

SCRIPT COVERAGE
CONFIDENTIAL

TITLE: OPERATION HARMONY

GENRE: Action Comedy

TYPE/DRAFT/PAGES: 42

TIME/PLACE: Cairo; Los Angeles — present day

STUDIO:

PRODUCTION COMPANY:

SUBMITTED FOR:

PRODUCER:

DIRECTOR:

TALENT:

PROJECT STATUS:

COVERAGE REQUESTED BY: Caitlin Lawrie

DATE: August 24, 2020

READER: Phil Hawkins

LOGLINE: Mercedes and Michael Sparrow, a high-profile cabaret duet from Los Angeles, get caught up in an international weapons trade while performing in Egypt. When the FBI wants to use them as an asset, they gleefully break into the high-stakes world of espionage.

SYNOPSIS: JAMES, an undercover FBI agent, scales the side of an upscale hotel-palace in Cairo on a top secret mission to prevent a black market sale of plutonium to the hotel's owner, RUHAK. He successfully breaks in and secures the payload (a computer chip) but is seriously wounded in the process. Desperately, he leaves the computer chip with MICHAEL & MERCEDES SPARROW, a talented American duet performing at the hotel.

The Sparrows are stopped in the airport after returning to Los Angeles by PAUL, an FBI agent who is also James' twin brother. Paul informs them Ruhak is a heavy arms dealer and recovers the computer chip from Mercedes. To Paul's chagrin, his colleagues believe the Sparrows may be an asset, as their history of high-profile performances grants them access to some of FBI's Most Wanted. Paul later receives a phone call from James, who tells him the Sparrows make the perfect cover.

Paul pays the Sparrows a visit at their luxury Beverly Hills estate, left to Mercedes by her wealthy inventor grandfather. Paul recruits Mercedes and Michael to a mission in New York City to prevent Ruhak from making another plutonium trade—which they enthusiastically accept. The three of them arrive undercover at the hotel in New York, but Ruhak and his henchman HANS immediately see through their facade. Ruhak corners the Sparrows into a trap but they miraculously fight him off long enough for Paul to secure the plutonium from Hans. Returning from a successful mission, Paul preps for the Sparrow's next assignment.

CHARACTERS:

AGENT JAMES JOHNSON (male, 40s) — A wisecracking, fearless, undercover international spy on another mission to save the world from certain destruction. But after a close encounter with death, he begins to wonder if the life of a spy is still for him.

AGENT PAUL JOHNSON (male, 40s) — James' stern twin brother who coordinates the operation from FBI Headquarters. Put off by his brother's unorthodox methods, he slowly comes around to the Sparrow's potential.

MERCEDES SPARROW (female, 40s) — Captivating cabaret vocalist and heiress to a vibrator empire, Mercedes lives a lavish and glamorous life traveling the world performing for the highest echelons of society. Believes all things are possible with the power of song.

MICHAEL SPARROW (male, 40s) — Performs on stage with his sister Mercedes, sharing in the life of luxury. After receiving a mysterious object from a strange man in Egypt, he realizes he's stumbled on something big, and he's all too excited to find out what.

RUHAK (male, 60s) — International black market arms dealer whose big sale is foiled by the FBI. Eager to complete his sale, he begins to suspect the involvement of his favorite cabaret duet who always seem to be in the wrong place at the right time.

CPT. GRAVES (male, 60s) — Top brass at the FBI, stern but patient. While supervising James and Paul on their missions, the Captain notes a tactical advantage provided by Mercedes and Michael, and urges Paul to craft the Sparrows into FBI assets.

TECH SGT. MONET (male, 20s) — Young and a bit nerdy, Monet always keeps the gadgets up and running during big-time FBI missions.

COMMENTS:

VERDICT:

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

POOR

PREMISE

Original premise that spotlights the life of a quirky cabaret duet against the backdrop of a more stereotypical espionage story. Held together largely by "action/thriller" tropes and flashy, entertaining performances from Mercedes and Michael.

STORY/STRUCTURE

Story opens in the middle of an FBI operation and introduces us to Mercedes and Michael through one of their on-stage performances. Sticks primarily with the "A" plot and uses happenings at the FBI to advance the story while giving us glimpses into Mercedes and Michael's relationship. James is the only loose end—he's featured

prominently in the first 10 pages but then mysteriously decides to go “off the grid” (p. 26) and is absent from the rest of script.

CHARACTER/DIALOGUE

The dynamic between Mercedes and Michael is the highlight of the piece and the source of much of the humor, although it is unclear why they wish to engage with the FBI apart from being wealthy. Paul comes off as more of a generic character who becomes a “straight man” when joined with Michael and Mercedes. Ruhak also has a prominent role: first appearing as a charming business mogul but quickly revealing himself to be the villain.

PRACTICALITY

The script capitalizes on the trend of musical-infused shows and uses it to inject some comedy into an FBI spy thriller. Includes a balanced mix of high-stakes action scenes and pop music covers. Has the potential to be an entertaining off-beat action spoof riding on the performance of Mercedes and Michael.

RECOMMEND CONSIDER PASS