



**CREATED BY
DAVID QUANG PHAM**

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Episode: "Fresh Ground"

Written by and Music by

David Quang Pham

Characters inspired by

Fresh Ground Pepper BRB Retreat 2025 Week 3

Based on the musical ***Turnover: A New Leaf***



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photosynthesismovie.com

EXT. WHISKERSKILLS - DAY

A tree trunk-shaped van drives up unpaved trails through a giant mushroom forest. Behind the van is a sticker that reads: "Accepted to Fresh Ground Creative Boot Camp."

BOMBUS (O.S.) RAU (O.S.)
Buzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz... No puking honey!

PYRUS (O.S.)
Ya just vomited at the pit stop!

INT. TRUNK MINIWAGON - CONTINUOUS

RAU RAM (36), a cilantro, drives. Her son PARSLEY (11), pear friend PYRUS (13), and antsy pet bee BOMBUS sit in the back.

RAU
We are almost at Freshhh Groundddd!

PYRUS
Ya supposed to save me from military school, not send us to boot camp!

RAU
Fresh Ground's an artist boot camp.
The best inventors, entrepreneurs,
musicians come out of the program.
But Kudzu's a fellow camper, ugh...

PARSLEY
To think plants call you invasive.

PYRUS
Hah. Dis camp's for you, nerd herb.

RAU
Oci will be your chaperone.

PARSLEY PYRUS
Whoo! Oci's everywhere! Ugh! That basil's there too?!

PYRUS (CONT'D)
Why ain't ya be our chaperone?

RAU
That's the first. I've got my own.

PARSLEY
Mom. You're gonna crush whatever obstacle they'll pepper you with.

RAU
I will crush this boot camp!

EXT. FRESH GROUND TRAIL

RAU falls face first into mud. KUDZU's boots trample her.

RAU
Boots... crushing... meeeeeee...

PIPER BELL (O.S.)
Ding dong! Get a move on, cilantro.

RAU sees TOM SOLAN, a tomato, spill their sauce.

PIPER BELL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Tom Solan, pick up after ya sauce!

TOM SOLAN
(to RAU)
These peppers always getting up in
our noses, amirite?

PIPER BELL, a peppered drill instructor in their 60s, leads a group of exhausted PLANTS. RAU and TOM trail behind.

PIPER BELL

I DON'T KNOW BUT I'VE BEEN TOLD

CAMPERS

PIPER BELL

HOPES AND DREAMS ARE FULL OF MOLD

CAMPERS HOPES AND DREAMS ARE FULL OF MOLD

PIPER BELL CAMPERS (CONT'D)
YOU'RE FLAT DO RE

PIPER BELL (CONT'D) CAMPERS (CONT'D)
YOU'RE SHARP MI FA

PIPER BELL (CONT'D) CAMPERS (CONT'D)

OFF	KEY								
		DO	RE	ME	FA	SOL	LA	TI	DO

PIPER marches the group into...

EXT. FRESH GROUND CAMPGROUND - CONTINUOUS

...the campground. BOMBUS chills on the flagpole.

RAU
Bombus, where are Oci and the kids?

BOMBUS directs an antenna to a nearby creek. RAU sees PYRUS dive in and splash PARSLEY while OCI float on their back.

OCI
Fresh Ground got some fresh water!

PARSLEY PYRUS
So campy, Oci. Stop it, Py- I love boot camp!

PIPER BELL
No delighted listening. Ears on me!

ZEA MAYS, a corn, lifts a peel. Kernels fall out their ears.

PIPER BELL (CONT'D)
Easy with the kernels, corn ears.

ZEA MAYS
Ay ay, Colonel Piper Bell!

PIPER BELL
Here at Fresh Ground, everyone gets grounded into spices. Say good night to your sweet dreams as this sour experience shall straighten your vine. Roots reshaped.

KUDZU LUBATA
You needa get in shape.

RAU
Shut your sprout.

PAPA VER
At peas, Rau and Kudz!

PIPER BELL
At Fresh Ground, you only follow me, not this poppy.

EXT. FRESH GROUND CREEK - CONTINUOUS

OCI and the kids leave the creek. They take a selfie while BOMBUS buzzes in. ***Photosynthesis*** jingle!

PARSLEY, PYRUS, OCI
PHOTOSYNTHESIS! PHOTO!

OCI, PARSLEY, and PYRUS see PIPER verbally rip apart RAU.

OCI
She's got a fun chaperone, huh?

PYRUS
Chaperoning? More like owning ya
mom, Parsley.

PARSLEY
Shut up, Pyrus. Mom never lets me
play in mud...

PIPER and the CAMPERS leave RAU alone. Trying not to well up
or smash a nearby pumpkin person, she turns to the KIDS.

RAU
The Firefly Pit tonight?!

A giant FIREFLY flies over the frame and transitions to...

EXT. FRESH GROUND FIREFLY CIRCLE - EVENING

...a MARSHMALLOW PLANT RANGER herding FIREFLIES into a pit.
They give each BUG a marshmallow. In return, they light up.

EXT. FRESH GROUND FIREFLY CIRCLE - NIGHT

RAU, PARSLEY, and PYRUS sit around the lit firefly herd.

PARSLEY
So... anyone got a fun game?

PYRUS
Games are so lame, lil herb. How
'bout ghost plant stories?

RAU
Parsley's too widdle to hear any of-

PARSLEY
Ghosts don't scare me.

BOMBUS in a ghost cloak pops out behind PARSLEY and PYRUS.

BOMBUS
Booooooozzzzzzz!

PARSLEY & PYRUS
Ahhhhhhhhhhh!!!!

RAU high-fives BOMBUS's antenna.

RAU
What's bugging you, son?

OCI joins in, with CO2-mallow sticks in hand. PYRUS nabs one.

OCI
CO2-mallows, anyone?

PYRUS
Don't mind if I do!

RAU takes one but denies PARSLEY's.

RAU
No CO2-mallows at midnight. It's
basically poison.

BELLA DONNA, a nightshade, walks by.

BELLA DONNA
Rude. I'm toxic. Not poisonous.

RAU
Sorry for the mix up, Bella.
Mallows give Parsley a stoma ache.

BELLA DONNA
That, they do.

22-minute episode summary: Rau fails as a Fresh Ground camper and Piper Bell dismisses her as a creative salonist. Another camper scares off the fireflies and the herd somehow sets fire to the campgrounds. Fresh Ground gets burnt down but not before Rau, Parsley, Pyrus, Bombus, and Oci get the community together. Piper wants to go down with their "ship." Piper's signature number is "Grow a vine or get left behind" and Rau's number is "Fresh Ground."

INT. FRESH GROUND BARN - NIGHT

RAU runs into the flaming barn. She finds PIPER is giving up.

EXT. FRESH GROUND BARN - MOMENTS LATER

The barn collapses, causing the CAMPERS to cry and weep.

PARSLEY
Me (Viet: "Mom")!

From the smoke of the collapsed barn, RAU carries PIPER.

The CAMPERS rejoice.

PIPER BELL
Why? After grounding your hopes
into spice, you still came back for
me...

RAU
Nothing makes me more hopeful...
than getting my deposit back.

PIPER rolls their eyes.

The CAMPERS extinguish the remaining fire. The windy smoke transitions to...

EXT. FRESH GROUND FIREFLY CIRCLE - DAWN

...BOMBUS buzz-napping in the pit with a flashlight still taped to their stinger, flickering as the battery dies. Around them are charred barns and giant mushrooms.

RAU walk beside PIPER.

PIPER BELL

Ding dong, it's going to be real
quiet for a long time at Fresh
Ground...

RAU

Ashes are old ground made fresh.

PIPER BELL

Try not to burn out, cilantro.

RAU

Whether I end up spice or ash, a
mother's soul can never be crushed.

PARSLEY and PYRUS hop in the pit and kick ash at one another.

PARSLEY
Like spice, pear?!

PYRUS
Eat my ash, herb!

BOMBUS is startled awake. They hover and barf honey on RAU.

RAU
You all are grounded!

As ashes get dispersed by PARSLEY and PYRUS's feet, the pit unveils the credits and photos taken throughout the episode, and from Fresh Ground Pepper's BRB Retreat 2025 Week 3.

END OF THE PLOT

CREDITS

DEDICATION: DEDICATED TO FRESH GROUND PEPPER BRB RETREAT 2025 WEEK 3 - LEFT TO RIGHT: DAVID, CELINE, MAIYA, MAGUIRE, LIBBY, KATIE, JOSEPHINE, NEETA, MICHAEL. + ANDREW, ANDREW, BEN, CRISTINA, ERNIE, JACLYN, LITTLE POND

