

Lauren Goodman

Independent Study & Mentorship

Mr. Speice 4A

26 January 2018

**New Year, New Work**

**Mentor Visit Assessment #1**

**Mentor:** Tom Rubeck

**Profession:** Senior Producer and Director

**Location:** AMS Pictures Studios

**Date:** January 10, 2018

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Assessment:**

This was my first mentor visit this year in ISM with Mr. Rubeck, who was my previous mentor last year. It was great getting to work with him again because I feel like that our once formal relationship of mentor and student is more relaxed this year as it has almost grown into a sort of friendship. Not only is Rubeck the person who is guiding me in my endeavours in this intense career field, but he is also someone I can casually talk with; I know that even when high school and ISM is over he is still going to be that person I can come back to for advice on both my career and what I am working on. I also can't wait for the opportunities that await me on the other mentor visits that will happen this semester. One highlight of my previous year in the ISM program was that I got to visit multiple times the set of "Scandal Made Me Famous" since AMS Pictures films numerous television shows for the REELZ Channel. Now that my field of choice is

more focus into television, I truly will have first-hand experience on a television set working and observing.

This mentor visit was mainly about getting back into the groove of things. Of course, it was not just about what I was working on in ISM. He was about to embark on a video shoot for a company conference the next week, meaning that like me with my original work, he was also under pressure with a hard deadline and lots of work to be done. The difference between mine and his though was that this is something he goes through almost every week: constantly working towards a due date under immense pressure. This is something I will have to get used to once I am professionally working in the field. Television even more so than film because filming scenes or editing can always be pushed back to a later date, but in television you are stuck with a high-intensity schedule since each episode has to premiere in concession within a single season. In layman's terms, you can film three back-to-back with each taking place in a week and only get a few days break, and then you repeat. Talk about back to the old grind. Networks want showrunners to turn out episodes like a machine. I guess it speaks true to the fact that television is firstly a business.

We also finally got to discussing my original work, which was a story "bible" -- a reference and outline document screenwriters use -- for a television series I wanted to develop. I can say with a say of relief that overall the consensus was positive. Obviously, he pointed out some things to tweak here and there, but he seemed to really love to work I put into it. And I got to say that I am proud of myself too. Seriously, after also looking over last year's original work, there's no comparison. My storytelling skills have grown tremendously thanks to Mr. Rubeck as now my stories have more depth, characterization, and plot than ever before. No longer is it a cliché, now my work seems to speak for itself in that it is original. For almost everything I

created I dislike, which isn't a horrible thing because no masterpiece is ever complete, but it is refreshing to look at something you did and it turned out to be everything you imagined.

Mr. Rubeck gave me some great advice on what my next steps should be in this process. After looking at my work and seeing that the series I hypothetically created was a comedy, he suggested that review different comedy shows through the eras such as "Seinfeld", "The Mary Tyler Moore Show", and "Friends". This way I can actually use those shows with their jokes and physical comedy as a guide when I start writing the screenplays for my show. I love this idea of immersing yourself into this kind of artistic rabbit hole with different shows from different eras, seeing how television has evolved and yet also noticing how these shows became some of the most influential of all time. Those are shows I someday strive to create as just the thought of researching now makes me thrilled to get started as quickly as I can. All in all, I am ecstatic to get to learn from an experienced director like Mr. Rubeck, and hopefully with his guidance, I will achieve success in my topic of television screenwriting and production.

# Mentor Visit Notes 110

- Story Bible
  - add even more characterization = go further!
  - ex: Seinfeld's went into so much detail even naming the allergies of characters
- make them distinct → love the episode ideas
- series is semi-serialized
  - extra long scripts some character beats can be removed & added to other episodes
  - needs wittier episode titles & maybe something more to tie together each episode

Go back & look at different shows

- Seinfeld
- All in the Family
- I Love Lucy
- Happy Days
- Friends
- Sanford & Son

★ Mary Tyler Moore → read the directed & created by book women

TRY TO think of simple but awesome title!