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**The Writing Works**

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**Formations Exhibit Design  
Odyssey Productions, Inc.**

**STEINBECK:  
Experimenter, Philosopher, Traveler, Writer**

Final Script

STEINBECK:  
 Experimenter, Philosopher, Traveler, Writer

FADE IN:

A COMPLEX AND ARTFUL LAYERING OF IMAGES FROM STEINBECK'S  
 LIFE AND WORK THAT ILLUSTRATE THE THEMES OF THE TITLE

For example:

1. Begin with an extreme closeup of the curves of letters and pull back to reveal a page of manuscript.

2. Perhaps an anemone moving its tentacles in turquoise waters -- a film poster for "The Wayward Bus" -- gardening tools -- the book cover of "Cup of Gold" -- animation of hunters from "Travels with Charley."

**NARRATOR:** (voiceover)  
 (possibly Gary Sinese)

*"I'm afraid I will have to build  
 a whole new kind of expression  
 for it. And maybe go nuts  
 doing it."*

SO WROTE THE

EXPERIMENTER.

3. Perhaps: Black/white photo of Dust Bowl migrants -- royalty in tiaras and tuxedos dining in an elegant ballroom -- sharpened pencil points -- the screenplay for "Viva Zapata!" -- a frog with its neck bulging as it croaks.

*"It's not taking it easy that  
 matters, but taking it right and  
 true."*

SO SPOKE THE

PHILOSOPHER.

4. Perhaps: A temple in Israel -- a film poster for "The Moon is Down" -- mariachis playing in a Mexican zocalo -- farmers working in a French vineyard -- Russians walking past the Kremlin.

*"In America, writers are considered just below acrobats and just above seals."*

SO THE TRAVELER TOLD A  
RUSSIAN INTERVIEWER.

5. Perhaps: The playbook from "Of Mice and Men" -- a field of wild California poppies -- the book cover of "Tortilla Flat" -- John's dog Jiggs -- an early manuscript written in a bookkeeping ledger.

*"I have always recognized that I did not have great talent, but rather relied on the whip to make me over-leap my limitations."*

SO PROTESTED THE  
NEVER-SATISFIED WRITER.

6. A photograph of John Steinbeck appears over his handwriting in the manuscript.

SUPER TITLE: **Steinbeck**

**Experimenter, Philosopher, Traveler, Writer**

THE WRITER,

JOHN STEINBECK.

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*picks up again at Scene 19*

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19. Photographs of Ed Rocketts in his lab -- the exterior of the lab building -- the Monterey coastline.

A FAVORITE GATHERING  
PLACE WAS ED RICKETT'S  
MARINE BIOLOGY LAB ON

CANNERY ROW IN NEARBY  
MONTEREY.

PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE  
FILLED LONG  
CONVERSATIONS THAT  
DREW THE TWO MEN INTO  
A DEEP FRIENDSHIP.

20. Photographs such as: the agents McIntosh and Otis - the *North American Review* that published his first two pony stories -- rejection letters -- the book cover from "Pastures of Heaven" -- John in those years.

IMPRESSED WITH HIS  
TALENT,  
LITERARY AGENTS  
MCINTOSH AND OTIS SIGNED  
HIM TO A CONTRACT ...  
... BUT REJECTIONS  
OUTNUMBERED THE FEW  
MANUSCRIPTS SOLD.

JOHN WROTE TO A FRIEND,

*"Still have no money. Both of us are beginning to worry. I am 33."*

21. Scenes might be: the book cover for "Tortilla Flat" -- the film poster for the movie version -- the *NY Times* best-seller list.

TORTILLA FLAT CHANGED  
EVERYTHING.  
THE HUMOROUS NOVEL HIT  
THE BEST-SELLER LIST.  
  
THEN HOLLYWOOD CALLED.  
  
WITH ROYALTIES AND FILM  
RIGHTS,  
THE STEINBECKS WERE NO  
LONGER POOR.

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*This is five pages of 24 pages*

*To see the complete script, contact me at [matrazzo@msn.com](mailto:matrazzo@msn.com)*

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