

SING

Written by  
Garth Jennings

Illumination Entertainment  
2230 Broadway,  
Santa Monica,  
CA 90404,  
United States  
(310) 593-8800

THIS MATERIAL IS THE PROPERTY OF ILLUMINATION ENTERTAINMENT AND IS INTENDED AND RESTRICTED SOLELY FOR ILLUMINATION PERSONNEL. DISTRIBUTION OR DISCLOSURE OF THIS MATERIAL TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS IS PROHIBITED. THE SALE, DISPLAY, COPYING OR REPRODUCTION OF THIS MATERIAL FOR ANY REASON IN ANY FORM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DIGITAL OR NEW MEDIA, IS ALSO PROHIBITED.

1

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

1

The sound of an orchestra tuning up.

Tilt down from twinkling stars to reveal the most beautiful old theatre in a street heaving with life...

...But not human life. This is a city inhabited entirely by animals.

We glide under the illuminated marquee and through the doors into a grand foyer, where the very last patrons hurry to their seats...

2

INT. THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

2

The ornate house lights dim... Voices hushed.

The music starts. The orchestra is loud and dramatic.

BACKSTAGE: A lever is pulled... A sandbag drops from the rafters...

STAGE MANAGER

Places, everyone!

A stage light turns on and points towards the stage. A MONKEY stands in the wings and pulls tightly on a rope. The Curtain opens, revealing a stage set resembling an enchanted wood.

FROM THE WINGS we see the back of a FEMALE SHEEP (NANA NOODLEMAN) in a stunning purple dress and a tiara waiting to go on stage. STAGE HANDS adjust the train of her gown.

Nana's shoulders rise and fall as she takes a last breath before stepping out.

As NANA raises her face into the spotlight she sings "Golden Slumbers" by the Beatles.

NANA

*ONCE THERE WAS A WAY TO GET BACK  
HOMEWARD. ONCE THERE WAS A WAY TO GET  
BACK HOME SLEEP PRETTY DARLING DO NOT  
CRY. AND I WILL SING A LULLABY...*

The camera turns away from the stage to view the audience...

BUSTER (V.O.)

This was it. The moment it all began.  
The moment an ordinary little guy fell  
in love with the theatre...

... We find an adorably scruffy little koala - BUSTER MOON - sitting with his FATHER in the balcony. His father pulls him up onto his knee. Buster's eyes are wide, enthralled.

BUSTER (V.O.)  
... Everything about it; the lights, the way the scenery moved, even the smell.

BUSTER (V.O.)  
He was only 6 years old but his plans to become the first koala bear in space were suddenly toast.

Buster's father delights in his son's response to the show.

DISSOLVE TO:

3

EXT. MOON THEATRE FOYER - DAY

3

CLOSE UP: Young adult BUSTER and his FATHER.

We pull back to reveal Buster about to cut a ribbon in the theatre foyer. His FATHER stands proudly next to him and a photo is taken - freezing the action in a PHOTO.

BUSTER (V.O.)  
Some folks may have said he grew up to be the greatest showman this city has ever seen, some called him a visionary, a maverick...

The camera continues to pull wider to reveal the PHOTO hangs on a wall amongst posters for theatre productions.

BUSTER (V.O.)  
Sure, some folks said he was as crazy as he was stubborn, but I say "Wonder and magic don't come easy pal." And oh, there would never be any doubt...

At the base of this wall of photos we find Buster sat in a chair facing his posters. He spins around and talks into camera.

BUSTER (V.O.)  
The name Buster Moon would go down in entertainment history. And I should know, because I am Buster --

ANGRY CHIMPANZEE (O.S.)  
--Moon! Open this door!

It's the present day, the action is now live and Buster is startled as if waking from a dream.

THE SECRETARY: MISS CRAWLY - a spectacularly dodderly old lizard with one glass eye - enters through a connecting office door.

MISS CRAWLY  
Good morning, Mr. Moon.

BUSTER  
Miss Crawly, what uh...what's going on?

MISS CRAWLY  
You gotta lot of animals waiting to see you, Mr. Moon.

BUSTER  
I do?

Buster peers through the closed blinds to see --

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
(Whisper)  
Holy Moly, I really do.

-- a group of ANGRY ANIMALS waiting and pacing in the hall outside his office. KNOCKING AND SHOUTING CONTINUES THROUGHOUT.

MISS CRAWLY  
Yah, it's the stage crew from your last show. They say their pay checks bounced and--

BUSTER  
(Whisper to Miss Crawly)  
Tell 'em I'll call up the bank and make sure they're paid, tout suite.

MISS CRAWLY  
Oh, I got Judith from the bank holding on line 2 right now, sir.

She points towards a red light flashing on Buster's telephone.

BUSTER  
Um. Actually I'm gonna have to call her back.

Buster grabs a briefcase and dashes across the room.

MISS CRAWLY  
Oh. What should I tell her this time?

Buster moves a large old poster to reveal a SMALL HOLE IN THE WALL.

BUSTER

(Gusto)

Tell her Buster Moon is out to lunch!

And with that, Buster vanishes through the hole.

4 INT. MOON THEATRE RAFTERS - CONTINUOUS 4

O.S.: *We continue to hear the muffled sound of the angry crew knocking.*

Buster crawls across the narrow planks that crisscross VERY HIGH above the stage - the stuff of vertigo!

ANGRY CHIMPANZEE (O.S.)

Moon, open this door! Come on, Moon! I know you're in there!

Buckets half-filled with rain water placed beneath holes in the roof, line his path. Buster steps on to a LARGE WOODEN CRESCENT MOON PROP...

Buster releases a tethered rope. A counterweight rises and the MOON DROPS WITH BUSTER RIDING IT LIKE AN ELEVATOR. The crescent moon carries Buster down from the rafters and stops on the stage (which is looking old and shabby.)

5 EXT. MOON THEATRE - MOMENTS LATER 5

Buster exits the theatre present day: a little worse for wear and squeezed between two larger, more modern buildings. We can still hear the angry animals shouting his name as Buster hops on a bicycle and cycles off down the street.

ANGRY CHIMPANZEE (O.S.)

Moon, open this door!

6 EXT. SKY - DAY 6

Buster CYCLES DOWN THE HILL AT TOP SPEED and the camera WHOOSHES away - taking us on an epic tour of the city!

He speeds down the street, nearly hitting a GARBAGE TRUCK. Buster swerves, avoiding cars.

GARBAGE TRUCK DRIVER

Yikes!

TITLE CARD: SING

A RHINO COP directing traffic with a shrill whistle. A PIG rides a scooter over a canal bridge under which a whale surfaces momentarily.

PIG  
Hey, watch it!

SALMON wearing neckties leap up water-filled steps... WHOOSH... as Buster bikes down the same steps.

We find ourselves at the end of an alleyway where we hear a beautiful, soulful voice singing ACAPPELLA: "The Way I Feel Inside" by The Zombies. You would think these tender tones emanate from a sensitive creature...

JOHNNY  
...IN YOUR MIND, COULD YOU EVER BE...

... But we find the source to be a HUGE, TEENAGE GORILLA idly leaning against an alley wall and singing to no one.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
...REALLY CLOSE TO ME? I CAN TELL THE WAY YOU SMILE. IF I FEEL THAT I COULD BE CERTAIN THEN, I WOULD SAY THE THINGS I WANT TO SAY TONI--

The sound of a walkie-talkie cuts Johnny off.

Johnny looks around the corner: 2 POLICE RHINOS are strolling in his direction.

Johnny gasps as he ducks back into the shadows of the alley just as the COPS appear - mildly curious.

POLICE RHINO  
Huh. Thought I heard someone singin' there. Ah, whatever.

Johnny whispers urgently into his own WALKIE-TALKIE.

JOHNNY  
Guys! Listen! Stay where you are! The cops are here and--

Too late -- 2 HUGE GORILLAS IN BUNNY MASKS CARRYING SACKS OF LOOT SMASH THROUGH A WINDOW FURTHER DOWN THE ALLEY. ALARMS RING.

POLICE RHINO 2  
What the--

POLICE RHINO  
Hey! Hold it right there!

The Gorillas see the cops and dash out of sight down a perpendicular alleyway. The cops charge past JOHNNY (still hiding in the shadows) but they are forced back against the wall as the GANG'S TRUCK roars around the corner, then charges right past them.

BIG DADDY

Go, go, go!

POLICE RHINOS

Woah!

As the truck passes JOHNNY - he leaps on to the back where the two other Gorilla's cling to their loot. The leader (BIG DADDY) commands with fierce authority.

BIG DADDY

Johnny! You were supposed to be keepin' a lookout!

JOHNNY

(out of breath)

Sorry Dad.

BIG DADDY

And where's ya mask?

Johnny awkwardly pulls on a bunny mask. Sirens wail as the VAN takes a hairpin bend -- *WHOOSH!* The camera FLIES away, twisting and turning through the city...

...into the window of AN APARTMENT where we find ROSITA (A FEMALE PIG) washing dishes while singing along with the radio playing "Firework" by Katy Perry.

RADIO/ROSITA

*DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE A PLASTIC BAG  
DRIFTING THROUGH THE WIND, WANTING TO  
START AGAIN?*

Rosita turns to switch off the tap in time to stop a jug of water from over-flowing. She turns, kicks a football safely out of her way, and carries a jug of water towards a table where 25 PIGLETS feast on their lunch like barbarians.

ROSITA

*DO YOU EVER FEEL, FEEL SO PAPER THIN...*

As she re-fills their glasses, some of the piglets CRINGE at her singing. Another piglet (CASPAR) leaps on to the table.

PIGLET CASPAR

Look at me - I'm mommy! LA LA LA!

He crudely mimics Rosita singing and the piglets EXPLODE WITH LAUGHTER.

ROSITA  
Caspar, get off the table.

He doesn't of course, so Rosita has to wrangle him instead.  
NORMAN, Rosita's husband, enters wearing a suit and tie.

NORMAN  
Rosita, have you seen my car keys?

PIGLETS  
La la laaa! La la la la la!

Rosita pulls the car keys out of a piglet's mouth and hurls them to Norman before dealing with Caspar who continues to mock her singing.

ROSITA  
Norman, would you please tell them what a good singer I am.

Norman checks his phone as he talks.

NORMAN  
Oh yeah, you were great, honey--

He kisses Rosita's cheek and rushes to the door.

NORMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
---By the way, the bathroom sink is blocked again. Bye, honey!

SLAM! He exits leaving Rosita in the midst of chaos. She walks to the window, turns up the radio and gazes wistfully into the distance as she leans against the windowsill -- *WHOOSH!* The camera continues straight out of the window PAST THE UNDERPANTS -- Shoots through the city... Towards the party side of town... and through the air vents of a Tiki bar...

LANCE  
1, 2... 1, 2, 3, 4!

... To a stage where a surly GOTH PORCUPINE DUO (LANCE and ASH) perform an original song "I DON'T WANNA". Imagine Siouxsie Sioux and Robert Smith, but bristling with black quills and playing electric guitars.

LANCE (CONT'D)



*I DON'T WANNA TALK TO YA! I DON'T WANNA  
WALK WITH YA! I'M NOT GONNA PLAY FOR YA! I  
DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE! I LIVE MY LIFE BY  
MYSELF! NOT LISTENING ANYWAY!*

ASH

*NOTHING TO SAY. OUT OF THE WAY.  
DON'T WANNA PLAY. I DON'T NEED  
ANYONE ELSE. YEAH YEAH! I LIVE MY  
LIFE BY MYSELF. YEAH YEAH! CAN'T  
STAND THE THINGS THAT YOU SAY--*

LANCE plays it cool but ASH gets carried away, kicks over her own mic and joins LANCE on lead vocals at his mic. LANCE pushes ASH off of his mic.

BUT THE MUSIC SUDDENLY STOPS DEAD and the camera turns to reveal a contrasting scene: a cheesy HAWAIIAN-STYLE BAR empty except for the owner: A BEAR called HARRY in a Hawaiian shirt, who has pulled the plug and holds it up - aghast.

HARRY

Oh my gosh! I thought you guys said you were musicians!

CUT TO:

MINUTES LATER: We remain in the bar as ASH AND LANCE pack up and the next band set up/tune.

LANCE

Ash - babe - *I'm* the lead singer, okay?  
Just stick to the backing vocals.

ASH

Sorry, I--I get carried away.

LANCE

Yeah, I know, right, it just kind of ruins my song, ya know?

*WHOOSH!* We zoom through the streets until we find ourselves outside a small house --

MEENA'S HOUSE/KITCHEN:

MEENA (a female teenage elephant) lights the last of 70 candles on a birthday cake.

Meena carries the cake in while singing HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Her voice is beautiful. The house is very small indeed.

MEENA  
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
 YOU. HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR GRANDPA! HAPPY  
 BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

BEAT AS GRANDPA, GRANDMA and MOM sigh in admiration.

GRANDPA, GRANDMA, MOM  
 Awwww!

MEENA  
 (Blushing)  
*What? C'mon, make your wish.*

We HOLD ON MEENA throughout the following as she blushes at her  
 Grandpa's grand exclamations.

GRANDPA ELEPHANT  
 Humph! I *wish* you'd join a choir, a  
 local band or something--

MEENA  
 I tried --

GRANDPA ELEPHANT  
 -- Bah!

MEENA'S MOTHER  
 Hey, hey, dad, we've been over this.

GRANDPA ELEPHANT  
 So she's a little shy - *so what?* If I  
 had a voice like Meena's I'd be a  
 superstar by now. Just singin'...  
 (singing)  
*Oooh yeah, I said oooh yeah...*

MEENA  
 Sure you would, Grandpa. Now blow out  
 your candles.

GRANDPA ELEPHANT  
*Humph.*

Grandpa closes his eyes, takes a deep breath and blows out the  
 candles with a great BLAST of his trunk -- WHOOSH! -- The BLAST  
 carries us out of the house, down the street and up to--

-- The steps of a subway station where a lone saxophone  
 reverberates. A white mouse called MIKE plays a superb sax solo.

A BABOON tosses a coin into his case. Mike stops playing and  
 regards the coin with disgust.

MIKE

A penny? How dare you! I happened to have studied at the Lincoln School of Music!

BABOON

Sorry, it's, it's all I got right now. Heh.

MIKE

(Sarcastic)  
Oh, is that so?

He JUMPS down the stairs and grabs the Baboon by the collar.

MIKE (CONT'D)

(Fire and brimstone)  
Alright, prove it, pal!

BABOON

What?!

MIKE

Empty your pockets, right now!

The Baboon is totally freaked out and awkwardly empties his pockets. Mike checks everything that lands on the ground.

BABOON

(out of breath)  
Trying to find... trying to find...

MIKE

Wha--What is this ya got here?  
Whaddya smoke outta this?

BABOON

(Wheezing)  
That's my inhaler.

The baboon's money clip filled with bills lands on the ground. Mike grabs it and waves it like a defence lawyer to passers by.

MIKE

Ah ha! I knew it! You all saw it! You all saw it right here! *The monkey lied!*

BABOON

Wha...I forgot I had that...

The baboon clears his throat. Mike takes a handful of dollars out and hurls the empty money clip at the baboon.

BABOON (CONT'D)

Ah!

MIKE

And next time pick on someone ya own size! You bully.

The wheezing Baboon runs for his life as Mike resumes his sax tune.

-- WHOOSH -- we zoom away from Mike and the Baboon to... The fanciest restaurant in town - LES CALMARS - named after its distinctive use of squid-filled tanks. Buster arrives on his bicycle beside the valet parking attendant (A CHIMPANZEE.) Buster walks away and the bike frame falls apart in the valet's hands.

BUSTER

Take care of her, will you? She may look old and rusty but she is a classic.

7

INT. LES CALMARS - DAY

7

We find Buster and his friend Eddie (A SHEEP) sitting at a table in this extremely fancy restaurant. A gigantic tank filled with luminous squid frames their conversation.

BUSTER

Okay listen, we both know that my theatre's been going through some pretty rough times lately. But as the saying goes, "for every cloud, a silver lining." We've got--

EDDIE

-- Upp upp upp. Hold on right there, Buster. My dad - he heard I was gonna see you today and he was all like, Eddie, *you tell that koala I am not funding anymore of those shows.* And that's final! Those were his words.

BUSTER

But your dad's right! *Those shows* were the problem! War of Attrition, Rosie Takes A Bow - I mean, nobody wants to see that stuff anymore. So what do I do?

EDDIE

Quit?

BUSTER

No! I give 'em a show they cannot resist. Which is gonna be--

A MAÎTRE D' clears his throat and takes out pen and pad.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

(To the waiter)

Just one more minute, s'il vous plait?

The MAÎTRE D' checks his watch, groans and exits.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

...Merci!

EDDIE

Don't speak French, they speak English here.

BUSTER

Now, my next show is gonna be - drum roll please... A *singing competition!*

EDDIE

A singing competition? Who wants to see another one of those?

BUSTER

Everyone! J-just think - your neighbour, the, the, the grocery store manager, that, that, that chicken right there--  
(a chicken walks by)  
--everyone in this city gets a shot at being a star live on my stage!

EDDIE

Buster, this is a terrible idea.

BUSTER

Oh, no it's not. *Real* talent from *real* life, that's what audiences want and I'm gonna **\*give** it to 'em!

Buster **\*pounds his fist**, catapulting his spoon across the room where it knocks into a BULL, who drops his cell phone into his soup.

BULL

(on the phone)

Alright look--

EDDIE

C-can we please just get outta here?

BUSTER  
Don't you wanna eat?

Eddie points at the menu.

EDDIE  
Yeah, but we can't afford any of this.

BUSTER  
Yes, I know. And that's why I brought sandwiches.

Buster pulls out a lunch box and throws a sandwich to Eddie.

EDDIE  
Uhhh... That's not allowed. Ugh.

BUSTER  
What, you don't like peanut butter and jelly?

FURIOUS, the Maître D' leaves the disgruntled Bull's side and heads towards Buster.

MAITRE'D  
(to Bull)  
Excuse me, sir.

BUSTER  
Okay, look, I got cream cheese, I got banan--  
(Maitre D' grabs Buster)  
---Aaaaa!

8 EXT. LES CALMARS - CONTINUOUS

8

Buster is thrown out of the revolving doors and onto the street. A painful landing.

Eddie arrives by his side and gives him his bag and jacket.

EDDIE  
You okay?

BUSTER  
Yep, never better!

BUSTER exits.

9

INT. BUSTER'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

9

BUSTER (O.S.)  
Miss Crawly?

We see MISS CRAWLY working at her desk.

MISS CRAWLY  
Hello?

Her desk fan pans past her face. The force of air SO POWERFUL her skin flaps like a flag in a storm.

MISS CRAWLY (CONT'D)  
Eh...Who is it?

BUSTER  
It's me.  
(clears throat)  
Your boss, Mr. Moon?

MISS CRAWLY  
Oh hello, Mr. Moon.

BUSTER  
There we go. Now, I need you to add the following information to our publicity flyers...

MISS CRAWLY  
Yes sir...

BUSTER  
... The winner of the singing contest will receive a grand prize of Nine hundred and thirty-five dollars... Hmmm... Gonna need more than that... Just a second.

BUSTER grabs the money box. QUICK SHOTS: Buster unplugs an old radio... rolls up a small Persian rug... takes off his watch...

Buster hurls ALL OF THE ABOVE into a prop treasure chest and closes the lid.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
(Proud)  
Eh, there...There! One thousand dollars. You got that?

MISS CRAWLY  
(Dictating)  
Uh, \$1000 dollars...Oo! Oh! Ohh!

ON MISS CRAWLY as the blast from her powerful desk fan causes her glass eye to pop out! It bounces on the keyboard, adding 2 more zeros to the prize money. \$1000 BECOMES \$100,000!

BUSTER (O.S.)

Print 'em up on every single sheet of paper we have left. And let's spread the word right away, okay?

MISS CRAWLY's glass eye rolls across the floor and under the piano.

MISS CRAWLY

Yes, oh yes sir!

She hits PRINT and gets up to go fetch her glass eye...

MISS CRAWLY (CONT'D)

Okay, come on out of there...

... She has no idea that the printed sheets of yellow paper HAVE A HUGE TYPO!

CUT TO:

BUSTER walks over to the window and takes a deep breath, looking out at the city below. He pets the window sill, like a sea captain at the wheel.

BUSTER

Ah, the winds of change.

A little wood and paint crumbles under his paw.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Yep, when this show's a hit, I'm gonna get you a fresh coat of paint.

CUT TO:

Buster opens the door into Miss Crawly's office.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

How we doing with those flyers Miss Crawly?

She turns from the printer with her arms full of flyers --

MISS CRAWLY

Oh yes, sir, we're all good to go here...

-- into the path of the FAN. All the flyers are blasted out of the window.



BUSTER

Miss Crawly! No!! No, no no no no no!!--

Buster runs to the window but his little paws fail to grasp the very last flyer.

OUTSIDE: The sky is filled with bright orange flyers.

MISS CRAWLY

...Oopsie daisy.

BUSTER

Eh, well, I guess that's one way to spread the word.

10 EXT. CITY - AFTERNOON

10

OUTSIDE: Like a flock of birds, the leaflets swoop around the city...

... lifted on the breeze... blown by air-con units... sent up by steam rising from manhole covers and the thrust of traffic. Despite it being an accident, this is a magical and beautiful moment...

11 EXT. SUBWAY STATION - AFTERNOON

11

ASH and LANCE stand HAND IN HAND on the subway platform. The flyers swoop in and adhere to their quills. Ash pulls one off of Lance's body and reads it.

ASH

Hey Lance look at this!

Lance steps onto the subway train and rides off, leaving Ash standing on the platform, reading the flyer.

LANCE

(inside train)

Ash, babe! Hey!

As she reads, Ash's face lights up and orange flyers swarm like butterflies around her. She runs after the train, waving the flyer.

12 EXT. GORILLA GANG HQ - AFTERNOON

12

JOHNNY closes the steel shutters. An orange flyer creeps in underneath and JOHNNY READS.

He slips the flyer into his coat pocket.

13 INT. MEENA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON 13

We see Meena HUMMING as she waters some flowers. Her Mom and Grandpa tap her on the shoulder and HOLD UP THE FLYER.

MEENA'S MOTHER

Meena!

14 INT. SUBWAY STATION - AFTERNOON 14

A NUN DOG reads a flyer before tossing it over her shoulder like trash.

MIKE (O.S.)

Hey, hey, hey! Whaddya think ya--

But when Mike reads the flyer his FURY TURNS TO DELIGHT.

15 INT. ROSITA'S APARTMENT - EVENING 15

ROSITA wearily washes a HUGE STACK of dishes by the window - the phone clamped between her ear and shoulder.

ROSITA

(Tired)

Uh huh...yeah...

Her attention is caught by a flyer sticking against the glass. As it slides down, ROSITA TILTS HER HEAD TO READ IT.

ROSITA'S POV: The words SINGING CONTEST slide through frame.

BACK TO ROSITA: She is so distracted by this idea that the phone slips from Rosita's shoulder into the sink and her face lights up in recognition of this golden opportunity...

The camera pulls back from her window, wider and wider to reveal the city at night and one last flyer falling to the ground like a leaf.

16 INT. BUSTER'S BEDROOM - MORNING 16

CLOSE UP: Buster sleepily reaches to turn off his alarm.

Buster yawns, sits up and BANGS HIS HEAD on the ceiling of the world's smallest bedroom.

BUSTER

Oww.

QUICK SHOTS: He cleans his teeth and smiles at his reflection in a tiny mirror - pulls on a jacket - laces his shoes - fastens a tie and...

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
Let's go to work.

Push open the tiny door to reveal...

... THE DOOR IS JUST A DRAWER IN BUSTER'S DESK. He jumps into his chair and spins into the highest position.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
And cue the crazy old lizard.

Miss Crawly scuttles through the door.

MISS CRAWLY  
Good morning, Mr. Moon.

BUSTER  
Indeed it is, Miss Crawly. Top of the morning to you.

MISS CRAWLY  
I made you some coffee.

The cup is empty.

BUSTER  
You did? Where is it?

MISS CRAWLY  
Oh, I got a little thirsty on the way up those stairs.

Buster's withering look.

MISS CRAWLY (CONT'D)  
Shall I go open the doors now?

BUSTER  
The doors?

MISS CRAWLY  
Well, you've gotta lotta animals waiting in line to audition, Mr. Moon.

BUSTER  
I do?

Buster rushes to the window and is so stunned by what he sees his coffee cup falls out of his hand and hits the floor.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
 (Utter disbelief)  
 Holy Moly - I really do.

**VIEW: HUNDREDS OF ANIMALS LINE UP AROUND THE BLOCK AND A NEWS TRUCK PULLS UP.**

CUT TO:

BUSTER stands on his desk with the phone to his ear.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
 I swear to you, Eddie, this is no joke!  
 Look, just get down here and see for  
 yourself! I gotta go!

Buster hangs up the phone.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
 Ha haa! This is it, Miss Crawly! Get  
 your scaly tail downstairs and throw  
 those doors open wide!

17 EXT. MOON THEATRE - MORNING

17

The camera zooms from the far end of the audition line past the animals queuing around the block... Into the foyer, where Miss Crawly addresses the crowd with a bullhorn.

MISS CRAWLY  
 Okay, uh one at a time, please! Calm  
 down!

Buster stands beside Miss Crawly. Awestruck by the scene.

18 INT. MOON THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

18

Buster sits at a small desk stationed in the audience. Up on the stage PRAWNS sing "Crazy In Love" by Beyoncé inside a tank and they're pretty good.

PRAWNS  
 GOT ME LOOKIN' SO CRAZY RIGHT NOW, YOUR  
 LOVE'S GOT ME LOOKIN' SO CRAZY RIGHT NOW  
 (WOO), GOT ME HOPING YOU'LL PAGE ME  
 RIGHT NOW, YOUR LOVE'S GOT ME HOPING  
 YOU'LL...

Buster grooves along - delighted - and Miss Crawly notes his response on her list.

CUT TO:

GUNTER (a Scandinavian pig in a gold tracksuit) sings "Bad Romance" by Lady Gaga. Outrageous and uninhibited.

GUNTER

*RA-RA-AH AH AH! RO-MA RUM-MA MA! GA-GA  
OOH-LA-LA! WANT YOUR BAD ROMANCE!*

Buster and Miss Crawly's eyes are frozen wide open in shock.

CUT TO:

A quartet of FROGS sing "Jump" by Van Halen. They leap in time with the words.

FROGS

*JUMP! MIGHT AS WELL JUMP!...*

19 INT. ROSITA'S APARTMENT - MORNING 19

Rosita stands by the door sending her piglets off to school.

ROSITA

*... Bye Iggy, bye Perry, bye Carla, bye  
Gail, bye Rory, bye Micky, bye Moe, bye  
Nelson, bye Hannah, bye Tess, bye bye  
Caspar. Phew!*

The door slams.

One last look at the FLYER confirms her excitement. Rosita grabs her bag and races to the door...

20 EXT. ROSITA'S APARTMENT - DAY 20

ROSITA runs out of her apartment block and down the street.

21 INT. MOON THEATRE - DAY 21

A SHEEP sings "Kiss From A Rose" by Seal. DREADFUL.

JEFF

*BAA-BAAY, I COMPARE YOU TO A KISS FROM A  
ROSE...*

CUT TO:

5 female Red Pandas (Q-TEEZ) perform an ultra-energetic nonsensical version of "Kira Kira Killer" by Kyray Pamyu Pamyu.

Sing

21.

Q-TEEZ  
*L.U.C.K.! L.U.C.K!*

CUT TO:

A barbershop quartet of TURTLES sing Donovan's "I Love My Shirt."

TURTLES  
*I LOVE MY SHOES, I LOVE MY SHOES...*

Miss Crawly's eyes light up. Buster doesn't seem as intrigued.

CUT TO:

A BULL sings an AWESOME version of "Butterfly" by Crazy Town.

BULL  
*COME MY LADY, COME, COME MY LADY, YOU'RE  
MY BUTTERFLY, SUGAR, BABY.*

22

EXT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

22

A LIVELY NEWS REPORTER DOG interviews a HIPPO waiting in line. Enthusiastic crowds wave into camera.

NEWS REPORTER  
... And let's hear from a few more of the folks in line. What about you, sir?

HIPPO  
Well Bob, I'm a lab technician for a leading pharmaceutical company, but I was born with a gift, and that gift is to sing.

23

INT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

23

A HIPPO sings "Stout-Hearted Men" by Shooby Taylor.

HIPPO  
*PLAV DA SHREE, LOH KU PAH, DAV DU SAH!  
SOO-DA-LI DWEE-DAHT, SOO-DA-LI DOO-TON  
PLAH-BLAH!*

CUT TO:

Three FEMALE RABBITS singing "Anaconda" by Nicki Minaj.

RABBITS  
*OH MY GOSH. LOOK AT HER BUTT. OH MY  
GOSH. LOOK AT HER...*

Buster can't help but be intrigued.

CUT TO:

The END OF Ash and Lance's performance is extremely loud. Buster and Miss Crawly look like they're bracing against a hurricane.

LANCE  
*I LIVE MY LIFE BY MYSELF! CAN'T STAND  
 THE THINGS THAT YOU SAY!*

The song ends but ASH cannot help stepping to the mic and holding that last note in a charismatic pose.

ASH  
*NOT LISTENING ANYWAY! YEAH YEAH!  
 YEAH YEAH!*

Lance may scowl but Buster is clearly impressed by ASH.

CUT TO:

A LLAMA with an acoustic guitar starts to play, but keeps stopping to tune the strings.

Buster is tortured beyond belief.

CUT TO:

3 young PARROTS bumble their way through "Lollipop" by The Chordettes.

PARROTS  
*LOLLIPOP, LOLLIPOP, OH LOLLY LOLLY  
 LOLLY. LOLLIPOP,  
 (continuing offscreen)  
 LOLLIPOP, LOLLIPOP, OH LOLLY LOLLY  
 LOLLY...*

CUT TO:

24 INT. GORILLA GANG HQ - DAY

24

JOHNNY calls to his DAD who is boxing with a speed bag.

JOHNNY  
 Oi, Dad. Just goin' out.

His DAD pauses to answer.

BIG DADDY

Well don't be long, I got the gang  
comin' over.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE: JOHNNY closes the door, drops his skateboard and skates away at speed from the gang's headquarters.

25

EXT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

25

Amongst the crowds we find MIKE talking to A TV REPORTER.

MIKE

Oh, look, well I'm sure you're gonna get a lot of namby-pamby animals in here saying things like, "*Oh, it's not winning, it's the taking part that counts.*" Yeah yeah, not me, pal. I'm here to win.

He points to the orange flyer in his hand.

MIKE (CONT'D)

That prize - it's mine.

26

INT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

26

FAST CUTS: AN ALLIGATOR performs "The Humpty Dance" by Digital Underground.

ALLIGATOR

*PEOPLE SAY YO HUMPTY, YOU'RE REALLY FUNNY LOOKIN', THAT'S ALRIGHT 'CUZ I GET THINGS COOKIN'...*

CUT TO:

A GERBIL squeaks out Dolly Parton's "9 to 5."

GERBIL

*WORKING' 9 TO 5...*

CUT TO:

A MOTHER KANGAROO pulls a JOEY from her pouch and holds her up to the mic to sing "The Safety Dance" by Men Without Hats.



JOEY  
*WE CAN DANCE IF WE WANT TO...*

CUT TO:

A line-up of SPIDERS sing "The Ketchup Song" by Las Ketchup.

SPIDERS  
*ASEREJÈ JA DE JÈ DE JEBE TU DE--*

CUT TO:

PETE the CAMEL sustains a single operatic high note from "Nessun Dorma."

CUT TO:

RAY the SNAIL sits on top of the microphone singing "Ride Like the Wind" by Christopher Cross.

SNAIL  
*SO I RIDE LIKE THE WIND, RIDE LIKE THE--*

CUT TO:

DANIEL a GIRAFFE, with the microphone stretched high in the air, to meet his head, sings Michael Jackson's "Ben" sweetly.

GIRAFFE  
*BEN, THE 2 OF US NEED LOOK NO MORE.*

Buster and Miss Crawly crane their necks to watch him sing. Buster seems excited.

CUT TO:

JOHNNY performs "Stay With Me" by Sam Smith beautifully.

JOHNNY  
*... THIS AIN'T LOVE, IT'S CLEAR TO  
SEE, BUT DARLING STAY WITH ME.*

BUSTER  
Wow! Thank you, Johnny!

MISS CRAWLY  
Okay, next up we have Meena.

Johnny bounds for the wings where MEENA waits nervously.

JOHNNY  
Good luck out there.

MEENA

(Under her breath)

Alright, come on, here we go, come on  
you can do it, you can do it okay...

We follow MEENA out on stage, her nerves apparent as she finds the spotlight. She bumps the mic and knocks it over.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Oh, oh, I'm sorry, uh...

BUSTER

Okay, hey, it's alright, you know,  
it's alright. Take it away, Meena.

The backing track for "Chandelier" by Sia begins to play but Meena only STUTTERS nervously. Meena stares at the microphone, PANTING and STRUGGLING to get a word out.

MEENA

Uh, okay, uh...

BUSTER

Anytime now...

MEENA

Uh, um, uh...

ON MEENA: the music is drowned out by the beat of her heart. Buster clearly feels bad for her.

BUSTER

Do you wanna start over?

Mike suddenly marches on to the stage and PUSHES MEENA AWAY.

MIKE

Alright, enough of that. That's quite  
enough of that, that's it. Come on. Off  
the stage, Helga. Go on. You're useless.  
Thanks. Right. Here we go. Hit it!

Mike THROWS HIS HAT at Buster and begins to sing "Pennies From Heaven" by Frank Sinatra with a voice as smooth and delicious as chocolate silk.

MIKE (CONT'D)

*EVERY TIME IT RAINS, IT RAINS PENNIES  
FROM HEAVEN. DON'T YOU KNOW EACH CLOUD  
CONTAINS, PENNIES FROM HEAVEN...*

Buster SMILES. This one's a keeper!

27 EXT. MOON THEATRE - DAY 27

Meena mopes out of the theatre, fighting back tears. She kicks a tree in frustration. Every leaf on the tree is dumped on her.

28 INT. MOON THEATRE - DAY 28

EXTREME CLOSE UP ON ROSITA singing "Firework" by Katy Perry. Pitch perfect but she does NOT MOVE AT ALL. Buster makes notes...

ROSITA  
YOU JUST GOTTA IGNITE THE LIGHT AND  
LET IT SHINE. JUST OWN THE NIGHT,  
LIKE THE 4TH OF JULY COS BABY  
YOU'RE A FIREWORK...

29 EXT. MOON THEATRE - DAY 29

TIME LAPSE: THE AUDITION LINE DWINDLES...

30 INT. MOON THEATRE - AFTERNOON 30

Music ends.

MISS CRAWLY  
Okay, that's everyone, Mr. Moon.

BUSTER  
Phew. Alright, call everyone back to stage Miss Crawly and let's get--

MISS CRAWLY  
(Very Loud Bullhorn)  
--Hello? Can I have everybody back to stage please! Everyone come back to stage for selection!

BUSTER  
Okay, thank you, Miss Crawly.

MISS CRAWLY  
(Very Loud Bullhorn)  
You're welcome, Mr. Moon.

31 INT. MOON THEATRE - AFTERNOON 31

CUT TO dramatic close ups of nervous animals awaiting judgment.

Buster stands before the huge crowd of animals; a tremendous presence for such a tiny ball of fur.

BUSTER  
Alright, let's see now...hmmm...I'll  
take...

Buster scrutinizes each animal in painful silence. He rejects most but SELECTS THE \*FROGS.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
...you guys...

The Frogs CELEBRATE. Buster turns to Ash and Lance.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
And which one of you is the girl?

ASH  
Ha ha. Very funny.

BUSTER  
(Reads)  
*Loud and horrible but shows promise.*  
Welcome to the show.

LANCE  
Cool. I guess we could hang.

BUSTER  
No, no, I just want her. Not you.

LANCE  
What?

ASH  
What?

BUSTER  
Alright, the rest of the group acts-  
thank you so much.

Animals leave the stage defeated.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
Oh, don't feel bad, folks! There'll  
be a 10% discount on tickets for  
everyone!

GOAT  
Yeah, sure, thanks a lot.

LANCE

\*Psh\* Let's get outta here, Ash.  
(Ash hesitates)  
Ash?

ASH

Uh, yeah. Yeah, let's go.

BUSTER

Okay, soloists: Johnny, Mike, Pete,  
Richard, Daniel, and Ray!

JOHNNY, MIKE, A BULL (RICHARD) A SNAIL (RAY), A CAMEL (PETE) AND  
GIRAFFE (DANIEL) nervously step forward.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Mike. Wowza! I gotta have you in my  
show!

MIKE

Oh, I, if you insist.

BUSTER

And I'll take Pete...

PETE

Woo-hoo! Yeah!

BUSTER

...and one more...let me see now...

Buster circles them, checks them up and down from behind and  
RICHARD IS SO NERVOUS THAT HE SUDDENLY FARTS.

RICHARD

Oh my gosh. I am so sorry.

Richard farts again.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Urgh! What is wrong with me?

BUSTER

Phew. Um, thanks for coming Richard.

Richard begins to exit when - CRUNCH! - He steps on the snail.

RICHARD

Oh my--! Ray!

The Bull picks up Ray who looks bewildered.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
 You alright? Just hang in there Ray! I  
 gotcha! Oh...oh...whoopsie...oh...gosh..

Richard farts his way off stage carrying the snail.

BUSTER  
 Okay, then I'll take...

Johnny holds his breath.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
 Daniel! Thank you Johnny.

Johnny nods sadly in agreement with the decision and leaves the  
 stage... but Daniel has yet to respond...

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
 Daniel? Can you hear me? You're in the  
 show!

Daniel's head is so high up HE CANNOT HEAR.

DANIEL  
 (Calling down)  
 What? Are you talking to me?

Buster takes hold of Miss Crawly's bullhorn.

BUSTER  
 (Bullhorn)  
 Yes! I WAS SAYING THAT YOU ARE IN--  
 (Spoken)  
 Oh geez, this is gonna drive me nuts.  
 Johnny, get back here. You're in.  
 (Bullhorn)  
 THANK YOU DANIEL! GOODBYE!

Johnny is relieved.

JOHNNY  
 Yes!

BUSTER  
 Okay, that's everyone on my list.  
 Ummm...wait a second. Rosita...is Rosita  
 still here?

ROSITA  
 Yes! Yes, I'm here!

Rosita steps forward.

BUSTER

(Reads)

*Rosita, Rosita, Rosita: Great set of pipes but boring to watch...*

Rosita sighs.

ROSITA

I knew it.

BUSTER

... so what should I do...I could partner you up with... Gunter? Gunter! Where are ya?

GUNTER

Ya! Ya! Das is me!

GUNTER freestyles his way across the stage to join Rosita.

BUSTER

Ha ha ha yah! It's gonna spice things up on stage.

ROSITA

Wait, you want us to sing together?

GUNTER

Ja! The two of us together, are you joking me? We're going to be spicy, no? Hahaha haha!

32 EXT. MOON THEATRE - AFTERNOON

32

THE CHILD KANGAROO howls as her angry MOTHER leads her out ahead of a crowd of animals leaving the auditorium.

MOTHER KANGAROO

That koala is a fool, Sherry-Anne! You are gonna be a star one day!

Eddie casually strolls past the crowd of REJECTED ANIMALS leaving the theatre.

HIPPO

Auditions are over, pal. The show's already been cast.

33 INT. MOON THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

33

ON BUSTER standing back to admire his cast.

BUSTER

Okay, you are my chosen few. This is it folks. A defining moment in all of our lives...

(to Q-Teez)

...ummm, no, no, no, not you guys. I dismissed all the group acts already; you, you can go home.

THE Q-TEEZ respond happily, in JAPANESE.

Q-TEEZ

(in Japanese)

Ware ware wa kono sho de yarukodoga tetemo shiwawase desu!

(English: We are so happy to be in this show!)

BUSTER

Look, look, look I'm really sorry but all the slots are filled and--

Q-TEEZ

(in Japanese)

Ware ware wa futatabi anata no dameni utemasu!

(English: We will sing for you again!)

The Q-TEEZ take this as their cue to DANCE.

BUSTER

No no, no! Listen, NO IN SHOW. GOOD BYE BYE. Miss Crawly!

They giggle as Miss Crawly SHOOS them off the stage.

MISS CRAWLY

Come on, you guys, outta here, come on, off the stage...thank you so much...

Eddie takes a seat in the back of the auditorium and idly reads one of the flyers.

ON MIKE as he jumps on to the treasure chest.

MIKE

Hey Moon! What's the story? Is the prize really inside this thing?

BUSTER

The prize? Oh sure. Yes, it's all in there.



MIKE

Well open it, will ya? I wanna see what  
\$100,000 looks like.

All the animals agree - **"Me too!" "Open it!" "Let's see it!"**

BUSTER

Sure I'll open it - wait, what did you  
say?

Eddie arrives at the stage.

EDDIE

He said a *hundred thousand* dollars.

Eddie holds out the flyer to Buster who emits a SHRILL YELP.

BUSTER

A hun...*AH!*- Uhh...  
(laughs nervously)  
I forgot my keys...I'll...be right  
back...

He GRABS Miss Crawly and pulls her offstage.

34

INT. BUSTER'S OFFICE - EARLY EVENING

34

Miss Crawly sobs while Buster paces frantically.

BUSTER

For the last time Miss Crawly, I am *not*  
going to fire you. Now would you pull  
yourself together. And please blow that  
nose of yours.

She blows her nose. It sounds like a gloop-filled trumpet.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

No no no! Not in *here*. Blow it  
outside! Thank you.

MISS CRAWLY

I'm sorry, Mr. Moon...

She scuttles out of the room, howling with remorse. Eddie sits at  
Buster's desk. Buster paces.

EDDIE

Buster, whaddya expect? She's like, 200  
years old.

BUSTER

Eddie. *Please*. Look, if your folks could just *loan* me the money until--

EDDIE

(Laughs/shakes head)  
\$100,000? Buster, come on!

BUSTER

(muttering)  
Whew...I've gotta think. I've gotta think. I've got to come up with a solution, I've got to think, there's got to be a way...

EDDIE

Look maybe it's time to stop thinking and it's time to just move on. I mean, this theatre of yours - you could get some decent money for it and, I dunno, maybe we could do something together.

BUSTER

What, what, sit around playing video games? Dah! Do you know what *that* is?

Buster points to a BUCKET etched with the logo: MOON'S CAR WASH.

EDDIE

Uhhh... It's a bucket?

BUSTER

Yes and do you know why I have this bucket?

EDDIE

Cos the roof is leaking?

Buster points to a DIFFERENT BUCKET filled with water.

BUSTER

No, *that's* the bucket for the leak.

Buster points to the silver bucket again.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

I have this one cuz it belonged to my father. Every day for 30 years he worked his tail off washing cars just so I could buy this place. Every day, Eddie. Just for me.

EDDIE

Wow. He sounds like a great dad.  
(sighs)  
So how do you wanna handle this?

MISS CRAWLY (O.S.)

(on intercom)  
Uh Mr. Moon, I got Judith from the bank  
holding on line 2 again.

Buster SIGHS.

BUSTER

Well there's only one thing I can do.

35 INT. STAGE - EARLY EVENING

35

The auditorium doors burst open revealing BUSTER (holding the orange flyer) and Eddie. The cast mill about on stage.

BUSTER

Okay, everybody listen up! I gotta send  
you all home. Right now.

The cast looks confused.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Yup. Cuz like my dad used to say, "get a  
good night's sleep, and do a great day's  
work!"

Eddie SLAPS his forehead.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

That's right. Rehearsals begin first  
thing tomorrow morning and if you wanna  
become stars and win a hundred grand,  
then you better be ready to work harder  
than you've ever worked in your lives.  
So get some sleep and dream big dreams!

The cast CHEERS! The Q-TEEZ dance around their boombox.

ROSITA

This is exciting, isn't it?

BUSTER

Miss Crawly!

She SHOOS them off the stage.

MISS CRAWLY

OK. Come on, that's enough now, come on,  
off the stage...

Eddie approaches Buster.

EDDIE

Dream big dreams?

BUSTER

I know, that's good, right?

EDDIE

*What about the hundred grand?*

BUSTER

Don't you worry, Eddie. There's  
gotta be a way to get it.

EDDIE

What? Buster, no, listen to me!  
This show is not gonna save your  
theatre. You're at rock bottom,  
pal.

BUSTER

Yep. And do you know what's great about  
hitting rock bottom, Eddie?

Buster mounts a moon prop attached to a scenic cable.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

There's only one way left to go, and  
that's up!

Buster pulls the cable and SHOOTs UP HIGH INTO THE RAFTERS.

36

INT. MEENA'S KITCHEN - EVENING

36

Camera pulls back from the TV set where the evening news is  
playing...

NEWS REPORTER

... And you can see the lucky few  
leaving the theatre behind me. Now back  
to you in the studio, John...

The camera finds Meena sitting at the kitchen table, tears rolling  
down her cheeks as she whisks a bowl of batter. Mom lifts a tray  
of muffins from the oven.

MEENA'S MOTHER

Oh honey, please don't cry. You are *not* a failure. There'll be other chances, you just--

GRANDPA ELEPHANT (O.S.)

--Bah! The heck there will!

GRANDPA preaches from the doorway.

MEENA'S MOTHER

Dad, please--

GRANDPA ELEPHANT

Come on, don't you want this?

MEENA

Well, sure, but I messed it up.

GRANDPA ELEPHANT

Then, you gotta go back there tomorrow and say, "Mr Moon, I demand you let me re-audition!" Be confident! Show em you ain't gonna be pushed around! You got that, Meena?

MEENA

Um...

GRANDPA ELEPHANT

Good. Now go get my cocoa.

37

INT. ASH'S APARTMENT - EVENING

37

We hear the sound of Lance singing and strumming his guitar.

LANCE

*I WON'T SELL OUT FOR NOBODY, WON'T FOLLOW NO FOOL...*

ASH

Would you stop! I'd only be doing it for *us*.

LANCE

Oh really?

ASH

Yes really! If I won that money, we could build our own recording studio, start our own label, I mean the whole world would get to hear your songs.

Lance starts to sing with his guitar.

LANCE  
*I'M NOT LISTENIN' TO MY GIRLFRIEND, COS  
 SHE JUST WANTS TO SELL OUT...*

Ash gives up and storms out of the room.

38 EXT. NIGHTCLUB STREET - EVENING

38

Mike is busking REGULAR JAZZ but changes to a MORE SEDUCTIVE tune when a PRETTY FEMALE MOUSE passes. She remains aloof despite Mike serenading her down the street and around the corner to... **The exterior of a NIGHT CLUB. Fancy cars and velvet rope etc.** The pretty mouse walks straight into the club and beckons Mike to come, too. But Mike is turned away by a huge gorilla BOUNCER.

MIKE  
 Hey! Just a minute! Wait, wait--  
 (to the bouncer)  
 Aw, look at--I know Derek the manager,  
 he'll vouch for me! Come on!

The Bouncer SHAKES his head and then pushes Mike aside to allow 3 bears to pass.

BEAR THUG  
 Hey Mario, how's it going.

MIKE  
 Oh, for crying out loud! Oh yeah,  
 oh, let the bears in. Let the bears  
 in. Fine.

Mike rudely honks his sax at him.

39 INT. GORILLA GANG HQ - EVENING

39

Johnny walks through the door.

THE GANG have gathered around a model plan of a robbery.

BIG DADDY  
 There he is! I got a surprise for you,  
 my son. Ha haha.

JOHNNY  
 What's that?

BIG DADDY  
 (to Gang Member)  
 Tell him the plan.

GANG MEMBER

Right. We've been told there's a ship carrying 25 million in gold, gonna dock at night right here, with the usual guards here and here. But lucky for us, there's a sewer right under here, so the getaway driver meets us here.

BIG DADDY

And that is gonna be you this time, Johnny.

JOHNNY

Wha- you want, you want *me* to drive?

BIG DADDY

Yeah, it's time my boy had a proper role in the gang, eh?

JOHNNY

Hang on, hang on, Dad. Barry's always been our driver.

BIG DADDY

Barry don't mind, do ya Barry?

BARRY shifts - clearly uneasy with this change of plan.

BARRY

No. No, that's fine.

BIG DADDY

Yeah.

JOHNNY

So when exactly is this ship comin' in then?

GANG MEMBER

We ain't got a date yet--

JOHNNY

Probably won't be for a while though, will it?

BIG DADDY

Well what do you care? It's the last job we ever need to do. When it comes in, we go - right?

JOHNNY

Great. Can't wait.

40

INT. ROSITA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

40

ROSITA stands at the end of a toothbrushing production line on the telephone.

ROSITA

Um hi, I saw your ad in the paper. Yes, I need a nanny, just for a couple of weeks. You can? Great! Oh, the kids? Yes, they're wonderful. They, yeah, I have 25. No I'm-I'm not joking. But they're really no problem... Hello? Hello?

The 'piglet train' rushes past her once again.

ROCCO

Goodnight, mommy!

IN THE KITCHEN:

The front door opens and NORMAN shuffles wearily through it. It's clearly been raining outside. Rosita takes his coat and case. She's excited to talk.

ROSITA

Hey! How was the big meeting?

Norman just groans and opens the fridge.

ROSITA (CONT'D)

That bad, really? Well, I have something really exciting to tell you--

Norman scoffs some pie as he plods towards the sofa.

NORMAN

--Mmmm. You make the best pie, honey.

ROSITA

(So excited)

Listen Norman, I know it's short notice but I could really use some help with the kids tomorrow because, well, you are not gonna believe what I did today...

(Beat)

Norman? Are you listening to me?

Norman's answer is a loud SNORE and the food on his lap slides off his plate. Rosita SIGHS... The TV drones on... Norman snores... Rosita hears Buster's voice inside her head.



BUSTER (V.O.)

*Rehearsals begin first thing tomorrow morning so get some sleep and dream big dreams!*

ROSITA

Hmmm...

... Filled with a renewed sense of purpose, Rosita strides out of the lounge, opens the cupboard and reaches to the back.

CLOSE UP: Rosita pulls out a power drill and a toy train. A pull of the trigger confirms it is powered up and ready for use.

41 EXT. ROSITA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 41

From outside we hear blasts of drilling, sawing and hammering and we see lights indicating activity inside. Rain falls.

DISSOLVE TO:

42 EXT. ROSITA'S APARTMENT - MORNING 42

It's the same shot but the sun has risen and the power tool concerto finally comes to an end.

43 INT. ROSITA'S HOME - MORNING 43

An alarm clock rings and activates a HANDMADE system that opens the curtains in the piglets' bedroom and triggers a tape recorded message from Rosita.

ROSITA RECORDING (O.S.)

Good morning, everybody. Now, I want you all dressed before breakfast!

The piglets, groaning, groggily do as they're told.

44 INT. ROSITA'S KITCHEN - MORNING 44

A Heath Robinson-style device takes care of the chores. Devices pour cereal and milk into bowls before lifting out of sight. The piglets run to the table and devour the cereal.

PIGLETS

Breakfast!!

Norman sleepily enters, pulling on a jacket.

NORMAN

Rosita, have you seen my car keys?

ROSITA RECORDING (O.S.)

Don't forget, your keys are in your coat pocket.

NORMAN

Oh, I found 'em. Bye honey.

Norman is oblivious to the mechanics whirring above his head.

ROSITA RECORDING (O.S.)

Bye, Norman.

(Beat, whistle)

Time for school!

The piglets rise from the table and the entire table cloth is lifted on wires and carried out... A device hands each piglet a backpack.

ROSITA RECORDING (CONT'D)

(recording)

... Bye Iggy, bye Perry, bye Carla,  
bye Gail, bye Rory, bye Micky, bye  
Moe, bye Nelson, bye Hannah, bye  
Tess, bye Kelly, bye George, bye  
Andy, bye Freddy, bye Caspar.

A counter flips to **25**, triggering the door to close and lock.

45 EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

45

ROSITA joins the REST OF THE CAST entering the theatre.

BUSTER (V.O.)

This contest is war!

46 INT. THE MOON STAGE - MORNING

46

The cast are on stage receiving instructions from BUSTER while MISS CRAWLY hands out song lists to the cast.

BUSTER

... This stage is the battlefield. Your song is your weapon. Now, you only get one shot to blow that audience away, so choose carefully from the list of songs I've selected for each of you.

The animals regard their individual lists with vocal interest. Ash arrives late on stage.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
Ah, talked some sense into that  
boyfriend of yours.

ASH  
Lance is an artist, but I wouldn't  
expect *you* to understand that.

BUSTER  
You're right, I don't understand  
that at all.

Buster hands Ash a song list. She looks bemused. The Frogs fight  
over the song list.

FROGS  
Just stop it! Give it to me!

BUSTER  
Now, you'll notice each list also  
includes my costume and performance  
suggestions. Okay! Miss Crawly will show  
you to your rehearsal spaces. Now, let's  
get to work!

The cast begin to exit stage in an optimistic hubbub. We follow  
Buster as he walks amongst them backstage.

JOHNNY  
Excuse me, Mr. Moon? For some reason it  
says here that I should be playing the  
piano?

BUSTER  
Yes, just imagine: big soulful guy  
like you tenderly playing the keys.  
There'll be goosebumps everywhere!

JOHNNY  
Well I haven't played piano since I  
was a kid--

BUSTER  
--Miss Crawly! We're gonna need  
some piano lessons over here.

MISS CRAWLY  
Yes, sir!  
(To Johnny)  
Up the stairs, I'll be right along.

BUSTER  
And Pete, you're in here.

PETE  
You got it, Mr. Moon!

-- Buster is cut off by the SOUND OF QUARRELING.

47 INT. FROGS REHEARSAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

47

Buster enters to find THE FROGS ARE FIGHTING.

HOWIE  
Check your ego, man.

BUSTER  
Hey hey, break it up, break it up, break  
it up.

HOWIE  
Oh yeah? Tell, Ricki - he started it!

RICKI  
That's right! Just like *I* started this  
band! *My* band, Howie!

HOWIE  
Oh forgive me, your highness!

KAI  
Guys, come on!

As the Frogs continue to bicker, Buster notices the Q-Teez  
rehearsing in the next room.

BUSTER  
No no no no, hey, hey! Out! Get out  
of here!

He bangs on the glass and gestures for them to exit, which they  
misinterpret as choreography.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
(To the Frogs)  
Look, just calm down and pick a song.

Buster exits.

48 INT. ROSITA'S REHEARSAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

48

ROSITA and GUNTER enter their rehearsal room.

ROSITA

I think we'll probably have a better chance of winning if I do the singing part and leave the dancing part to you.

GUNTER

Bah! Are you joking me? You are just in need of like a super cool varm up!

Gunter hits PLAY on a stereo (thumping music plays) and unzips his tracksuit to reveal an eye-popping unitard.

GUNTER (CONT'D)

Come on! Let's take off zeez clothes!

ROSITA

That--that is not necessary. Oh!  
That is a lot of skin.

GUNTER

Don't you look so vorried face! I've got one for you too!

He holds up a TINY DRESS just as-- MIKE flings the door open.

MIKE

Hey porky! Keep it down, will ya!

GUNTER

Oh, sorry!

ON ASH exiting her rehearsal room.

ASH

Hey Moon! You gave me the wrong list.  
Cheesy pop's not exactly my style.

BUSTER

Style - I am glad you brought that up...  
Now, let's see...

Buster presents her with a BRIGHT PINK LEOTARD.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

There!

ASH

Ugh.

BUSTER

Isn't this a great color for you?

ASH

I can't tell - it's melting my eyes. You got anything in black?

Buster turns back to the rail.

BUSTER

*Black?* What, you want everyone to think you're going to a funeral? Think you're some kind of artsy-fartsy type? No, no, no, no, no...

Buster pulls out a SPARKLY PRINCESS DRESS.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

... Bingo! Pop star princess!

A POWER CUT suddenly plunges the theatre into DARKNESS.

ASH

Wha?

GUNTER

Is this part of the competition?

BUSTER

Okay everybody, don't panic, don't panic.

MIKE

What's going on?

BUSTER

Talk to me, Crawly.

MISS CRAWLY

When did we last pay the power company, Mr. Moon?

Buster winces. Animals fumble and bump about in the darkness.

BUSTER

Oh for Pete's sake... Okay, don't worry everybody. I will take care of this. In the meantime, you will continue to rehearse in the dark!

The cast are baffled.

ASH

What?

ROSITA

But I can't see anything.

GUNTER

Don't you worry Rosita, I have glow sticks.

BUSTER

Great. Use this time to shake off those first day inhibitions and I'll be right back.

MIKE

You gotta be kidding me!

MISS CRAWLY

Okay, you heard him! Back to work now! Come on, everybody.

Gunter sings and waves his glow sticks in the air.

49

EXT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

49

Buster climbs out of his office window HOLDING THE END OF A POWER CABLE. He shimmies carefully along a ledge but a piece of the theatre suddenly breaks off under his foot.

BUSTER

(To the theatre)

Woah! Sorry, old girl. I'll fix that.

Buster prepares to JUMP ACROSS to the neighbouring department store... Leaps..... BUT MISSES!

ON MEENA arriving at the theatre with a cake tin as BUSTER bounces in front of her on the end of his power cable like a yoyo.

MEENA

Mr. Moon?

BUSTER

Uhhhhh...

MEENA

You probably don't remember me but I, uh, I auditioned yesterday and I--

BUSTER

--Hey listen, do you think maybe you could reach the ledge?

MEENA

That ledge?

CUT TO:

Meena lifts Buster up to the ledge with her trunk.

BUSTER

Whoa! That's a heckuva trunk you've got there! Thanks a lot, kid!

While Buster rushes to connect his cable to his neighbour's supply, Meena reads from notes she has scrawled on her hand.

MEENA

Uhhh... Mr. Moon. M-my name is Meena and I baked a cake for you and uh, I-I was wondering if you'd maybe give me a 2nd chance to--

BUSTER

*Just a moment please. Be right with ya!*

Buster's power cable is too short. He pulls HARD--

CUT TO:

BACK IN THE OFFICE: The power cable is released from under a door but \*TRAPS Miss Crawly against the cabinet! The lights go on.

CAST (O.S.)

Yay! It's about time.

Miss Crawly is still pinned against the cabinet.

MISS CRAWLY

(weakly)

Johnny...?

50

INT. BACKSTAGE - DAY

50

Buster re-enters the backstage area with Meena by his side.

BUSTER

Yep, mind your head here. Hey, can you pull up that scenic cable?

MEENA

You mean this?

Meena pulls a lever (up high) and the stage scenic rises.

BUSTER

Yes, that's it! Great. And the house lights?



Meena throws two switches, ILLUMINATING THE SPECTACULAR AUDITORIUM.

MEENA

Wow.

BUSTER

Ah, I know. Beautiful, isn't she?

Buster is charmed by Meena's shared expression of wonder.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

You know what kid, how would you like to be a part of this show?

MEENA

Really? Wait, oh my gosh, I was just gonna ask about that!

BUSTER

Great! 'Cos I could really use a stage hand.

MEENA

Stage hand? But--

BUSTER

--Aw, don't worry about it, you're gonna pick it up in no time. I'll teach you everything I know. Follow me!

INT. BACKSTAGE: Buster rushes up the stairs.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

These are the rehearsal spaces and dressing rooms and up here we got workshops and the main office...

Meena stops to admire all the different acts rehearsing in their rooms. **A DELIGHTFUL MUSICAL PANORAMA...**

GUNTER (O.S.)

Touch ya toes...up in ze air! Touch ya toes...up in ze air!

MEENA

... Awesome.

MIKE (O.S.)

Awesome? Pah!

Meena looks down to see Mike standing on the steps.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I think the word you're after is *awful*. And that's me restraining myself. Not an ounce o' talent between 'em, not an ounce. In fact, you know that? I think that prize is as good as mine already.

51 INT. BANK - EARLY EVENING

51

Mike sits opposite a BULL BANK MANAGER.

MIKE

... Yes indeed, I am about to come into a very, very large sum of money. \$100,000 to be precise.

BULL BANK MANAGER

Well, is that so? In that case sir you'll be wanting our platinum card.

The goat pushes a silver credit card towards Mike.

52 EXT. NIGHTCLUB - EARLY EVENING

52

The FEMALE MOUSE is walking up to the club entrance. She hears A CAR HORN BLAST and EVERYONE turns to see--

--MIKE pulling up in A SPORTS CAR.

Everyone, including the female mouse, is in awe. Mike exits his car and offers his arm to the female mouse. She takes it. They approach the door to the club.

MIKE

Well, well, well, hello again!

The BOUNCER allows them entry... Into the pulsating light they go.

53 INT. ASH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

53

ASH AND LANCE are laughing at song choices together on the sofa.

LANCE

Ha! Oh man, these are like, the cheesiest songs of all time.

ASH

(Laughing)

I know, right. I mean, I was even thinking of writing my own song instead.

Lance stops laughing.

LANCE  
Wait, what? Your own song?

ASH  
Well, yeah...

LANCE  
Look, if you wanna win that money,  
just do what the koala says.

ASH  
Why? You think I can't write my own  
song?

Lance throws up his paws in surrender.

LANCE  
Whoa, whoa. I'm just saying, not  
everyone can write songs, okay? I know I  
make it look easy, babe, but it's not.

Lance exits. Ash looks at the song list and reconsiders...

54

EXT. MEENA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

54

MEENA steps off the BUS, humming along to her headphones. As  
the bus pulls away it reveals--

-- Her front garden full of ANIMALS EXCITED TO SEE HER.

GRANDMA ELEPHANT  
Oh, here she is! Quiet down  
everybody. Shhh!

SILENCE. Meena turns to her MOTHER.

GRANDPA ELEPHANT  
So, Meena? Are ya in the show?

MEENA  
Uh. Well... Yeah kinda but--

--EXPLOSION OF CHEERS FROM THE CROWD.

GRANDPA ELEPHANT  
Woooo-hoooo! She did it!

MEENA'S GRANDMOTHER  
Aaaaaah! I knew it! I knew it!

MEENA'S MOTHER

Oh, I'm so proud o' you, I could  
pop!

GRANDPA ELEPHANT

That's my birthday wish comin' true  
right there!

GRANDMA ELEPHANT

Way to go, Meena!

VOICE IN CROWD

Oh Meena we love you!

MEENA

(Tense whisper)  
*Mom? What the heck?*

MEENA'S MOTHER

Wait a minute, wait a minute. Don't  
be mad, okay? It was your Grandma.  
She told the whole street about  
your audition.

MEENA

Mom, no, wait--

MEENA'S MOTHER

-- Shush baby, you need to save  
that singing voice of yours so from  
now on, just nod or shake your  
head, okay?

Meena nods. Neighbours call her name and take pictures.

55

EXT. DIRT TRACK - EVENING

55

BIG DADDY looks up from his stopwatch to see the gang's van  
shuddering towards him. BIG DADDY shakes his head as it pulls up  
next to him. Johnny leans out of the window. The radio is  
BLASTING.

JOHNNY

How was that, dad?

BIG DADDY

You're still too soft on them corners  
Johnny - you gotta attack 'em! And  
you're crunchin' the gears, I told ya  
you gotta be gentle with the--look, turn  
that down, I can't--

JOHNNY doesn't wait for the rest of his father's advice - he just puts the pedal down and drives off leaving his father furious.

BIG DADDY (CONT'D)  
--Oi! Listen to your father!

THE VAN roars down the track - Johnny puts his head down and looks fierce.

JOHNNY  
(Angrily to himself)  
Ya too soft on the corners, Johnny! Ya not doing it right, Johnny! *Speed up Johnny!*

He drives like a maniac.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
Do it like I showed you-- WOAH!!!

Johnny is about to hit his father and slams on the brakes.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
(out of breath)  
Dad? Oh no, I've run over my dad.

Beat as dust settles. Big Daddy pops up and SLAMS the hood of the car, LAUGHING.

BIG DADDY  
Now, that is more like it!

56 INT. ROSITA'S HOME - NIGHT

56

ROSITA creeps in through the front door to find the lights low and her 'system' completing cleaning tasks.

ROSITA peeps in the kids room and they are all asleep. A recording of Rosita finishes up.

ROSITA RECORDING (O.S.)  
AND THE 3 LITTLE PIGS LIVED HAPPILY EVER  
AFTER. GOOD NIGHT MY DEARS.

57 INT. ROSITA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

57

ROSITA climbs into bed next to NORMAN WHO IS VERY SLEEPY.

ROSITA  
Norman? Are you awake?

NORMAN

Mmmm...

ROSITA

How was your day, honey?

NORMAN

(Yawns)

Same as always.

ROSITA

It was?

Norman affectionately lays his hand on her leg.

NORMAN

Mmm-hmm. Oh, I don't know how you do it all, honey. G'night...

ROSITA

Goodnight.

Norman rolls over, leaving Rosita beaming with excitement.

58

INT. BUSTER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

58

Water drips into Buster's bucket for the leak. Above it, we find Buster high up on a ladder fixing a pipe with some tape, singing a tune.

He wipes away water that has dripped on the photo of HIMSELF AND HIS FATHER CUTTING THE RIBBON. He smiles at the memory.

BUSTER (V.O.)

All creatures great and small,  
welcome to the Moon Theatre!

**FLASHBACK: BUSTER OUTSIDE THE THEATRE WITH HIS DAD.**

MISS CRAWLY (O.S.)

Mr. Moon?

MISS CRAWLY brings Buster back to reality.

MISS CRAWLY (CONT'D)

I have Judith from the bank--

BUSTER

-- Wha--no no no no, tell her, I'll call her back in the morning.

MISS CRAWLY

Oh, I can't. She's right here.

Judith appears.

BUSTER

Judith! Hello!

59

EXT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

59

Buster ushers Judith out of the theatre.

JUDITH

I work for a bank, not a charity,  
and if your accounts are not  
settled by the end of the month--

BUSTER

Okay--Judith, I personally  
guarantee by the end of this month  
this show is going to be the  
biggest hit this city has ever  
seen.

JUDITH

Mr. Moon, none of your shows have  
ever worked! *None of them!* You've  
had your chances, now settle your  
accounts or we will repossess this  
property!

She turns to walk away.

BUSTER

Okay - toodle-oo. Haha!

Buster finds Miss Crawly looking at him with real concern.

MISS CRAWLY

What are you going to do, Mr. Moon?

BUSTER

Honestly? I have no idea.

60

EXT. EDDIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

60

Sprinklers hiss and crickets creak. Underwater lights illuminate a pool on the grounds of a fine L.A.-style mansion. Eddie approaches the waters' edge sipping from a soda can. He sheds his bathrobe to reveal a Speedo, before walking to the end of a diving board - deep breath - and *dive...*

UNDERWATER: Eddie is a graceful swimmer. Elegant strokes pull him through the water and back to the surface --

-- to find he is looking straight into Buster'S FACE.

EDDIE

*Aaargh!*

Buster is seated beside the pool steps drinking Eddie's soda.

BUSTER

Hmm... are you wearing a Speedo, Eddie?

EDDIE

(Splutter)

W-what are you--

A voice calls from the main house.

EDDIE'S MOM (O.S.)

*Eddie? Is everything alright?*

EDDIE

Yah! Uh, just doing my laps, ma!

61

INT. EDDIE'S POOL HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

61

Eddie and Buster sit side by side on inflatable chairs PLAYING THE X BOX in the pool house. NOTE: we do not see the game, we only watch Buster and Eddie.

BUSTER

So what, you live in the pool house now?

EDDIE

Yeah, my folks want me to be more you, know '*independent*,' I guess. They even hooked me up with this life coach dude.

BUSTER

Life coach?

EDDIE

Yeah. I guess he's gonna help me find me find my purpose in life. I thought I had one, but it turns out, it wasn't the right one or something? I dunno. Anyway, he's got me on this whole schedule thing. It's like Mondays take out the recycling, Tuesdays mow the lawn, Wednesdays go visit Nana, Thursdays clean the pool, it's like, don't we have people to do all this stuff?



BUSTER

--Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Back up. Your Nana is still *alive*?

Without taking his eyes off the game, Eddie knocks over his surfboard, revealing a family photo on the wall, at the centre of which sits a SPECTACULAR SURLY ARISTOCRATIC FEMALE SHEEP.

EDDIE

Ooh yeah.

BUSTER

Wow. And she's rich, right?

EDDIE

She's loaded. But trust me, you don't wanna go near my Nana - Brrr - she is one mean sheep.

Buster forgets the game and gazes up at this scary old sheep. A smile of great interest spreads across his face.

MIKE (O.S.)

*THERE MAY BE TROUBLE AHEAD...*

62

INT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

62

THE STAGE: MIKE sings "Let's Face The Music And Dance."

MIKE

*BUT WHILE THERE'S MOONLIGHT AND MUSIC  
AND LOVE AND ROMANCE LET'S FACE THE  
MUSIC AND DANCE...*

IN THE WINGS: Buster coaches Meena with the lighting system.

BUSTER

Now fade up the spot. Good. Lower the moon...

MISS CRAWLY

Coffee?

BUSTER

Thank you Miss Crawly.

MIKE

*BEFORE THE FIDDLERS HAVE FLED...*

Meena pulls a cable but IT GETS STUCK.

BUSTER

Okay, that's normal. Just needs a knock.

Meena knocks on the cable as if it were a door and the ropes loosen. The moon lowers behind MIKE.

MIKE

*LET'S FACE THE MUSIC AND DANCE...*

BUSTER

See? You're gettin' it.

Buster glugs the coffee as Miss Crawly looks distracted.

MISS CRAWLY

Anyone seen my glass eye? Darn thing keeps poppin' out...

Buster takes the cup from his lips to reveal her glass eye in his mouth. He gags and spits the eyeball which hits a lever. The lighting rig hits the stage. A sandbag swings and knocks Pete flying. The glass eye ricochets against a light and shoots back into Miss Crawly's head where it belongs.

MIKE

You almost killed me Jumbo!

MEENA

It wasn't me!

MIKE

Oh, is that so? AAAH!

MEENA

AH!

A small fire breaks out. Meena rushes out with an extinguisher.

BUSTER

Pete?

Buster turns to see Pete's feet sticking out of the rigging.

PETE

Urgh...

PETE is placed in an AMBULANCE with his neck in a brace.

BUSTER

Pete! You're gonna be alright,  
okay! Just, just hang in there,  
buddy!

ON BUSTER CONCERNED as the ambulance pulls away and TWO FROGS  
storm out of the theatre.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Ricki? Kai?

They don't answer. The 3rd Frog exits in tears.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Why aren't you guys rehearsing?

HOWIE

We're through \*SNIFF\* They said I'm an  
intolerable egomaniac \*SNIFF\* I don't  
even know what that means!

Howie sobs as he runs away.

64

INT. STAGE - EVENING

64

Miss Crawly helps to put the fire out on-stage.

BUSTER

Alright, we're two acts down - give me  
some good news, Miss Crawly.

MISS CRAWLY

Oh, it's not as bad as it looks, uh.

A piece of the stage collapses beneath her.

MISS CRAWLY (CONT'D)

Oopsie daisy.

BUSTER

Meena. How would you like to re-  
audition for the show?

MEENA

Really?! Well yeah--

BUSTER

Great!

MEENA

(Flummoxed)  
I mean--no.

BUSTER

Wha?

MEENA

I mean, yes, I can sing. But no, I get so nervous and - I can't do it. I mean, I would totally do it but - no, I... No.

BUSTER

I'm gonna take that as a maybe.

THE Q-TEEZ run by.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Great! Look, they're back!

(To Meena)

We're gonna come back to this, Meena!

65

INT. Q-TEEZ REHEARSAL ROOM - MORNING

65

Buster walks in and shuts off the Q-TEEZ music system.

BUSTER

Listen, guys, forget what I said before. You are very talented. Please join the show. Okay? Yes? No?

They don't understand, so he pulls out his phrase book.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

(in Japanese)

Oh! Um, here... Anata-da shi. Sugoku kusai yo ashii no-tsume, ii-shoni mitei kusai.

(ENGLISH: You are smelly. Like toenails.)

The Q-Teez GASP. One of them SLAPS him.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

What? Hey, no no no! Wait, wait, wait! Don't do, don't go!

66

INT. ROSITA'S REHEARSAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

66

GUNTER is baffled by the sight of... ROSITA covering the floor in COLOUR-CODED DANCE STEPS. ("**Venus**" by **Bananarama**.)

GUNTER  
Oh, what is this for?

ROSITA  
Now we use this to follow the  
steps.

She demonstrates by stiffly following the steps as she sings.

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
*GODDESS ON A MOUNTAIN TOP BURNING  
LIKE A SILVER FLAME. THE SUMMIT OF  
BEAUTY AND LOVE AND--*

--PIGLET CASPAR charges into the room yelling.

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
Caspar! Caspar! No!

GUNTER  
How about this? Ha ha!

ROSITA  
Come on! What did I tell you?  
(To Gunter)  
I'm so sorry, he had a fever and it  
was too late to get a sitter, so--  
(To Caspar)  
Well ya seem fine now!

Caspar dances, messing up the floor plan. Gunter joins in.

GUNTER  
Wow!  
(singing)  
*WELL I'M YOUR VENUS, I'M YOUR FIRE  
AT YOUR DESIRE!*

ROSITA  
Stop! You're messing it up! Hey!

67 INT. ASH'S REHEARSAL ROOM - DAY

67

He plays the intro to "Call Me Maybe" by Carly Rae Jepsen.

ASH  
I am not singing this.

BUSTER  
What's not to like? You're a female and  
you're a teenager - this song was made  
for you.

ASH

Wow. It's like you can see inside my tiny teenage mind.

BUSTER

I know, right? You just gotta add some moves and a little bit of...

Buster acts out the song, unaware of how stupid he looks.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

*HEY I JUST MET YOU AND THIS IS CRAZY BUT  
HERE'S MY NUMBER SO CALL ME MAYBE!* Go  
for it!

ASH

Oh you mean like this?

Sarcastic performance and phoney smile.

ASH (CONT'D)

*TRY TO CHASE ME, BUT HERE'S MY NUMBER.  
SO CALL ME MAYBE.*

BUSTER

There ya go! You're a natural!

68

INT. BUSTER'S OFFICE - DAY

68

JOHNNY thumps the piano keys in frustration.

JOHNNY

Uggghh...

MISS CRAWLY

Yes, that was very bad.

BIG DADDY (O.S.)

Johnny, come in. Over.

The voice comes from his jacket hanging from the coat rack.

MISS CRAWLY

Oh Johnny, your jacket's talking.

BIG DADDY (O.S.)

Johnny, where are ya?

JOHNNY

Dad, what's going on? Over.

69

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

69

Buster talks to Johnny.

BUSTER

Whaddya mean you gotta leave now?

JOHNNY

I know. I'm so sorry. It's just, I've got this family business thing.

BUSTER

Do I need to start worrying about your commitment here Johnny? Tell me no...

JOHNNY

No. Absolutely not. I promise it won't happen again.

BUSTER

It better not.

JOHNNY

Thank you, Mr. Moon.

70

INT. ASH'S APARTMENT - EVENING

70

Ash enters - EXHAUSTED. LOUD MUSIC blasts from the next room.

LANCE & BECKY (O.S.)

*I WANT LOVE TO FORGET THAT YOU  
OFFENDED ME, HOW YOU HAVE DEFENDED  
ME WHEN EVERYBODY TORE ME DOWN.*

ASH

\*Sighs\* Baby, I'm back.

Ash opens the door to find LANCE REHEARSING WITH A FEMALE PORCUPINE! They share a mic and gaze adoringly at each other until...

LANCE & BECKY

*...CHANGE MY FRIENDS TO ENEMIES--*

... they spot ASH. Music falters.

ASH

What is going on here?

The new girl takes off her FUNKY PINK SUNGLASSES.

BECKY

Hi, I'm Becky.

ASH  
Becky?

CUT TO:

ASH'S FRONT DOOR as Lance and Becky rush out.

LANCE  
Hey, what did you expect? You're never  
around anymore.

Ash appears at the door - extremely upset.

ASH  
I did it for us, Lance! You and me!

Ash hurls Lance's guitar case at him.

LANCE  
Aagh!

BECKY  
Oh sweetie, I'm sorry - I think I left  
my sunglasses in there--

--ASH slams the door and as if the strings holding her were cut,  
she slides to the floor.

LANCE (O.S.)  
Come on, Becky. Let's get outta here.

71 INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

71

We travel across the heaving dance floor and find MIKE with  
his girlfriend gambling with 3 BEARS. The BOSS BEAR lays the  
last card. Mike has won!

MIKE  
Jackpot, baby! Woo hoo! Well, I say  
we call it a night there fellas.  
Hey, put the cash in my car, will  
ya Derek? Hahaha!

Mike slips DEREK (AN ALLIGATOR) \$20 and Derek exits with  
Mike's winnings.

BOSS BEAR  
Well. You're one great card player,  
Mike.

MIKE  
Haha! Not so bad ya self.



Nancy GIGGLES.

BOSS BEAR

Except I still can't tell how you  
cheated.

MIKE

Cheated? *Cheated?* Oh, I am  
offended. Come on baby, let's cut  
some rug.

As Mike walks away, BOSS BEAR spies a white piece of paper  
sticking out of Mike's jacket. His suspicion leads him to  
reach for it and in doing so he PULLS OUT AN ACE CARD.

MIKE (CONT'D)

What the-- oh, uh... How did that  
get there--RUN FOR IT, BABY!

Mike runs and LEAPS OVER THE BALCONY.

BOSS BEAR

GET HIM!

Mike lands on a BALLOON which sails over the dance floor  
before POPPING ON A RHINO'S HORN. Mike scrambles to the door.

MIKE

Excuse me!

BOSS BEAR

Don't let him get away!

72

EXT. REAR OF NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUOUS

72

Mike leaps into his car just as DEREK is closing his trunk.

MIKE

Thanks, Derek!

The BEARS BURST out of the door behind him.

BEAR THUG

Get outta the way!

Mike shoots off, and the bears leap onto the back of his car.  
Mike swerves, and the bears fly off into the alleyway.

MIKE

So long, suckers! Ha ha ha!

HOLD ON THE BEARS: They peel themselves off the ground. Humiliated and robbed - they start to growl. This is NOT over...

73

EXT. STREET NEAR NANA'S HOME - MORNING

73

Eddie answers his cell phone while walking down the street.

EDDIE

Good morning Buster.

SPLIT SCREEN: Eddie talks to Buster (who is somewhere else.)

BUSTER

Hey Eddie, how are ya?

EDDIE

Good. How's the show going?

BUSTER

Aw, it's going great. And, hey, that's a sharp jacket you've got on today.

EDDIE

Oh thanks - wait--aaah!

THE SPLIT SCREEN IS NOW ONE SHOT - Eddie STANDS FACING BUSTER IN THE SAME PLACE. Buster is outside AN OLD MANSION.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

BUSTER

Eddie, you can't come visit your Nana without bringing her some flowers - here.

Buster yanks some flowers from a pot, hands the bunch to Eddie and rings the doorbell.

EDDIE

What? No! Buster, no! Don't go in there!

74

INT. NANA'S MANSION - MORNING

74

The door is opened by a DODDERY OLD PENGUIN BUTLER (HOBBS.)

HOBBS

Yes, can I help you?

Buster scans the hall before throwing his arms open wide in recognition of Nana.

BUSTER

Ah, Nana!

We reveal NANA, a fearsome elderly black sheep dressed like Norma Desmond, descending a magnificent staircase.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Just look at you, dear! Wow. You don't look a day over 90.

EDDIE

Oh my Gosh.

Buster rushes up and offers Nana the flowers. She is clearly appalled. Buster speaks loud, as if she might be deaf.

BUSTER

Buster Moon! We met at Eddie's graduation!

Nana turns her disgust towards the fearful Eddie.

NANA

Oh, lucky me. A visit from my useless grandson and his ghastly little theatre friend.

BUSTER

Look at that - she remembers me! Okay Nana, how would you like to be the sponsor for a very prestigious prize?

NANA

Not for that singing contest I saw on the news.

BUSTER

That's the one!

NANA

Oh, I see. You don't have the money, do you?

BUSTER

Well, we don't quite have it all locked in just yet--

NANA

Well, you'll not get a cent out of me.

BUSTER

Nana, please, just listen to me for a sec--

NANA  
No, absolutely not.

EDDIE  
Don't listen to him, Nana.

NANA  
I'm not listening to either of you.  
(Offers tea cup)  
Lapsang Souchong. No sugar. And be quick  
about it.

EDDIE  
Uh, Nana I don't know how to make tea.

Buster gives the flowers to Eddie and pursues Nana.

75

INT. NANA'S DRAWING ROOM - MORNING

75

A magnificent room decorated with paintings and statues of Nana and a devastatingly beautiful view of the city below.

BUSTER  
Wow. I saw this show when I was a kid.  
Nana, you were absolutely amazing!

NANA  
*Please.* This flattery is futile. I've no  
intention of bailing you out. Your  
pathetic shows are the reason that  
theatre no longer has an audience.

BUSTER  
Oh, but this show, it's gonna--gonna  
pack 'em in like it did in the good old  
days.

She looks across a magnificent lawn to the sprawling city.

NANA  
They were not *good* old days, Mr. Moon.  
They were magnificent. And that theatre  
of yours - it was a palace of wonder and  
magic.

BUSTER  
But Nana, it still is.

Eddie rushes back in with the tea.

EDDIE  
Yeah right.

Buster kicks Eddie.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Ow!

NANA

I can recall the ushers in their velvet suits. Queues a mile long just to get a ticket. The curtain rising over that glorious stage...

BUSTER

Music and light bringing dreams to life...?

NANA

Precisely.

Buster offers her tea - his seduction seeming to take effect.

BUSTER

Well, it's just like you remember it. In fact, I've made it even more spectacular.

EDDIE

No you haven't--

BUSTER

--Shh! Come see for yourself. A special performance just for you. Whaddya say, Nana?

NANA

I say... you are a liar, Mr. Moon.

EDDIE

Okay, well, we're done now, thank you Nana...

NANA

But anything's better than spending another evening playing checkers with this old fart.

She gestures to Hobbs standing gormless by the door.

HOBBS

Wha?

BUSTER

Great. It's gonna blow you away, Nana. And that is no lie!

76

INT. THEATRE - DAY

76

BUSTER

Now, listen up! Tomorrow we're gonna have a full preview of the show, and our audience will be none other than Miss Nana Noodleman!

The cast were NOT expecting that!

The cast respond as if this were spectacular but nerve-wracking news. Gasps and 'wows.'

MIKE

Nana Noodleman? She's still alive?

BUSTER

Oh yes, and believe me, she's got some pretty high standards, alright - so today we gotta have a full dress rehearsal! And I wanna see ya light up that stage, folks!  
(Calls out)  
Meena! Miss Crawly!

Buster lays out his blueprint for a new stage design.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Whaddya think?

MISS CRAWLY

Wow, it's so ambitious...

MEENA

Yeah, are you sure about this?

BUSTER

I promised Nana something spectacular and this - ha! It's gonna blow her away!

MISS CRAWLY

Oh yes--

BUSTER

2 minutes everybody!

ON JOHNNY as a walkie-talkie crackles to life in his jacket.

BIG DADDY (O.S.)

Johnny? Johnny, where are ya?  
Johnny? Answer the walkie-talkie!

Johnny makes a dash for a private corner.

JOHNNY

Yeah yeah dad, I'm here, I'm here.  
What's wrong?

BIG DADDY

(Good news)

We got the call. Shipment's comin'  
in.

JOHNNY

Tonight?

BIG DADDY

Not tonight. Now. Meet us on the  
corner of Hector Street in two  
minutes.

Johnny is frozen in conflict.

77

EXT. BACKSTREET SEWER ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

77

The van screeches to a halt with JOHNNY AT THE WHEEL. The  
gang burst out of the back of the van wearing masks. They  
lever a manhole open and jump down one by one. BIG DADDY  
thumps the side of the van - startling Johnny.

BIG DADDY

Stay 'ere. We'll be back in exactly  
37--

JOHNNY

--yeah, 37 minutes. Yep. You've  
told me. Repeatedly.

Big Daddy runs and jumps down the hole.

For a moment Johnny just twitches with indecision.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

(Looks at watch)

I can make it...

Johnny U-turns the van and shoots off down the street.

78

INT. MOON THEATRE - AFTERNOON

78

MIKE sporting A NEW SUIT and diamond-topped cane, finishes.

BUSTER

Bravo Mike, Nana's gonna love that!

MIKE

Aw, you're too kind, Mr. Moon...

BUSTER

And I myself am loving that new suit, sir! Okay, can we see Ash next please? Ash, let's get you out here!

Ash rises from a dark corner in the GRAY DRESS.

MIKE

Stand back, moody teenager comin' through.

MEENA

Good luck, Ash...

Buster and Miss Crawly sit discussing blueprints.

"CALL ME MAYBE" begins in all its high-energy glory but ASH IS MISERABLE.

ASH

*I THREW A WISH IN THE WELL, DON'T ASK ME, I'LL NEVER TELL I LOOKED TO YOU AS IT FELL, AND NOW YOU'RE IN MY WAY...*

Ash finds the words unlocking her emotions. Eyes glisten, lips quiver, voice falters...

ASH (CONT'D)

*YOUR STARE WAS HOLDIN.' RIPPED JEANS, SKIN WAS SHOWIN.' HOT NIGHT, WIND WAS BLOWIN.' WHERE YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, BABY?*

Buster and Miss Crawly both look to the stage, confused. Ash's emotional dam bursts and she sobs through the chorus.

ASH (CONT'D)

(Sobbing)

*HEY, I JUST MET YOU AND THIS IS CRAZY BUT HERE'S MY NUMBER, SO CALL ME, MAYBE?*

BUSTER

Whoa, whoa, whoa...okay! Enough of that! Cut it! Cut it! Cut it. Cut it.

Meena stops the music.



BUSTER (CONT'D)  
I don't think anyone's gonna call  
her after that. Okay, Ash, um...

Buster approaches the stage with caution.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
Hey, come on Ash, what is it, do  
you not like the dress?

She shakes her head, inadvertently tossing QUILLS into  
Buster's face before running off stage.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
Ow. Ow!

ROSITA  
Ash, what's wrong?

79 EXT. STREET - DAY

79

JOHNNY DRIVES LIKE A MANIAC. He runs a red light and causes  
cars to swerve out of his way.

80 INT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

80

In the wings, ROSITA COMFORTS ASH who blows her nose.

ROSITA  
Well, it sounds to me like you are  
way better off without that-that--

GUNTER  
--That total super-jerk  
dinkleschplatt!

ROSITA  
Exactly. Total super-jerk  
dinkleschplatt.

BUSTER (O.S.)  
Rosita! Gunter! You're on next!

Rosita hands over her BAG to Ash.

ROSITA  
Yeah. Okay. Here. There should be  
some gum or some candy in there  
somewhere, just help yourself.

JOHNNY RUSHES IN OUT OF BREATH.

JOHNNY

Rosita! Rosita! Wait wait wait  
wait! Can I take your place please?

ROSITA

Sure Johnny, go ahead.

But Gunter is already on stage.

GUNTER

Okay, get ready cuz I'm warning  
you, ha ha ha! Ziss stage is about  
to explode with major piggy power!

ROSITA

I am so sorry. I have no control.

JOHNNY

Ugh.

Gunter sees Rosita still in the wings and, laughing, urges  
her to join.

ROSITA

(To herself)

Okay. Come on. You can do this. *I  
STAY OUT TOO LATE. GOT NOTHING IN  
MY BRAIN--*

ROSITA TRIPS and FALLS on her FACE! Meena stops the music.

BUSTER

Are you okay?

GUNTER

Oh yes, I am fine, thank you. How  
are you?

BUSTER

Okay, Johnny! Let's get you out  
here!

(To Rosita)

And you guys - you've gotta work on  
that routine! Take it away, Johnny!

JOHNNY RUSHES ON STAGE WITH THE PIANO and plays VERY FAST. IN  
THE WINGS WITH THE CAST: Rosita RUBS HER SORE NOSE.

GUNTER

You can't just sing it, you gotta  
show zat fire and desire!

ROSITA

*The fire went out a long time ago.*

GUNTER

Vat?

ROSITA

Look, I can't even keep count of the steps!

GUNTER

Ugh! Counting schmounting! She zinks too much wiz her head, right?

Rosita turns to see MEENA AND ASH AWKWARDLY NOD in agreement.

GUNTER (CONT'D)

Yah, yah, see! Forget za steps und just like let ze music take control of your body parts!

ROSITA

My body parts are not responding, okay? It's never gonna happen. I should just be getting groceries.

Rosita exits.

GUNTER

Rosita? Please! Like, don't go!

The rest of the cast calls after Rosita as well.

81 EXT. MOON THEATRE - AFTERNOON

81

Rosita rushes out of the theatre.

MIKE (O.S.)

Psst! Hey! Hey! Down here!

Rosita turns to see Mike peeping out from behind the door.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You see three nasty lookin' bears out there?

ROSITA

Uh, no...

MIKE

Ah, great. Hey, by the way, love your act. Seriously.

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

The part where you fall flat on  
your face? Oh ho, that cracks me up  
every time. See ya around porky!

Mike strolls off leaving Rosita lost for words.

**ON JOHNNY FINISHING HIS SONG (HIS FINAL PERFORMANCE SONG.)**

JOHNNY

Aw, man.

BUSTER

Johnny, I know I'm asking a lot of  
you--

JOHNNY

-- Mr. Moon, I'm really trying, I  
promise!

BUSTER

What about your back up song? Have  
you practiced that?

JOHNNY

Uh... not yet...

BUSTER

Well, why don't we go back and work  
on that one, okay? I mean look, if  
you play like that in front of Nana  
Noodleman--

Buster looks up to see Johnny has gone.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

... Johnny?

82

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

82

JOHNNY'S VAN turns a corner and SLAMS ON THE BRAKES to avoid  
hitting a stationary CAR.

CABBIE

Hey!

A quick glance out of the window confirms HE'S IN A JAM. He  
tries to reverse but a truck has already blocked him in.

83 EXT. DOCKYARD - AFTERNOON

83

A BAG of gold rises out of a manhole followed by BIG DADDY.

BIG DADDY

Ha ha ha! We are set for life now,  
boys!

But Big Daddy finds the gang do not share his euphoria.

BIG DADDY (CONT'D)

What's goin' on? Where's Johnny?

STAN

He's not 'ere.

SIRENS WAIL.

BARRY

Run!

THE GANG run. A COP car chases them.

BIG DADDY SHUNTS A DUMPSTER INTO THE COP CAR - SMASH - BUT  
TURNS A CORNER TO FIND HE IS SURROUNDED BY COP CARS.

84 EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

84

JOHNNY hammers his horn but it's futile. He checks his watch  
and his head drops with the weight of having failed his dad.

JOHNNY

Ohh, I'm dead.

85 INT. ASH'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

85

Ash sits alone strumming her guitar. Her floor littered in  
torn photos and posters of her and Lance.

ASH

*FINALLY SEE IT'S NOT JUST A DREAM  
WHEN YOU SET IT ALL FREE.*

ASH (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Okay, wait, let me see...

Ash amends her lyrics and tries again. She plays beautifully.

ASH (CONT'D)  
*WHEN YOU SET IT ALL FREE, WHEN YOU  
SET IT ALL FREE, ALL FREE, ALL  
FREE.*

86 INT. PRISON VISITORS ROOM - EVENING

86

Prisoners wearing orange overalls meet with their visitors.  
We catch glimpses of their conversations...

BULL  
No mom I have not made any friends,  
whaddya think this is kindergarten?

BIRD  
If you hadn't squealed to the cops,  
I wouldn't be in here right now...

LADY DEER  
Honey, when ya getting out?

ALLIGATOR  
I'm only gonna be in here a few  
years.

LADY DEER  
Well where'd ya hide the money?

CAT  
You were just at the wrong place at  
the wrong time...

We arrive at BIG DADDY being visited by JOHNNY.

BIG DADDY  
*Where were ya?*

JOHNNY  
Um, well, thing is I went to get  
gas and um-

BIG DADDY  
--DON'T LIE TO ME!

Looking his father in the eye makes it impossible to lie.

JOHNNY  
Um. I was at a rehearsal.

BIG DADDY  
*Rehearsal? For what?*

JOHNNY

I was at a singing contest.

BIG DADDY'S anger boils into disgust.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Look, dad, I'm...I'm sorry, I just don't wanna be in your gang. I wanna be a singer--

BIG DADDY

--Singer?

JOHNNY

Look, dad, no, it's okay, I can get the bail money, there's a prize, it's \$100,000--

BIG DADDY THUMPS the desk and the whole room is silenced.

BIG DADDY

How did I end up with a son like you, eh? You're nuffin' like me. Ya never were... and ya never will be.

BIG DADDY slams down the phone and rises from his chair.

JOHNNY

I'll get you out! Dad, wait! I'll get the money, I promise!

But Big Daddy cannot hear him through the glass partition.

87

INT. MOON THEATRE - NIGHT

87

Miss Crawly busies herself in her room, and exits just as--

-- JOHNNY climbs through Buster's window WEARING THE RABBIT MASK. HE PICKS UP THE CHEST and is about to steal away with it when he looks down at the desk and sees PHOTOGRAPHIC HEAD SHOTS of the entire cast. Their smiling faces stop Johnny in his tracks. Johnny has a painful decision to make. He hesitates...

CUT TO:

Miss Crawly re-enters her office, unaware of Johnny's presence.

MISS CRAWLY

AAARGH!! Johnny - Oh, you, you gave me a fright there.

JOHNNY

Sorry, I didn't mean to, I just -  
well, I know it's late but, well I  
could really use some extra piano  
lessons.

In a wide shot we see Johnny practicing with Miss Crawly. The prize money chest right back where it was.

MISS CRAWLY

Uh huh! That's it! That's good!  
You're getting it!

88

INT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

88

We find Rosita alone in the aisle of a vast supermarket wearily filling a shopping trolley.

SECURITY VOICE (O.S.)

Shoppers are reminded the store  
will close in 15 minutes. Thank  
you.

A Spanish language version of the Gipsy Kings' "Bamboleo" plays on the loud speaker. Rosita is unaware her fingers are tapping in time with the music. The music begins to take her over. Rosita dances, just a little at first but gradually showing more and more confidence.

SECURITY ROOM: We see the back of the security guard lean in to get a better look at his screen: ROSITA IS DANCING IN ONE OF THE AISLES. The guard reaches out and turns up the music.

Rosita is really going for it now - spinning along the frozen food section that spills icy fog across the floor. She grabs her trolley as if it were her dance partner, runs and leaps into the air - sailing and spinning all the way to the end of the aisle. THE TRIUMPHANT MOMENT IS SUDDENLY BROKEN BY...

SECURITY VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

The lady in aisle 6...

Rosita looks around - suddenly flushed with embarrassment.

SECURITY VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...That was awesome.

Applause echoes through the P.A. system. Rosita realizes the security cameras are watching and though flustered, she takes a bow.



89 EXT. WATER TOWER MOON THEATRE ROOF - NIGHT 89

It's dark. Meena climbs a ladder to the roof.

MEENA

Mr. Moon. Are you sure this is  
legal?

Buster attaches a very large pipe on the water tower valve.

BUSTER

Uhhh... I don't know. But if you  
keep asking questions we'll never  
get this done. Now hit it!

Meena turns a huge wheel and Buster's pipe expands as it  
fills with water from the tower. Jets of water spray  
everywhere. Buster shrieks. Meena giggles.

90 INT. MOON THEATRE - NIGHT 90

MEENA pulls on a rope to raise Buster a large pipe above the  
stage. Buster flips down his visor and starts welding.

BUSTER

A little higher, just a little bit,  
there it is! Thank you!

91 INT. MOON THEATRE - NIGHT 91

MEENA listens to her headphones as she sucks the glass out of  
the Moon Theatre windows and stacks it in piles with her  
trunk.

JOHNNY and MISS CRAWLY are too consumed with practicing to  
notice Meena taking out the windows.

92 EXT. LES CALMARS - NIGHT 92

Buster and Meena put a "Squid Wanted" sign in the window of  
Les Calmars.

BUSTER

Posters up! Now, run away!

The Waiter CHASES them away.

WAITER

Hey! You! Come back here you  
vandals!

The SQUIDS exchange an excited look.

93 INT. MOON THEATRE - NIGHT 93

Buster and Meena lay the LAST PIECES OF GLASS ON STAGE and step back to admire their handy work. Meena turns a faucet on and WATER pours into the newly-crafted glass tank.

94 INT. ROSITA'S APARTMENT - MORNING 94

Norman sleepily follows his daily routine...

NORMAN

Rosita, have you seen my car--  
Whooooa!

He slips on a TOY BALL, which goes flying into the gears of Rosita's contraption.

NORMAN (CONT'D)

Rosita, what the-what's going--

THE ENTIRE SYSTEM MALFUNCTIONS.

Norman jumps back but he is covered in milk and cereal.

Kids roar with laughter as Norman falls back into the kitchen sink. The scrubbing brush contraption HITS him in the face. A plunger suctions to the top of his head, and plops him on the table.

NORMAN (CONT'D)

Rosita! Whoa! Kids, where's mommy?  
aaAAHHH!

The machine LIFTS Norman and the piglets up in the tablecloth and out of the kitchen.

95 INT. MOON THEATRE - CONTINUOUS 95

JOHNNY finishes practicing at the piano. He's exhausted.

JOHNNY  
 (Breathless)  
 How's that Miss Crawly?

He turns to see Miss Crawly snoring away on a chair. BLAM!  
 The door flies open to reveal MEENA.

MEENA  
 Hey!

Miss Crawly falls out of her chair and on to the floor.

MISS CRAWLY  
 AAARGH!

MEENA  
 Sorry! Mr. Moon would like everyone  
 to meet backstage before she  
 arrives!

96

INT. BACKSTAGE - DAY

96

ASH'S eyes are closed as finishes up singing HER OWN SONG.

ASH  
 WHEN SET IT ALL FREE, ALL FREE, ALL  
 FREE, YOU SET IT ALL FREE.

Ash opens her eyes to find Buster looking shocked.

BUSTER  
 Wow. You wrote that?

ASH  
 Uh, yeah. Do you like it?

BUSTER  
 Are you kidding? It's fantastic!  
 You gotta sing that today!

Ash lights up. BUSTER turns to give orders to the cast.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
 Mike - you're on first.

MIKE  
 Sure. Just a second here...  
 (Answers cell phone)  
 Honey, I'm busy. What? I can't hear  
 ya.

Mike exits the scene.

BUSTER

Rosita and Gunter - you're on after  
Mike.

ROSITA arrives late and rushes into the scene carrying the  
song list.

ROSITA

You got it boss!

GUNTER

Rosita! Haha! Super cool! You've  
like, totally come back!

BUSTER

Okay, Johnny, you'll follow them--

JOHNNY looks up from a newspaper: his dad is front page news.

JOHNNY

Wha? Oh yeah, I'm ready, yeah,  
yeah, yeah.

BUSTER

Ash, you're--

ASH

--After Johnny, I got it.

BUSTER

And Meena. Last chance kid. You  
wanna join these guys out there  
today?

MEENA

I-I would, I just get so scared.

BUSTER

Sure ya do, but you know how to get  
over that, right?

MEENA

Uh... No.

BUSTER

(Tongue twister)

You just start singing! Do what you  
love then you'll be great cuz you  
won't be afraid anymore because  
you'll actually be doing it, right?

MEENA

(Confused)

Uh...

BUSTER

Look, do you love to sing? I mean  
do you really love it?

MEENA

Of course I do--

BUSTER

-- Then you face this head on,  
Meena! Because like my dad always  
said, "Don't let fear stop you from  
doing the thing you love."

MEENA

Uh, heh. Okay. I'll do it.

BUSTER

Great!

MISS CRAWLY

Mr. Moon! *She's here!*

97

EXT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

97

NANA'S CAR pulls up. Hobbs opens the door for NANA. Nana  
regards the building - it's been a long time... BUSTER BURSTS  
THROUGH THE DOORS.

BUSTER

Nana!

NANA

Oh! Do not even think of embracing  
me.

BUSTER

You got it. Eddie, please show your  
Nana to the royal box.

Eddie offers his arm.

NANA

Oh, for heaven sakes. I'm perfectly  
capable of walking.

Nana walks in alone leaving Eddie and Buster for a moment.

EDDIE

You nervous?

We suddenly see a crack in Buster's bravado.

BUSTER

Are you kidding? Haha haa, I'm  
absolutely terrified.

As they exit shot, **WE SEE A 4X4 TRUCK SKID TO A STOP. IT'S  
THE THREE BEARS.** They regard MIKE'S GOLD CAR.

BEAR THUG 2

Boss! That's his car, isn't it?  
Right there!

BOSS BEAR

Pull over...

98

INT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

98

EDDIE and NANA take their seats as Miss Crawly offers tea.

MISS CRAWLY

Lapsang souchong, courtesy of Mr.  
Moo-moo-m--

Miss Crawly accidentally SNEEZES, splashing tea over Nana.

NANA

Wonderful.

99

EXT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

99

BELL RINGS OVER: Mike pacing the theatre steps on his phone.

MIKE

Honey, honey, the show is starting,  
alright, I can't talk now, I gotta  
go. Of course I love ya. You think  
I'd buy you diamond earrings if I  
didn't--AAAH!

Mike is grabbed and lifted up by BOSS BEAR.

BOSS BEAR

*Where is my money?*

MIKE

Okay, okay, listen, listen...I just  
uh, I just maybe kind of uh, spent  
it all, you know?

The BEAR opens his enormous jaws and lowers Mike into mouth.

MIKE (CONT'D)

*AAHH! No, no, please, please wait!  
I'll give you the money. I'll get  
ya- I'll get ya \$100,000!!!*

The BEAR raises Mike to hear him out.

BOSS BEAR

Where are you going to get that  
kind of money?

MIKE

*Moon. Okay? Moon's got my money.*

BOSS BEAR

Who is this 'Moon?'

100

INT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

100

MEENA cues "Flashing Lights" by Kanye West. Miss Crawly  
points a spotlight at Buster who descends on the MOON.

BUSTER

All creatures great and small!  
Welcome to the Moon Theatre! I am  
your host, Buster Moon, and--WHOA!

The Moon slips but Meena quickly regains control.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Okay, Behold! The very first stage  
lit entirely by...

HUNDREDS OF SQUID SUDDENLY LIGHT UP THE UNDERWATER STAGE as  
the beat of "Flashing Lights" kicks in.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

...Squid power! Yeah!

It's like liquid fireworks. The squid move and change colour  
in perfect synchronisation with the music. A dazzling sight.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

(to Squid)

Beautiful work guys. Now just  
follow me on the beat.

Buster dances and the squid trace his steps.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

And as you can see, this is no ordinary theatre! This is a palace of wonder and magic--

EDDIE

(laughs)

He's done it! He's really done it, Nana!

NANA

Oh goodness...

BUSTER

Now welcome our first contestant -- whoa!

--BANG! The auditorium door flies open revealing 3 BEARS.

BOSS BEAR

Which one of you is Moon?

BUSTER

Hey, hey hey! You can't just barge in here!

The BEAR holds up MIKE BY THE THROAT. The cast gasp.

BOSS BEAR

You know this guy?

BUSTER

Mike?

BOSS BEAR

Right, Mike here says you got his money and it's in that box.

BUSTER

No no no no no, just hold on a moment here! That's prize money and it's not Mike's unless he wins it fair and--

The BEAR squeezes MIKE.

MIKE

G-give 'em the m-money!

BUSTER

Okay! Okay! Hey hey hey, take it! The whole chest! It's yours. Okay? It's all right here.



BOSS BEAR

Open it.

BUSTER

*Open it? I - I - Me?*

MIKE

*Open it!*

BUSTER

Okay, no, I-I just don't have-I don't have the keys so maybe you could come back later--

BEAR THUG 2

--Get outta the way!

BOSS BEAR tosses BUSTER aside and raises his BASEBALL BAT.

BUSTER

--No no no no no! Wait!

BOSS BEAR SMASHES THE CHEST! A cloud of dust rises.

MIKE

Hey hey, there ya go! Big guy with the bat! Who needs keys, right? Alright, let's get this thing squared up now.

As dust settles Mike runs into the debris.

MIKE (CONT'D)

What the... That's it? That's all there is?

The cast move closer to see... only BROKEN JUNK inside.

MIKE (CONT'D)

He lied! Moon lied to us all!

BUSTER

Wait a second, I can explain--okay, there's--

MIKE

He's your problem, not me...

The cast quickly advances on him, upset.

ROSITA

It's just a box of junk?

ASH  
This is just a prop!

JOHNNY  
So where's the hundred thousand  
dollars?

ROSITA  
You're kidding!

JOHNNY  
I cannot believe you've been lying  
the whole time.

ASH  
What's the big idea. Is this just a  
box of junk? You wasted everyone's--

They are too consumed with their conflict to see a CRACK  
APPEAR IN THE GLASS STAGE.

The squid all blink RED.

EDDIE  
Buster! Look out!

**BOOM!** The entire glass stage EXPLODES, sucking EVERYONE down  
in a TIDAL WAVE FILLED WITH MULTICOLOURED SQUID.

THE WAVE carries the cast through the stalls.

It SMASHES into the wooden pillars supporting the dress  
circle, causing them to splinter and buckle. The water valve  
breaks and water explodes out of it.

WATER explodes out of the auditorium and rushes like a  
waterfall down the foyer steps towards the EXIT. MEENA is  
travelling backwards on the wave when her great bulk PLUGS  
THE EXIT DOORS. The water quickly rises around her.

MEENA  
Aaahh! I'm stuck!

101 INT. MOON THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

101

As the water flows out from the AUDITORIUM into the foyer,  
Eddie leads Nana from the Royal box. He sees Buster clinging  
to the balcony of the dress circle above him. But the balcony  
starts to collapse.

EDDIE  
Buster! It's falling! Let go!

The pillars break, forcing Eddie to lead Nana out to safety.

EDDIE (CONT'D)  
Watch out, Nana, Nana!

Buster clammers over the collapsing seats to safety.

ON MEENA who still cannot budge and her trunk is barely above the water level. The structural beams and light fixtures drop into the water, fizzing and hissing like snakes.

102

INT. BUSTER'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

102

Buster runs into his office, grips the window sill and reassures the theatre.

BUSTER  
Okay, okay, steady girl. Steady.

UNDERWATER: Johnny pushes Meena free. MEENA SHOOTS OUT LIKE A CHAMPAGNE CORK ON A WAVE OF WATER AND ANIMALS.

ON MIKE being washed down the drain into the sewer.

MIKE  
NO, no, no no no no no NOOOOOOOO!

BUSTER runs out into the street. The cast cough and sputter as they get to their feet.

BUSTER  
Is everyone okay?! Nana?

We find NANA disheveled as EDDIE helps her into her car. She stops to address Buster but her fury is so intense that words fail her. Her vicious glare says it all.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
I, I, I--I'm so sorry, I just--no,  
no, no, don't-don't go!

The car door \*SLAMS and Nana is driven away.

MISS CRAWLY  
Anyone seen my glass eye?

BUSTER  
Oh, it's--it's right here Miss  
Crawly. I've got it.

--A GREAT THUNDEROUS ROAR brings THE SPLUTTERING CAST rising from the wreckage with horrified expressions...

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Look out!

No one responds - they are all transfixed by what lies behind him. Buster turns to see...

... His beloved theatre reduced to a pile of rubble. "Golden Slumbers" begins to play.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

No...

With utter disbelief on his face, Buster stumbles through the wreckage until he finds his father's bucket. The symbolism of the bucket brings Buster to his knees.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Oh, dad. I'm so sorry.

Though Miss Crawly puts her arm around his shoulders, it's not enough to stop Buster from crying his heart out.

103 INT. SEWER - CONTINUOUS

103

...IN THE SEWER: MIKE shivers against the sewer wall.

BOSS BEAR (O.S.)

Where is Mike?

Mike can see the BEARS through the drain hole above.

BEAR THUG 2

He must be dead. Come on, let's go!

104 EXT. ROSITA'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

104

Rosita (wrapped in a blanket) trudges up to the house... When CRIES FOR HELP draw her attention up to see --

PIGLET (O.S.)

Mommy, where are you? Help! Help!

-- HER FAMILY hung out to dry on the washing line.

ROSITA

Oh my gosh! Hold on! Mommy's here!

105 INT. MEENA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON 105

MEENA is cradled by her MOTHER and GRANDMOTHER. GRANDPA drinks a cup of cocoa as they watch TV.

NEWS REPORTER

I'm standing at the scene right now, Judy, and I can tell you it is a miracle anyone survived this unbelievable disaster.

106 INT. PRISON VISITORS ROOM - DAY 106

JOHNNY waits anxiously opposite the only EMPTY CUBICLE.

107 INT. PRISON CELL - CONTINUOUS 107

Big Daddy sits alone and brooding in his cell.

108 EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON 108

ASH walks alone until a FAMILIAR TUNE catches her attention. She looks through the window of a bar to see: LANCE AND BECKY performing on stage.

She quickly turns away - devastated.

109 EXT. MOON THEATRE - DAY 109

BUSTER loads his few remaining possessions, including the old photo, into his father's bucket. The sound of hammering draws his attention to--

-- JUDITH hammering a sign into the ground: **PROPERTY OF SFJ BANK**. Buster loads his bucket and walks away as... DOZERS ARRIVE TO CLEAR THE SITE OF RUBBLE.

DISSOLVE TO:

110 INT. EDDIE'S POOLHOUSE - MORNING 110

BUSTER is wearing one of Eddie's over-sized T-shirts and watches the TV on an inflatable raft in Eddie's poolhouse.

Eddie snores loudly on the sofa bed behind him. Discarded pizza boxes and clothes litter the floor.

REPORTER (ON TV)

Um yeah, Buster Moon certainly brought down the house once and for all today. And although Mr. Moon has not been available for questions, unconfirmed reports suggest he *was* responsible for building a water tank that exploded and flooded the building. I've been told the 250 squid who had been part of Moon's display are in fact employees of 3-star restaurant Les Calamars, and that none of them were harmed during the incident. Whether they will be returning to their usual work is not yet--

There is a **1-2-3 KNOCK**. It's coming from the poolhouse doors, but the blinds are drawn.

BUSTER

(Drowsy)

Eddie? There's someone at the door.

Eddie snores. **Another 1-2-3 KNOCK** turns Buster's head to see the distinctive SILHOUETTES OF THE CAST AGAINST THE WINDOW. Buster turns the TV off.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

(To Himself)

Oh no.

MISS CRAWLY (O.S.)

Mr. Moon?

Buster stands - concerned there will be conflict.

ASH (O.S.)

Come on, Moon. You can't just hide out in your buddy's pool house.

ROSITA (O.S.)

Yeah, we just wanted to make sure you're alright, that's all.

Buster sheepishly opens the door.

ROSITA (CONT'D)

Hey, Mr. Moon.

JOHNNY

You okay?

BUSTER

Guys, look I-I-I'm sorry about what happened, and the prize money and--

ROSITA

Oh, it's okay.

BUSTER

No. None of this is okay.

ASH

At least we're all in one piece.

ROSITA

Yeah, and you know what, I bet we can find some other place to put the show on. Right?

They all agree.

BUSTER

The *show*? Guys, I'm done.

JOHNNY

Are you serious?

ASH

Whaddya mean 'done'? Come on!

Buster lifts a crumpled newspaper from the floor: He's headline news.

BUSTER

Didn't you see this? Huh? Look, it says I am a "danger to society..."

GUNTER

Bah!

BUSTER

"... A deluded, washed-up charlatan who never had a hit in his career."

ROSITA

Oh come on, you don't believe all that?

BUSTER

Yeah. I do.

He makes to close the door but Johnny pulls it open.

JOHNNY

(Gentle)

Listen. You're not the only one who  
lost something 'ere. We all did.

The group agree.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I mean, I lost any chance of ever  
speaking to my dad again over this  
show.

Buster tugs and succeeds in CLOSING THE DOOR.

BUSTER

Sorry.

ROSITA (O.S.)

Oh, Mr. Moon, don't...

JOHNNY (O.S.)

Forget about it.

GUNTER (O.S.)

What is this? I don't understand.

ASH (O.S.)

Come on. Let's get outta here.

Buster lays on his air bed. A beat passes.

MEENA (O.S.)

Mr. Moon?

Buster looks up to see Meena peering around the open door.

MEENA (CONT'D)

Meena, please...

MEENA (CONT'D)

Umm. I-I baked a cake for you cuz,  
well I know you're sad right now  
and probably afraid to try again  
and--

Buster leaps to his feet - his shame boiling into anger.



BUSTER

-- Yeah, I am afraid! I'm afraid that this, this, me, right now, this is who I am, this is my lot for life, that I'm not the guy that my dad wanted me to be, not by a million miles.

MEENA

B-but you told me--

BUSTER

--What? What did I say?

MEENA

Well you know... "d-don't let fear stop you from doing the thing you love."

BUSTER

Urgh. That is just a bunch of stupid, corny--

MEENA

-- No, it's not!

BUSTER

What? Y-you really believe you're gonna be a singer?

MEENA

Well yeah, maybe!

BUSTER

Then you're just as big a fool as I am!

Silence. Meena is stung by his words.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Look, kid. You and me, we're both afraid for good reason. Right, cuz deep down we know... we just don't have what it takes.

Meena is stung by his words, throws down the cake tin and exits.

Meena puts on her headphones and loses herself in the music.

112 EXT. MOON THEATRE - MORNING 112

Meena finds herself back at the theatre wreck. The tree she had kicked after failing her audition stands bare and the place that had once been a theatre is now cleared of rubble.

113 INT. EDDIE'S POOL HOUSE - AFTERNOON 113

EDDIE is woken by his cell phone ringing ("Wake Me Up Before You Go-go" by Wham!) He fumbles sleepily before finding his phone.

EDDIE

Ah! I'm awake, I'm awake. Hey  
Buster.

BUSTER (O.S.)

Hey Eddie.

Eddie looks around to see that Buster has gone.

EDDIE

Hey, where'd you go? Are you okay?

BUSTER (O.S.)

Listen, could you meet me on the  
corner of Dinsdale and Lemmington?

EDDIE

(yawns)  
Wha - now?

BUSTER (O.S.)

Yeah, please. And could ya, uh...  
(clears throat)  
could ya bring me a spare Speedo?

EDDIE

Speedo?

114 EXT. STREET CORNER. - AFTERNOON 114

Tilt down from a street sign: DINSDALE AND LEMINGTON... To see Eddie pull up in his CAR in front of... BUSTER and MISS CRAWLY standing by the traffic lights of a busy intersection with a sign saying: **MOON'S CAR WASH.**

EDDIE

Hey, Miss Crawly.

MISS CRAWLY  
Oh, hello Eddie!

BUSTER  
Hey, did you bring the Speedo?

EDDIE  
The - oh, yeah, I... here.

Eddie hands him the Speedo.

BUSTER  
Great. You're a real pal, Eddie.

A CAR pulls up beside them and the driver honks his horn.

MISS CRAWLY  
Oh! Our first customer!

BUSTER  
Miss Crawly - fill the bucket.  
(To the driver)  
Be right with ya, sir.

Buster strips.

EDDIE  
Wait. What are you doing?

BUSTER  
The only other job I know.  
(Sighs)  
Just glad my dad isn't here to see  
this.

Reveal Buster wearing only a Speedo and goggles.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
Miss Crawly, if you wou--

Miss Crawly hurls a bucket of soapy water over BUSTER.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
Thanks. Well, I gotta go to work.  
I'll see ya around, Eddie.

Buster takes a run at the car...

INSIDE CAR: Buster lands **SPLAT** on the windscreen and starts scrubbing with his entire body.

ON Eddie getting back into his own car... but Eddie is so upset to see Buster this way, he doesn't start the engine.

## OBNOXIOUS DRIVER

Come on! I ain't got all day!  
Aw, forget it. Too slow dude.

The driver pulls away. Buster rolls off the hood and on to the sidewalk. For a moment he just lays there in a puddle. ANOTHER CAR pulls in and HONKS its horn.

## EDDIE

One moment please, sir!  
(To Buster)  
Well, you know the good thing about hitting rock bottom? There's only one way left to go, and that's up.  
(Picks Buster up)  
C'mon. You wash. I'll dry.

Eddie strips down to his boxers. ON BUSTER: His heart fit to burst - but the poignant moment is suddenly undercut when he is doused in soapy water.

## BUSTER

Thank you, Miss Crawly.

Buster runs and jumps at the car. QUICK SHOTS: Buster, Eddie and Miss Crawly WORK HARD. Miss Crawly flings a bucket of water. Buster slides over the hood while frantically scrubbing with his body. Eddie buffs the glass. SHOT AFTER SHOT CAPTURES MOMENTS THROUGHOUT THEIR DAY OF HARD WORK ENDING ON Buster scrubbing a filthy windshield with all his might when the faint sound of singing catches his attention.

## MEENA (O.S.)

HALLELUJAH... HALLELUJAH...

The singer is nowhere to be seen. Buster resumes the task at hand but once again the voice is carried to him on the breeze.

## MEENA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I DID MY BEST, IT WASN'T MUCH. I  
COULDN'T FEEL, SO I TRIED TO TOUCH.  
I'VE TOLD THE TRUTH, I DIDN'T COME  
TO FOOL YOU...

Buster stops scrubbing and follows the voice across the street...

## EDDIE

Buster? Where ya going?!

... To the base of the hill atop which sits THE WRECK OF THE THEATRE.

MEENA (O.S.)  
 AND EVEN THOUGH IT ALL WENT WRONG  
 I'LL STAND BEFORE THE LORD OF SONG  
 WITH NOTHING ON MY TONGUE BUT  
 HALLELUJAH...

The voice soars with emotion and draws Buster up the hill towards the wreck.

MEENA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 HALLELUJAH. HALLELUJAH. HALLELUJAH.  
 HALLELUJAH.

CUT TO:

Buster peers over the crest of the hill to find MEENA singing with all her heart.

MEENA (CONT'D)  
 HALLELUJAH. HALLELUJAH. HALLELU--

Meena **BREAKS OFF** at the sight of BUSTER STANDING NEXT TO HER. A moment passes between them...

BUSTER  
 I, uh, do you think you can sing  
 like that in front of a real  
 audience?

MEENA  
 I don't know. But... I wanna try.

BUSTER  
 Good. 'Cause I wanna see it.

115 INT. ROSITA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

115

ROSITA is on the phone - filled with excitement while holding a PIGLET. "Under Pressure" by Queen and David Bowie begins to play.

ROSITA  
 We are? *Seriously?* Omigosh! Okay-  
 okay, yes...

CLOSE UP ON NORMAN who wakes with a start as Rosita (still on the phone) dumps the piglet on his chest.

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
 ... I'll be right over!

QUICK SHOTS:

GANG HQ: JOHNNY listlessly punches a speed bag. His phone rings.

JOHNNY  
 (Downbeat)  
 Hello  
 (Upbeat)  
 Oh, 'ello Mr. Moon.

Johnny hops on his skateboard, and heads towards the theatre.

TV SCREEN: A reporter talks straight to camera holding and quoting a newspaper.

NEWS REPORTER  
*Some say he's the worst showman  
 this city's ever seen. Some say  
 he's a walking disaster, a loose  
 cannon...*

ASH rushes out of a subway train and down the steps.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
*... Well tomorrow night, the name  
 Buster Moon will go down in  
 entertainment history once and for  
 all...*

GUNTER skips past folks in the street.

MISS CRAWLY pastes up posters... No one takes any notice... except for the Rhino whose back she accidentally pastes a poster on to!

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
*... As he and this bunch of  
 bumbling amateurs attempt to re-  
 stage the show that brought down  
 his theatre.*

116

EXT. MOON THEATRE - DAY

116

TIME PASSES OVER THE FOLLOWING:

The cast look over blueprints... JOHNNY uses his truck and a tow rope to pull the presidium arch back into position... ROSITA hangs the curtain in position...

BUSTER and EDDIE drape fairy lights... MEENA lays out benches and chairs... GUNTER paints a washing machine prop... ASH AND EDDIE nail the rafters together... ROSITA and GUNTER practice their spin... Johnny practices his piano piece...

BUSTER and MEENA drill the MOON back together... Ash rocks out with her guitar... JOHNNY pulls a rope to lift a column... Meena smiles at herself in the mirror...

... THE PLACE BEGINS TO RESEMBLE A RAMSHACKLE BUT CHARMING OUTDOOR THEATRE ON A SUMMER'S NIGHT.

Buster hangs his OLD PHOTO on the wall. The frame is broken, but the image still brings a smile to his face.

BUSTER throws a switch and the stage lights flicker into life.

117 INT. NEW MOON THEATRE BACKSTAGE - EVENING

117

Buster marches backstage with Mike at his heels.

BUSTER

Ah, don't you worry Mike, all is forgiven. Just glad you're back in one piece.

MIKE

Ah, you're too kind, Mr. Moon. And the, uh, prize money? I mean, it's real this time, right?

BUSTER

There is no prize money 'cuz there's no competition. Tonight you're singing for yourselves!  
(Out loud)  
2 minutes everybody! Final checks.

Buster walks away.

MIKE

*Singin' for ourselves?*  
Unbelievable. Wha--who's he--this is crazy--I'm outta here.

118 EXT. MOON THEATRE - EVENING

118

MISS CRAWLY stands in front of the theatre yelling into a bullhorn and harassing pedestrians.

MISS CRAWLY

(VERY LOUD!)

Hello? Ah, we-we're putting on a show here!

(MORE)

MISS CRAWLY (CONT'D)  
You all should come and see it!  
You! Come on! Come on, fella! It's  
gonna be really good!

119 INT. BACKSTAGE - EVENING

119

BUSTER approaches Meena and Eddie at the mixing desk.

BUSTER  
Hey, how's our new stage hand  
getting on?

MEENA  
He's learning fast.

EDDIE  
All set and standing by! I love  
this headset!

MISS CRAWLY  
(Breathless)  
The audience are in their seats,  
Mr. Moon.

BUSTER peers out into the auditorium to see only MEENA'S  
FAMILY, NORMAN and the unruly PIGLETS.

BUSTER  
Great! Hmmm. That's all?

Buster exits and ROSITA takes a peek.

NORMAN  
Caspar, get your pants back on  
young man! Please you guys, please,  
please sit down. Hey, put your  
shoes back on *right now*! Zoe, I saw  
that! Stop it! And Leo! That. Is.  
*Disgusting!*

120 EXT. MOON THEATRE - EVENING

120

ON TV NEWS REPORTER.

NEWS REPORTER  
Well John, I've covered many  
disasters for this network, but  
this is sure to...

The house lights dim.



NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)  
... Oh, oh, they're about to start.

121 INT. BACKSTAGE - EVENING

121

ON BUSTER addressing the entire cast from atop a sandbag.

BUSTER

Okay, guys listen up. Look, I gotta tell ya, um... there's not much of an audience out there, tonight. But you know what? It doesn't matter. It really doesn't. Cuz tonight is our night. And whatever happens, I just want you all to know how proud I am to be a part of this with you.

ROSITA

Good luck Mr. Moon.

BUSTER

Good luck everyoooooooooo--

Eddie \*SHOOTS BUSTER UP TO THE RAFTERS ON A SANDBAG.

EDDIE

Oops. Eh-Sorry, just dropped the cue there. Don't worry. I--I'm gonna get the hang of this.

Buster balances himself on the rafters - the roof is missing but what the heck! Buster tip-toes over to the CRESCENT MOON. He takes a deep breath.

BUSTER

Here we go.

Eddie cues "Flashing Lights" by Kanye West and Buster descends on the crescent moon.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

All creatures, great and small,  
welcome to the - oh--hello there.

The Piglets and the News Anchor laugh at BUSTER WHO IS FACING THE WRONG WAY.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
Great! Welcome to our newly  
refurbished open air theatre...

CUT TO:

ROSITA AND GUNTER BACKSTAGE. Gunter takes deep breaths and Rosita bounces on her toes: a boxer about to enter the ring.

ROSITA  
You ready, big guy?

GUNTER  
Yah. I'm like totally ready.

ROSITA  
Alright...

Rosita picks up A HUGE PILE OF LAUNDRY.

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
... Let's do this.

EDDIE cues "SHAKE IT OFF" by Taylor Swift. Gunter rushes out of sight.

BUSTER (O.S.)  
...Gunter and Rosita!

STAGE: CURTAIN OPENS TO REVEAL A CARDBOARD KITCHEN SET AND ROSITA CARRYING THE GIGANTIC PILE OF LAUNDRY.

ROSITA  
*I STAY OUT TOO LATE. GOT NOTHING IN  
MY BRAIN, THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY,  
MMM MMM. THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY,  
MMM MMM.*

Rosita pulls laundry from the washing machine and reveals GUNTER'S FACE!

GUNTER  
*I GO ON TOO MANY DATES!*

ROSITA JUMPS BACK IN MOCK SURPRISE.

GUNTER (CONT'D)  
*BUT I CAN'T MAKE THEM STAY, AT  
LEAST THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY.*

The PIGLETS clearly find this ridiculous and Buster appears concerned. GUNTER stands up and takes Rosita's hand.

GUNTER (CONT'D)  
*THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY.*

Rosita accepts Gunter as her dance partner and away they go!

ON THE TV REPORTER LAUGHING:

NEWS REPORTER  
*Ha ha. Are you getting this?*

ON ROSITA and GUNTER.

ROSITA  
*BUT I KEEP CRUISING, CAN'T STOP,  
WON'T STOP MOVING, IT'S LIKE I GOT  
THIS MUSIC IN MY MIND, SAYING IT'S  
GONNA BE ALRIGHT.*

Rosita disappears behind a washing line. Her silhouette against sheets blowing in the wind.

ON EDDIE IN THE WINGS reading from the cue sheet:

BAM! Rosita rips through the sheets to reveal her stunning SEQUINNED SHOWGIRL COSTUME - reflecting light like a mirrorball. *Norman and the piglets' jaws fall open. Awesome! The track transforms into a dubstep version of the original.*

ROSITA (CONT'D)  
I NEVER MISS A BEAT. I'M LIGHTNING  
ON MY FEET. AND THAT'S WHAT THEY  
DON'T SEE. MMM. MMM. THAT'S WHAT  
THEY DON'T SEE. MMM. MMM.

THUNDER STRIKES! THE TRACK STOPS! Gunter rips off his cardboard washing machine costume.

GUNTER  
*Hoooooooooooooh!*

The original track kicks back in!

GUNTER & ROSITA  
*CAUSE THE PLAYERS GONNA PLAY, PLAY,  
PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, PLAY. AND THE  
HATERS GONNA HATE, HATE, HATE,  
HATE, HATE, BABY I'M JUST GONNA  
SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE  
IT OFF.*

The song breaks down: Rosita runs, leaps - and LANDS IN HIS RAISED HANDS. SPECTACULAR!!!

122

EXT. TV STORE - EVENING

122

MIKE is buffeted by crowds gathering around a TV store window. Mike pushes to the front of the crowd to see they are watching ROSITA AND GUNTER on the live news broadcast. The crowd dance along with the music.

CAT

Aren't they great!?

MIKE

*What, are you kidding me?* It's like watching jello dancin' around.

CAT

Oh, like you could do any better, pipsqueak.

The crowd laugh.

MIKE

Alright, alright, alright hey. You wanna see somethin' great? I'll show ya great...

Mike marches off.

123

THEATRE - EVENING

123

BACK ON ROSITA AND GUNTER who are AWESOME!!

GUNTER &amp; ROSITA

*I'M JUST GONNA SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE IT OFF, SHAKE IT OFF.*

BUSTER

Gunter and Rosita!

The PIGLETS rush the stage and Rosita.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Kids! No! Back to your seats!  
Show's still--

ROSITA

Okay, okay...*Normaaan!*

Norman wakes as if from a trance, rushes to the stage and SWEEPS ROSITA OFF HER FEET AND KISSES HER PASSIONATELY.

GUNTER

Alright! Piggy Power! Ha ha!

The PIGLETS swamp them both. The audience are in hysterics. Eddie LOWERS the curtain but one of the piglets pops through.

PIGLET  
That was great!

ON THE NEWS REPORTER as crowds of animals surge past him.

NEWS REPORTER  
Well, it seems I'm not the only one who actually enjoyed that. Crowds are beginning to arrive at the scene...

Rosita's kids all go to hug Buster.

BUSTER  
Help!

ROSITA  
I'm so sorry, mister Moon.

BUSTER  
Johnny, you're on next.

Johnny takes a deep breath and begins to play the keyboard intro to "I'M STILL STANDING" by Elton John. And Johnny is wonderful.

JOHNNY  
*YOU COULD NEVER KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE  
YOUR BLOOD LIKE WINTER FREEZES JUST  
LIKE ICE AND THERE'S A COLD LONELY  
LIGHT THAT SHINES FROM YOU YOU'LL  
WIND UP LIKE THE WRECK YOU HIDE  
BEHIND THAT MASK YOU USE...*

124

INT. PRISON - CONTINUOUS

124

Prisoners in a shared cell watch the show on TV. From a bench at the back of the cell, BIG DADDY raises his weary head to see the gang responding to the music on coming from the TV.

JOHNNY  
*AND DID YOU THINK THIS FOOL COULD  
NEVER WIN WELL LOOK AT ME, I'M  
COMING BACK AGAIN I GOT A TASTE OF  
LOVE IN A SIMPLE WAY AND IF YOU  
NEED TO KNOW WHILE I'M STILL  
STANDING YOU JUST FADE AWAY*

BIG DADDY  
What is that? Turn it down, will  
you?

Big Daddy's curiosity lifts him from his bench --

-- And through the bunch of prisoners to see Johnny  
performing on TV.

BIG DADDY (CONT'D)  
Oi, didn't you hear me? I said turn  
it--  
(Whisper, realizing)  
Johnny?

ON SCREEN: Johnny looks right at camera/at his father.

JOHNNY  
*DON'T YOU KNOW I'M STILL STANDING  
BETTER THAN I EVER DID LOOKING LIKE  
A TRUE SURVIVOR, FEELING LIKE A  
LITTLE KID...*

At first we can't tell if BIG DADDY is angry.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
*I'M STILL STANDING AFTER ALL THIS  
TIME PICKING UP THE PIECES OF MY  
LIFE WITHOUT YOU ON MY MIND*

His eyes glisten as if seeing his son for the first time.

BIG DADDY  
(To himself)  
Johnny?  
(Bursting with pride)  
It's Johnny! That's my son!

Hearing himself say those words catches him off guard.

BIG DADDY (CONT'D)  
My son...

Big Daddy looks around the cell with a sense of urgency  
before settling on the small barred window.

JOHNNY  
*I'M STILL STANDING YEAH YEAH YEAH  
I'M STILL STANDING YEAH YEAH YEAH*

Big Daddy leaps up and swings on a ceiling pipe. His feet  
slam into the barred window - BANG!

125 INT. PRISON WARDEN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 125

The RHINO POLICE are watching the same TV show when the ENTIRE ROOM SHAKES - BANG! BANG!

RHINO COP  
What the--

CUT TO:

POLICE RHINOS arrive at the cell.

RHINO COP (CONT'D)  
Hey, hey, hey!

BANG! Big Daddy smashes the bars out of the window and leaps through the hole. THE GANG CHEER.

126 EXT. PRISON - EVENING 126

Big Daddy lands on the roof of a passing BUS before leaping on to the roof of a building.

JOHNNY  
*ONCE I NEVER COULD HOPE TO WIN YOU  
STARTING DOWN THE ROAD LEAVING ME  
AGAIN THE THREATS YOU MADE WERE  
MEANT TO CUT ME DOWN AND IF OUR  
LOVE WAS JUST A CIRCUS YOU'D BE A  
CLOWN BY NOW...*

Big Daddy runs across the rooftops and into the distance.

127 INT. NEW MOON THEATRE - EVENING 127

STAGE: JOHNNY is magnificent.

JOHNNY (V.O.)  
*DON'T YOU KNOW I'M STILL STANDING  
BETTER THAN I EVER DID LOOKING LIKE  
A TRUE SURVIVOR, FEELING LIKE A  
LITTLE KID...*

128 INT. DRESSING ROOM - EVENING 128

DETAILED shots of ASH getting ready: Combing her quills into a Mohawk. Lipstick applied. Tying her boots...

JOHNNY  
*I'M STILL STANDING AFTER ALL THIS  
 TIME PICKING UP THE PIECES OF MY  
 LIFE WITHOUT YOU ON MY MIND*

BACK TO:

STAGE: JOHNNY wraps it up - spent from pouring his heart out.

JOHNNY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
*I'M STILL STANDING YEAH YEAH YEAH  
 I'M STILL STANDING YEAH YEAH YEAH  
 I'M STILL STANDING YEAH YEAH YEAH!*

The audience goes wild.

BUSTER  
 What about that, huh? Give it up  
 for Johnny, folks!

But the victory is a hollow one for Johnny.

ROSITA  
 What's with the face? You were  
 great, they loved you!

JOHNNY  
 Yeah, thanks Rosita.

Johnny finds a place to sit and think about...

129 EXT. ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

129

... Big Daddy who is caught in the glare of police chopper  
 searchlights as he leaps across the rooftops.

PILOT (O.S.)  
 I've got a visual of the suspect on  
 16th and Grove heading South.

130 INT. NEW MOON THEATRE STAGE - EVENING

130

BUSTER  
 Alright, welcome to all you  
 newcomers! You're just in time to  
 meet a teenager who was recently  
 dumped by her boyfriend.  
 (Awww)  
 I know, right?  
 (MORE)



BUSTER (CONT'D)

But she's gonna chase those blues  
away with a song of her very own...

The cast stare open-mouthed as ASH walks by: a technicolour punk porcupine carrying her guitar. Eddie cues the music.

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

Allow me to introduce the singing  
sensation: Ash!

Everyone applauds but just as the music starts there is a squeal of feedback and THE MUSIC STOPS DEAD.

131

INT. BACKSTAGE NEW MOON THEATRE - EVENING

131

Everyone backstage turns to see...

... JUDITH has pulled the plug.

BUSTER

Judith!?

JUDITH

You are all trespassing on private  
property and you will leave right  
now.

BUSTER

What? No-no-no-no, Judith--

JUDITH

-- All of you!

ON STAGE there is an awkward silence but Ash remains determined to sing her own song. She stomps her right foot on the stage. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! And in no time at all, ASH HAS THE ENTIRE THEATRE STOMPING ALONG WITH HER. Buster can only watch in awe... Now she has a beat and it's all she needs to start her own song, "Set It All Free."

ASH

*I FOLLOWED MY HEART INTO THE FIRE,  
GOT BURNED, GOT BROKEN DOWN BY  
DESIRE, I TRIED, I TRIED, BUT THE  
SMOKE IN MY EYES LEFT ME BLURRY-  
BLURRY AND BLIND. PICKED ALL THE  
PIECES UP OFF THE GROUND, GOT DIRT  
ON MY FINGERS BUT THAT'S GONE NOW,  
GOT THE GLUE IN MY HANDS, I'M  
STICKIN' TO THE PLAN, I'M STICKIN'  
TO THE PLAN THAT SAYS...*

JUDITH  
I am calling the police.

Judith marches away.

ON ASH who responds to a tug on her guitar lead and turns to see Buster holding the end of it.

ASH  
... I CAN DO ANYTHING AT ALL, I CAN  
DO ANYTHING AT ALL...

Buster bows before plugging her guitar back in. Her guitar screams into life. The rest of the cast gasp and the crowd leap to their feet as ASH rocks out.

ASH (CONT'D)  
THIS IS MY KISS GOODBYE! YOU CAN  
STAND ALONE AND WATCH ME FLY! CUZ  
NOTHING'S KEEPING ME DOWN, GONNA  
LET IT ALL OUT, COME ON AND SAY IT  
RIGHT NOW RIGHT NOW RIGHT NOW!

132 INT. LANCE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

132

BECKY turns off the TV NEWS. LANCE sits stunned beside her.

BECKY  
Urgh. *Seriously?* She's not even  
that good.

Becky tosses the remote aside and leaves the room disgusted.

LANCE  
(Half-hearted)  
Yeah. Yeah, totally.

Becky exits. Lance waits for a second before SWITCHING THE TV BACK ON.

133 INT. NEW MOON THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

133

ASH  
THIS IS MY BIG HELLO! CUZ I'M HERE  
AND NEVER LETTING GO! I CAN FINALLY  
SEE, IT'S NOT JUST A DREAM WHEN YOU  
SET IT ALL FREE, ALL FREE ALL FREE!  
YOU SET IT ALL FREE!

Ash finishes up in spectacular style: getting carried away with AN ABSOLUTELY KILLER GUITAR SOLO.

ASH (CONT'D)

*THIS IS MY BIG HELLO! CUZ I'M HERE  
AND NEVER LETTING GO! I CAN FINALLY  
SEE, IT'S NOT JUST A DREAM WHEN YOU  
SET IT ALL FREE, ALL FREE ALL FREE!  
YOU SET IT ALL FREE!*

Buster is spellbound by Ash's performance and remains oblivious to the quills flying past him. Her quills fly like arrows past the audience and even stick into the odd nose or forehead.

Ash finishes with an impressive knee slide.

Silence. Ash tentatively opens her eyes to find the audience have hidden behind their seats. She slowly gets to her feet.

ASH (CONT'D)

Uh... You guys okay?

THE AUDIENCE ERUPTS WITH APPLAUSE. Q-TEEZ run up to the stage, giggling and cheering.

Q-TEEZ

(in Japanese)

Sugosugiro Ash mitai ni sugoi hito  
hajimete mitawa, mitayo, wee!  
(English: That's amazing, never  
seen someone like Ash, wee!)

Ash's surprise turns to delight. Buster walks on stage in a state of bewilderment - UNAWARE OF QUILLS STICKING OUT OF HIS HEAD.

BUSTER

What about that? Hahaha! We just witnessed the birth of a genuine rock star!

ASH

Moon. You got some stuck here.

She pulls out a quill.

BUSTER

Ow!

134 EXT. ROOFTOP - EVENING 134

BIG DADDY escapes the chopper searchlights by hiding behind an air conditioning unit. Once in the clear, Big Daddy peers out and is delighted to see...

... He is across the street from the theatre.

BUSTER (O.S.)

He may be tiny, but there's no denying his enormous talent. Would you please welcome to the stage, Mike!

135 INT. NEW MOON THEATRE STAGE - EVENING 135

BACKSTAGE: the cast are complimenting ASH as MIKE walks past.

ROSITA

What are you doing back here?

MIKE

Relax, sweetheart. Just came back to show you bozos how it's really done. Now watch this.

Mike takes to the stage to warm applause and begins singing "My Way" by Frank Sinatra.

MIKE (CONT'D)

*AND NOW THE END IS NEAR AND SO I  
FACE THE FINAL CURTAIN MY FRIEND  
I'LL SAY IT CLEAR I'LL STATE MY  
CASE OF WHICH I'M CERTAIN...*

136 INT. NIGHTCLUB - EVENING 136

The nightclub bar is crammed with animals watching the TV. The 3 BEARS recognize MIKE and gag on their drinks.

BEAR

Boss! Dat is him - Dat is Mike!

The BEARS pass THE FEMALE MOUSE who is sitting lonely at the bar. She looks up to see MIKE singing on TV, looking worried.

MIKE (O.S.)

*YES THERE WERE TIMES I'M SURE YOU  
KNEW WHEN I BIT OFF MORE THAN I  
COULD CHEW.*

137 INT. THE MOON STAGE - EVENING 137

Mike is really going for it.

MIKE

*BUT THROUGH IT ALL WHEN THERE WAS  
DOUBT I ATE IT UP AND SPIT IT OUT I  
FACED IT ALL AND I STOOD TALL AND  
DID IT MY WAY.*

138 INT. NEW MOON THEATRE BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS 138

MIKE (O.S.)

*REGRETS I'VE HAD A FEW BUT THEN  
AGAIN TOO FEW TO MENTION... I DID  
WHAT I HAD TO DO AND SAW IT THROUGH  
WITHOUT EXEMPTION...*

Big daddy drops down into a dressing room, and pokes his head out. He catches sight of Johnny, and throws a pebble at his head to get his attention. They hug each other tightly.

BIG DADDY

I'm so proud of you.

The sound of a helicopter is too close for comfort. Big Daddy sees it.

BIG DADDY (CONT'D)

Uh-oh.

139 EXT. MOON THEATRE - EVENING 139

The audience is transfixed.

MIKE

*You gotta be kidding me.  
FOR WHAT IS A MOUSE WHAT HAS HE  
GOT...*

MIKE (CONT'D)

*IF NOT HIMSELF THEN HE HAS  
NAUGHT... THE RECORD SHOWS I TOOK  
THE BLOWS.*

140 EXT. STREET - SAME 140

The BEARS speed toward the theatre to catch Mike. We see MIKE'S GIRLFRIEND speeding behind him in his RED SPORTSCAR.

141 INT. INSIDE THE CHOPPER: 141

PILOT

Negative. I've lost sight of the suspect and am terminating pursuit.

142 EXT. MOON THEATRE - CONTINUOUS 142

The exiting choppers cause Mike to be whipped out of sight. The audience gasp - fearing Mike to be lost... BUT MIKE SWINGS BACK IN ON HIS MICROPHONE LIKE TARZAN.

MIKE

... MY WAY!

The audience are on their feet. The first standing ovation.

143 EXT. TV STORE - EVENING 143

The animals watching the TV wipe the tears from their eyes.

CAT

That pipsqueak really was great.

144 EXT. MOON THEATRE - CONTINUOUS 144

Mike basks in the glory.

MIKE

Thank you. Thank you so much. Oh please, you're too kind really. Look at me, I'm turning red. Stop! I can't take it...keep it coming.

145 EXT. BACKSTAGE - EVENING 145

BIG DADDY turns to JOHNNY.

BIG DADDY

Well, I better get back. They'll be wondering what happened to me. You'll visit me though, yeah?

JOHNNY

Yeah, course I will.

BIG DADDY

See ya, son.

Big Daddy begins to scale a wall. He turns back to Johnny, and smiles.

146 EXT. MOON THEATRE - EVENING 146

The BEARS pull up outside the theatre. Trouble is brewing...

147 EXT. MOON THEATRE - EVENING 147

Buster rushes on stage.

BUSTER (O.S.)

We have one final act for you tonight! Would you please welcome to the stage for her first ever live appearance... Meena!

The crowd applaud but MEENA is not in the wings.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Meena?

(To Eddie)

*Is she coming out?*

Eddie shrugs.

BACKSTAGE:

BUSTER rushes to the changing room. Buster opens the curtain and reveals MEENA in a BEAUTIFUL dress.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

Meena, what's wrong? Are you okay?

MEENA

I-I-I... I can't move. I'm, I'm terrified.

Buster reaches out to her.

BUSTER  
Gimme your hand, kid.

Her hand is enormous in his tiny paw. They exit frame.

148 INT. BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

148

Buster walks Meena to the stage like the father of the bride. The impatient audience is louder than ever.

BUSTER  
Okay, deep breaths, deep breaths,  
and remember what I told you...

Meena looks at Buster.

BUSTER (CONT'D)  
You will not feel afraid anymore if  
you just start singing.

149 EXT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

149

The place is PACKED!

GRANDPA ELEPHANT  
Meena! Meena! WOOOOO HOOOOOOO!

MEENA  
I can do it, I can do it, okay...

MEENA knocks over the mic stand and it hits an animal in the front row. "OUCH!"

MEENA (CONT'D)  
Oh! Oh, I'm so sorry! Um...

ON MIKE:

MIKE  
Ha ha ha ha ha!!

Meena is terrified.

MEENA  
Uh, okay...um...

She turns to Buster and he smiles, throws his arms open wide and says...



BUSTER

Sing.

And with a very timid voice, she begins to sing "DON'T YOU WORRY 'BOUT A THING" by Stevie Wonder acappella.

MEENA

*EVERYBODY'S GOTTA THING. BUT SOME  
DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT.*

Meena's family are on tenterhooks.

MEENA (CONT'D)

*ALWAYS REACHING OUT IN VAIN... BUT  
DON'T YOU WORRY 'BOUT A THING.*

Mike rushes back to the wings to see Meena for himself.

MEENA (CONT'D)

*DON'T YOU WORRY 'BOUT A THING,  
MAMA. CUZ I'LL BE STANDING ON THE  
SIDE WHEN YOU CHECK IT OUT.*

On stage, the beat kicks in and MEENA SOARS!

MEENA (CONT'D)

*THEY SAY YOUR STYLE OF LIFE'S A  
DRAG AND THAT YOU MUST GO OTHER  
PLACES...*

The audience whoops with delight! MIKE is loving this just as much as the rest of the cast.

MIKE

Woo-hoo!

MEENA

*JUST DON'T YOU FEEL TOO BAD WHEN  
YOU GET FOOLED BY SMILING FACES!  
DON'T YOU WORRY BOUT A THING! DON'T  
YOU WORRY BOUT A THING, BABY. CUZ  
I'LL BE STANDING ON THE SIDE WHEN  
YOU CHECK IT OUT. WHEN YOU GET OFF  
YOUR TRIP.*

Suddenly, the BEARS GRAB MIKE!

They carry him offstage and out the door.

BOSS BEAR holds Mike by the collar.

MIKE

Guys, guys, wait--we can talk this over, right? We're all reasonable individuals here-- Aaargh!

GULP! BOSS BEAR swallows Mike whole and smiles - satiated.

But he's promptly HIT in the STOMACH by a CAR DOOR--Mike tumbles out of BOSS BEARS mouth and looks up to see... his RED SPORTS CAR come skidding to a stop. And the driver is none other than his girlfriend. She winks.

CUT TO:

MIKE leaps into the car.

NANCY

Get in, quick!

MIKE

(Genuine)

Oh, thank you sweetheart! Oh, that was close

NANCY

(Out of breath)

Yeah!

THE CAR ROARS AWAY, as one bear clings to the back.

151 INT. MOON THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

151

MEENA'S exuberant performance not only has the audience on their feet but the ENTIRE STAGE IS ROCKING.

MEENA

*EVERYBODY NEEDS A CHANGE, A CHANCE  
TO CHECK OUT THE NEW, YEAH. YOU'RE  
THE ONLY ONE TO SEE THE CHANGES YOU  
TAKE YOURSELF THROUGH! OOOH!*

THE BACK WALL FALLS AWAY REVEALING THE CITY LIT UP BELOW. It's perfectly in sync with a musical crescendo. The crowd explode with applause. Meena pauses briefly before taking ownership of the moment.

MEENA (CONT'D)

*DON'T YOU WORRY BOUT A THING! DONT  
YOU WORRY BOUT A THIIING. DON'T  
YOU WORRY BOUT A THING!*

(MORE)

MEENA (CONT'D)  
 DONT YOU WORRY BOUT A THIIING. OH  
 BA BA BA BA BA BA BAAA....

Meena's family and the singers from the auditions dance and sing along.

MEENA (CONT'D)  
 DON'T YOU WORRY BOUT A THING! DON'T  
 YOU WORRY BOUT A THING, MAMA! CUZ  
 I'LL BE STANDIN', I'LL BE STANDIN'  
 FOR YOU! DON'T YOU WORRY BOUT A  
 THING!

The entire place erupts with applause. Grandpa is crying with joy and nudging the animal beside him.

GRANDPA ELEPHANT  
 She did it!

MEENA'S MOTHER  
 MEEEEENAAAAA!

The cast rushes to the stage to take their bow. Buster delights in the scene.

BUSTER  
 Oh dad, I wish you could see this.

He hears a piercing whistle, and looks out at the crowd to see the whistle comes from...

...Nana Noodleman. She is the only member of the audience looking right at him. She smiles, plucks one of Ash's quills from her hair and applauds Buster. He bows to her and when he stands he is the proudest and happiest koala you ever saw.

152 MONTAGE:

152

The theatre property has been sold to Nana. Buster hugs her, then Eddie. SO BEGINS A SPECTACULAR TIME LAPSE SEQUENCE OF THE THEATRE BEING REBUILT AROUND THEM. BRICKS, COLUMNS, SEATS AND WALLS ASSEMBLING MAGICALLY TO FORM...

153 EXT. NEW MOON THEATRE - DAY

153

... **THE NEW MOON THEATRE** in all its glory.

On the front steps we find BUSTER, JUDITH, EDDIE, NANA, MISS CRAWLY and the REST OF THE CAST AND THEIR FAMILIES gathered to cut the ribbon.

BUSTER

Everybody ready? All creatures  
great and small, welcome to The New  
Moon Theatre!

The animals cheer. Buster cuts the ribbon. The camera flashes  
and the image FREEZES ON THE HAPPIEST GROUP OF ANIMALS YOU'VE  
EVER SEEN.