

TRANSFORMERS

"The Gambler"

(MP# 700-46)

(SCRIPT)

Written by:
Michael Charles Hill
5/17/85

MARVEL PRODUCTIONS, LTD.

TRANSFORMERS
"The Gambler"
(MP# 700-46)

CAST LIST

AUTOBOTS:

OPTIMUS PRIME
BUMBLEBEE
PERCEPTOR
INFERNO
SMOKESCREEN

DECEPTICONS:

ASTROTRAIN
DIRGE
RAMJET

HUMANS AND OTHERS:

BOSCH - a mechorganic humanoid, a gambler-mercenary
DEVCON - an Autobot Bounty Hunter
LORD GYCONI
SLIZARDO - a lizard/snake-like creature
(high-pitched, fast-paced gibberish)
ANIMALIENS - (mutant creatures that growl)
LOCAL MERCHANT
VARIOUS ALIENS AND ROBOTS

LOCATIONS:

EXT. - OUTER SPACE
EXT. & INT. - BOSCH'S SPACE FREIGHTER
INT. - FREIGHTER - LABORATORY
EXT. & INT. - BOSCH'S TRANSPORT VEHICLE

EXT. - MONACUS is the name of a small asteroid, basically divided into two parts: CASINO ROW, similar to the Vegas Strip, and SHEOL (pronounced Shee-ol), a dark, crooked, villainous place. A tarmac for incoming and out-going flights lies in the dusty plains between the two areas. At SHEOL, we find:

EXT. - LORD GYCONI'S PIT OF DESTRUCTION, which includes:
INT. - ARENA, where the public views the spectacles
INT. - LORD GYCONI'S LAIR, an office adjacent to arena
INT. - DENTENTION AREA below arena to cage Animaliens

EXT. - STREETS OF SHEOL
EXT. & INT. - CANTINA

"The Gambler"
(MP#700-46)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. - SPACE

We open on a vast sea of stars that punctuate the dark canvas known as "outer space." CAMERA PANS to reveal a small planet in the b.g., and PUSHES IN until it FILLS THE FRAME. Through the wisps of clouds we see a patchwork of blues, browns, tans, and greens. Suddenly, we see a ROCKET ZOOMING away from the planet and heading straight TOWARD CAMERA (SFX).

REVERSE ANGLE

We hear a thunderous ROAR and the rocket ENTERS FRAME ABOVE CAMERA and soars off into the distant background, trailing flames that lick the CAMERA as it passes overhead.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ELSEWHERE IN SPACE

Again, we see the same rocket BLASTING through space, as CAMERA TRACKS with it. (NOTE: This is the same rocket last seen in "Child's Play" MP#700-43, looking more distressed.) Suddenly, flames SPARK and SPUTTER from the expansion nozzles and then dies all together. CAMERA PUSHES IN on the rocket, as it drifts listlessly in space, and we...

DISSOLVE THRU TO:

INT. ROCKET

Onboard, we find the AUTOBOTS: OPTIMUS PRIME, BUMBLEBEE, PERCEPTOR, INFERNO and SMOKESCREEN, in their robotic modes. They are strapped into plastic seats that are arranged in parallel lines. (NOTE: The interior should look like the typical rocket interiors seen in the movie serials of the 30's, 40's and 50's.) Perceptor unstraps himself and climbs out of his seat to check the controls...

PERCEPTOR

Well, that's odd! We've totally
lost our mobile drive...

ANGLE AT CONTROLS

Inferno moves INTO SCENE, shoving his chest against Perceptor, intimidating him.

INFERNO

Way to go, Mr. Wizard! I thought you said you could keep this toy rocket running!

PERCEPTOR

Well, I - uh, that's is , I...

Optimus Prime moves INTO FRAME between Perceptor and Inferno, separating them...

OPTIMUS PRIME

This is no time to argue, Inferno! Give Perceptor some breathing room to check out the problem.

PERCEPTOR

Well, frankly, Optimus, I'm not sure...

Suddenly, there is a violent SHAKE (SFX: TWISTING/SCRAPING OF METAL)...

WIDER

--and the Autobots are tossed about like rag dolls inside the rocket. And just as quickly as it happened, it is over. But now we hear a faint HUMMING NOISE. (NOTE: This humming noise grows slowly and steadily louder during the scene.)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Bumblebee picks himself off the floor as Perceptor examines his damaged barrel lens.

BUMBLEBEE

What was that!?

PERCEPTOR

Perhaps we drifted into a meteor shower!

INFERNO

He is ready and waiting.

INFERNO

More likely it's Astrotrain and those mangy Decepticons!

ANGLE ON ALL

The ship SHUDDERS again, and they all brace themselves, as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. - ROCKET

A giant Intergalactic SPACE FREIGHTER descends INTO FRAME (SFX) and hovers over the rocket. The huge bay doors on her underbelly open (SFX), and a mechanical arm telescopes out and appropriates the ROCKET with one powerful grasp. (SFX BUCKLING/TWISTING METAL)

WIDER

As it draws the rocket into the underside dock, we finally get a grasp on the enormity of the freighter. The bay doors close, and the freighter picks up speed (SFX).

ANOTHER ANGLE

The space freighter ZOOMS into infinity in less than a second!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SPACE FREIGHTER

CAMERA TRACKS with the helpless rocket as it is pulled (via a large mechanical crane overhead) past a docking port control room and huge computer controlled laser turret cannons. It comes to rest in a huge hangar. Numerous ENFORCER DROIDS (combat/police robots--identical in design) stand at attention in the central assembly area. (NOTE: These droids actually hover just centimeters above floor via magnetic levitation.)

CUT TO:

INT. - ROCKET

Optimus Prime and Smokescreen peer out one of the porthole windows to see a line of Enforcer Droids march toward the rocket with their weapons ready to fire.

SMOKESCREEN

Those droids don't look very user-friendly, Prime!

OPTIMUS PRIME
This may not be the hostile act
it appears -- but be prepared!

CUT TO:

EXT. ROCKET

Optimus Prime exits the rocket, with the others following. The CAMERA PULLS BACK to include the Enforcer Droids, blocking their path...

PERCEPTOR
My sensors are not very
reassuring!

Inferno lifts his weapon...

INFERNO
Just say the word Optimus, and
I'll blast these droids into the
next solar system!

--but Prime lowers it with his hand.

OPTIMUS PRIME
Hold your fire, Autobots!

ANGLE

as the Droids "herd" the Autobots away from the rocket and deeper into the bowels of the freighter.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT)
It appears we are being escorted
somewhere!

ANGLE ON GIANT CARGO BAY DOOR

It slowly slides open (SFX). The Enforcer Droids accompany the Autobots as they move through the opening.

ON OTHER SIDE OF DOOR

Inside, a large experimental laboratory is revealed. It is a very impressive lab, filled with various pieces of equipment, but upon closer inspection, we realize that it is not unlike something we would see in an old Buck Rogers/Flash Gordon serial. The Enforcer Droids lead the Autobots INTO SCENE to the center of the room.

CLOSER ON PERCEPTOR

as he gawks at all the equipment set up in the room.

PERCEPTOR

A scientific laboratory! A little antiquated, perhaps, but nonetheless fascinating!

ANGLE ON CENTER OF ROOM

The Enforcer Droids back away from the Autobots, who are now left alone in the center of the room. Suddenly, five glass tubes rise from the floor, encasing each Autobot inside!

AUTOBOTS

(GASPS!)

Metal tops to the tubes lower INTO SHOT, closing in the Autobots so that they look like specimens trapped inside of jars. Each tube has an electric coil attached to the top, with wires running o.s.

INFERNO

A trap!!

ANGLE TO ONE SIDE OF ROOM

A figure steps out of the shadows into view. It is BOSCH, a "mechorganic" humanoid and interstellar gambler-mercenary. He is somewhat shorter than Smokescreen, with the stature and waistline of Falstaff. He has expressive features and thick eyebrows, and, from his appearance, he could easily appear very jovial or very devious. He bows...

BOSCH

Welcome, fellow space travellers!
I am Bosch, the captain of this freighter.

ON OPTIMUS PRIME

OPTIMUS PRIME

Release us immediately!

CLOSE ON BOSCH

BOSCH

Sorry -- no dice! (CHUCKLES)

(a beat)

I apologize for the melodramatics, but drastic times dictate drastic measures!

INFERNO

INFERNO

Let me out of here, and I'll show
you some drastic measures!

He tries BLASTING through the tube by FIRING his weapon, but
doesn't even scratch it.

PERCEPTOR

He examines the tube with his scientific instruments...

PERCEPTOR

These tubes are surprisingly
resilient for their apparent
age...

BOSCH

CAMERA TRACKS with him as he moves past the Autobots, inspecting
his prisoners.

BOSCH

(explaining)

This freighter was once a slave
ship, and these tubes were
constructed to incapacitate
slaves!

STOP PAN as he passes Inferno and continues moving o.s.

INFERNO

(hostile)

Autobots are slaves to no one!

ANGLE ON CONTROLS

Bosch stands before a panel with a primitive assortment of knife
switches.

BOSCH

Allow me to demonstrate...

He throws one of the switches (SFX: ELECTRICAL HUM) causing
SPARKS to fly.

BACK TO INFERNO

The electric coil above his chamber CRACKLES and SPARKS, and the
tube itself begins to glow! Inferno stiffens...

BOSCH (CONT-VO)

Your weapons are deactivated...

CAMERA PANS to Bumblebee, who tries to TRANSFORM, but has to revert back to robot mode as he, too, is shocked...

BOSCH (CONT-VO)
Your inherent powers are
nullified...

CAMERA PANS to Optimus Prime and Perceptor, whose chambers are also glowing, and they stand stiffly, their eyes going blank.

BOSCH (CONT-VO)
--and your free will is suspended!

BACK TO BOSCH

BOSCH (CONT)
Ta-da! Instant slaves!

His smile changes suddenly to a frown as he moves o.s.

ANGLE FAVORING SMOKESCREEN

In the background, the other chambers continue to hum as the HUM coming from Smokescreen's tube CUTS OFF ABRUPTLY, and the glowing stops. Bosch ENTERS SCENE next to Smokescreen's tube...

BOSCH
(angrily)
Curse this antiquated
conglomeration of junk!

--and gives it a swift kick. (SFX: CLANG!)

BOSCH (CONT)
I used my last energon chip to
operate these chambers!

He turns away and moves o.s. angrily. Suddenly the tube recedes back into the floor, and Smokescreen bolts out, weapon pointing at Bosch o. .

WIDER

SMOKESCREEN
Well, I still have a few chips
left to play!

But an Enforcer Droid quickly intercedes, moving INTO SHOT behind Smokescreen and FIRES at him, the ray enveloping the Autobot with a glowing AURA that leaves him paralyzed!

CLOSER ON SMOKESCREEN

frozen in mid-step, with the glowing aura around him. Bosch moves INTO SCENE in front of him, looking put-upon.

BOSCH
Tch-tch! Violence is unnecessary.
The paralyzing effect will wear
off soon...

SMOKESCREEN
What do you intend to do with us?!

CLOSE ON BOSCH

He looks surprised that Smokescreen would even ask that.

BOSCH
Why, sell you, of course!

CLOSE ON SMOKESCREEN

BOSCH (CONT-VO)
How else will I get the energon
I need to power this ship...

WIDE ON SCENE

Bosch gestures to the other chambers, holding the Autobots. The tubes recede back into the floor.

BOSCH (CONT)
--not to mention these chambers
which remove and restore the free
will of your companions!

CLOSE ON SMOKESCREEN

SMOKESCREEN
(realization, to self)
Then energon is needed to restore
my fellow Autobots to normal.

WIDE ON BOSCH

He stands on a platform in front of an exotic gambling machine, sort of a cross between a large scales and a slot machine. Connected to the platform is a vertical post with a handle or arm. On the top of the post is a circular section, like a wheel on its side--which is actually a holographic projector. Bosch pulls the handle like on a jackpot machine... and the circular head spins around for a beat, projecting a ring of three-dimensional multi-colored symbols (hearts, clubs, diamonds, spades) that whirl around Bosch in the air.

(SFX: FUTURISTIC TAKEOFF OF JACKPOT SOUNDS)

SMOKESCREEN (CONT-VO)

I will have to win his confidence
if my comrades are to regain their
freedom.

CLOSER ON BOSCH

As the symbols spinning around him slow down, he turns back to
Smokescreen o.s.

BOSCH

Speak up! What are you mumbling
about?!

He turns back to his game. The ring of symbols stops revolving,
and one heart and one club FLASH on the ring. Then the ring
disappears and the words "YOU LOSE!" flash on and off in the
air in front of Bosch. He POUNDS on the machine in anger.

BOSCH (CONT)

(shrieking)

I can't even beat my own machine
anymore... and I had it fixed so
I could cheat!

ON SMOKESCREEN

SMOKESCREEN

I'll show you how it's done!

The glowing aura fades out as Smokescreen regains movement of
his body. He moves o.s.

ON BOSCH AND MACHINE

BOSCH

Very well, Autobot. But if you
lose, you lose your very
existence!

Bosch watches as Smokescreen steps up on the platform.
Smokescreen calmly ejects a sensory cable from his wrist.

CLOSE ON BASE OF MACHINE

just under the handle. The end of the sensory cable comes INTO
SHOT and fastens itself to the machine with a SUCTION PLOP!

SMOKESCREEN (VO)

(sarcastically)

I love a good sport!

BACK TO WIDE SHOT

Smokescreen calmly pulls on the handle. (SFX) The circular head spins around, projecting the spinning ring of flashing symbols around Smokescreen. When the spinning stops, two diamonds FLASH and are replaced by the words: "YOU WIN!"

CLOSE ON BOSCH

as he watches the action o.s., awed.

BOSCH
Incredible! You're a gambling
whiz!!

WIDER

Smokescreen shrugs, retracting the cable back into his wrist -- unseen by Bosch.

SMOKESCREEN
(feigning modesty)
It's all in the wrist...!

BOSCH
If we could only get to Monacus--
We could win stacks of energon
chips!

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST BOSCH TO SMOKESCREEN

SMOKESCREEN
Monacus?! What's that?

BOSCH (VO)
Just the biggest gambling asteroid
in the galaxy!

CLOSE ON BOSCH

He strokes his chin thoughtfully...

BOSCH (CONT)
With your talents, I could clean
up!

Smokescreen moves INTO SHOT and puts his arm around Bosch's shoulders.

SMOKESCREEN
We could clean up -- with me as
your partner!

Bosch removes Smokescreen's arm--

BOSCH

Yes, yes...! We could use your robot friends as collateral to get a bank of Energon chips to gamble with...

and goes o.s., getting excited.

BOSCH (CONT-VO)

--and win enough energon to fuel my freighter!

SMOKESCREEN

And return my friends to normal!

ANGLE SHOOTING PAST SMOKESCREEN

to Bosch, who turns, hands on hips, deliberating.

BOSCH

Agreed. You need my help... and, it seems, I need yours.

ANOTHER ANGLE ON BOSCH

He turns back, and, pulling out a remote control device attached to his belt, aims it o.s...

BOSCH (VO-CONT)

Your comrades will make fine collateral...

--and pushes the button (SFX: CLICK!), emitting a wide ray.

ON THE FOUR AUTOBOTS

as they're bathed with the bright rays which shrink the Autobots...until they're about twelve inches in height.

FLIP TO:

ON SHELF

as Bosch's hand comes INTO SHOT carrying a transparent case containing the four "miniaturized" Autobots.

BOSCH (VO)

I'll restore them to their normal heights...

WIDER

to reveal that Bosch and Smokescreen are seated inside a small transport vehicle.

BOSCH (CONT)
--when we make our deal for our
gambling stake.

EXT. - SPACE FREIGHTER

The bay doors open, and the transport vehicle slowly lowers out into space...

BOSCH (CONT-VO)
Hold onto your lucky charm...

And it takes off, banks to its side and heads AWAY FROM CAMERA.

BOSCH (CONT-VO)
Destination: Monacus!

FLIP TO:

EXT. - MONACUS

MONACUS is the Las Vegas of the universe -- a barren, dry and dusty asteroid. The small transport vehicle ZOOMS INTO SCENE, flying AWAY FROM CAMERA and circles around behind the asteroid.

EXT. - SURFACE OF MONACUS

A tarmac is in the foreground. A long line of casinos can be seen in the b.g., with garish signs brightly flashing. The CAMERA PANS to Bosch's transport vehicle, parked on the tarmac. Bosch and Smokescreen get out, Bosch carrying the container of Autobots.

BOSCH
Wait 'til you see all the action
here, Autobot! We've got a ways
to walk...

CLOSER

SMOKESCREEN
The name's Smokescreen -- and I
never walk when I can drive!

Smokescreen TRANSFORMS into vehiclar mode and opens his door as Bosch reacts, then gets in.

BOSCH
Head for the bright lights at the
end of the tarmac...

ANOTHER ANGLE

as they drive AWAY FROM CAMERA toward the row of casinos in the background.

BOSCH (CONT-VO)
We'll find someone on Casino Row
who will advance us some energon
chips when we leave your comrades
for security!

FLIP TO:

EXT. - CASINO ROW

Bosch and a LOCAL MERCHANT converse by Smokescreen's trans-form.

LOCAL MERCHANT
No way, Bosch! I got robots up
to my eyeballs this week!

BOSCH
(desperately)
But... but...

LOCAL MERCHANT

as he walks back into his shop.

LOCAL MERCHANT
Go see Asimov over in the Tet
Quadrant.

BOSCH (VO)
I've already been there!

BOSCH

pulls out a notepad and crosses out another name on his list as he climbs back into Smokescreen and they DIG OUT.

BOSCH (VO)
Well, that only leaves Lord
Gyconi. Let's go...
(distastefully)
--partner!

FLIP TO:

ON SMOKESCREEN (TRACKING)

as he drives along the barren surface of Monacus.

SMOKESCREEN (VO)
Where do we find this Lord Gyconi?

BOSCH (VO)
Sheol. It's a small colony on
the dark side of Monacus... where
the low-life is low!

WIDE ANGLE - SIGNPOST

A sign is posted pointing to SHEOL (pronounced She-ol) as
Smokescreen drives past...

FLIP TO:

EXT. SHEOL - NIGHT

If the universe ever needed an enema, they would stick the tube
in SHEOL. You will not find this place listed in your Club Med
brochure! Smokescreen and Bosch move through the dark, damp
and narrow streets flanked by crooked, creepy structures. DARK
FIGURES dart across their path, in and out of the shadows, as
they make their way along the winding alleys.

BOSCH (VO)
Lord Gyconi is our last chance,
and he won't be very generous!

ANGLE ON ENTRANCE TO LORD GYCONI'S

A sign over the entrance reads: "LORD GYCONI'S PIT OF
DESTRUCTION." The CAMERA PULLS BACK as Bosch and Smokescreen
move to the entrance. One lone light illuminates the whole
area, causing the surrounding area to appear even darker.

BOSCH (CONT)
This is it-- Lord Gyconi's Pit
of Destruction...

SMOKESCREEN
Okay, Bosch-- Let's get this over
with! The sooner we get the
energon chips, the sooner we can
leave!

Bosch and Smokescreen enter the decrepit building, as an ALIEN
wearing a hooded cloak exits.

CUT TO:

INT. - ARENA

As Smokescreen and Bosch enter, they see a raucus crowd gathered around an open pit. (SFX: CROWD NOISES)

DRAMATIC ANGLE DOWN

to reveal two figures in the pit, engaged in "combat." The first and larger of the two is a giant, grotesque mutant, known as an ANIMALIEN, the product of a genetic experiment gone awry. Orange in color, its tiny head is adorned with top-knots and its mouth is filled with long, razor-sharp teeth. The second figure is an ALIEN FIGHTER. (SFX: CROWD NOISES) The Animalien leaps across the pit and onto the Alien Fighter.

ANIMALIEN
(growling noises)

ANGLE ON SMOKESCREEN AND BOSCH

As they watch the fight o.s. with fascination.

SMOKESCREEN
(repulsed)
What are those creatures?!

ANGLE ON ANIMALIEN

It rises on its hind legs and:

ANIMALIEN
(ROARS!!)

BOSCH (VO)
They're called "Animaliens."
Anyone dumb enough to pay ten
energon chips and stay in the pit
with them for sixty seconds wins.

BACK TO SHOT

SMOKESCREEN
Wins what?

BOSCH
His life -- and one hundred
energon chips!
(a beat)
Few have walked away with either.

WIDER

As Smokescreen reacts, a short, green ambulatory lizard-snake (SLIZARDO), wearing a black patch over one eye, ENTERS FRAME and speaks to Smokescreen and Bosch in "alienese."

SLIZARDO
(high-pitched and fast-paced
"alienese")

SMOKESCREEN
(to Bosch)
What did he say?

BOSCH
He's demanding five energon chips
admission for each of us.

CLOSER

Bosch leans down to talk to SlizarDO.

BOSCH
We're here to see Lord Gyconi with
some official business!

SLIZARDO
(more "alienese")

WIDE

Smokescreen and Bosch follow SlizarDO behind a curtain, as we hear the ROAR of the crowd o.s.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - LORD GYCONI'S LAIR

This is a large, cavern-like room with a desk and several cushions placed around the room. Seated behind the desk on a large pile of cushions is LORD GYCONI, the manager/promoter of this sports arena. Although humanoid in feature, Lord Gyconi looks like a cross between JABBA THE HUTT and the KINGPIN. A large, disgusting-looking cigar hangs from his lips, fouling the air with hazy smoke. Next to him is his constant companion/henchman, SlizarDO. Smokescreen and Bosch stand before him, holding the container of Autobots.

LORD GYCONI
And what do you offer for
collateral, Bosch?

REVERSE ANGLE

Smokescreen takes the container and sets it on the floor, opening it to reveal the Autobots inside.

BOSCH
We offer four magnificent
Autobots, Lord Gyconi!

Bosch uses his remote device to fire the RAYS, and the Autobots revert to their normal size--still standing apathetically with blank stares.

ON LORD GYCONI

He sits up, obviously interested by what he sees.

LORD GYCONI
(deep resonant voice)
Well, well, well! Four Autobots
you say?!
(a beat)
My, My!

ON BOSCH AND SMOKESCREEN

There is an uncomfortably long pause, and then...

LORD GYCONI (CONT-VO)
I'll give you fifty energon
chips... at five hundred per cent
interest!

Bosch shakes his head.

BOSCH
(adament)
Never... Too steep!

ON LORD GYCONI

He feigns disinterest, waving his hand over a stack of energon chips (similar to energon cubes, only much smaller) he has just placed on the desk.

LORD GYCONI
That's my best offer! Take it
or leave it!

ANOTHER ANGLE - WIDER

Smokescreen moves forward and grabs the chips.

SMOKESCREEN
(to Lord Gyconi)
We'll take it!

BOSCH AND SMOKESCREEN

as they head for the curtain, carrying the chips.

LORD GYCONI (VO-CONT)
Fine! By the way, that's payable
within the hour!

They freeze, then turn, frowning.

BOSCH
An hour?!

LORD GYCONI AND SLIZARDO

Lord Gyconi gestures toward the Autobots.

LORD GYCONI
One minute longer, and the
Autobots belong to me!

SMOKESCREEN AND BOSCH

Angered, Smokescreen starts for Gyconi, o.s.

SMOKESCREEN
Why, you--

But Bosch grabs his arm, stopping him.

BOSCH
There's not much time!

They exit with Smokescreen looking over his shoulder at the
Autobots he leaves behind.

LORD GYCONI AND SLIZARDO

LORD GYCONI
(to Slizardo)
Prepare the Autobots for the
fights tonight.

SLIZARDO
(protesting "alienese")

Suddenly, Lord Gyconi backhands Slizardo o.s.--

ANGLE ON WALL

--and the snake-like creature sails across the room, hits the wall and slinks to the floor.

LORD GYCONI (VO)
(INSANE LAUGH!)

FLIP TO:

EXT. - STARGATE CASINO - EST. SHOT

Flashing bright lights adorn the gawdy-looking entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. - CASINO

Smokescreen and Bosch are "running" a table in one of the most luxurious casinos on Monacus, similar to the machine in Bosch's freighter, only much larger. A CROWD has gathered around them as they rake in another stack of energon chips. The PIT BOSS is the same hooded ALIEN we saw leaving Lord Gyconi's when they were arriving. Bosch looks at Smokescreen with concern.

BOSCH
Smokescreen, that's enough! We
have more energon chips than we'll
ever need! Let's go! We're
running out of time!

CLOSER ON SMOKESCREEN

He is almost oblivious to what Bosch is saying. He is not altogether the same Autobot we saw in the last scene. He is caught in the grip of the "fever."

SMOKESCREEN
Hey, trust me! We're doing great!

CLOSE ON CABLE

Smokescreen's sensory cable is attached to a small port in the "table."

SMOKESCREEN (CONT-VO)
Thanks to my "special connection!"

BACK TO SHOT

Smokescreen pushes the entire stack of energon chips to the middle of the table.

BOSCH
(shocked)
Smokescreen, what are you doing?!

SMOKESCREEN
I'm betting it all..

ANGLE ON PIT BOSS

He looks both ways, then moves around the "table" as the CAMERA FOLLOWS and yanks Smokescreen's sensory cable out of the table.

BACK TO PREVIOUS ANGLE

Smokescreen pulls a large handle, and the ring of symbols spins around over the table. For a moment, there is complete silence as everyone waits to see the results, and then we...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. - LORD GYCONI'S LAIR

Bosch and Smokescreen hang their heads low as they watch the Autobots being led away by Slizardo.

LORD GYCONI
Sorry boys! Too bad things didn't
work out for you. The Autobots
are mine now.

CLOSER

He hands them two free passes.

LORD GYCONI (CONT)
Here, take these with my
compliments... two free passes
for tonight's show!

CLOSE ON FREE PASS IN SMOKESCREEN'S HAND

It reads: "LORD GYCONI PRESENTS THE ANIMALIENS VS. THE AUTOBOTS
- TONIGHT IN THE PIT OF DESTRUCTION!"

SMOKESCREEN (VO)
(reading)
The Animaliens versus... the
Autobots?!

ON SMOKESCREEN

He looks at Bosch and then at Lord Gyconi o.s.

SMOKESCREEN (CONT)
You can't turn those mutants loose
on the Autobots!
(a beat)
My friends will be torn apart!

ON LORD GYCONI

He leans back in his cushions, rubbing his hands together with
gleeful anticipation.

LORD GYCONI
(demonically)
I know!

ON SMOKESCREEN AND BOSCH

LORD GYCONI (CONT-VO)
You knew the score, Bosch! Now
get out of here!

Smokescreen breaks from Bosch's hold and advances toward Lord Gyconi menacingly.

SMOKESCREEN
Why you sorry excuse for--

But Slizardo zips INTO SCENE in front of the Autobot, and confronts Smokescreen with the business end of his laser pistol.

SLIZARDO
("Alienese" warning)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Bosch pulls Smokescreen out of Lord Gyconi's lair through the curtain.

SMOKESCREEN
Don't think you've seen the last
of me, Gyconi!

LORD GYCONI AND SLIZARDO

Lord Gyconi turns to Slizardo, petting him on the top of his head.

LORD GYCONI
Follow them, Slizardo. I want
to know what they're up to.

Slizardo nods and slithers o.s. as we...

FLIP TO:

EXT. - ELSEWHERE IN SHEOL

A slight wind blows across the Sheol plain as CAMERA PANS ALONG. In the distance we see a bright light in the sky coming closer to the horizon. It moves o.s...

ANOTHER ANGLE

Suddenly, ASTROTRAIN, in space shuttle mode, ROARS INTO SCENE and lands (SFX) in the soft dust of the plain, blowing more dust behind it. He rolls right up to CAMERA, veers sharply to the right and stops.

ANOTHER ANGLE

as RAMJET and DIRGE emerge from within.

DIRGE
(to Astrotrain)
Couldn't you have landed a little
closer to town, Astrotrain?!

ANGLE ON ASTROTRAIN

parked on the tarmac.

ASTROTRAIN (VO)
We're lucky we made it this far!
I burned every ounce a fuel we
had just to get here! Hurry back
with the energon!

Dirge and Ramjet cross in front of Astrotrain and move toward Sheol in the background.

RAMJET
Cool your jets, Astrotrain. We'll
be back soon.

They EXIT FRAME leaving Astrotrain alone, to mumble to himself.

ASTROTRAIN (VO)
(to himself)
It's always the same thing! I
fly them to points unknown,
exhaust all my fuel, and they get
to have all the fun!

CUT TO:

EXT. - ELSEWHERE ON THE SHEOL PLAIN

Ramjet and Dirge pass in front of a nearby hill...

DIRGE
Ramjet... I have the creepy
feeling we're being monitored!

RAMJET
Stop it, Dirge! There's nothing
here but sand, and more sand.

--and continue moving o.s. The CAMERA PUSHES IN on a crag of the hill and HOLDS on a tall, shadowy figure (DEVCON). It's too dark to see him clearly, but we can tell he is a large robot, similar in style to the Autobots.

CLOSER ON FIGURE

as he speaks into a small communication device built into his chest.

DEVCON

Starlog twenty-six: Have followed the Decepticons to Monacus. Will continue surveillance and monitor all activities.

He turns off the communicator and surreptitiously follows the Decepticons o.s.

FLIP TO:

EXT. - A CANTINA SOMEWHERE IN SHEOL

The dark building looks forboding, except for the bright lights, CROWD NOISES, and RAUCOUS MUSIC coming from within. The CAMERA PUSHES IN on the entrance, and we...

CUT TO:

INT. - CANTINA

The CAMERA PANS across a weird assortment of patrons: vicious-looking ALIENS and ROBOTS, eating, drinking, dancing on the ceiling, etc., and STOPS on Smokescreen and Bosch, seated at a table. Bosch holds a drink, but Smokescreen just slumps in his chair, defeated.

SMOKESCREEN

If only I had stopped before that last bet!

BOSCH

I know! If only I had an energon chip for every time I've said that...

They are interrupted by a LOUD commotion o.s., and turn their heads to see...

THEIR POV

The crowd parts, backing away to reveal two BEEFY ROBOTS flanking Slizardo, who looks like a cat cornered between two dogs.

SLIZARDO

("Alienese" warnings)

CLOSER

One of the robots grabs Slizardo from behind as the other starts beating on him.

SLIZARDO
(high-pitched screaming)

Slizardo whips his tail up around the robot's neck and pulls him down. They all fall OUT OF FRAME...

WIDE ON CANTINA ENTRANCE

--and tumble out of the doorway, still fighting. (SFX: BASHING OF METAL)

SLIZARDO
(ad lib fighting noises)

ANGLE ON SMOKESCREEN AND BOSCH

They return to their drinks and conversation as if nothing had happened.

SMOKESCREEN
We've got to figure a way to get the Autobots back before it's too late!

BOSCH
We should probably check out the action at Gyconi's tonight--

Suddenly, the two BEEFY ROBOTS fly INTO SCENE from the doorway o.s., and land in a heap at their feet. (SFX: CRASH!)

CLOSER

Bosch and Smokescreen look at each other, surprised, then, together, they look at the entrance o.s.

THEIR POV - CANTINA ENTRANCE

The doors to the cantina open, and the shadowy figure we saw before--DEVCON--enters the establishment. All eyes are upon him as he saunters TOWARD CAMERA, the Autobot insignia on his chest FILLING THE FRAME.

ON SMOKESCREEN AND BOSCH

They look at each other. Smokescreen is stunned.

SMOKESCREEN

He wears the symbol of the
Autobots!

ANGLE ON ENTRANCE

As Devcon moves into the cantina o.s., Slizardo enters through the doorway, looks around, then, seeing his saviour, follows him o.s.

SMOKESCREEN (CONT-VO)

Perhaps he can help us!

CLOSE ON BACK OF DEVCON

SMOKESCREEN (CONT-VO)

Hey! Autobot!!

Devcon turns, looking around to see who spoke.

DEVCON

Who speaks to me?!

WIDER

Devcon stands near Bosch and Smokescreen's table. Smokescreen stands.

SMOKESCREEN

It was I, Smokescreen...an Autobot
myself!

CLOSER ON SMOKESCREEN AND DEVCON

There is a pause, as if Devcon doubts Smokescreen's words. Then Devcon sees the Autobot insignia on Smokescreen's chest and breaks out into a smile.

DEVCON

Great Cybertron! An Autobot!

Smokescreen gestures to the table.

SMOKESCREEN

Please join us!

DEVCON

Thank you!

ANOTHER ANGLE ON TABLE

as Devcon joins them, sitting between Bosch and Smokescreen.

DEVCON

My name is Devcon. I left my home planet of Cybertron millions of years ago during the Great War, when--

Suddenly Slizardo staggers INTO SHOT, battered, and sprawls on the table, grabbing Devcon's hand. He begins KISSING it and mumbling gratefully.

SLIZARDO

("Alienese" mumbling)

Smokescreen recognizes Slizardo.

SMOKESCREEN

Hey! You're the little runt with the laser pitsol that works for Lord Gyconi!

SLIZARDO

is undaunted. He continues to ingratiate himself toward Devcon, making a fool of himself in the process.

SLIZARDO

(more appreciative mumbling)

DEVCON

What is this creature mumbling about?!

ON BOSCH

He translates, laughing.

BOSCH

He's pledging his eternal gratitude and loyalty... for saving his life!

WIDER ON SCENE

DEVCON

(to Slizardo)

Fine... but forget it.

He waves Slizardo off, but Slizardo doesn't go. Devcon picks him off his arm...

DEVCON (CONT)

Go on... forget it!

ANGLE NEAR FLOOR

--and drops him to the floor, where he quickly slithers OUT OF FRAME.

SLIZARDO
(more grateful mumbling)

BACK TO WIDE SHOT

SMOKESCREEN
So what are you doing here,
Devcon?

DEVCON
I am a bounty hunter, searching
for Decepticons who must be
brought to justice.

ON SMOKESCREEN

DEVCON (CONT-VO)
I have followed three of them here
to Sheol -- Astrotrain, Dirge and
Ramjet. Have you seen them?

SMOKESCREEN
No. But if they're anywhere on
this crust of a planet, I'll bet
I know where!

FLIP TO:

INT. - LORD GYCONI'S LAIR

Ramjet and Dirge hover over Lord Gyconi, seated on the cushions behind his desk. He looks very uncomfortable.

DIRGE
We've been hearing stories about
you, Lord Gyconi! Stories that
make Megatron very unhappy!

LORD GYCONI
(sweating)
Stories?! What kind of (GULP)
stories?!

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Ramjet moves toward a window that overlooks the arena.

RAMJET

We hear that you've been skimming energon off the top to finance your own organization in another galaxy.

CLOSE - LORD GYCONI

He's about to have a heart attack.

LORD GYCONI

Lies! All lies! Who told you that?!

(a beat)

I would never do anything without Megatron's approval! Never!

ANGLE ON DIRGE

He plays with an alien skull paperweight on Gyconi's desk.

RAMJET (VO)

That's good, because if Megatron thought you were cheating him, you could be in big trouble!

He replaces the "skull" back down on the desk and picks up a ticket and begins to read it.

DIRGE

Hey, what's this? Autobots? Here in Sheol?!

ANOTHER ANGLE - WIDER

LORD GYCONI

(nervously)

Yes, didn't I tell you? They're fighting my Animaliens tonight!

Ramjet moves INTO SCENE and takes the ticket from Dirge.

RAMJET

Let me see that!

(reading)

Hmmm!

LORD GYCONI

sags in his cushions with relief as:

RAMJET (CONT-VO)

Very good, Gyconi! Very good!

DIRGE AND RAMJET

They move near the window overlooking the arena below.

RAMJET (CONT-VO)
I think we'll stick around for
awhile...

THEIR POV

Of the empty arena.

RAMJET (CONT)
This is one show we can't miss!

CAMERA PUSHES IN on the pit, as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - ARENA - LATER THAT NIGHT

--the SAME SHOT as before, only now the arena is filled with
VARIOUS ALIENS AND ROBOTS, waiting for the show to begin. (SFX:
CROWD NOISES - THRU SCENE)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Smokescreen and Bosch move through the smoke-filled hall to take
their ringside seats. The CAMERA PANS AWAY to another area
behind them, where Dirge and Ramjet stand in the shadows. They
have not let the presence of Smokescreen and Bosch go unnoticed
as Dirge points at Smokescreen o.s.

DIRGE
There's Smokescreen, but I don't
recognize the other one.

RAMJET
He must be Bosch, the gambler Lord
Gyconi told us about.

CUT TO:

INT. - DETENTION ROOM

This room is directly below the arena where the Autobots and the
Animaliens are kept -- in separate cells of course! Slizardo
and Lord Gyconi take Optimus Prime from his forcefield cell.
(SFX: DISTANT CROWD NOISES FROM ABOVE -CONT THRU SCENE)

CLOSE - HI-TECH HYPODERMIC NEEDLE

As Lord Gyconi presses the plunger, a micro-laser beam shoots out of the needle (SFX).

LORD GYCONI (VO)
This synthetic energon ought to
do the trick...

ANGLE ON LORD GYCONI AND OPTIMUS PRIME

as he give the Autobot leader an injection.

LORD GYCONI (CONT)
It will enable them to fight
fiercely--for a few minutes...

CLOSE ON PRIME'S ARM

as the beam cuts off, leaving a glowing spot of light that
shrinks and disappears.

LORD GYCONI (CONT-VO)
--but its high instability causes
it to wear off quickly...

SLIZARDO

prepares another needle and passes it to Lord Gyconi o.s.

LORD GYCONI (VO-CONT)
--thus ensuring their loss in the
fights...

LORD GYCONI AND INFERNO

As he gives Inferno an injection.

LORD GYCONI (CONT)
--and thousands of energon chips
for me!

SLIZARDO

eyes Lord Gyconi warily o.s., as we...

LORD GYCONI (CONT-VO)
It's showtime!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - ARENA - ANGLE ON ANIMALIEN

The creature is kept behind a forcefield gate in the wall of the pit. He grabs the bars of energy with his front claws and:

ANIMALIEN
(GROWLS!)

--as the o.s. CROWD ROARS with delight.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The houselights dim and a follow spot picks up Lord Gyconi in the center of the pit.

LORD GYCONI
(yelling above the din)
Ladies and Gentlemen! Tonight,
for the first time anywhere in
the galaxies...

CAMERA PUSHES PAST Lord Gyconi to reveal Dirge and Ramjet standing in the shadows in the b.g.

LORD GYCONI (VO-CONT)
--you will witness the pugilistic
spectacle of the millenium...

DECEPTICONS' POV

of Smokescreen and Bosch sitting ringside.

LORD GYCONI (VO-CONT)
--the Animaliens versus the
Autobots!!!

CAMERA SLOWLY PANS across the arena as the CROWD GOES WILD with the anticipation of spilled "blood."

ANGLE ON LORD GYCONI

as Slizaro ushers Optimus Prime into the pit. The crowd reacts with disfavor, BOOING and yelling CATCALLS. Lord Gyconi speaks into a microphone hanging from the rafters.

LORD GYCONI
(to crowd)
I, Lord Gyconi, will cover any
bet on the Autobots that they will
last longer than two minutes!
(a beat)
Any takers?!

ON CROWD

CAMERA SLOWLY PANS their faces as they quiet down. Nobody takes Lord Gyconi's offer.

ANGLE ON BRASS GONG

Lord Gyconi raises the heavy maul and...

LORD GYCONI
No?! Then let the games begin!

--swings it hard against the brass gong. (SFX: GONG!)

ANGLE ON ANIMALIEN

The forcefield gate vanishes, and the Animalien rushes out..

ANGLE ON ARENA

The Animalien moves faster than it looks and scores "first blood," BASHING Prime's metal hull. Prime is staggered, and the CROWD CHEERS.

ANIMALIEN
(GROWLING)

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Optimus Prime grabs the Animalien and raises him above his head, spinning it around and around, and then throws it out of the pit and o.s.

OPTIMUS PRIME
(GRUNT OF EFFORT)

ANGLE ON CROWD

They react to the action o.s. when suddenly, the Animalien comes flying INTO FRAME and lands on top of them. (SFX: CRASH!) They YELL and SCREAM at it and collectively throw it OUT OF FRAME and back into the ring o.s.

SMOKESCREEN

tries to encourage his comrade.

SMOKESCREEN
Come on, Optimus! Do it again!!

ANGLE ON PIT

The Animalien ENTERS FRAME and once again leaps onto Prime.

ANIMALIEN
(GROWLING)

ANGLE ON LORD GYCONI AND SLIZARDO

standing behind the announcer's stand. Several PEOPLE, CREATURES, and ROBOTS scramble INTO SCENE to place their bets. Lord Gyconi smiles as SlizarDO accepts their energon chips.

VOICES
(ad lib)
I'll take the Autobot!/ He looks strong!/ Here's my bet!/ Mine, too!/ (etc.)

CLOSER ON SLIZARDO

He is soon covered with glowing energon chips!

ANGLE ON PIT

It is quickly apparent to everyone but the blind that these two warriors are evenly matched as they continue to beat on each other.

ANIMALIEN
(GROWLING!)

CLOSER ON PRIME

Suddenly, the synthetic energon begins to wear off, and Optimus Prime slowly becomes, once again, lethargic and passive.

CLOSER - ANIMALIEN

He drools saliva from his long razor sharp teeth, sensing victory.

ANIMALIEN
(guttural sounds)

WIDER

The Animalien's tail whips out, wraps around Prime's calves and jerks him off his feet, sending him on his back with a MIGHTY THUD! Then he leaps, landing on Prime's chest. (SFX: CRASH!)

OPTIMUS PRIME
(GROANS!)

CLOSE - BRASS GONG

Lord Gyconi's hand swings the heavy maul and sounds (SFX) the end of Round One.

ON SMOKESCREEN AND BOSCH

Smokescreen starts to rise out of his seat.

SMOKESCREEN
I'm gonna stop this right--

Bosch pushes him back down.

BOSCH
Sit down. If you interfere now,
the crowd will tear us to pieces!

SMOKESCREEN
(boiling)
Yeah, well, I have a surprise for
them. C'mon.

They leave their seats, as CAMERA TRACKS with them moving up the crowded aisle.

ANGLE ON ARENA

as Slizardo leads Inferno into the pit. The CROWD welcomes him with more BOOS and CATCALLS.

LORD GYCONI (VO)
(calling out)
The next round will feature "tag
teams!"

ON THE TWO DECEPTICONS

The CROWD ROARS, including Dirge and Ramjet, who are so caught up in the excitement, they are unaware of Smokescreen and Bosch's exit.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ENTRANCE TO GYCONI'S PIT

Smokescreen and Bosch exit. (SFX: O.S. CROWD NOISES)

BOSCH
Whew! I'm glad we're outside!
I thought you were gonna do
something crazy!

Smokescreen TRANSFORMS into his vehicle mode.

SMOKESCREEN
I am -- watch!

ANGLE AT SIDE OF BUILDING

Smokescreen ROARS INTO SCENE in reverse, backing up to a ventilation grate in the side of the building. He REVS his ENGINE, blowing thick, black smoke into the vent.

SMOKESCREEN (CONT-VO)
This is one event Gyconi didn't
have scheduled! Quick--get in!

Bosch ENTERS SHOT and jumps into the car. Smokescreen pops himself into gear and kicks up dirt as he SPEEDS o.s.

CUT TO:

INT. - PIT OF DESTRUCTION

Panic and confusion abound. The air is thick with smoke.

VOICES
(ad lib)
(COUGHING)/ I can't breathe!/ I
can't see!/ What's going on?!

ANGLE ON LORD GYCONI

LORD GYONI
(coughing)
Keep calm! It'll clear up! The
matches will continue!

The crowd finds no comfort in his words, as they run helter-skelter THROUGH THE SCENE, desperately seeking their way out.

ON SLIZARDO

partially buried in the stack of energon chips. As several members of the crowd rush THROUGH SCENE, they grab their bets back. SlizarDO tries to bite the chips back.

VOICES
(ad lib)
The bet's off--I'm leaving!/ Gimme
back my chips! / (etc.)

CUT TO:

EXT. - ENTRANCE TO GYCONI'S

Dark, black smoke billows out of the entrance, followed by various ALIENS/ROBOTS with burning lungs, gasping for breath.

ALIENS/ROBOTS
(ad lib coughing/gasping)

Lord Gyconi, Dirge, and Ramjet emerge from the building.

LORD GYCONI
(in between coughing
fits)
Who could have done this to me?!

CLOSER ON DIRGE AND RAMJET

as they look at each other.

RAMJET
It must have been the Autobot,
Smokescreen!

DIRGE
We should've kept our sensors on
him!

WIDER

LORD GYCONI
Well, don't just stand there--
Get him!!

Dirge and Ramjet quickly TRANSFORM into their jet modes and ZOOM
o.s.

LORD GYCONI
(under his breath)
Incompetents!

FLIP TO:

EXT. - ELSEWHERE IN SHEOL

The CAMERA PANS with Smokescreen racing along in car mode in an
area that looks not unlike the South Bronx. Bosch is panicked.

BOSCH
Slow down, Smokescreen! We got
away, didn't we?

SMOKESCREEN
Maybe...

Suddenly, two shadows quickly pass over them, followed by a LOUD
SONIC BOOM.

SMOKESCREEN (CONT)
--then maybe not!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Smokescreen's headlights shine up into the sky and o.s.

SMOKESCREEN (CONT)
Just as I suspected...

HIS POV

of Dirge and Ramjet as seen in the beam of his headlights, circling back to ROAR INTO CAMERA. Ramjet FIRES his laser weapons.

SMOKESCREEN (VO-CONT)
Decepticons!!

ON SMOKESCREEN AND BOSCH

They dodge the laser fire as Smokescreen ROARS o.s.

SHOOTING PAST SMOKESCREEN

as Ramjet and Dirge ZOOM INTO SCENE on his tail, drop bombs and sweep up PAST CAMERA and o.s. The bombs EXPLODE in near misses, sending Smokescreen tumbling over and over (CAMERA FOLLOWING).

ANOTHER ANGLE

Smokescreen finally stops, landing on his wheels and bouncing on his tires. Bosch points o.s.

BOSCH
(shouting)
That way!!

Smokescreen DIGS OUT and o.s.

ANGLE ON ALLEYWAY

--and swerves INTO SCENE and zips into the alley, ROARING out of view.

IN DARK ALLEY

They SKID to a stop, MOTOR IDLING.

SMOKESCREEN
Thanks, Bosch! I think we've lost
'em for--

But he's cut off by the sounds of the Decepticon JETS GETTING LOUDER. Smokescreen DIGS OUT again, and heads for a corner a few feet ahead of them, CAMERA FOLLOWING.

ON DIRGE IN SKY (TRACKING)

as he dives and ejects a missile, then swoops up and o.s. (SFX: MISSILE)

ON SMOKESCREEN

He's blindsided by Ramjet's missile, which EXPLODES, sending him CAREENING into a wall. (SFX: CRASH!!)

ON RAMJET AND DIRGE (TRACKING)

Ramjet dips his wings in salute to his partner.

RAMJET (VO)
Nice work, Dirge!

They bank and head down. CAMERA PANS AHEAD, ANGLING DOWN to HOLD on Smokescreen lying on his top, wheels spinning. Bosch is dazed.

ON DECEPTICON JETS (TRACKING)

Ramjet and Dirge fly down, FIRING their heat-seeking MISSILES at Smokescreen and Bosch o.s. as we...

RAMJET (CONT-VO)
Now let's finish them together!

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. - SAME SCENE

As Ramjet and Dirge, in jet mode, head straight INTO CAMERA.

RAMJET (VO)
Time to meet that great
Transformer in the sky,
Smokescreen!

ANGLE ON ALLEY

Smokescreen lies in the alley as before--a sitting duck.

DOWNSHOT

Devcon steps out of the darkness into view and FIRES his multi-port cannons INTO CAMERA. The cannon fire passes overhead.

ANGLE ON RAMJET AND DIRGE

They are both hit, and are seriously wounded by the BLASTS.

DIRGE (VO)
Ramjet! We're hit!

They go into a WHINING spin and fall OUT OF FRAME.

RAMJET (VO)
Transform for crash-landing!

ANGLE ON GROUND

As they TRANSFORM into robotic mode and hit the ground with a resounding THUD, one on top of the other.

CLOSER

as Ramjet helps Dirge to his feet...

RAMJET
Who was that guy?!

DIRGE
Devcon, the bounty hunter...
(a beat)
Let's get out of here before he
comes back to finish us off!

They limp their dented bodies out of the area.

DEVCON, BOSCH AND SMOKESCREEN

Devcon easily lifts Smokescreen's chassis and sets it back on its wheels.

BOSCH

Devcon!!

Smokescreen's door swings open, Bosch steps out, and the Autobot TRANSFORMS back to robot mode.

SMOKESCREEN

You sure put a plug up their exhaust!

BOSCH

Yeah, thanks! What were those things?!

ANOTHER ANGLE

as Bosch wipes himself off.

SMOKESCREEN (VO)

Decepticons! They are enemies of the Autobots!

BOSCH

They shouldn't be allowed to run loose like that!

SMOKESCREEN AND DEVCON

Smokescreen turns to Devcon appreciatively...

SMOKESCREEN

That was quite impressive display of firepower back there! We could use somebody like you back on Earth.

CLOSER - SMOKESCREEN

He lowers his head, struck by a moment of remorse.

SMOKESCREEN (CONT)

(softly)

That is, if we ever get back to Earth.

WIDER

Devcon puts his hand on Smokescreen's shoulder.

DEVCON

I must leave the protection of
Earth to you and your comrades.
But I can help you rescue your
friends here.

(a beat)

Where can we find them?

WIDE ON SMOKESCREEN AND BOSCH

Their faces brighten. Smokescreen TRANSFORMS into vehicle mode,
and Bosch holds the door open for Devcon.

BOSCH

We're on our way!

FLIP TO:

INT. LORD GYCONI'S - DENTENTION AREA

The lethargic Autobots are caged behind forcefield energy bars.
The CAMERA PANS to the two badly-damaged Decepticons, Ramjet
and Dirge, as they clear out a large safe filled with energon
chips, putting them into large "lucite" crates. Suddenly Lord
Gyconi walks INTO SCENE and reacts, surprised.

LORD GYCONI

What are you doing?!

RAMJET

We're leaving -- and we're taking
these energon chips and the
Autobots with us!

CLOSER ON LORD GYCONI

LORD GYCONI

You can't do that! The Autobots
are a big money maker for me!

Dirge moves INTO SCENE threateningly...

DIRGE

We can do whatever we want. We
are Decepticons!

He backhands Gyconi, who flies OUT OF FRAME.

ANGLE ON ANIMALIEN'S CAGE

as Lord Gyconi flies INTO SHOT and CRASHES into the forcefield bars and slides down to the floor.

LORD GYCONI
(GRUNTS!!)

The Animalien in the cage is aroused, and flails his arms, reaching for Lord Gyconi.

ANIMALIEN
(GROWLING)

ANGLE ON CRATES

Slizardo peers from around a stack of dark lucite and metal crates.

BACK TO SHOT

Dirge ENTERS FRAME and grabs Lord Gyconi by the throat and raises him to the ceiling, his feet dangling in the air.

DIRGE
Maybe you'd rather argue with your
Animaliens!

LORD GYCONI
(having trouble
breathing)
No! No! You shouldn't have taken
me seriously! I am Megatron's
loyal servant!

Dirge lets Gyconi down to his feet.

REACTION - SLIZARDO

who listens from his hiding place...

LORD GYCONI (CONT-VO)
Let Slizardo face the bounty
hunter when he finds we have left
with the Autobots!

--and reacts, shocked.

ON DIRGE

as he continues to remove the energon chips from the safe.

DIRGE
Very well. You shall come with
us!

ANGLE ON RAMJET

as he deactivates the forcefield cage and "herds" the Autobots
out.

RAMJET (CONT)
We'll give the energon chips to
the Autobots to carry. I'll
contact Astrotrain and let him
know we're on our way!

ANGLE ON SLIZARDO

as he sneaks out a side door.

FLIP TO:

EXT. - THE STREETS OF SHEOL

As Smokescreen drives through the streets in his auto mode,
carrying Bosch and Devcon, to Lord Gyconi's.

BOSCH
Be careful! They may be waiting
for us.

SMOKESCREEN
I wouldn't have it any other way!

ANGLE ON SLIZARDO

CAMERA TRACKS with him as he runs zig-zag through the rubble in
the opposite direction.

SLIZARDO
(excited "Alienese" yelling)

Suddenly he stops and reacts as Smokescreen SCREECHES INTO SCENE
in front of him, stopping just in time!

SLIZARDO
(STARTLED SCREAM!)

CLOSER ON SLIZARDO

going a mile-a-minute!

SLIZARDO
(hurried "Alienese")

ANGLE ON SMOKESCREEN

Bosch and Devcon stand outside the car as he TRANSFORMS to robot mode...

SMOKESCREEN

What's he babbling about?!

SLIZARDO AND BOSCH

Bosch turns from Slizardo to translate...

BOSCH

He says the Decepticons and Lord Gyconi are leaving Sheol with the Autobots!

WIDER

DEVCON

Where are they now?!

SLIZARDO

(more ad lib "Alienese")

BOSCH

At the tarmac-- and someone called Astrotrain is parked there.

CLOSE ON SMOKESCREEN

SMOKESCREEN

Astrotrain!?

FLIP TO:

EXT. - TARMAC

Dirge, Ramjet, and Lord Gyconi lead the Autobots (carrying energon chips in the containers) to the waiting Astrotrain, still parked on the tarmac in shuttle mode. The Autobots stack the containers next to Astrotrain...

ASTROTRAIN (VO)

So that's what took you guys so long -- Autobots!

RAMJET

takes some containers of energon chips and stacks them into Astrotrain's cargo hold.

RAMJET

And we didn't have to lift a digit
to get 'em! Some gambler called
Bosch lost them to Lord Gyconi
-- and we're the winners!

ASTROTRAIN (VO)

Great! I can use some of this
energon for fuel!

Suddenly, four dark shadows fall across the Decepticons as they
turn and react.

ANGLE ON DEVCON, SMOKESCREEN, BOSCH AND SLIZARDO

They stand, facing their enemies, Slizardo slinking behind
Devcon.

SMOKESCREEN

(to the Decepticons)
Give us the Autobots, Ramjet!

DIRGE AND RAMJET

RAMJET

How about some laser beams
instead?!

Ramjet FIRES his laser rifle at Smokescreen and the others o.s.

ANGLE ON SMOKESCREEN, BOSCH, DEVCON AND SLIZARDO

As the laser blast ENTERS FRAME, they dive o.s., Smokescreen and
Devcon to one side of the FRAME, and Bosch and Slizardo to the
other.

DIRGE AND RAMJET

crouch behind part of Astrotrain and continue FIRING their
weapons at Smokescreen and the others o.s.

ON SMOKESCREEN

finding cover behind some dried-out plants, he returns FIRE from
his ELECTRO-DISRUPTOR RIFLE.

ON DEVCON

as he FIRES various incendiary missiles from his MULTI-PORT
CANNON.

ON BOSCH AND SLIZARDO

They both FIRE their laser pistols from behind large boulders. But the force of the BLAST causes SlizarDO to fall off a boulder he was perched on!

ON DIRGE AND RAMJET

As the BLASTS from Smokescreen and the others o.s. SHOOT INTO FRAME, Ramjet calls o.s.:

RAMJET
(shouting)
Gyconi! Take the Autobots in the
shuttle!

WIDE ON GYCONI AND AUTOBOTS

With some difficulty, Lord Gyconi leads the passive Autobots around the far side of Astrotrain, while laser BLASTS shoot all around them.

BOSCH AND SLIZARDO

watch Lord Gyconi o.s.

BOSCH
They're going into the ship!

They hurriedly leap OUT OF FRAME.

ON OTHER SIDE OF ASTROTRAIN

Lord Gyconi leads the passive Autobots behind the protective "shield" of Astrotrain, to the entry. (SOUNDS OF O.S. LASER FIRE CONTINUES)

LORD GYCONI
You robots have caused me more
trouble than you're worth! I hope
Megatron turns you into slag!

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Bosch and SlizarDO come around Astrotrain with their laser pistols drawn.

BOSCH
You knew the score, Gyconi!

ON LORD GYCONI

as he backs toward Astrotrain's fuselage. He is terrified. He glances at SlizarDO.

LORD GYCONI
Slizardo! What are you doing?!
You work for me remember?! I
order you to take his gun away!
Do you hear me, Slizardo!
Slizardo!!

ANGLE ON BOSCH AND SLIZARDO

As they move TOWARD CAMERA, FILLING FRAME.

BOSCH
He's through taking orders from
you!

SLIZARDO
(ad lib "Alienese")

BACK TO GYCONI

By now he is backed up against Astrotrain.

LORD GYCONI (CONT)
(under his breath)
Astrotrain! Help me!

ASTROTRAIN (VO)
Re-energizing, and... and...

MUCH WIDER

As Astrotrain, partially repowered, TRANSFORMS into his robotic
mode and...

DRAMATIC HIGH ANGLE

--towers over Bosch and Slizardo!

ASTROTRAIN
Now, prepare to meet my friend...

BOSCH AND SLIZARDO'S POV - DRAMATIC LOW ANGLE

Astrotrain starts to raise his IONIC DISPLACER RIFLE to fire at
CAMERA.

ASTROTRAIN (CONT)
--Mr. Ionic Displacer!

SMOKESCREEN AND DEVCON

continue to exchange FIRE with Dirge and Ramjet o.s.

SMOKESCREEN
(to Devcon)
Cover me!

WIDER

Smokescreen quickly TRANSFORMS into his vehicle mode and REVS his ENGINE. Devcon continues to FIRE his MULTI-PORT CANNON as CAMERA TRACKS with Smokescreen as he SPEEDS toward Dirge, Ramjet, and Astrotrain in the b.g.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Smokescreen races toward the Decepticons, blowing thick black smoke from his exhaust pipe. The Decepticons' LASER FIRE falls all around him.

ASTROTRAIN

His rifle in firing position, he is about to blow Bosch and Slizardo away, when he is engulfed in Smokescreen's thick black smoke, obscuring his vision.

ASTROTRAIN (VO)
Hey! What..?!!

WIDE ANGLE - DIRGE, RAMJET AND ASTROTRAIN

They are indistinct shapes as they fumble about in the smoke, while Smokescreen runs circles around them, TIRES SCREECHING, then goes o.s. Bosch and Slizardo stumble out of the smoke, leading the Autobots to safety.

ALL (VO)
(COUGHING)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Astrotrain stumbles into the outer edges and can be seen TRANSFORMING into his shuttle mode.

ASTROTRAIN (VO)
(coughing)
Get in! We're moving out!

Lord Gyconi climbs inside, followed by Dirge and Ramjet.

DECEPTICONS/LORD GYCONI
(COUGHING)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Astrotrain SPEEDS away into space in warp drive, leaving a big stack of energon chips in containers on the tarmac.

ANGLE ON DEVCON AND SMOKESCREEN

as they spin around to see the Decepticons retreat o.s.

DEVCON

I can't let them escape. The
Decepticons must be stopped at
all costs!

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Devcon TRANSFORMS into an awesome FUTURISTIC STARFIGHTER. A
door opens.

DEVCON (VO)

Slizardo, I invite you to join
me... as my partner!

ON SLIZARDO AND BOSCH

Slizardo hesitates. Bosch nudges him...

BOSCH

So? What are you waiting for?!

Slizardo lights up, puffs his chest out, then quickly EXITS
FRAME, jogging like a winner.

ANGLE ON DEVCON/STARFIGHTER

Slizardo runs INTO FRAME and climbs through door. Before it
closes, he turns and waves to his friends o.s.

SLIZARDO

("Alienese" goodbye)

Then in a blink of an eye, the Starfighter SPEEDS away into
space, chasing after the Decepticons.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - TARMAC - LATER - BOSCH'S FREIGHTER

is now parked on the tarmac, with Bosch, Smokescreen, and the
Autobots, now returned to their normal state, standing nearby.
Casino Row is seen in the b.g.

OPTIMUS PRIME (VO)

But I don't remember any
"Animaliens," Smokescreen!

CLOSER

as Bosch comes INTO SCENE. Prime rubs his stiff neck as Inferno rubs his arms.

OPTIMUS PRIME (CONT)
I don't remember anything!

Inferno points at Bosch, frowning...

INFERNO
The last thing I remember, is that
guy was frying us!

ON BOSCH

who has a nervous smile on his face, hands up over his head.

SMOKESCREEN (VO)
A lot has happened to you guys,
but believe me, Bosch is our
friend...

Smokescreen ENTERS SHOT and puts his arm around Bosch's
shoulders.

He puts his arm around Bosch's shoulders.

SMOKESCREEN (CONT)
--and he's agreed to take us back
to Earth!

Bosch puts an arm around Smokescreen.

BOSCH
So I have!

ANGLE ON AUTOBOTS

They see the friendship o.s. and react, surprised.

BOSCH (CONT-VO)
But we used almost all the energon
chips here to restore the ship
and your friends.

BACK TO SHOT

He points o.s.

BOSCH (CONT)
And, seeing how Casino Row is
right over there...

Smokescreen looks at his comrades o.s.

SMOKESCREEN
What do you say to a little "R&R"
guys?!

ANGLE ON OTHERS

uncertain, they all look to Prime for guidance. Finally, Prime smiles.

OPTIMUS PRIME
(a beat)
Why not?! Autobots...
transform!!

One by one, they all TRANSFORM into their respective vehicular modes and form a caravan toward Casino Row o.s.

ON SMOKESCREEN (VEHICLE MODE)

As Bosch climbs into the passenger seat.

BOSCH
Let's go...

SMOKESCREEN/BOSCH
--partner!

Smokescreen pulls o.s. quickly, TIRES SQUEALING, throwing Bosch back into his seat.

WIDER

BOSCH (VO)
But this time, leave the gambling
to an me!

The Autobot caravan moves toward the bright lights of Casino Row in the b.g., as we...

FADE OUT

THE END