

SALMAN RUSHDIE'S MASTERCLASS

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. LOW LIT ROOM - NIGHT

Bespectacled SALMAN RUSHDIE (73), sits eruditely on a comfortable chair. He's wearing a blazer with a nice shirt underneath.

SALMAN RUSHDIE  
(to an O.S. camera man)  
This is for the trailer?  
(beat)  
Start now?  
(beat)  
Okay.

Salman Rushdie CLEARS his throat. He raises his hands from his lap so that his fingertips now touch. Erudite AF. Inspiring music PLAYS before he speaks.

SALMAN RUSHDIE (CONT'D)  
Many of you may know me as a novelist. That is true. But many of you may not know that I am also a prolific Subway Sandwich Artist.

Inspiring MUSIC plays in background.

SALMAN RUSHDIE (CONT'D)  
We need Subway sandwiches.  
(beat)  
We need Subway sandwiches to understand ourselves.

TITLE CARD: MEET YOUR NEW INSTRUCTOR

Inspiring MUSIC stops.

SALMAN RUSHDIE (CONT'D)  
We're the only creature that does this unusual thing... of going to Subway for a foot long meatball sandwich in order to try and understand the kind of creature that we are.

TITLE CARD: "SALMAN RUSHDIE IS A SANDWICH ARTIST OF PRODIGIOUS POWERS" - THE NEW YORK TIMES

SALMAN RUSHDIE (CONT'D)  
When a child is born, the first thing the child requires is safety and love.

TITLE CARD: 15X SANDWICH ARTIST OF THE MONTH

SALMAN RUSHDIE (CONT'D)

The next thing, the child asks for,  
is: Get me a Subway Sandwich.

TITLE CARD: SALMAN RUSHDIE TEACHES THE ARTISTRY OF A SUBWAY SANDWICH

SALMAN RUSHDIE (CONT'D)

I've been a sandwich artist now,  
for over fifty years. And this is  
the first time, I've done anything  
like this.

(beat)

You will learn the lessons I had to  
find out the hard way.

(beat)

Sauce distribution, bread cutting,  
the order in which to place certain  
vegetables.

(beat)

I do think being a Sandwich Artist  
has a musicality. There's all this  
stuff about what meat goes with  
what bread, exactly how much time  
you must warm up the sweet onion  
chicken teriyaki.

(beat)

My view is... it's all nonsense.

(beat)

The first and only rule is: be  
interesting. Make your sandwich as  
vivid as you can.

(beat)

POW!

(beat)

As an exercise, make three hundred  
sandwiches without any tomatoes.  
And if you can't say that one of  
those subs isn't beautiful, or  
tasty, what it forces you to do is  
to push the envelope.

TITLE CARD: "RUSHDIE IS A DEAN OF THE ITALIAN B.M.T." -  
REUTERS

Salman Rushdie is holding a sub sandwich.

SALMAN RUSHDIE (CONT'D)

I'm going to show you this sub I  
made in my mid twenties...

(beat)

It was a failure.

(MORE)

SALMAN RUSHDIE (CONT'D)

So much so that I never showed it  
to anybody till this.

(beat)

Ugghhh.

Salman Rushdie embarrassingly opens up the rotten sandwich.  
Inspiring MUSIC plays again in the background.

SALMAN RUSHDIE (CONT'D)

You see, I don't even know what  
that's about.

(beat)

I had a very bumpy start. And to be  
frank I made a lot garbage  
sandwiches.

(beat)

Part of the reason why I was lost,  
is that I had grown up in one  
culture and was living in another.  
And I didn't quite understand my  
relationship with either.

(beat)

I really needed to work out who I  
was, because, if you're not clear  
about who you are, then you're not  
clear about how to be a sandwich  
artist.

(beat)

Whatever sandwich you make, make it  
from some deep place inside you  
that you really, really, really  
need to express.

(beat)

Just make sure you don't stop till  
you get to the end.

(beat)

I'm Salman Rushdie and this, is my  
MasterClass.

Inspiring MUSIC stops.

SALMAN RUSHDIE (CONT'D)

(to an O.S. camera man)

Will that do?

(pause)

Okay.

Salman Rushdie gets up from the comfortable chair.

FADE OUT.

**THE END**