NewsRadio

“Big Day”

#105

Written by
Joe Furey
&
Brad Isaacs
&
Josh Lieb
&
Paul Simms

Directed by
Alan Myerson

SHOOTING DRAFT/1st Rev.
March 21, 1995
TENTATIVE WEEKLY PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

For

NewsRadio

"Big Day"

#105

03/21/95

THIS IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ONLY AND DATES AND TIMES LISTED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME. THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CALL FOR ANY EPISODE OR DATE

Tuesday, March 21, 1995

Crew Call
Camera Rehearsal/Cast Call
Make-Up/Hair
Run-Thru
Make-Up (Con't)
Dinner
Audience Load-In
Cast Touch-Up
Cast Read Thru
Shoot Episode 105
Pick Ups

Stage 9

213-993-7322

11:42 AM
12:00 Noon
2:00 PM
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
6:00 PM
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM
6:30 PM
7:00 PM
After Audience Release
"NewsRadio"
Shooting Draft/1st Rev. - 3/21/95

#105

CAST

DAVE ........................................... DAVE FOLEY
JIMMY ............................................. STEPHEN ROOT
LISA ............................................. MAURA TIERNEY
MATTHEW ......................................... ANDY DICK
BETH ............................................... VICKI LEWIS
CATHERINE ....................................... KHANDI ALEXANDER
JOE ................................................ JOE ROGAN
and
BILL ............................................... PHIL HARTMAN

---------------------------------------------

GUY ............................................ ALBIE SELZNICK
DELIVERY GUY ................................. JOE WEIN
“NewsRadio”

#105

Shooting Draft/1st Rev. - 3/21/95

SETS

INTERIORS

BROADCAST BOOTH (D)
BULLPEN (D)
CONFERENCE TABLE (D)
DAVE'S OFFICE (D)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SCENES</th>
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<td>I/A</td>
<td>INT. BULLPEN - MORNING</td>
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<td>(Joe, Dave, Matthew, Beth, Bill, Lisa, Guy)</td>
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<td>I/B</td>
<td>INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - LATER</td>
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<td>INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS</td>
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<td>INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS</td>
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<td>INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS</td>
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<td>(Dave, Lisa, Joe, Catherine, Beth, Matthew)</td>
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<td>(Dave, Matthew, Beth)</td>
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<td>INT. CONFERENCE TABLE-CONTINUOUS</td>
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<td>(Dave, Lisa, Bill, Matthew, Beth, Joe, Catherine, Jimmy)</td>
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ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. BULLPEN - MORNING
(Joe, Dave, Matthew, Beth, Bill, Lisa, Guy)

Dave enters from the elevator foyer. He stops at the coffee machine and pours himself a cup of coffee. Joe walks up and gets some coffee.

JOE
Morning, chief.

DAVE
Morning, Joe.

JOE *
So... big day tomorrow, huh? You stoked?

DAVE
What?

JOE *
"Stoked." It's a slang expression that means excited.

DAVE
Thanks, Joe. But "stoked" about what?
JOE
The big day tomorrow.

DAVE
Oh. (CONFUSED) But what's so big about...

Joe walks away. Matthew walks up.

MATTHEW
Big day tomorrow, huh?

DAVE
So I've heard.

MATTHEW
You nervous?

DAVE
Actually, I'm not so sure what's so big about--

MATTHEW
I get so nervous before the big day.

DAVE
Really?

MATTHEW
Oh yeah.

DAVE
What's so big about--

MATTHEW
I don't even want to talk about it.

It's making me too nervous.

Matthew walks away. Beth walks up and hands Dave a clipboard.
BETH
Here's your phone sheet, boss.

DAVE
What's tomorrow, Beth?

BETH
May 15th.

DAVE
And what's special about May 15th?

BETH
It's the big day.

Beth walks away. Bill walks up.

BILL
Morning, chief.

DAVE
Big day tomorrow, huh?

BILL
What's so big about it?

DAVE
You know... big day. Tomorrow. Tomorrow's the big day. May 15th?

BILL
You're going to have to give me a little more to go on, here...

DAVE
Actually, I'm not so sure myself, but I thought you might--
BILL

(REALIZING) Hey. You're right.

Tomorrow is the big day. Thanks for reminding me.

Bill walks away. Lisa is sitting at her desk.

LISA

(WITHOUT LOOKING AT DAVE) Give up?

DAVE

Yes.

LISA

Tomorrow -- May 15th -- is the day Jimmy gives us all our annual bonuses.

DAVE

Oh. That is a big day.

LISA

That's the kind of thing the news director should know about, Dave.

DAVE

Well, I'm learning as I go along.

LISA

You've had two months.

DAVE

Thanks for your patience.

LISA

Anytime.

A guy wanders up to get a cup of coffee.
DAVE
Big day tomorrow, huh?

GUY
What's so big about it?

DAVE
You know -- May 15th. Mr. James hands out the annual bonuses.

GUY
You don't say.

DAVE
Yep.

GUY
Who's Mr. James?

A beat.

DAVE
You don't work here, do you?

GUY
Only when the copy machine breaks down.

The guy exits. A beat.

DAVE
(WITHOUT LOOKING) You enjoyed that, didn't you?

LISA
I certainly did.

CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS
ACT ONE

SCENE B

FADE IN:

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE/BULLPEN/DAVE'S OFFICE/BULLPEN/DAVE'S OFFICE - LATER

(Joe, Dave, Lisa, Beth, Jimmy, Bill, Matthew)

Dave is at his desk. Joe is helping him with his laptop.

JOE

See, then you just click on "Open File," and then select the name, and voila.

DAVE

Well. That's really something.

JOE

Yeah. And if you get a fax modem, you can download these directly into your own computer.

DAVE

Thanks, Joe. But I have to confess, I'm not much of an aficionado of computer pornography.
JOE

Me neither. It's the technology that
fascinates me.

* They both tilt their heads.

DAVE

Uh-huh. And if I click on this
button I can erase the file?

JOE

No, if you click on that button her
legs move.

DAVE

So they do...

* Lisa enters. Joe snaps the laptop shut.

JOE *

(CROSSING) I'll be back later to run
a diagnostic check on that, Dave, if
you know what I mean.

DAVE *

I don't, Joe. And thank you.

* Joe exits. Lisa closes the door. Dave and Lisa kiss.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Can I ask you a favor?

LISA

Personal or professional?

DAVE

Both. Can you stop wearing my jacket when
you go out to get the paper in the morning?
LISA

How is that professional?

DAVE

Well, you get your perfume all over it, and I'm just afraid if I walk around all day smelling like you, people are going to get suspicious.

LISA

Let me see...

Lisa sniffs the lapel of Dave's jacket. Beth enters.

BETH *

Oh, is that you, Lisa?

DAVE

Don't you ever knock?

BETH

Nope. And neither does Mr. James.

Who's right behind me.

DAVE

How are we?

Beth examines Dave and Lisa.

BETH *

(TO DAVE) Lipstick right there. (TO LISA) Bra straps showing. Just kidding.

Beth exits just as Jimmy enters.

BETH (CONT'D) *

Morning, Mr. James.
JIMMY *
Morning, Beth.

LISA
Morning, Jimmy.

JIMMY *
Nice perfume.

DAVE/LISA *
Thank you.

Lisa exits.

JIMMY
Sweet girl, isn't she?

DAVE
Yes, she is.

JIMMY
You got a thing for her?

DAVE
Of course not.

JIMMY
Good. Don't dip your pen in company ink, that's what I always say.

DAVE
I hear you, sir.

JIMMY
Don't punch the clock with the timecard in your pants. Know what I'm saying?
DAVE
I said I heard you, sir.

JIMMY *
Just checking. Anyway... (LOOKS AT
LAPTOP) You know, these come in
color, Dave.

DAVE *
So, big day tomorrow.

JIMMY *
Exactly. Big day. You stoked?

DAVE
I guess so. And you?

JIMMY
I'm miserable, Dave. Figuring out
the annual bonuses is pure hell.

DAVE
Why?

JIMMY *
Because you have to take a living,
breathing human being and put a
price on his head. It's the devil's
work, Dave. Bad hoo-doo.

DAVE
Sounds like it.

JIMMY
Yep. It used to be the hardest part
of my job.
DAVE
Oh? What changed?

JIMMY
I made it the hardest part of your job.

DAVE
When did you do that?

JIMMY
Just now.

DAVE
Thank you, sir.

Bill enters.

BILL
Hello, Jimmy.

JIMMY *
Hello, Bill. (Beat) Boy, that Lisa's perfume really lingers, don't it?

BILL *
Is that what that smell is?

DAVE *
Actually, that smell is the stuff they use to clean the carpets.

BILL
Jimmy? Can I borrow Dave for a second?

JIMMY *
Sure. If you need me in the next forty-five seconds, you know where I'll be.
In the can. Yeah.

Jimmy, Bill and Dave exit into the bullpen.

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Bill and Dave enter and walk to Bill's desk. A coffee cup and a half-eaten Danish are on the desk.

BILL

I just have a few questions for you, chief.

DAVE

Okay.

BILL

Whose desk is this?

DAVE

(BEAT) It's yours, Bill.

BILL

Right. And whose stapler is this?

DAVE

Bill...

BILL

Humor me, Dave. Whose stapler is this?
(RELUCTANTLY) Yours.

BILL

And this tape roll?

DAVE

Yours. Bill, why --

BILL

Ah ah ah, Dave. Now, whose coffee cup is this?

DAVE

Yours.

BILL

That's where you're wrong. This is not my coffee cup. Nor is this my (PICKS UP DANISH DISTASTEFULLY) whatever-the-hell-this-is.

DAVE

I didn't put them there, Bill.

BILL

And I'm not accusing you. But recently my desk seems to have become a public dumping ground for half-eaten food.

Dave throws the coffee and Danish in the trash can and walks back towards his office. Bill follows.
DAVE

Look, Bill -- you're hardly ever at your desk, it's in a high traffic area, I'm sure it was an accident. Why don't you just throw them away and forget about it?

BILL

And what happens the next time I find a cup of that and one of those on my desk?

DAVE

Throw them away and forget about it.

BILL

And the next time?

DAVE

Throw them away and forget--

BILL

I think I've made my point.

DAVE

Bill, you're being paranoid. And annoying.

BILL

Am I, Dave? Am I?

Bill turns around and gestures to Dave. There's another cup of coffee and half-eaten Danish on his desk.

BILL (CONT'D)

It's like some cruel magic trick.

Jimmy enters from the hallway and crosses over.
Dave? Your office, please.

Dave and Jimmy exit into Dave's office. A guy walks towards Bill's desk, holding a coffee cup and eating a bagel.

BILL
Just keep moving. Step away from the desk and keep moving.

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dave and Jimmy enter.

JIMMY
I've got a few guidelines I'd like you to follow with these bonuses.

* Dave grabs a notepad.

JIMMY (CONT'D) *
(HANDS HIM A PEN) Here you go.

DAVE *
Thanks. (LOOKS AT PEN) Tessio Brothers Incorporated?

JIMMY *
Just a little company I do business with.

DAVE *
What do they do?

JIMMY *
They make pens. Anyway, Dave, I like to give everyone a bonus of four hundred dollars.
DAVE

(WRITING) Four hundred dollars. That sounds easy enough...

JIMMY

Except for one person, who gets a bonus of three thousand dollars.

DAVE

Three thousand dollars?

JIMMY

Yep. Three fat Louie's. Or as I call it "The big bonus." It's a great motivator.

DAVE

You're very generous, sir.

JIMMY

Thank you. I also like to give one person a bonus of zero dollars.

DAVE

Zero dollars?

JIMMY

Yep. Zero dollars. Or as I call it, "the shaft." That's an even better motivator.
Dave
Okay. The standard four hundred part is great. But the big bonus and the shaft... it just seems like those are only going to create an atmosphere of paranoia and fear in the office.

A beat. Jimmy smiles.

Dave (Cont'd)
Oh. I see...

Jimmy *
So you figure out who gets what, and then I'll hand out the bonuses. But don't tell anyone you're making the decisions. I don't want everyone getting ticked off at you.

Dave *
Thank you, sir.

Jimmy *
Don't mention it. To tell the truth, I like playing the devil. I just don't like doing the paperwork. Now, if you need me in the next two minutes, I'll be...

Dave *
In the can?
JIMMY *


* Jimmy dials his cellular phone.

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

* Dave exits his office. Matthew is sitting at the conference table.

MATTHEW

Did Mr. James drop any hints about who's getting the shaft this year?

DAVE

That... hasn't been figured out yet, Matthew.

MATTHEW *

Well, it better not be me, I can tell you that.

DAVE

I take it you've gotten the shaft before.

MATTHEW

Three times. I've worked here three years and I have been thrice shafted. It does not feel good, my friend.

DAVE

I can imagine.

Jimmy walks out of the office, talking on his cellular phone. Jimmy is pacing around with the phone, trying to find the right spot.
JIMMY

(ON CELL PHONE) Hang on. Hang on.


As soon as Jimmy hangs up the phone, Matthew picks up a clipboard and starts talking to Dave, a little loudly.

MATTHEW *

David? I just wanted to clear my live spots with you, because I have so many of them today. Hi, Mr. James.

JIMMY *

Matthew.

DAVE

I already cleared these yesterday, Matthew.

MATTHEW

Okay, as you'll see, I'll be busy, busy, busy at the Pataki press conference, then vroom... over for a thirty second interview with the public schools chancellor--

DAVE

Matthew. I know.
MATTHEW

Then after work, which is nothing new to me, I’m going to get more bites for the taxi commission piece--

JIMMY

Dave, I gotta go. We’ll talk later.

MATTHEW *

Matthew the workaholic. That’s what they call me. I’d better slow down. My heart might burst.

Jimmy exits.

DAVE

Matthew, what are you doing?

MATTHEW *

Trying to look busy in front of Mr. James. I’m just worried that he notices the way I always come in late and leave early.

DAVE *

You do?

MATTHEW *

Don’t tell him, David. I can’t take the shaft again.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

Matthew picks it up.
MATTHEW (CONT'D)


Matthew hands the phone to Dave.

DAVE

(INTO PHONE) Hello? Hi, Bill.

Dave turns and sees Bill in the booth, talking to him on the phone.

DAVE (CONT’D)

(INTO PHONE) What? Okay, I’ll take care of it...

Dave hangs up the phone and turns towards Bill’s desk, where a GUY is eating a big plate of take-out spaghetti.

DAVE (CONT’D)

(TO GUY) Excuse me. Would you mind not eating that there?

The guy shrugs and picks up his lunch to move over to the conference table. While picking up the spaghetti, he spills it all over Bill’s desk.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

Matthew picks it up.

MATTHEW

(INTO PHONE) Matthew’s desk.

DAVE *

(TO MATTHEW) Tell him I’m not here.

* Dave crosses back to his office.
MATTHEW *

(INTO PHONE) He stepped away. No, I don't know where he went...

DISSOLVE TO:
ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. BULLPEN/DAVE'S OFFICE/BULLPEN/BROADCAST BOOTH - LATER
(Bill, Joe, Matthew, Jimmy, Beth, Dave, Delivery Boy)

Matthew is writing at his desk. Joe is fixing something at another desk. Bill is pouring coffee. He glances over at Matthew.

BILL

Say, Joe, who's the black private dick that's a sex machine for all the chicks?

JOE

Why, Bill, I think that's Shaft.

BILL

(CROSSING) And who's the cat that won't cop out when there's danger all about?

JOE *

Again, Bill, that would be Shaft.

BILL

Damn right.
They say that cat Shaft is one bad mother--

MATTHEW

Shut up, you guys!

Jimmy enters on this.

JIMMY

What's going on here?

BILL

We're just talking about Shaft.

Jimmy crosses to Dave's office.

JIMMY

(ON HIS CROSS) I can dig it.

Camera follows Jimmy to Dave's door.

MATTHEW (O.S.)

You guys are so mean!

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy enters. Beth jumps up.

JIMMY

As you were, Beth.

Beth lies back down on the couch.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

No, I mean as you were before you decided to lie down for a nap.

BETH *

Sorry, sorry, sorry...
JIMMY

I'm just teasing, sweetie.

BETH

Oh.

Beth lies back down.

JIMMY

But I wasn’t teasing that much.

BETH *

Sorry, sorry, sorry...

Beth stands and exits.

DAVE

Thanks for coming over, Mr. James.

JIMMY

Anytime. (SNIFFS) That perfume smell is really troubling me.

DAVE *

It really is the stuff they use to clean the carpets.

JIMMY

I know. But it’s kind of turning me on. That’s what troubles me.

DAVE *

I’d like to talk about the bonuses.

JIMMY *

You gonna give Matthew the shaft? I like the way you think, Dave.
DAVE *
I'd rather not give anyone the shaft, sir.

JIMMY *
You got to. It's the great motivator. It's all about motivation, Dave.

DAVE *
But--

JIMMY
I didn't used to think motivation was important. But then I got involved in some motivational seminars that really changed my life.

DAVE
That surprises me, sir. You don't really seem like the kind of person who would attend those.

JIMMY
I'm not. I put them together. Pack a few hundred suckers into a motel ballroom, hire some out-of-work actor to paraphrase the opening scene from "Patton," charge five hundred bucks a pop... boom -- Bob's your uncle.
DAVE *
Sir, what I'd really like to do is:
get rid of the big bonus -- and the
shaft -- and give everyone an equal
bonus.

JIMMY *
Then how you going to motivate
people? Bzzz. Time's up.

DAVE
I'd really rather--

JIMMY
Bzzz. Time's up again, Dave.

DAVE
Sir, why are you doing--

JIMMY
Bzzz, Dave. That was the final
buzzer. This game is over.

Jimmy exits. Dave follows.
INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

From the booth, Bill tosses pencils at the window and gestures for Dave to come inside.

INT. BROADCAST BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Dave enters the booth quietly.

BILL

(ON-AIR) ... has been rejuvenated by higher newsstand sales and increases in ad revenue. WNYX Newstime: 11:46.

(OFF-AIR) Dave, I’d like to talk to you about...

Bill drifts off, looking out into the bullpen towards Bill’s desk.

DAVE

Bill, will you relax?

BILL

It’s that guy with the beard. He’s been circling my desk all morning, just waiting for me to turn my back.

DAVE

Look. See? He walked away.

BILL

He knew I was watching.

DAVE

Is this what you wanted to talk to me about?
BILL

No. I just wanted you to tell Jimmy that three thousand isn't going to be enough for me this year.

DAVE

Pardon me?

BILL *

The big bonus. The one Jimmy gives me almost every year because of my consistent level of excellence. I mean--

Bill abruptly stops and looks towards the person hovering around his desk.

BILL (CONT'D)


DAVE

(MOVING OFF) I've got work to do, Bill.

BILL *


Bill looks towards his desk. He walks over to it. There are two big greasy bags of Chinese delivery food sitting on his desk.

BILL (CONT'D)

Who did this? Whose food is this?

A DELIVERY BOY walks up.
BILL (CONT'D)

This desk is not a steam table, okay? Whose food is this?

DELIVERY BOY

(LOOKING AT RECEIPT) Bill McNeal.

BILL

(EMBARRASSED) Oh. Right. Do you have change for a fifty?

END OF ACT ONE
LISA *
Positive. He'll do it to make up for the fact that he passed me over and gave you the job that was rightfully mine.

DAVE *
Of course. (BEAT) Lisa, you know how we've always said our relationship is based on complete and total honesty?

LISA *
Except for the fact that we sneak around and lie to our friends and co-workers about it on a daily basis? Sure...

DAVE *
There's something I have to tell you. Jimmy's not deciding the bonuses this year. I am.

LISA *
Great.

DAVE *
I just don't want this to cause trouble for us, relationship-wise.
LISA *
I'm sure it won't. I don't really care who's giving me the big bonus, as long as I'm getting it. (BEAT) I am getting it, right?

DAVE *
Well, I do have to consider everyone...

LISA *
(PISSED) I don't believe this...

* Lisa exits.

DAVE *
Lisa? Could we just talk about this?

Dave starts to follow, but Joe enters.

JOE *
Dave? I've got a problem. You gotta help me out.

DAVE *
I'm actually in the middle of something, Joe.

* Joe closes the door.

JOE *
It's serious, Dave. My Mom is really sick and... well... could you just let Mr. James know about that before he decides the bonuses.
Sure, Joe. Is she going to be okay?

We’ll see. Just make sure Jimmy knows about that.

Joe, with all due respect, I’m not sure if that’ll affect Jimmy’s bonus decision.

Of course it will. Jimmy’s not that cold-blooded. There was something else I wanted you to tell him. What was it? (LAUGHS) Oh, yeah...

What?

Somewhere on this floor there’s a switch that controls all the power to the station.

What’s funny about that?

I don’t know. It just makes me giggle. You know what’s even funnier?
DAVE

What's that?

JOE

I'm the only one who knows where the switch is.

DAVE

Joe, I'm new to these parts, but where I come from we call that a threat.

JOE *

Yeah? And?

DAVE *

Are you sure you want me passing along a threat to Mr. James?

JOE *

Either that or the thing about my mom. Whichever you think will work better.

DAVE *

Joe? What's your mother sick with?

JOE *

I haven't figured that out yet. Got any suggestions?

DAVE *

I'll get back to you on that, Joe.

* Dave exits into the bullpen.
INT. SWING - CONTINUOUS

* Dave tracks Lisa down at the coffee station.

DAVE (CONT’D) *

Come on, Lisa. Put yourself in my shoes. I really need your help with this one.

LISA *

(COLD) Why should I help you decide who’s going to get my bonus?

DAVE *

(SOTTO) I haven’t even decided it’s definitely not you yet.

LISA *

(SOTTO) Thank you. That’s very encouraging.

* Joe passes by.

JOE *

Hey, guys.

Dave and Lisa put forced smiles on.

DAVE/LISA

Hi, Joe.

DAVE

(SOTTO) Look, I know you deserve the big bonus. But considering that you and I are dating--

LISA *

(SOTTO) No one knows we’re dating.
D 

(SOTTO) Beth knows.

LISA

(SOTTO) Beth can be dealt with.

DAVE

(SOTTO) Oh, that's great. So, I suppose eventually we'll have to whack the entire staff.

Catherine exits the booth and passes them on the way to the hallway.

CATHERINE *

Hi, Dave. Hi, Lisa.

DAVE/LISA *

(FORCED SMILES) Hi, Catherine.

LISA (CONT'D) *

(SOTTO) This is wonderful. I'm the first person in the history of business to sleep their way to the bottom of the ladder.

*Beth passes by, leaving a pizza slice on Bill's desk.

BETH *

Hey you guys.

DAVE/LISA *

(FORCED SMILES) Hey.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(SOTTO) I thought we agreed not to let our personal lives interfere with our professional lives.
LISA *

That was before I realized I'm getting screwed because I'm--

Matthew approaches.

MATTHEW *

Hi, you guys.

DAVE

Oh, shut up, Matthew.

Dave walks off.

MATTHEW

Did Mr. James give him the shaft?

LISA

No.

MATTHEW

Shoot.

* Joe crosses by.

JOE *

John Shaft.

Matthew walks off towards Dave's office.

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Matthew closes the door.

DAVE *

Alright, Matthew. What do you want me to tell Mr. James for you? No, no -- let me guess. You need an operation of some kind?
MATTHEW *
I don't need you to tell Mr. James anything. Because I'm going to go do it myself.

DAVE *
Matthew, don't do that.

MATTHEW *
I am going downtown to his office.

DAVE *
No, Matthew...

MATTHEW *
I'm going to march right in and tell him to his face that if I get the shaft again there is going to be trouble.

DAVE *
Oh, Matthew. What kind of trouble?

MATTHEW
(THROWING TISSUE) Big trouble. You know, I don't get mad that often, but when I do it means trouble.

DAVE
Matthew, you don't want to do that. Mr. James doesn't seem like the kind of man who tolerates violent outbursts.
MATTHEW

I've reached my breaking point.
Dave. I am now officially on a rampage. (THROWS A CUSHION) Do you have a subway token I could borrow?

DAVE

Matthew, if you can put that rampage on hold for a few minutes I'm going to call a staff meeting.

Matthew straightens the pillow and exits. Dave walks to the door and leans out to Beth, who's on the phone with her feet up on her desk.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Beth? Could you get everyone around at the conference table?

BETH

Sure.

Dave walks back into his office.

BETH (CONT'D) (O.C.)

Hey, everyone! Dave wants to have a meeting at the conference table!

No reaction.

DAVE

Tell them it's about the bonuses.

BETH (CONT'D) (O.C.)

It's about the bonuses!

We hear the RUMBLE of everyone moving towards the conference table quickly.

Dave exits his office.
INT. CONFERENCE TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is gathered around the table. Dave enters from his office.

DAVE
Let's all settle down. Lisa, would you like to take a seat?

LISA
(DEFIANTLY) No, Dave, I wouldn't.

DAVE *
Fine. I think we need to discuss the bonus situation.

BILL *
Dave, before you continue, I just want to say I'm one hundred percent behind whatever decisions Mr. James makes, re: the bonuses.

DAVE *
Relax, Bill. Jimmy isn't even in the building.

BILL *
Oh. Then why are we pretending to have a meeting?

DAVE *
Because Jimmy's not giving out the bonuses this year. I am.
BILL *
Dave, before you continue, I just want to say I'm one hundred percent behind whatever decision you make--

DAVE *
Thank you, Bill.

MATTHEW
Please don't give me the shaft, David.

DAVE *
Matthew, I don't want to give anyone the shaft. Now we can't tell Jimmy about this, but here's what I'd like to do. I propose we pool all the bonuses and then divide them equally amongst us.

A beat.

BETH
So everyone gets an equal bonus.

DAVE
Right.

MATTHEW
And no one gets the shaft.

DAVE
No one gets the shaft.

MATTHEW
Well, I think this idea is a winner!
DAVE
Thanks, Matthew.

BILL
This idea is both fair and democratic.

DAVE
I think so.

BILL
And I want no part of it. It reeks of communism. It penalizes the person who deserves the big bonus, and -- speaking as that person -- I can't support it.

DAVE
But what if you don't get the big bonus, Bill?

BILL
I'll take my chances.

LISA
Me, too.

JOE
Me, too.

BETH
Me, too.

DAVE
Well, thank you all for your honesty, not to mention your sickening greed.
Catherine exits the booth.

DAVE (CONT'D) *

Catherine, you might want to join us for this.

CATHERINE

What's going on?

DAVE

I'm deciding the bonuses.

CATHERINE *

Oh. Do you really need me for this? I have three minutes, I sort of wanted to get some fresh air.

DAVE

Last chance to get your two cents in...

CATHERINE

Hmm. (THINKS) I guess I don't really have any opinion on this.

DAVE

Congratulations, Catherine. You get the big bonus.

BILL

Oh, come on...

JOE

That's a waste of the big bonus. She doesn't even care about it.

DAVE

Exactly.
CATHERINE
The big bonus? Is that good?

DAVE
Yes, it is.

MATTHEW
And who gets the shaft?

DAVE
I'll take the shaft, just to make the rest of you feel guilty.

MATTHEW
God bless you, David.

DAVE
Everyone else, standard bonuses.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Dave exits into his office.

CATHERINE
So, what's the big bonus, you guys?

BILL
You can drop it, Cathy. He's gone.

CATHERINE
Sorry, gang. You just have to know how to play the game.

From the hallway, we hear...

JIMMY (O.C.)

(DOING BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH) Bum-Bum-

Bum - Bummmmmmm!

Everyone looks up, startled. Jimmy swaggers in.
JIMMY (CONT'D)

(TO ROOM, BIG SMILE) Here comes the bonus-man. The day of judgment is upon us... Bum-Bum-Bum-Bummmm!

No reaction.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

It's Armageddon time, people. Helter Skelter's comin' down!

Jimmy sees that no one is paying him any attention and gives up. Dave enters from his office and crosses to Jimmy.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Dave, what the hell's the matter with these people? Today is the big day, isn't it?

DAVE

I already gave out the bonuses, sir.

JIMMY *

Why'd you go and do a thing like that, Dave? Who died and made you satan?

DAVE

It's a long story, sir.

JIMMY *

So who got the big bonus?

DAVE

Catherine.
And who got the shaft?

Me.

I wish you'd checked with me on that one, Dave. I usually like to give Matthew the shaft.

Why is that, sir?

He doesn't need a bonus. I pay him more than any of these people.

Why?

To make up for the fact that he always gets the shaft. (SOTTO) What kind of bonus did you give Joe?

The standard four hundred.

All the power in the station goes off.

Well, that's another one I wish you'd checked with me on.

* The lights come back on.
JIMMY (CONT'D) *

Oh good. I guess we can consider that a warning. Give Joe an extra three hundred.

DAVE *

Consider it done.

JIMMY *

And while you're at it, give Lisa the big bonus.

DAVE *

I already gave that to Catherine.

JIMMY *

Give another one to Lisa. She deserves it. And give Beth another hundred and fifty or so.

DAVE *

Mr. James, are there any of my bonus decisions you agree with?

JIMMY *

What did you give yourself again?

DAVE *

The shaft.

JIMMY *

Good work. Gave yourself something to aim for next year. I gotta'go.

* Dave wanders over by Bill's desk. Bill walks up.
BILL *

Dave, I think you and I need to have a serious talk.

DAVE *

Now is not the time, Bill. Trust me.

BILL *

(IGNORING HIM) I've asked you to do something about the clutter on my desk, and yet you refuse...

* Dave -- very calmly -- sweeps everything on Bill's desk onto the floor.

DAVE *

Is that better?

BILL *

(TAKEN ABACK) Maybe we should talk about this another time.

DAVE *

Maybe we should.

* Bill walks back towards the booth. Dave turns around and looks at Bill's desk. Another coffee cup and half-eaten Danish have magically appeared.

DAVE (CONT'D) *

Wow.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO