



**PAUL REUBENS UNTITLED SHOW**

written by

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

1 INT. NEWS ROOM - DAY 1

A NEWSCASTER sits at a desk. Over his shoulder, we see VIDEO of SOMEONE being violently washed down a channel (shot from ground level). A chyron above the Newscaster reads: "Killer Rain."

NEWSCASTER

If you're just joining us, NBC President, Warren Littlefield is being swept along an irrigation channel near Bakersfield after Southern California was devastated by a quarter inch of rain.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. BANKS OF THE RIVER - CONTINUOUS 2

A REPORTER stands on the bank. Behind her, several RESCUE WORKERS in orange jumpsuits stare at the camera, obviously excited about being on TV.

REPORTER

No one knows why the man responsible for such shows as "Friends," "E.R.," and the new hit, "Just Shoot Me," ended up in this channel.

CAMERA MAN (O.S.)

He's coming!

We see WARREN being swept past. Because the rescue workers were distracted by the camera, they throw the rope too late, missing Warren.

RESCUE WORKER

Back to the truck!

CUT TO:

3 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - SAME TIME 3

Several RESIDENTS of Muckel Manor, a three-story Victorian house, are gathered around their TV watching the story unfold. In the background, we see DEWEY and MONICA rehearsing a dance number. They stand in front of a backdrop painted with an underwater scene and wear diving suits and helmets, as they sing a sea-related song. Two of OLD MEN are trying to create the effect of fish swimming by. They hold sticks with rubber fish dangling from them.

Dewey gets annoyed at the TV being on and crosses over. Monica follows. HECTOR, a thirty-year-old Hispanic man, and his daughter, TATIANA, an eight-year-old Hispanic girl, watch the TV.

DEWEY

(attitude)

Excuse me. Trying to rehearse, here.

TATIANA

Some man is being washed down the river -- he'll be coming right by our house!

HECTOR

He's going to get sucked into the power plant intake. We have to help him.

DEWEY

He shouldn't have been playing in the river to begin with. It's nature's way of thinning the herd.

MONICA

Hey, isn't that the president of NBC, Warren Littlefield? The man responsible for such hit shows as... Dewey? Dewey?

Dewey has VANISHED. Monica looks at the television.

ON THE TV:

Dewey is running towards the river.

4 EXT. RIVERBANK - CONTINUOUS

4

Dewey runs past several signs that say "Danger - don't go in the water," etc. He climbs out on the branch of a dead tree, that hangs low over the raging water. Behind him is the large whirlpool of the intake to the power plant - certain death.

Warren washes by. Dewey reaches down and grabs Warren by the hand. Warren looks up to see the odd sight of his rescuer wearing a diving outfit.

WARREN

Thank God... you saved my life!

DEWEY

Uh... let's not get ahead of ourselves, Warren. I can't help but notice that your network doesn't have any variety shows on the schedule.

WARREN

Variety shows... dead. Pull me out,  
please!

DEWEY

See, what I was thinking, my wife and I  
and our houseful of talented people put  
on a variety show every weekend. I was  
wondering if you might wanna give a  
coupla crazy kids a break.

WARREN

Uh... Uh... I'll need time to think...

DEWEY

Okay.

Dewey lowers his hand, causing Warren's head to go under the  
water. Beat. Dewey pulls him up.

DEWEY

Was that enough time?

The branch Dewey's on starts to break.

WARREN

Okay, I'll give you your own show!

Dewey pulls Warren to safety, just as the branch breaks off.  
The branch gets sucked into the whirlpool, and disappears.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. RIVERBANK - LATER

5

The group is gathered around Warren, who shivers and looks to  
be in shock. He has a blanket draped around him. Dewey  
holds a sheet of paper in front of Warren.

DEWEY

The show's the main thing, but I need you  
to sign off on a few things.

(reading)

"Full creative control, a soundstage  
named after me, and a flying car as soon  
as they come out -- 'cuz they're gonna be  
really expensive the first year.

Warren signs the contract.

DEWEY (cont'd)  
(calling off)  
It's all right -- let the paramedics  
through!

Two PARAMEDICS rush in and start working on Warren.

DEWEY (cont'd)  
(to Warren)  
Oh, and if you could just initial right  
here where it states that you'll take  
care of relocation costs.

Warren nods.

CUT TO:

6 INT. CAB OF TRUCK 6

Dewey has his arm around Monica as he drives a big truck.

CUT WIDE:

7 EXT. TREE-LINED STREET - CONTINUOUS 7

They're pulling a flatbed trailer -- on top of which rests  
their three-story Victorian house. They clip parking meters  
as they drive happily along. The parking meters explode,  
showering the ground with change. KIDS run along after them,  
gathering the money.

8 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - SAME TIME 8

People in the house act like they're on the subway, doing  
everyday things while hanging onto something, as the house  
sways. People read, play chess, pass out lemonade, etc.

9 INT. CAB OF TRUCK - CONTINUOUS 9

MONICA  
Warren Littlefield must be the nicest man  
in the world, to give a couple of  
unknowns like us our own show!

Dewey smiles knowingly. Then:

DEWEY  
Hey, we're here!

Dewey hits the brakes, stopping the truck in front of NBC  
STUDIOS.

10 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - CONTINUOUS 10

We see people and furnishings flying forward.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. NBC STUDIOS - BURBANK - LATER 11

A large crane is positioned next to the house. A WORKER on the roof of Muckel Manor takes the big hook on the end of the crane's cable and hooks it to the weathervane on top of the house, then gives thumbs up. The crane lifts the enormous house onto the roof of the NBC executive building. It hovers about three feet off the roof. Dewey shouts up at the crane operator.

DEWEY

Uh, a little to the right. Too far.  
Just a little more to the left. Now,  
maybe a smidgeon to the right. Perfect!

The house is dropped onto the roof with a THUD.

CUT TO MAIN TITLES.

FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

12 EXT. MUCKEL MANOR - MORNING 12

Establishing.

13 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - DEWEY AND MONICA'S BEDROOM - MORNING 13

Dewey and Monica lay in bed. Dewey wakes up but is not able to sit up because of the weight of his pneumatic hair protector, which looks like the "Rocketeer" helmet. He kicks his feet several times but still can't get up.

DEWEY

Honey?

Monica wakes up and smiles at him.

DEWEY (cont'd)

Little help?

She punches in a code into the keypad on the side of the helmet. A little door on the helmet opens and she pulls out a key. She then uses the key to open the helmet. We HEAR the WHOOSH of the airlock as it opens, REVEALING Dewey's perfectly preserved hair.

DEWEY

Thanks, honey, I love you.

MONICA

I love you, too, sweetheart.

DEWEY

What do you love about me?

MONICA

(sweet)

There are so many things about you I love, I don't know where to start.

DEWEY

Pick anywhere. It's all good.

MONICA

I'm sorry, I've just gone blank.

DEWEY

What about my rugged good looks?

MONICA

What about them?

DEWEY

Well, rugged good looks, that would be one. Now you try.

MONICA

Uh... um... gosh...

DEWEY

A sparkling personality. People say I have that.

MONICA

What people?

DEWEY

All the people. Everyone's saying it. Listen.

He cups his ear. Suddenly, she pounces on him and they wrestle for a moment.

DEWEY (cont'd)

(realizing)

MY HAIR!!!

MONICA

Relax, honey, it looks fine.

With trepidation, Dewey leans over and looks in a mirror. One hair is out of place.

DEWEY

Fine?! I don't even recognize myself. You know I consider my hair my good luck charm.

Dewey holds up a magnifying glass.

DEWEY (cont'd)

Well, look! There's nothing lucky about this! Let's just forget about our dreams of television stardom. We might as well just pack up and go back to Bakersfield.

MONICA

Honey, you're just experiencing your usual pre-show jitters. Why don't you go fix your hair -- you'll feel better. We all will.

Dewey goes into the:

14 INT. DEWEY AND MONICA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

14

Here, we see every kind of hair-care product and arcane treatment, plus a large assortment of blow dryers, hot combs, curling irons, etc. Dewey flicks a switch and several mirrors swing into position around him. One of them is an extremely powerful magnifying mirror that reflects the one out-of-place hair.

During the following, Dewey pours several bottles of treatments into a blender, mixes it, then uses an atomizer to spray the resulting formula onto his hair. But the loose hair keeps popping back up. Finally, it holds.

MONICA

Oh, by the way, honey, remember that guy who was crawling up the side of the building yesterday?

DEWEY

No, he can't move in.

MONICA

Please? He's a budding daredevil, but he never has time to work on his stunts, because he works in the NBC mailroom.

DEWEY

Monica, don't you think it's getting a little crowded in here?

MONICA

(fondly)

It was crowded when a certain young ice cream salesman showed up at the door. We didn't turn him away. He stayed and blossomed into a fine singer. And he found true love along the way.

DEWEY

(smiling coyly)

Is this one of those stories that you have to have a Ph.D. to understand? 'Cause you know I didn't go to college. I was a lowly ice cream sales... wait a minute! That story was about me, right?

MONICA

Right. So can he stay?

DEWEY  
I'll think about it.

MONICA  
Thanks, honey. I'll introduce you to Ron  
when your hair's done.

She exits. Dewey looks in the mirror in horror.

DEWEY  
(calling after)  
It is done.  
(he waits for a response)  
Honey? My hair is done. Monica? What  
made you think it wasn't done?

Dewey gets extremely close to the mirror, frantically looking  
for any hair out of place.

CUT TO:

15 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - LIVING ROOM - LATER

15

Dewey heads down the grand staircase, the centerpiece of the  
house. He rides a stair lift that travels on a track. He  
passes by several ELDERLY PEOPLE, who slowly make their way  
down the stairs.

DEWEY  
(to elderly man, brightly)  
New hip lookin' good.  
(to woman with cane)  
Race ya!

Dewey's chair stops at the bottom of the stairs in the living  
room, which is filled with people. MONICA'S MOTHER, wearing  
a flying harness, descends spider-like from above him. She's  
a vital, sassy woman with a million dollar smile.

MONICA'S MOTHER  
Morning, Dewey. Look at me -- I'm  
flying!

DEWEY  
Hey, and without your broom.  
(then, brightly)  
Morning, mommy-in-law dearest.

MONICA'S MOTHER  
I'm testing my daughter's flying harness  
for the outer space number in this week's  
show.

Reveal a couple of GRIPS in the background who hold onto ropes.

DEWEY

Who's testing mine?

A large, black hairball lowers into frame. It rotates to reveal that it's the afro of MONICA'S STEP-FATHER, a sixtyish African-American.

MONICA'S STEP-FATHER

I am, son. And I gotta warn ya, this darn thing's crushin' my package.

MONICA'S MOTHER

(to grips)

Better take him down, boys. We might want to have kids some day.

She kisses him, then the grips lower him to the ground. He struggles to get out of his harness.

DEWEY

(dryly)

Just what my wife needs -- a little brother.

Dewey re-checks his image in a brass globe on the bottom post of the stairs. Monica's mother hovers over him.

MONICA'S MOTHER

I can see your bald spot. Ha ha, just kidding. Or am I?

Dewey pushes her so she spins head over heels.

MONICA'S MOTHER (cont'd)

Dewey, stop!

DEWEY

Ha ha! Just kidding. Or am I?

He gives her another push.

DEWEY (cont'd)

Still see my bald spot?

MONICA'S MOTHER

No. You have no bald spot. I've never seen such a thick head of hair before. Please help me down.

Dewey gives the grips the thumbs up and Monica's Mother disappears up and out of frame.

Dewey crosses to the DEL RUBIO SISTERS -- identical twin seniors. Hector lays in front of them on a wooden xylophone wearing only a towel and a cop hat. The sisters strike his back with mallets. We HEAR muffled music coming from the strange configuration.

DEWEY

Morning, Del Rubio's. Morning Officer Hector.

(beat)

Let me guess, Cop Rock?

DEL RUBIO #1

We're playing "Telestar," the song that commemorates the first satellite launched into space.

DEL RUBIO #2

And Hector wanted a massage. We decided to combine the two.

They continue playing. Tatiana approaches wearing a fancy, outer space themed dress.

TATIANA

Look at my costume, Dad. It lights up!

She turns the costume on to demonstrate.

HECTOR

Wow. That's beautiful, honey. Have you shown it to everyone in the dining room?

TATIANA

I can't. The extension cord won't reach that far.

ANGLE ON:

The CRONIES, a group of older men who are friends of Monica's step-father. They are fiddling with a compressor and nail gun.

CRONY #1

Here's some extra cord for ya, Tatiana.

He tosses one end of an extension cord to Tatiana, the other end being attached to a large roll.

TATIANA

Thanks, Dink.

Tatiana plugs herself in, then heads towards the kitchen. The roll of extension cord unspools as she exits.

CRONY #1

Hey, ya finally got out of bed, huh, Dewey? I've been up since eight.

CRONY #2

I got up at six.

CRONY #3

I never went to bed.

The Cronies let out deep, guttural laughs which turn into hacking coughs.

DEWEY

Hah, hah. That's a gut buster, all right. What're you guys doing?

CRONY #1

Some floorboards came loose during the big move. We're nailin' 'em back down.

Crony #1 holds up a loaded nailgun, nods to the other cronies. He aims the nailgun at the floor.

CUT TO:

16 INT. NBC EXECUTIVE BUILDING - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

16

We meet a woman, ASPEN, and a man, JARROD, two rising, good-looking, NBC executives. They're both Ivy League graduates, smartly dressed and incredibly groomed. Jarrod hums happily.

ASPEN

Why are you in such a good mood this morning?

JARROD

I fired a page, then yelled at that old security guard for no reason. God, I've never felt so alive.

Suddenly, above them, a nail explodes through the ceiling, spraying them with bits of plaster. Aspen glares at the ceiling in disgust.

ASPEN

It's those... people on the roof.

JARROD

Are you sure they're "people?"

They share an evil laugh. More nails explode through the ceiling. They hold their trendy briefcases over their heads for protection and dash down the hallway staying ahead of the nails. They duck into an alcove then watch the popping nails continue down the hallway.

17 INT. WARREN LITTLEFIELD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

17

Aspen and Jarrod burst in. They look confused as they find Warren sitting in a lotus position listening to whale sounds.

ASPEN

Warren! Those Muckels are disrupting everything!

JARROD

It's bad enough they put their decrepit old house on the roof, now they're shooting things through the ceiling.

ASPEN

Something is leaking into my office. And it smells. You know, Warren, it's not too late to pull the plug on their show.

WARREN

(calmly)

Aspen. Jarrod. It's time for us to stop pretending that we're creating bold, innovative new programming. From now on, we're really going to create bold, innovative new programming.

JARROD

(sotto, to Aspen)

He's insane...

ASPEN

Warren, are you all right?

Warren puts a hand on each of their shoulders.

WARREN

(warmly)

I am now. I feel like a different person since my near-death experience. It's taught me that there are more important things in life than just protecting our own jobs in show business.

Aspen starts to speak but Warren cuts her off with a gesture.

WARREN (cont'd)  
Wait, I love this part.

He listens in bliss as the whale sounds continue.

CUT TO:

18 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME 18

The nailgun is starting to get away from one of the cronies. Nails are flying everywhere. People dive for cover behind furniture, etc. Dewey looks up and sees a nail heading straight for him. He runs out the front door.

19 EXT. MUCKEL MANOR - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS 19

As Dewey runs out the front door, he catches his foot in a coiled up garden hose. He falls over the edge of the roof.

20 INT. WARREN LITTLEFIELD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 20

Behind Warren, Dewey falls into view, bouncing upside down, hanging from the garden hose in front of the window. Aspen and Jarrod jump back, startled.

WARREN  
(oblivious)  
Relax. I'm a changed man. I no longer  
hit.

CUT TO:

21 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - KITCHEN - SAME TIME 21

Monica enters. LYPSINKA is making breakfast. She has a glamorous, retro, 1940's look. She is dressed to the nines with a beautiful cocktail apron over her fantastic chiffon dress.

MONICA  
Good morning, Lypsinka. I didn't know it  
was your turn to make breakfast.

LYPSINKA  
I switched places with the Elephant Man.  
He's in one of his "moods." No surprise  
there -- Mercury is in retrograde.

MONICA  
Can I give you a hand?

LYPSINKA

Yes. Be a dear and get the butter sculpture out of the freezer.

As Monica crosses to the walk-in freezer, she sees her sister, FRANKIE, a masculine handywoman who wears her hair short and coveralls. She's been working under the sink.

MONICA

How's it going, sis?

FRANKIE

Awful. My back is killin' me and I'm out of chew. Whoever installed these copper pipes had no idea what they were doing.

LYPSINKA

You want me to help?

FRANKIE

(flirty)

No, no. I don't want you to dirty your pretty little hands.

Monica pulls a three foot sculpture of Michelangelo's "David" out of the freezer. TARZAN, a wrestler who dresses like the Lord of the Apes, takes the tray of pancakes and the butter sculpture and exits.

CUT TO:

22 INT. WARREN LITTLEFIELD'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

22

Outside the window, Dewey has managed to turn himself right-side up. He puts his feet on the glass. Aspen and Jarrod talk to one side.

ASPEN

What an embarrassment. Where did these people come from? The R. Crumb documentary?

JARROD

Don't worry. I'll make sure the roof people are back on their turnip truck to Bakersfield by the end of the week.

With his feet, Dewey pushes himself out away from the window, obviously attempting to swing back and crash through it like Bruce Willis in "Die Hard." Instead, he comes to a THUD, his face pressed against the glass. His hair bends out of shape.

WARREN

(to Aspen and Jarrod)

How can you not laugh at that?

Aspen and Jarrod remain stone-faced. We HEAR a weird suction cup sound. Then a MAN comes into frame using suction cups to climb up the outside of the window. He is RON STAR, a young, good-looking man who wears a colorful, Evel Knievel-type jumpsuit and helmet.

23 EXT. NBC EXECUTIVE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS 23

RON STAR

Hang on. I'm here to rescue you, sir.

DEWEY

Who are you?

RON STAR

I'm a friend. Grab on.

Dewey climbs onto Ron Star's back. Ron continues to climb up the side of the building, using his suction cups.

24 INT. WARREN LITTLEFIELD'S OFFICE - SAME TIME 24

JARROD

Who was that masked man?

WARREN

Does it matter?

(saluting Ron)

Well done!

25 EXT. MUCKEL MANOR - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS 25

Monica is waiting on the roof as Ron and Dewey climb back up.

MONICA

Thanks, Ron.

(to Dewey)

Honey, this is the guy I was telling you about. Now can he stay?

DEWEY

Of course.

RON STAR

Gee, gosh. Thanks, Mr. Muckel! Oh, here's one of my safety pamphlets - it's on rooftop safety. You might want to read through this, when you have a chance.

Ron Star walks away.

DEWEY (cont'd)

(whining)

Honey! Don't ask me if someone can live with us when they're standing right in front of me. How can I say no?

MONICA

Dewey, he did save your life.

DEWEY

So? What kind of self-centered opportunist expects a reward for saving a life...

(realizing)

Oh.

Dewey turns. Monica sees that Dewey's hair is messed up horribly. She reacts with a start.

DEWEY (cont'd)

Something wrong, honey?

MONICA

No, no. Everything's fine.

CUT TO:

26 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

26

The centerpiece of the room is a huge, round table with a three foot hole in the center. Around the hole is a Lazy Susan. Everyone we've met before is present, as well as ELEPHANT MAN, the PROFESSOR, GRANDMA, an EX-CONVICT, a NUDIST (black bars cover her private parts), and SEVERAL OTHERS. The Ex-Convict plays a baby grand piano.

Dewey and Monica enter. Everyone sees that Dewey's hair is messed up and GASPS.

MONICA

(quickly, to group)

!xmay on the air-hay, everyone.

DEWEY

I don't speak Pig-Latin, Monica.

MONICA

I know, dear.

Dewey stands at the head of the table as everyone gets situated and seated.

DEWEY

Good morning, everybody. I'd like you to meet our newest tenant, Ron Star. Maybe you could all introduce yourselves.

Everybody SAYS their name at the same time.

DEWEY (cont'd)

Well, I don't mind telling everyone, I'm pretty excited. First week of our new NBC show. This is what they call the "big time." But don't get the wrong idea. First couple years of a new show, nobody makes any money. So everybody still pays for their own lunches. Grandma, would you like to say Grace?

Grandma nods, "yes", then launches into a long-winded, hacking cough. We notice she doesn't cover her mouth as she coughs in the direction of the food. When she's done:

DEWEY (cont'd)

Amen. Let's eat.

Grandma waves her hand.

GRANDMA

Wait, I have an announcement I want to make first. I'm getting married!

She smiles at Tarzan sitting next to her. Tarzan smiles shyly. People around the table offer their congratulations, except Dewey who looks concerned.

DEWEY

(to Monica)

Again?! He's just after the house. I don't want some sweet-talkin' ape-man to get it, not after I've spent the last fifteen years kissin' up to her.

MONICA

Don't worry. She'll get bored and toss him aside, like all the others.

PRODUCTION NUMBER ONE

TATIANA BEGINS SINGING "SWINGIN' ON A STAR" IN SPANISH. LYPSINKA STANDS IN THE HOLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TABLE AND DISHES OUT THE MEAL -- SCOOPING FOOD ONTO PLATES AND SLIDING THEM ACROSS THE TABLE. THE SERVING OF THE MEAL TAKES ON THE LOOK OF A BUSBY BERKLEY DANCE NUMBER.

THERE'S A MAGICAL FEELING IN THE ROOM -- EVERYONE'S HAVING A GREAT TIME. THIS IS THE COMMUNITY OF MUCKEL MANOR AT ITS FINEST.

DEWEY LEANS OVER TO THE BUTTER STATUE OF DAVID WITH HIS KNIFE. WE SEE THE STATUE FROM THE REAR. APPARENTLY, DEWEY LOPS OFF THE PENIS AND SPREADS IT ON A PIECE OF TOAST. LYPSINKA LOOKS AT HIM, HORRIFIED. DEWEY LOOKS AT HER LIKE, "WHAT?"

JUST THEN, MONICA NOTICES A STAINLESS STEEL PITCHER BEING PASSED AROUND THE TABLE. SHE TRIES TO STOP IT, REALIZING THE IMPENDING DANGER OF DEWEY SEEING HIS REFLECTION. THE SINGING AND DANCING REACH THEIR APEX AS THE SERVING PITCHER IS PLACED IN FRONT OF DEWEY. HE SEES HIS REFLECTION. PUSH IN ON THE PART OF HIS HAIR THAT'S MESSED UP. DEWEY SCREAMS -- ENDING THE SONG. HE HAS WHAT AMOUNTS TO A VIOLENT, EPILEPTIC-STYLE SEIZURE AND PASSES OUT.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

27 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - DINING ROOM - LATER

27

Dewey wakes up, laying on the round table. Monica sits next to him with his head on her lap. Several others are gathered around, watching.

DEWEY

I had the weirdest dream...

(looking around the room)

You were there and you were there... I think we were having breakfast and Tatiana was singing. And my hair was messed up! It was horrible!

Lypsinka hands Dewey a glass of water. Dewey sees his reflection on the side of the glass, SCREAMS and passes out again.

DISSOLVE TO:

28 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

28

Dewey lies on the couch. Monica sits next to him with his head on her lap.

DEWEY

I had the most horrible dream...

MONICA

I know honey.

Nearby, Daredevil Ron Star stands wearing his big, mirrored belt buckle. Dewey sees his reflection in the buckle, SCREAMS and passes out again.

RON STAR

Why is Mr. Muckel so obsessed about his hair?

MONICA

He thinks it's bad luck if his hair isn't looking perfect. I keep trying to tell him it's all in his head.

Dewey pops awake.

DEWEY

All in my head!? Have you forgotten the finals for the state-wide high school drama festival?

WAVE DISSOLVE TO:

29 INT. AUDITORIUM - TWENTY YEARS AGO

29

We see a younger Dewey with ridiculously well-groomed hair and a wispy, Prince-like moustache. He wears a torn T-shirt and holds a bowling ball.

DEWEY (V.O.)

We were going head-to-head with Beverly Hills High. They had brought out all their big guns - Scott Baio, the Van Patton Boys, and the fat kid from "Bad News Bears" - I can never remember his name.

(then)

They were smart. Very smart. They did a scene from "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof." And they didn't soft-pedal it, either. You could tell exactly what had been going on between Brick and Skipper. It was going to take a super-human effort to knock these gods from their pedestals, but luckily I had a little Tennessee Williams up my own sleeve: "Streetcar!"

Backstage, Dewey puts the finishing touches on his hair. The Beverly Hills High group comes off stage, high-fiving each other. One girl is wearing a slip while one boy has a cast on his foot. As Dewey prepares to go on stage, one of the kids puts him in a headlock and gives him a "Dutch rub," messing up his hair.

KID

Hey, Bakersfield -- good luck out there.

Dewey reacts in horror. A TEACHER pushes him out onto stage.

TEACHER

Get out there, you're on.

DEWEY (V.O.)

That kid had ruined my hair, but I felt confident I could recover and impress the multitude of talent agents present.

He launches into a monologue.

DEWEY (cont'd)

"Eunice, is my girl up there? I want my girl! I'll keep on ringin' till I talk with my baby! Stel-lahhhhh! Eunice, I want my girl down here! Stel-lahh!"

As Dewey does the speech, people in the audience begin to LAUGH. Dewey starts to perspire, and his eyes dart among the audience. QUICK CUTS: Funhouse shots of people laughing. The laughter rings louder and louder. Dewey runs off the stage in horror.

30 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - LIVING ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT

30

DEWEY (cont'd)

I could have been Chachi! But no! The opportunity of a lifetime, blown, all because of my hair. It's going to happen again!

MONICA

It's not going to happen again. Our first show is going to come off fine, no matter what your hair looks like.

DEWEY

My hair is the source of all my power and energy. I'm like Hercules.

MONICA

Samson.

DEWEY

Same difference.

MONICA

I promise everything will be all right by our premiere on Friday. Come here.

She motions for him to turn around. He does so, and she presses a point in the back of his neck with one finger. Dewey visibly melts.

DEWEY

Ahhhh...

FRANKIE

When I was in high school, we did "Caine Mutiny." I played Captain Queeg--

DEWEY

(inpatient)

Excuse me, I'm sure we're all very interested in your high school career, but we have to get down to the stage and rehearse.

They start to file out. Grandma stops Tarzan from leaving. She hands him a dark uniform.

GRANDMA

Here, put this chauffeur's uniform on. We're going to play "Driving Miss Daisy."

Tarzan smiles and starts beating his chest.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. NBC EXECUTIVE BUILDING - ROOF

31

Dewey, (now wearing a turban -- looking not unlike Norma Desmond in "Sunset Blvd.") Monica and several others leave the house and walk across the roof towards the ANGEL'S FLIGHT depot (a rickety funicular that runs down the side of the building to the ground).

Included in this group is the Elephant Man who's the show's flamboyant choreographer. He has a perfectly slim buff bod, and long Fabio-style hair. Only his face is screwed up.

ELEPHANT MAN

You'll never guess who I saw in the elevator. George Clooney! I swear I couldn't breathe. His skin was flawless. I'd go there in two seconds.

DEWEY

(overly casual)

What about his hair?

ELEPHANT MAN

(played this game before)

Oh, well, just okay.

Before the group can board, Dewey reaches over the metal doorway to the depot and opens a magnetic "hide-a-key." He unlocks the door and the group steps into the car. Dewey replaces the key before boarding.

ANGLE ON:

The angel's flight as the group rides down the side of the building.

It creaks and shakes as though it might fall off the track at any moment. Elephant Man looks out down to the parking lot.

ELEPHANT MAN (cont'd)  
Oh my God, Rosie O'Donnell.

He jumps up and leans out the window.

ELEPHANT MAN (cont'd)  
(waving wildly)  
Rosie! Rosie! Up here!

Everybody, except Dewey, leans over to look at Rosie causing the car to almost fall off the track. Dewey leans the other way to try to balance the car.

DISSOLVE TO:

32 EXT. NBC STUDIO GROUND (OUTSIDE THE SOUNDSTAGE) 32

The group gets off the angel's flight. Aspen and Jarrod approach them with CHER at their side.

ELEPHANT MAN  
(to Cher) Oh, my God! Do you know who  
you are? You're Cher!

He gives Cher a big hug.

ELEPHANT MAN (cont'd)  
I loved you in "Mask." For some reason,  
that movie just spoke to me.

Aspen and Jarrod look horrified. Aspen swats the Elephant Man with her day-planner.

ASPEN  
Get off her, you animal!

DEWEY  
He's not an animal. He's the best damn  
choreographer to ever come out of  
Bakersfield.

JARROD  
Cher, I am so sorry.

CHER  
That's okay. He's hardly the most  
disgusting person I've been touched by in  
Hollywood.

ELEPHANT MAN  
God bless you, Cher.

The Elephant Man lets her loose.

DEWEY

(to Cher)

So, are you here to see our act? I'm afraid rehearsals are closed.

JARROD

Actually, Cher's agreed to be the guest star on your very first show.

QUICK ZOOM IN on Dewey's face which displays abject horror. He talks through a forced smile.

DEWEY

Oh, how lovely.

CHER

I'm really excited about working with you -- even though I've never heard of you or seen any of your work.

ASPEN

(sotto)

You don't have to mingle with the Muckels.

(then)

Come on, Cher. We'll show you to your big star dressing room.

Dewey's face twitches. Jarrod, Aspen, and Cher walk away.

JARROD

(sotto, to Aspen)

These clowns will look so pitiful next to Cher, Warren will cancel their show in a heartbeat.

Jarrold and Aspen share an evil little laugh.

ANGLE ON:

Dewey and Monica. Dewey starts to have a breakdown.

DEWEY

See? My hair gets messed up and suddenly we get stuck with a guest star. Coincidence? I think not. I told you if I didn't fix my hair it would be bad luck.

Dewey falls to his knees and shakes both fists at the sky.

DEWEY (cont'd)  
(a la Stanley Kowalski)  
War-ren!! Warr-rennn!!

DISSOLVE TO:

33 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - LATER

33

The Elephant Man watches as Cher sings and dances. After a few beats, he stops her. Monica's mother plays the piano while they rehearse. The ORCHESTRA backing her is made up of Monica's step-dad, his cronies, and the Del Rubio sisters, who each play a different instrument. (Think of Spike Jones and The City Slickers.) Monica's step dad plays the guitar and has a harmonica attached to him, a la Bob Dylan.

ELEPHANT MAN  
No no no no! Watch me.  
(demonstrating)  
It's third position, kick, drop to  
second!  
(then)  
Is that so hard? Submit to me, Cher.  
Let me in.

CHER  
I'm sorry. I'll get it.

ANGLE ON:

Dewey and Monica who stand in front of a puppet stage with a black art curtain behind it. They hold scripts and are starting to rehearse.

DEWEY  
"Hey, Monica, let's see what our friend,  
Milky Pilky, is up to."

Dewey KNOCKS on the top of the puppet stage. A cute, fuzzy, fourteen-inch-tall creature, henceforth known as MILKY PILKY, emerges. Milky wears a set of Martian antennae.

MONICA  
"Hi, Milky Pilky!"

MILKY PILKY  
(robotic voice)  
"I am not Milky Pilky. I am an alien  
intruder. I have come to destroy all of  
mankind unless you give me two tons of  
your Earth gum drops."

Dewey pulls off Milky's antennae.

DEWEY

"You're not an alien. You're Milky Pilky."

(breaking character)

Applause, applause, applause...

MILKY PILKY

(cute voice)

"Aw, shucks. I thought that would work. You got any gum drops?"

MONICA

"You know the rule. What do you have to say?"

MILKY PILKY

"You really make it hard on a guy. Okay, please."

Monica drops a gum drop into Milky's mouth. Monica and Dewey both step back, knowing what's coming. Milky Pilky launches into a euphoric series of gyrations, bouncing around the stage, floating, etc. Beat. He stops and breaks character.

MILKY PILKY (cont'd)

(gruff voice)

Geez -- could we turn up the air conditioning in here? I'm burnin' up!

(shouting)

Now!!!

He pulls off his "costume," revealing that he's not really fuzzy, but has Chihuahua-like short hair. It also becomes apparent that he's not a puppet, but a living breathing creature.

MILKY PILKY (cont'd)

Man, I'm sweatin' like a pig.

Ron Star passes by. He looks at Milky Pilky, startled.

RON STAR

What is that thing -- a gerbil?

MILKY PILKY

You wish!

MONICA

(to Ron)

We've never been sure what Milky Pilky is, exactly.

(MORE)

MONICA (cont'd)

But we haven't had any problems with bugs or rodents since he moved in.

In the background, the Elephant Man berates Cher again.

ELEPHANT MAN

No no no no! You're trying to kill me, aren't you Cher? You hate me -- is that it?

Aspen and Jarrod approach Dewey and Monica.

ASPEN

Look, I'd like to cut your hideously deformed friend there some slack, but he's being a little harsh to our guest star.

DEWEY

He has a name. It's Elephant Man.

ASPEN

Whatever.

JARROD

I think we should replace him. My roommate's a choreographer.

ASPEN

He did the ESPY awards this year. It was astounding.

MONICA

I'll have a word with Elephant Man, but we can't fire him. He's been with us since he was Elephant Boy.

Monica crosses away. Jarrod opens his briefcase and smugly hands Dewey a sheet of paper.

JARROD

I've taken the liberty of making a list of future guest stars for your show. If there's anybody here you don't feel comfortable with, feel free to cross them off.

Dewey takes the sheet of paper and quickly scans the list.

DEWEY

Uh huh. Uh huh. Um. Interesting. She's still alive? Hmm. Uh huh. Uh huh. He's out of jail?

Dewey pulls out an ultra-wide, big, black magic marker. He then motions to Jarrod to turn around.

DEWEY (cont'd)

Do you mind?

Jarrod turns around and Dewey uses his back as a writing surface. He violently makes a huge 'X' across the entire sheet. He then removes the paper and there's a big, black 'X' on Jarrod's jacket.

Dewey crosses to Monica, as she talks to the Elephant Man.

MONICA

Are you going to be all right?

ELEPHANT MAN

(near tears)

I have to go check my face.

He quickly walks away.

DEWEY

That'll take a while...

MONICA

Be nice, honey. Maybe we should rehearse our medley with our guest star.

DEWEY

Why do we need this "Cher" person, anyway? How do we know she can sing? How do we know she can act? This whole thing just stinks.

MONICA

It'll be okay. She'll help us get good ratings.

DEWEY

How many people even remember who she is? Sure, we do because we're in the business. We don't need some guest star riding our coat tails. This never would have happened if my hair was perfect.

MONICA

Come on, honey. It's a real coup that we got her on "The Monica and Friends Show."

Dewey shoots her a look. She smiles.

MONICA (cont'd)

Just wanted to make sure you were paying attention.

DEWEY

I can't explain it, Monica, but I have this gut feeling that Cher is the embodiment of all that is evil.

MONICA

You said that about Tatiana when she joined us.

DEWEY

The jury is still out on that one.

MONICA

This is probably a long shot, but could it be that you just don't want to share the limelight?

DEWEY

Now you're just talking crazy. But since you brought it up, we had a show that worked. It was magical, perfectly balanced... and I was the star.

He turns away, getting emotional. Monica puts her arm around him.

MONICA

There's no need to feel threatened, honey. You have just as much talent as Cher. The only difference between you and her is she's ten thousand times more famous.

DEWEY

Thanks, snuggle bug.

They approach Cher, who stands on a set painted black to look like space. A paper mache space ship hangs from the ceiling. Monica drags Dewey over towards Cher. Dewey puts on a big, fake smile.

DEWEY (cont'd)

Cher! We're so happy to have you here.

He gives her a couple of "air kisses."

CHER

It's my pleasure. So what's the story behind your house being up on the roof of the...

DEWEY

(cutting her off)

Excuse me -- are we here to talk, or are we here to work?

MONICA

(calling offstage)

Dad, are the flying harnesses ready?

Monica's father brings the harnesses over.

MONICA'S STEP-FATHER

They sure are, Monica. Don't worry, we've checked this all out. It's perfectly safe.

He gives one of the harnesses a hard tug. We hear wood break and the wire comes spiraling down from above, followed by a pulley attached to a chunk of wood beam.

MONICA'S STEP-FATHER (cont'd)

(nonchalant)

We'll fix it.

He motions to a grip to get another harness. Cher looks at him questioningly.

CHER

So, this is your dad, huh?

MONICA

Step-Dad, actually. But he's the one who raised me. He taught me to follow my dreams and that entertaining people is the highest calling a person can have.

CHER

Ah, that's sweet.

(to Monica's father)

Are you an entertainer, too?

MONICA'S STEP-FATHER

Boxer. Nothing like hearing a crowd shout your name as you're being beaten unconscious.

A grip brings over another harness.

CHER

Do we really have to fly during the medley?

(re: harness)

This reminds me a little too much of my Gene Simmons period...

DEWEY

Well, Cher, we don't want you doing anything you don't feel comfortable with. If only there were a way to write you out of this number...

Dewey takes out some sheet music and makes a big 'X' with his pen.

DEWEY (cont'd)

Done.

He chuckles to himself.

CHER

Oh, no, I don't want to hold up the show. I'll do it.

MONICA

You are such a trooper, Cher.

Cher starts to get into her harness. Dewey mimics Monica.

DEWEY

You are such a trooper, Cher.

DISSOLVE TO:

34 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

34

PRODUCTION NUMBER TWO

DEWEY AND MONICA REHEARSE THE "OUTER SPACE MEDLEY" WITH CHER. THEY FLY ABOUT TEN FEET OFF THE STAGE FLOOR. A FEW GRIPS OPERATE THE CABLES, LEVERS, AND PULLEYS THAT SEND THE ACTORS ZOOMING UP AND DOWN INTO "SPACE." CHER, NERVOUS AT FIRST, GETS MORE AND MORE INTO IT AND STARTS HAVING FUN.

AS THE SINGING CONTINUES, WE INTERCUT WITH ASPEN AND JARROD OFF TO ONE SIDE. THEY BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED FOR CHER'S SAFETY.

THE GRIPS GET DISTRACTED WHEN LYPSINKA SLINKS BY, WHICH CAUSES THE FLYING TO START GOING OUT OF CONTROL. DEWEY, MONICA AND CHER SWING ABOUT WILDLY.

PAUL'S TURBAN UNRAVELS, AND HIS HAIR GETS TANGLED IN A ROPE. HE ENDS UP DANGLING LIKE A CIRCUS PERFORMER, SPINNING BY HIS HAIR. SUDDENLY, CHER FLIES OUT OF CONTROL ACROSS THE STAGE. SHE KNOCKS OVER SEVERAL FLATS IN ORDER, FINALLY CRASHING TO A HALT HEAD FIRST INTO A HUGE PAPER MACHE' MOON THAT HAS A BIG FACE ON IT. SHE STICKS OUT OF ONE EYE, A LA THE FAMOUS PHOTO FROM GEORGE MELIES' "TRIP TO THE MOON."

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

35 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT 35

The group is packed around the couch expressing concern.

DEL RUBIO #1  
This is such a tragedy...

DEL RUBIO #2  
Hang on, help is on it's way.

RON STAR  
There's no substitute for safety. This  
might be an opportune moment to remind  
everyone to fill out their donor cards.

Cher nonchalantly walks up with a band-aid on her forehead  
and a glass of water in her hand.

CHER  
Excuse me, does anyone have an aspirin?

REVEAL that it is Dewey that is the object of everyone's  
attention. His hair is wrapped in gauze. Lypsinka stands  
over him wearing a candy striper outfit.

LYPSINKA  
Dewey took the last one.  
(notices Cher's water)  
Oh, thank you. Dewey, Cher brought you  
some water.

DEWEY  
(weak)  
Thank you, Cher.

Dewey takes the glass.

MONICA  
Come on, Cher, let's find you an aspirin.

Monica and Cher exit.

CUT TO:

36 INT. WARREN LITTLEFIELD'S OFFICE - SAME TIME 36

Aspen and Jarrod burst into the office to find Warren taking  
all the toys off his desk and putting them in a box. Aspen  
is alarmed at this.

ASPEN

Warren, you're taking your toys off your desk!

WARREN

Let's be honest. We only have them on our desks so the creative community will think that we're fun.

ASPEN

But they don't know that.

WARREN

It's time for the charade to end, Aspen.

JARROD

We have a bigger problem, Warren. Nobody's seen Cher since her accident.

WARREN

Relax. She's recuperating up at the Muckel's. Come, let's watch the sunset together.

(deep)

It's the last one we'll have today.

Jarrold and Aspen stare at Warren, dumbfounded.

ASPEN

This is so sad. He needs help.

JARROD

We have to stick together and see him through this.

PUSH IN on Jarrod.

WAVE DISSOLVE TO:

Jarrold's fantasy of himself sitting at Warren's desk. Aspen sits across from him.

ASPEN

Congratulations, Jarrod.

JARROD

Thank you. You're fired.

BACK TO SCENE

PUSH IN on Aspen.

WAVE DISSOLVE TO:

Aspen's fantasy. She's sitting at Warren's desk with Jarrod across from her.

JARROD (cont'd)  
Congratulations, Aspen.

ASPEN  
Thank you. You're fired.

BACK TO SCENE

Aspen and Jarrod smile at each other.

CUT TO:

37 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - CHER'S BEDROOM - LATER

37

This bedroom is made up in a "Flinstones"/caveman motif. The sink looks like it's carved out of stone, the only paintings on the wall are cave paintings, the frame on the canopy bed looks like it's made out of big bones, etc. Cher sits on the bed as Monica gives her an aspirin and a glass of water.

CHER  
(dry)  
You must give me the name of your decorator.

MONICA  
(smiles)  
When Grandma gets bored, she redecorates another room. Been doing it for about a hundred years, now.

CHER  
Do all those people downstairs live here?

MONICA  
Yep. It always seemed silly to our family to live in this big house by ourselves. We decided to share it so others would have a place where they could be whatever they wanted -- and no one would tell them they couldn't. Except Dewey.

CHER  
I had a feeling this wasn't his idea.

MONICA  
I'm lucky I get to do what I love, performing. I guess we're both lucky.

Cher looks unenthused.

CHER

Actually, I never liked performing. The travelling, the horrible hours, and most of all, the audience. God, I hate people.

MONICA

What would you rather be doing?

CHER

(embarrassed)

You'll laugh.

MONICA

No, I won't. No one achieves their full potential unless they're doing what they love. Tell me.

CHER

Well...

FLIP TO:

38 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - GREENHOUSE - LATER 38

Cher is wildly cutting a large, potted bush into the shape of a seal with a ball balanced on his nose. Monica gives her a thumbs up.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. STUDIO GROUND - SAME TIME 39

Aspen and Jarrod stand at the gate to the angel's flight. Jarrod is unable to open it.

JARROD

It's no use. It's locked tight.

ASPEN

But there's no other way to the roof. God knows what those people are doing to Cher. We have to get up there, now!

CUT TO:

40 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 40

Lypsinka holds her hands over Dewey's head, as though giving him a massage. Monica enters.

MONICA

What are you doing, Lypsinka?

LYPSINKA

I'm using all my gifts to rid Dewey's hair of the negative energy that dwells within. His aura is so red.

MONICA'S STEP-FATHER

We're all pullin' for you, son.

MONICA'S MOTHER

Some of us less than others.

DEWEY'S P.O.V.

The gauze is slowly unwound from his head, a la the classic shot from the "Twilight Zone." People look down at Dewey. They SMILE, as all seems well.

BACK TO SCENE

DEWEY

(desperately)

Give me a mirror! I have to see!

Lypsinka hands him a frilly, heart-shaped hand mirror. Dewey looks at himself.

DEWEY (cont'd)

Dare I say it? It's perfect.

MONICA

(lovingly)

It helps when you start with a perfect canvas. And just in time for our first show tonight.

DEWEY

Why wait?

PRODUCTION NUMBER THREE

DEWEY GOES OVER TO THE JUKEBOX, PUTS IN A COIN, AND PUSHES A BUTTON. THE MACHINE WHIRRS INTO ACTION, PULLING UP A RECORD AND PLAYING DEWEY AND MONICA'S FAVORITE SONG. DEWEY GRINS AT MONICA. SHE GRINS BACK. HE BEGINS TO SING TO THE TRACK. AFTER A FEW LINES, MONICA JOINS IN. DEWEY GRABS HIS ACCORDION AND ACCOMPANIES THEM.

AS THEY BEGIN SINGING AND DANCING, WE ARE LAUNCHED INTO A FULL-SCALE PRODUCTION NUMBER.

THEIR PERFORMANCE TAKES THEM THROUGH THE KITCHEN AND OUT ONTO THE ROOF OF NBC WHERE THEY HAVE FASHIONED A "BACKYARD." THEY DANCE BY A VICTORY GARDEN, A CLOTHES LINE, A PICK-UP ON BLOCKS, A TRAMPOLINE, A CARRIER PIGEON COUP, A MOTORCYCLE RAMP, A BOAT IN THE PROCESS OF BEING BUILT, A SWING SET, AND, FINALLY, AN ABOVE-GROUND SWIMMING POOL.

DEWEY AND MONICA CLIMB THE STEPS TO THE POOL AND PREPARE TO DIVE IN. MONICA JUMPS, BUT DEWEY CHANGES HIS MIND AT THE LAST SECOND. MONICA RESURFACES AND LOOKS AT DEWEY. HE POINTS TO HIS HAIR BY WAY OF EXPLANATION. DEWEY CLIMBS BACK DOWN AND DANCES AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF THE POOL WITH MONICA SWIMMING A LONE WATER BALLET ON THE INSIDE.

DEWEY HELPS MONICA OUT OF THE POOL. STILL SINGING, THEY GO BACK INTO THE HOUSE. THE PRODUCTION ENDS WITH A BIG FLOURISH, AND THEY COLLAPSE ON THE COUCH.

CUT TO:

41 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - LIVING ROOM - LATER

41

Monica's mother uses a dolly to wheel in the the plant that Cher was working on.

MONICA'S MOTHER  
Look what Cher made, everybody!

One of the Cronies looks stunned.

CRONY #1  
She created life?

MONICA'S MOTHER  
No. She trimmed this bush to look like a seal.

Everybody gathers around and fusses over it.

VARIOUS  
That's very nice, Cher. / You really have a talent, there. / It looks store bought.

CHER  
(shyly modest)  
Do you really like it?

People ad lib their approval.

DEWEY  
I don't get it. It's a bush.

CHER

Well, it's something I enjoy doing. In fact, I was thinking about giving up show business and devoting my life to topiary.

Dewey does a one-eighty.

DEWEY

Cher, I love it! Your bush is the finest I've ever seen. In fact, I love it so much, I'm going to kiss it.

Dewey kisses the topiary and then turns to Monica.

DEWEY (cont'd)

See, when the hair's perfect, all is right in the world.

CHER

I know this is right. I was starting to feel like I was the embodiment of all that is evil.

Dewey gives Monica an "I told you so" look. To one side, Tatiana is chewing gum. REVEAL that Milky Pilky is down on the floor giving her a "hot foot." Startled, Tatiana spits the gum out. SLOW MOTION as the group watches in horror as the gum sails across the room heading directly for Dewey's head. Monica springs into action, and dives between the gum and Dewey, like Clint Eastwood in "In the Line of Fire" trying to take a bullet for the President. But the gum misses her, and sticks into Dewey's hair.

DEWEY

(SLOW MOTION)

Noooooo!

BACK TO SCENE

The crowd ad-libs horror. The Professor steps forward. He's a young, absent-minded bookworm type. He wears an old, tattered Princeton sweatshirt.

PROFESSOR

Calm down, Mr. Muckel. There must be a scientific approach to fixing your hair.

GRANDMA

Science schmience. In the old days, we would use ice to freeze the gum off hair.

PROFESSOR

That's it! I finally have a subject on which to test my liquid nitrogen micro emulsion process.

TATIANA

(hopefully)

Does this mean there's no school today, Professor?

PROFESSOR

Nice try, Tatiana. Bring your books. And dress warm.

Tatiana and the Professor exit.

CUT TO:

42 EXT. NBC EXECUTIVE BUILDING - SAME TIME

42

Aspen and Jarrod climb out a top floor window trying to get up onto the roof. She gives him a boost so he can grab onto the edge. Beat. Jarrod tries to lift himself up, but can't.

JARROD

(straining)

I can't do it.

ASPEN

I thought you said you go to the gym everyday, Jarrod.

JARROD

To network. I go there to network.

He loses his grip and falls. Aspen holds onto his leg as Jarrod dangles upside down outside the window.

ASPEN

You are such a disappointment.

In the background, Dewey, Monica, Cher and the group go down the angel's flight. Monica waves at them.

MONICA

Hi, guys! Great act. Maybe we'll have you on the show sometime.

ASPEN

(covering)

Great.

Paul Reubens Unzipped Show First Draft 3/31/98 (42.

DEWEY  
(yelling)  
She said maybe!

CUT TO:

43 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE AREA - LATER

43

Dewey now wears a space suit costume, while Monica wears a fancy dress. A group gathers around the Professor as he holds up a helmet that has a motor attached. Tubes run down to a small tank labeled "Liquid Nitrogen."

DEWEY  
Are you sure this is safe?

PROFESSOR  
Perfectly. But could you sign this release? It's just a formality.

Dewey scribbles his name on a piece of paper. The Professor puts the helmet on Dewey's head and starts the engine. A tearful Tarzan approaches Monica's Mother.

TARZAN  
Could you talk to your mother for me? She broke off our engagement. I am but a shell of the man I once was.

MONICA'S MOTHER  
Aw, pull it together, you big ape. I tried to warn you, didn't I?

MONICA  
(to Tarzan)  
It's not you, Tarzan. No one man has ever been able to satiate Grandma's lusty appetite.

MONICA'S MOTHER  
Although, many have tried. Many many many.

Tarzan drops his head and sadly walks away. Monica turns her attention to the Professor as he pulls the helmet off Dewey's head. His hair is FROZEN STIFF.

PROFESSOR  
Now hold still.

The Professor takes a small hammer and chisel, and gently knocks the gum off of Dewey's hair. Dewey's teeth chatter from the cold as he looks in the mirror.

DEWEY

It's p-p-p-p-p-p-p-p-p-p-p-p-p-p--

MONICA

Perfect. Yes, I know honey.

PROFESSOR

Careful you don't touch the hair till it thaws out.

Elephant Man enters the area.

ELEPHANT MAN

Five seconds till air! Places, people!

Everybody starts to take their positions to start the show. Dewey begins to put on the helmet to his space suit, and without realizing it, accidentally chips the top of his frozen hair off. Walking behind him, Monica catches it. She quickly hides the frozen chunk as Dewey turns back to her.

DEWEY

C-c-coming, Monica?

MONICA

(nervous)

Yes...

They head out to the stage, as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

44 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - AUDIENCE P.O.V. - CONTINUOUS

44

MUSIC and LIGHTS play as we see a curtain with caricatures of Dewey and Monica drawn on them (a la "Mickey Mouse Club").

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Live from the Dewey Muckel sound stage  
at NBC studios, Burbank -- it's time  
to... "Meet the Muckels!"

The AUDIENCE APPLAUDS as Monica walks out and a SPOTLIGHT hits her. The APPLAUSE calms down.

MONICA

Hi, I'm Monica Muckel and thanks for  
choosing us. We're excited about our big  
premiere tonight. Isn't that right Dew--  
(looks around)  
Dewey?

From offstage comes Robbie the Robot driving his cart from "Forbidden Planet." Dewey rides on the back. Robbie drops him off near Monica.

DEWEY

Thanks, Robbie.

ROBBIE

(mechanical voice)  
You're welcome, Dewey.

DEWEY

Drive safe. Say "hi" to everyone back at  
the prop department.

Robbie disappears offstage.

MONICA

Ladies and gentleman, this is my husband,  
Dewey Muckel.

APPLAUSE.

MONICA (cont'd)

(re: space suit)  
I'm afraid to ask what this is all about.

DEWEY

Well, I'm just trying to get a jump on  
this week's theme: "outer space."

APPLAUSE.

MONICA

Well, then, let's jump on it, honey. Hit it, Cash!

PRODUCTION NUMBER FOUR

THE "DEWEY AND MONICA" CURTAIN RISES, REVEALING A LUNAR LANDSCAPE SET. A GUITAR FLOATS, AS THOUGH IT WERE WEIGHTLESS, OVER TO DEWEY. HE PICKS THE FIRST FEW NOTES OF "SHOOTING STAR" (FROM THE "THUNDERBIRDS" MOVIE.) AN UNSEEN BAND JOINS IN, CONTINUING THE RAUCOUS ROCK 'N ROLL NUMBER.

DEWEY AND MONICA BEGIN TO SING. BEHIND THEM, THE CRONIES, DRESSED IN SPACE MONSTER SUITS, RISE OUT OF INDIVIDUAL CRATERS PLAYING INSTRUMENTS. DURING THE NUMBER, TWO TEN-FOOT GUITARS ATTACHED TO ROCKET LAUNCH PADS ARE WHEELED IN FROM THE WINGS. DEWEY STARTS TO TAKE OFF HIS HELMET.

CUT TO:

45 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE AREA - CONTINUOUS

45

Cher, Lypsinka, Elephant Man, and others watch Dewey take off his helmet on a monitor.

LYPSINKA

Oh, my God. What're we going to do?  
Once he sees his hair, there's going to be mucho bad mojo.

Tatiana holds up Dewey's broken off piece of hair which is now melted into a big, wet glob.

TATIANA

Maybe he won't notice.

LYPSINKA

Maybe... but I doubt it.

CUT TO:

46 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - AUDIENCE P.O.V. - CONTINUOUS

46

PRODUCTION NUMBER FOUR - CONTINUED

A CONSOLE APPEARS BETWEEN DEWEY AND MONICA. THEY EACH PRESS BUTTONS LAUNCHING THE TWO GUITAR-SHAPED SHIPS ACCENTING DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE SONG.

FINALLY, A HUGE GUITAR "MOTHERSHIP" GLIDES ONTO STAGE. DEWEY AND MONICA CLIMB INTO THE GUITAR, WAVING. THEY FINISH THE SONG AS THE GUITAR MOVES OFF STAGE..

CUT TO:

47 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE AREA - CONTINUOUS

47

Dewey and Monica come off the stage to APPLAUSE. The people backstage begin to congratulate them. Dewey holds his hands up.

DEWEY

Shhh!

He cups his ear so he can hear the applause better. He revels in the acceptance that washes over him.

MONICA

You were delightful.

DEWEY

Just delightful?

MONICA

You were delicious.

DEWEY

Just delicious?

MONICA

You were delovely. You were da bomb.

DEWEY

Stop, you're embarrassing me.

(then)

You were the one who was delightful.

MONICA

Just delightful?

DEWEY

(teasing)

You're so vain.

48 INT. DEWEY AND MONICA'S DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

48

Dewey and Monica enter. Dewey sits down at his make-up table. He notices that all the mirrors in the room have been removed.

DEWEY

Honey, where're all the mirrors?

MONICA

Uh, they were recalled by the factory.

Dewey shrugs.

CUT TO:

49 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - SAME TIME 49

Aspen and Jarrod enter, looking a little scruffy from their climbing attempts. They approach Cher.

ASPEN

What's wrong, Cher? Why weren't you in the opening number?

CHER

I no longer sing or act. The Muckels gave me the courage to quit show business.

JARROD

(stunned)

Come again?

CHER

I'm going to devote my life to what I do best.

She picks up a small plant in the shape of a giraffe.

CHER (cont'd)

See what I made?

Cher walks off happily. Aspen and Jarrod storm off to:

50 INT. DEWEY AND MONICA'S DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 50

Aspen and Jarrod enter angrily.

ASPEN

What the hell did you say to Cher to make her quit? There's only a handful of people talented enough to go by one name: (counting off on fingers)  
Cher, Sting, ALF.

DEWEY

I didn't say anything. Nobody is more crushed about this than I am.

Dewey puts an arm around Jarrod.

DEWEY (cont'd)

Trust me, the show will go off fine  
without her.

JARROD

Well... at least do something about your  
hair.

OMINOUS MUSIC CUE

DEWEY

My hair? What about it?

DEWEY'S P.O.V.

PUSH IN on Jarrod's eye. Dewey sees his reflection and  
SCREAMS.

BACK TO SCENE

The STAGE MANAGER runs in.

STAGE MANAGER

We're back on the air in thirty seconds!

DEWEY

I can't go back out there looking like  
this! It's the drama festival all over  
again! I'm going to go hide some place  
where nobody can see me!

Dewey crawls under the table and lies in the fetal position.

MONICA

Uh, Dewey, we can still see you.

DEWEY

No you can't!

Cher enters. Aspen and Jarrod approach her.

JARROD

Cher! Thank God! We're going to be live  
in just a few seconds. You have to go  
out and perform or there'll be dead air.

ASPEN

(sotto)

Apparently, the Muckels aren't quite  
ready for prime time. Big surprise  
there.

CHER  
(deep sigh)  
All right.

FLIP TO:

51 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - AUDIENCE P.O.V. - CONTINUOUS 51

We HEAR the MUSIC as the show starts up again. Curtains open REVEALING Cher on another space-themed set. The MUSIC to a familiar Cher song is being played by the orchestra. However, instead of singing, Cher contentedly snips away at a prop bush on the set.

52 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE AREA - CONTINUOUS 52

Aspen and Jarrod look horror-stricken, as they watch this on a monitor. Aspen looks down, and sees Milky Pilky, out of costume, holding onto her leg. She SCREAMS, and tries to shake him off.

MILKY PILKY  
I like it rough!

53 INT. WARREN LITTLEFIELD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 53

Warren sits on his desk in a lotus position, as he watches Cher's "performance" on his monitor. He looks touched and a tear runs down his cheek.

WARREN  
That is so beautiful. You go, Cher.

CUT TO:

54 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE AREA - CONTINUOUS 54

Monica sits next to Dewey under the table.

DEWEY  
I can't do it, snookie. There's only one thing left to do.

He holds up his ring, and pulls on the gem, revealing a secret compartment containing a small white pill. He starts to take it. Monica panics, and knocks it out of his hand.

DEWEY  
That was my last breath mint!

MONICA  
Please, honey, this is the big break we've been waiting for our whole lives.  
(MORE)

MONICA (cont'd)

You got through the first song with your hair this way and it went fine.

DEWEY

I'm sorry, I can't go out there. Not looking like this.

Monica considers another line of attack.

MONICA

Dewey, have you always been talented?

DEWEY

Yes...

MONICA

Were you born with a full head of hair?

DEWEY

Yes. I was born with a full head of perfectly coifed hair.

Monica looks at Dewey admonishingly.

MONICA

Dewey...

DEWEY

(weakening)

Okay, I'm lying.

MONICA

And will you still be talented when you're ninety?

DEWEY

Yes.

MONICA

Do you think you'll have hair then?

DEWEY

(alarmed)

What are you saying!?

Monica takes Dewey's hands and speaks to him sincerely.

MONICA

I'm going to go out there and start the next production number. You can stay back here and feel sorry for yourself, or you can come out and join me.

DEWEY

Aren't you going to tell me the story about the little engine that could? It won't change my mind, but I do like hearing the story.

Monica gives up, and heads out to the stage.

CUT TO:

55 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - AUDIENCE P.O.V. - CONTINUOUS 55

Monica goes out onto the Mars set.

MONICA

The next stop on our trip through the galaxy is Mars which must be twice as romantic as our own planet because it has two moons.

PRODUCTION NUMBER FIVE

MONICA BEGINS SINGING "BLUE MOON," EXCEPT SHE CHANGES THE WORDS TO "TWO MOONS." TWO MOONS BEGIN RISING IN THE BACKGROUND.

CUT TO:

56 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - BACKSTAGE AREA - CONTINUOUS 56

Dewey watches Monica from offstage. Suddenly, a tiny ANGEL DEWEY APPEARS on his left shoulder and sits on it.

ANGEL DEWEY

Dewey, you should be out there helping your wife.

DEWEY

Who are you?!

ANGEL DEWEY

I represent all that is good in you.

DEWEY

Why are you so small?

ANGEL DEWEY

You're lucky you can see me at all, pal.

A twenty-foot-tall DEVIL DEWEY APPEARS behind Dewey and taps him on his right shoulder.

DEVIL DEWEY  
(casual)  
Hey, Dewey.

DEWEY  
Hey, Rick.

DEVIL DEWEY  
I think you're doing the right thing  
staying back here. Nothing's more  
important than your hair.

ANGEL DEWEY  
Your relationship with Monica is more  
important.

Devil Dewey starts laughing. Dewey joins in.

ANGEL DEWEY (cont'd)  
Laugh all you want, Dewey, but I think  
you know I'm right.

Dewey looks back and forth between the Angel and the Devil.

CUT TO:

57 INT. SOUNDSTAGE - AUDIENCE P.O.V. - CONTINUOUS 57

PRODUCTION NUMBER FIVE - CONTINUED

MONICA IS ON STAGE SINGING. DEWEY TENTATIVELY STEPS  
OUT FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN ONTO THE SET. A  
SPOTLIGHT HITS HIM. FOR A MOMENT, WE THINK HIS  
CONFIDENCE MAY FALTER. MONICA SEES HIM AND GIVES HIM  
A DAZZLING SMILE. THE PACE OF THE SONG SPEEDS UP AS  
DEWEY JOINS IN. THE MAGIC IS BACK. AS THEY FINISH,  
THEY DANCE PAST CHER, WHO'S STILL HACKING AWAY AT HER  
BUSH.

DISSOLVE TO:

58 EXT. NBC STUDIOS/MUCKEL MANOR - LATER 58

With each office light at NBC being turned off, one in Muckle  
Manor comes on. EMPLOYEES, dressed in drab suits and  
carrying briefcases, walk lifelessly out of NBC. They all  
get into similar vehicles and drive away. PAN UP to Muckel  
Manor -- a big celebratory party is in full swing.

CUT TO:

59 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT 59

The whole household is present and having a great time. Warren is also there, wearing a dashiki. The cronies are playing some JAZZ. Monica's mother and step-father are dancing. Elephant Man tends bar. Ron Star is popping wheelies on his motorcycle. Frankie is arm wrestling Hector. Tarzan swings through the room with Grandma holding onto his shoulders. Milky Pilky dances around with a lampshade on his head.

Off to one side, Cher cuts Dewey's hair with the same shears she's been using all along.

DEWEY

Just don't make me look like Scary Spice.

Dewey checks himself out in his hand mirror. He smiles, satisfied. Warren is looking at his laptop computer which is tuned into the internet.

WARREN

Well, the early ratings are in. Looks like you're a smash!

People CHEER.

WARREN (cont'd)

Although I don't care much about ratings. If we made one child smile, we've done our jobs.

CUT TO:

60 EXT. NBC EXECUTIVE BUILDING/MUCKEL MANOR - CONTINUOUS 60

TILT DOWN from Muckel Manor to reveal Aspen and Jarrod slowly climbing up the funicular track. Jarrod reacts in disgust, getting grease on his hands.

JARROD

Do we really have to go up to the party?

ASPEN

We have to -- to grab our share of the credit.

Above them, the angel's flight car starts coming down towards them. They are forced to jump and land in a dumpster.

CUT TO:

61 INT. MUCKEL MANOR - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

61

Monica stands on the stairs and shushes the crowd.

MONICA

Attention, everyone! Dewey would like to make his traditional post-show apology now.

Dewey takes the stairs.

DEWEY

Thank you, honey.

(to the group)

I guess I'll just skip over the regular stuff and go straight to my hair. I'm sorry I drove everybody crazy.

He starts to sit down.

MONICA

Don't you want to say "thank you?"

Dewey reluctantly stands back up.

DEWEY

Oh, yeah. I also want to say

(struggling)

th... th... th... thank you.

QUICK CUTS of everyone's faces around the table. They look stunned to have heard Dewey say "thank you." Tatiana starts to clap, and is quickly joined by the others. It builds, until everyone is CHEERING. PULL BACK, revealing a topiary peacock in the middle of the room -- Cher's handiwork. We continue to pull back, out the window and into the air -- hovering over NBC with Muckel Manor blazingly lit up on top, and Burbank sparkling in the background.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW