

**THEME:**

People use hypocrisy as a coping mechanism.

**tone:**

Humorous/satirical, irony

**roles & costumes/props:**

1. THE THOREAU - Travis

Gray bathrobe from Mihika, Sunglasses, Slides, Beard from Ms.Small, trees, jail, water to choke on

2. Woody the Woodchuck - Anya

Ears from Joe

3. Thoreau's mom - Joe

Towel wrap on head, a dress (from Mihika)

Flip flop to throw at Travis

Picture of Travis with a mustache

Telescope out of cardboard for woodchuck scene

4. Cameraman - Mihika

Camera from Giang, makeup brush

5. Townspeople - Anya

-> we can have real people from the audience, or cardboard people

6. Cop - Giang

Handcuffs (make out of cardboard), police hat from Ms.Small

7. Irishman - Joe

Celtics shirt

8. Black ant: Joe, Red (dead) ant: Giang

Antlers headband, eye patch for the black ant, make a sword from cardboard, then another sword from Ms.Small

9. Placker - Giang

Movie plack from Ms.Small

"Keeping up with THE THOREAU" Script:

**Intro to Thoreau: GIANG (placard) , TRAVIS (Thoreau) , MIHIKA (Cameraman), ANYA (Camera Crew)**

*\*Mihika fix THOREAU's makeup*

Giang: Ok take 572!

*\*Snaps placard*

*\*Thoreau chokes on water*

Giang: Nevermind, take 573!

*\*Snaps placard*

Thoreau: Hi im hdt. Thank you for investing your time into watching my glorious life. I want to reach everyone and show YOU how magnificent nature is. Nature is so beautiful (wipes tears away), through her I have finally transcended into the divine. I lived at Walden pond for 2 years, 2 months, 2 days, 17 hours, 52 minutes, and 34 seconds —

Cameraman interrupts: Do you even own a watch?

Thoreau: Shut up I can't imagine a better place than Walden pond. It's **the** place to experience solitude at its finest.

Giang: CUT

*\*Snaps placard*

Thoreau: You wanna go to my mom's house

*\*Music plays*

**Mommy's house: JOE (Mommy) , TRAVIS (Thoreau) , GIANG (PLACKER), ANYA (Sister)**

Mommy: Why are you here?!?! I just saw you three hours ago!!

Cameraman: Yeah why? I thought you stayed at the pond like a hermit

Thoreau: Well, you see—

Sister: Here's your folded laundry Henry!

\*hands Thoreau the laundry\*

\*is shocked when Thoreau throws it\*

Thoreau: \*throws the laundry backwards\* Crap they're not supposed to do that... cut cut!

Cameraman: Nah we're still rolling

Thoreau: Fine, uh whatever we can edit that out

Mommy: Disappointment! Where did you go for college... HARVARD! And you never did succeed running that school with John... (starts crying) John was always a better child!

\*pick up pic of john

Thoreau: Shut up mom, I'm here to provide emotional support for you! Do you see all these pencils that I made for the family?

Mommy: I don't need your emotional support.. I'm self-sustaining, unlike you.

Sister: That's fax. I do your laundry every single week. And I cooked lunch yesterday. And today. And will again tomorrow—

Thoreau: Can we just edit out this entire scene? \*exasperated sigh\*

Cameraman: Sorry, this is for the people. They've gotta see the truth.

Sister: Remember when you fell you through the ice looking at those stupid bubbles, and we had to save your sorry aah—uhhh—butt. Family friendly \*hand gesture\*

Mommy: \*slap\* Disgrace to the family, Henry. Get out! I know you'll come back tomorrow but just get out!! \*picks flip-flop up off ground and throws it at Thoreau\* Emotional Damage

Cameraman: So can you elaborate on your son's behavior?

Mommy: Don't refer to him as my son! I think he's possessed—only possible explanation.

Cameraman: Well, I heard that your son valued peace and was thriving in the woods being self-sustaining—

Mommy: That's cap.

\*cameraman awkwardly leaves\*

Mommy: \*sees Thoreau, throws other flip-flop\*

*\*Music plays*

Giang: CUT

**Town: ANYA (Townsperson), GIANG (Cop), TRAVIS (Thoreau):**

\*Thoreau is watching people from behind a tree\*

\*Cameraman interviewing townspeople

Cameraman: What do you think of Thoreau?

Townsperson: I heard that Thoreau guy went to his mom's house again. Didn't he want to live in the woods or something?

Thoreau: Gossip is useless, I hate gossip. I'm just here to shine my shoe and I'm going back to peaceful nature. \*leans in closer to listen better\* (this has to be really obvious)

Cameraman: What'd you say about gossip?

Thoreau: Shush, waves her off \*listens again\*

Townsperson: Yeah! Didn't he fall into the ice too? And I also heard he was filming a TV show! Called Keeping up the Thoreau or something.

Thoreau: See, the world would be so much better if everyone didn't gossip, if everyone followed me, and if the rest of society acted the same way.

Cameraman: Didn't you literally go against society by living in the woods? And how about that poll tax—

Cop: Hey you! Aren't you Henry David Thoreau?

Thoreau: Why yes I am! And what's that funny looking hat you've got?

Cameraman: She's a cop, you dunce!

Cop: Mr. Thoreau, you are under arrest for tax evasion. The IRS is coming for you.

Thoreau: Blasphemy! I love America! America is the best country. Here I have freedom to live in the woods and never go home.

Cop: And you have the freedom to be arrested. Put your hands behind your back.

Thoreau: *\*sobbing\**

*\*leads Thoreau away in handcuffs\**

*\*Music plays*

### **Jail/Interview:**

Cop: Mr. Thoreau, you have a visitor.

*\*Irishman walks in\**

Irishman: Top 'o the morning to you!

Thoreau: It's 9pm.

Irishman: Well, well, well, how the turntables *\*silence 3s\**

Cameraman: Who's this guy?

Thoreau: This scrub John Field, he lives nearby.

Irishman: Well I guess when you're in jail, you don't have to worry about milk, eggs, butter, and coffee. Look where Transcendentalism wound you up!

Thoreau: I was trying to give you advice so you don't have to live in a shack!

Cameraman: Don't you literally live in a shack?

*\*To irishman*

Cameraman: Do you have anything to say for the documentary?

*\*Irishman sits on stool*

Irishman: I came from all the way across the Atlantic Ocean that I might make a name for myself. But Thoreau ventured into the "wilderness" 20 minutes from Concord.

Thoreau: But if everyone were to live like me, the world would be a better place!

Irishman: If everyone were to visit their mom's house everyday, sure! The world would totally be a better place...

Cop: You have 20 seconds left

Thoreau: Ok ok, just— leave me alone!

\*Irishman walks out with cop following\*

\*Cameraman focuses even more on Thoreau's face\*

Thoreau: Why is everyone so obsessed with me? \*silence, shakes head\* It's aight, my rich aunt will bail me out

*\*Music plays*

### **Woodchuck Gang & Epic Ant Sword Choreography: GIANG, ANYA, JOE**

Thoreau: Finally, back at my lovely house. Oh look at the amazing nature around me. Oh how I love being a vegetarian.

Cameraman: Didn't you have a meat sandwich like last week?

Thoreau: I'm a changed man and so disappointed in humanity. Why must we consume meat, when we have an abundant amount of this rich, nutritious vegetation? Everyone should be vegetarian. With no one eating meat, nature will be in peace, just the way I like it.

\*woodchuck appears, minding their own business\*

Cameraman: Oh look there's more of that beautiful nature now.

Thoreau: Oooh! I wanna... eat it...

Cameraman: Excuse me—

Thoreau: NO! I'm a changed man. I don't consume meat!

\*stares intensely at the woodchuck with telescope\*

\*woodchuck notices Thoreau\*

Cameraman: Hey! We're doing a documentary on this guy, wanna do an interview?

Woodchuck: Sure! I would be glad to give commentary about this creep.

\* Woodchuck sits on stool

\*Thoreau looking intensely at woodchuck while standing behind a tree\*

\*Woodchuck stares back at Thoreau\*

\*Thoreau notices that he's been seen, and ducks behind a tree, but can clearly still be seen.\*

Cameraman: So tell me, what is your experience with Thoreau?

Woodchuck: This creep has a name?! He literally stares at me everytime I pass by. I can literally sense his hunger from a mile away. He wants to eat me!!

Cameraman: Oh, and does this happen every single time?

Woodchuck: Yes! I'm sick of him. I left some berries behind, that's why I am here. I'm moving out of here! I literally have to listen to his rants about society and how he's better than everyone! This dude is so full of himself! Anyways, I need to go, I can't stand to see him anymore.

Cameraman: Alright, I'll let you do your thing now. Have a nice day!

\*Woodchuck runs away\*

\*Dramatic game of throne music plays\*

\*Ants come in fighting\*

Thoreau: Hey! Get this on camera!

Cameraman: What? You want me to record some ants fighting?

Thoreau: SHUSH! This is the only war I've ever witnessed! Oh how I wish I was involved in this historic moment!

Cameraman: Isn't one of your values literally peace?

Thoreau: But like...it's cool. Give me 37 cents on the red one.

Cameraman: So... you gamble too?

Thoreau: Gamble? I don't partake in that barbaric activity!

Cameraman: But didn't you just say —

Thoreau: Oh be quiet! Let me appreciate the beauty of this ant battle. Such magnificence!

Cameraman: The ants are literally dying

Thoreau: There's beauty in death!

\* Red ant dies \*

\* Black ant does a victory dance and passes out afterwards \*

Cameraman drags black ant off stage

Thoreau: cut! (fumble with camera)

*Theme song plays*