

"SLAMMED!"

by
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(CONTINUED)

"SLAMMED! -- "Fresh Start"
CONTINUED:

2.

SLAMMED!

"FRESH START"

TEASER & TITLES

FADE IN:

1

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

1

(Lester, Benny, Jackie, Crazy Comedian, Comedian #1,
Comedian #2, Comedian #3, Comedian #4)

A BRILLIANT LIGHT SHINES IN OUR FACE AS THE DOOR TO THE
BASEMENT OPENS. A FIGURE STANDS. A STEREOTYPICAL DISCO
TRACK WITH A BAD SINGER DESTROYING IT BLASTS FORTH FROM
THE OPENING.

4 OR 5 COWERING, GRUNGY MEN, HUDDLING TOGETHER IN A ROW,
LOOK UP, TRYING TO ADJUST TO THE SELDOM SEEN LIGHT.

THE FIGURE IS LESTER LAMONT, THE KARAOKE KING, WEARING A
SMOCK WITH MUSICAL NOTES ON IT, HIS HAIR STYLED IN THE
EPITOME 'LOUNGE LIZARD' WAVE. LESTER COMES DOWN THE
STEPS JUST PAST HALF WAY, PULLING SOMETHING FROM WITHIN
HIS SMOCK AS HE DESCENDS. IT IS A GOLDEN MICROPHONE.

THE MEN BEGIN TO GO BONKERS, LIKE A GROUP OF ANIMALS
AWAITING A TREAT. LESTER GRINS, LOOKING AT THEM WITH
MOCK COMPASSION.

LESTER

Comedians....

BENNY, OWNER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT, APPEARS AT THE TOP OF
THE STEPS. HE HOLDS A BAT AND WEARS A BLOODY SMOCK.
BENNY SLOWLY WIPES THE BAT DOWN.

BENNY

LESTER! Get cracking lad. We need
another comedian up here;

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

"SLAMMED! -- "Fresh Start"

3.

1

CONTINUED:

1

BENNY (CONT'D)

filler between the bleeding taco
buffet and the onset of the West
Valley Karaoke Semi-finals! Pick one
that's...HUNGRY!

LESTER LOOKS INTO THE GROUP OF COMEDIANS WITH A SMILE.
ONE COMEDIAN WHO LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN DOWN THERE FOREVER,
JACKIE, STARES INTENTLY AT LESTER, WHO JUST MOCKINGLY
STARES BACK.

LESTER

Right, Benny. I know just the one.

WITH A SNICKER, LESTER TOSSES THE MICROPHONE TO JACKIE.

JACKIE BOBBLES THE MIC FOR A MOMENT, THE OTHERS BEGIN
TUSSLING WITH HIM.

JACKIE

Get Back! 15 Years! I have tenure!

JACKIE'S AND A CRAZY COMEDIAN'S GRIP ARE BOTH LOCKED ON
THE MIC.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Get back! OR ELSE!

THE TUSSLE PAUSES.

CRAZY COMEDIAN

Or else what?

THE TWO COMEDIANS LOCK STARES AS EVERYONE COMES TO A
HALT.

LESTER

IT'S A JOKE-OFF!

THE MIC DROPS TO THE FLOOR AS THE MEN FORM A CIRCLE OF
SORTS AROUND JACKIE AND THE CRAZY COMEDIAN, THE WORDS
"JOKE-OFF" HEARD IN FAINT WHISPERS. LESTER MOVES DOWN
THE STEPS A BIT.

A CRAZY LITTLE FELLA PLACES THE GOLDEN MIC INTO AN OLD,
BEAT UP MIC STAND.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE AND THE CRAZY COMEDIAN MOVE TO SEPARATE SIDES OF THE ROOM. EACH REMOVES A SACHEL OF SOME FORM FROM A HIDING PLACE; JACKIE'S AN OLD LEATHER OVERNIGHT CASE; THE OTHER COMEDIAN'S, A BACK PACK.

AS THEY OPEN THEIR RESPECTIVE SACHELS, "WONDROUS LIGHT" SHINES UPON THEIR FACES; THE CRAZY COMEDIAN'S A GOLDEN HAZE, JACKIE'S A RICH LOUNGE PURPLE. THEY REMOVE THEIR GEAR.

JACKIE PULLS OUT A BLACK GARMENT. IT IS HIS SPORT COAT, A 'SEINFELD ORIGINAL'. WE SEE A QUICK MONTAGE OF HIM DONNING HIS COMIC GARB.

CRAZY PULLS OUT HIS SHINY 'BLING' AND LIES IT NEXT TO HIS JEWEL-TRIMMED "RAIDERS" BALL CAP ON THE FLOOR.

JACKIE PULLS OUT HIS BOTTLE OF "JACK DANIELS."

CRAZY PULLS OUT HIS BOTTLE OF "AQUA FINA."

JACKIE PULLS A FINAL ITEM FROM HIS CASE, A SILVER, SECURE LOOKING SMALL CASE. HE OPENS IT AND REMOVES A PERFECT, UNLIT CIGARETTE. IT FITS SNUGLY HOME ONTO THE SMALL CALLUSES BETWEEN THE INDEX AND MIDDLE FINGERS ON HIS RIGHT HAND. HE NEVER LIGHTS IT.

CRAZY PULLS OUT A SMALL, RECTANGULAR SECURE CASE AS WELL, THIS ONE LOOKING MORE MODERN. HE OPENS IT AND PULLS OUT A STICK OF "JUICY FRUIT," UNWRAPS IT IN LIGHTNING SPEED, POPS IT IN HIS MOUTH AND AS A FINISHING MOVE, FLICKS THE BALLED UP LITTLE WRAPPER AT JACKIE.

JACKIE ANGRILY SWIPES AT THE AIR AS IT BONKS HARMLESSLY OFF HIS FOREHEAD. HE CUSSES UNDER HIS BREATH.

THEIR ATTIRE, THIRST AND PROPS READY, JACKIE AND THE CRAZY COMEDIAN EYE ONE ANOTHER AS THEY AWAIT THE WORD TO COMMENCE.

ALL IS SILENT AS LESTER LOOKS THEM OVER. FINALLY....

LESTER (CONT'D)

Make me laugh Funny Boys!

JACKIE GETS THE FIRST HIT. CRAZY KNOWS HE IS A HAIR LATE.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

Hey, good to see the glittering
gestapo in the house tonight.
(looking to Lester and Crazy)
Vegas called...they want their
wardrobe back.

THERE IS SOME LIGHT, PEPPERED LAUGHTER AND A COUPLE OF
"OOO'S." LESTER RAISES HIS EYEBROW, A MOMENTARY SMILE
TURNING INTO A SCOWL. HE MOVES DOWN TO ALMOST THE BOTTOM
STEP AND HISSES TO THE CRAZY COMEDIAN.

LESTER

Avenge me.

THE CRAZY COMEDIAN LOOKS HARD AT JACKIE. HE IS ON A
MISSION NOW.

CRAZY COMEDIAN

Hey, hey! Speaking of 'getting the
call', Jackie's been waitin' for his
big break so long, his jokes are
insured by A.A.R.P.

MORE LAUGHTER THIS TIME. LESTER SMILES BIG, BUT NOTHING
FROM BENNY YET. JACKIE WORRIES AND DELIVERS ANOTHER JOKE
QUICKLY.

JACKIE

This is of course coming from a hack
who's act is so infantile, his last
roadshow was sponsored by Gerber.

BIG LAUGHS. LESTER CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH A BIT. JACKIE
SMILES. LESTER SHAKES HIS HEAD AND MOTIONS THEM TO KEEP
GOING.

CRAZY COMEDIAN

(mocking being impressed)

You wanna talk about infantile?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CRAZY COMEDIAN (CONT'D)

I hear Jackie's last gig brought the house down over at the Jefferson High 12th Grade Prom.

LESTER LAUGHS BIG, JOINED BY THE OTHER MEN. THIS MAY BE THE ONE. JACKIE SUCKS IT UP AND QUICKLY DELIVERS A WHOPPER.

JACKIE

Speaking of grades, the best grades this kid ever got was on his hepatitis test...he got an A, a B and 2 C's.

THE ROOM ERUPTS IN LAUGHTER. LESTER GIGGLES AND EVEN BENNY STURS A BIT. JACKIE SMILES WITH PRIDE. THE NOW FRANTIC CRAZY COMEDIAN LOOKS AT JACKIE, THEN TO LESTER. HE PULLS HIMSELF TOGETHER AND DELIVERS A WHOPPER SECONDS AFTER JACKIE.

CRAZY COMEDIAN

...AND I HAVEN'T FORGIVEN HIS SISTER TO THIS DAY!

LESTER HEARS THIS AND BEGINS TO BELLOW WITH LAUGHTER AS HE TURNS BACK TO THE COMEDIANS. EVERYONE IS LAUGHING LIKE NUTS. LESTER HAS TO SIT DOWN.

BENNY GIVES A COUPLE OF LOW VOLUME GRUNTS THAT RESEMBLE LAUGHS. EVERYONE CHEERS.

LESTER

Absolutely wonderful! Pick up the mic...Funny Man!

THE CRAZY COMEDIAN BEAMS AS HE TAKES THE MIC AND CLIMBS THE STAIRS, FOLLOWED BY LESTER. HE STOPS AFTER A BIT, LOOKING BACK TO JACKIE?

JACKIE IS CROUCHED ON THE FLOOR, LOOKING UP AT THEM DEFEATED.

LESTER (CONT'D)

And what shall we do with this one?

(CONTINUED)

"SLAMMED! -- "Fresh Start"

7.

1

CONTINUED:

1

A MOMENT OF SILENCE.

BENNY

Send him back...to the Restaurant!

Waiter duties...6 MONTHS!

LESTER SMILES AS JACKIE SCREAMS.

JACKIE

NOOO! Please...not back...ON THE

FLOOR!

THE OTHER MEN DRAG A WAILING JACKIE AWAY AS LESTER AND THE GROUP LAUGH HYSTERICALLY. EACH OF THE COMEDIANS DRAGGING HIM AWAY TEASE JACKIE.

COMEDIAN #1

Can you repeat your specials please?

COMEDIAN #2

This is not what I ordered.

COMEDIAN #3

Where is the Ketchup, please?

COMEDIAN #4

Do fries come with that?

THE COMEDIANS LOOK AT ONE ANOTHER AND LAUGH AS JACKIE IS DRAGGED AWAY.

JACKIE

I am not a waiter...I AM A

COMEDIAANNN!

DISSOLVE TO:

2

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - DINING AREA - DAY
(Zotz, Abi, Eva, Sado', Rolo, Dwayne, Roger Peete, Peter)

2

(CONTINUED)

AS JACKIE OPENS HIS EYES, OUR VIEW IS FILLED WITH THE STOIC, DARK FACE OF "MR." SEBASTIAN ZOTZ, THE NEW PART-OWNER AND MAITRE-D' OF 'HOLLYWOOD & WINE'. JACKIE IS IN EMBARRASSED SHOCK AS HE WAKES FROM HIS DAYDREAM.

ZOTZ

Not a waiter, eh?

(He looks him up and down)

You must be Jackie, our "No Longer

Wanting To Be" head waiter. Well, Mr.

Funny Man. I recommend you wake up

and hit the floor, before I show you

how funny the front door is.

AS ZOTZ FINISHES, HE PULLS AWAY FROM OUR VIEW, INTRODUCING THE HOLLYWOOD & WINE TO US. WAITERS AND OTHER WORKERS BUZZ ABOUT, PREPARING FOR THE BIG DAY...THE "NEW" GRAND OPENING.

WE RISE AND WALK THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT FROM JACKIE'S POV. DISHES, CRATES OF FOOD, LIGHTING, PAINTINGS, CANS, BUNDLES OF NAPKINS, ETC., SHOOT BACK AND FORTH AS OUR VIEW MOVES SLOWLY THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT. EVERYTHING WREAKS OF 'HOLLYWOOD'.

AS JACKIE CONTINUES HIS WALK TOWARDS THE BACK OF THE RESTAURANT, VARIOUS PEOPLE GREET OR CONVERSE WITH HIM, EACH CARRYING SOMETHING OR PERFORMING A DUTY.

ABI

(Waitress)

Hey Jackie! Welcome back!

EVA

(Hostess)

Jackie...staff meeting in 10 minutes.

SADO'

(Chef)

Hey, amigo! Back from the dead, eh?

You look like sh....

ROLO FOLLOWS CLOSELY BEHIND SADO'.

(CONTINUED)

ROLO
(Assistant Chef)

Welcome back, Senior Jackie!

DWAYNE
(Waiter)

Jackie! Will you help me polish the
silverware?

ROGER PEETE
(Bartender)

If you have extra people, I may need
help behind the bar tonight....

FINALLY, JACKIE ARRIVES AT THE REST ROOMS IN THE REAR OF
THE RESTAURANT. PETER FISHER EXITS AS JACKIE APPROACHES
THE MEN'S ROOM DOOR. PETER TRIES TO HOLD JACKIE BACK
FROM ENTERING.

PETER

Ah, yes. Jackie. Welcome back to the
H&W, mate! Grand re-opening! Nervous
stomach and broken WC. Nasty
business. Must speak with our new
head master, Zotz.

PETER LOOKS BACK TO THE BATHROOM, THEN PATS JACKIE ON
BOTH SHOULDERS.

PETER (CONT'D)

Right! Into the breach, dear friend!

PETER DARTS AWAY AS JACKIE LOOKS BACK TO THE MEN'S REST
ROOM DOOR, THEN ENTERS THE WOMEN'S ROOM.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

FADE IN:

3

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - RESTROOM - DAY
(Jackie, Penny)

3

JACKIE SPLASHES WATER ON HIS FACE AND STARES AT HIMSELF
IN THE MIRROR FOR A BIT.

JACKIE
(To himself)

Why are you still here? Why haven't
you left yet.

A YOUNG WOMAN, PENNY, SITS IN A STALL BEHIND JEFF IN
COMPLETE FEAR.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

You sit there, going and going but get
nowhere! Get off your ass...make it
happen!

PENNY QUICKLY FINISHES UP.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
(Hissing to himself)

I'll give you just 1 minute to get
your crap together!

PENNY RUSHES FROM THE STALL TO THE SINK, FEELING SHE IS
BEING ADMONISHED.

PENNY

NO! PLEASE! I was...I'M GOING!!

PENNY ROCKETS OUT OF THE REST ROOM. JACKIE IS
BEWILDERED.

4

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - DINING AREA - DAY
(Abi, Roger Peete, Sado', Rolo, Dwayne, Freddie)

4

PENNY, NOT ABLE TO HANDLE CONFRONTATION, JETS INTO THE
RESTAURANT TO GRAB HER THINGS, RUNNING INTO VARIOUS
PEOPLE AS SHE TRIES AND LEAVES.

(CONTINUED)

ABI
(holding a large tray of
table settings)

Hey...watch it newbie! Either grab a
tray or it's dead girl walkin'!

PENNY BUMPS INTO ROGER PEETE, THE METROSEXUAL BARTENDER.

ROGER PEETE

Well...new blood. Don't let it chew
you up and spit you out, my dear.

ROGER MAKES A "BIG CAT" SOUND AND CAT-SWIPE AT PENNY.
PENNY CRINGES. SHE TURNS AND MOVES TOWARD THE FRONT,
ALMOST PLOWING INTO SADO', BRANDISHING A HUGE CLEAVER,
ROLO RIGHT BEHIND.

SADO'
(using the cleaver to accent)

Odelay, crazy girl. You do not run in
my Restaurant!

ROLO

Si, Señorita, and neither in this
restaurant.

SADO' WIELDS THE BLADE AT ROLO, UPSET WITH HIS COMMENT.
THEY BICKER IN A USUAL MANNER AS PENNY DARTS PAST.

SHE GETS TO THE TABLE WITH HER THINGS AND TRIES TO FIND
HER PURSE. DWAYNE SITS AT THE TABLE MOISTURIZING HIS
FEET WITH VARIOUS LOTIONS. HE PICKS UP HER PURSE WITH
HIS TOES AND PRESENTS IT TO HER.

DWAYNE

You looking for this sweetie?
(notices Penny looking at his
feet)

Don't worry...you could eat off of
these feet!

(CONTINUED)

PENNY GRABS HER PURSE, CRINGES AGAIN AND HEADS FOR THE FRONT DOOR.

JUST AS SHE ARRIVES, THE FRONT DOORS FLY OPEN. PENNY RUNS SMACK DAB INTO A LARGE MAN...A ZOMBIE WITH RIPPED, BLOOD SOAKED CLOTHES AND A BLOODY, DISEASED FACE; A KNIFE IS STUCK INTO THE SIDE OF HIS HEAD.

THE ZOMBIE LOOKS DOWN AT A FROZEN PENNY, SMIRKING.

FREDDIE

Loss for words? I have that effect on women.

PENNY SCREAMS TO HIGH HEAVEN AND FAINTS DEAD AWAY, FALLING TO THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF FREDDIE.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Oh...uh. I have that effect on women as well....

5

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - DINING AREA - DAY
(Eva, Freddie, Dwayne, Zotz)

5

WE ARE CLOSE ON PENNY, WHO IS CRYING HER EYES OUT AND BEING CODDLED BY THE STAFF. JACKIE AND FREDDIE STAND TO THE SIDE ALONE LOOKING FUTILE. OUR VIEW OPENS TO REVEAL THE WHOLE GROUP.

EVA

Nice way to welcome the new girl, Zombie Man.

FREDDIE

Hey, sorry. Came straight from today's shoot. At least I didn't threaten her life...Jackie.

JACKIE LOOKS FORLORN.

DWAYNE
(Lamenting)

Mmmm. That's what I need, a good cry.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

"SLAMMED! -- "Fresh Start"

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CONTINUED:

5

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

I haven't cried like that since...this morning.

DWAYNE BEGINS TO GET TEARY AND DASHES OUT OF VIEW. ZOTZ WALKS UP WITH AUTHORITY.

ZOTZ

If the "rain girl" can hold off the downpour for a moment, may we start this meeting?

6

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - DINING AREA - DAY
(Peter, Jackie, Zotz, Cop 1, Robber 1, Freddie)

6

THEY ALL HEAD TO VARIOUS SEATS AS PENNY COLLECTS HERSELF. A FEW APPETIZER PLATES AND CHIP BASKETS SIT HERE AND THERE, SET FOR THE MEETING.

JACKIE SITS NEXT TO PENNY, WANTING TO APOLOGIZE IF HE CAN.

PETER

Yes, very good. Well, as you know, today, after 2 months of reconstruction, we re-open the legendary "Hollywood and Wine!"

PETER CLAPS ENTHUSIASTICALLY. THE REST JOIN IN AT VARYING LEVELS OF EXCITEMENT. JACKIE BARELY CLAPS.

JACKIE

(quietly, to Penny)

Hey, I didn't mean to get you...well, I'm really.... I've been here almost 12 years now, and I guess I just get, frustrated....

PENNY SITS NERVOUSLY.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

For 15 years I have strived to keep
the H&W afloat as a Hollywood "hot
spot." It was rough going, but thanks
to our new Maitre-D', and, my new
partner Mr. Zotz, we are back!

JACKIE PLAYS WITH SOME CHIPS IN A BOWL.

JACKIE

(to Penny)

I'm sure you understand frustration, I
mean...new place, new people...
(with a grin and crazy eyes)
crazy man in the bathroom....

PENNY JUST STARES FORWARD, TRYING TO KEEP HER COMPOSURE.

PETER

So, enough with my babel, here is Mr.

Zotz!

(thumbs up to the group)

Good show folks!

JACKIE HAS SOME CHIPS IN HIS HAND NOW, STARING AT
IT...LOST IN HIS OWN WORLD.

JACKIE

(to Penny)

And like these chips...my life seems
to be crumbling away.

JACKIE BEGINS TO CRUSH HIS CHIPS.

ZOTZ THEATRICALY TURNS AND MOVES TO ADDRESS THE STAFF.
A 50-ISH MAN, DARK AND DETERMINED LOOKING, HE SURVEYS THE
STAFF WITH DAGGER EYES.

(CONTINUED)

ZOTZ

They call me, Mr. Zotz.
(pause for effect)

I am a 7th generation Restaurateur.

THROUGHOUT ZOTZ'S THEATRICAL SPEECH, HE PICKS CRUMBS OFF THE TABLE, ETC., SHOWING HIS METICULOUS NATURE. THE STAFF LOOKS TO ONE ANOTHER, THEN BACK TO ZOTZ.

ZOTZ (CONT'D)

My family's fortune is entirely
invested here. Like my father and his
fathers before him, it is in my blood.

PETER

My, let us hope we don't get any on
the guests.

PETER LAUGHS, GETTING NO RESPONSE. HE LOOKS TO ZOTZ WHO BEATS PETER DOWN WITH HIS STARE. PETER SITS BACK DOWN APOLOGETICALLY.

ZOTZ

I also grow up in movie theater...I
love Hollywood. So, I dream someday,
I come to here and open a restaurant
in this magical place.

THERE IS SUDDENLY SCREAMING FROM OUTSIDE, SOME GUN FIRE AND CRAZINESS.

COP 1 (O.S.)

Get down! GET DOWN NOW!

GUNFIRE, MORE SCREAMS.

ROBBER 1 (O.S.)

Come and get us, pigs!

(CONTINUED)

EVERYONE LOOKS AT ONE ANOTHER. ANOTHER DAY IN HOLLYWOOD. REGAINING THE ATTENTION OF ALL, ZOTZ LOOKS TO EACH OF THE STAFF MEMBERS ONE BY ONE AS HE CONTINUES LOUDLY.

ZOTZ

SOON, we will have guests. Always remember...guests are gold and the money in their pockets, our manna.

THEY ALL LOOK TO ONE ANOTHER, TAKING IN THIS NUGGET OF WISDOM.

LOOKS TO PENNY.

ZOTZ (CONT'D)

(hissing)

Waiters, are dogs...they must be trained. Molded. Beaten!

ZOTZ MOVES ON. THE STAFF LOOKS FEARFUL AND LEERY AS ZOTZ MOVES THROUGH THE ROOM, STOPPING TO LOOK AT EACH OF THEM.

ZOTZ (CONT'D)

But...I will rebuild you, make you better than you were before. Better, stronger, faster!

JACKIE CONTINUES TO CRUSH THE CHIPS.

JACKIE

(still looking into space)

Day after day, order after order.

Will it ever end!

BETWEEN ZOTZ AND JACKIE'S RANTING, PENNY AGAIN BREAKS DOWN AND RUNS TO THE BATHROOM IN TEARS.

FREDDIE, STILL IN FULL ZOMBIE ATTIRE, PICKS UP SOME CHIPS, THEN LOOKS TO THE DIRECTION PENNY RAN. IN THE BACKGROUND WE SEE: JACKIE LOOKING INSANE AND CRUSHING CHIPS, DWAYNE PICKING HIS FEET, SADO' TRIMS A TINY STRING ON HIS COAT WITH HIS GIANT CLEAVER.

(CONTINUED)

FREDDIE

Man...what a freak.

DISSOLVE TO:

7

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - DAY
(Zotz, Sado', Rolo, Peter)

7

A PLATE OF PREPARED CUISINE SITS STEAMING ON THE ORDER RUN. IN IT STICK A VARIETY OF INSTRUMENTS, SUCH AS A THERMOMETER, TESTING STRIPS, PENS, TOOTHPICKS, ETC. AS OUR VIEW OPENS, WE SEE ZOTZ OBSERVING THE PLATE CLOSELY. A FEW OTHER PLATES CAN BE SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND, THE FOOD TOSSED ABOUT OR CORRUPTED IN A VARIETY OF MANNERS.

OPPOSITE ZOTZ, ON THE KITCHEN SIDE OF THE ORDER RUN, STANDS SADO' (SANTIGO), HEAD CHEF FOR THE H&W, GRITTING HIS TEETH. TO HIS SIDE STANDS HIS ASSISTANT CHEF, ROLO WITH A PAD OF PAPER READY TO TAKE NOTES.

ZOTZ PULLS OUT A "JEWELER'S LOUPE" AND FITS IT IN HIS EYE, POKING THROUGH THE FOOD WITH A PEN.

ZOTZ FINISHES AND STANDS. WE ALTERNATE BETWEEN CLOSE-UPS ON BOTH ZOTZ'S AND SADO'S EYES AS THEY STARE EACH OTHER DOWN, "THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY"-TYPE MUSIC PLAYING AS THEY FACE OFF.

FINALLY, ZOTZ SPEAKS.

ZOTZ

It is missing the garnish. The frijoles are overcooked. You have used too much Paprika and not enough Cumin. It is also overcooked by at least one minute.

SADO'
(with quiet resentment)

Is that all, mien Führer?

ZOTZ LOOKS TO SADO' INTENTLY.

(CONTINUED)

ZOTZ

Perhaps you would rather be back with
Princess Cruises, picking the seeds
off strawberries for the denture
crowd?

SADO'S EYES GO RED WITH ANGER.

SADO'

Rolo, kill him. Kill him now.

ROLO LOOKS AT SADO', THEN TO ZOTZ.

ROLO

Qué?

PETER WALKS UP AND STARTS PICKING THROUGH THE PLATES OF
FOOD AND OBJECTS, NIBBLING.

PETER

My, but this is exquisite.

PETER NOTICES THE VARIETY OF OBJECTS STUCK INTO THE FOOD.

PETER (CONT'D)

And such interesting garnishings. Are
we going for a "Saw" meets
"Hellraiser" type thing here?

ZOTZ LOOKS AT PETER, THEN BACK TO SADO', ROLLING HIS EYES
AS HE WALKS AWAY.

SADO' GRABS A KNIFE AND BEGINS ACCENTING WHAT HE SAYS.

SADO'

Mr. Fisher, I cannot...WILL NOT...work
for that, that.....

SADO' BREAKS INTO A LONG, ANGRY PROSE IN SPANISH, HIS
KNIFE PUNCTUATING HIS STATEMENTS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROLO STANDS THERE CALMLY CATCHING FOOD AND OTHER OBJECTS THAT GO FLYING FROM SADO'S RANTS TAKING PLACE OUT OF SHOT.

PETER TRIES TO CALM SADO' DOWN.

PETER

Oh, now Sado'. It can't be that bad.

I'm sure his input was constructive and will make us all better. Did he give you notes?

SADO' AND ROLO BOTH NOD AS ROLO HANDS PETER THE NOTE PAD.

PETER BEGINS TO PAGE THROUGH THE NOTES. HE FLIPS PAGES. MORE PAGES. STILL MORE PAGES. IT IS ENDLESS.

PETER (CONT'D)
(exasperated)

Right, well...good show! Carry on then!

PETER YELLS BACK OVER HIS SHOULDER AS HE EXITS.

PETER (CONT'D)

The show must go on!

SADO'

Si, show must go on....

SADO', ANGRY BUT SUBDUED NOW, BRINGS THE CLEAVER DOWN ON THE BLOCK.

8

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - VARIOUS

8

Montage of final prep shots, foods being cut, tables being set, yelling, breads and/or prep foods coming out of ovens or from the prep line, more yelling, waiters tying one another's aprons on, various machines, signage and items coming on, still more yelling, until finally....

9

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - DINING AREA
(Zotz, Freddie, Eva)

9

(CONTINUED)

THE RESTAURANT IS READY. THE WAITERS JACKIE, ABI, DWAYNE, PENNY AND A FEW OTHERS STAND IN A GOOFY LINE ZOTZ IS TRYING TO GUIDE THEM INTO. EVA IS WORKING WITH A COUPLE BUS BOYS TO FINISH PREPARATIONS.

ZOTZ LOOKS TO THE CLOCK. 3:42PM. 15 MINUTES TO OPEN. ZOTZ LOOKS BACK TO THE LINE.

ZOTZ

15 minutes. Waiters...this is how we will open each night. Remember your places.

ZOTZ LOOKS TO THE OFFICES UPSTAIRS.

ZOTZ (CONT'D)

Mr. Freed, are you ready with tonight's background music?

FROM UPSTAIRS.

FREDDIE

Call me Freddie. Yah, just say when.

ZOTZ GOES TO THE FRONT DOOR AND OUTSTRETCHES HIS ARMS AS IF TO EMBRACE THE CUSTOMERS AWAITING ENTRY. ALL IS QUIET.

ZOTZ

When, Freddie!

CRAZED METAL MUSIC BLASTS FROM THE PA SYSTEM, SHOCKING EVERYONE AND SENDING ZOTZ ALMOST TO THE FLOOR.

FREDDIE

Hey! There's my Merciless Vixens CD!
(pauses)

SORRY! I'll take it out.

Unless...you like it?

(CONTINUED)

ZOTZ
(Blowing his top)

NO! You...! Just, the agreed to
music, please!

AFTER A BEAT, SOME EARLY JAZZ GENTLY ROLLS FROM THE
SPEAKERS. THE WAITERS LOOK PUZZLED AS ZOTZ SMILES AND
WALKS DOWN THE LINE LIKE A DRILL SERGEANT.

ZOTZ (CONT'D)

Are your stations ready? Everything
stocked? Do you know the menu? Or
should I kill myself now?

EACH WAITER NODS IN COMPLIANCE.

ZOTZ (CONT'D)

Remember my little puppies,
aesthetics. It's all about
presentation.

ZOTZ LOOKS TO THEM WITH DISBELIEF, THEN MOVES TO EVA AT
HIS SIDE. THEY TALK AS THEY LEAVE.

ZOTZ (CONT'D)

How is our progress, Eva?

EVA
(Tentatively)

Well, the menus are done and loaded,
the kitchen is prepped and ready....

10

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - MAIN BAR

10

ROGER PEETE STANDS SILENTLY BEHIND HIS BAR, WATCHING THE
CIRCUS UNFOLD. HE LOOKS TO EACH OF THE WAITERS IN LINE,
EACH PERFORMING THEIR "PRE-GAME" RITUAL. JACKIE
PRACTICES HIS COMEDIC DELIVERY OF THE SPECIALS, ABI
SPRUCES HERSELF UP FROM HER REFLECTION IN A TABLE KNIFE,
DWAYNE READS SOMETHING ON HIS PHONE AND LOOKS VERY HURT,
PENNY TRIES TO MEMORIZE MENU ITEMS, AND SO ON.

(CONTINUED)

ROGER SMILES AT IT ALL. BUT NOW STANDING NEXT TO ROGER IS A SMALL YET STOCKY BUSS BOY, TRENT, ALSO SMILING AND MIMICKING ROGER'S STANCE.

ROGER CRACKS THE WHIP ON THE YOUNG MAN.

ROGER PEETE

WHAT THE HELL are you doing boy! Get to it...we got ice bins to fill, glassware to put up, customers to poison...!

TRENT LOOKS BACK AT ROGER WITH DREAD, ROGER JUST SCOTS HIM ONWARDS.

11

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - VARIOUS

11

(Jackie, Phyllis Crawford, Abi, Dwayne, Freddie, Zotz, Roger Peete)

MONTAGE AS THE DOORS OPEN AND WE SEE ZOTZ AND EVA GREETING CUSTOMERS AS THEY ENTER AND ARE SEATED. WAITERS DASH ABOUT ADDING TO OR CHANGING TABLE SETTINGS, BRINGING APPETIZERS, DRINKS, ORDERING AT THE BAR, DROPPING THINGS, ARGUING WITH SADO', UNTIL....

12

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - DINING AREA

12

(Jackie, Phyllis Crawford, Abi)

AN OLDER LADY CALLS FOR A WAITER. IT IS PHYLLIS CRAWFORD, LEGENDARY B-MOVIE ACTRESS FROM THE 40'S TO THE 70'S. NORMA DESMOND HAS NOTHING ON HER. JACKIE ARRIVES.

JACKIE

Well, well, Ms. Phyllis Crawford. You look radiant today. And may I say welcome back?

PHYLLIS CRAWFORD

Thank you, dear boy. I was wondering, the new girl. Is she dangerous?

JACKIE LOOKS TO PENNY. SHE IS MAKING A SALAD AND SNEAKING LOOKS AT PHYLLIS. SHE STOPS WHEN SHE SEES JACKIE WATCHING.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

Well, no. I don't think so, Ms.
Crawford. Is she bothering you?

PHYLLIS CRAWFORD

I've never had a stalker before. My
publicist says I should get one. That
or go into rehab.

JACKIE

(Seeing where this is going)

Do you need anything else, Ms.
Crawford?

PHYLLIS CRAWFORD

Call her over please. If she is going
to be my stalker, I will need to
interview her, of course.

JACKIE

Er...okay. Right away Ms. Crawford.

AS JACKIE TURNS TO LEAVE, PHYLLIS GRABS HIM GENTLY AND
STUFFS A PAPER INTO HIS WAITER'S SMOCK.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Your phone number again, Ms. Crawford?

PHYLLIS CRAWFORD

(Giggles like a little girl)

Oh no, dear boy. You think me a
Jezebel?

THEN, WITH A GAUDY WINK AND LIKE A SECRET....

(CONTINUED)

PHYLLIS CRAWFORD (CONT'D)
(in a deep whisper)

I could rock your world, my little
kosher Casanova.

AS JACKIE WALKS OVER TO PENNY, ABI RUSHES BY WITH AN
ORDER FOR ONE OF HER TABLES.

ABI

Make a hole. Hot stuff!

ABI DARTS TO HER TABLE, A PAIR OF BUS BOYS AND ANOTHER
WAITER GRACEFULLY DODGE AND WEAVE WITH ABI AS SHE PASSES.

A PLATE SLIDES 'INTO HOME' WITH STYLE AND GRACE. THEN
TWO.

ABI (CONT'D)

Dinner...is served.

13

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - MAIN BAR - DAY

13

ABI MOVES TO THE BAR FOR A DRINK ORDER. JACKIE, DWAYNE
AND FREDDIE STAND AT THE BAR WATCHING HER, BLANK AND
EMOTIONLESS.

ABI

What...?

AFTER A BEAT, TOGETHER THEY SAY:

JACKIE
(Over the top)

Dinner...is served.

DWAYNE
(Over the top)

Dinner...is served.

FREDDIE
(Over the top)

Dinner...is served.

THE THREE BREAK INTO SNICKERS.

ABI

Kiss my....

ZOTZ

(Interrupting quickly)

...job goodbye.

(Pauses to keep his cool)

I suggest you get the very part of
your anatomy you were about to expound
upon moving and return to lubricating
our customers.

ABI SCOFFS AT THE GUYS AND GOES TO GRAB HER TRAY, NOW
ALMOST NOSE TO NOSE WITH ROGER.

ABI

(Almost knowing its coming)

What....

ROGER'S FACE IS ALIVE WITH SARCASM.

ROGER PEETE

Drinks...are served.

THE GROUP BUSTS UP LAUGHING, ROGER STAYS STOIC. ABI JUST
STARES AT THE MAN-CHILDREN.

ZOTZ SQUASHES THE MOMENT.

ZOTZ

(Hissing)

Gentlemen! Food is waiting...!

THEY BREAK IT UP. ZOTZ LOOKS TO ABI.

ZOTZ (CONT'D)

And Maverick. No more fly-bys,
please?

ZOTZ LIGHTLY MOCKS ABI'S THEATRICAL DELIVERY OF FOOD TO
HER TABLES AS HE SPEAKS. GIGGLES ARE HEARD IN THE
BACKGROUND.

(CONTINUED)

"SLAMMED! -- "Fresh Start"

26.

13

CONTINUED:

13

ABI TAKES HER TRAY AND HEADS OFF.

DISSOLVE TO:

14

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - KITCHEN

14

(Rolo, Eva, Sado', Zotz, Penny, Peter)

EVA ENTERS THE KITCHEN. ROLO GOES TO HER SIDE AND STANDS. THEN, LIKE SHARING A HUGE SECRET, HE WHISPERS TO EVA.

ROLO

Ms. Eva, we have big problem. Please follow.

ROLO LEADS EVA BACK TO THE PREP-LINE. SADO' STANDS THERE WITH A VARIETY OF EMPTY PREP CONTAINERS.

EVA

What's wrong guys?

SADO'

(Frantic)

Ms. Eva. We have been...robbed!

BOTH SADO' AND ROLO'S FISTS GO TO THEIR MOUTHS IN MOCKED PAIN.

EVA

Robbed? What are you talking about?

SADO'

We had full inventory before we open.

Now...no broccoli, no cauliflower, no

parsley, no tomatoes...half our

vegetables missing. I know no why,

Ms. Eva.

EVA LOOKS AT THE CONTAINERS.

EVA

And you've checked the walk-in?

(CONTINUED)

ROLO

Si, Ms. Eva. It is a mystery!

ZOTZ WALKS UP.

ZOTZ

While I don't wish to interrupt the
Unemployment Benefits meeting, might I
point out that orders are backing up?

THE GROUP LOOKS TO ONE ANOTHER, THEN LETS HIM KNOW.

EVA

Mr. Zotz, we have a problem. It seems
somehow, we have a severe inventory
issue with some of our vegetables.

ZOTZ

Inventory issue?

SADO'

Yes. We have been...robbed.

ROLO

Si...by an evil vegetarian, Mr. Zotz.

SADO' AND ROLO BRING THEIR FISTS TO THEIR MOUTHS AGAIN.
ZOTZ LOOKS TO EACH OF THEM LIKE THEY'RE CRAZY.

ZOTZ

Have you looked everywhere for these
rogue vegetables? Have you checked
our loading dock? Other storage....

AS ZOTZ TALKS, THE GROUP BEGINS TO NOD, LOOK AROUND AND
SUCH. ZOTZ'S VISION SCANS THE RESTAURANT AS HE SPEAKS,
THEN NOTICES SOME OF THE CUSTOMER'S PLATES.

(CONTINUED)

BEAUTIFULLY CONSTRUCTED GARNISHINGS ADORN SOME OF THE GUEST'S PLATES, INTRICATELY BUILT FROM BROCCOLI, CAULIFLOWER AND OTHER VEGETABLES.

THE GROUP BEGINS TO SEE WHAT ZOTZ IS SEEING, THEN ALL EYES FOLLOW ACROSS THE ROOM, OUR VIEW PANNING WITH THEM. THEIR VIEW COMES TO STOP ON PENNY, WHO IS SITTING AT THE KITCHENS PREP COUNTER, BUILDING A LITTLE TEMPLE ON ONE OF HER GUEST'S PLATES. A VARIETY OF FOOD STORAGE CONTAINERS SURROUND HER.

THE GROUP OF THEM, ZOTZ, EVA, SADO' AND ROLO DESCEND UPON PENNY AS IF SHE WERE AN ENEMY TO BE VANQUISHED.

SADO' AND ROLO ARE OVER THE TOP, SADO' BRANDISHING HIS 'SIGNATURE' CLEAVER, ROLO A LONG BAGUETTE LOAF.

ROLO

Put down the vegetables....

SADO'

...and back away from the food containers!

ZOTZ AND EVA PUSH THEM ASIDE AND CONFRONT PENNY, WHO FREEZES, THEN SLOWLY LOOKS OVER TO THEM.

EVA

Penny....

ZOTZ

Are you INSANE?!? What in Wolfgang Puck's name are you doing!?!

PENNY LOOKS TO THEM, THEN TO HER CREATIONS.

PENNY

I...customers...manna...aesthetics... just thought...well, as an artist...I.... Oh, I'm sorry!

AS ZOTZ IS ABOUT TO REEL INTO HER, PENNY WHIPS OUT A SMALL JOURNAL-STYLE NOTEBOOK SHE HAD STASHED ON HER, SITS AND OPENS IT, SCRIBBLING FURIOUSLY ON A PAGE.

(CONTINUED)

EVA

Penny, it's alright. It's just...let
the cooks garnish the plates from now
on.

ZOTZ SLICKS BACK HIS HAIR AND REGAINS HIS COMPOSURE.
SADO' AND ROLO CHECK THE VEGGIE STASH TO SEE WHAT'S
MISSING AS PENNY'S SCRIBBLING CONTINUES.

PENNY

Ya see, my daddy always told me to go
the extra mile, but my mamma always
said to learn from my mistakes.

ZOTZ TRIES TO KEEP HIS COMPOSURE AS HE ADVANCES ON PENNY.

ZOTZ

Ah yes...wise people. Sounds like
people you should be with, like, right
now, at this minute.

EVA SEES THE FIRE IN ZOTZ EYES AND GATHERS UP PENNY.

EVA

Let's, get you back to your station.

ZOTZ

Yes. Before Martha Stewart begins
crafting takeout bags with the table
cloths.

EVA GIVES ZOTZ A "IT'S NOT HER FAULT" LOOK AS SHE LEADS
PENNY BACK TO WAITING. SADO' AND ROLO MOVE SOME OF THE
VEGETABLES BACK TO WHERE THEY BELONG. ZOTZ JUST STANDS
AND STARES.

FROM BEHIND, PETER WALKS UP.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

Ah, here you all are. Brilliant. I was worried. I saw the empty kitchen, the vegetables missing and all...thought possibly some crazed Vegetarian...oh bother. Never mind. I am daft.

ZOTZ JUST STARES AT PETER AS HE LAUGHS AT HIMSELF. PETER GRABS A VEGIE AND TAKES A SAVORY BITE.

PETER (CONT'D)

Mmmm, Mmm! Good vegetables.

PETER WALKS AWAY, SAYING AS HE LEAVES:

PETER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

And superb job with the garnishings...they look lovely!

ZOTZ JUST STARES AHEAD, MURDER ON HIS MIND.

DISSOLVE TO:

15

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - DINING AREA

15

MONTAGE OF PEOPLE BEING SERVED DESERTS, COFFEES, CHECKS, ETC.

DISSOLVE TO:

16

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - MAIN BAR
(Zotz, Roger Peete, Buddy, Abi)

16

A SMALL LINE OF CALCULATORS ARE SET UP AT THE BAR'S END, WORKING AWAY AS THE WAITERS CLOSE OUT THEIR CHECKS.

ROGER SERVES A FINAL 'ROUND' TO BUDDY, A REGULAR AND LAST CUSTOMER AT THE BAR, THEN RETURNS TO FINISH HIS CLOSEOUT. BUDDY, OBVIOUSLY A BIT PLASTERED, WATCHES THINGS PLAY OUT.

(CONTINUED)

ZOTZ WALKS THE LINE AS THE REMAINING WAITERS ARE CASHING OUT.

ZOTZ

That's it...plug away my brood. The
end is nigh.

ROGER PEETE

Can I get an amen brothers?

THE GROUP NEVER BREAKS THEIR STRIDE AS THEY ANSWER IN A
RESOUNDING "A-MEN!"

BUDDY, STILL SITTING AT THE BAR, CHIMES IN.

BUDDY

A (hic) men!

THE GROUP LOOKS AT HIM.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

(Very tipsy)

Oh. My, my...apologies.
(Hic! Looks over at Abi's
bottom)

Well...your end is sure
nigh...ni...nice.

ABI LOOKS TO BUDDY AS EVERYONE SNICKERS AND GIVES HIM A
"F U" LOOK.

ABI

The man of my dreams....

BUDDY GIVES ABI A DRUNKEN SMILE, THEN BURPS A WET LITTLE
BURP. THEY'RE ALL DISGUSTED.

DISSOLVE TO:

17

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - DINING AREA
(Dwayne, Jackie, Gay Man 1, Gay Man 2)

17

JACKIE AND DWAYNE TRY AND FINISH OUT THE LAST COUPLE
DINERS IN THE PLACE. THE TWO GATHER AT THEIR STATION.

(CONTINUED)

DWAYNE

(Sadly)

They seem so...happy.

JACKIE LOOKS TO DWAYNE'S GUESTS, A GAY COUPLE THAT SEEM TO BE DEEPLY IN LOVE. HE THEN NOTICES DWAYNE'S SADNESS AND WILD, STARING EYES.

JACKIE

How dare they, huh?

DWAYNE

Yes. It always begins like this.

Laughing. Joyous. But then...as you

get to know one another, you find out

things. Like, his love for Folgers

coffee. Thinking that Ted is the best

Queer Eye. His love of...*corduroy*.

And then...he walks out of your life,

calling you ridiculous for buying the

Milli Vanilli box set instead of

paying the gas bill. I mean

really...I work at a restaurant...in

LA. Who needs gas!

JACKIE STARES AT DWAYNE WHO IS NEAR TEARS. DWAYNE QUICKLY PULLS HIMSELF TOGETHER AND MOVES TO HIS LAST OCCUPIED TABLE.

DWAYNE FEIGNS HAPPINESS AS HE PICKS UP THE CHECK.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

Thank you. Will there be anything

else.

WITHOUT WAITING FOR AN ANSWER, AS DWAYNE WALKS BACK TO HIS STATION.

(CONTINUED)

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

Coffee, desert...my heart on a dagger?

THE COUPLE LOOKS ODDLY AT DWAYNE AS HE SCOOTs AWAY TO HIS STATION.

JACKIE WALKS BY THE COUPLE AS HE HEADS TO FINISH OFF HIS LAST TABLE. ONE OF THE MEN STOP HIM.

GAY MAN 1

Hey...what's his problem?

JACKIE

He purchased the Milli Vanilli box set.

THE COUPLE SUDDENLY UNDERSTANDS.

GAY MAN 2

My god...that poor man.

DISSOLVE TO:

18

INT. HOLLYWOOD & WINE RESTAURANT - MAIN BAR

18

THE FIRST DAY IS OVER. THE STAFF LINES THE MAIN BAR AS EVA CASHES OUT WAITERS.

JACKIE GOES OVER TO ABI AND FREDDIE WHO ARE CHATTING.

JACKIE

Hey hey! Not bad for the first night back. You guys make any "manna?"

ABI

Yup. Did pretty well. Not to mention 13 pinches, 8 "Hey Babies," 5 phone numbers and 2 "This isn't what I ordered."

(CONTINUED)

FREDDIE

Yah. I got a bunch of pinches and numbers too. OH...and one from a chick!

ABI

Penny? You get some good tips?

PENNY IS COMPLETELY IMMERSSED IN HER 5TH CHECK OF HER CASH OUT. SHE FINDS A PLACE TO STOP HER CALCULATIONS AND TURNS TO THEM.

PENNY

Yes. One tip, from a man that I kinda dripped sauce on, was to get glasses. I showed him I already wore glasses, and he told me to get a life. I told him I've had one since birth. He then told me to get....

ABI

NO! No. I mean...did you *make* tips, gratuities...ya know?

ABI HOLDS UP SOME MONEY TO SHOW HER.

PENNY

Oh. Yes. Sorry. I did make some tips.

OUT RIPS PENNY'S NOTEBOOK. SHE BEGINS TO SCRIBBLE AWAY IN IT.

JACKIE APPROACHES THE GROUP CAREFULLY.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

Uh...you guys going next door to
Benny's later? It's, well, open mike
tonight. I'll be MC'ing
and...well....

ABI

Absolutely Jackie! We'll be there.
(Looks to Freddie)

Right?

FREDDIE

Well...I have this chance to make \$500
bucks for an hour at this lawyer's
party and a date with one of my
agent's Models....

ABI BOXES FREDDIE ON THE ARM. FREDDIE TRIES TO LOOK
CONVINCING.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Yah. Yah man. Count me in. Nothing
really going on tonight anyway....

JACKIE

Cool. The comedy starts at around
10:15. That is, of course, if we ever
get outta....

AS JACKIE TURNS TO WALK AWAY, HE ALMOST RUNS DIRECTLY
INTO ROGER. BEHIND HIM STAND ALL THE BUS BOYS AND
SERVERS, ALL STANDING EXACTLY LIKE ROGER.

ROGER PEETE

That is of course, if you get out of
here...alive.

(CONTINUED)

THE GROUP OF WAITERS IS STARTLED. A BUS BOY QUICKLY MOVES FROM BEHIND THE BAR TO BEHIND ROGER AS JACKIE MOVES BACK TO THE BAR. THE WAITERS GATHER BEHIND JACKIE. IT NOW LOOKS LIKE SOME "WEST SIDE STORY" JETS VS. SHARKS SCENE.

TO THE RIGHT, STAND ALL THE WAITERS, WADS OF TONIGHT'S "MANNA" IN THEIR HANDS. TO THE LEFT ARE ALL THE BUS BOYS & SERVERS, LED BY ROGER.

UP WALKS ZOTS. JACKIE AND ZOTZ SCOFF AT ONE ANOTHER.

ZOTZ

We have something we need to discuss.

JACKIE

What would that be, Apocalypto.

ZOTZ SMILES AN EVIL SMILE, CATCHING THE MAYAN GIB.

ZOTZ

Ahh. It's Mr. Funny Man back again.

Mr. Waiter has left the building, eh?

Seems Mr. Waiter forgot his "TIP OUT!"

WE SEE GASPING FROM A VARIETY OF THE WAITERS AS THE BUS BOYS & SERVERS GROWL AT ZOTZ'S STATEMENT. THE WORDS "TIP OUT" AND "NO! NOT THE TIP OUT!" ARE SOFTLY SPOKEN A FEW TIMES, IN FEAR, BY SOME OF THE WAITERS.

ZOTZ (CONT'D)

We are making some changes to the Tip

Out. It is now mandatory 10% from

every waiter for Tip Pool.

THE WAITERS GO NUTS.

JACKIE

10%!?! Are you crazy!?!

ABI

You'll never get away with this!

(CONTINUED)

FREDDIE

I'd rather die!

PENNY

What's a tip out?

DWAYNE

I'M MAD AS HELL, AND I'M NOT GOING TO

TAKE IT ANYMORE!

EVERYONE STOPS AND JUST STARES AT DWAYNE, WHO REALIZES HIS BEING WAY OVER THE TOP.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)
(Goofy and apologetic)

Er...sorry. Method actors.

THE GROUPS IMMEDIATELY GET BACK TO THE ISSUE

ZOTZ

Ohhh...I know your type. Waiters!

The Restaurant Royalty. How I loathe

thee. My family for generations has

been your beeches. Well...no longer.

It ends here!

THEY BEGINS TO ADVANCE ON ONE ANOTHER.

SUDDENLY, PETER TROTS IN, COMING BETWEEN THE GROUPS, HOLDING BACK ZOTZ AND JACKIE.

PETER

Ladies. Gentlemen. I'm sure there is

an amicable way to settle this. The

Tip Pool is for everyone to benefit

from. The Servers, Bus boys,

dishwashers...and our Hostess.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE LOOKS SHOCKED AND DRAMATICALLY SPINS AROUND, EYES FIXED ON EVA.

JACKIE
(Very Hurt)

But...Eva! I thought you were...one
of us??

EVA

I am...sorry. It...it was the money
Jackie! What could I do?!?

AS EVA SPEAKS, SHE DRAMATICALLY "CROSSES THE LINE" AND STANDS BEHIND ZOTZ.

JACKIE LOOKS THEM ALL OVER, THEN RELENTS.

JACKIE

So. This is how it is eh?

JACKIE LOOKS TO THE OTHER WAITERS WHO SADLY NOD AT VARIED TIMES.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Fine. You have your stinking 10%.

THE LEFT SIDE ERUPTS IN CHEERS AND CELEBRATION, TRIUMPHANT MUSIC PLAYING AS THEY STRUT THEIR NEW FOUND WEALTH.

AS EVA GOES BACK TO CASHING OUT WAITERS, THE BUS BOYS AND SERVERS MARCH OFF SHOUTING "ZOTZ, ZOTZ, ZOTZ!"

DISSOLVE TO:

19

INT. BENNY'S PUB - NIGHT

19

(Jackie, Benny, Penny, Freddie, Abi, Lester)

THE SMALL PUB LOCATED NEXT DOOR TO H&W IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY BENNY O'BANNON, A JOVIAL MAN WHO HAS BEEN AROUND. VARIOUS PATRONS SIT HERE AND THERE.

ABI, DWAYNE, FREDDIE AND PENNY SIT AT A TABLE. JACKIE AND BENNY WALK UP TO LET THEM KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

God...great you guys could make it.

We'll be staring in just a few.

BENNY

Good day, Lads and Lasses. I see

Jackie has brought his entourage.

What will ye be having?

THE GROUP GIVES THEIR DRINK ORDER, EXCEPT FOR PENNY.

BENNY (CONT'D)

(to Penny)

Well aren't you a wee thing. What can

I get you dear?

PENNY

Coke please.

BENNY

Is Pepsi ok Lass?

PENNY

Oh...then a 7-up please.

BENNY

Would Slice be alright dear?

PENNY

Mr. Pibb?

BENNY

Dr. Pepper?

PENNY

Mello Yello?

(CONTINUED)

BENNY

How 'bouts some Mountain Dew?

PENNY FEELS BENNY GETTING A BIT SHORT.

PENNY

Just water please.

BENNY

Sparkling or Mineral?

PENNY DROPS HER HEAD ON THE TABLE. THEY ALL WAIT SILENTLY FOR PENNY'S ANSWER. PENNY KEEPS HER HEAD DOWN.

PENNY

Normal water. Just...water.

BENNY

Brilliant. Coming right up. We have a lot going on tonight. Jackie, you can begin anytime you want.

BENNY GOES OFF TO THE BAR.

FREDDIE

(to Jackie)

Hey man, how long you go? The comedy I mean.

JACKIE

It goes for a bit over an hour. Depends on how many we get up there.

PENNY

You mean anyone can get up there?

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

Well, yah. With open mike, it's basically a free for all. I just kinda keep it all moving.

PENNY

Wow. I have a joke I can tell I guess.

JACKIE

Really. A joke. So, just one joke or...well. What's the joke?

PENNY

Oh. Ok. Right.

SHE STANDS AND PREPARES.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Knock Knock.

JACKIE DIDN'T EXPECT A KNOCK KNOCK JOKE.

JACKIE

Ah. Well, who's there?

PENNY

Me.

AFTER A BEAT, PENNY ERUPTS INTO GIGGLES AND LAUGHTER, OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING HER JOKE AND SITS.

JACKIE JUST LOOKS AT HER.

PENNY (CONT'D)

You can use that if you want.

(CONTINUED)

ABI

Is there anything going on later,
after your show?

JACKIE IS SILENT FOR A MOMENT.

JACKIE

No. Not really. Just a bunch of
karaoke crap I think.

WITH A RESOUNDING VOICE, ADMONISHMENT COMES FROM BEHIND
JACKIE. IT IS LESTER LAMONT, KING OF THE KARAOKE,
DRESSED IN GAUDY, LOUNGE-LIKE ATTIRE. HE MOVES IN AN
ARROGANT, OVER DRAMATIC MANNER.

LESTER

Yes. It begins immediately following
the Comedy crap.

JACKIE SPINS AROUND, COMING FACE TO FACE WITH HIS ARCH
NEMESIS.

JACKIE

Lester LeMont.

LESTER

Jack...oh sorry, Jackie. My old
friend.

THE TWO SQUARE OFF FOR A MOMENT, THEIR FACES CONTORTING
IN SOME KIND OF BIZARRE "EXPRESSION FIGHT."

PENNY

Karaoke?? Oh, I love KARAOKE!

LESTER TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THIS WEAKNESS IN JACKIE'S
ENTOURAGE.

LESTER

Yes, my child. I am Lester. Lester
LeMont.

(CONTINUED)

LESTER BENDS AND KISSES PENNY'S HAND. SHE BLUSHES AND GETS ALL GIDDY.

LESTER (CONT'D)

Once the hour of uncomfortable humor is over, the night truly begins. I hope you, and your friends, will stay.

ABI

Cool!

FREDDIE

You do any Sinatra, or you one of those Elvis only kinda guys?

LESTER TURNS TO LEAVE.

LESTER

The King and the Chairman are both part of my songbook.

WITH THAT, LESTER BEGINS TO STRUT AWAY.

LESTER (CONT'D)
(to Jackie with contempt)

Jackieary? I wish you well on your...comedy.

AND OFF HE GOES. THE GROUP LAUGHS A BIT.

ABI

What the hell was that?

JACKIE

That's *Lester LeMont*. The self proclaimed King of the Karaoke crowd here. He...tasks me.

(CONTINUED)

FREDDIE

Seems like a nice enough guy.

PENNY

Yah. He was sweet.

JACKIE SPINS ON HIS ENTOURAGE WITH WILD EYES.

JACKIE

NO! No. That's just what he wants
you to think. He's evil. Evil I tell
you!

JACKIE BEGINS TO BACK AWAY TO BEGIN HIS SHOW.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

(hissing)

Don't be fooled. He will...eat your
soul!

JACKIE DISAPPEARS AS THE GROUP LOOKS BEWILDERED.

DISSOLVE TO:

20

INT. BENNY'S PUB - NIGHT

20

(Abi, Jackie, Freddie, Dwayne, Lester, Penny)

THE COMEDY IS OVER. A FEW OF THE COMEDIANS ARE GATHERED
AROUND JACKIE, ALL CHATTING AND LAUGHING.

ABI

Jackie?

JACKIE TURNS, SEEING ABI AND FREDDIE.

JACKIE

Hey! So, how was it?

ABI

Great. Really funny. You had some
good people up there.

(CONTINUED)

FREDDIE

Yah man. I forgot how funny you are
dude. I mean, forget about it.

ABI

We are going to head out. Thanks
again for the invite.

JACKIE

Oh, ok. Well, cool. Thanks for
coming. We do this at the same time
every week.

ABI

Cool. See you tomorrow.

ABI AND JACKIE HUG, FREDDIE GIVES JACKIE A SOLID
HANDSHAKE. THEY LEAVE.

JACKIE SCANS THE PUB AND SEES PENNY TALKING TO LESTER AND
HIS SMALL GROUP OF KARAOKE LACKEYS. HE SEES A GLASS IN
FRONT OF HER. IT IS PARRIER

JACKIE

My god. She's drinking sparkling
water now.

DWAYNE

It was bound to happen.

JACKIE TURNS TO FIND DWAYNE SITTING ALONE AT A TABLE. A
GROUPING OF EMPTY FOO-FOO DRINK GLASSES SIT IN FRONT OF
HIM, LITTLE UMBRELLAS EVERYWHERE. LYING ON THE FLOOR
NEXT TO HIM IS A LARGE DUFFLE BAG.

JACKIE SITS.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE

Hey, Dwayne. What the hell is wrong with you. You've been a basket case all day.

DWAYNE IS SILENT FOR A MOMENT; A LITTLE SAD, A LITTLE DRUNK.

DWAYNE

Phillip left me. Or...well. He asked me to leave.

JACKIE

I'm...sorry. You going to be alright?

DWAYNE

Yah. I found a hostel that I can stay in until I find...someplace. The bastard even took the car.

JACKIE

Well, can't you get the police or sue him or something?

DWAYNE

Not really. It was his car.

JACKIE SITS SILENT FOR A MOMENT, STARING AT DWAYNE. A HAND COMES DOWN ON BOTH THEIR SHOULDERS.

LESTER

My, but don't you two look quaint together.

LESTER SEES DWAYNE'S SOLEMN DEMEANOR.

(CONTINUED)

LESTER (CONT'D)

Looks like you got 'em rolling in the
isles, Jackieary.

LESTER ERUPTS IN LAUGHTER, HIS CRONIES FOLLOWING HIM AS
HE HEADS FOR THE STAGE. PENNY FOLLOWS CLOSE BEHIND.

PENNY

You were funny, Jackie. At least, I
think you were. Well, see ya.

PENNY CHASES OFF AFTER LESTER.

JACKIE'S DANDER IS UP AGAIN. HE LOOKS BACK TO DWAYNE,
WHO'S STOIC LOOK HASN'T CHANGED. HE SETTLES DOWN AND
COMES TO A CONCLUSION.

JACKIE

If...if you don't have somewhere to
go, I guess you can.... Well, you can
stay at my place. If you want.

DWAYNE'S FACE CHANGES FOR THE BETTER.

DWAYNE

Are, you serious?

JACKIE

Yah. It's not a huge condo, but it's
about all I have left after my
divorce. I have an extra bedroom I'm
just using for storage right now.

DWAYNE

Oh. Jackie. I don't know what....

JACKIE

Common. Let's go.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE GRABS DWAYNE'S DUFFLE BAG, THEN HELPS DWAYNE UP.
THEY SLOWLY WALK TOWARDS THE EXIT.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

I have 2 kids that come to visit once
a month for a few days. I hope that
won't....

DWAYNE

No, that's fine! You could have Bill
O'Riley and Anne Coulter over and I
wouldn't mind!

JACKIE

Actually, those are my kids!

DWAYNE

Oh, you silly man.

DWAYNE GIVES JACKIE A PLAYFUL LITTLE SLAP ON THE ARM.
JACKIE LOOKS AT DWAYNE, HOPING THIS IS NOT A MISTAKE.

THEY EXIT THE PUB.

FADE TO BLACK