

## PROJECT PORTFOLIO:

Sundry Notions for Feature Films Composed in Varying Lengths and Tones

### **KATHY ANN**

Pitch Synopsis/Early Handwritten 1st Draft  
Psychological Horror

Kathy Ann Fields is a 39 year-old divorcée living on her own in Hamilton, Ontario. A lifetime of severe psychological problems have destroyed her marriage and alienated her from her 20 year-old daughter. These problems, which manifest themselves in a sexual obsession with teenage boys, violence and fire, have led to multiple incarcerations in mental health facilities. A long sequence of drug prescriptions haven't helped -- indeed, her most recent prescription seems to have exacerbated her problems. As the story begins, Kathy Ann is attempting to make a go of it, but her obsessions are relentless and the environment within which she lives is uncomprehending. She seduces a pair of local teens and then turns on them after sex, threatening them with a knife. She burns down several small abandoned buildings and keeps a notebook chronicling her obsessions. A former teenaged lover, now 20 years old, seems to have some sexual power over Kathy and attempts to rejuvenate their relationship. She pushes him away and tries to have a normal relationship with a 30 year-old man she meets in her writing class, but the man's intrusive mother ends up sabotaging their connection, sending Kathy into a tailspin. She re-connects with her ex-teenaged lover and starts having sex with multiple partners from the local teenage community. They regard her as a kind of erotic joke. The man from the writing class visits her after weeks of this kind of behaviour. He falls asleep and she burns down the building with both of them in it.

### **CAPTIVES**

Pitch Synopsis  
Science Fiction

Based on: "Captives" by Plautus (184 BC)

Original text: <http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext05/camos10.txt>

The year is 2205 and things haven't gone so well for the human race. Mark, an enterprising scout, and his partner, Crispin, are captured as they venture into the hostile wasteland of the Rule in search of precious metals. The warlord who controls this dystopian land, "Papa" Rule, imprisons and tortures them, as he does to all those who venture north from the Reconstruction. Ever since his family was killed in a battle with

Recon forces, Papa's had it in for anyone who wears the blue insignia. But when Papa Rule's friend, Jakobet, returns with a secret after a decades-long absence, all involved must question their hatred for one another before it is too late.

## **PARIS JELLY**

Pitch Synopsis

Road Movie

Laurie K. is a 19 year-old prostitute and crack-head roaming the streets of Edmonton. Her life is spiralling out of control when she meets Paris Jelly, an idealistic brawler with a long criminal record. Paris is a strangely moral man, and he falls in love with Laurie when he witnesses a spark in her that he doesn't see in anyone else except his retarded brother, Mitch. Convinced that Edmonton is going to destroy Laurie, Paris hatches a plan to move them out to a farm on the coast. The only problem is money. The trio head out on the road to rob gas stations, planning to drive east on a crime spree before turning around and heading west to the BC coast where Paris has heard he can get some property for cheap. But when Laurie slips back into drug abuse during a stop near Winnipeg, everything starts to fall apart. The lovers are reconciled, but by now the cops are on their trail. When they are pulled over by a traffic cop, all seems lost, but Mitch, feeling indebted to his brother for a lifetime of care, solves the problem by killing the police officer. The trio attempts to make good on their plan but end up getting cornered in a motel in Alberta. Mitch gets killed by a police sniper and Paris and Laurie surrender. Afterwards, Laurie is brainwashed by a court psychiatrist into thinking Paris was a corrupting influence on her, and cuts off contact with him. During the trial, Paris murders the shrink with a fountain pen.

## **PIRATE RADIO**

Pitch Synopsis

Rock n' Roll Adventure

For more info, see: [http://freespace.virgin.net/line.design/forts/invicta\\_\\_king.htm](http://freespace.virgin.net/line.design/forts/invicta__king.htm)

The year is 1961. Stephen Williamson, a dreamer from Toronto, has been touched by the new wave of British Rock. Leaving behind his wife and young child, he's moved to London to get in on the action and has discovered that there is a burgeoning demand for new radio stations to play the vast array of music coming out of the UK music scene. The only problem is the tight British broadcasting controls that prohibit the establishment of private stations. Determined to do something, Williamson gets excited when he hears about several small broadcasters operating offshore "pirate" radio stations from various old ships. He discovers that there is a massive gun platform built in the English Channel, a remnant of World War II, and conceives of a crazy plan to build a radio tower on it, from which he will broadcast the coming musical revolution. Sacrificing his family's money, several friendships, and risking incarceration, Williamson finally manages to set up the station, but gets his comeuppance when his best friend, DJ Frank Foote, and his girlfriend, Alyson Mitchell, are killed on the gun platform during

a storm. Williamson attempts to run the station himself but eventually succumbs to sickness and nearly dies. He is rescued by the British military and extradited home to Canada. His station is washed away in a storm, and all the records he had accumulated turn up on beaches around Europe.

## **GOLD MACHINE**

Treatment

Adventure

Ryan Horn, a 23 year-old Calgary boy, is sent to Suriname (a Dutch colony in South America) by his father on behalf of a consortium of mineral-extraction companies. Once there, Horn is to oversee the construction and operation of a "gold machine," a giant industrial dryer that is supposed to extract gold dust from the mineral-rich soil of the Surinamese jungle. One of his key duties is to check the teeth of the black workers who operate the machine at the end of each day to ensure that they aren't secreting away any gold. Unfortunately, the machine doesn't work so well, and Horn reports to his father that the whole operation seems like a bad idea. But Horn's father is stern taskmaster, and he insists that his son stay on for the duration -- a new prototype is due in weeks, and Horn should just stay there and wait it out. And whatever happens, the father reasons, t'll build character in that little pussy I've got for a son. What Horn's father doesn't know (or, rather, is wilfully blind to) is that the entire operation is a sham, a Bre-X-like investment scandal, and Horn ends up trapped out in the jungle with a surly lot of Guyanese immigrant workers who hate him. Food and supplies stop arriving at the site, communication breaks down completely, and malaria begins to take its toll. The Guyanese men, along with various other natives, start to get restless and Horn begins to go insane. Deprived of food, the men start eating monkey to survive, and Horn loses 50 pounds. Things get worse when Horn has sex with a Brazilian woman who is having her period, violating a local taboo that renders him an unclean pariah. In the end, Horn is brought back to civilization on a makeshift raft by the Guyanese men, but it is unclear whether he is going to survive the trip.

## **BAD JOE**

Pitch Synopsis

Historical Sports Biopic/Plague Movie

The year is 1919, and it is the occasion of the first Stanley Cup playoff between teams from either side of the US-Canada border. Representing the CHL are the Montreal Canadiens; representing the WAHL are the Seattle Millionaires. The story centers on "Bad Joe" Hall, captain of the Canadiens, WWI veteran and notorious brawler. Joe's life has been one of drinking and fighting until just recently, and his dissipated lifestyle has cost him dearly. Deeply in debt and wanting to settle down with his new wife, Joe has decided to play for one last Cup: the bonus for winning it would be enough to pay for a

new house and a new life in his home town of Winnipeg. But unfortunately for Joe, his personal problems are not his only enemy -- the Spanish Flu is raging around the world, having already killed almost 10 million people, and is now hitting Seattle just as the Cup final is about to begin. Joe's determination is tested when the Canadiens start exhibiting symptoms of the plague. He rallies his team to keep playing despite their high fevers, nausea, and violent coughing. The teams are closely matched, and the series goes the distance. It is the final game. The Canadiens are sick to the bone -- a couple of them have already died -- but insist on playing. Halfway through the game, the refs call it off. The Stanley Cup is left unawarded, and the Canadiens retreat to their hotel. Joe dies, but his heroism inspires the team's management to secure his family their dream home in Winnipeg.

## **LUCAN**

Pitch Synopsis

Historical True Crime Trilogy

The year is 1845. Jim and Johannah Donnelly cross the ocean and move to Lucan, Ontario when Jim gets wind of a plan hatched by some of his rivals in his hometown of Tipperary, Ireland to settle the area. The Donnellys squat on some land outside the town and soon old enmities, particularly with his friend Patrick Sullivan, rear their ugly heads. Patrick attempts to kick Jim off the land and ends up blackmailing Johannah, who had once been his girlfriend before she met Jim, into sleeping with him. Jim finds out about this and kills Patrick in an axe fight. He is sent to jail, during which time his sons establish a stagecoach business running the route between London and Toronto. Having grown up as outsiders, the Donnelly boys take their business very seriously and start sabotaging other stagecoach operations, creating further enmity with the townsfolk. This part of the story is told from the point of view of Kenny Flaherty, a 12 year-old friend of the Donnelly's youngest son. Kenny's father, Robert Flaherty, forbids Kenny from hanging out with the Donnellys, but Kenny does so anyway in secret. When Jim Donnelly returns from prison, the townsfolk, feeling an injustice has occurred and reaching the end of their rope with the adult Donnelly sons, organize the "Biddulph County Vigilance Society," which purports to be watchdog organization, but is in fact an excuse to get together and drink while badmouthing the Donnellys at the local church. When a series of stagecoach-related arsons occurs, the Vigilance Society holds an emergency meeting, but its head, Father Doyle, is late for the proceedings and everybody ends up getting drunk. When the Father finally arrives, the Society has blood on its mind. They march out to the Donnelly house and massacre the entire family with axes -- eight of them in all. What they don't know is that Kenny Flaherty is there the whole time, watching from under the bed as his father, Robert, axes the young Donnelly girls to death. In the end, none of the vigilantes are charged and the whole affair is swept under the table. A few years later, Kenny moves away and never speaks to his father again.

## **FAT BANDIT**

Treatment  
True Crime

Klaus B, a middle-aged bumbler in a dead-end job, reshapes his life as a dashing Irish millionaire and quickly gets in over his head. Posing as "Patrick Burke," an ex-IRA man turned events promoter, Klaus attempts to woo Kathy Taylor, a middle-aged woman who herself longs for a different life, by lavishing her with gifts and tales of international intrigue. But when Klaus's modest bank account can no longer handle the demands of his new role as globe-trotting Irish impresario, the hapless man must turn to increasingly dangerous means in order to finance his double life. In the end, Klaus is arrested for a series of bank robberies, exposing his lies to both his family and Kathy. Obstinate, he continues to play the role of Patrick, even once he is behind bars.

## **BLACK SUMMER**

Pitch Synopsis  
Crime

Jason Jarvis, an outsider teen in a small southern Ontario satellite town, kills two elderly friends of his parents in a desperate bid to save a failing relationship. A study of small-town ennui, pharmaceutically-induced personality disorders, and one young man's refusal to let love drift away.

## **JAKE AND COLM FOREVER**

(original title: SCORN)  
Pitch Synopsis  
Crime

Jake, a juvenile delinquent from a broken home, is paroled into the custody of Colm, a small town antique restorer, who ends up exploiting the boy's vulnerability to satisfy his repressed sexual urges. Jake, who discovers that he is in fact a homosexual, falls in love with Colm and is devastated when he learns that these deeper feelings are not reciprocated. He slips back into drinking and doing drugs and decides to leave town. Lacking money, he breaks into Colm's antique shop to raid the cash box. Colm, who lives upstairs with his city councillor wife, hears the noise and confronts Jake. Jake kills him with a hammer and leaves town.

## **WELCOME HOME**

Pitch Synopsis  
Immigrant Story

Olya and Hamid, recent arrivals to Canada from Uzbekistan, attempt to make a life for themselves in Barrie, Ontario. It was Olya's idea to come here, but things aren't working

out so well: Immigration Canada, now overseen by unscrupulous offshore accountancy firm Accenture (formerly Arthur Andersen of Enron fame), is slow to process their papers, primarily because Hamid is Muslim. Feeling responsible, Olya takes an under-the-table waitressing job at a local strip club while Hamid works under the table at a warehouse run by a cruel Russian taskmaster named Ruslan. One day, Hamid is injured in a warehouse accident and loses the use of his legs. He sinks into a deep depression. Olya, short on cash and pressured by the situation, gradually transforms into an escort/prostitute. Her sex life with Hamid disappears, and Hamid blames his injury. Olya keeps her whoring secret until one night, after an argument, Hamid learns the truth. He vanishes and turns up dead the next day. Olya burns down the warehouse and leaves town on a bus.

## **REAR VIEW**

Pitch Synopsis

Crime Thriller

Van, a twenty-something ex-meth dealer, returns to his home town after being paroled from federal prison. Determined to stay on the straight and narrow, Van attempts to settle into a normal life with his girlfriend, Jess. But Jess has yet to kick the meth habit, and bit by bit the couple drift apart. When Van catches Jess sleeping with his long-time rival, Dougal, the town's current meth dealer, he beats him up and moves out and into a motel owned by Penny, a recently-divorced woman he used to go to high school with. Jess begs him to return, but Van has been betrayed by her one time too many. Dougal continues to harrass him, and Van ends up spending a lot of time at the motel, helping out with odd jobs and gradually falling in love with Penny. Dougal is persistent and it soon becomes clear that Van is going to have to leave town or confront him in some way. Around this time, Jess informs him that they could leave together -- she knows where Dougal keeps his money -- but Van has by now decided that he is Penny's man. When the situation with Dougal threatens to involve Penny, Van decides to use the information Jess had given him as a means of financing his exit from town (with Penny). He goes to Dougal's mobile home and takes the money, but is caught in the act by Dougal and his goons. A shootout ensues, and there is much bloodshed. When Dougal is about to shoot Van, however, Jess arrives on the scene and intervenes, but is herself killed in the struggle. Van leaves town with Penny, haunted by a vision of Jess in the rear-view mirror.

## **HOGG'S WIFE**

Pitch Synopsis

Crime

Hogg, a deeply self-doubting man in his late forties, travels to Siberia to pick out a new bride at an internet bride convention. Lana, a young Siberian woman with a guilt-tripping mother, signs up for the meet-n-greet session. She marries Hogg and returns with him to small town Ontario. The new couple are awkward at first, but soon Hogg reveals his

deep insecurities and the power structure of the relationship changes. By the end, Lana sees Hogg as a pitiful, pain-ridden, tortured being who simply cannot function in the real world. She also comes to see Canada as a confusing, unpleasant place. Her attempts to help Hogg are all for naught, and eventually she lets an accidentally-set fire burn down the house with him in it, liberating both herself and him from his suffering.

## **NIAGARA**

Synopsis

Noir

Jackie, wife of a wealthy Niagara grape grower, manipulates a pair of Mexican immigrant workers (brothers Jorge and Herve) into killing her husband by sleeping with one of them (Jorge) and promising him her hand and a share of the insurance money. Unfortunately for Jorge, Jackie is planning on ditching him as soon as he returns to Mexico. She's in love with Ernest, an ex-pat South African man with whom she plans to move to Germany after the money comes in. Herve, Jorge's brother, suspects the worst and Jackie ultimately has Jorge kill him. She then abandons Jorge and goes to Germany to be with Ernest. Jorge returns to Mexico, expecting her to arrive. When she doesn't, he kills himself. Meanwhile, Jackie awaits Ernest in Munich...but he never shows, and she's already put the money into his account. Jackie is left to fend for herself under a new identity in Munich. She turns to prostitution and ends up overdosing on heroin.

## **Mini-Ideas**

### **HER FRIENDS AND HER FIEFDOM**

**A woman goes to a party. It's superficial and vain. Quite pathetic, actually. Then, One by one, the guests disappear until finally the woman is alone and lost in a thunderstorm.**

### **PELTS**

**The tragic tale of 18th century Hudson's Bay fur trapper Capt. James Douglas and his militia of "Beaver Men," who disappeared into the Cascadia (now Wash. state) forest while on a two year mission to violently rid the region of both beavers and trappers. A story of the Bay's brutal suppression of its competition in the western half of the continent and of Captain Douglas's own descent into madness.**

### **FALSE HEART BREAKS LAW**

**A small-town socialite longs for sexual release and finds it in the form of an enigmatic drifter from the United States. Unable to deal with the "shame" of leaving her husband for the drifter, the socialite concocts an elaborate scheme to make it appear that she has been abducted and killed, only to be betrayed by the drifter once she arrives at his "ranch" in Wyoming.**

### **THE VOICE**

**Petr, a court transcriber, falls in love with the voice of a woman on one of the tapes he has been assigned to type up. Eager to find an escape from his faltering marriage, Petr obsessively tracks down the woman and is sucked into her web of madness.**

### **LION OF BANGLADESH**

**A detective, whose wife is a detective novelist, investigates a recent Bangladeshi immigrant's grisly murder of his entire family. During the interrogation, the Bangladeshi man steals the detective's fountain pen and uses it to commit suicide. The detective tries to intervene and gets stabbed in the hand in the process. Similar murders begin occurring throughout the city, and the Bangladeshi man's DNA is found at all the crime scenes. The detective discovers -- too late -- that the Bangladeshi man suffered from lycanthropy and that he has now become infected as well. Realizing that he is the murderer, the detective and his wife travel to Bangladesh in search of a cure, but the wife must kill him in the end to protect both herself and the tiny village they have ended up in.**