

Scrubs / BS



ADAPTATION, 2008

Puzzle Master

Charlie Kaufman's new film, *Synechdoche, New York*, intellectual playfulness his fans have come to expect

I think the email device works here. It does mimic the obsessive subjectivity that Kaufman's scripps are all about. Of course it also points out the way the story doesn't really capture much more than surface observations of Kaufman...

Storyboard Logistics: TK Rud nummorig
nib emm digna core feur. Na feuis atio
liquat. Net fouis atio ir nihilimic.

Slugs: Charlie Kaufman
Author: Jason Fanz
Issue: 1611
Due Date: 9/23/08

Hi Jason,

I am really excited about the Charlie Kaufman profile. You and I have discussed several approaches to capturing the brilliant screenwriter as he makes his debut as an actor with *Synechdoche, New York*.

I think once you meet Kaufman, you'll have a better sense of the story you want to write. But just so we have a sketch on paper: You're going to request meeting with Charlie on three separate occasions in the hometown of Los Angeles. First, a standardized in-person interview of a couple hours or so.

Second, you'll be a fly on the wall as Charlie conducts some business related to the film's release. If there's a key post-production let, that would be ideal — would love to see him in the editing room, for instance.

Maybe even riding along with Kaufman as he heads to the grocery store. Then you do a follow-up interview — by phone if necessary. I'm confident once you meet him and hear a report, you will come back with plenty of material.

Secondary material from there.

Secondary material will likely be Philip Seymour Hoffman and the character of *Synechdoche*. Also, collaborations: Michael Caine, *The Spider*. *Amis* would be excellent scenes to round out your story. If you need contact info for any of these guys, let me know. I'm happy to wrangle Boudry and Janusz if you need.

Your deadline is August 27th. *Scrubs* is quite uncertain, but I'm confident this story will come together once you've had time with Kaufman. This story is going to be great.

Nazary



BEING JOHN MALDEN, 2005

What's the date of this message?

itxl.

on 8/5/08 9:17 PM
Nancy Miller wrote

itxl.

We open on Charlie Kaufman entering a Fire

comes packed with all the existential despair, absurdist humor, and

But a decoder ring? Dream on.
by Jason Tanz

- This time, will it end in failure?
- will anyone get it without a decoder ring?



nch bistro in Los Angeles. He looks nothing like Nicholas Cage, who played Kaufman in the Kaufman-penned film *Adaptation*. Kaufman is slight, with a healthy serving of reddish brown curls. Two vertical creases climb between his eyebrows—the product, one imagines, of countless furrowings. His wardrobe is

I'm not quite getting the image: "parthian" "separater" sugg.

specific to '50s play.

achievement

What's tricky is ~~describing~~ his attempt at juggling "form with to... auteur."

Storyboard Logistics

On 8/11/08 2:07 PM, "Henry Miller" wrote: "So, the plan is to send you a script for the movie. I'm assuming it's a screenplay. Then you go back to work on the phone follow up. Is that right?"

On 8/11/08 2:08 PM, "Jason Tart" wrote: "That's what I'm doing. Well, phone follow-up isn't down in writing, but I'll try to figure that, yes."

On 8/11/08 2:11 PM, "Henry Miller" wrote: "Miller @ what time can we talk about your script? I know we had a few ideas right after the screening. My own concern is that lunch and editing room is pretty standard for most people. Is that something you want to play out of?"

On 8/11/08 2:16 PM, "Jason Tart" wrote: "I think I feel pretty good about the script. I mean, who knows, but I come up with some cool ideas over the weekend. Words of framing this with also making him weird."

On 8/11/08 2:28 PM, "Henry Miller" wrote: "Ok, sounds like you've got a plan. I look forward to hearing about it when you get back. No, I'm dying to hear about it when you get back. I wonder what he's going to eat. I wonder if people recognize him!"

what happened to the editing room?

"heartache" not death, fills swiths albums...

complete with the existential angst

Storyboard Negotiating

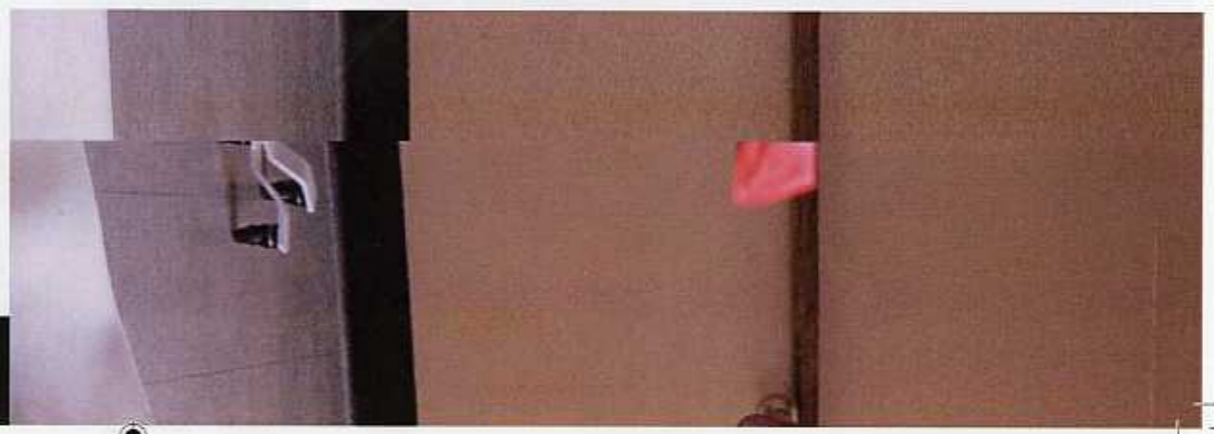
On 7/17/08 6:08 PM, "Jason Tart" wrote: "I'm not sure how much detail you're looking for. Happy to write. We'd like to profile Charlie Kaufman—where's his favorite screenwriter—as the cover. Why we're interested now."

On 7/21/08 1:42 PM, "Henry Miller" wrote: "I'm not sure how much time you want to spend with him?"

On 7/21/08 1:46 PM, "Jason Tart" wrote: "That's what I'm doing. Well, phone follow-up isn't down in writing, but I'll try to figure that, yes."

scenes

The mind of Charlie Kaufman may not be the happiest place on earth, but it is one of the most fascinating. Kaufman merges the existential despair of Beckett with the absurdist humor of Monty Python and the intellectual playfulness of a natural-born puzzle geek (He is particularly fond of Epimeneides' paradox, a classic one-sentence brain-buster: "This sentence is false.") In *Malkovich*, the eponymous actor enters a portal into his own mind. In *Adaptation*, a screenwriter named Charlie Kaufman writes himself into his own movie, which becomes *Adaptation*. And the lead character of *Eternal Sunshine* witnesses his memories as they are being erased, including the memory of his decision to erase his memories. Cognitive scientist Douglas Hofstadter, in his Pulitzer Prize-winning tome *Gödel, Escher, Bach*, refers to such regressions as "strange loops"—circular paradoxes that contain themselves. And Kaufman



the movies'

That Kaufman's mind is one of the most fascinating places on earth seems a bit of a stretch

most famous scene,

It's not clear to me if Kaufman is frustrated because people haven't liked the movie, or whether he's talking about the frustrations of selling people on anything.

arguably

the movies'

