

CAN WE KICK IT

Episode 1: Five Feet High and Rising

Written by  
Lloyd Elliott

3rd October, 2019.

ikenna@independenttalent.com  
Rupert.Majendie@shinybutton.co.uk

**EXT. VENICE BEACH, CALIFORNIA - MORNING**

The sun blazes down on the FUNKY BOHEMIA of Venice Beach where the BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE and DOWN-AND-OUTS rub shoulders.

The vibrant STOREFRONTS are populated by an assortment of CHARACTERS... A RICH GIRL walks by LIVE-STREAMING, oblivious to everyone in her path. A POTHEAD exits the DISPENSARY with his latest high. A VAGRANT picks up a CIGARETTE BUTT like he's just won the lottery.

SURFERS run towards the sea. SUN-KISSED GIRLS enjoy the rays. WEIGHT-LIFTERS pump iron at the Muscle Beach area.

A LOWRIDER cruises by, the tones of a G-FUNK HIP-HOP playing from its radio. It passes--

**EXT. VENICE BEACH, CHESS PARK - CONTINUOUS**

An array of CHESS TABLES overlooked by gently swaying PALM TREES. The surf CRASHES in the distance.

At one of the tables, a WIRY BLACK DUDE plays three shirtless JUICEHEADS. These guys are jacked beyond belief. We can't see the DUDE'S face. But his voice sounds familiar--

Juicehead nervously starts a move.

DUDE

I guess you could call that a play.

Juicehead reconsiders and reaches for a different piece.

DUDE (CONT'D)

I wouldn't.

As his buddies protest, Juicehead changes his mind again. He finally makes a move, slowly taking his finger off the piece once he's satisfied. Tension hangs in the air.

DUDE (CONT'D)

Damn. Y'all got moves...

While the Juicers high-five, sure of victory, the dude takes his blunt. We see him for the first time as he exhales a cloud of smoke. It's Tha Doggfather himself, SNOOP DOGG.

Snoop takes their queen.

SNOOP

But I got yo' bitch!

Juicehead violently swipes the pieces off the board--

JUICEHEAD

Man, you tricked me! I want my  
money back!

In a flash, Snoop whips a 9MM from his pants and PRESSES IT  
TO THE GUY'S TEMPLE--

SNOOP

It ain't worth losin' your crown  
over, nephew!

The Juicers run for their lives--

Snoop raises the gun to his blunt and PULLS THE TRIGGER. A  
FLAME emerges from the barrel. The gun is a harmless LIGHTER.

A LITTLE GIRL clutching a copy of DOGGYSTYLE approaches.

LITTLE GIRL

Snoop Dogg! I see you here on the  
beach playing chess all the time!

SNOOP

I come down here to exercise my  
mind. Chess is the game of kings.

LITTLE GIRL

My granddaddy says you're the  
greatest rapper that ever lived!

Snoop pauses, lost in a memory.

SNOOP

Your granddaddy got good taste,  
shorty. But I want you to tell that  
nigga he's wrong. Dead wrong.

**INT. EMERY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MORNING**

An average English suburban semi-detached, all flowered  
wallpaper and loud carpet. TV-AM plays on a fat television,  
as ANNE DIAMOND and NICK OWEN interview ROLAND RAT. A MILK  
FLOAT passes by outside.

Welcome to the mid-80's.

SNOOP (V.O.)

The greatest rapper that ever lived  
didn't hail from the Bronx,  
Hotlanta or even the CPT...

ANDY (13), a gawky white kid in an untucked school shirt,  
swaggers across the room drinking milk from the bottle.

SNOOP (V.O.)  
 And for a long time, he was about  
 as far away from greatness as a  
 fool can be.

Andy swipes an AC/DC album from his DAD'S RECORD COLLECTION  
 and places it on the player.

On the sideboard, the milk bottle sits next to a FAMILY  
 PORTRAIT of LINDA (38), LEN (39), SUZIE (15) and ANDY (13).

### **CHESS PARK**

The Little Girl holds up the album for Snoop to sign.

LITTLE GIRL  
 (bored)  
 Look, are you gonna sign this thing  
 or what?

### **EMERY HOUSE**

Andy looks up at the ceiling and grins broadly. He LOWERS  
 THE NEEDLE...

SNOOP (V.O.)  
 Hush yourself, little girl. Our  
 story is about to begi--

SMASH TO:

A mad-energetic five second cacophony of RECORD SCRATCHING  
 and 808 DRUM SNARES as the vibrant EIGHTIES-STYLE TITLE  
 splashes across the screen.

### **EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING**

A familiar guitar riff cranks to life and the lead singer of  
 AC/DC screams, "BACK IN BLAAAAAAAAAACK!"

Andy and his mate KIRKY (13) cycle towards the school on  
 their Mongoose BMX's. Both wear denim jackets featuring  
 patches of their favorite metal bands.

SCHOOL KIDS clear a natural path as Andy throws fist bumps at  
 the LADS and confident nods at the GIRLS. He thinks they look  
 cool as shit.

Kirky looks around anxiously. Kids stare at them with pity  
 and contempt. Nobody thinks they're cool.

They pass a group of HEAVY METAL KIDS, led by spike-haired RORY (15). Andy throws devil horns, completely oblivious.

Andy and Kirky pass the GYM BLOCK where Andy spots a few kids admiring some fresh GRAFFITI...

The name DJ VISIONARY has been sprayed on a wall.

Andy ponders this for a moment. But his reverie is shattered when a FOOTBALL SMASHES HIM SQUARE IN THE FACE--

#### **A MOMENT LATER**

Andy lays face pressed to the concrete. His bicycle wheel is still spinning. Kirky paces nervously.

KIRKY

I knew we shouldn't have worn the jackets, I shouldn't have let you convince me! We've got no business wearing these jackets!

Andy's attention is drawn past the kids laughing at him to the Visionary graffiti... where an UNIDENTIFIED KID reaches into his rucksack... produces a CASSETTE TAPE... and presses it into ANOTHER KID'S hand. It looks like a drug deal.

Andy gets up, unsure of what he just witnessed.

ANDY

Did you see that?

KIRKY

I've been telling you to read Lord of the Flies all summer! We're in upper school now. This is Beirut! If you look at someone funny, you're dead. If you talk to someone funny... dead!

ANDY

What are you talking about, Annihilator? Look at us! We're cool. Everyone thinks we're cool!

KIRKY

We're target practice! The best thing we can do is keep our heads down. And don't call me Annihilator if there's people around!

Kirky splits. Andy turns his attention back to the graffiti. The cassette-dealing kids have gone.

Andy approaches the graffiti. He spots something in the grass. Stoops down to picks it up--

GRAYSON (O.S.)  
STOP. RIGHT. THERE.

Andy looks down at the can of SPRAY PAINT he's holding.

ANDY  
Awww, come off it!

**INT. GRAYSON'S OFFICE - DAY**

Andy sits on a chair in the GYM OFFICE, jammed full of sports equipment and racks of footballs. He coughs.

GRAYSON (50's), a take-no-shit PE teacher sits opposite him, smoking a fag. Grayson's assistant, RULE (30's, a wild-haired exposed nerve) circles Andy, trying to intimidate him.

GRAYSON  
You're in trouble, sunshine.

RULE  
Big trouble! I've already seen three of your pissin' tags around the school this morning!

GRAYSON  
And now we've caught ya.

RULE  
Oh, we've caught him alright. The infamous DJ Visionary, defacer of school property far and wide!

GRAYSON  
Apprehended at the crime scene, holding the prime piece of evidence. When I was a copper we called that an open goal.

RULE  
You don't have to be Lineker to put that one in the net. You're looking at an instant exclusion, criminal record, the lot.

Rule snatches a GARFIELD NOVELTY PHONE off the desk--

RULE (CONT'D)

What do you think, Garfield? Think mummy and daddy'll be happy to hear their son's a regular Jim Davis!?

ANDY

How many times do I have to tell you, I'm not DJ Visionary!

GRAYSON

But you know who he is?

Andy shrugs. No idea.

RULE

Let's take him to the roof, Barry.  
See if pigs really can fly!  
(sings)  
*We don't need no education.*

Grayson steps to the window, watching out over the busy SCHOOL YARD.

GRAYSON

This school is like a pond, Mr. Emery. The headmaster thinks he's in charge, but he's old. I'm the big fish. And if I let one tiny octopus spray ink everywhere, like some jumped-up eight-legged twat, before you know it the entire ecosystem could fall apart. Maybe you sprayed my wall, maybe you didn't...

RULE

You're the one holding the can.

GRAYSON

We can make this either the best year of your life, or the worst. That's your decision.

RULE

Please say worst. For me. Just for me personally.

GRAYSON

You've got until the last bell to find out who he is and give us a name.

## RULE

And I hope your mam didn't spend much on that new uniform because you're gonna clean off every one of them pissin' tags!

**INT. LEN'S TAXI - MORNING**

SUZIE (15, Andy's sister) stares blankly at their father LEN (39) who is engaged in an animated monologue as he drives, barely paying attention to the road.

SUZIE (V.O.)

Dear Stephan. I hope this letter finds you well. Today I begin my final year in the conformity factory. The Bavarian countryside looks so beautiful from the pictures I saw at the library.

Suzie is a brunette waif, one heartbreak away from being a Tim Burton heroine. Len is big, brash and loud.

She resumes writing a LETTER.

SUZIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

To answer your questions, yes I'm very much single. I'm five foot three and...

(re-considers)

To answer your questions, I'm currently seeing someone. He works in the City. That means London. He's in love with me but I don't see a future for us. I'm five foot nine, that's almost tall enough to be an elite runway model, Stephan. Perhaps I have a future on the catwalks of Paris? My hair is dirty blonde. They say blondes have the most fun and I can assure you it's true.

Suzie studies Len, who mimes violently hitting someone.

LEN

So Ash decapitates her with the shovel, right, blood everywhere, proper horrific, and then...

SUZIE (V.O.)

Do you ever feel like a stranger in your own family, Stephan?



Len snatches up the buzzing TAXI RADIO.

LEN

(winks)

No, I can't do a pick up darlin',  
I'm transporting a very special VIP  
to an institute of educational  
excellence. My daughter, Suzie.

SUZIE (V.O.)

Perhaps there was a mix-up at the  
hospital? Sometimes I wonder if I'm  
actually related to these people or  
if life has played some kind of...

Len gouges out some imaginary eyes.

SUZIE

Cruel joke?

LEN

What's that, treacle? You want  
daddy to tell you a lickle joke?  
(considers)  
Why did George Michael have  
chocolate all over his face--

SUZIE

Here'll do.

**EXT. SCHOOL GATES - CONTINUOUS**

Suzie jumps out. Len winds down his window and shoves some  
money into her hand.

LEN

Get somethin' nice for dinner. Just  
don't tell your mum I gave you that  
because money's a bit tight.

SUZIE

What do you mean, "money's a bit  
tight"? You promised you'd pay for  
me to visit Stephan in Deutschland  
this summer!

LEN

Deutschl--?

SUZIE

It's German. For Germany. As in the  
country? Where the love of my life  
lives?

Suzie heads for school, annoyed. Len yells after her.

LEN  
 Look out for your brother will ya.  
 You know the little jeb-end's  
 probably already in trouble!

Len slumps wistfully in his chair.

LEN (CONT'D)  
 They grow up so fast.  
 (looks back)  
 Where was it again mate, train  
 station?

A BUSINESS MAN sits in the back of the taxi. He's been there the whole time. He checks his watch.

BUSINESS MAN  
 (irate)  
 My train leaves in ten minutes!

Len pulls into the road.

LEN  
 Alright mate, give it a rest. Can't  
 you see I was having a priceless  
 one-on-one moment with my daughter?  
 Too much yappin' that's your  
 problem, it's giving me a headache!

BUSINESS MAN  
 Unbelievable.

Len SLAMS on his brakes--

LEN  
 You're getting on my nerves now!  
 Who's drivin' this taxi, you or me?

BUSINESS MAN  
 Why isn't this rust box moving!?

Len pulls the handbrake. He picks up his newspaper and begins reading. Like he hasn't got a care in the world.

BUSINESS MAN (CONT'D)  
 What are you doing!? What's  
 happening?

LEN  
 I'm off the clock. That's what's  
 happening. You'll have to find  
 another taxi.

Len has stopped smack bang in the MIDDLE OF THE ROAD. Other cars are having to DRIVE AROUND THEM to get past.

LEN (CONT'D)  
Looks like you're gonna miss yer train.

**INT. SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY**

Andy sits in class, bored, drawing an Iron Maiden "Eddie" zombie. He shows it to Kirky who nods his approval.

**INT. SCHOOL, SCIENCE CLASS - DAY**

The class conducts a science experiment using Bunsen burners and conical jars.

Andy stares at the clock, worried about his mission.

His experiment SETS ALIGHT AND FOAMS OUT OF CONTROL. Andy desperately tries to FAN THE FLAMES. He's the only one in the class who has managed to fuck this up. Everyone laughs--

RANDOM GIRL  
Emery, you tosser!

**EXT. SCHOOL, YARD - DAY**

Andy is half way done painting over the graffiti. The yard is full of KIDS enjoying their break.

He watches the yard. DJ Visionary is out there. Somewhere.

Andy's eye settles on PRINCE (13), one of the few black kids in the school. Prince moves between different groups, trying to join in, but getting the cold shoulder.

DAN (O.S.)  
How does it feel to be doing the authority's dirty work?

DAN (13), a short white dweeb wearing thick glasses and a baseball cap has appeared beside Andy. Imagine if Napoleon Dynamite had an arrogant little brother from Leeds.

ANDY  
I don't have a choice.

DAN

I don't know if anyone has come over and told you this, but it's a sign of disrespect to paint over someone's tag. You should be careful. People have been killed for less.

Dan produces a Capri Sun from his BUM BAG.

He methodically inserts the straw, spits out the wrapper, takes a long sip, then offers the rest to Andy.

DAN (CONT'D)

Go ahead, kid. Take it. You need the hydration.

Andy snatches it, wiping the straw first.

ANDY

I heard there's a cassette going around?

DAN

The new Visionary mixtape. It's fresh.

ANDY

Fresh?

DAN

"Fresh" means "off the hook".

Andy is confused.

DAN (CONT'D)

Right, look at your sneaks.

Andy, baffled.

DAN (CONT'D)

Are you one of the special kids?  
It's American for trainers.

Andy looks down at his battered trainers. Then over at Dan's GLEAMING WHITE NIKES.

DAN (CONT'D)

Now look at mine... now look at yours... now look at mine again.  
That's fresh. Understand?

ANDY

Who did you get the tape off?

Dan chuckles. This fucking kid.

ANDY (CONT'D)

(annoyed)

I need to paint over three of these before next lesson, so if you've got somewhere to be--

DAN

You don't get it, do ya? Visionary is bringing the future to the masses one C-60 at a time. Schoolly D, Toddy Tee, LL Cool J, Marly Marl, Steady B, Roxanne Shante, the Fat Boys. The new black vanguard! And that's just side A, don't even get me started on--

ANDY

I don't know what you're saying, and I don't care.

DAN

You don't even know who Run DMC are, do you?

ANDY

Piss. Off.

DAN

The rap revolution will not be televised, white boy!

(sniffs)

I like your jacket.

Andy rips off his jacket and points at the metal patches--

ANDY

For your information my dad got us back stage at Def Leppard last year because he knows the drummer's accountant! I can literally call him right now! Do you think they give these to just anyone!?

Andy looks up to see Dan's reaction. But Dan has long gone.

ANDY (CONT'D)

What a spanner!

He turns his attention back to the school yard.

Prince has given up on the other kids. He nods animatedly to the music playing on his HEADPHONES.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
The new black vanguard?

Andy smiles knowingly.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
Ladies and gentlemen, I think we  
have a suspect.

**EXT. SCHOOL, YARD - MOMENTS LATER**

Suzie sits at a bench writing her letter, oblivious to everyone around her.

SUZIE  
It's been almost a month since your  
last letter, Stephan. I can't wait  
to visit your father's mansion and  
ride in your custom Mercedes.

She HESITATES for a moment... then paperclips a POLAROID of an ATTRACTIVE BLONDE GIRL to the letter.

SUZIE (CONT'D)  
Because you keep asking, I've  
attached a picture of myself. I  
hope you like it.

**EXT. SCHOOL, YARD - MOMENTS LATER**

A group of GIRLS stand in the yard, mocking random kids. They all wear their school blazers around their waists in the same style. We can't see their faces yet.

CHARLOTTE  
Look at that one with her fake  
Jordache acid-washed jacket. Oh my  
God, what did that cost?

Suzie sheepishly joins the laughing girls. We see preppy bitch CHARLOTTE (15) clearly for the first time. She's the girl from Suzie's Polaroid.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)  
I don't even know where you'd buy  
something like that. Probably a  
charity shop. Or steal it off a  
dirty tramp.

The girls crack up. Suzie draws Charlotte's attention.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)  
What are you wearing anyway?

SUZIE  
(self-conscious)  
Just the same as--

CHARLOTTE  
Well you should go see a doctor  
because you look like you're dying.

Charlotte spots Prince dancing to his music by himself. Suzie braces herself to hear something awful.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)  
That's just tragic.

SUZIE  
He's having fun.

CHARLOTTE  
So are we.

Charlotte walks away. The girls laugh and follow, in thrall to her. Suzie begrudgingly follows along.

**EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY**

Len sits in the TAXI BAY reading a paper, waiting for a job. Another TAXI, driven by WARREN (30's, an absolute dickhead) pulls up. Len is immediately delighted to see him.

WARREN  
What have I told you about curb  
crawling? Make sure you bring the  
right change next time!

LEN  
Oh God, here he is! I didn't think  
they let your sort hang around in  
train stations!? You wanna watch  
out boss, I think I saw plod round  
the corner!

WARREN  
Well you're the one that should be  
arrested.

LEN  
What for?

WARREN

For all them train conductors what  
you wanked off in the bogs!

Len laughs, loving the banter.

WARREN (CONT'D)

I thought you were coming out last  
night? Mally did a lock-in till,  
then I came straight on shift. I've  
nearly ran over two lollipop ladies  
and Postman Pat already!

A passing FEMALE COMMUTER gets Warren's attention--

WARREN (CONT'D)

How about it, love? Me and you.  
Anywhere you want to go, I'm  
buying. I might even let you lick  
me lollipop!

LEN

Brilliant. Absolutely brilliant!

The woman continues on her way, repulsed.

WARREN

Fat cow! You wanna do callisthenics  
anyway like what the Green Goddess  
does on that daft video!

(to Len)

Listen up, shandy pants. The lads  
are heading to the Crown for some  
afternoon lubrication. I told 'em  
first round's on you.

LEN

I like the sound of this!

WARREN

(remembers)

Oh that's it, I mean to tell ya...  
I'm gonna have to let you go, Len.

LEN

(shocked)

Let me go!? What are you talking  
about, boss?

WARREN

We got another complaint. Fella was  
screaming about missing his train.  
You're costin' me business, I just  
can't have it any more!



LEN

That bloke was a loudmouth! You should have heard him giving it some!

WARREN

He said you put him in a headlock, Lenny. That's plain unprofessional. I had to make one of them, whatcha ma call em, *consecutive decisions*.

LEN

What am I gonna tell Linda?

**INT. EMERY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY**

LINDA (38, Andy and Suzie's mum) stands at the front window, watching her NEIGHBOUR put up a hanging basket.

LINDA

Look at that would ya, Len. We get our drive paved, a month later they find two hundred quid to do theirs. I spend all morning putting up my hanging baskets, look who's just got back from B&Q...

She joins Len on the sofa, watching *Highway to Heaven* on the TV. Len has no idea how to tell her he's been fired.

LINDA (CONT'D)

How come you aren't at work?

LEN

I thought it'd be nice to spend more time around the house.

LINDA

(ignores him)

See that one's a fallen angel and the only way he's allowed back into heaven is if he helps people.

They sit in silence watching the TV. Linda rapt. Len bored senseless. This is Chinese water torture to him.

LINDA (CONT'D)

We should do this more often.

LEN

(exasperated)

What, *this!*?

LINDA  
If you're off this afternoon, you  
can drive me to the shops.

LEN  
Be a darling and do me one of them  
sandwiches, Linda.

Linda sighs and heads to the kitchen.

Len immediately snatches her HANDBAG on the coffee table. He  
grabs her purse and STEALS its contents.

LINDA (O.S.)  
You've gotta ask is Michael Landon  
helping people for the right  
reasons? And what kind of deity  
would blackmail an angel anyway?  
The entire premise is flawed when  
you think about it. Theologically  
speaking.

Linda emerges from the kitchen holding a sandwich. Len is  
putting his jacket on and heading out the door--

LEN  
I've gotta go, just got a call  
about an airport run!

LINDA  
I didn't hear the phone ring..?

Linda walks to the window. Len climbs into his taxi and PEELS  
AWAY. Linda smiles and waves at her neighbour.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
If they get a Soda Stream, I'll  
piss in her pertunias.

**INT. SCHOOL, TOILETS - DAY**

Prince, still wearing his headphones, stands at the row of  
urinals, mid-leak.

Andy steps up beside him and starts peeing.

After a moment, Andy looks over at Prince, smiles, and gives  
a knowing head nod. Like they're both in on something.

Prince nods back, spooked.

ANDY  
Listening to anything fresh?

Prince pulls down his headphones.

PRINCE  
I'm sorry, what?

ANDY  
Anything fresh?

PRINCE  
Fresh?

ANDY  
Off the hook.

PRINCE  
(baffled)  
It's just a tape.

Prince quickly zips up and heads to the sinks to wash his hands. Andy follows and washes his hands too, staring at Prince in the large mirror.

ANDY  
I don't remember you from last year?

PRINCE  
My family just moved up here for my dad's job. Me and my sister started today. My name's Prince.

ANDY  
Where are you from, London?

PRINCE  
Surrey.

ANDY  
Never heard of it.

PRINCE  
It's nicer than here. Is it *supposed* to be like this?

ANDY  
What do you think of the local art scene? I'd say you should choose art when you pick your options...

Andy examines his fingernails, like a detective toying with a criminal he has bang to rights.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
But it seems like you already know  
your way around paint.

PRINCE  
What are you talking about?

Prince turns to leave. Andy changes tact, his approach clearly isn't working. He blocks Prince's path.

ANDY  
This is a rough school for a Surrey  
kid like you. You'll get eaten up  
on your own out there. You need  
someone who can show you how things  
are done. Someone to watch your  
back. Someone you can trust.

PRINCE  
You mean like a friend?

ANDY  
(nods sagely)  
That's right. A friend. Someone who  
you can tell your secrets to.

PRINCE  
I don't... have any secrets?

ANDY  
I know what's been going on! I know  
who you really are! The graffiti.  
The music. I know all about it!

PRINCE  
Wait, how could you know about it?  
I haven't told anyone.

ANDY  
A school's like a big pond, Prince  
my boy. Everything floats to the  
surface sooner or later.

PRINCE  
(smiles)  
Do you wanna come to my house at  
lunch?

ACT BREAK

**INT. PRINCE'S HOUSE, PRINCE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Prince leads Andy into his room. He's excited.

PRINCE  
It's my first day of school and I  
already have a new friend!

Prince searches his cupboard.

PRINCE (CONT'D)  
My dad says I shouldn't like this  
music, but what does he know right?  
Sit there on the bed!

Andy sits. He spots the GHETTO BLASTER on Prince's desk and  
smiles knowingly. He has his man.

ANDY  
I've gotta admit. For a minute back  
there I was getting worried.

PRINCE  
Turn around for a second!

Andy, confused, turns away. Prince begins hectically  
preparing something off-screen. Andy can't see what.

ANDY  
Have you played Paperboy yet? It's  
pretty good. You can come play it  
at Kirky's house with us.

PRINCE  
I haven't got time for games. I'm  
too busy practicing. Turn around!

Andy turns.

Prince stands there in a pair of GYM SHORTS and a WHITE T-  
SHIRT FEATURING 'CHOOSE LIFE' IN LARGE BLACK LETTERING.

He presses PLAY on the ghetto blaster and 'WAKE ME UP BEFORE  
YOU GO GO' by WHAM begins playing. Loud.

Andy watches, speechless, as Prince DANCES ENTHUSIASTICALLY  
to the music. Loving every second of it.

Andy looks around the room. The room is covered with posters  
of POP GROUPS of the era (Spandau Ballet, Culture Club, Adam  
Ant). It's like the walls are closing in on him.

PRINCE (CONT'D)  
I love dancing so much!

Andy puts his head in his hands. Defeated.

ANDY

I don't suppose you know who's been tagging the school, do ya Prince?

PRINCE

(breathless)

I can feel the energy washing all over me! Can't you feel it!?

ANDY

Will ya turn it down?

PRINCE

It's great to meet someone who likes the same music as me! Don't sit there, show me what you've got!

Prince's MUM passes by. He quickly intercepts her--

PRINCE (CONT'D)

Mum! Come meet my friend Andy!  
We're gonna hang out together every day and tell each other secrets!

**INT. LEN'S TAXI - DAY**

Wham continues playing... drifting quietly from Len's shitty car radio. Len, at the wheel, looks in his mirror.

LEN

Costa Del Sol? Very nice. Can't say I've been abroad myself. Just sit back, relax and enjoy the ride. Plenty of time until your--

There's LOUD BANGING ON THE ROOF--

WARREN (O.S.)

What ya doin', Lenny!? You'll flatten the battery!

Camera pulls out to reveal Len is PARKED UP OUTSIDE THE TAXI RANK. Warren reaches in and turns off the radio. Len climbs out. He runs a sentimental hand over the vehicle.

LEN

I was just reminiscing. I wanted to come say goodbye to the old girl. She's been good to me.

WARREN

It's a clapped-out Sierra that smells like a rat died!

LEN

That rat was a pet and it had a name! I just needed to get out of the house is all.

WARREN

Leave the keys with Sheila, we're off to the Crown. You can afford a drink can't ya!?

**EXT. STREET - DAY**

Prince breathlessly catches up with Andy, who is heading back to school--

PRINCE

Do you wanna come over and practice some dance moves later? Maybe after that we can talk about the thoughts that scare and confuse us when we're alone at night?

ANDY

I'm so getting expelled.

PRINCE

We're mates though, yeah?

They pass a record store, WARPED VINYL.

Andy pauses. A poster of RUN DMC hangs in the window. Andy studies it. They look cool as hell in their bucket hats, gold chains and Adidas finery. Like they're from another planet.

**INT. WARPED VINYL - CONTINUOUS**

Andy and Prince enter the small record store.

The place is dominated by rows of VINYL separated by narrow aisles. The walls are covered with MUSIC POSTERS. A mellow track plays over the speakers.

NATHAN (early 20's) sits at the counter with his feet up and eyes closed. A few CUSTOMERS browse.

Andy heads to the RAP SECTION. He begins flipping through records, impressed by the album sleeves.

PRINCE

(nervous)

What are we doing in here? We'll be late back.

Andy pulls RUN DMC's debut album. He studies the cover.

PRINCE (CONT'D)  
What is it?

ANDY  
I've gotta hear this record. Lend me some money.

PRINCE  
My Dad says I shouldn't.

ANDY  
We're mates, aren't we?

PRINCE  
Best mates?

ANDY  
I'll pay you back after sch--

Nathan abruptly snatches the album off Andy--

NATHAN  
Look lads, I didn't get back from the Apollo until late. You're making a racket, wrecking my shop and you're getting on my tits. It's time to say goodbye.

ANDY  
What's the Apollo?

NATHAN  
It's only the best venue in the world. I go there once a week. Minimum. The doormen know me. I mean I have to buy a ticket, but they recognise this face like...  
(nods)  
"Alright Nath, good to see you, what you up to after this?" I mean they don't actually say that but you get the point.

PRINCE  
Do you have the new Madonna single?

NATHAN  
I'm glad you asked me that. No I do not. If you want that Top of the Pops rubbish, go to Woolworths.



Nathan looks at the album he's taken from Andy. Then looks Andy up-and-down.

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Run DMC? I don't think this one's  
for you, Eddie Van Halen.

ANDY  
I can afford it.

NATHAN  
It's not about money, it's about  
music. I could sell you this record  
but you won't appreciate it. So I'm  
not gonna.

Andy and Prince head for the exit, annoyed. Nathan arranges the albums they've disturbed.

ANDY  
I wouldn't buy it from here anyway!

NATHAN  
Don't they teach you the alphabet  
at that school of yours?

Nathan produces something from his shirt pocket--

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Oy, metal boy! Think fast!

Nathan tosses a CASSETTE at Andy, who catches it--

NATHAN (CONT'D)  
Give this back to that kid at your  
school. Tell him it's pretty good  
but he should change his name. It's  
pretentious.

Andy double-takes when he reads the cassette label; DJ VISIONARY MIXTAPE #1.

ANDY  
You know who made this?

NATHAN  
That lad who's always in here. Same  
age as you. Same disgusting  
uniform. I'll give him credit, he  
knows his stuff. Not as much as me  
obviously.

ANDY  
Can't you remember his name?

NATHAN

I'm only gonna tell you this once. If you come in my shop again with that jacket on, you're banned for life. This might not mean much to you now, but you'll regret it when you want to explore the Neil Young back catalogue.

(to Prince)

You're alright, brother.

Nathan offers Prince a fist bump. Prince just stares.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

You're right. Fist bumps are for tossers.

Andy, dejected, opens the door to leave. Nathan falls back into his chair and puts his feet up.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

It was that speccy kid with the punchable face. Arrogant little prick. Baseball cap.

**INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY**

BRETT (17) a surly teenage shop assistant with Flock of Seagulls hair scans Linda's groceries. Linda bags her items.

LINDA

I bet it takes you hours to do your hair like that? All primped and preened like a little nest.

Brett, completely uninterested.

LINDA (CONT'D)

What kind of product do you use? My daughter Suzie tried to do hers like that once but it didn't turn out as nice as yours. My son Andy said it's because her face is too manly. She does actually have a strong jawline...

Brett just points to the final price of Linda's items on the till. This interaction can't end soon enough.

Linda opens her purse. To her dismay, she discovers there's no money inside.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
 I could swear I had some...  
 (face hardens)  
 That bastard.

**INT. THE CROWN - DAY**

Len, drunk, sits with Warren and a group of ROWDY MIDDLE-AGED BLOKES in the busy pub. The table is littered with empties.

LEN  
 That's it. I'd better get going  
 before Linda finds out where I am.

WARREN  
 What are you talkin' about? It's  
 your round, Lenny!

Len counts his change. He's down to his last few coppers.

LEN  
 I haven't got two pennies to rub  
 together.

Warren leans close to Len's ear.

WARREN  
 If you want to earn some real  
 money, follow me.

Warren starts walking. Len follows, confused.

**GENTS TOILETS - A MOMENT LATER**

Warren stops outside the GENTS TOILETS. A fella walks out, zipping up his jeans.

LEN  
 What we doing here, Warren?

WARREN  
 Remember Phil Stanley's retirement  
 party last Christmas?

LEN  
 (a beat)  
 I can't! No way! I said that was a  
 one-time thing!

Warren pulls a wad of notes from his pocket, starts counting.

WARREN

I'm not judging ya, Lenny. I'm just one friend trying to help another friend out.

LEN

If my wife finds out--

WARREN

How's she gonna find out? She doesn't know you're here does she?

LEN

Last time I had to have my stomach pumped. I couldn't get the taste out of my mouth for months!

WARREN

You've got no money. You can do this and keep drinking. Or you can go home. It's your choice.

Len considers for a moment. Then sadly walks into the toilets while Warren holds the door open for him.

WARREN (CONT'D)

Get in them bogs, fatty.

Warren turns to the bar, puts his fingers in his mouth, and lets out a loud WOLF WHISTLE. A moment passes.

THEN THE GROUP OF BLOKES START FILING INSIDE THE TOILETS, all laughing and excited in anticipation of... something.

**EXT. SCHOOL, YARD - DAY**

Andy stares aghast at the wall he painted over earlier.

PRINCE

Isn't that the wall you--

ANDY

Don't say a word.

A fresh DJ VISIONARY tag has appeared. Even bigger than the last one. Dan appears between them, admiring the graffiti.

DAN

I don't know what I like most about Visionary. His dope mixtapes, his fashion stylings, his prowess with the fairer sex or his impressive tagging capabilities.

Dan chuckles and leaves for class.

ANDY  
I'm gonna kill him!

**INT. SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY**

Andy and Prince follow Dan into the busy classroom. Other kids, including KIRKY, are taking their seats. The TEACHER scribbles on the blackboard. Andy intercepts Dan--

ANDY  
I know it's you!

DAN  
I haven't done nothin'!

Prince lunges for Dan. Andy holds him back--

PRINCE  
Watch how you speak to Andy or  
you'll have to deal with me next  
and you don't need that in your  
world!

ANDY  
I bet if I look in that backpack  
I'll find a spray can!

PRINCE  
Open the backpack right now or I'm  
gonna go nuclear!

Dan has totally lost his cool. Tears are forming.

DAN  
My Grandma's gonna freak out if I  
get expelled!

ANDY  
That's your problem. After class  
I'm gonna tell Grayson it was you.

KIRKY  
(re. Prince)  
Who is this kid, Andy?

Prince lunges for Kirky. Andy restrains him--

PRINCE  
"Who am I?" Who are you!? I'm his  
best mate, that's who I am!

ANDY

We're mates. *Normal* mates!

TEACHER

Right. Can everyone sit down and any weird kids who aren't even in this class go be nuclear somewhere else? It would be nice to finish on time for once.

**CLASSROOM - LATER**

As the class studies, Andy pulls the CASSETTE out of his pocket. He looks around. Nobody is watching.

He slides the tape into his Walkman, puts his headphones on and hits play--

SNOOP (V.O.)

For everybody there comes a single moment that can switch up the path of their lives forever...

Andy closes his eyes. The cassette SPINS.

SNOOP (V.O.)

For Andy, that was the moment he discovered hip-hop. The end.

**EXT. VENICE BEACH, CHESS PARK - DAY**

A FLAME-PAINTED LOWRIDER pulls up alongside the chess area as Snoop scoops up his winnings--

SNOOP

That's my ride, *chica*.

The Little Girl stares incredulously.

LITTLE GIRL

But you can't go! What happened next!?

SNOOP

Shit, I don't know what happened this morning, shorty. I got a show to do. Run along home now to your brothers and sisters.

LITTLE GIRL

What happened to Andy?

Snoop tokes his blunt.

SNOOP  
Oh, yeah... Andy. It's all coming  
back to me.

SLICK RICK (FROM "LA DI DA DI")  
*Ok party people in the house,  
you're about to witness something  
you've never witnessed before---*

**INT. SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS**

As Slick Rick continues, the opening of RAPPER'S DELIGHT by THE SUGAR HILL GANG builds--

The soundtrack EXPLODES into a SUPER HIGH ENERGY MIX OF GOLDEN AGE HIP-HOP. 808's. Scratches. Samples. Rapping--

Andy opens his eyes. COMPELLED onto his feet. POSSESSED BY THE MUSIC. His chair flips away behind him--

To Andy's astonishment, THE WHOLE CLASS IS FROZEN IN MOTION. LIKE SOMEONE HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON ON THE WORLD.

A PAPER AEROPLANE hangs motionless in the air. The TEACHER writes on the blackboard, stuck mid-sentence.

As the mix continues, ONE CLASSIC CUT AFTER ANOTHER, Andy DANCES through the room, the music DRIVING HIM.

Body popping. The robot. Jumping across tables. Crazy moves he doesn't know the names of.

**A BELL RINGS**

Andy opens his eyes, back to reality. The class is packing up to leave for the day.

Dan jumps from his seat and DASHES FOR THE DOOR, hoping to get out before Andy has time to grass him up--

Andy quickly chases--

ANDY  
Hold up!

Dan reaches the door first. He pulls it open to reveal--

GRAYSON. Stood waiting. Blocking the exit.

Dan and Andy turn to find another way out--

Rule stands outside the classroom window. He does a throat-slitting gesture. There's no escape.

SNOOP (V.O.)

What a fine predicament young Andy had found himself in. What was he to do? Snitch on Poindexter and lose access to the brave new world laid out in front of him. Or risk gettin' his ass thrown outta school?

**INT. THE CROWN - DAY**

Warren and the boys sit at the table, laughing and drinking. Rowdier and drunker than earlier. Len is nowhere to be seen.

Linda enters the pub on the warpath, followed closely by a reluctant Suzie. She makes a bee-line for Warren.

LINDA

I knew I'd find you here. What time does he get back from the airport?

WARREN

What are you talkin' about? I don't have any lads on an airport run.

SUZIE

(to Linda)

This is embarrassing!

LINDA

So where have you sent him?

WARREN

I haven't sent him anywhere! I had to fire him this morni--

There's a loud CRASH OF GLASSES at the bar behind Linda--

She spins around--

Len stands there, absolutely shit-faced. He's just dropped a TRAY OF DRINKS everywhere--

LINDA

Is that true?

LEN

Don't worry about it. I've got some big ideas for the future. Much better than drivin' a taxi too!

(MORE)



LEN (CONT'D)

We'll be swimming in money before  
you know it!

Linda studies Len. He looks sick as a dog. There are BLUE  
SPECKS on his face and around his collar.

LINDA

What's that on your face?

WARREN

He ran out of money, so we all  
chipped in for Lenny to do his  
party trick.

(cracking up)

He just ate four urinal cakes!

Warren and the boys burst out laughing.

SUZIE

What's a urinal cake?

LINDA

Is that how you're gonna keep a  
roof over our head, Len? Eating  
*piss biscuits* for a dare!?

LEN

I made ten quid.

SUZIE

What about Deutschland!? You're  
still paying for me to visit  
Stephan in Deutschland, right!?

LEN

Daddy promises you can still go to  
Deutschland, baby. It's been a long  
day. Let's all come together and  
have a family moment...

Len approaches for a hug. The movement makes him VIOLENTLY  
RETCH. He VOMITS A TORRENT OF BLUE LIQUID, COMPLETELY SOAKING  
HIMSELF. Everyone groans and ducks out of the way--

Len falls to his knees in the PUDDLE OF BLUE SICK. A moment  
passes. Linda looks down at him, disgusted.

LINDA

I can't believe you've done this in  
front of your daughter.

LEN

I need an ambulance.

WARREN

He looks like he sucked off one of the Smurfs.

SUZIE

He looks like he sucked off an entire colony!

Linda turns sharply--

LINDA

We're leaving.

Linda and Suzie step around Len, who looks completely pathetic, as they head out of the pub.

**EXT. SCHOOL, FOOTBALL PITCH - DAY**

After school. The sun is going down.

Andy pushes a RICKETY OLD-FASHIONED LAWNMOWER across the football pitch. He's barely made a dent on the grass.

Dan appears, eating Space Invaders crisps.

DAN

You shouldn't go around taking credit for other people's work. You might start a war.

ANDY

I told them I couldn't find out who did it.

DAN

Are they gonna kick you out?

ANDY

They won't tell my parents if I mow the football pitch--

DAN

That's not too bad.

ANDY

Every week. For the summer. And do anything else they want. I'm basically a slave.

Dan chuckles.

DAN

For one of the smart kids, you're  
not very bright.

He produces a CASSETTE from his pocket and tosses it on the  
grass by Andy's feet.

DAN (CONT'D)

That's Visionary's new mixtape. No-  
one else in school has it. You  
might wanna check it out.

Andy picks up the tape. He looks up, excited.

Dan is already twenty yards away, heading home. He extends an  
arm... and drops his crisp wrapper.

Andy watches him go for a moment. Then slides the cassette in  
his Walkman. As he hits PLAY, we--

CUT TO CREDITS