



THE GREATEST MUPPET MOVIE OF ALL TIME!!!

by
Jason Segel and Nicholas Stoller

INT. DISNEY STUDIOS EXECUTIVE OFFICE - DAY

A handsome MUPPET STUDIO PRESIDENT is meeting with a Muppet vice president (Kristin Burr puppet) and several Muppet underlings.

PUPPET BURR

The new Muppet movie is fantastic sir. They're back, sir!! They're back!!!

PUPPET PRESIDENT

Marvelous. Do we have a title yet?

As the underlings nod.

PUPPET BURR

I think we've come up with the perfect name. It's unique, it's spectacular, it's phenomenal...

PUPPET PRESIDENT

(interrupting)

Well...what is it?

Puppet Burr rises and exits frame. Seconds later she returns pulling a rope. She strains with all her might as she pulls.

PUPPET BURR

(to underlings)

Some help, please.

The underlings quickly grab the rope and pull into frame a SUPERSIZED TITLE: THE GREATEST MUPPET MOVIE OF ALL TIME!!!!

PUPPET PRESIDENT

(considering, finally, underwhelmed:)

Meh.

THE HUGE TITLE BEGINS TO FALL OVER, and like an editing wipe, as it falls it takes us to:

EXT. VENICE BOARDWALK - DAY

TITLE UP: THE FOLLOWING IS BASED ON A TRUE STORY

GARY STEVENS (30) performs for a large crowd on the beachside strip. Other nearby performers, PAINTED ROBOT GUY, PSYCHIC CAT GUY, etc, watch on enviously as the audience cheers. Gary is quite simply the best Ventriloquist of all time.

He expertly operates his somewhat nondescript, very simple, but CRUDELY BEAUTIFUL hand puppet, WALTER, singing a duet with "himself."

GARY

We're friends...

WALTER

Oh yes we're friends...

GARY

And nothing...

WALTER

No sir, nothing...

Gary begins to drink a big glass of water. To the crowd's amazement, "Walter" continues singing perfectly.

WALTER (CONT'D)

but nothing, it's something but
nothing, no nothing... can ever tear
us apartaaaaa --

During this long note, Gary finishes the water, chews an entire pack of gum and blows bubbles, takes a bite of burrito, takes some mouthwash and gargles. Then he spits out the mouthwash, joins back in the song, and AMAZINGLY, Walter and Gary harmonize the final line,

WALTER/GARY

-- aaart!!!!

The crowd erupts in applause. WE NOTICE ONE MAN IN PARTICULAR WATCHING WITH INTEREST. He is dressed in terrible "vacation clothes," short shorts, Hawaiian shirt and a large brimmed hat. He subtly makes a note on a pad as the crowd cheers. Gary takes a bow and then makes Walter bow as well. People throw money into Gary's bucket. It's not riches, but it's rent. As the crowd disperses, Gary's girlfriend, Mary approaches him. She's surrounded by her third grade class. They peck on the lips.

GARY

Hey Mary!

MARY

Hey, Gary. Great show today. My whole class loved it.

KID

What's your puppet supposed to be?
A blanket?

MARY

That's not a nice thing to say.

"WALTER" speaks up.

WALTER

What're you supposed to be? An Oompa-Loompa?

MARY

That's not a nice thing to say, Walter.

KID

He didn't say it. Gary said it.

GARY

You're right. I'm sorry.

Gary does a bad Walter voice.

GARY (CONT'D)

(as Walter)

And so am I.

(then, to Mary)

Tonight, you want to go to A Little Place I Know?

MARY

Sure thing. See you then.

Mary and Gary kiss and Mary and her class head off. As Gary gathers his things, a MYSTERIOUS SHADOW falls over him. REVEAL the poorly dressed Vacation Man.

VACATION MAN

That's a great act you got there. You two are quite a team. I mean, you really had me believing that thing was alive. Heck, he was almost... Muppety.

He sticks the bill into Gary's bucket.

VACATION MAN (CONT'D)

You can't say no to a little green! It's the best color.

(looking right at Walter)

You've got a real future son. But you might have to stand on your own two feet.

We hear SPARKLY MAGICAL MUSIC. Gary looks over to see a street musician playing chimes. When he looks back, Vacation Man is gone!

INT. GARY'S BOARDWALK APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Gary walks into his apartment, sets Walter on the couch and begins pacing. The apartment is decorated with two things, one: photos of Gary, at every age, with Walter. 2: Muppet paraphernalia EVERYWHERE!!

One wall is covered with Muppet articles from various magazines. Time magazine - Muppets on top of the World. Newsweek - Muppets Can't be stopped. NATIONAL ENQUIRER - Are the Muppets fighting? PEOPLE MAGAZINE "Who's the funniest Muppet? This cover, unlike the others, features ONLY Kermit. The final cover is from LIFE MAGAZINE and it reads: MUPPETS CALL IT QUILTS.

GARY
What were you thinking?!? You could have blown the whole act.

WALTER
(un-puppeteased)
I couldn't let that kid call me a blanket. You know how that makes me feel!

For the first time Walter speaks on his own and we understand the secret of their act. WALTER IS ALIVE.

GARY
If anyone finds out you're real the act is ruined.

WALTER
Oh jeez. I know Gary. The act. The act. The only reason people like the act is because they think you're controlling me. It's not an act. It's a trick!

GARY
What're you talking about? People love you. You heard that guy. He thought you were Muppety.

WALTER
I'm not Muppety. Every Muppet has a talent. Miss Piggy is the most beautiful. Fozzie's the funniest.
(MORE)

WALTER (CONT'D)

Rowlf plays piano as good as John Coltrane played the sax. Gonzo's a daredevil. I'm nothing but a cheap trick. A cheap trick, I tell ya!

GARY

You're better than a Muppet. I'd take you over Kermit any day.

Without warning Walter LEAPS FROM THE COUCH ONTO GARY and SLAPS HIM AS HARD AS HE CAN.

GARY (CONT'D)

(stunned)

What was that?!?!?

WALTER

(trembling with anger)

NOBODY IS BETTER THAN KERMIT!!

GARY

Take it easy --

WALTER

(slapping again)

NOBODY!!! SAY IT!!

GARY

Okay! Nobody's Better than Kermit!

Walter, breathing heavily, jumps back onto the couch.

GARY (CONT'D)

I've gotta go meet Mary at a little place I know. You relax, watch some tv or something.

INT. A LITTLE PLACE I KNOW BAR AND GRILLE

Gary and Mary walk into the restaurant.

WAITER

Welcome to A Little Place I Know.
Follow me if you please.

INT. A LITTLE PLACE I KNOW BAR AND GRILLE - MOMENTS LATER

Gary and Mary are now holding menus that have "A LITTLE PLACE I KNOW" written across the top.

MARY

When are you going to tell the world the truth about Walter?

GARY

I want to and so does he... but it doesn't feel like it's the right time yet.

MARY

Not the right time for him... or not the right time for you?

INT. GARY'S BOARDWALK APARTMENT - LATER

Walter's watching an old episode of the Muppets. Kermit's leading the charge, as usual. Walter JUMPS UP and heads into the bathroom.

INT. GARY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Walter dumps his head in the sink. He comes out. REVEAL that he's dyed his hair green.

INT. GARY'S LIVING ROOM

Walter's watching television again. He compares his green head to Kermit's. It's not a match at all.

WALTER

Muppety? Who am I kidding?

(sings)

WALTER'S "I WANT TO BE A MUPPET"
SONG GOES HERE.

All of a sudden, a green envelope's SLIPPED UNDER THE DOOR OF THE APARTMENT. Walter picks it up. It is labelled "MISTER WALTER THE BROWN PUPPET."

WALTER (CONT'D)

Is this for me?

He flips the envelope over. The backside reads "THIS IS FOR YOU." Tentative, Walter opens the envelope and pulls out a shiny green letter with gold writing:

"WISHES CAN COME TRUE. MUPPET STUDIOS TOMORROW. 4PM IN THE STORAGE ROOM. BECOME THE MUPPET YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BECOME! THIS IS A SECRET! YOU MUST SNEAK IN! P.S. NO HUMANS ALLOWED."

WALTER (CONT'D)

(stunned)

I am Muppety? I am Muppety?!?!?

Walter begins dancing around the apartment spastically and singing an exuberant song, joyfully out of control.

WALTER (CONT'D)

CONTINUES THE I WANT TO BE A MUPPET SONG. NOW IT'S A HAPPY VERSION CALLED "I'M GOING TO BE A MUPPET."

Walter does an amazing dance routine. It is the happiest a puppet has ever been. Gary and Mary walk in. Walter COLLAPSES onto the floor "dead." Then, seeing who it is, he jumps up.

WALTER (CONT'D)

(showing the letter)

Gary! Mary! Great news, I'm gonna be a Muppet! I have an audition tomorrow!!!

MARY

That's wonderful!

GARY

Now wait one second... this would be big news, the Muppets holding auditions. Maybe someone's playing a prank on you.

MARY

Why would someone play a prank on him?

WALTER

Who'd play a prank on me? You're the only person I know. Are you playing a prank on me?

MARY

Are you playing a prank on him?

WALTER

(then, really upset)

THIS IS ONE MEAN PRANK!

GARY

I'm not playing a prank on you!

WALTER
HOW DARE YOU RAISE MY HOPES OF
JOINING THE MUPPETS WITH A MEAN
PRANK!

GARY
I'M NOT PRANKING YOU!
(then)
Do you want me to drive you?

WALTER
Didn't you read the invite!? No
humans allowed!

GARY
I can drop you off.

WALTER
I DON'T WANT TO TAKE THE
CHANCE!!!!

QUICK CUTS OF WALTER SNEAKING TO THE MUPPET STUDIOS

-- Walter sneaks up to a bus stop and sees a man with a gym bag waiting at the stop. He very quietly tiptoes up and slides into the bag.

-- The bus comes to a stop. A diverse group of people exit the bus, and as they disperse, we see Walter emerge and sneak down the street.

EXT. HENSON STUDIOS LA BREA - LATER

Walter approaches the studios and sees the giant sculpture of KERMIT THE FROG. He stops and takes it in, overwhelmed. He then sees the security guard at the front gate. Walter sees a puddle and gets an idea. He jumps in the puddle and gets himself wet. A TRUCK PASSES and he JUMPS and STICKS to the side of the truck like a wet towel.

EXT. HENSON STUDIOS COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER

The truck DRIVES INTO the studio. Walter FALLS OFF the side of the truck. He lays there for a second in pain, then dusts himself off and rises. He takes in his surroundings.

WALTER
I'm in!

A SECURITY CART COMES DRIVING BY and Walter immediately goes limp and falls to the ground, pretending to be inanimate.

The cart drives right by him. He stands again and begins creeping around the lot like a cat burglar.

WALTER (CONT'D)
To the storage room!

He sees two security guards heading his way. He goes limp and falls to the ground, but this time, the guards stop. One picks him up and examines the lifeless puppet.

SECURITY GUARD 1
What do we have here?

SECURITY GUARD 2
Looks like a... prairie dog?

SECURITY GUARD 1
Brown bird without wings. We should throw it in the storage room with the rest of the unfinished puppets.

Walter opens one eye and smiles and then goes limp again.

INT. STORAGE ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Walter lands with a thud as the guards toss him into the storage room. He tries not to make any noise on impact, but it hurts. When the guards have left, he gets up and dusts himself off. He looks around and finds the HALF FINISHED ELEMENTS OF PUPPETS SURROUNDING HIM. It is just creepy enough to make kids scared. Walter takes it all in.

WALTER
Whoa. Creepy.

He examines the torso of a half finished Muppet with a mixture of awe and fear. SUDDENLY, the door opens. WALTER GOES LIMP. 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. We may also notice that he looks a good deal like VACATION MAN, just in a different outfit, with slightly different hair and nose. Walter pretends he's inanimate and eavesdrops on their conversation.

STATLER
This is the storage room.

WALDORF
Otherwise known as the dump.

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 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 studio to you. The contract expires...

(he uses a monacle 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 CLOSES, TEX'S TONE SHIFTS. HE SPEAKS MANICALLY TO HIMSELF.

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 done nothin' in
ten years. 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.

Walter listens in shock as Tex lets out a DEMONIC LAUGH, then
a fly lands on this face. He quickly sucks it up into his
mouth and leaves. 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.

INT. BUS - MOMENTS LATER

The entire bus stares silently at Walter who continues to let
out his high pitched scream as he rides.

INT. GARY'S BOARDWALK APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Gary and Mary are quietly reading. WALTER COMES TEARING
THROUGH THE DOOR CONTINUING HIS HIGH PITCHED SCREAM. He runs
around the apartment frantically. THEN HE LEAPS ONTO GARY
AND SLAPS HIM HARD.

WALTER

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

He slaps Gary again.

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

No way! That's just a paparazzi-fueled rumor. 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)

I heard he lives in Malibu. He's become some sort of a recluse. He never leaves his house, and nobody ever goes in. Except David Letterman occasionally.

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.

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.

BUZZZZZZ. 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.

MARY

I guess frog puppets age faster than humans.

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....PPEPPPP...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.

Walter starts shaking.

WALTER
But I don't even have a talent.
I'm just a trick. A cheap trick!

KERMIT
You'll find your talent. You
remind me of me when I was young.

Walter immediately faints.

KERMIT (CONT'D)
Now we just need to get in touch
with them all!

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 RING 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 fulls 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, revealing a bald spot, 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 MEEEEEP!

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 meeeoow
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.

SET. 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!

-- 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, bagels, donuts, cinnamon, 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 LAGERFELD, 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 LAGERFELD/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

Jack 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 Peanutpeanut!

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!

(MORE)

KERMIT (CONT'D)

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.

CONZO

Who are you talking to?

MISS PIGGY

Everyone. No one. Myself. NONE OF YOUR BEESEWAX!

Miss Piggy SEES A FREE SEAT next to Gary who's on the airplane phone.

GARY

Hey, Mary. We're just coming back from Paris!

Miss Piggy sits down next to him and starts flirting while looking at Kermit.

SPLIT SCREEN BETWEEN GARY AND MARY:

Mary's in a supermarket.

MARY

Why did you go to Paris?

MISS PIGGY
Gary, you're so much taller than a
frog. Act like you're laughing
with me.

GARY
(confused)
What?

MISS PIGGY
Are you ticklish?

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
(suspicious)
Who's that?
UNIVERSITAS MURIA KUDUS
GARY
(laughing)
Just... Miss... Piggy! I should
go.
(Gary hangs up)
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-hh me or uh-hh did it uh-hh
just get uh-hh a little uh-hh icy uh-hh
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. OKIE WEALTHGENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Another Oil Barron, Okie WEALTHGENT, sits behind the stately desk of an office who's walls are covered with antlers. He wears a Cowboy hat and denims, and reads a newspaper titled: OIL BARRON DAILY. There is a headline which reads: TEX RICHMAN TO BUY MUPPET STUDIOS. SWEET SWEET OIL? He sits back in his chair angrily and pushes a button.

OKIE WEALTHGENT

Get in here Blackwart. Now!

A very unattractive, Warthog looking muppet in a similar outfit enters quickly. This is BLACKWART, Okie's lackey.

BLACKWART

What is it boss?

OKIE WEALTHGENT

Seems some new kid on the block, Tex Richman is buying the Muppet Studios, see. Seems to me he might be sniffin' out some tasty tasty Texas tea!

BLACKWART

Tea?

OKIE WEALTHGENT

Oil son! Oil! Tasty tasty oil!! And there ain't no way some wet behind the ears upstart nobody's heard of is gonna sip up that tasty tea under my watch or my name isn't Okie Wealthgent!

BLACKWART

It isn't?

OKIE WEALTHGENT

Of course it is. That's the point!
It is my name, so he 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!

(to Blackwart)

So get me everything you can on Tex
Richman and the Muppet studios you
dumb Muppet looking Warthog!

Blackwart looks at him a bit hurt, then leaves. Wealthgent
looks down at the paper and smiles an evil smile.

OKIE WEALTHGENT (CONT'D)

Ever since I grew up on the plains
of Odessa, I've loved the smell of
tasty, tasty oil! HAHAAHAHAHA!

BLACKWART

Didn't you grow up in Queens?

OKIE WEALTHGENT

Shut it, puppet. Now, where was I?
Oh, right. HAHAAHAHAHA!

As he laughs maniacally he pull out of his window to reveal
we're in a skyscraper on the upper east side of Manhattan.

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION - NIGHT

The entire ragtag band of heroes, including Mary, 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.

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

Nada.

The Muppets all act really excited.

UNIVISION EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)

That means nothing.

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
Not ever. I'm sorry.

INT. KERMIT'S MANSION - THAT NIGHT

The Muppets into Kermit's mansion, dejected.

MUPPETS
Too bad it ended this way./At least
it was a fun trip./Can I stay in
your pool house?

He finishes his glass of water.

KERMIT
I just have to run to the bathroom.

Kermit leaves our gang to consider. A second later his phone
rings. It rings and rings until Fozzie hits speakerphone.

FOZZIE BEAR
Hello?

TEX
Is this Kermit?

FOZZIE BEAR
No. May I take a message?

TEX
Sure you can. You can take the
message, and make sure Kermit GETS
the message loud and clear!! This
is Tex Richman, see. And you tell
Kermit that his plan to get the
Muppet Studios back by putting on a
show ain't never gonna work! Not
in a million years cause those
Muppets will never be able to get
it together to put on a show.
Ever! Never ever!

FOZZIE BEAR
You're wrong Tex Richman! We will
be able to!

Fozzie hangs up.

FOZZIE BEAR (CONT'D)
I do not like that guy.

Kermit comes back in.

KERMIT

What'd I miss?

FOZZIE BEAR

We're going back to ABC! And this time we're going to project classy!

INT. ABC EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Kermit, now wearing a suit, sits across from the ABC Exec who's still really uncomfortable. Why is he uncomfortable? Because once again the room is PACKED with all of the Muppets, all of whom are now wearing suits.

ABC EXECUTIVE

I didn't say no because you weren't wearing suits. I said no because you haven't been around in a decade. You're not cynical enough or violent or ironic enough. 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. 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.

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.

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!

ANGLE ON Walter. He looks uncomfortable.

KERMIT (CONT'D)

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
My act is pretending to be a puppet. Without Gary I don't have an act! I'm just a cheap trick!

Walter runs offstage.

KERMIT
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. Hey, it's our one year anniversary tomorrow!! Would you care to join me at A Little Place I Know?

MARY

Of course! I can't wait.

(then)

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 non amou, 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 breathe.

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.
Amid the noise, Kermit sneaks out. A second later, TEX
RICHMAN HOPS INTO the theater.

TEX

Look at you sorry Muppets. You can't even make it through one rehearsal. The only way you could ever save the studio --

OKIE WEALTHGENT (O.S.)

Not so fast Richman!

All turn to see Okie WEALTHGENT, BLACKWART at his side, calling down from an Opera box opposite Statler and Waldorf. He holds the thick STANDARD CONTRACT.

TEX RICHMAN

And just who exactly are you, partner!?

OKIE WEALTHGENT

Okie Wealthgent's the name. And frankly, I should be asking you that question, Tex Richman. Who exactly do you THINK you are, trying to slide in under the radar and drink up my tasty tasty Texas tea!!

TEX RICHMAN

Tea?

OKIE WEALTHGENT

Oil, man! I'm talking about tasty tasty oil. And ain't no two bit, half pint, pencil necked newbie gonna sip up the tasty oil under this here studio without a fight, cause I'll tell you what, this old dog is thirsty! Mr. Richman, you got yourself a biddin' war.

Okie and Blackwart leave. The Muppets and Tex Richman watch on confused.

FOZZIE BEAR

Well Waka Waka Waka. Who's laughing now Tex Richman!? Looks like you aren't the only villain in this movie!!

TEX RICHMAN

(Kermit's voice)

Uh-oh.

We hear the sound of a zipper from within Tex's body, then slowly, the TEX RICHMAN "HUMAN SUIT" sloughs to the ground, revealing KERMIT. The Muppets are shocked.

KERMIT

Guys. I think I made a big mistake.

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

...because I missed you guys and I didn't know how else to get us back together. So I created a fake enemy, Tex Richman, that we could all unite against. But then Okie Wealthgent showed up, thinking there really is oil under the studio! I guess the oil business is relatively competitive. Who knew?!

Janice stands.

JANICE

So like...how do we know that like...you're not also Okie Wealthgent?

The Muppets mumble in agreement.

KERMIT

Well, because we were both at the same place at the same time.

JANICE

Like, were you though? I only recall like, Tex Richman and Okie Wealthgent being there together.

More mumbled agreement.

KERMIT

Well, if you think it through--

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 house, 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 Okie
Wealthgent guy. 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!

(MORE)

WALTER (CONT'D)

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?.....Ppppppeanut!

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.

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. And just to reiterate, if I get fired you are all going down with me. I mean it.
(MORE)

ABC EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)
Get a star. Now. Also, have you
booked an audience?

INT. OKIE WEALTHGENT'S LOS ANGELES OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Okie Wealthgent and Blackwart ride on the top of a double
decker tour bus through Los Angeles. Blackwart wears spy
headphones and holds an antenna.

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

OKIE WEALTHGENT
Perfect! All we gotta do is run a
little interference! They're gonna
have a harder time finding a real
celebrity than dealing 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 PERSONAL." George Clooney is posing 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?

OKIE WEALTHGENT, 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 Okie's ear.

OKIE WEALTHGENT
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 the King Prawn. REVEAL the
Waiter is Sweetums.

PEEP 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, OKIE WEALTHGENT IN DISGUISE and whispers in his ear.

OKIE WEALTHGENT
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!!!

OKIE WEALTHGENT 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 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: Orie Wealthigent 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.

Okie Wealthgent 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
OKIE WEALTHGENT.

OKIE WEALTHGENT

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

Okie 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. A LITTLE PLACE I KNOW BAR AND GRILLE - NIGHT

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

GARY

Happy anniversary.

MARY

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

GARY

Oh, Mary. You're so cute when
you're jealous. Look, I promise,
it's strictly professional between
me and Piggy. Really, I promise.

She smiles and they hold hands. The Maitre De 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, hurt.

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!

OKIE WEALTHGENT in disguise approaches holding a magazine.

OKIE WEALTHGENT IN DISGUISE

Sorry to bother you, but I was hoping I could have your autograph.

GARY

Me. Sure, but...why?

OKIE WEALTHGENT 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! 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?

FOZZIE BEAR
Yeah Kermit! We need an idea fast!

Kermit rises. A long beat.

KERMIT

If we need a big star, then that's
what we're gonna get.

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. ABBOTT-KINNEY ELEMENTARY

Mary is at her desk 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.
(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.

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?

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!!
(then, to Scooter and the
ABC Executive)
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 bory bory --

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. OKIE WEALTHGENT'S SUPER HIGH TECH NERVE CENTER - NIGHT

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

OKIE WEALTHGENT

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

Blackwart looks hurt.

BLACKWART

Well, I'm technically talking felt.

OKIE WEALTHGENT

(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 three!

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. OKIE WEALTHGENT'S SUPER HIGH TECH NERVE CENTER

The graph of viewers watching the Muppet show moves up.

BLACKWART

Sir, we have a problem.

OKIE WEALTHGENT

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? Grim 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. OKIE WEALTHGENT'S SUPER HIGH TECH NERVE CENTER

The graph of viewers watching the Muppet Show goes higher.

OKIE WEALTHGENT

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

(then, epiphany)

I got it! Blackwart! 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,okie
Wealthigent, 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. OKIE WEALTHGENT'S SUPER HIGH TECH NERVE CENTER

Okie Wealthgent and Blackwart are in the nerve center.

BLACKWART

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

Okie SHOTS Blackwart a look.

BLACKWART (CONT'D)

I mean, and as annoying and terrible as ever!

OKIE WEALTHGENT

Only one thing to do now.

Okie PULLS OUT wire cutters.

OKIE WEALTHGENT (CONT'D)

Get up on the roof and shut them down. Time to maimball these felt-brained morons!

Blackwart 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. Okie takes his giant wire cutters out and raises them like he's making a toast.

OKIE WEALTHGENT

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

Blackwart grabs the wire cutters and tosses them away.

OKIE WEALTHGENT (CONT'D)
What're you doing?

BLACKWART
Enough is enough, Okie.

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

BLACKWART
It is true, Okie. I do love oil.
But I am a Muppet first. Now "Oil"
show you who's boss!

OKIE WEALTHGENT
What does that mean?

BLACKWART
It's a pun!

Blackwart HITS Okie 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)

Ahhhhh!

INT. MUPPET SHOW STAGE

MONTAGE OF ACTS

CHINESE CHICKEN BALLET - 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 GRAPE: 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 bear 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 KERMIE!!!

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, Jay Leno 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!?

JAY LENO
 (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 with there if you go with me!

GARY
 Are you sure? I mean this is...

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.

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

WALTER
 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 10.5 Million Viewers and a joyful alarm and flashing lights begin!! The crowd rises to its feet and the 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. Okie Wealthgent HAS APPEARED on stage. He pulls a GIANT RIFLE OUT and points it at Kermit and Miss Piggy.

OKIE WEALTHGENT

I tried to negotiate. I tried to talk reason.

(MORE)

OKIE WEALTHGENT (CONT'D)
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?

Just as Okie 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.

OKIE WEALTHGENT
If I don't get my oil, then no one
does.

Dr. Honeydew FLIPS ON THE DEVICE and then GOES OFFSCREEN.
Okie Wealthgent 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. Okie is smiling evil-y when Gonzo's bowling ball suddenly FLIES OFF HIS FINGERS and BLOCKS the bullet! We RESUME NORMAL SPEED!

OKIE WEALTHGENT

What! No!

Okie pumps his gun and is about to fire when Piggy KARATE CHOPS HIM.

MISS PIGGY

ENOUGH OF YOU, MISTER! HAAAY-YAAA

He passes out on the floor. The audience cheers.

MISS PIGGY (CONT'D)

We did it, Kermy! We did it!

KERMIT

We did do it.

(stoic, into camera)

We made America change the channel from one television show to another.

(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! Ahhh! Drums taking hold!!!!

Animal's going crazy on the drums. Animal pounds on the
drums so hard he starts to push 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 Okie Wealthgent in HANDCUFFS. A BUSINESSMAN comes
up to him.

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

OKIE WEALTHGENT
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, Okie.

ANGLE ON Walter, Gary, Piggy and Kermit.

KERMIT

Terrific dancing, Walter. One of the best Muppet performances I've ever seen. I knew I was right to send you that letter!

Kermit holds up a copy of the GREEN LETTER. 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.