

BOB SAVES AMERICA

Evaluation

Overall	Premise	Plot	Character	Dialogue	Setting
7	7	7	7	8	7

Era	Present Day; 1700s
Genre	Action & Adventure, Action Comedy, Romantic Adventure, Comedy, Family Comedy, Romantic Comedy
Logline	When an amiable history professor finds himself transported to the 18th century, he forms an unlikely friendship with Benjamin Franklin and soon discovers that the fate of democracy has fallen into his lap.
Pages	106

Strengths

The writing is genuinely quite exceptional, which helps to create a charming narrative that moviegoers can enjoy. The wit and sarcasm are employed very effectively, making the storyline and characters highly entertaining. Bob is a hilarious, warm-hearted hero, which makes it easy to root for him as he battles Benedict Arnold to save the U.S. The story structure is well-developed and hits all necessary beats to keep the audience invested from beginning to end. An outstanding balance of dialogue and exposition maintains a brisk pace and contributes to the growing suspense and tension throughout the screenplay. One of the greatest highlights is the romance between Bob and Phillis. Their relationship has a clear arc involving the necessary highs and lows of a blossoming romance. There is significant potential to dig deeper into themes like race, women's roles in society, etc., to give even greater depth to future drafts. The final moment between Phillis and Bob in the museum is a beautiful ending that leaves the audience feeling hopeful, making the entire script worthwhile.

Weaknesses

This current draft must contend with an element of predictability, which diminishes the project's commercial appeal. Also, Bob is a relatively passive character, save for his sardonic delivery. Future drafts must try and give him a more meaningful backstory. He is pretty depressed when the narrative starts, with nothing of significance to look forward to, so his resolve to return to this life negates his behavior in the opening. Why doesn't he decide to move to Boston with Phillis? A greater driving force should send him back to the present day. Perhaps he meets Phillis in passing at the beginning. Regardless, he needs a reason to return, as this will help to enhance the conflict in Act III when this is put in jeopardy. Phillis' anger in the scene on pg. 58 isn't justified in a manner that makes her departure convincing. There is an opportunity to create more conflict in this scene so that Bob is heartbroken. Perhaps he says something out of turn that forces her hand. There should be some regret on his part, a desire to go back in time once again to fix his transgression. The way James breaks free from his rope on pg. 87 seems too convenient and wastes an opportunity for a wild plot twist.

Prospects

The execution of the story is fantastic. However, the biggest obstacle for this project lies in the lack of marketability to a universal audience. While many Americans would enjoy this film, sadly, there are too many "inside jokes" regarding American history that may land with a thud for an audience unfamiliar with the subject matter. Certain characters, like Phillis Wheatley, will not hold the same weight for an audience that doesn't know who this is, so producers and studios may be reticent to support the film entirely. There is also a bit of redundancy to the concept because a similar idea has already proven incredibly successful with the NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM franchise. This could also be a deterrent for financiers. The characters are great, but they need a bit more earnestness to make them the type of spirited roles that would be compelling to top-flight actors. All in all, this is an excellent writing sample that could lead to greater fortune in the screenwriting medium.