

SCRIPT COVERAGE FORM

TITLE: The Creator

AUTHOR(S): Ben Everhart

GENRE: Period Drama

FORM/LENGTH: Screenplay/125 Pages

CIRCA: Period Piece, 1960s

LOCALE(S): Syria, Los Angeles, Hollywood, Sound Stage

ELEMENTS: Star Trek, NBC, Gene Roddenberry

DATE SUBMITTED: 10/18/18

DATE RETURNED: 10/25/18

READER: Charlie Thomson

LOGLINE: A passionate storyteller with a cocky demeanor, Gene Roddenberry, goes on a journey through the creation of his breakout revolutionary show, *Star Trek*.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Premise	X			
Plot			X	
Characters		X		
Dialogue	X			
Setting		X		
	Consider	Pass		
Script/Book		X		
Writer	X			
	High	Medium	Low	
Budget		X Medium to high		

SYNOPSIS:

Gene Roddenberry is telling a story about how he survives a plane crash and the settling money he made from the aircraft company brought him to Hollywood. It's his way of breaking the ice or trying to seem interesting in front of television producers. Though it is revealed not many people take him seriously and push him aside. This upsets him because meeting after meeting he can't get his break.

Meanwhile a woman, Lucille Ball (Lucy) has become the first female president of a production company after getting her ex husband, Desi Arnaz, to sign it to her. She convinces he can't handle Desilu, his company, anymore because he is always drunk and unkept. Once she has the company, she asks her Lawyer, Oscar Katz, to find her a producer to make a new show for her. Herb Solow is that guy. Him and Oscar go through multiple pitches but cannot find anyone that is perfect for them, they decide they need to look for a new writer, someone unheard of.

Gene pops in to see his very busy agent, Alden Schwimmer, he tells Alden that he wants his break but no one is giving it to him. Alden recommends he come up with his own show instead of being signed to a pre-existing show. This gets Gene thinking, but he doesn't come up with an idea with a show until he notices a protest outside a coffee shop. It's a group of adolescents protesting the Vietnam War draft. This gets Gene to thinking of writing about a show that hides real life conflicts and events and themes inside a science fiction show named Star Trek.

Gene presents this idea and pitch to Solow, who loves the idea and wants to get it made with him. After failing a pitch to the CBS president, Solow prepares Gene for the next pitch to NBC, which sells. This creates a whole new Gene, a cocky and stubborn Gene.

Through the process of getting the show cast and getting the crew hired, Gene becomes stubborn with what happens to the show. A big issue is that he is insistent on hiring his mistress, Majel Barret, whom which he cheats on his wife with, to play a part in the show. This is a problem because Lucy said she doesn't want relationships acting in the show. Solow begins lying for Gene because he wants to protect the show.

Once everything is in place, they shoot a pilot and test screen it, NBC likes it but their testers do not, so they have Gene do another pilot with a few changes. This time it works because they have the demographic changed to a younger audience than the grannies originally chosen. NBC orders for a season to be made. This creates an even cockier Gene. He begins to resent his wife even more, have affairs with the extras on set, and become a drunk mess.

NBC threatens to get Star Trek cancelled until they find out the impact it has made on fans of the show worldwide. Mail is sent to them, protests are held to keep the show, and so on. So NBC changes their minds and actually green lights a second season. During the filming of the second season, Gene's alcohol addiction becomes worse. He neglects his original drive for the show and annoys his writing team. Gene eventually gets a divorce from his wife to marry Majel. Solow gets fired by Lucy because she finds out about his lying about Gene's affiliation with Majel.

When the show gets cancelled for good we see that Gene has gone back to his original ways. He can't get a gig, because his own success lead to his failure and no one wants to hire someone who is a mess to work with. Solow tells him, 'You got the ending to this you worked for. You earned the cancellation. But one part of what you said is right: you did make a show that mattered.' The film finishes with scenes of how Gene's life turned out after Star Trek. How much the show helped society.

COMMENTS

Characters: The characters were extremely well thought out although maybe too many characters were involved. Obviously there were a lot of people involved in making the show possible, but the script may have too many characters that are important. It may cause audiences to lose track of who's who. Each main character had strong characteristics that were effectively visualized.

Plot: The plot was interesting, but all in all seemed to go on and on. Bits and pieces in the middle of the screenplay seemed a bit over demonstrated. They were interesting pieces, personally got a bit boring and repetitive after a while. The montage like processes were the repetitive parts. It was even a bit slow at first and the plot really got more interesting around the time the script got picked up. And the plot just seemed to just drag on a bit and could lose audiences attention at parts.

Action Slugs: The actions slugs were easy to follow along with and overall pretty effective. The screenplay was very visual in how the characters would react and change the through the story.

Dialogue: The dialogue was useful in characterizing every character in the screenplay. I would even say the dialogue was perfect, because it effectively characterized each person.

Other: The screenplay was interesting, but I feel like it would be too complicated to shoot. It would be hard to get lookalike actors of the story. Recreating the Star Trek set would also be very difficult. It felt like a long movie and if shorter and more precise, could work.