

The Greatest Muppet Movie of All Time  
by  
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TITLE UP: THE FOLLOWING IS BASED ON A TRUE STORY

FADE IN:

A series of shots of a pristine, classic American small town. Something straight out of Pleasantville.

--People walk down the street and say smiling goodmornings as they pass each other.

--A milkman drops off milk to a white picket fenced house

--Children ride their bikes to school

-- People exit a bakery with fresh rolls.

TITLE UP: SMALLTOWN, USA

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

We pan through a bedroom who's walls are covered with posters. Muppet posters. Muppet newspaper clippings. A framed photo of a Time magazine cover which features Kermit standing in front of the rest of the Muppets with a headline that reads "Who's the funniest Muppet."

There is also a row of framed photos, the first is of a young boy with a nondescript brown Puppet. We follow the row of photos as the boy grows progressively older, his puppet always by his side, ageless. We reach the last photo of the row and the boy is now thirty, arm around his puppet.

We continue to pan and find the man, Gary, laying in bed peacefully asleep, a contented smile on his face. THE ALARM GOES OFF. Gary lazily wakes up.

GARY

Walter! Wake up! Today's the day we go to Los Angeles!!!

We widen to reveal Gary's brown puppet asleep in a smaller bed next to Gary ala Ernie and Bert.

WALTER

(waking excitedly)

Los Angeles!!! I can't believe it!! We're gonna get to go to Muppet Studios right!? You promised!? You weren't pranking me right!?! If you were pranking me that's a really mean prank!!!

GARY  
 (laughing)  
 No buddy! I would never prank you  
 like that! You're my best friend! I  
 know you love the Muppets!

WALTER  
 Wooo hooo! Let's get ready! Los  
 Angeles, here we come!!!!

Walter hops out of bed and begins dancing around the room. He is actually a pretty good dancer, if not a bit spastic.

EXT. GARY AND WALTER'S HOUSE - LATER

Gary and Walter exit their small but charming house wearing matching Powder Blue suits and brown ties which are way too short with knots that are far too large. They each carry a suitcase, Walter's obviously is far smaller.

GARY  
 Alright old buddy, let's go grab  
 Mary at School and we're off to Los  
 Angeles!

WALTER  
 Los Angeles!

The two walk, a spring in their step, literally across the street to a charming and small schoolhouse which reads "SMALLTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

INT. SCHOOLHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Gary and Walter enter the back of a small classroom where MARY (25) is teaching a class of 3rd Graders.

MARY  
 So, I hope you all have an amazing  
 spring vacation! Try to study your  
 timetables in between having a  
 whole lotta fun!!! Love you kids!  
 See you in two weeks!!

The kids all rise and head out. One by one, they each hand Mary an apple until she is left with thirty or so apples. Gary approaches and gives her a small kiss.

GARY  
 Hey, so you all ready for our big  
 vacation?!

MARY

You bet! This is the best anniversary present ever! We are gonna have such a great time. I've always dreamt of seeing Los Angeles!

WALTER

And the Muppet Studios!

MARY

You bet Walter! Now let me grab a sack for these apples and let's get going! To Los Angeles!!

WALTER/GARY

To Los Angeles!!!!

EXT. STREET - LATER

Walter, Gary and Mary wait excitedly at the Smalltown bus stop. Mary has her suitcase and a big sack of apples. After a moment an absolutely pristine, perfectly polished shiny silver old time greyhound bus pulls up with a sign that says "LOS ANGELES" They get on the bus. We watch as the bus pulls away, travelling only a few yards before it passes a sign which reads:

"NOW LEAVING SMALLTOWN, USA. WE'LL MISS YOU!!!"

As they leave Smalltown, USA the population sign drops from 102 to 99.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

We pan through the bus. Literally everyone is eating one of Mary's apples. We reach Gary, Mary and Walter towards the back of the bus.

WALTER

I can't believe it! A tour of the Muppet Studios! Who knows, maybe Kermit will be there!

GARY

I wouldn't get your hopes up Walter. You know the Muppets broke up. I don't think they use the studios for anything but tours anymore.

WALTER

I think that's just an internet rumor, like Global Warming.

MARY

Actually Global Warming is a very real---

WALTER

(interrupting)

Muppet Studios! I just can't believe it!

GARY

It'll be great. Now if you don't mind, I think we're gonna try to get some sleep buddy!

WALTER

Sure, no problem!

MOMENTS LATER:

Walter is sitting next to an old lady who is clearly trying to sleep.

WALTER (CONT'D)

And then there was an episode where Gonzo and Fozzie---

OLD LADY

If you don't mind, I'm trying to sleep.

MOMENTS LATER:

Walter sits next to a ten year old kid.

WALTER

And then one time, Miss Piggy was doing "Pigs in Space" and she---

KID

If you don't mind, I'm trying to sleep.

MOMENTS LATER:

Tight on Walter talking.

WALTER

And Rolph, man, Rolph could play piano like nobody else.

MAN (O.S.)  
Listen kid, I'm trying to sleep.

Widen to reveal Walter is talking to the bus driver.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BLVD. - DAY

The bus, which is now a regular, dirty, modern day Greyhound pulls up in front of the Mann's Chinese Theater. The doors open and our heroes get off and take in their surroundings, awestruck.

GARY  
I can't believe it. Los Angeles!!

MARY  
We're really here!

WALTER  
(really excited)  
Oh my gosh!! It's Superman!!

A middle aged, unshaven man dressed as Superman approaches.

SUPERMAN  
Want a Picture?

WALTER  
(thrilled)  
Please!!

GARY  
Thank you so much!!

MARY  
(pulling out her camera)  
I'll take it!

She snaps a picture of the three of them.

SUPERMAN  
Ten bucks.

GARY  
Oh...um...I didn't realize...

SUPERMAN  
You already took the picture. Ten bucks, now, or I break your camera.

WALTER  
 (sotto to Gary)  
 Gary, he's Superman, you better do  
 what he says.

Gary hands over ten bucks. Superman walks away.

GARY  
 Just... unbelievable. I can't  
 believe we met Superman!!

MARY  
 Guys, I don't think that was the  
 real---

WALTER  
 Superman! Unbelievable! So, when do  
 we go to the Muppet Studios?!

GARY  
 (checking his itinerary)  
 Our tour isn't for an hour! Let's  
 check out Los Angeles!!

The group cheers! BEGIN CHECKING OUT LOS ANGELES MONTAGE.

MUSIC UP - I LOVE LA

--- Our heroes go surfing  
 --- Our heroes eat at Pink's Hot dogs  
 --- Our heroes take a double decker bus tour  
 --- Our heroes go skiing  
 --- Our heroes ride a roller coaster  
 --- Our heroes eat at Spago  
 --- Our heroes watch a movie on the IMAX screen

EXT. VENICE BOARDWALK - CONTINUOUS

Our heroes are walking down the boardwalk. Gary checks his  
 watch.

GARY  
 Oh my gosh! We only have twenty  
 minutes to get to the Muppet  
 Studios! Let's go check into the  
 motel, unpack our things, wash up,  
 change, and get over there!!!!

EXT. MUPPET STUDIOS LA BREA - DAY

Our heroes come running up to the Muppet Studios out of breath, showered and changed. Walter is wearing a Kermit t-shirt. He takes a moment to admire the huge sculpture of Kermit which adorns the studio. He begins to tremble a bit. Mary puts her arm around him.

MARY

Don't be nervous Walter. It'll be great!

WALTER

(shaking, growing agitated)

But..but... What if I get to meet Kermit...and we reunite the gang to put on a show!!! And for a while it seems like I'll be too nervous to perform, but then at the last minute I overcome my fears! And then he asks me be a Muppet...

GARY

Don't worry buddy, that's not gonna happen. I promise. You have nothing to worry about.

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS LA BREA - LATER

Walter, Gary, Mary and three or four other really tourist looking visitors are taking a tour of the Muppet Studios, which has now been turned into a Paper Factory. It could not be more boring or corporate in appearance.

TOUR GUIDE

So, this used to be the building where all of the costumes were designed. Now its where American Paper Company punches the holes in their three hole punched paper.

The tour watches on bored. They walk to the next building.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)

This is where Dr. Bunsen Honeydew and his assistant Beaker developed almost all of their unique and wholly impractical inventions.

WALTER

Can we go inside!?

## TOUR GUIDE

I'm afraid not. Now its where trees  
are turned into mulch and pressed  
into colored construction paper.  
It's filled with toxic chemicals.

The tour guide continues walking. He passes a very small  
bungalow.

## TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)

And this used to be Kermit's  
office, it's perfectly preserved  
inside, just as Kermit left it. You  
really should see it.

(beat, then continues  
walking)

Now this next building is where  
they put the lines on paper to make  
lined paper. Let's go inside and  
take a look.

The tour follows, all except for Walter, who lags behind  
staring at Kermit's office. He takes a sneaky look to the  
group, who all look extremely bored, and decides to make his  
move.

## INT. KERMIT'S OLD OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Walter opens the door to Kermit's office. There is dust and  
cobwebs everywhere, though everything seems to be untouched.  
There are framed photos on the walls of Kermit with all sorts  
of celebrities, including one with Jim Henson.

He passes a shelf with many award statues: An Emmy, An Oscar,  
A Grammy, An NAACP Award, A Nobel Prize, An Olympic Medal. He  
is in awe, when SUDDENLY THE DOOR BURST OPEN.

Walter ducks behind the desk for cover. In walk STATLER and  
WALDORF, who are giving a tour to a man in a suit and a  
cowboy hat. This is TEX RICHMAN, and for now, he seems nice  
enough. He is with several of his "associates," including an  
unattractive Bear puppet called Bobo.

## STATLER

This is Kermit's old office.

## WALDORF

Or so we've been toad.

The two share a trademark chuckle.

TEX

I've loved the Muppets since I was just a boy. And what better way sirs, to honor the Muppets than to make this beautiful studio a Muppet museum. A shrine if you will. I think I'll call this room -- The Kermit's Office Room.

STATLER

We don't care what you call it.

WALDORF

As long as the check clears.

Waldorf hands Tex a giant contract.

WALDORF (CONT'D)

Here's the Standard Rich and Famous Contract Kermit signed twenty five years ago. This contract is absolutely, positively iron clad. With one exception that shouldn't be an issue for any logical reason, but I should let you know if the Muppets put on a show and get ten million viewers before this contract expires, we can no longer sell Muppet studios to you. The contract expires...

(he uses a monocle to read  
the fine print.)

.. in two weeks at which point this property is yours.

STATLER

If I didn't know better I'd say you were reciting some sort of important plot point.

WALDORF

I hope so. Otherwise I just bored the audience half to death.

STATLER

You mean half the audience is still alive?

Statler and Waldorf laugh and exit. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DOOR CLOSSES, TEX'S TONE SHIFTS. HE SPEAKS MANICALLY TO HIS COHORTS.

TEX

There's oil under this studio,  
see!!! I can smell it. I can smell  
it in my wallet. Sweet sweet oil.  
In two weeks, we tear this place to  
the ground and start harvesting the  
sweet sweet oil under this waste of  
space. Muppets.

(he spits)

The Muppets ain't funny!!! No one  
is!! Least of all the Muppets!  
They've never made me laugh! Not  
once. The only way they could save  
the studio according to this  
contract is if they get back  
together and put on a show within  
the next two weeks that draws in 10  
million viewers, but that ain't  
gonna happen. No sir. This studio  
is gone, see. And me, well I'm  
gonna be even richer than I already  
am. Maniacal Laugh. Maniacal laugh.

Walter listens in shock as Tex's cohorts begin laughing  
Maniacally. Oddly Tex Richman just keeps repeating "Maniacal  
laugh" as they all exit. Walter rises, looks around  
nervously, then sprints out of the room.

EXT. HENSON STUDIOS LA BREA - MOMENTS LATER

Walter comes tearing out of the studio, past security,  
emitting a high pitched and frantic scream. Gary and Mary  
chase after him.

INT. BUS - MOMENTS LATER

The entire bus stares silently at Walter who continues to let  
out his high pitched scream as he rides. Gary and Mary sit  
beside him, also just staring, confused.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Walter sits on the bed continuing to scream. Finally:

MARY

(to Gary)

Gary, you've got to do something.

GARY

I've tried everything I can think  
of.

MARY  
There's got to be something.

Gary considers.

GARY  
(to Walter)  
Sorry buddy.

And Gary SLAPS WALTER, sending him flying.

WALTER  
WE'VE GOT TO FIND KERMIT!!!!  
AHHHHHH!!!! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THE  
STUDIO!!!! AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!

Walter runs over and SLAPS GARY sending him flying.

INT. CAR - DAY

Gary, Mary and Walter drive through Los Angeles.

WALTER  
...then when he thought he was  
alone, he said "*There's oil under  
this studio, see! I'm gonna tear it  
the ground, see? Sweet sweet oil,  
see!*"

MARY  
People still talk like that?

WALTER  
I know, it seemed kind of on the  
nose. He said the only thing that  
could stop him would be if the  
Muppets got back together and put  
on a show.

GARY  
That's impossible. The Muppets  
broke up. No one can get them back  
together.

WALTER  
They're just taking a break! Kermit  
can get them back together. Kermit  
can do anything!

MARY  
Yeah, but how do we find him? No  
one's seen Kermit in years. Not  
since he retired.

They drive past PINK'S HOT DOGS where a man with a STAR MAPS SIGN is set up in front.

WALTER  
STOP THE CAR!!!!!!

Gary screeches to a halt.

WALTER (CONT'D)  
I've got an idea!!!

INT. CAR - LATER

Gary, Mary and Walter drive while eating HUGE CHILLI DOGS.

WALTER  
So how are we gonna find Kermit?

GARY  
(mouth full)  
The hot dog guy told me he lives in Malibu. He's become some sort of a recluse. He never leaves his house, and nobody ever goes in.

WALTER  
So let's go to Malibu. We'll find him, I know we will. To Malibu!

INT. CAR - DUSK

Our heroes drive slowly through Malibu, crestfallen.

GARY  
We've been driving for hours. I think it's time to call it a day.

MARY  
(seeing something)  
Guys?

WALTER  
We can't give up Gary. We just can't. Even if it means searching for days and weeks --

GARY  
I'm sorry. It's too late.

MARY  
Guys!?

WALTER/GARY

What?

She points out the window. Next to them is a GIGANTIC GREEN MANSION WITH KERMIT'S FACE ADORNING THE SECURITY GATES.

WALTER

You think they know where Kermit is!?!?!?

Gary and Mary just look at Walter.

EXT. KERMIT'S MANSION - LATER

Our heroes stand at Kermit's gates, unsure as how to proceed.

GARY

So what do we do now?

WALTER

Throw me over.

MARY

What if we...

WALTER

GARY!! THROW ME OVER ALREADY!!!

Walter jumps into Gary's arms. He balls Walter up and HURLS WALTER, but he doesn't quite make it over the fence. Instead he hits the top and gets ELECTROCUTED.

GARY

OH MY GOSH!!!! WALTER!!!

The electricity keeps Walter on the gates for an excruciatingly long time, until finally he falls, smoking, to the ground. Gary rushes to his side.

GARY (CONT'D)

Walter!!! Walter! Are you okay?!?

Walter, delirious, looks up at him.

WALTER

(weak)

Throw me again.

MARY

Guys, I have an idea...

WALTER  
 (melodramatic)  
 THROW ME AGAIN!!!

Mary RINGS THE DOORBELL.

GARY/WALTER  
 ARE YOU CRAZY, WOMAN!?

They wait in anticipation, finally a voice comes through the intercom. IT IS KERMIT THE FROG!!!

KERMIT  
 Hi ho.

A long beat. No one knows what to do.

BUZZZZZ. Like a scene from the Wizard of Oz, Gary, Walter and Mary stand frozen as the huge gates open to Kermit's mansion. After a long beat, Kermit emerges from his front door and walks towards them. He looks the same physically, but he walks very slowly with a cane and wears a Hugh Hefneresque smoking jacket. As he limps towards them, our group takes in what is by any stretch, a sad sight. Kermit is old.

WALTER  
 Oh my gosh. He's... he's... old.

As Kermit walks towards them, Walter begins to cry. Kermit sees this and stops.

KERMIT  
 Are you crying? No, I was just...

He throws down his cane, does a perfect summersault, and begins tap dancing. The gang watches confused.

KERMIT (CONT'D)  
 I was just kidding. It's the whole Willy Wonka thing. I've just always wanted to do that. Come on in!

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION - LATER

Kermit, Gary and an EMBARRASSINGLY STAR STRUCK WALTER sit in Kermit's lavish living room.

MARY  
 I thought you were a recluse?

KERMIT

No, not at all. I love people.  
After I retired, that rumor got  
started and then people just  
stopped coming by. It gets kind of  
lonely. I'm actually glad you came  
by. So, what brings you here?

GARY

Well sir, my friend Walter heard  
some disturbing news today.

KERMIT

(to Walter)  
Oh yeah, what's that?

All turn to Walter who just stares at Kermit, trembling.

KERMIT (CONT'D)

What's the matter, cat got your  
tongue?

Walter NODS vigorously. Kermit BENDS DOWN and grabs his cat.

KERMIT (CONT'D)

C'mon, Miss Fluffy. This is  
neither the time nor the place.

The cat SPITS OUT a puppet tongue. Kermit hands the tongue  
to Walter who reattaches it to his mouth. They watch for a  
painfully long beat as Walter starts shaking again, harder  
and harder. Finally:

WALTER

(terrified)  
P...PP....PPPPPPP.....Peanut!!!

All look at Walter, confused.

GARY

When he's nervous, peanut's the  
only thing he can say.

WALTER

Peanut! I'm sorry. I'm nervous!!!  
Peanut!!!  
(growing more and more  
agitated)  
Peanut! Peanut!  
Peanutpeanutpeanutpeanut!

Walter stops to catch his breath.

KERMIT

Oil Barron Tex Richman is gonna  
tear down the studio to drill for  
oil!?? And the only thing that'll  
save it is if we put on a show that  
gets ten million viewers within two  
weeks!?!?

WALTER

(panting and nodding)  
Peanut.

KERMIT

Put on a show? I couldn't do that  
on my own.

GARY

Well, what about the rest of the  
Muppets?

KERMIT

I haven't been in touch with those  
guys in years.

WALTER

You should get them back together!

KERMIT

It's easier said than done.

Kermit's face falls.

KERMIT (CONT'D)

**SINGS "I MISS THE MUPPETS" SONG.**

As Kermit sings he walks down a hallway of photos and  
memories. When he reaches the end of the hallway, he  
awkwardly turns around and sings about the same memories he  
passed once again, however, this time he sings about how  
impossible it'll be to get back together because they all  
have gripes with each other now.

KERMIT (CONT'D)

(a song version of this)  
We would need someone to rally  
around, someone young and innocent  
and not specifically any one sort  
of animal or figure in particular.  
Someone like...well...  
(reaching Walter)  
...you.

WALTER  
 (shaking)  
 Me!?! But I'm not a Muppet.

KERMIT  
 You could be. You seem a little...  
 Muppety. What's your talent?

Walter starts shaking.

WALTER  
 I...I...I don't even have a talent!

KERMIT  
 Of course you do. Everyone does.  
 You just have to find it.

WALTER  
 But...I don't know where to look.

KERMIT  
 (smiling sweetly)  
 I don't know it's just sort of...  
 in you. Don't worry, you'll find  
 it. It's funny, but you sort of  
 remind me of me when I was young.

Walter immediately faints.

KERMIT (CONT'D)  
 Now where were we? Ah yes, Muppets.

Kermit hits a button and his wet bar SPINS AROUND revealing a  
 GIANT GREEN BUTTON.

MARY  
 What... is... that?

KERMIT  
 It's the Muppet Emergency Put on a  
 Show Beacon... to be pressed only  
 in case we need to put on a show.  
 I outfitted every Muppet with one  
 of these.

Kermit shows our guys his green wristwatch.

KERMIT (CONT'D)  
 As soon as that's pressed, all the  
 Muppets shall be alerted. Will you  
 do the honors?

Walter walks over, lifts the glass shield and very tentatively hits the button. The button lights up BRIGHT GREEN. Suddenly SIRENS DROP DOWN all over Kermit's house.

EXT. KERMIT'S HOUSE

Batman-style SPOTLIGHTS with a M SHOOT into the NIGHT SKY.

INT. KERMIT'S HOUSE

Kermit starts RUNNING BACK AND FORTH with his arms in the air, doing a full scale MUPPET-PANIC.

KERMIT

Ahhhhh!

GARY

(panicked)

What's happening?

KERMIT

It's an emergency! We have to panic!

After a beat, Gary, Kermit, Mary and Walter all start running back and forth with their arms up.

EXT. CAESAR'S PALACE

A sign that says "FOZZIE BEAR ROAST."

INT. CAESAR'S PALACE - CONTINUOUS

A line of comedians including Bob Saget, Gilbert Gottfried, Jeff Garlin, Cloris Leachman, and Lisa Lampanelli roast Fozzie. Fozzie pulls his hat off and wipes his face with it. His watch goes off, and he runs offstage in a panic as Lisa continues, though all of her curse words are Meeped out with an oddly familiar MEEP...

LISA LAMPANELLI

This guy gets so few laughs he MEEP MEEP. Seriously, his laugh to groan ratio is MEEP MEEP MEEP MEEP. Waka waka? More like MEEP MEEP MEEP MEEP MEEEEEEEP!

INT. LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

We pull out of a television set into a sterile laboratory to reveal Bunsen and Beaker watching the Roast as their watches sound the beacon. Reveal it is BEAKER'S MEEP MEEPS which have been covering the curse words. Bunsen and Beaker run out of the room in a panic.

INT. KITCHEN TELEVISION SET - DAY

Ominous music plays as we pan past a row of nervous looking amateur cooks.

TELEVISION VO

In the kingdom of cooking, there  
can be only one... King of the  
Kitchen!

We see a man in shadows throwing pasta and meatballs everywhere. The figure turns towards us into the light. It's the Swedish Chef!

MOMENTS LATER the Swedish Chef stands before a contestant.

HOST

The Swedish Chef has tasted your  
flamed grilled salmon. Now let's  
see what he has to say.

Chef gets in the contestants face and screams ala Gordon Ramsey. The Contestant starts crying.

SWEDISH CHEF

(very angry !)  
Bork Bork Bork bork bork!

The Swedish Chef's watch starts blinking. He looks at it.

SWEDISH CHEF (CONT'D)

Holy blorky florky!

He panics, throwing his knives up in the air. Assistants and camera man scatter as the knives fall and he takes off.

INT. COPY CATZ - DAY

Your basic mom and pop Kinkos that's run by cats. Inside we find ROWLF dressed like a cat wearing a Copy Catz smock. A CUSTOMER comes up to him. Perhaps the customer is Cat Stevens...

ROWLF  
 (really uninterested)  
 Welcome to Copy Catz. Purrfect  
 copies every time.

Rowlf curls his paw like a cat. His CAT MANAGER comes out.

CAT MANAGER  
 What was that, Rowlf? If you want  
 to be a Copy Cat you've gotta  
 commit to being a cat! Show him,  
 Precious.

REVEAL PRECIOUS, a cat who's clearly the Cat Manager's  
 favorite.

PRECIOUS  
 Welcome to Copy Catz. Purrrrrrrfect  
 copies every time. How meeoow  
 help you?

Suddenly Rowlf's wristwatch starts blinking. He turns to the  
 Cat Manager and Precious and BARKS AT THEM. They back away  
 and hiss. Rowlf RUNS OUT of the store.

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

A tight shot of a dark stage where ELECTRIC MAYHEM IS ROCKING  
 OUT!!! However, ANIMAL IS MISSING. As they jam, they grow  
 more and more excited and begin smashing their instruments  
 ala Pete Townsend. Their song's cut short when the lights are  
 flipped on. The bartender calls out.

BARTENDER  
 Guys, I'm closing up. Nobody's  
 coming.

The reverse angle reveals that Electric Mayhem is playing a  
 COMPLETELY EMPTY BAR. They start to pack up.

EXT. CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

The bar door opens and the gang exits into A COMPLETELY  
 FROZEN TUNDRA!! White as far as the eye can see in every  
 direction. They make their way through the snow storm  
 towards their van when their watches start blinking. They  
 PANIC and start running towards the forest. As they run they  
 slowly slow down and freeze until they're covered in ice.

SGT. FLOYD PEPPER  
 Whaddya say we panic towards the  
 van?

They slowly panic towards the van.

EXT. CELEBRITY ANGER MANAGEMENT CENTER - DAY

A beautiful Santa Barbara campus for Anger Management. Birds chirp, fountains babble, and people walk around VERY SERENELY.

ANGLE ON: A group of eight people sit in a circle on the grass while a MODERATOR with a BLACK EYE runs a group talk. Among them are SEAN PENN and ANIMAL.

MODERATOR

So, Sean, any latent desires to punch people in the face?

Sean Penn is chewing on a toothpick, a bit fidgety.

SEAN PENN

I try to stay away from people and that seems to do the trick.

Sean Penn pulls the toothpick from his mouth and gives the Moderator a threatening stare. The Moderator's scared.

MODERATOR

Um. Ok. And Animal, how about you? How have you been feeling?

Animal just stares at him with no emotion. His watch STARTS BLINKING. He looks at it and jumps up, panicking.

SEAN PENN

No one goes till session is over.

ALEC BALDWIN

He can go if he wants to.

BAAAAAMMMM! PENN DECKS BALDWIN!!! All of a sudden a HUGE FIGHT BREAKS OUT!!! The entire campus ERUPTS in anger and violence. Animal RUNS OFF.

EXT. SKYCRAPER ROOF - NIGHT

The spotlight "M" lights up the night sky. A figure, with a cape, turns into frame. It's Gonzo! Except he now has a potbelly and a little bit of gray hair. PULL BACK to reveal Christian Bale in full Batman costume standing next to him.

CHRISTIAN BALE

(Batman voice)

What are you doing here?

GONZO  
 (imitating his deep voice)  
 What are you doing here?

CHRISTIAN BALE  
 Why are you talking like that?

GONZO  
 Why are you talking like that?

CHRISTIAN BALE  
 And who's that?

REVEAL Camilla in a Robin-like outfit.

GONZO  
 This is my sidekick... Chicken.

Christian Bale JUMPS off the building and uses his batwings to fly down. Gonzo JUMPS after him. He opens his cape but it does nothing and he PLUMMETS to the ground with a resounding thud.

INT. MYSTERIOUS ROOM - DAY

The room's filled with green clothes of all kinds. We PAN TO the back where the green wristwatch sits, blinking, unobserved.

EXT. KERMIT'S HOUSE

All the Muppets are gathered. It's total chaos as they all greet each other after all these many years. In the background we see Gonzo and Camilla playing tennis. Kermit and Fozzie SEE EACH other.

FOZZIE BEAR  
 I can't believe you called! I thought you were mad at me!

KERMIT  
 Why would you think that?

FOZZIE BEAR  
 Cause you stopped calling me!

KERMIT  
 I stopped calling you because you stopped calling me!

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION/FOZZIE'S HOUSE - SPLIT SCREEN-  
FLASHBACK

Kermit in his kitchen next to a phone waiting. Fozzie sits at a desk next to a phone, waiting. They both wait for a long beat. Then, simultaneously, both pick up the phone and dial. Simultaneously, they both get busy signals.

QUICK CUT: Fozzie's about to ring Kermit's doorbell. As he hits the buzzer, Kermit flips on a blender to make a smoothie.

QUICK CUT: Kermit's about to knock on Fozzie's door. Fozzie's hosting a relay race in his backyard. As Kermit hits the doorbell, Fozzie blows an air horn at the exact moment Kermit knocks.

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION

FOZZIE BEAR  
I missed you so much!

KERMIT  
Me too!!!

They hug. Kermit JUMPS on a table and taps a glass.

KERMIT (CONT'D)  
Hey, everyone. Hello. HELLO  
THERE!

Everyone quiets down.

KERMIT (CONT'D)  
Alright, looks like we got everyone  
so we can start planning our  
emergency show.

FOZZIE BEAR  
Well, not everyone.

KERMIT  
Nope. I think we've got everyone.

ROWLF  
Where's --

KERMIT  
All good!

GARY  
-- Miss --

KERMIT  
All done here!

WALTER  
-- Piggy?

Beat. Kermit scrunches up his face.

WALTER (CONT'D)  
Did I say something wrong?

INT. KERMIT'S JET - CONTINUOUS

The gang boards Kermit's bright green jet. SAM THE EAGLE is the captain.

WALTER  
Ohmigoshohmigoshohmygosh it's Sam  
the Eagle.

SAM THE EAGLE  
You are stating the obvious,  
talking brown towel.

INT. KERMIT'S JET - MOMENTS LATER

Our gang's all strapped in on the jet.

SAM THE EAGLE  
I'm your Captain, Sam the Eagle.  
Before we take off, please rise for  
"God Bless America."

They all unstrap and stand up.

SAM THE EAGLE/GANG  
(singing)  
*God Bless America, Land that I  
love./Stand beside her, and guide  
her./Thru the night with a light  
from above.*

As they sing, suddenly the plane taxis and takes off. Everyone, including Sam the Eagle in the cockpit, remains standing as they take off. Loose items in the plane, like beverage carts and luggage, fall every which way.

INT. KERMIT'S JET - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone is sitting in their seats.

SAM THE EAGLE (V.O.)  
It's going to be a twelve hour  
flight to Paris, the city known  
primarily for freedom fries.

FOZZIE BEAR  
France is pretty far.

KERMIT  
Good point.  
(hitting a button)  
Sam, let's travel by map!

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Sam opens a black box to reveal a "travel by map" button. He hits it.

EXT. OLD TIMEY INDIANA JONES STYLE MAP OF THE WORLD

The plane goes from the US to France along a dot trail.

WALTER (V.O.)  
Wow, this is much faster.

GARY (V.O.)  
Really a lot more economical.

KERMIT (V.O.)  
Why don't we always travel by map?

BEAUTY SHOTS OF PARIS TO FRENCH MUSIC

INT. FRENCH VOGUE MAGAZINE - DAY

MISS PIGGY charges into the office. She walks past ANNE HATHAWAY and EMILY BLUNT and SLAMS HER COAT AND BAG on Anne Hathaway's desk.

ANNE HATHAWAY  
Karl Lagerfeld, Agnes B and Michael  
Kors are waiting for you --

As she walks into the office --

MISS PIGGY  
Coffee, bagel, donuts, cinnabon,  
pasta, pizza, omelette station,  
five minutes ago!

Miss Piggy SLAMS the door to her office shut.

INT. MISS PIGGY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

MISS PIGGY holds court before KARL LAGERFIELD, MICHAEL KORS and AGNES B. They're looking at a line of dresses that are green. Anne and Emily bring in the pile of food Miss Piggy requested, including a chef and omelette station.

MISS PIGGY  
What have I told you?

KARL LAGERFIELD/MICHAEL KORS/AGNES  
You do not like green./No green  
couture./Pas de vert.

MISS PIGGY  
And yet you still bring me green!  
Sacre bleu! Throw them in the  
closet I do not speak of!

INT. MISS PIGGY'S GREEN CLOSET

Couture is thrown into a closet filled with green clothes.  
We PAN OVER to find the blinking green watch.

INT. MISS PIGGY'S OFFICE

MISS PIGGY  
Well, what are you waiting for?  
The dresses to make themselves!?

The designers leave. Miss Piggy dramatically collapses onto her chaise and looks wistfully out at the Eiffel Tower as she eats a cinnabon. Anne pokes her head in.

ANNE HATHAWAY  
Mademoiselle Piggy...I have brought  
you a list of suitors who would be  
honored to escort you to the Paris  
fashion show tonight. It is quite a  
group. We have, Leonardo DiCaprio--

MISS PIGGY  
Echh. Never. With his solar panels  
and his Electric Cars. Far too  
Green!

ANNE HATHAWAY  
Zac Efron--

MISS PIGGY  
No, too young. FAR too Green for  
me!!

ANNE HATHAWAY

Seth Green?

MISS PIGGY

(furious)

How many times have I told you!!!!

TOO SHORT!!!! Now get out!!!

(singing)

**MISS PIGGY SINGS A SONG CALLED "I  
HATE GREEN! I LOVE GREEN!"**

Suddenly the doors burst open and the gang steps through.  
The entire gang, with the exception of Kermit.

MISS PIGGY (CONT'D)

What... who... how... where's...

The gang separates and Kermit walks in.

MISS PIGGY (CONT'D)

Kermy!

Miss Piggy goes to hug Kermit.

MISS PIGGY (CONT'D)

No! I promised myself I'd never go  
back! You must leave! At once!

KERMIT

(very fast)

Alright, we tried.

Kermit and all the Muppets start to leave.

WALTER

Wait! You're the best Miss Piggy!  
We need you! The Muppets aren't  
anything without your beauty and  
talent and elegance and ohmigod I'm  
talking to Miss Piggy  
Peanutpeanpeanut!

MISS PIGGY

(considering)

I like you, pashmina with eyes.

GARY

(sotto)

Nice work.

WALTER

(sotto)

I know my Muppets.

EXT. THE PARIS STREETS - DAY

Piggy and Kermit walk along Parisian streets. This should feel like *Before Sunset*. Sad Woody Allen-esque music plays.

MISS PIGGY

The past is the past. What's meant  
to be was meant to be.

KERMIT

Memories are good, but they can  
also be a prison.

MISS PIGGY

A prison of our own making.

ANGLE ON MISS PIGGY. The movie has become black and white. Kermit looks at his black and white body confused.

MISS PIGGY (CONT'D)

What did I do to scare you away?  
How I loved you.

KERMIT

I thought you weren't going to get  
all black and white on me.

The movie goes back to color.

MISS PIGGY

I can't help it when I'm around  
you! My dreams are filled with  
your earless, green head!

Miss Piggy goes to kiss him. Then pulls away.

MISS PIGGY (CONT'D)

When you're young, you believe  
there'll be many pigs and frogs  
with whom you connect. Later you  
realize it only happens a few  
times.

(then, passionate)

Why didn't you come with me to  
Paris? Just tell me! I can hear it!

KERMIT

Because... the French... eat frog  
legs!

MISS PIGGY

Not all of them.

A bunch of FRENCH PEOPLE walk out of a restaurant.

## FRENCH PEOPLE

(in French)

[Those frog legs were delicious/I  
love frog legs!/I could eat a dozen  
frog legs a day... oh, wait I do!]

They all laugh. PULL BACK TO REVEAL that every restaurant on  
the block they're standing on is a Frog Legs bistro.

## MISS PIGGY

We're in the frog legs  
arrondissement. We shouldn't have  
taken our romantic walk in this  
neighborhood. My bad.

(then)

If you had just supported me in my  
career then none of this would have  
happened!

## KERMIT

Look Piggy, this is bigger than  
just us, it's about the whole gang!  
You have to come back with us. The  
Muppets studio is in trouble and if  
we don't put on a show it's going  
to be lost forever!

Piggy considers.

## MISS PIGGY

I will return for the studio, I  
will return for the Muppets, but if  
I return, I will not be returning  
for you.

## KERMIT

OK, great. Sounds good. Let's go.

Kermit starts walking.

## INT. KERMIT'S JET

The whole gang is now on the jet. Miss Piggy and Kermit are  
sitting on opposite sides of the jet.

## MISS PIGGY

(dramatically into the  
middle distance)

There is only one way to get to a  
frog's heart. Jealousy.

## GONZO

Who are you talking to?

MISS PIGGY  
 Everyone. No one. Myself. NONE  
 OF YOUR BEESWAX!

Miss Piggy SEES A FREE SEAT next to Gary who sits next to Walter and a sleeping Mary. Miss Piggy sits down next to him while looking at Kermit.

Miss Piggy starts tickling Gary. Gary starts laughing. Miss Piggy THROWS HER HEAD back in FLIRTATIOUS LAUGHTER. Kermit sees Piggy and Gary laughing together and scrunches up his face in jealousy.

MARY  
 (half asleep, not opening  
 her eyes)  
 What's so funny?

GARY  
 (laughing)  
 Just... Miss... Piggy! She was  
 tickling me. Go back to sleep.  
 (whispering to Piggy)  
 Hey, what's the big idea?

Miss Piggy sees that Kermit has vacated his seat.

MISS PIGGY  
 Mission accomplished.

Everyone's talking to each other. Suddenly out from under the chatter, Walter says:

WALTER  
 So, I don't mean to pry, but I've  
 always wondered, why did you all  
 decide to go your separate ways?

LONG SILENT BEAT. Rowlf and Fozzie ANGRILY LOCK EYES.

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS - **FLASHBACK**

Fozzie is doing his routine on stage and people are starting to boo. Fozzie continues.

FOZZIE BEAR  
 I went to go see a doctor about why  
 my mood was so erratic. He said I  
 might be Bi-POLAR!! Wakka Wakka  
 Wakka.

The crowd boos louder. Rowlf, sitting at his piano sees SWEETUMS REACHING FOR A LEVER BACKSTAGE.

Rowlf motions Sweetums to wait. ROWLF BEGINS PLAYING Fozzie OFF, A LA A LONG ACADEMY AWARDS SPEECH, and the curtain closes on Fozzie mid performance. Just before the curtain has closed we see Fozzie give Rowlf an angry look.

**BACK TO THE JET:** GONZO and CHEF LOCK EYES.

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS - **FLASHBACK**

Chef is doing his cooking act on the Muppet Show.

CHEF

Florgy Borgy, Chicken Catchatory!

In one hand he holds a very sharp knife and in the other he holds up Camilla by the neck who looks terrified. GONZO RUSHES ON STAGE AND TACKLES CHEF! They begin to fight on the ground. The audience watches on in shock.

**BACK TO THE JET:** ELECTRIC MAYHEM and KERMIT LOCK EYES.

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS - **FLASHBACK**

Electric Mayhem is finishing their song and Animal ends with one of his wild drum solos. He gets more and more intense and begins eating and bashing his drums to smithereens. The crowd LOVES it. WE PAN TO BACKSTAGE where Kermit holds a bank statement that says "Drum Budget: \$0.00." Electric Mayhem finishes to a standing ovation and the curtain closes. Kermit goes up to Animal. The panting and still agitated Animal bounces over to Kermit.

KERMIT

Animal, listen, we're running out of money in the drum budget. So I found a place that might be able to help you... calm down.

Kermit hands Animal a piece of paper. Animal takes the piece of paper and EATS it.

**BACK TO THE JET:** KERMIT and MISS PIGGY LOCK EYES.

INT. KERMIT'S JET - MOMENTS AGO - **FLASHBACK**

Gary and Piggy laugh together. Kermit looks on jealously.

**BACK TO THE JET:** ALL THE MUPPETS and KERMIT LOCK EYES.

## INT. MUPPET STUDIOS

The Muppets are lined up for a photo shoot. Just before the photographer takes a photo, Kermit runs up to him and raises his hand. The photographer snaps the photo. The photo turns into the cover of TIME magazine with a headline that reads "Who's the Best Muppet?" Kermit stands in the foreground raising his hand, while the rest of the Muppets sit in the background.

**BACK TO THE JET:** It's incredibly silent and awkward. Animal pulls out his flute and plays a brief burst. Then it's silent again.

WALTER

(like Woody Allen, pulling  
an invisible collar)

Is it uh-h-h me or uh-h-h did it uh-h-h  
just get uh-h-h a little uh-h-h icy uh-h-h  
in here?

REVEAL that everyone on the plane is frozen because Gonzo's opened the door.

SAM THE EAGLE

Close the door, Gonzo!

GONZO

Sorry! I had a great idea for a  
new stunt. But we're not high  
enough.

Gonzo closes the plane door. Fozzie turns to Walter.

FOZZIE BEAR

Like all great comedy teams,  
eventually, you develop  
professional rivalries.

ROWLF

You work together for years and you  
think you're the best in the group,  
the most popular.

SAM THE EAGLE

(sticking his head out)

I was the best. But certainly  
Rowlf was more popular than Fozzie.

ROWLF

I wouldn't say that. Although my  
piano jazz was pretty popular.

FOZZIE BEAR

You kidding? I'm funnier than  
Roberto BEARNini!! Your piano  
playing was un-BEAR-able!  
Wakawakawaka!

MISS PIGGY

No! They loved me for my beauty  
and fashionable-ness!

GONZO

You kidding? Me getting hit in the  
stomach with a cannonball while  
singing an aria from Carmen is like  
the most popular thing ever!

Suddenly the whole plane explodes in a fight over who was the  
most popular.

KERMIT

Guys, stop fighting!  
(then)  
We were all the most popular.

MISS PIGGY

Easy for you to say! You always got  
all the credit!!!

The Muppets all ad-lib agreement.

KERMIT

(hurt and defensive)  
That's just... I've told you, I  
never tried to...I can't help it  
if... you know what, nevermind.

Awkward silence on the plane. The Muppets stare forward not  
making eye contact. We see why they haven't kept in touch. A  
long and painful silence. WALTER starts singing softly.

WALTER

(singing)  
*Together again./Gee it's good to be  
together again./I just can't  
imagine that you've ever been  
gone/It's not starting over, it's  
just going on.*

The mood softens. Piggy joins in.

MISS PIGGY

*Together again./Now we're here and  
there's no need remembering when.*

FOZZIE BEAR  
*Cause no feeling feels like that  
 feeling.*

ALL THREE  
*Together again.*

KERMIT LOOKS TO WALTER, GRATEFUL AND PROUD OF HIS YOUNG  
 PROTEGE.

BEAKER  
 (to the song)  
*Meep meep meep meep meep!*

All the Muppets are getting really into the song.

ALL THE MUPPETS  
*Cause no feeling feels like that  
 feeling!/Together-a!/Together-  
 a!/Together-a!*

All the Muppets are going crazy.

EXT. KERMIT'S JET

The jet is shaking uncontrollably as they all jump up and  
 down with extreme excitement.

INT. KERMIT'S JET

ALL THE MUPPETS  
*Together again!!!!!!*

KERMIT  
 (TRULY THRILLED)  
 LET'S SAVE THE STUDIO!!!!!!!!!!

THE GROUP CHEERS!!!

MISS PIGGY  
 Yay! And just to be clear we're  
 saving the studio cause we want to!  
 Not cause you told us to.

KERMIT  
 Well, of course.

JANICE  
 Yeah, I'm not doing anything for  
 the Man.

KERMIT

I'm not the Man. First of all I'm a frog.

JANICE

Then like, I'm not doing anything for the Frog.

EVERYONE

Down with the Frog! Down with the Frog!

Everyone starts fighting again.

INT. TEX RICHMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Tex sits behind his desk reading a paper which reads "MUPPETS GETTING BACK TOGETHER TO SAVE STUDIO FROM OIL BARRON TEX RICHMAN'S PLAN TO DRILL FOR OIL." He pushes the intercom.

TEX RICHMAN

Bobo, evil cohorts, get in here, NOW!

Bobo enters with several cohorts.

BOBO

What is it boss?

TEX RICHMAN

Seems some new kids on the block got the Muppets back together today to try to stop me from getting my tasty tasty Texas tea!

BOBO

Tea?

TEX RICHMAN

Oil son! Oil! Tasty tasty oil!! And there ain't no way some wet behind the ears upstarts nobody's heard of and a gang of Un-FUNNY, never make people laugh fakers like the Muppets gonna sip up that tasty tea under my watch or my name isn't Tex Richman!

BOBO

It isn't?

TEX RICHMAN

Of course it is. That's the point!  
It is my name, so they ain't gonna  
sip my tasty oil! I made a solemn  
pledge to buy up all the oil in the  
world and dangonit if I ain't gonna  
do it!

BOBO

Out of curiosity, how'd it make the  
news so fast?

TEX RICHMAN

PappaRATzi.

INSERT OF THE PAPER: WRITTEN BY...**A PICTURE OF RIZZO THE RAT**

TEX RICHMAN (CONT'D)

(to Bobo)

I want you to keep an eye on these  
un-funny Jokesters. Fuel up my jet.  
A little taunting from me and those  
Muppets will run home with their  
tails between their legs. Some of  
them literally.

BOBO

Isn't it possible taunting them  
might only galvanize the group?

TEX RICHMAN

Galvanize!! I told you to stop  
making up words you dumb Muppet  
looking moron! Now git!

Bobo looks at him a bit hurt. He begins to leave along with  
the cohorts.

TEX RICHMAN (CONT'D)

Ain't you boys forgetting  
something?

They turn to him confused.

TEX RICHMAN (CONT'D)

Maniac laugh. Maniacal laugh.  
Maniacal laugh.

They all let out their Maniacal laughs and exit.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The cohorts and Bobo exit and stop laughing.

COHORT

Bobo, why does he always do that?

BOBO

What?

COHORT

Say Maniacal laugh? Why doesn't he just laugh?

BOBO

He can't. He's never laughed. Not once. He's never found anything funny. That's why he hates the Muppets. If they can't make him laugh, then no one can.

COHORT 2

He doesn't think the Muppets are funny...that's crazy.

TEX RICHMAN'S VOICE COMES OVER THE INTERCOM.

TEX RICHMAN (O.S.)

Cohort #2, you're fired. Maniacal laugh. Maniacal laugh.

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION - NIGHT

The entire ragtag band of heroes sit in Kermit's living room. A long beat as everyone sits in silence, then:

FOZZIE BEAR

(shocked)

This is your house!?!?

ROWLF

Whoa, man!! I thought we split up the dough evenly!!

RIZZO

Seriously! I share a basement in Chicago with 123 other rats!!

KERMIT

Oh, well, I invested in Apple stock twenty years ago.

FOZZIE BEAR

I invested all my money with...BEAR Sterns. Waca Waca! Bad move. Seriously.

KERMIT

You guys are welcome to stay here whenever you want. I have twenty eight bedrooms.

JANICE

Like, far out man!

PEPE THE PRAWN

Far out??? Come on, ok! This is ridiculous, ok!

JANICE

Ridiculously far out!

MISS PIGGY

Well well. I see someone is still celebrating being the best Muppet.

REVEAL that on the wall, amidst all of Kermit's Muppet stuff is a framed Time cover that reads "Who's the Best Muppet?" Kermit stands in the foreground raising his hand, while the rest of the Muppets sit in the background.

KERMIT

Not this again. Piggy, it's been ten years, why won't you let me explain!!

INT. TIME MAGAZINE PHOTO SHOOT - FLASHBACK

The whole gang is lined up for the photo shoot.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Alright, on the count of three everyone say delicious flies. One, two...

Kermit raises his hand and runs up to the Photographer still with his hand up.

KERMIT

I have to go to the little tadpole's room really badly. Where is it?

The Photographer TAKES the photo.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Down the hall, to the right.

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION

And we're back.

MISS PIGGY  
I don't believe it!

KERMIT  
I swear. The Photographer took the photo and used it without my permission. It was a simple miscommunication caused by my tiny amphibian-sized bladder!

**TIGHT ON MISS PIGGY as we go into QUICK CUTS FLASHBACK**

-- Miss Piggy and Kermit in a line at the airport. Kermit is acting really antsy because he has to pee.

-- Kermit and Miss Piggy are in a theater. Kermit's opening and closing his legs really fast because he has to pee so badly.

-- Miss Piggy and Kermit are at the altar. Kermit holds up his finger and runs behind a bush.

MISS PIGGY  
(defeated)  
It is true. He does have to pee a lot.

KERMIT  
That was kind of an unnecessarily personal flashback to share, dontcha think?

FOZZIE BEAR  
Wow, I guess we really should have let you explain sooner!

MARY  
Sorry to interrupt guys, but if we're going to get a show on tv in time to save the studio, we really gotta shake a leg!  
(then, confused)  
What're you doing?

REVEAL all the Muppets are shaking their legs.

MARY (CONT'D)  
I mean we gotta kick it into high gear!

REVEAL Gonzo's on a motorcycle changing into high gear.

MARY (CONT'D)

No! I'm just saying we're already playing catch up.

REVEAL all the Muppets are holding Ketchup bottles and hitting them with spoons. Mary puts her arm on Kermit's shoulder.

MARY (CONT'D)

You talk to them, Kermit.

Piggy takes notice of her hand.

MISS PIGGY

Eh-hem. Who's the chick...frog!?!?

Gary, who is next to Piggy speaks up.

GARY

Oh, that's my girlfriend, Mary. She was on the plane with us. Remember?

Piggy eyes her skeptically, then puts her arm around Gary.

MISS PIGGY

Really? Hmm. I never would have guessed her for your type of species.

Mary now eyes Piggy, confused and offended.

KERMIT

Mary's right! Let's get to the network before we run out of time!

ANGLE ON Chef who is holding an empty jar of Thyme.

SWEDISH CHEF

Too late.

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION EXECUTIVE OFFICES - DAY

Several quick shots of the Muppets pitching their show.

CBS EXECUTIVE

No.

-- A FOX EXECUTIVE

FOX EXECUTIVE

No.

-- A UNIVISION EXECUTIVE.

UNIVISION EXECUTIVE

Lo siento, perro no.

The Muppets all act really excited.

UNIVISION EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)

That means no.

Their smiles fade.

INT. ABC EXECUTIVE OFFICE - DAY

Kermit sits across from an ABC executive who looks very uncomfortable. Most likely, this is because ALL OF THE OTHER MUPPETS ARE ALSO CRAMMED INTO THE ROOM. There is literally NO SPACE TO MOVE.

ABC EXECUTIVE

I don't get it. Why don't you just keep doing your internet movies?

KERMIT

What internet movies?

The Exec flips on her computer. They see Beaker's youtube "Ode to Joy." Beaker guiltily leaves the meeting.

ABC EXECUTIVE

Listen Kermit, I like you, and so I'm gonna shoot straight. You guys aren't famous anymore.

FOZZIE BEAR

I wish he'd shot a little more curvy! Waca Waca.

The exec looks at Fozzie annoyed and motions to the door.

ABC EXECUTIVE

The answer is no. Not going to happen. Not today, not tomorrow.

JANICE

So, like, Thursday then?

ABC EXECUTIVE

Guys...You're just not cynical enough or violent or ironic enough.

(MORE)

ABC EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)  
 Look at the shows that are popular  
 today. Robot Wars.

CUT TO two COMPUTER-ANIMATED ROBOTS DESTROYING EACH OTHER  
 with a title that comes up that says "Robot Wars."

ABC EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)  
 Credit Card Club.

CUT TO FOUR EXTREMELY RICH LOOKING TEENAGERS WALKING THROUGH  
 CENTRAL PARK dressed in head to toe designer clothes.

RICH KID  
 After the make-out party, you wanna  
 go shopping?

RICH KID 2  
 Gucci-tastic!

ABC EXECUTIVE  
 And, of course, the hyper-  
 educational Soyburger and Numbers.

A QUICK CUT OF NUMBERS and SOY PRODUCTS floating around a  
 screen as a soothing voice speaks. (Baby Einstein spoof)

SOOTHING VOICE  
 How many letters are in the word  
 Harvard?

BACK TO THE ABC EXECUTIVE.

ABC EXECUTIVE  
 I'm sorry, but you guys are no  
 longer relevant.

Kermit rises to leave and heads for the door. Then he stops  
 and turns back.

KERMIT  
 Before I go...well, there's just  
 something I want to say. I think  
 children are smarter and better  
 than all this junk. Sure, they'll  
 watch that stuff if you don't offer  
 them anything else, but we have a  
 chance to make this world better  
 and more fun! You're not going to  
 do that by filling their heads with  
 robots and violence or with rich  
 kids shopping or with boring  
 floating numbers, you're going to  
 do it by filling their heads with  
 laughter and friendship and hope.  
 (MORE)

KERMIT (CONT'D)

I just think... well, I know we're not famous anymore but I want you to know I think you're making a big mistake.

Kermit nods, and reaches for the door handle to leave.

ABC EXECUTIVE

Kermit, wait.  
(Kermit turns back)  
You're right.

KERMIT

I am?

ABC EXEC

Yes. You're not famous anymore.

KERMIT

Oh.

ABC EXECUTIVE

My kids sit in front of the television watching Robot Wars all day, and I wonder why they can't stop beating each other up. My daughter wants a Louis Vuitton hand bag. She's three. I hate myself for selling this stuff and, so... I'm going to take a chance and broadcast your show.

MUPPETS

Yay!

ABC EXECUTIVE

I want you to know that if I get fired for this I'm taking you all down with me.  
(as they're leaving)  
I mean it. I go down. You go down.

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS

Kermit and the Muppets enter the Muppet studios. Walter and Gary look around in amazement. Walter starts shaking uncontrollably.

WALTER

Peanut!

REVEAL that the stage is still there, but quite run down and dirty. It's no matter. Walter is really excited.

PEPE THE PRAWN

I thought they turned this whole place into a paper factory, ok!?

KERMIT

Everything but the theater.

DR. TEETH

(sniffing)

I'm guessing they couldn't get rid of the smell.

We watch as SHEETS are pulled off the THEATER SEATS and the curtain's PULLED BACK. The stage is dusted by Beaker. Electric Mayhem PULLS a sheet off their instruments. Animal goes to touch the drums and then BACKS AWAY scared. Gonzo walks into his supply room and PULLS a sheet off his various stunts. He looks scared to even touch them. Chef walks onto his kitchen set and opens the fridge. It's filled with rotten food. He pulls a flamethrower and BURNS all the food to a crisp and smiles. He's back. Miss Piggy walks into her dressing room and uncovers a bunch of paintings and headshots that feature her. She then sees a photo of her and Kermit which she tosses in the trash.

INT. STAGE - DAY

Kermit stands before all the Muppets.

KERMIT

Alright, guys! It's time to practice! Let's start with our opening!

Electric Karma starts the Muppet Theme. There are no drums because Animal's playing the flute. None of the Muppets can keep time as they march in.

ROWLF

We can't keep time without drums.

ANIMAL

No drums! Sean Penn say no drums for Animal!

SAM THE EAGLE

I am a fighter, not a dancer.

MISS PIGGY

And by the way Kermit, why do you always get to open the show!

KERMIT

Because I'm the only one who can  
fit in the O.

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS - FLASHBACK

We see a flashback of the the Muppet Show sign dropping with Fozzie in the "O." The O breaks off and hangs by one screw. It then smashes to the ground.

-- Miss Piggy in the "O." She's holding on for dear life and screaming.

-- Sweet Ums in the "O." Or rather, only the bottom half of Sweet Ums. The top half of him is off screen.

-- The Muppet Show sign is dropping. There's no one in the O. Suddenly the O CATCHES FIRE and Gonzo, in a motorcycle, FLIES THROUGH THE O. Or rather tries to fly through the O. He basically SMASHES right into the O. He and the rest of the sign catches on fire. Several Muppets put him out with fire hoses.

INT. STAGE - PRESENT DAY

KERMIT

Look, guys, let's not argue. Maybe  
we're just jumping too far ahead.  
Let's see some acts!

CUT TO MOMENTS LATER:

GONZO

The Great Gonzo needs a fearless  
human volunteer willing to risk his  
life, or at the very least his  
cognitive capacity.

Everyone looks to Gary, the only human. He rises tentatively and Gonzo sits him in a chair and places a pin on his head. Camilla comes out and brings Gonzo a bowling ball.

KERMIT

Oh, wait... NOT THE BOWLING BALL  
TRICK! No!! Don't do it Gary!!!  
He'll kill you!!!

The Muppets all turn and hush Kermit. Walter turns to Kermit.

WALTER

What's wrong with the bowling ball  
trick?

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS - FLASHBACK

Several quick shots of the young Gonzo flinging bowling balls at people with pins on their heads and NAILING THEM IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BODY VERY VIOLENTLY, sending them flying off their chairs.

INT. STAGE - PRESENT

And we're back. Now Walter looks terrified too. Gonzo begins swinging the bowling ball in a circular motion, round and round, building anticipation.

KERMIT/WALTER

No!!! Please!!! Not again!!!  
Somebody stop this madness!!!!/Get  
down from there Gary!

But it is too late. Gonzo releases the Bowling ball and it flies towards Gary's head, who closes his eyes in terror. The crowd gasps in fear as the bowling ball PERFECTLY KNOCKS THE PIN OFF Gary's HEAD! The group erupts in applause.

KERMIT

HE DIT IT!!!  
(to God)  
THANK YOU!!!! Thank you!!!

GONZO

(with a bow)  
You're welcome. Donations are  
gladly accepted. Just drop them in  
the collection cluckets.

A gaggle of CHICKENS walk through the group with buckets and some Muppets throw in money. Kermit runs onstage. Kermit looks down at his clipboard.

KERMIT

Okay, next. Bunsen and Beaker!

Bunsen and Beaker pull back a curtain immediately behind Gonzo where they stand next to a mysterious device.

DR. BUNSEN HONEYDEW

The Bowling ball act is actually a  
group routine.

GONZO

(embarrassed)  
Bunsen don't---

DR. BUNSEN HONEYDEW  
 Allow me to explain. This is my  
 Temporal Displacement Machine. To  
 the casual observer, Gonzo's stunt  
 looks indeed miraculous. However,  
 it is in fact my device that is  
 truly astonishing.

GONZO  
 Dr.! NO!

Bunsen flips a screen around on the Machine and replays the  
 stunt for the Muppets.

DR. BUNSEN HONEYDEW  
 You see at the moment of release,  
 my faithful assistant Beaker--

BEAKER  
 Meep Meep.

DR. BUNSEN HONEYDEW  
 (cont.)  
 --- turns the temporal displacement  
 dial...  
 (pointing to a dial on the  
 device)  
 Slowing time to a near halt...

We watch on the screen as everything begins to move  
 incredibly slowly. The bowling ball is clearly going to hit  
 Gary in the crotch. We watch as Beaker walks on stage and  
 literally guides the bowling ball directly to the pin on  
 Gary's head, then casually walk out of frame.

DR. BUNSEN HONEYDEW (CONT'D)  
 Time then resumes it's normal speed  
 and the audience is none the wiser.

GONZO  
 (guiltily)  
 What? I don't want to kill someone!  
 Again!

Kermit looks at the dial.

KERMIT  
 Wait. The dial here says slow,  
 slower and perfect pasta? Why the  
 perfect pasta setting?

DR. BUNSEN HONEYDEW  
 You never know when you might need  
 perfect pasta!

KERMIT

(to Gonzo)

Gonzo, you do stunts! That's what the people expect. The Muppets aren't about cheap tricks. We're about actual talent! Now you have to promise if you do this stunt, you won't be using that freezing time machine.

Gonzo nods and skulks off.

KERMIT (CONT'D)

Now, who's next?

MONTAGE OF MUPPETS PERFORMING THEIR ACTS.

Everyone is terrible.

-- Fozzie Bear does his stand-up act. In the BG, Scooter's on a pogo stick.

FOZZIE BEAR

What's the bear capital of the world? Koala Lampur!

Kermit looks at Rowlf and signals for him to play off Fozzie. Rowlf shakes his head "no."

-- Gonzo destroys another mannequin with his bowling ball.

-- Camilla leads a bunch of chickens in a synchronized swim. They all run into each other. It turns into a chaotic chicken splash fight. In the BG, Rowlf is eating sushi.

-- Sam the Eagle has his firework display. He lights it and stands proudly before it. One single sparkler lights up.

-- Gonzo destroys a mannequin with his bowling ball. Then he accidentally whips another bowling ball behind him, destroying the wall. In the BG, Sweet Ums walks by on his hands.

-- Animal's behind the drum set, still playing flute.

ANIMAL

Baby steps!!! Ahhhhhh!

INT. STAGE

Kermit stands on the stage.

KERMIT  
 Alright, now let's see Walter's  
 act.

WALTER  
 My... my act?

KERMIT  
 Yup.

Walter begins shaking and then runs offstage.

KERMIT (CONT'D)  
 Okay...let's see. Who else is left  
 here?

All the Muppets look at Kermit. He realizes he's the last  
 one to do an act.

INT. MISS PIGGY'S DRESSING ROOM

There's a knock at the door. Miss Piggy turns. Kermit pokes  
 his head in. He notices a bottle of hair dye labelled: JUST  
 FOR PIGS, but looks away respectfully.

KERMIT  
 Ready to practice our duet?

MISS PIGGY  
 I was ready for the duet of life  
 Frog, but that ship has sailed.

KERMIT  
 But Piggy, we have to. The  
 audience expects it.

MISS PIGGY  
 Oh, Kermy... I might lie to get a  
 job. I might lie to get out of a  
 parking ticket. I might lie to get  
 a free croissant. But I will never  
 ever ever lie on stage.  
 (then, making it up)  
 Besides... I'm already doing a duet  
 ... with Gary. Bring him to me!

Miss Piggy turns. Kermit, clearly jealous, leaves the room.

EXT. AUDIENCE - MOMENTS LATER

Gary watches the acts when Mary walks up smiling.

MARY  
Hey, Gary, how's it going?

GARY  
Couldn't be going better!

Angle on Stage: Lou Zealand is hurling fish at Walter who is pinned to a target. They barely miss him, sticking like daggers in the target.

MARY  
Wow, that looks dangerous.

GARY  
No, Lou is like, an expert.

MARY  
Look, I don't mean to be weird but do you think Miss Piggy was a little...

GARY  
A little what?

MARY  
I don't know, she didn't seem to like me very much. Not nearly as much as she liked you at least.

GARY  
(smiling)  
Oh my gosh! You're jealous. That's so cute. Believe me babe, Miss Piggy is just a friend.

Kermit walks into the theater and approaches Mary and Gary.

KERMIT  
Hey, umm... sorry to interrupt, but Miss Piggy wanted to talk to you about something Gary. She's in her dressing room.

GARY  
Oh... ok, I'll be right back.

He kisses Mary on the cheek, and Kermit and Mary look after him as he goes. Kermit sighs and walks off. Mary watches this concerned.

INT. PIGGY'S DRESSING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A knock. Piggy calls out from behind her dressing screen.

PIGGY  
Entre mon amour, s'il vous please.

GARY  
(entering)  
Hi. You wanted to see me?

Piggy walks out from behind the screen in a lovely dress.

MISS PIGGY  
Could you help me with the zipper?

She turns revealing the dress is literally busting open in the back, this zipper is clearly not going up.

GARY  
Oh. Wow. Okay. Sure.

EXT. PIGGY'S DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mary comes walking down the hallway towards the bathroom. However, as she passes Piggy's dressing room she hears:

GARY (O.S.)  
I really don't think this will work.

PIGGY (O.S.)  
We can make it work.

GARY (O.S.)  
But Piggy, I'm only human.

PIGGY (O.S.)  
Just try!!

GARY (O.S.)  
Okay. I don't think it's a good idea, but I'll try.

Mary peeks inside the dressing room and sees GARY trying to zip up PIGGY'S DRESS!!!!!! Mary looks hurt, and leaves.

INT. PIGGY'S DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gary is pulling with all his might on the Zipper, and Piggy is clearly in a great deal of pain. Gary gives up and lets go, and Piggy is able to breath.

PIGGY  
(out of breath)  
When I find out who shrunk my dress-

GARY

I'm sure we can alter it!

PIGGY

Nonsense! We have to find a new, non shrunken dress!! And you're coming with me! We must discuss our duet!! Perhaps over a romantic candle lit all you can eat buffet. I'm starving. Go gather your things, I'll meet you on stage where Kermit can see us.

GARY

I'm sorry, what?

PIGGY

Nothing.

EXT. STAGE

All the Muppets are on lunch break. Gary walks up to Walter.

GARY

(Walter)

Hey bud, you seen Mary?

WALTER

She took off. Felt like she was "hogging" all your time."

Gary knows this is odd. As soon as Kermit enters, Piggy takes Gary's arm.

KERMIT

Alright, everyone. Let's practice the opening again.

No one is listening to him. Kermit grabs a megaphone.

KERMIT (CONT'D)

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE PRACTICE THE OPENING AGAIN?

FOZZIE BEAR

Oh boy. Here we go again!!

GONZO

(eating an Ultimate Baconator Cheeseburger)

We're eating.

KERMIT

Oh. Okay, but let's eat up then,  
cause we really should get back to  
work. We don't have much time.

MISS PIGGY

You're not the boss of us!!

ROWLF

Well, he is the leader.

RIZZO

Says who?

ROWLF

It's just the truth.

MISS PIGGY

Well if that's the truth, does that  
mean that I'm a liar!

The group erupts into fighting again. A cacophony of arguing.  
A second later, TEX RICHMAN WALKS INTO THE THEATER WITH HIS  
COHORTS..

TEX RICHMAN

Maniacal laugh, Maniacal laugh,  
Maniacal laugh. Lookie what we got  
here. We got a frog, a pig, a dog.  
Looks like a good old fashioned  
Korean BBQ to me. Muppets...

(he spits)

Can't even pull it together to  
unite against a common enemy... me,  
to save their studio. Pathetic.

GONZO

Now you listen here! We have  
united! We're just rehearsing our  
finale!!! The... the... cacophony  
of the Muppets!!!

TEX RICHMAN

You can't fool me... thing. I'm a  
hunter, and I know when an animal  
is wounded.

ANGLE ON ANIMAL HOLDING HIS FLUTE

TEX RICHMAN (CONT'D)

And there ain't nothin' you can do now that can stop me from owning this here studio and the tasty tasty texas tea that runs underneath. I'm gonna bathe in this sweet sweet oil until my skin is as leathery as a baseball glove, see. That is, unless you can somehow get ten million viewers for your telethon, which we all know is impossible.

MISS PIGGY

We will get ten million viewers!

KERMIT

That's right! And even if we don't... even if somehow you do own the studio. It wouldn't matter. We're friends, and we'll keep on being the Muppets even if we need to find another place to perform!!!

TEX RICHMAN

("don't make me laugh")  
Make me laugh.

Pause.

SGT. FLOYD PEPPER

I believe the expression is "don't make me laugh."

TEX RICHMAN

I know what I said and I said what I meant. Why would I want you to "don't make me laugh?" You doin' that already. You Muppets never made me laugh, so I'm offering you a last chance. Make me laugh, I give you the studio.

Long Pause. Finally Fozzie steps up dramatically.

FOZZIE BEAR

A man walks into the doctors office. Doctor says, "what's the problem?" Man says, "I have a terrible headache." Doctor says "Well sir, I think you need to stop picking your nose." Man says "Why?" Doctor says "Cause I'm trying to examine you."

Long long beat. Everyone waits. Tex Richman snaps his fingers. Bobo produces the standard rich and famous contract.

TEX RICHMAN

This here is the Standard Rich and Famous contract you signed some thirty years ago, you remember? It's signed right here by one Kermit the Frog!?

KERMIT

Yes.

TEX RICHMAN

Well maybe you shoulda read the fine print.

He holds a HUGE magnifying glass to some incredibly small fine print.

TEX RICHMAN (CONT'D)

See, in three days it's not just this studio you lose the rights to. It's the Muppet name itself. And not just that, but ALL characters under the Muppet name. See, I don't just own the studio. I own... THE MUPPETS. I own the loveable frog, the arrogant pig, the mediocre bear. I own em all!!! So enjoy your last few days together, cause after your failed telethon, you ever want to work together again.... You workin' for me. Maniacal laugh  
Maniacal laugh.

He and his cohorts exit. Pregnant pause.

SCOOTER

Ummm. Kermit. Did he just say that you signed a contract that sold not only the studio but also the rights to the Muppet name and our on-stage personalities which, incidently happen to also be our personal personalities.

Kermit gulps. All the Muppets move to pounce on Kermit.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. COURTROOM - LATER

Kermit sits in the Witness chair. Our Muppets sit in the jury box, and Sam the Eagle presides as Judge. Janice and Scooter sit as Prosecution and Defense, and the rest of our Muppets sit in the pews and watch the proceedings.

KERMIT

I swear, I had no idea. It was thirty years ago! I had never signed a contract before!

Janice stands.

JANICE

So like...why do I have this like signed contract dating two years before we ever went to Hollywood.

Kermit looks at it.

KERMIT

That's not a contract, that's a receipt for my Banjo.

JANICE

So you say. Like...so you say.

The Muppets mumble in agreement.

KERMIT

I didn't have time to read the fine print! And besides, you all wanted me to sign...remember!?!?!?

CUT TO:

INT. WORLD WIDE STUDIOS - FLASHBACK

The Muppets stand before Orson Wells.

ORSON WELLS

Prepare the Standard Rich and Famous contract for Kermit the Frog and Company.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kermit stands over the MASSIVE CONTRACT surrounded by the Muppets. He is glancing through it.

MUPPETS

Sign it. Sign it. Sign it. Sign  
it!!!

KERMIT

Don't you think we should read...

MUPPETS

SIGN IT! SIGN IT! SIGN IT! SIGN IT!

INT. COURTROOM - PRESENT

The Muppets all mumble to each other.

KERMIT

I swear, I would never have done  
this on purpose. Please, you've got  
to...

JANICE

Sustained!

KERMIT

You're not supposed to say that.

The Muppets consider.

JANICE

One final question your honor.

SAM THE EAGLE

Proceed hippie.

JANICE

Like, why do you have a courtroom  
in your house?

KERMIT

There's fifty rooms in this house,  
and I ran out of ideas, so I  
thought... how about a courtroom?  
Glad it finally came in handy.

JANICE

(as though she got him)  
Like, so you say. I rest my case.

The Muppets all mumble to each other. Then, a small voice is  
heard from the back of the room.

WALTER

Your fake honor, may I approach the  
fake bench?

SAM THE EAGLE

You may, flattened, miniature  
badger.

Walter, who was sitting next to Gary, heads to the front of the room and addresses the Muppets.

WALTER

When I was just a little brown puppet I felt really all alone. Then I saw my first episode of the Muppet show and even though I didn't know any of you, I finally had something to hope for. That someday I could be a Muppet. You guys have the power to change people, to give kids hope, but the only way you can do it is if you work together to defeat this Tex Richman guy. Don't you get it! If you don't, you'll never get to perform together AGAIN!!! We can't let that happen. Now I know I'm not one of you, but maybe that's why I can see it all so clearly. You guys are being stupid! Like really stupid! Like super duper stupid! Now how about we cut it out and put on a show already!!!!

Silence. Finally, Janice stands.

JANICE

Your honor, like, in light of the soggy burnt poptart's speech... the Muppets would like to like, drop all charges and put on a show.

THE WHOLE ROOM ERUPTS IN CHEERS!!!!!! THEY RUN OUT. Walter's following them.

KERMIT

You stay here!

WALTER

What? Why?

KERMIT

Cause if you're going to join the gang you gotta figure out your act! By tomorrow night!

He pats Walter on the back and leaves.

WALTER  
 (nervous)  
 Join the gang?.....Pppppeanut!

He turns to Gary who smiles and gives Walter the thumbs up.

WALTER (CONT'D)  
 But...but Gary... I don't have a  
 talent. I'm... totally talentless.  
 Remember when we auditioned for  
 America's got talent?

GARY  
 No.

WALTER  
 Gary, remember...

INT. AMERICA'S GOT TALENT - DAY

The early auditioning rounds of America's got Talent. Gary walks out on stage carrying Walter and they approach the mic.

DAVID HASSELHOF  
 So, what will you be doing for us  
 today?

GARY  
 Hi. My name is Gary and this is my  
 friend Walter.

Walter just stares lifelessly at the panel.

GARY (CONT'D)  
 Say hi Walter.  
 (long beat)  
 Walter.

WALTER  
 (shaking, whispered)  
 Peanut.

Peirs hits his buzzer. So does Hasselhof.

GARY  
 Buddy, please say something.

Sharon hits her buzzer.

PEIRS  
 Honestly, get off the stage. You  
 are without a doubt the worst  
 Ventriloquist I've ever seen.

GARY

No... no I'm not a Ventriloquist.  
He's alive, he's my friend.

Sharon rises angrily from her chair.

SHARON OSBOURNE

GET OFF THE STAGE!!!!!!!!!!!!

INT. COURTROOM - BACK TO PRESENT

WALTER

We didn't even get to our song and  
dance.

GARY

Yeah. That's right. That was so bad  
I completely forgot it happened.  
Don't worry. There's no way  
something like that could ever  
happen twice in a row. You'll find  
your talent and it'll be great.

Gary exits, and Walter looks mortified.

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS/KERMIT'S HOUSE/ LOS ANGELES - MONTAGE

A montage of the Muppets each practicing their acts in  
harmony. They are getting better.

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS STAGE

Gary and Piggy rehearse "I'm Your Puppet" on stage. Kermit  
watches from off stage, jealously. Mary walks in and sees  
what's happening. She looks jealous and leaves.

INT. ABC PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

It's a gigantic office, like way, way too big with a giant  
oil painting of the ABC President right above his desk. The  
ABC Exec pokes her head in.

ABC PRESIDENT

What is this about a Muppet show?  
Nobody's heard from them in years.

ABC EXECUTIVE

I just thought --

ABC PRESIDENT

I don't pay you to think. You're a television executive.

ABC EXECUTIVE

But if we give them a chance --

ABC PRESIDENT

Fine. But if this doesn't work out, you're out on the street, no ifs, ands or buts.

(then, friendly, pan to reveal a sundae bar)

You want some ice cream? I just got this sundae bar installed to make me more approachable.

ABC EXECUTIVE

I'm good.

The ABC President shoots the ABC Executive a long look.

ABC EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)

I would like butter pecan with sprinkles please.

EXT. STAGE

Kermit gets a call. In the background we see Beaker spinning plates on sticks. SPLIT SCREEN BETWEEN HIM AND THE ABC EXECUTIVE.

ABC EXECUTIVE

Hey, so I was just checking to see how it's all going?

Beaker has a dozen plates spinning. He puts one final plate on top and the whole thing comes crashing down on him.

KERMIT

It's going great! Really great!

ABC EXECUTIVE

So, who's going to be hosting?

KERMIT

I am. Like always.

ABC EXECUTIVE

That's adorable. No, seriously. Who's going to host it? We need a celebrity. Pronto. Otherwise I'm getting fired.

(MORE)

ABC EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)

And just to reiterate, if I get fired you are all going down with me. I mean it. Get a star. Now. Also, have you booked an audience?

INT. TEX RICHMAN'S LOS ANGELES OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tex Richman and Bobo ride on the top of a double decker tour bus through Los Angeles. Bobo wears spy headphones and holds an antenna.

BOBO

They need to find a celebrity to host their show or ABC won't broadcast it!

TEX RICHMAN

Perfect! All we gotta do is run a little interference! They're gonna have a harder time finding a real celebrity than dancing with the stars!!!

EXT. MOVIE PREMIERE AT MANN'S CHINESE - DAY

This is a movie premiere for the film "MICHAEL CLAYTON 2: THIS TIME IT'S LESS COMPLICATED AND HAS MORE ACTION." George Clooney poses for paparazzi on the red carpet. Dr. Teeth and Electric Mayhem are pretending to be paparazzi and cameramen.

GEORGE CLOONEY

It was really satisfying to revisit the role of Michael Clayton.

JANICE

(posing as a reporter)  
So, like, is it true that due to your, like, total and complete love of charity you're going to be hosting the Muppet Benefit?

GEORGE CLOONEY

Wait a minute. You're not with Telemundo.

JANICE

(batting her eyes at him)  
Like, que Senor Clooney?

Tex Richman, dressed like an AGENT, whispers something in Clooney's ear.

GEORGE CLOONEY

No can do. You're not famous anymore. It's just not good for my career.

SGT. FLOYD PEPPER

Didn't stop you from doing Leatherheads!!

George Clooney whispers something in Tex's ear.

TEX RICHMAN

Security!

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION

QUICK CUTS of Walter trying to imitate different Muppet talents: Stunts like Gonzo, Piano like Rowlf, a fashion show like Piggy.

INT. MR. CHOW'S - LUNCHTIME

Jack Black, Ben Stiller, Mel Brooks and Steve Carell are all eating lunch. A plate arrives. The waiter takes the top off the dish revealing Pepe the King Prawn. REVEAL the Waiter is Sweetums.

PEPE THE PRAWN

You guys wanna be in a big Muppet benefit?

STEVE/BEN

Uh no./Not in a million years.

A second plate is put down on the table. Jack lifts the hood off. Kermit's on the second plate.

KERMIT

C'mon, Jack. You seem like someone who loves fun?

JACK BLACK

I'd do it if you were famous. Or if it would somehow benefit me personally.

MEL BROOKS

I'll do it. I love a live show.

KERMIT

Thanks a lot, mister, but we need big stars.

Mel Brooks motions to a waiter, Tex Richman IN DISGUISE and whispers in his ear.

TEX RICHMAN  
SECURITY!!!

KERMIT  
I didn't realize Chinese  
restaurants had security.

A bunch of ninjas drop down and pull them away.

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION

Walter tries playing saxophone. It sounds awful

INT. DRESSING ROOM

Sarah Jessica Parker is changing into couture when Miss Piggy slides in under the door.

MISS PIGGY  
Hello lover.

SARAH JESSICA PARKER  
SECURITY!!!!

Tex Richman DRESSED AS SECURITY grabs Piggy.

INT. JAMBA JUICE - DAY

Jon Favreau and Vince Vaughn sit having smoothies. Both are dressed very casually, Jon reads the paper and has a baby in a stroller next to him.

VINCE VAUGHN  
I think there's pineapple in this  
Super Citrus Blast. I'm just  
saying, if there's pineapple, tell  
a guy. When I think of citrus,  
pineapple doesn't immediately jump  
to mind.

RIZZO THE RAT approaches dressed in a very "swingers" black suit and tie.

RIZZO  
Smoothie, baby. Smoothie. It's me.  
Rizzo! C'mon! Rizzo the Rat baby!  
Remember, Swingers?! I'm just  
heading to Vegas, baby, yeah.

JON FAVREAU

I can't go to Vegas. Swingers was ten years ago! I'm married now. I'm a director. I have two kids.

VINCE VAUGHN

I'll go to Vegas.

RIZZO

Vinnie, let me ask you, you wanna host our benefit show on Saturday?

VINCE VAUGHN

I can't, I'm gonna be in Vegas.

RIZZO

C'mon Jonny Boy! What do you say Big Man?

JON FAVREAU

Did you just call me big man? I'm on a juice diet now!! SECURITY!!!!!!

REVEAL: Tex Richman making a smoothie. He snaps his fingers and JAMBA JUICE security swoop in and tackle Rizzo.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Gonzo and Camilla sit in a small Citroen with sunglasses on. Matt Damon walks out of the office. Gonzo gets out of the car and walks up to him.

GONZO

Mr. Damon! Interested in doing a benefit?

Matt Damon turns and TAKES OFF. Gonzo gives chase. Damon climbs up a nearby fire escape. Gonzo runs up it to. Suddenly we're in a full scale Bourne-style movie with crazy jump cuts. They get to the roof and start JUMPING from roof top to roof top. Damon, using elegant parkour, jumps down between two buildings and lands on the ground to be confronted by a SCREECHING CAR being driven by Camilla. Damon RUNS OVER the car. Gonzo jumps off the building and SPLATS on the ground. He shakes himself off and gives chase. Now suddenly WE'RE IN a Morocco-like place. Damon turns a corner to be confronted by Beaker and Honeydew on motorcycles. They DRIVE UP the stairs. Damon SMASHES through a window and turns to see Gonzo there.

MATT DAMON

(out of breath)  
Security.

Tex Richman and several guards surround Gonzo.

INT. COPY CATZ

Scooter goes into Copy Katz to pick up the fliers.

SCOOTER

Hey, my name's Scooter. I just  
came to pick up our fliers.

The Copy Katz employee turns around to reveal a DISGUISED Tex Richman.

TEX RICHMAN

Here's your sweet, sweet fliers.  
Meeeow help you with anything else?  
Maniacal laugh!

Scooter looks at him sceptically. Tex HANDS the box to Scooter. Scooter walks off, confused.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BLVD

Scooter hands out the fliers to tourists, locals and a guy dressed in the dirty Spiderman costume.

SCOOTER

Come to see the Muppets reunited!  
This Sunday at 7PM!

People are taking the fliers. ZOOM IN on the flier. The fliers actually say "Monday at 2AM at the Dubai International Convention Center."

INT. NICE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Mary and Gary sit across from each other at a fancy restaurant. Both are dressed up and look great.

GARY

You look beautiful. I'm sorry I  
haven't been around lately but,  
well, happy anniversary.

MARY

To you as well. So...how's your  
duet practicing going?

GARY

Good...you know. Miss Piggy can be a bit of a handful but we're getting through it. I sure miss you though, I'll tell you that.

She smiles and they hold hands. The Maitre 'D approaches the table with a broken arm.

MAITRE DE

Welcome back, Sir. Out of curiosity, will Miss Piggy be joining you again? I only ask because I don't want to run out of truffles again.

GARY

(caught)

No. It's just the two of us. Actually, it's our anniversary.

He leaves. Mary stares at Gary.

GARY (CONT'D)

We were just picking up food for everyone. Then Piggy wanted to have some truffles and next thing I knew it was three hours later and the local supply of truffles had run dry.

MARY

I don't know Gary. I didn't want to do this, especially not on our anniversary but... it just seems like you don't even think about me anymore. This was supposed to be our anniversary vacation and I feel like I've just disappeared for the last thirty minutes of the movie.

Gary looks a bit guilty.

GARY

I understand. But, I mean...it's not like I wrote it.

Mary looks at Gary, who looks down guiltily.

GARY (CONT'D)

I understand. I just couldn't have anticipated any of this would happen. But I promise you, you are the number one thing in my life.

Tex Richman in disguise approaches holding a magazine.

TEX RICHMAN IN DISGUISE  
 Sorry to bother you, but I was  
 hoping I could have your autograph.

GARY  
 Me. Sure, but...why?

TEX RICHMAN IN DISGUISE  
 You're Miss Piggy's new man!

He plops the tabloid mag down on the table which has a headline - MISS PIGGY'S NEW MAN!!! It has photos of Gary squiring Piggy around town to find a dress.

GARY  
 I can explain!

His phone rings. He looks down and sees the caller ID reads LA COUNTY JAIL. He answers.

GARY (CONT'D)  
 Hello? PIGGY!?! What are  
 you...you're where?!?! All of you?  
 Okay I'll be right down!!

Gary hangs up and turns to Mary to explain, only to find that SHE IS GONE. She's left a present. Gary opens it. It's a framed photo of Mary, Gary and Walter.

INT. JAIL - NIGHT

We pan down the hallway of the jail peering through the cells where our Muppets sit, dejected. We continue panning until we reach the final cell where CHARLES GRODIN sits, still incarcerated from "The Great Muppet Caper."

INT. JAIL

A guard walks down the hall.

PRISON GUARD  
 Alright, you're free to go. You've  
 been bailed out.

The cell door is opened and our Muppets make their way out. Charles Grodin sees Piggy as she exits.

CHARLES GRODIN  
 It's you! Piggy! I never thought  
 I'd see you again!!! Come back!  
 (MORE)

CHARLES GRODIN (CONT'D)  
 We can still make bacon together!!!  
 It's fate!!!

She sees him and quickly turns to the gang.

MISS PIGGY  
 Go. Move! Move it along!!!!

CHARLES GRODIN  
 AT LEAST I'M NOT A RAT!!

Rizzo crosses back into frame.

RIZZO  
 I resent that!

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION - NIGHT

Our gang sits around looking to Kermit for inspiration.

GONZO  
 So we couldn't get any big stars,  
 what do we do now Kermit?

FOZZY BEAR  
 Yeah Kermit! We need an idea fast!

Kermit rises. A long beat. He looks like he might cry.

KERMIT  
 (sadly)  
 We give up.

Everyone gasps in shock.

KERMIT (CONT'D)  
 We tried. We tried everything we  
 could think of. I'm sorry if I let  
 you guys down, but I guess... well  
 I guess this is the end of the  
 Muppets. I love you guys, but I  
 don't know what else to do.

Kermit turns and walks out of the room, beaten.

EXT. KERMIT'S MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Kermit walks out onto his patio and gazes out at the full moon sadly. Stars twinkle behind him. From behind, we watch Kermit wipe a tear from his eye.

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Our dejected heroes sit in shock at their leader's surrender. A long moment of silence. Finally, Miss Piggy rises and walks out the glass doors onto the veranda.

EXT. KERMIT'S MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Miss Piggy sees Kermit and walks towards him. She takes a place next to him and the two stand, backs to camera, framing the full moon. They stare at it in silence for a beat, then Miss Piggy turns to Kermit who continues gazing at the sky.

MISS PIGGY

Kermit. I have never seen you like this. It kills me to see you so sad. And do you know why? Because I love you Kermie, not just as a frog, but as a friend. And it's not just me. It's all of us. We look up to you. We need you. So don't give up. Because these past few days. Well they've been the best few days we've had since we've been apart. Kermit, you're the best thing I've ever known.

Kermit turns to Piggy and the two stand in profile.

MUSIC UP: Marvin Gaye's version of "I'm Your Puppet." Kermit and Piggy gaze into each others eyes. They should kiss. Then:

KERMIT

YOU'RE RIGHT PIGGY!! WE'VE GOT TO  
SAVE THE STUDIO!!!!

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Our dejected gang sits in the living room, as Kermit comes racing through and heads out the front door.

KERMIT

It's time to get our big star and  
save the studio!

The gang all cheers and follows. Once the living room is empty, Piggy crosses frame after them, slowly and annoyed.

EXT. JACK BLACK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kermit, alone, walks tentatively to the front door and rings the bell. Finally, the door opens revealing Jack Black in his pajamas with a Guitar Hero guitar around his neck eating a sandwich.

JACK BLACK  
Kermit? What are you doing here?

KERMIT  
I just wanted to talk to you about the benefit show --

JACK BLACK  
(cutting him off)  
---I'm sorry Kermit. I thought we discussed this. And as you can see, I'm kind of busy eating this sandwich. I gotta go.

MISS PIGGY (O.S.)  
NOW!!!!!!

We see that Miss Piggy, dressed like a cat burglar, is standing on the roof of Jack's house. She leaps off and lands on Jack Black, toppling him. ALL OF THE MUPPETS SWOOP IN ON ROPES, MOTORCYCLES AND JETPACKS, DRESSED IN ALL BLACK, and restrain JACK with ropes and a gag. THIS SHOULD BE AS VIOLENT AS OUR RATING WILL ALLOW!! Piggy leaves the fray and approaches Kermit as the gang subdues Jack.

MISS PIGGY (CONT'D)  
You did it Kermie!!

KERMIT  
No, we...

MISS PIGGY  
Shhhh.

MUSIC UP: I'M YOUR PUPPET (MARVIN GAYE)

Piggy and Kermit stand face to face, framing the violent kidnapping of Jack Black. A long beat as they stare into each other's eyes. Piggy leans in for a kiss. KERMIT PANICS.

KERMIT  
Ummm..... PEANUT!!!!

He joins the fray, leaving Piggy standing alone, puckering.

MISS PIGGY

(angry)

That's it frog!!! Never again!!!!  
Never again!!!!!!

She walks off and spots Gary sitting on the curb looking at something. She goes and sits next to him.

MISS PIGGY (CONT'D)

He makes me so angry sometimes.

Gary looks at her sadly, then looks back at the framed photo of Mary in his hands. Miss Piggy takes this in and STEALS OFF without him noticing.

INT. SMALL TOWN ELEMENTARY

Mary is at her desk as her class takes a quiz when an invite is slipped under door. She opens the invite. It reads "Ms. Mary Greggs and Her Class Are Invited to see the Muppets Perform as a guest of Gary Stevens." She opens the door. PIGGY IS STANDING THERE WAITING, DRESSED TO THE NINES.

MARY

Oh. Hello.

MISS PIGGY

May I come in?

MARY

Um. Alright. Did you just slip this letter under the door?

MISS PIGGY

Perhaps.

MARY

How did you get here?

MISS PIGGY

I may or may not have borrowed someone's jet without asking.

MARY

Kermit?

MISS PIGGY

Perhaps

(she enters)

Perhaps. I have come to talk to you about your boyfriend... what's his name again? Ah yes, that's it, Carey.

MARY

Gary.

MISS PIGGY

Gary. Indeed. Listen Carey, I think there has been a misunderstanding.

MARY

Mary.

MISS PIGGY

Piggy. Miss Piggy. And you see Carey, I know that you and Carey have been having some problems. And I know that I may be somewhat at fault for said problems so I just want you to know, I have no interest in Carey whatsoever.

MARY

Gary.

MISS PIGGY

Piggy. Listen dear, I know we got off on the wrong hoof, and I understand your jealousy, I really do, but if you must know, there is only one out there for me...

MARY

Kermit?

MISS PIGGY

I can't say! But what I can say, Carey, is that Carey is a good man, and you must not let my beauty, fame or talent get in the way of the love you share. We are strong women you and I, and women like us must stick together. Perhaps this is best expressed in a female power anthem.

**Insert "Women in a Man's world", a Dolly Parton-esque song between Piggy and Mary as the class watches on.**

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack Black, in a tuxedo, is bound and gagged in a chair. Scooter enters enthusiastically.

SCOOTER  
Five minutes to curtain Mr.  
Black!!!

Jack writhes in his chair and tries to yell through the gag.

SCOOTER (CONT'D)  
Can I get you anything?!?!  
(off Jack's grunts)  
Sounds great. Good luck out  
there!!!

Scooter exits.

INT. WALTER'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Walter's getting make up done as Gary sits on the couch.

GARY  
So, are you good to go, buddy?  
What's your act gonna be! I'm dying  
to know!?! Are you excited!?!

WALTER  
Totally. I mean, there's going to  
be so many people out there,  
hundreds of people, but that'll  
just make it more fun, right?  
Right, totally.

Walter starts shaking.

GARY  
Are you shaking?

WALTER  
No. Just doing a little pre-  
performance loosening up. Probably  
should loosen up my teeth as well.

Walter's teeth start nervously chattering.

INT. MUPPET SHOW THEATER - AUDIENCE AREA

ANGLE ON STATLER AND WALDORF IN THE BALCONY

STATLER  
Well someone really cleared the  
room.

WALDORF  
I wish we'd gotten the message!

PULL BACK to reveal there's no audience. The ABC Executive walks in and is horrified. She runs backstage.

INT. BACKSTAGE

The ABC Executive walks up to Kermit and Scooter.

ABC EXECUTIVE  
We have a problem. No audience.

KERMIT  
Scooter, did you remember to pass out the fliers?

SCOOTER  
Of course. We gave them all out.

Kermit looks at the flier.

KERMIT  
The time of the show... it's wrong!  
Dubai!! That's a totally irrational  
location for a Muppet Reunion!!

INT. DUBAI ARENA - NIGHT

Quick shot of a completely packed stadium in Dubai filled with Middle Eastern Muppet fans. People are getting restless.

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS LA BREA - BACK TO PRESENT

KERMIT  
It'll be OK. We'll think of something.

ABC EXECUTIVE  
Hey, totally cool. Just keep in mind, I go down you go down.

INT. STAGE - BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Kermit stands before all the Muppets.

KERMIT  
So we've encountered a tiny little totally not a big deal obstacle which is that we lack an audience.

The Muppets get upset, although Walter's relieved.

FOZZIE BEAR

Next time try sugarcoating it a little!

KERMIT

You guys still want to do this?

WALTER

Putting on a Muppet show isn't about fame and fortune --

MISS PIGGY

Speak for yourself.

FOZZIE BEAR

It's about laughter --

ROWLF

And music --

MISS PIGGY

And being beautiful and glamorous --

GONZO

And setting fire to yourself --

ANIMAL

And smashing... flute --

SAM THE EAGLE

And waving a flag majestically --

DR. BUNSEN HONEYDEW

And advancing the cause of science -

BEAKER

Meep meep meep meep meep

SWEDISH CHEF

And Florgy borg borg --

KERMIT

So, what do you say?

The Muppets all look to each other considering. Smiles creep onto their faces. Scooter runs in.

SCOOTER

Some people just came in!

The Muppets POKE their heads out of the curtain to see Mary and her class sitting down. The rest of the audience is empty. Gary's eyes light up.

INT. DARK AND GLOOMY BASEMENT ROOM - EVENING

Scooter's on camera.

SCOOTER

And we've got three seconds till we  
air, and three, two, one --

PAN TO Kermit.

KERMIT

It's the Best Muppet Show benefit  
Ever Made with our special guest,  
Jack Black!

WHIP PAN to Jack Black who's tied up in a chair.

JACK BLACK

I'm being held under duress!  
Please release me!

Mary and her class laugh.

JACK BLACK (CONT'D)

Stop laughing! I'm not kidding!  
They've kidnapped me!

ANGLE ON STATLER AND WALDORF SITTING IN THEIR USUAL SEATS IN  
THE BALCONY.

STATLER

The only way you'd get me to watch  
this junk is if you kidnapped me as  
well!

MUPPET SHOW THEME STARTS PLAYING. The walls of the dark and  
gloomy basement room fall down revealing a stage. We see a  
shot for shot remake of the classic opening of the Muppet  
Show, except that Jack Black is tied up in every shot and  
there is no audience (except for Mary and her class).

INT. WALTER'S DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Walter watches the show on his monitor, much more confident  
now that there's no audience. Gary, in a tuxedo, checks in.

GARY

You feeling a little better?

WALTER

Yeah. I mean there's basically no  
audience. So I am ready to  
perform.

INT. MUPPET SHOW STAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Kermit stands center stage.

KERMIT

And so once this graph --

Dr. Honeydew pulls a curtain revealing a GIANT LIGHT UP GRAPH SHAPED LIKE AN OIL FOUNTAIN.

KERMIT (CONT'D)

-- hits ten million viewers we get to keep the studio!!!

Mary and her class clap.

KERMIT (CONT'D)

Right now we're at five hundred viewers. Only 9999500 viewers left to go! And by the way... We have plenty of room here in the audience...

(swing to empty audience)

...so if you wanna come down and see the show live... well, we've got room for you!!

Kermit turns to Jack Black.

KERMIT (CONT'D)

So, Jack Black, are you excited or what?

WALDORF

Or what!

Waldorf and Statler laugh.

JACK BLACK

Please somebody, anybody call the police! This is real rope! I'm really tied up here!

Mary and her class laugh at his antics.

INT. TEX RICHMAN'S SUPER HIGH TECH NERVE CENTER - NIGHT

Tex Richman and his underlings sit before a bank of monitors. The graph of viewers watching the Muppet show is very low.

TEX RICHMAN

Five hundred viewers?! If it stays that low, they won't air but five minutes. Turns out America don't care about talking felt!

Bobo looks hurt.

BOBO

Well, I'm technically talking felt.

TEX RICHMAN

(sarcastic)

Did I hurt feelings? Sorrry!

INT. MUPPET SHOW STAGE

Gonzo walks on. A background drops that says in giant letters THE AMAZING GONZO.

GONZO

Prepare yourselves, ladies and germs, for Gonzo's most amazing feat next. Head bowling!

REVEAL that Jack has a pin on his head and Gonzo's holding a bowling ball.

JACK BLACK

I have not signed off on this!

GONZO

Drumroll please!

SFX: Animal plays the flute.

GONZO (CONT'D)

And a one! And a two! And a...

Gonzo spins the bowling ball around and around.

GONZO (CONT'D)

... three!

Jack flinches as Gonzo tries to let the bowling ball go. His arm is now spinning wildly around and around in a circle. Jack flinches. He remains flinched and then opens his eyes.

GONZO (CONT'D)

My fingers got stuck. One sec.

JACK BLACK

Please make this end! Please!

GONZO  
Here we go!

Jack flinches. Gonzo's arm continues to spin in circles.

GONZO (CONT'D)  
False alarm.

INT. NORMAL AMERICAN LIVING ROOM

A family stares bored at "Soyburger and Numbers." The Mother starts channel surfing. She hits the Muppets. The LITTLE GIRL starts laughing joyfully at the antics.

INT. TEX RICHMAN'S SUPER HIGH TECH NERVE CENTER

The graph of viewers watching the Muppet show moves up.

BOBO  
Sir, we have a problem.

TEX RICHMAN  
Just a commercial break. Nothing to worry about.

INT. GEORGE CLOONEY'S MOD HOUSE - DAY

George Clooney is watching television on an enormous flat screen and flipping through the channels. He lands on Gonzo spinning the bowling ball as Jack Black flinches. The entire audience laughs hysterically. George Clooney laughs and then looks angry. George Clooney picks up the phone and dials.

GEORGE CLOONEY  
Why am I not a part of the Greatest Muppet Benefit Ever? Jack Black is killing.

INT. MUPPET SHOW THEATER - AUDIENCE AREA

People stream into the audience, filling it up.

INT. WALTER'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Gary pokes his head in. Walter could not be more relaxed.

GARY  
Great news! The theater's packed!

Walter instantly starts shaking, turns to Gary.

WALTER

Oh. Great. You know, if you wouldn't mind, I think I just need a second alone? Just to get excited.

GARY

Of course, buddy. Everything will be great! And just so you know... I'm nervous too.

WALTER

Who said anything about being nervous?

Walter tries in vain not to shake again. Gary smiles reassuringly and heads out. Walter starts to hyperventilate. Walter starts running around his dressing room in spazzy circles, dashes to the window, and crashes through it.

INT. MUPPET SHOW STAGE

Gonzo continues to spin his arm in a circle.

JACK BLACK

Just make it end already!

The audience laughs. Kermit steps in front of them.

KERMIT

We'll get to see what happens with Head Bowling later in the show! And now FOZZIE BEAR!!!!

Jack and Gonzo get rolled off stage, Gonzo's arm still spinning, Jack still flinching. Fozzie comes onstage.

FOZZIE

So glad to see you all made it, especially with the traffic being so bad. You know what I do to get through traffic? Grin and bear it.

No one laughs except for the ABC Executive who's having an oddly great time. ANGLE ON Kermit getting nervous. He and Rowlf see Sweetums heading for the mysterious lever. He looks to Rowlf at the piano and gives him a nod to play him off, but again, Rowlf refuses. George Clooney suddenly walks past Kermit and onto the stage.

ANGLE ON FOZZIE

FOZZIE (CONT'D)

Is it me or is it getting hot in here? Wish I could take off my coat! Waca waca!

George Clooney heads onstage behind Fozzie. The audience cheers and laughs. Fozzie smiles, thinking his joke worked out. Then he turns.

FOZZIE (CONT'D)

George Clooney! Oh my goodness! You made it!!

GEORGE CLOONEY

Just Bear-ily. Traffic was grizzly! Waca Waca Waca!!

The crowd erupts in laughter.

FOZZIE

Wait a minute, I just did almost the same joke! You'll laugh at his puns but not mine!?!

GEORGE CLOONEY

I'm a big star Fozzie, they'll laugh at anything I do.

FOZZIE

Not Leatherheads.

The crowd erupts in laughter, the ABC Exec chief among them.

GEORGE CLOONEY

Geez, will you lay off Leatherheads already?!

FOZZIE

What? You should be happy. That's the biggest laugh that movie ever got!

The crowd goes nuts.

CUT TO A GRID OF CELEBRITIES in their various houses watching their television, including CHRIS ROCK, MARTIN SHORT, JON MEYER, NORAH JONES, SARAH JESSICA PARKER, HARRISON FORD, BEN STILLER and really whoever we think we can get, picking up their phones and calling their agents.

## CELEBRITIES

Clooney's killing!/Why am I not on  
this thing?/I want in!/I'm twice  
the talent of Clooney! He's just a  
pretty face!

PAN DOWN A ROW OF HOUSES IN THE SUBURBS AS WE SEE televisions  
flipping to the Muppet Show Benefit.

INT. TEX RICHMAN'S SUPER HIGH TECH NERVE CENTER

The graph of viewers watching the Muppet Show goes higher.

TEX RICHMAN

What? People are actually watching  
this. That can't be.

(then, epiphany)

I got it! Bobo! Check to see if I  
own the network!

INT. MUPPET SHOW STAGE

GONZO is surrounded by Dr. Honeydew, Kermit, the ABC  
Executive and SEVERAL MUPPET DOCTORS who are trying to detach  
the bowling ball from his rapidly spinning arm. He KNOCKS a  
few of the doctors away. Jack is still tied up in his chair,  
flinching.

JACK BLACK

Could you at least move me away  
from the trajectory of the bowling  
ball? Please?

ANGLE ON THE CAMERAS as the camera men shut them down.  
Kermit runs up to them.

KERMIT

What're you doing?

CAMERAMAN

The owner of the network, Tex  
Richman, wants us to shut down.  
Sorry. Let's go, boys.

The cameramen leave. The ABC Executive runs on.

ABC EXECUTIVE

Not to fear! I am personally  
turning them back on.

KERMIT

But if you go down --

ABC EXECUTIVE  
 -- then at least I'll have seen a  
 great show.

Several Muppets run to the cameras and FLIP THEM BACK ON.

PEPE THE PRAWN  
 Do you know how to work one of  
 these things?

ABC EXECUTIVE  
 I don't know how to make  
 television. I'm just a TV  
 executive, but we'll figure it out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kermit REAPPEARS on the television. The camera work is  
 terrible. Half Kermit's head is off screen.

KERMIT  
 Sorry about that little technical  
 difficulty! Now let's give a round  
 of applause for Dr. Teeth and  
 Electric Mayhem!!!

INT. TEX RICHMAN'S SUPER HIGH TECH NERVE CENTER

Tex Richman and Bobo are in the nerve center.

BOBO  
 They're back on the air! And as  
 hilarious as ever!

Tex shoots Bobo a look.

BOBO (CONT'D)  
 I mean, and as annoying and  
 terrible as ever.

TEX RICHMAN  
 Only one thing to do now.

Tex PULLS OUT wire cutters.

TEX RICHMAN (CONT'D)  
 Get up on the roof and shut them  
 down. Time to mothball these felt-  
 brained morons.

Bobo looks upset. They LEAVE the high tech nerve center

EXT. OSCAR MEYER WEINER MOBILE - CONTINUOUS

-- and we reveal the high tech nerve center somehow fits inside an OSCAR MEYER WEINER MOBILE that's parked right outside the Muppet Studios.

EXT. MUPPET STUDIOS ROOF - NIGHT

They get up to the giant antennae. Tex takes his giant wire cutters out and raises them like he's making a toast.

TEX RICHMAN

To the end of Puppets, Muppets and  
Marionettes and to the sipping of  
tasty tasty Texas tea!!!!

Bobo grabs the wire cutters and tosses them away.

TEX RICHMAN (CONT'D)

What're you doing?

BOBO

Enough is enough, Tex.

TEX RICHMAN

Enough is never enough, see!? And  
don't forget about the tea! The  
delectable black tea!

BOBO

It is true, Tex. I do love oil.  
But I am a Muppet in my heart. And  
I promise, you'll always remember  
how this "felt!"

TEX RICHMAN

What does that mean?

BOBO

It's a pun!

Bobo HITS Tex off the roof.

INT. MUPPET MUSICAL STAGE - CONTINUOUS

The band is about to play when JON MEYER, BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN and NORAH JONES join them.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

Would you mind very much if we  
joined you?

DR. TEETH

If you have to. Animal, you sure  
you don't want to play drums?

ANIMAL

Can't... touch... drums. Drums  
Bad! Flute good!

DR. TEETH

They're here if you want 'em.  
(to Bruce, Jon and Norah)  
Just follow my lead. Keep the  
vocals tight and splashy. And a  
one, two, three go!!!

They start playing. **INSERT SONG HERE BETWEEN JON MEYER,  
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN AND NORAH JONES.**

INT. BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Fozzie comes up to Rowlf, still a tiny bit defensive.

FOZZIE BEAR

Well. You didn't have to play me  
off this time!

Rowlf walks over to the mysterious lever back stage.

ROWLF

I would never do anything to hurt  
you old friend. That's why I played  
you off that day. This lever opens  
a trap door to a shark tank. The  
network made us put it in back in  
the day for acts that weren't  
working.

FOZZIE BEAR

What? A shark tank? I don't  
believe you!

Fozzie hastily pulls the lever.

ON STAGE OUT OF OUR VIEW WE HEAR PANIC:

JOHN MAYER (O.S.)

OH MY GOD!! BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN FELL  
INTO A SHARK TANK!!!

Fozzie looks to Rowlf gratefully. With screaming in the  
background, they hug.

NORAH JONES (O.S.)  
 Ohmigod! Bruce is literally riding  
 a shark! He can do anything!

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BLVD - NIGHT

Walter runs in a blind panic.

WALTER  
 Ahhhhh!

He stops, out of breath, then starts running again.

WALTER (CONT'D)  
 Ahhhh!

INT. MUPPET SHOW STAGE

**MONTAGE OF ACTS**

CHINESE CHICKEN BALLETT - Camilla, a bunch of chickens and Barysnikov dance in traditional Chinese costumes.

HOMEMADE SALSA - The Swedish Chef dumps tomatoes, onion and hot peppers onto the floor. Then he and Rachel Ray do a sultry salsa dance over the ingredients.

DINNER THEATER - The curtain rises to reveal a beautifully-set table filled with FOOD MUPPETS (a Muppet bread loaf, a Muppet roast with eyes, a Muppet basket of vegetables.) They begin performing Romeo and Juliet.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENHEIFER AND HIS OPERATIC MUSSELS - The curtain rises to reveal a pig dressed like Arnold Schwarzenegger in a Terminator-style black leather jacket. He starts to sing an aria. He PULLS OFF his jacket to reveal he's covered in MUPPET MUSSELS, as in the shellfish. They all join in on the aria.

**ANGLE ON THE GRAPH: Muppet viewers go up and up.**

INT. MUPPET SHOW THEATER - AUDIENCE AREA

Gary runs up to Mary and her class.

MARY  
 What're you doing out here? Don't  
 you still have to perform?

GARY  
 I wanted to thank you for coming.

MARY

Miss Piggy invited me. She explained everything. And then we sang about how hard it is to be a woman in a man's world. It was really inspiring.

GARY

I love you.

MARY

And I love you.

Mary and Gary kiss.

ANGLE ON THE CURTAIN: Kermit, peering from behind the curtain, sees them kissing and realizes Gary's not dating Piggy.

INT. BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Kermit looks from Mary and Gary kissing to Piggy who stares dramatically at a beautiful sunset and ocean vista as a wind gently blows her hair. Kermit NERVOUSLY GOES over to her. REVEAL that she's standing in front of an ocean vista set and that a fan is pointed her way.

MISS PIGGY

What do you want?

KERMIT

Listen Piggy. I've been doing some thinking.

FOZZIE BEAR

Caw Caw.

REVEAL Fozzie standing there. Kermit and Piggy turn to him.

KERMIT

What was that?

FOZZIE BEAR

A seagull. To increase the romantic atmosphere.

Kermit and Piggy stare at him until he leaves.

KERMIT

And, well... I was just wondering if maybe, you might want to...

MISS PIGGY

I won't sing our duet. I just can't  
bare the heartache any longer.

FOZZIE BEAR

(returning)

I can bear it! Waca Waca

MISS PIGGY/KERMIT

PRIVACY!!!/ YOU ALREADY DID THAT  
JOKE!!

Fozzie leaves again.

KERMIT

It's not about the duet. I've  
missed all of you so much. But the  
person I missed the most is you.  
I'd rather be legless than not be  
with you.

MISS PIGGY

You'll move to Paris?

Kermit nods. PIGGY LEAPS UP EXCITEDLY!!!

MISS PIGGY (CONT'D)

OH KERMIE!!!

Music up: Opening strains of I'm Your Puppet. They gaze into  
each other's eyes. Kermit leans in and kisses Miss Piggy as  
the music begins to swell. Kermit extends his hand. Piggy  
throws off her rope revealing the most beautiful gown a pig  
has ever worn. She takes his hand. They walk a few steps  
hand in hand. Then:

MISS PIGGY (CONT'D)

(screaming)

SORRY GARY! I'M DOING MY DUET WITH  
KERMIT!!!

She smiles at Kermit and they walk out of frame together.

INT. MUPPET SHOW STAGE - NIGHT

The curtain opens. Kermit's in a tux on a crescent moon piece  
with Miss Piggy in a chiffon bridal gown. The band starts  
playing, Animal still not at the drums. **Miss Piggy and  
Kermit sing "I'M YOUR PUPPET."** The graph SPIKES TO 9.5  
MILLION VIEWERS!!! The audience claps. Gary and Mary watch  
on smiling.

GARY

I should go check on Walter! He's  
up next!

They peck and he heads backstage.

INT. WALTER'S DRESSING ROOM

Gary opens the door. Walter's gone, the window broken.

GARY

Oh no.

Kermit arrives, excited.

KERMIT

Alright!!! It's time for the big  
closer, is he ready??

Kermit sees the broken window and SCREAMS!!!

GARY

He must have gotten stage fright!

KERMIT

(to Gary)

We've got to find him! Let's split  
up! Go! GO!

(Gary exits, then to  
Scooter)

Find someone to fill! We've almost  
made it!!!

SCOOTER

But sir, we're running out of  
stars! We're really scraping the  
bottom of the barrel now!!!!

ANGLE ON BILL HADER about to go onstage.

BILL HADER

I heard that.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Walter stops running and stops in front of an electronics  
store with several televisions in the window playing the  
Muppet Benefit Show.

GARY (O.S.)

What're you doing, Walter?

Walter turns to find Gary running up to him.

WALTER  
How did you find me?

GARY  
This is where people always go when  
they're running away from a  
personal challenge. See?

REVEAL that there's a woman dressed as the witch from Wicked,  
Conan O'Brien and a guy in a Jack in the Box uniform.

WITCH FROM WICKED  
(talking to herself)  
What if I forget all the lyrics?  
What then!?

CONAN O'BRIEN  
(talking to himself)  
I just don't know if I can do  
another show tonight and keep up  
the quality!

JACK IN THE BOX GUY  
(talking to himself)  
What if I can't master how to make  
the BBQ Bacon Sirloin burger?!

BACK TO WALTER.

WALTER  
I don't have an act! I can only go  
out there if you go with me!

GARY  
Are you sure? I mean this is your  
big chance...

WALTER JUMPS ONTO GARY'S ARM AND SLAPS HIM.

WALTER  
I can't handle the pressure!!!! I  
can only do it if you're there with  
me!!! Please!!!!

GARY  
Anything you need buddy. You still  
remember our routine?

WALTER  
I'm pretty sure. Let's go!

Gary and Walter turn, revealing that the Muppet Studios are right behind them.

WALTER (CONT'D)

It felt like I ran way farther.

They run into the studio.

INT. BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Scooter's off stage, panicked. Fozzie on stage looks to Scooter and gestures "What now?" Scooter looks around concerned, sees Chef walking by, grabs him and pushes him onstage.

INT. MUPPET STUDIOS STAGE - CONTINUOUS

FOZZIE BEAR

And now, for an encore, the Swedish Chef!

Chef walks on stage tentatively, no act prepared. THE GRAPH IS HOLDING STEADY AT 9.5 MILLION. No phones ring. Chef looks around the stage. There's no cooking equipment set up. He stands there silently. The audience grows impatient.

Angle on: Backstage the Muppets look around nervously. IN A FLASH BEAKER AND HONEYDEW QUICKLY WHEEL THE SLOW MOTION MACHINE ON STAGE RIGHT TO CHEF AND QUICKLY TURN THE DIAL TO "PASTA." DELICIOUS SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS FLY EVERYWHERE AND CHEF GOES NUTS.

CHEF

FLURGY BURGY BURGY!!!!

The audience applauds. More silence. THE GRAPH HAS NOT MOVED. THEN: GARY RUNS ONSTAGE WITH WALTER ON HIS HAND AND NODS TO FOZZIE! Fozzie quickly runs to the microphone.

FOZZIE BEAR

Now get ready for the biggest event of the night, Gary and our newest Muppet, Walter!!!!

Fozzie claps and walks offstage leaving Gary holding Walter like a puppet, like the act they did at the beginning of the movie in Venice. They're both in tuxes. The band begins playing.

GARY

*We're friends...*

WALTER  
*Oh yes we're friends...*

GARY  
*Until the end...*

WALTER  
*The very end...*

GARY  
*And nothing, no sir, nothing...*

Without warning, Gary TOSSES Walter off his hand and onto the stage! IN SLOW MOTION, Walter flies through the air and gives Gary a "what are you doing" look. Walter lands, limp, on the stage. The audience lets out a SHOCKED GASP! A long silent moment.

GARY (CONT'D)  
 (sotto to Walter)  
 C'mon, Walt. You can do it. This is your big chance, I'm not letting you pass it up.

Long beat. Then Walter sits up.

WALTER  
*Can tear us apart!!!*

Walter begins tap dancing... INCREDIBLY WELL. The audience applauds loudly.

WALTER (CONT'D)  
 I'm a dancer! That's it!!! MY  
 MUPPET TALENT IS I CAN DANCE!!!

Gary smiles and slowly takes a step back to give Walter center stage. Walter is a brilliant and diverse dancer. He does ballet, then capoeira, then a somersault and a cartwheel. The audience is going nuts. As his dance solo comes to an end, Walter does a standing backflip and lands flawlessly RIGHT ON GARY'S HAND! It should look like a mix of *Cirque de Soleil*, *Stomp* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

WALTER (CONT'D)  
*No nothing! Nothing!*

GARY  
*Can tear!*

WALTER  
*Us!*

GARY/WALTER

Apart!!!!

Gary tosses Walter up into a triple flip which really just looks like someone threw a puppet up into the air. He drops onto the ground on his feet. THE CROWD GOES NUTS! Phone's are ringing off the hook! The graph spikes to 9.9 Million viewers. The crowd rises to its feet in anticipation as the graph ticks closer to 10 million. Muppets run on stage exuberantly and hug Walter and Gary and each other. Gonzo, bowling ball still spinning in his arm dances around the stage. Suddenly the lights go out and house lights come on. Tex Richman HAS APPEARED on stage. He pulls a GIANT RIFLE OUT and points it at Kermit and Miss Piggy. THE GRAPH ABRUPTLY STOPS AT 9,999,999.

TEX RICHMAN

I tried to negotiate. I tried to talk reason. But no, you all had to put on a show and make America fall in love with you all over again. Well how's this for a show, America?

GONZO

Somebody arrest him! He's got a gun!

TEX RICHMAN

I'm aiming at a pig and a frog!  
What they gonna get me for, hunting  
without a license?!

Just as Tex is about to pull the trigger the movie FREEZES.  
DR. HONEYDEW appears.

DR. HONEYDEW

We here at Muppet Labs are aware  
that puppetry is not the most  
advanced form of entertainment.

His assistants PULL the Temporal Displace Machine on screen.

DR. HONEYDEW (CONT'D)

Therefore we now present to you the  
top secret fourth setting of the  
Temporal Displacement Machine dial.

Dr. Honeydew flips the dial PAST PASTA to "Bullet-Point-of-View-O-Matic."

DR. HONEYDEW (CONT'D)  
 Bullet-Point-of-View-O-Matic. Once  
 the fake Texan pulls the trigger,  
 we will go into an exciting  
 computer animated point of view of  
 a slo mo bullet, thus bringing you  
 the cutting edge of visual stimuli!

BACK TO THE ACTION.

TEX RICHMAN  
 If I don't get my oil, then no one  
 does.

Dr. Honeydew FLIPS ON THE DEVICE and then GOES OFFSCREEN.  
 Tex Richman PULLS THE TRIGGER. We go to BULLET POINT OF VIEW  
 ie. We're looking down the shaft of the rifle at Kermit and  
 Miss Piggy. Everyone is now moving in slo-mo. The gun  
 fires! And the bullet emerges... as a puppet bullet at the  
 end of a stick with whooshing bullet noises made by the  
 Muppet who's holding the stick. The Muppets are moving in  
 slomo, but it should be clear that they're pretending to move  
 in slomo. Fozzie walks in.

FOZZIE  
 What's going on guys?

KERMIT  
 Ixnay ormalnay eedspay!

FOZZIE  
 Oh, slo mo bullet pov! Sorry!

Fozzie goes into slo mo as well, blinking. He follows the  
 bullet with his eyes, like a bad actor, mouth open, eyes  
 super wide. The bullet continues on its trajectory towards  
 Kermit and Miss Piggy. Tex is smiling evil-y when Gonzo's  
 bowling ball suddenly FLIES OFF HIS FINGERS and BLOCKS the  
 bullet! We RESUME NORMAL SPEED!

TEX RICHMAN  
 What! No!

Tex pumps his gun and is about to fire again when Piggy  
 KARATE CHOPS it out of his hands.

MISS PIGGY  
 ENOUGH OF YOU, MISTER! HAAAY-YAAA

The audience cheers. But the graph does not move.

FOZZIE BEAR  
 What's happening, why did the graph  
 stop?

TEX RICHMAN

Looks like you've run out of viewers- and luck!! And just in time.

He motions to a clock on the graph as it ticks to midnight. A series of sad buzzer sounds go off and the graph flashes red

MUPPETS

NOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

TEX RICHMAN

YEEEEEE-HAAAAWWWWWWWWWWW. The studio is mine see!!!! It's mine!!!! And so are the Muppets!!! You gaggle of misfits will never make anyone not laugh ever again!!!!

The crowd and the Muppets are in stunned silence. Angle on Statler and Waldorf.

STATLER

Waldorf, I don't know what to say. I feel... sad.

WALDORF

I don't get it?

STATLER

It's not a sardonic joke, it's the truth.

WALDORF

Oh. Ummm. I guess I do to.

Waldorf begins to cry, followed by Statler. The audience also begins to cry.

A series of quick shots of home viewers also crying.

All of our celebrities back stage are crying.

On stage, all of the Muppets begin to cry and comfort each other. Tex watches on pleased. Fozzie, determined, steps forward.

FOZZIE BEAR

(holding back tears)

Everyone stop crying! Don't give him the satisfaction! This isn't over!

TEX RICHMAN

Oh it's as over as Barney the  
Dinosaur. Nothing you can do. The  
Muppets are done for good!!

FOZZIE BEAR

You might own the studio, and you  
might own the Muppets, but you  
don't own our friendship and as  
long as we got that... well we'll  
figure something out. I promise  
you, this ain't over! You messed  
with the wrong bear! So don't you  
worry Tex Richman, I guarantee  
"oil" be seeing you very soon!!

Long beat as Tex Richman stares at Fozzie. Something begins  
to happen to his face. He looks pained. It takes a long time,  
but finally a strange sound emerges from Tex... a laugh. It  
grows and he begins laughing hard.

TEX RICHMAN

(laughing)

"Oil" be seeing you. I get it.  
Because it sounds like "I'll be  
seeing you", but instead you said  
"Oil", because of my obsessive,  
almost cartoonish love of Oil! I  
get it!!!! I'm laughing!!!! I'M  
LAUGHING!!!! HAHAHAAAAH!! "OIL!!!!!"  
HAHAHAHAHAH

Tex falls to his knees crying he is laughing so hard.  
Everyone watches on confused.

TEX RICHMAN (CONT'D)

(through tears and  
laughter)

You made me laugh!!! Finally!!  
Thank you!!! Keep it!!! You can  
keep the studio!!! It's yours!!  
Just keep making me laugh!!!

FOZZIE BEAR

Are you kidding, we're a "barrel"  
of laughs.

Tex immediately stops laughing and glares at Fozzie.

FOZZIE BEAR (CONT'D)

A barrel!? Like a barrel of oil?

Tex thinks, then shakes his head no.

TEX RICHMAN  
Do the other one again.

FOZZIE BEAR  
Oil be seeing you later?

Tex starts laughing hard again.

TEX RICHMAN  
Yes!!! That's the one!!! HAHAHAHA.  
It's yours, the studio is yours!!

EVERYONE GOES NUTS CELEBRATING! ALL THE HAPPY SOUND EFFECTS  
GO OFF IN THE THEATER!!!

MISS PIGGY  
We did it, Kermy! We did it!

KERMIT  
We did do it. And we did it  
together!!! WE'RE BACK!!  
(to the Muppets)  
And if it's okay with you guys.  
(to the audience)  
And if it's okay with all of you,  
well, we want to bring back The  
Muppet Show! I want to do this  
every week! With more acts, and  
more laughter and more fun! What do  
you say!?!?

All the Muppets and the crowd erupts in cheers. Miss Piggy  
and Kermit hug. The Muppets go into a **FINAL GIANT MUSICAL  
NUMBER. TOGETHER AGAIN!!!!**

MUPPETS  
(singing)  
*TOGETHER AGAIN!!! AIN'T IT GOOD TO  
BE TOGETHER AGAIN!!!! ETC.....*

The music ends. Except for the drums. ANGLE ON ANIMAL who  
is playing the drums.

MUPPETS (CONT'D)  
(singing)  
*Together again!*

Animal won't stop playing the drums.

MUPPETS (CONT'D)  
(singing)  
*Ain't it good to be...!*

Animal still won't stop playing.

KERMIT

I think we're done here, Animal.

DR. TEETH

Don't touch him. He's working something out.

ANIMAL

Ah! Ahhhh! Drums taking hold!!!!

Animal's going crazy on the drums. Animal pounds on the drums so hard he starts to bash his way through the drums and into the ground. He's digging a hole with the drums.

KERMIT

Someone stop him!

Mortar and bricks fly out of the hole as Animal digs himself deeper and deeper. Then silence...

ANIMAL

Uh oh.

There's an UNEARTHLY SHAKING and suddenly...

ANIMAL (CONT'D)

Oil.

Animal SHOOTS OUT OF THE WHOLE on a FOUNTAIN OF OIL.

EXT. MUPPET STUDIOS - CONTINUOUS

The fountain of oil SHOOTS THROUGH THE ROOF, Animal riding the top of it.

ANIMAL

AYAYAYAYAYAYAAAAA!!!!

INT. MUPPET SHOW STAGE - CONTINUOUS

The Muppets running this way and that. Oil fountains start BURSTING through the floorboards. Chaos.

EXT. LOS ANGELES

In our one or maybe two CGI shots in the entire film, we see a wide shot of Los Angeles, oil fountains exploding ridiculously high into the air under the Muppet Studio.

EXT. MUPPET STUDIOS - NIGHT

The gang celebrate under the sweet, sweet oil.

GEORGE CLOONEY

I loved that whole kidnapping bit.  
How'd you think of it?

JACK BLACK

That was no bit. I was kidnapped.  
I was scared for my life.

GEORGE CLOONEY

(laughing)

You are a crack up. You and your  
family should come out to Lake  
Como. We'll drink Chianti on jet  
skis.

WE PAN to Tex Richman in HANDCUFFS. A BUSINESSMAN comes up  
to him.

BUSINESSMAN

I represent the shareholders of  
Richman Oil. You are hereby  
relieved of your duties as CEO.

TEX RICHMAN

What? Why? All I live for is  
tasty, tasty oil!

BUSINESSMAN

Because instead of doing the work  
that being a CEO of a global  
multinational corporation requires,  
you spent all your time in disguise  
trying to get the oil that's under  
the Muppet studios. You realize  
there's only like twenty barrels  
down there?

As he says that the oil fountain immediately DRIES UP.

BUSINESSMAN (CONT'D)

Good day, Tex.

ANGLE ON Walter, Gary, Piggy and Kermit.

KERMIT

Terrific dancing, Walter. One of  
the best Muppet performances I've  
ever seen!! We'd be really happy if  
you wanted to join us on the Muppet  
Show!

Beat...

WALTER  
Peaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa...almond!

MISS PIGGY  
At least he's moved onto a  
different kind of nut.

Kermit and Miss Piggy head off. Mary shows up.

MARY  
Amazing, guys. Really amazing.

GARY/WALTER  
It was all him./It was all him.

MARY  
Walter, I have a friend I'd like to  
introduce you to. We met in the  
ladies room. She couldn't stop  
talking about your act.

From behind Mary steps a PINK REPLICA of Walter.

PENELOPE  
Hi. I'm Penelope.

WALTER  
Pleasure to meet you. I'm Walter.

PENELOPE  
(shaking)  
PPPPPP...Penelope! I'm a big fan.  
PPPPPP....Penelope!!

Against the full moon, Gary and Mary kiss. We PAN past them to Kermit and Miss Piggy kissing, to Gonzo and Camilla the Chicken kissing to the Swedish Chef and Rachel Ray kissing. A photographer runs in front of all the Muppets. We recognize him as the same photographer who took the fated "TIME" picture years ago.

PHOTOGRAPHER  
Kermit! A picture!

Kermit shakes his head no.

KERMIT  
Sorry sir. Not this time. Not  
without my friends.

The Muppets all look to each other and smile. They gather and put their arms around each other.

RIZZO  
(as he bites into some)  
Say CHEESE!!!!!!

Flash. Our gang, together, smiling. PAPER UP: THE MUPPETS  
ARE BACK!!!

Back to live: The Muppets hug and celebrate. We pull up for a  
final crane shot when the MAHNA MAHNA CREATURE jumps into  
frame and we pull back to closeup.

MAHNA MAHNA  
Manamana!

The TWO SNOWTHS pop into frame.

SNOWTHS  
Doo doo da da da!

MAHNA MAHNA  
Manamana!

SNOWTHS  
Doo doo doo doo!

We close with A MONTAGE OF EVERYONE in the film, Muppets,  
actors, celebrities, crew, etc. singing Manamana with Mahna  
Mahna.

FADE OUT.