

1.5 | Lights, Camera, PUZZLE!

Oh no! [CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED-ACADEMY-AWARD-NOMINATED-MOVIE TITLE HERE] lost a scene during editing! Your team has been tasked to write, cast, and “film” a scene of your design before the premier.

*The producers have given you a list of criteria below, and expect a final product with at least **100** “plot points”. You’re on a tight budget and tight schedule, but hey, don’t worry. That’s showbiz, baby!*

Upon a successful “opening night,” your team will receive the answer to 1.5 from HQ. Remember– there’s a lot of flexibility when it comes to fulfilling criteria. Be creative!

Directors guide:

Step 1: Writing

Select one of the following genres, and include the following tropes.

Drama

+25 include a minimum of 3 plot twists

+5 for each additional twist

+25 include a dramatic declaration of love

Additional +25 if this declaration is interrupted, with a +5 for every additional interruption after the first

+15 include star crossed lovers

+15 if someone who was presumed dead is secretly alive!

+10 include at least one character that delivers a monologue which reminds the audience of their convoluted backstory

+5 for every additional, conflicting backstory that a given character mentions

+10 for every statement of obvious expository information (just in case the audience forgot the twist from five minutes ago)

+5 for every unexpected and dramatic reveal of a pregnancy, death, and/or torrid affair

+5 for each dramatic shout of “NO!”, “WHY?” “YES!” and/or “YOU!”

+5 per faint

Additional +5 if a fainting couch is present

+5 per dramatic gasp (CONDITIONAL ON THE FACT THAT the gasp is an appropriate response to an event on set)

Buddy Cop Comedy

- +25 include an engaging, yet easily solvable case, and somehow our characters are the only ones who can crack it...
- +25 include a car chase
- +25 if your characters find out the answer to what they were looking for was inside them all along (awwww)
- +15 include a banana used as a prop gun
- +15 if a member of the buddy group is an animal of some sort
 - +5 if the animal is also a cop
 - 25 if more than one member of the buddy group is a cop
- +15 include a fourth wall break
- +15 include the phrase, "...just how deep does this thing go?" in reference to the mystery they are solving, and/or "You two. My office. NOW." from whoever assigned the case.
- +10 if "Gwenyth Paltrow" shows up
- +10 include a veteran adventurer saying the phrase, "I'm getting too old for this-"
- +5 for each mustache/hat combo
- +5 for a character catchphrase that makes HQ laugh
 - Additional +5 if it only makes Daisy laugh

Action/Adventure

- +25 perform a daring stunt! (please don't hurt yourself :*)
 - 15 if the audience is able to recognize a stunt double performed in your place
- +25 include a "fight scene" (again, please don't hurt yourself or others)
 - +10 include unexpected immunity to poison
- +25 include a rescue mission
 - +15 if a bomb is defused
 - +5 if the clock on the bomb has less than 1 second remaining
- +15 if the hero sneaks into the villain's lair as a delivery person
 - +5 include the phrase "I'm in"
- +10 include a very clever disguise
- +5 per hostage
- 25 if the hero doesn't save the day at the end

Horror

- +25 for a spooky-scary monster, ghoul, or other appropriately frightening creature
 - +15 if the spooky-scary moves at a below-average walking pace, yet still manages to catch up to the character it is chasing.
- +25 if there is a medieval style joust with aforementioned monster
 - 1,000,000 if there are actual horses involved
- +25 for a spontaneous performance of an 80's pop hit
 - 100 if you rickroll HQ
- +15 include a group of teenagers spending the night in an old, abandoned building of your choosing
 - +10 if the group splits up after it is clear there is danger
- +10 if the scene takes place on a significant holiday night
 - Additional +5 if it isn't Halloween
- +10 include the line "it's right behind me... isn't it?" in reference to the spooky-scary
- +5 for every character whose phone is dead, broken, and/or mysteriously absent
 - Additional +5 may be awarded based on creativity (HQ's discretion)
- +5 for each horrendous fake scream
- +5 for each character death
 - Additional +10 if a dramatic slow motion collapse is involved
- +5 per jumpscare

Step 2: Casting

Choose at least two of the following actors to perform in your scene. You may supplement this list with cast members of your choice. Remember, HQ must be able to identify who is in your cast!

Nicholas Cage
King George III
Gru (Despicable Me)
Scooby-Doo (Scooby-Doo)
Bugs Bunny (Looney Tunes)
Gandalf (Lord of the Rings)
Eleven (Stranger Things)
Batman (Batman)
Winnie-the-Pooh (Winnie the Pooh)

Beaker (The Muppet Show)
Mary Poppins (Mary Poppins)
Yoda (Star Wars)
Homer Simpson (The Simpsons)
Elle Woods (Legally Blond)
Bumblebee (Transformers)
Captain America (Marvel)
Blue (Blues Clues)

Step 3: Filming

If you believe you are properly equipped to film your scene, you may submit a video to HQ. Otherwise, contact HQ to receive professional help from a travel-ready camera crew!

Award Categories

Academy Nominees will be announced on May 14th, 2023, in the following categories.

Best Actor/Actress
Best Supporting Actor/Actress
Best Propwork
Best Costume Design
Best Original Soundtrack
Best Cinematography