



# THE SHAM

FOUR FRIENDS, ONE REALLY BAD IDEA

# OVERVIEW

**TITLE:** THE SHAM

**LOGLINE:** *When an actor struggles to find work, his friends have him covered...all he has to do is swap places with an eccentric cartel boss.*

**GENRE:** COMEDY

**SETTING:** PRESENT DAY

**LOCATION:** VISCAYA MUSEUM, MIAMI

**LEAD:** MALE – DUAL ROLE

**SUPPORTING:** FEMALE X1 | MALE X2

**THE SHAM**

A feature film by Johnathan Burns © 2021

**CONTACT:** Oceaniacom Films

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# SYNOPSIS

**THE SHAM** is a comedy feature film which jumps into the life of actor Chris Rivers who is at a crossroads in his acting career. After being rejected from another audition, Chris takes poor advice from his three friends who are keen to go to extreme lengths to prove their friend is worth hiring.

Armed with possibly the worst thought out plan ever, Chris and his friends must attempt to swap Chris out for a notorious cartel boss to create the most epic self-tape ever. Although even highly trained specialists may struggle trading places with the infamous El Capitan, these four friends may have enough dumb luck to see it through.

Even though nothing goes to plan, their timing seems impeccable and they get the job done leaving only one question; now that he's traded places with a millionaire, does Chris really want to finish the job and walk away?

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# CHARACTERS

## CHRIS RIVERS

Chris Rivers is a talented actor looking for that elusive next gig just like everyone else in town but he knows the competition is tough. Confident and witty, Chris tends to look for opportunities at every corner and is determined to show the world what he has to offer.

With a shortage of gigs on offer, Chris desperately turns to his three friends, Brian, Grace and Gary who are also unemployed and tend to spend a lot of uninvited time in Chris's apartment. Resistant at first, Chris caves to their bad idea to swap places with the cartel boss El Capitan...after all, he is really good at impersonating him and he happens to be a spitting image of him too. What could possibly go wrong?

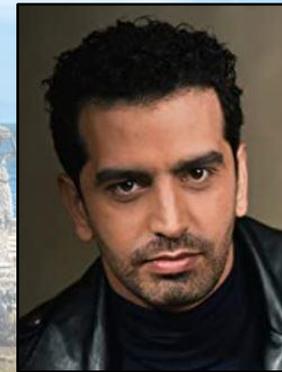
## ACTRORS RECOMMENDED



Gino Vento



Ariel Pacheco



Soufiane El Khalidy



Tyler Hoechlin

# CHARACTERS

## EL CAPITAN / CHRIS E.C.

El Capitan is a notorious cartel boss who is as ruthless as his is stupid although portraying a tough killer isn't too hard when you have henchmen to do your dirty work. An extremely wealthy criminal, 'The Captain' is an ostentatious character who is more bark than bite, preferring to live it up with women and wine than to bore himself with his criminal business accounts.

The character of El Capitan is a dual role to be played by the same actor playing Chris. When in this role, his title changes to 'Chris E.C.' and his act is so good that even his friends and El Capitan's Henchmen can't tell the difference.

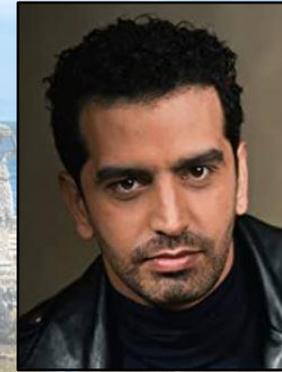
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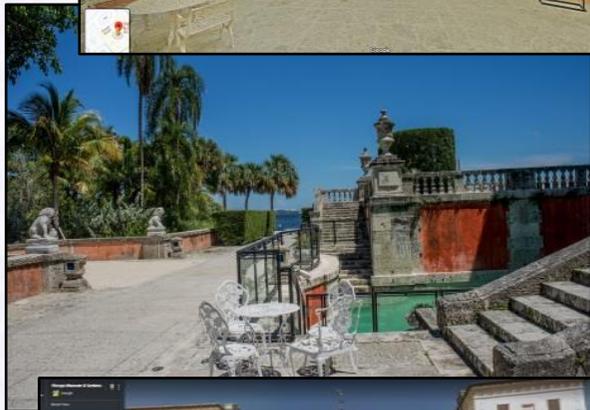
# FILM DISPOSITION



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## IMPETUS

We join the life of actor Chris Rivers during an audition selection which doesn't go his way. Disappointed with the lack of acting work coming his way, he heads home feeling dejected only to be greeted by his home crashing friends Gary the video gamer and couple Brian and Grace. Upon noticing Chris' uncanny resemblance to renowned cartel boss El Capitan, his friends formulate the best, dumbest idea ever – they will switch Chris with El Capitan to create the most epic self-tape ever!

## FLIGHT

With possibly the worst plan ever, Chris and his friends set out to make the switch during a gala fund raiser at the Vizcaya Museum in Miami and as it turns out, they'd be in a whole lot of trouble if it weren't for crazy timing and outright dumb luck. Although succeeding in their efforts doesn't come as planned, they manage not only to make the switch but also fool everybody.

## RESOLVE

Having achieved their goal to prove Chris is an actor worth hiring, they decide it's time to reverse the switch however matters quickly go from bad to worse resulting in El Capitan and Chris facing off amidst the police and the DEA all on national t.v.

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# FINANCIAL

## FORCAST BUDGET

The Comedy genre is very popular on all platforms and can result in high return for investment if performed well. THE SHAM is written with budget in mind and contains elements of circumstantial and character humour.

THE SHAM incorporates two specific parameters which lend to lower the production budget significantly including a Dual role lead and Single location filming.

The role of Chris Rivers is a dual role with El Capitan and includes portions where Chris impersonates El Capitan, becoming 'Chris E.C.'.

In addition, locations outside of the vicinity of the Vizcaya Museum in Miami include only the neighboring school field, a studio office, apartment and a yacht. The script was written with the Vizcaya building and gardens in mind in order to minimise locations to only one primary shooting location.

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# WRITERS STATEMENT

Vizcaya Museum  
Cafe & Shop  
Takeout  
Vizcaya Museum  
& Gardens  
Art, antiques & gardens  
on Biscayne Bay

## INSPIRATION

Created and written by Johnathan Burns, THE SHAM intends to entertain audiences with witty characters and extraordinarily funny circumstances while an out of work actor attempts a ridiculous plan on the ill advice of friends. Inspired by great dual role characters played by the likes of Eddy Murphy and Thomas F. Wilson, it is my hope that THE SHAM can join the select list of films which are both clever and funny at the same time.

## CONTACT

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