

EXT. SUBURB STREET - DAY

The scene opens up on the street as a car goes speeding past.

INT. GEORGE'S CAR - DAY

GEORGE (20), unkempt, film major, is talking on his cell phone while he is driving. He is wearing a hoodie with a couple of stains on it and sunglasses. There is a cheeseburger wrapper stuffed up by the windshield, along with a few parking tickets and receipts. George is using one hand to hold the phone and the other to hold the wheel and a lit joint.

GEORGE

Yeah Mom, I know, I just haven't gotten the chance to get around to it yet. I'll call the landlord in a little bit, I gotta go to class.

George nonchalantly switches the phone to his shoulder in order to smoke the joint with his free hand as we hear MOM over the phone.

MOM (V.O.)

You better! Living with a loose shutter on your house is simply not safe!

GEORGE

Yeah, yeah, okay, I get it.

MOM (V.O.)

I mean it! It could fall right off the building onto your head and kill you instantly!

GEORGE

Yeah we wouldn't want that, I gotta go now I'm almost to the school.

EXT. SUBURB STREET - GEORGE'S CAR

The car pulls into frame and stops at a stop sign. George blows smoke out the window and then continues on through the sign. The car pulls out of view. We hear Mom throughout the shot.

MOM (V.O.)

Before you go remember to call Aunt Loretta, its her birthday next saturday I wouldn't want you to forget. I swear that woman always rings me up just to tell me...

INT. GEORGE'S CAR

He coughs from the smoke, and rolls his eyes as his mom is still talking to him. He interrupts her.

GEORGE

Alright, alright, I'm hanging up now.

MOM (V.O.)

Okay, okay fine, I will let you go. I love you. You should really get that cough checked out...

GEORGE

Yeah, I love you too. Okay, bye.

He hangs up on her while she is still talking, and lets out a deep sigh.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS BUILDING - DAY

George and STOKELY (20), a tad snooty, physics major, exit out a door of the building and begin walking away from the building. The CAMERA follows them as they chat.

STOKELY

What even is this class? I took it as an elective, thought it would be an easy A.

GEORGE

Experimental film? Its like film with no story I guess. Lots of abstract images and shit.

STOKELY

Well I got that from the Google definition, I mean it sounded like something stupid I could take to boost my GPA. It won't be difficult will it?

GEORGE

Oh nah, probably not. Experimental film is certainly the most liberal form of film.

STOKELY

Great. Since we are partners I expect an A. I'm sure you have no idea how important it is for me to keep my GPA high.

GEORGE

Guess not, lucky for you this is part of my major so I'm used to this shit.

STOKELY

That's good to hear then. Me, I'm a Physics major. I have a spot lined up for me at my uncle's defense company right out of school.

GEORGE

Yuck. At least the job is cool. Where should we discuss ideas for our project? I got a house off campus we could chill at.

STOKELY

Yeah that sounds good. Your roommates chill?

GEORGE

Yeah, but they are like never home. All cuffed and shit.

STOKELY

Ahh it be like that.

GEORGE

Perfect. I'm starving.

The two continue walking out of shot.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S KITCHEN - DAY

The scene opens to George cracking an egg into a pan. Stokely is sitting across the counter. George works on his meal as the two exchange ideas.

STOKELY

Don't you think its a little late for eggs? It's like 2 in the afternoon.

GEORGE

There is never a bad time for eggs my friend. Especially on a date with Mary Jane. Now, you got any ideas?

STOKELY

Well I have never really seen an experimental film until today in class. What was that one she used as an example?

George flips his egg. He thinks to himself for a second.

GEORGE

I think it was that one by Brakhage...Mothlight maybe.

STOKELY

Yeah that's the one. I liked how simple we can make the images. We wouldn't have to do that much work.

GEORGE

True, but where is the pizazz? I was thinking maybe we put our own spin on things.

STOKELY

What do you mean?

GEORGE

I mean we could do something crazy like...stop motion. That could be cool.

STOKELY

Stop motion? I like the idea but I think that's gonna take way too long. Don't we have to take photos frame by frame.

GEORGE

Mnhmm. We could do a bunch of things and then play them together really fast. I bet it could look sick.

George walks over and removes two pieces of toast from the toaster oven while Stokely is responding.

STOKELY

Yeah, I guess. Any other ideas?

George comes back to the counter carrying the toast in his bare hands

GEORGE

Hot, hot, hot!

He slams the toast onto a plate. He then transfers the egg from the pan to the plate and begins assembling a sandwich.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I got it! What about a crazy scene with a bunch of colored paint flying all over a canvas. That could look really cool.

As he says that, George is putting Cheetos on his sandwich. Stokely looks at him oddly.

STOKELY

As cool as that would look, it sounds like a mess.

GEORGE

For fuck's sake Stokely.

George is now adding shredded cheese to his sandwich. He also throws some in his mouth.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

(with his mouth full)
What do you think then.

STOKELY

I don't know man, I am not a creative person. You got any weed? That might help a bit.

GEORGE

(surprised)
You smoke!? That is something I did not see coming.

STOKELY

What? You don't think I'd be the type of person to smoke?

GEORGE

To be honest, no. You are really smart and dress nice and care about your grades really hard and all that. But yeah I think I have just what we need.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

George and Stokely are sitting on the couch stoned with a bong. Smoke circles around them as Stokely blows out a cloud. George's sandwich is on the coffee table in front of them.

GEORGE

Okay what about something absurd and crazy, like Meshes of the Afternoon.

STOKELY

Which one was that again.

GEORGE

The spooky one with the lady and the mirror face guy and all the knives and shit.

STOKELY

Oh yeah, uhh...

Stokely thinks to himself while George takes a bite of his sandwich.

STOKELY (CONT'D)

To be honest I didn't understand that shit one bit.

GEORGE

That's the point! It so crazy you gotta really dig deep for the meaning. We should do something like that.

STOKELY

I don't know man. Seems like we would need to have a meaning to convey in the first place.

GEORGE

Listen man, we aren't gonna get anywhere like this. We can't seem to decide on anything.

STOKELY

I'm just worried that you are taking this a little too seriously. It looks like we can submit something ridiculously simple, why not just do that? Besides, I've got loads of other work to do.

GEORGE

Too seriously? This is my major, its what I signed up for. If anything, you should be trying harder to help ME.

STOKELY

It's an intro film class. It can't be that hard. You never have to do any real work for you major so what does it matter?

GEORGE

Alright, you know what? Why don't we just do our own projects and see who's is better in the end?

STOKELY

Mine doesn't have to be better, it only needs an A. But if a competition is what you want buddy, its on.

GEORGE

Bet! The first cut of the film is due in two weeks. We shall see who's idea is better then.

STOKELY

Fine!

Both George and Stokely sit there with their arms crossed, stern looks on their face. They sit in silence for a couple of seconds. George looks over at Stokely.

GEORGE

Wanna pack another bowl?

STOKELY

Yeah

Stokely nods his head and the two begin packing another bowl on the table in front of them.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM - NIGHT - MONTAGE OF GEORGE BRAINSTORMING

A montage sequence begins showing the passing of time while George is thinking of ideas. There is a slight haze in the room because of the paraphanelia on the desk.

...sitting at a chair at a desk

...laying on the bed, throwing a ball at the ceiling

...standing on the bed, jumping

...etc.

END MONTAGE

George is sitting at the desk writing in a notebook. He is exhausted due to how long he has been thinking.

GEORGE

Why does it take me so long to
think of ideas?

He starts to tap his pencil on the desk.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Alright fuck it, we are going with
the stop motion.

George opens the desk drawer in front of him, and we see that it is ridiculously cluttered. He rummages through various wires, pencils, chapsticks, cough drops, and much more.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

We got...paint, crayons, colored
pencils. Yeah, I can work with
this.

He starts scribbling in his notebook.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

George is crouched down next to a tripod with a camera on it next to the coffee table. He is assembling a puzzle. We hear a door open and close offscreen as Stokely enters the room.

STOKELY

Alright I'm here, what did you need
my help with.

GEORGE

Great. I just need you to hit the camera button while I am disassembling this puzzle. Shouldn't take that long if I don't have to get up and press it after every piece.

STOKELY

That's what this is for? How much of your film do you have left to do?

GEORGE

Well lemme think...to be honest this is my first day of shooting.

STOKELY

What?! Our drafts are due in a couple of days and you have nothing?

GEORGE

Ah, thats where you are wrong. Clearly I have a half-assembled puzzle here.

STOKELY

Meanwhile I have had my cut finished for a week now!

GEORGE

Woah. Why on Earth would you do that?

STOKELY

Beuase unlike some people, I have the ability to not be a slacker.

GEORGE

Hey! I might never turn in anything on time and sleep through most of my classes, but I am NOT a slacker. Besides, I will have my draft done when its due don't you worry.

STOKELY

You better. I can't be waiting around on you all week.

GEORGE

Yo, what is your deal man? Why are you always so annoying about your grades?

STOKELY

You wouldn't get it. I am on a full ride here and my scholarship is lost if I get below a 3.5. My physics classes are hard enough and I don't need you making my life any harder with this shit.

GEORGE

How am I making it harder? All I did was ask for help. Help that I don't really even need.

STOKELY

Thats all I needed to hear, I gotta run to another class soon, so Imma head out.

GEORGE

Your just gonna leave? I mean...fine! I dont need you.

Stokely exits out the door. George sighs and looks up at the camera. He stands up and hits the button, then crouches back down to the puzzle.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Stokely and George set a laptop down on the Kitchen counter.

GEORGE

Showtime! I spent all night last night editing this together. Who should we start with.

STOKELY

I can go first. I looked up a 10 minute tutorial on how to use chroma key. I think it came out pretty fire.

GEORGE

Alright, lets see it.

George hits play on Stokely's film and we are showed a brief film shot from the window of a car. Many of the colors and images have been altered using chroma key. After it is finsihed George turns to look at Stokely.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

What the hell was that?

STOKELY

I told you. I drove around for like 15 minutes recording buildings around the city and just keyed some stupid patters in. Took me a couple hours tops.

GEORGE

Yeah, I can tell. It looks like a child could have made this.

STOKELY

Oh yeah? Lets see what the "master" has come up with then.

GEORGE

Get ready to witness greatness.

George hits play on his draft. This time it is a stop motion film of a puzzle being built. Once the puzzle is complete, the video promptly ends.

STOKELY

That was it?

GEORGE

Yessir

STOKELY

It was like 30 seconds long.

GEORGE

Well in my defense thats like 500 pictures taken of that puzzle.

STOKELY

This isn't even a film. Its just a puzzle. How could you think this would get an A.

GEORGE

You are missing the point of experimental film, there are no rules.

STOKELY

I feel like we shouldn't risk it though. Maybe it would be best to just submit my film.

GEORGE

Oh no, no, no. I can't just submit something like that. I have honor.

STOKELY

I think you are being dramatic.
Your cut is just too short anyways.

GEORGE

It's just a draft after all. We can
add more to it before the final
cut. Trust me.

STOKELY

What gives you the right to just
submit yours?

GEORGE

Because I'm the film major here. I
obviously have more of an opinion
on the matter.

STOKELY

You know what? Fine. I won't argue
anymore.

GEORGE

Good, I'm glad we came to an
agreement. Now, I haven't showered
in a few days working on this
thing, I'm gonna go take care of
that.

STOKELY

Alright, I'm just gonna pack my
stuff and go home.

George heads down the hall to the bathroom. We hear the
shower turn on off screen and the door shut. Stokely takes a
long look over at the bathroom and then quickly darts his
attention to the laptop.

STOKELY (CONT'D)

(mockingly)

I'm a film major, I know
everything.

Stokely looks around once more and then starts to use the
laptop.

STOKELY (CONT'D)

Just a quick name change should do
the trick...

Stokely swithces the names of the files on the computer. The
camera shows what is happening on the screen.

STOKELY (CONT'D)

Perfect!

Stokely packs up his stuff and shuts the laptop. He exits out the side door.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Stokely is sitting on a bench watching the water. After a couple of seconds his phone rings, which he answers. We cut back and forth from Stokely to George driving in his car talking on his cell phone.

STOKELY

Hello?

GEORGE (V.O.)

WHAT DID YOU DO?

STOKELY

What do you mean.

GEORGE

Hmm...what could I possibly be talking about? YOU SWITCHED THE FILMS. I didn't notice until after I already submitted it. What the hell?

STOKELY

Listen George, calm down. Everything is gonna be fine. I am just making sure we get a good grade. You understand.

GEORGE (V.O.)

I most certainly do not understand. Who do you think you are?

STOKELY

It's just one assingment, you will survive.

GEORGE (V.O.)

This is ridiculous. How can we even consider each other partners.

STOKELY

Hold on now, don't get crazy.

GEORGE (V.O.)

Oh I'm gonna get crazy, and I'm telling our Professor that we can't work together. I don't need some stuck up nerd telling me how to make my movies either.

STOKELY

I don't have to take this from you! I couldn't care less if we are partners!

GEORGE (V.O.)

Fine!

STOKELY

Fine!

Stokely hangs up the phone and looks down at it agrily. He then sighs and rolls his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM - NIGHT

George is sitting at his desk on his laptop. He sees that he gets a new email.

GEORGE

Hmmm...

George opens the email and reads it aloud quietly to himself.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I have received your project, yada yada yada... While the visuals are considered experimental I am worried that you two did not apply yourselves...I would like to see some more effort. AHA!

He fist pumps the air in satisfaction.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I knew that jackass didn't have a better film than me. He is gonna be screwed without my help.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

George is sitting on a park bench at the same park Stokely was at earlier. He is chatting with his mom on the phone.

GEORGE

Yeah I don't know what I'm gonna do mom I'm really stressed. I only have a couple of days left to finish my film and I have so much work to do.

MOM (V.O.)

Well maybe if you didn't sit around all day doing nothing you would have done your work.

GEORGE

I know, I know. I have a problem. I'll talk to you later.

MOM

Okay, I will call you after Grandma's doctor appointment. She is always tripping over the dog these days it really is terrible.

GEORGE

Okay, Mom. Bye I love you.

George hangs up the phone and lights a joint. The camera turns to reveal Stokely is sitting at a bench a little bit away. He stands and sits next to George.

STOKELY

I couldn't help but overhear your dilemma.

GEORGE

What are you doing here? Come to gloat that you finished your project and 10 others?

STOKELY

Nah, I was just here smoking too and noticed you were here. I am actually having some troubles of my own.

GEORGE

Oh yeah? What kinda troubles.

STOKELY

Well ever since I got the response back from the professor, I haven't been able to come up with any better ideas.

GEORGE

I'm having the opposite problem, I have so many big ideas but I never leave myself enough time to execute them.

STOKELY

With the deadline days away, I'm starting to get nervous that I won't come up with anything in time.

GEORGE

You know there could be a solution here.

STOKELY

Oh yeah? What's that?

GEORGE

We could put aside our petty differences and finish the project together.

STOKELY

Nonsense! I would never align myself with the likes of you. You never even listen to what I say.

GEORGE

Look! I'm sorry okay. Maybe I was being a bit selfish and elitist. I have seen the error in my ways.

STOKELY

So you think if we band together now, we could get this done?

GEORGE

Stoke, can I call you Stoke?, I can guarantee you not only that it will get done, but that we will secure an A as well.

STOKELY

I suppose I have no other choice but to trust you.

GEORGE

Alright.

CUT TO:

BEGIN MONTAGE

There are several scenes of George and Stokely working together to film the final project.

...setting up the camera

...splashing paint on a canvas

...smashing the puzzle with a hammer

...several smoke breaks

...tedious editing

END MONTAGE

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S KITCHEN - DAY

George and Stokely are once again standing around the laptop at the counter.

GEORGE

We did it!

STOKELY

Yeah, and it only took us like 30 seconds in that montage sequence.

GEORGE

All thats left to do is watch the final product.

George presses play on the laptop. We see one last film that has many elements of stopmotion and chromakey. When the film ends, the two of them are standing agog at the screen. There is a brief moment of silence.

STOKELY

That was fucking amazing!

GEORGE

I know! I've never seen anything so grand!

STOKELY

We really pulled it off, if this doesn't get an A I don't know what will.

GEORGE

All I have to do is...submit. It's done. Now we wait.

George hits send on the email and closes the laptop.

CUT TO:

INT. STOKELY'S KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

The two are sitting at an island. There is a bottle of wine and two wine glasses. Stokely pops the top off the bottle.

STOKELY

Would you like a glass of chardonnay my dear friend. Celebrating a hard days work.

GEORGE

Why yes, my good man. Fill her up.

Stokely fills both glasses.

STOKELY

I wonder when the professor will give out grades.

GEORGE

It could be weeks for all we know. Not much to do about it.

Right as he is finishing saying that, Stokely's phone chimes and he picks it up.

STOKELY

Oh shit! Jenny from class just texted me. The grades are in!

GEORGE

No way what did we get.

Stokely scrolls through his phone for a second.

STOKELY

An A! Wait a second. There is an email attached. Are you kidding...

GEORGE

What? What does it say?

Stokely reads from the email.

STOKELY

Congratulations to you all, you did a great job. I have decided to award everyone an A for their hard work.

GEORGE

Screw that! It sounds like he didn't even watch them. I saw Pablo's project and let me just say, it was a pile of shit.

STOKELY

I guess nothing ever mattered anyways. Life is futile.

GEORGE

Well, theres only one thing left for us to do I guess.

STOKELY

I have a feeling you've read my mind.

GEORGE

On three...one...two...three!

IN UNISON

You tryna smoke?

The two smile as George pulls a joint from his pocket.

FADE TO BLACK.