

THE ULTIMATE GOAL

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. HOTEL - ESTABLISHING SHOT - MORNING

It's Friday morning and the sun is glistening off the edges of a beautiful Hotel located in Hollywood. Craning down we see the parking lot filled with cars, some reflect the early morning dew which has formed from arriving so early. A foggy window silhouettes someone inside awakening to check their WATCH to see what time it is.

The Silhouette above MATCH DISSOLVES into a man behind a foggy shower curtain. Scrubbing frantically to arrive on time for a very important meeting.

EXT. HOTEL ENTRANCE - MORNING

License plates from all over the country provide confirmation that you've come to the right place.

Car doors fly open almost in unison as it's time to line up and fill out your application for the most exciting job in the whole wide world, an "Ultimate Studios Tour Guide".

CUT TO:

EXT. BUS - MORNING

Our man from the shower is now nervously on his way to the Hotel. He's ERIC DANIELS, about 30 years old, 6'2" a black man in need of a break into show business. A very sensitive man, well spoken about. Not that he hasn't been successful before, you see he's also an ex-police Officer for the Los Angeles Police Department. Things just didn't work out, but we'll find out about that later. He takes the bus wherever he goes. His reasons are soon to come.

CUT TO:

The people are filing in. Eric is not too late, we can sense his tenseness as we observe his reflection in the bus window now being used as a mirror to check his tie.

CUT TO:

EXT. / INT. - HOTEL ENTRANCE/LOBBY - MORNING

We FOLLOW - ERIC as he enters the hotel lobby, passing a sign which reads: WELCOME APPLICANTS!

"ULTIMATE STUDIO TOURS"

Please fill out an application and be seated.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - MORNING

The room is filled with tension as applicants are waiting to be interviewed. It is well lit, several tables await interviewers as the meeting is about to begin.

The introduction music (Ultimate Goal) serves as a donut, allowing dialogue to dance between the interviews of the candidates. Precise timing is the key that opens the door to a magnificent mix of dialogue and music.

The opening credits allow our future stars to express themselves between the lines we will come to know them personally.

CUT TO:

ERIC briskly fills out his application, we OPEN UP to see pens screaming for a breath of air as subconsciously everyone tries to be the next one to deliver their application and be interviewed.

TRACKING DOWN the long tables we see interviewers questioning applicants, occasionally our nose for news eavesdrops on the conversation as the music breaks her submissive will.

Our first interviewee is seated at a table with his portfolio in hand. It is quite old as several pages are seen hanging out and torn. He's proud to show it to the interviewer. His opportunity comes alive with the first remarks of the interviewer. The opening music lowers as secrets are revealed.

INTERVIEWER #1

I see here your an actor. What have you done?

The applicant opens up his portfolio and points to a child like figure of an apple tree. A kid's eye protrudes through a knot hole.

APPLICANT #1

Well I played the lead apple tree in my third grade class play entitled "Rotten to the Core" heard of it?

INTERVIEWER #1

Oh... Yea... that's you huh? Very good just have a seat over there. Next please!

BACK UP WITH our MUSIC and the room is BUZZING with people walking around - talking to themselves, some acting out parts, pacing back and forth nervously, and some rehearsing things that have nothing to do with the interview.

If this weren't Hollywood, you'd expect these people to be promptly seized and delivered to a padded room with bars.

A young woman in her 20's is seen with her hands folded in prayer. Pleading for her opportunity to explain her way into stardom. Her zeal for the arts far exceeds her beauty, nevertheless, she'd do anything to be chosen as a tour guide. Her name is JANICE, definitely star material. As our opening music anticipates conversation, her guard is lowered as Janice speaks.

JANICE

Please God! If you just do this one last thing for me. I promise! I'll never tease another guy again as long as I live. And I'll do anything the producers tell me to do.

Over hearing her prayers is not an angel but another applicant with devious intentions. He approaches her in an attempt to gain her confidence and hopefully be the receptor of answered prayer. A dip in music is his cue for romance.

APPLICANT #2

Excuse me... My uncle just happens to be a producer. He's working on a new film. I could arrange... As so it is, the good outweighs the bad as our quick thinking Janice walks away well aware of the devil's ploy. An... audition for you... if I had an uncle.

He mutters to himself a few un-heavenly words and looks for his next victim.

CUT TO:

ERIC sits down at the chopping block. His confidence radiates as he reacts to the questions brought forth. His sincerity gains him entrance to the forum of fame as he gives his reasons for hope of becoming a star.

SANDRA

So, tell me Eric, why do you want to be a tour guide for Ultimate Studios?

ERIC

Well, I think that I naturally possess the qualities of an excellent tour guide. I'm enthusiastic, I have an excellent imagination, quick thinking, and a personality that just won't quit.

Sandra is quite pleased that she doesn't have to wade through another lie to and try and decipher another memorized script from the previous self-centered egos who's only intention is just to break into the business. She relaxes and asks Eric for a greater explanation into his intentions of being a tour guide.

SANDRA

Very good. Are there any recent experiences you've had that make you feel this way?

ERIC

Oh definitely. You see I use to drive a city bus. One day I kind of took the wrong road and the bus broke down in the desert. My quick thinking lead me to tell my passengers that the very road we were on was once traveled hundreds of years ago by gold prospectors who were killed by thieving trespassers. The gold miners swore that in exactly one hundred years their spirits would return to avenge their death by blowing up any strangers in town and that very incident happened exactly 100 years ago today.

Right then my right rear tire blew out. BANG!... man you should have seen 'em ducking for cover and heading for the bathroom. When everybody got off the bus a few of the passengers said they thought I would make an excellent tour guide.

Engulfed in his story Eric has made her day. She rewards him by promoting him to the next stage of processing.

SANDRA

That's a cute story, I think you've got just what we're looking for Mr. Daniels. Just have a seat and we'll be calling you shortly.

ERIC

Why don't you just call me Eric instead?

Unknown to Eric he couldn't have picked a better interviewer. Sandra moves toward the front of the room to give the welcoming presentation, everyone is asked to take a seat and settle down.

Our opening music takes a seat and introduces us to the beginning of our story where triumph begins it's battle in

the mind, and victory is delivered only to those who accept the challenge to achieve "The Ultimate Goal".

SANDRA

O.K., everybody, quiet down now.
Let's get started.

Welcome to Ultimate Studios. I'm Sandra Washington Talent coordinator for the tour guide staff and you, as if you didn't already know, are applying for one of the most exciting jobs in the whole wide world, an Ultimate Studios Tour Guide.

The room comes completely unglued, like a final touch down all cheering for the winning team.

SANDRA (con't) (CONT'D)

I'd like to take this moment to tell you a little bit about Ultimate Studios, the responsibilities of being a tour guide, and explain to you just a few of the exciting benefits some of you will be experiencing if selected.

We get a closer look. at the faces of the tour guides to be. All with looks of anticipation and day dreaming of the future. All eyes becomes transparent as we look. into the nucleus of the minds no longer afraid of being exposed.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Ultimate Studios was conceived in (1985) by Richard Ulta after failing his college entrance exam. He became discouraged and... We slowly DOLLY IN to the mind of JEFF. His LONG HAIR covers his BROAD SHOULDERS but his THIN FRAMEWORK is partly due to his HYPERACTIVE imagination. He's always out in left field somewhere trying to make life real. A dissolve is our permit into the gates of his thoughts that instantly come alive.

Jeff is about to give the tour of a life time. His audience is boarding the tram, some patiently await him. On a dead run he rehearses his script while helping the last person on board. He closes the hatch making sure it's secure and rushes to his platform aside the driver. We join him halfway through his tour at the most exciting part of his presentation.

JEFF

And to my right ladies and gentlemen,
this very building was used in the
movie "My Heart Can Be Broken"

(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)

starring Frank Du Va and Shirley Matthews. Now to give the effect of real blood, special effects crews used a thirty gallon container shaped like a heart made of clear break away plastic filled with red Kool-Aid. On cue, it was dropped from the top of this building three stories below - shattering onto the sidewalk. The vampires you saw scampering to lap up the blood were actually gory Looking extras enjoying a well deserved ice cold refreshment.

Our vision is invaded by a slow DISSOLVE as Jeff comes back down to planet earth. We are reluctant to withdraw from Jeff's mental façade but the sound of Sandra's voice melts away our vision as we return to the real world.

SANDRA

Was not something he was cut out to do so... he did what any red blooded American would do, he started his own motion picture company.

We are now safely out of Jeff's mind and exposed to another face. She's the girl we met earlier in prayer. Now with no wolfs around this virgin sheep has nothing to hide. Who could have ever known that under this hood of innocence lie's a self centered heart of gold. JANICE is already on the tram and giving her spiel as we hope aboard her tram of thought.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Now... It didn't take long for Mr. Ulta to figure out that getting an education... The words of Sandra echo in our minds helping us adjust to the transition from reality to a different world of fantasy.

Janice is somewhat of a want to be Glamour girl, her only intention was to be a tour guide and be discovered. To her the only thing better than money, is a round of applause. No problem with that, she's got her tram trained.

Tram riders sleeping, some playing tic-tac-toe, reading books, lovers kissing, other trams are passing her by.

Janice is constantly glancing into her mirror checking her makeup.

CUT TO:

JANICE

I'll never forget the roar of the audience as I took my ninth bow. But believe it or not folks that wasn't the highlight of my acting career. It basically comes natural for me. GIMME A BIG "C", the audience claps. Actually, it's my mom's fault, she worked in wardrobe. GIMME A ...

Tram riders are obviously becoming impatient, Janice fixes her hair and the tram riders show some signs of relief that this is maybe the final stage of the beautification part of the tour.

As Janice gives the signal to roll interesting sights pass by but no one is able to get Janice's attention to explain. We're glad to get off her bus but we have to listen to her final comments.

JANICE (con't) (CONT'D)

Now if there are any Movie Directors on board, I'm between jobs right now and I happen to have some time on my hands so... GIMME A BIG "C"... SMASH CUT TO A MAN IN A CREATURE SUIT attempting to SCARE one of the riders but nothing is funny anymore. Discouraged, the CREATURE WALKS AWAY, removes his head and tosses it to the ground.

Janice snaps out of her dream and we move to another subject while Sandra is concluding her welcoming speech.

We DOLLY to our final subject ERIC. He is into his daydream thing and he materializes in a mad dash heading toward the tram with a CAR BATTERY and some jumper cables. He places the battery on the floor and connects only one cable to an exposed wire hanging from the fire wall. This trip promises to be the most exciting as our "gung ho" host picks up the microphone. We pick up at the most memorable moment as we are attacked by people from Eric's outer space world.

ERIC

And now ladies and gentlemen we find ourselves trapped in that very same "force field of death." Oh my God... look out! That space warlock is about to shoot us with an electrostatic death ray.

Tram riders are into the action, from the warlock's POV he points the ray gun and is about to fire. Eric connects the cable to the battery, under each seat is a small voltage regulator wired in series.

When the battery terminal is connected each person receives a low voltage shock to the butt and begins to shake and shiver, hair stands on end we HEAR the sounds of ZAPPS and ARCHING as lightning flickers and people scream.

Eric removes the battery connection before any cardiac arrests occur, he demummifies the audience with dialect of comfort.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

Wow! Folks, he barely missed us. And that's how it's done in the movies. Welcome to Ultimate Studios.

An old lady stands and with smoke emitting from her mouth, hair standing on end she displays her sense of approval.

OLD WOMAN

Now that's Exciting.

Eric snaps out of his dream and we go back to reality where Sandra is finishing up explaining details of the job history and opportunities. With our three comrades safely on one accord they finally something that was said registers.

SANDRA

So, we welcome you and hope you break a leg on your audition today. The next phase of your interview is to come up in front of the room and tell us the most interesting aspect of your life. You will have a three minute time limit. Now for those of you who are not selected please... don't take it personal. Remember we're looking for the most imaginative, enthusiastic applicants who have just what were looking for at Ultimate Studios. Mr. Mar Davis over there is our Ultimate talent scout and he will be paying close attention as he is the one who does the judging for the tour guide staff. He's the one who makes the final decisions. O.K., first on our list is Mr. Eric Daniels from Pasadena. Lets give him a round of applause - make him feel at home folks.

Eric approaches the front of the room:

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

INT. DINNING ROOM TABLE - NIGHT

A bottle of wine is seeming to be poured on the floor but as we follow the stream it lands in a dog bowl and is lapped up by RUSTY Eric's faithful partner and companion. Rusty is an adult male K-9 dog very intelligent and especially loyal. Rusty is allowed to lick the rim of the bottle.

Our fallen star is somewhat intoxicated but generous enough to share his wine with his pal. He is disappointed that he was not selected at the audition today but who cares about Mr. Ultra when you've got a friend like Rusty.

While at the table the sound of a turning key is HEARD. It sparks the attention of Eric and Rusty as they attempt to sober up and prepare to report the bad news to the lady of the house. The door is opened and Eric's girlfriend DENICE steps in. We only see her from the waist down but for most human beings of the male species this angle would be more than they can handle. She's a work of art, from head to toe rarely is one women composed of such qualities of equal proportions. In her late 20's, she has no problem living with an older man. Especially when he try's as hard to please her as Eric does. Denise PLACES the GROCERIES on the COUNTER, one quick look. explains what kind of day it's been.

DENICE

O.K... so another one bites the dust.
You want to talk about it?

ERIC

No... You should have been there. I had them eating out of my hand. From the moment I walked in I had 'em on a leash.

DENICE

And?...

ERIC

They bit me. (mocking the audition)
And if we don't call your name, please don't take it personal, just leave.

DENICE PLACES a fresh GLASS on the table to be filled then SITS next to Eric in an attempt to lift his spirits. Eric pours wine into her glass. She takes one sip, smells the rim, looks at Rusty, then Eric and heads for the sink. Eric never stops the conversation. She gets her own bottle.

DENICE

How many people had to leave?

ERIC

I don't know, I was the first one to go... They only hire the white people 'ya know.

DENICE

Now, if you were the first one to leave, how do you know they only hired white people.

ERIC

Ah come on Denise have you ever seen any Black tour guides at Ultimate Studios? No! It's either White, Asian or Spanish. They think our dialect isn't socially acceptable and all we know how to do is RAP. "Lord-de Lord-de Lord-de, lookie yonder folks, dat beez a giant squid, yawl best to duck now, he don't be playin, hear what I'm sayin?"

In a loving attempt to maintain her man's trust by not busting a gut, Denice makes up a question.

DENICE

Can't you go back and try again?

ERIC

Not for six months. I guess they want you to (British accent) forget what you've learned today. It's top secret you know.

The very reason she loves him becomes so apparent now. He's wacky.

DENICE

Ya see... that's why I enjoy being with you so much. You get so dramatic when you can't have your way.

They laugh, kiss, DENICE reaches into her purse. She pulls out the days newspaper and lays it on the table.

DENICE (CONT'D)

I saved this for you today.

One section of the paper's job adds is circled in red. Eric reads out loud.

ERIC

Tour guide wanted. Exceptional personality, good imagination.
(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

To show art exhibits to guests during open house. No experience necessary. Will train. \$5.50 per hour.

DENICE

Your appointment is set for 10:00 tomorrow morning so... don't be late.

ERIC

Aha... I don't want anything to do with people anymore.

DENICE

Now you knew it wasn't going to be that easy. Your going to have to reestablish yourself, get back to where you were. Until then, we need more money to feed your guided imagination.

Eric now realizes that DENICE somehow knew he would not pass the audition and prearranged an interview. She always knows when he'll fail.

ERIC

Wait a minute... You got this for me today? You made an appointment already?

Eric approaches Denise in a somewhat serious way, slowly moving her into a corner.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

How'd you know I wasn't gonna make it? So, I'm dramatic huh? You want to see some dramatics? Huh, Huh, here goes some dramatics for ya.

By now a paper napkin is formed into the mask of the Texas Chainsaw dude. His tongue protrudes through a whole and only one eye can see.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

How about a mad man scene. He takes the innocent women and crushes her skull with his bare hands. All because she knows him too well.

He chases her around the table once and into the bedroom, closes the door. Denise's fake scream indicates her only true fear would be any interruptions at this time...

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. MUSEUM - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

The exhaust from the bus quickly dissipates as Eric exits to enter the museum. From the sidewalk even the manicure of the bushes say this place is different. Passing all kinds of weird statues and bush sculptures, Eric is suddenly ignited with other imaginations similar to his.

INT. RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Eric acknowledges his arrival to the receptionist and signs in. The room has several people waiting for their appointment AD LIB is HEARD in the b.g. heavy technical art language is going on.

ERIC

Good morning mam.. My name is Eric Daniels, I believe I have an appointment for 10:00 o'clock.

RECEPTIONIST

Yes Mr. Daniels... Your 10 minutes late. Just have a seat I'll be calling you in just a moment.

ERIC

Why don't you call me... Whenever your ready, just take your time... no hurry.

The receptionist calls to advise the boss of the arrival of his 10 o'clock.

RECEPTIONIST

Andréa... Mr. Daniels has arrived.

Eric sits unable to ignore the conversations of the other applicants.

ARTIST #1

(in a some what English accent)

Did you happen to notice the Rembrandt on the second floor?

ARTIST #2

(very proper)

Positively fair maiden, my eyes have grown radically accustom to the magic of the 18th Century... Which happens to be my specialty.

ARTIST #1

It's so refreshing to be in the company of those who think on the same canvas. You know what they say... (together) "like minds, frame a picture."

ARTIST #3

(to Eric)

What did you think about the art show in San Francisco last month?

ERIC

(somewhat English accent)

Never seen anything like that in all my life.

ARTIST #3

Did you happen to notice those abstracts hanging from the rafters?

ERIC

Breathtaking, wasn't it.

A handkerchief to the left eye helps him regain his composure.

ARTIST #4

D'Angelo will be here next month you know. From St. Peter's Hall New York.

EVERYONE STOPS TO LISTEN

ARTIST #5

How can you be sure?

ARTIST #4

The caretaker of St. Peter's just happens to be a very dear friend of mine. He told me it was purchased by my own uncle for a pretty price of \$500 Million, and was being shipped here for exhibit. The very reason I want to work here is to tell everyone the secrets of how D'Angelo was so strategically obtained.

ARTIST #3

How So?

APPLICANT #4

My uncle... the thieving bug head convinced my entire family to loan him our inheritance.

(MORE)

APPLICANT #4 (CONT'D)

That was one year ago and we haven't seen a nickel of it since.

Eric getting discouraged that the chances of him being hired are slim to none, he gets up to leave. As he approaches the door Mr. André is ready to see him.

ANDRÉ (Museum Manager)

Mr. Eric Daniels... Come in please.

ERIC

Aha... I think these kind people were here before me sir.

ANDRÉ

On the contrary... they are all 1 to 2 hours early. Come in please. Some of them were waiting outside when I arrived this morning. Come on in.

INT. MR. ANDRÉ'S OFFICE - MORNING

A huge office envelopes Eric, with all kinds of artifacts on the walls, old posters and trinkets. A hunter's nightmare, this room even smells of fossils. A small area of the gigantic desk could actually be used for writing on. Voodoo dolls hold the pins and pencils, the poison dart is extracted as André reviews Eric's application.

ANDRÉ (con't)

Now... Tell me Mr. Daniels, Why do you want to become a tour guide for The Maltese Museum?

We see a quick flashback as André for one split second, transposes into Sandra at Ultimate Studios during the conversation. Eric regains his composure and answers.

ERIC

We'll I'm very imaginative... I'm... Who are we fooling, if it didn't work the first time how can it work now. Eric begins to answer from his heart rather than his head.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

In desperate need of work, Mr. André My girlfriend saw your ad in the paper and suggested that I apply.

ANDRÉ

Well, I'm delighted to see your candid personality, but how much experience do you have with art?

ERIC

Mr. André I know absolutely nothing about art. The closest I've ever come was in Junior High School getting extra tutoring from my math teacher.

ANDRÉ

Oh... Your math teacher knew a lot about ART?

ERIC

No sir. That was his name.

ANDRÉ

We'll Mr. Daniels, I still have several interviews to attend to. We'll be making our decision in the next few days. Thank you for your interest and... Good luck to you with your job search.

ERIC

(very disappointed)

Thank you for your time Mr. André.

Eric exits the office, he glances back just in time to see André write over his application in big red letters from the poison dart, "NO EXPERIENCE."

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

INT. ERIC & DENICE'S LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Eric and Rusty are on the floor sipping wine. Eric is talking to his faithful friend, the fireplace is SEEN burning in the b.g.

ERIC

You should have seen them man. I mean these people looked like they just stepped out of a "The Butler Did it" movie. They knew everything there was about art. I don't care, art is not my thing anyway. And I'm better than that. You know why? Because I'm a dreamer, we're dreamers... and dreamers always go for... The Ultimate Goal. Hey...you remember? We had it all man. We'll get it back some day.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

Cause we're dreamers... Rusty and Eric are laying on the floor. Rusty is in deep thought. We FLASH BACK to be introduced to how it all started. The beginning of a true relationship. The days of Officers Eric Daniels and Rusty at the Los Angeles Police Training Academy.

Military drums march to the beat of tail wagging on this final day of K-9 training. No flea in his right mind would dare interrupt the concentration of these chosen few.

Five K-9 dogs at attention with their training Officers. They speak a different language as all commands are given in German so English spoken commands from villains would not deter an attack. The sergeant approaches and gives the first commands.

Sergeant WILLIAM HARRIS, short - stocky and powerful, his voice could stop a bullet. A twenty year veteran with the L.A.P.D., treats K-9s like men. That's what they respect about him. He's hard but fair. If you're a K-9, you want his name on your dog tag.

SGT. HARRIS

Officers, we're entering the final phase of testing, and as you know things are a little shaky.

SGT. HARRIS (con't) (CONT'D)

Because of the recent budget crisis we've been ordered to cut back. Only four K-9s will be approved for the program this year. So, here's the run down. Upon completion of the two remaining tests a decision will be made. The Officer with the lowest score will be dropped from the program.

On this note Rusty glances over to one of the female K-9s. Her name is Sheila, only a year on the job but don't let that fool ya. Her reputation is a keen sense of smell, she can match finger prints by sniffing an object a suspect has recently touched. And looks... she's got the kind of eyes that will make a K-9 salute a fire hydrant.

SGT. HARRIS (con't) (CONT'D)

First, "The Narrow Escape" testing your partners ability to use wisdom when entering and exiting a confined space.

(MORE)

SGT. HARRIS (con't) (CONT'D)

Sometimes what looks like the easy way out can end in certain death. Inside this tunnel a weapon has been dropped by a fleeing suspect. He knows that if he reaches out to pick it up he may be shot by the on scene Officer. The Officer can't go in because not only does it take two hands to maneuver inside but the suspect just may have another weapon. Your partner must go in, retrieve the weapon, and back out, not forward... not the easy way... back out.

Denise was in the audience that day. Eric had the same feelings for her that Rusty had for Sheila... Except for the fire hydrant that is.

After Eric gives the command Rusty dashes into the dangerous tunnel. Sheila looks on with great honor and pride, kind of how Denise is now Looking at Eric.

The commands for Rusty are given. At no other time does Denise ever see Eric so stern. The life of his partner depends on the correct command.

ERIC

Vanslav Borlkista!

Rusty enters the tunnel without delay. Inside we see a training Officer hidden next to a gun. He is holding a clipboard to record the reactions of each Officer. As Rusty gets to the gun the trainer reaches out for it. Rusty bites the training sleeve and picks up the gun and backs out. Sheila is up next.

SERGEANT

Very good Rusty. O.K. Officer Johnson give your command.

JOHNSON

Sheila, Vanslav Borlkista!

Sheila retrieves the weapon but attempts to exit toward the front, the wrong way. Rusty realizes that Sheila is in trouble. He looks to Denise to cause a distraction. Denise is way ahead of him. The pillow she is sitting on quickly goes under her coat then labor pains rang out from audience. All eyes are quickly shifted to the woman in the stands. They respond to assist.

DENICE

AHAOOOOGA... HAA H!%##%@%

The Officer in the tunnel scamper out to see what all the commotion is about.

SERGEANT

Relax mam, We'll get an ambulance.

From the corner of her eye Denise can see that Rusty has Sheila safe and facing the right way.

DENICE

No, no it's O.K.... It's just close to that time you know. I'm fine now. Please, don't let me distract you. Thank you!

As the Officers resume their positions they are just in time to witness Sheila exiting properly. The Sergeant gives her the seal of approval.

SERGEANT

Excellent! O.K. Officers, lets move on the next test.

At the next training site we SEE an assortment of baggage stacked in no particular order.

SERGEANT (con't) (CONT'D)

This is "the Suicide Grip". Now that all of the Officers have successfully completed drug and bomb training. Your partner must be able to ascertain inconspicuous danger, grasp, and intercept an object, while the suspect is in motion. Now you know the reason we call this the suicide grip, because your partner has placed himself in a very vulnerable position. If it's a bomb, it may go off, if it's drugs, well, the owner of that bag just may try to take it back and even be willing to kill for it. O.K. Rusty, You're up.

Denise and Sheila watch on in support. The bags are issued to runners dressed in business suits and tennis shoes.

They take off down the track. They run at a very rapid pace as Rusty in stride sniffs the bags. One runner is flipped to the ground head over heels. The sound of a brisk rip accompanies broken bones. The runner is on the ground as Rusty displays the other half of the bag lying next to him.

ERIC

Way to go partner, way to go!

The Sergeant walks over to Eric and Rusty and hands Eric an envelope.

SERGEANT

Officer Daniels, I'm Sorry to have to deliver this but...

ERIC

Sarge.. I was keeping score. Rusty did fine, he's first in his class.

SERGEANT

It's not Rusty were cutting Eric.. It's you. The budget cut included 1 K-9, 12 new recruits, and.. one training Officer. You were the last one to come on board, I'm sorry.

Rusty looks as if to ask the question "How could this be happening."

ERIC

Come on Sarge, what if I went back on regular patrol?

SERGEANT

I thought out every angle, it wouldn't be enough. This is out of my hands Eric, but I promise if this mess ever clears up, you'll be the first one to be called back. You've done an excellent job. I'm sorry. I waited until now because I knew you would have wanted to see Rusty promoted.

The expression on Eric and Rusty's face cause deep concern for Denise and Sheila. They both stand and strain to interpret the conversation.

ERIC

But... But what about Rusty?

SERGEANT

Rusty did an outstanding job. But I'm going to have to cut Sheila. She passed but had the lowest score. Rusty is welcome to stay if we can retrain him to accept a new partner. You raised him, but staying on is up to him.

The Sergeant salutes Eric and Rusty and walks away. Eric advises his partner to continue to do the right thing by staying on.

ERIC

I want you to know, I'm very proud of you. You've achieve the Ultimate Goal partner. I think it best that you stay on, do whatever they tell you to do. They're are innocent citizens out there who need you. Now you get out there and catch some bad guys. Code 4 partner.

As Eric stands, Rusty looks to the ground to witness the salute from Eric's larger than life shadow, leaving him with the memories of a vision far greater than a friendship. His paw lifted slightly off the ground indicates for the first time in his life he wishes he were human so he could return the honor.

Eric walks away leaving Rusty behind. Rusty looks back at Sheila then Eric then Sheila. Denise looks at Eric who is too hurt to face his woman. Then Rusty looks at Eric then Denise. Denise looks at Rusty, Sheila looks at Eric then Denise. Eric looks at his badge. About mid field Rusty takes off after Eric, Denise soon follows. Sheila is in her cage. Rusty catches up, they embrace, then Denise, the three walk off the field. The Sergeant gives a salute.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Are you sure about this buddy? Are you absolute sure?

Rusty picks up his own leash and gives the handle to Eric. The three of them walk out into the sunset.

Dissolve back to Rusty's head at the fireplace. Eric is passed out but still speaking.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Cause were dreamers... Dreamers... Dreamers... We HEAR a key as it is placed in the apartment door and turned.

The door opens it's DENICE coming home from work. She lays down next to Eric who is passed out. Eric awakens and holds out his hand to receive his classified ad she has circled in anticipation. He opens it to read.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

What's this? Actors dialogue!

DENICE

Hello baby I love you to... and why not. You've done a couple of plays and I think you're wonderful.

(MORE)

DENICE (CONT'D)

Besides there's big bucks in movies these days. You can get extra work that just may lead to something.

DENICE (con't) (CONT'D)

Its good fast money and that's what we need right now.

By the way, mom called today and.. She wanted to know if we would like to use her car tomorrow, she's taking the day off. Why don't we do something?

ERIC

Are you sure you want to be seen with an unemployed under-achieving no good... Denise puts her arm around Eric and another around Rusty.

DENICE

I believe in you Eric Daniels. We believe in you.

ERIC

I know you do baby. Thank you! Whatever you want me to do.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. - APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Eric gets ready for a little family trip and makes a phone call to an old friend. Officer Johnson with the L.A.P.D., he is Sheila's trainer. Spring is in the air as Eric plays matchmaker and friend.

ERIC

Well things could always be better. The hardest thing is trying to figure out which of these job offers I'm going to accept. I just hope the city calls me back before I get too attached.

Eric is looking at the Actor's Dialogue with circles on potential auditions.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

How are things going on the force? Yeah... a chase huh. Sheila caught him.

The moment Eric says the word Sheila, Rusty pays close attention to the conversation.

We'll listen, I want you to know we really appreciate this.. and I'm sure Rusty will to. Sure we'll have her back by 6 o'clock. We'll be there in about an hour. And Dave Thanks!

Eric is just staring at the picture on the mantel of him and Rusty in uniform. A little discouraged listening to war stories that don't include him, Eric puts the picture down and grabs the picnic basket. Denise enters the room, Rusty waiting by the door.

DENICE

Is everything all right?

ERIC

Yeah baby.. Just fine. (Kiss) Ya ready Rusty? Have we got a surprise for you.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. - OFFICER DAVE JOHNSON'S HOUSE - MORNING

Eric is at the front door, Denise and Rusty are in the car, Rusty stares intently in anticipation, then Sheila comes bursting toward the car.

Its going to be a good day as they spend the next few hours together. Each stop is a new adventure, the only danger is not getting Sheila back home in time for duty by falling asleep in each others arms, or paws.

In the heart is the place where memories are made and these story book lovers intend to write the book.

MONTAGE:

- (A) On the beach, walking, playing
- (B) On a peer, looking over the ocean

(C) IN THE PARK

(D) SITTING AT THE FOUNTAIN

(E) Walking through the forest

(F) WINDOW SHOPPING

(G) Putting on
sunglasses (actually
buy two pair for
Eric and Rusty)

(H) Trying on hats, DENICE poses,
Sheila poses (I) Eric and DENICE
trying on hats (J) Exiting with dogs
wearing hats and sunglasses (K)
Carousel shots, Eric and Denise riding
(L) Carrousel shots, Rusty and Sheila
in the love seat

(M) DANCING IN THE PARK

(N) Dropping off Sheila to David

(O) RUSTY SAYS HIS GOODBYE

(P) From back seat of car, Rusty watches house disappear

END OF MONTAGE

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. MOTHER'S HOUSE - DUSK

Eric returns the keys to Denise's mother and Denise thanks mom.

DENICE

Thank you mom, we had a wonderful
time.

MOM

O now you stop that child, you know
if I'm not using my car you're more
than welcome to it. You kids need me
to drop you off?

DENICE

No, We'll be all right. We're busing
it.

Denise is being sort of sarcastic, she doesn't really like
taking the bus everywhere.

MOM

How do you kids get Rusty on the
bus?

DENICE

Most of the drivers know us by now.

Eric, Denise and Rusty exit the porch and walk down the sidewalk, the sun is going down at dusk.

At the bus stop Denise nudges Eric that the bus is coming. Eric pulls out his sun glasses and puts them on as if to be blind using Rusty as the seeing eye dog. They board the bus and their figures take a seat in the back like one happy family... with pointed ears.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. SIDEWALK - DOWNTOWN - MORNING

Eric, DENICE and Rusty are out on the streets near downtown for a morning walk. Eric is out of shape and looks for an excuse to stop running.

ERIC

Hold up... Hold up girl, Rusty is tired.

DENICE

(DENICE runs in front
of Eric, backwards)

What's the matter old man? Oh my...
your turning brown. You aha... want me
to run and get the paramedics for
you? You didn't have a problem working
out last night.

ERIC

Uh-oh... Now I see your little master
plan. Wear me out last night, wake
me up and get me to run so I have a
heart attack from exhaustion and you
collect all the insurance money.

DENICE

Hark... Howist could I have ever thought
that I could have gotten away with
such a crime. Your quite right. But
telist thou, how much money would
your death have brought Rusty and me
had I succeeded in this master mind
plot?

ERIC

We'll you and Rusty would be...

DENICE

(interrupting Eric)

Off somewhere trying to find an old
refrigerator box for your coffin and
(MORE)

DENICE (CONT'D)

he'd be digging the hole to put you
in.

CUT TO:

A lady placing money in the pay phone, her baby is in the stroller and happily playing.

He's just the cutest little thing you've ever seen, very precious. (We don't see her face because she is known in a previous scene.)

She is obviously upset and not paying much attention to her baby. Highly aggravated with the person on the other end on a child support issue.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SAME

DENICE

I want you to exercise because I love you. Since... you know what happened, you haven't been working out like you use to.

CUT TO:

The woman at the phone lights a cigarette as she becomes more upset. The woman's foot is keeping the baby's carriage from rolling. The baby is playing with toys. Eric, Denise and Rusty are approaching. The traffic in the area is picking up. The baby carriage is located on an incline. Three stories begin to come together. The world of the playing child, heavy traffic through a busy intersection, the whole world risking it's life to save the life of a child.

CUT TO:

ERIC

Then prove to me that you love me.

DENICE

And how would you suggest that I do that?

ERIC

By walking the rest of the way home.

CUT TO:

The woman on the phone almost drops her purse. Cigarette and small phone book. in the same hand, holding phone to her neck, reacts to catch her purse.

She lets carriage go, placing her foot at the wrong location, feeling a post instead of the carriage wheel. Cars seem to be picking up speed at the busy intersection below the incline. The baby begins to roll down the sidewalk toward traffic. The mother still believes that she is holding on to the carriage with her foot.

MONTAGE

(A) Two people across the street in a restaurant notice the stroller moving. From the window they react dodging tables and chairs.

(B) Rusty becomes fully aware of the situation and barks to alert Eric and Denise. He picks up pace to investigate.

(C) Cars dashing through the intersection.

(D) Woman at pay phone now very excited, yelling at the person on the other end, headphone music blasting.

(E) People from the restaurant now exiting yelling at the lady on the phone who seems to be the closest to the rolling baby carriage but she does not hear.

(F) Denise's motherhood instincts kick in and she takes off.

(G) She points to the action.

(H) Rusty now breaks into a full gallop towards runaway carriage.

(I) Total confusion in a nearby parking lot as drivers honk horns to get the ladies attention.

(A) Carriage headed for the intersection.

(B) Baby in the carriage laughing, playing.

(C) A man runs from the parking lot can't get to the baby because of traffic.

(D) Woman on the phone is attracted to all the commotion, realizes her baby is freewheeling, screams, drops everything and takes off running.

(E) A man is walking down the street unaware of the situation reading the Wall Street with a briefcase in hand.

(F) Rusty at full speed approaches the man with the briefcase

(G) People from every where, dashing to get to the baby.

(H) People now climbing over cars.

(I) Cars still flying by in the baby's path.

(J) A long pipe from a construction crew is blocking the street. Rusty runs through the pipe then suddenly stops and backs out. At that moment a foreman preoccupied with his lunch and a magazine gives orders to drop the load. Rusty would have been killed had he not backed out.

(K) Baby now begins to cry.

(A) With Briefcase in mouth Rusty is only seconds away.

(B) The mother removes her heels for speed.

(C) Man passes Mother, dives for carriage but just misses the handle.

(D) All persons are a few feet away when the carriage disappears off the curb Rusty and the baby arrive at the same time.

(E) Vacancies expose the paths that everyone took to help, lipstick, broken mirror, Gas pump hoses on the ground, napkins, tablecloths clothes lead to exits pointing to the intersection.

(F) All is quiet and dead still as Eric arrives with Denise close behind, he looks at the results.

Eric looks slowly around the car. He sees why his partner has discontinued the chase. Everyone made a diligent effort, but this stroller isn't going any further.

ERIC

Rusty... Oh-My God... Rusty has used the briefcase to cushion the impact. The baby is fine and Rusty is a hero. Everybody on the scene cheers and applauds.

Eric removes the baby and hands him to his mother just as she arrives on scene. The mother is Sandra from Ultimate Studios. She hugs and kisses her baby, and realizes that Eric is a previous applicant of hers.

SANDRA

Thank you - thank you all, Hey aren't you...

ERIC

Hello Mrs. Washington. Eric Daniels.

SANDRA

The bus driver who blew up the people.

Not forgetting to reward her hero Sandra kneels down to Rusty.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

And who might this be?

ERIC

Rusty, he's a trained Police dog.

SANDRA

We'll Officer, I want to thank you.
Your very brave. You saved my baby's
life.

Eric introduces the lady to his inquisitive girlfriend.

ERIC

Aha... honey, this is the lady from
the Ultimate Studio audition.

DENICE

Hello! I'm Denise Eric's Girlfriend.

SANDRA

Listen, I can't thank you enough for
what you did today, all of you. Look.
I know you didn't make the audition,
and quite frankly I don't have much
to do with that part. There will not
be another audition for a few months
but maybe I can swing something if
you try it again that is if you're
still interested. I can pull your
application and call you then.

ERIC

Thank you but I really didn't do
anything, Rusty is the real hero but
I guess I could give the tour guide
thing another try, thank you I'll be
looking forward to it.

Eric is making all the wrong decisions and Denise is giving
him the eye.

SANDRA

We'll it's nap time young man, I
think we've caused enough trouble
for one day. Goodbye Eric, it was
nice to meet you Denise, Rusty we'll
never forget you for this.

She puts her baby into the carriage and waves goodbye to
everyone. Eric and Denise gather Rusty and walk away. The man
with the broken briefcase collects his papers and walks away.

We see people telling their side of the story to police Officers now on scene. Eric and Rusty are mesmerized as they walk up to a police car almost getting in and driving off. Denise snaps them out of it by turning them away.

Pulling out to see all the commotion, everybody goes their own separate ways.

DENICE

Come on Officers, excitements over.
I don't want you to take that job
Eric.

ERIC

Aha. Baby, It's in the bag now. Rusty
put me in the spotlight today.

DENICE

Rusty put himself in the spotlight.
I want you to get your resumes
together and follow through with the
Actors Dialogue.

ERIC

Oh - Kay I'll have to brush up on my
acting class. I'll stop by the library
and get things together but if I
don't get anything by the time the
audition comes up, can I go for it?

DENICE

We'll see, but I think you'll find
something by then. If you try real
hard.

Pulling out ever further our heroes can hardly be seen yet their voices provide the playground for a very amusing love affair.

ERIC

I'll try, real hard. Just think Rusty,
we'll have the most exciting job in
the world. I can see it now. Lord-
de... Lord-de... Lord-de... Yawl best look
out now. Dat there bees a giant squid,
he ain't no kid, his name is Sid...

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. LIBRARY - ESTABLISHING/BUS STOP - DAY

Eric and Rusty exit the bus. Eric has on his blind man's sunglasses led by Rusty they enter the library.

He pulls down his sunglasses for a moment to read the hours.

He enters the lobby which is already seasoned with low lighting, excellent for reading. Everything is just as it was one hundred years ago. From chandeliers to the wood grain banisters, the only thing current about it is the sprinkler system installed to bring it up to city fire code and a row of new books which line the shelf stating the same.

He selects a book. from the drama section by feeling his way over the titles, Selecting a book. on acting and feeling his way to a nearby table he begins to read but - - whenever anyone comes in close to his area he quickly pretends to read by Braille.

The library manager, overweight, older gentleman has an air of butler about him. He's very suspicious looking and is skeptical of Eric's plot to break the rules by having an animal in the library. He watches the two closely. He catches Eric with his glasses off and reading, he approaches the two. When Eric senses the manager coming he puts on his glasses. There are several people sitting at the table with them.

MANAGER

Excuse me sir, but there are no animals allowed inside the library.

The others at the table are amazed that this man would have the audacity to say such a thing to a blind man.

Whenever Eric speaks in his blind state, for whatever reason his voice seems to project as if whatever he says is always asking a question, it even raises up one octave. Maybe to help convince him of his present character or place him in a better position to feel disguised.

ERIC

Oh you mean you want us to leave because I'm blind, that's perfectly all right. We aren't as fortunate as people who can see. Rusty the nice mans says we have to leave, lead me outside.

The people at the table become furious. And begin to cause a public scene questioning the decision of the manager. Rusty is sitting right next to Eric in plain view.

READER #1

What kind of a library is this? So insensitive.

ERIC

Do you see my seeing eye dog anywhere?

READER #2

(to the manager)

Yo Man, How would you like to be
blind?

ERIC

O there you are, playing hide and
seek again? Let's leave these kind
people alone now.

The manager now has the attention of the entire library. He is officially the lowest form of life. One child's lips stick out to confirm this sad imitation of a human being.

Sensing possible rejection himself and a ploy to avoid an overloaded complaint box the manager has second thoughts.

MANAGER

I'm sorry sir - there are exceptions.
I didn't know you were... You and your
dog may resume your literacy
interpretation if you wish.

ERIC

You mean it's O.K. to stay?

MANAGER

Certainly sir.

Our readers go back to there normal routines, the submissive manager walks away convicted but determined to prove that the man with the dog is not blind, he keeps his eye on Eric and Rusty. They decide to find a less conspicuous location.

ERIC

Rusty, take me to the non-fiction
section.

Eric and Rusty find a shelf and begin feeling the books.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

We've got to find something today
Rusty. Denise doesn't always show
it, but I can tell, things are
starting to get shaky. We need a job
NOW!

Eric pulls a book. from the shelf and behind it the manager is lurking, watching his every move. Eric sees his eyes and slams the book. back knocking the manager to the floor.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I thought I felt a book. worm Rusty.
Take me to the check our counter.

While passing, he places his hand on the managers bald head and issues Rusty a warning.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Don't forget to use the hand rails
Rusty.

Eric and Rusty go to the next aisle stepping over the manager to get there.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Is this the right way Rusty? What
would I ever do without you?

Eric and Rusty feel there way to an unoccupied area so not to be seen reading his Actors Dialogue. He removes his sunglasses and sits next to Rusty on the floor. Eric removes the magazine Denise gave him, he begins to read the circled ads.

ERIC (CONT'D)

O.K. - let's see what our lovely
talent agent wants us to do.

He fingers all the red circles that Denise made and reads to his companion.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Black Male, at least 6' tall to play
a police Officer. Hey, we shouldn't
have any problem with that. A movie
about a scientific cop who uses his
super natural abilities to fight
crime. What do you think Rusty, like
Robo Cops.

Eric rests his head on the wall of books behind him as his imagination kicks in.

ERIC (CONT'D)

We could do that, no problem.

CUT TO:

Two robbers holding up a jewelry store. Patrons lie terrified on the floor. One of the robbers is the lookout, constantly looking for cops from the large window pane. The leader gives orders to the owner of the shop.

ROBBER #1

Come on man, just put the stuff in
the bag. No! The good stuff.

ROBBER #2

You sure this is going to work?

ROBBER #1

I told you man, this is a piece a
cake. By the time the cops get here,
we'll be long gone.

Eric and Rusty pull up in the alley. Eric is in full uniform
and Rusty has on a holster with a laser. Eric advises dispatch
that they are on scene.

ERIC

3514 on scene in the alley of the
silent alarm. Requesting back up.

DISPATCHER

Copy 3514 in the alley, 3511 and
3512 en-route ETA two minutes.

Eric presses the magnetic release latch, removes the shotgun
from its holder, and he and Rusty take off down the alley to
the front of the jewelry store. The look. out robber remains
posted at the huge window, ready to alert his partner in
crime of any mysterious movement.

ROBBER #2

The coast is clear man... coast is
clear hurry up! Lets go.

ROBBER #1

I told you man. By the time the cops
get here we'll be long gone. Piece a
cake.

Eric is at the edge of the window He leans the shotgun against
the wall and reaches over to press a button on Rusty's
holster. Eric hits a button on a weird looking box attached
to his belt, tiny lights flash on and off then he and Rusty
step in front of the glass. They are invisible to criminals.
The robber and Eric look. eye to eye but Eric is not seen.
The robber looks several times while Eric freely gives a
description of the criminals to dispatch starting with the
man not 2 feet away still looking for cops.

ERIC

3514 to dispatch. We're on scene of
a robbery in progress. Two adult
males number one: 6'1", short afro,
scrape on his left ear, mustache -
untrimmed, wearing a dark blue T-
shirt, blue jeans, white socks - one
is inside out, white tennis shoes.
Suspect #2 is a... They're exiting
through the front at this time.

The two men exit the store, look. both ways but see no one.

ROBBER #1

SeeÑlike I told you man, piece a cake.

Suddenly the sound of electricity splinters the air, Robber #1 slivers across the ground, sparks eject out of his legs like the forth of July, he is stunned, his legs frozen stiff. Diamond necklaces slide across the ground.

ERIC

It appears, your mistaken gentlemen.

Our partners in crime turn to each other hearing the strange voice but not knowing where its coming from.

Eric reaches over and presses Rusty's button on his zapper holster, they both become visible to the criminals Rusty is holding the zapper in his mouth. A shotgun first floats through the air then is attached to a cop. Eric's back up arrives and cuffs them both. The two criminals are placed in the back seat of the police car and the loot is recovered, the people exit thanking Eric and Rusty. (Who they could see all the time). As the police car drives off..

ROBBER #2

So, what's up with the piece a cake, piece a cake. You didn't say nothing about no electric dogs.

ROBBER #1

What up with the coast is clear man, coast is clear. Stevie Wonder could have seen that cop coming.

Our police car disappears and so does Eric's image. Now amused by his day dream sequence Eric comes back to reality. He continues to job hunt and comes across another potential opportunity.

ERIC

Listen to this Rusty. Male, any ethnic, 30-40, needed to play the role of a Newscaster, must have a very vivid imagination. Humm.. The sound of a news program slowly fades in and we hear..

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

U Witness News with Eric Daniels, Maria Sanchez - Weather, Tom Daily - Sports. For the latest in what's going to happen around the globe KUWN presents, U Witness News. An now with today's top stories here's Eric Daniels.

Eric materializes in front of news cameras in suit and tie.

ERIC

Good evening. I'm Eric Daniels and here's what's going to happen. In 22 minutes and 34 seconds New York will experience a major tumble on Wall Street. The walnut stocks will plummet at an all time low never to recover. Any funds left in that stock within the next two hours will be totally consumed.

The back drop shows a walnut tree with nuts falling to the ground.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

Meanwhile in just a few moments at the White House, the President of the United States will prick his right index finger while pruning his favorite rose bush. After minor first aid from the capable hands of his wife Jennifer, his wound will heal with no further complications.

In the backdrop of a rose with prickly thorns on it.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

In other news 47 tons of cocaine are en-route to Los Angeles from Columbia with an estimated street value of 133 billion dollars. In 3 hours, 14 minutes and 27 seconds the S.S. Eloise will port at the Long Beach pier Birth 221. The master mind behind the operation is senior accounts executive David Bowling now residing in Los Angeles and preparing to make the pickup. Mr. Bowling has been successfully cheating his workplace at the Thompson Bank and Trust...

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

The newscast continues as we venture off to another place. The whole world watches U-Witness news, but on this particular night, the broadcast is of special interest to the chief in command of the Presidents CIA organization.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - TELEVISION VIEWING ROOM - NIGHT

A large room with several television sets organized according to State keep the President in the know. The (C.I.A.) is watching the nightly news from every major city in the world.

The agents are astounded by the broadcast they just heard from the television marked "California", the men react to the comments from the newscaster. Eric is on the air giving his last bit of news and the Presidents men are already checking out the story about the pricked finger. Chief Connors contacts the agent assigned to the President's floor via headphone set.

CONNERS (C.I.A. Agent)
Clark! Is the President still asleep?

CLARK (C.I.A. Agent)
Yes sir, he hasn't left his room all night.

CONNERS
Are you sure? Double check. We've got some crack pot on TV who's about to spend a long time in jail for prevaricating.

Clark moves close to the President's bedroom door and whispers softly.

CLARK
Mr. PresidentÑ Mr. President!

Clark begins to walk away and radio back to Connors when the President answers him with...

MR. PRESIDENT (O.S.)
Ohooooo Jesus, Howwww ah.

Clark whips his concealed machine gun from his holster, radios to Connors a code red (the President in need of assistance). Connors receives the message and bolts out the door with other C.I.A. agents close behind. They run out of the viewing room and up the stairs while calling back to respond to the President's bedroom. They rush in with weapons drawn only to find the President in pajamas and a pruning sheer in hand being given first aid by his wife. Near by we see a rose bush. Holding the door open as others rush in, agent Connors apologizes for the intrusion.

CONNERS
Mr. President. We thought... Erraa...
There is a little drop of blood coming from the President's finger.

PRESIDENT
Aha It's nothing really, this happens quite often.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

This afternoon I noticed my prize rose bush looked a little pinked so I brought it in my room to baby-sit it a little. I couldn't sleep and... well, pruning always relaxes me. I'm sorry if I alarmed you gentlemen. Next time I'll do my pruning during normal business hours.

CONNERS

No problem Mr. President. We see your in capable hands. Have a good night.

After closing the President's door on the way down the stairs Connors picks up his cell-phone and makes a call to another agent located in the origin of the broadcast.

CONNERS (con't) (CONT'D)

White House, Agent Connors... JIM
(C.I.A. Los Angeles)

Yes Jim this is Anderson I was just about to call you. I couldn't believe it myself, I had to run the tapes back to confirm what I was hearing from that reporter, I already got a team headed over to the television station. I'm on my way, what's your status there?

CONNERS (CONT'D)

It happened just like he said, let me know what you find. I want priority over this one Jim, I don't care if you have to snatch him off the air. He's mine, Get him to me on the first plane out.

Several vehicles pull up and surround the building where the broadcast is taking place, Eric is still on the air being monitored by C.I.A. agents in the responding van. Agent Anderson arrives on scene in time to lead the team through the front door. The security agent is ordered to open up and all agents enter. Now holding portable monitors Eric's voice radiates through out the hall way. The agents rush into the studio only to find it vacated.

The stereo effect of the broadcast is heard and a dim light is seen coming from a closed door. They burst into the room with weapons drawn to find a lone technician reading a magazine.

TECHNICIAN

Hey dudes, What's going on?

ANDERSON

Agent Anderson CIA, where is this broadcast originating from? And who is this man?

There are several monitors all around the room, Eric is on all of them. He has just chosen the lucky winner of the lotto for tomorrow, a homeless person on the phone and is about to end his broadcast.

TECHNICIAN

It's up-link man - this cat comes in here and hands the GM a cashiers check for one mill just to air a 30 minute tape. Says he won the money in the lotto.

ANDERSON

Do you mean to tell me that a perfect stranger can walk into a major television station and just give you some money to air a video.

TECHNICIAN

Yo dude, for a million bucks I would have swallowed the tape whole.

Agent Anderson reaches into his pocket for his cell phone to notify Connors of his findings. After several tries the phone doesn't work, he is forced to pick up the television station phone. Anderson is on the phone with Connors when they both see the final words of the announcer.

ERIC

Our final message for tonight goes out to an individual with a prominent position as head of the C.I.A. in Los Angeles.

ANDERSON

Connors, Anderson, yes I'm watching right now I tried to call earlier but...

ERIC

Mr. Jim Allen Anderson who at this moment is visiting the downtown Los Angeles area. It's time to charge the battery on your cell phone, it died 20 minutes ago. That about raps it up for U Witness News I'm Eric Daniels, have a great future.

Coming back to reality Eric and Rusty hear the library announcement over the loud speaker reminding all occupants

that they will be closing in a few minutes. At first the voice echoes just like the News Broadcast then becomes normal.

MANAGER (O.S.)

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.
The library will be closing in 5
minutes. Please bring all material
to be checked out to the front counter
thank you.

Eric and Rusty stand and prepare to exit the Library. We see Eric gather his books and head toward the check out counter. They don't notice that the manager is studying their every move. Eric and Rusty check out the books, on the way out Eric notices a flier on the bulletin board that reads, "IF YOU'VE BEEN TERMINATED WITHIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS YOU QUALIFY" Employment Development Division. (818) 555-2525. He writes the number down. The manager sees it all. They leave out the door followed by the manager who glances out the window with an evil glare.

As Eric goes down the stairs he is suddenly stopped by the tug of Rusty's leash. A flash back of Police training in mind of Rusty in the step-a-side minefield exercise is briefly reminisced. A fast moving car narrowly misses him, then comes to a screeching halt. Eric has a few chosen words for the driver.

ERIC

Are you blind or something! Don't
you know there is a 5-mile per hour
speed limit in a public parking lot!
Why don't you watch where your going.

GEORGE (Old Man)

Aha shut up darkie. What are you
doing at a library anyway? Every
body knows you people can't read.

MARTHA (Old Lady)

George let's go, I hear they learn
how to shoot guns before they can
walk.

The car quickly speeds off and down the street. Eric kneels to Rusty who may have just saved his life.

ERIC

Thanks partner, some people will
never change.

They exit the parking lot, down the street to the bus stop.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT - ESTABLISHING

INT. KITCHEN TABLE - ERIC

Eric is confiding with Rusty on whether or not to call the number they saw on the bulletin board.

ERIC

It says here that you don't have to work if you decide to go to school. JTPA will even pay your way. I think its time for a career change anyway.

The doorknob turns and in steps Denise.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Here she comes, look. alive. Hi honey! Here, let me get your drink for you.

Her glass of wine was already filled and in the freezer.

DENICE

And how many resumes did you fax today?

ERIC

We were sitting there reading the Actors Dialogue and they closed the library so we...

DENICE

We, as in you and Rusty. In the Library. Eric I think your carrying this a little too far. You just can't take Rusty every where you go.

ERIC

Baby I almost got killed today, if it hadn't been for...

DENICE

I know your relationship is important to you but its not normal to take your dog with you every time you go to the men's room.

Denise gets up to check the answering machine. We HEAR several messages but one in-particular catches her attention. We hear the answering machine as Denise rewinds.

ANDRÉ (O.S.)

Mr. Daniels... This is André..
(MORE)

ANDRÉ (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 from the museum. I just wanted you
 to know that I have made my decision
 and I would like to offer you the job
 as tour guide. Every one I interviewed
 just knew so much about art with there
 own fuddie duddie morals and
 sophisticated attitudes well, I just
 think it would be better to train
 someone who has absolutely no
 knowledge whatsoever, such as your
 self. If your still interested be
 here tomorrow morning at 8:00 am
 sharp, hope to see you then.

The living room becomes a dance hall as the threesome begin
 dancing and shouting. Eric takes a dance with Rusty round
 and about chanting a rap song about dog food.

ERIC
 We got some money, we're going insane.
 We're moving on up, to Gravy Train.

Denise taps Rusty on the back to cut in on the dance. They
 converse while dancing.

DENICE
 Ya see there, I'm so proud of you.
 You never gave up. Now we still have
 a little money in savings so, you go
 get some new shoes, a nice shirt and
 a pair of slacks, and honey... remember
 what I said, Rusty stays home.

Eric is reluctant that he can't take his sidekick to work
 with him but he understands, but not before one last attempt
 to sway her thinking.

ERIC
 Stay home? Can you imagine an animal
 that size and not even house broken
 yet?

Her look. says it all, "You'll have to come up with something
 better than that".

DENICE
 Now I think this calls for a
 celebration.

Denise goes in the kitchen and pulls out a bottle of champagne
 and two glasses. Eric looks surprised that he didn't see it
 before and somehow she knew this would happen.

ERIC
When did you...?

DENICE
I bought it today on the way home.

She walks right passed him with the glasses and bottle then into the bedroom.

DENICE (CONT'D)
Come and get it mister mad man.

Eric obeys, then closes the door.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. DOWNTOWN - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Eric and Rusty are walking home from shopping. Eric has a package under his arm. They come within sight of a fountain when Rusty recognizes two figures sitting at the city fountain enjoying an ice-cream and talking.

Eric is suddenly stopped when Rusty places his body in front of him preventing him from going any further.

ERIC
What's the matter buddy ya tired? We don't have that much farther to go come on.

A second attempt to pass Rusty fails. He bends down and evaluates the situation.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)
OK, Animal Training Manual page 346, section 22.4, when detained from advancement it is usually either to protect the Officer from imminent danger or to make him aware of the situation... ahead.

Eric looks directly between Rusty's ears and down his nose. Rusty is pointing to the fountain. There he sees the familiar faces of the two old people who almost ran them over at the library.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)
Oh, no, you can't be serious? You're serious.

Eric removes a band from his head and places it around the top of the bag he is holding making it air tight.

He puts on his dark sunglasses. He faces the fountain and allows himself to be pulled toward the fountain at high speed, he begins to ask Rusty the magic question...

ERIC (CONT'D)

Rusty please. Where are you taking me?

Almost dangling like a helium balloon attached to a car antenna, Eric is seen racing down the street like the runaway blind man. The plan is quite clear except to the people witnessing this unusual sight.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

Rusty please, slow down! Where are we going?

WOMAN

Oh my God, Harold look. at that poor blind man.

LITTLE GIRL

Mommy look. at that dog taking that man jogging.

ERIC

Please Rusty, slow down! That's not fair, you can see.

Now only yards away from the fountain where the two old people are still eating ice-cream they are unaware of the situation.

The people around the fountain see Eric coming at them and split in all directions. Only the old couple remain. Rusty comes to a stop but Eric keeps going. Eric falls into the fountain making sure that the old man and old woman get totally drenched. Eric feels the top of the water.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Oh-Rusty, you brought me to the beach, how sweet.

Two security guards who observe the incident run from the building to assist.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Are you all right sir?

They collect his things out of the fountain. And assist him out of the water. the old couple look on suspiciously, Eric and Rusty looks familiar to them. One of the guards finds Eric's glasses in the water.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Are these yours sir.

ERIC

They feel like mine. Yes, Yes, thank you so much.

Eric begins to feel the guard to establish his blindness, he feels the guards badge.

ERIC (CONT'D)

A life guard. Thank you for rescuing me. I guess my doggie got a little excited. Do you see my dog anywhere?

SECURITY GUARD #1

Why yes sir, he's right in front of you.

He hands Eric the leash handle and the floating bag as they walk away.

ERIC

No harm done. Thank you again. The water feels really nice today Rusty.

The old couple are soaking wet, ice-cream is melted and wet.

OLD WOMAN

George, wasn't that the man you almost ran over at the library?

OLD MAN

We'll I'll be darned. I should have smashed him when I had the chance.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Some people have no respect for the helpless.

Eric and Rusty disappear down the street. With a few final words.

ERIC

Rusty! Let's try to find some sea shells.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. BUS STOP - MUSEUM - MORNING

Eric gets off the bus and enters the museum. He enters the reception area.

RECEPTIONIST

Good morning Mr. Daniels, your right on time. Welcome to the family. André had to leave for a few minutes but he told me to have you fill out the necessary paperwork and join the 10 o'clock tour so you can get familiar with our procedure. Have a seat over there and just let me know when your done.

Eric finishes his paperwork and is allowed to roam around to get use to the place. He comes across a tour being given and adds himself to the group.

A young lady is giving the tour. She looks familiar but Eric is actually becoming interested in the art pieces she is explaining.

JANICE (Tour Guide)

And this ladies and gentlemen is our most prized exhibit. The Angelo sent to us from The New York Athens Museum. This painting has a very unique history dating back to the early 1800s. It was recently purchased by several admirers who voluntarily gave up their inheritance so the Angelo could live on to be with us today.

The group moves over to a tin statue and Connie explains.

CONNIE (con't)

This is the original suit of armor worn by none other than King Collie who single handedly regained his throne by subduing traitorous warriors who attempted to dethrone him by demolishing his castle.

The Tour ends but Eric decides to lag behind and observe a picture he finds interesting, the tour guide bids the group farewell and approaches Eric.

CONNIE (con't) (CONT'D)

Excuse me sir. Do you have a question about this painting?

ERIC

Its very beautiful.

CONNIE

Leonardo, 1765. He died before he could ever finish it.

ERIC

How long did it take you to memorize all this stuff?

CONNIE

What, the exhibits? Not long. I've always had an interest in telling others about the strange and unusual. I haven't always been this way.

ERIC

You'll have to forgive me but, didn't I see you about 4 months ago at an audition for Ultimate Studios?

CONNIE

Why yes, I remember you. You got some people blown up in the desert. I thought that was the funniest story of all.

Eric and Connie come down a flight of stairs and on to the main floor.

ERIC

So, I guess you didn't get hired to work for Ulta huh?

CONNIE

Nah, I think they only hire Asians. Hey, you wouldn't happen to be the new guy they hired would you?

ERIC

In the flesh. I'm Eric, nice to see you again.

CONNIE

Well welcome aboard Eric. Do you remember the guy that pushed his car over the cliff and, O I guess you had already left by then, anyway another guy that was at the Ultimate audition works here his name is Jeff, you'll like him he's... different.

ERIC

I'm kinda different myself I guess, can't wait to meet him. How do you like it here?

CONNIE

It's pretty cool. Mr. André, he's a really nice man. He took.

(MORE)

CONNIE (CONT'D)
me on right after the audition. I figured it would be good training until the next Ultimate Studios audition.

Eric and Janice enter the office. It's time for lunch.

CONNIE (con't) (CONT'D)
Rosemary I'm going to go to lunch before my second tour, Jeff is up next. Is there anything you want?

ROSEMARY
No dear thank you for asking. I see you've met Mr. Daniels.

CONNIE
Yes we go back a ways. We'll see you later, If you have any questions feel free to ask me. I'll help in any way I can. Break a leg.

ROSEMARY
Do you go by Eric or Erik?

ERIC
Eric is fine.

Rosemary types Eric's name on some papers and advises André that it's time for his meeting with Mr. Daniels.

ROSEMARY
André, Eric is here to see you.

ANDRÉ
Very well send him in.

ROSEMARY
You may go in now Eric. You'll enjoy working for André he has his moments but he has never as much as raised his voice at an employee yet.

Eric enters the office and again is fascinated by all the trinkets that surround him.

ANDRÉ
Welcome back Eric, and what did you think of our happy haven.

ERIC
Very interesting, there is a lot to learn.

ANDRÉ

I don't think you'll have much problem, it will all come in time. Now that you've got the basic idea I want you to take these brochures home with you and study them. They contain most of the information that you'll need to conduct your tours. Let's say you be ready by, Oh-day after tomorrow, would that give you enough time?

ERIC

Yes Sir, that's fine I'll be ready.

ANDRÉ

Then if you have no further questions we'll see you on Wednesday at 10 o'clock. You may want to get here early to go over your tour before hand with one of the other guides.

ERIC

Thank you very much for this opportunity. I know I can do a good job for you.

ANDRÉ

I think you've got what we're looking for. See you then.

Eric exits and closes the door behind him. He stands and leans against the wall in gratification of his new job. His attention is directed down the hall where Jeff has began his tour. Eric approaches and joins the group.

Jeff is a younger guy with a vivid imagination, long stringy hair and talks kind of like a surfer. His high in life is talking to people. He loves to show his point of view, his way.

Jeff is two stories up yelling down to his audience explaining the secret life of the Mojave Indians. The people look up as he is dangling a life size dummy as his practical example.

JEFF

History tells us that the Mojave Indians were so displeased with finding that their most trusted witch doctor had not only lied but had misused the powers of the Enchantment Goddess of the Sun who became so angry she brought down the floods that destroyed the land.

(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)

The chief sentenced the great Mocki
Mocki to... death by the fleeing pigeon.

Now in the process, both arms and legs are tied to a bamboo tree stretched out like wings and wrapped with pigeon feathers.

JEFF (con't) (CONT'D)

Then at evening from the highest
peek in the valley when the dawning
of the sun disappeared from the canyon
below they threw him off the edge to
the rocks below.

He hurls the dummy over the rail. Unknown to the people below, the dummy is filled with hamburger meat. It splats to the floor at about 25 miles per hour. The meat splashes people everywhere, meat is hanging from the walls, smacks faces, we see one person begin to barf but holds his hand over his mouth. The meat between his fingers looks like he just stole a big Mac and was too hungry to wait around for it to be cooked. Meat splashes on shoes, some observers clap while others just run away.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Now if you'll just enter those doors
to your right there, we'll see how
the daughters of Naomi became
impregnated by raving cannibals just
before dinner.

Eric stands in amazement laughing at the people who didn't like Jeff's vivid imagination. He follows some of those who couldn't take it out the door.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT - ESTABLISHING - DAY

INT. ELEVATOR DOOR - DAY

Denise comes out, as she nears the apartment door she hears the sound of the television blasting, radio on, she finds Eric and Rusty in the living room studying his information and rooting for the football game.

DENICE

I gather work was not too much of a
bore.

ERIC

32 to 14

DENICE

How did it go?

Eric turns off most of the distractions and explains.

ERIC

It went great. It's going to work out fine. I might even start to like this art stuff. I met a couple of people from the Ultimate Studios audition, they didn't make it either.

DENICE

Two Black people that didn't make it?

ERIC

No. I think we all have the same goals. Anyway Mr. André gave me this information to study so I can learn some of the exhibits.

DENICE

So you did O.K. with out your faithful companion.

Eric turns off everything that was missed and realizes some facts about his relationship with DENICE.

ERIC

I've been neglecting you haven't I?

DENICE

Of course not. I know you want to live life the way you want to live it. You got to admit. It's a little different seeing you without all that security with the police department.

ERIC

I spend a lot of time with Rusty, and not enough time with you don't I?

DENICE

I don't mind and I never meant to make you think that. Rusty and I have been through a lot with you. We've grown together.

ERIC

I could never be this happy without you.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

And I haven't given you all that I would like to, you deserve so much more.

DENICE

Now why do you want to go and get all mushy on me.

ERIC

I guess what I'm trying to say is, I love you Denise. I know you already knew that but I never said it. Even though I have failed you in so many ways you we're always there for me. I think its time for me to quit dangling your love on a string.

DENICE

Eric, I accept you as you are. I love you anyway, and I don't want you to think that you have to commit yourself just to prove to me that you love me. You tell me you love me with every silly joke, every time I see you trying so hard to do better. You're not just sitting around doing nothing. You act on your dreams and that's what makes you so special. I couldn't ask for more.

ERIC

You know, I'm sick and tired of introducing you as my girlfriend, I want to introduce you as my wife. I already talked it over with Rusty. What do ya say?

DENICE

Yes, yes, and all your bad jokes and weird imagination, yes.

They embrace Eric grasps her hand, brings it to his cheeks and kisses it with total affection. When his lips part from her hand there is a ring on the finger and they are at the wedding store in a mall. (Match Dissolve)

MONTAGE:

(A) At the store trying on different rings and pricing diamonds (B) At the dress shop. Trying on different dresses for a wedding (C) At the tuxedo shop, hats, tuxes, shoes (D)

(MORE)

MONTAGE: (CONT'D)

Practicing getting married with Rusty as the preacher. Rusty drinks from his bowl, we drink from glasses (E) DENICE puts a pillow under her dress and pretends to be pregnant. Eric pushes her to the floor, opens her legs and pretends to deliver the pillow, he pulls it out and hugs and cradles it.

(F) On the floor by the fireplace in each others arms just sitting and hugging

END OF MONTAGE

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. MUSEUM - LOBBY - MORNING

A sign on the wall reads "Welcome: Museum Tours 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00. Eric is looking over cue cards with the proper information on them and rehearsing his lines. Eric is about to give his first tour. He collects his people and begins.

ERIC

Our tour begins with evidence of the lost tribe which very few human beings ever knew existed. From an island deep within the Mediterranean excavation crews uncovered this skull of a member of the Quanas tribe dated somewhere near 47 BC

ERIC (Con't) (CONT'D)

The Quanas tribe has mastered the capability of sustaining everyday life using the contents of an ordinary cup of sand.

When Eric forgets his lines he makes up something. The people look in astonishment except those who are familiar with the art work.

ERIC (CONT'D)

And here we have the world famous Artuso. It is said that his paintings reflect each year of his life, he would begin painting every year in the month of December. In some cases we have found paintings to be 12 - 14 layers thick.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

Indicating that he painted a picture a year on the same canvas until he was happy with the picture.

GUEST

Excuse me sir, but would this not be a Recoso?

ERIC

O, my yes, Recoso, excuse me folks. I sometimes get the R's mixed up. Keep an eye on me now I'll be testing you.

The patrons are exiting after the tour, some of them are disappointed and others not excited at all about the tour. Eric senses the disappointment. The last person exits and Eric closes the door. Jeff approaches to speak with Eric. He puts his arm around him. They begin to walk down the hall.

JEFF

Hey man, on my first day I started out with 12 people and by the time I said goodbye thank you for coming, there was just one person left. As he walked out he asked me where he could get batteries for his hearing aid. So, don't take it so hard it takes time to get into the groove of things.

ERIC

Maybe I'm just not cut out for this.

JEFF

Of course you are, just give it some time.

They approach André seen standing in the hall. Some of the lights in the museum begin to go out. Jeff goes on his way, it's time for closing.

ANDRÉ

Mr. Daniels, may I have a word with you. I was listening. You seem a little nervous but that's perfectly normal. Relax, what you've studied will all come together soon. Talk to them as if you're telling your family the history of art and how it all began.

ERIC

I really messed up giving the wrong names didn't I?

ANDRÉ

We'll, You're dealing with very sophisticated people. They know what they're looking at. Just let more of Eric come out. Use a little more imagination. Just let your mind go where it naturally pleases, let it flow.

ERIC

Aha, Mr. André, whenever I use my imagination it gets me into trouble.

ANDRÉ

Not here Eric. Artists enjoy a delightful imagination and expect the tour guide to have more than normal. Let it flow. You've got it. It's all right here.

ERIC

You mean you wouldn't mind if I just be myself?

ANDRÉ

On the contrary Eric, yourself is what it's all about. You'll feel more comfortable with each tour. I'll tell you what, take a couple of days to get your information together and try it again, you'll see.

Eric and André evaporate down the hall. Their voices echoing through the chambers, growing dimmer as each light points the way out then soon disappears.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - ERIC/RUSTY

In the kitchen confiding with his buddy, Eric always gets good advice.

ERIC

Mr. André says let it flow. Can you imagine getting paid to think?

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

If I can't do this now how could I ever have thought I could be tour guide for Ultimate Studios. Maybe that's why they didn't hire me. Maybe they were able to see something in me that I couldn't see. Let it flow.

Eric is getting a brain storm. He grabs the yellow pages and calls a local wheelchair company quickly before closing time.

EXT. MEDICAL SUPPLIES SHOP - DAY

DANNY (Salesman)

Hello, Danny's Med Stop.

ERIC

Good evening, this is Eric Daniels with the Maltase Museum, I'd like to know if you would have any wheel chairs available for rental? And I need one of those battery operated ones, also do you deliver?

DANNY

Sure do, your museum has a great reputation. We'll make up an account and bill you how's that?

ERIC

That will be just fine. Is it possible to have them delivered tomorrow? I'll need to do some construction at the museum before I can use them...Great, The Maltese Museum, 9:00 am. Thank you we'll see you then. Oh, I'll be the only one to sign for them, have the driver ask for me personally when he arrives. Good enough, good bye.

Eric gets up to go to his recording equipment. He sets up microphones, special effects records, a boom box and several other artifacts, even some small pieces of wood.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. MUSEUM - OUTSIDE - MORNING

A handful of people are standing in front of the museum to see the tour. Eric does some final hammering, taping, wiring, setting up. He puts some tools away and is now ready for his waiting audience.

As Eric approaches the door, there is some concern as to this facility being wheelchair friendly.

LADY #1

Young man, do you have wheelchair provisions at this museum?

ERIC

Why yes mam, in fact, we have something very special for you today.

INT. MUSEUM - LOBBY - MORNING

Two gigantic doors swing open. When the smoke clears, there before this tour is the worlds first wheelchair tram ride. Lined up, sparkling and ready to go with the powerful electric wheelchair as the locomotive.

Hollywood style music is coming from boom box with prerecorded music. Equipped with a megaphone Eric approaches the cockpit.

The guests run frantically to get to a chair. After checking each seat for safety its all systems go.

The man who arrived in a wheelchair and having a prosthetic arm with a hook. is connected to the last wheel chair on the train. Everyone is seated and ready to go.

ERIC

Ladies and gentlemen please remain seated as we prepare to take a magical cruise, hand in hand into a land of make believe through the realms of the worlds most exciting art exhibits, "WELCOME TO THE MALTESE MUSEUM"

The passengers are very excited never having had experienced such an adventure. He rubs his hands together as he approaches the front. The tape recorder button is pressed emitting the sound of atmosphere music is heard.

Eric presses the forward switch on the powered wheelchair and all passengers begin to move. The hallway is lighted very low as Eric describes each painting. As the wheels run over the flat pieces of wood, the pictures come alive.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. MUSEUM - FRONT ENTRENCE - MORNING

The court yard is full of people. Anxiously waiting for the tour, the doors swing open and Eric welcomes them, they enter.

INT. ANDRÉ'S OFFICE - MORNING

MR. DAVIS (MUSEUM COORDINATOR)

André, I don't know how you did it but the funds raised by the Maltese have surpassed the requirement to qualify you for the Ksu-nomi to be an exclusive exhibit at your facility. We show your clientele on the up rise in only two short weeks. That's amazing.

ANDRÉ

I can't take all the credit Mr. Davis. We've hired a fresh new atmosphere, brought life to the death of creativity and an inspiration to everyone who's ever anticipated putting their imagination on the line.

Upstairs Eric is having the time of his life. The guests all in wheel chairs totally engulfed with the tour. The man who brought his own wheel chair is especially impressed as if the tour was designed just for him. His electric hand opens and closes automatically because of the impulses his excited brain is transmitting to his sensitive nerves.

ERIC

And this is the very armor of whom I mentioned earlier on the lower level. Word has it that one hundred years ago the King swore his spirit would enter his suite of armor to take vengeance on those who attempted to enter his kingdom. But no need to worry folks, that was in the year 1899, we still have... oh my God, that was one hundred years ago today.

Gasps of fear are heard throughout the long hallway. As they approach the statue the wheelchair tires run over trips, wedges made of wood, trigger the special effects Eric has created. The armor's ax blade begins to move erratically up and down but there is no escape. The suite of armor becomes alive as the wooden triggers cause blood to be squirted from the ax. A breath of relief is inhaled as Eric announces.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Wow, he barely missed us. Well folks that's how it's done at The Maltese Museum Pasadena.

BACK TO THE OFFICE

MR. DAVIS

This is the greatest award ever André,
you deserve it, spend it wisely.

André places a check in his top suite pocket. They exit down the hall. Eric's tour is about to pass through the hallway, things are suspended in mid air floating over the heads of the passengers. Pictures move, people laugh and scream. The sound of the guests and atmosphere.

André and Mr. Davis look up to see the wheelchairs coming. Eric is coming to the end of the tour. Several guests are waiting their turn down stairs.

MR. DAVIS (con't) (CONT'D)

Stupendous! Well done André, Well done!

ERIC

Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes our tour for today. Please wait until we come to a complete stop and exit to your right. We'd like to again thank you for spending your day at The Maltase Museum.

Eric seems to be having a problem with the stop button on the powered wheelchair. He can't get it to work just yet. Glancing out to see the starting point quickly passing and heading toward the staircase Eric gives an unusual command.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

I'm a little late for my next tour folks so just go ahead and get off, see you next time.

The people attempt to exit but are confused that the chairs are still in motion.

MR. DAVIS

André, it gives me great pleasure to award you with the most significant award ever presented. I just know the 12 point 4 million dollars will enhance your establishment.

ERIC

Get... Get..., off, NOW! I have to pick up a new tour, please hurry we're running out of time.

Some people skid on the floor. The man in the wheelchair who was paralyzed unscrews his neck brace.

We hear the sound of little motors in his fake hand spinning, he grabs for the rail but his arm pops off and stays on the rail spinning like a retarded helicopter blade, he manages to get out of the chair and runs away. One woman is almost decapitated by the whirling arm. The wheelchairs are just a few feet away from the edge of the stairs.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Ja- - jum - jump off, everybody jump off!

Eric ejects himself just in time to see those less fortunate flying past him. A few unlucky souls reach for him in a desperate effort to sustain life. Their screams draw the attention of Mr. Davis and André as they plummet over the edge and arrive at the bottom of the stairs.

André and Mr. Davis are now aware of the commotion up stairs and look in time to see wheelchairs out of control and people being ejected and tumbling down the stairs. When the smoke clears.

MR. DAVIS

André! This is an abomination.

Mr. Davis snatches the check out of André's pocket and storms out the exit. Eric slides to the edge of the stairs to evaluate the damage and finds himself looking down at André and qualifying for the first employee to be yelled at by André.

ANDRÉ

Mr. Daniels!!!-----You're fired!!!!!!!

A wheelchair tire mark now hides the signature of one of the most expensive paintings. Tires are still spinning in the background, the electric arm is losing power. People slowly getting up. The boom box is stuck on welcoming the riders.

BOOM BOX

Thank you for coming - - Thank you for coming - - Thank you...

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT - APARTMENT - NIGHT

INT. KITCHEN TABLE - NIGHT

By the spread of the papers on the table Eric has made an appointment with the unemployment department. Wine at hand Denise approaches. One Look. at Eric and she knows.

DENICE

Oh Eric, Don't tell me, Oh no, no,
no. What happened?

ERIC

Some lady fell out of her wheelchair.

DENICE

No. You did something, what did you
do Eric.

ERIC

I pushed her.

DENICE

You pushed a lady out of her
wheelchair?

ERIC

No, she kind of - jumped.

DENICE

She tried to commit suicide?

ERIC

I told her to.

DENICE

Commit suicide?

ERIC

No! Jump.

DENICE

Why?

ERIC

She was about to get killed. I didn't
mean for any one to get hurt. How
could you even think something like
that about me. You know me.

DENICE

Yes I know you. What did you do,
wreck a handicap bus? What?

ERIC

It's a long story, I was only using
my imagination like I was told.

DENICE

My God Eric. Who got killed?

ERIC

Nobody got! At least I don't think so. Do you mind if we just, don't talk about this anymore.

DENICE

What are we going to do? Here we are talking about a wedding and making plans and I told my mother, and do you know what she said? She said you wouldn't last two weeks but I stood up for you and I proved her wrong didn't I?. Three weeks Eric, you lasted three weeks on your job.

ERIC

Do you think I would purposely do anything to jeopardize our relationship? You think this whole thing was planned? Oh, I just woke up one morning and said Humm..

I think I'll tip over some handicaps today. Honey I was just trying to make things more interesting. Nobody said anything when things were going fine, it was a great idea but when people started complaining about skid marks on their foreheads then everything is all wrong.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

I mean it's not everyday that you see somebody hop out of their wheelchair and run for his life.

Denise by this time has lost her anger and become almost hysterical at Eric's drama and lack of reasoning.

DENICE

Yeah, and leave their arm behind.

ERIC

You should have seen it. It looked like 20 people playing on a marry-go-round during an earthquake. It was a work of art in itself, I mean the only person that walked away was the man who came in a wheelchair.

DENICE

What are we going to do?

ERIC

I called the unemployment agency. They say since I was terminated that I would qualify for benefits.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

I'm going down tomorrow and apply. I know we talked about not going to that extreme but it can't get any more extreme than this. I know your tired of hearing it but, I'm sorry. I never meant it to turn out this way, never.

DENICE

I'm the one who's sorry. I never should have gone off like that. I know you're doing the best you can, this is so hard, on all of us.

ERIC

I know baby, I know. Look. maybe this is the best thing. At least if I'm on unemployment we can spend more time together.

DENICE

Honey you were on unemployed when we met. We spent more time together when you got on the department. I know you'll do the right thing. This is it, we can't make it another month without another income. If this doesn't work we can just move in with mom until things work themselves out.

ERIC

Your mother, Oh hell, it will work, I'll make it work even if I have to go work at the car wash or sling some burgers it will work. It's got to work. Oh - lord it will work.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPT. - MORNING

Eric walks across the parking lot after getting off the bus. The parking lot is barely full. He is one of the first ones there. He enters the front door.

INT. EDD LOBBY - MORNING

Eric enters a very large room, well lit, only two people are filling out paper work. The clock on the wall reads 9:10am, Eric seems glad that there will be no waiting.

A sign on one of the windows reads "PLEASE FILL OUT A FORM AND PLACE IN WINDOW NUMBER ONE, HAVE A SEAT AND YOUR NAME WILL BE CALLED. A COUNSELOR WILL RETURN AT 1:00PM". Displeased with the wait Eric has no alternative.

Eric fills out the paper work, puts his papers in window number one and has a seat. The clock on the wall reads 10:00. Eric decides to go get something to eat close. He constantly checks his watch, walks around downtown until 12:50. Opening the door to the lobby there is barely enough room to get through the door.

He passes by the tired, unruly people in need of assistance, some get upset and curses out the teller, the security guard fat and uninterested continues eating his lunch while a baby screams at the top of his lungs. Eric waits for a seat then quickly slides into the next available. His name is called and he walks up to the teller. The clock reads 4:30pm.

CLERK

Eric Daniels window #2

ERIC

Hi, listen I wanted to see if I qualify to be unemployed. I mean for benefits.

CLERK

Your Social Security Number?

Eric slides her his card under the window.

CLERK (con't) (CONT'D)

Mr. Daniels, we show you qualify for \$95.00 per week. Sign here.

ERIC

Are you sure? \$95.00 a week?

CLERK

Our records show you are eligible for the maximum allotment. You should receive your first check in about three weeks.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eric is excited about the results and is on the phone to tell Denise the good news.

ERIC

Yeah, they say we should get a check
in about three weeks.

Denise questions Eric about the rent. By the time he gets
the first check rent will be way past due.

We'll, I'll just explain our situation to the manager and
ask for an extension. Oh and they say they will even pay for
school if I can get into the JTPA program and you know how
much I have been wanting to learn computers, there's an
orientation next week I'll be there.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. EDD - MORNING

Eric is seated in the waiting room of the Employment
Development Division and the action is somewhat worse than
before. A man comes out of the office and announces the 1:00
appointments is about begin. About 24 applicants have arrived
and are seated at a long table. All are anxious to start
school.

CONSOLER #1

We're very pleased to see such a
great turnout of people who want to
do something about there lives by
starting a new career. First we
want to say the requirement for being
accepted on the education program is
that you qualify for unemployment
benefits. As you well know, when
your on unemployment you must continue
to search for work unless of course
your attending school at which time
we waive the job search. The paper
I'm passing out has the names of
several prominent schools for you to
attend according to your preference
and the cost of tuition.

ERIC

Excuse me sir, but which career is
in the most demanding field?

COUNSOLER #1

Computers seems to be the way to go.
On your list you'll see facilities
that specialize in computer training,
you'll also find two forms which
must be filled out before you can be
(MORE)

COUNSOLER #1 (CONT'D)
 accepted in the program. The first
 form must be filled out by the school
 you want to attend and the second
 form must be filled out by JTPA.

LADY #2
 Are we to understand that if we go
 to school we will still get
 unemployment benefits and you will
 pick up the tab?

COUNSELOR #1
 You're half way right. We will
 continue unemployment benefits while
 you're in school, but we don't pay
 for your education. It's just that
 while in school you would not have
 to look for a job until you graduate.
 I might add that the economy has
 been greatly effected by the loss of
 job opportunities and it looks like
 you may very well be the last to
 hope for funding through this program.
 Your next move is to contact The
 JTPA office and set up an interview.

MAN #1
 You mean after all this we still may
 not qualify for JTPA assistance?

COUNSELOR #1
 That's exactly right. Even though we
 work hand in hand, it's up to them
 to establish your qualification
 because they only have enough money
 for very few of the majority of people
 that apply. If there are any more
 questions please feel free to stay
 after the class and talk to me. Thank
 you for your interest and good luck
 to all of you.

Most people leave, several stay with further questions. Eric
 goes to the apartment and calls to make an appointment for
 the next day.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. JTPA BUILDING - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

INT. JTPA OFFICE - MORNING

Eric arrives at the JTPA Office with the papers that were given to him the previous day. He is happy to see that there is no one in front of him. He approaches the counter filled with pamphlets and flyers on how to get a job and the education program. The case worker approaches.

WORKER #1

Hello, may I help you?

ERIC

Good morning my name is Eric Daniels. I recently attended an orientation at the EDD office and they told me to come and apply for educational assistance.

WORKER #1

We have orientations on every Thursday at 9 and 1 o'clock which would you prefer?

ERIC

So I have to attend another orientation before I can...

WORKER #1

Get started, that's correct, which would you prefer 9 or 1 o'clock?

ERIC

9:00 will be fine, as soon as possible.

WORKER #1

Very good, we'll put you down for 9:00 on Thursday. Thank you for stopping by, see ya day after tomorrow.

Eric leaves somewhat disappointed but relieved that this portion of his venture is over with. He walks down the street to the nearest bus stop.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. JTPA OFFICE MORNING

Eric opens the door and the place is flooded with people. They're going crazy and very disorganized. There is no place to sit, he stands until called.

WORKER #2

Oh-Kay everybody, All of you who are here for the orientation please follow me.

Everybody who is not behind a desk stands and follows. There is a worker standing at the door and taking count.

WORKER #3

93, 94, 95, Oh my God, our class only holds 32. Cynthia, would you please open up 240-B.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The room is filled to capacity. Some people are standing in the rear. The supervisor is explaining the details of becoming involved in the program. We catch Eric as he awakens from dozing off.

SUPERVISOR

Now I would like to add. That there is only enough money for 2% of you to enter the program. Now your probably wondering how you are chosen for that minimum funding, well believe it or not, its first come first serve.

Eric wakes up after falling asleep. Looking around hoping no one noticed.

SUPERVISOR (con't) (CONT'D)

So remember, you can make an appointment. The first openings coming up in the next few weeks or you can take your chances on a walk in basis every Thursday and Friday at 8:00 a.m. I would get here a little early to guarantee being one of the first 10 people to be interviewed.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eric is lying in bed and can't sleep looking at the clock it reads 4:15 a.m.. He gets up and showers to get dressed. He kisses Denise and tips past Rusty.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Eric walks to the JTPA office to be the first one at the door. No buses run early enough to get him to the JTPA in enough time to be first in line. He arrives at the JTPA office, looks at his watch which reads 6:30 a.m. He finds a piece of paper and starts a sign in list. Sitting on the top step Eric falls asleep, he is awakened by the sound of a woman's voice.

LADY

What time did you get here?

ERIC

About 6:30, you here for the interview?

LADY

I've been trying to get in the program for 6 months now. I had to get up at 3 am just to get my kids to my mother's house. What time is it?

ERIC

Two minutes after 8.

A car pulls up in the employee parking lot. Lady gets out collecting a box of files and papers. She pull out a huge key ring and approaches the stairs.

WORKER

Good morning. You two are here early. I hope your not here for the interview.

ERIC

Why yes. Today's Thursday isn't it?

WORKER

Yes it's Thursday all right. But the interviews start next week not today.

ERIC

Did they tell us that at the orientation?

WORKER

I sure did. Maybe you were distracted for a moment.

The lady and the worker begin to argue on the stairs while Eric gets up and heads home.

EXT./INT. APARTMENT - HALLWAY - MORNING

As Eric approaches his apartment door he finds a letter marked "MANAGEMENT". Eric opens the letter and reads.

ERIC

Two weeks.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. BED - NIGHT

Eric is in bed with Denise. He awakes, reaches over to turn off the alarm clock. It reads 4:30am.

Eric walks down the same streets with a briefcase and arrives to the steps again. This time he is more prepared with coffee and a snack. He looks around and checks his watch hoping he got the day right. A car pulls up and a woman yells out.

WOMAN #2

Excuse me, are you here for the interview?

ERIC

Yes I am.

WOMAN #2

Good. I was hoping I had the right day.

Eric opens his briefcase and pulls out the list he made last week and tapes it to the wall. His name shows as being the first one there.

WOMAN #2 (CONT'D)

I figured if I got here about 7:30 I'd have a jump on everybody else.

ERIC

Yea, I got here a little early myself. Listen, I kind of made up this sign in sheet. Do you think it would do any good for us to keep track of the first 10 people?

WOMAN #2

I think that's a great Idea. Just to keep everything fair.

The steps now become filled with people hoping to be one of the first 10. Eric's sign in list already reads 25.

There is conversation that they will only see the first 10 people and who is number what.

A car pulls up and parks in the lot. It's the same worker Eric saw the week before.

WORKER #3

My, my, look at all the early birds.
When you come in be sure to sign in.
Give me a minute to turn off the
alarm then sign in and have a seat.

She opens the door, then quickly closes it again. Suddenly everybody pushes Eric to the side and enters to sign in. Eric walks over to the sign in sheet, tears the page out and hands the lady the sign in sheet he had created, no one seems to want to challenge him.

WORKER #3 (CONT'D)

Hey, this is a first. You're very organized. Ladies and gentlemen what I need you to do is check your paper work to make sure you have the necessary information.

The worker checks Eric's paperwork as he is the first one.

WORKER #3 (con't) (CONT'D)

O.K. Mr. Daniels, your next appointment is day after tomorrow where you will have to be tested on your basic skills. Is 10 a.m. O-Kay?

ERIC

Appointment! You mean I have to test to see if I'm smart enough to go to school. May I ask something? At what point do I get my papers filled out for computer school.

WORKER #3

Why just as soon as you've completed processing

ERIC

I'll see you day after tomorrow.

Eric exits the JTPA and walks down the street to the bus stop.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Eric is waiting on a bus stop. An old Black man walks by and talks out of his head. Though a stranger to Eric he acts as if he's known Eric all his life.

OLD MAN

Just Look. at you. I know you, your name is misfit, your daddy's name is nothing. Your a misfit and you ain't never gonna be nothing. Your daddy wasn't nothing and your mama is Mrs. Nothing and when you came out of the womb your daddy said, Dr. what is it. The Dr. said Nothing! But I do know a man named somebody. Me, I'm somebody cause I don't depend on nobody, I always hit my mark because I ain't no misfit. If you want to be somebody you got to build your own world. Ha, Ha, that's it you got to be success not Look. for it. You can't depend on nobody else.

The old man walks away as his voice fades out.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. JTPA OFFICE - DAY

Eric sits at a computer taking a test. Hours go by, he figures out problems, does calculations, looks at pictures. He gets up and waits for his results. The worker approaches Eric.

WORKER #2

Mr. Daniels, you did very well. We don't get these scores around here very often. Congratulations Eric just take your test scores to the receptionist.

ERIC

Excuse me, I guess I'm done.

WORKER #1

Nice score. I guess it was worth spending all day here ha? Let's see now, is next Tuesday all right?

ERIC

Next Tuesday, that's when you want me to...

WORKER #1

Take your computer exam.

ERIC

Is it the same test as the computer school gave me?

WORKER #1

You took. an entrance evaluation. We have to test you to find out what your most qualified for. Statistics show that when a person enjoys what their studying they are more likely to successfully complete the course.

ERIC

Oh - I'm sure I'll like computers...

WORKER #1

I'm sure you would but never the less it's procedure. Next Thursday.

ERIC

9 o'clock.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eric enters the apartment and listens to the messages left during the morning.

CHUCK COLLENS (Car Salesman O.S.)

Mr. Daniels, Chuck Collens Just wanted you to know that we finally sold your car that we repossessed back in April. We sold it for \$3,000 under what you still owed on it. We're sending you a bill for the balance.

DENICE (O.S.)

Hello my handsome stranger. Dinner's in the oven. Mr. Chatfield came by to say that he forgot to tell us there will be a \$100 late fee added to our rent. I told him you had it all under control. I took. most of my money and made all three of your child support payments. Based on the letter from your X-wife's attorney it simply said that you'll only have to go to jail until the back payments are caught up. Other than that, I love you.

CASTING AGENT (O.S.)

Mr. Daniels this is Peter Rockford from Passion Prints Casting Agency. We received your resume, you wanted to audition for the Si Fi Cop.

(MORE)

CASTING AGENT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

We will be shooting this Sunday on Terminal Island. Crew call is at 6:00am. I just need you to tackle some bad guys. No audition is necessary your resume as a police Officer will do just fine.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Eric and Rusty are in the Library surrounded by computer books. The manager notices them and sneaks a peak through the books. rack. This time Eric sees him, takes the sunglasses off his head and places them on Rusty and begins to read the computer books.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Eric wakes up, reaches over to a empty pillow. Denise never returned from work except to get Rusty while he was asleep. He pretty much knows what's happened. He decides to go to the places that they once enjoyed.

MONTAGE:

(A) Eric in the park (B) Denise is a ghost at the beach

(C) ERIC AT THE FOUNTAIN

(D) Denise is a ghost in the swing

(E) ERIC AT CITY HALL

(F) Denise and Rusty are ghosts in the park

(G) ERIC AT THE BEACH

(H) DENISE AT THE FOUNTAIN

(I) Eric pushing an empty swing

(J) Eric holding the hand of Denise's ghost at City Hall

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Eric lying on the sand when he remembers what the old man said. We hear the old man's voice O.S.

OLD MAN (O.S.)

You got to do it yourself, you can't
depend on nobody, depend on nobody,
nobody.

Eric gets up realizing that he has to make a drastic change. He catches the bus back home. On his way to the bus stop he passes several people and yells out the window.

ERIC

You can't depend on nobody but
yourself.

Eric arrives at his apartment. He begins pulling out old papers, books and pencils and goes to his computer and starts spreading out computer books to read. His room dissolves into the next day.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Eric is studying even harder than before, computer books line the table from basic to advanced from repair to building. He gets up to return a book to the shelf but is in need of a cane from Sundays stunt man work. Serious pain pushes Eric to forget about the movie business and study harder for success.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Eric enters the JTPA office for his computer test.

CONNIE

Good morning Eric.

ERIC

Good morning Connie. Where would you
like me?

CONNIE

How about computer #12.

ERIC

The "H" key sticks on #12 is #9
available.

CONNIE

That's fine. Today you'll be taking an assessment test and basic understanding.

ERIC

You mean this test has nothing to do with computers.

CONNIE

Not a thing, it is simply given on a computer. This will take you approximately 4 and one half hours.

ERIC

No problem, I enjoy these long tests. The longer the better I always say.

CONNIE

Good. Simply follow the instructions at the beginning of each test. Good luck.

The time span of 4 and fl hours passes and Eric gets the workers attention.

ERIC

Connie. I'm done, I'm done.

CONNIE

Good Eric, just hit the enter button and we'll set up the next appointment.

The computer shows that Eric has completed the testing. He hits the enter button as instructed and the whole screen goes wacky then black then displays the C:

. Eric reluctantly calls for attention.

ERIC

Connniiiiiiiiieeeeeee!!!!

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eric presses the play button and listens to the message machine.

BILL COLLECTOR (O.S.)

You would think that an X police Officer would be more responsible
(MORE)

BILL COLLECTOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 with his finances. We've gone along
 with your situation long enough Mr.
 Daniels we need something in here
 now.

DENICE (O.S.)
 Hello my dashing family supporter.
 Rusty and I are still at moms, It's
 not that we don't want to be with
 you. It's just that its kind of
 embarrassing when the neighbors see
 my things being put out on the street.
 I came and got some clothes out of
 the closet, well actually all my
 clothes. Honey... when we get married,
 can I have a divorce?

ANDRÉ (O.S.)
 Mr. Daniels, this is André. I wanted
 to apologize for the way I acted
 after your three ring circus
 adventure, clientele hasn't been the
 same since. I'm calling you to make
 another job offer. As janitor until
 you pay off all those wheelchairs I
 got billed for.

Eric opens the mail while listening to messages, they are
 all bills except one that is from the EDD office regarding
 acceptance to unemployment. It reads:

Dear Mr. Daniels this is to inform you that our records show
 you over paid for the year of 1993 leaving you over paid by
 \$600. You will have to be penalized by a waiting period of
 9 weeks before any funds will be dispersed at which time
 regular payment schedule will begin but you will not receive
 anything until the over payment is paid in full.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Eric is on the phone with his mother.

ERIC
 I want you to know I appreciate this.
 I wouldn't bother you but I don't
 know what else to do. No she left
 about two weeks ago. He's with her.
 (MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

I just want to get through school I know I can do better but the good jobs want higher credentials. Thank you mom, I'll be there on Sunday.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

MONTAGE:

(A) The computer testing is done but the record of the previous tests are lost.

(B) The computer results show that Eric is not interested in anything.

(C) Eric goes to EDD to take the papers for the program and has to go to the school to take a computer test. All the knowledge he acquired earlier got him into school.

(D) Eric goes to EDD with test results from school but they say your one day to late.

(E) Eric applies for college in case JTPA doesn't go through

(F) Eric takes the first 3 weeks of classes but get a notice from EDD saying that the school is not accredited for benefits.

(G) Eric gets into computer school, after 3 months work for temporary services.

(H) Go to child support and explain.

(I) Go to court and explain to the judge, the judge extends your payments

(J) You go to the state building to work off your child support payments

(K) Go to the files and pass gas

(L) You are taking a night class while working for the State

(M) The newspaper says the City of Los Angeles is accepting applications.

(N) You go to fill out an application for the city

(O) While your there you pass by hungry, homeless and unfortunate

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

Eric has several job announcements with the City of Los Angeles. He gets on a bus to go to a job interview, the only seat available is the one next an old lady. She senses his desperation. Her soft comforting voice seemed to suggest an answer to all his needs.

OLD LADY #2

Young man, I just know that it's going to be a good day for you today.

ERIC

Thank you mam, I'm trying so hard to get it together but It's like starting life all over again.

OLD LADY #2

You got anybody supporting you, standing for you, praying for you?

ERIC

O-yea! I have a... The old lady realizes that she has brought back some memories that cause Eric some heartache. Her wisdom leads her to change the subject.

OLD LADY #2

You know, you remind me of my son. I pray for him on a daily biases. Prayer got him a job. He got himself a new car and now he tries to talk me into riding with him but I like to take the bus, I get to see more of life on the bus. I'm gonna put you on my prayer list. What's your name?

ERIC

Eric, Eric Daniels.

OLD LADY #2

Eric, that's a powerful name, strong like the power of God. Now you just watch things turn around.

ERIC

Thank you, thank you very much!

OLD LADY #2

In fact I have a little something for you.

She reaches into her bag and gets a pocket Bible halfway out when she appears to experience chest pains.

She slumps into Eric's arms Eric lays her on the back seat. Panic begins to set in from those passengers seated around her. Eric's medical training begins to kick in.

Eric is well aware of the symptoms and calls the driver to radio for paramedics.

ERIC

Driver! Driver, we've got a full
arrest on board radio for paramedics
to intercept us.

He checks for open airway, blows a breath into her and begins compression.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

One, two, three, four, five. One,
two three...

BUS DRIVER

This is 2210 I'm East bound on 7th
street. I got a lady getting CPR on
board. I'm coming up on Spring St.

ERIC

Five. One, two, three, four, five.
I can't let you go, you didn't get
to pray for me.

BUS DRIVER

Listen there is a fire station about
a mile a head I think we can get
there before paramedics find us.

(to dispatch) Were coming up on Los Angeles St. East bound
on 7th.

ERIC

Does anybody else know CPR? I need
some help back here.

Just as Eric asks for volunteers to help him do CPR, a young
girl about 17 sits confused but willing to help. Her backpack
filled with books tells us she is very smart or at least has
a desire to do good in school. She hesitates at first then...

GLORIA

I think I can do it. I took a nurses
aid class last year.

ERIC

Good come over here. What's your
name?

GLORIA

Gloria.

Instruction begins as the two position the old lady between the seats to begin medical attention.

ERIC

Your a very brave girl Gloria. All you have to do is give her one Breath like this... every time I say five. You try it. One, two, three, four, five.

The bus driver can see the fire station but his concentration is interrupted by the dispatcher.

DISPATCH (O.S.)

2210 this is dispatch, I got a private ambulance company near central and 8th.

PASSENGER

She's not gonna make it. That's what color my grandmother turned just before she died.

The bus comes to a skid in front of the fire station. The driver leaps from his seat and rushes to the front door. Its locked, he scurries over to the big double doors leading to the apron and the fire trucks are gone. Another mad dash puts them back on the road headed to the ambulance rendezvous.

ERIC

Your doing great just keep it up. One, two, three, four, five.

DRIVER

We're almost there hang on.

The ambulance is now in sight coming south bound on Central, the bus pulls over, ambulance personnel hop out, grab equipment and run into the bus. They stabilize the old lady. The fire engine arrives later. Eric and Gloria receive a quick verbal accommodation from the paramedic.

There is no time to loose as the paramedics get her into the ambulance but not before praising them for their efforts.

PARAMEDIC

You know only 1 out of every 10 patients ever recover from CPR. She was the lucky one. If you two hadn't started when you had, she'd be dead right now. Good job.

Eric tosses the paramedic the ladies bag and watches the ambulance drive away. the people on the bus clap and cheer for Eric and the high school girl.

DRIVER

Man, I've been driving this route for thirty two years. This is the first time I ever felt like I'm not just sucking up air. Hey look I'm gonna turn this puppy around and drop these people off, hop on.

Eric looks at his watch, he's already 45 minutes late for his interview. He gets on the bus and it turns around in the middle of the street.

Inside the bus Eric takes a seat and notices the Bible the lady wanted to give him protruding from beneath the seat. He places it in his inside pocket.

On the way down the street people at bus stops start cursing the bus as it intentionally ignores each stop.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING

Eric arrives at the corner bus stop, several people have been dropped off. Those still on board shake his hand or give him the high five. The bus driver stands and hugs him, taking a moment to make eye contact before departing. Eric heads for his interview location.

EXT. DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER - ESTABLISH - DAY

If it weren't for the cityscape artwork reflecting from the water which surrounds this building, you would think you were looking over a hungry lake just begging for your fishing pole.

Eric walks over the bridge which is the only access over the mote leading to the entrance. Within moments he's back out. Checking his watch, comparing it with his bus schedule and on his way home.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT - MORNING

Men and women in suits exit and enter like ants working on a project for their sweet tooth.

An occasional uniform indicates authority lives within this 18 story building. Eric has an interview for the position of janitor job. Before entering he happens to notice someone he knows from the police department and hides his face. His disguise works for now. Eric feels somewhat insecure approaching the desk sergeant.

INT. LOSANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT - MORNING

DESK SARGEANT

Good morning sir, may I help you.

ERIC

Yes Officer, my name is Eric Daniels, I have an interview with the records department on the 6th floor at 9:00 o'clock.

DESK SARGEANT

Let's see here, yes Mr. Daniels, that name sounds familiar, did you happen to come in here a couple of time to repair the soda machines? Here you are, just stick this on your pocket. The elevators are down the hall to your right.

While on the elevator Eric's imagination kicks in and he visits the minds of the people that have boarded. The janitor is on this trip with push can and brooms just finishing up a hard days work on the streets. As Eric eavesdrops and strains to hear, each person's thoughts become Eric's assumptions.

PERSON #1 (V.O.)

It felt good to bash his head in with my fist. Now how do I get those teeth marks off the hood of my car?

PERSON #2 (V.O.)

I never knew a swift kick in the right place could put a man down so quickly. I need to practice my technique more often when I ride alone. I know... those homeless scum's on 45th St.

PERSON #3 (V.O.)

I thought I saw a gun. I feared for my life. That guy lit up a cigarette after I told him to freeze. It was dark. The flash looked like a gun shot. He could have been using a silencer. I though I saw a gun. I feared for my life. That guy lit...

PERSON #4 (V.O.)

What if I just start shooting, just whip it out and start shooting? I would be the only one left, bodies everywhere. I could say I had a seizure. Then I bet they'd listen next time I tell them I need new windshield wiper blades.

The elevator reaches it's first destination. To Eric's surprise everyone who's mind he just invaded gets off. Everyone except the janitor that is. They are met by a police representative.

REPRESENTATIVE

Well, right on time. I'm detective Wade. If I understand correctly, you want to know where to put surveillance cameras in your new toy store correct?

PERSON #1

Yes sir, we're with Pacific Construction we're limited on equipment.

PERSON #2

And we've got several hiding places.

The elevator door closes leaving Eric by himself with the janitor with his portable trash can with mops and broomsticks protruding. The door opens, Eric gets out. An Officer gets on, looks at the janitor and smiles. He strikes up a conversation with the janitor who is obviously well known around the building. As Eric walks away he hears...

OFFICER

Hey Chief. How's the undercover business.

Eric is taken to the fingerprint department and printed.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Eric walks down Spring Street. The city seems different when Looking from the inside out. It even smells worse. Passing every kind of human being imaginable. This is the one place on earth where the upper, middle and lower class meet face to face. The hardest thing for Eric to do is to keep his eyes straight ahead and ignore the poverty.

MONTAGE:

(A) A man sleeping in cardboard box. The box is cut and shaped in a very architectural style. He is tying strings and placing cans in a definite pattern. (B) A women with a sign around her neck reads "unable to speak will work for money."

(C) Preaching on the corner, telling every one that passes by about Jesus and the world is coming to an end. Time to focus on life and getting others saved.

(D) PROSTITUTE

(E) Taking a leak against the building
 (F) Cuddled up in a corner of an entrance (G) Pushing a shopping cart
 (H) Searching the trash for cans
 (I) Sores on the feet

The street scenes MATCH DISSOLVE into visions becoming more vivid as reality transforms into nightmares. Without a job, he could end up like any one of them. His walk from the interview haunted him as he slept. He lies in bed embracing beads of sweat, thankful for what he has. Picking up the little book. on his night stand he is drawn to its beckoning. He reads a little, then a lot, then daily.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. MCDONALD'S - MORNING

From the window Eric is filling out an application.

INT. TEMPORARY AGENCY - MORNING

The previous application transforms into an application at a employment agency. A series of tests are given, high scores are promising.

AGENCY REP

Eric these scores are excellent.
 Your exactly what we're looking for.
 We have a data entry position coming
 up on Monday have you ever done any
 accounting?

ERIC

No, I'm sorry, numbers were never my
 greatest interest.

AGENCY REP

No matter, I'm sure you can fake it with your software application experience from school. Here's the address, report to our company rep on the site.

EXT. CAR DEALER - DAY

With the security of the new job Eric spends his last bit of savings on a used car. He is short a few dollars but is given the keys. It feels good to come and go as you please and not have to depend on the bus schedule.

The old truck feels like a limousine compared to the bus. His first drive was to the beach of memories. Looking out at the water where Eric, Denise and Rusty use to play, there is no use in getting out of the car. There is work to do.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. GE CAPITAL MORTGAGE - MORNING

Eric pulls up in his truck that is slightly smoking. Nicely dressed, he entered the building reporting to the security guard.

INT. GE CAPITAL MORTGAGE - MORNING

The visitor's pass screams like a megaphone announcing the presence of a new kid on the block. A meeting with the on site supervisor helps to ease the tension.

SITE SUPERVISOR

Ms. Brown, this is Eric Daniels he's your new clerk assigned to your section. I'll let you two get started, good luck Eric.

MS. BROWN

Hello Eric, welcome! This is the collections department we try to make good all the delinquent real-estate loans from California to Hawaii. Don't worry you wouldn't be collecting, you'll be assisting the operator that contacts the client to inquire about a delinquent payment. This is where the clerks sit and this side is for the operators. You'll be sitting next to Frank he can answer any questions you may have, Frank this is Eric he's your new neighbor.

FRANK

Hey, what up man, you want me to show him around baby?

MS. BROWN

Sure Frank, Eric my cubicle is right here feel free to visit any time.

Frank takes Eric through the motions and introduces him to all the people he will be having contact with. All of them are women.

FRANK

This babe right there, her ole man just left her and the kid. She's cool to, some brothers just don't know what they have until its too late. Renee, this is Eric just started in collections.

RENEE

Nice to have you aboard Eric, I'll be bringing you delinquent files from Colorado.

FRANK

By the way baby you got a little som som for me?

RENEE

All the time Frank.

Renee hands him a file, Frank slowly pulls it from her hand. Eric and Frank continue the tour.

ERIC

So how long you been here?

FRANK

About nine months, if your here a year the company will pick you up permanently from the temporary agency. It's called buy out or something like that, legal slavery I call it, check this out.

APPROACHING ANOTHER WORKER

FRANK (con't)

Joyce, this is Eric he works in our department this is his second day so cut him some slack.

JOYCE

Nice to have you Eric.
(MORE)

JOYCE (CONT'D)

I deal with the over seas accounts
so you will not see much of me unless
you come to visit.

Frank's jealousy is becoming apparent but the instruction continues. He quickly removes Eric from the area and moves on.

FRANK

O-he'll be quite busy I'll give him
your extension. Watch out for her
man, you can always tell when she
falls out with her ole man. She
gets that... look.

Frank displays skill but never reveals all his secrets. Another opportunity to challenge his technique walks by. He collects files and tucks them coolly under his arm.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Donna! This Eric he's only been here
a week make him feel at home, you'll
be seeing more of her.

ERIC

How do you get anything done around
here? This is heaven.

The women that pass by acknowledge Frank as if the king is approaching.

FRANK

It takes a while to get to know what
all each one needs, but I got it all
under control, that's how you're
gonna make it around here. They get
away from their own men and want to
be flirted with, like a game. Just
check with me before you lay your
cards down I'll give you the winning
hand. Aint no body gonna say nothing
cause they all feel the same way,
they just gotta wait there turn. All
you gotta do is make your rounds and
keep em happy man.

How bout you try it on your own? That area down there and to
your right is the business accounts section, just introduce
your self and ask if any body has a little som som for you.
I gotta make a run I'll meet you back in our section.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. ESTATE ACCOUNTS SECTION - MORNING

Trying his hand at collecting the daily files Eric finds himself surrounded by beautiful women working diligently at their desks. One in particular catches his eye.

ERIC

Excuse me. I'm sorry to bother you but my name is Eric I just started working in the collections department a couple of weeks ago. I wanted to introduce myself and see if you had a little som som for me?

MONIQUE

We'll Eric, sounds like you been hanging around Frank. My name is Monique, I handle the accounts on real-estate valued at One-million dollars or more. My files are usually kept locked up. Just come over and get what you want.

ERIC

How about tonight, maybe we could check our records to see who's a little behind.

MONIQUE

O-Eric you have been hanging around Frank too long, be sure and tell him that we met.

ERIC

Nice to meet you, be seeing you around.

Back to the collections area like two little boys who just saw panties for the first time, Frank inquires about Eric's first solo.

FRANK

So how did it go man.

ERIC

Sweet, I hit on my first babe. I could tell she just had a fight with her ole man and wanted to play the game, you should have seen me man you taught me good. I did just like you said. Walked right up to her.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

And asked her if she had a little som som for me. She said I could get it any time I wanted.

Frank's curiosity is sparked as to who would give Eric so much play so quickly.

FRANK

What was her name?

ERIC

Aha- I was so into her I forgot.

FRANK

Well what did she look like?

ERIC

Long black hair, cinnamon brown skin, nice hands.

FRANK

What was she wearing?

ERIC

I could only see from the top up. Nice eyes, I could tell she likes gold she had it all over.

FRANK

Wait a minute man, that sounds like Monique.

ERIC

Yea Monique, that's her and around her neck she had a...

FRANK

Gold puppy with a little red star for the eye balls?

ERIC

She said you knew her. What happened you couldn't get a little som som?

Frank's description was only accurate because Monique and Ms. Brown are quickly approaching.

FRANK

Monique... don't like men.

MS. BROWN

Eric!

(MORE)

MS. BROWN (CONT'D)

I need to talk to you, right away.
Have you ever heard of sexual
harassment?

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A bottle of wine is lifted to his mouth, Eric sits alone in his little room, classified ads scattered about, tablets with red checks as to the jobs tested, receipts from unemployment. One of the receipts from EDD says this will be the last payment. While lying on the bed the phone rings.

ERIC

Hello.

DONNA

Mr. Eric Daniels please.

ERIC

This is Eric.

DONNA

Mr. Daniels this is Donna Estrada with the city of Los Angeles. You applied for a job as clerk typist, How are you?

ERIC

I'm fine, glad you called, how can I help you.

DONNA

We'll I just called to tell you that we were very impressed with your application and interview and I wanted to offer you the job with the City of Los Angeles. That is if your still interested.

ERIC

Yes, yes of course when do I start?

DONNA

How's one week from today, is that enough notice for your current employer?

ERIC

It certainly is, thank you, thank
you very much I'll be there first
thing next Monday say... what, 8:00am?

DONNA

8:00am will be fine, well see you
then.

After hanging up Eric glances at the little bible and flips through the pages and places it right inside his chest. Picking up the phone a call to an old friend brings a smile to his face. He and Denice talk for hours, when Eric barks like a dog we don't have to guess who's on the other end.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Eric prepares for what very well may be the beginning of the end of the life of disappointment.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - MORNING

Eric leaps over bushes hops into the car and takes off.

He arrives two hours early, with time to spare he gets a bite to eat. He checks his watch still plenty of time.

The car won't start, it doesn't seem to bother Eric, we PULL OUT to see why, he was parked across the street from his new job. His precaution paid off.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - MORNING

Explaining to the security guard that this is his first day of work he clips on his ID, catches the elevator to the 2nd floor. A second security guard instructs Eric to wait in the lobby.

SECURITY GUARD

Glad to have you, just have a seat
and someone will be with you from
the department you will be working
in.

Moments later a very beautiful woman enters the room and introduces herself to Eric.

LENNOR (Clerk)

Hello Mr. Daniels?

ERIC

Eric, just call me Eric

LENNOR

Fine, I'm Lennor we'll be working together in the Office Automation Section I'll introduce you to your co-workers.

Very few people work in this area, Eric is the only male worker except for the payroll section there is another guy (Richard) who does the accounting.

ERIC

I think I remember you from the interview don't I?

LENNOR

Yes, I was the one who took you to your interviewers, who also happen to be your new bosses.

INT. OFFICE AREA - MORNING

Several cubicles line the room and all eyes are on the new guy.

LENNOR

Every body this is our new Clerk Typist, Eric Daniels.

Shaking hands is confirmation that this is not a dream he has a real job and all his hard work has not been in vain.

FREDA

I'm Freda your immediate supervisor.

TAM

My name Tam, Welcome Sweven.

VALLORI

And I'm Vallori the Chief clerk, we'll get a chance to talk later on for right now just make yourself comfortable.

SANDRA (V.O.)

Eric Why don't you tell us a little bit about your self.

Haunted once again by the voices from the past, Eric looks back at Lennor after hearing Sandra's voice.

ERIC

I'm sorry did you say something?

LENNOR

I said why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself.

ERIC

Actually ladies at this time the present is far more important than my past. I just want you to get to know me for yourself, teach me what I have to do and I'll do the best job I possibly can.

Everyone chuckles at Eric's honesty.

LENNOR

Eric this is your desk why don't you set it up the way you want and we can get together a little later and discuss your position in detail. Oh by the way I have to make a delivery, something eventually you will be doing, so if you like you can go with me and get in some early training.

ERIC

Thank you I'll be looking forward to it.

Now floating on cloud nine Eric begins to situate things on his desk, turning on his computer opening boxes of new items for his desk. As he works his way around he is suddenly startled by Tam his clerical neighbor.

He is instantly face to face with his new neighbor, as if she came out of thin air. Frozen in his chair Eric listens intently.

TAM

Be carefow who wu talk to.

As mysterious as she slid through the air she is gone again back to her desk.

ERIC

I'm sorry, what was that?

This time she puts her finger to her mouth and turns away. Startled by the next voice he is distracted from the peculiar warning.

LENNOR

Ready?

(MORE)

LENNOR (CONT'D)

Grab your coat, I'll show you the board office, in fact we even have time to sit in on a board meeting.

ERIC

Board meeting? What's that?

Grabbing his coat and catching up to Lennor she begins to explain.

EXT. STREETS - LOS ANGELES - MORNING

The huge smoked glass doors open flickering the sun off the polished brass hinges. Dumping on to the street brings back memories for Eric, the same people pass him by, the filthy streets, rich people, poor people, homeless and deprived. In the back of his mind he hears the words from that old man that told him he aint never gonna be nothing.

LENNOR

Kinda depressing isn't it? When I first came to work for the City I was very dismayed. Anything you could ever want to see is right here all you have to do is wait a little while and watch. After a while you begin to realize that they have two arms and two legs, they could be working just like us.

Across the street a man with no legs rolls himself down the street. A woman holds out her cup in hopes for a few coins, Eric reaches into his pocket. Lennor places her hand over the cup hole and advises him.

LENNOR (con't) (CONT'D)

Do what you want to but If you give money to every one holds out a cup you'll be broke by lunch time.

ERIC

I had no idea, I've been down town a hundred times and just never paid that much attention.

They arrive 3 blocks away to the board office.

EXT. BOARD OFFICE - MORNING

It's like stepping back through time in some of the these old buildings. A stair case invites them not to use the elevator. Shimmering brass and ancient art work has long out lived its maker, even the smell of age verifies authenticity.

The elevator location indicator shows the elevator is on its way. Their reflections in the brass elevator doors disappear as they enter.

LENNOR

This is the building you will be coming to most. All the city big shots meet here three times a week, they talk about anything and everything that affects LA. The council members. The only person higher than them is the Mayor himself. The morning meeting starts in five minutes we have just enough time to drop this off and listen in, come on.

From one office to another Lennor introduces Eric to other secretaries and points out the places where he will deliver and pick up files.

A large room set up like a mini court has nine chairs thickly padded and now being occupied by city officials. Several citizens are seated in the audience and the pulpit is tested for volume. Eric and Lennor set in the back row.

DENICE (Charwoman)

Good morning council members, interested citizens of Los Angeles. Lets get started with today's calendar. First on the agenda the termination of employee Timothy Chapman. Is Mr. Chapman in the house?

MR. CHAPMAN

Miss. Chairwoman, my supervisor doesn't understand my situation. I'm a single father and have to get the kids off to school, it's hard to get to work on time... This subject annoys Eric but Lennor assures him it's part of the process.

ERIC

(whispering)

Is this a court room?

LENNOR

(whispering)

Not exactly, it's a hearing, the city council members make all the decisions over what happens to city employees, the money spent, how it gets spent and who to spend it on.

DENISE
All in favor say I.

Several answer "I".

DENISE (con't)
Very well, said employee is now terminated. Final check is to be presented to Mr. Chapman after all city property is returned. Next an additional penthouse on the Zeco oil building. Mrs. MacArthur.

MRS. MC ARTHUR
Good morning chair women, council members. My name is Judy McArther I represent Zeco Oil Co. Our existing penthouse is in need of refurbishing and we came to the conclusion that as long as we would have to rebuild we might as well expand our vision to beautify the down town area.

She shows a beautiful painting of the downtown area with the Zeco penthouse revolving in the sky.

MRS. MC ARTHUR (CON'T)

We're requesting that financing be granted from the latest increased cigarette tax in the amount of 23 million 400 thousand dollars for the construction of L.A.'s hi-tech penthouse, which even at this bargain also includes the additional elevator for the private council member entrance.

DENISE
All in favor of the city
beautification project say I.

Immediately all council members respond with "I".

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE AREA - MORNING

Several of the ladies next to Eric's office are discussing the presence of someone new in the office and rekindle the art of gossip.

ELLA
He's a plant!

TAM
What you mean pwant?

ELLA

I mean he was sent here to check on us. He's too smart for this job. They want to find out how much work we do.

BETTY

He's over qualified.

GRACE

I think your right girl. Just listening to him, he aint clerk material. What did he do before he came here?

BARBRA

They say he went to computer school.

ELLA

O that's great, now he's gonna show us up and we're all going to have to go to computer school.

There conversation is interrupted by the entrance of Eric and Lennor.

LENNOR

Morning ladies I want you to meet someone, this is Eric, he is starting today in the Office Automation Section. Some of you have already met him. Introduce yourselves later right now we got to get to work.

ERIC

I'll be seeing you around.

The ladies continue their conversation as Eric and Lennor exit the office area.

ELLA

See what I mean. The average person would have said, see you later.

BARBRA

Yea, or just "Later".

ELLA

I'm telling you, watch your step he's a plant.

TAM

Or he could hawv said "Iw'll b wri back"

The girls loO.K. at their foreign fiend in wonder.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE AREA - AFTERNOON

Seated at his desk Eric and Lennor discuss details of the Job.

LENNOR

Basically you learn as you go. You seem to catch on pretty fast. What did you do before you were hired?

ERIC

Computer school. I figured I needed a career change.

LENNOR

Really that's a big step, what was your career?

Eric hesitates on this one. He's learned by now not to rock the boat. No more boasting. This is the start of a new life but his new theory on truthfulness may turn out to be a downfall.

ERIC

Well actually I was a police Officer. They had a problem on the department with the budget and had to let me go.

LENNOR

Big difference in careers, I just hope you'll be happy.

Freda interrupts the conversation by commissioning Eric to his first official duty.

FREDA

Eric, excuse me, would you please take this to the mail room, they pick up the mail every day about now and it will give you a chance to get use to the location of the mail room, you'll be visiting there quite often.

Eric gets up and heads down the hall. The mail room is only 50 feet away. There he meets Joyce an older semi-retired office worker assigned to the mail room. Every one likes her mostly because she can't keep her mouth shut. She knows everything that goes on.

If she doesn't know it, she makes it up.

JOYCE

Hello Eric!

ERIC

Hi! I'm sorry, I forgot your name,
I've met so many people.

JOYCE

We haven't met. I'm Joyce, I handle
the mail around here if you need to
know where to put stuff just ask me.

ERIC

I guess my name has gotten around. I
do have something for the council
liaison, where does this go?

JOYCE

Second slot to your left.

Eric places the envelope in the slot and heads for the door.

ERIC

Nice to meet you, we'll be seeing you
around.

The gossip section is listening from the other side of the
cubicles. They quickly respond to the way Eric says "we'll be
seeing you around."

JOYCE

By the way, how long were you a police
Officer before you came here?

ERIC

O - not long.

Amazed at how fast news travels in this office Eric exits.
He finds his area vacant so he reads available material.

BACK TO - ERIC'S OFFICE AREA - MORNING

Stunned by the head that appears in his face it's Tam. Trying
to recruit a new friend but frustrated that the poisonous
office snakes may have already infected Eric's system and
won him to their side.

TAM

I tell you, watch who you talk to.

ERIC

How do I know who I can talk to and not have my life history splattered all over the mail room?

TAM

Don't truss nobody. Tha scoundrals. Tha look. for reason to gossoup. Make fun of every body. Tare very few people you can twrst.

ERIC

We'll it seems like I can trust you. I don't want to start any trouble I just want to do my job, get off probation and get on with my life.

TAM

It not tat easy. You tell da wrong person you X cop. Now whole pwace gon go cwazy.

ERIC

Why?

FREDA

Nice to see you two are getting aquatinted. I had to send Lennor out on an errand. Why don't you come over to my desk Eric I have some papers for you to fill out.

A stack of papers await for Eric and he doesn't take the time to read each sheet he just looks for the signature spots.

FREDA (con't) (CONT'D)

You know, until you get to know everyone I'd be a little skeptical as to what you say around here, that is if you don't want everyone to know your business. Some people just have to be the first to deliver the news, any news.

ERIC

I think I already know what you mean. Keep my mouth shut until I get off probation.

FREDA

Don't take it personal but in 6 months you'll be blabbing with the rest of us. Were you able to get into your computer yet?

ERIC

Yes thank you but what is that little blinking man mean?

FREDA

That's odd, it means you already have E-mail. How can that be, you just got your password. When that happens you just click on this little button right, here.

When Freda clicks on the button Eric's E-mail comes up. It reads, "Hello handsome, my name is Gloria Sanders, just wanted to welcome you home and wanted to know if you were married or not? Drop me a line. Love Gloria."

ERIC

I guess some people are really friendly around here.

FREDA

Gloria is not the kind of girl you would want to be caught being friends with. Here take your paper work up stairs on the 3rd floor to personnel there expecting you, have your ID picture taken while you there.

A quick elevator ride lands Eric right in front of the personnel office it couldn't have taken more than 2 minutes to arrive.

HENRYETTA

Hey Eric, how's your first day going? Oh I'm sorry, Henryettas' my name, peoples' my game.

ERIC

Hi nice to meet you. I'm suppose to drop off my paperwork and have my ID picture taken.

HENRYETTA

(talking very fast)

We can take care of that right now. Hey you thinking about going out with Gloria Sylvester already. You sure don't waste any time. I'm mean you are one fast dude. I hope the same thing doesn't happen to you that happened to the last guy. Nah, probably not, we all gotta go sometimes.

Shocked Eric sits down in the seat to have his picture taken the flash from the lamp SMASH CUTS us back to... Eric is on his route and takes a moment to listen in on the board meeting. As he approaches the room he over hears a conversation.

INT. BOARD OFFICE - DAY

TOM

I can't believe it Jake, I lost over one million dollars last week over paying a contractor in a city construction deal, and I couldn't tell you where all that lost money may have ended up.

JAKE

I know exactly what you mean Tom, my secretary says that \$500 thousand was missing from the school fund. I told her computers weren't always right and not to worry about it. Did anyone clam the winnings from last nights lotto?

TOM

God, I hope not!

They laugh, pat each other on the back and walk away. Eric enters the room.

DENISE

All in favor of the new tennis court on top of the city hall for city beautification say I.

All agree. Eric can't stand to hear this, he leaves and heads back to his office. Along the way the poverty still exists. Eric is approached by a stranger. Not being use to experiencing this side of the community he takes time to listen.

BILLIE

My brother. I just need one more quarter so I can get me a burger. Can you help me out.

ERIC

How long you been like this?

BILLIE

Like What? Aha you one of them preaching people ain't cha.

(MORE)

BILLIE (CONT'D)

The next thing you want to know is if
I know Jesus or Bhudda. Look my man
I just want me a burger can you...

ERIC

It just bothers me to see what your
letting happen to you. I mean you've
got two arms, two legs. I mean I
don't know what it's like to eat out
of a trash can, but I came that close.

BILLIE

My brother! Two arms and two legs
aint gonna do you no good when the're
tied up by somebody else who's pulling
the strings. This don't just happen.
Its the system baby. The system. You
can't go to school, you can't learn.
You can't learn, you can't get a
job. You can't get a job you can't
get money. You can't get money, you
can't get food. You can't get food
you get like me, hungry and die.

ERIC

You know it took. a lot of wisdom to
break that down. You ever thought
about using that mind of yours to
survive?

BILLE

Too late, who's gonna listen. Me and
my friends, that's all I got. People
like me all over this place. See
them, out there?

Looking at select portions of the street, the new cars roll,
the gray suites stroll, a women with a briefcases hails a
taxi. Executives have lunch with the Wall Street Journal.
The rear of an ambulance door closes shut on a white women
lying in the back with fresh white sheets and four attendants
catering to her needs.

Same shot, camera right shows a man with dirty torn clothing
soiled bandages on his feet coughing uncontrollably, his
brown stained teeth of no further use accept to direct his
spit to his targets on the sidewalk.

BILLE (CONT'D)

Take away their fine cars, gray suits
and their wallet. Why they'll crinkle
up and die. But me I know how to
survive.

(MORE)

BILLE (CONT'D)

We know how to live off of the very air we breath. We loO.K. into the eyes and know who has the will to live, and don't. Who has the time to give and won't.

ERIC

You got a name?

BILLIE

Billie. Billie cause I'm silly when it's chilly.

Eric reaches into his pocket and pulls out a \$5.00 dollar bill, hands it to Billy.

ERIC

I'd like to talk to you again, I gotta go. Good luck.

While walking away a dirty plastic bag flies up and smacks Eric in the head. He snatches it off and places it in the trash can.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE AREA - DAY

At his desk Eric is told some disturbing news about his probation. In a moment when no one else is around, His only true friend advises him of some things she has over heard.

TAM

Eric, I over hear Freda and Lennor say you not going to pass probation next week. You refuse to play their way.

ERIC

Why because I don't join in on the gossip, back biting, and snitch sessions. When ever Freda is not here Lennor becomes the babble buddy, they even send messages to each other on the Internet. I don't think that's right.

TAM

I know how you feel. They exclude me years ago, but you not off probation.

(MORE)

TAM (CONT'D)

You got to do wa you got to do, at
wese until you get off probation.
Then you can mak a defrwence.

ERIC

If I get fired now then let it be
because I did right. I don't want to
be a babble buddy.

Freda and Vallori enter the office. Eric and Tam resume
working.

FREDA

Eric can I talk to you for a moment?
Lets go in the conference room.

They exit the office area in search of a more private
location.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

FREDA

I've completed your evaluation and
it's not good. Your scores fall way
beneath the acceptable level. I'm
concerned that you will not pass
probation.

ERIC

What exactly is the problem? What is
the reason for this evaluation? What
did I do wrong?

FREDA

Let me put it to you this way Eric.
You know, working for the city is
not for everybody. The criteria was
established long before any of us
were here. We just have to abide by
the rules. When performance falls we
initiate the System.

ERIC

The System. What did I do wrong?

Billie's voice echoes in the back of his mind.

FREDA

From what I understand, the paper
for the council package was placed
upside down. It wasn't facing them
when they opened it up.

An obvious set up, to hell with this lets try to get transferred out before he gets terminated.

ERIC

What about another department. My training is in computers, how about transferring me to systems? I admit filing and typing wasn't my best subject in college but I know I could do some good working with computers.

FREDA

You know I thought about that and I suggested that to Vallori. She said why send the problem to someone else. If your not doing good here how could you possibly do any better in another department? On top of that if you are transferred we would not be able to hire anyone to take your place, the slot goes with you, it's the system.

ERIC

When does all this go into effect?

FREDA

This is actually one of the final stages of the system. I will make my final decision in two weeks. Just sign this paper it's not saying that you agree with it just that I discussed the matter with you.

Eric reluctantly signs the paper and receives his copy.

FREDA (CONT'D)

Who knows, maybe in a couple of weeks things will have changed.

ERIC

Yes, maybe

They get up from the table and head back to the office. Eric checks his watch and informs Freda that it's time for him to do the morning pickups.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

Freda, it's time for me to make my rounds I'll be right back.

FREDA

O that's right, I almost forgot. See you're already improving.

EXT. STREETS - LOS ANGELES

Eric walks through the poverty stricken forest of the unfortunate, now calling them by name. Some people waving to him from across the street as they find some cans to buy lunch. He inquires about the financial situation of the prostitute, knocks on the door of the man in the box and gets his morning words of wisdom from his best friend Billy.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE AREA - LOS ANGELES

When Eric arrives from his rounds his office is silent. Everyone is crowded around his desk. A man sits in his seat and some of the ladies are putting Eric's things in a box. Before this is over he has a few choice words for his supervisor.

ERIC

I thought you said I had two weeks.
Here sir why don't you let me adjust
that chair for you? How's that?

Freda quickly tries to motion him to shut up.

VALLORI

Mr. Baker this is Eric Daniels, the
man you wanted to meet.

MR. BAKER

Eric Daniels!

ERIC

You can call me Eric, it didn't take
them long to find a replacement.
I'll get the rest of my things and
be on my way.

FREDA

Eric! Mr. Baker is the Mayor of Los
Angeles.

MR. BAKER

Let them do that Eric. So your the
new guy. Your name came across my
desk a few months ago, when I got an
ambulance bill sent to my office. My
mother had a heart attack on a bus
and evidently you saved her life,
they had you down as a witness.

(MORE)

MR. BAKER (CONT'D)

I had her in my office for lunch the other day and she saw your picture in our employee roster. She was so excited, I thought she was going to have another attack. Thank You!

Which leads me to this decision. Eric! This city doesn't need a Mayor, it needs two Mayor's. If I had someone with inspiration on my team, I couldn't help but win. What do ya say, I'll set you up in the office right next to mine. I need a real fast thinker to help me make some changes in this city, Hey partner.

All eyes sparkle as Eric considers his invitation. The emotions of a multitude are expressed on the faces of those lining the cubicles.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. BOARD MEETING - DAY

The big wooden doors fly open leading to the council chambers. Eric strolls in with a megaphone in one hand and a rolled up page of paper in the other, leading the street people like the pied piper. The street people seem to have already been advised of a change of conditions that they are a big part of. He stops and addresses the council members starting with the chairwomen.

ERIC

First on the agenda today please notice the appointment of a secondary Mayor Mr. Eric Daniels on page one.

All council members take note and agree.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I want all council members to please stand. And have a seat in the audience.

The women from the Alco Oil Co. is at the pulpit interrupted by the change of command. All council members stand and relocate to the audience seats. Each position has a small sign indicating the position of each council member. One of the homeless takes a marker and changes the names on the name signs.

MONTAGE:

(A)

(MORE)

MONTAGE: (CONT'D)

A man who was sleeping in the cardboard box takes the position of City Architect, in charge of construction.

(B) A women with a sign around her neck reads "unable to speak will work for money." She is sent to replace Eric, and promoted to Freda's supervisor.

(C) Billie is placed at the head of the table taking the Chair Women's place. (D) The prostitute is seated in the commissioner seat over law and justice.

(A) The man who was busted taking a leak against the building is seated in the chair in charge of the sewer district.

(B) The man who was cuddled up in a corner of a door entrance is placed in charge of the city permits.

(C) The women pushing a shopping cart is placed in charge of transportation. (D) The man who was searching for empty cans is placed in charge of Sanitation. (E) The man with sores on the feet is placed in charge of Health Care.

(F) The Mayor's mother is placed in charge of Religious Services.

Eric turns to the audience and introduces his new council. The audience stands and cheers, all except the displaced council members. He calls for the meeting to resume as he also takes a seat in the audience.

ERIC

I apologize for the interruption Mr. Chairman please continue.

Looking to the women who was making a request on the microphone.

WOMAN

I ya... I was saying I need \$400 thousand dollars for an under ground swimming pool to facilitate police Officers after their tour of duty.

The room becomes still, awaiting the approval from the new city council. The hush is broken by the chairperson taking the floor. The dirt still fresh on the faces of the new council members. Yet the joy of a new life is deep in the eyes.

BILLIE

I suppose this will beautify the underground.

(MORE)

BILLIE (CONT'D)

I wouldn't give you the time of day.
We got people out there who can't
even get a burger let alone swim in
some water that ain't already dirty.
Sit yo but down. Next!

Recognizing that everything is under control Eric grabs a bull horn and walks out of the room. Exiting to the street level he heads for the intersection. Standing in the middle of the street he hurls commands and motorists and all take heed.

ERIC

STOP! Just stop.

All traffic stops despite the signals changing to go. Eric aims his megaphone at his audience.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

Turn off your engines! Turn em off
and listen!

The drivers are reluctant but the authority in his voice eases the confusion.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

Get out of your cars, come on, get
out. You in the bus out, out.

People start coming from their cars and busses, with helicopters now overhead the huge picture windows become alive with the TVs showing Eric in command. This fiasco is on national television. The other Mayor of LA is watching, cracking up and giving thumbs up to his new partner now on nation wide TV

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)

You want to work in this city, you
want your kids to grow up in this
city, you don't like stepping over
pee, then clean it up! That's right,
This is your city, you don't expect
any one to clean your toilets do
you?

People leave their cars, trains, busses and planes and start scraping, scrubbing and picking up paper. The fire department foam truck arrives and foams the streets, foam everywhere.

One driver recalcitrant, refusing to obey just sits there, Eric approaches to find the woman has other intentions for the moment.

ERIC (con't) (CONT'D)
Listen mam I'm sure you would like
your dog to have a nice place to..
It's Denise and Rusty. Eric stops,
reaches in and kisses Denise and
hugs Rusty.

DENICE
Where would you like us to start
Mister Mayor?

ERIC
Right Here!

Our camera PULL OUT from a crane shot to an aerial we see
thousands of people picking up, cleaning up and washing,
kids sliding in the foam, Eric continues to give direction,
leaps straight into the air. FREEZE FRAME.

THE END