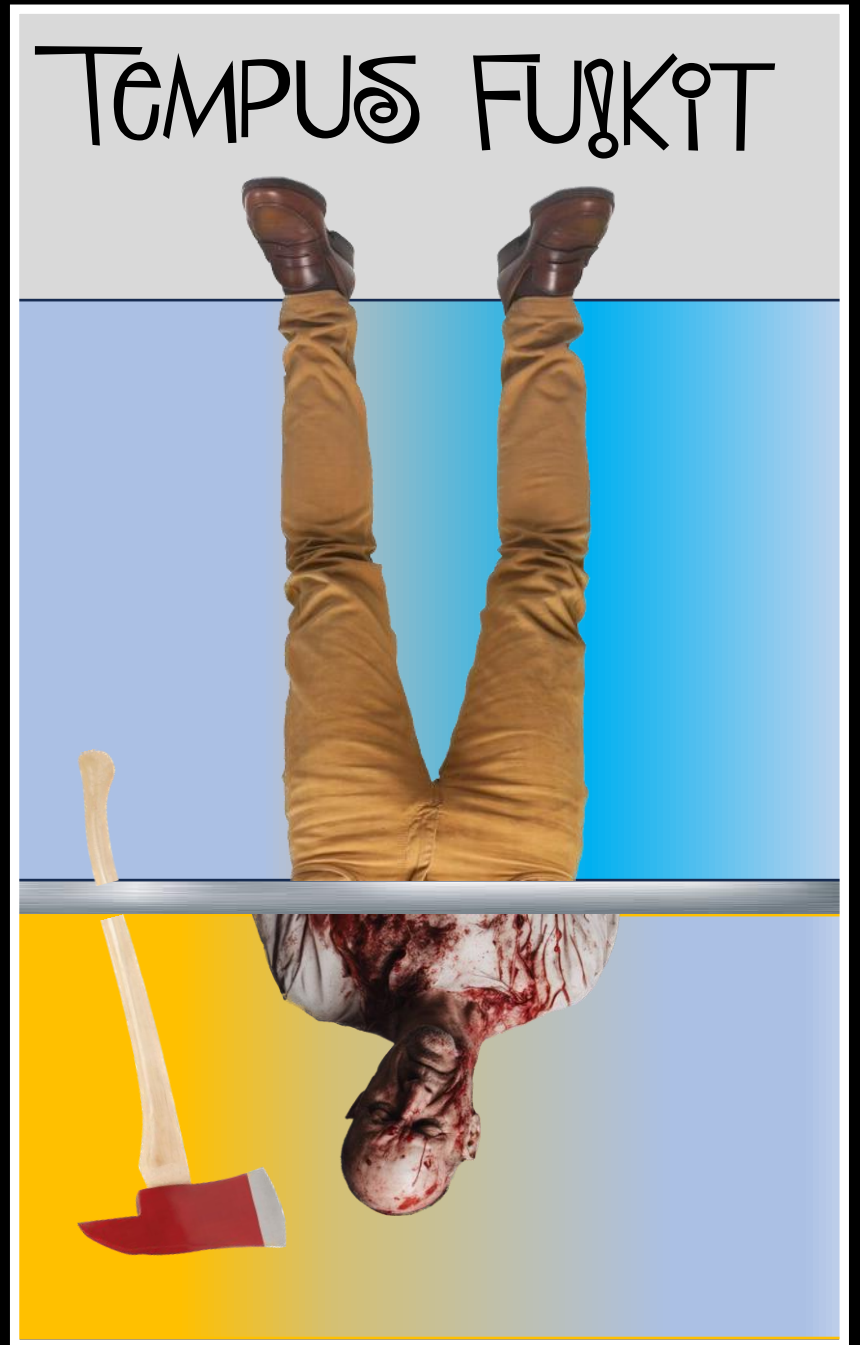Time flies when you're fucking with it

TEMPUS FUGIT

LOGLINE

Believing his business partner absconded with a valuable invention, a mixed-up scientist enlists his partner's wife who was once his lover in a frantic search that ends unexpectedly thanks to the very device he invented.

SUMMARY

Length: Feature film (90 minutes)

Genre: Dark Comedy

Audience: Adult; likely PG13 (language, violence)

Characters:

      3 Leads (2 male, 40s; 1 female 30s)
      2 Supporting (1 male, 13; 1 female, 40s)
      3-5 Tertiary players

Locations: 3-4; primary shoots – lab, houses, airport, restaurant

Budget: Estimate low: $500K- $1M

WHAT'S THE APPEAL?

The story aligns with the "time travel gone wrong" genre represented by several successful movies. The structure is that of popular Twilight Zone episodes where a bizarre twist occurs on the last page.

Although bad things happen to the characters, the tone is dark comedy which appeals to adult audiences who enjoy watching the travails and triumphs of an anti-hero.

Script could be scrubbed down to the length of a typical Twilight Zone TV episode.

Expense benefits from small cast, limited locations, contemporary setting, minimal special FX.

STORY

Scientists and business associates Morty and Chris have toiled for years to develop a device that could make them rich beyond imagination. But with every passing year of no success, Chris becomes increasingly disgruntled, especially after Morty gets engaged to Arielle, the company's business manager, an investor, and Chris's one-time lover.

Chris finally makes a breakthrough: he transports an object through the device into the past. To celebrate, Chris arranges a barbecue where he drunkenly blabs about the secret project in front of his guests, including his son Albert.

Morty directs Chris to brief the investors in the Middle East. Albert tells his friend Declan about the time-transporting device. Far away, Chris becomes suspicious when he cannot contact Morty. Chris doesn't know that Morty interrupted Declan's attempt to steal the device from the lab, and that Declan killed him, disposing Morty's corpse before absconding with the device and a laptop containing the critical operating code.

Upon his return, Chris discovers both Morty and the device missing, and assumes the worst. Arielle agrees, and joins her former lover to smoke out the missing businessman. Chris visits the lab to search for clues, but after his security code is rejected he breaks in initiating an alarm alerting the police. The cops bust in on the scene of a heinous crime: Morty's bloody corpse has just appeared from that point in the past when Declan forced it through the device.

Chris is convicted. Years later a scientist who came into possession of the laptop visits Chris in prison, informing him that he was able to recreate the device. Chris instructs the scientist to send a letter to the Chris of the past imploring him to turn down Morty's offer to join his business venture to build the device in the first place.

Main Characters

CHRIS

Chief technologist working for Morty, and frustrated family man in his 40s.

Former lover of Arielle for whom he still harbors desire.

Brilliant, hard-working, impetuous. Jealous of Morty's wealth.

Suffers from a persecution complex. The anti-hero type.

MORTY

Founder, CEO and primary investor in the lab.

Recent widower in his 40s married to Arielle, who unbeknownst to him was once Chris's lover.

Patient wheeler-dealer devoted to the success of the lab; willing to wait for financial fortune he's confident is always around the corner.
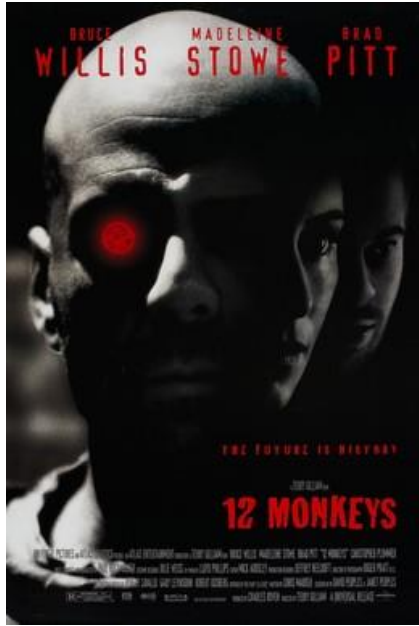
ARIELLE

Charming, stylish, educated office manager in her 30s.

Impatient at the progress of the lab's developments; comes off as a gold-digger.

Trusting, but also realistic.

Treats Chris coldly to mask her true feelings for him.

COMPS: TIME TRAVEL CALAMITY

12 Monkeys

WW gross - $166M

Academy of SciFi, Fantasy & Horror 1996 Best Film
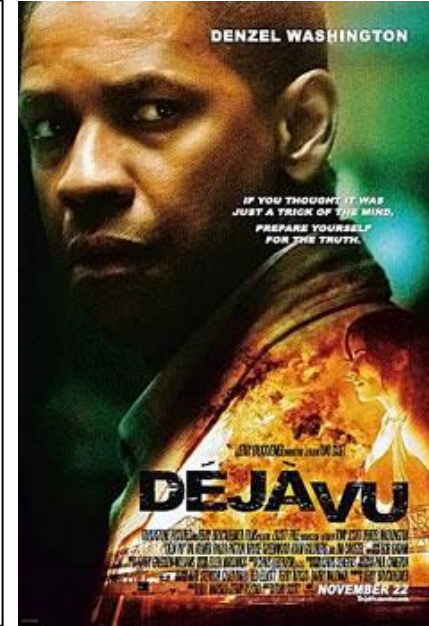
Source Code

WW gross - $147M

Hugo 2012 Nominee Best Film

Bradbury Award 2012 Nominee

Looper

WW gross - $176M

Academy of SciFi, Fantasy & Horror 2013 Nominee Best SciFi Film

Deja Vu

WW gross - $180M

Academy of SciFi, Fantasy & Horror 2007 Nominee Best SciFi Film

Donnie Darko

WW gross - $7.5M

London Critic Circle 2003 Nominee Best Film

WRITER BIO

Herb Schultz

Former marketing executive for Supercomputing at IBM, now retired.

Writer of five spec scripts

Architect's Rendition – An architect enlists three associates in a complex scheme to murder his wife, and each other.

Double Blind Test – A woman conned by identical twins gets revenge.

Tempus Fu*it – The life of a scientist who hunts for the thief of his invention is upturned by the invention itself.

The Stooper – A racetrack stooper fights to recover a valuable lottery ticket that rightfully belongs to him.

Tempus Fu!kit – Imprisoned in a bathroom stall, two disabled men plot an escape from their sadistic captors.

Author of three novels, a collection of short stories, and a collection of essays

RonnieandLennie about conjoined twins who are saddened after becoming separated.

Architect's Rendition, a story of a Machiavellian man who gets random people to kill each other for his benefit.

Double Blind Test, a tale of deceit, romance and lex talionis.

Sometimes the Sun Does Shine There and Other Stories - Winner of the 2012 Indie Reader Discovery Award for best short story collection

Culture Justly Scrutinized: A Take on Six Years of Virtue and Venality

www.majorterata.com **for more.**

The Script and More

Read the script at

www.majorterata.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Tempus-FuXit-Script.pdf

Read the treatment at

www.majorterata.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Tempus-FuXit-Treatment.pdf

More screenplays at www.majorterata.com

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Thank You