

Any Major Dude

by
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The James Bond trademark opening of an animated iris focusing on the center of the screen. BEN(12), dressed in an oversized suit, struts into the iris and fires a shot off at the camera.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ben dashes down the street armed with a yellow squirt-gun in his hand. He comes to a house and sneaks around the side.

INT. GARAGE - REX'S HOUSE - DAY

DIMITRI(13) is dressed in a white lab coat and peers into a microscope.

CHUCK(13) is dressed in fatigues and holds a green squirt-gun.

Ben storms into the garage and drenches Dimitri and Chuck with several shots. Dimitri falls to the ground but emerges moments later in a wig and returns fire with a red squirt-gun.

Ben shoots Dimitri to the ground again. A split second later Dimitri reemerges once more, only this time in a fishing hat.

This time Ben throws a rock at Dimitri and pegs him in the shoulder. Chuck, stationed on the floor away from the action, clicks the play button on a boom box.

BOOM! Dimitri crashes into a pile of boxes. Ben holds his gun by his face and does a Sean Connery pose for the camera.

INT. LIVING ROOM - REX'S HOUSE - DAY

Ben meets up with Dimitri, who is now dressed in an oversized black suit, and they talk.

Suddenly Chuck points a gun to the back of Ben's head.

CHUCK

Ha! Now it's over, Bond!

Ben puts his hands up.

BEN

Oh yeah? Well...uh...line?

REX(O.S.)

Cut!

REX(13), a kid in a black beret, puts down his video camera and storms onto the scene.

The other guys remove their costumes, revealing what they really look like.

Ben is a pale, slender kid.

Chuck is an athletic and outgoing kid who glares at Rex.

Dimitri is tall kid with fast speech and a Russian accent. He stands there and looks around.

REX
No, no, no, NO!

Rex chucks his script across the room in aggravation.

REX
The line is "it's not over until I say so, Vladimir!" Did you even do your two hours of required script reading last night?

Rex gets into Chuck's face.

REX
And you! How many times do I have to say it? You can't smile and you can't look at the camera!

Chuck smugly grins.

CHUCK
Sorry.

REX
(angrily nods)
Uh huh. See, I don't think you are.

CHUCK
But why do I have to play the Russian? Why can't Dimitri do it?

REX
Because he's already playing the scientist, the two soldiers and the mission specialist!

DIMITRI
Yeah, guys, the proof is in the pudding.

Rex drops his arms in bewilderment.

REX

I don't even know what to say to you anymore, Dimitri. I can't even understand the things you say half the time! You make about as much sense as a baked potato!

BEN

Relax, Rex!

REX

Excuse me? I did not go into directing major motion pictures to be disrespected by the likes of you! You are to refer to me as Mr. Morgan, Flanagan!

The guys grunt.

BEN

Mr. Morgan, this isn't fun anymore.

REX

Fun? You think this is supposed to be fun? Let me tell you something, Ben Boy, this is a business and if you want to make it in Hollywood then you better shape up your attitude!

BEN

We're not going to Hollywood and I'm pretty sure you aren't either.

REX

Ben, can you and your poor attitude please step into my office for a second?

Confused, Ben simply takes a step forward. Rex yells.

REX

You're fired! All of you! Now get out!

Ben, Chuck, and Dimitri head out the front door.

REX

You'll all be sorry for screwing around on my set! I'll have you all blacklisted!

Dimitri peeks his head back inside.

DIMITRI
Can I use your bathroom?

REX
Get out!

Startled, Dimitri bumps his head before he slides back out.

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Walking along the peaceful suburban street, Ben hears loud shouts from inside his house.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben's father, STEPHEN, screams at something on the ground. His voice is loud and deafening.

STEPHEN
So you think you can do whatever
you want, huh? Well, you can't.
Why? Because I am a human being
and I live in the United States of
America and I demand satisfaction!
Now shake!

CARA, a golden retriever, looks up at him with confusion. The white on her nuzzle shows her age.

Ben's mother, JODIE, sits on the couch and reads the newspaper.

JODIE
She's definitely deaf, hun.

He pets her.

STEPHEN
Awe, poor girl. It came pretty
fast, didn't it?

Jodie puts the paper down and admires Cara.

JODIE
It sure did.

Ben enters.

BEN
Hi.

They perk up at his presence.

STEPHEN

Ben! Hi!

JODIE

How was your day?

BEN

Bad. Rex fired us then kicked us out.

JODIE

Awe, why did he fire you?

BEN

Because his diaper was wet, I don't know. He called us all useless.

Jodie strokes his hair.

JODIE

Were you being useless, honey?

BEN

I don't know. I mean, I'm always stuck acting in his stupid movies. He never asks me if I have any ideas or anything.

JODIE

Well, I have something that may cheer you up.

Jodie reaches for a small package and presents it to him.

JODIE

Early birthday present from Grandma Joan.

BEN

Oh! Gimme!

She hands him the package. He rips into the card first.

BEN

"To a wonderful grandson. Have a radical 13th birthday...dude."
(drops card in disgust)
Where's the money?

JODIE

Ben, money isn't everything.

BEN

Must be a killer gift!

Ben rips off the wrapping paper and looks at the label on the box and suddenly drops it in disgust.

JODIE

Ben!

BEN

What kind of gift is this?

Jodie picks up the box and reads the label. In big red letters it reads "Junior Business Card Holder - Just Like the Pros!"

JODIE

This is a wonderful gift!

Stephen looks at the label and quietly laughs.

BEN

See! Even he's laughing!

JODIE

You could find a use for this!

BEN

Yeah, I can smash it on Rex's head.

Jodie glares but then turns to an encouraging tone.

JODIE

Now you take this upstairs and go find a use for it!

Angrily, Ben exits the room. They wait for him to be completely gone.

STEPHEN

We'll have to tell him eventually.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ben takes a seat in front of his laptop and tosses his gift across the room. He vigorously types away with intense focus.

BEN (V.O.)

Captain's Log - Today, after years of vent up hostility, Rex decided to go his own way and pursue his film efforts elsewhere. While I'm happy to be rid of his leash around my butt, I'm also worried-

An instant message pops up on the screen.

<Pork Skins>: eyyy ben!

Ben rolls his eyes.

BEN

Dang it, Dimitri.

<pooparoni_and_cheese>: hang on im writing a blog

<Pork Skins>: lolz o rly?

Ben minimizes the conversation and continues with his rant.

BEN (V.O.)

-I'm also worried that without his guidance and equipment I won't be able to film anymore. And if I can't film, will anyone really want to be my friend? While I'm not Mr. Popular, I-

A beep is heard. The instant message window from Dimitri blinks. Another beep. And another. And another.

Ben opens the window to see Dimitri scrolling with gibberish.

BEN

Dang it, Dimitri!

Light ticks are heard on his window. TICK TICK TICK!
Seconds later a gob of mud SPLATS on the frame.

He goes over and slides open the glass and looks down to Chuck in the driveway. The mud slides down the frame.

BEN

I'm not cleaning that. What's up?

CHUCK

Rex was stomping around outside my house saying we can never use his camera again.

BEN

Just now?

CHUCK

Yeah. He was pretty ticked, man.

BEN

Old news. Anything else?

CHUCK

Actually, yeah. Dimitri wrote a new script, so I brought it over to show you.

BEN

Is it any good?

CHUCK

I don't really want to read it. I mean it's a product of Dimitri's head, you know?

BEN

Yeah, I gotcha. Just leave it in the mailbox. I'm supposed to be finding a use for my grandma's birthday gift right now.

CHUCK

What'd you get?

BEN

A business card holder.

Chuck erupts into laughter. Ben rolls his eyes.

BEN

Yeah, yeah. See-ya tomorrow.

Ben shuts his window.

EXT. CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

Flutters of middle school students scurry to chat with their friends before the start of school. Dimitri hits on TWO GIRLS simultaneously.

BRUNETTE GIRL

Dimitri, I do not want to go out with you. You, sir, are very strange.

DIMITRI

Nah, nah, nah, babe. Look, guys, I know what will change your minds.

REDHEAD GIRL

Ugh. What?

Dimitri shuffles his feet around and wildly flails his arms in some sort of bizarre dance form. He sings in a deep voice.

DIMITRI
 Never gonna give you up
 Never gonna let you down
 Never gonna run around
 And desert you!

Ben and Chuck watch from a distance in awe. The two girls try to cover up their laughter.

REDHEAD GIRL
 Oh my God...

DIMITRI
 I just wanna tell you how I'm
 feeling
 Gotta make you understand
 Never gonna give you up
 Never gonna let you down
 Never gonna run around
 And desert you!

Dimitri finishes and confidently grins at the two of them.

DIMITRI
 So, how about the both of you come
 with me to the movies on Saturday?

The Brunette slaps him across the face. The Redhead slaps him across the other side.

BRUNETTE GIRL
 Get outta here, prune-face!

Dimitri frowns and walks over to Ben and Chuck just as the bell rings.

BEN
 Smooth, D.

INT. ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

Balls of paper are thrown across the classroom from students not ready to start the day.

MR. SHIELDS(50s), a quirky guy with a grin printed on his face, enters the room with his supplies.

MR. SHIELDS
 Stand up you bunch of communists!

The class stands and unanimously place their hands over their hearts. Mr. Shields proudly leads the Pledge.

MR. SHIELDS

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of
the United States of America!

STUDENTS

And to the Republic for which it
stands, one Nation under God,
indivisible-

MR. SHIELDS

With liberty and justice for all!

Mr. Shields raises his fist.

MR. SHIELDS

Yeah! Power to the people, baby!

Mr. Shields goes to the whiteboard and writes "BOOK REPORTS
TODAY! YES!"

MR. SHIELDS

All right, brew crew, you know the
drill. Let's see what you
knuckleheads have been up to the
past couple of weeks. Who wants to
go first?

CHUCK

Mr. Shields, do we really have to
do the reports today?

MR. SHIELDS

Is the Pope Catholic?

CHUCK

It's debatable, sir.

AARON, a tall kid, waves his hand.

MR. SHIELDS

All right, Aaron. Get us started.

Mr. Shields takes a seat in the back of the class as Aaron
comes to the front with his book shielded from everyone.

AARON

Okay. For my report I chose a very
well known book.

He turns the cover around.

AARON

It's called the Bible. It's this really cool anthology of adventure stories with heroes and villains and naked girls. My mom is always saying that I should follow the lessons of the Bible and now I see why because it's an action packed reading experience.

Giggles sound throughout the class.

AARON

I'd now like to recite a passage to you that inspired me as I was reading. It's called Piss-alms 23. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me lie down in green pastures--"

Mr. Shields raises his hand.

MR. SHIELDS

Aaron, sorry bud, but there's laws with church and school and stuff and just sit down. Good job.

AARON

Kay.

Aaron takes a seat to a wave of giggles. Ben raises his hand next.

MR. SHIELDS

Ben, take us away.

Ben goes to the front of the class and presents.

BEN

I read a biography on George Lucas, the dude who made the Star Wars movies.

A BUCK-TOOTHED NERD cheers.

BUCK TOOTH

Star Wars!

Ben's quiet for a second.

BEN

...yeah. Anyway, it talked about how he started out as basically a nothing and could barely fund his first movies back in the 60s. But it also talked about how he stuck with it and worked hard and eventually gave us three, not six, but three of the best movies of all time. One quote that stood out to me was "Kick on the starter, give it all you got, you got to never, never, never stop." And that's it.

Mr. Shields leads a nice applause.

MR. SHIELDS

Nicely done! Speaking of which, I actually have something for you and anyone else who's interested.

Ben walks over to Mr. Shields.

MR. SHIELDS

My cousin is a producer for one of the major studios and this year he's helping to put on a festival aimed for young filmmakers. He asked if I had any students who were into that kind of thing and I said "yeah, I have a couple buttheads that fit the description."

Mr. Shields hands the flier to Ben.

The flier reads: SAN FRANCISCO 15-MINUTE JUNIOR FILM FESTIVAL. WINNER RECEIVES 5000 DOLLARS PLUS TOUR OF HOLLYWOOD AND OTHER PRIZES!

EXT. LUNCH TABLE - DAY

Ben, Chuck, and Dimitri enjoy their lunches. Dimitri pulls out a large tortilla from his lunch bag.

CHUCK

What's that?

DIMITRI

It's a fajita, guys.

Dimitri picks through the contents and removes the pieces of onion.

CHUCK
The hell you doing?

DIMITRI
Taking out the onions.

CHUCK
But the onions help give it its
flavor.

DIMITRI
No, I don't think so. Onions are
bad. Evil. I don't believe in
them.

Chuck rolls his eyes.

CHUCK
Hey Ben, you wanna see something
funny?

BEN
Sure.

CHUCK
(shouts)
Party at Ben's house!

BEN
What are you doing?

CHUCK
Getting you some new friends!

BEN
What's funny about that?

CHUCK
No one came over!

Ben quietly fumes. Chuck changes his tone.

CHUCK
You know, I was thinking about that
festival dealio. Maybe we should
consider it.

BEN
Awe, Chuck. None of our stuff is
any good.

CHUCK
Yeah, cause all of our stuff has
been directed by Rex.
(MORE)

CHUCK (CONT'D)

I mean, you're always complaining how he never listens to any of your ideas and never lets you do anything! Maybe this is your opportunity to show your stuff! Plus it's a good way to make friends with the in crowd.

Ben strokes his non-existent goatee.

BEN

Hmmm.

Rex dashes over to their table and slams a copy of the flier in front of them.

REX

Ha! Poltroons! Read it!

They look over the flier, unimpressed.

BEN

Shields gave us one in 1st period, jerk.

REX

Out of pity of your elementary skills I'm sure. Hmmm. I wonder who's gonna win that festival.

BEN

Not you.

Rex spits on Ben's shoe.

REX

Yes me, you ignorant patch of cabbage!

Chuck stands up and glares at Rex, who quickly backs off.

REX

You three made the biggest mistakes of your lives!

Rex skips off before he slips on a kid's backpack and falls to the ground. Ben mumbles under his breath.

BEN

You made the mistake, jerk.

All three continue to eat in silence. Suddenly Chuck pounds his fist on the table, startling the two.

CHUCK

See! We can't just let him rub that crap in our face! We know that he's going to enter that competition and he's going to try and make something great but we can't let him win! We have to show him that we're better! You can direct because you know what you're doing, Dimitri can do the technical stuff because he's weird like that, and I can star because I'm the best looking.

Ben thinks about this for a second.

BEN

I'm way better looking than you.

CHUCK

No, no, Ben, trust me.

BEN

No, no, no, you trust me.

Chuck pulls up his shirt sleeve and flexes his biceps.

CHUCK

Please.

DIMITRI

Guys, we don't have a camera or any equipment or even a crew!

Ben and Chuck simmer.

CHUCK

I was hoping you wouldn't bring that up.

A moment passes. Now Ben slams his hand on the table, startling the other two.

BEN

We'll find a camera.

DIMITRI

How?

BEN

Some way. We'll make it happen. I actually feel inspired now. Rex never let us be ourselves, but now we can.

DIMITRI

And a crew?

BEN

We'll find one.

DIMITRI

How about those guys?

Dimitri points across the playground at the MILK MONEY MAFIA(all 13), a group of five punks with their hair slicked back and dressed in neatly ironed flannel shirts and denim pants.

The group consists of their leader, GINO, a short kid who carries around a briefcase, his two bodyguards ERICK and DOMINIC, and TWO HENCHMEN whose faces can't yet be seen.

Ben looks, then gapes with horror.

BEN

The Milk Money Mafia? No!

DIMITRI

Why? They have connections.

BEN

No! Dimitri, they can give us nuclear wedgies. That's one step above atomic! That's where they actually pull the underwear over your head and back down to your feet! It's an art that only a few have been able to master since the beginning of time!

DIMITRI

I go commando.

BEN

...that's disgusting.

Ben shrivels his face.

BEN

Okay. We need to hire people. What we need to do is interview!

CHUCK

Who do we interview?

BEN

Anybody! Everybody! Like this kid-

Ben gets up and tracks down GORP, a kid in ratty clothes who walks by the table.

BEN

Hey, do you wanna be in movies?

Gorp belches in his face and continues on his way.

ADDIE, a cute blonde girl comes from the other direction.

BEN

Hey, would you like to be in movies?

ADDIE

Why? So you can exploit my body for your own pleasure? Pervert!

Addie slaps Ben across the face and walks off. Ben rubs his cheek and returns to the table where Chuck grins.

CHUCK

Anybody and everybody, huh?

BEN

Maybe we should rethink who we ask.

EXT. LONG JUMP - DAY

The class stands in a line fifty feet away from the sandpit with each student running and jumping one at a time.

Before long, a handful of students have already jumped, including Ben and Chuck. They sit on the grass and watch Dimitri.

Dimitri takes off. Seconds later, he trips and dives headfirst into the sandpit. He crawls next to Ben and hides in embarrassment while all the girls laugh.

DIMITRI

I'm so ashamed.

Next in line is the funny-looking class clown, OLIVER KEMP(13). He's pale with a barrage of freckles and a mischievous smile.

He whispers something to WALLACE(13), an equally mischievous kid. The P.E. TEACHER knows something is up.

P.E. TEACHER

Oliver! Don't waste my time!

OLIVER

Okay.

Oliver starts toward the sandpit and pulls his shirt over his head and exposes his torso, which has a smiley face drawn on it with his nipples as eyes and a mouth across his stomach.

OLIVER

AHHHHHHHH!

P.E. TEACHER

The heck's the matter with you?!

Oliver trips over his shoes and dives into the sandpit. Sand sticks to his skin as he rolls through the pit. The students cheer and applaud but the P.E. teacher isn't amused.

P.E. TEACHER

Oliver, sit down! You just earned yourself an F for the day!

Oliver crawls next to Dimitri.

BEN

Dude...what was that?

Oliver speaks with a lisp due to his retainer.

OLIVER

Wallash shaid he'd pay me fifty bucksh if I did that.

Ben and Chuck laugh.

BEN

Don't you already owe him like a thousand dollars?

CHUCK

He owes everyone money.

OLIVER

Yeah, including your mom from lasht night. I'll get on that.

BEN

What happens if you don't pay him?

OLIVER

I promished him my shtuff.

CHUCK

What shtuff?

OLIVER
My DVD player, my shtereo, my video
camera...shtuff like that.

Ben perks up.

CHUCK
Shtuff like that. I shee.

OLIVER
(strong "sh" here)
Shut up!

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Ben, Chuck, and Dimitri change into their regular clothes.

BEN
Dude, I think we should ask Oliver
to be in our crew!

CHUCK
That dork?

BEN
He's got a video camera!

CHUCK
Ben, look at the man. Go on. Look
at him.

They glance over at the other end of the room where Oliver is
whipped with shirts from a group of guys.

BEN
Come on! We should give him a
chance! He may be the x-factor!

CHUCK
X...X-factor?! Him? The only
thing he's a factor of is 0! The
guy's a total sleaze! Everyday he
asks someone for lunch money or
candy money or money to get those
fire-popper thingies from the ice
cream man and he never returns it!
He's like a zit that won't pop...on
your butt!

DIMITRI
Those are tough.

Ben considers this.

BEN

Be that as it may, but-

CHUCK

And not only that, but my friend
Silly Billy-

BEN

Whoa. Silly Billy?

CHUCK

Yeah, it's a stupid nickname. But
he said that Rex is in talks with
guys who actually have real filming
equipment and real editing
software! What does this guy have?

They look back at Oliver, who knocks on the P.E. Teacher's
office door. When he steps out, Oliver nails him with a
water balloon and flees the scene. The teacher pursues.

P.E. TEACHER

Oliver! That's it! That's it!

BEN

I have an idea. We'll invite him
over and just talk to him. Like a
real interview.

CHUCK

A real interview, huh? No more of
going up to random people that we
don't know?

BEN

No, no. That girl slapped me
pretty hard.

CHUCK

Yeah. Well, Ben, you're the
director. If you think it's best.
(shouts)
Party at Ben's house!

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ben walks up the driveway.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Stephen lounges on the couch while Jodie relaxes in a chair.
Both admire Cara.

JODIE
I think it's getting bigger...

Ben enters. Jodie's tone changes.

JODIE
Ben, hi!

STEPHEN
How was school?

BEN
School's school.

Ben heads upstairs.

JODIE
Ben?

Ben comes back.

BEN
Yo.

JODIE
C'mere. We have to talk about something.

Ben takes a seat with his parents. Cara comes over and wags her tail.

JODIE
Ben, Cara's sick.

BEN
What? What's wrong?

JODIE
She has this thing called lymphoma. It's a very common disease that develops in goldens as they get older.

Ben goes into the kitchen. Jodie talks a little louder.

JODIE
We took her to the vet the other day because she's getting a little hard on hearing...

Ben returns with a dog cookie. He balances it on Cara's nozzle and holds his hand up. Cara's still, her eyes locked on it.

JODIE

...and the doctor found that she's got this disease...

BEN

We can just give her some vitamins, right? Like when she had that stomach thing?

Ben snaps his hand and Cara flips the cookie into her mouth and devours. Ben looks to his parents, his question still unanswered. After Cara's done, she heads into the backyard through the doggie door.

BEN

Right?

Stephen puts his hand on Ben's shoulder.

STEPHEN

Ben, there's no real cure for lymphoma. There are drugs out there for chemotherapy that can help but-

Ben's upset.

BEN

Well, we have to get them!

JODIE

They're very expensive, hun. Very expensive. We're talking hundreds.

CRASH! Cara blindly runs around the lawn with a paint can stuck on her head.

STEPHEN

And here I am right in the middle of switching jobs and, Ben, we're strapped! We're tied up against the wall here. You understand what we're saying, right?

Ben can only gaze off into space.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Ben sluggishly enters his room and sits at his desk with his head in his hands.

He reaches into his backpack and pulls out the festival flier. He reads the prize text over and over. The \$5000 sparkles in his eyes, then, a slight smile.

BEN
Rock and roll!

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Ben shoves toys and papers off his desk.
- B) Ben slips into a business suit.
- C) The box for the Junior Business Card Holder is opened.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

The room is cleaned up and given an office-like feel to it. Some small plants sit on his desk along with the Junior Business Card Holder and a bowl of fruit.

Lastly, Ben, Chuck, and Dimitri sit in leather chairs wearing oversized business suits.

CHUCK
Okay, I've got another movie idea.

BEN
Watcha got?

CHUCK
It's a movie called "Tough Guy" and it's about this tough guy who goes around and beats anybody up who gets in his way.

BEN
Well, what's the plot?

CHUCK
Uh. Don't get in Tough Guy's way.

BEN
And I guess you're gonna be the one playing Tough Guy, right?

CHUCK
Well, yeah.

The doorbell rings. Ben gets up and heads for the exit.

BEN
That's the stupidest idea I've ever
heard of.

Ben exits.

INT. ENTRYWAY - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Jodie opens the front door. Oliver stands there blankly.

JODIE
Hello.

OLIVER
Hi. Ben asked me to come over.

Ben appears at the top of the stairs.

BEN
It's all right, mom. He's clean.

JODIE
Oh, okay. I'm Jodie. Nice to meet
you.

OLIVER
Likewise, lady.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Oliver takes a seat across from his interviewers. The Junior
Business Card Holder draws his attention.

BEN
Take one!

Oliver takes a card. Written in red ink on cheap printing
paper is "BEN. FILMMAKER. CALL FOR PHONE NUMBER."

Ben goes into his pitch.

BEN
So Oliver, we here at...

Ben turns his chair around and whispers to Chuck and Dimitri.

BEN
Fellas, what's our company name?

They all shrug. Ben turns back around.

BEN
...at Name To Be Decided Later
Films, want you to be part of our
filming crew.

OLIVER
Why?

BEN
You got a lot of potential, man. I
can see it all over you!

DIMITRI
And you have a camera!

Chuck smacks Dimitri. Ben fidgets.

BEN
...among other things.

OLIVER
My camera? Ish that what you want?

BEN
Well, you'd be playing a huge role
in our company as well. A top
investor!

OLIVER
In the company without the name?

BEN
Mmhmm. That's right.

OLIVER
And jusht to make cheap movies? I
don't know.

Ben stands up and gets into a heartfelt speech.

BEN
Oliver, this isn't about making
cheap movies. Oh no. This is
about standing up for what's right.
This is about brotherhood. This is
about taking our dreams and making
them reality! This, Oliver, is
about taking what's in our mind,
putting it on paper and then
turning that into a major motion
picture! Oh yeah! This is what
that's about!

OLIVER
Do you guys even have a script?

DIMITRI
Well-

BEN
-well, not yet, but we're still
doing some heavy brainstorming!

Ben presents Oliver with the festival flier.

BEN
And you'll also get an equal share.

The prize figure jumps out at Oliver.

OLIVER
All that money? Heck, I'm in.
Plush, guysh in the biz get lotsh
of women.

A knock is heard on the door. Ben shouts.

BEN
Mom! Hold off my appointments!

Ben's sister, JOANNA(15), steps into the room and glares at Ben. Oliver is instantly mesmerized by her.

JOANNA
Mom wants to know if your little
friends want to stay for dinner.

Ben tries to remain professional.

BEN
Look, dear sister, as you can see
I'm doing a lot of business right
now and I'd appreciate it if you
didn't barge on into my office
until after rush hour. Okay?

Joanna laughs and sarcastically responds.

JOANNA
Yes sir, Mr. Big Shot! Sorry!

OLIVER
That'sh quite all right!

JOANNA
Who are you?

OLIVER
Name's Oliver! Oliver Kemp!

JOANNA
Well hello, Oliver. I'm Joanna.

Oliver falls into a trance as he stares into her eyes.

BEN
Okay, yes, thank you very much.
Tell mom that we'll be staying
for dinner and ask her to contact
my clients' agents to make sure
it's okay.

Joanna bursts out in laughter but Ben is clearly serious.

JOANNA
You mean ask mom to call their moms
to make sure it's okay?

BEN
Precisely. Now be gone!

Joanna exits in a cloud of laughter.

OLIVER
What a babe! Holy cow!

BEN
Shut up, dude!

OLIVER
How old is she?

BEN
Fifteen. She's in high school.
She's out of your league. Forget
it, pal.

Oliver evilly grins.

CHUCK
You know, we really do need a
business name.

BEN
Yeah. Hmm.

OLIVER
Action Pictures Universal Limited
Incorporated Eshquire!

CHUCK
Light Touching Mountains Features!

DIMITRI
The Free Uwe Boll Movement!

Ben waves them off.

BEN
No. It needs to have a kick to it.

CHUCK
How about 20th Century Chuck?

BEN
Are you kid-...you know, that
actually doesn't sound too bad.

CHUCK
Yeah. 20th Century Chuck. Kinda
makes you chuckle.

DIMITRI
I like it, guys.

OLIVER
Yeah, it'sh okay.

Ben nods.

BEN
Fellas, we are now an official
organization!

EXT. CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

The bell rings.

EXT. LUNCH TABLES - DAY

Ben, Chuck, and Dimitri meet at the table.

BEN
Where's Metal Mouth? I told him to
meet us here!

CHUCK
Did he stiff us already?

EXT. BEHIND HANDBALL COURT - DAY

Aaron stands behind Oliver and holds him in place while Wallace throws a rubber kickball at Oliver's crotch.

OLIVER
You schmucks!

WALLACE
Where's my money, Kemp?!

Wallace hits his crotch again. Oliver is in a lot of pain.

OLIVER
I'll get it to you!

Ben arrives on the scene and is horrified at the situation, but Chuck and Dimitri are amused.

BEN
What the heck are you guys doing?!

WALLACE
He owes me money!

Wallace hits his crotch one more time. Chuck and Dimitri both laugh. Ben tries to remain serious about the problem.

BEN
How much?

WALLACE
Eighty big ones.

BEN
What if we make you a deal?

Interested, Wallace looks at Aaron, who releases Oliver.

WALLACE
I'm listening.

BEN
You help us with our movie,
provide us with a big stunt
guy, and we'll raise your total
to an even 100.

Wallace looks pleased.

WALLACE
It's a deal, little man.

They shake hands.

BEN

We'll call you with the times.

Wallace throws the ball and pegs Oliver's head as him and Aaron exit the scene. Oliver barks in Ben's face.

OLIVER

What...wha...are you crazy?!

BEN

Yeah.

OLIVER

You're a dumbass!

BEN

Hey! I'm getting you off the hook, pecker inspector! Now let's go.

EXT. LUNCH TABLES - DAY

Ben, Chuck, Dimitri, and Oliver unpack their lunches and feast. That's when Rex and his NEW CREW snobbishly walk over.

Among the crew are Mafia members NIXON, a kid with a tie, and JOSHUA, a kid with a thick mullet that would make any hillbilly proud.

BEN

What do you guys want?

REX

I just wanted to introduce you to my new crew. On my right is my new friend, Nixon! His father directed several Hollywood flops such as "The Seventh Sense" and "Beneath the Planet of the Apes Part 2."

CHUCK

And you take pride in that, Nixon?

NIXON

Ha! Your attempt at sarcasm humors me.

CHUCK

That wasn't sarcasm but alright.

REX

And on my left is my new friend, Joshua! Joshua has won six
(MORE)

REX (CONT'D)
awards for his acting in the
children's theater!

CHUCK
Well, I guess that makes you a
pansy, huh?

JOSHUA
Now you listen to me—

Chuck stands up and gets in Joshua's face.

CHUCK
You got something to say, turtle
dove?

Rex restrains Joshua and points.

REX
Look over there.

They look over to the bathrooms where Gino and the rest of
the Mafia are stationed.

REX
I made a deal with them. If anyone
messes with us then they'll take
them out!

BEN
How much are you paying them, Rex?

REX
A fair share in the prize money and
their math homework for two months.

EXT. BATHROOMS - DAY

Gino knocks his fist on the head of MCFLEE, a shrimpy kid.

GINO
Hello! Anybody home? Think,
McFlee!

EXT. LUNCH TABLE - DAY

The guys watch intently. Moments later, McFlee is slammed
into a garbage can by the gang.

Ben and his friends are horrified.

REX
Exactly! So don't mess with us!

NIXON
Let's get out of here.

JOSHUA
Yeah, my underwear is going up
my butt again. So long,
pedestrians!

Rex and his gang leaves with their noses high in the air,
leaving Ben and his gang defeated.

INT. SCIENCE CLASS - DAY

Ben measures liquids from two different beakers. He's so
focused that his goggles fog up.

Dimitri stirs the purple liquid in his beaker. He
conspicuously looks on either side of him and then takes a
sip from it. After he puts the beaker down, he sees that
Chuck has been by his side the whole time.

CHUCK
You just drank from your beaker
didn't you?

DIMITRI
No.

Dimitri belches. A nearby GIRL gives him a nasty stare.

CHUCK
Was it good?

DIMITRI
Not bad.

Ben raises his finger.

BEN
Okay. A movie about a guy who
lives in an elevator and he has to
rescue this woman from her abusive
husband. We'll call it...Elevator
Man. How does that sound?

Chuck puts a "hand" gun to his head and pulls the trigger.
Ben shrugs and goes back to pouring chemicals.

BEN
Gotta come up with something soon.

BOOM! His liquids explode.

EXT. BIKE CAGE - DAY

SILLY BILLY(11), a freakishly short kid, unchains his bike and rolls it out to the playground.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

He slips the chain into his backpack and prepares to ride off until a pair of hands grab the handlebars. It's Gino.

GINO

Yo. That's a nice bike you got there.

Silly Billy trembles. Gino's gang emerges behind him.

SILLY BILLY

Thank you, Mr. Sir.

GINO

I'll tell you what, kid. Let me have your bike and I won't beat today's hot lunch out of you.

Silly Billy looks at Erick and Dominic, then to Joshua and Nixon, who all tower over him.

SILLY BILLY

No. I'm going home.

Silly Billy tries to ride away, but he's dragged off his bike by the more powerful Erick.

GINO

Have it your way, Spud Webb.

Erick gets Silly Billy in a headlock while Gino and Joshua dig through his backpack. They pull out his binder and rip papers out of it.

GINO

You did this to yourself, kid!

Silly Billy struggles in the headlock.

SILLY BILLY

Let me go!

Gino kicks the binder. Next, he pulls out a sandwich box with leftovers in it and throws it across the playground.

ACROSS THE PLAYGROUND

Ben, Chuck, and Dimitri are headed to their route home.

CHUCK

What's wrong with the Millard
Fillmore idea?

BEN

Nobody knows who Millard Fillmore
is you bozo!

CHUCK

I do.

BEN

Yeah, because you're doing your
history project on him!

CHUCK

He was a fascinating man, Ben!

They look ahead where Silly Billy is getting bullied.

BEN

Crud. Not them.

CHUCK

Hey! That's Silly Billy!

Ben does a double take.

BEN

That's him?! Nobody messes with
Silly Billy!

DIMITRI

Somebody should help him, guys.

BEN

How about you?

DIMITRI

How about you?

BEN

Why me?

DIMITRI

Didn't you say "Kick on the
starter, give it all you got.
Never stop"? This is a good place
to kick on the starter.

Ben considers this. His face becomes determined.

BEN
Kick it. You're right. Men,
onward!

They march over. Gino pulls pencils out of Silly Billy's backpack and snaps them.

GINO
You're mad at yourself, not at me!

Ben shouts with authority.

BEN
Hey!

Gino and his gang freeze. Gino drops the backpack and points to himself in shock.

GINO
You talkin' to me?

BEN
Yeah. Leave him alone.

Gino slowly steps over to Ben.

GINO
I know you. You're the guys that
are competing with my buddy Rex,
right? Think you can make movies?

BEN
You're damn right we can!

GINO
Yeah, right. You ain't winnin'
nothin', kid, cause I'm going to
make sure Rex wins at whatever
cost. Do the words executive
producer mean anything to you?

BEN
Yeah, we'll see. In the meantime
why don't you just leave him alone?

GINO
Well what's it to you, butthead?

Gino shoves Ben. Chuck steps in and grinds up to Gino.

CHUCK

Lay off him you pizza-faced snot
rocket!

Angry at first, Gino slyly smiles and talks back with a poor
Darth Vader impression.

GINO

Chuck! Join me and together we can
rule the school as mob leader and
jock!

Chuck violently shoves Gino.

CHUCK

Shut up!

Erick releases Silly Billy and gets into the scuffle. Joshua
gets behind Dimitri and gives him a wedgie.

DIMITRI

Whoa, guys!

Ben helps Chuck out with pushing Erick away, but they become
overpowered when Nixon and Dominic get involved.

Dominic holds Ben in place while Gino rolls up his sleeves
and forms fists.

GINO

Hold him in place, boys! I'm about
to soar like a butterfly and sting
like a bee!

Ben tries to break free but it's no use. Gino takes a few
practice punches to warm up.

That's when a set of hands pulls Dominic away and shoves
Nixon aside.

Ben and Chuck look up at their savior - DEREK, an eighth
grade jock.

DEREK

Gino why do you always get your
goons to pick on kids half their
sizes?

Joshua gets into Derek's face.

JOSHUA

What's it to you, bub?

DEREK
Who's this fruit?

JOSHUA
Name's Joshua.

DEREK
Joshua?

Derek grabs Joshua by the back of his pants and gives him a moving wedgie over to a trash can and shoves him in.

DEREK
Nice to meet you.

Derek turns back to Gino and his gang.

DEREK
What's gonna happen, huh?

Gino holds his hand up and calmly speaks.

GINO
Let's go, boys.

Gino and his gang help Joshua out of the trash and step off campus. Gino points back to them.

GINO
You're all dead men. Remember that.

DEREK
What are you gonna do, Pacino?
Throw your pee-stained bedsheets at us? Cut the act and just walk away.

Gino glares and leads his guys off. Ben and his crew blow a sigh of relief.

BEN
Thanks, dude.

DEREK
Yeah, no problem. I saw what you did, man.

BEN
Huh?

DEREK
Standing up to Gino and his boys like that. They coulda killed you.

BEN
They would have if you hadn't come.

DEREK
Probably.

Ben grins.

BEN
Hey, do you want to earn some money?

DEREK
No.

Ben's grin vanishes.

BEN
Oh.

DEREK
Why?

BEN
Well, we could use some extra security on our movie sets and I was just wondering...

DEREK
You make movies?

Ben widely grins.

BEN
Yes, Benjamin J. Flanagan, major movie director.
(shakes his hand)
I've made several big blockbusters, but what we're working on now is so big that it doesn't even exist yet.

Derek seems interested.

DEREK
That's pretty cool, man. I wouldn't mind helping you out if that's what you're asking.

BEN
Yeah! All right! That's what we like to hear!

DEREK
Let me know when you need me.

BEN
Will do, friend!

Derek heads off. Ben walks over to Silly Billy.

BEN
You okay, kid?

SILLY BILLY
Aren't you scared of them, sir?

Ben surveys the area with a tough look on his face.

BEN
Scared? I'm terrified.

SILLY BILLY
Are you gonna beat them, sir?

Ben admires the scenery. He looks kind of like an action hero.

BEN
Maybe, kid. Maybe.

INT. KITCHEN - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ben, Chuck, Dimitri, and Oliver sit around the table with papers spread out all over. Oliver takes his hi-tech video camera out of its case and shows it off.

OLIVER
Night vision, 7 hour battery life,
and an incredible zhoom.

BEN
Nice! How far can it go?

OLIVER
Well, I'm able to clearly see the
girl across the street when she
changes, so pretty far.

Ben checks off stuff on a sheet of paper.

BEN
Camera, check. Director, check.
Camera operator, check.

DIMITRI
Idea?

BEN

Checkmate.

CHUCK

I've got an idea. How about we make a video of you trying to ask a girl out?

BEN

How about we make a video of you trying to ask a guy out?

CHUCK

Touche.

OLIVER

I have an idea. Okay, it'sh about an American sholdier who hash to kill Kim Jong-il before he takesh over the world.

Chuck stares at Oliver.

CHUCK

Oliver, that has to be the stupidest idea I've ever heard of.

OLIVER

Well, hey, I'm down for anything ash long ash we're filmin' here.

CHUCK

Oh lord.

BEN

Oliver, I swear, if you hit on my sister-

OLIVER

I'm gonna shnog her good, Ben.

The doorbell rings. They all exit.

INT. ENTRYWAY - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

They open the door to Aaron, Wallace, and Derek, who all grin idiotically.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Everyone crowds into the room and start chatting amongst themselves but creating a noise level loud enough to hear across the neighborhood.

Wallace hands Ben a bag of video tapes.

CHUCK
Guys! Guys!

No luck. Chuck thinks for a moment until he comes up with something.

CHUCK
Ben's sister is naked!

Everyone is silenced! Oliver shoots up and looks around.

OLIVER
Where? In the bathroom?

Ben tosses him the tapes.

BEN
We got some tapes.

OLIVER
Sho what movie are we going to make?

DEREK
How about a drama?

WALLACE
No way. Adventure!

DIMITRI
What about a cooking show, guys?

OLIVER
How about a shequel to Shaft!

Everyone quietly discusses the subject.

BEN
Our resources are limited, folks. But I believe that we do have the tools to satisfy. Our only obstacle is beating Rex!

DIMITRI
Yeah, guys. We have to find a way to beat him!

Joanna enters the room.

JOANNA
Ben, do we have any-
(looks around)
Holy...

All of the guys are mesmerized by Joanna's beauty.

CHUCK
See gang. This is Ben's sister.

Oliver kneels to Joanna.

OLIVER
Hello, Joanna!

JOANNA
Hi. Olive, right?

OLIVER
Oliver, but you can call me Olive.

JOANNA
What's wrong with your leg?

OLIVER
I'm not good enough to shtand on
the shame level ash you.

JOANNA
Awe, it's all right. Just stand.

Oliver is honored and rises to his feet. Aaron then jumps up and kicks Oliver hard in the shin! WHAM!

AARON
Dork!

Oliver grabs his leg in pain and screams at Aaron.

OLIVER
You schmuck!

The two of them wrestle. Joanna rolls her eyes and exits.

OLIVER
You shon of a whore!

Derek and Wallace separate Oliver and Aaron.

BEN
Guys! We have to brainstorm!

AARON

Hey! What if we made a movie about why Ben's sister is a total babe!

Ben grunts.

BEN

Hey! What if we didn't?

DEREK

She is pretty hot, though.

OLIVER

Yeah. Have you guysh sheen Ben'sh mom? She's pretty shmokin', too!

Ben puts his hands on his head.

BEN

Oh my God!

CHUCK

Now that you mention it, Mrs. Flanagan is pretty hot.

BEN

Chuck! Dude!

OLIVER

Yeah! Joanna'sh hot. Mrs. Flanagan'sh hot. What went wrong with you, Ben?

Ben wildly waves his arms around.

BEN

Okay! Enough! Let's focus! What can we do here?

Everyone quietly thinks.

CHUCK

How about a music video to promote our company?

(screeches)

You've been Thunderchucked-

BEN

Thank you. We'll consider it.

CHUCK

Who made you boss?

BEN

Would you prefer to be in charge?

Chuck shrugs it off.

CHUCK

Yeah, never mind. You're doing a good job.

Aaron raises his hand with a different tone of voice.

AARON

You know, my brother was in a play at his school and has a bunch of props like plastic guns and stuff.

BEN

Okay, good. Everyone likes guns.

CHUCK

Yeah, my mom has a bunch of weird costumes in our attic.

DEREK

I've got a skateboard we can use for moving shots or whatever.

DIMITRI

I have a script, guys.

BEN

(ignores Dimitri)

Very good! Men, today...we film!

INT. FAMILY ROOM - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Stephen and Jodie pet Cara.

JODIE

She doesn't seem to be in any discomfort though, so that's good.

STEPHEN

That is good. Count the blessings.

One by one, Ben and company march down the stairs, each one with a different prop in hand.

BEN

We're going out!

JODIE

Have fun!

Cara follows them.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The gang sets up their set. Ben, complete with a black beret, sets up the scene. Dimitri works the camera.

BEN

All right, gang, let's try this on
for size...

LATER

Chuck screams at the top of his lungs and lunges a wooden sword at Oliver. Derek and Wallace engage in a wooden sword fight of their own. Everyone is dressed in karate uniforms.

LATER

BEN

...it's the future...long distance
space travel is possible...but on
one mission, something goes
horribly wrong...

LATER

Oliver kicks and screams while sprawled out on the ground. Aaron kneels and grabs his leg. Oliver reaches out to Cara.

OLIVER

Cara! Help! He'sh going to eat
me! He'sh a cannibal!

Aaron grins and then opens his mouth and inches it closer to Oliver's calf.

LATER

BEN

...and then they're trapped on...
The Lost Planet!

LATER

Chuck, dressed in futuristic attire, drops the blast shield on his plastic helmet. He emerges from behind a tree and runs.

Derek and Wallace, also dressed in futuristic attire, fire their laser pointing guns.

LATER

Oliver continues to reach to Cara.

OLIVER
Help! Cara! Please!

Cara wags her tail and barks. It's all a game to her.

OLIVER
Don't bark you dumb dog! Attack
him! He'sh gonna eat me!

Now Aaron's mouth is really close to Oliver's calf. Oliver notices this and goes out of character.

OLIVER
Aaron, you're gettin' a little
close there, aren't you, bud?

With his mouth wide open, Aaron grins and gets closer. Now Oliver panics.

OLIVER
Holy! Help! Please! Help!

LATER

Chuck runs through an aisle of trees. Derek emerges from behind one and shoots Chuck with his laser. Chuck crashes into him and the two tumble to the ground.

LATER

Cara barks some more. Oliver screams some more. Aaron gets closer.

OLIVER
AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

INT. FAMILY ROOM - BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben and Chuck watch the film on the TV. The camera is hooked up on the side.

BEN (V.O.)
Dude, he actually bit him!

CHUCK (V.O.)
Holy crap!

The tape stops.

BEN
Well, it's a start.

Jodie and Stephen emerge from the kitchen, each with a hand carrying a cake.

JODIE
Ben?

Ben and Chuck turn around.

JODIE
Happy birthday, hun!

Ben is bewildered.

BEN
My birthday isn't until tomorrow!

JODIE
We know. Your father has what they're calling an "intensive interview session" tomorrow where he meets with different people at what may be his new company so he'll be gone all day.

STEPHEN
So we just wanted to have a little thing with you tonight and give you these.

Stephen hands him a rectangular clothing box. Ben rips into it.

BEN
Mwahahahaha!

He opens the box. Inside is a wooden clapperboard, not quite the size of a real one, but still accurate. He shows it off to Chuck and snaps it a few times.

BEN
Nice!

STEPHEN
Brings a little more professionalism, yeah?

Ben claps it a few times and accidentally whacks his fingers.

BEN
Ow.

Everyone shares a little chuckle. Stephen then slips Ben an envelope.

STEPHEN

We also wanted to give you this...

Ben rips into the envelope.

BEN

It's like I'm winning an Oscar or something.

He pulls out a piece of printing paper and reads.

BEN

"This certificate issued to Ben Flanagan"...it's actually Benjamin J. Flanagan now, professional filmmaker so, ya know...just for future reference.

STEPHEN

Noted.

BEN

..."guarantees a video game system of his choice and two games as they become available." Is this from the company or what's happening here?

His parents are nervous.

JODIE

Ben, we're sorry. It's not easy for two parents to give their son an IOU, but we just couldn't afford anything major for you this year, at least not right now.

BEN

Who made this?

STEPHEN

I did. Computer edited.

Ben understandingly nods, but looks down in disappointment. Stephen kneels.

STEPHEN

Ben, we're sorry. If you want to blame someone you can blame me. I know it hasn't been easy and we're all hurting because of it.

Ben nods once more. He looks over to Cara, who rests on the floor, panting.

STEPHEN

But that certificate is a promise from us to you no matter what. Got it?

Ben smiles.

BEN

Got it.

JODIE

How's your movie coming?

BEN

Well, it's coming along, um...

CHUCK

It sucks.

BEN

Chuck, no. It's just a masterpiece that hasn't happened yet.

CHUCK

Yeah, and my "D" in math is just an "A" in progress, right?

BEN

That's a good way to look at it.

JODIE

We wish you luck, Ben. When this whole mess is cleared up and things get back to normal, we promise you a real birthday.

BEN

Thanks, guys.

Ben rereads the certificate and grins.

BEN

So this doesn't expire, right?

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Chuck holds the clapperboard in front of the camera.

CHUCK

Action!

WHACK! He shuts the clapstick on his fingers and exits the scene.

CHUCK

Ow!

Aaron, draped in rags, collapses to the ground.

AARON

I'm home...we finally really did it. You maniacs! You blew it up! Godda-God...Ben, do I really have to swear?

He looks to the rest of the crew stationed behind Dimitri.

CHUCK

You're gonna swear and you're gonna like it, Bible Boy!

BEN

Just improvise, dude.

Aaron goes back into character and pounds his fists into the dirt while he shouts at the top of his lungs.

AARON

Blag gone it all to Canadia!

BEN

All right, cut. That's enough. This isn't working.

Dimitri continues to film.

BEN

Dimitri! Cut!

DIMITRI

What? It's a behind-the-scenes feature, guys!

CHUCK

Ben, I don't think the world is ready for "Planet of the Apes From Another Planet."

Ben shrugs his shoulders.

BEN

So what do we do?

Aaron stands up and wipes the dirt off his costume.

AARON
Hey, I've got an idea. Call me
stupid but...

INT. TOOL SHED - DAY

Aaron holds out the clapperboard in a dimly-lit tool shed.

AARON
Star Wars Episode 7, The Return of
Vader. Scene 1 of a few.

He slams the stick down on his finger.

AARON
Ow. Action!

Chuck, dressed up as Han Solo, fronts Ben, dressed as Luke Skywalker.

CHUCK
The Force will be with you.
Always.

BEN
I've just got a bad feeling, Han.
It's like he's back...

Suddenly, Derek bursts into the shed dressed all in black, complete with a sock pulled over his head. He speaks in a very deep voice, doing his best to impersonate Darth Vader.

DEREK
Daddy's home!

BEN
Vader!

Ben grabs a baseball bat and makes the lightsaber sounds.

BEN
Bring it!

Derek pulls out a yellow wiffle ball bat and makes the lightsaber sounds as well.

They go at it for a few moments until Derek takes a wide swing and knocks a bunch of power tools off the wall and onto the workbench.

A wrench falls onto the power trigger of a buzzsaw, which flips on and grinds into a stray screw on the table.

The screw shoots across the room and zips by Dimitri's eye to its final insertion on the wall.

AARON(O.S.)

Cut!

The aggravated actors drop their "weapons" while Aaron shakes his head.

AARON

Okay. My mistake. Bad idea.

BEN

(angry)

Is it too late to call you stupid?

(compassionate)

You okay, D?

Dimitri casually shrugs and then looks down at the camera.

DIMITRI

It's dark in here, guys. The camera's having trouble picking you up.

BEN

Hmmm. We need some of those lights that you can put on the ceiling.

CHUCK

Ceiling lights?

BEN

Yeah!

OLIVER

What's your guy'sh movie budget?

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Ben smashes open his piggy bank with a hammer and counts up the money inside.

CHUCK

You know, those do open from the bottom.

BEN

Seven, eight--

CHUCK

You're pretty poor, dude.

Ben glares.

BEN
Nine, ten-

Chuck continues to be obnoxious.

CHUCK
Seven, fourteen, one hundred,
forty!

BEN
Fourteen! Fifteen! Guys, count
your money!

The guys reach into their pockets and pull out their spare change and crumbled up dollar bills.

BEN
Okay. I've got eighteen dollars.

CHUCK
Uh. 14 cents.

AARON
Four seventy-five.

DEREK
I have five bucks total.

They put their money in a pile.

Dimitri fumbles with a pile of crap from his pockets. His dollar bills are stuck together with wads of gum and other gunk. He puts the bills in the pile one by one.

DIMITRI
Nine, ten, eleven-

He accidentally rips the last bill.

DIMITRI
Uh. Ten.

He puts one of the dollar halves in the pile.

DIMITRI
Ten-fifty.

BEN

So, that gives us about forty dollars, thirty goes to the entry fee that I gotta send this week...so that leaves ten bucks. What can we get with that?

OLIVER

S-O-L.

Ben gets an idea.

BEN

Hey Oliver, how did you get so far into debt?

OLIVER

Well my folksh don't give me cash, sho I gotta borrow a lot to pay for the chicksh, poker matchesh, candy-
(coy)
Wait...I shee what you're doing...

BEN

Come on! Call Wallace!

OLIVER

He'sh got a bounty on my head!

Chuck rolls his eyes.

CHUCK

You probably don't even know what that means, Oliver. Look, just ask him for fifty bucks. It'll all work out in the end. I promise!

OLIVER

Look, Shteroid Boy, I shaid no!

Everyone is quiet for a moment until Chuck whispers into Oliver's ear.

CHUCK

Joanna! Rawr!

Oliver quietly fumes.

CHUCK

Women dig businessmen. Or if you don't give us the money, then I'll move in on her! Can you imagine me making out with her? Oh man-

Oliver stands up and shoves Chuck.

OLIVER
I'll do it! All you'll ever get
ish shloppy shecondsh, Millsh.

EXT. WALLACE'S HOUSE - DAY

Wallace opens the front door and greets Oliver with Ben,
Chuck, and Dimitri behind him.

WALLACE
Hey, guys. Sup?

OLIVER
Um, Mr. Wallace, shir?

WALLACE
(sighs)
How much do you need, Oliver?

OLIVER
Fifty...

WALLACE
For what?

OLIVER
Well, we need to buy shome propsh
and equipment for the movie.

WALLACE
This puts you fifty more in the
hole, pal.

OLIVER
I know, shir.

WALLACE
Well, I want collateral this time.

OLIVER
Collateral?!

Oliver looks at Ben for help but doesn't receive any.

OLIVER
Well, what do you want?

An evil look comes to Wallace's face.

WALLACE
Your retainer.

Oliver is alarmed.

OLIVER
I need thish! My teeth will shift
without it!

WALLACE
Well, I practically paid for it.

BEN
Wallace, is there any other way?

WALLACE
I'm not getting stiffed by this guy
again. Not even for an Oscar.

Oliver glares at Ben.

OLIVER
Thish better be a good movie.

He spits out the slimy retainer and passes it over to
Wallace, who holds it with a big smile on his face.

WALLACE
I'll get your money.

Wallace disappears into his house.

CHUCK
How did Wallace pay for your
retainer?

OLIVER
It doesn't matter, so shut up.

Oliver's lisp has vanished. Moments later, Wallace returns
and hands Ben fifty dollars.

WALLACE
When you pay me back, you'll get
the retainer.

BEN
Thanks, Wallace! We'll call you
for filming.

INT. MALL - DAY

The guys strut through the busy mall, trying their best to
look like big shots.

BEN
Remember, we're famous directors
looking for new talent.

CHUCK
And you're a jerk looking for a
life.

DIMITRI
Maybe we can pick up some chicks
here, guys.

OLIVER
Ben, your sister should work at
Victoria's Secret.

BEN
Shut up, Oliver.

OLIVER
Hey, better get used to it, pal.
She's gonna be the main attraction
at my strip club.

Ben looks disturbed.

BEN
Um. What?

CHUCK
Hey, Oliver, wanna see something
funny?

OLIVER
What?

CHUCK
(shouts)
Party at Ben's house!

Ben angrily shouts back.

BEN
Party at Chuck's house!

Across the walkway, Joshua and Nixon spot their rivals and
hide behind a plant as Ben and Chuck continue to shout.

INT. GINO'S GARAGE - DAY

Joshua and Nixon spill the beans to Gino and the gang. The
garage is decorated with leather chairs, a pool table, and a
bar.

JOSHUA

We followed them to this light shop where they bought something but we couldn't tell what it was.

REX

...lights?

JOSHUA

Yeah! That was it!

Rex stands beside Gino, who has a lollipop in his mouth.

REX

So they actually think they can play with the big boys, huh? Gino, what should we do?

GINO

Forgetaboutit, Rex. Our film will be worlds better than theirs.

REX

No. I hate those guys. I want to crush them. I don't even want them to make it to San Francisco, just so when we win the trophy, their ugly faces won't be there to put a damper on things.

GINO

Wanna crush their hopes, huh? That's cool. I know what to do.

REX

What?

GINO

Forgetaboutit. Capice?

REX

I think I deserve to know. That is...if we're really friends.

Gino looks over to Dominic.

GINO

Dominic, how'd your folks break up again?

DOMINIC

Awe, come on, Gino!

GINO
Don't be a baby!

Dominic grunts.

DOMINIC
They kept fighting because they
couldn't get along. Too many
differences.

GINO
See, Rex? We just break them apart
from the inside out. It'll hurt
the most! Muwahahahahaha!

GINO'S PERKY MOM enters with a tray of punch and cups.

GINO'S MOM
Just thought you boys might like
some fruit punch!

Gino glares.

GINO
Mom! Busy here!

GINO'S MOM
Oh, sorry, hun! I know how you
boys like your secret meetings!
Josh, tell your mother I said hi!

JOSHUA
You got it, Mrs. B!

She exits.

GINO
Geez, woman.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

The gang hangs out while Dimitri puts together the ceiling
lights. Oliver runs his fingers along his teeth.

OLIVER
My teeth feel so naked.

BEN
Awe, just relax, Olive.

OLIVER
Oliver! Not Olive! I'm not a
pitted fruit, thank you very much!

BEN

You didn't seem to mind when Joanna called you Olive.

OLIVER

Well, she is my future wife, Ben. You and I are practically relatives right now.

BEN

Yeah, a cold day in h-

Aaron enters the room with a briefcase in hand.

AARON

Guys! I have the coolest thing!

They all gather around Aaron, who opens the briefcase and puts on display a small movie poster titled "INDIANA FLANAGAN AND THE TEMPLE OF STUFF." Harrison Ford's face is graphically replaced with Ben's.

CHUCK

Aaron...what the hell is this?

AARON

Well, I figured our movie would need some cool posters, so I brought a few samples of my work!

OLIVER

Where'd you get his picture?

AARON

Oh, that was easy. I just followed you guys around with a camera for a few days.

OLIVER

You did what?

AARON

Ben, what do you think?

Ben carefully examines the poster and gives a thumbs up.

BEN

This is awesome!

Chuck laughs.

CHUCK

Indiana Flanagan? Are you kidding me? Ben is afraid of the frickin'
(MORE)

CHUCK (CONT'D)
sun. How's he supposed to be an
action hero?

BEN
Go inject yourself with steroids,
you jerk!

AARON
It's okay, guys! I have more!

Aaron pulls out the second poster which is titled "CROUCHING
DIMITRI, HIDDEN FLY." Chow Yun-Fat's face is graphically
replaced by Dimitri's. Once again, Chuck laughs.

CHUCK
Hidden Fly? Just smack him with
the paper! End of story!

DIMITRI
Shut up! I am a true ninja!

AARON
Okay. Here's yours, Chuck.

Aaron pulls out the third poster which is titled "CHUCK
KONG," which displays Chuck with a bunch of hair drawn on
him. Chuck glares at it while the others laugh.

BEN
I like how you captured his rather
gangly physique!

CHUCK
You have no friends, Ben! Shut up!

AARON
Oh! And here's one for Oliver!

The fourth poster is titled "PLANET OF THE OLIVERS," which is
an exact photocopy of "PLANET OF THE APES."

OLIVER
Hey! You kept the ape on here!

AARON
Well, you two do look alike!

All of the guys laugh but Oliver is steamed!

OLIVER
Aaron, I've just about-

AARON
Okay, okay! How about this one-

Aaron pulls out the last poster titled "OLIVER POPPINS," with Oliver's face replacing Julie Andrews'. All of the guys are having a riot except for Oliver, who is now screaming!

OLIVER
What the hell is this?!

CHUCK
I think you look good in a dress!

DIMITRI
You can fly on the rainbow!

More laughter. Oliver's face is a bright red now.

OLIVER
That's it! I've had enough!

BEN
Come on, man! Relax!

OLIVER
No! You guys suck! Ever since I started hanging out with you guys I've lost my retainer, I'm about a million dollars in debt, I've had to wear a dress, vampire boy over there bit me, and now Lenin over here is saying that I can fly on the rainbow!

DIMITRI
Lennon had some good songs, guys.

OLIVER
Lenin! Not Lennon! You cockroach!

CHUCK
Oliver, if I steal a picture of Joanna for you, will you relax?

OLIVER
Oh, pssh! Put a bag over her head. She looks just like Ben except with longer hair! No way will I have that trash at my strip club!

Oliver picks up his camera and heads for the door.

BEN
Dude! Where are you going?

OLIVER
I'm done with this!

Oliver exits while the others quietly look at each other.

BEN

I think we went too far.

CHUCK

Yeah, Ben. This is all your fault.

BEN

My fault? How?

CHUCK

I don't know. I just figure the director takes the blame.

BEN

Well, Joseph Stalin over here was the one calling him Oliver Poppins!

DIMITRI

I'm just going with the flowing, guys!

BEN

Why did you even make those?

AARON

I don't know. I figured they would be cool.

BEN

We don't even have an idea yet!
We're just filming random stuff and now we don't even have a camera to film with!

INT. GINO'S GARAGE - DAY

Rex and his crew film in Gino's newly transformed garage/movie set. Rex dances like a ballerina while Gino and his gang are disgusted.

GINO

Cut! Yo, Rex! This is retarded!

REX

It's called art, Gino!

GINO

No, it's called retarded and I won't have any of it!

REX
Hey, this is my project!

GINO
It's my crew and my time!

REX
Look, let me worry about the film
and you worry about the
competition. Just trust me! I'm a
professional filmmaker here!
Capice?

Gino steams up.

GINO
Don't you ever say that again!

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Stephen introduces Ben to a gigantic VHS-C video camera.

BEN
Dad, how old is this thing?

STEPHEN
Older than you, Ben. In fact, this
camera taped the births of you and
your sister!

DIMITRI
There's a tape of Joanna naked?

Everyone stops and stares at Dimitri.

STEPHEN
Get out of my house, son.

BEN
Dad! He's kidding! He's cool!

Stephen shakes it off and continues on with the lesson.

STEPHEN
You can get about thirty minutes
per tape. Not the best quality,
but it's something. Good?

BEN
Cool! Yeah!

STEPHEN
You really want to win this, huh?

Stephen ruffles Ben's hair.

STEPHEN
Go get 'em.

Stephen exits. Chuck places the camera on the desk, then slides it off and watches it bounce on the ground. Horrified, Ben retrieves it.

BEN
What are you doing?

CHUCK
Dude, the camera is a giant piece of plastic. It won't break.

BEN
This is my father's you idiot!

CHUCK
Nobody talks like that anymore.

BEN
See, this is why Oliver left!
Because you're such a punk!

CHUCK
Dude, chill. Calm down.

BEN
No! You have to stop being such a jerk-off!

CHUCK
All right.

Chuck gets to his feet and heads for the exit.

CHUCK
Later, Rex.

BEN
Fine! We don't need you!

A few moments of silence goes by until Ben looks at Dimitri.

BEN
Call my agent. Tell her only one will be staying for dinner.

DIMITRI
Your mom's downstairs, Ben.

BEN
Excellent.

EXT. LUNCH TABLE - DAY

Ben and Dimitri sit by themselves and quietly eat. Wallace joins them and flashes Oliver's gruesome retainer.

WALLACE
When are you guys going to have my money? I'm tired of carrying this thing around.

BEN
Oliver's mad at us right now.

WALLACE
Really? What'd you do?

BEN
We kinda pushed him over the edge.

WALLACE
Not hard to do.

Wallace opens up his lunch bag and bites into his sandwich.

BEN
Hey Wallace?

WALLACE
What's up?

BEN
What did you mean when you said that you "practically paid for it?"

WALLACE
Oh. His family doesn't make much money so he had to borrow some from me.

Ben speaks in resignation.

BEN
That must have been why he got so mad. What do his parents do?

WALLACE
His dad got laid off a few months ago and his mom works like ten hour shifts at a restaurant.
(MORE)

WALLACE (CONT'D)
They have six kids to feed
including Oliver, so he's
constantly asking for money.

BEN
But he said he had a stereo and we
used his digital camera. How can
he afford that?

WALLACE
Well, his dad had a pretty good
job for a while. Some corporate
gig with blowing whistles or
something.

Rex sluggishly approaches the table and sits across from Ben.

BEN
What do you want, Rex?

REX
Gino and the gang kicked me out.

BEN
Really? Why?

REX
Because they're scumbags!

BEN
So why'd you come over here?

REX
I still really want to make a movie
and I guess I overreacted with you
guys. And now I'll do anything to
get back at those Mafia slugs.

BEN
So, you want to work for us?

REX
Yeah!

Ben considers this. He looks over at Oliver, who suddenly
gets pantsed by Aaron in front of a group of girls.

BEN
I guess we can use you for acting
or something.

Gino peeks up from his lunch and watches Rex in action.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Derek, Wallace and Rex prepare to film a sequence while Ben and Dimitri work the direction and cinematography. Ben speaks aloud to no one in particular.

BEN

Okay, in this scene you've just found the man who murdered your father and you're here to get your revenge.

He looks to Rex, who looks like he's off in space.

BEN

I'm talking to you, Rex...

Rex snaps out of it and salutes him.

REX

Right! I'll do my best!

Everyone gets into position. Ben snaps the clapperboard.

BEN

Ow. Action!

Rex does a poor imitation of Vito Corleone.

REX

My father's name was Antonio Andolini...and this is for you.

Rex reveals a plastic knife and charges at Derek, pushing him into Dimitri, who loses control of the camera and falls over.

The guys come to his assistance while shouting at Rex.

DEREK

You little shit! What do you think you're doing?

WALLACE

You dumbass! You don't run into the cameraman!

DIMITRI

Gosh, guys!

Rex remains calm and fakes a grieved tone.

REX

I am so sorry! It was an accident!

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Now the guys sit around the room, each one of them trying to write a section of a script.

BEN

Okay, on page four I have Greg finding the lost key.

WALLACE

No, no. That's page six. Page four is where he chases the car.

DEREK

Who's Greg? I thought the main character's name was Jason!

BEN

No! It's Greg!

Rex suspiciously looks around.

REX

Hey Ben? Can I see your pages?

Ben passes Rex the papers, who spits on them.

BEN

Wh-what?! What are you doing?

Rex snatches Derek's papers and spits on them as well. Now everyone is mad at him.

DEREK

What's your problem, Rex?

REX

Guys, I'm sorry. I have attention deficit disorder!

BEN

That doesn't mean you have to act like an ass hat!

REX

Sure it does.

Rex piles the papers up and rips them in one swoop.

REX

Muwahahahahaha!

DIMITRI

He's still working for Gino, guys!

Rex stands up and evilly laughs.

REX
That's right you idiots! Welcome
to the real world!

Rex runs out of the room.

REX (O.S.)
So long, suckers!

Ben grunts. Dimitri shakes his head.

DIMITRI
The Mafia's got us going.

BEN
I don't care about them.

DIMITRI
But don't you want to beat them?

Ben suspiciously looks at Dimitri.

BEN
Dude, are you in this just to beat
Rex and his guys?

DIMITRI
Well, yeah. I thought that was the
whole idea.

Ben looks to the others.

BEN
And you guys?

They sluggishly nod.

DEREK
I thought you just wanted to
embarrass them on a bigger stage.

Ben gets a heartfelt look on his face.

BEN
Guys, I'm in this to win it all.

DIMITRI
But I thought you said we had to
beat them.

BEN

Yeah. But we have to beat everyone else, too. It's not just about them. This is about us. We have the equipment, the crew...well, had. This was about us taking the glory because we want it more...but I don't know, maybe it's good that we're breaking up. This will be our last film regardless.

DIMITRI

What? You mean we're not going to make any more peliculas after this?

Ben sits down and looks pathetically up at Dimitri.

BEN

There's no reward for future films, Dimitri.

DIMITRI

Well, so what? This is fun! We've been doing this for years. You're filming with your friends, man. It's not about the Robert De Niro.

BEN

Not about the money? Really?

DIMITRI

Well, yeah, I mean--okay, guys. The money would be nice. Who wouldn't want the pork skins? There must be something you want to use your prize for.

Ben looks at a picture on the wall of him and Cara.

BEN

I wasn't sure you guys were in this for the long run. You fellas really want to make more movies after this?

They unanimously nod.

DEREK

Yeah. But we have to finish this one first.

Ben nods.

BEN
We gotta get the crew back.

INT. GINO'S GARAGE - DAY

Rex sits on a black leather chair while he spills his guts to Gino and the Mafia.

REX
They barely have anything as it is, boss! They're a wreck!

GINO
Excellent. Rex, my man, you did good today. Just leave the rest up to us to eliminate the competition. Meanwhile, you finish our film.

REX
Thanks Gino! Everything is starting to fall into place!

INT. KITCHEN - BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben, Jodie, Stephen, and Joanna sit around the dinner table and quietly eat their meals. Ben grunts and then speaks up.

BEN
Can I really win this?

JODIE
Is a bluebird blue?

BEN
Is this a trick question?

JODIE
I believe in you. Do you believe in yourself?

JOANNA
Say no.

JODIE
Joanna!

BEN
I don't know. All this time we've been trying to make a really cool movie but we have no idea what we're doing.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

I thought making movies would make me a few more buddies and it has...but it's also almost lost them. I want to win...I wanted to get Cara those drugs...

His parents stare at him.

JODIE

That was part of your plan?

BEN

That was pretty much the plan.

Jodie strokes his hair.

JODIE

Is that why you're so fixed on winning this? Hun, even if you did win we wouldn't let you pay for them.

BEN

But it'll be my money.

JODIE

You're right: it's your money. Let your father and I worry about buying the drugs. The drugs are an adult problem. They shouldn't be and won't be yours. Your current problem should be not trying to kill yourself making your movie. Got it?

BEN

Got it.

JODIE

Anything else on your mind?

JOANNA

No.

JODIE

Joanna!

BEN

I still don't know where this movie is going. I mean, in that book I read about George Lucas he said "Kick on the starter, give it all you got, you got to never, never, never stop," but-

Stephen does a double take.

STEPHEN
George Lucas did not say that.

BEN
What?

STEPHEN
Ben, come on! What are you kids
listening to these days? That's
the Rolling Stones! Start Me Up!
(sings)
If you start me up I'll never stop!

Ben and Joanna stare at their father in horror.

BEN
That's a song?

STEPHEN
And a fine one.
(sings)
You make a grown man cryyy!

JOANNA
Make him stop...

BEN
So I've been quoting some stupid,
lame old song this whole time?

STEPHEN
Hey!

JODIE
Ben, George Lucas is probably a
fan, that's why he quoted it. But
the lyric itself still rings true.

She leans over to him. Stephen continues to hum the tune.

JODIE
You've got to never, never, never
stop. Make movies because you want
to, not because you have to.
You'll figure it out.

EXT. TANBARK PIT - DAY

Chuck is in stealth mode, crouched in back of a SIXTH GRADER.
Ben suspiciously approaches him.

BEN
Chuck-

CHUCK
Shh!

Chuck grins and then pulls the kid's pants down, revealing cartoon underwear. The kid falls to his knees and cries while Chuck laughs triumphantly.

BEN
How's it going?

CHUCK
Great! I've pantsed six kids today!

BEN
Looks fun!

CHUCK
It is! Wanna help?

Ben is at a loss for words.

BEN
Yeah...you're not mad about the other day or anything?

CHUCK
Nah, you always whine!

Ben smiles and punches Chuck's arm, who in return tries to pull down his pants.

CHUCK
Oh yeah? Come here!

EXT. MAFIA LUNCH AREA - DAY

Ben and Chuck both creep up to the Mafia in stealth mode, where Rex addresses his peers from the head of the table.

REX
Nixon, the soundtrack you guys developed was hauntingly effective. Kudos to you!

GINO
We got everything going for us now, Rex. Don't you worry about 20th Century Chuck.
(MORE)

GINO (CONT'D)
They're about to be no more.
Eliminated. Capice?

Gino bobs his head back and evilly laughs.

Chuck crouches behind Rex and Ben behind Gino.

Simultaneously they pull Rex and Gino's pants down in one easy swoop!

REX
You butt rockets!

Ben grabs a sandwich and smears it on Gino's shirt, then the two of them run away in triumph.

The Mafia prepares for a chase, but Gino holds them back.

GINO
Easy, boys, easy. We'll have our chance.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ben chats on the phone while Dimitri skims through a copy of his forgotten script.

BEN
Yeah, I invited him. He'll be over in about twenty minutes... Sounds good. See you then.

He hangs up.

DIMITRI
They're coming?

BEN
Yeah, Oliver will be here in twenty and Chuck will be here after he's done with dinner.

DIMITRI
Coolio.

The two of them are silent for a moment.

BEN
You're a pretty mellow guy, aren't you?

DIMITRI
I practice Zen, Ben.

Dimitri turns a page in his script.

BEN
What's that?

DIMITRI
My script.

Ben's face drops.

BEN
Oh. The one I never read.

DIMITRI
Yeah. It's okay.

Ben shakes his head and sits down on a chair.

BEN
I'm sorry. I should have read it.

DIMITRI
You still can.

Ben takes a look at the script. His eyes open in amazement when he flips through the document. It's a perfectly formatted 20 page script.

BEN
Holy cow! When did you learn to write like this?

DIMITRI
I have a lot of spare time.

BEN
Dimitri, this is incredible! It's perfectly formatted and everything! What's this about?

DIMITRI
Stuff.

BEN
Thanks. What stuff?

DIMITRI
You and me and the guys and our attempt to make a movie.

Ben continues to skim through the pages.

BEN

This is brilliant! Why didn't you bring this up more with me?

Dimitri gives him a dopey stare. Ben nods.

BEN

Right. I just wish we could do this now. I mean, it's original, good story, it doesn't require a huge payroll-

DIMITRI

We can still do it.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

As the sun sets over their "film set," Ben, Chuck, Dimitri, and Oliver all sit around a boulder to contemplate.

BEN

Thanks for coming, Oliver.

Oliver nods.

BEN

We owe you an apology.

Oliver nods again.

BEN

What is this? Why aren't you talking?

Oliver reveals his front teeth, which have begun to shift over each other. The guys squint in disgust.

BEN

Yeah, about that. I'm going to talk to Wallace and get your retainer back tomorrow. But we're sorry for acting like jerks.

OLIVER

It's alright. My family sucks at making money so that's why I'm always asking for some to borrow. When I ask for ice cream money, not all of it actually goes to ice cream.

BEN

Ah, what's money? My family doesn't make that much either, but it doesn't bother me. If anything, it just makes you appreciate what you got a little more.

DIMITRI

I'm poor too, guys.

BEN

But come on, gang! There's always gonna be speed bumps in life. So what if you hit one too fast? You gotta just make your way over it and keep going! Don't stop. Never ever! Not over money...

(looks at Dimitri)

...general weirdness...

(looks at Chuck)

...spontaneous jerkery...

(looks at Oliver)

...or bizarre perversion! We gotta keep going!

The guys nod their heads.

CHUCK

So what do we do, Mr. Director Man?

BEN

Well, up until now all we've been doing is putting together random scenes. But now, my friends, we have a plan and an idea that Dimitri here will explain to you.

Chuck grimaces.

CHUCK

Dimitri? Oh Jesus goes and wheezes.

INT. KITCHEN - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ben, Chuck, Dimitri, and Oliver sit around the kitchen table and discuss the script and storyboards.

BEN

It's amazing that our horrible raw footage is actually going to come in handy.

CHUCK
Raw is good?

BEN
Raw is fresh.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) Dimitri films the entire gang as they act out a dramatic scene.

B) Ben reasons with Wallace while Oliver patiently waits. Wallace then reaches in his pocket and pulls out the retainer and passes it to Oliver, who grins and slides it into his mouth.

C) Ben smacks the clapper on his fingers.

BEN
Son of a-

D) Ben and Oliver capture video into a computer

E) Rex and Gino edit their movie on a computer

F) Oliver flirts with Joanna, who slaps him in the face.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. KITCHEN - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

The phone rings. Stephen answers. Jodie's at the table.

STEPHEN
Hello...yes, Mr. Adams...today?
Really?...is that so?...My wife?
Hold on.
(holds phone down)
He wants to meet you!

JODIE
What, are you ashamed of me or something?

STEPHEN
(smiles, holds phone up)
Yeah, sounds good. We'll see you there!

Stephen hangs up the phone and speaks excitedly.

STEPHEN

The other applicant for the job
flaked out! My potential future
boss wants to have dinner with us
tonight! Like, soon!

Jodie stands up and they happily bounce up and down.

JODIE

He wants to give you the job!

EXT. DRIVEWAY - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Stephen and Jodie slip into their SUV and drive off. A pair
of eyes watches them all the way.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Ben, Chuck, Dimitri, and Oliver huddle around the laptop.

CHUCK

This is turning out pretty good.

BEN

Hey guys, do we have a rating yet?

Dimitri and Oliver read off a paper.

DIMITRI

We thought it should be rated NC-17
for intense action violence,
pervasive strong language-

OLIVER

And graphic shexual content!

Ben stares.

BEN

...okay. Now we need some opening
credits.

CHUCK

20th Century Chuck Presents...

The doorbell is heard.

INT. ENTRYWAY - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ben opens the door to be greeted by Gino and the Mafia sans
Rex, who unanimously crack their knuckles.

GINO
Yo freak. It's time this ended.

Chuck, Dimitri, and Oliver watch from upstairs.

Joshua and Nixon step up to Gino's side with ugly, snobby looks on their faces.

CHUCK
Well, if it isn't the Walking Wedgie himself.

Joshua glares.

BEN
Where's Rex?

GINO
Finishing the final cut of our film. It's a masterpiece.

BEN
Well ours is, too.

GINO
Really? We'll see about that.

Gino attempts to enter the house but is pushed back by Ben.

BEN
Gino, you don't want to mess with me right now, dude. I'm very stressed and very tired.

GINO
Look at this, boys! The baby is tired! Waaaaaah!

They all do a snort-like laugh.

Gino tries once more to get into the house but is pushed back again. Now things are serious.

GINO
If you touch me one more time, I swear I'm gonna-

Ben suddenly shoves Gino to the ground!

GINO
Boys! Attack the naysayer!

The gang forces their way into the house. Ben bolts for the upstairs, where the other guys run into his room.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Ben dashes in and slams and locks the door behind him. The guys search the room for protection.

Chuck picks up a hockey stick that leans against a wall.

Dimitri takes a baseball bat.

Oliver picks up two empty glass soda bottles.

Ben pulls a squirt gun from out of his closet and pours a bottle of water into it.

INT. HALLWAY - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

The Mafia circle around the door.

JOSHUA

Before we go in...let's kick down
the door!

GINO

Oh yeah, and get in serious
trouble? I got a better idea.

Gino pulls out a lock pick and goes to work. Joshua and Nixon bang on the door.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - DAY

The guys stand side by side in front of the door with their "weapons" in ready position, set for an epic battle. Dimitri takes a practice swing. Ben pumps his gun.

The knob jitters from Gino's work. The pounds get louder.

The knob jitters some more and then the door swings open. Joshua bursts into the room pounding his chest and screeches like a manic monkey.

JOSHUA

YEEEEEE-ARRRRRRR!

BEN

Freedom!

Ben fires water off at Joshua and soaks him. Gino and company strut in and a bunch of wrestling matches ensue.

Gino works his way through the battle and spots the laptop on Ben's desk.

Chuck pulls up the back of Joshua's pants using the toe of his hockey stick and gives him a massive wedgie.

Erick gets Oliver in a headlock and gives him a noogie.

Gino grabs the laptop and bolts out the door. Ben shoves Nixon aside and chases after him.

INT. ENTRYWAY - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Gino sails down the stairs and opens the front door, but Ben comes crashing down and slams it shut.

GINO
You'll have to do better than that,
Squanto!

Gino runs into the kitchen with Ben hot on his tail.

EXT. BACKYARD - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Gino exits the house and runs into the back, where he finds himself trapped. Ben exits and confronts him. Gino holds the laptop above his head.

GINO
Don't come a step closer.

BEN
Please! Don't! You don't want to
win like this do you?

Gino thinks for a second.

GINO
Yeah. I really think I do.

BEN
Oh. Uh. Can I please have it
back?

GINO
You know, Flanagan, people like you
really piss me off.

BEN
Why?

GINO
Because you're a rodent. A scab.
A loser.

(MORE)

GINO (CONT'D)

You know it and I know it. Hangin' out with the same group of zeros everyday-

Ben smugly grins. Gino's ticked.

GINO

What are you smilin' at, jerk?

BEN

You're sweating. You push everyone around at school and they just take it. But we're not. You can't push us to the ground so now you're getting desperate. You're at the end of your line.

GINO

Pssh. I push everyone around because I'm better than them. That's why I'm doing this; to prove that I'm better. And right now I'm gonna prove that I'm especially better than you.

Gino prepares to smash the laptop.

BEN

Well, there's something I know that you don't, Gino.

GINO

And what's that, Nostradamus?

BEN

My dog is about to bite your ass off.

Gino looks behind him where Cara viciously snarls at him. Gino lowers the laptop, terrified.

GINO

Whoa. Good dog. Don't wanna hurt Big Gino.

Ben's right hand is in the air.

GINO

Good dog. Easy! Yo, Flanagan, is your dog deaf or somethin'?

BEN

Heh, well, yeah...

Gino's eyes bulge open.

BEN

All I have to do is lower my hand.
The question you gotta ask yourself
is "do I feel lucky today?" Well,
do ya, punk?

Both gangs emerge from the house in one big scuffle. For some reason Chuck's shirt is gone. Joshua's underwear is pulled over his head. They all stop and stare at the Gino-Cara showdown.

BEN

Give me the computer, Gino.

Gino slowly hands the laptop over to Ben.

BEN

Thank you. The side gate is right
beside you. Beat it. All of you.

Gino's gang scurries over to the gate and opens it up. Gino points back to Ben.

GINO

This ain't over, Flanagan. I got a
poodle at home that barks at golden
retrievers every time I walk her-

Suddenly Ben socks Gino right in the face. Gino crashes into his gang members and looks back at Ben in disbelief.

GINO

Let's blow this joint, boys!

Ben angrily stares until they exit where he then collapses to the ground and rubs his hand in pain.

BEN

Ow! Ow! Ow!

The guys walk over. Chuck pats Ben's shoulder.

CHUCK

First time punching someone, huh?
Yeah, I remember my first time. It
left a pain in my fingers for five
days. Of course, the kid had
braces so, ya know. The second
punch was a lot easier-

Chuck goes off in a ramble while Ben pets his dog.

BEN
Good girl.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Headlights awaken Ben. He peeks out to the driveway where his folks get out of the car and embrace. He smiles.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - BEN'S HOUSE - MORNING

Stephen loads several pieces of baggage into the SUV while Chuck and Oliver argue.

CHUCK
How much crap did you bring? You pack like a woman!

OLIVER
I just brought shtuff sho I'd be shafe!

CHUCK
You brought like six pairs of socks! We'll only be gone for the weekend!

OLIVER
What if I shtep in shome mud or shomething? Huh? Then what? I guessh I could jusht walk around with muddy feet the resht of the time like you would, right?

Stephen takes a rest.

STEPHEN
Seriously, son, you pack like a woman.

Chuck proudly smiles.

CHUCK
Thank you, Mr. Flanagan!

Ben and Dimitri exit the house carrying the final DVD copy of their movie, "Rising to Fame."

BEN
Dudes! Check this out!

Ben shows off the cover, which has his autograph scribbled on the front in illegible handwriting.

BEN
It's the signature edition!

CHUCK
You're such a dork, dude.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The SUV cruises steadily along the freeway. Chuck looks to one of the cars beside the vehicle and waves.

The MAN inside the car grimaces and gives Chuck the finger.

EXT. GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

The San Francisco fog smothers the bridge as they make their way closer to the City by the Bay.

EXT. ORION POST THEATER - DAY

The five guys arrive at the doors of the theater.

INT. ORION POST THEATER - DAY

They make their way in and are dazzled by the decorative pieces that cover the walls and ceilings. Hundreds of individual seats sit before the massive screen.

BEN
This is incredible!

CHUCK
Our movie is going to be shown on that?!

BEN
Yeah! It's a digital projector!

Ben's attention is drawn to a sign-in table, where a WORKER takes his DVD and entry form.

WORKER
Names?

BEN
Benjamin J. Flanagan, Charles M. Mills, Dimitri P. Smololovonaka, and Oliver S. Kemp.

WORKER

Very good. I have you guys signed up for an eight o'clock screening tomorrow evening.

Ben's eyes widen.

BEN

Eight tomorrow? Excellent!

EXT. ORION POST THEATER - DAY

Ben and the gang jubilantly exit the theater.

BEN

Eight on Saturday! I don't believe this!

DIMITRI

Guys! Guys! Guys! Ahhhh!

CHUCK

Opening night! World premiere!
Box office smash!

Two young teens, MERLIN and KATE, trot along the sidewalk dressed in shirts that say "PASSION OF THE CHRIST 2: MARY STRIKES BACK." Chuck bursts into laughter.

CHUCK

What the hell is this? Passion of the Christ 2?

MERLIN

That's right! Mary kicks some serious butt!

CHUCK

Don't tell me you entered this into the competition.

MERLIN

We did! And it's going to win!

KATE

It'll make people change their lives like the first one did because Mary fought for her son's death!

CHUCK

This is pathetic.

MERLIN

We'll see who's pathetic when
we're carrying that trophy out of
here, ass eyes!

Merlin hands Chuck a "Passion" T-shirt.

MERLIN

Compliments of Jesus Lives
Entertainment.

CHUCK

Can I have one more?

Merlin hands him one more and then he and Kate enter the
building. Ben questionably looks to Chuck.

CHUCK

For Aaron.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

The guys change into their sharp suits and ties as the sky
starts to turn dark. Ben examines himself in the mirror.

BEN

Tell me, Chuck. Are we good
looking?

Chuck's reflection enters the mirror. He's got a sharp pair
of sunglasses on.

CHUCK

Oh yeah.

EXT. ORION POST THEATER - NIGHT

The four boys proudly strut up to the main entrance of the
theater with Stephen close behind. Dimitri has a black top
hat and cane.

DIMITRI

Big pimpin' movie stars, guys!

OLIVER

We're dressed the part, too!

Oliver's fancy bow-tie spins.

INT. ORION POST THEATER - NIGHT

The theater is crowded with young filmmakers, parents, studio executives, and a celebrity here and there. Ben proudly struts over to a fellow 13 year-old BOY and shakes his hand.

BEN

Name's Benjamin J. Flanagan, big movie director. Nice to meet you!

Ben moves further into the theater where he snatches a paper and pen out of a WOMAN'S hand and scribbles his autograph.

BEN

Here you go, ma'am!

WOMAN

Who are you?

Stephen catches up to Ben and whispers into his ear.

STEPHEN

I'll be in my seat. You just enjoy yourself!

BEN

Thanks, Mr. Flanagan!

STEPHEN

What'd you call me?

BEN

It's okay. We're all businessmen here!

Stephen shrugs and walks off.

A hand grabs Ben's shoulder. It's a snazzily dressed Mr. Shields. Ben's amazed.

BEN

Mr. Shields!

MR. SHIELDS

Ben! Glad you made it!

BEN

What are you doing here?

MR. SHIELDS

Someone's gotta host this joint!

Mr. Shields heads for the stage.

CHUCK

Ben! Look who it is!

Chuck points to a group of people leaning against a wall. Among them is their arch rival Rex.

BEN

Let's just be cool.

An ANNOUNCER comes onto the loudspeaker.

ANNOUNCER(V.O.)

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2010 San Francisco 15-Minute Junior Film Festival! If you'd please take your seats we can begin shortly.

The people flock to their seats.

The gang finds themselves dead center in the theater. Mr. Shields steps onto the stage and speaks into a microphone.

MR. SHIELDS

Good evening and welcome to the 2010 San Francisco 15-Minute Junior Film Festival!

Applause.

MR. SHIELDS

My name is Fred Shields and I'll be introducing the pictures as we go on a fascinating journey through the odyssey of motion pictures through the minds of the filmmakers of tomorrow! Judging this year's work will be producers Tim Adams and Mike Brooks!

Seated in a booth above everyone else are TIM and MIKE, who happily wave down to the audience.

MR. SHIELDS

We also have supermodels Gretta Chambers and Nikki Gretchen!

GRETTA and NIKKI wave. All of the men in attendance whistle to them.

MR. SHIELDS

Now, as you know, the grand prize winner will take home 5000 dollars, gets a free tour of Hollywood, and
(MORE)

MR. SHIELDS (CONT'D)
 receive bunches of other awesome
 prizes! How does that sound?

Loud applause.

MR. SHIELDS
 Cool! After every picture our
 judges will say a few words but the
 actual decision for Best Picture
 will be made on Sunday evening and
 presented on that night! Are we
 ready for the first film?

Louder applause.

MR. SHIELDS
 Our first picture is by 8th graders
 Michael Summers and James Watson
 out of San Bernardino and the flick
 is called "Seinfeld: The Revenge of
 Newman."

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - NIGHT

A PROJECTIONIST places the DVD into a digital projector.

INT. ORION POST THEATER - NIGHT

The lights dim and the film starts. The scene is in an
 apartment with two boys impersonating JERRY and KRAMER.

KRAMER
 Look, Jerry, you gotta let me stay
 here. You gotta! Newman's a nice
 guy but he's ca-ca-ca-crazy!

JERRY
 Kramer, you're overreacting.

A knock on the door. Jerry opens it to NEWMAN, a fat kid
 with an evil look on his face.

NEWMAN
 Hello Jerry.

JERRY
 Helloooo Newman.

INT. ORION POST THEATER - LATER

The film finally ends with good applause. As the lights turn up, Mr. Shields comes back onto the stage.

MR. SHIELDS
Judges! Some words?

Tim stands up.

TIM
Are you kidding me? Send it to
Larry David and don't waste our
time.

Awkward chuckles from the audience. Mr. Shields shrugs.

MR. SHIELDS
Well, I liked it...Anyway, our next
film is called "Passion of the
Christ 2: Mary Strikes Back" by
Merlin Williams and Kate Jones of
San Mateo!

Ben and Chuck look at each other and chuckle.

CHUCK
Merlin!

The film starts. Set on a dirt road, 13 year-old MARY is attacked by several sleuths dressed in poorly made Roman costumes.

Mary gets into attack position and does some dismal choreography as she fights her opponents.

INT. ORION POST THEATER - LATER

"The Passion 2" comes to an abrupt end. Mr. Shields comes back onto the stage.

MR. SHIELDS
Okay. Judges? Words?

Tim stands up again.

TIM
This would have been a good film if
it didn't suck so bad.

Merlin and Kate cry. Chuck bursts into laughter.

EXT. ORION POST THEATER - NIGHT

The theater exits out for the night. Ben and the gang meet up.

OLIVER

After sheeing that garbage tonight
I think we have a good chance!

BEN

Heck yeah we do! But there's still
one thing we have to look out
for...

Rex, Joshua and Nixon stride up next to the gang with snobbish faces. Gino hides behind them.

REX

You losers don't really think
that those were the quality films,
do you? They just put the crappy
ones up on the first night!
Tomorrow is when the good stuff
comes!

CHUCK

Ours is up tomorrow.

REX

Oh, that's cute. It really is.

Ben bluffs at Gino, who jumps back.

JOSHUA

Ha! Be ready to lose tomorrow!

CHUCK

Why would anyone want to be ready
to lose, Mullet Man?

JOSHUA

Because I said so!

The four rivals leave the area.

OLIVER

They're pretty confident.

BEN

So are we.

CHUCK

(shouts)
Party at Ben's house!

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Oliver sleeps with his arm over Dimitri in one bed and Stephen sleeps in the other with Ben. Chuck lays on a pillow on the ground.

Everyone snores except Ben, who lays there and stares out into space.

INT. ORION POST THEATER - NIGHT

The second night of premieres is well underway. Mike stands up to address the audience.

MIKE

We felt the filmmakers did a pretty respectable job with the film. It needed some more editing work, but besides that it was enjoyable. Good job!

Applause. Mr. Shields comes onto the stage to introduce the next picture.

MR. SHIELDS

Our next film comes from the minds of three young filmmakers from right here in San Francisco known as Lunar Blue Productions. Atilla Balazar, William Lawrence, and Bert Flirt present "The Scratch Revenge."

Ben whispers to Chuck.

BEN

Bert Flirt?

BAM! The film starts with the sound of an explosion. The first scene has ATILLA seated by a fireplace in a deep trance. A scar is visible on his arm.

ATILLA (V.O.)

I knew he would be back to finish the job. He killed my brother and tried to kill me, but instead left me permanently scarred. For the murder he went to prison for fifteen years and now he's back for revenge.

The next scene finds Atilla and BERT duking it out in the middle of a street. Their choreography is top notch.

ATILLA
You tried killing me before!

BERT
Yes, and I am back to finish the
job!

WILLIAM rides into the scene on a bike and purposely crashes
onto the pavement.

WILLIAM
I'll kill you both!

THE SCRATCH REVENGE - LATER

The film finishes up with Atilla gunning down Bert with some
realistic gunshot sound effects.

ATILLA
Not a problem!

The film fades and the lights turn back up. There is
applause all around as Mr. Shields comes back onto stage.

MR. SHIELDS
All right, very nice. Judges?

NIKKI
(stands up)
This was a wonderful film. It
showed some very nice filmmaking
and had arguably the best special
effects we've seen in this
competition.

More applause.

MR. SHIELDS
Let's move along then. Our
next film tonight is by a team
of young men out of San Carlos who
call themselves "20th Century
Chuck."
(the crowd chuckles)
Kinda makes you chuckle...anyway,
Benjamin J. Flanagan, Charles M.
Mills, Dimitri P. some-really-long-
last-name-I've-never-been-able-to-
pronounce, and Oliver S. Kemp
present "Rising to Fame."

Ben grips the arm rest of his seat and shakes.

The opening credits run on the screen followed by a sequence of Ben trying to direct the crew during an action scene.

BEN

Cut! This isn't working!

CHUCK

Yeah, I'm not feeling the adventure here.

BEN

We just need one half decent idea!

DIMITRI

One word, guys: Bootlegging!

RISING TO FAME - LATER

Ben and Chuck stand before a video store CASHIER.

BEN

Good day. We are major filmmakers and we're looking to rent films to inspire our minds with radical ideas and I see that you have quite a movie collection here. I went online and found a list of the top 10 most in-your-face films and was wondering if you had any.

Ben hands the list to the cashier.

CASHIER

Blood Sucking Freaks, Cannibal Holocaust...120 Days of Sodomy?!
Do you even know what that means?

BEN

Yeah. So-dam-me. Kinda like soda.

The cashier dumbfoundly stares at Ben.

RISING TO FAME - LATER

"The Return of Vader" scene plays which stirs up laughter from the audience. Oliver is onscreen in a dress and wig.

DEREK

Daddy's Home!

More laughter as the two guys fight on screen.

OLIVER
Be careful, my love!

CHUCK
I thought I was your love, Leia!

OLIVER
Ew! You're my brother!

CHUCK
So is he!

OLIVER
But I'd rather shleep with him!

AARON
Cut! This is getting gross.

Oliver throws his wig at Aaron.

OLIVER
You think?!

More laughter from the audience.

RISING TO FAME - LATER

Ben, Chuck, Dimitri, and Oliver sit around a table. They're acting is pretty good here.

BEN
Guys, are we even gonna be friends after this?

OLIVER
What do you mean?

BEN
I mean, yeah, now we're hanging out with each other, but when this movie is all said and done will we still be buds?

CHUCK
Business partners can still be pals.

RISING TO FAME - LATER

Ben lectures his crew in an inspirational speech.

BEN

Come on, gang! We can't give up!
 Did Scorsese give up after the
 Oscars robbed him out of so many
 awards? Did he give up when
 Christ made his last temptation?
 Did he give up when "Bringing Out
 the Dead" flopped at the box
 office? No! He stuck with it!

RISING TO FAME - FINAL SCENE

The gang turns in a finished copy of their film to Jodie, who is dressed like a serious businesswoman.

BEN

We don't know if it's exactly what
 your studio wanted, but it's damn
 close.

JODIE

Thank you, boys.

Ben turns around and walks off down the street by himself as slow, dramatic music starts up. With one more heroic look up the street, the film fades out.

Warm applause breaks out, but not nearly as much as the previous film received.

The gang shyly looks around at the few audience members who stand and give them a sharp reception.

Ben's grip on his armrest loosens, revealing the deep fingernail marks that he indented on them.

Mr. Shields comes onto stage.

MR. SHIELDS

Judges?

TIM

One of the most original stories
 we've had this weekend. A sure
 contender!

The applause dies down as Ben sits back in his seat and gives a sigh of relief.

MR. SHIELDS

Excellent! Our next picture is
 also out of San Carlos titled "The
 (MORE)

MR. SHIELDS (CONT'D)
Love That I Lost" by Rex Morgan,
Gino Mussolini Benidelli, Joshua
Peters, and Richard Nixon.

Ben and the gang stiffen up in their chairs.

The lights dim. The film rolls. A melodic piano tune plays in the background over a montage of gray drapes.

Rex dances into the scene with passionate ballet moves and spreads his fingers to caress the drapes.

REX
I have lost it. I need it back.

In the next scene, Rex majestically dances down a busy street and receives lots of strange stares from folks passing by.

REX
I love it. It is my love.

BOOM! Rex dances through a fire explosion.

In the next scene, Rex dances next to Gino and the Mafia.

REX
I love it so much.

People in the audience chuckle.

REX
I need the love. I need it now.

When the picture comes to an end, the audience is silent.

Suddenly, the crowd unanimously stands up and applauds! Rex proudly takes a bow from his seat.

Mr. Shields comes onto the stage.

MR. SHIELDS
Judges? Some words?

Gretta stands up and enthusiastically gives her review.

GRETTA
Very touching!

TIM
Dazzling work!

Ben is stunned stiff. His eyes bulge out.

BEN
It's over.

The guys intently listen.

BEN
If the judges loved that picture
then we don't stand a chance.

EXT. ORION POST THEATER - NIGHT

The crowds exit. Ben and his group sluggishly make their way through until Rex dashes over and stops them. He's got the usual smug smile on his face.

REX
Hey, was your film the one that
got that huge standing ovation?
Oh wait, no, that was mine!

Rex sarcastically laughs.

CHUCK
Your film sucked and you know it.

REX
Charles, your insults are as
dense as your brain.

Ben has had enough. He's clearly frustrated.

BEN
Rex, why don't you just back off?

REX
Remember when I said you guys
made the biggest mistakes of your
lives? I was right.

Rex smiles once more and then heads off. Joshua bobs his head in front of the crew and leaves as well. Swarms of people bump by Ben, but he just stands there.

INT. MOTEL - NIGHT

Everyone is asleep but Ben remains awake. In his hand is one of his business cards.

His sad eyes reread the info over and over until he crumbles up the card and tosses it aside.

EXT. ORION POST THEATER - NIGHT

The sun sets as the contenders reenter the theater for one last night. Ben and the gang stand at the door.

BEN

Well, win or lose, I've had a great time working with you guys and hope that we can make more pictures in the future.

INT. ORION POST THEATER - NIGHT

The judges and Mr. Shields are on stage.

NIKKI

First we'd like to say that some of the entries this year were just fantastic and you all should be proud of yourselves.

MIKE

Though some were better than others, everyone put forth a sincere effort and that made our decision a hard one. After extensive debates, we came to a winner. This year's Best Picture is like no other we've ever had. It was different in all aspects of creativity and execution and had a great uniqueness to it.

TIM

Third place in this year's competition goes to "Rising to Fame" by Benjamin J. Flanagan, Charles M. Mills, Oliver S. Kemp, and Dimitri Schm-blah-blah-ooga-booga of 20th Century Chuck Productions.

Tim chuckles. More applause. Ben and company shake hands but eagerly look back to the stage.

MIKE

Second place in this year's competition goes to "The Treasure of the Old Man" by Lars Prince and Bruce Powell of Melvin Productions.

Applause.

NIKKI

And the winner of the 2010 San Francisco 15-Minute Junior Film Festival is...

GRETTA

"The Scratch Revenge" by Atilla Balazar, William Lawrence, and Bert Flirt of Lunar Blue Productions!
Come on up, boys!

Ben does a double take. The "Scratch" crew, lead by Bert Flirt, dash up to the stage and celebrate.

BERT

Yeah! All right!

Ben and his crew loosen up and enjoy the moment.

Rex, Gino, and their gang sit in anger and fume.

Upon arrival, each boy receives a trophy and a peck on the cheek from Gretta.

Bert takes this one step further and attempts to open mouth kiss the super model but is angrily shoved away.

GRETTA

Pervert!

BERT

Come on, babe! Yeah!

Security rushes onto stage to pull Bert away, but he dodges them and starts to break dance, much to the audience's amusement. All Ben and his crew can do is laugh and enjoy the moment.

EXT. ORION POST THEATER - NIGHT

All of the applicants gather around outside to congratulate each other. Ben looks through the crowd and spots Rex miserably shaking hands with people.

Ben and the gang make their way over to Rex. They uncomfortably stare for a few seconds.

BEN

Rex.

REX

Ben.

Ben slowly smiles and offers his hand in peace.

BEN
Congratulations.

Rex returns the smile and shakes Ben's hand.

REX
You too. I guess the better film
won, huh?

Chuck happily shakes hands with other contestants until
Joshua grinds up to him.

JOSHUA
I bet you think you're hot stuff
now, huh? Ohhh so you got third
place! Like that actually means
anything you little-

Chuck speaks peacefully.

CHUCK
Look, I don't want to fight. I'd
really just like to be friends.

Chuck tries to walk away but Joshua follows.

JOSHUA
Friends? Ha! Like anyone would
want to be friends with a dumb ape
such as yourself. You're pitiful,
Mills. I hope your mother is
ashamed of bringing your embryotic-
sized brain into-

Chuck snaps and punches Joshua hard in the gut, then grabs
his underwear and drags him over to a garbage can. With a
heap of strength, he lifts Joshua up and slams him in.

Chuck joins up with Ben.

CHUCK
You know, that Joshua kid is really
starting to piss me off.

He senses the tranquility between Ben and Rex.

CHUCK
Rex.

Chuck smiles and shakes hands with Rex. Dimitri and Oliver
do the same.

CHUCK

A job well done indeed! Party at
Ben's house!

EXT. BACKYARD - BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

A banner is taped up which reads "CONGRATULATIONS 20TH CENTURY CHUCK!" Ben's family, his crew, and some PARENTS of the crews are there. A stack of presents rests on a table. Chuck and Aaron are in their "Passion" T-shirts.

Stephen walks over to his son with Tim by his side.

STEPHEN

Ben, I believe you've already met
Tim Adams, my new boss.

Ben grins and shakes his hand.

TIM

Boy, it's a good thing I voted for
your pic, otherwise this would be
pretty awkward.

BEN

It's a pleasure, Mr. Adams!

TIM

All mine, Mr. Flanagan!

Everyone circles around a cake which reads "HAPPY 13 YEARS AND ONE MONTH, BEN!" Cara rests off to the side. A portion of her belly fur is shaved off.

Jodie walks over to her son and kisses his head.

JODIE

Happy birthday, hun.

Ben slams his hand on the table to get everyone's attention.

BEN

Thanks everyone for coming.
Honestly, a few weeks ago I
wouldn't have thunk this was
possible...but look at all of this.
We didn't win...but I'd say third
place wasn't half bad either.

STEPHEN

Can we expect a sequel any time
soon?

BEN
Well, I don't know about that.

CHUCK
Hey, Ben...what is next for us?

FADE TO BLACK

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

EXT. STREET - DAY

FADE IN

SUPER: 20TH CENTURY CHUCK PRESENTS

Ben struts down his neighborhood street in a black leather jacket and beanie.

SUPER: BENJAMIN J. FLANAGAN IS

As he walks by the camera...

SUPER: SHAFT

INT. OFFICE - DAY

He stylishly walks into a business office. People in suits walk in and out of the scene. Stephen and Tim walk in the background.

DIMITRI (V.O.)
Yo! We're on!

They do a double take and then duck behind a desk. Chuck, dressed in "gangsta" clothes, walks beside Ben.

CHUCK
Yo Shaft! What's hangin', g? I told you I be back, foo!

BEN
Yo, who delivers six times out of ten?

CHUCK
You man! But dawg, I need some shiz you know?

BEN
Aight, don't trip.

Suddenly, Oliver jumps out of nowhere and snatches Ben's wallet from his pants. Ben casually turns around and points to Oliver.

BEN
Stop!

Oliver looks around with a tough look on his face.

OLIVER
You talkin' to me? I shaid are you
talkin' to me?

Ben pulls out a black squirt gun and exaggeratedly points it at Oliver. Oliver pulls out a gun of his own and does the same.

They remain in a stand-off for a few seconds until Ben rolls on the ground and fires a shot into Oliver, complete with a bullet sound effect.

He then turns to the camera and fires once more.

FADE TO BLACK.

ROLL END CREDITS

DING DONG!

FADE IN

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben opens the front door to a group of PARTY CRASHERS. The group of wild hair-colored twenty-somethings are equipped with beer kegs and boom boxes over their shoulders.

PARTY CRASHER
Yo, is this where the party's at?

Ben slams the door shut.

FINAL FADE.

THE END