Joseph Wirth

Mentor: Richard Brandes

**Assignment #1**

1.

I’d first like to say that I feel very fortunate to have been accepted into Film Connection and to be teamed up with a mentor that I can really look up to and learn a lot from in Richard Brandes. I’d like to first express my gratitude towards everyone: Xander, Matthew, Johnny in Denver, Randall, Jordan and all the guys at the Film Connection office who have helped me get to this point where I can start laying out my future master plan.

I don’t know if you all are acquainted with the several Arnold Schwarzenegger documentaries, and although he was made fun of for his performance as Mr. Freeze in chapter one of the textbook he still offers a very valuable life lesson for all of us.

He planned his life out in a specific blue print in which he decided to become a body lifter, and then attract the likes of Hollywood in order to become a famous actor, and it worked. He had an internal vision of his future self, and what I am going to express now is the internal vision of myself and my plan to become *that* Joseph Wirth.

The specifics that I want to get out of Film Connection includes a lot, but I’ll start out with what we’re doing now in gaining a broader knowledge of films and screenplays and the art of filmmaking. I also want to include the fundamentals of screenwriting here at the beginning of my process.

What I envision happening is that I will learn a lot about different films and I’ll be able to connect everything back into my story *AmeriCun Dreams*. It’s through this story that everything in my future life will become possible, and I’m very grateful that I now have people helping me make this dream come into fruition.

Richard Brandes and I, along with the help of Jordan and others at Film Connection will adapt my novel into a screenplay format while at the same time finishing, editing and eventually marketing the novel version of the story. It will be important that I get my first complete rough draft out to Richard and my secret editors as soon as possible, and I plan on doing so shortly. Once I get some feedback on the story it will then be time to make changes to it and get it ready for literary agencies and publishing houses around the nation.

And that’s what I think we’ll have to do, but of course it could happen differently. But I do think it’s important to have the book being in the publication process while the screenplay is being created.

Around July or August of 2015 I will be moving to the Los Angeles area to further my Film Connection education. Hopefully I will be set up with a nice job to help me financially, but what’s really important during this time is that I get HANDS ON EXPERIENCE with Richard Brandes. One of the most important things I want to get out of this program is on-set experience. I want to work and be a part of a film crew and witness the magic unfold right in front of my eyes. I want to personally see Richard Brandes work with actors and I want to work with actors myself. I also want to be a part of everything a film director needs to be a part of during specific productions including editing, special effects, pre production, set design, etc.

I want to learn first-hand what it takes to be a film director and to create a successful project, and this is absolutely vital to this entire experience.

Eventually I want to be the head of my own production company called WIRTHWHILE FILMS in which myself and a group of great cinematographers and editors and producers will work together to create films that specifically have cultural relevance and are aimed at creating positive change. These could include all different types of films from features to documentaries to experimental films, but everything that will come out of this production house will be ‘worthwhile’ for an audience to see and be much more than purely entertainment.

How I plan on getting to this point is through *AmeriCun Dreams*. I plan on this novel being a New York Times Best Seller and then an unbelievable film that will shock a lot of the world. I want it to be huge, of course that will be difficult and the specifics on how to do so I can’t explain here, but I want this novel and film to be what catalyzes my career for the rest of my life.

I want to be one of the next great American storytellers for the millennial generation, and I want to be the type of storyteller that does much more than any other storyteller typically does.

I don’t want to ever give up on writing long-length literature because I sense it to be one of my greatest skills, and so I will be a new kind of 21st century artist who writes full-length novels in a unique style that is easily translatable to screenplays. I will then be the director of those screenplays and bring my imagination to the big screen time and time again until they make up a new phrase for what I am. Not necessarily an auteur, but maybe an autheur.

2.

Because I am already set on creating *AmeriCun Dreams* I am simply going to reiterate my synopsis for this story. Please feel free to share this with your colleagues or anyone you think could be of help or would think this storyline to be interesting.

**PLOT SYNOPSIS**

The very beginning of this book begins with an introduction in the middle of the Utah desert where you meet the antagonist, an old woman who is actually Lucifer, two American soldiers stationed in the middle of nowhere and the protagonist, whose name is John Dalton. Throughout this entire book there are cliffhangers, and the very first cliffhanger of the book happens when John turns around to unknowingly see a disguised Lucifer and asks him, What are *you*doing here?

Then the plot jumps into a scene in which John and all of his friends are in a limo closing in on the grand city of Las Vegas. You flashback after the first chapter to see how this entire situation came about, and what happens is that John wins a strange contest in which him and all of his friends are invited to stay at one of Las Vegas' most luxurious new hotels, HAMILTON.

And so once the reader knows how this crazy situation came to be you get to know the characters a lot more as they party at casinos, dance and goof off in their Penthouse Observatory and see how normal college students react to being VIPs in Vegas.

But something was always quite *off* about the entire situation from the get go, and while the group is having a large party in their Penthouse all Hell breaks loose, and there are even several casualties. Of course that ends the party, and once the original group of friends is sitting around in the aftermath of the party alone it becomes very aware that the hotel itself is haunted when Salvador dies right in front of them all.

John Dalton ends up in the middle of the hotel all by himself, and that's the moment in which the reader finally meets the suave Mr. Hamilton, who not to many reader's surprise, but to John's, is Lucifer himself. When these two meet Mr. Hamilton does the typical Lucifer bullshit spiel making John's soul seem worthless and his offer priceless. His offer is to turn back the clocks of reality from the past day or so and make everything that happened to John and his friends in Vegas *just a dream.*

John accepts the offer and then wakes up back in his home not remembering anything from the previous night later to find out that he was extremely fucked up at a concert with his friends and suffered an epileptic attack.

This is the beginning of Part II, which follows the reality that John now lives within where all of these random good things start to happen to him and his best friends. At first you find out that his best friend Salvador is moving to Colorado, and then he gets invited to be a journalist at one of the best skiing competitions in the entire world, the Red Bull Cold Rush.

John ends up bringing Salvador with him to the Red Bull Cold Rush and says that he's his 'photographer'. And so the next portion of the book goes into their time up in Silverton, Colorado seeing some of the best skiers come down the most rigorous terrain, talking with friends and colleagues about the American Dream and so on.

Once the competition is over Sal and John head out to the Utah desert for some funny fun on LSD, and this is where the very beginning of the book, which I'll send you, begins to make more sense.

The two of them both end up taking Sweet Tarts that each have four hits of LSD on them and start wandering around in highly restricted areas of an area called *The Devil's Garden.* It's here in the Devil's Garden that they get separated from one another and both go on individual journeys. John ends up getting accosted by Lucifer again in his old woman disguise, which is one of my favorite portions of the book, and Sal gets caught up in a tight canyon trying to find John. Once Sal eventually finds John he sees that he is again suffering from an epileptic attack, and that's how Part II ends.

Part III begins with a flash forward of a little over a year to the night when John has his next epileptic attack, which happens to be the night that his girlfriend Jenny is flying into town. The next day the two of them are invited to a masquerade ball at one of the fanciest hotels in the Denver area, the hotel where Salvador ended up getting his job as a chef at, HAMILTON.

And so John and Jenny attend the ball and this is when Hamilton finally meets John while he is fully conscious, but John still has no idea who Mr. Hamilton is or why he was invited to his party. The two of them talk and later in the evening he persuades John to go to the back of the hotel, alone, to meet his 'brothers'. Back there John has a spiked drink and drunkenly participates in a Satanic Ritual/Orgy while Jenny is being persuaded to have sex by one of Mr. Hamilton's most esteemed colleagues, Azazel.

Eventually John's drink wears off and he stumbles out mid-ritual, but of course that's a big no-no with these people and Hamilton accosts him again threatening to kill him and his friends.

The next day comes and the three friends, who all have their own secrets, decide to get the hell out of dodge and head for the wilderness where they can be alone and safe. They stay there for a few days, have some big conversations, one that flashes back to the desert to see how Sal saved John's life, and then they decide they need to rejoin society.

Once they go back everything breaks down in a snowball effect. Jenny reveals to John that she's pregnant and it might not be his and Salvador ends up having a serious seizure at a music festival and is sent to the hospital for over two weeks. There John sees his unconscious friend and doesn't know quite what to make of it, but finds strength through the wise words of the clinic's priest. John ends up being right there as Sal is unplugged and he watches his best friend pass away, but he has a good inclination that his soul went to Heaven.

John then has to pack up all of Sal's things and then drive them from Colorado back to North Carolina where they both grew up, and he does so with a girl character named Heather that's from the very beginning Las Vegas section of the story. Eventually they get back and John makes a eulogy speech on Sal's behalf that's very emotional and spiritual, but the gist is he found strength through Sal and God.

*The next part is the conclusion/ending and it's still fuzzy to me because I still haven't quite finished this manuscript, but that's my synopsis.*

3.

I’ll get this book. Do you have any recommendations on how I should purchase it?