

Beware of big wheels when making Derby movie

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ON THE MARK — BY CRAIG MARKS

Dear Mr. Bernsen,

Corbin, thank you for submitting your beautiful and moving script “25 Hill” to our studio. The tale of young Trey and his quest to win the All-American Soap Box Derby has the kind of heart, pathos and sensitivity all too rare in movies these days. And, as an actor of great renown (“LA Law,” “Major League”), you would be perfect in the role of the former Derby champ who befriends Trey.

Needless to say, we loved your script. We do, however, have a few suggestions/demands to pass along. They are minor but will add the Hollywood touch that is necessary to attract today’s movie audience:

- In your script, we could not help but notice the lack of vampire characters. We assume this to be an oversight.
- The Derby has a long and storied history in Akron and still is an essential part of the city’s landscape. That said, we’d like to change the setting to Vegas.
- When Trey’s Derby racecar transforms into a powerful alien robot (it will, right?) have it utter a snappy catchphrase.
- Change “Soap Box” to “X-Box.”
- When racecars collide or hit a barrier, the explosion should be large enough to make the 3-D glasses fly off the moviegoer.
- We’re letting Seth Rogen have a go at the script. Please be assured the raunchiest scenes he comes up with will be saved for the special-edition “unrated” DVD.
- The humans-to-zombies ratio should be no less than 3 to 1.
- When Trey’s soapbox racer reaches 88 mph, it should go back in time.
- Using motion-capture technology (“Polar Express,” “Disney’s A Christmas Carol,”), Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson will play the part of the racecar.
- The race scenes should be modeled after the pod race scenes in “Star Wars: Episode I,” except ours should have more Jar Jar Binks.

There you have it. I’ve got to tell you, I’m already envisioning Oscar night. I can see you not only accepting the “Best Picture” statue, but you’ll be bringing down the house when you and the rest of the cast perform one of the movie’s rockin’ musical numbers. Call me.