

Cinephiles & Caffeinated Drinks

By

Jonathan Sieff

© Jonathan Sieff

Jonathan Sieff
20 Henry Road East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8BD
Mobile: 07947 890843
Email: Sieffy13@yahoo.co.uk

FADE IN:

EXT. MEGA MOVIES & TV, INVERNESS STREET, CAMDEN - DAY

A busy Camden street with a never-ending row of shops either side. PEOPLE push past one another in a sea of flailing limbs.

In the road itself, there is an array of market stalls, that take up the whole goddamn street.

In the midst of the mayhem is a small shop. In the window is an assortment of DVDs for various films and television shows. A large Walter White cut-out stands proudly. In front of it are an abundance of *Breaking Bad* box sets.

COURTNEY (21) a short girl in a pristine t-shirt sporting the company logo fights her way through the CROWDS, narrowly avoiding spilling her coffee. The bell above the door rings as Courtney enters the shop.

INT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - DAY

TITLE CARD: *GEEK-CRED*

The shop has a low ceiling, but is very long. Shelves are populated with DVDs for a variety of films and TV shows. There is a television mounted on the wall in the furthestmost corner of the shop. On the screen, an episode of *Looney Tunes* is playing.

Behind the till is a red door labeled 'Staff Room'.

TONY (26) a tall, skinny man in a *Star Wars* t-shirt is atop a stepladder. His earphones render him oblivious to Courtney's entrance. He is stacking copies of *THX 1138*, *Duel*, *Dark Star*, *Piranha II: The Spawning*, *Bad Taste* and *Braindead*. On the floor next to him is a banner and some scotch tape.

GRUNDY (28) a large, hulking man in a yellow *Star Trek* t-shirt slumps his way over to Courtney. He stares at her angrily for what seems like forever. He snarls before speaking.

GRUNDY

Who are you? and who beamed you here?

Courtney stares back at Grundy, perplexed.

COURTNEY
Erm... hi, I'm Courtney

GRUNDY
Come with me.

He wanders off. Courtney hurries behind him.

A *Benny Hill*-style montage ensues, as Grundy shows Courtney round the store.

The montage ends.

Courtney and Grundy come to a selection of box sets. Grundy picks up a *Marx Brothers* box set.

GRUNDY (CONT'D)
...And finally, box sets. You probably saw the "*Breaking Bad*" one in the window.

Courtney nods.

As Grundy turns back, his name tag with the name 'Solomon' on it catches the light. Courtney attempts to engage in conversation.

COURTNEY
So... Solomon, what's it like working here?

Grundy grunts. Courtney looks perplexed.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)
Okay?

Tony puts a DVD on the display.

TONY
(mutters to self)
Movie idea, "*Armageddon*" meets "*Deep Impact*".

Grundy goes behind the counter. He goes through the red door. Courtney looks up at Tony.

COURTNEY
Hi... hello... can you hear me?

Tony takes out an earphone.

TONY
Hi. You're Courtney, right?

COURTNEY
Yeah. Solomon was just showing me round.

O.C. Grundy snarls.

TONY
Good, good. He prefers his nickname though, "Grundy" we call him. I'm Tony.

Courtney's eyes are drawn to the display.

COURTNEY
That looks like an interesting display.

TONY
Thanks. You heard of any of these films?

COURTNEY
Course. Directed by some of the greats. Carpenter, Jackson and Spielberg.

TONY
(as Yoda)
"Hmmm, impressive your knowledge is." But you forgot "*THX 1138*" directed by George Lucas.

COURTNEY
Who cares about George Lucas anymore? Other than George Lucas.

They both laugh.

TONY
Now we've just gotta wait for Dave.

COURTNEY
Who's er... who's Dave?

TONY
Manager. He mostly just sorts out deliveries. You'll probably never even meet him.

There is a faint sound of a door opening as Dave enters the back room.

TONY (CONT'D)
 Ah. Speak of the Devil and he shall
 appear.

Tony turns his head quickly and stares at Courtney.

TONY (CONT'D)
 (As Howard Payne from *Speed*)
 "Pop quiz, hotshot" Who directed
 the original and far superior
 "Robocop"?

Courtney jumps, stuttering as she speaks.

COURTNEY
 P-Paul Ver... something, Paul...
 (she clicks her finger as she
 thinks)
 Paul...Paul Verhoeven.

He steps down from the ladder. He grabs the tape and the
 banner.

TONY
 Correct. Question two: original
 trilogy or prequel trilogy?

Tony goes back up the ladder.

COURTNEY
 Erm... prequel trilogy?

TONY
 What! Who chooses the prequels?

COURTNEY
 (laughing)
 Kidding, original trilogy.
 (As JAR JAR BINKS)
 Me-sa know I ruined the fwnachize.
 Me-sa so, so sowwy.

GRUNDY (O.S.)
 Star Trek's far superior.

Tony laughs.

TONY
 Darth Vader could destroy the
 Enterprise with a
 flick-of-the-wrist.

Grundy laughs.

GRUNDY (O.S.)
 (As Palpatine from *Return of
 The Jedi*)
 "Good. Use your aggressive
 feelings, boy. Let the hate flow
 through you."

Tony sticks the left side of the banner to the wall just above the display. He attempts to stick the other side to the wall, revealing the banner's title: *The Great Directors*.

COURTNEY
 So I take it you guys just argue
 constantly over the greatest Sci-Fi
 franchise?

TONY
 Yep.

COURTNEY
 You're both wrong, because the
 greatest piece of Science-Fiction
 media is obviously *Futurama*.

TONY
 Bullshit it is.

COURTNEY
 (As Bender from *Futurama*)
 "Bite my shiny, metal ass."

Courtney smiles at Tony.

TONY
 (Smiling back)
 Question four; will you go out with
 me?

Courtney shakes her head, smirking with derision.

Tony reaches with all his might. The ladder is pulled too far over. It gives way.

Tony is sent crashing to the floor, taking many DVDs down with him.

COURTNEY
 Oh my god. Are you okay?

Tony pops back up seemingly uninjured. He wipes some dust off of his shoulder.

TONY
 Question five: guilty pleasure
 movies go.

COURTNEY
 "*Toxic Avenger*", "*Mallrats*" and
 "*Legally Blond*".

Grundy reemerges with a mug of fresh coffee. He takes an
 extensively large gulp. He exhales euphorically.

GRUNDY
 I told Dave you were here. He's
 looking forward to meeting you.

COURTNEY
 Oh that's so sweet. What's he like?

GRUNDY
 You'll love him, he's a great guy.
 Knows like ten times what we know
 about films and stuff... combined.

Grundy mimics using a Phaser.

GRUNDY (CONT'D)
 (à la Star Trek)
 "Set your phaser on stun". You'll
 want to impress him.

TONY
 Or y'know, let the force guide you.

COURTNEY
 Do you guys disagree on everything?

GRUNDY
 We're both fans of "*Clerks*".

TONY
 A film about two slackers who work
 in consumer-heavy stores and don't
 give two shits about the customers.
 It's like our lives.

COURTNEY
 It's not really like your lives is
 it? I'm betting you guys relish the
 opportunity to make a sale.

TONY
 Yeah, you're right.

The bell above the door rings.

O.C. - CUSTOMER #1 enters the store.

INT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - LATER

TITLE CARD: *DUCK SOUP MADE BY SOUP NAZIS*

There are a few 'CUSTOMERS', wandering round the store.
Grundy is at the counter.

CUSTOMER #2 (30) a man in casual clothing holding some DVDs
walks up to the counter. He puts the DVDs on the counter.

GRUNDY
Morning sir, how are we today?

CUSTOMER #2
Good.

Grundy takes the DVDs.

GRUNDY
Okay so that's "*Hannah Montana: The
Movie*" and "*The High School Musical
Trilogy box-set*". That'll be Twelve
pounds.

Customer #2 hands him the money.

GRUNDY (CONT'D)
I hope your daughter enjoys them.

CUSTOMER #2
They're...erm... they're not fer my
daughter.

Grundy looks at him perplexed.

CUSTOMER #2 (CONT'D)
They're fer my niece.

Grundy smiles and nods.

GRUNDY
Well I'm sure she'll love them.

Customer #2 walks out the store.

Tony is carrying a plastic bag with two tubs inside. He
holds the door open. Courtney enters the store, finishing
her sandwich and holding a coffee.

Courtney goes behind the counter. She begins serving
'CUSTOMERS'.

Tony walks up to the counter. He goes through the red door. He comes back empty-handed.

GRUNDY
What'd you get me?

TONY
Your favorite, Groucho. Duck soup.

Courtney turns to audience. She winks at them.

She returns to the scene.

GRUNDY
You didn't get a "Kahuna" burger?

TONY
Nah, I went to that German soup place. Courtney went next door and got a sandwich.

COURTNEY
(Serving a 'CUSTOMER')
You know, apparently the "Soup Nazi" was based on an actual guy. That'll be five pounds-ten.

The red door opens behind them.

DAVE (O.S.)
It was based on a guy who ran a "Soup Kitchen International" in Manhattan. He was actually Iranian.

The red door closes.

The shop is now empty.

COURTNEY
Could you imagine that? A guy throwing you out of his store for breaking the rules. It's not that difficult, you walk in. You go to the right. Money ready. Place your order. Move down to the till. Pay, get your food and you're on your way.

The bell above the door rings.

CUSTOMER #3 (26) a yuppie in a neat suit enters the store.

He wanders round the shelves looking for a film.

CUSTOMER #3

Do you guys have a copy of "Green Lantern"? Y'know. With Ryan Reynolds. Man I love that movie. Way better than Nolan's "Batman" movies.

Grundy goes through the red door.

CUSTOMER #3

So, d'you have it?

Grundy comes out with a Klingon Bat'leth.

GRUNDY

Get outta my store.

He runs at Customer #3. Customer #3 panics. He runs towards the front door. Grundy is hot on his tail.

GRUNDY

I've got one rule in this place. Never insult "*The Dark Knight Trilogy*". Ever.

Customer #3 goes out the door. Grundy runs to the door. He opens it. He chases Customer #3 down the street.

Tony face-palms embarrassingly. Courtney laughs.

INT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - LATER

TITLE CARD: *FRESH OUTTA IDEAS*

Courtney is behind the cash register. A mug of fresh coffee in hand. 'CUSTOMERS' are in a line, being served one by one.

The red door behind her opens.

Tony comes out carrying a phaser. The front door opens, Grundy enters.

TONY

I told you never to leave your crappy Star Trek stuff in the staff room.

GRUNDY

Oh, and Luke's precious light saber lighting the room isn't just there because you think it's cool.

TONY
 (In Klingon)
 Get rid of the phaser.

Grundy goes up to the cash register. He snatches the phaser and hurries through the red door. Tony opens the red door and pokes his head through.

TONY (CONT'D)
 Oh, that delivery came in whilst you were out, could you go sort it? There's a box there with all the films in.

COURTNEY
 Hey, can you takeover the register. I'll help Grundy with the DVDs.

Tony goes over to the cash register and serves the next 'CUSTOMER'.

Courtney wanders off. She starts sorting out misplaced DVDs. Tony looks over at Courtney.

TONY
 Film idea, a Superman-esque superhero without the "Boyscout" image.

Courtney grabs a copy of *Hancock*.

TONY
 That'll be five-ninety-nine.

CUSTOMER #4 pays and goes. The next 'Customer' comes goes up to the till.

COURTNEY
 Plot of "*Hancock*". Which is crap.

She puts the film back.

TONY
 Time is money. Literally.

Grundy comes out the red door carrying a cardboard box overfilled with DVDs.

COURTNEY
 Isn't that the plot to "*In Time*"?

GRUNDY

Great concept, terrible film.

The shop is now empty.

Courtney walks over to the front desk. She takes a few DVDs out the box. She goes round the shop, stocking them on the shelves. Grundy takes a few films out the box. He goes round the shop stocking them on shelves.

TONY

What about a film with a message,
like 'slavery' or something?

Courtney gets out her phone. She presses a button. The sound of a "wrong answer" buzzer can be heard.

COURTNEY

If you're gonna make a film with a message, at least do something a bit less subtle. "Slavery is bad", we get it. I knew someone who wrote this piece about an abusive relationship. It was all melodramatic, and as a member of the audience, melodrama is fine...

TONY

So you think I should use a different social message as my theme?

Courtney presses her phone again, releasing the same "wrong answer" buzzer sound. She puts her phone away.

COURTNEY

No, y'know what'd be even better? A fun, entertaining movie that I can enjoy and, when I come out of the theatre, I feel all tingly inside.

TONY

(in French)
For example?

COURTNEY

(à la *CAPTAIN KIRK* from *Wrath of Khan*)
"KHAAANNNN!" "KHAAANNNN!"

GRUNDY

Holy hell yes!

Courtney goes over to another shelf. She grabs a copy of *Robocop*.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Corporate greed, masked behind the guise of a story about a cyborg super-cop.

TONY

Go on, continue. Enlighten me.

COURTNEY

Why would I watch an artsy OSCAR-bait picture, when I can watch a bunch of teens get hacked to bits by Leatherface or Jason Voorhees?

TONY

(As THE DUDE from The Big Lebowski)
"Yeah, well, you know, that's just, like, your opinion, man."

Courtney smirks.

COURTNEY

Also, don't rush it. I know this guy, Jonathan Sieff, great writer. One of his early scripts, something about a superhero vigilante, he rushed it, not the best result.

TONY

What about a prehistoric shark film? All action, lack-o-plot.

The red door behind him opens.

DAVE (O.S.)

That's Kevin O'Neill's excellent "*Dinoshark*". Produced by the great Roger Corman.

The red door closes.

TONY

Grundy, what do you think?

Grundy shrugs disinterestedly.

The bell above the door rings.

CUSTOMER #4 (20) a tall man in rough clothes enters the store.

GRUNDY (CONT'D)

Hi. How can I help you?

Grundy goes over to Customer #4.

CUSTOMER #4

Yeah, I'm looking for a good popcorn flick. I've got the guys coming over Saturday. I'm looking for something to keep us entertained whilst we get shitfaced.

GRUNDY

Of course sir. Follow me.

Grundy and Customer #4 walk round the store. Grundy picks up a few films and hands them to him.

GRUNDY

"Con Air" is a great one for mindless, awesome action. The perfect nineties action flick. In fact, why not just have a Nick Cage-athon. We've got plenty of his action films.

Grundy walks round the store once more. He grabs as many Nick Cage films as he can carry. He walks back to Customer #4, expertly balancing a large pile of films.

TONY

How about something about scriptwriting?

Courtney sighs. She picks up a copy of *Adaptation*.

COURTNEY

Work of the great Charlie Kaufman.

She throws it at Tony.

TONY (CONT'D)

What the fuck was that?

Courtney grabs more DVDs. She starts throwing them at Tony. Tony ducks for cover.

COURTNEY

Come up with an original idea.

Grundy looks over to see Tony being pelted with DVDs. He joins in. Customer #4 leaves.

The mayhem concludes. Tony reemerges from behind the desk, petrified.

TONY

An original idea. I'll get right on it.

Tony slowly types on his laptop. A rogue DVD hits him on the head. He falls to the floor.

INT. STAFF ROOM - LATER

TITLE CARD: *HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE KUBRICK*

"Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" rests on a shelf. Grundy's large paw-like hand engulfs the DVD as he clutches it.

INT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - LATER

Grundy puts the disc into the TV.

ON TV SCREEN: DVD menu, Grundy selects "Play". The film begins.

Grundy escapes through the red door.

Courtney is walking round the shop. she is carrying a box of DVDs. A clipboard rests on top of the box. Courtney goes over to the horror section. She puts the box down next to her.

Courtney sits on the floor. She flicks through copies of "SAW". She grabs the clipboard and writes something down. She takes a few copies of the film out from the box. She puts them on the shelf. Courtney goes round the store taking films out the box and stocking them in their respective sections.

Tony looks up at the TV. He smiles.

TONY

Hey Courtney. You ever seen this film?

Courtney stands up. She walks stiffly toward Tony.

COURTNEY

(As DOCTOR STRANGELOVE from
"Dr. Stranglove")

COURTNEY
"Mein Führer!... I can walk!"

Courtney and Tony burst into laughter. The red door behind Tony creaks open.

DAVE (O.S.)
That line was completely
improvised.

COURTNEY & TONY
We know.

The red door slowly closes. Courtney finishes stocking the films. She picks up the box and goes through the red door.

Tony looks around the completely empty store. The sound of a coyote howling can be heard. A videotape bounces past like a tumbleweed.

Courtney and Grundy come through the red door.

TONY
(to Grundy)
What took you so long?

GRUNDY
Boxes upon boxes. It's a cardboard
jungle back there.

Grundy grabs the remote. He skips through the film, coming to the point where DR. Stanglove can't control his arm.

Tony and Courtney look up at the TV. They burst into laughter.

Grundy sticks out his arm. He tries to force it down with his other hand. Courtney and Tony laugh even more.

EXT/INT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - LATER

A group of ORTHODOX JEWS walk past the store. One of them looks in. He sees Courtney and Tony laughing as Grundy salutes. He becomes infuriated. He hurries the group past the shop.

INT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - LATER

Courtney, Tony and Grundy stand there in stitches.

EXT. MEGA MOVIES & TV, INVERNESS STREET, CAMDEN - LATER

TITLE CARD: NO COFFEE, JUST CIGARETTES

Courtney stands in the street outside the shop. She takes out a cigarette and a lighter. Courtney lights the cigarette.

Grundy steps out the shop. He stands next to her. He takes out some paper and a bag of tobacco. He fills the paper with some tobacco.

Courtney looks over at Grundy's roll-up.

COURTNEY

You're doing that wrong.

GRUNDY

What d'you mean?

COURTNEY

That roll-up, you've overfilled it.
Give it here.

Grundy hands Courtney the roll-up. She takes out excess tobacco. Courtney seals the cigarette. She hands it back to Grundy.

GRUNDY

(lighting cigarette)

You looking forward to working here
with us?

COURTNEY

You bet.

GRUNDY

Did you ever see that film "*Coffee
and Cigarettes*"?

COURTNEY

Heard of it, never seen it. why?

GRUNDY

You remind me of one of the
characters.

COURTNEY

Which one?

GRUNDY

Renée French.

COURTNEY

How do I remind you of her?

GRUNDY

You've got a certain quality. A sort of je ne sais quoi.

COURTNEY

Oh yeah? What is it about me that confuses you?

GRUNDY

How did someone like you make her way over to our neck of the woods.

COURTNEY

You sit at home and watch movies on a Saturday night instead of going out?

GRUNDY

Course.

COURTNEY

Yeah. well. My boyfriend and I sometimes do that too Cap'en Kirk.

Grundy smirks. He looks at his phone.

GRUNDY

Well it was good having a chat with you, but we might as well go back inside. Shop's gonna close soon.

Grundy throws his cigarette into the street. They turn round and head back into the store.

INT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - LATER

The bell above the door rings as Courtney and Grundy walk into the shop.

COURTNEY

There's one thing that's been bugging me?

GRUNDY

What?

COURTNEY

Why do they call you "Grundy"?

GRUNDY

I was born on a Monday.

Courtney smiles.

INT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - LATER

TITLE CARD: *CLOSING TIME*

Tony locks the cash register. Courtney is mopping the floor. Grundy is straightening DVDs.

COURTNEY

How long till we're officially closed?

TONY

About five minutes.

COURTNEY

Does anybody turn up to get a film around now?

GRUNDY

Well it's happened before.

Grundy starts laughing.

COURTNEY

What's so funny?

GRUNDY

We had this guy come in once...

INT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - NIGHT - FLASHBACK (ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO)

The store is empty. A slightly less plump GRUNDY (23) with an ecstatic smile and a clean uniform stacks copies of *INCEPTION*.

GRUNDY (V.O.)

It was a Friday. He insisted we let him.

There is a loud thumping noise coming from outside.

INT/EXT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

CREEPY FILM GUY (55) an older man in scruffy clothing bangs on the window.

GRUNDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 He was all like (mouthed by Creepy Film Guy) "I'll offer you fifty quid for a copy of "Faster Pussycat! Kill Kill!"

GRUNDY
 (Mouthed)
 We don't have it sir. And we're closed.

Creepy Film Guy continues to bang on the window, demanding the film.

GRUNDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 We told him multiple times that we didn't have it. He banged on the door and everything. Started upping his offer. He was almost in the thousands. We ended up phoning the police.

GRUNDY
 (Mouthed)
 I'm calling the cops.

Grundy grabs the phone and dials.

EXT. MEGA MOVIES & TV, INVERNESS STREET, CAMDEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK.

The sound of police sirens builds and builds Creepy Film Guy turns and is engulfed by red and blue lights.

INT. MEGA MOVIES & TV - LATER

Grundy stops laughing.

GRUNDY (CONT'D)
 That was about five years ago.

Grundy's smile turns into a frown.

The red door opens, DAVE (27) a pale man in dark clothes steps out.

DAVE

You guys up for a pint?

They all nod.

EXT. THE WORLD'S END, CAMDEN HIGH STREET - NIGHT

A Brobdingnagian building with large golden letters on a busy high street.

The four of them walk into the pub.

INT. THE WORLD'S END - NIGHT

A large pub filled with PEOPLE at various tables. Courtney and Tony go and sit at an empty table. Grundy and Dave go up to the bar.

INT. THE WORLD'S END - NIGHT - LATER

There are now several empty glasses on the table. Courtney finishes a drink. The BARMAID (55) a robust woman with rosy cheeks comes to the table with four fresh pints. She puts them down and collects the empty glasses. She walks off.

DAVE

So anyway, as I was saying. This kid comes up to the counter. Couldn't have been older than let's say eight or nine. With a copy *Scarface*. Y'know, (*à la Pacino*) "Say 'hello' to my little friend." And he holds up a tenner.

COURTNEY

Did you take it?

DAVE

Yep, and that's how I made my first sale.

Courtney bursts into laughter.

COURTNEY

Did your dad ever find out?

DAVE

Course not. And to this day, it has been the only film I've ever sold to minor.

Grundy comes to the table.

GRUNDY

Ah, always good when you come back from the toilet to find what you've ordered has arrived.

COURTNEY

Hey Grundy do you know the story of Dave's first sale?

GRUNDY

"Scarface", nine year old kid.

Grundy grabs a glass. He raises it.

GRUNDY (CONT'D)

Alright, everyone grab a drink. I'm gonna propose a toast.

The three of them quickly grab a glass and raise it. Grundy clears his throat.

GRUNDY (CONT'D)

So, I think the toast is to Courtney's new job.

DAVE & TONY

To Courtney's new job.

Courtney smiles.

They clink their glasses together and drink.

FADE OUT