problem?

It’s not clear who the bad guys are. A story is built on conflict. Conflict is a product of adversaries. I’m not really sure who my protagonist’s adversaries are. If I knew who they were I would be able to craft better obstacles and build the tension of the script.

1. What is the theme of your film? During your re-write are you going to change or alter the theme?

The theme of the film has something to do with what Joseph Campbell would call “The Fire Theft” paradigm. Someone steals some valuable information and attempts to share it with man kind (like Prometheus) and they are punished but they pass it on in some form or fashion.

This doesn’t really sound like the material that you would base a comedy off of but I’m going to try it!

1. Would changing the protagonist’s gender alter the type of film you’re making?

In my original draft it was the sister (female protagonist) who was trying to find out the backstory of her deceased brother. I think if the protagonist was a brother trying to sort out the backstory of his deceased sister it might allow me to write in a more believable way. Writing an Ophelia character might be easier for me to focus on than writing a Hamlet character. Or maybe I should phrase it like “Putting a woman in the Ophelia box would be easier than putting a man there”.

* I am basically starting completely fresh between now and session 6 with my mentor.
* My MBA term is over for a while so I’ll have more time to do this