

CHEERS

"Showdown"

Part I

#60591-740

Episode 21

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BT

ON

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CHEERS

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CAST

SAM MALONE..... TED DANSON
DIANE CHAMBERS..... SHELLEY LONG
COACH ERNIE PANTUSSO..... NICK COLASANTO
CARLA TORTELLI..... RHEA PERLMAN
CLIFF..... JOHN RATZENBERGER
NORM..... GEORGE WENDT
DEREK..... GEORGE BALL
ALAN..... ALAN KOSS
PAUL..... PAUL VAUGHN
DEBBIE..... DEBORAH SHELTON

SETS

INT. BAR
INT. SAM'S OFFICE
INT. POOL ROOM

CHEERS

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TEASER

A

FADE IN:

INT. BAR - DAY

THE BAR IS MODERATELY CROWDED. SAM IS BEHIND THE BAR.
DIANE COMES UP TO SAM.

DIANE

Sam, can I have the TV control?

SAM

(HANDING IT TO HER) What for?

DIANE

There's something extraordinary on
television.

SHE TURNS ON THE SET AND SEVERAL OF THE GUYS RUSH OVER
TO GET SEATS.

CLIFF

Game on?

ALAN

What is it, the Bruins? I didn't
see anything in the paper.

THEY ALL GATHER IN THEIR USUAL PLACES TO WATCH. WE HEAR
THE SOUND OF AN OPERA FROM THE TV.

NORM

I think the lady singin' the Anthem
is loaded.

COACH

What is this, Diane?

DIANE

Wagner's "Ring of the Nibelungs," the
complete cycle. "Das Rheingold,"
"Die Walkure," "Siegfried" and
finally "Gotterdammerung."

COACH

I just hope they don't use that canned
laughter.

DIANE

No, Coach, it's not a comedy. It's
opera. I'll explain as we proceed.
You see, it's the story of a golden
ring with magical powers that curses
anyone who owns it.

NORM

They had the same story on Saturday
morning on "Scooby-Doo." But the dog
sang better.

DIANE

Come on, you guys. Give it a chance.

Now, the first three hours are...

EVERYONE GROANS.

DIANE (CONT'D)

I've put up with your sporting events,
and now it's time for you to return
the favor. If, after ten minutes,
you have not been mesmerized by its
beauty, I'll turn it off.

SHE TAKES A SEAT RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE TV AND WATCHES IN
RAPTURE. ALL THE GUYS IN THE BAR IMMEDIATELY PRETEND TO
FALL ASLEEP, WITH SNORES LOUD ENOUGH TO DROWN OUT THE
OPERA. DIANE STANDS UP AND SNAPS OFF THE TELEVISION.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Very funny. Culture is wasted on you.

Oxygen is wasted on you.

DIANE EXITS DOWN THE HALL.

SAM

Hey, everybody. That was kind of a
crummy thing to do to Diane.

NORM

Yeah, she does put up with a lot of
sports.

CLIFF

Let's turn it back on and give it a
try.

SAM

Okay.

4.
(A)

NORM TURNS THE SET BACK ON. WE HEAR A FRACTION OF A
SECOND OF THE WOMAN SINGING.

NORM

Nah.

THEY ALL AGREE. NORM SWITCHES THE SET OFF AGAIN, AND
THEY GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS.

DISSOLVE TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONEB

FADE IN:

INT. BAR - DAY

MOST OF OUR REGULARS ARE THERE.

SAM

(TO COACH) I've gotta go in the
back and get some wine. (TO DIANE)
Wanna join me? It's empty and quiet
and dimly lit.

DIANE

Much like your mind.

SAM

So what do you say?

DIANE

You know, you talk all the time
about our having a dalliance.
I've always been told that barking
dogs don't bite.

SAM

Biting. So that's what you're into

DIANE

You know what bothers me? There are women upon whom this works, and they're allowed to vote and drive cars.

SAM

So, what do you say?

SHE WALKS AWAY. SAM EXITS INTO HIS OFFICE.

CARLA

(TO A CUSTOMER) Fred and Ginger are taking a little break, but they'll be back to nauseate you later on.

COACH IS ON THE PHONE.

COACH

Boy, it sure has been nice talking to you. By the way, did I tell you my wife passed away a while back? ... Oh, well, thanks. I appreciate that. Is your wife dead yet?... Oh, that's good. Well, thanks for thinking of me, Ed. I'll get back to you. (HANGS UP) Hot dog.

DIANE

What is it, Coach?

COACH

That was an old friend of mine who manages in the winter leagues in Venezuela. If I can learn the language he might have a job for me.

CARLA

You're gonna return to coaching, Coach?

COACH

Well, sometimes I miss it, y'know? Baseball's so much simpler than life. I always know where I'm at. We're up, I'm in the box. They're up, I'm in the dugout. Game's over, hit the head and get a cheeseburger. Next thing I know it's winter and I watch the Rose Bowl.

CARLA

Sounds like a good life all right.

CLIFF

Coach, this is a pretty big step you're taking here. You're talking about moving to a different part of the world.

COACH

Really, Cliff?

CLIFF

Yeah, Venezuela is real different.
Different food, different language,
different culture. Their winter
is our summer.

COACH

Oh, boy. I'll get to see the Rose
Bowl six months early.

DIANE HANGS UP THE PHONE.

DIANE

Interesting, interesting. That was
Sam's brother. He's on his way over.

CARLA

Sam's brother? I didn't know he
had one.

NORM

Me either.

DIANE

He didn't tell any of you?

CARLA

Coach?

COACH

Si?

CARLA

Did you know Sam has a brother?

COACH

Yeah, is Venezuela mountainous?

CARLA

Forget that for a minute. What's
the deal with Sam's brother?

COACH

Sam hates him, 'cause if it is
mountainous I'll need a four-wheel
drive.

CARLA

Why does he hate him?

COACH

I donno, he makes him crazy. How
about rain?

DIANE

Coach, forget Venezuela and help us
with this. Don't Sam and his
brother ever see each other?

COACH

Yeah, they get together whenever he's
in town, but he's never been to
Cheers before.

DIANE

Well, he's coming now and someone has
to tell Sam.

COACH

I'll tell him. I've got a way of
breaking bad news.

COACH GOES TO THE DOOR OF SAM'S OFFICE AND KNOCKS.
SAM COMES OUT.

SAM

What is it, Coach?

COACH

Sam, your apartment burned down and
you've lost everything.

SAM

Oh my God. Really?

COACH

No, but your brother's on his way
over. Fell better?

SAM

Coach, I hate it when you do that.

COACH

Cushions the blow, Sam.

SAM

My brother's in town?

DIANE

I took the call. He was just
leaving his hotel.

SAM

Oh. Fine. You told him I was here?

DIANE

Of course, I didn't have any idea
this would be a problem.

SAM

No, it's no problem. My brother's
coming over. I love my brother.

DIANE

That's not what I heard.

SAM TAKES DIANE BY THE ARM.

SAM

Come in here. I wanna show you
something I've triumphed over.

DIANE

Don't tell me. You've finally
mastered the stapler.

SAM AND DIANE EXIT INTO THE OFFICE.

CLIFF

Sammy doesn't get along with his
brother, huh?

PAUL

I don't understand that. I've got
a twin brother and we get along
great.

NORM

You're a twin?

PAUL

Yeah.

CLIFF

You mean the doctor looked at one
of you and still went back for more?

AS PAUL MAKES A MOVE FOR CLIFF AND NORM STEPS BETWEEN
THEM, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

C

INT. SAM'S OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

SAM IS SEARCHING THROUGH HIS DESK DRAWER FOR SOMETHING.

SAM

I used to have this problem with my
brother, kind of a silly inferiority
complex, but I conquered it.

SAM FINDS WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR: HOLDS UP A PHOTOGRAPH.

SAM (CONT'D)

Yeah, here he is. This is the guy
who used to make me feel like nothing.

HE HANDS HER THE PICTURE.

DIANE

Wow.

SAM

What?

DIANE

Well, he's very nice looking. He'd be ever better if he had his two front teeth.

SAM

Oh, I blacked those out. That was before I got over my problem. Anyway, I want you to know I didn't go to any psychiatrist, didn't read any big books. I just used common sense and decided my brother wasn't any better than I am.

DIANE

You're kidding. -- I mean, I'm sure you're right. What does he do for a living?

SAM

International lawyer.

DIANE

Wow.

SAM

Don't act so surprised. I come from a very intelligent family.

DIANE

Doesn't surprise me at all.

SAM

I guess Derek does okay. Probably makes fifty, sixty grand a year.

DIANE

An international lawyer. He must
make then times that.

SAM

Wow. (RECOVERING) Yeah, but it's
not a great job. He's gotta travel
all over the world. He even had to
get his own plane. What kinda life
is that?

DIANE

Poor wretch.

SAM

And I don't think Derek's so high
up in his profession anyway. Time
Magazine ranks him eighth.

DIANE

Well then, you've no reason to feel
inferior to him, right?

SAM

Yeah. Silly of me, wasn't it?

DIANE

You bet. How were you able to come
to terms with this?

SAM

Derek talked me out of it one night.
(SLUMPS DOWN IN HIS CHAIR) Who am I
kidding? He's better than I am at
everything. The man's perfect.

DIANE

Sam, he sounds like he's a man of some accomplishment, but this all sounds to me like a younger brother idealizing his older sibling.

SAM

You think so?

DIANE

Sure. He's just your ordinary John Doe. (LOOKS AT THE PICTURE) Can I keep this?

SAM IS NOT LAUGHING. SHE GETS UP AND GOES OVER TO HIM.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Come on, you must have a sense of humor about these things.

SAM

I guess this could be kinda funny if I look at it in the right way.

HE PICKS UP THE PICTURE AND LOOKS AT IT FOR A MINUTE. HE PICKS UP A PEN AND STARTS TO DRAW ON THE PICTURE.

SAM (CONT'D)

Maybe a moustache and one less tooth will help.

DIANE

You're really not over this, are you?

SAM

All I know is when he's in the room, I feel invisible.

COACH ENTERS.

COACH

Sam, a nuclear bomb just hit Boston.

SAM/DIANE

Derek's here.

COACH

You're catchin' on.

COACH EXITS.

SAM

Diane, it really isn't such a big deal. I've been living with Mr. Wonderful all my life. I'm used to being invisible.

DIANE

Sam, I don't pay you a lot of compliments, but I really don't think you need to feel inferior to anyone.

SAM

Hey. Thank you, Diane.

DIANE

(OPENING THE DOOR) Where's that lovely music coming from?

SAM

Guess.

CUT TO:

D

INT. BAR - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

DEREK MALONE IS SITTING AT THE PIANO, PLAYING AND SINGING "IF I LOVED YOU." ALL THE CUSTOMERS ARE CROWDED AROUND LISTENING, BLOCKING HIM FROM VIEW. THE SONG ENDS AND THE BAR GOES WILD, WITH DIANE LEADING THE APPLAUSE.

CARLA

Way to go, Derek!

DEREK

(UNSEEN) Gee, I haven't touched a piano since I was eight.

NORM

Buy this man a beer!

DIANE

I'll get it.

SHE TURNS QUICKLY TOWARD THE BAR AND RUNS RIGHT INTO SAM.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Sorry, Sam. I didn't see you.

SHE GOES TO THE BAR. ON SAM'S LOOK, WE

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOE

FADE IN:

INT. BAR - LATER THAT EVENING

THE ONLY ONE THERE IS SAM, WHO IS BEHIND THE BAR. WE HEAR THE SOUND OF A CROWD IN THE BACK ROOM. THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME BACK THERE. SAM KEEPS GLANCING DOWN THE HALL GRIMLY.

NORM ENTERS FROM THE BACK. HE'S LOOKING BACK DOWN THE HALL AND LAUGHING.

NORM

(CALLING BACK) Good one, Derek.

Hey, can I get you something?

DEREK (O.S.)

No, thank you, Norm.

NORM

What a guy. (TO SAM) Gimme another beer, Sammy.

NORM PUTS HIS MUG DOWN ON THE BAR.

SAM

Where are my waitresses?

NORM

I didn't have the heart to pull 'em
away from the show.

SAM

Show?

NORM

Yeah. Your brother's doing some trick
pool shots. Boy, you must've had fun
growing up with him. Sam, do you
have any idea what kind of gift I can
get for Derek?

SAM

Gift?

NORM

I feel I should get him something. I
mean, he did get me a job.

SAM

He got you a job tonight after you've
been looking for months?

NORM

Not only a job, a great job. For the
first time, Sammy, I'm actually gonna
have a parking place, a secretary, a
window for water bombs... all the
perks.

SAM

Wow, that's great, Norm.

NORM

So what do you think Derek would like?

SAM

I don't care what you get him. Get him a tie.

NORM

Oh, sure. I wouldn't dare buy clothes for that guy. He has his lint made in England.

CLIFF ENTERS FROM THE BACK.

CLIFF

Hurry up, Norm. He's going to tap dance for us.

NORM

Oh boy.

SAM

What, he brought taps?

CLIFF

No, he found a couple bottle caps under the pool table when he levitated it.

NORM

(CALLS DOWN HALL) Wait up!

THEY RUN OUT. WE HEAR GREAT TAP DANCING COMING FROM THE BACK ROOM, FOLLOWED BY THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE. CARLA ENTERS FROM THE BACK ROOM.

CARLA

Whew. Your brother is one good lookin' guy.

(MORE)

CARLA (CONT'D)

Have you ever heard Derek say anything about bein' a sucker for swarthy, fertile Mediterranean types?

SAM

Afraid not, Carla.

CARLA

I figured. How come your brother has all that beautiful curly blonde hair and those deep blue eyes?

SAM

(OVERLY CASUAL) Oh, are they blue?

CARLA

Like Windex. You don't love your brother, so you Sam?

SAM

Of course I do. I just don't like him, that's all.

CARLA

You don't know what you're missing.

WE HEAR DIANE'S LAUGHTER FROM THE BACK ROOM.

CARLA (CONT'D)

Boy, the Stick Lady's having a good time, isn't she?

SAM

Oh, was that Diane's laugh? I thought they were killing chickens.

CARLA

He really got to her when he told her about the time in Paris when he got drunk with Anais Nin.

SAM

Wow, really?

CARLA

Yep.

THERE IS A BEAT, THEN SAM LOOKS AT CARLA QUESTIONINGLY.

CARLA (CONT'D)

I was hoping you'd know.

SAM

Derek's always been like this. Always had to be the center of attention. Always had to be in the spotlight.

CARLA

If it's any consolation, Sam, I know how you feel. I have a sister who has me beat in every way. She's five foot two, her husband never has a drink 'til noon, she's a beautician. How do you compete with that? But y'know, after a while I told myself, to hell with her. I'm me.

SAM

You're saying I'm just as good as my brother.

CARLA

You're not even as good as my sister.
But I still like you best, Sam.

SAM

That makes two of us.

CARLA TAKES HER DRINKS AND STARTS TO GO.

SAM

Say, Carla?

CARLA

Yeah.

SAM

You think Diane likes Derek?

CARLA COMES BACK TO THE BAR.

CARLA

(MIMICKING HIM) "Does Diane like Derek?"

I don't know, Sammy. I'll pass her a
note in gym.

SAM

Carla, I'm serious. I know what women
are like around my brother, and I
know Diane, and...

CARLA

Y'know somethin', Sam? I used to
admire you. But y'know what's happened
to you since she came around? You've
turned into a big weenie. You're a
dink, a wimp, a fred, a loser.

SAM

Well, thanks, Carla. I was having a confidence problem but this has been a big boost.

CARLA

Sam, just a few weeks ago you were makin' time with every foxy lady in Boston. On your way to legendary status. You were headin' for the Hounds Hall of Fame. And then Lady Fishface walked in the door. Sam, explain what's going on.

SAM

Carla, it's driving me nuts. I get the feeling all the time she's hot for me. But she won't let me take her to bed and I don't know whether to be ticked off or grateful.

CARLA

Well, if you can't get to her, nobody can.

SAM

How about Derek?

CARLA

Oh, in a minute. But don't worry. He's got better taste than that.

COACH ENTERS FROM THE BACK ROOM.

COACH

Sam mi amigo. Necesita mi ayuda?

SAM

What?

COACH

Pardoneme por favor, Sam, mi amigo.
Tu hermano, Derek... I mean, your
brother Derek is teaching me Spanish.
He's a great teacher.

SAM

You're learning the Spanish language
in one evening?

COACH

No entiramente. El tenso subjectivo
es muy difencil.

DEREK (O.S.)

Ernesto! Venga, quiero que tu vea
mi volereta sobre las manos.

COACH

Vengo, mi amigo. (TO SAM) Want me
to take the bar for awhile, Sam?

SAM

No, Coach, I'm fine.

COACH

Oh, I get it. You'd rather be out
here if your brother's back there.

SAM

Yeah, maybe you're right.

COACH

Yeah, people don't have to draw me a picture. I like it when they do, but they don't have to. (CALLING DOWN THE HALL) Derek, mi compadre.

DEREK (O.S.)

Jefe!

COACH EXITS. CARLA FOLLOWS.

AFTER A BEAT DIANE ENTERS FROM THE BACK, LAUGHING. SHE GOES OVER TO THE BAR, LAUGHING. SAM STARES AT HER GRIMLY. DIANE STOPS.

DIANE

So, what's going on out here?

SAM

What's your order?

DIANE

Oh, Sam. He's not that great. He knows how to tell an interesting story, he's met a few interesting people, but he's just a man like any other man you'd meet in Greek mythology.

SAM

So what's your order?

DIANE

I don't have an order. I just thought you might want to join the party. I'll watch the bar. Go back there and enjoy yourself.

SAM

Believe it or not, Diane, I'm enjoying
a little time out here myself. It
doesn't bother me, having him here.
I swear it doesn't bother me.

DIANE

Really?

SAM

Really.

DIANE

Well, then I feel better about telling
you something.

SAM

What?

A SWARM OF PEOPLE COME OUT OF THE BACK ROOM WITH DEREK AS
THEIR CENTER.

NORM

Derek wants a beer. Derek wants a
beer.

CLIFF

I'm buying.

PAUL

I'm buying.

AN ARGUMENT ENSUES ABOUT WHO IS BUYING. THE CROWD MOVES
OVER TO THE BAR.

DEREK

(UNSEEN) Sam, I love this bar of yours.
But you know the best thing about it?
It's owner.

THE CROWD GOES "AAH" AND APPLAUDS.

COACH

¡Ay carumba!

SAM GIVES HIM A BEER.

DEREK

Thanks, Sam.

SAM

Sure, Derek.

NORM

How about one more game of pool, Derek?

DEREK

You're on.

THEY ALL SWARM BACK INTO THE POOL ROOM.

SAM

(TO DIANE) You were going to tell
me something.

DIANE

Derek wants to fly me out to Martha's
Vineyard tonight.

SAM

In a plane or on his back?

DIANE

He didn't say specifically... Oh, of
course. He was all excited about the
Lear Jet he just bought. But he just
wants to show it to me. It's not a
date.

SAM

Diane, what if it is a date? What do I care?

DIANE

I thought it might bother you.

SAM

Bother me? Of course not. As a matter of fact, I've got a date myself tonight. It's a good night for it.

DIANE

Okay, if you're sure.

SAM

Hey, I think you and Derek are a good match.

DIANE

Do you really?

SAM

Sure. You both think you're perfect, and one of you is right.

DIANE

You know what your problem is, Sam? You're afraid of your feelings.

SAM

I'm not afraid of my feelings. I don't have any feelings about this. Whatever you and Derek wanna do is fine with me. I don't care. (VERY LOW) Please don't go.

DIANE

What? What did you say?

SAM

I said I have no feelings about this.

DIANE

No, you said something after that.

It sounded like "please don't go."

SAM

Please don't go? Are you crazy?
Diane, you've gotta get over this
egotism of yours. I don't care what
you do with my brother. Go with my
blessing. (VERY LOW) Stay here,
please.

DIANE

Wait a minute. What was that? There
at the end, you said something.

SAM

Diane, you're hallucinating. Get
outta here and have a good time.

DIANE

Well... Okay. I'm glad you understand.

SHE STARTS FOR THE BACK ROOM.

SAM

(VERY LOW) If you go I'll die.

SHE STOPS AT THE DOOR.

DIANE

What? Now I know I heard something.

SAM

Diane, you're coming unglued.

SHE STARTS OUT OF THE ROOM AGAIN AND KEEPS LOOKING BACK AT SAM QUICKLY, TRYING TO CATCH HIM. SHE LEAVES THE ROOM AND COMES BACK QUICKLY. SHE LEAVES AGAIN.

SAM CLEARS HIS THROAT. DIANE LEAPS BACK INTO THE ROOM, POINTING HER FINGER AT HIM.

DIANE

Aha!

SAM

I coughed.

DIANE

Oh. Okay, I'll go and have the time of my life. Now if you'll excuse me, I'll go freshen up. (VERY LOW) I'd rather stay with you.

SHE TURNS TO GO.

SAM

What? What was that?

DIANE

I didn't hear anything.

SHE EXITS.

DISSOLVE TO:

G

INT. BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT - CLOSING TIME

SAM, CARLA AND COACH ARE THE ONLY ONES LEFT. SAM IS SITTING AT THE BAR, LOOKING A LITTLE DOWN.

COACH

Hey, Sam. You want to go over to that Combat Zone and see a girlie show?

SAM

No, I got a date coming over.

COACH

Oh. Maybe I'll go alone.

SAM

It's a pretty rough part of town. You need some protection.

COACH

You're right. What do you say, Carla?

CARLA

Nah, not tonight.

COACH

(TO SAM) Some other time.

SAM

Yeah.

COACH EXITS. CARLA PUTS ON HER COAT.

CARLA

See you tomorrow, Sam.

SAM

Yeah.

SHE GOES TO THE DOOR, THEN STOPS AND LOOKS BACK AT SAM.

CARLA

Want me to hang around til your date
gets here?

SAM

Nah. You probably wanna get on home.

CARLA

Are you kidding? It's two a.m. My
kids are probably there.

SHE COMES BACK TO THE BAR AND SITS DOWN.

CARLA (CONT'D)

Sam, just tell me one thing. What
do you see in her?

SAM

Who?

CARLA

The geek, the priss, the stick, the
yutz. The one who's always talking.
The one who's off in a Lear Jet with
your brother.

SAM

Carla, I know she's not perfect. I know she talks too much. She's all the things you say. But there are times when I'm with her, she just... irritates the hell out of me.

CARLA

That's what you're looking for?

SAM

Maybe it is.

CARLA

I know what you mean. I always fall for guys I hate. My whole life has been the wrong man, at the wrong time, in the wrong place, with the wrong birth control device.

CARLA GOES TO THE DOOR AGAIN. THEN SHE STOPS AND TURNS BACK.

CARLA (CONT'D)

Hey, Sam.

SAM

Yeah, Carla?

CARLA

You ever thought, even for a minute, about... you and me?

SAM

Sure I have, Carla.

CARLA

A recent minute?

SAM

Carla, I've always been afraid you'd
be too much woman for me.

CARLA THINKS ABOUT THAT FOR A SECOND, THEN STANDS A
LITTLE TALLER.

CARLA

You're a wise man, Sam Malone. If
you're ever feelin' brave, call me.

SHE OPENS THE DOOR.

SAM

I will.

CARLA STRUTS OUT. SAM SITS THERE FOR A MOMENT. A
BEAUTIFUL GIRL NAMED DEBBIE ENTERS.

DEBBIE

Hi, Sam.

SAM

Oh hi, Debbie. I'm really glad you
could make it.

DEBBIE

It's not fair of you to call me at
the last minute like that. It's a
good thing my boyfriend's a heavy
sleeper.

SAM

I decided I really didn't want to be
alone tonight.

DEBBIE

Well, what do you want to do?

SAM

Something with just the two of us,
and I don't want to think of anybody
or anything but the two of us, all
night.

DEBBIE

Wow.

THEY KISS. WE HEAR THE SOUND OF A LEAR JET PASSING
OVERHEAD. SAM PULLS AWAY FROM KISSING HER, LOOKS UP AT
THE CEILING, STILL PUCKERED.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO