

**Locked in a stall under
unspeakable conditions. . .**

**. . .Americans with
Disabilities act**



Logline

Trapped inside a wretched bathroom stall, two disabled veterans suffer serial atrocities as they plot an escape from their sadistic captors who challenge them to earn their freedom, and a chance to reverse their disabilities.

Summary

Length: Feature film (90 minutes)

Genre: Psychological Thriller / Horror

Audience: Adult; likely R (language, violence)

Characters:

- 2 Leads (male, 40-50)

- 1 Supporting (male, 30-35)

- 3-6 Tertiary players

Locations: 2; primary shoots – restroom, restaurant, gas station

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

What's the Appeal?

Builds on the popular and financially successful genre of movies in which innocent players (buddies, sometimes) are subject to abject torture before turning the tables on their tormentors. The *twist on the end* breaks the mold – the tortured protagonists don't seek revenge against their tormentors, instead they claim a life-changing prize for surviving their tribulations and proving their mettle.

A superb opportunity to cast paraplegic and blind actors, providing opportunities for publicity and endorsements, given the disabled protagonists prevail in the end despite impediments.

Combines two audience favorites: the sadistic imprisonment plot, along with the buddy movie trope.

Expense benefits from small cast, limited locations, contemporary setting, no special FX.

Story

Dick, a disabled veteran in a wheelchair ends up locked in an abandoned restroom stall after being poisoned at a truck stop diner. He suffers a barrage of disgusting treatments before discovering the presence in the restroom of another imprisoned man, Arthur, a blind black veteran. Dick later discovers the corpse of a man in an adjoining stall who Arthur confirms was deaf. They conclude disability is a common thread in their detention.

Unable to get out, the men bond over their shared military experiences and determine to collaborate on an escape plan. Aware that they are being monitored, Dick and Arthur struggle to communicate their ideas until they discover each speaks Arabic from their fighting days in the Middle East.

Dick fakes his suicide; Arthur helps sell the ruse to the tormentors. Prepared with crude weapons he fashioned inside the stall, Dick overtakes a guard who comes with a power saw to cut open the stall and retrieve his body. Dick uses the saw to free Arthur and the two bolt back out to the diner, chased by more armed guards. In an exhibit of teamwork, Arthur carries crippled Dick, and Dick calls out directions to blind Arthur.

Back in the diner, Dick and Arthur are greeted by several members of an altruistic consortium funding medical research. Having determined that the two men proved worthy, the leader of the consortium offers them a chance to have their disabilities reversed. Skeptical at first – and hungering for revenge – the men accept. A year later both men tee up on a golf course. Dick can walk and Arthur can see.

Main Characters

Dick

Middle-aged white man, wounded veteran of the Afghanistan War confined to a wheelchair. Refuses to use his disability for personal gain or to elicit sympathy from strangers. Harbors anger for his condition.

Capable of action despite his disability; Eminently qualified to turn lemons into lemonade.

Speaks Arabic.

Arthur

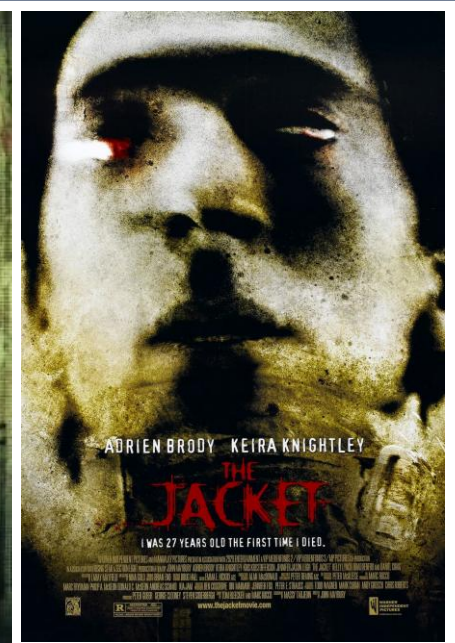
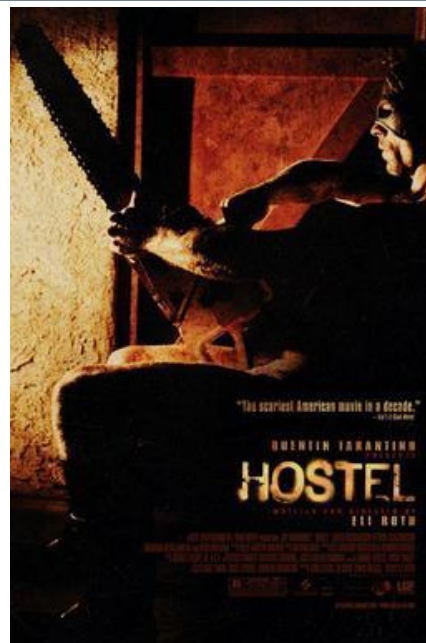
Middle-aged black man, blinded veteran of the Gulf War. Served in the Signal Corps.

Patient, thoughtful.

The Ego to Dick's Id.

Also speaks Arabic, in addition to knowing Morse Code.

Comps: Sadistic Imprisonment Themes



Saw

WW gross - \$104M

Entire franchise >\$1B

Get Out

WW gross - \$255M

Academy Award 2018
Winner Best Screenplay,
plus 3 other nominations

WGA 2018 Winner Best
Original Screenplay

Hostel

WW gross - \$82M

Empire Awards 2007
Best Horror

Austin Fantastic Fest
2005 Best Film

The Human Centipede

WW gross - \$325K

Screamfest 2009 Winner
Best Picture

Austin Fantastic Fest 2009
Winner Best Horror Film

The Jacket

WW gross - \$21M

Academy of SciFi 2006
Nominee Best Film

Writer Bio

Herb Schultz

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 Stoooper – A racetrack stoooper fights to recover a valuable lottery ticket that rightfully belongs to him.

Stalled – 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

Ronnie and Lennie 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



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The Script and More

Read the script at

www.majorterata.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Stalled.pdf

More screenplays at www.lextalionis-scripts.com

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Thank You

Stalled

Synopsis

Confined to a wheelchair, Dick pulls his van into a 24-hour gas station after a long day of traveling, and on the recommendation of the attendant, enters the nearby restaurant for dinner. He encounters numerous violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act on his way to a table. The Waiter recommends the special: a dish called Chicken Goonya.

After finishing dinner, Dick suffers an urgent need to go to the bathroom. Unable to fit into the restaurant bathroom, the Waiter escorts him to a shuttered motel in the back which has a handicap stall. Thankfully, Dick makes it on time – barely. Relieved and ready to depart, he finds himself locked in the stall, as he has broken off the handle in his rush to the toilet.

Before Dick can determine an exit plan, a number of crude and vile things happen just outside his stall. He makes a call for help but a sudden blackout disorients Dick and he drops his cell phone into the backed-up toilet. His attempt at retrieval is decidedly grim – and futile. He calls out for help. A fellow inmate, Arthur, replies it's no use. Arthur has been stuck in his stall for three days, and has no idea why. He notes that because he's blind, he's uncertain of the length of his forced stay.

Dick and Arthur explore theories on their predicament, and slowly establish a bond – as both were avid golfers and later veterans who acquired their injuries in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Eventually, the men devise a means of communicating without detection by the captors. Later, while Dick and Arthur sleep fitfully, the captors deliver more Chicken Goonya. The men revolt, with Dick pushing his plate back out of the stall with a pile of fresh crap upon it. Offended, the guy delivering the food sloshes bleach onto the plate and into Dick's stall. Dick sops up the bleach with his sweater in a gambit to escape.

Dick plans to fake his death by hanging, and when someone comes for him, he'll make a surprise attack. Dick has fashioned a shiv from a sharp piece of broken porcelain toilet tank lid. After Arthur calls out that Dick has killed himself, a guard enters wielding a power saw to cut open Dick's locked stall. As the guard cuts, Dick hastily urinates on the sweater creating a chemical reaction of poisonous phosgene. Once the guard enters the stall, Dick overtakes him with the soaked sweater. He stabs a second guard with the porcelain shard, and forces the gassed guard to piggyback him to Arthur's stall. Using the saw, Dick frees Arthur, and the two make an escape. Arthur can't see and Dick can't run. They must collaborate to escape.

The duo make their way to the restaurant where they encounter all the people who were in the restaurant that day they first stepped inside. One of them introduces himself as the chairman of a group of altruistic investors. He explains that the group is focused on conducting research and development to reverse debilitating handicaps.

Disturbed by the notion that these wealthy people used torture to cull disabled candidates down to a pair of worthy beneficiaries, Dick and Arthur push back on the offer to heal. But in the end, they accept.

Months later, Dick and Arthur tee it up on a golf course, completely healed and ready to get in 18.