

IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA

"The Gang Creates a TV Show"

by Ron L. Palmer

FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN

TITLE: 9:30 PM

TITLE: On a Wednesday

TITLE: Philadelphia, PA

OVER TITLES WE HEAR

DENNIS (V.O.)

It's no use. I've been doing this  
for like, twenty minutes and...  
*nothing.*

MAC (V.O.)

Dude, you don't know what you're  
lookin' for. Here, give it to me.

INT. PADDY'S PUB - NIGHT

DENNIS, MAC and CHARLIE are sitting around the bar staring  
at the TV. Mac takes the remote from Dennis and proceeds to  
flip through the channels.

DENNIS

No, I'm tellin' ya, there's absolutely  
nothing on. I've looked through  
every channel at least a dozen times.  
Everything's just *crap!*

MAC

There's gotta be a ball game, or a  
sitcom or something worth watching.

DENNIS

Oh, there's plenty of sitcoms. In  
fact, just about every other channel  
has a Goddamned sitcom. The problem  
is, they're not funny. I sat and  
watched one the other night -- didn't  
laugh once.

Mac continues to flip the channels

MAC

Wow, you're right, Bro. There's  
nothin' on. In fact, I can't remember  
the last time I saw a show I really  
liked.

CHARLIE

Oh, I dunno.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I kinda like that show with the pretty lady who dresses really nice and tells me a bunch of stuff.

DENNIS

I hope to God you're talking about *the news*, Charlie.

They pause briefly and get the conversation back on course.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Anyhow, the problem lies with all those "suits" in their "ivory towers" in Hollywood. They wouldn't recognize a good show if it jumped out of the TV set and landed in their laps.

DEE walks behind the bar carrying a case of beer and begins unloading it.

DEE

What are you losers yakkin' about?

DENNIS

We're trying to find something -- *anything* -- worth watching on TV.

DEE

Hey... here's an idea. If you three would get off your asses and actually get us some business in here, you wouldn't have to worry about what's on television. Seriously, look at this place. When's the last time we actually had a customer?

The guys look at each other sheepishly.

MAC

It has been a while.

CHARLIE

Well, you know, with the economy and Obama and all. I mean the bailouts have just been killin' everybody.

DENNIS

Yeah, times are tough over the globe. I mean, let's not forget about Greece.

Mac runs his finger along the bar

MAC

Yeah... you're right. Waaay too much grease in here. Dee, you need to do something about that.

DEE

And another thing. How is it that we never have any customers, but every night I have to restock the beer?

The guys glance briefly at their beers, but keep drinking.

DEE (CONT'D)

Seriously, do you guys ever want to make any money on this place? You can't just sit here every night, drink all our beer and watch TV.

Dee looks up and notices the guys are no longer paying attention to her and have instead resumed flipping through the TV channels. Charlie grabs the remote from Mac's hands.

CHARLIE

Here, let me try it. Sometimes if you hit the buttons hard enough...

Dee stops working and grabs a beer.

DEE

Oh what the Hell.

Dee takes a swig, smacks the bottle down on the bar and watches beer gush out.

DEE (CONT'D)

Aww... Goddammit!

Dee quickly grabs a towel to clean up her mess while the guys laugh at her.

DENNIS

Now see... *that's* funny! Much better than any "comedy" you see on television.

MAC

Oh my God... You could make an entire show just watching Dee fumble her way around the bar.

DENNIS

She's a human pratfall.

CHARLIE

Yeah, I'd totally watch that show. I mean... y'know, if I had a working television. I suppose I could just watch it in the bar.

DENNIS

Actually, that's not a bad idea.

CHARLIE

Well, it's common sense, really. I mean, where else am I gonna watch it? I suppose I could go over to your place.

DENNIS

No, you idiot. I'm talking about making our own TV show. Think about it... who's funnier than the four of us? We're always getting ourselves into schemes and situations.

MAC

You're right. Like, almost on a weekly basis.

DENNIS

Remember that time Charlie pretended he had cancer? BOOM! That's an episode right there.

CHARLIE

That was some of my better work.

MAC

Or what about the time Dee's fat loser friend from high school turned out to be prettier and more successful than she is?

DENNIS

That's perfect. That would make a hilarious episode.

CHARLIE

Oh oh... and how about the time Dee's black "boyfriend" turned this place into gay bar and, Dennis, you were totally flirting with all those gay guys just to get tips and I think, like, maybe you went home with a couple of them or something...?

There's an awkward pause as Dennis is clearly uncomfortable with this mental flashback and Mac is uncomfortable because Dennis is uncomfortable. Dee chimes in, sarcastically.

DEE

So... you want me to take down a few of these bottles to make room for all the Emmys?

DENNIS

That last "story line"  
notwithstanding, I really do think  
we could create an entertaining TV  
show.

CHARLIE

And we could set it right here in  
the bar.

MAC

Well, let's think for a moment. Has  
any other TV show been set in a bar?  
I don't want to copy somebody else's  
idea.

The guys pause for a moment to think.

DENNIS

I think we're good. I can't think  
of any other TV show that's been set  
in a bar.

Dennis raises his beer, and the guys clink their bottles in  
celebration.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Cheers!

MAIN TITLES

Title: "The Gang Makes a TV Show"

Title: "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. PADDY'S PUB - THE NEXT DAY

Dee is behind the bar working while Frank sits at the bar reading an newspaper. Dennis and Mac walk in the front door.

DENNIS

...No, I'm not being racist.

MAC

Dude, you are so totally being racist.

DENNIS

No, you're wrong. It's not racist to want to avoid certain *problem neighborhoods*.

MAC

You mean *black* neighborhoods.

DENNIS

Black has nothing to do with it. It could just as easily be a *problem white* neighborhood.

Dennis goes behind the bar while Mac sits next to Frank

FRANK

What are you pricks talkin' about.

MAC

Dennis is being racist.

DEE

And that's news to us... how?

DENNIS

Shut up, Dee.

(turns to Frank)

All I was saying is... I hate how when you plug information into your GPS, the GPS doesn't recognize the difference between *safe* routes and *troublesome* routes. It just chooses the quickest way to get there. You're drivin' along, minding your own business and BAM! All of the sudden you're caught in the cross fire of a...

Dennis pauses, realizing he's about to say something potentially racist. Mac baits him.

MAC

The cross fire of a what? A gang war?

Dennis chooses his words carefully.

DENNIS

No. The cross fire of... a shoot out that... could involve any of a number of many races. That's the neighborhood I want to avoid.

DEE

I'm sure there's a lot of people who feel that way about *this* neighborhood.

MAC

You're with me on this, right Frank? What else could he mean when he says "problem neighborhoods." He means *black* neighborhoods... right?

FRANK

Nah... that shit could happen anywhere.

DENNIS

Thank you, Frank!

FRANK

Puerto Rican neighborhoods... Mexican neighborhoods. Asian neighborhoods. But not the ones with the hot Asians. I'm talking about the freaky lookin' ones that smell funny.

DEE

Oh dear God! It's like I work at Klan headquarters.

Dennis Ponders for a moment

DENNIS

(chuckles)

You know what? This is actually kind of funny.

MAC

What's funny?

DENNIS

This little bit between us with the whole racism thing. It's actually pretty funny stuff. We should put that in the show.



FRANK

What show? What are you talkin' about?

DEE

Oh God, Frank... don't get them started on that.

FRANK

Hold on! Hold on! Pipe down there Deandra. What show?

Dennis and Mac are very proud.

DENNIS

Mac, Charlie and I have decided to make a sitcom about our lives.

MAC

We figured, who on TV is funnier than us? The short answer is... nobody.

DENNIS

I mean, think about it. We are constantly finding ourselves in situations that are ten times funnier than any of that formulaic bullshit you see on network television.

MAC

(Proudly)  
We have no formula!

DENNIS

We are the living, breathing embodiment of pure entertainment. It would be selfish of us *not* to share it with the world.

Frank thinks for a moment.

FRANK

All right... I'm in!

Dennis and Mac glance at each other. They clearly don't want Frank having anything to do with their project.

FRANK (CONT'D)

And I've got the perfect idea for it. We all work at a taxi-cab company, and I'm the badass dispatcher that bosses you pricks around.

DENNIS

What? No! That's a *horrible* idea, Frank! No one would watch that show.

MAC

Awful. Plain awful.

DENNIS

The show's gonna be set here in the bar and deal with our daily, and I might add, *hilarious* shenanigans.

But Mac has another idea.

MAC

Yeah, actually I've been meaning to talk to you about that. I was thinking we could, y'know, work at the bar by day... and then at night my character runs a karate school. And, like, maybe he could fight crime or something with some kickass moves.

Mac demonstrates his karate technique. Dennis is taken aback.

DENNIS

Okay, clearly neither of you are going to be responsible for creative content.

DEE

Are you guys even listening to yourselves? Do you have any idea how impossible it is to make a TV show?

The guys dismiss Dee's pessimism.

DEE (CONT'D)

No, I'm serious. Look, I'm the only one here with an acting background.

DENNIS

Whoa! Whoa! I didn't realize a couple of theater classes and some skits on the street qualified as a "background."

MAC

Besides, you're forgetting that Dennis, Frank and I were in a little movie called "Lethal Weapon 5!"

DENNIS

That was some damn fine acting, too, Bro!

Dennis and Mac fist bump.

MAC

Thanks, man!

DEE

I know what I'm talkin' about. Look how long it's taken me to even get a whiff of an acting job.

MAC

Dee... the reason you don't get "whiffs," as you call them, is because you're a horrible actress.

DENNIS

I wasn't gonna bring it up, Sis, but Mac's right. You're simply not talented.

Dee is hurt, but she's been through this before.

DEE

Aw... you guys...

FRANK

Nah, they're right Deandra. You're pathetic. You couldn't act your way out of a paper bag full of shit.

DENNIS

It really is time to kill that dream, Dee.

Charlie enters the bar.

CHARLIE

Hey ohhhhh!

DENNIS

Charlie!

MAC

Charlie!

DEE

Hey Charlie.

CHARLIE

Okay you guys! Check this out! We are one step closer to doin' the Hollywood shuffle.

He ushers everyone to a table and they follow him. CHARLIE throws a crudely bundled stack of papers on the table.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Well? Whatta ya think of that?

The gang is confused.

DENNIS

Uh, well... I think it's a crudely bundled stack of papers with what appears to be hieroglyphics on it.

CHARLIE

No, those are just illustrations. It's our script! The script for our show!

MAC

You drew pictures on a script?

FRANK

What's it held together with? Shoelaces?

CHARLIE

Yeah, I was all out of ribbons. But this is what you guys wanted... right? I was up all night writing it.

MAC

You wrote an episode of our show?

DENNIS

The pilot episode? You wrote the pilot?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

DENNIS picks up the script and looks it over.

DENNIS

Okay, I gotta admit, I like the title. "It's Funny in Philadelphia."

DEE

Yeah, except he spelled Philadelphia with an "F"... and Funny with a "PH."

DENNIS continues reading the script.

CHARLIE

Yeah... I always get those mixed up.

DEE

Jesus Christ, Charlie, that's probably something you should know by now.

CHARLIE

Well excuse me for not being a big college doctor with an "F.D." hanging on my wall

DENNIS

Okay... here's a problem, Charlie.

CHARLIE

What? What problem.

DENNIS

Well, on page one, the Charlie character enters the bar with his girlfriend... who's a waitress.

The gang groans at that idea.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

And, I'm just guessing here, but...

DENNIS flips to the last page of the script.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Yup. On the last page you two get married.

The gang groans again.

MAC

Oh God, Charlie! Come on.

CHARLIE

What's wrong with it?

DENNIS

Seriously? You and the waitress? Getting married? For starters, it's just not believable.

CHARLIE concedes a bit.

CHARLIE

Yeah, okay. I suppose we could scale back a bit on the doves. And fewer celebrities, maybe.

DENNIS is still reading the script.

MAC

No, Dude... what he's saying is, we don't want another "Nightman Cometh." Our show is not going to be your personal crusade to bang the waitress.

DEE

I don't know why you guys are fighting about this. This show is never gonna get made. You don't have the connections.

FRANK

That's not true, Deandra. I've got a buddy who does some shit for a bunch of the suits in Hollywood. His name's Max. He's an insider. A real go-getter.

Mac and Charlie are excited to hear this. Dee is skeptical. Dennis hears him, but continues reading the script.

DEE

What? You know a Hollywood insider?

FRANK

Yeah. We go way back. And he owes me one, too. I saved his life in Nam.

More groaning

DEE

Oh God, Frank, not this again. You weren't *in* Nam. You went to Vietnam on a business trip.

FRANK

Yeah, and he was chokin' on a spring roll. I had to do the Heimlich on him. That shit shot outta there and hit a stripper right on the ass.

Dennis re-enters the conversation, still reading the script.

DENNIS

You know Charlie, this isn't half bad.

CHARLIE

Really?

DENNIS

Yeah, well, aside from gross misspellings, the fact that you changed from pen to crayon and the other expected "Charlie-isms," it's actually pretty funny. There's a few things I'd tweek, but.. guys, I think we have a winner here.

Mac, Charlie and Frank all cheer. Recognizing the possibilities, Dee has warmed up to the idea as well.

DEE

Okay, if the script's that good, and if Frank's got connections, I'm in too. This'll give me a chance to prove you assholes wrong about my acting chops.

DENNIS

Whoa! Hold on there Dee. We were serious about that whole *you being a shitty actress* thing. But even if we weren't, it doesn't matter. We aren't actually going to star in this masterpiece. We're gonna get actors to play us.

CHARLIE

Why wouldn't we play ourselves?

DENNIS

Because we're the producers, Charlie. We're the creative geniuses. We can't be bothered with trivial things like memorizing lines and putting on makeup. We've got to write, shoot and sell the show.

MAC

Right.

(turns to Dennis)

I'd still like to do my own stunts though.

Mac demonstrates more Karate moves.

DENNIS

So, Frank, whatta you say? Can you give your guy a call?

CHARLIE

Yeah, can you?

FRANK

Sure. But we gotta protect ourselves. There's a lot of unscrupulous shitheads out there in Hollywood who'd want to steal our idea.

DENNIS

You leave that to us, Frank. You and Dee should start putting up flyers and get us some actors.

(MORE)

DENNIS (CONT'D)

I know just the guy who can protect  
our "legal interests."

INT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY.

We see our old friend THE ATTORNEY -- the same lawyer who's  
dealt with the gang on several occasions. He is surprised  
to see Dennis, Mac and Charlie sitting in front of him.

ATTORNEY

So, let me get this straight. You  
three are creating a TV show.

DENNIS

Yes, that's correct.

MAC

It's gonna have lots of action in it

More Karate moves from MAC

CHARLIE

And legal stuff too. We can always  
use a good courtroom scene.

The Attorney holds up one finger, in essence shushing them.

ATTORNEY

You're creating a TV show, and you  
want *me* to handle your legal issues?

DENNIS

That's right.

MAC

If you're not too busy.

CHARLIE

I think this is what we'd call one  
of those Habeas Corpus cases, where  
you would handle our, you know, body  
of work...

The Attorney interrupts them.

ATTORNEY

Again... you want *me* to handle your  
affairs?

(Looks at Dennis)

You do realize I represented your  
wife in your divorce case and had  
you absorb all of her debt?

Dennis looks down, somewhat embarrassed.



ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

(looks at Mac)

I stopped you and your pal here from taking over that nice family's house when you were running some phony scam real estate agency.

Both Dennis and Mac look ashamed now.

ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

(looks at Charlie)

And YOU... If I don't want to, I never have to work another day in my life because you didn't read the fine print on our "Kitten Mittens" contract.

Now they're all somewhat ashamed.

ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

Those things are selling really well, by the way.

Charlie doesn't like hearing that.

CHARLIE

Objection! I would like that last part stricken from the record.

ATTORNEY

Look, my point is, I've done everything in my power to make sure that you three never bother me again. I couldn't have made myself more clear. By merely being here, the three of you are violating a restraining order.

MAC

We actually thought that was more of a restraining *suggestion*.

Dennis and Charlie agree with Mac

ATTORNEY

Couldn't you guys call another lawyer? Any lawyer? Pick one out of the phone book.

DENNIS

Ah, see, that's the problem. We don't actually have a phone book.

MAC

Yeah, Whenever they show up on the doorstep I like to show off the guns by rippin' those suckers in half.

CHARLIE

And when he can't do that, we usually just end up burning 'em, so...

The Attorney interrupts.

ATTORNEY

So, despite everything I've done to ensure that we never do any type of business again, you want to take me on as your attorney?

DENNIS

Yeah.

MAC

That's pretty much it.

CHARLIE

The idea really sells itself.

The Attorney pauses for a second and thinks it over.

ATTORNEY

Oh, what the hell. These things always seem to work out pretty well for me.

The gang is pleasantly surprised.

DENNIS

Hey, fantastic!

MAC

Excellent!

DENNIS

You won't regret this, I promise. By the time this is all said and done, you'll be representing some of the biggest names in Hollywood.

ATTORNEY

(sarcastically)

Yes, I'm sure that's the obvious outcome here.

Dennis, Mac and Charlie all get up to leave

ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

Look, just give me a couple of days and I'll have my assistant draw up the paperwork.

The gang walks toward the door.

MAC

Alright, we'll be in touch then.

DENNIS

You have our number, right?

ATTORNEY

(again, sarcastically)

Of course. I have you on speed dial.

CHARLIE

Great!

(pauses, briefly)

Oh, and if you, like, ever want to work together again on Kitten Mittens, I'd totally be open to the the idea.

Charlie notices the look of disdain on the Attorney's face.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Well... you think it over. I'll be in touch.

The guys leave the office. The Attorney just shakes his head and cracks a subdued laugh.

ATTORNEY

(softly, to himself)

Dumbasses.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. PADDY'S PUB -- A FEW DAYS LATER

The inside of Paddy's is bustling with action, as several actors have shown up for auditions. Some are reading scripts and mouthing their lines, while others are simply waiting.

Dennis, Frank and Charlie take position in the middle of the room, as Dennis gets the auditions underway.

DENNIS

Attention everyone! Can I have your attention. Focus right here on me! That's right.

The actors gather around and listen.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Thanks for coming out today. We're gonna get the auditions underway here in just a moment. We'll be starting with the Dennis actors, so if you're here for the role of Dennis, just wait over there by the bar. The Charlie actors can go over there by the juke box. If you're here to play Dee, just hang out back by the pool table. And the Mac actors should go through that door and wait down in the basement.

A short, scruffy actor crosses in front of Dennis and heads to toward the bar. Dennis stops him.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Whoa, Dude! Where do you think you're going. You're not a Dennis. Go hang out over there with the Charlies.

The actor turns around and joins the Charlie actors.

CHARLIE

This is fantastic! We're really making a TV show.

DENNIS

I gotta hand it to you, Frank! You really pulled this off. How'd you find so many actors.

FRANK

It was easy! You wouldn't believe how many pathetic people there are in this town who think they've got what it takes to make it big in Hollywood.

On cue, Dee enters. She is made up and dressed to impress.

DEE

All right, Bitches! I don't care what you say... I'm here to audition for the part of Dee.

Dennis starts to interrupt her, but she cuts him off.

DEE (CONT'D)

Look... I know that role. I live that role! It's the part I was born to play.

Dennis, Frank and Charlie look at each other, and their actions are clear; they're not interested.

DEE (CONT'D)

I can do this guys! Come on, give me a shot!

FRANK

Deandra, look. I've always tried to shelter you from this, but it's time you knew the truth. You're just not pretty enough for Hollywood.

DENNIS

I've gotta agree with Frank. Honestly, with all the rejection you've gotten I thought you would have figured that out by now.

CHARLIE

It took me awhile to accept too, Dee. But it does get easier. You just have to stop looking in the mirror.

Dee points to the actresses waiting to play her part.

DEE

Oh, and I suppose you're telling me those girls are "Hollywood pretty?" They're hotter than me?

The Dee actresses are freakishly thin with birdlike qualities. Most of them are not prettier than Dee.

DENNIS  
Yeah, pretty much.

CHARLIE  
I'd have to say yes.

FRANK  
By a mile

Frank puts his arm around Dee and guides her to the pool table.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
Look, You can go ahead and audition,  
but I can't promise you anything.  
Now go ahead and wait over there  
with the other fowl.

Dennis turns his attention toward the Dennis actors, as he, Frank and Charlie sit in directors chairs.

DENNIS  
Okay, everybody ready to go? Great.

He points to one of the Dennis actors.

DENNIS (CONT'D)  
You're up first. Step over here.

ACTOR #1 takes his position. He is a very tall and good looking man with an impressive physique.

DENNIS (CONT'D)  
(to FRANK and CHARLIE)  
Well, I like what I see here. Check  
out those cheek bones, they're  
perfect!  
(turns to ACTOR #1)  
Go ahead and lift up that shirt.  
Let's take a look at those abs.

Actor #1 reluctantly lifts his shirt to show off his six pack abs.

DENNIS (CONT'D)  
Excellent! I don't want to promise  
anything here, but if you've got any  
acting ability at all, well, I think  
we've found our Dennis.

CHARLIE  
I'll go ahead and read the Charlie  
part and you'll be Dennis.

Charlie begins reading the script. ACTOR #1 is also reading from a script.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hey, Dude!

ACTOR #1

Hey, Buddy. What's wrong, you look hung over or something.

CHARLIE

Yeah, I found out I may have Cancer.

ACTOR #1

Jesus, Dude! You want to talk about it?

CHARLIE

Sure. You know, it feels pretty good to get this off my chest.

ACTOR #1

Oh, you want to talk about this *right now*? I mean, it's not really a good time. Mac and Sweet Dee are waiting for me down in the car. I told 'em I'd zip in and zip out.

CHARLIE

Oh.

ACTOR #1

So... can I get that basketball?

DENNIS interrupts the scene. He is clearly upset.

DENNIS

Dude? What are you doing?

ACTOR #1

(confused)

I'm just reading the part.

DENNIS

Well, you're not reading it right. You're coming off as some sort of unsympathetic asshole.

ACTOR #1

Well, that's the character, right? I mean, I've only read this small part, but this Dennis guy seems like a real prick.

Dennis is not happy to hear that.

DENNIS

That's it! You're done! Next!

Mac bursts through the front door.

MAC

Hey oh!!! Sorry I'm late guys!

Before he can get halfway across the floor, Dee stops him.

DEE

Mac, listen to me. You've got to talk to the guys. Tell them to give me the part of Dee.

Mac is distracted, looking around the bar for the actors who want to play his part. He pauses, then realizes what Dee has asked him.

MAC

What? No, that's insane, Dee! You can't play you. You can't act.

DEE

(desperate)

That's not true Mac! You've seen me act before. You know what I can do.

MAC

That's right, I have seen you act. That's why my answer is no.

Mac is still looking around the room.

MAC (CONT'D)

Where are the Mac actors?

DEE

They're down in the basement. Seriously though, Mac... put in a good word for me. Please! Please!

Mac walks away, ignoring Dee and heads toward the basement.

INT. STAIRWELL -- CONTINUOUS

Mac walks down the stairs to check out the Mac actors. When he gets to the bottom, his face turns sour.

INT. BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS

In the basement are several overweight and sloppy-looking actors waiting to audition for the role of Mac.

MAC

Oh Hell no!!



INT. PADDY'S PUB -- CONTINUOUS

MAC (O.S.)  
Are you kidding me?!

Frank and Charlie recognize that something is wrong, and go to meet Mac as he comes back upstairs. Dennis continues with the auditions.

MAC (CONT'D)  
Why in the Hell is there a basement full of ugly lard-asses waiting to audition for the part of me?

FRANK  
Well, we're going for authenticity, Mac.

MAC  
Authenticity? Authenticity? There is nothing authentic about those tubbos. If anything, they're the *opposite* of me!

CHARLIE  
Well, this episode is set in the "Fat Mac" era. You know, back when you were a little overweight. Didn't you read the script?

MAC  
First of all, I was never fat! Yes, I might have packed on some extra mass, but that's gone now. And second, no, I didn't read the script.

FRANK  
You didn't read the script?

MAC  
No, I always defer to Dennis on that kind of stuff. If he says it's good, I'll roll with it. But this clearly crosses the line.

DENNIS (O.S.)  
(angrily)  
No no no no no NO!!

Mac, Frank and Charlie rush to Dennis to see what's wrong.

DENNIS (CONT'D)  
(to the Dennis actors)  
You're horrible! You're all horrible! Every one of you has totally misinterpreted the character!

FRANK

What's wrong, Dennis?

DENNIS

These actors! They're awful! They just don't get it! They make Dee look like an Academy Award winner! They seem to think the Dennis character is some sort of self-absorbed asshole!

CHARLIE

Well, now that you mention it, I don't really like any of the Charlie actors. They have the *look* down and everything, but most of them smell really bad.

MAC

Dude, seriously? Have you seen the Mac actors? It's like a Goddamn Weight Watchers convention down there.

They continue to argue among themselves as Dee joins them.

DEE

Oh, so you all think you could play your characters better than any of these assholes? Welcome to my world, Bitches! Not so much fun is it? You think I like seeing a bunch of "Big Birds" acting like they can play Dee Reynolds?

The argument escalates as Dennis regains control.

DENNIS

Okay, clearly there has been some serious overestimation when it comes to the people who can play our parts.

ACTOR #2, a tall, suave man who has just walked into the bar, approaches the gang. He interrupts their argument.

ACTOR #2

Excuse me. I'm here to audition for the role of Frank Reynolds.

FRANK

Ah, great! You're the first one. Just hang out over by the bathrooms and we'll be right with you.

Actor #2 walks away. The gang looks at Frank disdainfully.

DEE  
Really, Frank?

CHARLIE  
Seriously, Dude?

MAC  
Is this episode also set in the "Tall  
and Good Looking Frank" era?

FRANK  
What? Okay, so you might have to  
suspend disbelief a little bit. But  
that guy looks like he could really  
play the part of a taxi-cab  
dispatcher.

DENNIS  
Dude, no! I told you, we're not  
doing that.

Dennis has had enough. He addresses the room.

DENNIS (CONT'D)  
Okay, that's it! Everybody out!  
We're done here! That's right,  
everybody go home! The parts have  
all been filled. Get out, everybody!

The actors all head for the door. Actor #1 glances menacingly  
at Dennis as he walks by.

DENNIS (CONT'D)  
Yeah, those cheek bones aren't  
anywhere near Dennis Reynolds level.

CHARLIE  
Dude, what are you doing? What do  
you mean all the parts are filled?

DENNIS  
I mean there's a change of plans,  
Charlie. Screw the actors. Who  
could possibly play our parts better  
than us?

The rest of the gang likes this idea, especially Dee.

DEE  
That's the best idea I've heard all  
day! You guys won't regret this!  
Where's the script? I've got to  
start studying my lines.

Dee walks away.

DENNIS

(whispers)

We're gonna need a re-write. The Dee character should probably be a non-speaking part.

FRANK

Better yet, maybe we should kill her off by the third episode.

MAC

We're still good with the karate shop idea, though... right?

INT. PADDY'S PUB -- LATER

The gang is filming the TV show, with Frank acting as both the director and camera operator. Dennis and Charlie are sitting at the bar, while Dee stands silently behind it.

FRANK

Okay... and....*action!*

Mac comes running into the scene.

MAC

Guys, I found the perfect girl. Smart, beautiful, the whole thing!

CHARLIE

Oh yeah, where?

MAC

Over there by the pool table.

DENNIS

That's great, Mac. Yeah, that's a dude.

CHARLIE

Totally a dude.

MAC

What? No!

DENNIS

Yeah, that's Carmen. She's a tranny.

MAC

Are you sure?

DENNIS

Look at his jeans, Dude! That's the unmistakable bulge of a large penis.

CHARLIE

Yeah, there's a dick in those pants.

Frank stops the action.

FRANK

And... cut! Brilliant! That's a wrap, everyone! Nice job!

The gang is happy. Several days of hard work has now come to an end.

DENNIS

All right! That's it, right? Every scene is in the book?

FRANK

Yup. Now it's just a matter of getting this shit edited and sent off to Hollywood.

MAC

How was the part where I did my karate moves on Charlie? Should I have done a roundhouse or maybe a...

Charlie interrupts him

CHARLIE

Nah, it was perfect, Dude. The Charlie character really felt bad about pretending to have Cancer when you did that.

DEE

I still don't get why the Dee character had to have laryngitis. Maybe next episode I could sing a song or something.

DENNIS

We'll see about that, Dee. We're actually thinking about an action scene where you drive off a cliff..

As the gang continues talking, MAX, a smarmy looking character, walks into the bar. He looks like a cross between a homeless man and a prison inmate.

MAX

Is Frank Reynolds here?

Frank looks up. He's happy to see his old friend.

FRANK

Hey, Max!

MAX

Frankie!

Frank rushes over to greet Max.

FRANK

Look at you! You haven't changed a bit. What the Hell are you doing here?

MAX

Well, I just happened to be in town, and I thought I'd see how things are coming along with your TV show.

DENNIS

Wait a minute? Max? This is your "guy" in Hollywood?

FRANK

Yeah. Max, this is my son Dennis. My daughter Deandra. That's Mac and Charlie.

DENNIS

Whoa! Whoa! This dirtbag is the guy who's got the key to our Hollywood hope chest?

FRANK

Yeah! He's really connected.

DENNIS

What *exactly* do you do out there, Max?

MAX

(sheepishly)  
I *acquire* things.

FRANK

(matter of factly)  
He's their coke dealer.

The gang is not happy to hear this, and reacts accordingly.

MAC

Seriously, Frank? You put our futures in the hands of a drug dealer?

FRANK

I said he was a real *go-getter*. He just happens to go get cocaine.

DENNIS

Oh my God!

CHARLIE  
 Seriously, Dude?

DEE  
 (accepting her fate)  
 Yeah, this sounds about right.

DENNIS  
 Okay, wait. We're not done yet.  
 We've still got someone else who can  
 help us. Someone who has a vested  
 interest in our success.

INT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

The entire gang is in The Attorney's office this time.  
 Dennis, Mac and Charlie are sitting while Dee and Frank stand  
 behind them.

ATTORNEY  
 So let me get this straight. You  
 don't have any *real* connections to  
 Hollywood?

DENNIS  
 That would appear to be the case,  
 yes.

MAC  
 Yes, I think that's accurate.

ATTORNEY  
 And you shot the entire pilot episode,  
 but have no way of getting into the  
 hands of any distributors?

DEE  
 Once again, I think that just about  
 sums everything up.

ATTORNEY  
 And the person you trusted to make  
 all this happen turned out to be a  
 cocaine dealer.

CHARLIE  
 Well, I think you'd call it more of  
 an *anti-trust* situation, really.

The Attorney holds up a bag that holds several reels of  
 undeveloped movie film.

ATTORNEY  
 And this is all of your raw footage?

DENNIS

Yeah, that's it. The entire episode.

FRANK

That's all of it.

ATTORNEY

Okay, fine.

The Attorney reaches into his wallet and pulls out a dollar bill.

ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

Here you go. One dollar.

Dennis takes the dollar. The gang is puzzled.

DENNIS

What's this?

ATTORNEY

(beaming with joy)

Our deal states that if you guys don't have a distributor in place by noon today, I can buy the rights to your show and all the footage for the grand sum of one dollar.

THE ATTORNEY looks at his watch.

ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

Why, look at the time. It's twelve-oh-five. Do you idiots ever bother to read the contracts I draw up for you?

The gang is ashamed. They've been duped once again.

DENNIS

We probably should have done that.

MAC

(to DENNIS)

I always defer to you on these type of things.

CHARLIE

I object! Counsel is clearly leading the witnesses.

ATTORNEY

Look, here's the deal. Now that I own this footage, I can do whatever I want to with it.

(MORE)



ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

And since I'm sure it's probably the worst thing ever shot on film, I plan using it to embarrass the Hell out of you.

(pause)

Now get out of my office and don't ever come back!

The gang gets up and heads for the door.

FRANK

What a rip!

DENNIS

Oh, you should talk, "Mr. I Know a Coke Dealer in Hollywood!"

MAC

No kidding, Frank.

DEE

(desperate)

We're not done, right? We can shoot a new show. I can write it. We'll call it "Dee and Friends."

FRANK

My taxi-cab idea doesn't sound so bad right about now, does it?

The gang walks out of the office, except for Charlie who turns back to the Attorney for one final question.

CHARLIE

So... where do we stand on the whole Kitten Mittens thing?

The Attorney just glares at him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Okay, don't worry about it. We'll talk later. I'll call you.

Charlie leaves. The Attorney just smiles and shakes his head.

THE ATTORNEY

Dumbasses.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

INT. PADDY'S PUB -- SEVERAL DAYS LATER

Dennis, Frank and Charlie are sitting around the bar watching TV while Dee is working. Dennis flips through the channels.

DENNIS

Wow! Seriously, there is nothing on TV. Nothing.

FRANK

Our show would have been ten times better than any of this shit.

Charlie takes the remote.

CHARLIE

Seriously Dude, sometimes you just have to hit the buttons really hard...

Dee interrupts.

DEE

Don't give me any of your bullshit. You assholes get to come back here and sit around the bar. But that was my *dream!* That was my one chance. Now it's gone. The dream is dead.

The guys just shake their heads.

DENNIS

Seriously, Dee, that dream died a long time ago.

FRANK

That dream's a rotting corpse with worms and shit crawling up in it.

The three guys laugh.

DEE

Whatever!

Mac comes bruting into the bar. He has exciting news!

MAC

You bitches are *not* gonna believe this!

DENNIS

What?

CHARLIE

Huh?

DEE

What now?

MAC

Where's the computer? Where's the computer? Here, give me that.

Mac grabs the laptop sitting on the bar and starts typing.

FRANK

What are you doing?

MAC

Turns out, our show is not dead after all! Check this out!

Mac turns the computer so the others can see it. On the screen we see a YouTube video called "There's Always Idiots in Philadelphia."

MAC (CONT'D)

We are now YouTube celebrities. Look at the hits! We've got fifteen hundred already!

DENNIS

The lawyer must have put this up within the last day or so.

The camera focuses on the screen where we see the gang's prerecorded action unfold. The acting leaves a lot to be desired.

CHARLE

See, here's the thing though about Cancer. I don't have it.

DENNIS

What? How could you do this? We thought you were dying, Charlie!

CHARLIE

Whoa, whoa! Who's we?

DENNIS

Me, Mac and Sweet Dee.

CHARLIE

I told you not to tell anyone. Now I'm gonna have to go into remission or something so they don't think I was lying.

DENNIS

You were lying!

(MORE)

DENNIS (CONT'D)

(yells across the bar  
to Dee)

Hey, guess what Dee! You're gonna  
love this? Charlie was lying the  
whole time. He doesn't have Cancer!

Because her character has laryngitis, Dee can only pantomime  
her disgust. She only does so briefly before Mac rushes in.

MAC

Guys, guys listen! I totally punched  
that tranny in the face, and these  
two guys started chasing me and I  
ran all the way back to the bar.  
Turns out punching a tranny is a *hate  
crime!* Did you know that?

Mac turns to Dee

MAC (CONT'D)

Dee... get me a beer.

The gang sits in stunned silence. They are shocked at what  
they see. At first they appear disturbed, but...

DENNIS

Oh my God! We're famous!!

The Gang cheers with glee at their newfound fame!

EVERYBODY

(chanting)

YouTube! YouTube! YouTube! YouTube!  
YouTube!

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW