

It's got SCARES

...well, not real scares

It's got SADNESS

...well, not real sadness

It's got SUFFERING

...well, not real suffering

But most of all, it's got DEATH

...well, not real death.

death: THE MOVIE

coming soon

only six feet away

DIRECTOR wears black clothing.

DIRECTOR

(pleasant)(to audience)

Ladies and gentleman. Hello. I would like to thank you all for coming, and I would like to welcome you to this incredible occasion. You have never experienced anything like this. This is an event that will change you forever. This will scare and sadden you, and cause you to suffer. And in some sick way, it might even amuse you. This is more than an event, this is an experience. This is more than an experience, this is a transformation. This is more than a transformation. Only one word can do justice to what this is...

(scared)

Death. I know you heard me, death. Eternal, immortal sleep. Death. Welcome to reality. No light, only darkness. No beauty, only ugliness. No warmth, only coldness. That cute, adorable little pink bunny rabbit will age and turn grey, and ache, and die, and become a hideous, repulsive monstrosity. Look at it, gape at it, cry, scream and fear it. Death. Each and every last one of you. You will die, and you know it, you understand it, you believe in it. Your blood will stop flowing, your hair will stop growing. Your eyes will stop glowing. Your brain will stop knowing. Your heart will start slowing. The infinite winter will start snowing.

(pause)(sad)(to audience)

do not YOU DARE LAUGH!

(pause)

(suffering)

You will die. Carcasses, coffins, tombs, caskets, decay, decomposition, putrescence, filth, gore, horror, posthumousness, sickness, sorrow, wretchedness and... most importantly, death. You will die. Your skin will turn cold. Your flesh will fall off your bones. Your eyes will sink into their sockets. Your face will turn into a skull. You will die.

(pause)

(casual, like a salesman)

Now that I have your attention. I'd like to talk to you about DEATH... the movie.

(pause)

DEATH... the movie. I know you've been looking for a good gimmick. Death is probably the most powerful gimmick of all. It will be the most controversial, the most gripping, and the most powerful. But at the same time, it will be commercial.

It will be a classic. It will go down in history, and live on forever.

(pause)

Here's the premise. The main character finds out he is going to die. He wrestles with it, he denies it, he comes to terms with it, and then, right at the climax, he dies!

(pause)

He does not pretend to die, he dies.

(pause)

He does not appear to die, he dies.

(pause)

He does not get brought back by the doctors or angels, he is as dead as dead can be.

(pause)

It is not hinted at. You are going to see him die. And it will not be brief, He will be dying for the whole movie.

(pause)

Don't look at me like that, don't get all serious. He will not really die in real life, it is just a movie.

(pause)

Now I know what you are thinking... "You can not make a movie only about death." That's a good point. I know what you are saying: "Why would anybody want to see a movie about death?" That's a good question.

(pause)

They will be dying to see it. I stake my reputation on it.

(pause)

I'd be happy to make a movie about happiness, and I would love to make a movie about love and life and laughter, but people want to escape. People want to get scared, and sad, and suffer.

(Pause)

When I was a child, I used to love going to movies. Sometimes I would see a movie that seemed so real, that it scared me. I would go home, afraid to put the lights out. I would have nightmares. I would suck my thumb and wet the bed, and call for my mommy. My mother would say "It is not real, it is only a movie." As I grew up, movies became less and less real, and I became less and less afraid, until now, nothing is real, and I have no more fear. I do not have nightmares anymore. I want to get that innocence back. That realness, that fear. I want people to get scared. I want them to think it is real and say "it is only a movie right?" I want people to watch it with their mouths and eyes wide open. They will want to look away, but they will not be able to. When it's over, I want them to say "Thank God it is only a movie." Girlfriends will hug boyfriends and say "It is not real, it is only a movie."

Thank God it is only a movie." But they will be thinking about it afterward. They will say "What if I die?" DEATH... the movie will stay with them forever after.

(pause)

This is big. Death is a powerful symbolic dramatic device. Death is the ultimate punctuation. What could possibly be more motivating for a character? What could cause more conflict? What ending could be more climactic? He is going to die. But why? Why him? Why now? Why couldn't it have been someone else? Please do not make him die! He's too young! He does not want to die! He can't handle this. Why? Why? Why does he have to die? He does not deserve this! Make it quick and painless! What will his last words be? Will he be remembered? Will he have made a difference? The closer it gets, the more real it feels. It is too much. How long does he have? Can it be stopped? When will it happen? Is he really going to die? He is really going to die! He died!

(pause)

"DEATH" will be in big bright lights... and then the subtitle underneath, "the movie." Death will redefine movies, and everything else.

(pause)

Now let's talk about reality. I know death is an absurd idea, and if we don't do it right, nobody will ever believe it. But if we get a good enough actor, we just might be able to pull it off. Someone so scared, that the audience is scared for him. Someone so sad, that the audience feels his sadness. Someone who suffers so much, that the audience suffers with him.

2 SCENE TWO

2

Phone rings. Director answers it.
(Every time phone rings, it plays the "death: THE MOVIE" theme song. The director slowly reaches into his pocket, in order to allow the theme song to complete)

ACTOR enters. Actor wears bright yellow clothing.

DIRECTOR

This is not just a movie. This is real. I have not found the actor yet, but I will find him very soon, and whoever he is, he has no idea yet that he is about to die.

Director hangs up, and looks at Actor.
They shake hands.

ACTOR

Pleased to meet you. I am a big fan of your work.

DIRECTOR

Thank you.

ACTOR

Everyone is talking about your movie. I am dying to be in it!

DIRECTOR

You are not what I had in mind. (Moment of silence) However,
you ARE scared...

ACTOR

Scared?

DIRECTOR

And sad...

ACTOR

I have never been happier!

DIRECTOR

And suffering.

ACTOR

My life is great, and it keeps getting better! I have a
beautiful wife, and I am rich. I am young and healthy, and
good looking. I am not scared, or sad, or suffering.

DIRECTOR

Not in real life. In your movies.

Actor scratches his head.

DIRECTOR

I don't think you can handle this movie. You may not have
what it takes.

ACTOR

I can handle it! I can handle anything! I can be scared! I
can be sad! I can suffer!

ACTOR

I have what it takes, and I will do whatever it takes! I will climb the highest heights. I will swim the deepest depths! I will throw myself head-first into certain doom! There is nothing I can not do!

DIRECTOR

You may not be ready for this.

ACTOR

I am ready! I want to do something real! I got a lot of success, very quickly, with no effort. I want to prove myself! I am up for anything!

DIRECTOR

This role will kill you. You have to be a strong person.

ACTOR

I am not strong, I am invincible!

DIRECTOR

It will challenge everything you think you know, and everything you are.

ACTOR

I need a real challenge! I am sick of having everything come easy!

DIRECTOR

This movie will test your limits.

ACTOR

I have no limits.

DIRECTOR

It will be unlike anything you have ever experienced.

ACTOR

I am used to new experiences. I have them all the time.

DIRECTOR

You will be venturing into the unknown.

ACTOR

I know all about the unknown.

DIRECTOR

And it will change you forever.

ACTOR

Everything changes me forever.

DIRECTOR

This is the movie of a lifetime. But we will be taking a risk. This movie will upset people. I think it will work out in the end. But if it does not, it could be career suicide. Beware. There is danger. Proceed with caution. I am warning you.

ACTOR

you are making me laugh, and you are making me yawn, at the same time. This movie is no match for me. I was born for this. Do your worst.

(Pause)

what is the movie called?

DIRECTOR

DEATH... the movie.

Actor gets scared and starts scratching his head.

ACTOR

What?

DIRECTOR

DEATH... the movie.

ACTOR

DEATH... the movie? That can not be the title.

DIRECTOR

It is.

ACTOR

what is it about?

DIRECTOR

Death.

ACTOR

What?

Death. DIRECTOR

Death? ACTOR

Death. DIRECTOR

Death? ACTOR

Death. DIRECTOR

Really? ACTOR

DIRECTOR
Really... in the movie. In the movie it is real, but it is not really real, in real life.

ACTOR
What happens in it? What happens to me?

DIRECTOR
What happens to you?

ACTOR
Not me... what happens to the character I am playing?

DIRECTOR
You find out you are going to die...

ACTOR
I find out I am going to die...

DIRECTOR
You deal with it, you accept it, you deny it, you wrestle with it, you ponder it, you grasp it, you tell your loved ones. And then, at the end, right at the climax...
(looks at Actor)
Guess what happens?

ACTOR
I live?

Nothing. DIRECTOR

Do I come back? ACTOR

No. You never ever come back. You are gone forever. DIRECTOR

But where do I go? ACTOR

Into nothingness. Into oblivion. DIRECTOR

Impossible. ACTOR

it is not only possible, it is inevitable. DIRECTOR

Who would want to watch a movie like that? Why would anybody want to see a movie about death? ACTOR

Because it is not real. It is just a movie. If you have any doubts, tell me now. Are you sure you want to do this? Are you ready to die? DIRECTOR

I am dying to die. ACTOR

They shake hands. Actor turns and heads toward door

Good. Now I want you to go home now, and every night as you fall asleep, I want you to think about dying. Think about really dying. Get to know death, get comfortable with death. Feel death flowing through you. Relate to death. Be death. DIRECTOR

3 SCENE THREE

3

I can not believe I am going to die. I'm really going to die. ACTOR

DIRECTOR

That was not realistic. Do you think a man who was really going to die would do that? I mean he is going to die! It is a big deal. Put a little life into it.

ACTOR

(as if he just got a great
birthday present)

I can not believe I am really going to die!

DIRECTOR

You look like you just got a birthday present. It is not a good thing, it is a bad thing! It's a sad thing. Your soul is collapsing. You have to really believe it.

ACTOR

I can not believe I am really going to die!

DIRECTOR

You are saying it like it is a punch-line. You have to look like you really think you are going to die.

Actor gets scared and starts rubbing
his head.

ACTOR

But I have never really thought I was going to die. I do not know how I would act.

DIRECTOR

Imagine the worst thing ever, and then multiply it by ten. No, a hundred! When you say "I can not believe I am really going to die!" Pretend there are a billion exclamation marks.

Phone rings. Director answers it. Actor paces, scared, and rubbing his head.

DIRECTOR

Hello? Welcome to reality. This movie is going to be so real, people will be running out of the theatre. But then they will come running back. They will be watching it with their eyes peeled, wide, and glued to the screen.

(pause)

He has to die, and nobody can stop it. Not you, not him, and certainly not me.

Director hangs up.

DIRECTOR
what is wrong?

ACTOR
Nothing.

DIRECTOR
You look pale.

ACTOR
(Moment of silence) Everything is fine. My life is great.
(Moment of silence) I do not understand what is wrong with
me. Something does not feel right. Something is wrong, but I
can not put my finger on it.

DIRECTOR
Are you going to be okay?

ACTOR
I am great. I have never been better. There is nothing I can
not do. I think I will feel better if we get back to work.

ACTOR
(head toward the sky with eyes
closed)
I can not believe I am going to die! I can not believe I am
really going to die!

DIRECTOR
You are not getting a sun tan on the beach, you are going to
die!

ACTOR
(with a disgusted look on his
face)
I can not believe I am really going to die!

DIRECTOR
You look like you just ate a bad ham sandwich! Death is much
worse than that!

ACTOR
(looking at the ground)
I can not believe I am really going to die!

DIRECTOR

You didn't step in gum, you are going to die! Death is like stepping on a million pieces of gum!

ACTOR

(spinning and looking at the
"million pieces of gum")

I can not believe I am really going to die!

DIRECTOR

You are not on a merry-go-round at a carnival, you are going to die!

ACTOR

(casual)

I can not believe I am really going to die!

DIRECTOR

It is not casual. If you say it like that, people will think, "This is just a movie." You have to believe you are really going to die.

ACTOR

(being comedic)

I cannot believe I am really going to die. Really!

DIRECTOR

This is not a comedy. There is nothing funny about death. This is a drama. Absolute, infinite emptiness! Pure blackness! The abyss!

Actor gets sad, and continues rubbing his head.

DIRECTOR

Death does not just happen every day. Death happens once, in your whole life. And it ends it. Have you been thinking about death every night before sleep?

ACTOR

Yes.

DIRECTOR

I don't understand what the problem is. You need to be obsessed with death, you need to be living this movie. Maybe you can not do it.

ACTOR

I can do it.

DIRECTOR

Death is not exactly a cool breeze on a lazy Sunday morning, or a picnic with peanut butter and jam sandwiches and lemonade. Death is like, the opposite of winning the lottery, it is like really bad luck. Death is like stepping in a really big puddle. Death is like a button falling off your coat, but worse. It is like all the buttons falling off your coat. Death is like getting a flat tire, but much worse. Death is like getting four flat tires at the exact same time. Death is permanent. It is like a one way street. Once you die, there's no going back. It is like being completely destroyed.

(Pause)

You just found out you are going to die. Your life is falling apart. Your entire world is turning upside down. You have to feel it in your soul, in your whole body. This has to be real. If the audience does not believe you are dying, everything will be lost.

Phone rings. Director answers it. Actor paces, sad, and rubbing his head.

DIRECTOR

Hello? Yes he is still dying. Movies are not real. But the audience is real, I am real, this movie will be real, and his death will be real. Nobody can stop DEATH... the movie. Not even you can stop DEATH... the movie. He is going to die. He is really going to die.

Director hangs up.

ACTOR

I can not believe I am really going to die.

DIRECTOR

That was good, but that was the worst one yet. Again.

ACTOR

Line?

DIRECTOR

I cannot believe-

ACTOR
(in the MOST dramatic over-the-
top way yet)
I cannot believe I am really going to die!

DIRECTOR
That's enough for today.

Actor starts suffering and continues
rubbing his head.

ACTOR
Ummm...

DIRECTOR
What?

ACTOR
Nothing.

DIRECTOR
What is it?

ACTOR
This death thing. I am wondering... in the movie, the moment
I die...

DIRECTOR
Yes?

ACTOR
you are not going to really show it, are you? You will not
really show it, will you?

DIRECTOR
Yes. Your death will be shown in grave detail.

ACTOR
I probably should not be asking this, I am not even sure if I
want to know the answer.

DIRECTOR
What?

ACTOR
The moment I die, how does it happen? When does it happen?
What will it feel like?

DIRECTOR

I am not sure yet. But one thing is for sure, your death will be scary, sad, and full of suffering.

ACTOR

Do I have to die? Is not there any way around it?

DIRECTOR

Yes, you have to die. No there is no way around it. Get over it. Accept it. Live with it.

Actor shakes his head and then nods.

DIRECTOR

Go home and get some rest.

Actor, still suffering, and rubbing his head, turns and walks toward door.

DIRECTOR

(giving a death sentence)

And think about death.

4 SCENE FOUR

4

DIRECTOR

What is wrong with you today? Your acting is getting worse as time goes on. It is as though you are stalling. It is as though you do not want to finish this movie.

ACTOR

I want to finish it. Why wouldn't I?

Phone rings. Director answers it. Actor paces, scared, and starts banging his head.

DIRECTOR

Hello? We are going to see this through to the end. I know you are scared, to be honest, I am scared too. If you are scared, and I am scared, and the actor is scared, imagine how scared the audience is going to be. This is like nothing they have ever seen before.

Director hangs up.

ACTOR

I am going to die. I am so dead; I can already feel myself decomposing and rotting. I am doomed. I am finished. Goodbye life, hello death. I am going to be deader than dead. I am going to be the deadest corpse in the cemetery. Compared to me, dead people will look alive.

DIRECTOR

That was the worst one yet. What is wrong? You were once so full of energy. What happened to you?

Actor gets sad, and continues banging his head.

ACTOR

I am nervous. I have been having headaches and dizziness. I have no energy. I am always tired and short of breath. I am always sweating. I have heart palpitations. I am having hot and cold flashes. I cannot swallow. I have no appetite. I am constipated. My hands are shaking. My hair is falling out. I feel like an old man. I feel paralyzed. I feel like I am drowning in freezing cold water. There is this darkness surrounding me, and inside me. There is this emptiness in my heart. Nothing seems worth doing. I feel like I have no power. There is suddenly no meaning in the world. I feel like I am in danger, and there is nothing I can do. I feel like everything is not going to be okay. I feel like I will not live happily ever after.

(Starts sucking his thumb)

I feel like my candle is flickering out. It is like there is a dark cloud looming overhead. It is like I am going to get struck by lightning or something. I feel like a tomato, if you sliced it into pieces, and then squashed the pieces. I feel like the monster in my closet is real, and hiding under the covers will not help. I feel like something bad is going to happen, like I am being watched or chased. Like something evil is waiting for me. I have been having scary nightmares. I am afraid to go to sleep. I am afraid of the dark. I have been sleeping with the lights on. I have been wetting the bed. I want my mommy.

DIRECTOR

Do you need some time off?

ACTOR

No I will be okay.

DIRECTOR

Do not worry, it will all work out. Everything always works out in the end. Maybe some work will get your mind off of it.

ACTOR

You are right.

DIRECTOR

Ready? Set? Die!

ACTOR

I am going to die. I was hoping someone, or something could save me, but no. There is no light at the end of the tunnel. There is no end of the tunnel. I am dead meat. I tried not to believe it, I tried not to accept it. I wish I could say this was just a movie. But it is not a movie. I wish I could tell myself it is not real. But alas, it is real. I am going to die, big time. I am going to die so much, they will have to bury me twice. And then, after I die, I will be dead, and my death will be even worse. I will be dead once and for all.

DIRECTOR

That was great. We will play scary, sad music full of suffering, during this scene.

Phone rings. Director answers it. Actor paces, sad, banging his head and starts crying.

DIRECTOR

Hello? I am sorry about your sadness. We are all sad that he is dying. It is a movie filled with sadness. Of course you do not want him to die, neither do I. We just have to try to be strong right now.

Director hangs up.

DIRECTOR

Let us do the part where you freak out. Get into character: you are deathly ill. You are on your way out the door. And you are not happy about it. You are a goner. Claw your eyes out!

Actor claws at his eyes.

DIRECTOR

Be more scared! Stomp your feet!

Actor stomps his feet.

DIRECTOR

Be more sad! Bang your head against the wall!

Actor bangs his head against the wall.

DIRECTOR

Suffer! Scream and cry and cringe!

Actor makes a strange sound.

DIRECTOR

Run around in circles.

Actor runs around in circles.

DIRECTOR

Collapse onto the floor.

Actor starts spasming and convulsing.
Actor collapses.

DIRECTOR

You will be in a cemetery, filled with bats and rats and wolves, and a full moon. You'll be in a coffin full of maggots. You will hear nothing, you will see nothing, you will be nothing forever and ever. And it only goes downhill from there.

Actor bites his hand. Actor pulls out his hair and moans.

DIRECTOR

You are going to be buried. And you will be claustrophobic in that coffin. You will become a corpse, and then you will become a skeleton, and then last but not least, you will become dust.

Phone rings. Director answers it. Actor paces, sad, banging his head, starts screaming and vomits.

DIRECTOR

Hello? It will be painful to watch. He is in a lot of pain right now, but the show must go on. I will give him your condolences. Nothing can save him, not even money.

Director hangs up.

Actor starts suffering, and continues
banging his head.

ACTOR

Please, do not make me die! I am too young! I do not want to
die!

DIRECTOR

what is wrong?

ACTOR

(on hands and knees, clutching
director's legs)

I can not handle this.

DIRECTOR

I am sorry, you have to. It is not up to me.

ACTOR

Why? Why? Why do I have to die?

DIRECTOR

It is a fact of life. It is reality. In the movie.

ACTOR

Why me? Why now? Why can it not be someone else? Why must it
happen? I do not deserve this!

DIRECTOR

Nobody deserves it.

ACTOR

Make it quick and painless!

DIRECTOR

You know it can not be quick or painless.

ACTOR

What will my last words be?

DIRECTOR

I do not know.

ACTOR

Will I be remembered?

DIRECTOR

No.

ACTOR

Will I have made a difference?

DIRECTOR

No. It will be like you were never born.

ACTOR

The closer it gets, the more real it feels.

DIRECTOR

It is not real, it is just a movie.

ACTOR

It's too much.

DIRECTOR

The worst is yet to come. This is DEATH... the movie! You knew that going in! What did you think was going to happen? Were you expecting a happy ending? This is DEATH... the movie. If there is no death there is no movie. I told you there was danger in this movie. I cautioned you. I told you to beware. You were warned. You knew this was coming. You said you could handle anything. You were ready to conquer the world. But look at you now, crying like a baby. What happened to you?

ACTOR

I thought I was invulnerable. I was so powerful. So happy. So alive. I was wrong. I did not think death would be this scary. I did not know this movie would make me this sad. I had no idea it would cause me such suffering. I was wrong, I was a fool, I got more than I bargained for. I did not think it would be so real. I thought it was just a movie.

DIRECTOR

It IS just a movie. It is not real. I know you are scared. To be honest, so am I.

ACTOR

You are right. It is just a movie. It is not real. I can do it. I'll die.

DIRECTOR

You need to calm down. You need a break. Take a week off, go home and get some rest.

Actor turns and walks toward the door.

DIRECTOR

And think about death.

5 SCENE FIVE

5

There is a coffin in the middle of the stage. Director is on the phone. Director gets scared and starts scratching his head.

DIRECTOR

It has been a long road, but we are almost done. There are bigger concerns than deadlines, but he is going to die today. Right now.

Director hangs up.

Actor lurches onto stage.

DIRECTOR

You are late. I think this is the latest you've ever been. Are you okay?

ACTOR

Yes.

DIRECTOR

What is wrong?

Actor does not respond.

DIRECTOR

What is it?

ACTOR

It is as though I am really dying.

DIRECTOR

You ARE dying.

ACTOR

Not in the movie, in real life.

DIRECTOR

It is not real. It is just a movie.

(Pause)

It is almost over. We are almost done.

ACTOR

(looks up)

We are?

DIRECTOR

Yes. It has been fun, but now it must end.

ACTOR

Is today the... day?

DIRECTOR

Yes.

ACTOR

It cannot be already over. It is not fair.

DIRECTOR

It is not supposed to be fair.

ACTOR

It is too soon. The time went by too fast. I did not even get a chance to live. There were so many things I wanted to do.

DIRECTOR

You should have done them when you had the chance. Did you think you would be here forever? It was always just a matter of time.

ACTOR

How do you enjoy a luxury cruise, when you know that the ship is sinking? How do you enjoy a first-class plane ride, when you know the plane is crashing?

DIRECTOR

I do not know anything about plane rides or ship cruises, or crashing or sinking, but I do know a thing or two about death and movies.

Actor sits in the coffin.

DIRECTOR

Everything you have dreaded your whole life. It is going to happen now. You are finally going to die!

ACTOR

(can barely get the words out)

I am dying. I am really dying. I am dying. I am really dying.

Phone rings. Director answers it.

DIRECTOR

Hello? You can yell and scream but it will not save him. Nothing you do can save him, and nothing will stop DEATH... the movie.

Director hangs up. Director gets sad, and continues scratching his head.

DIRECTOR

Why are you just sitting there? You are not taking a nap, you are dying! You are scared, sad, and suffering. Your worst nightmare has come true. You feel the life leaving your body, and you feel the death entering. You are all alone. Your heart is slowing down. You are somewhere between misery and despair. Among anguish and agony, horror and terror, and they're closing in on you.

(Takes a deep breath)

you are going down down down, you are falling down down down down. You'll be dead dead dead dead dead.

Phone rings. Director answers it.

DIRECTOR

Hello? Your threats make no difference. He will die. If he goes to heaven, then he is not really dead. If he lives, then it is not death. It is too late, he is dying right now. You can't do that. Are you for real? Hello?

Director hangs up, paces, sad, and continues scratching his head.

DIRECTOR

They are not going to let you die. I never thought it would really happen. After all the work I have done. It is just going to end. It is not fair. I do not deserve this. I cannot believe this movie is really going to die.

Director calls them back.

DIRECTOR

What if he dies, but we just do not show it? What if he just appears to die? What if his death is just hinted at? What if he dies, and comes back? What if he dies, but the doctors, or angels bring him back? What if he dies and goes to heaven?

(Pause)

I will change the ending.

Actor slumps into the coffin.

DIRECTOR

He will not die.

Director hangs up, and turns to actor.
Director starts suffering, and
continues scratching his head.

DIRECTOR

You are not going to die. I can not believe you are really not going to die. The movie is dead. After all the energy I put into it.

(pause)

Get up. You are going to live! Nobody would just lie there if they just found out they were going to live. You really look like you just died.

(acting it out)

Get into the spirit of it! Jump for joy! Start dancing! I am going to live? I am not going to die? I can feel the life returning to me! It is a miracle! I am going to live! I can't believe I am going to live! I am really going to live! Your eyes light up! You are celebrating! This is great news! I can not believe I am not dying! Triumphant music plays!

Director approaches Actor and gently pokes him.

6 SCENE SIX

6

Director bows to the audience's
applause. Director gets sad, and starts
rubbing his head.

DIRECTOR

(bows)

Thank you. Thank you.

(motions for the applause to
end)

I appreciate all your good will. You are too kind, really. Thank you. But this is not a day for celebration, it is a day for mourning.

(pause)

I wish he was here right now, but he is late. I remember the day I first met him. He was full of life, confidence, and ambition. He was ready to climb the highest heights and swim the deepest depths. You should have seen him. Unshakable. Determined. Focused. He was everything an actor should be, and more. He jumped head-first into a movie that others would have run for their lives from.

(Gets sad, and continues
rubbing his head.)

He was a good man, and a great actor.

(pause)

That is how we should remember him.

(pause)

I really believed he was dying. Each day he seemed more dead than the day before, until at the end there was not a trace of life left in him. Now that is an actor. He put his heart and soul into this movie. I wish I could say the same. But I was too scared, and as a result, he lived... in the movie.

(pause)

I promised him that DEATH... the movie would be great. I promised him that he would die.

(pause)

Wherever he is, I know he is resting peacefully. He is out of his misery. His last words were, "I am dying. I am really dying."

(pause)

I have to admit, I need to apologize. I must confess everything.

(pause)

I do not know what this movie is about, but I do know for certain that it is NOT about death. This is not the way it was supposed to end.

(Starts suffering, and
continues rubbing his head.)

It was supposed to be a movie about death, but the only thing that ended up dying was the movie.

(pause)

The people who killed my movie have no concept of reality. Their lives are as fake as the movies they watch. I should not have put my fate in their hands.

(pause)

I trusted them with my movie, and then all of a sudden, out of nowhere, they pulled the plug.

(pause)

I am still coping with this loss, and grieving at this tragedy.

(pause)

It will take me a long time to recover. I do not know if I will ever be the same. But in time, if it is the last thing I do, death the movie will be reborn. Death... the movie will live!