

REVIEW

Overall Rating

8/10

Review Rating

5/5

Published

03-15-22

Premise

8/10

Plot

7/10

Character

7/10

Dialogue

8/10

Setting

8/10

Era: 1984

Locations: Los Angeles

Budgets: High

Genre: Comedy, Dark Comedy

Logline:

Two struggling actors take a gig for Barney's Singing Telegram Company to perform their first Assassin Gram as a team. But a real assassin already has his sights set on the same target.

Strengths

The script begins with a spot-on parody of an action-adventure thriller, which shows the writer's understanding of craft and genre. The "FBI agent" is merely an actor impersonating a killer for the singing telegram company he works for. The writer creates hilarious raps, with searing lines like: "So sit back while you can, oh say, did we mention, the boss was a crook, there's no cash in your pension," which is to be delivered by the failed actors while holding a water pistol to the victim's head. Converge their telegram mission with actual assassins and the Japanese Mafia, and you've got a perfect recipe for a comedy of errors. The audience will immediately recognize the trouble this might cause because of its realism. Yet, the young men can't think of anything besides performance pressure, which adds to the delightful cringe. It may be a horrible idea for a company, but it's a brilliant idea for a dark comedy thriller. Top-notch structure and a well-written, original premise make this a script that deserves consideration.

Weaknesses

Trey and Aaron are a delightful odd couple, but a few slight adjustments could make their dynamic resonate on a deeper, organic level. The story comes alive as Aaron and Trey get into their characters and find flow during the mock assassination. Aaron's Shakespeare knowledge is lovely, but the quotation battle with Dyson feels forced and conflates him with the villain. The writer might consider Trey the other Shakespearean (rather than a

secret pianist), as this would accomplish the surprise while also undermining Aaron's assurance in his moral superiority, thereby making the fart jokes that much more frustrating.

Prospects:

This will prove to be a solid Studio summer comedy like similar titles, THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME, SPY, DATE NIGHT, HORRIBLE BOSSES, and KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES. It's a fish-out-of-water tale, where these young men are thrust into an outrageous circumstance that will surely provide non-stop, blockbuster laughs. Casting the two leads will be an exciting endeavor and will likely attract A-List talent for Aaron and Trey.