Student X

Professor Rodman

Sitcom Assignment: Original Program Concept

Nice work. Original and funny. A little overwritten in parts—I’ve noted some examples. Also, the script format is a little off in the dialog department.

Title for Series: Sun Junction

One-liner for Series:

Continuing Concept: Set in a surreal version of the 21st Century, “Sun Junction” is an original, animated show that focuses on Help Center 4, a public service institution assigned to the town of Sun Junction. The show focuses on the often-misguided assistance from the employees of Help Center 4 and the strange, sad and inane situations the community faces.

Characters

Oscar: A tree-person and the newly appointed head of Help Center 4. Generally helpful and mellow, the uncaring attitudes of his employees come as a shock and a major source of confusion for him.

Ada: A regular human and the assistant director, she shares Oscar’s desire to help others, though is decidedly darker. As one of the more rational employees she is often the one to call others out when they’ve crossed a line or partake in jackassery, though this is usually accomplished through biting remarks.

Ickes: An elderly man, the head community repairman and a (disgraced) scientist, he is unrepentantly weird, occasionally maniacal and has a loose grasp on social skills. Despite the community’s long list of infrastructural problems, Ickes and his underlings are generally off engaging in dubious behavior that is decidedly unhelpful.

Tennyson: An owl-man and the in house philosopher/ethicist/shaman, he serves as a consultant for the community on all moral, ethical and personal issues. Ever invested his position, Tennyson is known for engaging in all sorts of behaviors so as to demonstrate to those seeking his help “what not to do”.

Daisy: A demon-lady and the center’s P.R. woman, she is both arrogant and incompetent, but has proven to be indispensable when dealing with the populace; many seem to be utterly charmed by her regardless of what she says or does.

Brett : A slug-thing and the janitor, he can be a bit strange and is generally thought to be inconsequential by his co-workers. Despite being underappreciated he is often enlisted into the schemes and plans of the other employees of Help Center 4.

“Linda”: “Linda”, as it prefers to be called, is a sentient cloud-being that handles announcements for the Help Center. “Linda” is relatively speaking laid back but, given its abstract nature of being, possesses the ability to inflict imperceptible shades of terror and delight through speaking.

Episode Synopsis: Pilot, “A Limb in the Sun”

One liner: We can begin anew through old ways.

Help Center 4 is notorious for being of no assistance to its assigned community, Sun Junction. With the recent departure of the department head and a rash of unsavory incidents, there are calls from the community to shut down the center altogether. Oscar, the new department head, has been brought in amidst all this to get Help Center 4 back on track, dealing with the community’s ire and an uptick in the undead population in the process.

Act 1

**A Plot Beginning:** Oscar arrives for his first day of work to find a virulent mob outside the doors of Help Center 4 and slips past them while they’re busy interrogating a cardboard cutout. Inside he is directed to a hallway where he meets Ada, the assistant director, who informs him that she’s holding an employee meeting scheduled for right now. Once everyone is gathered and introduced to Oscar, Ada lays out the situation concerning the shutdown. A recent incident involving Ickes has proven to be the last straw for the community’s tolerance of the Help center, and now it’s up to the few employees to argue their worth at communal gathering later that day.

**B Plot Beginning:** With the possibility a shutdown being thrown around, Linda and Brett head to the lost and found in search of valuable items. Linda disposes of the security guard on duty by affecting a slight insanity, causing him to flee in terror. After rifling around a bit they leave to set up shop at a seedy part of town, hoping to sell back items that may have been confiscated from unsavory characters in the neighborhood. With no customers and boredom setting in, the two begin to fiddle with their inventory. Eventually Brett flips through an old tome and reads a verse or two out loud, at which point all manner of body parts begin to sprout up around them. Unsure of how to proceed, the two leave hoping someone else will do something.

**A Plot Middle:** In preparation of the community gathering Ada helps Oscar familiarize with the town and its inhabitants by giving him a tour of the town. Ada points out a chic eatery by the name of “Brain and Brunch”, opened by a young undead couple and one of the many grievances of the community. She explains that yes, citizens of Sun Junction are weird, stupid and angry, but they’re also afraid to lose their haven for the downtrodden and reviled to vacationers of the lifestyle. Change comes and old problems remain; their anger isn’t entirely unjustified given Help Center’s past behavior. Nearing the gathering time, Oscar and Ada make for the community center. Other highlights from along the way include an art gallery stocked exclusively with mirrors, Frank, an old mute in a pink dress who is the town mascot, and the community blood altar.

Act 2

**B Plot Middle:** Having regained their faculties the undead decide to leave their comfortable graves in search of a bohemian lifestyle elsewhere. Unsure of where to go they follow the trail of slime left behind by Brett, figuring that a slug-thing must know of some pretty weird stuff.

**A/B Plot End:** The mob from earlier in the morning, bolstered by additional citizens, now fill the community center ready to rip into the Help Center employees. Amidst all the obscenities, desperate existential questionings, and marriage proposals, calls for a basic level of respect could be heard. This atmosphere of treating everyone with decency is somewhat undercut by the arrival of the undead and the near immediate animus on display from the community. Hoping to avoid a bloodbath, Brett and Linda mention that they may have summoned the undead by reading a verse from the tome that they “acquired”. While Oscar takes this information as an opportunity to rail against their behavior, Daisy thinks it’s her moment to prove how awesome she is. She seizes the tome and reads the original verse backwards, hoping to reverse the summoning. Instead of going limp the undead combust, engulfing the building and several people in flames. Amidst all the fire, screaming, and confusion, the employees cheerfully reflect that they’re finally starting to help the community, what with having resolved the undead problem. Oscar alone is speechless and frozen in incredulity, as a leaf atop his head catches fire.

Sun Junction:

“A Limb in the Sun”

INT. OF HELP CENTER 4 - CONFERENCE ROOM

Oscar and Ada enter; Daisy, Tennyson, Ickes and Linda are seated at a table. Ickes is fiddling with something and Brett is fussing about in a corner.

ADA

Alright everyone this is Oscar-

Just to be clear about the dialog format: The character’s name is centered, but the dialog block itself has a left margin alignment and fits into the center 3.5” of the page. You have to fool around with your margin setting to make this happen, but the settings are often around 1.2” on the left and 1” on the right, like this:

Prof. Rodman

Set up your comedy dialog block like this. It is an industry convention that comedy dialog is double spaced, and drama dialog is single-spaced. Thank you for your attention.

All greet Oscar except Tennyson.

ADA

-and please don't drive him away like Steve.

OSCAR(TO ADA)

Who's Steve?

ADA

The old department head, had to leave for "family reasons".

Cut to the interior of a house with silhouettes of bloodied arms and legs in the foreground, while a man gently giggles to himself in a corner.

ADA

But these malcontents definitely did something to him.

All express denial.

ADA

Oh shut up. And that mob? I nearly got torn apart going in through the back. What did you people do now?

Daisy slides Ada a piece of paper; Ada reads it and they all stare at Ickes.

ICKES

What?

ADA

The "fixing"?

ICKES

This still? I-I'm a repairman, I fix things.

ADA

Yeah, things, not animals.

ICKES

Semantics. It's-

ADA

Deeply upsetting?

BRETT

Arousing?

ADA

Goddammit Brett go be a freak somewhere else or I will flay you.

BRETT

Wow...

Brett exits the room leaving behind a trail of slime.

ADA

Or salt...or whatever.

LINDA

That wasn't cool.

ICKES

I ww-was going to say it's population control.

ADA

I don't think the kids saw it that way.

ICKES

Pff, I was teaching them a valuable lesson…on, on love.

ADA

I....no, not gonna even ask. What happened was inappropriate-

ICKES

E-Exactly-

ADA

-so I'm gonna need to you-

ICKES

-find a way to punish them, right. Gotta, gotta teach those kids for sticking their noses where they don't belong.

Ickes stands up and moves toward the door.

ADA

That's..not at all what I-

ICKES

G-Glad we could come to an understanding.

Before exiting Ickes stops next to Oscar and gently kisses him on the neck.

OSCAR

......Okay

Ada exhales deeply.

ADA

Moving on, preparations for the gathering. Daisy, Hospitality Officers prepared?

DAISY

In a sense, yes; in a slightly more true sense, no.

ADA

Thank you, you’ve been extraordinarily helpful. Tennyson!

Tennyson suddenly comes out of a stupor

TENNYSON

....wasssuh....

ADA

Sober up, this is gonna get ugly.