

Script Treatment, d.1
Mike Merrill's currently untitled "one man" show
September 2015

Working Title(s)

Understanding Jason (Bateman)
I am Jason (Bateman)

Current Writers

Noah Dunham
Mike Merrill

Potential Log Lines:

"In your life's movie, who would play you?"
"When a life becomes a bio-pic"
"I am he and he is me."
"Walking in the shoes of the man who is walking in my shoes"
"A bio-play"
"Getting to know the man who will play me. On film."

Key Characters:

-Mike Merrill: the man who sold his fate to investors for \$1 a share.
-Jason Bateman: The younger brother of Family Ties star Justine Bateman, actor Jason Bateman has been a mainstay on television since the 1980s, starring in countless sitcoms of varying success (All Movie Guide). Currently set to direct and star in the film based off of Mike Merrill's life.
-Potential Side Characters: Mike's current significant other (a positive force in his life). Mike's ex-girlfriend (who may be portrayed negatively in the film). A hired actor who plays Mike (since Mike isn't a professional actor) who also plays Jason Bateman as well as the actor who would play Jason Bateman in Jason Bateman's bio-pic. Joshua Davis who wrote the *Wired* article that Fox Searchlight picked up to make a movie from.

The Spec:

The "what": Jason Bateman is starring (and directing in) the film based off of Joshua Davis' *Wired* article written about Portland Entrepreneur Mike Merrill who decided to sell publicly traded shares of his own life. The theatrical piece that is up for consideration will play in one-act, over the course of 30-60 minutes and will dig into the life and times of Jason Bateman as well as explore the surreal nature of having one's own real life events transposed into the fictional form.

The “who”: the main storyline will be about Jason Bateman as a celebrity and also just a dude, as much as he has been able to portray that through the lens of contemporary media. The parallel storyline will be about Mike Merrill who wants the opportunity to play Jason Bateman (at the very least on stage) since Bateman is playing him on film.

The “why”: to greater understand a culture’s need to create stories out of real life events.

The “where”: to be presented in a -to be determined- theater space in Portland Oregon. The setting of the show is currently amorphous.

Structure/Hypothetical Outline-

Part One: An introduction to Jason Bateman

Synopsis of early Life. Entrance into Hollywood entertainment. Reemergence as a credible star later on in his career. Past and current romances.

Conjecture on family dramas: Bateman and sister Justine supporting family through their early TV work. Bateman firing his father as manager.

Conjecture on how wild Bateman was behind the scenes on the set of *Teen Wolf Too*.

Conjecture on how Bateman was able to “save” his career and who he “slept” with in order to be cast as the leading role in *Arrested Development*.

Part Two: The current idea of Jason Bateman

Ideally this section would contain an exclusive interview with the man himself that would be shown via video (perhaps even a live streaming video call) or read theatrically by two actors. The interview could either be tongue and cheek or earnest.

*Barring that, this section would contain a theatrical reading of a current Jason Bateman interview.

And/or theatrical readings of tweets about Jason Bateman.

And/or theatrical readings of fan comments from Jason Bateman fan club websites.

And/or recent quotes from film reviews read by a current professional critic.

And/or recent quotes from Bateman about his life, career, and projects played by an actor playing Jason Bateman.

*In this section we could potentially introduce the actor who plays Jason Bateman.

Part Three: What Jason Bateman is to Mike

In this section Mike will play Mike and will tell the story of how his own life got picked up to become a vehicle for Jason Bateman's acting and directing career.

Mike may talk a bit on the surreal nature of this happening, bringing up some of the potential ramifications both positive and negative. How his life has changed since this has happened etc.

He asks the questions: in the movie about your life, who would play you? In the movie of Jason Bateman's life, who would play him?

Ultimately this final part will discuss the theme of life as artistic expression and what that means for those who are actually involved in the process of fictionalizing and dramatizing actual events, facts, feelings, and humans.