

## **Apollo – Story Plan**

### **Act One – Launch**

*Three men are launched towards their destiny.*

### **Act Two – Outward Bound**

*The Astronauts leave the Earth's gravitational pull, entering deep space and fully committing to their goal. There is no turning back from here. In this unforgiving and alien environment the men spend three days contemplating what lies ahead.*

### **Act Three – The Landing**

*Two of the men leave the third behind and head down to the surface.*

## **Act One**

*We see excited crowds gathering in anticipation of the Launch.*

*We see the Rocket lift off.*

*We see the ship high above the earth, leaving its atmosphere. Inside the astronauts are being shaken to hell but are loving every second. They're on their way.*

*Neil is focused on the myriad of dials and instruments before him, monitoring altitude and communicating with Houston.*

*Flashback to Apollo 1 disaster.*

*The crew begin to experience weightlessness for the first time on their journey. They've all felt it before but the sensation never gets old. 2 minutes later they experience the first sunrise over earth, a spectacularly beautiful sight that they are all in awe of. Collins tries to find the camera they've brought with them but it's floated off somewhere.*

*Mission control gives Apollo 11 the 'go' for translunar injection (TLI) – leaving Earth orbit and heading for deep space.*

*Neil's wife back on Earth. Left behind. Can we get Mike & Buzz's wives in there too?*

## **Act Two**

*Cut back to spacecraft*

*Caption: 00:03:49:40  
17032 miles from Earth*

*Apollo 11 whizzes through the strange stretch of space between the Earth and the moon, where even though you're travelling at thousands of miles an hour it feels like you're hardly moving because there's NOTHING there. As they do so, the Earth falls further and further behind them until they can see the whole disc through the window.*

*This cosmic vision of 'Spaceship Earth' deeply moves them – it looks so small and defenseless in the black of space. Borders cannot be seen. It looks unified. The concept of war between the people who share this fragile home seems ridiculous.*

*They realize that they may never return.*

*Introduce RICHARD NIXON.*

*The crew eat lunch (Hot Dogs – the first genuine Frankfurters in space) then make a live television broadcast, joking around and playing up to the camera – Aldrin does zero-g push-ups, Neil stands on his head, Collins rotates the camera and tells the people of Earth 'Hold onto your hats, I'm going to turn you upside down'. The transmission ends with Neil saying: 'As we pan out to the distance at which we see the Earth, it's Apollo 11 signing off'.*

*At the end of Day 3 the astronauts find it hard to sleep – tomorrow, they reach the moon.*

*Flashback to Buzz's story. Childhood, Korean War, Joining NASA. Forever in the shadow of his Father.*

*Buzz wants to be the first man on the moon.*

## **Act Three**

*The crew awaken to a spectacular view of the moon directly backlit by the sun – a giant lunar eclipse. Only 6 men in history have ever seen anything like this before, but none of them had set down on it, and that is what Neil and Buzz must soon do.*

*Houston gives Apollo 11 the 'go' for LOI (Lunar Orbit Insertion) which involves firing the service propulsion engine for just under six minutes, braking Apollo 11 down to a speed that allowed the moon's gravity to trap the spacecraft and reel it into orbit. This is the moment of truth, if the computer gets it wrong by just one digit they could turn around and blast themselves into an orbit headed for the sun.*

*The burn goes beautifully and they enter Lunar Orbit, moving around the far side of the moon and losing contact with Houston for 23 minutes*

*Flashback to Neil's story. The tragedy of his daughter.*

*Sunday arrives and Neil and Buzz enter the lunar module.*

*Mike is now the most alone man in the universe. As he watches his friends disappear out of view he realizes that if anything goes wrong he will be travelling back to earth as the sole survivor of Apollo 11. Was he the last man to see them alive? Has he just sealed them into their coffin? He starts daydreaming about things that could go wrong, trippy imagery of dead astronauts floating around the moon forever.*

*We come back to the LM as Houston tell them 'you're go for powered descent'. This is it. I think this bit should pretty much just play out like a dramatic landing scene (we can nick bits from the HBO show, they pretty much hit all the key moments).*

*Cut back to all the times in the past when Neil has had a hairy landing (as a teenager, in the Korean war, as an X-15 test pilot, during NASA testing, etc).*

*They land successfully on the surface. Full page splash of the LM on the surface with the Earth in the sky. "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed."*

*The Journey home intercut with the reaction back on Earth.*