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West Wing writer penning Facebook film

To tell the story of the website's founders

by Verity Burns published on 28 August 2008

The screenwriter behind US TV drama *The West Wing* has agreed to make a film surrounding the lives of the founders of Facebook.

Aaron Sorkin also penned the movie *Charlie Wilson's War* that featured Tom Hanks. However Sorkin has said that this project will be joint venture with Sony and the producer Scott Rudin.

To make himself of the phenomenon that is Facebook, Sorkin has created his own account on the social networking site to aid his research, stating on his profile: "I figured a good first step in my preparation would be finding out what Facebook is, so I've started this page".

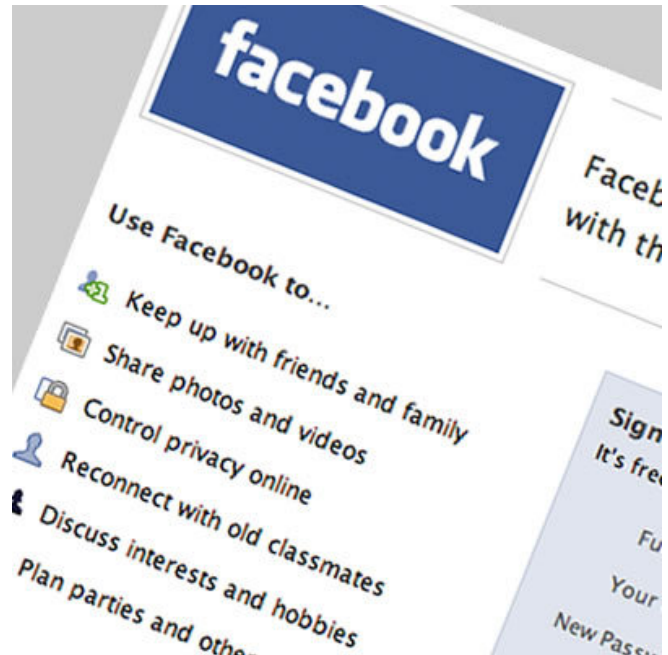
"This is me", he added, no doubt because of a number of fake accounts pretending to be him. "I don't know how I can prove that but feel free to test me."

The screenwriter admitted that although he had taken on the challenge he didn't understand Facebook, or how he was going to write the movie. He added he was relying on fans to help him learn and understand the roots behind its popularity.

"I honestly don't know how this works, which is why I'm here", Sorkin said.

"If anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to answer them as best I can. If anyone has any comments, I'm glad to listen."

And the writer has indeed kept true to his promise, answering questions and responding to comments about the film, and also letting in on his previously less-than-fond thoughts of the Internet.



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"I have a fairly specific idea of what the first 15 pages of the screenplay will be and no idea what will happen on pages 16 thru 130", he said.

He added: "I have very strong feelings about the internet and its effect on our national culture, but frankly those feelings are being countered by the sophistication, kindness, curiosity and wit of the posts in this site".

"You people are screwing me up with your civility and intelligence."

In case you need reminding, now 24-year-old Mark Zuckerberg founded Facebook in February 2004 while studying at US university Harvard.

The website was originally restricted to US students, but has since dropped that and now attracts 100 million users from across the world.