



2013 Beverly Hills Screenplay Contest
Score Report and Judge Commentary

Screenplay Title and/OR Tracking Number: BHSC1490 The Blue Circus

Genre: TV Drama Original

Length: Short (50 pages and under) / **Feature**

Number of Pages: 64

Please rate each attribute on a scale of 1 through 10:

Dialogue	10
Characters	10
Structure	10
Concept / Originality	10
Overall Execution	10

Total Points: 50

GENERAL COMMENTS:

This is a superb drama pilot. This takes a close look at Chicago labor and politics. It makes a compelling case that a little bit of corruption is necessary for everything to work smoothly. The characters are all likable and all of them are morally compromised to one extent or another. But no one is a real bad guy. The dialogue is great. It sounds authentic. It's tough and often profane but there's a great rhythm to it. This is a very exciting project.

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STORY:

The story starts out very simply. The city has authorized 11 new electricians to be added to the city payroll. Of these 4 will come from the union. But the script reveals that even this simple act provokes a flurry of wrangling and behind the scenes deals. If something as innocuous as adding 11 (later 12) people to the city payroll is this complicated and morally compromised, it bodes well for the rest of the series. The script also takes a balanced look at city and union politics. There is corruption but it seems naïve to think the city could operate in any other fashion. This is an epic depiction of urban life similar to *The Wire*.

STRUCTURE:

The script has fantastic structure. There are a lot of characters and a lot of subplots that the script has to juggle. And it takes just enough time to develop all the characters and plotlines. It's an excellent job.

PACING:

The pacing is excellent. The script is compelling from the very first scene. The script has a way of making everyday events like a job interview seem tense and entertaining.

CHARACTERS:

The characters are tough and authentic. They sound like real. Donny is the main character. He's already compromised but he's a good guy and a likable character. He sort of encapsulates the story's viewpoint. He's getting help from his brother who is a powerful union boss. Is that corruption? By the strict definition of the word, yes. But is that wrong? That's a tougher question.

MARKETABILITY:

The script is superb. TV pilots aren't always an easy sell especially for writers without a track record. Generally a writer has to sell a feature, even an independent feature that no one sees, before they're allowed to shop a pilot. There may be some producers out there who simply want to find good material. But the writer should consider just making and producing an ultra low budget feature and releasing it on the festival circuit. That's how the makers of both *CSI* and *Mad Men* got started.