

Adam Jay Epstein and Andrew Jacobson

Writing team Adam Epstein and Andrew Jacobson wasted no time finding success in Hollywood after college.

There are those writers who struggle for years to get that first break, working countless unappealing jobs until that magic phone call arrives. Then, there's Adam Jay Epstein and Andrew Jacobson.

Writers of *Not Another Teen Movie* and an upcoming slate of other motion picture and television comedy pictures, they found success in Hollywood soon after graduating college.

Epstein grew up in Long Island, N.Y. and attended Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

"I studied film and economics," Epstein said. "After college, I moved out here to Los Angeles knowing no one the summer after college. I really didn't know what I wanted to do in the business because the closest I ever came to Hollywood was the Universal Studios tour."

Epstein began temping and wrote during his evenings. On one of his temp gigs, he met Jacobson, and the two became friends.

Jacobson grew up in Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He studied journalism and wanted to try Hollywood after college.

"I thought that I wanted to be a writer," Jacobsen said. "Like Adam, I was working as an assistant and wrote a couple scripts after work."

Epstein was staying at UCLA for temporary summer housing. When he saw "an opportunity to latch onto a smart and successful guy in Jacobson," they started writing together.

"We'd work together in the office until six," Epstein said. "We'd take 20 minutes for dinner, then head off to a coffee shop to write all night."

Jacobsen added, "We tried a shoddy, short, spoofy film to try to get some attention around town for our scripts, and that additionally led to us getting management and the writing assignment on *Not Another Teen Movie*."

"We did it backwards," Epstein said. "We started our career with rewrites and are only now selling original material. But, I think it is possible to have a different level of passion for your own material as opposed to a rewrite, so we're always working on original scripts."

Off their recent feature success, the team wants to transition to television. They're working on an update of the 1970's classic, *Three's Company*. In their sitcom pilot, a young guy moves in with two ex-girlfriends, and hilarity ensues.

"We liked action movies," Epstein said. "But, we shifted into comedy because we're young guys who everyone sees as 'young funny guys.' We found out that comedy was scary -- the toughest genre to write."

"As a writer and someone who loves movies," Jacobson said, "I think I always want to be doing something different and writing in every genre. But, as a team, I think we do well at comedy set pieces. We tried different genres, but none of them was sticking. Finally, we tried comedy. That drew the attention of our managers."

Their work on *Not Another Teen Movie* provided a fast turn-around. The team got the job in August, wrote their script in September, and the film was green-lit in November. Shooting started by late January, 2001.

"So many people have five or six unproduced scripts, but our first went." Epstein added. "So, we wished we'd had a few more unproduced to sell. But, our work is coming together now."

"But, we feel like we haven't yet made it," Jacobson added. "Though we've done a little bit of everything in the business, we still feel like we're on the fringes."

"We're constantly in a process of coming up with new ideas," said Epstein. But, we're pretty busy on assignments."

Jacobsen added, "We hope the TV series will go, and we'll shoot the pilot in January." About This Author
John Scott Lewinski writes books, screenplays, short stories, interactive games, sketch comedy and

magazine articles out of Los Angeles, CA. Simon & Schuster will publish his short story, "Devils in Gray" in a late 2002 science fiction anthology. A winner of multiple screenwriting contests, Lewinski's latest book, Screenwriter's Guide to Agents & Managers is available from Allworth Press. He may be reached at: John Scott Lewinski