

AIR BROADWAY

Written by

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SECOND DRAFT
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STOCK FOOTAGE. BROADWAY AT NIGHT, VIEWED FROM TIMES SQUARE. CUTS TO VARIOUS THEATRE MARQUEES. EVERY CUT SHOULD BE INTERSPERSED WITH SOMETHING THAT GIVES THE DISNEY LOGO. "GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY" PLAYS UNDERNEATH. A HOMELESS PERSON PISSING ON A WALL, TURNS AND WAVES TO THE CAMERA. CUT TO ANNOUNCER STANDING UNDER A BROADWAY THEATRE MARQUEE.

ANNOUNCER

I'm standing in the shadows of Broadway's famed Tommy Hilfiger Theatre. Inside, former basketball great Michael Jordan busily prepares for his return to an adoring public. And maybe to once again make history in the process.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL THE MARQUEE WHICH READS "MICHAEL JORDAN IS UNCLE VANYA! PREVIEWS BEGIN MARCH 2ND."

CUT TO: INTERIOR THEATRE. ACTORS ARE ON STAGE. MICHAEL JORDAN STANDS CENTER (ALTHOUGH WE CAN'T ACTUALLY SEE HIM CLEARLY), STIFF AS A BOARD "RECITING" LINES. AS HE SPEAKS WE SEE OTHER ACTORS ROLLING THEIR EYES, LOOKING TOWARD HEAVEN FOR HELP.

CUT TO: A CRAMPED OFFICE WITH THEATRICAL POSTERS ALL AROUND. AN INTERVIEW IS BEING CONDUCTED WITH A CHAIN SMOKING, FAST TALKING, NEW YORK SHOW BIZ TYPE. THE LINE "TED LEMMING, PRODUCER" APPEARS ON SCREEN.

LEMMING

. . .So I'm sitting there watching this great, gifted man announce his retirement and it hits me. Michael and Uncle Vanya. What can I say? It was inspiration.

CUT TO: INTERVIEW. DIRECTOR DANTE ESPERANZO SITS IN "THE HOUSE" WHILE ACTORS REHEARSE ON STAGE. ESPERANZO HOLDS WHAT LOOKS TO BE A LITTLE, BOUTIQUE DOG. THE LINE "DANTE ESPERANZO, DIRECTOR" APPEARS UNDER HIM.

ESPERANZO

From the moment we met, there was this feeling of kismet. There's nothing this man can't do. I mean, look at him up there, so tall, so strong, so...commanding. *That's* stage presence darling.

CUT TO: ESPERANZO (STILL HOLDING THE DOG) ON STAGE WITH MICHAEL. ESPERANZO'S HEAD COMES ABOUT EVEN WITH JORDAN'S CHEST. JORDAN'S HEAD IS OUT OF THE FRAME.

ESPERANZO

That's wonderful Mikey. But remember, Uncle Vanya is *Russian*. And those people are just so intense. Now come on. I want to see your passion. Give it to me. I want it all.

V.O. ANNOUNCER

Michael Jordan has touched many lives. We asked a former teammate how he felt about Michael's new career direction.

CUT TO: A SHOT OF A VERY TALL MAN IN A DRESS. AS BEFORE, HIS HEAD IS OUT OF THE FRAME. HE IS IDENTIFIED AS "DENNIS RODMAN, BASKETBALL SUPERSTAR."

RODMAN

Personally, I feel this is a sad and desperate grab for attention from a once great man. Hey man! Get that damn camera outta my crotch!

THERE IS A JOSTLING AND THE PICTURE GOES HAYWIRE.

CUT TO: BACKSTAGE AT THE HILFIGER THEATRE.

V.O. ANNOUNCER

As the opening approaches, artistic temper-
ment begins to flare and nerves get taut.

LOOKING ON STAGE WE SEE A REHEARSAL IN PROGRESS. MICHAEL
AGAIN STANDING CENTER, VIEWED FROM THE BACK CONTINUES TO
DELIVER LINES IN A MONOTONE. SUDDENLY THERE IS A CRASH AND
AN ACTOR STORMS OFFSTAGE, PAST THE CAMERA, SCREAMING.

ACTOR

Goddamnit! I studied at the Royal Academy of
Dramatic fucking Arts!!!!

MICHAEL

Hey man. C'mon. Show some team spirit. It's
Our game to win.

CUT TO: LEMMING'S OFFICE. HIS ASHTRAY IS FULL BUT HE'S
STILL PUFFING AWAY.

LEMMING

Yeah. We've got millions tied up in this
production. And, of course, Broadway is
always a risk. But that's Michael Jordan
out there and he's a winner.

INTERVIEWER

What about his baseball career?

LEMMING JUST STARES AT CAMERA, PUFFING AWAY EVEN HARDER.

FADE OUT

CUT TO: NARRATOR ONCE AGAIN OUTSIDE THE THEATRE. NIGHT.

THERE IS NOW A LINE OUTSIDE THE BOX OFFICE. A MIX BETWEEN WELL-DRESSED THEATRE-GOER TYPES AND A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DRESSED IN HIP HOP FASHION (ALL TOMMY HILFIGER).

NARRATOR

And finally, after weeks of rehearsal, previews, it all comes down to this – opening night. The moment of truth for Michael Jordan. Will he score big on Broadway, or will he miss this, his most important jump shot?

CUT TO: INTERIOR THEATRE. PERFORMANCE IS ON. MICHAEL IS ONCE MORE CENTER STAGE. WE CUT TO MONTAGE OF VARIOUS SCENES. MICHAEL STILL TALKS AND MOVES LIKE A ROBOT. IN A CLOSE-UP (WHICH ONCE MORE KEEPS HIS HEAD OUT OF FRAME) WE SEE HIM ON STAGE RECITING LINES WHILE DRIBBLING A BASKETBALL. ALONG WITH HIS UNCLE VANYA COSTUME HE WEARS A PAIR OF NIKE AIR JORDANS ON HIS FEET.

CUT TO: OLD FASHIONED TECHNIQUE OF NEWSPAPER SPINNING INTO CAMERA UNTIL IT STOPS AND WE CAN READ THE HEADLINE: "JORDAN DROPS THE BALL!" THEN ANOTHER: "JORDAN FOULS OUT IN BROADWAY DEBUT!" AND FINALLY, "UNCLE VANYA'S CABIN IN CINDERS!" (IN SMALLER PRINT WE SHOULD ALSO SEE A MINOR HEADLINE READING "PRESIDENT RESIGNS FROM OFFICE"

CUT TO: ANNOUNCER ON STREET.

ANNOUNCER

And what lesson can we take from all this? Millions of dollars at stake. An inexperienced actor in the lead, and the worst reviews in Broadway history.

CAMERA PANS TO THEATRE BOX OFFICE WHERE A SIGN READS "SOLD OUT FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS."

ANNOUNCER V.O.

I guess what it tells us is, whether it's \$200 for a pair of sneakers, or a seat in the orchestra, when you've got Michael on your team, (DROLL) you can fucking well get away with anything.

SLOW FADE TO BLACK

ROLL CREDITS