

Generations

Accidental iconic movie phrases

Sure, we've all seen the movie classic "Casablanca" and many of us wait patiently until Bogey delivers his enduring, "Here's looking at you, kid," line with that gravelly voice.

But, actually, the line was nowhere in the script. It was invented by Bogart but he only said it to Bergman whenever they played poker on set. The writers heard him say it and decided to put it in the script, and the rest is history for one of America's beloved classic.

One of the most famous movie lines came from "A Few Good Men" and featured Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, Kevin Bacon and Jack Nicholson.

Although there were many moments of unplanned action and lines, the most famous unscripted line came from Nicholson whose, "You can't handle the truth," became synonymous with one of cinema's finest actors. It, too, was nowhere in the script.

The line "You talking to me?" was improvised by Robert De Niro in "Taxi Driver." While the original script by Paul Schrader stated that De Niro's character should talk to himself in front of a mirror, De Niro came up with the line himself and it's been used time and time again by other actors and standup comics imitating De Niro.

I don't know what it was about Marlon Brando, but the moment I first saw him in the movie, "The Men," it was love at first sight and an admiration that grew with "Streetcar Named Desire" and "On the Waterfront." The talk in Hollywood was that although Brando was a superb actor, he had a reputation of going offscript.

A "method actor," he immersed himself in a character, developing traits and nuances he interpreted as part of the character's psyche. One of the memorable examples of him going offscript was during a scene in "Apocalypse Now." While rehearsing for his role of Colonel, Brando was being difficult to work with

and refused to learn the lines in the script. In fact, he jokingly used the script as a paper hat and Francis Ford Coppola dared not stop him for fear of losing him. By the time the film was over, Brando had improvised Colonel's dialogue for a total of 18 minutes

and the movie, of course, was a smash hit.

One of the best scary movies of all time was "Jaws," but it was Roy Scheider's "You're gonna need a bigger boat," completely off script, that stole the scene. Steven Spielberg decided to leave it in.

In "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back," Han and Leia tenderly say goodbye to each other and Leia even says, "I love you." However, the director felt that something was missing and asked Ford to reply how he felt. Ford also thought that his character's response was not authentic and opted to reply, "I know." Somehow that fit perfectly even though it must have been a letdown for Leia (and a bit flat for Carrie Fisher).

With so many memorable moments in "Forest Gump," it's difficult to know which scenes were really improvised as well as the scripted ones, but one improvised moment was when Forrest and Bubba meet. Tom Hanks introduces the character this way: "My name is Forrest Gump. People call me Forrest Gump." Director Robert Zemeckis thought this was a stroke of genius and kept it in the film, completely offscript by Hanks.

There's "Make my day" from Clint Eastwood and "I'll be back" by Arnold Schwarzenegger, but sometimes something said by mistake can affect the whole plot of a movie yet still keep people guessing until the final credits. For instance, take "Citizen Kane." Not only was it directed and written by the great Orson Welles, he also starred in

it and with so much to handle, it was only natural that the movie would have some improvised moments. But no one could have predicted that during the opening of the movie, Welles says "Rosebud" instead of "No, my sled ..." which is what it was originally supposed to be. It's only until the last scene that we put it all together. And Welles liked his blunder so much that he decided to leave it that way.

"Annie Hall" has always been one of my favorite movies but the scene where Woody Allen and Diane Keaton visit Hollywood and someone offers Woody some white powder, which is supposed to be cocaine, is perhaps one of the funniest ad-libs. Woody, always the perfectionist, needed to examine the prop more closely, but didn't count on the powder going up his nose, making him sneeze, and the powder going everywhere. The whole crew thought it was hilarious and they decided to keep it in the film.

And in "The Godfather," a stray cat wandered onto the movie set and Brando being as unpredictable as ever decided to do something different, so he lifted the cat onto his lap. It became memorable to see tough guy Vito Corleone lovingly stroke a cat — Coppola loved it and the rest they say is history.

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