



STUCK IN LIMBO

By Simon Knowles

FEATURED SONG:

“LIMBO PARTY”

TITLE SEQUENCE

30 Sec, Introduces the premise of the show.

SCENE 1

INT: Pastrami Wasabi's; *Billy Bungus is busy scrubbing dishes, whistling to himself when he hears his name shouted from his boss' (Tony Dourbain) office.*

TONY DOUBAIN

BILLY! Get in here!

Billy sighs and walks into his boss, Tony's, office. TONY is sitting behind his desk:

BILLY

You hollered, sir.

TONY DOUBAIN

Sit down (*BILLY SITS DOWN OPPOSITE TONY*). Now you know we have got Valentines day coming real soon...? Well I am planning on hosting a romantically themed evening here at Pastrami Wasabi's...and I want you to be a part of it...

BILLY

Me sir....?? But I was hoping for the night off...I kind of had plans with my girlfriend...

TONY

(LEANS IN AND WHISPERS) Now we both know you can't really have a girlfriend....unless I can see a picture of her...?

BILLY pulls out his wallet and slips out a photo booth picture of SEA CUCUMBER GIRL. He looks at it with a smile and then realises, no matter how beautiful he finds her, he can't show TONY DOURBAIN the picture without revealing Bungusland;

BILLY

(sigh) I guess not.

TONY DOURBAIN

(DISMISSIVELY) Excellent, you're a loser...! So here's what I was thinking...an evening of dance!

BILLY

(INTERRUPTING) DANCE....!?! But I can't dance...

TONY DOURBAIN

(IGNORING BILLY) Now I have got Slouch and Grunt learning the Tango...

CUT TO: SLOUCH and GRUNT to big ugly guys, one in a dress, practising their dance in the kitchen:

...I've got Madame Gee and the chief waiter Harvey learning Flamenco...

CUT TO: MADAME GEE and HARVEY practicing a Flamenco dance, she is huge and he is small and he struggles to hold her above his head, sweat pouring down his face.

...even Diego is learning Ballet!

CUT TO: DIEGO, head first in the grease trap as always, except now he is wearing a tutu.

...but for you Billy...I have the most romantic dance of all...

BILLY

I don't know sir...I take my cooking very seriously...I'm not much of a dancer...

TONY DOURBAIN

(IGNORING HIS PROTESTS) Limbo!

BILLY

Limbo...? But I've never even tried it!

TONY DOURBAIN

(NOT EVEN HEARING HIS RESPONSE) It's easy. Look here's a Limbo pole. (GESTURES TO A LIMBO POLE SET UP BESIDE BILLY THAT WAS UN-NOTICED UNTIL NOW) You simply have to dance under it...without touching the bar... and you are a limbo-ing! C'mon give it a try...

BILLY reluctantly gets up and walks under the very high set Limbo pole, so high he doesn't even have to duck.

TONY DOURBAIN

SEE!! You're a natural. Let's make this a little more challenging.

TONY DOURBAIN lowers the bar and BILLY walks under it, a little trickier this time but still easy. TONY DOURBAIN lowers the bar again, BILLY has to duck but manages it. TONY DOURBAIN makes the bar really low now;

BILLY

Sir...!? I don't think that's even possible...

TONY DOURBAIN

(THREATENINGLY)...you want to be a top chef here one day don't ya Billy...?

BILLY

Of course

TONY DOURBAIN

Well you better at least TRY!?.

BILLY, sweating profusely, bends backwards and starts trying to Limbo under the incredibly low bar. Suddenly there is a snapping sound, BILLY's back has given out and he is stuck with his upper body at a right angle to his legs;

BILLY

AAArrgghhh!!

TONY DOURBAIN

Sheesh (SCRATCHING HIS CHIN) I'm not gonna lie to you Billy...that looks kinda nasty, you better take the rest of the day off, go see a chiropractor or something...

EXT: Alley behind Pastrami Wasabi's. BILLY is walking unsteadily away with his body bent at this extreme angle;

TONY DOURBAIN

Oh yeah....and Billy!...

As he yells BILLY's name he turns with great pain. TONY DOURBAIN leans out the door:

...if you try and sue me, your chef dreams here at Pastrami Wasabi's are over...

BILLY grimaces with a pained expression on his face hobbles off.

SCENE 2

INT: CHIROPRACTORS OFFICE: *BILLY is sat on the doctor's bed being examined. The doctor does not looking happy.*

CHIROPRACTOR

...tsk-tsk, in all my years of medical experience, including the five years I spent as personal doctor to the late, great contortionist and limbo champion Mariana De Bendison, I have never seen Limbo injuries such as these...

BILLY

...is there anything you can do doc...?

CHIROPRACTOR

...I don't think so. In my professional opinion you should go home, have a nice cup of tea and see if it somehow fixes itself on it's own...(nods enthusiastically)

BILLY

(let's out a deep sigh) ...thank you very much for your time Dr Farzenweegle.

SCENE 3

INT: BUNGUS TOWER; *AUNT BETTY is sitting in her room screaming out for BILLY:*

AUNT BETTY

BILLY!! Where's my peppermint tea...??? What is taking so blimmin' long...?

BILLY enters the room unsteadily, his back still bent at a right angle, he is shakily carrying a cup of tea for AUNT BETTY, with difficulty he hands it to her which she drinks with a noisy slurp;

AUNT BETTY

Aaah...delicious...a little bit 'spilled' but otherwise pretty good. Plus Billy, with your back like that, you make an excellent table.

She places her tea on BILLY as though he is a table;

BILLY

Um...Aunt Betty...that's a little HOT!!!

He starts to grimace as the hot cup starts burning him slightly;

AUNT BETTY

You should go see some kind of alternative healer, Thai massage, or acupuncture or something like that...when arthritis meant I couldn't make a fist, I went to see a medicine man, three bags of leeches and the blood of the endangered walnut toad and I was back in the ring in no time...

Despite being in pain a smile creeps across BILLY's face as he knows exactly where to go;

SCENE 3

INT: BATHROOM IN BUNGUS TOWER; *BILLY is in the bathroom.*

BILLY winces as he steps into the bath-tub and switches on the shower that will suck him into Bungusland.

Suddenly he is sucked down the plug hole in a haze of green light. Just as the clouds clear AUNT BETTY appears at the door, snooping... She turns off the water tap and pulls a homemade looking mobile phone from her hair. She dials the CRAZY PROFESSOR. He answers quite politely. We cut between where he is (in his lab) and AUNT BETTY in the bathroom.

CRAZY PROFESSOR is in his lab, his phone rings;

CRAZY PROFESSOR

Hello mother...

CUT BACK TO AUNT BETTY in the bathroom;

AUNT BETTY

...listen here, that lobotomy headed, sorry excuse for a mayor has just slipped off to Bungusland but ...his back is all bent at right angles!

CUT BACK TO CRAZY PROFESSOR in his lab;

CRAZY PROFESSOR

...right angles! But that can mean only one thing!!!

CUT BACK TO AUNT BETTY in the bathroom;

AUNT BETTY

...Exactly...he has been practising Limbo dancing!!

CUT BACK TO CRAZY PROFESSOR in his lab;

CRAZY PROFESSOR

...does he not know what will happen if he travels to Bungusland after he's been Limbo dancing...?

CUT BACK TO AUNT BETTY in the bathroom;

AUNT BETTY

...quite possibly not...

CUT BACK TO CRAZY PROFESSOR in his lab;

CRAZY PROFESSOR

Pack your bags Mother, I think this may be our window of opportunity...

CUT BACK TO AUNT BETTY in the bathroom;

AUNT BETTY

I won't hold my breath...you usually mess these things up.

CUT BACK TO CRAZY PROFESSOR in his lab;

CRAZY PROFESSOR

(SMILING MISCHEVIOUSLY) Not this time...what could possibly go wrong...?

CRAZY PROFESSOR snaps the phone shut.

SCENE 3

INT: BUNGUSLAND MAYORS OFFICE; *PRAWN PAUL & EMILY EPIGLOTTIS are sitting around with SEA CUCUMBER GIRL trying to come up with a theme for a party that is being planned;*

PRAWN PAUL

We could do a Donut theme...I mean...he does like Donuts...

SEA CUCUMBER GIRL (SCG) shakes her head.

EMILY

no...I think we did that already...how about Pizza...? Everybody loves PIZZA!

GWRETCHIN

(SQUEEZING FROM EMILYS MOUTH) Did someone say Pizza!?

Suddenly BILLY comes shooting out of the pipe and lands in his chair. He is still bent at an angle but is excited to see his friends...but is perturbed when they don't seem to react...

PRAWN PAUL

Well...gambas a la plancha is definitely not happening!

BILLY

Um...guys...hey...GUYS!!!

BILLY starts waving his hands in front of their faces but they can't see him. He moves over to his beloved SCG;

BILLY

Sea Cucumber Girl...? Surely you can see me...?

They just keep on discussing their party plan, oblivious to his presence.

EMILY

...I sure wish Billy was here...he'd have some good suggestions...

BILLY

(EXASPERATED) BUT I AM HERE!!!

PRAWN PAUL

What are you talking about...? He's the one person we aren't supposed to tell!!!

*At hearing this **BILLY** looks down hearted. Suddenly a mysterious character who is also bent at a right angle appears, he is **DANNY**;*

DANNY

Hey...Billy...!

BILLY

Eh!?...who are you...???

DANNY

My name is Danny...why don't you come join me...we're having a party!

BILLY

Why are you bent over like that!?

DANNY

I'll show you...c'mon...the party is just getting started!

***BILLY** looks forlornly at his friends who still seem oblivious to his presence...*

BILLY

I guess I may as well...what kind of party are you having...?

DANNY

A LIMBO PARTY!

THE SONG "LIMBO PARTY" STARTS PLAYING:

LIMBO PARTY

We're gonna have a Limbo party,

Let's all have a Limbo party,

We're gonna have a Limbo party,

A Limbo party tonight!

I'll bring the limbo pole...just forget your friends

We're gonna dance and party...until the evening ends...

We're gonna have a Limbo party,

Let's all have a Limbo party,
We're gonna have a Limbo party,
A Limbo party tonight!

As this is going BILLY follows DANNY out into the street where a big Limbo party is happening by a bunch of semi-visible characters, all bent at right angles. They all seem to be having a great time and seem invisible to some of the residents of Bungusland who are walking around...after the second chorus BILLY asks DANNY what is going on:

BILLY

How come all these people can't see us...?

DANNY

Duh...Billy...because we are in limbo! We are invisible to them...in our own little party...and they aren't invited!

BILLY

...but my friends...shouldn't we go and get them too...?

DANNY

...forget about your friends Billy...we're your friends now! (PICKING UP THE LYRICS)

...AND WE'RE GONNA DANCE & PARTY,

UNTIL THE EVENING ENDS.

The song starts to fade as we leave them all having lots of fun. BILLY, after a little resistance has joined the right-angled people of Limbo...the group have started a huge Limbo train that is led by DANNY and BILLY.

SCENE 4

BUNGUSLAND MAYORS OFFICE; EXT. The **CRAZY PROF.** turns up at the door of the Mayors office with his loyal **BIONIC CRAB** at his side.

CRAZY PROF.

(TO BIONIC CRAB) I've been waiting a long time for this!

BIONIC CRAB nods eagerly at his boss. **CRAZY PROF.** rings the doorbell...the huge door is abruptly opened by **PRAWN PAUL**, **SCG** and **EMILY**.

PRAWN PAUL

...what do YOU want...?

EMILY

Yeah...don't you know you are not welcome here...

CRAZY PROF.

Crab...please hand me the constitution

*The **BIONIC CRAB** loyally hands him a crumpled piece of paper. **CRAZY PROF.** looks at it and back at **BIONIC CRAB***

CRAZY PROF.

What have you done!?? You've only had this 5 minutes and you've already crumpled it all up! You literally can't do anything right, can you?!

***BIONIC CRAB** looks embarrassed. **GWRETCHIN** (who has just squeezed out of **EMILY'S** mouth) coughs to get their attention:*

GWRETCHIN

Eh...gentlemen...what did you want...?

CRAZY PROF.

Oh yes! I have come to act as temporary mayor until the real Mayor can be located...

PRAWN PAUL

What do you mean...located? What have you done this time...??

CRAZY PROF.

(MOCK OFFENDED) Me...? What ever do you mean...? Nope, this time he has done it all himself...and according to the constitution the role of temporary mayor is given to the first person who calls dibs...which I am doing...DIBS!

***CRAZY PROF. & BIONIC CRAB** barges past them into the Mayors office leaving **PRAWN PAUL, SCG** and **EMILY** reading the constitution. As they walk past them **CRAZY PROF.** is singing:*

CRAZY PROF.

...how low can you go....how low can you go...

EMILY

This is bad...we have to find out what has happened to Billy before that stinky Professor has a chance to cause too much havoc...it says we have 24 hours before any decisions made by a temporary mayor can be instigated...

PRAWN PAUL

Well, what are we waiting for...? Let's split up and find Billy!

***EMILY** and **SCG** nod in agreement.*

SCENE 5

A LIMBO PARTY, EXT; *The limbo party continues pretty much how we left them (all of them still bent at right angles)...still going strong. BILLY steps to one side to take a break...he takes a deep breath and looks down and sees a pine cone which in his mind turns into SEA CUCUMBER GIRL, suddenly DANNY grabs him, shaking him out of his hallucination:*

DANNY

There you are! C'mon Billy...they're lowering the Limbo pole...

BILLY

...shouldn't I be getting back to my friends...at least let them know where I am...?

DANNY

Nah...we're having way too much fun...they'll be alright...

BILLY

I guess...

The pair re-enter the throng of the party.

SCENE 6

MONTAGE: **PRAWN PAUL**, **SCG**, **EMILY** & **GWRETCHIN** in a variety of locations asking people if they have seen **BILLY**.

PRAWN PAUL is asking **THE LOBSQUITCH** who just shakes his head and slithers off.

SCG is asking a bunch of strange whelk like creatures who all shake their heads in unison.

EMILY is asking **GASTRONAUT** who shakes his head between munches on a big hot dog.

PRAWN PAUL. Is asking **NECK BOY** who shakes his head.

GWRETCHIN is asking **EMILY**

EMILY

...you know I don't know where he is!!!

They all collapse onto a bench looking exhausted and worried.

EMILY

What could possibly have happened to him...? I'm worried.

SCG tries to look brave but suddenly bursts out crying. **PRAWN PAUL** and **EMILY** try and comfort her;

GWRETCHIN

(popping out of her **EMILY'S** mouth) There, there Sea Cucumber Girl...I am sure nothing bad has happened to him...

PRAWN PAUL

B...b...but if he is okay...why hasn't he let US know...we are his best friends!!!

SCENE 7

BUNGUSLAND MAYORS OFFICE; INT: *The CRAZY PROF. is sat behind the desk with his feet up talking to AUNT BETTY via video link. BIONIC CRAB is carrying a tray of drinks, acting as a butler to the arrogant CRAZY PROF.*

AUNT BETTY

...and you've made an amendment that will allow me to return to Bungusland...?

CRAZY PROF.

Yes, mother....it's right here (WAVES A PIECE OF PAPER AND PUTS IT ON THE DESK) in a few hours it will be legal and we can take over this ridiculous place together...

AUNT BETTY

Excellent! It seems there is nothing that could go wrong...unless that empty headed fool realises he can leave Limbo at any time...of course...

SCENE 8

THE BENCH WE LEFT PRAWN PAUL, EMILY & SCG ON, EXT; *The three of them are all looking down cast and miserable. Suddenly all the Limbo-ites come partying in, singing and dancing in a long chain of bent backward looking ghostly people. BILLY is dancing along having a good time when he sees his friends all looking sad...he hesitates a moment...then walks over...listening to what they are saying...*

EMILY

...I do miss him...and he's only been gone a few hours...

GWRETCHIN

(POPPING OUT OF EMILY'S MOUTH) It's a tragedy...I hope he's safe...

PRAWN PAUL

...and to think...we have been planning this big party for him...to celebrate his first Bungus year as Mayor...

BILLY

(TO HIMSELF) They were planning a party...for me!?

DANNY

(RUNNING FROM THE CROWD TO FETCH BILLY) Hey Billy, we got to keep up with the gang...

BILLY

No Danny...I have been selfish...my friends have been worried about me...I've got to go...

DANNY

Suit yourself...if your bored of Limbo-ing...you can hang out with your boring friends...

BILLY

...exactly...they are my friends...you guys only care about Limbo-ing...we care about each other...see you Danny...

DANNY

...won't be seeing you around Billy...(SHOUTING AFTER THE LIMBO CROWD) Hey...Guys! Hold up...wait for me!!!

DANNY runs off to re-join them. BILLY is left alone looking longingly at his friends.

BILLY

How can I reach them...if only I wasn't stuck in this limbo position!!!...If I just try...perhaps I can...

BILLY starts straining and sweating...trying to un-bend his back...We cut to what EMILY,SCG & PRAWN PAUL are seeing...as BILLY slowly becomes visible to them as he struggles to bend his back up-right again.

EMILY & PRAWN PAUL

BILLY!!!

PRAWN PAUL

That's where he's been...he's been stuck in LIMBO!!!

EMILY

QUICK! Let's help him!!!

They jump off the bench and grab an arm each pulling him back to a normal up right position. It eventually snaps back correctly.

BILLY

...thanks guys!!! I am sorry I didn't get in touch sooner...! (HE PICKS UP SCG AND STARTS HUGGING HER)

GWRETCHIN

(POPPING OUT OF EMILYS MOUTH) We're just glad you're back to normal!

PRAWN PAUL

Actually, his back isn't normal...he's got a hinge!!!

BILLY

Oh yeah!!!

BILLY does a quick couple of bends with his new hinge like back.

BILLY

Cool!

EMILY

Never mind that...we need to get back to the Mayors Office and relieve that stinky Professor of his job!

BILLY

HIM?!! Let's go!!!

They all march off purposefully.

SCENE 9

BUNGUSLAND MAYORS OFFICE, INT; *CRAZY PROF. is getting a little too relaxed in the Mayors chair.*

CRAZY PROF.

Take a letter Crab...

BIONIC CRAB comes running in with a pad and paper.

CRAZY PROF.

...dear citizens of Bungusland...I hereby decree the following amendments to the laws of Bungusland...firstly...all must refer to me as his Excellency or his brilliancy...

Suddenly BILLY and the gang burst through the door.

BILLY

That won't be necessary...any amendments you've made I am about cancel...

CRAZY PROF.

B-b-billy Bungus!!! But I thought you were lost in limbo!!!

BILLY

I was...but I realised I had a responsibility to my friends...now get out of my chair...

CRAZY PROF. reluctantly gets up.

CRAZY PROF.

...here I am, stuck without a fiendishly evil plan B...I guess I'll be off...come on Crab...

CRAZY PROF. and BIONIC CRAB skulk off. PRAWN PAUL& EMILY cheer.

BILLY

First order of business...all new amendments are off!

BILLY picks up the paper on the desk and tears it in half.

PRAWN PAUL

...second order of business...your party!!!

SCENE 10

BUNGUSLAND, BIG PARTY, EXT. *A big party is happening with all the Bungus characters... GASTRONAUT is being DJ, BILLY is beside him...*

GASTRONAUT

...any requests Billy...?

BILLY

...anything so long as it isn't a Limbo song!!!

GASTRONAUT looks at him confused. The camera pulls back to take in the whole scene... we pull back and see CRAZY PROF. looking on from a distance through a window in his lab.

CRAZY PROF.

Well, I certainly wouldn't have wasted any energy on hosting a party as mayor, what is wrong with that fool...I wonder where my cretinous Crab went too...I want him to run me a bath.

CUT TO: DANNY and the limbo-ers all at the party as ghostly apparitions...BIONIC CRAB is with them dancing away.

THE END



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