MR. ROBINSON

"Pilot"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

ON STAGE IS THE "NASTY DELICIOUS" BAND FRONTED BY <u>CRAIG</u> <u>ROBINSON</u>, KEYBOARDS, AND YOUNGER BROTHER, <u>BEN ROBINSON</u>, GUITARIST.

CRAIG

Here's a little song called,

"Chocolate Muffins..."

NASTY DELICIOUS

Chocolate muffins...

CRAIG

It is not, I repeat, not a double

entendre' -

NASTY DELICIOUS

Not...

CRAIG

Not if you're thinking sexually... CRAIG GETS INTO THE SONG. THE BAND FOLLOWS.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

If you would show me your chocolate muffins I could add my sprinkles and icing, I would be your baker, baby, who would love you so long and so nicely. I will mix your batter with my big, wooden spoon, and make you forget the other baker would be home soon. Oh, chocolate muffins it's time to bake...

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BEN
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Don't forget to preheat the oven...

NASTY DELICIOUS

About four-twenty-five...

CRAIG

(TO AUDIENCE) When I say "preheat,"

you say "oven." Preheat...

AUDIENCE

Oven...

CRAIG

Damn, girl, it's getting hot in here from all this preheating... It's time to pour the batter, pour the batter, pour the batter, baby, pour the batter, baby, batter baby, batter baby... Baby batter... Come watch me bake!

NASTY DELICIOUS

He's a really good baker.

CRAIG

I'm watching those muffins rise ...

BEN

I think it's from all the yeast ...

CRAIG

(SINGING) Cranberry juice will take care of that. Now I don't know about you all, but I'm getting aroused... and hungry. So, time to pop them out of that oven, oh chocolate muffins... BEN

White girls don't feel excluded, it's not about the color of your skin, Craig just really likes chocolate...

CRAIG

And here comes my favorite part... Time for the icing, time for the icing, don't lick the bowl, it tickles but makes me feel weird. Here comes the icing baby...

BEN

There's nothing gluten-free about this.

CRAIG

Oh, chocolate muffins! (THEN, SEXY) I

think I love you.

CRAIG AND THE BAND FINISHES - ALMOST LITERALLY. THE SONG ENDS AND THE CROWD GOES WILD.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

I'm Craig Robinson...

BEN

And I'm Ben Robinson...

CRAIG

And we are "Nasty Delicious." We'll be right back.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

9/23/14

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER

 \underline{CRAIG} MOVES THROUGH THE BAR TO \underline{BEN} WHO TALKS TO TWO BEAUTIFUL GIRLS, \underline{AMANDA} AND \underline{STACY} AT THE BAR.

BEN

Craig! Say hello to Stacy and Amanda.

CRAIG

Hello, ladies.

BEN

They're gonna party with us after the

show. I told them Prince might be

coming over to the house.

CRAIG

Ladies, my brother lied to you.

AMANDA

It's OK. We know. You're musicians.

STACY

It's not like we're looking for some

long term situation.

BEN

Aren't they fantastic?

AMANDA

We'll see you guys after the show.

AMANDA AND STACY EXIT.

BEN

Let me buy you a drink, big brother.

BEN MOTIONS TO THE BARTENDER.

4.

I'm not drinking tonight. I have to teach in the morning.

BEN

Why do you keep doing that substitute gig?

CRAIG

Little things - money, food, rent...

These gigs ain't covering our costs.

BEN GETS AND SWIGS DOWN A SHOT.

BEN

Maybe not yet, but we're gonna hit it

big time and big time is coming soon.

CRAIG

You've been saying that for ten years.

BEN

So, it's gotta be around the corner, right?

CRAIG

I hope so. This is the longest damn street I've ever been on...

BEN

We're back on in five. (THEN, CALLING OUT) Ladies!

BEN EXITS.

VICTORIA (0.S.)

Craig Robinson...

CRAIG TURNS TO SEE A GORGEOUS WOMAN, VICTORIA WAVERS.

9/23/14

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CRAIG
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Guilty.

VICTORIA

Do you remember me?

CRAIG

Wait... Did you used to wear a hoop earring with a key on the end, like Janet Jackson?

VICTORIA

I can't believe you remember that. I wanted to be her so badly.

CRAIG

Victoria Wavers... The girl I asked to prom...

VICTORIA

No you didn't.

CRAIG

And I have always regretted it.

Especially now. Wow, you look great.

VICTORIA

You seriously were going to ask me?

CRAIG

Yeah, but I was shy back then.

VICTORIA

I guess not anymore. You were great up there tonight.

Thanks. Hey, just for my own curiosity. If I had asked you, what would you have said?

VICTORIA

Well, since I was prom queen, and you were a pimply kid who came up to my waist and wore your hair in a crazy fade with a lightning bolt cut into it

- What do you think?

CRAIG

That the lightning bolt set me apart?

See, you remembered it.

VICTORIA

I also remember you always being funny.

CRAIG

And sexy?

VICTORIA

Nope. So, how long have you been singing?

CRAIG

With this band? A while. (THEN) So, what are you up to?

VICTORIA

I'm an English teacher at Studs Terkel High on the Southside.

I meant right now, but that's interesting too. You know, I do some teaching?

VICTORIA

Let me guess - a course on sexiness?

CRAIG

I could, but I'm actually a substitute music teacher out in the suburbs. Just waiting for this rich and famous thing to come together. By the way, you might want to jump on the Craig Robinson express while you can.

VICTORIA

This is actually my stop.

VICTORIA BEGINS TO EXIT.

CRAIG

Whoa, was it something I said?

VICTORIA

Almost everything. Bye, Craig...

CRAIG

Stay, please. Can I buy you a drink?

VICTORIA

I already have one.

CRAIG SMACKS A DRINK OFF THE BAR.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

That wasn't mine.

VICTORIA TAKES THE DRINK RIGHT NEXT TO THE ONE CRAIG JUST HIT.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Craig, I'm sorry I have to go. I'm

late to meet someone. But it was great

seeing you. Bye...

VICTORIA EXITS. BEN COMES OVER.

BEN

Who was that beautiful woman?

CRAIG

Victoria Wavers. The girl who could

have changed the path of my life if I

had only asked.

BEN

So you guys going out?

CRAIG

No. I blew it again. But I'm not gonna

blow it again-again.

OFF CRAIG, WE...

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAWN

CRAIG WAITS, SITTING ON THE HOOD OF HIS CAR IN A DESERTED PARKING LOT.

ANOTHER CAR PULLS UP AND A MAN, GARY, EXITS HIS CAR.

GARY

You know why I'm here. Are we doing

this or what?

CRAIG

We're not going to negotiate?

GARY

Good-bye...

GARY MOVES TO GET BACK IN HIS CAR.

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CRAIG

Wait. I'll get it.

CRAIG MOVES TO HIS TRUNK. HE LIFTS OUT A COMPARTMENT WHERE THE SPARE IS AND REMOVES A SMALL LEATHER CASE. HE BRINGS IT TO GARY. GARY OPENS THE CASE AND BRINGS OUT A HARMONICA.

GARY

Stevie Wonder used this?

CRAIG

On the "Innervisions" album.

GARY INSPECTS THE HARMONICA, THEN...

GARY

That's funny because this is a Seydel

harmonica. Stevie Wonder used a Hohner

Super 64 Chromatic on that album.

CRAIG

Nerd... Fine...

CRAIG WHIPS OUT THE REAL HARMONICA FROM HIS JACKET. GARY SMELLS THE HARMONICA, THEN PLAYS A LITTLE BIT.

GARY

Oh... Now that's the taste of Wonder... (THEN) Okay, here's the deal - one week. Papers have been filed with the district. Everything's on the up and up. You won't have any problems.

CRAIG

Thanks...

GARY

Tell me, is this girl really worth

this much?

I hope so. But I really don't think

it's cool to equate a person's worth

with a harmonica.

OFF CRAIG WE...

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

<u>CRAIG</u> RUNS UP THE STAIRS TO STUDS TERKEL HIGH SCHOOL AND FINDS THE FRONT DOORS ARE LOCKED. CRAIG LOOKS IN AND SEES A <u>NERDY STUDENT</u> HALL MONITOR.

CRAIG

My man, I teach here. Open up.

THE KID SMILES AND JUST STARES AT CRAIG.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Seriously, open the door.

THE KID GIVES CRAIG "THE FINGER" AND MOVES OFF.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

I hope I get you in one of my classes!

Your ass is mine! (THEN) I meant that

violently.

CRAIG MOVES DOWN THE STEPS...

INT. SCHOOL, MUSIC CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

THE MUSIC CLASS CONSISTS OF A DOZEN OR SO KIDS. OUR MAIN FOUR ARE...

HALLE FOSTER, 14, AFRICAN AMERICAN -- <u>DEANDRE HALL</u>, 14, <u>QUAN</u> <u>PHOOK</u>, 14, AND <u>MARIA</u>, 14, LATINA.

THE KIDS SIT IN CLASS WITHOUT A TEACHER.

MARIA

Maybe I should go tell Principal

Taylor our teacher isn't here.

DEANDRE

Are you high? No one's saying

anything.

I do.

DEANDRE

QUAN

Quan, do you even know what we're

talking about?

QUAN

(RANDOM) I'm practicing getting

married. (THEN, NOTICING) Hey, there's

a black man climbing in our class.

CRAIG IS CLIMBING THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW.

QUAN (CONT'D)

Hey, are you a drug dealer?

CRAIG

If I was a drug dealer, you'd be

climbing out to meet me. Everyone

relax. I'm just the substitute

teacher.

CRAIG SQUEEZES THROUGH THE WINDOW AND CRUMPLES TO THE FLOOR. A BEAT, THEN CRAIG GETS UP AND LOOKS AT THE SHOCKED KIDS IN HIS CLASS. ANOTHER BEAT AND CRAIG SEES A PIANO AND "MUSIC CLASS" SPELLED IN CUT-OUT LETTERS AND PASTED TO THE WALL.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Mr. Robinson... How about a

musical ice-breaker?

CRAIG MAKES HIS WAY TO THE PIANO, SITS, THEN PLAYS THE FIRST VERSE OF "IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT, CLAP YOUR HANDS." HALLE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CLAPS TWICE ON THE BEAT.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

What's your name?

HALLE JUST LOOKS DOWN.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Hello?

DEANDRE

Leave her alone, dawg. She's shy.

CRAIG

(TO HALLE) Hi, "Shy." I'm Craig.

CRAIG PLAYS THE SECOND VERSE AND GETS HALF THE CLASS TO CLAP ALONG. CRAIG PLAYS THE FINAL VERSE AND EVERYONE, EXCEPT DEANDRE, CLAPS ALONG.

CRAIG GOES INTO THE FIRST VERSE OF "IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT STOMP YOUR FEET." THE KIDS ALL CLAP THEIR HANDS.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

It's stomp your feet you Freshman

mutha(BLEEPERS)!

THE KIDS ARE SHOCKED. CRAIG PLAYS THE SECOND VERSE AGAIN AND THIS TIME THE KIDS ALL STOMP THEIR FEET.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Now that's what I'm talking about!

Give yourselves a round of applause!

THE KIDS START CLAPPING FOR THEMSELVES.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Louder!

THE KIDS CLAP LOUDER.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Louder! Let me hear it! You don't need

instruments! Bang your desks! Drop

some books! Let's start breaking some

shit!

Craig looks at Deandre...

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Not you. (THEN, TO CLASS) Come on, let

me hear it! Make some noise!

THE KIDS, EXCEPT FOR HALLE, ARE NOW CLAPPING, STOMPING, BANGING AND SCREAMING WILDLY.

MR. ROBINSON "Pilot" 9/23/14 Writers' Draft

JUST THEN VICTORIA ENTERS.

VICTORIA

What is going on in here?!

THE KIDS IMMEDIATELY QUIET DOWN. CRAIG SEES VICTORIA AND ...

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Craig? What are you doing here?

CRAIG

Victoria? Wow. This must be fate.

OFF CRAIG AND VICTORIA, WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

CRAIG AND VICTORIA.

VICTORIA

What are you doing here?

CRAIG

Subbing. I'm here for the week. How lucky are we both? We get to hang out. So, last night at the club I forgot to ask you something...

VICTORIA

What?

CRAIG

I thought we could go out on a date.

VICTORIA

Is that why you're here?

CRAIG

Mostly.

VICTORIA

So, you're depriving kids of their music education in order to get close to me and ask me out?

CRAIG

Just for the week. It's romantic, right?

VICTORIA

No, Craig, it's weird. And I have a boyfriend.

You could have mentioned that before I

went to all this trouble.

VICTORIA

I have to get back to my class.

SHE STARTS OFF.

CRAIG

I thought we were having a great time last night.

VICTORIA

Last night I met a fun guy I haven't seen since High School. This morning he shows up at my work. It's gone from charming to alarming.

CRAIG

So, what do you say? Pick a night.

PRINCIPAL CATHERINE TAYLOR ENTERS.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

What's going on here?

CRAIG

Craig Robinson. Substitute Music

teacher. You must be Principal Taylor.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Mr. Robinson. You didn't check into the office this morning.

'Cause I was late. Then the kid wouldn't open the door so I had to climb into my class through the window. At first, they thought I was a drug dealer but I cleared that up.

VICTORIA

Principal Taylor, Mr. Robinson isn't here to just teach music. We knew each other in high school and he still has a crush on me. He only got transferred here so he could hit on me.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

So far I'm hearing all the things a principal likes to hear. (THEN) I'll handle this Ms. Wavers.

VICTORIA EXITS. PRINCIPAL TAYLOR GETS VERY CLOSE TO CRAIG'S FACE AND LOOKS DEEPLY INTO HIS EYE.

CRAIG

This is a little uncomfortable.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

I'm checking to see if you're high

right now.

CRAIG

I'm not. And you would probably smell

it on my clothes.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR STEPS AWAY.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Ms. Wavers and I take educating the

children here very seriously.

I can see that from the way we're all just standing around in the halls during classroom time.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Listen, we're an inner-city school facing a lot of issues. You will not be one of them. You're here for a week. Just do your job, and stay away from Victoria. Are we clear?

CRAIG

Or... you and I could go rob a bank right now and no one would ever expect it.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

You're not a funny person by nature, are you Mr. Robinson?

CRAIG

(HURT) Damn.

COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERVISOR JOHN DALTON APPROACHES.

SUPERVISOR DALTON

Catherine, can we please finish

discussing the budget?

CRAIG

(TO PRINCIPAL TAYLOR) Catherine? (THEN, TO DALTON) Hey, how you doin'? Craig Robinson. I'm subbing in Music this week.

SUPERVISOR DALTON

County Supervisor John Dalton. It's nice to finally meet you, Mr. Robinson. I hear you're doing some innovative stuff out in some of our suburban schools.

CRAIG

Yeah, man. I get way funky out there. SUPERVISOR DALTON

So what brings you to Studs Terkel?

CRAIG

I got a crazy crush on the English teacher.

SUPERVISOR DALTON

(DELIGHTED) Funny. I heard you're a joker. (THEN) Anyway, I look forward to seeing you again Friday night. (THEN) Catherine, I'll be in your office when you're ready.

SUPERVISOR DALTON EXITS.

CRAIG

So your boss really likes me. That's cool. Anyway, what was he talking about Friday night? Because there's no way I can be here.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Back-To-School night. Faculty attendance is mandatory. You're here for the week, Mr. Robinson.

(MORE)

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR (CONT'D)

If you can't be here then, you can't

be here <u>now</u>.

CRAIG

Then I'll be here both then and now,

Catherine.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR EXITS. OFF CRAIG, WE...

INT. SCHOOL, TEACHERS' LOUNGE - LATER

<u>JIMMY HOTCHKISS</u>, 30'S, AN INTENSE, COMPLICATED MAN AND PE TEACHER, WEARING A CURIOUS MISHMASH OF 80'S TENNIS GARB, WAVES A HAMBURGER IN FRONT OF <u>SAMIR PANJ</u>, 30'S, INDIAN, BRILLIANT SCIENCE TEACHER.

JIMMY

I'm telling you, Samir, this is delicious. You're going to love it, it's all natural, grass fed, free range cow.

SAMIR

Jimmy, what don't you understand about

Hinduism?

JIMMY

I'm just saying, if you can't kill a

cow, you shouldn't have the bomb.

SAMIR

You're the dumbest man alive.

ASHLEIGH WILLOWS, 30'S, GORGEOUS, MATH TEACHER AND PART-TIME EXOTIC DANCER ENTERS CARRYING TEST PAPERS.

ASHLEIGH

(FLUSTERED) Ugh! These kids are

driving me crazy!

SAMIR

What's the matter, Ashleigh?

ASHLEIGH

These tests! (PICKING UP A TEST) One of the questions I asked them was, "What weighs more, one ton of metal or two-thousand pounds of wood?" One kid wrote, "my penis" then drew a picture of it.

JIMMY LOOKS AT THE PICTURE.

JIMMY

If that's to scale, I'd give him

partial credit.

ASHLEIGH GRABS ANOTHER TEST.

ASHLEIGH

Another kid wrote, "one ton and twothousand pounds weigh the same."

SAMIR

That's right.

ASHLEIGH HANDS THE TEST TO SAMIR.

ASHLEIGH

He wrote the answer as a thought

bubble coming out of his penis.

CRAIG ENTERS.

CRAIG

Hey, everyone. I'm Craig. Music sub for the week.

SAMIR

Hi, Craig. I'm Samir, chemistry and physics.

THEY SHAKE. ASHLEIGH MOVES TO CRAIG.

ASHLEIGH

Ashleigh Willows, Algebra and

Geometry.

CRAIG STARES FOR A MOMENT.

CRAIG

You look real familiar. Did you ever

teach at Lake View High?

ASHLEIGH

No... But I used to dance near there.

Ever go to 360 Gentlemen's Club?

CRAIG

You're a stripper?

ASHLEIGH

On the weekends. And on Taco Tuesday.

Pays my mortgage.

CRAIG

Do your students know?

ASHLEIGH

By their test answers you would think

so. Nice to meet you.

ASHLEIGH MOVES OFF. JIMMY MOVES TO CRAIG.

JIMMY

Hey man, Jimmy Hotchkiss, Physical Education. Most of the people around here call me Magnum PE.

SAMIR/ASHLEIGH

(CALLING OUT) No we don't.

JIMMY

Get it? Magnum PE - It's like Magnum PI but I changed it to PE because I teach PE. (THEN) So you're subbing for Music class?

CRAIG

That's right, Jimmy.

JIMMY

Magnum.

CRAIG

So, what's with the tennis gettup?

JIMMY

Glad you like it. I played professionally from '89 to '91. Was on the tour.

CRAIG

That's cool. Why'd you stop?

SAMIR

Here it comes...

JIMMY

(INTENSE) Have you ever been out on the road with Mats Wilander, Borris Becker, and Ivan Lendl?

SAMIR

He's a Music teacher, Jimmy.

JIMMY

(TO SAMIR) Magnum. (THEN, TO CRAIG) Let's just leave it at this - if I see Lendl again, in all his manicured, unemotional glory - he's a dead man.

CRAIG EYES JIMMY, THEN...

CRAIG

What's wrong with you dude...? Seriously?

JIMMY

Ha! I love this guy! (THEN) You have an aura about you, Craig. I know cause I study that stuff. A lot. You're someone I wanna know. We're gonna be tight! I can help you get the lay of the land here.

JUST THEN, VICTORIA ENTERS.

CRAIG

Okay... What's the lay of her land?

JIMMY

Good. Eye. Craig. (THEN) Victoria Wavers, English teacher, dates some hot-shot lawyer. Totally unattainable so let's keep it on planet Earth, shall we?

CRAIG

We went to high school together. I was supposed to take her to the prom.

Writers' Draft

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JIMMY
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Crabs?

CRAIG

What? No. I was too shy to ask her.

JIMMY

I didn't go to my prom either.

CRAIG

Tennis?

JIMMY

Crabs.

CRAIG

Lendl?

JIMMY

Dead man.

CRAIG MOVES TO VICTORIA.

CRAIG

I know it was a little surprising seeing me this morning. So, let me make it up to you by buying you dinner.

VICTORIA

Craig, this is not your second chance at asking me to prom. I have a boyfriend.

CRAIG

So you're technically single?

VICTORIA

Or absolutely in a relationship. Why do you always have to go there?

(PLEADING) I can't help myself! All I

know is sexy!

<u>VICTORIA EXITS</u> AS CRAIG TURNS TO FIND JIMMY STANDING UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE.

JIMMY

Now is not the time to quit.

CRAIG

You're really close.

JIMMY

We are. In a lot of ways. Now, can I

make a suggestion?

CRAIG

You're going to find out everything

you can about Victoria for me so I can

win her over.

JIMMY

I can do that. I was going to go

another really weird way, but OK.

Call me a door because this one is

handled.

SAMIR CROSSES OVER.

SAMIR

Dumbest man alive.

AS THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS, WE:

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

KIDS ARE LEAVING FOR THE DAY AS <u>CRAIG</u> MOVES DOWN THE HALL. HE HEARS PIANO MUSIC COMING FROM HIS CLASSROOM. CRAIG POPS HIS HEAD IN AND SEES...

INT. SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

HALLE SITS BEHIND THE PIANO PLAYING AND SINGING BEYONCE'S "LISTEN." CRAIG LISTENS FROM THE DOORWAY.

HALLE

(SINGING) Listen... to the song here in my heart/A melody I start but can't complete/Listen...

CRAIG MOVES INTO THE CLASS AND SINGS LOUDLY...

CRAIG

(SINGING) To the sound from deep

within...

HALLE STOPS PLAYING AND JUMPS UP FROM BEHIND THE PIANO.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Why'd you stop? That sounded great.

You've got a big voice on you.

HALLE

I'm sorry, Mr. Robinson, I didn't think anyone was still here. See you tomorrow.

HALLE GRABS HER BACKPACK AND STARTS OFF, WHEN...

CRAIG

You know, I was shy just like you when

I was your age.

HALLE

But you can't shut up. (CATCHING HERSELF) I mean, you talk a lot.

CRAIG

I know. It's okay. But when I was in high school, I couldn't talk to anybody. That's part of the reason why I'm here now.

HALLE

So, how did you get past it?

CRAIG

Music. It let me say all the things I wanted to. Then I had a teacher who asked me to perform in front of the whole school. I was like "Hell no!" But the more I thought, I knew if I didn't do it I'd never be the kind of person I saw myself as. So I just did it.

HALLE

How'd it go?

CRAIG

I sucked. But it opened me up, and afterwards it got a whole lot easier.

HALLE

I could never do something like that.

CRAIG

You just did. You are amazing. Don't hide behind your talent. And you can come in here anytime you want and play.

HALLE

Thanks, Mr. Robinson. HALLE STARTS OFF, THEN...

HALLE (CONT'D)

I think it would be cool if you were our full-time Music teacher.

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Thanks, Halle.

HALLE EXITS. A BEAT, THEN BEN RUSHES IN.

BEN

Craig! There you are.

CRAIG

Ben, what are you doing here? And how

did you get in?

BEN

I told them I was Jordan's dad.

CRAIG

Who's Jordan?

BEN

I don't know. But this is Chicago. You have any idea how many parents named their kids after Michael Jordan? (THEN) I got some amazing news, big brother... I just booked us a gig at the hottest spot in town...

CRAIG

The Odeon?

BEN

The mutha-lovin' Odeon! And check this out, they're going to pay double our quote!

CRAIG

Ben, that's incredible! THE BROTHERS HUG.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

So when? When are we playing?

BEN

This Friday!

CRAIG

(DEFLATED) Friday...

BEN

What's wrong with Friday?

CRAIG

They're having a Back-To-School night and I'm supposed to be here.

BEN

Back to...? So what? You'll cancel. Craig, you're a sub. That means you're probably filling in for a guy who wants to kill himself. You're here for a week. What does it matter? Listen, I need the money from this gig. Hell, the whole band needs the money. So, you're in, right?

CRAIG

Yeah. I'm in.

BEN

My man!

OFF THE BROTHERS, WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL, HALLWAY - MORNING

<u>CRAIG</u> WALKS UP ON SOMEONE TAGGING THE BATHROOM DOOR WITH SPRAY PAINT. THE PERSON'S WEARING A WHITE HAZMAT-ISH COVERALL WITH A RESPIRATOR MASK.

CRAIG

Hey, what are you doing?!

THE PERSON TAKES OFF THE RESPIRATOR MASK AND TURNS AROUND, REVEALING: <u>PRINCIPAL TAYLOR</u>.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Mr. Robinson, how can I help you?

CRAIG

Why are you tagging the door...

(READING HER TAG SIGNATURE) "P-Flash?"

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Well, the city gives us fifty-four dollars a week to buy paint to cover up any gang graffiti. We're in a bit of an artistic gang lull so I tag the walls myself.

CRAIG

So, you tag your own walls and then buy paint to cover it up?

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

No, I get the cover-up paint donated. Then I use the city's money to take care of my students. Over the year, I'm able to buy over a thousand lunches for kids who can't afford them. Plus, P-flash has to breathe.

Well, now I kind of feel like a dick. But, would it be all right if I wasn't here Friday night? See my band's got a gig and --

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR What are you, like forty?

CRAIG

Around. So...?

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

So, you're a substitute teacher and a part-time musician. You probably have a roommate, have little or no money. You've got no direction.

CRAIG

This is a little heavy for 7:10 in the morning.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

It should be. I'll cover for you Friday night. Actually, it's better for me if you aren't there. This way I know you won't screw up and embarrass me. So thank you.

CRAIG

You're welcome? (THEN) See, I know you just gave me what I asked for, but now I feel terrible about myself.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

A little graffiti for your soul, Mr.

Robinson. P-flash out.

SHE PUTS HER MASK BACK ON AND CONTINUES TAGGING.

AS CRAIG MOVES OFF, WE:

EXT. FIELD - LATER

<u>CRAIG MOVES TO JIMMY</u> AS HE'S FINISHING HIS P.E. CLASS. A DOZEN OR SO STUDENTS, INCLUDING <u>LUKE UNGER</u>, ARE IN GYM CLOTHES.

JIMMY

(TO CRAIG) You're here, I've got unbelievable news. Give me two secs. (THEN, TO LUKE) Unger, you were ten minutes late. Choose...

LUKE

I've got practice after school so I'll

take the ball.

JIMMY GRABS A RED RUBBER BALL AND MOVES TOWARD LUKE.

JIMMY

Assume the position.

LUKE STANDS FEET TOGETHER, HANDS BEHIND HIS BACK. JIMMY REARS BACK AND THROWS THE BALL AS HARD AS HE CAN INTO LUKE'S FACE. LUKE IS KNOCKED OUT OF FRAME AND GOES DOWN HARD. JIMMY MOVES TO CRAIG.

CRAIG

(RE: LUKE) What the hell was that?

JIMMY

I give them a choice, detention or a ball to the face. (THEN) So you're not going to believe it, but Victoria's boyfriend broke up with her.

What are you talking about?

JIMMY

I heard a couple teachers talking about it in the ladies bathroom. I mean, I heard a couple teachers talking about it. You could have her, Craig. But it's gonna take something big.

CRAIG

Yes. A grand gesture to change the way she sees me.

JIMMY

I was going to go another really weird way, but...

CRAIG

Like what?

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. TEACHER'S PARKING LOT - LATER

CRAIG AND JIMMY STAND NEXT TO VICTORIA'S JETTA.

JIMMY

We have to time this with the school

bell.

CRAIG

Time what? Whose car is this?

A LONG, AWKWARD PAUSE BETWEEN JIMMY AND CRAIG, THEN:

SCHOOL BELL RINGS.

JIMMY WRAPS HIS JACKET AROUND HIS FIST AND PUNCHES OUT THE PASSENGER SIDE WINDOW OF VICTORIA'S CAR. HE REACHES INTO THE CAR AND PULLS OUT AN IPOD IN A HOT PINK CASE.

This is Victoria's iPod.

HE TOSSES IT TO CRAIG AND RUNS AWAY.

CRAIG

What the hell am I supposed to do with

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this?

JIMMY

(YELLING BACK) You're the music guy,

figure it out.

CRAIG LOOKS AT THE IPOD FOR A BEAT THEN RUNS.

INT. SCHOOL, MUSIC CLASS - LATER

CRAIG SCROLLS THROUGH VICTORIA'S IPOD.

CRAIG

Rhythm Nation, Control, The Velvet

Rope... (THEN, REALIZING) Of course...

BEN MOVES INTO CRAIG'S CLASSROOM.

BEN

What up, big bro? You know there's a stripper from the 360 Club walking around here?

CRAIG

Ashleigh... She's the Math teacher.

BEN

Get out of town! If I was in her class

I could never go up to the board.

CRAIG

Because you're terrible at Math?

BEN

That, and boners.

BEN PULLS OUT A PIECE OF PAPER. BEN (CONT'D) I came by to go over the set list for tomorrow night. We've got to make it tight. CRAIG Yeah... Listen, I'm not going to be able to play the gig. BEN What are you talking about? CRAIG There's a woman here... I think she could be the one. BEN So? Just ask her out. CRAIG It has to be bigger than that... A grand gesture. Tomorrow night's my last chance. BEN So, you're blowing off the highest paid gig we've had in a year for some

CRATG

woman?

It's more than that. These kids here, I feel like I'm connecting with them. I like being here. I'm really sorry, Ben, but this is something I have to do. BEN

We need the money. We need the

exposure. We're doing this gig with or

without you.

CRAIG AND BEN LOOK AT EACH OTHER, THEN...

BEN (CONT'D)

Fine then. Without you.

BEN SNATCHES UP THE SET LIST AND STARTS TO EXIT. HE STOPS FOR A BEAT THEN TURNS BACK.

BEN (CONT'D)

So this is that important to you?

CRAIG

Yeah.

BEN

Aw, Craig, you're killin' me! (THEN)

You're my big brother. How can I help?

CRAIG MOVES TO BEN AND GIVES HIM A HUG. OFF THE BOYS WE ...

INT. SCHOOL, MUSIC CLASS - LATER

THE <u>STUDENTS</u> SETTLE INTO THEIR DESKS. <u>CRAIG</u> MOVES TO THE FRONT OF THE CLASS.

CRAIG

Now listen up... I need your help. Tomorrow night is back to school night for you and your parents. I think it would be cool if we prepared a song to sing.

MARIA

A song? There's no time.

STUDENTS

No way.../No.../This sucks...

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QUAN
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What was the question?

DEANDRE

Yo, man. Why you throwin' this at us now? This is all about you, isn't it?

CRAIG

You know, DeAndre, contrary to your test scores, you're a very bright young man. (THEN) This is about me. But it's also about... "I Want To Hold Your Hand." It's about, "Microphone check, one, two, what is this?" It's about, "What's goin' on." It's about, "Hello Darkness My Old Friend." It's about, "Bang Bang" and "Anaconda." It's about why we make music. So, yes, I want to use you to help me impress a woman. But I challenge you to use me back.

A LONG BEAT, THEN HALLE STANDS UP.

HALLE

I'm in.

CRAIG BEAMS WITH PRIDE. DEANDRE STANDS.

DEANDRE

If she's in, I'm in.

HALLE SMILES AT DEANDRE. QUAN STANDS UP.

QUAN

I'm standing.

THE REST OF THE CLASS STARTS TO STAND UP. OFF OF CRAIG SMILING, WE...

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INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR, SUPERVISOR DALTON, SAMIR, ASHLEIGH, JIMMY AND VICTORIA ARE GLAD-HANDING PARENTS AND STUDENTS. SUDDENLY, THE SONG "ESCAPADE" BY JANET JACKSON STARTS TO PLAY OVER THE PA SYSTEM.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

(TO A PARENT) Excuse me... (THEN, TO

VICTORIA) Why is that music playing?

VICTORIA

I have no idea.

HALLE MAKES HER WAY DOWN THE HALLWAY. NERVOUS, SHE STOPS AND TURNS BACK. DEANDRE MOVES TO HER AND STOPS HER.

DEANDRE

It's okay. You got this.

HALLE TAKES A DEEP BREATH, TURNS AND MOVES BACK DOWN THE HALL. OTHER STUDENTS MOVE OFF TO THE SIDE. HALLE STARTS TO SING TO VICTORIA.

HALLE

(SINGING) As I was walkin by/ Saw you standin there with a smile/ Lookin' shy you caught my eye/Thought you'd want to hang for a while...

HALLE OFFERS VICTORIA A KEY-EARRING (A LA WHAT JANET JACKSON USED TO WEAR). VICTORIA TAKES IT, THEN HALLE GRABS HER HAND AND STARTS LEADING HER DOWN THE HALL. HALLE IS JOINED BY OTHER STUDENTS, WHO CONTINUE SINGING.

HALLE/STUDENTS

Well I'd like to be with you/And you

know it's Friday too/I hope you can

find the time/This weekend to relax

and unwind ...

THE BEAT CONTINUES TO PLAY AS HALLE AND VICTORIA REACH CRAIG'S CLASSROOM.

INT. SCHOOL, MUSIC CLASS - CONTINUOUS

THE DESKS ARE ALL PUSHED ASIDE. A MIRROR BALL LIGHTS UP THE ROOM. 90S MEMORABILIA LINES THE WALLS. A BANNER READS, "WELCOME TO PROM."

<u>HALLE, VICTORIA</u> AND OTHER STUDENTS MOVE INTO THE CLASS. <u>PRINCIPAL TAYLOR</u>, <u>SUPERVISOR DALTON</u>, <u>JIMMY</u>, <u>SAMIR</u> AND <u>ASHLEIGH</u> MOVE TO THE BACK OF THE CLASS. WE SEE <u>BEN</u> AND "<u>NASTY</u> <u>DELICIOUS</u>" ARE SET UP AND READY TO PLAY.

<u>CRAIG</u> WEARS A POWDER-BLUE PROM TUXEDO. HE MOVES TO VICTORIA, SINGING:

CRAIG

(SINGING) Come on baby, let's get

away/Let's save your troubles for

another day/Come go with me, we've got

it made/Let me take you on an escapade

(TO HIS CLASS) Let's go!

HALLE AND ALL THE OTHER STUDENTS FROM CRAIG'S CLASS START SINGING.

STUDENTS

(SINGING) Es-ca-pade/We'll have a good

time/Es-ca-pade/Leave your worries

behind/Es-ca-pade/You can be mine.

Es-ca-pade/An escapade...

THE BEAT CONTINUES TO PLAY AND THE STUDENTS CONTINUE TO SING "ESCAPADE" OVER AND OVER IN THE BACKGROUND. CRAIG MOVES TO VICTORIA.

VICTORIA

Craig, what is this? What are you

doing?

CRAIG

I always wanted to go to the prom with

you and this is my chance.

VICTORIA

Oh, Craig... I don't know what to say.

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CRAIG

Say you'll dance with me.

CRAIG HOLDS OUT HIS HAND.

VICTORIA

I'll dance with you.

VICTORIA TAKES CRAIG'S HAND. CRAIG TURNS TO THE BAND AND SNAPS HIS FINGER. THE ESCAPADE MUSIC STOPS. THE BAND BEGINS TO PLAY "CLOSE TO YOU" BY MAXI PRIEST.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

This... This is my favorite song.

CRAIG

I know.

VICTORIA

Wait... How? Did you break my window?

CRAIG

Jimmy broke your window. I have your

iPod in the desk. We'll make

everything right.

VICTORIA AND CRAIG START DANCING. BEN SINGS.

BEN

(SINGING) She was a Jezebel, this Brixton queen/Livin' her life like a bad sweet dream/Tellin' me lies when the truth was clear/I think she knew what I wanted to hear.

CRAIG

(SINGING) I just wanna be close to you/And do all the things you want me to.

41.

STUDENTS

(SINGING) I just wanna be close to you/And show you the way I feel.

BEN HANDS DEANDRE THE MIC.

DEANDRE

(RAPPING) Twenty years and you're as pretty as you've ever been/I look at you and every time my world starts to spin/You're incredible in every way a man could hope for/You deserve everything, and on top of that a little more/I'm stuck on you like Elmer's is to glue/I just want to be close to you.

THE BAND AND THE STUDENTS SING:

STUDENTS

(SINGING) I just wanna be close to you/And do all the things you want me to/I just wanna be close to you/And show you the way I feel.

THE SONG ENDS. TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS APPLAUD WILDLY. A VERY GOOD-LOOKING AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAN, <u>ROBERT</u>, APPROACHES CRAIG AND VICTORIA, APPLAUDING.

ROBERT

That was amazing! Fantastic! I wish I had a music teacher like you when I was in school. (THEN, TO VICTORIA) You ready, honey?

CRAIG

(TO VICTORIA, RE: ROBERT) Who's that?

VICTORIA

Craig, this is Robert. My boyfriend.

ROBERT

Nice to meet you, brother. (TO

VICTORIA) If we're going to make that

reservation we should get going. I'll

be out front.

HE PATS CRAIG ON THE SHOULDER.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Just great, man!

ROBERT EXITS.

CRAIG

I thought you guys broke up.

VICTORIA

What? No. We had a little argument. We talked it out. Who told you we broke

up?

JIMMY MOVES IN.

JIMMY

Does it really matter? What matters is...

JIMMY GRABS EACH OF THEIR HANDS.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

This happened! (THEN) Magnum out!

JIMMY EXITS.

VICTORIA

Craig, I've got to go. But this was

really sweet. Thank you.

 $\underline{\rm SHE}$ KISSES HIM ON THE CHEEK, THEN $\underline{\rm EXITS}.$ DEANDRE SIDLES UP TO CRAIG.

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DEANDRE

Bitches, man...

DEANDRE EXITS. CRAIG LOOKS TO HALLE, WHO IS TAKING CONGRATULATIONS FROM HER CLASSMATES AND PARENTS. SHE SEES CRAIG, SMILES WIDELY. CRAIG GIVES HER A THUMBS UP. SHE SHOOTS HIM ONE BACK.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR MOVES TO CRAIG.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

So, this was a massive waste of school resources. You used your kids to throw yourself a fake prom, to impress a teacher who doesn't like you. Well done, sir. It is with great joy that I now say, you are relieved of your duty.

SUPERVISOR DALTON APPROACHES.

SUPERVISOR DALTON

Dude! You killed that! I've never seen kids more engaged at a school function. What do I have to do to get you here full time?

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Supervisor Dalton, shouldn't we discuss this...

SUPERVISOR DALTON

No. I've seen all I need to see. So, what about it, Mr. Robinson? Will you join us?

CRAIG LOOKS TO BEN.

BEN

Take it! We need the money!

Yeah... I'm in.

SUPERVISOR DALTON

That's great. Welcome aboard.

SUPERVISOR DALTON EXITS.

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

So, you've lost the girl, but won the kids over. I suppose that's a good thing.

CRAIG

Don't forget, Supervisor Dalton. He

seems to really dig me, you know?

PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

As for us, looks like you've won the

battle, but you will definitely lose

the war. See you Monday. (THEN, TO

STUDENTS) Everyone! Say hello to your

full-time Music teacher, Mr. Robinson.

<u>PRINCIPAL TAYLOR EXITS</u> AS ALL THE KIDS RALLY AROUND CRAIG. OFF THE GROUP WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

<u>TAG</u>

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL, MUSIC CLASS - EARLIER

CRAIG AND VICTORIA DANCE TO MAXI PRIEST.

WE ANGLE ON: <u>JIMMY</u>, <u>ASHLEIGH</u> AND <u>SAMIR</u> IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM. JIMMY MOVES TO ASHLEIGH.

JIMMY

Hey Ash, I know there's no pole but do

you want to dance?

ASHLEIGH

Jimmy, please get away from me.

JIMMY

Magnum...

ASHLEIGH MOVES TO SAMIR AND OFFERS HER HAND. SAMIR TAKES IT AND THEY MOVE TO THE DANCE FLOOR.

SAMIR

(TO JIMMY) Once you go curry you come

back in a hurry.

ASHLEIGH AND SAMIR START DANCING. A BEAT, THEN JIMMY DANCES BY HIMSELF, AND OFF JIMMY WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW