

THE MOVIE MILL

PILOT: It's a Wonderful Life

Written By

MAND PASKUSKI

FADE IN:

EXT. THE MOVIE MILL - PARKING LOT - DAY

We're in the mid-nineties.

A run-down mom-and-pop CINEMA surrounded by a mostly empty parking lot sits like a sad castle. BROKEN NEON LIGHTS BLINK.

CONSTRUCTION is underway opposite the cinema - A MASSIVE BUILDING forming shape. LUMBER, PIPES and lots of NOISE.

A BEAT-UP CAR with POM-POM DICE round the rearview mirror, is parked next to a VESPA SCOOTER and a jilted SKATEBOARD.

A GO-KART glides into one of the spaces. It's coal-black with added pistons and tricked out features. TINS of OLD FILM REELS on the passenger seat.

CALVIN BUTTMAN (17), removes his HELMET. He's your everyday teen, a bit nerdy, wholesome but charming. Borrowed from John Hughes - if you planted him in The Breakfast Club - he'd fit.

He addresses us in that old familiar Alfie / Ferris way:

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)

I know what you're thinking, I must get tons of peach but I think you'd be amused to find out... I'm actually a pretty big dweeb.

(beat)

Gran-Mee-Mee says I should be filling my head with work and not fornication. But *she*, yeah that one over there, makes that nigh impossible.

MINA FAIRWATER (17), climbs out of her beat-up car. Asian-American, quirky, a girl with many friends. She walks past Calvin in her UNIFORM.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA) (CONT'D)

Mina Fairwater. Even in a smock, she's the fairest on the block. I'm absolutely, head-over-heels, in-love-with-

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Hi, Mina.

MINA

Hey, Cal.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)
 She's the only one who calls me
 "Cal." Makes me sound cooler than I
 am, doesn't it? Man, she's pretty.

She smiles politely and enters the building.

Calvin CLUTCHES HIS CHEST melodramatic. He notices the Vespa
 Scooter's TIRE is low in air pressure.

On the reverse side, A KNIFE sticks out from the rubber. It's
 BRANDED: CHET. Calvin doesn't touch it.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA) (CONT'D)
 Chet. Translation: Asshole.

He removes his INDIANA JONES JACKET and dons his SMOCK. He
 looks up at The Movie Mill, strides for the door.

INT. THE MOVIE MILL - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Calvin enters. The TICKET BOOTH is EMPTY.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)
 No surprise. Bugs hates clocks.

INT. THE MOVIE MILL - SNACK BAR - CONTINUOUS

TARUKA (18), a PUNK-GOTH-GIRL SQUIRTS LIQUID CHEESE from a
 spout onto NACHOS. She's scary hot and she knows it.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)
 That's Taruka. All bark and twice
 the bite.

He waves, she flashes him the middle finger then hands the
 nachos to the CUSTOMER at the till.

CUSTOMER
 Is this cheese non-fat?

TARUKA
 What the fuck? Are you lost?

The skittish customer, reaches for their nachos. Taruka
 steals one, EATS IT and smiles.

TARUKA (CONT'D)
 Enjoy the show.

INT. SLIDESHOW ROW - CONTINUOUS

A METAL DOOR SLAMS shut as Calvin enters.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)
 Slideshow Row. My favourite thing
 about this place. Aside from Mina.

PROJECTORS line the walls. Some are on, their BLUE LIGHT BEAMS pointed at the screens in the theatre. He PEEKS into one of the windows.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA) (CONT'D)
 Let's see what's on Three.

PLAYING: BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA [OR! Insert Studio-Approved Choice here! On Projector Three.]

CALVIN (TO CAMERA) (CONT'D)
 I love the re-runs.

He approaches a STAFF ROOM. The door has been lovingly christened: THE BLACK HOLE.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA) (CONT'D)
 And this room of nightmares we call
 The Black Hole. I defy anyone who
 says they can find a smellier stink-
 pit. Already I'm catching notes of
 jock-strap, day old coffee, room
 temperature tuna-fish salad and axe
 deodorant stick.

INT. THE MOVIE MILL - THE BLACK HOLE - CONTINUOUS

Mina exits as Calvin enters. They awkwardly squeeze past each other - bodies pressed close in the doorframe. She exits.

GARRET NELSON (17), is seated with feet propped up on the metal table. He reads PENTHOUSE in the open, sips from PEPSI COLA and shovels handfuls of STALE POPCORN into his mouth.

GARRET
 Did your dick flinch?

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)
 This low-life lazy skeeze weasel
 happens to be my best friend,
 Garret. Exquisite, isn't he?

POPCORN KERNELS fall out of Garret's mouth. Beastly. Calvin makes for his LOCKER, A MIRROR on the door, fixes his hair.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
There's been a stabbing, Camerado!

GARRET
Loredo?

CALVIN
Yup. Your crotch rocket's front
tire is bleeding air. It's bad.
Fatal, I'm afraid.

GARRET
I'm gonna stomp that sonofabitch
one day, mark my words, Calvin.

CALVIN
Consider them marked. If Baterman
finds you reading that in here,
he'll really can ya, man.

GARRET
He don't have the stones, Pods.
He's a third-rate cheese weenie.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)
Baterman's our manager. Owns The
Movie Mill. Bought it off his
dirtbag cousin cheap.

Garret blinks. Flips the page. Calvin peeks.

MR. BATERMAN (50's), a crater-faced, gangly bean-stalk with
legs, enters in a bad mood. He's bald with a thick mustache.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA) (CONT'D)
Speak of the demon.

BATERMAN
(empty threat)
Beat it, Skid Mark! You're fired!
(beat)
Buttman, someone left a dump the
size of Garret's dick wart in the
John. Deal with it.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)
You can tell just what kinda guy he
was in high school. Big on locker-
room talk. The kind to tape a guy's
butt cheeks together for a laugh.
He's a bully alright, but I wonder
how much of it is just peacocking.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Yes, sir.

GARRET

You look absolutely ravishing today, Master Batey, I mean Mister Batey. Shame about the Rogaine. Don't give up. If it works for your ears it should work for a beard.

Baterman shoves a PLUNGER in Garret's face. No more jokes.

INT. THE MOVIE MILL - MEN'S BATHROOM - DAY

An ELEPHANT POOP CLOGS the middle stall. It's... horrifying.

Garret GAGS. Calvin looks unsteady on his feet.

CALVIN

What butthole could manage it?

GARRET

Even Arnold would bust a hemorrhoid birthin' that. Jesus Christ.

Calvin hands him the plunger.

GARRET (CONT'D)

I can't do it. You know I'm sensitive to smells. My doc says I got an abnormal passage way.

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)

Abnormal passageway?

CALVIN (CONT'D)

To plunge or not to plunge? That is the question.

GARRET

I fear for you, man.

Calvin attempts. The poop won't plunge. The OLD PIPES CREAK, SHAKE and GROAN behind the toilet bowl.

GARRET (CONT'D)

What do we do? Shit! Calvin, what do we do?!

They have a reverse tug-of-war with the plunger.

GARRET (CONT'D)

Don't hand it to me!

CALVIN
Garret, take it! Help me!

GARRET
Fuck! Calvin don't! My gag reflex!

The PIPE SWELLS. The poop is vacuum sucked into the toilet.

GARRET (CONT'D)
It's clogged the pipes! There's too much pressure!

The PIPES SWELL fast. A heinous CREAKING SOUND erupts. WATER SPRAYS from a LEAK POINT. Calvin sticks the wood end of the plunger into the toilet hole. He wiggles and jimmies it. The CREAKING INTENSIFIES.

GARRET (CONT'D)
You made it worse! It's gonna blow!

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)
Fuck.

They shield themselves for the inevitable explosion but a GURGLE SOUND INTENSIFIES then settles and the toilet FLUSHES.

The PIPES RELAX. It gets quiet. They turn back and exhale. Crisis averted and then...

Garret PUKES on Calvin. Without missing a beat, Calvin grabs TWO MOPS, they CLEAN UP their sick.

INT. THE MOVIE MILL - SNACK BAR - DAY

Mina's arguing with a DISGRUNTLED CUSTOMER.

MINA
We don't offer refunds.

CUSTOMER
But I didn't like the movie.

MINA
Right, I understand that. But you watched the movie so--

CUSTOMER
Yeah. I watched the world's worst movie and now I want my money back.

MINA
This is a cinema. We don't offer refunds.

CUSTOMER

Then I want a voucher for a free movie. I demand a free ticket!

MINA

That's just a different way of trying to get a refund.

CUSTOMER

Free popcorn pass?

INT. THE MOVIE MILL - SLIDESHOW ROW - DAY

Mina enters, looking for Baterman. Instead, she finds Calvin.

MINA

Oh my god. What stinks?

CALVIN (TO CAMERA)

Me. My life. This job.

She covers her nose. Garret rounds a corner.

MINA

Have you guys seen Baterman?

GARRET

He's probably wankin' it in theatre two. It's got that smut romance on.

She walks away. Calvin exhales.

INT. THE MOVIE MILL - SNACK BAR - DAY

Calvin and Garret enter the Snack Bar area. Taruka's behind the till, eating a HOT DOG.

GARRET

God, what I wouldn't give to be a hot dog.

CALVIN

What?

Calvin spots Taruka.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Oh.