

"Zoo Crew Two"

written by

Lenay & Michael Demetrious

28-41 45 Street
Astoria, NY 11103
347-642-1482
lenay.demetrious@aol.com

"ZOO CREW TWO" BY LENAY & MICHAEL DEMETRIOUS

EXT. CITY - DAY

The camera pans through early 1972 Manhattan quickly, capturing a bird's eye view of the city streets while "School's Out" by Alice Cooper is heard in the background. The camera then "flies" through a Broadway stage door and the song is drowned out by the sound of a child singing.

INT. BROADWAY THEATER - DAY

The camera captures a wide shot of the scene from the back of the theater. 9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL is singing "Give My Regards to Broadway" on stage. An easel is propped on the stage that reads, "Oliver Auditions". A subtitle reads "1972" on the bottom of the screen. CUT to a few casting managers and agents seated in the third row of seats who are visibly uninterested, aimlessly jotting down notes on their pads.

Off to the side of the theater is a woman with a ghastly red wig, lip syncing the same song 9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL is singing verbatim as he sings it. This is MICHAEL'S MOTHER.

CASTING AGENT 1 stands up in his seat.

CASTING AGENT 1
(cutting 9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL
off in mid-song)
Next!

9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL stops singing and walks offstage while a Hispanic boy walks on. This is 9-YEAR-OLD ALEX. 9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL steps off the stage and is met with CASTING AGENT 2.

CASTING AGENT 2
(whispering)
Great job. Stay here until we call
you back onstage.

CASTING AGENT 1
(to 9-YEAR-OLD ALEX onstage)
What's your name, young man?

9-YEAR-OLD ALEX
(enthusiastically)
Alex.

(CONTINUED)

CASTING AGENT 1
Whenever you're ready.

9-YEAR-OLD ALEX nods to the accompanist off stage. The music begins and he starts singing "Kids" from *Bye Bye Birdie*.

CUT back to 9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL, who is met by MICHAEL'S MOTHER.

MICHAEL'S MOTHER
You didn't smile enough.

9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL
But they said I did a good job.

MICHAEL'S MOTHER
If you did a good job they wouldn't have cut you off in the middle of your song.

9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL
But they told me to wait.

CUT back to 9-YEAR-OLD ALEX on stage.

CASTING AGENT 1
(cutting 9-YEAR-OLD ALEX off)
Next!

9-YEAR-OLD ALEX walks offstage while another young actor walks on. CASTING AGENT 2 approaches him when he is off stage.

CASTING AGENT 2
(whispering)
Great job. Stay here until we call you back onstage.

CUT to 9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL and 9-YEAR-OLD ALEX playing backgammon on the theater floor. The theater has emptied out a bit. The last young actor has finished auditioning and CASTING AGENT 3 walks onstage.

CASTING AGENT 3
(from stage, to auditioning actors)
Thank you all for coming. We'll be in touch.

CASTING AGENT 1 approaches the boys.

(CONTINUED)

CASTING AGENT 1
Michael and Alex, is it?

The boys nod.

CASTING AGENT 1
Get your parents. You booked the
show.

9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL waves his mother over, and as she
approaches, he turns to her.

9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL
I guess I smiled enough.

9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL and ALEX exchange glances and begin to
sing "Consider Yourself" from *Oliver!* arm in arm in
celebration. They skip and dance past the casting agents.
CASTING AGENT 2 holds a styrofoam cup in his hand as he
smiles and watches them as they pass.

CASTING AGENT 2
(to other casting agents,
fondly)
Kids.

The shot focuses on the cup in his hand.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

The shot still focusing on the cup, PAN out to a man
throwing the cup into a garbage can adjacent to the movie
theater. A subtitle reads "October 1979" on the bottom of
the screen. Immediately after the man leaves the shot,
MICHAEL, ALEX, MAURICE, ADOLFO, MARIO, and GARY are seen
leaving the theater. The theater's marquee reads, "MIDNIGHT
SHOWING: THE WARRIORS".

MAURICE
The Punks were pussies, man.

ADOLFO
Yeah, the Warriors beat *their*
asses.

MARIO
Man, that curly-haired girl from
the Lizzies was a real *Lezzie!*
(laughs)

(CONTINUED)

GARY
(to MARIO, punching him)
You idiot.

MARIO
I wish I was a Warrior.

MAURICE
Yeah, man. They don't even pay for
the subway.

ADOLFO
Yeah, it's just a matter of jumping
power, baby.

ADOLFO reenacts the Warriors jumping over the subway
turnstiles by jumping over the parking meters on the street.

The gang walks into a candy store a few doors down from the
theater. Throughout the following dialogue, some of the boys
buy various things from the store-- cigarettes, gum, etc.

GARY
How cool would it be to be the
Warriors?

MAURICE
Yeah, that would be pretty cool.
Imagine us being the Warriors, all
badass and shit.

MAURICE "play fights" with MARIO, reenacting the fight
scenes from *The Warriors*. Meanwhile, a lightbulb is lit in
MICHAEL's head.

MICHAEL
Well, why can't we be?

MARIO
But we don't live in Coney Island!

MICHAEL
No, you moron. We'll start our own
gang here.

ADOLFO
(over-enthusiastically)
Yeah, come on man. Let's start a
gang.

ALEX
Wait a minute. Isn't there a gang
already in the neighborhood?

(CONTINUED)

GARY

Yeah. The Zoo Crew, man.

MICHAEL

Yeah, well why can't we be part of the Zoo Crew then? Those guys know who I am. They know me from that McDonald's commercial I was in.

ALEX

(hesitant)

I don't know, man. Raymond seems like a bit of a hardass.

ADOLFO

Wait, Maurice-- aren't you in the same class as Raymond's little brother?

MAURICE

Yeah?

MICHAEL

Then we're in!

ALEX

I don't know man. Do you guys really want to defend your turf and become street thugs? Are any of you guys willing to go to jail? 'Cause I don't. I have a commercial booked next week.

MARIO

For what, Fags "R" Us?

The gang laughs.

ALEX

Shut up, Mario. (beat) I'm just saying why can't we do the funny shit that we usually do. You know, without the violence and all that.

ADOLFO

Come on, man. You really want to be known as the clown of the neighborhood? I want to be known as a tough guy.

GARY

Yeah, me too.

(CONTINUED)

MARIO
(looking at a display of smoke
bombs)
Hey guys, check this out.

The rest of the gang walk over to MARIO.

ALEX
Smoke bombs. That's what I'm
talking about.

ALEX grabs a smoke bomb, quickly pays, and books out of the
candy store, leaving the rest of the gang behind.

GARY
What the hell is this Bozo up to
now?

The gang follows ALEX outside.

MICHAEL
What are you doing, Alex?

ALEX
(with much enthusiasm)
I'm gonna light up the smoke bomb
and put it in my jacket and pretend
that I'm on fire.

MICHAEL
You're gonna burn your jacket, man.
You gotta put it in something and
then put it in your pocket.

ALEX
Yeah, you're right. Hold on.

ALEX rummages through the same garbage can that was seen in
the beginning of the scene and finds the styrofoam cup.

ALEX
You think this would work?

MICHAEL
Yeah, sure.

MICHAEL helps ALEX ignite the smoke bomb, then puts it in
the cup, which he then puts in his jacket pocket. ALEX
immediately starts running down the street with the ignited
smoke bomb in his pocket. The gang follows him.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX
(pretending to be on fire)
Ahhhhhhhh! I'm on fire! Ahhh!

PASSERBY #1
Oh my god! That poor child is on
fire!

PASSERBY #2
Stop drop and roll!

ADOLFO
(to MICHAEL)
Styrofoam doesn't melt, does it?

MICHAEL
I don't know.

At this very moment, while ALEX is flailing and pretending to be on fire, the right side of his jacket (where the smoke bomb was placed) bursts into real flames.

GARY
Holy shit! He's actually on fire!

MICHAEL
We gotta get him out of that
jacket.

At this point, ALEX starts freaking out.

ALEX
Get it off! Get it off!

MARIO
I have a knife! I have a knife!

ADOLFO tackles ALEX to get him down, then MAURICE and MICHAEL work together to remove the jacket, who stomp on it to extinguish the flames. Meanwhile the rest of the gang is on the sidewalk laughing hysterically. ALEX lies on the sidewalk, recovering.

ALEX
What the hell happened?

GARY walks over to the scene, inspects the jacket. He opens the right pocket and takes out the scorched styrofoam cup.

GARY
Oh man, the cup melted right
through your jacket!

(CONTINUED)

ALEX
(looking at the jacket,
dumbfounded)
I didn't know styrofoam could melt.

ADOLFO and MICHAEL exchange glances.

ADOLFO
(to MICHAEL)
If we're going to be any sort of
gang, we're gonna have to do better
than this.

MAURICE
Ditto.

MICHAEL
The three of us will go to the Trio
tomorrow night. Nine out of ten
times Raymond and his guys are
there.

MICHAEL picks ALEX up from the ground.

ALEX
Thanks for saving me, man.

MICHAEL
I should have left you to burn to
teach you a lesson.

EXT. RAYMOND'S TRANS AM - NIGHT

CUT to a vanity plate reading "ZOO CREW". PAN up to the hood of a souped up light blue 1979 Pontiac Trans Am and out to its windshield. The car overlooks the previous scene. Inside the car are RAYMOND, the leader of the Zoo Crew, and TANK and MCCLOUD, his right-hand men. All three wear jean jackets that have "Zoo Crew" painted on the back. RAYMOND is behind the wheel, TANK is in the passenger seat, and MCCLOUD is sitting in the back, eating straight out of a McDonald's bag.

TANK
(watching ALEX)
What the hell did we just see?

MCCLOUD
(with mouth full)
I think that kid was just on fire.

(CONTINUED)

RAYMOND

Hold on. Isn't that Mike the Actor?

MCCLOUD

(still eating)

Yeah it's the McDonald's kid!

(singing the Burger King jingle)

Hold the pickles, hold the lettuce,
special orders don't upset us!

(laughs maniacally as food falls
from his mouth)

TANK

Oh I know that kid. He's crazy,
man. You remember what he did to
Peter's little brother?

RAYMOND

Peter Zoo?

TANK

He stabbed him with a pencil for no
reason at all. In third grade!

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

CUT to a flashback of 9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL. 9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL is the 3rd grade door monitor, holding open the school's side entrance door as students file into the building after recess. One student, 9-YEAR-OLD GLEN, a broad-shouldered kid with a bully physique, is seen bothering 9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL, poking and teasing him.

9-YEAR-OLD GLEN

(mocking)

What're doing, french fry? You
think you're special holding the
door open, or you're just special
'cause you were in a McDonald's
commercial? (singing the Burger
King jingle) Hold the pickles, hold
the lettuce, special orders don't
upset us!

9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL

That's the Burger King song,
stupid! Get a load of this Whopper!

9-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL pulls a sharpened pencil out of his
pocket and stabs 9-YEAR-OLD GLEN in the stomach.

CUT to a shot of the rear doors of an ambulance slamming. It
drives away, sirens blaring.