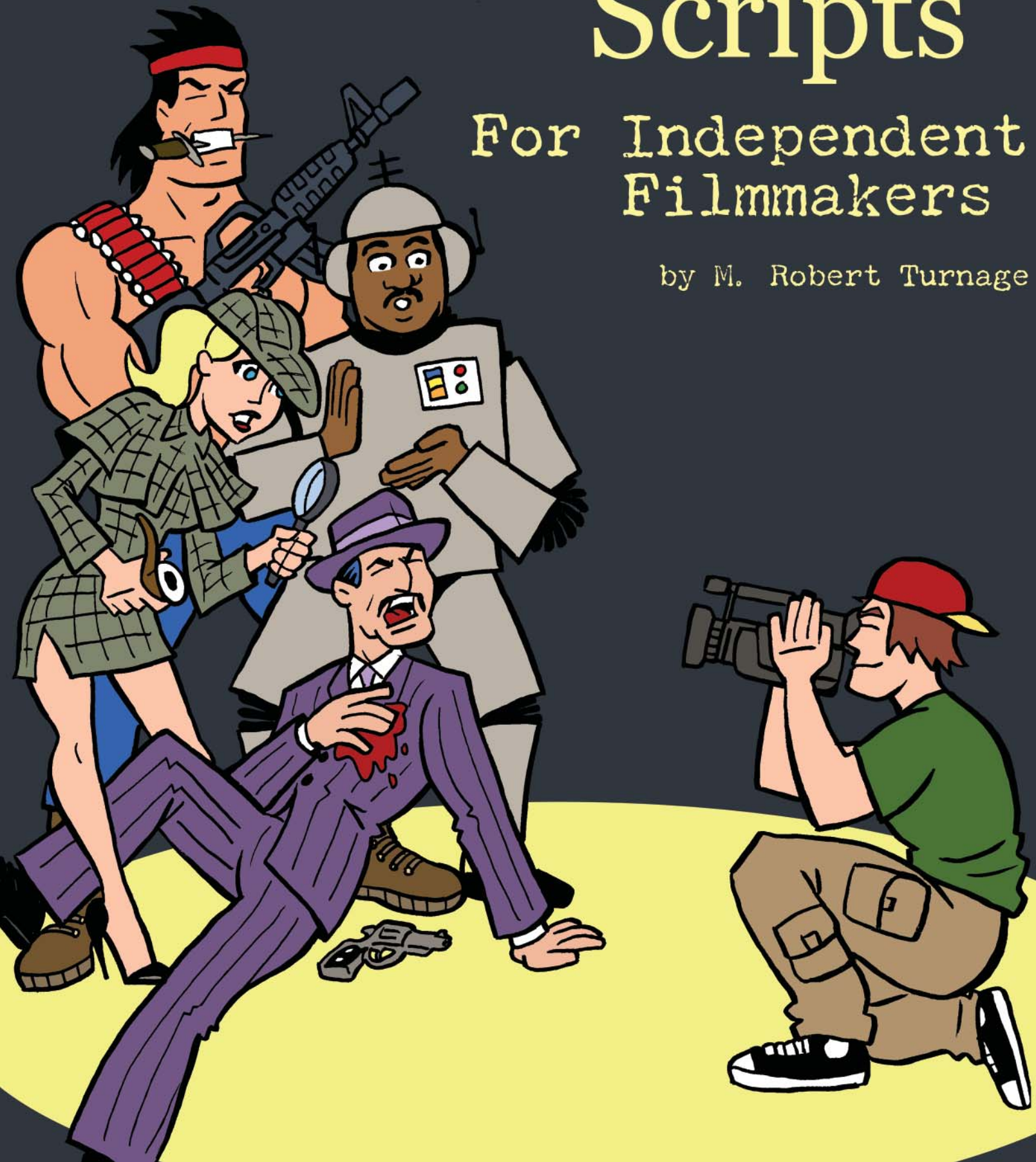


26 Fake Trailer Scripts

For Independent Filmmakers

by M. Robert Turnage



Don't Get Sued!

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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

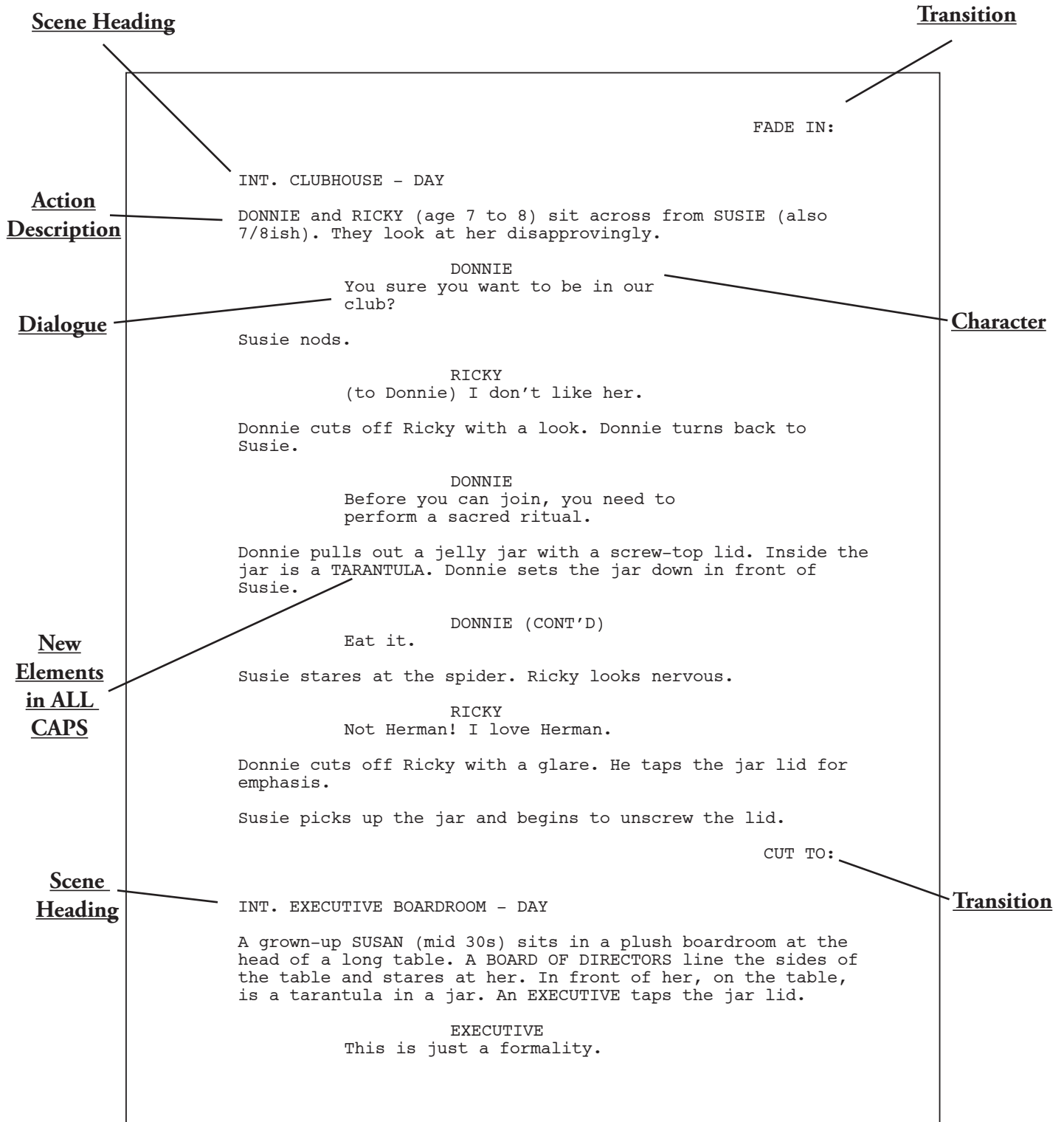
Executive

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: Schlock Horror

Working Title: Zombie Prom Queen

Schlock horror rests in that space between really terrifying high-grade horror films, exploitation films, and comedy. They often have a ridiculous premise that can be conveyed in four words or less, such as “Satan’s Cheerleaders,” “Mountaintop Massacre,” or “Poultrygeist.” They are an acquired taste.

Settings

Suburban Home including the following interior rooms:

- Marissa’s bedroom
- Front stairway
- Kitchen
- Car
- School Hallway
- Classroom
- Football field
- Barricaded classroom
- Gymnasium
- Parked car

Characters

- Mom
- Marissa
- Narrator
- Military Man
- Teacher
- Zombie Principal
- Football player
- Various Students
- Various Zombies

Ideas for Customization

The idea of schlock horror is to truth in advertising. If your title is “Satan’s Cheerleaders” there needs to be at least two elements in the film - satanism and cheer leading. Other than that, all preconceptions of character and plot are up for grabs.

Ideas for Customization (con't)

As written, the trailer focuses on a social outsider who is obsessed with prom and beauty pageants. While ridiculed by her peers, she finally finds solace and her place in the world during an apocalyptic nightmare. This entire premise and line of can be thrown out as long as the fake trailer includes zombies and a prom queen (or perhaps a zombie prom and a queen).

If budget is a concern, the number os settings can be drastically reduced by focusing strictly on the prom and ignore any of the other locations (home, classroom, football field, etc.). It can be about an alpha-blonde prom queen who feels the zombie attack is an assault on her personal sovereignty, and now someone has to pay. The ideas behind the concept are very flexible.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - MORNING

MOM
Marissa! Time for school!

INT. MARISSA'S BATHROOM

MARISSA stands in front of her bathroom mirror, dressed up in a frilly chiffon dress. She lightly sprays her ample head of hair.

MARISSA
Just a second!

Marissa starts to walk away, but turns and flashes a smile and a beauty pageant wave back at her reflection.

INT. STAIRWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Marissa walks down the stairs like a princess.

NARRATOR
Marissa had it all - beauty.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Marissa throws three grapes in the air - one, two, three, and catches them in her mouth.

NARRATOR
Talent.

EXT. CAR - MORNING

MARISSA'S MOM, an aging beauty queen, and Marissa drive to school.

NARRATOR
And most of all, a positive attitude.

MOM
Prom's a week away and still no date.

MARISSA
Don't worry, mother. I'm sure it will happen.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Marissa, still in her fluffy dress, walks down the hall. Students mill about.

NARRATOR

Even in the face of cold, hard reality.

A student pushes Marissa into a locker.

Marissa wobbles out of the locker, trying to keep her smile going.

MARISSA

It it OK. I am fine.

No one stops to help her.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

An armed MILITARY MAN stands in front of the class, addressing the TEACHER.

NARRATOR

But Marissa is in for one hell of a day.

MILITARY MAN

Ma'am, we're going to have to evacuate the school. We've got zombies.

He pumps his shotgun for emphasis. Marissa raises her hand.

MARISSA

But what about the prom?

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

The Military Man leads a group of about ten students through the hall. They turn the corner to see the ZOMBIE PRINCIPAL.

The students scream as the zombie lunges at them.

MARISSA

Principal Higgins!

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

A FOOTBALL PLAYER runs across the field, chased by a mass of zombies.

FOOTBALL PLAYER
AAAAAHHHHHHH!

INT. BARRICADED CLASSROOM

All the students huddle together in a circle, all of the desks piled up against the door and the windows.

MARISSA
We just can't let these zombies
ruin our prom!

The other students stare at her.

INT. GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The entire floor is filled with very well-dressed zombies shuffling around.

Marissa stands on the platform over the crowd, a bouquet of flowers in her hands. Her dress is in tatters and her face is smeared with makeup. But she's smiling with manic and unhinged glee.

MARISSA
Thank you, all. This is the
happiest night of my life.

Marissa screams with a mixture of joy and madness.

TITLES

Zombie Prom Queen

CREDITS

EXT. PARKED CAR - NIGHT

A JOCK in a letter jacket is in the car. He looks across to a PRETTY GIRL. Zombies mill about in the parking lot.

JOCK
I think we're safe as long as we're
in the car.

A ZOMBIE jumps out of the back seat.

Everyone screams.