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The word "Fame" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. The letters are thick and have a classic, flowing style with decorative flourishes at the end of the 'e'.

"Mr. Wacky's World"

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Renee & Harry Longstreet

SUPERVISING PRODUCER

Christopher Seiter

PRODUCERS

Ira Steven Behr
Michael McGreevey

CO-PRODUCER

Denny Salvaryn

REVISED FIRST DRAFT

October 2, 1986

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FAME

"Mr. Wacky's World"

Prod. #2950

Written by

Ira Steven Behr

and

Michael McGreevey

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MGM TELEVISION

FAME

"MISTER WACKY'S WORLD"

CAST

DANNY AMATULLO
CHRIS DONLON
DUSTY TYLER
JESSE VELASQUEZ
NICOLE CHAPMAN
JILLIAN BECKET

LOU MACKIE
LAURA MACKIE

MAN'S VOICE (VOICE ONLY)
MISTER WACKY
BOY STUDENT
OLIVER

FAME

"MISTER WACKY'S WORLD"

SETS

INTERIORS

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
HALLWAY
ACTING CLASSROOM
MUSIC CUBICLE
CAFETERIA
LOBBY
HALLWAY - OUTSIDE LOCKER ROOMS

BROADWAY THEATRE STAGE (AUDITORIUM)

LOU'S LANES
VIDEO GAMES
FRONT ENTRY

PUBLIC ACCESS T.V. STUDIO
BACKSTAGE
MISTER WACKY'S CLUBHOUSE SET
DRESSING ROOM

EXTERIORS

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
LOU'S LANES
PUBLIC ACCESS T.V. STUDIO
NEW YORK STREET

FAME
"Mister Wacky's World"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 INT. BROADWAY THEATRE STAGE (AUDITORIUM) - DAY (DAY ONE) 1

CAMERA STARTS CLOSE ON DANNY, seething with anger.

DANNY
Come on, man, I'm waiting. It's
just the two of us. That's what
you wanted, right? You and me.

CAMERA WIDENS TO REVEAL that Danny is standing alone on a barren stage, reading a scene for an open call audition.

DANNY
(continuing)
Well, here I am. Now what are
you gonna do about it?

MAN'S VOICE
Thank you... that'll be enough.

Danny breaks character and squints out into the darkened theatre.

2 DANNY'S POV OF THEATRE (STOCK) 2

We can barely see the outline of a man sitting in the middle of the orchestra section.

DANNY
You want me to try it another way?

MAN'S VOICE
That won't be necessary. We're
looking for a very special type.

3 BACK TO DANNY 3

He won't take "no" for an answer.

DANNY
I can be special.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

MAN'S VOICE

I'm sorry, but you're not quite
what we had in mind.

Danny is visibly upset as OVER this we HEAR the ELECTRONIC
NOISES of a PINBALL MACHINE. (X)

CUT TO:

4 INT. LOU'S LANES - PINBALL MACHINES - DAY (X)

CAMERA STARTS CLOSE ON the scoreboard of a pinball machine,
then WIDENS TO REVEAL Danny taking his frustrations out on the
machine.

5 ANGLE ON LOUNGE (X)

CHRIS, made up like a mime, approaches LOU as he comes out of
the kitchen. They head towards the front entry together.

CHRIS

(indicating make-up)
Lou, what do you think?

Chris places his hands against an imaginary wall and tries to
find an opening by feeling along its "surface."

CHRIS

(continuing)
I'm in a box, and I can't find
my way out. So I....

LOU

(interrupting)
Donlon, how many times I gotta
tell you, mimes don't talk.

CHRIS

If I don't tell people what I'm
doing, how are they gonna figure
it out?

LOU

(reconsidering)
A talking mime. It's original.
(a beat)
Dumb, but original.

They have arrived at the front entry area as Lou gives Chris a
pat on the back, then heads up the stairs. Chris looks around
and spots Danny at the video game machine.

6 NEW ANGLE

6

Chris crosses to Danny who continues to fight a losing battle with the machine.

CHRIS
Hey, Amatullo, don't kill the machine.

DANNY
(glancing at Chris)
Donlon, you look ridiculous.

The pinball game ends abruptly and Danny shoves the machine, then steps away. Chris moves to the pinball machine.

CHRIS
I know. But I gotta keep trying out new material. Otherwise the act gets stale, you know.

Chris inserts a quarter into the machine and starts playing. Danny watches Chris for a beat, then:

DANNY
Chris... you think I'm talented?

CHRIS
Are you nuts, Amatullo? I know you're talented. What's the matter with you anyway?

DANNY
I been sneaking out to some auditions.

Chris looks over at Danny; now he fully understands his friend's behavior.

CHRIS
Pretty tough, huh?

DANNY
The pits. I did okay, but no one wants "okay." They're all looking for someone special.

CHRIS
Then they made a mistake not picking you.

DANNY
You're the only one who thinks so.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

CHRIS

Amatullo, you can't let a couple rejections get you down. You're good.

DANNY

Yeah, but "good" don't cut it. Look at you and Leroy... the two most talented guys I know. He's teaching and you're slaving away here at Lou's.

(a beat)

Let's face it, if you guys are struggling, I don't stand a chance.

Chris doesn't know what to say to his friend... as suddenly the machine goes crazy, lights flashing, MUSIC BLARING, signaling that Chris has won a free game. Danny looks at the machine, shrugs, then turns and heads out the door. Chris watches after him, concerned for his friend.

7 EXT. SCHOOL OF THE ARTS - ESTABLISHING - DAY (DAY TWO) 7

The usual amount of activity out front.

8 INT. HALLWAY - DAY 8

DUSTY and JILLIAN move down the hallway together.

DUSTY

The question was who sang "Sunday, Bloody Sunday."

JILLIAN

U2.

DUSTY

Of course, it's U2. The trick was getting through to the radio station.

JILLIAN

And you won?

DUSTY

Two tickets to their concert.

JILLIAN

Great. Who you going with?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

DUSTY
Hopefully a guy. If I can find one.

JILLIAN
That should be easy.

DUSTY
For you maybe. Me... I'd have to lose major pounds.

JILLIAN
Dusty, I'm sure there are plenty of guys who'd love to go out with you.

JESSE (V.O.)
Hey, ladies, lookin' good.

9 NEW ANGLE

as JESSE approaches the girls and walks along with them.

JILLIAN
And how many girls have you said that to this morning?

JESSE
Who's counting?
(to Dusty)
Hey, Dusty, can I talk to you for a minute?

DUSTY
Sure.
(to Jillian)
Excuse us.

Jillian smiles, then moves into a classroom as Jesse and Dusty continue to walk together.

JESSE
Listen, Dusty, I wrote this song. I'm gonna make a demo, and I want you to see it.

DUSTY
Me?

JESSE
You've got the best voice in the school.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

DUSTY
You really think so?

JESSE
Sure. Want to give it a shot
tomorrow afternoon?

DUSTY
Fine.

JESSE
(joking around)
Stick with me, kid, I'll make you
a star.

Jesse smiles at her, then turns and moves off down the hall in the opposite direction. Dusty stops and watches him go, an excited smile lighting up her face. OVER this, we HEAR the SOUND of MUSIC.

10 INT. ACTING CLASSROOM - DAY

CAMERA STARTS CLOSE ON a T.V. set on which we SEE NICOLE the end of "My Way." She finishes, and takes a bow. She moves to the piano behind her, sits, and starts playing her "theme."

NICOLE
Well, that's all the time we have
for this week on "The Nicole
Chapman Show." Bye.

Nicole waves good bye and continues to play the piano as CAMERA WIDENS TO REVEAL a group of students, including Danny, Jesse, Jillian, Dusty, and Nicole herself, sitting and watching the set. Nicole good naturedly acknowledges the APPLAUSE of her friends as the T.V. SCREEN FADES to BLACK.

NICOLE
Tha- tha- tha- tha- that's all
folks.

Everyone LAUGHS, then the group starts to break up. Danny moves to Nicole.

11 NEW ANGLE

We can SEE the television set in the background as Danny speaks to Nicole. The only thing on the screen is a card which reads: "Coming Up Next: MISTER WACKY'S WORLD"

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

DANNY

Unbelievable, Nicole, your own show.

NICOLE

It's only on the public access station. Anyone can have a show if they've got thirty-five dollars.

DANNY

That's all it takes to get on T.V.?

NICOLE

Sure, they give you the use of the studio and all the equipment.

In the background, we SEE the show "Mister Wacky's World" start on the T.V. screen. Mister Wacky's THEME MUSIC ("Moon River") PLAYS OVER a shot of his set.

DANNY

(incredulous)

Do people know about this?

NICOLE

Danny, it's no big deal. Most of the shows are terrible.

Danny glances at the T.V. set and reacts.

DANNY

Hey, "Mister Wacky's World."

NICOLE

Yeah, that's the only one with any kind of following.

DANNY

I love that guy.

12 INSERT OF T.V. SET

12

MISTER WACKY, a man in his early thirties, swings down from out of the rafters and flies right past CAMERA. A beat, as we all wait for Mister Wacky to swing back into FRAME, but he doesn't. Another beat, then Mister Wacky enters through door at the back oif the set. He's dressed in white tie and tails, with a pith helmet on his head, and carrying a tennis racket.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

MISTER WACKY

Greetings my fellow Venutians,
and welcome to another episode
of Mister Wacky's World, starring
your favorite comic, that master
of mirth and mayhem.....

Mister Wacky moves to a console of buttons on the wall and
pushes one. We HEAR a CROWD CHEER, "Mister Wacky!"

MISTER WACKY

(continuing)

That's the name.

He pushes another button and we HEAR LOUD APPLAUSE as Wacky
graciously accepts this adulation.

13 BACK TO DANNY AND NICOLE

13

They continue to look at the T.V. set as Mister Wacky takes in
the APPLAUSE and pretends to be humbled by it.

MISTER WACKY

(on T.V.)

Thank you. Please. This is
embarrassing. Thank you. No
more. Please.

Danny is smiling at Wacky as Nicole reaches down and turns OFF
the T.V.

DANNY

Nicole, when's your next taping?

NICOLE

Never. A one-woman show is too
tough to pull off every week.

DANNY

Oh, that's too bad.

(a beat)

So does that mean your timeslot
is available?

NICOLE

I guess.

DANNY

(announcing)

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to
"The Danny Amatullo Show."

HOLD ON Danny. He sees stardom within his grasp.

14 EXT. PUBLIC ACCESS T.V. STUDIO - ESTABLISHING - DAY (STOCK) 14
OVER this, we HEAR:

DANNY (V.O.)
I got no luck at all.

15 INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - BACKSTAGE - DAY 15

Nicole stands with a very disappointed Danny.

NICOLE
I can't believe they filled my
timeslot so fast.

DANNY
Neither can I.

NICOLE
Don't worry, Danny, there'll be
other openings.

DANNY
Yeah, but you heard the lady, it
could be two or three months.
I need this now.

Frustrated, Danny turns and heads for the door behind him.

NICOLE
Danny... wait... that's the
wrong....

Danny doesn't hear her and starts to open the door as we: (X)

CUT TO:

16 INT. MISTER WACKY'S SET - CONTINUOUS - DAY 16

Mister Wacky is on the air, standing in front of the camera and dressed like a dentist. He is just finishing pulling a pair of plastic surgical gloves over his hands. There is a dummy sitting in a dentist chair just behind Mister Wacky.

MISTER WACKY
Okay, everybody have their gloves
on? We wouldn't want to leave
fingerprints on the victim... I
mean patient.

Suddenly, Danny comes through the door in the background, and immediately realizes his mistake as he looks at Mister Wacky in stunned disbelief.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

DANNY

Sorry.

Danny starts to go, but Wacky stops him.

MISTER WACKY

Hold it right there!

Danny stops as Wacky crosses to him and we SEE Nicole in the background as she comes around the edge of the set.

MISTER WACKY

(continuing)

Well, look who's here, boys and girls... the neighborhood bully. You know, the one who always gives Mister Wacky a hard time.

Mister Wacky flips down the dentist mirror he's wearing on his head and carefully examines Danny's face.

MISTER WACKY

(continuing)

And an ugly face like this can only mean one thing. This sucker's got a toothache.

Danny plays along with Mister Wacky by holding his cheek with his hand.

DANNY

(in pain)

I think it's a molar.

MISTER WACKY

Well, let's have a look.

Mister Wacky grabs Danny, drags him over to a dentist chair, throws the dummy off, and starts strapping Danny in with several belts. (X)

17 ANGLE ON NICOLE

17

She stands off to the side of the set and smiles as she watches Danny and Mister Wacky work together.

18 BACK TO DANNY AND MISTER WACKY

18

Mister Wacky finishes strapping Danny in.

MISTER WACKY

Seat belts all fastened?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

Mister Wacky holds an imaginary mike to his mouth.

MISTER WACKY

Welcome aboard, ladies and gentlemen, this is your Captain speaking. We'll be cruising at thirty thousand feet.

(suddenly hysterical)

Oh, my God, we're going down!
Bail out, baby! Bail out!

(back to normal; to

Danny)

Only kidding.

Mister Wacky throws off his pilot's hat, then leans over Danny.

MISTER WACKY

(continuing)

Open wide. Wider. Wider.

(screaming)

I said wider!

(a beat; echoing into
Danny's mouth)

Hello, hello, hello, lo, lo,
lo....

(to audience; with a
wink)

I guess that's wide enough.

(to Danny)

Don't move... I'll be right back.

Mister Wacky moves away.

DANNY

Take your time.

(turning to camera)

What a guy. He also fixes cars...
an absolute genius with mufflers.

Mister Wacky returns holding a giant, plastic hypodermic needle behind his back.

DANNY

(referring to his hair)

Could you take a little off the
back and trim the sides?

Mister Wacky reveals the giant hypodermic.

MISTER WACKY

Relax, you won't feel a thing.

Mister Wacky lets out an HYSTERICAL LAUGH as he pushes down the plunger on the hypodermic and squirts water all over Danny.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

Wacky tosses the hypodermic aside, then rushes to a closet and pulls out a huge pair of rubber pliers. He runs back to Danny in the chair and hovers over him.

MISTER WACKY

I'm going in. Any last words?

Danny looks at the pliers and SCREAMS.

DANNY

Help!

MISTER WACKY

That's good.

Mister Wacky thrusts the pliers into Danny's wide open mouth, then starts pulling. Danny's legs flail all over as Wacky slowly climbs up the chair to get better leverage. Finally, Wacky gives one final yank and pulls the pliers out of Danny's mouth. Pinched in the pliers are a pair of CHATTERING FALSE TEETH. Wacky jumps to the floor and examines the teeth at the end of the pliers.

MISTER WACKY

That ought to do it.

(to Danny)

How do you feel?

Danny talks like all his teeth are gone.

DANNY

(mumbling)

Better. Much, much better.

Danny smiles a toothless grin as Mister Wacky pushes a button on the console and we HEAR WILD APPLAUSE. Mister Wacky turns and acknowledges this with a wave and a bow.

19 ANGLE ON NICOLE

19

as she APPLAUDS along with the canned audience.

20 BACK TO WACKY AND DANNY

20

They look at each other and smile, both of them pleased that they've turned a near-disaster into a very funny skit.

21 INT. MUSIC CUBICLE - DAY (DAY THREE)

21

Jesse sits at a synthesizer, accompanying Dusty as she BELTS OUT his SONG.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

(NOTE: This should be a love song filled with anguished passion, and should be musically challenging so that that it could only be sung by someone with Dusty's range and power.) Dusty finishes, then anxiously looks at Jesse for his reaction. He just stares at her.

DUSTY
Well, how was I?
(a beat)
Jesse, say something!

JESSE
(slowly smiling)
Unbelievable!

Jesse jumps up from the piano, crosses to Dusty, and gives her a big hug.

DUSTY
You really liked it?

JESSE
(excited)
Dusty, you made it come to life.

(X)

DUSTY
The song's beautiful, Jesse.

JESSE
So are you.

DUSTY
(slightly embarrassed)
Come on. Me?

JESSE
I mean it, Dusty. You're great.

DUSTY
(pleased)
Yeah? If you say so.

(X)

They smile at each other.

(X)

22 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

22

Jesse and Dusty come out of the music room together.

JESSE
All I have to do is lay down some tracks, then we'll cut the demo together.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

DUSTY
I can't wait.

Jesse gives Dusty another hug, then turns and heads off down the hallway. Dusty looks after him for a moment, then CAMERA DOLLIES WITH her as she moves down the hall in the opposite direction. She passes Jillian at her locker.

JILLIAN
Hey, Dusty, how was Jesse's song?

DUSTY
Perfect.
(still walking; to
herself)
Just like Jesse.

Dusty smiles as she continues walking down the hallway.

23 INT. LOU'S LANES - BANDSTAND - DAY

23

An excited Danny paces back and forth while Chris sits on a stool, SHUFFLING a deck of CARDS. (X)

DANNY
You should have seen us, man.
It was like we'd been working
together for years.

CHRIS
And improv is the hardest thing
to pull off.
(holding out cards)
Here... pick a card.

Danny takes a card from the deck and looks at it.

DANNY
That Mister Wacky is a pro.

CHRIS
So are you.

Danny hands the card back to Chris who SHUFFLES it into the deck. Chris pulls out a card, the ace of diamonds, and holds it up.

CHRIS
(continuing)
I believe your card was the ace
of diamonds.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

DANNY
Nope.

CHRIS
It wasn't?

Chris starts looking through the deck of cards then holds up another one.

CHRIS
Eight of hearts?

DANNY
Uh-uh.

CHRIS
(another card)
Jack of spades?

DANNY
Relax, Donlon, it was the ace of diamonds all along. What's with the card tricks?

CHRIS
The mime thing wasn't working. Besides, I'm devastating when I do my magic.

MISTER WACKY (O.C.)
Danny Amatullo!

24 NEW ANGLE

24

Mister Wacky, dressed in a safari outfit, walks up to Danny, places a piece of blank paper on the counter and offers him a large pen.

DANNY
(surprised)
Mister Wacky?

MISTER WACKY
Sign on the dotted line.

25 INSERT OF PAPER

25

The only thing on it is a crudely drawn dotted line.

26 BACK TO SCENE

26

Danny smiles as he goes along with the joke and signs his name. Wacky grabs the paper from the counter and starts away.

MISTER WACKY

Congratulations, you just signed your life away.

DANNY

Huh?

MISTER WACKY

What's the matter? Can't you read? You are now Mister Wacky's special pal.

DANNY

You're giving me a job?

Mister Wacky moves back to Danny, looks him right in the eye, and grabs him by the lapels.

MISTER WACKY

(threatening)

That's right, buster.

(smiling; softening)

And just to make sure you show up, I'm taking this with me.

Wacky holds up Danny's wallet which he's pickpocketed, then lets go of Danny, and walks out. Chris and Danny look after him, both of them a little stunned.

CHRIS

Amatullo, he stole your wallet!

DANNY

Who cares, I'm gonna be on T.V.

Danny is thrilled as we FREEZE FRAME on his happy face, then:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

27 EXT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY (STOCK) (DAY FOUR) 27

28 INT. MISTER WACKY'S SET - DAY 28

Danny is reading a gigantic thousand page manuscript as Mister Wacky, dressed in a smoking jacket and boxer shorts, appears over Danny's shoulder. (X)

MISTER WACKY

(excited)

Priceless stuff, right? I've been working on that autobiography for ten years. All I need is a publisher. So what do you think? (X)

DANNY

I'm only on page ten.

MISTER WACKY

(crushed)

You don't like it! My life doesn't move you?

DANNY

It's not that.

Mister Wacky grabs the manuscript away from Danny.

MISTER WACKY

Never mind.

Mister Wacky throws the manuscript out the window of the set.

MISTER WACKY

(continuing; cavalier)

It's not important.

Mister Wacky walks over to a photo of a little girl that's hanging on the wall and sadly leans his head against it.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

MISTER WACKY
(continuing; tortured)
Peggy... Peggy... they don't
understand.

DANNY
(tentatively)
Who's Peggy?

MISTER WACKY
(looking at the picture
adoringly)
My daughter... the light of my
life. I haven't seen her since
her mother and I divorced. You
can't imagine how I miss her.
This sweet little face means
everything to me. Peggy, lovely,
darling Peggy....
(a beat)
... or is her name Judy? Judy,
Peggy, whatever, the little brat
never writes!

(X)

Mister Wacky turns the picture over to face the wall, then moves
back to Danny, acting like the outburst never occurred.

MISTER WACKY
(continuing)
So you excited about being part
of "Mister Wacky's World?"

DANNY
Who wouldn't be.

MISTER WACKY
Are you saying that because you
mean it?
(taking Danny's wallet
out)
Or because you want your wallet
back?

DANNY
(smiling)
A little of both.

(X)

Mister Wacky tosses the wallet to Danny.

MISTER WACKY
Now, Danny, there's something I
have to tell you.
(a beat)
I love your name!

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY
(somewhat confused)
Thank you.

MISTER WACKY
But it's wrong for the show.

Mister Wacky moves over to a painting on the wall and takes it off to reveal a safe.

DANNY
Why?

He quickly dials the combination.

MISTER WACKY
It's not funny. Mister Wacky...
now that's funny. Danny... is
boring!
(a beat)
But don't worry, I know how to
fix it.

The safe opens and Mister Wacky takes out a large book entitled: "Funny Names." He starts paging through the book as he looks back and studies Danny very carefully.

MISTER WACKY
(turning pages)
No... no... too obvious...
(evil giggle)
Can't say that on T.V. No...
no....never work... been done...
(finds something)
Ah-ha!

Mister Wacky quickly puts the book back in the safe, closes it, then returns the painting. He rushes back to Danny and extends his hand.

MISTER WACKY
Welcome to "Mister Wacky's
World"... Noodles!

Danny shakes Mister Wacky's hand and smiles.

DANNY
Noodles?

CUT TO:

29 INT. CAFETERIA - CLOSE ON T.V. SET - DAY (DAY FIVE)

29

Mister Wacky is on-the-air with Danny as Noodles, standing against the wall with a metal conductor cone on his head. Mister Wacky is acting like a game show host.

MISTER WACKY

Now for the car, the trailer,
and dream vacation for two in
Lubbock, Texas, what is the
chemical symbol for water?

(X)

DANNY

(as Noodles)

I know that one. H2o.

MISTER WACKY

Unfortunately, you're absolutely
correct.

Mister Wacky throws the big electrical switch on the wall beside Danny to "on." Danny squirms and shakes as we HEAR the SOUND of CRACKLING ELECTRICITY. OVER this, we also HEAR LAUGHTER as CAMERA WIDENS TO REVEAL the kids, including Nicole, Jesse, Jillian, Dusty, and Danny, watching the T.V. set. From the HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER, it is obvious that the kids are enjoying the show. On the T.V. set, Mister Wacky is smiling into camera and waving good bye as Danny continues to squirm in the background, trying desperately to reach the electrical switch with his hand.

MISTER WACKY

Well, that's all we have
time for today. Thanks
for tuning in. We'll see
you next time on "Mister
Wacky's World." Wave
good-bye, Noodles.

JESSE

(to Danny)

Amatullo, you finally
found someone as crazy
as you.

DANNY

Mister Wacky's crazier!

The kids continue to LAUGH as they watch Mister Wacky and a squirming Danny wave good-bye. "Moon River" starts PLAYING as the screen goes to black and the credits roll. The kids turn to Danny and APPLAUD his performance. Danny is very pleased by their response to the program and his work.

DANNY

(a la announcer)

And remember you can watch Mister
Wacky and Noodles every week on
your local station.

(X)

They give Danny one more CHEER, then one of the kids TURNS OFF the T.V. and everyone starts dispersing. A BAND begins TUNING UP in the background.

30 NEW ANGLE

Dusty, Jillian, Jesse, Nicole and several other kids surround Danny.

JILLIAN

So how does it feel being a big T.V. star?

DANNY

It's only public access.

DUSTY

You'd be surprised how many people watch Mister Wacky.

JESSE

Yeah, he's very hot with the intelligentsia

NICOLE

And college kids.

JILLIAN

I heard he was going to be on the cover of Andy Warhol's magazine next month.

DANNY

Well, I did hear that we're David Letterman's favorite show.

The band starts playing some MUSIC in the background.

NICOLE

Face it, Danny, Mister Wacky is hip.

JESSE

And so are you.

DANNY

Two weeks ago, I was Danny Amatullo from the Bronx. Now I'm hip.

(a beat)

I like it.

Danny moves to the platform where the band is playing and starts SINGING a SONG about what it's like to be a hip, trendy, and successful performer ("I'm Hip" by The Romantics). As the NUMBER ENDS and the kids go their separate ways, we SEE Dusty start to approach Jesse, but then she stops. Jesse heads out the door and Dusty looks after him, obviously struggling with something. After a beat, she runs after him.

30

(X)

31 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

31

CAMERA DOLLIES WITH Jesse as Dusty follows behind him. Suddenly, Jesse stops at his locker and Dusty almost bumps into him. He smiles as he takes a cassette tape from his pocket.

JESSE

Hey, Dusty, I finished doing the music tracks for our song. We can lay down the vocal whenever you're ready.

Jesse gives her the tape.

DUSTY

Great.

Dusty just stands there as Jesse exchanges some books in his locker.

JESSE

So what's new?

DUSTY

(blurting it out)

I won two concert tickets!

JESSE

That's great. I never win anything. Who's playing?

DUSTY

U2.

JESSE

My favorite band.

DUSTY

Really? Yeah, they're pretty hot.

(X)

JESSE

Who you taking?

DUSTY

(hesitant)

I'm not sure exactly. I mean, no one yet.

(a beat)

If you want to go... that would be okay.

Jesse closes his locker.

JESSE

Name the time and I'm there.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

DUSTY
Eight o'clock, Saturday. At the
Garden.

JESSE
It's a date.
(a friendly hug)
U2! This is gonna be a blast.

Jesse turns and moves away.

DUSTY
(calling after him)
I hope so.
(to herself; excited)
I hope so!

All smiles and walking on air, Dusty heads off in the opposite direction.

32 INT. LOU'S LANES - NIGHT (DAY SIX)

Danny is signing autographs for several admirers, including
LAURA MACKIE.

DANNY
(as he writes)
To Laura... Don't ever change...
Love ya....

LAURA
And can you sign it "Noodles?"

DANNY
How about Danny "Noodles"
Amatullo?

LAURA
I guess that's okay.

Danny finishes signing the autograph, then hands it to Laura.

LAURA
(continuing; kidding)
Who knows, this could be worth
big money someday.

Danny smiles, then heads for the lounge.

33 NEW ANGLE

Lou carries a stack of paper in his hands as he comes down the stairs and intercepts Danny.

LOU
Hey, Amatullo, how about a few autographs?

Lou offers Danny the stack of paper.

DANNY
You call that a few?

LOU
You can divide them up between you and the Wack Man.

Lou hands the paper to Danny.

LOU
(continuing)
Whenever you get a chance.

Lou retreats back up the stairs.

CHRIS (O.C.)
Hey, Amatullo....

Danny reacts, then heads into the lounge.

34 ANGLE ON STAGE

Chris is carefully juggling three oranges as Danny approaches and reacts.

DANNY
Don't tell me you're still trying to spice up the act.

CHRIS
Yeah, and it's not getting any easier.

Suddenly, Chris loses control and the oranges fall to the floor. Danny helps Chris retrieve his oranges.

CHRIS
I've been watching the show. Funny stuff.

(CONTINUED)

(X

34 CONTINUED:

DANNY
You ain't seen nothing yet. I'm
really getting a handle on this
"Noodles" guy. I've got some
great bits for Mister Wacky, too.

CHRIS
Sounds exciting.

DANNY
It is. I'm a lucky man, Donlon.

Danny glances down at the orange he's holding and gets inspired.

DANNY
(continuing)
Hey, you ever think about juggling
grapefruits instead of oranges?

CHRIS
(a revelation)
You're right, grapefruits would
be funnier.

DANNY
It's my gift to you.

Danny smiles, then tosses the orange to Chris.

DANNY
(continuing)
Catch you later.

Danny turns and heads out of the lounge.

35 NEW ANGLE

Lou passes Danny on his way out.

LOU
(to Chris; indicating
Danny)
That kid's on a roll.

Lou heads off to the counter as CAMERA HOLDS ON Chris who
continues to look after Danny.

CHRIS
Couldn't happen to a nicer guy.
(a beat; to himself)
Except me.

34

35

(X)

36 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - NIGHT

Dusty and Jesse walk along together, both of them very up from the concert and truly enjoying each other's company.

JESSE
I can't believe it... you like
Science Fiction?

DUSTY
I've been reading it for years.

JESSE
That's all I ever read.

They stop walking and turn to each other.

DUSTY/JESSE
(simultaneously)
"Stranger in a Strange Land."

They both LAUGH.

JESSE
My favorite book.

DUSTY
Mine too.

They smile at each other, then resume walking as Jesse innocently puts his arm around Dusty's shoulder.

JESSE
It's incredible.

DUSTY
Tell me about it.
(a beat)
Jesse, I had a wonderful time
tonight.

JESSE
So did I.

They arrive at a corner and stop as Jesse tries to flag down a cab.

JESSE
(continuing)
Yo, cab!

A cab pulls to a stop at the curb and they cross to it.

DUSTY
I wish it didn't have to end.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

JESSE

Hey, the concert lasted three hours. Wasn't that enough?

They arrive at the cab as Dusty stops and nervously glances at Jesse. She wants to say something, but she's not sure how.

DUSTY

I don't mean that. It's being with you.

(a beat; tentative)

Most guys only care about what's on the outside.

(a beat; nervous)

And I got too much outside.

JESSE

Outside, inside... they both look good to me.

Jesse sees that Dusty is becoming more and more nervous.

JESSE

(continuing)

Are you all right?

She buries her head into his shoulder and snuggles up close as Jesse reacts to this unexpected display of affection.

JESSE

Dusty....

Dusty looks up at Jesse.

DUSTY

(blurting it out)

Jesse, I'm so happy I found you.

JESSE

(surprised)

What?

(a beat; smiling)

You're putting me on. Right?

DUSTY

(humiliated)

Putting you on?

Overwhelmed with embarrassment, Dusty turns to get into the cab as Jesse realizes the seriousness of the situation and tries to stop her.

JESSE

Dusty, wait.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

She pulls away from him and gets into the cab, shutting the door behind her. After a beat, the cab pulls away as a very upset Jesse watches it disappear down the street.

37 INT. WACKY'S WORLD SET - DAY (DAY SEVEN)

"Mister Wacky's World" is on-the-air as Mister Wacky, dressed in a yachting outfit, sits atop a Pitch 'n Dunk water tank, holding a baseball in his hand. (X)

MISTER WACKY

Welcome to Mister Wacky's Carnival. We're here today to raise money for a very worthwhile cause... Mister Wacky.

(looking offstage)

Oh, I see someone coming now.

38 NEW ANGLE

as Danny, dressed as Noodles, enters the set.

MISTER WACKY

(continuing)

Why, it's Noodles! Want to take a shot at me, pal? It'll only cost you five bucks.

DANNY

No... cause I know what'll happen. I'll be the one who gets wet.

MISTER WACKY

Come, come, my paranoid little friend. How could you get wet? You're nowhere near the tank.

(tosses Danny the ball)

Trust me.

Danny takes out a big, funny five dollar bill and sets it down on a nearby table, then lines up to throw the ball. (X)

39 ANOTHER ANGLE

Danny takes aim and lets the ball fly.

40 INSERT OF TARGET

The ball hits right in the middle.

41 BACK TO SCENE

Nothing happens, but, after a beat, a torrent of water drops down on Danny.

MISTER WACKY
Tough luck, Noodles. Care to try again?

Danny suddenly breaks away from his Noodles character as he turns to CAMERA and does a great imitation of the Wicked Witch from "The Wizard of Oz."

DANNY
Oh, what a world, I'm melting...
melting....

Danny slowly "melts" down into the floor, then suddenly jumps back up and starts SINGING "Singing in the Rain."

DANNY
(continuing; singing)
"I'm singing in the rain. Just
singing in the rain...."

42 ANGLE ON MISTER WACKY

as he watches Danny perform and can't help but enjoy his discovery's talent.

DANNY (O.C.)
"What a glorious feeling, I'm
happy again."

MISTER WACKY
You're killing 'em, babe!

43 BACK TO DANNY

He moves over to the spot where he got hit with the water and looks up as he continues to SING.

DANNY
(singing)
"I'll waltz down the lane, to a
happy refrain."

Danny is drenched with water once again.

MISTER WACKY
Bring it on home, Noodles!

Danny smiles, then starts strolling towards Mister Wacky and the water tank.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

DANNY
(singing)
"I'm singing...."
(singing very fast)
"... just singing in the rain."

Danny rushes towards the dunking apparatus and pushes the target with both hands. A stunned Wacky plunges into the tank of water and flounders around like a netted tuna.

44 INT. DRESSING ROOM IN TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

Danny is in a robe and drying his hair with a towel as Mister Wacky comes in the door, still dripping wet. He carries a Polaroid camera which he offers to Danny.

DANNY
What's this for?

MISTER WACKY
(posing)
Say cheese.

Danny hesitates a moment, then aims the camera and shoots. The picture pops out and starts developing as Danny pulls it out of the camera. Mister Wacky crosses to Danny and takes the picture from him.

MISTER WACKY
(looking at picture)
Ah, yes, just as I thought.
(to Danny)
What's wrong with this picture?

DANNY
The lighting?

MISTER WACKY
Mister Wacky is wet. And why is he wet? Because Noodles dunked him.

DANNY
I was improvising.

MISTER WACKY
The audience doesn't tune in to see you improvise. If they did, the show would be called "Mister Noodles' World."

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

DANNY
(insisting)
You've got to admit it was funny.

MISTER WACKY
But it wasn't necessary. Mister
Wacky is funny enough for both
of us.

DANNY
But I saw you laughing.

MISTER WACKY
No, no, no, you don't understand.
This is not open for debate.

DANNY
I think it is.

MISTER WACKY
Okay, it's a debate. And I win.
(a beat)
Am I getting through to you?

DANNY
You're saying you don't want to
hear my ideas.

MISTER WACKY
(touching nose)
Exactly.

DANNY
(disappointed)
And I keep being the stooge.

MISTER WACKY
Brilliant. That's my boy.

Mister Wacky gives Danny a hug, then turns and moves OUT OF SHOT
as CAMERA PUSHES IN CLOSE ON Danny.

MISTER WACKY (O.C.)
It's going to be a great year,
Noodles. Right?

Danny isn't so sure as he looks after Mister Wacky.

DANNY
Right.

Danny starts to turn and we:

QUICK CUT TO:

45 REVERSE ANGLE ON DANNY (MISTER WACKY'S WORLD SET) 45

as he completes his turn, he's hit flush in the face with a pie. OVER this, we HEAR the SOUND of CANNED LAUGHTER as CAMERA PANS TO REVEAL a smiling Mister Wacky, mugging for the television camera. He stands in front of a small, children's organ and accompanies himself as he SINGS his rendition of "Moon River." (X)

CUT TO:

46 SERIES OF SHOTS IN MISTER WACKY SET 46

MUSIC continues OVER as Mister Wacky subjects Noodles to abuse, done in quick staccato cuts which build in momentum, each hitting Danny worse than the previous one. (X)

A) A DOOR SLAMS in Noodles' face.

B) Seltzer is sprayed in his face.

C) DOOR SLAM!

D) Eggs are BROKEN over his head.

E) Pie in the face.

F) DOOR SLAM!

G) DOOR SLAM!

H) Noodles holds a bomb which EXLODES in his face.

I) DOOR SLAM!

J) A humungous mass of green slime pours down over Noodles.

47 CLOSE ON DANNY 47

Totally covered with green slime. He tries to wipe the gooey substance off his face as the SOUND of CANNED LAUGHTER plays OVER. The look in Danny's eyes tells us that playing Noodles and being a stooge for Mister Wacky's abuse is starting to get him. We FREEZE FRAME ON Danny, HOLD for a moment, then:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

48 EXT. LOU'S LANES - DAY (DAY EIGHT)

It is lunchtime and the kids from SOA are hanging out in front of Lou's. CAMERA PICKS UP Jesse as he crosses to the front window and looks in. Nicole has just finished playing one of the video games as Jesse knocks on the window, gets her attention, then waves for her to come outside. CAMERA TRACKS WITH Jesse as he moves to the door and opens it for Nicole.

JESSE
Have you seen Dusty?

NICOLE
She's really upset, Jesse.

CAMERA DOLLIES WITH them as they move across the street through a maze of cars stuck in a traffic jam.

JESSE
We went to a concert. It was no big deal.

NICOLE
It was to Dusty. She thought you liked her.

JESSE
I do like her.

NICOLE
Jesse, she thought you "liked" her.

They arrive at the front of the school and head up the steps.

JESSE
Is that my fault?

NICOLE
Come on, this is me you're talking to. I've seen you in action.

They go into the school.

49 INT. LOBBY - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Jesse and Nicole come up the steps and move across the lobby.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

NICOLE

I know how you can turn on that Latin charm. Admit it, you love to flirt.

JESSE

Okay, but nobody takes it seriously.

NICOLE

Dusty did.

JESSE

What am I gonna do?

NICOLE

Talk to her.

JESSE

I don't know what to say.

NICOLE

A little honesty wouldn't hurt.

Jesse nods as they start up the stairs.

JESSE

(kidding)

None of this would have happened if we hadn't broken up.

An uncomfortable beat as we see the pain of their separation hasn't totally disappeared for either of them.

NICOLE

(lightly)

That wasn't my fault.

JESSE

Well, it wasn't mine.

NICOLE

Was to.

JESSE

Was not.

Jesse and Nicole disappear up the stairs as CAMERA PICKS UP Danny and Jillian coming down the hallway. Jillian carries a magazine.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (2)

49

JILLIAN
This is fantastic, Danny. An article on you in New York Magazine.

DANNY
It's really about Mister Wacky.

JILLIAN
That's you in the picture --

DANNY
Yeah, under two quarts of motor oil.

JILLIAN
Listen to this....
(reading magazine)
'As for Mister Wacky's sidekick, Noodles, he can take a pie with the best of them.'

DANNY
I finally get a good review and it's under an assumed name.

JILLIAN
Everybody knows you're Noodles.

DANNY
(testy)
But I'm not Noodles. I'm Danny Amatullo. There's a difference, you know.

Jillian reacts with surprise to Danny's sudden outburst.

BOY STUDENT (O.C.)
Hey, Noodles!

DANNY
(reacting; to Nicole)
I'm beginning to hate that name.

50 NEW ANGLE

50

Danny turns as the BOY STUDENT catches him completely off guard and SMASHES a pie into his face. As he wipes the pie away with his hand, Danny's grabs the Student and starts to slam him against the wall, but he stops when he realizes the lobby is filled with kids LAUGHING AND APPLAUDING at what looks like a planned stunt. The Boy Student LAUGHS too.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

BOY STUDENT
Love you on Mister Wacky.

The APPLAUSE continues as Danny turns to Jillian who is trying her best not to crack up. Unable to tolerate anymore of the LAUGHTER, Danny angrily pushes through the students, and disappears down the steps of the main entrance.

51 INT. LOU'S LANES - DAY

51

Chris is onstage, rehearsing a great DRUM SOLO as Lou looks on from behind the lunch counter. Danny is lost in his own thoughts, sitting at the end of the counter, drinking a coke. There's nobody else in the lounge.

52 ANGLE ON LOU

52

He's not thrilled with what Chris is doing as he checks his watch, then shakes his head as if to say "enough already."

53 ANGLE ON CHRIS

53

He FINISHES with a BIG FLOURISH, then crosses to Lou and Danny at the counter.

CHRIS
(twirling drumsticks)
That should add about ten minutes to the act.

LOU
Eleven-twenty to be exact. Which is about eight minutes too long.

CHRIS
I thought you liked my drumming.

LOU
I do. But a bowling ball only needs three holes. You get what I'm saying?

Chris thinks for a moment, trying to figure it out, then gives up.

CHRIS
No.

Lou grabs the the drumsticks away from Chris as Danny reacts and listens to Lou's words which hit very close to home.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

LOU

You don't need these. Just like you don't need the card tricks or the juggling or the other crazy stuff you been throwing into your act.

(a beat)

You're a singer, Donlon. Sing!

CHRIS

That's what I want to do. But what if it's not enough?

LOU

Kid, you do your act the way you want, and they'll be talking about Chris Donlon long after this place is history.

CHRIS

You think so?

LOU

I guarantee it.

Lou heads for the stage as Danny gets up from the counter and moves after him.

DANNY

(passing Chris)

He's right, Donlon. You don't need gimmicks.

54 NEW ANGLE

54

Lou is setting up the microphone on the stage as Danny runs over to him.

DANNY

Hey, Lou, how about I perform here some night?

LOU

(excited)

You and Mister Wacky? On my stage?

DANNY

No, I thought maybe I'd do a solo.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

LOU
Noodles without Mister Wacky?
(a beat)
You think the audience'll buy it?

DANNY
(hiding his
disappointment)
Probably not. Forget it.

Danny quickly turns and heads out of the room.

55 EXT. LOU'S LANES - CONTINUOUS - DAY

55

Feeling lonely and depressed, Danny comes out the door, then walks off down the street.

56 INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE LOCKER ROOMS - DAY

56

Jesse stands across from the entrance to the girls' locker room, waiting. After a beat, Dusty comes out of the door, spots Jesse, and quickly heads for the back stairs. Jesse moves after Dusty and stops her on the stairs.

JESSE
Dusty....

DUSTY
(embarrassed)
I can't talk now. I'm be late
for class.

JESSE
Too late... we're already talking.

DUSTY
Look, just forget about the other
night. I acted stupid.

JESSE
I wouldn't call it stupid. Things
got a little mixed up, that's all.

DUSTY
You shouldn't have said all those
nice things about me.

JESSE
Why not.

DUSTY
You didn't mean them.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

JESSE

But I did. I like you, Dusty.

Dusty didn't expect this. Maybe there's hope.

DUSTY

I like you too.

(a beat; tentative)

Maybe we should try again....

(X)

JESSE

Wait, Dusty, I don't want to lead you on.

(X)

A beat as Dusty realizes that Jesse is definitely not interested in her romantically.

DUSTY

(a beat; hurt)

It's because of the way I look, isn't it?

JESSE

No... you're pretty.

(X)

DUSTY

Yeah, pretty for a fat girl.

JESSE

It's got nothing to do with your weight.

DUSTY

You're just saying that!

(a beat)

I thought you were different.

JESSE

Look, I'm sorry I don't feel about you the same way you feel about me.

(a beat; struggling)

But that's how it is.

DUSTY

I thought we had something.

JESSE

We do. Our friendship.

Dusty doesn't want to hear this as she starts up the stairs, but Jesse grabs her by the arm.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

JESSE
(continuing)
Maybe that doesn't mean anything
to you, but it does to me.
(a beat)
If you want to throw it away,
that's your decision, not mine.

They look at each other for a moment, then Jesse lets go of her and moves off down the hallway. Upset and confused, Dusty looks after him.

57 INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

57

Danny comes in the door and reacts to the SOUND of someone "singing" the "1812 Overture," complete with crashing cymbals. CAMERA PANS WITH Danny as he crosses to the Mister Wacky set to find Mister Wacky, dressed in a wetsuit with facemask and fins, prancing around a big cannon, "singing" and clashing cymbals together at the appropriate moment. Mister Wacky stops when he sees Danny.

MISTER WACKY
(excited)
Noodles, I have incredible news
from Rome. The gods have smiled
on us.

Danny's attention is focused on the cannon.

DANNY
(referring to cannon)
What's that doing here?

MISTER WACKY
It's for the circus gag. You're
supposed to be shot out of the
cannon, but your foot gets stuck
and the whole thing blows up with
you still inside.

DANNY
Do I survive?

MISTER WACKY
Noodles always survives. We'll
burn out your clothes, cover you
with soot, all that good stuff....

Danny looks at the cannon and shakes his head.

DANNY
No....

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

MISTER WACKY

What do you mean, no?

DANNY

I can't do it.

MISTER WACKY

Of course, you can. The audience'll love it.

DANNY

Look, I appreciate all you've done for me, but the joke's getting old fast. I've had it.

Danny turns and starts to go, but Mister Wacky stops him.

MISTER WACKY

Hey, if you've got a problem, we can solve it. I'm a very sensitive guy. Come on, talk to me.

DANNY

The problem is you'll always be Mister Wacky and I'll always be Noodles.

MISTER WACKY

What's wrong with that?

DANNY

I'm tired of being blown up.

58 NEW ANGLE

58

as Danny moves around Wacky and heads for the exit. Wacky rushes after Danny and grabs him by the arm.

MISTER WACKY

What are you, outta your mind? You can't leave. You think the kind of chemistry we have is easy to find? I've been looking for twelve years. Twelve years of paying thirty-five dollars a week to be on public access. And now, when things finally start to happen, you walk out.

(X)

DANNY

I'm sorry, but how many times can a guy get hit with a pie?

(X)

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

MISTER WACKY

How 'bout I hit you with a pie
on national T.V.? Does that make
a difference?

DANNY

What are you talking about?

MISTER WACKY

I've been trying to tell you.
We're signed to do an hour
special. Prime-time.

(X)

DANNY

You're putting me on.

MISTER WACKY

What do I have to do to convince
you? Stand on my head and beg?

Mister Wacky drops out of SHOT, then, after a beat, his legs
and feet pop up in front of Danny's face.

MISTER WACKY (O.C.)

(continuing)

Okay, I'm begging. Don't leave!
Do the T.V. Special with me.

DANNY

I kinda made up my mind.

MISTER WACKY (O.C.)

Danny, this is the chance of a
lifetime. And I'm getting dizzy.
Please say you'll do it.

It's all too much for Danny as his affection for Mister Wacky
gets the best of him.

DANNY

Okay.

MISTER WACKY (O.C.)

Okay what?

DANNY

I'll stay.

MISTER WACKY (O.C.)

Good.

The feet drop out of SHOT, then, after a beat, Mister Wacky pops
back up.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (2)

58

MISTER WACKY
(continuing)
I knew I could con... vince you.

59 NEW ANGLE

59

Mister Wacky takes Danny by the arm and leads him back into the set.

MISTER WACKY
We're finally going to have it
all. Money... fame... all the
sushi we can eat! The days of
being starving cult heroes are
over. Wow, are we happy!

Mister Wacky pushes a button on the wall and a bucket of green
slime pours down all over himself. Danny can't help but laugh. (X)

MISTER WACKY
(to Danny)
Come to me, my Noodles!

Mister Wacky moves to Danny and throws his arms around him,
sliming him in the process.

60 CLOSE ON DANNY

60

as Mister Wacky hugs him. He's already having doubts about
what he's gotten himself into.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

- 61 EXT. SCHOOL OF THE ARTS - DAY (DAY NINE) 61
The usual amount of activity in front of the school. OVER this, we HEAR MUSIC (the musical track of Jesse's song).
- 62 INT. MUSIC CUBICLE - DAY 62
Dusty sits alone, sadly listening to the tape that Jesse gave her.
- NICOLE (O.C.)
It's going to be a great song.
- 63 NEW ANGLE 63
Nicole stands in the doorway as Dusty reacts to her presence.
- DUSTY
It's okay.
- Dusty turns OFF the cassette player.
- NICOLE
Okay? I wish he'd let me sing it.
- DUSTY
Go ahead.
- NICOLE
He's still hoping you'll do it.
- DUSTY
Sorry, I'm not available.
- NICOLE
It's up to you, but I really think you're missing out on something.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

DUSTY
Singing a song?

NICOLE
No... he's a good friend, Dusty.

Nicole turns and goes out the door, leaving Dusty alone with her thoughts.

64 INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

64

CAMERA PANS the soundstage TO REVEAL a full crew of technicians setting up new, high-tech video equipment around the Mister Wacky set. CAMERA ENDS PAN ON Mister Wacky and Danny, standing side-by-side, watching the activity. Wacky is dressed in a golfing outfit.

MISTER WACKY
Noodles, we're in show business heaven. The network's pouring a lot of money into the show.
(confidentially)
There's even an ugly rumor that Hollywood is watching. What do you think... "Mister Wacky: The Movie?"

The propman, OLIVER, approaches carrying two chairs.

OLIVER
Excuse me, sir.

MISTER WACKY
(to Danny)
Sir?

OLIVER
We have two kinds of breakaway chairs. Which would you prefer?

MISTER WACKY
Is this not an embarrassment of riches?
(to Oliver)
Which would you suggest?

OLIVER
I really couldn't say.

MISTER WACKY
Turn around, Noodles.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

Danny turns as Mister Wacky proceeds to break the two chairs across Danny's back.

MISTER WACKY
(continuing; to Danny)
What do you think?

DANNY
The second one.

Mister Wacky still holds a piece of the second chair in his hand and he gives it to Oliver.

MISTER WACKY
You heard the man.

OLIVER
Good choice.

Oliver moves away.

MISTER WACKY
(continuing; calling
after Oliver)
And order ten of them.

Mister Wacky puts his arm around Danny.

MISTER WACKY
We can do as many takes as we
want.

Danny manages a weak smile at the thought.

65 NEW ANGLE

65

CAMERA TRACKS WITH Mister Wacky as he leads Danny around the soundstage.

MISTER WACKY
Look around you, Noodles. We've
got new paint....

They pass a guy filling out cue cards.

MISTER WACKY
(continuing)
... cue cards....
(to guy)
... print bigger....

They approach a Chapman stage crane.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

MISTER WACKY
(continuing)
... a crane. You know how much
one of these suckers cost?

DANNY
A lot?

MISTER WACKY
That's right.

Mister Wacky leads Danny to two "director's chairs" which have "Mister Wacky" and "Noodles" written on them.

MISTER WACKY
Here we are... side-by-side.

66 ANOTHER ANGLE

66

as Mister Wacky and Danny sit down in their respective chairs.

MISTER WACKY
(continuing)
Comfy, huh?
(pointing)
Your script's in the pouch.

Danny reaches into the pouch that hangs from the arm of the chair and pulls out a script.

DANNY
(surprised)
We never used a script before.

MISTER WACKY
I never got paid to write one
before.

Danny finds a piece of paper inside the script. He opens it.

DANNY
What's this?

MISTER WACKY
It's a contract. A real one.

Danny reacts, then starts reading the contract.

MISTER WACKY
Very good money.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

DANNY
It's for seven years. I thought
we were just doing a Special.

MISTER WACKY
You have to think of your future.

DANNY
Yeah, but I was hoping I could
do other things besides Noodles.

MISTER WACKY
Trust me, Danny, when you've found
something that works, stick with
it.

(a beat)
The world doesn't need another
out-of-work actor.

(a beat)
Believe me, you won't get a better
offer.

Danny looks at Mister Wacky for a moment, then turns his
attention back to the contract as he struggles to decide what
to do.

DANNY
Do I have to sign it right now?

MISTER WACKY
You want to read it first? Go
ahead.

(X)

(a beat)
I have to go boss people around.

Mister Wacky moves off, leaving Danny to stare at the contract.

67 ANGLE ON MISTER WACKY

67

as he stands with Oliver who is showing him a tray filled with
different kinds of pies. Mister Wacky looks over at Danny.

68 MISTER WACKY'S POV OF DANNY

68

He's reading the contract.

69 BACK TO MISTER WACKY

69

He's concerned about Danny's reaction to the contract.

- 70 INT. SCHOOL OF THE ARTS - HALLWAY - DAY 70
Classes have just let out and the hallway is packed with students. Jesse is at his locker. (X)
- 71 ANGLE ON JESSE 71
as he glances down the hallway and reacts to something.
- 72 JESSE'S POV OF DUSTY 72
She is putting her books into her locker. After a beat, she looks up and reacts to Jesse. (X)
- 73 BACK TO JESSE 73
He quickly looks away, and locks up his locker. After a beat, we HEAR: (X)
- DUSTY (O.C.)
Jesse....
- Jesse reacts, then looks back down the hallway.
- 74 NEW ANGLE 74
Dusty stands a few feet away from Jesse, holding up the cassette of his song.
- DUSTY
(continuing)
How about Monday... three-thirty?
- JESSE
You're kidding.
- DUSTY
You want me to sing your song or not?
- JESSE
Sure I do.
- DUSTY
Then I guess we don't have a problem.
- JESSE
I'm glad to hear that.
- DUSTY
You better be glad.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

Dusty smiles at him, then turns to go. Jesse stops her with:

JESSE

Hey, Dusty, there's a Rick James concert next week. You want to check it out with me?

DUSTY

Sounds good... but I don't want to lead you on.

They smile at each other, then both turn and move off in opposite directions.

75 EXT. LOU'S LANES - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

OVER this, we HEAR MUSIC.

76 INT. LOU'S LANES - NIGHT

The lounge is packed with people and really jumping as Chris wows everybody with a straight on ROCK N'ROLL SONG.

77 ANGLE ON LUNCH COUNTER

Jesse and Jillian sit at the counter and Lou stands behind it as they watch Chris, thoroughly enjoying his performance.

78 BACK TO CHRIS

Really WAILING now, he glances off towards the front entry, reacts to something, then smiles.

79 ANGLE ON DANNY IN FRONT ENTRY

He stands at the partition, watching Chris. Danny smiles back at Chris, proud of his friend, and somewhat envious that he's doing what he really loves. After a beat, Nicole leans in and gives Danny a friendly peck on the cheek.

NICOLE

Congratulations, Danny. We all heard about your T.V. Special. You must be so excited.

DANNY

(watching Chris)
Yeah... Donlon's really "on" tonight, isn't he?

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

NICOLE
He's the best.

CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES IN CLOSE ON Danny as he watches Chris knock 'em dead.

80 BACK TO CHRIS

as he continues to perform. The NUMBER ENDS to loud and appreciative APPLAUSE as Chris takes several bows and the crowd YELLS for an encore. Lou comes on stage and shakes Chris' hand.

LOU
Great job, kid.

CHRIS
Yeah, it's better than being a mime.

LOU
What'd I'd tell you?

Chris takes one last bow, then moves off the stage as Lou grabs the microphone.

LOU
Christopher Donlon, ladies and gentlemen. Let's hear it.

81 ANGLE ON CHRIS

The APPLAUSE continues as Chris takes another bow, then looks towards the front entry and reacts.

81A CHRIS' POV OF ENTRY

Danny is gone.

82 INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - MISTER WACKY'S SET - NIGHT

The set is dark as Danny enters through the door, the contract in his hand. He is in a melancholy mood as he leans against the desk and looks around the set.

MISTER WACKY (O.C.)
(stentorian tones)
Does the name Rick Schultz ring a bell?

Danny reacts and looks around, but he can't see anyone. Finally, he looks up and reacts.

83 HIGH ANGLE

83

Mister Wacky, dressed in a turban and gown, and holding a crystal ball, sits atop the Chapman crane.

DANNY
Schultz? Never heard of him.

MISTER WACKY
(referring to crystal
ball)
I see in here that he's a bright
young comic. Looks like he'd make
an interesting Noodles.

DANNY
Looks aren't everything. This
guy any good?

The crane slowly starts to lower.

MISTER WACKY
By the time I'd finish with him,
he'd be wonderful.

84 NEW ANGLE

84

as Mister Wacky is lowered to the floor in front of Danny.
There is a long silence as Danny and Wacky just look at each
other, neither of them knowing what to say next.

MISTER WACKY
(continuing)
What do you think I should do?

DANNY
(a beat)
Give him a call.

MISTER WACKY
I was afraid you'd say that.
(a beat; with affection)
So, this is goodbye.

DANNY
I guess so.
(a beat)
Here's your contract.

Danny offers it to Mister Wacky, but he doesn't take it.

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED:

MISTER WACKY

Keep it as a souvenir.

(a beat)

I hope you're not making a
mistake.

DANNY

Me too.

(a beat)

How'd you know I wasn't gonna
sign?

MISTER WACKY

Cause you never fit the job
description. All I need is a
stooge. You're too damn good.

DANNY

Coming from you... that means a
lot.

A moment of regret passes between them. After a beat, Mister
Wacky pats Danny on the back.

MISTER WACKY

Try not to forget all I've taught
you.

DANNY

I won't.

MISTER WACKY

Stay in touch.

DANNY

You too.

MISTER WACKY

And don't forget to write. And
wear warm socks. And change your
underwear everyday.

Mister Wacky begins to ascend back up the crane.

MISTER WACKY

(continuing)

And don't bite your nails. Never
talk to strangers. And eat your
vegetables.

DANNY

(looking up)

It's been fun working with you.

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED: (2)

84

MISTER WACKY
Of course, it's been fun. I'm
Mister Wacky!

Danny smiles as he watches Mister Wacky ascend into the heavens,
then turns to go.

85 ANGLE ON DANNY

85

As he walks out through the set, a pie splatters against the
wall next to him. Danny reacts, but doesn't turn around.

MISTER WACKY (O.C.)
Missed.

Danny can't help but smile as we FREEZE FRAME.

FADE OUT.

THE END