

My Game Night Wish List (which will probably lead to another banished game)

After auditions tonight, I came across a new game show that in a game night format would probably have me banned from playing. "[The Money List](#)" seems to be a update on the classic show 21 (scandals galore) in which two teams compete. The teams are made up of two complete strangers who are placed into sound proof rooms. The object of the game is to outbid the other team to complete the given list. For instance, the category is: "Scrabble Tiles That Are Worth More Than 1 Point."

To begin, one team bids on the number they can correctly guess. Then, the other team's booth is unlocked and they either bid higher or allow the other team to fill in the list. The first team to win two rounds is the winner and goes on for a chance to win \$50,000!!! by completing yet another list.

Other lists: "Number One Beatles' Singles," "U.S. Presidents Prior to 1900 (first and last names had to be given)," "Elvis Presley Songs That Were On Billboard's Top 40 (unfortunately, the very first answer given ("That's Alright, Mama") was wrong because Billboard was not around when the song was recorded)," and "The 100 Most Populous Cities (a team actually go the bidding up to 30 but misspoke NEW Delhi, Delhi itself would have been correct)."

gsn.com has an online version of the game that I think I may peruse (perused and wish I had not).

Oh, boy, oh BOY, OH BOY... I've reached 500 !!!!
YEAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

Little Shop Of Which?

Tonight began auditions for WCCTs newest venture: *Little Shop of Horrors*. I knew of at least two others who would be joining me. [Mare](#) and Travis from my stint with the Village Players in *Meet Me in St. Louis*. However, I began to wonder if they were going to show as Mary promised that they would be early. Early turned out to be about 7.05 PM. There was a wide range of talent... some young high schoolers to twenty somethings to the older set (30ish).

To break the ice, we all went around and introduced ourselves (including the director and asst. director). We then sang our selected audition piece. SOMEONE so kindly volunteered me to go second. So, I handed my excerpt to piano man/producer. I thought I did well. Honestly, there were a few who I could barely hear singing. Apprehension, nerves, but there were some who barely opened their mouths. Some sang with the MIDI track from the show provided by the director. Only two others bothered to bring music that was not "canned." I have to mention Tim who sang something called "Ladies Choice" (I have no idea where the song comes from), but the performer was flamboyant to say the least. So much so, that he was asked to perform the song again. This time with his hands in his pockets and not moving so much across the stage.

The role of Seymour (after night one of tryouts) seems to be down to two. If it were up to me, Travis would have had it from the start. In my eyes, the poor sap should have a whiney voice, totally lacking from self-confidence, and shy. Travis not only had the voice, but the mannerisms. He projected well while maintaining the meek, humble character.

As expected, Mary totally rocked as one of the pivotal doo-wop

girls. Her stage presence and “ghetto tude” was exceptional. Until the director asked the girls on stage to develop a Spanish(?) accent. Thankfully, that request was quickly abolished.

We also had a lot of readings done for Orin Scrivello, D.D.S. Tim once again brought some chuckles from the audience. I attempted to be sly, slippery, and sadistic, as I led Seymour to the chair (“Say, AHHHHH”). Squirmy put a southern twang into his performance. I’m just not sure that I could do justice to the dentist’s songs.

Only two were asked to read for the voice of Audrey II. Tim put his own spin on the voice. There was a young high schooler who seemed to have the voice. For his audition piece, he sang with the vocal track for “Feed Me/You Can Do It.”

I was asked to read a segment of Mr. Mushnik’s lines. After my first reading, I was told to be more Jewish. After my second and third, I heard no comments. Maybe I will rewatch some of Vincent Gardenia in the movie version before going back tomorrow night. No one else was asked to read the role... no one else old enough, apparently. Guess I am too old for Seymour... did not get asked to read for the role. But, I think Mushnik would be a fun challenge... he gets eaten, anyway.

I don’t remember too many reading the role of Audrey. Dunno, maybe tomorrow night.

So... if anyone else is interested, round two tomorrow night at 7.

Work And Fun On The 4th

As with last year, I had to work on Independence Day. I usually flip-flop Fridays and Saturdays with a co-worker. This was SUPPOSED to be my Saturday off so I did not feel the need to ask for it off. Sure enough, I was informed that I was going to be closing. Funny thing is, I was told that the worker I alternate days with told the boss that it was indeed her Saturday off...hmmm. When I got to work, I was delighted to discover that we were closing at 7 instead of the 8PM I was scheduled until. However by the time 6PM rolled around, my co-worker and I agreed that we should have closed then. At 6:45, one of our regular customers came in and grabbed a cart. At 7, I locked the door and we waited in the office until the couple was finished.

After finally getting out of the store, I ventured to pick up some friends to check out some AMAZING fireworks. Getting to the site was a great adventure. I was armed with my mapquest directions and Megan had "Vera" with her, so we were sure to arrive with little problems. Before getting out of town, the adventure began. I misjudged the city limits and began to accelerate maybe a mile before acceptable. We did see the state patrolman as we made our way along. He pulled out of his parking location, began to follow us, and I don't know why it took soooo long but he turned on his lights and pulled us over. Megan had brought along some beverages but we were all of legal age and none were open, so we were safe there. The officer asked why I was going so fast and I "innocently" explained that I was not sure where the limits were. We were mere feet from it. However, the generous officer asked when my last violation was (about three years ago) and he sent us on our way.

As we approached our destination, my companions informed me that they had to visit the facilities and to stop at the next available location. We passed a rest area and then came up to

a nice, clean port-a-potty (thankfully, there were no planes in the area in danger of crashing into it). OOPS... did I say that I would not mention this?

After we finally found our friends (which was not too far from the location at which we found the restroom. We watched some GREAT fireworks. I saw something I don't believe I have before. Some began as if a machine gun was being fired, rapidly spurting out in a back-and-forth motion. Really cool.

Around 2AM, it was time to drive back. Coming home was an adventure as well as some fog had developed (pretty thick in spots) but I don't think it added a great deal to our return trip. So about 3.30, I got to bed in preparation for work at 9. But definitely worth a few hours lost.

Hope everyone had a fun and safe holiday weekend.

“Only One Thing I Want Ya Fellas Ta Do...

Talk me out of it!”

This is my favorite line from one of the most classic movies of all time. If there is one person within posting range who has never seen the 1939 version of *The Wizard of Oz*, I would seriously have a hard time believing it. The scene involves Scarecrow and Tin Man attempting to bolster the Lion's courage as they are about to enter the Witch's castle to rescue Dorothy. Just as he is on the verge of charging into the Lion's den, the feline returns to his old ways.

Back in the days when cable television was in its infancy, I

remember well a Friday night around Halloween when the movie was played annually. Friday night because The Dukes of Hazard and Dallas (ho hum) were preempted. Tonight, it was shown on Turner Classic Movies so this was my yearly trip down the Yellow Brick Road. It's funny, I can almost remember where all the commercial breaks were inserted. Yet another classic I wish I could see again for the first time. A five year old screamed with delight and a four year old hid her eyes whenever "the green witch" was on screen.

A few years ago, I had the pleasure of assisting in the production of the musical for EHS. Although very faithful to the cinematic version, there were a few additions. There was a covered bridge that the quartet and Toto attempted to cross; however, the Wicked Witch of the West enchanted the bridge making it revolve so Dorothy and her companions got nowhere fast.

Another addition was the Jitterbug sequence which was actually cut from the movie. On screen, the Witch makes mention of the insects as she sends her army of winged monkeys to the Haunted Forest. The dance sequence was filmed and put on the cutting room floor.

I know there is at least one person who would possibly (if not probably) agree that Oz would make a good addition for a community theatre season. If we are looking for famous, well-known name shows, is there any more famous, well-known, sure to get butts in the seats and people to audition (ahhem). Just a thought.

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do

Don't take your love away from me

Don't you leave me heart in misery.

No, no nothing quite that emotional. I forgot to mention another shattering event at the workplace last weekend. Friday morning, I walked to the store to pick up my paycheck and saw a sign on the door: **Please use other door.** I immediately thought of the wind from last winter when the door would be blown open, forcing us to lock it before it broke. I looked up and down the glass and saw a long crack halfway down. I asked the boss if she got really mad at someone else and put the crack in the door. Apparently not. The tremor inducing machinery for the repaving of OH49 was to blame. Thursday, the building shook so much that I was not sure if it was going to remain standing. From what I understand, a rock came flying and hit the door and left the crack.

Saturday, we apparently had some rushed customers who kept walking into the door. Sorry, I probably would have done the same after being so accustomed to puching the "out" door. I even set a wet floor sign in front of the door and more than one person walked into it. I suggested hiring a door greeter to man the door (hey, if Wal-Mart can...), a bigger sign, or some yellow CSI tape.

What A Difference A Letter

Can Make

This weekend, I learned two new duties at work. One, I was strongly advised to learn the other I took upon myself to try my hand at. I have watched others cut a whole steak before but have never tried it myself. Last night, a customer who I know asked if we could cut two of the whole ribeye steaks for her. Since this was nearly 8PM and the cashier was about to leave, I told her that it might be Monday before it could be done. No problem, she was not in a hurry. This morning, I decided to be brave and slice it myself... at least I know the guinea pig who would be the recipient of the steaks well enough. Since it was boneless, all I had to do is take a knife and hack my way through it. And both of them were very lean so not much fat to trim. Hopefully, I did well enough. I called and left a message on the customer's machine.

The other adventure was printing next week's ad signs on the computer. No problem there except maybe the age of the computer... actually looks like a relic of the 80s. Once again, went really well until I looked over my handiwork and discovered that a sign that was supposed to read:

CAMPBELL'S

PORK 'N BEANS

3 FOR \$1.00

came out reading:

CAMPBELL'S

PORN N' BEANS

3 FOR \$1.00

Thank goodness, I noticed it before no one else did and hung the sign. I did make a new sign with the correct item and

THOUGHT that I had thrown the faux pas in the garbage. Apparently not. When I got to work this morning, there was the offensive sign with a nice little note attached. It was good for a laugh anyway. But as I have always said, be careful how much you learn; you can get in all kinds of trouble ☐

More Than Met The Eye

Tonight, as promised, a friend and I took in *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*. I was NOT disappointed (although we both felt the need to visit the facilities as soon as the final credits began to roll). Nearly non-stop action, breathtaking effects, comic relief (at times) all created a perfect summer blockbuster. The battle of the Autobots and Decepticons returned to the big screen. I WAS a big fan of the toys and cartoon of the 80s and weel remember the battles of Optimus Prime and Megatron. The live-action sequel again brings the alien robots together with humans led by Sam (Shia Labeouf), Mikaela (Megan Fox), and Major Lennox (Josh Duhamel).

Sam is on his way to live the ordinary life of a college student when the action kicks off. The young man learns the truth about the origins of the Transformers and the Decepticons return to Earth to capture him and draw out Optimus Prime for a confrontation.

At times, I was not sure who the movie was aimed at. There were a few scenes in which I thought it was playing to the more adult viewer (it is PG-13 rated for a reason) who is old enough to remember the beginnings of the franchise. A scene in a dorm room involving Sam and a young lady who is more than

she appears created a chuckle from a young child in the row behind us. Then there was the playful bits geared to the kid in all of us which were really fun.

Again, the main robots all had distinct personalities of their own. The leader, Optimus Prime, the emotional Camaro transforming Bumble Bee, and the hilarious twin duo of Skids and Mudflaps.

Like all summer popcorn flicks, this is in no way geared to the intellectual demanding audience. As with any Michael Bay production, there are huge explosions, limited conceivable plot lines, and a great deal of fun. And, IMHO, any film starring Shia Labeouf is not going to be confused with Shakespeare.

An Angel And A King Forever

Thursday June 25, 2009. Two iconic figures of pop culture; two tragic deaths. One that will surely (and has already) overshadow the other. Growing up, I did not really know Farrah Fawcett as her most famous role. I remember her hyphenated moniker Fawcett-Majors. I remember seeing reruns of the Six Million Dollar Man in which she co-starred with her then husband, Lee Majors. I even believed that she was the actress who played the Bionic Woman. I guess Charlie's Angels was on after my bedtime. Her bravery through suffering has been well documented and must have been heavy upon those who loved her. She is definitely in a better place.

On the other hand, the weeks ahead will undoubtedly focus on the self-proclaimed King of Pop. No matter what the last decade or so of Michael Jackson's life may have brought the fact remains: the man had an extreme amount of talent

musically, and performance wise. I will not dwell on the tabloid details of his life but will say that I do remember his heyday in the early to mid 80s and was enthralled with his extreme talent. I was with my family in Texas the summer of 1984 during the Jackson's Victory tour and remember thinking how cool it would be to be able to get impossible tickets. I also remember the videos (when videos were actually shown on MTV) that were mini-movies. Thriller is still a masterpiece aurally and visually. Ironically, I just watched it via youtube earlier this week. Nearly 15 minutes. 28 million copies of the album sold worldwide. Experts are already speculating that the world will never again see the like. His life may have been troublesome and strange. I think being tossed into the spotlight at the age of 4 and continue for 4 decades would be difficult to say the least.

To say nothing of the passing of Johnny Carson's second banana, Ed McMahon. Not a good week for pop culture. Peace and healing to all the families of these three icons.

Another Midnight Screening

This time, the actual viewing did not involve me. Monday night, before I left for a theatre meeting and later to watch a movie, I was conned into sitting with my nephews and niece while my brother went to see [Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen](#). I had a feeling this was happening... why else would you need a sitter at midnight (well...)? How nice of him to ask if I wanted to go along... which I would have. We could have easily taken the 13, 9, and 4 year-old, especially when the youngest wanted to see it. We even made a suggestion that the kids go to their mother's for the night

So, I went out about 10.30 after watching the Yankees lose AGAIN... come on... jees and watched *My Bloody Valentine* (no 3-D but an enjoyable movie and no kids... definitely not one for the young). After the movie, I watched a few episodes of Michael Scott and Co. on the DVR then fell asleep. At 3, I was awakened by the screaming of an excited 18 year old who proclaimed his pleasure with the action-packed thrill fest... excusable since the couch was really uncomfortable and knowing the 18 year old as well as I, the awakening could have been worse. I will have to go Friday when I have another day off... two movies in one week? Don't know if I can handle that... but I will try.

Andy Outside The Office

Here there be spoilers!!!

A friend and I went to see *The Hangover* last night. Going in, I was not expecting much: undoubtedly an unremarkable plot hopefully with a few laughs. Not expecting a big award winner, I did have a good time. Three of the actors I was familiar with: Bradley Cooper (from his days on *Alias*... I didn't know he was in it going in), Ed Helms (from [The Office](#)), and Heather Graham.

The movie centers around Doug (who is two days away from being married) and his trio of buddies traveling from LA to Las Vegas for the bachelor party. Doug is entrusted with his future father in law's Mercedes (hmm...). The morning after arriving, three of the four wake up and discover that they remember almost nothing that happened the night before and learn that one of the companions is nowhere to be found. Hilarity and some groans ensue as the three go on a whirlwind

search for their friend and their lost evening through the streets of Sin City.

At times, some of the situations reminded me of a combination of *Three Men and a Baby* and *License to Drive*. As with most buddy comedies of today, there are a number of gross out moments (one involving a tiger... one of those groan inducing segments). Another memorable bit takes place at an LVPD precinct in which the three are subjected to some police brutality at the hands of a group of youngsters on a school field trip... don't remember seeing a teacher.

The best part was the three leads themselves. Each of them had a distinct personality that was rarely dull. Cooper plays Phil (rhyming with Will... his Alias character.. coincidence?) the leader of the band of partiers and must have been quite the ladies man back in the day before getting tied down. [Zach Galifianakis](#) plays Alan, the loner of the group who is along because he is the brother of the bride.

Helms is the highlight of the movie. Stu is a doctor who is in a relationship with a domineering woman who thinks the little getaway is to Napa Valley wine country. I really enjoy seeing some of the actors from my favorite comedy on television on the big screen. John Krasinski is in a limited release this summer called [Away We Go](#). Wonder why the distribution was not wider.

Overall, I thought *The Hangover* was fun. It had lots of laughs even if there were moments of mindless ridiculousness. Any movie featuring more than a cameo by Mike Tyson (even playing himself) is not going to be the greatest movie ever made.

Don't wait. Guarantee your seat before you go and avoid a sold out show. Skip the box office lines and buy movie tickets at [Fandango.com](#).