

the-phish-tank :: script

(Abstract)

A didactic pastiche of Dragons' Den – featuring an entrepreneur trying to make money, by sending fraudulent whatsapp-messages to high-flying CEOs. Four unamused dragons sequentially pull out, before receiving messages, inspiring a change of heart.

Length: ~2mins; 120sec.

(Cast index)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ▪ <narrator> evan (?) | → concerted, solicitous, earnest, calm, |
| ▪ pitcher (BM) | → wearing: tie + tyrwhitt blue shirt |
| ▪ <dragon> deborah (JC) | → wearing: pin-stripe suit |
| ▪ <dragon> peter (BM) | → posh accent |
| ▪ <dragon> duncan (??) | → harsh & scottisch |
| ▪ <dragon> theo (??) | → (west-country accent? "furt-uh-liza") |

(Props' checklist)

- briefcase or black cloth?
- mug with spider on?
- fake wads of bank-notes
- 2x glasses of water
- notepad + pen
- [BM] two shirts, a tie
- [JC] suit-jacket?
- spare iPhone SE + 1x other phone

(B-roll list)

- (timelapse of setting-up the SX80)
- straight/slant-on of [pitcher] standing still
- sweeping shot of the 4 empty chairs
- focus-shift close-up of the piles of money
- {?} sweeping shot behind dragon's head (JC) of idle pitcher (BM), for during voiceover
- <SX80> sweep(s) of dragons in chairs, + reverse, + zoom-ramp
- quick zoom-in to pitcher's head
- {?} close-up of sweat running down pitcher's forehead
- whilst one dragon is speaking, cut to another one shaking their head with raised eyebrows, as if the first is delusional
- (SX80 sequence: pan-left, pan-right, zoom-in-center, zoom-out)
- [duncan] <same actor> "Oh; peter – you've got the same trousers as me"
- <dragons...>
 - *scratches chin*
 - *fed-up cheek-puff*
 - *drinks glass of water {spits out?}*
 - *raised-eyebrows with one hand held-up to eye-sockets (or head in hands)*

- o *glances up looking very sceptical*
- o {?} *completely oblivious to other dragons, smiling with admiration*
- o *slanted close-up of a dragon scrawling onto notepad*
- o *smug & supercilious lean-back + raise jawline to look down nose at pitcher*
- o *raised eyebrows in disbelief, rotating head to side*
- o *nods head approvingly*
- o *hands steepled*
- o *shakes head*
- o *haughty laugh or scoff*
- o *gaping open mouth in shock*
- o *mouth slightly open; finger touching teeth with hand on chin*
- o *brings hand up to chin to rest on*
- o *inhales slowly and impatiently*
- o *raised eyebrows, & lowers head to scratch back of neck*
- o *head askance; squinting as if trying to understand*
- o *raises eyebrows*
- o [peter] *lurches forward & looks at {duncan?} with disdain*

Entering the den

shots for: [<empty chairs>, pitcher]

end-motif of theme-2 music; titles "The Phish Tank" on vignetted sweep shot of 4 empty chairs

interstitial-0 music takes over

[pitcher] **straightening tie, gestured deep-breaths, walking nervously & pathetically up the stairs**

[vo\evan] First in the den tonight, is an entrepreneur hoping to impress the dragons with *his* concept, for a revolutionary new *digital-persuasion* strategy.

The pitch

shots for: [pitcher, <...dragons>]

side-on shot of: pitcher entering set, with 4 dragons in their seats

[pitcher] Hello Dragons. Today I'd like to present *my* idea, of... sending fraudulent whatsapp-messages to (the) CEOs of fortune-500 multinationals.

I'm asking for 40-million pounds, in exchange for 1% of the business.

holds-up (de-cloths) iPhone with the whatsapp-msg; close-up hereof

As you can see, *each* message comes with a personalised extortion-threat, and features a pixelated profile-image lifted from social-media. Our distinguished team of *opportunistic crooks*, use only the *finest* unknown numbers, erroneous punctuation, and spoofed email-domains.

tagged text-labels showing: urgency and pressure, unknown number, out-of-the-blue, poor grammar & formatting, profile-picture manipulation, fake email-domain

with hands behind back; leaning forward I'll be happy to take, *any* questions.

Impugnments ensue

shots for: [pitcher, <...dragons>]

interstitial music starts; voiceover follows, with dragon-manerisms' close-ups

[vo\evan] A *ambitious* pitch, from a *determined* salesman... but has it persuaded the *dragons*, to part with their cash?

interstitial music stops

[duncan] **scottishly; bluntly** Right; why should I invest in a *criminal operation* (*undertaking*) like thess?

[pitcher] **smugly; manipulatively** (yes...) I prefer the term "*wealth-redistribution* strategy". We've already made a substantial **gets interrupted** turnover, and are forecast to...

[theo] **peremptorily; curtly; sceptically** How many of these have you actually sent?

[pitcher] **self-assuredly** Well – in the last *year*, we've worked with... M-and-S... CO-OP... Harrods... some *very* big (clients) (names) (brands).

close-ups of: impressed dragons

[vo\evan] Theo Paphitis seems *impressed*... but Debroah Meaden thinks *she's* spotted, a hole in the finances.

[deborah] **brusquely; cynically** Sorry, where are you getting these figures from... 40-million for 1-percent...?

[pitcher] **insistently; wryly** (well) We're a *formidable* force in the threat-landscape (, deborah).

[deborah] **dismissively; scornfully; impatiently** Right; what are you *even called*?

[pitcher] **caught off-guard; looking around room desperately** ("called"...) **stuttering** Err... scattered... uh, *spider*. **b-roll of: camera mimicking this searching eye-movement, then landing on a mug with web logo printed on side (or, if available, an actual spider)**

b-roll of: dragons' head-nodding + eyebrow-raising mannerisms

[deborah] **shaking head rapidly; recoiling** The only thing that's scattered *here*, is your chance of an investment; I'm out.

[duncan] No scalability, no ethics; I'm out.

[peter] Only 3 multinationals a *year*? For that reason, I'm out.

[theo] **as if looking for an excuse** I just... hate poor people. (so) I'm out.

Resolve & out

shots for: [pitcher, <...dragons>]

dragons' mannerisms' shots

[vo\evan] Things in the den, have taken a turn for the *worst*.
Changing the dragons' minds *now*, would take nothing *short*... of a *miracle*... **ding**

dragons sitting in row of 4 looking busy; comparing notes; talking cacophonously;
4x sudden "ding"s;
dragons freeze & abruptly stop talking; eyes squint in suspicion, then realisation;
dragons slowly draw phones from pockets;
theme-2 music starts from beginning;
few comments like "hold on; is this..." - with dragons pointing at pitcher;
change from slant/straight-on of the dragons, to a wide of the pitcher

[pitcher] **subtly; cunningly; looking directly into lens**
Knew I'd get them somehow. **zoom; wink; fade to black**

black screen with... "always report suspicious messages \n to information security", then "The dragons did not make an investment"