

# Pencils Down

a short film

Written By

Suzanne Lenz, Rachel McPhee, and Elizabeth Wright-Williams





# Logline

When a woman discovers her co-worker dead at the office, she must immediately find her replacement or risk losing her own job.





# Synopsis

The film follows a woman who has just discovered her co-worker dead at the office. At her boss's behest she must find her replacement immediately in order to keep her own job. Through a harried interview process involving an overwhelmingly zealous candidate and her domineering celebrity boss (complete with a Girl Boss-esque podcast), she discovers that it doesn't matter how much you care about your job. Your job will never care about you.



# Characters



**BETHANY - THE BOSS**

Officious celebrity boss unfazed by the needs of others.



**SUSAN - THE EMPLOYEE**

Long-suffering employee trying to solve a crisis.



**BROOKE - THE CANDIDATE**

Overzealous candidate in desperate need of a job.



# Our Inspiration

A photograph of two women in an office hallway. The woman on the left is wearing a dark blazer and carrying a cardboard box labeled 'BANKERS BOX' which contains a green plant and a framed photograph. She is looking towards the woman on the right. The woman on the right has long, wavy blonde hair and is wearing a light-colored sweater, seen from the back. The background is a dark wood-paneled wall.

Inspired by our experiences of working in the world of finance, we've written a satire about the corporate culture of America. We've faced sexism, watched our bosses pretend to care about diversity, and dealt with the harmful cult-like personalities that are cultivated in the capitalist system. Through humor we intend to show how ridiculous, damaging, and ultimately deadly capitalism can be.



# Why Now?

We feel that this is an important story to tell. Our country continues to fracture under the pitfalls of the capitalist system with uber-wealthy people taking an outsized share of our limited resources leaving so many more to fall behind. By telling our story we hope to challenge people to think about what their job is doing to them and their fellow human beings, and maybe inspire them to consider an alternative reality is possible, and hopefully make them laugh along the way.







# Our Location

## One Vanderbilt - New York City

We plan to film in the brand new office building, One Vanderbilt, which offers floor to ceiling windows with sweeping views of all of midtown, including the Chrysler building and the Empire State Building, depending on which way you're turned. This location will provide the perfect set to skewer capitalism and will add a great deal of production value to our short.

<https://onevanderbilt.com/floors/>





# Our Team



Rachel McPhee

writer/actor

Rachel is an actor and producer. She received her BA at the University of Wisconsin and her Post Graduate Degree in Professional Acting from the Drama Studio London. Favorite acting credits include: *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Momsters*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *Vieux Carre* at the Pearl Theater and *The Footage* at the Flea. Most recently she produced and appeared in *Dead Shot Mary*, a solo show based on the phenomenal true story of Mary Shanley, one of the first women to be made first grade detective in the NYPD during the 1930s.

[www.rachelmcphee.com](http://www.rachelmcphee.com)



Suzanne Lenz

writer/actor

Suzanne is a producer, actress, and filmmaker. Recently, she produced the feature film *Every Man For Himself* directed by Gary Gardner and starring Daniel Sharman and Nicholas Logan, which had its world premiere at Cinequest Film Festival in 2023. She recently starred in the short films *Christmas Eve Eve Or: The Things I Can't Remember* (which she also wrote and directed) and *Two Women on a Bridge*. As an actress, she can be seen in the television shows *Silicon Valley*, *Crashing*, and *Blindspot*, and the feature films *Obvious Child*, *The Desiring*, and *Ricki and the Flash*. [www.suzannelenz.net](http://www.suzannelenz.net)



Elizabeth Wright-Williams

writer/actor

Elizabeth is an actor originally from South Dakota now based in NYC. Her favorite acting credits include, *Boardwalk Empire* (HBO), *Working Out The Kinks* (YouTube), *Redrum* (Investigation Discovery), *Peter Pan-S3xual* (NYC Panto), *The House of Joe*, *Romeo and Juliet Visit New York* (Be Bold Productions; The Players Theatre); *End of the Line*, *Shakespeare in the Park...ing Lot* (Long Island Theatre Collective) and *Henry Box Brown* (The Children's Theatre Company). Training: University of South Dakota (Musical Theatre); The Barrow Group (Acting). [www.elizabethmwright.com](http://www.elizabethmwright.com)



Network

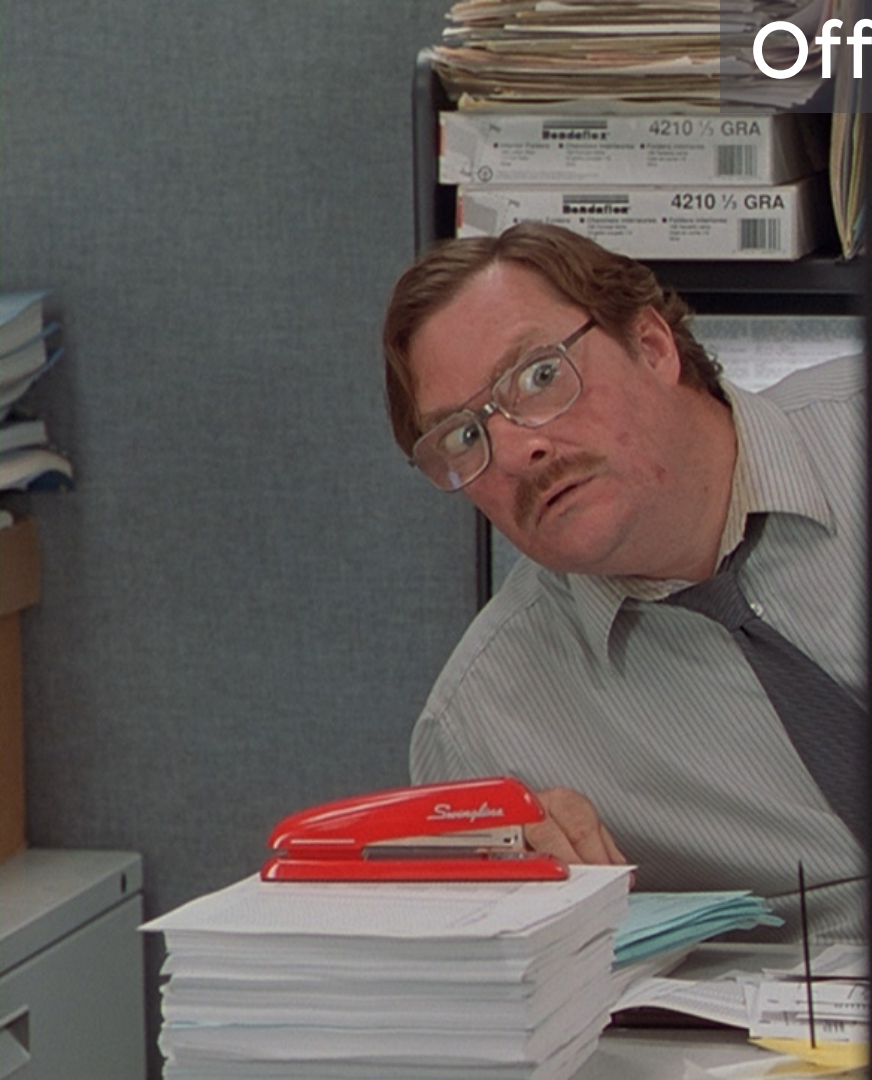


Succession



# Our References

Office Space



Severance





# PENCILS DOWN



Thank you.

suzannelenz2009@gmail.com  
502.724.8301