Full Treatment

Title – The Dog is Dead

Genre – Comedy/Black Comedy/Short

Duration – Seven minutes approx.

Target Audience – 16-60

Outline – A couple find that the dog they were looking after has died in their house, they must find a way to dispose of the body before it becomes more of a problem. They settle on the idea of a pet crematorium nearby. They must walk several miles in the early hours of the morning to deliver the body to the crematorium.

Character Breakdown –

Husband: Caucasian male office worker aged 29, tendency to panic quite easily, terrible at coping with stress, not in the best physical shape. Considers himself to be quite funny, makes light of inappropriate things. Procrastinates and does not manage time very well. Has been married for 2 years, no children. Aspires to be a writer.

Wife: Caucasian female office worker aged 26, approaches most situations with a level head, pragmatic and a natural leader. Her calm is easily broken by her husband and his tendencies to make light at inappropriate subjects, though she can be just as bad when it's just the two of them. Is rational and painfully organised. The adult in the relationship. Married 2 years, no children aspires to be a graphic designer.

Dog: Scottish Terrier, male aged 13, is dead. Weighs much more than he looks, is the dog of Husbands parents. They are on holiday. Stiff as a board.

Rationale – I chose this concept as it's from personal life experience and could see it, even at the time being an interesting short film. I will use my skills as a writer to make it a funny comedy but also sticking to the bounds of reality and being a fitting tribute to my parents' dog Angus.

Research – Other than personally having experienced the events depicted in the production, I have researched the location and surrounding area for locations that meet both the visual aesthetic and ease of filming.

Requirements and Resources – A cast of 2 and a crew of around 5. Equipment would be a DSLR camera, softbox lights, LED lights, Reflector panel, Gimbol, tripods, ZOOM H5, Boom Mic and pole, Clapper board, assorted memory cards and cables.

Constraints and contingencies – Ideally the exteriors would feature rain, though not necessarily. The script has no reference to it, so it may be added in if it rains on a production

day, if not it will be left as it is. Two full days have been allocated for filming, with an additional day a week later for pick up and reshoots. Three locations will be used, all within a short distance. Cast and crew are aware and have agreed to all dates/ locations.

Legal and Ethical Considerations – Documents have been drawn for all cast and crew to release image and content. Permission has been asked and a location release will be secured for all locations used. No copyright music will be used, in the event that It is permission will asked and a release will be drawn prior to its implementation.

Budget- A budget of £500 has been allocated for the production, all cast and crew are working for no fee. The budget is for meals and transport as well as any equipment or licencing fees that need to be purchased.

Visual Elements –

- Lighting - Interior will be softly lit with Softboxes and LED, exterior will mostly be natural light with the addition of LED on closer shots as well as a reflector panel.
- Camera movement – Will be minimal in the interior as much of the early shots will be from a static camera set at the dogs POV. On exterior shots there will be more movment as we follow the couple with the aid of a gimbol. Those there will still be some static camera on the exterior.
- Editing – will be slow paced initialy, as the early scenes will be sequence shots, a montage will be deployed on exterior to show the couples travel. Will be shot in colour and screened in black and white.
- Setting – Will be based in the Carmarthenshire area, specifically Crosshands. Time will be early hours 5am -7am on a Sunday in April. Year will be 2018.
- Actors – Both actors are experienced, one being a student the other being a former student.
- Props – The dog will be the main prop required, other than that there will be general lounge clutter required and dressed for interior scenes.
- Costume – Interior scenes will be pyjamas and or dressing gowns, exterior will be casual spring wear, coats, jeans etc.

Audio Elements –

- Soundtrack – The sound will be instrumental and sombre, working soundtrack is bagpipe music or a custom piano score.
- Effects – Most sound effects will be diegetic, crinkling of black bag, cars passing birdsong and voice etc
- Music – Minimal if any licenced music, though some may be used for title scene