

TV NEWS REPORT

DR. ALLEN SHRIVER, a mathematician, is scribbling equations on a chalk board.

DR. ALLEN SHRIVER

What he did was amazing. The Oxford English Dictionary contains full entries for 171,476 words in current use. The mathematical chances that he could line the words up into the right order. Thus creating the perfect script. Well, the odds as reflected in this equation I have here is 10 to the power-

CUT TO:

TV NEWS REPORT

A YOUNG GIRL (early 20's) is in front of a movie theater.

YOUNG GIRL

(Enthusiastically)

The "Saga of the Prairie Winds" is the best I have ever seen. I never thought I would care for a movie about love in the time of war. Way better than "Titanic".

CUT TO:

TV SHOW- AT THE MOVIES WITH EBERT AND ROEPRER

RICHARD ROEPRER

In this week's episode we preview the Academy Awards. And make our predictions. Is this Martin Scorsese year again with "Saga of the Prairie Winds"? Plus-

CUT TO:

EXT. KODAK THEATER - ACADEMY AWARDS - RED CARPET AREA

The ACTORS, ACTRESSES and other MOVIE CELEBRITIES are taking part in the annual pageant of the red carpet ceremonies.

CUT TO:

TV INTERVIEW - RED CARPET AREA -MARTIN SCORCESE

MARTIN SCORCESE

(Talking to an off screen  
interviewer.)

It is hard work to find a script  
you feel passionately about. So I  
feel very blessed to find the  
script. And to have a talented  
writer behind it made the process  
so much more. It was-

INT. KODAK THEATER - ACADEMY AWARDS - STAGE

NICOLE KIDMAN is opening an envelope.

NICOLE KIDMAN

And the Oscar for Best Original  
Screenplay goes to... Rob Barnett  
for "Saga of the Prairie Winds".

The AUDIENCE applauds.

ROB BARNETT (30's) stands up and makes his way to the stage.  
He shakes hands on his way. He walks to the podium and  
accepts his Oscar statue from Nicole Kidman as he goes to  
the microphone.

ROB BARNETT

Wow. I would like to thank the cast  
and crew. Especially Martin  
Scorsese. As a screenwriter you  
work hard to say the right things.  
So let me just say...AAAHHHHHHHHH!

The Audience is shocked.

CUT TO:

INT. ROB BARNETT'S HOME- LIVING ROOM-EVENING

The room is decorated for Christmas. There is a tree in the  
corner. Rob is sitting on the end of a couch. He is holding  
a laptop computer.

ROB BARNETT (CONT'D)  
AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

JENNIFER (30's) runs into the living room.

JENNIFER  
Honey. What's wrong?

ROB BARNETT  
This script. Driving me nuts!  
What's so hard about writing five  
pages?

Jennifer sits down next to him.

ROB BARNETT (CONT'D)  
Five pages should be simple.

JENNIFER  
Just take a breath. You'll get it.

ROB BARNETT  
Do you want to know what the  
perfect Christmas gift for me is?

JENNIFER  
What's that?

ROB BARNETT  
To only have to do one rewrite on  
this script.

JENNIFER  
And how many have you done?

ROB BARNETT  
So far. Seven.

JENNIFER  
Maybe next year.

ROB BARNETT  
Why not this year?

JENNIFER  
I'm done Christmas shopping. And I  
wouldn't know where to find what  
you need.

Jennifer snuggles up to Rob.

ROB BARNETT  
Me neither.

FADE OUT.