

Drama IP scriptwriting rationale

First off, I would like to talk about myself. I consider myself a really creative person. I enjoy all sorts of creativity-based activities, for example, drawing stuff, telling jokes, making puns, etc. If I have to be honest, expressing myself verbally is not something that I am good at, but instead, I would rather express my thoughts and feelings through composing music and sometimes writing my thoughts down as lyrics. And I guess that is why I have chosen scriptwriting in the first place, so I could write down what I think and feel like.

In the script, I have used quite a lot of epic theatre techniques including songs, dances and a more significant one would be the use of the split-stage technique.

“Follow your dreams” is actually a story based on what I hope to be in the future- being successful in the music industry. The messages that the rapper, Dom delivers in the play are actually advice that was given to me personally. On the other hand, Dom’s experience of being lost and confused when he was 18 is actually exactly what I am going through right now- just like I have mentioned, I am not good at expressing myself verbally, therefore, I have written these feelings as a message for help, on behalf of other people that feel the same. Not only is life about making mistakes, it’s also trying to be great, that’s why you should never give up on your dreams. Do not let failure scare you away.

I admit that I have not exactly been so committed to my work, and indeed I should have put more time and energy into this. Just as my drama teacher has suggested, a tiny bit of work every day could be a big step towards success.



“FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS”

HSC Drama 2020 Individual Project – Scriptwriting
Student number: 32899994

Characters:

Dominic Harrison (Dom): Also known as C.E.O, main character of the story. Ex-student of Lammadale School, now a rising star in the Music Industry

Principal White: Principal of Lammadale School.

Mr Brodas: Teacher of Lammadale School.

Young Dom: Younger version of Dominic Harrison

Young Colson: Colson Baker, Dominic's friend throughout secondary school.

Young Principal White: Younger version of Principal White

Casting notes:

- Young Principal White and Principal White would be played by the same actor, minimal costume change is required to portray minimal aging.
- Director and cast should come up with their original melody and beat to accompany the lyrics of *Prison* for about 40 seconds.
- The second beat played by the characters in this play would be a simple 2-step drum pattern.
- The production is required to prepare their own SFXs.

Setting:

The play is set in Lammadale School, in California, The United States of America. The play begins at the school auditorium, during the Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony where Dominic is the guest speaker.

(Claps SFX from the audience, spotlight fades in on Principal White, who starts stage right, at the lectern)

PRINCIPAL WHITE: Good morning students, teachers, and parents, welcome to the Class of 2025 graduation ceremony. This year our students have been fantastic, whether that be in sports, academics, arts as well as university applications and offers. And I believe that they're one of the most outstanding groups to have graduated from our school. *(short pause)*

Okay.... Before we start, please allow me to introduce our first performer and guest speaker of the day. The rising star in the music industry - C.E.O! Also known as Dominic Harrison who actually is our alumni and only graduated from our school 5 years ago. Let's welcome Dom!

(Self-prepared instrumental version of 'Prison' plays for about 20 seconds)*

(Dom comes out from stage right, they shake hands and Principal White exits from stage right, Dom walks all the way to the lectern)

(Claps and Whistle SFX from the audiences plays over the music and fades away)

DOM : *(Humbly)* Thank you, Mr White, *(Short pause)* *(SFX fades away)* it is my honour to be here. *(loud and clear, with a bit of excitement)* Hello everybody, good morning! I am Dominic Harrison, also known as CEO. I believe most of you must know me since my song *Prison* is now second on the Billboard Top 100. *(laughs awkwardly)* Well anyways, *(Excitingly)* let's get the party started!!

(Self- Composed version of Prison plays for 40 seconds.)

(DOM dances and sings along with the song)

Lyrics for *Prison*:

“Look,

Everyone be out here saying I’m lucky

Growing up in a happy wealthy family

But don’t ever think is as positive as it seems like

People have their own beliefs and habits

Conflicts between family members and stress from the outside world have got me dancing

I might be living healthy and wealthy for now but I know clearly that it might all go down

I’m not tryna be suicidal but this shit really do be getting me trippin

Yes I smoke I drink, I yell and I can’t control my anger but at least I’m not a cold-blooded killer”

(Ends loudly on “Killer”)

DOM: Woah, you guys are awesome. I've gotta be honest. I didn't really expect a bunch of high school students to know all the lyrics since you guys should be memorising stuff from your textbooks instead of rap lyrics with explicit content. Haha (*Laughs Awkwardly*) Um.... So, can I ask you guys a question? Put your hands up if you think studying and learning are useless because it won't help you in your future?

(Short pause, Dom points at the audience and counts up to about 10 students)

Okay, I see, well don't get me wrong, I hated studying when I was younger. There were times that I said to myself "Why am I here studying meaningless stuff?" "Trigonometry? History? What the hell??" I mean back in Year 9, Year 10, I failed all the subjects that I hated, you know, like science, history, and geography, but from Year 11, I only focused on subjects that I knew would help me in my future, like Music and English, you know. Well... back in Year 10.....

(Spotlight on stage right fades away, lights on stage left fade in. Young Dom comes in from stage left. Young Colson is already on stage, sitting in the music room playing the guitar, waiting for Young Dom. Young Dom comes in walking really fast)

YOUNG DOM (*excitedly*): Hey Colson I just uploaded the school diss track on SoundCloud and it blew up! We hit more than five thousand plays and people are asking for a second one. You don't think teachers would go on SoundCloud and search up students and get us in trouble, right?...*(Pause)* Who cares anyways.... *(laughter)*

YOUNG COLSON (*laughter*): Well let's start recording! Hmm start by freestyling about Principal White and the Vice Principals.

(Young Colson and Young Dom take out laptop and headphones from their backpack)

(Colson opens the laptop and plays the beat)

*(beat plays) *(4 bars)*

YOUNG DOM and COLSON: Fuc-----

(Door slamming SFX plays, Young Principal White enters from stage left)

YOUNG PRINCIPAL WHITE (*Furiously*): Well, well, well; look who's here. Mr Snoop Dogg and Mr Ice Cube...

(Young Colson and Dom look at each other, laugh awkwardly and look down on the floor)

YOUNG PRINCIPAL WHITE:*(Takes a deep breath and calms down)*: I'm not gonna make a decision right now about the punishments for your actions, but I will need you two to apologize to all the teachers that you have dissed, and on top of that, detention for the rest of the term! You guys stay here, I'll be right back...

(Young Principal White exits stage left)

YOUNG COLSON: *(Worried, yet a little bit frustrated)* Dude what should we do, we're screwed.

I wanna go to uni!! I've got big plans for my future!! What if we get expelled... what should I do!!! I told you it wouldn't be a good idea to record something about the school.... There's tons of other stuff we could've written about, yeah?? Girls, money.... Cars ?!

YOUNG DOM: *(Interrupts Young Colson, hoping to calm Colson down)*: Yo yo yo, chill out, bro!

Let's see who the detention teacher is for now. We won't be expelled for something this minor...And then you know, we could maybe sweet talk White? And try to lower our punishments??

(Young Principal White walks in with brooms and brushes; Mr Brodas walks in following Young Principal White from stage left)

YOUNG PRINCIPAL WHITE: Mr Brodas, would you mind looking after these two gentlemen for an hour? Thank you. *(Smiles)*

(Young Principal White hands over the broom and the brushes to the boys, gives them a stare in the eye, and leaves the stage from stage left)

MR. BRODAS: *(Calmly)* All right boys, talk to me. What happened? Colson, would you mind starting?

YOUNG COLSON: Well um.. Dom and I made a few diss tracks about the school and have posted them on Youtube and SoundCloud, which actually blew up, we got more than 5 thousand plays. An...

YOUNG DOM *(Interrupts Young Colson)*: And, we were about to record the second song before Principal White walked in on us. Look, sir, I promise we won't do it again. Can you just please let us get out of here?

MR. BRODAS: Alright listen, I don't wanna stay here either, but you messed up. Let's hear the track.

(Young Colson hands over headphones to Mr Brodas and hits the play button on the laptop, the boys just stand there and look at the floor for about 20 seconds while Brodas listens to the music and nods his head to the beat)

MR. BRODAS: *(Takes off headphones, short pause)* I do have a few suggestions, boys. *(Short pause)* You should give the beat a bit more work, turn up the bass, and add a counter melody to it. If you want to be serious about music, let me help, come see me with new ideas every Friday, it's not gonna take long and I believe you wouldn't ditch me, right?

(The boys shake their heads) Also, stop writing songs about the school, it's funny but yet stupid. *(Short Pause)* You're writing all these lyrics just because what? Is it because *you* hate the teachers? Nah. You just wanna make everyone laugh, happy and accept you guys. You just want attention. Let me tell you what. If you want attention, then please do it in the right way and actually show your talent, so people would have a good impression of both of you, instead of you being notorious for writing bad stuff about the school.

(Lights on stage left fade away, spotlight on stage right turns on Dom who 's standing at the lectern)

DOM: Well, well, well, that was a good example of not thinking twice before taking any kind of action... think twice, or you'll regret it. *(Short Pause)* It's just like fighting, if you don't think about the consequences and punch someone for something minor, which I know as a matter of fact boys like to do, you may suffer legal consequences and that little aggression might spoil your life. *(Short Pause)*

Okay...I don't know what you guys think about the school's career expos, where different universities, institutes and companies come to promote themselves. I remember this other time when Colson and I found ourselves in trouble when we got caught ditching a career's expo...

(Spotlight on stage right fades away, lights on stage left fade in)

(Young Dom and Young Colson sitting on a bench in the boy's changing room, which is really messy and has sneakers and shirts lying everywhere)

YOUNG DOM (*Frustrated*): Man, what the hell, what is this bullshit expo, what a waste of time.

YOUNG COLSON (*Annoyed*): I know, man.... It's so stupid, I mean who the f--- knows what they wanna be in the future anyway, this is probably just another way the school makes money....

(Door opens, door slamming SFX plays)

(Young Principal White enters from stage left)

YOUNG PRINCIPAL WHITE (*Annoyed*): Well, I'm not surprised, Mr Snoop Dogg and Mr Ice Cube... Of course, it's you two who are hiding from the Career's expo. Well let me tell you guys something you would be interested in, there is this music school giving out scholarships. All you have to do is to send in audition tapes and some word documents, and (*Sarcastically*) I'm sure both of you think you're talented enough since you like posting songs on social media. (*Short pause*) I'm just joking... Seriously, Dom, Colson. Listen. I believe this could be a great opportunity to turn your life around. I have faith in both of you. Well, now get out of here and go to the Auditorium at once!

(Lights on stage left fade away, spotlight on stage right turns on Dom who's at the lectern)

DOM: Well...that's when my life changed. Kids, don't ditch career's expo just because you find

it to be boring- it could be game-changing. It might not necessarily be a career's expo but do be aware of what's going on around you ... hold on to the opportunities when you have them, they might just come and go!

(Short pause)

(Loud and clear)

Alright, cheers everyone, please go stream my new song Prison!! *(Awkward laughter)*. OK, time out, serious mode. *(Short pause)* I do have a few pieces of advice for you all young people, but since time is running out, I'm just gonna make it short. First of all, follow your dreams. If you wish to be a doctor, then study well and achieve it, if you want to be like me, CEO, focus on music, business and everything that would help you in the future. Let's not talk about me for one sec.... Look at Cristiano Ronaldo, he wasn't great at school, he even got expelled for being a terrible student, but then he specialized in his sport and look at him now, the best athlete in the world. If you can't take yourself at your worst, then you don't deserve yourself at your best. So why not be the best of you, no matter what, as long as you want to make it your job in the future. If you don't know right now how you want your future to be, and I know most of you don't, 'cause I've been in year 12 too, then you better start thinking about what you want to be, and what you want to achieve. I've been there, I've been lost too, sick and tired of my life, scared of the future.....That was back in Year 12. So, start preparing yourselves before it's too late. Time waits for no-one, the future is now!

(Short pause)

I see a lot of potential in this grade. I believe in you, and one day, you too could come back to this lovely school and talk on this very own stage as a successful person, no matter what

your occupation is. I mean to be fair, I was a bad and troublesome student, and low-key Principal White hated me (*Awkward Laughter*), but at least he acknowledges me now. Why? It's because I worked hard and climbed up the hill all by myself, step by step.

(short pause)

Boys and girls, I really hope you can learn from me, Thank you. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, you guys want to know who my best friend Colson is?

(Short pause)

Well, he is actually in this auditorium right now, sitting at the back row. He is your music teacher, Mr Colson Baker.

(Points down the stage, around the left corner and waves while giving a little wink)

(Laughter) Alright, Lammadale, later.

(Exits from stage right)

(Applause SFX plays)

(Lights fade away)