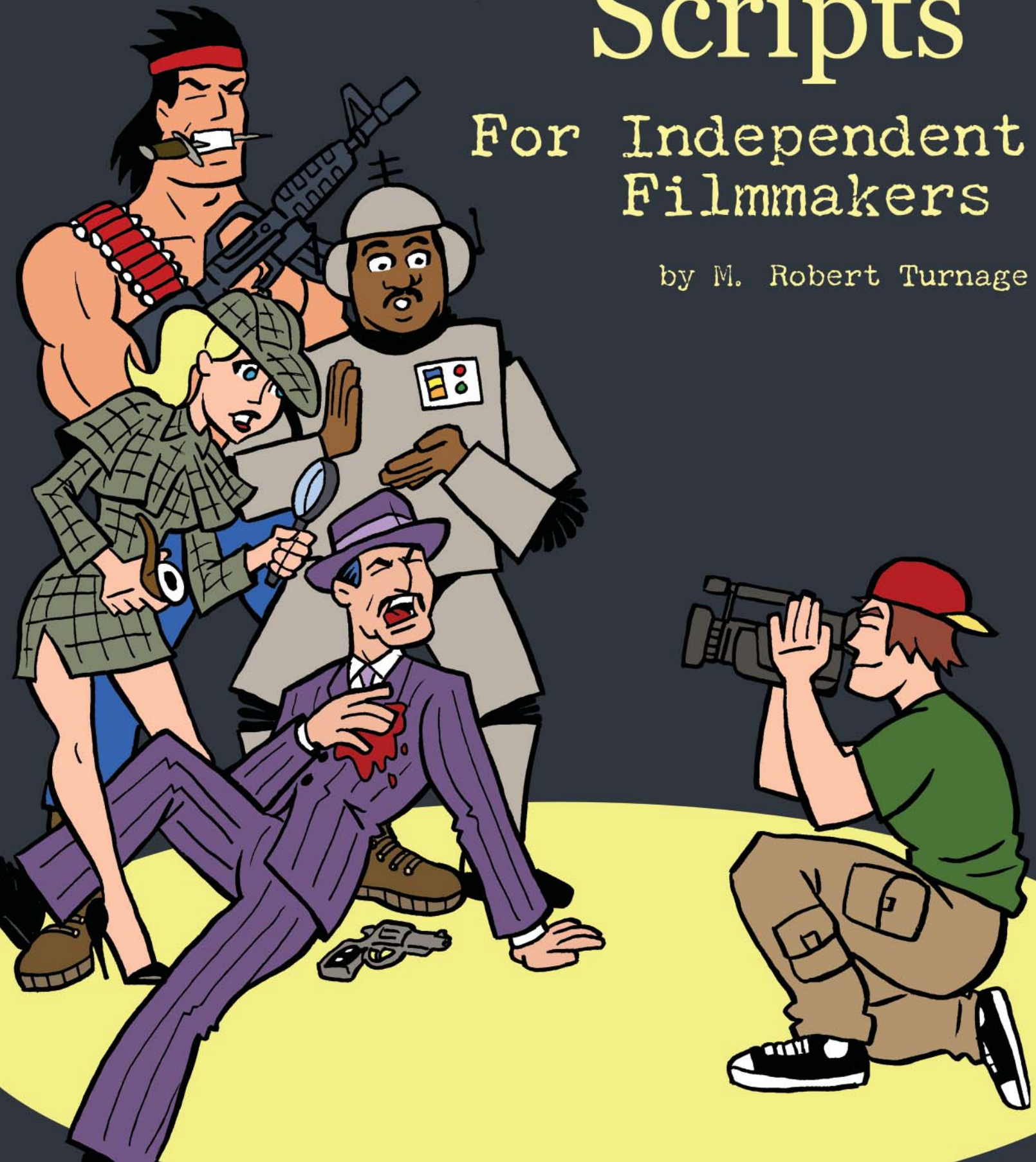


26 Fake Trailer Scripts

For Independent Filmmakers

by M. Robert Turnage



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If you do reference 26 Screenplays and want to have it mentioned on the web site, send an e-mail to 26screenplays@26screenplays.com. If you make a film out of one of the projects and want it featured on the web site, send an e-mail to submissions@26screenplays.com.

How Projects Are Formatted

Project Name

This is the technical exercise for the project. For example, “Showcase an Actor” would be the purpose of the project.

Working Title

This is the suggested title of the script. Like all aspects of the scripts, this can be modified as necessary.

Settings

This is a list of locations for the film.

Characters

This is a list of characters for the film.

Ideas for Customization

This is a list of ways that a person could tweak and modify the script to fit a particular set of resources or limitations, such as casting, location, and budget. This is to help generate ideas and to see the scripts as flexible.

For example, the Project Page for the script on the next page would be as follows:

Project Name

One-Page Example

Working Title

Initiation Rites

Settings

Clubhouse

Executive boardroom

Characters

Donnie

Ricky

Susie

Susan

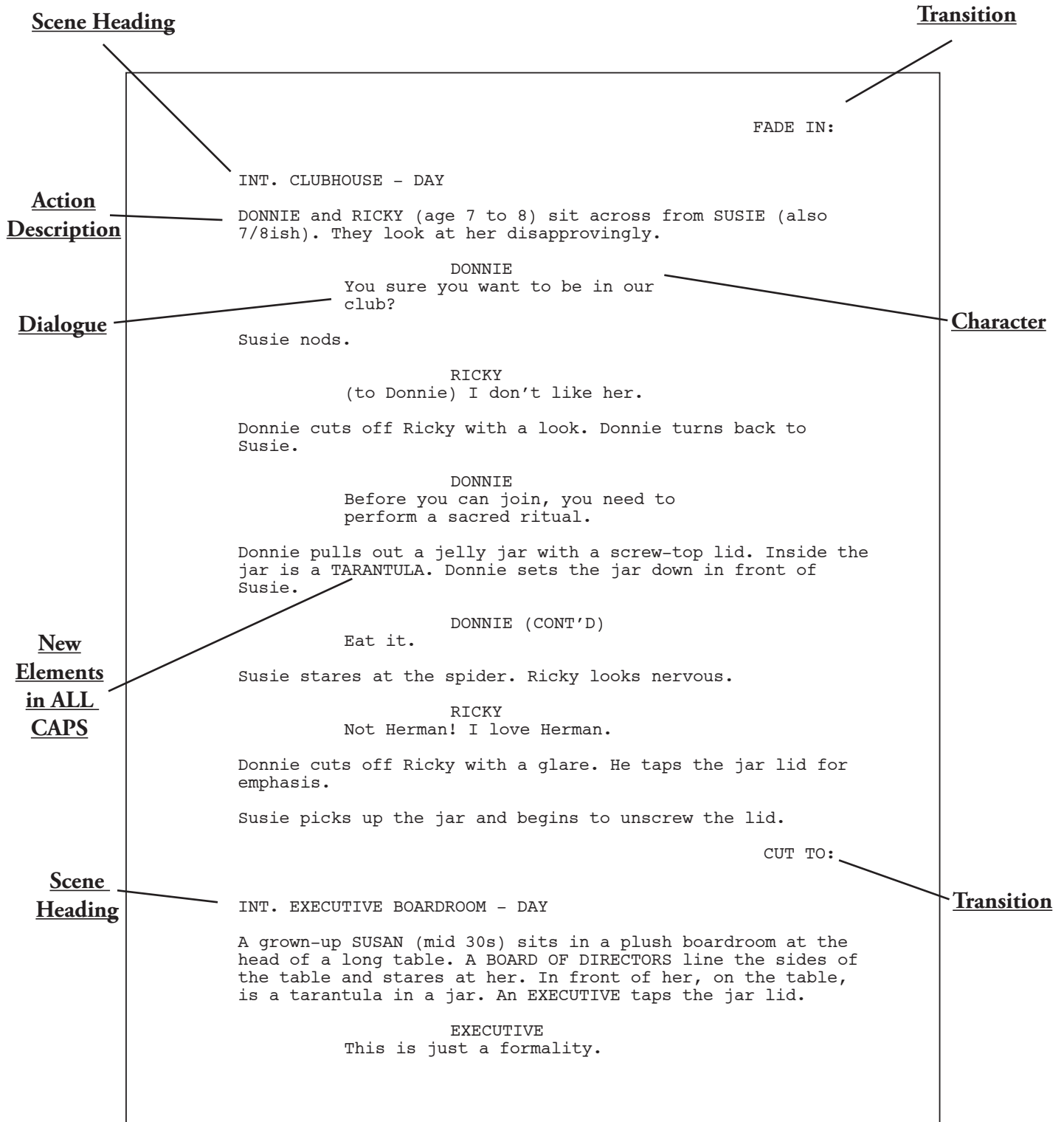
Executive

Board of directors

Ideas for Customization

The initiation rite doesn't have to be as disturbing as eating a spider, but it should be something visual and one that generates a degree of tension.

How Scripts Are Formatted



Project: MacGuffin Film

Working Title: Process Junkies

The MacGuffin is a concept introduced by Alfred Hitchcock in the interview book Hitchcock Truffaut. The main concept is that the MacGuffin is an object that all the characters want, and it drives the plot. This fake trailer introduces four characters and, in very broad strokes, explains why they all want the same thing.

Settings

Living Room
Magazine Office
Office
Museum Office
Restaurant
Business Office
Movie theater
Streetside
Airport
Sand Dunes

Characters

Ben
Julie
Elliott
Jeff
Mike
Ray
Harold
Lloyd
Narrator
Ticket Counter Assistant

Ideas for Customization

This fake trailer introduces the characters and their overall motivation, but does not set the tone of the project. Many MacGuffin films can be serious and suspenseful or breezy and light. So the tone and general approach to the material can be suited to whatever grander artistic statement you want to make. If you think this particular MacGuffin is stupid, then the tone can be ironic, depicting a bunch of silly people in pursuit of a pointless goal. If you find the MacGuffin compelling, it can be a serious story of a group of people striving for something better.

Many of the scenes take place in different offices. These can all be the same room decorated differently. The guy who works at a museum is an obvious reference to another film. If you think it is too in-jokey, change it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

BEN is shocked at what JULIE just said.

BEN

What you mean you don't know who
Friedrick Needlebaum is?

INT. MAGAZINE OFFICE - DAY

ELLIOTT, the reporter, is shocked at the apparent ignorance
of JEFF, the editor.

ELLIOTT

The greatest director of our time?

JEFF

I thought he was just a reclusive
nut.

ELLIOTT

A genius reclusive nut. Who was
working on the greatest project of
his entire career.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

MIKE and RAY, two executives, continue their conversation.

MIKE

Audio commentaries?

RAY

For all thirty-seven of his films.

INT. MUSEUM OFFICE - DAY

LLOYD confides in HAROLD.

LLOYD

You know what a find like this
means?

HAROLD

It should belong in a museum.

Lloyd smiles in agreement.

INT. RESTAURAUNT - NIGHT

Ben and Julie share a bottle of wine.

BEN

I am just saying, if I had those
commentaries I could use them to
finally make my film.

INT. MAGAZINE OFFICE - DAY

Elliott reviews a stack of papers with Jeff.

ELLIOTT

You've got an unlimited expense
account as long as you-

INT. BUSINESS OFFICE - DAY

Mike slides a stack of money across a desk to Ray.

MIKE

-get those commentaries.

INT. MUSEUM OFFICE - DAY

Harold straps on a gun.

HAROLD

I am already on it.

INT. MOVIE THEATER

Ben sits in a darkened theater, watching a movie. Ben gets
emotional while images flicker in front of him.

NARRATOR

We all love movies, but some people
care more about how movies are
made.

The POV zooms in on Ben's face as he begins to tear up. Ben
whispers to himself.

BEN

Those commentaries are mine.

EXT. STREETSIDE - DAY

Jeff looks up into the air, happy to be alive.

NARRATOR

These four-

JEFF

The scoop of a lifetime.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Ray approaches the ticket booth.

RAY

Get me a ticket to the place where
they make movies.

TICKET COUNTER ATTENDANT

Hollywood?

RAY

Are you kidding? New Zealand.

EXT. SAND DUNES

Harold jumps over a sand dune. An explosion fills the air
behind him as his body is silhouetted against the flames. The
image freezes while Harold is in midair.

NARRATOR

-are process junkies.

Title "Process Junkies."

THE END