



EXCLUSIVE

Act Like A Lady, Think Like A Man

Pre-Production E-Mails

from: Clint Culpepper
to: Steve Harvey
date: Wed, Aug 17, 2009 at 8:32 PM
subject: Pre-Production Memo

Steve –

Let us once again tell you how excited we are to be apart of bringing your best selling book “Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man” to the screen. Per our meeting here are some issues we’d like to iron out before casting begins.

1 – Oprah

Do you think you can get her to be in the movie? We saw the major co-sign she gave you (you did appear on her show twice) and think movie-goers will love to see her in the film.

2 – Your Percentage of Tix Sales

Let’s be honest Steve, most Americans don’t know you. Having your own TV on the UPN does not make you a box office sensation. Your request for creative control and 20% return on the box office is a bit much. Hell, the only reason why Tyler Perry gets what he gets is because he writes, produces and directs his own stuff. You just co-wrote a book and something tells me you probably didn’t press a single key on the keyboard.

3 – Casting Diversity

It’s clear that not just black people are reading your book. We would like to go in the direction of a racially diverse cast to bring a larger audience. Think “He’s Just Not That Into You” which features a large diverse ensemble cast. We’re aiming to get a big name

attached to the film like Julia Roberts or Beyonce. Please feel free to send us your wish list.

Clint Culpepper
President
Screen Gems

from: Steve Harvey
to: Clint Culpepper
date: Wed, Aug 18, 2009 at 8:32 PM
subject: RE: Pre-Production Memo

Clint –

Man, it's great to be working with you again. I'm excited that this deal has been made. However, I am Steve Harvey and I have a very clear vision of what I want this film to be. I worked too long and hard telling corny jokes before hitting pay dirt with ALL/TLM. You said it yourself, Oprah loves me. She had me on her show not once, but twice and you know what that means? America now knows who the hell I am.

To respond to your points

1 – I will not jeopardize my new found friendship with the Queen by asking her to be in the movie. I will however put a bug in her ear to get me, and me alone, back on the show when the film is about to drop.

2 – When it comes to paying dues, I've paid them and more. Asking for anything less than 20% is an insult. Do you know that the book is based on my years of experience dating, being married and divorced and married again? Sorry, this is something that I'm not going to let up on.

3 – I'm glad you brought this up. This has been something that has been coming up since news broke that a movie is coming.

Let's be clear, "He's Just Not that Into You" was not diverse. I was a bunch a silly white women falling over each other for guys who didn't want them. While, I did write this book for all women, I want the film to reflect women of color because they aren't represented often enough in feature films and because I know a lot of out of work black actresses.

Here is my vision for the film:

Story lines & Characters

- Single Mother
- Engaged Couple
- Single Career Woman
- Older Married Couple

Possible Female Leads

- Angela Basset
- Sanaa Lathan
- Nia Long
- Garcelle Beauvais
- Paula Patton

Possible Male Leads

- Steve Harvey
- Taye Diggs
- Morris Chestnut
- Bill Bellamy
- Derek Luke
- Eggs (from True Blood, sorry don't know his real name)
- Larenz Tate

Who I Don't Want to See in this Film

- Megan Good
- Beyonce (the girl can sing, but she can't act)
- Tristan Wilds or anyone under the age of 25

Look forward to seeing this come to light.

Once again remember, that I am Steve Harvey. All things are possible through me and God.

- S.H.