

Here Comes Trouble

Production Notes:

Updated 8/25/08. Updates are in red

At this stage we have two funding options:

The first involves Patrick Armstrong and his girl friend. As it currently stands he is looking for a vehicle for her to be in. **Her name is Heather, I believe. She is 24, attractive** and is a kickboxer.



He has 50K to spend. Originally he was interested in a feature. I think we can sell him on this better. She returns Sept 1.

The second funding option is we pay for it ourselves. (yeah, I know. That's not really an option per se) So basically, I mean me and who ever else can chip in. It would be great to get a couple of thousand dollars to defray costs. I've run some numbers at the bottom if you're curious.

Either way, we want to pay for as little as possible so we get every dime on the screen. This only applies for the first 4 episodes if we do it ourselves.

There is now a prelude featuring Kendra. This would function as a bonus episode and give Heather more screen time as well as an opportunity for a great fight scene.

So we would essentially be shooting five episodes if Patrick funds this. If we fund ourselves, we can wait a bit before we shoot the prelude.

Future episodes will depend on funding.

But I only want to concern ourselves with what we have in front of us. This is the opportunity for us to really sing and put our money where our mouth is.

That being said, we should only shoot at locations that are free. There is no location that is a must. Anything can be rewritten to accommodate a location.

If there is a better, cooler way to do a gag, let's do that. But the money will be spent on props, wardrobe and stunts. We need to see if we can find someone to do Race's cybernetic arm. And do it well. It needs to be seamless. As always the crew will be well fed.

This production will live or die by three things: the lead actress, the art department and the stunts. The last one we have covered. The Art department I'm pretty sure we can handle.

This is a tour de force for who ever plays Tiffany. This girl has got to be able to do a lot. (I already know it will LOOK good and SOUND good)

Essentially there are only 3 lead characters, Tiffany, Bert and Kendra.

Product placement.

I have no problem, within reason, of whoring this out. Maybe a beverage company sponsors us. They get screen time in Banzai's. She drinks it, the waiter delivers it, etc.

Maybe some wardrobe or jacket line can provide us with outfits for the 'No More Trouble' set. We can be a little outrageous with the set as it is aping a big budget Hollywood film.

We can show one of their bumpers as we come back to Hollywood Nights.

Maybe Kendra is eating a bag of Fritos in the ambulance, or Cutter or Bert on deck. Quisp's baseball hat could be product placement.

There could be things in the bunkhouse. Posters in the shack at the beginning. As long as it makes some logical sense, I say we look into any possibility, especially if they can give us product and possibly a banner when the site goes up. But most of all: maybe some money. And I'm talking whatever here. Fifty bucks, a hundred, two, anything. Maybe we get squat. But we should keep a record of everyone we contact, so if this does take off, we can remember who to thank.

I may be way off base here, but I'm just trying to get us to think outside the box.

We need to see what kind of deal we can strike for prime lenses and a micrographix or a redrock. But this is Brent's bailiwick.

Crew.

I'd like to know the level of commitment people can give. I'm going to need a solid AD and I'm going to need a solid producer to chase down product placement, talent and locations. I want to be really friendly with the film offices where we shoot. I think Ben's hands will be full with the stunts and the new baby.

As for a time table, I'd like to shoot this in September. Probably two days a week. With the exception of the ship, I think we can shoot each location in a single day.

Plant nursery EXT- one day

SLS shower – one day

Bunkhouse – one day

Ship INT – one day

Ship EXT – one day

Banzai's – one day

Ambulance – one day

7 days, 17 pages. That's 2.5 pages a day. I don't want to rush this. Let's do it right.

Talent.

One option for some of our cameos is name talent here in Florida. This would put us on the level with Dr. Horrible and would give us a step up on web serials like Bikini Bandits and Ninja Babes from Space.

Art has a list and a game plan. I have no idea who is out here other than Travolta, Burt Reynolds, Hulk Hogan and Wesley Snipes. And the cast of Burn Notice. Which again means Bruce Campbell. (I'd like to stay away from sports figures.)

Stephen Root is from Sarasota, but I don't know if he lives there now.

One nice thing is Episode 4 takes place entirely in the ambulance and we never have to see Smoke again. We can drive the ambulance to where ever we need to go.

My only concern is rate. Bruce was going to do 2 days on Stormbringer for 60K all in. That's for a feature. I don't know what 3 or 4 hours on his day off in his hotel parking lot for a web series would run.

Does anyone know anyone in the prison system? We could always drive the ambulance to Ocala. Maybe Wesley Snipes would do it as a community service thing.

If we are going to pay for name talent, it should be name talent. I don't consider Joey Fatone name talent.

Another thing that might help, is to shoot as much as we can without our "cameos" (Plissken bit, Banzai's, parking lot) so we have something to show the "stars"

That said, I think we need to toss a wide net (Florida) for some of these roles.

One of the nice things about this is it affords us the opportunities to run with character tangents if we see fit, hence the prelude.

Another thought is to shoot an R rated version as we go. If this should warrant a life beyond these initial episodes we have the ability to release a DVD that offers something you can't or didn't get on the web.

Oh yeah, numbers:

Ninja Babes spends 10K on 4 minutes (that's 2.5K per minute)

Dr. Horrible was bare minimum 100K for 42 mins (2.4K per minute)

I'm guessing this is minimal crew paid. Or crew paid minimums.

The Challenge was 17K for 30 mins (1.76K per minute) That's also film at 1996-97 prices

Student Loan was 3K for 5 mins (1.6K per minute)

This is food, props, wardrobe, set dec, film stock, processing and post only

50K for 17 mins is 2.94 per minute

So we're in the ballpark.

So....

Whaddya think?