

Treatment for Angel Documentary

Purpose:

1. To highlight interesting life stories of a 72 year-old eccentric, Mexican immigrant woman named Angel.
2. To show her eccentric appearance and clothing style and how this affects others' perceptions of her.
3. To depict her relationships with other people: roommate, friends, store clerks, strangers.
4. To illustrate the significance of plants and animals in her life.
5. To discuss the importance of money by comparing her past experiences with wealth to her current situation, trying to acquire welfare and social security.
6. To characterize her daily activities: shopping, collecting, restoring, and selling.
7. To analyze her garage in terms of how it reflects her personality.
8. To motivate the audience to reevaluate misconceptions of craziness, eccentricity, and poverty by introducing themes of wisdom, independence, and generosity.
9. To exemplify reasons why society should respect and appreciate people like Angel for the unique perspective they provide.

Approach to the film:

The approach to filming will be open and documentary in style. The camera and crew will often serve as catalysts for documenting relevant information, making extensive use of informal interview. We will then observe the responses and activities of Angel and others as they interact with each other and the environment. The film will be shot using color DV Cam tapes. We expect the majority of our shots of Angel to occur outside, since she spends most of her time in this setting. Some common activities such as feeding the birds may need to be planned in advance in order to facilitate observation in an efficient manner. Otherwise, observation of activities will be spontaneous.

Content of the film:

1. Inside her garage, inside her life. As an opening shot, we will utilize the technique of slow disclosure to shoot a continuous CU pan/tilt of the objects that are stored inside the garage. This will be used to create suspense and spark curiosity among audience members. Music will be composed to accentuate the cluttered feeling of the space as the pan moves to disclose a silhouette of Angel at the front of the open garage (inside looking

out). This opening sequence is very important in establishing Angel's point of view. The audience should feel that they are inside her life looking out at the world.

2. The rummage sale. This sequence will be a handheld observation of Angel in action. She comes upon a rummage sale and immediately finds some items she wants to buy. These consist of an old, beat up metal tool cabinet on wheels and an aloe plant. She explains that she had been looking for something like this cabinet to store some of the smaller items in the garage. She pays ten dollars for it, and wheels it down the street to the garage. The transportation will be LS, with cutaways of the wheels getting stuck at every crack in the pavement. She will then admit that she cannot fit it inside the garage, so she will have to store it in the laundry room of the apartment complex.
3. Interview with Jessan Romans. Jessan is a tenant of the apartment complex where Angel's garage is. Most of the interview will be inside of her apartment (MCU), but some will occur outside (MCU-MS). She explains her perception of Angel and her garage, that the clutter represents disruption of energy flow, and that she feels that Angel has a lot of deep-seated dilemmas that she holds inside. This testimony will be used as a possible parallel of Angel's obsession with collecting so much junk and holding it in such a compact space.
4. Significance of the garage. MS of Angel in front of the garage. She says she does not like the clutter, and that every home she ever lived in was simple and organized. She explains that because of her current living situation (sleeping and showering at a friend's apartment), she must have some other space to store all of her belongings.
5. Some things cannot be contained within the space they are allotted. Angel talks about four broken chairs and a table she acquired, and her plans to restore and sell them. MS Jessan on her patio with these items behind her, explaining that these things are stored on her patio, and that she does not think Angel will ever get around to fixing them. Another interesting parallel arises: as a small, tightly packed space, the garage is symbolic of a cage, keeping a free spirit contained.
6. Riches to rags— her struggle with independence and work. While feeding birds in a vacant parking lot (LS), Angel explains her experiences with welfare and social security (MS). She tells of the “runaround” at the welfare office, and that she never receives any financial assistance from these programs because the system is very difficult to deal with. MCU Angel in front of garage talking about her being in wealthy marriages. She explains that she acquired all of her properties when her first husband passed away, and she lost them in a divorce to her second husband. She continues explaining how she quickly lost all of her money and her cars—a victim of bad lawyers and of circumstance. Cut to CU Angel in front seat of car talking about cars she once owned and was later forced to live out of. MS Angel in front of garage explaining her past work experiences. Overlapping voiceover with establishing shots of properties and stores she owned at one time. LS and MS of Angel in front of properties in Ocean Beach as she shares her memories of that time in her life (almost twenty years ago). MS Angel in front of garage, talking about her struggle to find work. MS Angel walking with Vons sign in

background. Voiceover of Angel talking about the discrimination she experiences when she shops at Vons, and that her roommate attributes it to the way she dresses. She expresses confusion about this conclusion. Interview with Vons clerk telling stories of discrimination with Angel. Andra (friend and property manager of garage) and Angel will tell a story when they went into Vons together and almost got kicked out.

7. Shopping excursion at Target. While walking in the store, Angel tells a story of an argument she got into with a cashier who gave her the wrong change. Interview of store manager of Target. He makes reference to her eccentric clothing style, but states that she keeps to herself and does not bother anyone. He says that she is there almost every day buying plants. MS Angel talking about plants at Target.
8. Gardening and animals. Mellow music accompanying a flowing montage of various shots of Angel gardening, the eccentric plant arrangements outside the garage, the cats she feeds, and her pet white rabbit who hops freely around the complex. Interview with Andra the property manager and friend of Angel's talking about significance of plants and animals.
9. Kindness and generosity. Jessan reading a get well soon card from Angel. She explains that Angel gives flowers and cards to all of the tenants who talk to her. Interview with Lisa and Josh, other tenants, and others who experience Angel's random acts of kindness.