

Josh Becker DGA

Directing From The Edge



Q & A Archive
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Name: georgia antonyshyn
E-mail: glantonshyn@home.com

Dear Josh,

I know that you said before that Lucy Lawless would be in a movie by Rennie Harlan then you said it fell out then I see that you said she is got a big main role in it. So is Lucy in or not? Also I saw what Rob said about having their children grow up in New Zealand but that maybe hard if Lucy or Rob are to continue their career's. I also thought Lucy said they would like another child. It is nice to see Lucy do comedy and do all she likes . Her cause for the children are important to her and that is in New Zealand so they could live in both places but that is hard for children and career's.Nice that she is in Spiderman. Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions. You are a nice person for that.

Georgia

Dear Georgia:

That's me, a very nice person. There's no Renny Harlan movie with Lucy, as far as I know. She met with him, then the whole deal fell through. That's as much as I know.

Josh

Name: Alan
E-mail: picquickstudio@aol.com

Hi Josh

Let's say it's five or so years down the line. Universal wants a HERCULES/XENA reunion movie and want you to direct it from your own script. What kind of story would you create and where would you take the characters bearing in mind that it would be intended to be their very last adventure?

Dear Alan:

They'd never get me to write it, so why bother thinking about it. The hard-drive space in my brain is limited enough as it is.

Josh

Name: Jeff
E-mail:

Dear Josh:

Simple question Josh. On a chatroom, someone(a fan) claimed they had 'inside' info and knew what what happen in the final episodes(Rob's story), even though we know they want no info revealed.

Here's some of what he/she claimed would happen:

**While Xena and Gabrielle are on another journey Xena is summoned by this ex-lover first in a dream then she comes to her in spirit form.

Gabrielle has a really bad feeling about this journey and doesn't want Xena to go. She also acts jealous concerning this ex-lover which she can also see.

The ex-lover doesn't want Gabrielle to go with her and Xena. She is still very much in love with Xena and wants to spend time with Xena alone.

Gabrielle says she is going.

Xena says she has to free the souls if she can. She can't allow the dark evil one" to continue on and she owes her ex-lover the chance to find peace.

There were many questions from the people that were on the Palace so it was very confusing at times.

When asked if Alti was the evil one or a warlord, we received a smile. When asked if Xena's dark side was we received a smile. Like Jeez thanks.

Spoilers2 stated that they are many warm and fuzzy moments between the girls and that people would really enjoy them especially the dance scene and some comments they make to each other. No he/she didn't tell us what those were.

He/she stated Ares wasn't happy with what Xena wanted to do and that there was a nice good-bye with them. That the Ares fans would enjoy it very much. Ares tried to talk Xena out of going saying that she would die. He would make her immortal and she could be with him for eternity. That he loved her.

Xena turns him down, she explains to him again that they will never be together but she cares for him also.

When they arrive at the city, they find it to be under an evil warlord rule. This evil warlord is controlled by the "dark one". Gabrielle does throw and catch the chakram several times. She makes many of the decisions to free the people of the city while Xena is a ghost she does give Gabrielle ideas and such just as DOTPTB stated.

She uses her skills taught by La Mao to defeat the "dark one".

Gabrielle of course, doesn't want Xena to stay dead. But it was Xenas choice. If she were to return to human form the souls would not be at peace.

She appears to be happy with her decision in the end.

There is no reason for Gabrielle to stay in Japan so she decides to continue on her journey for the Greater Good.

When asked if there was a kiss we received a smile. When asked if they Outed them we received a smile. When asked if Eve dies we received a yes.

I know you said you read the script in New Zealand. Now I know you won;t say what happens in the final episodes, but if you can, is this person full of s**t or is he/she pretty accurate.

Main reason I'm asking is cause I remember you saying point blank Ares wasn;t even referenced in the script, yet this person claimed he was a pivotal factor.

Just wondering what you make of it.

Thanks.
Jeff

Dear Jeff:

I am not at liberty to discuss the final Xena episodes. I will tell you, however, that Kevin Smith, who portrays Ares, was given a bouquet of flowers on the set of my last ep, "Soul Possession," as well as a little ceremony for completing his final episode. Make of that what you will.

Josh

Name: Cynthia E. Jones
E-mail: cynthiaejones@hotmail.com

Dear Josh,

Ah, I see the problem here. When I ask you to see a movie, I'm really asking if you've seen it, 'cos I'd like to know your opinion on it. "Almost Famous" got all these great reviews, and my roommate and I couldn't quite figure out why, so I asked you to see it to get your response. I guess I should be more specific about these things. So. To clarify. I would like to know your opinion of the film "Memento." (which you'll see in six months when you rent it.) In this particular case, I actually liked the movie, it was very thought-provoking, and I just want to discuss it with someone who knows movies, structure, editing, and the like. That's all. It's actually really different. I know this is hard to believe. Maybe some French guy did this before and I just don't know.

In other unrelated news, I read "The President's Brain is Missing" this weekend. Cute. Bruce would make a great President Joe. I was wondering, is it a conscious decision that a lot of your main characters have "J.B." initials? I always imagine you starring in your movies, or Ted maybe. I would definitely watch "Buds" if it starred you and Ted. But you're so shy that'll never happen...

--cindy

Dear Cindy:

I'm not shy, I'm simply a piss-poor actor. As far as character names go, I'm pretty aware of what names I choose and generally have my own half-reasons for doing so. And so, given my time-lag issues regarding new films, are there any films from six months back or older that are worth discussing? Most of the films I like are generally at least 25 years old. In all humbleness, I just read "Cleveland Smith Bounty Hunter" for the first time in about 15 years and laughed my ass off. Check it out.

Josh

Name: Cynthia E. Jones
E-mail: cynthiaejones@hotmail.com

Dear Josh,

Wow, gee. I didn't read your posts for a week 'cos I went out of town and now I'm an ass-kisser. Okay. Let's get one thing straight here. I don't think you're going to get me a job in Hollywood--I don't want a job in Hollywood. I just think it's cool that we do the same things in our spare time. Maybe everyone does, but it seems to me that movie geeks are hard to come by. If I lived in L.A., I'm sure it would be a different story. I didn't realize that trying to make friends with someone constituted ass-kissing. If that's true, then so be it.

Have a lovely Wednesday.

p.s. See "Memento." Avoid people who have seen it.

--cindy "ass kisser" jones

Dear Cindy:

It's good to know you weren't offended. I think we're just gabbing here, too. I would have to drag my weary ass out of the house to see "Memento," so I don't think I will. If I'm not mistaken, you recommended "Almost Famous," or kind of recommended it. Although I think it was also you that recommended "Boys Don't Cry" a while ago and I thought that was pretty good. Hillary Swank really does a hell of a good job. But I can't see any new movies when they're new, it just causes me heartache.

Josh

Name: Stone

E-mail:

Josh,

Of all the scripts you have listed on your site, which one (if money were no object, that is) would you like to make? And how long would it take you to get it in gear for production?

Dear Stone:

Hey! Do me a favor and knock off this line of questioning unless you intend to cough green, OK?

Josh

Name: August

E-mail: joxerfan@hotmail.com

Dear Josh,

In your ongoing efforts to get someone to watch your damn movie, are you primarily still approaching distributors? I seem to recall your mentioning that you weren't overly impressed with film festivals. Do you think you might run "Hammer" in LA at an indie theatre for a day or two, as I gather you have with other features? And finally, do you think you might ever consider debuting it at, say, a college film festival, or something similar?

Thanks,

August

Dear August:

Here's the deal, once you premiere your film anywhere it's no longer eligible to be shown in any of the bigger festivals, which demand the world premiere. I've got "Hammer" going out to Telluride next because if it gets in, let alone wins anything, distributors will then watch your picture. It got someone else's blessing. But to keep approaching these big festivals, the only ones where a deal might possibly get made, while retaining the film's virginity is a bit of a trick. Regarding running the film in a theater in L.A., which I did with both "Lunatics" and "Running Time," it costs a lot of money and in both cases didn't get me anything.

Josh

Name: Kain

E-mail: webmaster@deadites.net

Hi, this is a question for Josh. Please do not post it on the site. It involves the rare film shorts Josh, Sam, and rest of the gang did. Well I have aquired a tape of the film shorts and wish to post information on my site about them along with pictures. What does Josh think of this? Is it a good idea or should I leave them be? Thanks!

-Kain Evil Webmaster

Deadites Online: <http://www.deadites.net>

Dear Kain:

I say, do whatever you want, it is still a somewhat free country. And in regard to not posting this, using Nelson's voice from "The Simpsons"--"Ha ha!"

Josh

Sorry, Kain, I must do Master's bidding.

-Shirley, aka "Igorretta"

Name: F. R.

E-mail: swanlandprods@yahoo.com

Howdy, Josh!

Very thought-provoking posts lately! I appreciated your comment about your confidence that filmmaking is the life for you; I think that's why the discussion here is so lively, because you genuinely have respect and enjoyment of the medium. Film geeks of the world, unite! And do so right here on Josh's website! ;)

So...I was reading what I thought was a fairly "no bullshit" interview with Paul Attanasio on the Writers Guild website. (I started surfing their site after I got tired of seeing them post "Sorry, we're not telling you anything because there's a news blackout" messages on the strike info page; I support many if not most of the writers' aims, but whether or not they will strike, and, if so, when -- will they wait till the June 30th deadline for the possible SAG strike, or keep to their original May 2nd cutoff? -- is indeed of prime importance to countless people working in the industry, or just plain living in L.A., where so much of the economy is affected by film production!)

Anyway... Attanasio quoted a great writer-director of the past (and, I think, another one of your favorites), Howard Hawks. Attanasio mentioned that Hawks had once said, "A movie is six good scenes and something in-between."

I'm curious what your reaction is to that statement. Do you agree/disagree? Do you think that Hawks' films reflect "six good scenes," or do you think that he actually followed a different philosophy in his filmmaking?

I was also pleased that you mentioned enjoying silent films -- I think there are many wonderful movies from that period. (I'm pretty crazy about all forms of art from the 1910s and 1920s anyway -- music, architecture, etc....) Do you ever go to the silent movie theater in Hollywood? They get very good prints, and occasionally there's a live organist, which is very fun indeed.

Well, as always, I'll be interested to read your thoughts.

best,
F. R.

P.S. I'm glad to see Cindy back, too. I think she's an intelligent and very pleasant member of the "salon" that meets here regularly. :)

Dear F.R.:

I've been to the Silent Movie Theater here in L.A., but I must disagree, the prints are in 16mm and not generally all that good. The seats are uncomfortable, too. Regarding Mr. Hawks, I think that was just a nonsensical off-handed statement that people took much too seriously. Let's say you need at least six good scenes. I just watched Hawks' "Air Force" and it's loaded with good scenes, so is "Scarface," so is "Sergeant York." Hawks enjoyed bullshitting the press, just like Hitchcock. The advice I follow is, when Elia Kazan came to Hollywood to direct his first movie, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," Darryl Zanuck told him to treat every scene as

though it were the best scene in the movie.

Josh

Name: Blake Eckard
E-mail: bseckard@hotmail.com

Josh,

What's the worst confrontation you've ever had with an actor or crew member.

Not to talk about me, but I once punched an actor (well actually best friend trying to act) when he spouted something off about me while I was trying to get the final shot of one of my many epic, high school shorts. Later while shooting my 1st feature the same actor (best friend) really tested my nerves by saying he was doing me a favor by enduring my bossy commands...and right in front of my entire (professional) crew. He has no idea how close he came to seeing his blood upon my knuckles. But I held back, knowing I'd frighten my city slicker employees not accustomed to such ways on a set. I now feel sorta stubborn about my short temper with my actors (buddies).

But as nonprofessional as it is, I'm wondering if it happens more often than we realize. I know J. Ford came to blows with Henry Fonda, J. Huston with Bogart, and W. Wellman with Spencer Tracy...actors!!! But nowadays I just can't see ole Bob Zemeckis or Stevie Spielberg opening a can of wupp ass on Tom Hanks, although I have heard that Michael Bay is quite the SOB. Any close calls for you?

Well, have a good one.

The best,

Blake Eckard

Dear Blake:

I wanted to punch-out the DP on "Lunatics" who wouldn't give me the shots I requested, but I didn't. The biggest prick I've ever worked with was the camera operator on "Hercules in the Maze of the Minotaur," who actually yelled at me to "get the fuck out of the way" when I went to speak to the actors in front of the camera. I asked the 1st A.D., "What happens if I break a C-stand over the operator's head?" The 1st replied, "It would definitely slow us down," so I didn't do it. His son was just on the lighting crew of the last episode I did and he's a very nice fellow. However, the most ongoing pain in the ass was the camera operator for the first five years of "Xena," who was a grumpy, creepy asshole who was always in my face. As a gag gift, the crew gave me a photo of the camera operator signed, "Love & Kisses, XXXX." I said to him somewhere along the way, "I was around years before you and I'll be around years after you. You are nothing but a tiny little blip on my screen." I did outlast him, too. Actors, on

the other hand, I get along with famously. The only thing an actor can really do to annoy me, as one did on this last ep, is not know their lines. That I find unforgivable.

Josh

Name: Watership Down
E-mail:

Josh,

What are you writing now? Anything new? Also, what are you reading? And, what is your favorite type of fiction?

Later,
WD

Dear WD:

I'm noodling with, but not really writing, a story about ancient Rome called "Centurion." I am reading "The Best American Essays 2000," which has already had several very good essays included. I don't really have a favorite type of fiction. I much prefer non-fiction now.

Josh

Name: Gavin
E-mail: gcollins@aol.com

Josh,

Have you ever thought that maybe you rub people in the biz the wrong way, and that maybe you aren't the best person to try to get people to buy your film? Stay with me here; honestly, I'm not trying to insult you at all. It's just that you seem to have the type of attitude that may make people feel antagonistic towards you. Maybe instead you should work with a partner who can handle the business negotiations for you. Sam and Rob seem to have a smooth relationship. Have you ever thought about letting maybe Bruce Campbell or Ted Raimi meet with representatives to spice up the pitch meetings a little bit? Anyway, I hope you don't mind my straight shooting. You seem like the kind of guy who likes honest opinions even if they may sting a little. Because honestly, you are a great filmmaker, and if at this point in time (with your connections) you can't get your film even viewed, then there is obviously something wrong with your pitch.

Anyway, I really do wish you all the best,
Gavin

Dear Gavin:

Sadly, I completely agree with you. I got my co-producer, Jane, who has a very pleasant, intelligent, phone demeanor, to make all the calls, and still we can't get anyone to watch it, or even call back. About ten years ago, when I was living in Michigan, I was over at the Raimi's house (around the block from my parents' old house) and Mrs. Raimi was telling me a story about how terrific a schmoozer Sam was, even when he was a kid. I said, "That's my problem, I'm no good at schmoozing." Mrs Raimi looked at me very seriously and said, "It's worse than that, Josh, you're insulting." Well, we all have our crosses to bear.

Josh

Name: Cynthia E. Jones
E-mail: cynthiaejones@hotmail.com

Dear Josh,

To quote you: "I don't feel any responsibility in the slightest to modern culture or anyone in it. My responsibility as an artist is to myself and my beliefs alone. I don't owe you or anyone else a thing."

Here, here.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch...why do people think that us artists need to 'stay in touch'? If that theory is true, why don't big famous artists come over to my house to see 'what's going on' in the art world? Oh...art that makes lots of money is the only 'important' art in the world. Well, for my money, b-movies are far superior to mainstream a-list crap. A-list films stopped being good in the 1970s. Something about Reagan administration brought greed to the producers. I think it was (like it or not) "Jaws" that made the "blockbuster" mentality we have today. After that first 100 million film, that's all producers wanted to make for their studios. If I watch "Freddie Got Fingered" (Oh, dear God--dear, dear God. I did.) does that mean I'm "in touch" with the "art" world? Hm.

Artists need to do what they need to do. Period. Market-watching, poll-taking losers watch TV and shitty mainstream movies to copy them so they can please audiences. "Ooh, people really like that whole 'stuck on an island' thing. Let's make a movie like that." or "Hey, 'That 70s Show' is really popular, let's make a piece of shit starring the kid from that show--but we won't have him smoking pot, 'cos there's a drug war on." (Do not, under any circumstances, see "Dude, Where's My Car?") So. You rock. Next question.

--cindy

Dear Cindy:

Glad to hear from you. I wasn't sure you were coming back due to the

unfriendly attack you received here. The assholes come after me with some regularity, I'm sorry one came after you. Meanwhile, I'm in a particularly ornery mood in that I can't get anyone to watch my damn movie. I personally think it's a legitimate effort, given the bullshit out there, but alas no one will even take a look. Admittedly, it is quite different from everything else. Ah well. I don't really give "Jaws" the end of the last golden age, I say it was "Star Wars." My reasoning is that both 1975 and 1976 were very good years for films. Also, "Jaws" is an adult film. It's 1977 and "Star Wars" when it all went into the shitter, when suddenly kid's comic book crap became the A-movies. Ah well to that, too. Welcome back.

Josh

Name: olga guadarrama
E-mail:

Dear Josh:

What do you mean by "love the art in yourself, not yourself in the art"? What keeps you inspired ?

Dear Olga:

It was Stanislavsky that said that, not me, I just quoted him. I do believe it, though. To be an artist is to create because you must, not because you might receive rewards from the creation. What keeps me inspired? That beats the shit out of me. Because I think I have something to say, I guess.

Josh

Name: Blake Eckard
E-mail: bseckard@hotmail.com

Josh,

Did you decide to start this web page or was it a suggestion? Because of it I feel you are gaining a very loyal, and quite possibly extremely large, fan base. (And if ole "Stone" will ever start offering you \$ for your next picture instead of just asking how much they'll cost, that'll really be one helluva fan!)

I'm wondering if you agree with the idea of you becoming a more well known director because of this? Do you enjoy having this page, or is it just kinda in limbo, or a real bitch to keep?

Another thing, we all know about how the web page for "The Blair Witch Project" not only helped it get bought by Artisan Entertainment at Sundance, but to pack em in at the box office when it was released. Do you think starting up a web site is something for an independent filmmaker

to consider? Has it helped garnish any excitement (us fans not included) for "If I Had A Hammer"?

Well, I hope so. Have a good one.

Respectfully,

Blake Eckard

Dear Blake:

This website was begun by Gerry Kissell as a fan site. I began sending Gerry stuff to post, then bought a scanner so I could send him more stuff. I then took over the server payments and Gerry and I basically built up the site together. He then got too busy to run the site, so Gerry brought in Shirley LeVasseur, who has run the site beautifully for the past two years or so. This website is moving toward having been up for three years. I do enjoy this website quite a bit, although if I ever did have any hopes of getting a deal based on it, that has long since passed. It's not like film executives or professional directors or writers are coming here. Honestly, I don't really think there are more than a couple hundred people visiting this site worldwide, which ain't much out of more than 6 billion people on the planet. Still and all, I enjoy it.

Josh

Name: Tuomas Laasanen
E-mail: tuomas@cinemasf.net

Dear Josh:

Is there any kind of plans on releasing "Lunatics: A Love Story" on dvd anytime soon?

Dear Tuomas:

Not that I know of, not that anyone would bother telling me anyway.

Josh

Name: Josh
E-mail: jjcat@aol.com

Josh,

Have you ever been interested in books about serial killers? Gangster?

Gunslingers? Outlaws in general? What did you think of Paul Newman's performance in "The Left Handed Gun"? Wasn't James Dean supposed to do that film?

Thanks and good luck to you,
Josh

Dear Josh:

Although our society seems obsessed by serial killers, they bore me. To be special in this world, I think you have to do something better than kill people. I wrote a treatment 13 or 14 years ago for a gangster film about a real gangster in the 1930s named Two-Gun Crowley, who was sixteen years old. I never followed up with the script because I couldn't find a new slant on telling the story. I didn't know that James Dean was supposed to be in "The Left-Handed Gun." I never liked the film, though.

Josh

Name: Paul Lundy
E-mail: pl123@yahoo.com

Josh,

Have you read any James Elroy? I'm currently reading "The Black Dalia" which is quite good. I bet you'd be good at 40's detective slang. Have you ever thought about writing a 40's LA dick story?

Paul

Dear Paul:

I've never finished an Elroy book. Although they seem well-written, it still just seems like recycled cliches to me. I don't really see how you can do better than Hammett and Chandler. The best possibility is to come in third, which isn't good enough for me.

Josh

Name: Paul Lundy
E-mail: pl123@yahoo.com

Josh,

If you could change one thing about your personality, what would it be?

Paul

Dear Paul:

I'd only speak Swedish.

Josh

Name: Janice
E-mail: jjark@aol.com

Hi Josh,

Do you think Lucy and Rob will be moving out to LA permanently now that the show is over?

Thanks,
Janice

Dear Janice:

Well, I had dinner with Rob and his very good baby Julius last night and asked the very same question. He said he'd prefer to bring up his child in NZ, where your average person seems brighter and better spoken than here. I don't know how he'll pull that off, though. We'll see what comes next for the dynamic duo. Lucy was a presenter at the Comedy Central Awards last night and left looking terrific in a white and black dress.

Josh

Name: Harpo
E-mail:

Dear Josh:

Are you into silent films at all?

Dear Harpo:

Yes, I like silent films, and I seem to enjoy them more as I get older. From an historical POV, I love being able to see into that earlier time. I recently watched "The Lumiere's First Films" which is compilation of the Lumiere brothers very first films, including the very first film ever shot in Berlin and

Jerusalem and a number of other places. Very interesting.

Josh

Name: Diana Hawkes
E-mail: sdhawkes@penn.com

Dear Josh,

I caught last night for the millionth time 'A Shot in the Dark' with Peter Sellers. I never tire of it! The entire Pink Panther series of films are probably my favorite comedies of all time.

So it is with slight trepidation, but with much curiosity that I ask what you think of Sellers in these installments.

I don't suppose you, in preparation for directing any of the Xena episodes, got to see 'The Xena Scrolls'? It was a future tale of our gang circa Nazi era, and wacky descendants were cooked up. Joxer's was a lieutenant in the "free French government" until Ares revealed he was really a just a brush salesman from Hoboken, NJ! I swear Ted was channeling Clouseau for this episode and I wondered if he talked at all with you about what his influences are for Joxer. Did he mention Clouseau? I know Danny Kaye's The Court Jester was one for the episode "For Him the Bell Tolls". Apparently Monty Python's -it's only a flesh wound- Black Knight mixed with Don Quixote was the original idea for Joxer.

What did you and he discuss as far as direction for Joxer in the upcoming 'Soul Possession'? Do the actors come to you, particularly since its an alternate timeline story, and pitch to you how they want to play the character (and you then rein them in or draw out from them as you see fit), or is it the other way around-- where you right off the bat tell them something like "I want a Dick Van Dyke clumsy entrance here followed by loud fast dialogue delivery"...etc...

May be that's a question better asked after it airs, but is there anything at all you can tell us about what you either encouraged him to do or simply witnessed when he turned on the Joxer magic?

Thanks a bunch,
Diana

Dear Diana:

I did see "The Xena Scrolls" and thought Ted was very funny doing his French/Clouseau/Claude Rains and was kind of sad when the character changed. The actors and I don't really discuss overall character influences, we deal more with how to bring the specific scene we're shooting to life, and if it's a comedy, how do we get a laugh out of the scene whether there's a funny line written into the scene or not. Part of my job, as I see it, when directing a comedy is keep a whacky attitude on the set so the actors feel free to be whacky. With Ted, of course, that's no problem because he

and I laugh like idiots all day long.

Josh

Name: Tam
E-mail: IPaintThere4Iam@aol.com

Josh,

Any chance of you writing about making of Rob's fishing documentary? I'd be really interested in reading about that, especially since obtaining a copy to view is probably nearly impossible. Also, what's the other documentary Bruce made, besides "Fanalysis"?

Take care!
Tam

Dear Tam:

Bruce's new documentary, which he made with his wife, is about cutting down trees in Oregon where he lives. Regarding "Battle the Big Tuna," which, you are correct, you'd have a difficult to impossible time finding, was shot over Christmas 1987-88. There isn't much to tell, other than it turned out pretty well. Rob made several more fishing docs without me, but that was the best one, if I do say so myself.

Josh

Name: Tiny Tim
E-mail: tinytiny@yahoo.com

Hi there Josh,

Do you have any friends, not in the film biz, who are as close to you as Bruce, Ted, Rob, and Sam are? What's Joe LaDucca (sp) doing these days?

Dear Tiny Tim:

Do you still tip-toe through the tulips? I have a few other friends besides those guys. Some are in the film biz, some aren't. Joe LoDuca, who's a buddy of mine, is looking for work now that "Xena's" done. He's great, but since he still lives in Detroit, no one really knows him here in L.A.

Josh

Name: Carson
E-mail:

Josh,

With your wide range of interests, have you ever thought about making documentaries? You could get funding from the NEA. Just a thought. You are such a focused person. I think you would do an awesome job. Maybe a World War I documentary, or a Teddy Roosevelt one, or even a film genre one would be great. You've studied so many different things, and you have a unique take on most everything. Come on, Ken Burns can't be the only brilliant doc film maker out there.

Anyway, best of luck to you no matter what you do.

Cheers,
Carson

Dear Carson:

I like documentaries, but I've never really considered making them. Bruce Campbell is just editing his second documentary, so he's into it. I did make one, many years ago for Rob Tapert, called "Battle the Big Tuna," which is about a 9-day deep-sea fishing trip. It was a bitch to make too.

Josh

Name: Harry
E-mail: hermescroll@yahoo.com

Dear Josh

I was wondering if any of your films have ever been critiqued by (the late) Gene Siskel and/or Roger Ebert? I know you probably wouldn't care what they'd have to say regardless but in case they have I'd be curious to know what they thought. I never cared for Siskel (he always sold out and told the public what they wanted to hear but Ebert periodically surprises me and tells it like it is regardless of how how much the public is going to crucify him.

Harry

Dear Harry:

None of my films were ever reviewed by Siskel or Ebert. My film "Lunatics" played for a week in Chicago, way back when, and I thought they might, but they didn't.

Josh

Name: Matt
E-mail: fatboyfilms@onebox.com

Hey Josh-

I was just curious if you had any tips for up coming screen writers/directors?

Mainly I was curious as to if you had any tips on how to get funding, anything you could offer would be great.

Thanks.

Matt

Dear Matt:

I'm sorry, I have no good advice. I've always had a very difficult time getting financing and have no secrets to share. Good luck and try to do good work.

Josh

Name: EDS
E-mail:

Dear Josh:

about your comments on "Election"...

eat my shit....

sincerely,
EDS

Dear EDS:

I suppose if you could say anything brighter than that you would have. I'm sorry for your clearly limited mental capacity.

Josh

Name: Hi
E-mail:

Josh,

What are your buddies Ted, Bruce, Rob, and Sam doing filmwise or TVwise right now? Good luck to you with the selling of your film.

Dear Hi:

Sam's in the middle of shooting "Spiderman," Bruce is just about done playing a 70-year old Elvis in "Bubba Hotep," Ted's off doing the conventions, and Rob is editing the final Xena ep.

Josh

Name: Rhonda
E-mail:

Hi Josh,

How much would you charge for a 2 hour speaking engagement at a Community College?

Thanks,
Rhonda

Dear Rhonda:

I don't know. What do other speakers get?

Josh

Name: Sandra Martin
E-mail: sandym@hotmail.com

Hi Josh,

Do you have any children? If not, do you plan to have any?

Warmest wishes,
Sandy

Dear Sandy:

I have no children, nor do I have any plans to have any.

Josh

Name: Red River

E-mail:

Josh,

Have you ever tried to write a novel of fiction?

Dear Red River:

Yes, I wrote a novel called "Mann's Revenge" in 1983, about the murder of Heinrich Himmler. It sucks, but I may even post it soon.

Josh

Name: Jim

E-mail: Starion106@aol.com

Josh,

You've made it pretty clear that you don't watch many new shows on tv, or new movies in theaters. I wholeheartedly agree that 'new' doesn't necessarily make something more worthwhile than something 'old'. And I agree that most new movies and most television shows on right now suck. HOWEVER, what do you think about the idea that the artist should keep up with contemporary culture? And don't say "there is no culture, that's the problem", that's kind of a copout. See, I think that artists should be up on what's going on. When a movie like Titanic becomes a huge phenomenon, or a tv show like Survivor becomes the same, is it not the responsibility of the current working film and tv artists to pay some attention to these things? I don't necessarily believe that artists should be making their shit for the dumb masses that watch Survivor or love Titanic, but I think that artists should at least have a finger on the pulse of the culture. I do love the idea of the starving artist going out into a cave and cutting themselves off from everything; in theory, it sounds great. But I think that in order to be relevant, you need to keep up on things that are happening around you, in your culture. I ask some (artist) friends why they haven't seen Titanic, or Survivor, and the response is that "oh, it looked stupid" or some such. I think that itself is stupid. I don't know if you should support Titanic with your \$8 at the box office, or Survivor if you have a nielsen box attached to your tv, but I do believe that it is your responsibility to see these things. Know your enemy, if you will.

Jim

Dear Jim:

I think that's a legitimate question. I don't feel any responsibility in the slightest to modern culture or anyone in it. My responsibility as an artist is to myself and my beliefs alone. I don't owe you or anyone else a thing. My vision is all that matters. I did see "Titanic," but I don't feel that I needed to, I was simply bored (and more bored still once I saw it).

Josh

Name: Roger St George

E-mail:

Josh,

Hi, hope all is going well. What's a typical day like for you when you're not shooting a film or working on a TV show? When do you get up, go to bed, write, watch films?

Thanks,
Roger

Dear Roger:

Right now I feel like a prisoner in Casablanca in 1943 waiting for an exit visa, or possibly letters of transit, but for now I wait, and wait, and wait . . . Remember, "Vultures. Everywhere vultures."

Josh

Name: Blake Eckard

E-mail: bseckard@hotmail.com

Josh,

I just read "Buds" and I laughed out loud so many times, and at such a high decibel that I embarrassed myself...and I was home alone! If ever the chance comes, I'd highly recommend you directing that story. I'd almost say it's a guaranteed catch-on of some kind. I would like to know if in this case you were bringing attention to Kurosawa or making fun of him?

Have you ever thought about being a film critic? You're such a savage that it seems that some newspaper/t.v. station/radio program would be happy as hell to get a mean as hell movie reviewer. I know you've been offered

teaching jobs, what about film reviewing?

Regards,

Blake Eckard

Dear Blake:

I'm glad you enjoyed it. I would direct it in a second if I had the \$. I'm making fun of the late great master, Kurosawa. I love so many of his earlier films, which already have a very deliberate pace, that those late ones are clearly and obviously the work of a very old man to me. The scene in "Buds" watching "Ran" is true, I had people asleep on both sides of me and in front of me. It felt like Kurosawa wouldn't cut until all the film rolled out.

Meanwhile, me as a reviewer for somebody else probably wouldn't work all that well since my only editorial policy is my conscience. I can say whatever I want because I don't have to answer to anyone. It seems to me there ought to be at least one reviewer out there that doesn't owe anyone anything (except the credit card companies, that is). Besides, no one has offered.

Josh

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