Screenplay Format

by

Keith Blount

Your name
Your address
Your phone number
Your email address

FADE IN:

INT. A MESSY LIVING ROOM - DAY

KB sits at his laptop, pondering upon the nature of
screenplay format. The INTERNET helps him.

                    KB
          How does this work then?

                    INTERNET
          We have an imaginary conversation
          about script format. It's not very
          sophisticated or imaginative, but
          you have a hangover.

                    KB
              (embarrassed)
          That's true. So it is easy to
          create a standard Hollywood-
          formatted screenplay in Scrivener,
          then?

                    INTERNET
          Fairly. This PDF file was in fact
          created in Scrivener, using the
          basic Screenplay project template.
          The text was typing using Script
          Mode from the Format >
          Scriptwriting menu, and then the
          whole thing was turned into a PDF
          file using Compile (File >
          Compile...).

                    KB
          Handy. Right, how should margins be
          set up, then?

                    INTERNET
          The left margin should be 1.5
          inches, all others should be about
          an inch. Scrivener's standard
          script elements start half an inch
          from the left margin in the editor,
          so if you print or export with one
          inch margins all around, everything
          should be dandy.

                    KB
          What about fonts?

                    INTERNET
          The standard is a Courier 12-point
          font.

KB thinks for a moment before continuing.

                    KB
          What about bold and italics? Can I
          use them?

                    INTERNET
          Hell no. No bold, no italics;
          nothing fancy. What do you think
          this is, a novel?

                    KB
          Can we go to another scene now?

Suddenly, KB gets sucked into the computer.

INT. INSIDE THE COMPUTER - DAY

KB looks around.

                    KB
               (looking around)
          What the--

                    INTERNET (V.O.)
          That was a scene heading. All caps.
          And this is a voice-over, for no
          particular reason.

                    KB
          Okay, so this is your basic script
          format, then. Okay. So how do I get
          my script out into Final Draft?

                    INTERNET (V.O.)
          Just select Final Draft (.fdx)
          format from the Compile dialog
          (File > Compile...). If you have a
          title page, be sure to tick "Add
          front matter" in the Contents pane
          and select the front matter folder
          from the drop-down menu button.

                    KB
          And what if I want to get my Final
          Draft script back into Scrivener?

                    INTERNET

You could just drag your FDX file
into Scrivener's binder or use File
> Import > Files....

                KB
Cool. Can I go home now? It's
teatime.

                                        FADE OUT.