

[REDACTED]

Read BUNNICULA this weekend. Here are some thoughts:

Conceptually, this could be a winner, and in terms of structure, the first act is pretty solid. For a family film, the characters, the humor, and the interruption of their world are clear and introduced at the appropriate moments. You've shown a pretty keen sense for "safe, family-friendly" comic timing throughout, and definitely have a good understanding of the expectations of the genre, which for many writers can be tough to understand or nail down properly.

Focus your next draft mainly on pulling together the plot. For instance, the flashbacks tend to do more harm than good, especially in the beginning. Although the script is adaptation, don't feel constrained to stay entirely true to the original source material, which I'll assume is why at least some of the flashbacks are included--to easily instill some backstory. Once the bunny is brought home, however, the story tends to get a bit static. There is never a real sense of urgency or threat against Chester or Harold. Work on increasing the conflict Harold or both face. You may even want to focus the majority of the plot on those characters in particular, and give Mr. and Mrs. Monroe more or less a backseat to the primary action. You've done so for the most part, it's just a matter of building upon the protagonist/antagonist relationship. Even in this genre, humor, drama, and everything in between will arise from the conflict.

Dialogue, too, should be placed as a priority the next go-around. Comedy in this genre is, to me, the toughest to write, so it'll be work-in-progress. You've laid excellent groundwork, it's just an element that needs polishing. Keep dialogue brief, or relatively brief, so instead of longer paragraphs, restrict lines to a handful of sentences. There are exceptions, of course, such as Harold's voice-over near the end, but bear that in mind that brevity is encouraged, as a general rule. . . .

Also, on a technical note, try not to name specific songs to be used (like on P. 16). Instead, you can simply write, "MONTAGE TO MUSIC (e.g. The Pipkins)." or a song suggestion in parentheses when applicable and if necessary.

The script definitely has potential for a family/animal/mystery genre, and the tone will keep younger audiences engaged throughout, but the plot needs a greater hook and dialogue must be smoothed out before you start circulating the script. Stick with it, though--love the concept.

Hope that helps.