

Coverage for: Endeavor  
Assigning Agent:

Title: SID'S PLACE  
Writer(s): The Coyote  
Draft Date:  
Pages: 356

Genre: Drama  
Period: 1970's  
Setting: Urban  
Locale: California  
Budget: Medium

Writing: Good  
Characterization: Good  
Dialogue: Excellent  
Story: Good  
Structure: Good  
Commercial: Good  
Title: Good  
Visual Elements: Excellent  
Originality: Good

Studio:  
Producer:  
Director:

Consider for:  
Writer: Consider  
Project: Consider

Analyst: Scott Grant

#### Synopsis:

TOM is young, laid-back drug dealer just trying to transport a few kilos of pot to make some extra cash. But while driving to make a dropoff, he accidentally hits another vehicle, killing the driver in the process. Tom manages to escape, but the damage has been done: he's not only wanted for felony drug possession, but involuntary manslaughter as well. Desperate, Tom goes on the run. He tries to make up for his failed drug deal by pulling off another, even more dangerous deal, running drugs with his friend DANIEL to the house of RUSS. The second drug deal ends worse than the first, as an unnamed stranger starts a gunfight that results in the deaths of both Daniel and Russ; Tom barely escapes with his life. Tom finds himself alone, wandering on a Malibu beach, when he meets an attractive young woman, CAREY, who's vacationing with her family.

Tom lays low and chills out the next few weeks, spending his time hanging out by the beach with Carey, partying and doing drugs. As Tom enjoys his burgeoning romance with Carey, the two spend much of their time hanging out with the Razors, a rock band comprised of Carey's close friends. But when Tom and Carey attend one of the band's concerts, the show quickly gets out of hand when the crowd becomes raucous. Chaos ensues, and Tom finds himself knocked unconscious in

the melee. He's found after the show by an attractive, older divorcee, JANE. She takes him home and cleans him up, and Tom finds himself living (and sleeping) with Jane for the next several weeks while he heels several broken ribs.

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to Tom, the tension escalates when a California Senator becomes determined to bring down and arrest Tom, who's now a fugitive wanted on drug and murder charges. The Senator enlists the help of SID, the nefarious stranger who previously attacked Tom and Russ' house. Sid tracks Tom to Jane's house, and he breaks in, nearly killing both Tom and Jane. The couple escapes, and they flee to the Philippines, where Jane's husband previously did business before his death. Soon after their arrival, Jane learns that her husband was conducting secret business activities of which Jane had no prior knowledge of. Jane manages to obtain money from her husband's former mistress, and shortly thereafter, Tom decides he's had enough of the oppressive heat and overcrowded streets of Asian cities and returns to the states.

Tom finds himself in San Francisco, taken in by the hippy culture of the city and the surrounding areas. He finds work doing concert light shows for a band. During one show, he randomly sees NANCY, an old friend (and enemy) of Barbara. He soon finds himself hanging out with Nancy and her group of friends, and he ends up taking the virginity of a quiet, shy girl, TONI. Tom's philandering continues when he beds another of Nancy's friends, BECKY. The two end up falling in love, and Becky soon finds herself pregnant. She gives birth to a baby girl, ERIKA. Together, Tom and his new family move to a commune in Mendocino. Things seem to be going well, and Tom is completely mesmerized by his new baby girl. But things quickly turn for the worse when Sid tracks Tom to the commune. Tom comes home one evening to find Becky dead; he's forced to flee, abandoning his daughter in the hands of some neighbors.

Tom decides to fight back against the establishment and the government that's been trying to take him down, so he joins a radical political group, the American Freedom Army. As a member of the AFA, he receives guerrilla military training, and he receives specialized coursework in explosives and demolitions. He's also fed left wing propaganda by the group's leadership. Tom ends up getting romantically involved with one of the young female recruits as well. Shortly thereafter he's sent to a terrorist training camp in Libya to receive further training. When his training is complete, he receives orders to plant a bomb at a local police station. Tom proceeds to carry out the mission, but the bomb goes off early, nearly killing him. When Tom learns that numerous, innocent civilians are killed in the blast, he begins to have reservations about his involvement with the AFA.

When Tom begins questioning the AFA leadership, they tip off the authorities about Tom's involvement in the deadly bombing. Tom is arrested by the FBI and promptly placed in prison. His troubles only continue to increase when he begins being harassed by a group of gay inmates led by BOBBY. When Tom fails to align himself with one of the various prison gangs, he's easy prey for the gang of homos, and he's brutally beaten and raped by them. Tom takes action into his own hands and he murders Bobby, prompting retaliation from the rest of Bobby's gang. Tom is beaten unconscious, but before the gang can kill him,



he's rescued by the prison guards. Tom's placed in a hospital for recovery, where he's greeted by a mysterious visitor who supplies him with the location of Sid. When he finally has the strength, Tom leaves the hospital in pursuit of Sid.

Tom tracks Sid to a small, remote house in the backwoods of Tennessee. He lies in wait for his nemesis to return. When Sid finally does return home, the two men battle in a final standoff. Tom manages to emerge victorious, killing Sid. Tom is free at last from his pursuer. He manages to fake his own death, and he assumes Sid's identity. Tom reunites with Jane, and the two set themselves up in Miami, where Tom opens up a restaurant, appropriately named "Sid's Place."

#### Character Breakdown:

Tom - A good-hearted, laid-back hippy. Just wants to have a good time, make free love, do drugs, and listen to music. He ends up framed by the police for murder, and he's forced to go on the run from a mercenary named Sid. He ultimately gets revenge and kills Sid.

Sid - A nefarious, lethal and ruthless killer. He's a former special forces military officer who's contracted by the CIA and Senator McLean to track down Tom. He kills several of Tom's close friends, but in the end Tom gets revenge and kills him.

Becky - A young hippy girl who meets Tom while he's living in San Francisco. She's a good friend of Nancy. She and Tom become romantically involved and have a child. They move to a commune, but she's killed by Sid.

Jane - A curvy, middle-aged divorcee who takes Tom in when she finds him beaten up after a concert. When Sid tracks Tom to her house, he nearly kills her. They escape and flee to the Philippines.

Barbara - Tom's former girlfriend, a pretty young high school student. She comes from a wealthy family and drives a Porsche.

Carey - A pretty young girl vacationing in Malibu with her family when she meets Tom on a beach. They go to a party together and drop acid, and for awhile they are romantically involved.

Daniel - Another of Tom's friends, and a fellow drug dealer. He's killed by Sid in a drug deal gone awry at Russ' house.

Russ - A laid-back drug lord, who is killed in a shootout by Sid when Tom and Daniel deliver drugs to his house.

Jimmy - One of Tom's best friends, and a fellow drug dealer.

Nancy - An old friend of Tom's; she was bitter enemies with his girlfriend Barbara.

Toni - A shy, quiet and innocent hippy girl who loses her virginity to Tom.

Senator McLean - He's a right-wing, wealthy conservative Senator from California who becomes determined to destroy Tom and the hippy counterculture. He sends Sid off to track down and kill Tom.

Bobby - A thuggish homosexual gangster in prison with Tom. He takes a liking to Tom, and he and his gang members repeatedly abuse and rape Tom. Tom ends up killing him.

Corporal Kennedy - A tough girl, she's a hard-core feminist member of the AFA

Corporal Harding - A young woman in training with Tom in their AFA terrorist cell. She begins to fall in love with Tom, and they both end up going to Libya together as part of their training. She's killed by FBI agents.

#### Comments:

Elements of THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES, AMERICAN HISTORY X, and TRAINSPOTTING combine in a tale of epic scope that charts one individual's incredible, turbulent journey during the 1970's in the heyday of flower power, free love, and LSD. The writer does a wonderful job capturing the tone, feel, and attitudes of one of America's most intriguing time periods, and the protagonist, Tom, provides the reader with a gripping, first-hand look at the cultural revolution that took place in regards to such topics as sex, drugs, and political activism. However, at times it seems like the author stretches himself too thin, attempting to cover too many topics and events, and the result feels a bit like one of Tom's hazy drug experiences—wandering about without any true clarity of purpose. For consideration of a feature film translation, the filmmakers should consider adding greater focus to the plot, eliminating some of the more extraneous elements, and heightening the dramatic tension through an increased presence of the central antagonist.

The biggest issue in regards to the commercial appeal of this project is the lack of any truly unique story elements—i.e., though Tom's experiences are very interesting, this would not be the first film to explore a drug user's problems with the law, the extensive drug use of the time period, or even the subversive terrorist activities of a radical political group. Again, though there are many intriguing plot elements presented here, it might be more beneficial to focus on one specifically for a feature translation—i.e. Tom's struggles with the law (and Sid), or perhaps even his experiences as part of a subversive terrorist cell (a subject that is highly relevant in current society). Though the author's attempt to tell a broad scoped story is quite admirable, so much happens over the course of Tom's journey that the story is sometimes stretched a bit thin. A suggestion would be to eliminate and/or condense some of the more extraneous plot elements, such as some of Tom's numerous romances, his time spent in Asia with Jane, and perhaps even his time spent with Carey in the company of her boyfriend's band.

One of the greatest qualities of this story is the writer's ability to convincingly capture the atmosphere of the world and time in which Tom exists; the reader is given an authentic glimpse into the carefree recklessness that engulfs the hippy counterculture of which Tom is a



part of. Tom's experiences under the influence of drugs are especially vivid and realistic. An additional highlight of the writing is the wonderful internal dialogues of Tom's—i.e. there are some excellent, succinct and witty passages detailing Tom's ruminations on life, spirituality, violence, and sex. Such dialogues might effectively translate to a film if used as voice over narration. The author also does a great job charting Tom's coming of age, as he transforms from an innocent young man dealing drugs to someone forced to commit murder. Visually, there is excellent potential for a director to make a dynamic translation of this story to film; the wide range of settings and the numerous scenes involving drug use could easily be exploited by a director to great cinematic effect.

The biggest issue with the story in its present state is the lack of strong, consistent tension. This is due in large part to the absence of a prominent antagonist through many parts of the story. Sid is the primary villain, but he is absent through much of the story (appearing only occasionally) and his role is far too limited. Sid is excellent as Tom's chief antagonist—cunning, deadly, and ruthless—but he needs a greater role to increase the tension and the dramatic stakes. An added suggestion to this would be to increase the presence of Sid's cohort and employer, Senator McLean; together these two men make formidable adversaries to Tom. Another solution for improving the dramatic tension of this story would be to tighten the plot and eliminate some of the more extraneous plot elements—i.e. some of Tom's numerous romantic encounters (Carey, Jane, et al.) and repeated drug benders. Much like Tom, himself, the story at times tends to wander and become muddled; these elements do not always advance the story in any meaningful fashion and it might be beneficial to eliminate some of them.

As the protagonist, Tom is an extremely appealing character. He's dynamic, sympathetic, and good at heart. His plight is a compelling one as well—he's an innocent guy who ends up being framed for murder, pursued by a malicious killer, and unjustly placed in jail. Tom's journey is also quite appealing because he achieves a redemption of sorts, finally getting vengeance on Sid. As stated previously, Sid is a perfect antagonist. He simply needs to be given a stronger presence in the story to heighten the stakes and make Tom's struggle that much greater. Another consideration in regards to the characters would be to condense Tom's girlfriends into only one or a few, creating a stronger female presence in Tom's life—i.e. it's somewhat difficult to sympathize with Tom's relationships because they seem to last only briefly.

Though many themes exist in this story, there needs to be one, overarching unifying theme to it. Though there are plenty of extremely interesting elements here, this story needs greater cohesiveness for it to become a truly compelling choice for translation to the big screen. This can be achieved with a tighter plot and a stronger antagonistic presence to increase the tension. Tom is a highly compelling character, and his incredible plight is one that audiences will easily sympathize with. With a few minor adjustments, this project will hold great potential for a cinematic translation.