

KIDS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

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LIGAYA DIAZ

Okay anak, I'm late. I work a double today so I won't be home until close to midnight.

Adrian nods.

LIGAYA DIAZ (CONT'D)

Make sure to help your lola around the house, okay?

ADRIAN DIAZ

Yeah, ma.

LIGAYA DIAZ

And make sure to help watch your sister.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Okay, ma.

His mom and sister leave the room. SILENCE. Then the radio comes on.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Good morning San Diego. Wake up sleepy heads. Rise and shine! Here's a song to help you get up...

The song, "WAKE ME UP BEFORE YOU GO GO" by Wham (1984) starts. His mood changes from tired to upbeat.

RADIO (V.O.)

Jitterbug, jitterbug, jitterbug,

ADRIAN DIAZ

Jitterbug!

Dressed in a tank top and pajama bottoms, Adrian hops out of bed and serenades the Madonna and the Cyndi Lauper posters. Unbeknownst to Adrian, we see his wannabe cool, funny dad, CHRIS DIAZ, (40s), FILIPINO, standing at the door looking in.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)

(singing to posters)

You put the boom boom into my heart. You send my soul sky high when your lovin' starts. Jitterbug into my brain. Goes a bang-bang-bang 'til my feet do the same...

Out of the blue, a basketball hits Adrian on the head. Sound effect of record scratching then music suddenly stops.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)

Owww!

Adrian touching his head, looks back and sees his dad.

CHRIS DIAZ

Oops, sorry son! Ball slipped out of my hand.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Yeah, and it just happened to hit my head.

CHRIS DIAZ

Your peripheral vision should've kicked in but I see you're pre-occupied.

Chris holds back smile.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Dad, it's not funny!!!

CHRIS DIAZ

C'mon, wipe that drool off your face and get dressed. It's about time you got up.

Chris departs. Adrian looks back at the posters, music starts and he can't help sing to the images of Madonna and Cyndi Lauper again.

ADRIAN DIAZ

***But something's bugging you.
Something ain't right. My best
friend told me what you did last
night. Left me sleepin' in my bed.
I was dreaming, but I should have
been with you instead.***

The music continues to the next scene.

3

INT. ADRIAN'S KITCHEN - MORNING

3

Adrian dressed in a cool 80's outfit, skips to the kitchen to see his dad, grandma Lilia and little sister at the table eating breakfast. They look and smile as he sings and dances towards them.

ADRIAN DIAZ

***Wake me up before you go-go. Don't
leave me hanging on like a yo-yo.***

His dad and grandma start to sway and clap their hands while

Alysa runs up to Adrian.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)
*Wake me up before you go-go. I
 don't want to miss it when you hit
 that high.*

Adrian carries Alysa and puts her on top of the table as she laughs. She starts dancing on the table while holding Adrian's hands.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)
*Wake me up before you go-go.
 Cause I'm not plannin' on going
 solo.*

Adrian's dad takes his grandma's hands, leads her into a two-step dance, simple turn and into and a dip.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)
*Wake me up before you go-go.
 Take me dancing tonight.*

The music continues to the next the scene.

4 EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - MORNING 4
 The front door swings open and Adrian walks out singing --

ADRIAN DIAZ
I wanna hit that high! Yeah, Yeah!

Adrian sees his friends from afar and yells --

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)
 Yo, ABC posse! Wait up!

He looks back and waves to his family then runs out.

ALYSA
 Bye Kuya!

His dad shakes his head and closes the door. Music continues to the next scene.

5 EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD/STREET - MORNING 5
 Adrian meets up with the ABC posse comprising of ALEX O'CAMPO, (14), FILIPINO-AMERICAN, BENDER FREEMAN, (14), AFRICAN-AMERICAN, and CHANDAN AGARWAL, (14), INDIAN-AMERICAN. They are considered the cool guys in the neighborhood.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 What up homie?

Adrian bump fists with the guys including his younger cousin, DANILLO "DROP" SANTIAGO, (12), FILIPINO-AMERICAN, sporting a cool multi-zipper leather jacket.

DROP SANTIAGO
(to Adrian)
What up, cuz?

Adrian nods at Drop, a typical Filipino way to indicate, "What's up."

ANOTHER ANGLE

A group of girls are whispering in the back -- DANA GELERA, (14), FILIPINO-AMERICAN, ANITA MENA, (14), MEXICAN-AMERICAN, and BARBARA PERRY, (14), AFRICAN-AMERICAN. Awkwardly trying to fit in the group is freckled-faced overweight girl, ELIZABETH RUSSO, (14), ITALIAN-AMERICAN. Alex and the guys look over at the girls and start to sing.

BENDER FREEMAN
*You take the grey skies out of my
way. You make the sun shine
brighter than Doris Day.*

CHANDAN AGARWAL
*Turned a bright spark into a flame.
My beats per minute never been the
same.*

ALEX O'CAMPO
(to Dana Gelera)
*Cause you're my lady, I'm your
fool. It makes me crazy when you
act so cruel.*

DANA GELERA
*Come on, baby, let's not fight.
We'll go dancing, everything will
be all right!*

Full-out choreography with the neighborhood kids while one homeless man looks on, moving to the beat of the music. Elizabeth, despite being overweight, shows off her dancing skills.

EVERYONE
*Wake me up before you go-go. Don't
leave me hanging on like a yo-yo.
Wake me up before you go-go. I
don't want to miss it when you hit
that high. Wake me up before you go-
go. Cause I'm not plannin' on going
solo. Wake me up before you go-go.*
(MORE)

EVERYONE (CONT'D)

***Take me dancing tonight.
I wanna hit that high! Yeah, yeah,
yeah!***

They all laugh happily and run out of frame. Music fades.
Trailing behind the group are Adrian and Drop.

DROP SANTIAGO

Hey cousin, sorry to hear about
your dad getting laid off.

ADRIAN DIAZ

(shaking his head)
Oh, how did you find out? My dad
said not to tell anyone.

DROP SANTIAGO

C'mon we're family.

ADRIAN DIAZ

(shaking his head)
Let me guess? My lola told your
lola? Always *chissmiss*.

DROP SANTIAGO

They can't help it.

ADRIAN DIAZ

(Shaking his head)
I'm sure my dad would upset,
everyone all up in his business.
You know how he is?

DROP SANTIAGO

I know. Don't worry, I'm not gonna
tell anyone.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Thanks. He's trying to find a new
job and my mom is picking up the
slack, working 16 hour days, 7 days
a week.

DROP SANTIAGO

Bro, that's a lot. I feel you. My
mom has back problems now, working
at the old folks' home.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Sucks so bad. Our moms shouldn't be
working that hard.

Drop nods in agreement. They hear loud music and commotion
from afar. Their faces react to the scene with a huge smile.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)
 Last one there is a rotten egg!
 1, 2, 3. GO!

They race out of frame.

6 EXT. PARK/BUS STOP - MORNING 6
 Boom box is blasting the song, JUST BUST A MOVE (1989) by Young MC. A dance circle has formed and one after another, the kids take turns showing off their moves.

Alex jumps in busting cool hip-hop moves, then points at Chandan, who happily shows off. Not wanting to be outshined, Bender leaps in the circle with some unique steps. Then Dana slides in with impressive break dancing skills. Everyone is making noise, high-fiving each other and having fun. Close up of all the smiling faces!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Within close proximity, a school bus pulls up to the curb. The school bus door opens. Only a COUPLE KIDS enter the bus. MR. JOHNNY, (40s), AFRICAN-AMERICAN, with big muscles and a commanding presence, looks out and sees the kids in a dance circle. He smirks, gets up and hops out the bus.

Drop impresses the crowd with his stunts and popping skills while Adrian and the girls are laughing and having a great time. Then with a deep, scary voice, we hear --

MR. JOHNNY (O.S.)
 STOP THE MUSIC.

Music stops. Nervous, everyone turns to look at Mr. Johnny.

MR. JOHNNY (CONT'D)
 You're all BUSTED!

An awkward silence. Unexpectedly, Mr. Johnny starts gliding towards the center of the circle, grinning.

MR. JOHNNY (CONT'D)
 My moves bust all of y'all's!

Everyone screams in shock! Music starts again. Mr. Johnny starts to pop/lock. His robotic moves are precise and entertaining. The kids go crazy! Mr. Johnny finishes strong, but is tired and out of breath.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 (to his friends)
 Wow, Mr. Johnny is cool.

MR. JOHNNY

Okay kiddos, party's over. Let's go to school.

DANA GELERA

Mr. Johnny, I didn't know you could do that.

DROP SANTIAGO

Yeah, not bad, Mr. Johnny.

MR. JOHNNY

C'mon y'all, get on the bus!

Everyone heads towards the school bus.

At that moment, a Mustang GT convertible stops at a screeching halt in front of the school bus. MICKEY PORTER, (14), a handsome CAUCASIAN jock, sits at the passenger seat in front. His older brother, JACK PORTER, (17), CAUCASIAN, is in the driver seat. Behind them are Mickey's followers, TERRY ROBINSON, (14), a muscular CAUCASIAN jock, and KEVIN LEW, (14), a tall, skinny CAUCASIAN.

MICKEY PORTER

You guys stink!

Adrian notices the car, confused.

ADRIAN DIAZ

(to himself)

Mickey Porter?! What's he doing all the way here?

Mickey grabs a plastic bag full of tomatoes, near his feet and throws it, whacking Alex in the back of the head.

ALEX O'CAMPO

What the...?

Everyone is in panic mode as they move out of the way.

DANA GELERA

(yelling)

Watch out!

Three more tomatoes are pitched to the crowd, hitting Chandan on his shirt, Drop on his cool jacket and Elizabeth on her back.

JACK PORTER

Bulls-eye! You got the ugly fat girl!

He high-fives his brother.

MICKEY, TERRY, KEVIN
(taunting)
Stink bus! Stink Bus! Stink Bus!

Everyone in the car laughs out loud. Scorching mad, the ABC posse runs after the car, but all they got is the dust from the speeding Mustang GT.

A black Mercedes Benz with tinted windows drive by while a homeless man observes the scene from afar.

7

INT. SCHOOL BUS/DRIVING - DAY
Sitting in middle of the bus are the girls.

7

ELIZABETH RUSSO
Why me?

ANITA MENA
Well, a bigger body means easier target.

ELIZABETH RUSSO
Umm, I guess so.

The girls chuckle. The ABC posse, Alex, Bender and Chandan, hop in the bus and walk all the way to the back.

ANITA MENA
What a jerk though, but I gotta say Mickey is hot!

DANA GELERA
NOT. He's not my type.

Barbara glances at Alex.

BARBARA PERRY
(teasing)
Well, I know who happens to be her type and his name starts with an A.

DANA GELERA
Not even!
(whispering)
Shut up before he hears you.

Alex makes eye contact with Adrian, who is sitting next to Drop. Adrian acknowledges him with a quick nod. The ABC posse sits down, raging mad. Dejected, all the kids in the bus remain quiet until --

BENDER FREEMAN

Bro, Mickey and his stupid friends
need to pay for this.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

(To Bender)

You're lucky you didn't get hit!

ALEX O'CAMPO

Yeah, no one hits me in the head
with a tomato and gets a way with
it.

Adrian looks back at Alex and says --

ADRIAN DIAZ

Hey Alex, let it go.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Naw man, I'm not gonna let anyone
disrespect us like that. I don't
care who you are.

DROP SANTIAGO

Bro, we're not about that. We're
no gang.

BENDER FREEMAN

Naaah, forget that. They can't get
away with this.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

And in our hood?! No way!

The boys nod.

ALEX O'CAMPO

(looks at Adrian)

Yeah, and if you're not with us,
you're against us.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Just sayin' it's not worth it.

ALEX O'CAMPO

You're sayin' that because you want
to be a part of Mickey's club.
Don't think we don't know that
you're friends with him.
(to his posse)
Am I right guys?

The rest of the guys nod. Adrian stays quiet, shaking his
head in disagreement.

ADRIAN DIAZ

It's not my fault I classes with him? I have no choice!

DROP SANTIAGO

Let's just *drop it!* We're all on the same side.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I agree with Drop, *drop it* already!

BENDER FREEMAN

The way I see it, you can *drop out* of this group.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

Yeah, we don't need ya.

DROP SANTIAGO

Chill guys, chill.

Through the rearview mirror, Mr. Johnny looks at the group of kids in the heated argument.

MR. JOHNNY

Settle down kids. You all's wimpy as hell. Cryin' about getting hit by a tomato? Really? You're lucky as hell it ain't rocks or bullets! Now, think about that.

The kids stay quiet. Mr. Johnny turns on the radio.

RADIO HOST (V.O.)

Every time I hear this song, it always makes me wanna tap my feet and smile. This is my happy song. Karma Chameleon by Boy George.

The song, KARMA CHAMELEON (1983) by Culture Club starts.

ELIZABETH RUSSO

Mr. Johnny, turn it up. I love this song.

ALEX O'CAMPO

(To Elizabeth)

Oh no! I hate this song! I hate it as much as you hate the fat on your body!

Bender and Chandan laugh. Elizabeth forces a smile, shrugs it off. Dana looks at Elizabeth with sympathy.

DANA GELERA
 I love this song, too!
 (to Mr. Johnny)
 Turn it up please!

The song is now blasting. All the kids look to each other. Some start to smile.

RADIO (V.O.)
Desert loving in your eyes all the way. If I listen to your lies would you say. I'm a man without conviction. I'm a man who doesn't know. How to sell a contradiction. You come and go, you come and go.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 (frowning)
 And this is the worst part.

DANA GELERA
 This is my favorite part!

ALEX O'CAMPO
 Lord, help me!

DROP SANTIAGO
 I'm kinda feeling the flow, man.

The kids sing along, swaying their heads and tapping their feet in unison except for the ABC posse.

ALL THE KIDS
Karma karma karma karma, karma chameleon. You come and go, you come and go. Loving would be easy if your colors were like my dream. Red gold and green, red gold and green.

With hands clasped together tightly, Alex shakes his head.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 I don't understand this song.

DROP SANTIAGO
 You don't need to understand it.

Close on each kid, singing and enjoying the song, except for Alex, who looks miserable. Adrian is also not singing along. Chandan and Bender start bopping their heads too but stop when Alex gives them a dirty look.

DANA GELERA

*Didn't hear your wicked words
everyday. And you used to be so
sweet, I heard you say.*

BARBARA PERRY

*That my love was an addiction. When
we cling our love is strong.*

ANITA MENA

*When you go you're gone forever.
You string along, you string along.*

ALEX O'CAMPO

Somebody shoot me now!

EVERYONE

*Karma karma karma karma, karma
chameleon. You come and go, you
come and go. Loving would be easy
if your colors were like my dream.
Red gold and green, red gold and
green.*

ELIZABETH RUSSO

*Every day is like survival.
You're my lover, not my rival.
Every day is like survival.
You're my lover, not my rival.*

Then Mr. Johnny joins in while Alex puts his head on his lap.

MR. JOHNNY

*I'm a man without conviction.
I'm a man who doesn't know.
How to sell a contradiction.
You come and go, you come and go.*

ALEX O'CAMPO

This is torture!

They sway and clap their hands in unison.

EVERYONE

*Karma karma karma karma, karma
chameleon. You come and go, you
come and go. Loving would be easy
if your colors were like my dream.
Red gold and green, red gold and
green.*

ALEX O'CAMPO

Oh my God, this is never gonna end.

EVERYONE

*Karma karma karma karma, karma
chameleon. You come and go, you
come and go. Loving would be easy
if your colors were like my dream.
Red gold and green, red gold and
green.*

*Karma karma karma karma, karma
chameleon. You come and go, you
come and go. Loving would be easy
if your colors were like my dream.
Red gold and green, red gold and
green. Karma karma karma karma,
karma chameleon.*

They all laugh out loud, forgetting about their troubles.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Whew, thank God it's over.

Another song, "MICKEY" (1981) by Toni Basil is performed by the girls. This time, the girls go full out and get up from their seats.

8

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

8

Junior high in full effect. All types of kids enter the campus. From nerds to punk rockers, they gather in their groups. Multiple banners display a Talent Show coming up.

The song ends as the bus arrives at school. The kids vacate the bus. They spot the tomato-throwing boys - Mickey, Terry and Kevin from afar hanging out with three popular CAUCASIAN girls, ISABELLE STEVENS, (14), GLORIA DAVIDSON, (14), and DIANE WALCHER, (14).

Pissed off, Alex, Bender, and Chandan rush to Mickey and his friends. It's a face-to-face confrontation.

ALEX O'CAMPO

(To Mickey)

What's your problem? You think
you're bad, huh?

MICKEY PORTER

Yeah, you know I'm bad, I'm bad,
come on, you know it!

Mickey pushes Alex, making him mad. Alex is about to pounce on Mickey, but is held back by Adrian.

ADRIAN DIAZ

C'mon man, don't do this. Not here
at school.

MICKEY PORTER

I thought so. You're all bark, but
no bite. You guys don't belong
here. Go back to the stink bus and
the ghetto where you belong.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Make me!

Alex stands his ground as Mickey and his friends laugh.

ADRIAN DIAZ

We have as much right to attend
this school.

The school bell rings.

MICKEY PORTER

You're all just leeches. You have
nothing to offer this school. No
money, no talent, no brains...

TERRY ROBINSON

Yeah, no money, no talent, no
brains. And we're sick and tired
of it.

KEVIN LEW

Hey let's go to class. The bell
rang.

ALEX O'CAMPO

(To Mickey)

If you want some of this, meet me
after school today.

MICKEY PORTER

(sarcastic)

Oh too bad for me, I'm busy after
school. It would be great to beat
you up today.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Right! I think you're just chicken!

MICKEY PORTER

(laughing)

Huh, don't make me laugh.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 Okay, then tomorrow after school.
 If you don't show up, then I know
 you're a chicken!

MICKEY PORTER
 Whatever loser!

Alex, Bender and Chandan make chicken noises and depart. The rest of the crowd also quickly disappear.

9 INT. SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY 9
 Kids in vintage 80's outfits, from Madonna to Billy Idol.
 Adrian and Drop walk together.

ADRIAN DIAZ
 I can't believe what Alex got
 himself into.

DROP SANTIAGO
 You know once Alex makes up his
 mind, there's nothing anyone can do
 to change it.

Adrian and Drop notice the huge Talent Show banner.

DROP SANTIAGO (CONT'D)
 (re: Talent Show banner)
 You see that?

ADRIAN DIAZ
 The talent show? What about it?

DROP SANTIAGO
 We've been passing by that banner
 for months now. Wouldn't it be dope
 to do it?

ADRIAN DIAZ
 NO! Don't even think about it.

DROP SANTIAGO
 C'mon, let's blow them away!

ADRIAN DIAZ
 I'm too shy. You guys are the
 dancers.

DROP SANTIAGO
 I know you can dance. C'mon, you
 heard what Mickey said back there.
 They think we got nothing to offer
 this school. Let's show them...

ADRIAN DIAZ

The answer is NO. I don't care!

DROP SANTIAGO

I'm tired...I'm tired of being called a loser, garbage, trash, stupid, poop, stinky...Ever since we started coming here, we never felt a part of this school.

ADRIAN DIAZ

C'mon Drop, you know me, I don't...

Adrian stops mid-sentence when the double doors open and the three girls, Isabelle, Gloria and Diane strut in.

START: SLOW MOTION FANTASY

Queue song FANTASY GIRL (1988) by JOHNNY O.

Adrian stares at Isabelle, a goddess in his eyes, hair blowing in the wind. Adrian's mouth drops open and he doesn't pay attention to his cousin talking. Adrian breaks into song --

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)

*The first time I saw you there
In my world, I wasn't prepared.
And what I witnessed from your
heart. 'Cause I knew baby girl it
was ready to start. A fantasy that
was all so true. The way I felt,
girl I knew. That you and me, we
were meant to be. In this world for
love, you were made for me.*

Close up of Isabelle, smiling.

10

EXT. BEACH - DAY

10

Adrian and Isabelle walking, holding hands, then playfully flicking each other with water.

ADRIAN DIAZ

*Ohhh ohh, fantasy girl.
You're my fantasy girl.
I need you tonight.*

*Ohhh ohh, fantasy girl.
You're my fantasy girl.
I need you tonight.*

Isabelle takes off her cover to reveal a swimsuit. Adrian is mesmerized. She smiles at him dreamily.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)

The way you look, the way you smile. You made me feel like a brand new guy inside. I want you in my fantasy. Cause I'd do anything for you don't you see. The way I feel, is oh so true. I can't deny what I'm telling you. Baby girl in my fantasy. You would be more than happy, you would be with me.

Isabelle walks into the water, submerges. Then she comes out of the water in slow motion.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)

*Ohhh ohh, fantasy girl.
You're my fantasy girl.
I need you tonight.
Ohhh ohh, fantasy girl.
You're my fantasy girl.
I need you tonight.
I want you girl tonight!*

Isabelle lays on Adrian's lap, looks into his eyes.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)

Oh baby girl, what I'm trying to say. Is that I love you in almost every way. You are the one I've been searching for. In my life it seems you are my fantasy. Oh sweet love won't you be mine. I'll treat you like, no other man has tried. I'll be your man, never let you down. And I'll always be true not to make you go.

It's the magic hour and Adrian holds Isabelle from behind. She turns to look at him, puts her arms around his neck. They look into each other's eyes. She gazes at his lips.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)

*Ohhh ohh, fantasy girl.
You're my fantasy girl.
I need you tonight.
Ohhh ohh, fantasy girl.
You're my fantasy girl.
I need you tonight.
I want you girl tonight!*

Adrian moves forward for a kiss, but suddenly the music stops.

END FANTASY - BACK TO SCENE

11 INT. SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY 11
Drop looks at Adrian with eyes closed, with lips puckered,
moving towards him.

DROP SANTIAGO
What are you doing?

Drop slaps Adrian on the face. Adrian snaps out of it.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Ouch. That hurt.

Isabelle and Diane enter a classroom while Gloria looks back
at Adrian, smiling.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
Wipe your mouth, drool boy!

Adrian wipes his mouth, embarrassed. Drop is annoyed.

DROP SANTIAGO
I was into my feelings and you
weren't even listening.

ADRIAN DIAZ
What do you mean? I heard you...

DROP SANTIAGO
Whatever bro. You're so obvious,
it's embarrassing! Just talk to her
already.

ADRIAN DIAZ
C'mon, someone like her with
someone like me. Naaah!

DROP SANTIAGO
It doesn't hurt to try.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Don't worry about my business.
Aren't the 7th grade classes down
the hall?

DROP SANTIAGO
Listen Adrian... before you know
it, school will be over and you may
never get a chance.

Adrian shrugs.

ADRIAN DIAZ

And me and the gang will be in high school and you're here another year. That's why you wanna do the talent show, right?

DROP SANTIAGO

Why? Is that bad?

ADRIAN DIAZ

Yeah, it's bad.

(shakes head)

Cuz, you have nothing to prove to these people.

The bell rings. They bump hands, then part. Adrian makes his way into the same classroom as Isabelle and the girls.

12

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

12

Kids take their seats. Adrian sits in the back a few rows behind Isabelle. Mickey, Terry and Kevin sit on the other side of the classroom.

MICKEY PORTER

(To Adrian)

I have a message for your loser friend Alex. Tell him I'll meet him tomorrow after school.

KEVIN LEW

It's not our idea, it was Alex.

TERRY ROBINSON

Sorry, your friend is gonna get his butt whooped. He asked for it.

Mickey and his friends laugh while Adrian looks down. MRS. GARRETT, (60s), CAUCASIAN, is the homeroom teacher notices the situation and says--

MRS. GARRETT

(To Mickey)

Is there a problem, Mr. Porter?

MICKEY PORTER

No, Mrs. Garrett, everything is fine.

MRS. GARRETT

(To Adrian)

Mr. Diaz, is there a problem?

ADRIAN DIAZ
No, Mrs. Garrett. NO problem at all.

MRS. GARRETT
Okay then, let's all quiet down.

The class quiets down. Mrs. Garrett takes attendance as she scans the classroom.

MRS. GARRETT (CONT'D)
How many of you are participating in the talent show? Raise your hands.

Everyone looks at each other. No one raises their hands.

MRS. GARRETT (CONT'D)
This is our first talent show and Principal Dewey is excited about it. We urge everyone to participate.

MICKEY PORTER
(laughing)
Don't you need talent first?

The class chuckles.

MRS. GARRETT
Now I'm sure you have hidden talents. And some of you might already know what you're good at. Maybe dancing, singing...

Mrs. Garrett looks at Isabelle, as she smiles back.

MRS. GARRETT (CONT'D)
Or playing guitar or piano...
(pause)
Whatever it is, we would love for you to share it with the school. It's going to be a lot of fun.

The kids look at each other. Adrian writes in his notebook.

MRS. GARRETT (CONT'D)
Okay, moving on. Here is our scheduled lesson for today....

Mickey and his group sees them and says --

MICKEY PORTER
 (to Adrian and Drop)
 The stink bus crew is outside,
 where you both belong!!!

The kids around laugh out loud. Adrian and Drop turn around and leave the cafeteria with their heads down.

14 EXT. SCHOOL/GRASSY AREA - DAY 14
 The ghetto kids from the bus sit together. The boys horseplay while the girls gossip.

Bender starts to beat box, and Dana and the girls move to the beat. The other kids in the area stare at them. PRINCIPAL DEWEY, 50s, CAUCASIAN, quickly rushes to the group and the ghetto kids immediately go back to eating their lunch. The principal gives them a look as if to say, "I'm watching you."

Elizabeth is barely touching her food.

ANITA MENA
 Aren't you hungry, Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH RUSSO
 Yes, very!

DANA GELERA
 You on a diet again girl?

ELIZABETH RUSSO
 Trying to.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 C'mon Elizabeth, you're always on a diet! You need to work out if you want to lose weight.

CHANDAN AGARWAL
 Yeah, burn more calories than what you eat.

BENDER FREEMAN
 It's your metabolism. In fat people, it's doesn't exist.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 Meaning just accept the fact that you'll be fat forever!

They laugh out loud while Elizabeth forces a laugh.

DANA GELERA
Shut up guys!!!

BARBARA PERRY
Yeah, you're all too much!

Adrian and Drop walk over to the group.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Hey homies!

They bump fist like they never argued.

DROP SANTIAGO
I wanna ask you guys something...

Drop has their attention.

ALEX O'CAMPO
Well, what?

DROP SANTIAGO
The talent show?

Everyone scoffs.

ALEX O'CAMPO
Oh no, we're not doing that.

Adrian laughs.

DROP SANTIAGO
C'mon Alex, you got mad hip hop skills. Let's show this school what we got.

ALEX O'CAMPO
(confidently)
I know I got mad skills, but why would we do that?

CHANDAN AGARWAL
Yeah, I don't care about this school.

DROP SANTIAGO
But Chandan, you're a great dancer, it's time you got your props.

BENDER FREEMAN
We don't need to prove nothing, especially not to these spoiled rich kids.

DROP SANTIAGO

That's why we need to do this. So they stop thinking we're losers! That we could actually be good at something.

Drop looks at Adrian, trying to get support.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Don't look at me, Drop. I already told you I'm not interested.

DROP SANTIAGO

It's our last year together.

Drop looks defeated.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

Don't worry Drop, Alex will still be here. Everyone knows he won't pass.

The guys laugh out loud.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Man, shut up.

DROP SANTIAGO

What about you girls? You bomb dancers!

The girls all say --

ALL THE GIRLS

NO!

Drop shakes his head as the guys laugh. The bell rings.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Okay, I'll catch you guys later.

(To Alex)

By the way Alex, Mickey said he'll meet you tomorrow after school.

Everyone looks at each other, but no words. They depart.

15

INT. SCHOOL BUS/DRIVING - DAY

15

The school bus is moving. The kids are in the middle of singing the song, BORN IN THE USA (1984) by Bruce Springsteen. It's a full out rock concert in the bus and the kids are having a great time.

16

EXT. PARK/BUS STOP - DAY

16

The school bus drops off the kids at the same spot, next to a park. Boom box is blasting the song, WHEN I HEAR MUSIC (1983) by Debbie Debb.

The kids get off and run toward the loud music where a crowd is gathered to watch break dancers and poppers do their thing in a dance circle. One by one, Bender, Chandan, Dana, Barbara, Anita, and Elizabeth jump in to show off their moves. From afar, Dana notices Alex walking away to sit at a bench.

A MYSTERIOUS DANCER, dressed in a hoodie with a bandana covering most of his face, except the eyes, jumps in the middle of the circle. The mystery dancer shows off exceptional skills in popping, out-dancing practically everyone.

DROP SANTIAGO

Who's that?

ADRIAN DIAZ

I don't know. Seen him here before though.

DROP SANTIAGO

I like his style. Mysterious, but he backs it up. Huh, maybe I should battle him.

ADRIAN DIAZ

C'mon cuz, I need to go home. Gotta help my dad and lola.

Drop squeezes himself into the front of the dance circle. Adrian follows and stands beside him as they both cheer the dancers on. The mystery dancer does intricate popping movements. The crowd goes wild.

Adrian is moving his head, clapping his hands. Then suddenly, he is shoved in the middle of the circle. He looks back to see it's Drop who pushed him. The crowd is egging him on so Adrian starts to move his feet, arms, and soon he hears the crowd roar. He's actually a pretty good dancer.

Then Drop jumps in, challenging the mysterious dancer. A back to back dance battle ensues. The crowd is super hyped. In the end, the mystery dancer impresses everyone.

DROP SANTIAGO

Yo man, great job!

Without saying a word, the mystery dancer nods. Adrian sees the mystery dancer's shoelace is untied and --

ADRIAN DIAZ
 Hey man, cool LA Gear shoes. Better
 tie em before you slip.

The mystery dancer ignores him, leaves without saying a word.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)
 That was weird.
 (To Drop)
 Okay Drop, I should kill you for
 pushing me in there.

DROP SANTIAGO
 You're such a closet dancer! You
 just need a little push.

ADRIAN DIAZ
 C'mon let's go. I need to go home.

Drop and Adrian leave together.

ANOTHER ANGLE

We see Alex, Bender and Chandan hanging out at a bench while
 Dana, Anita, Barbara and Elizabeth sit on the grass.

ELIZABETH RUSSO
 I need to go home. I'm hungry! I
 didn't eat much for lunch.

BENDER FREEMAN
 (laughing)
 You gonna go home and pig out?

ELIZABETH RUSSO
 Shut up, Bender!

ANITA MENA
 Well, don't let us stop you!

BARBARA PERRY
 I gotta go, too. My mom told me to
 come home right away.

BENDER FREEMAN
 Me too. I'm gonna get my butt
 whooped if I'm late again.

CHANDAN AGARWAL
 Me too, but I just wanna go home.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 All right, do your business.

BENDER FREEMAN
Hey man, we got your back tomorrow.

CHANDAN AGARWAL
Yeah, so don't even worry about it.

Barbara, Bender, Chandan, and Elizabeth start to walk away.

ANITA MENA
Hold up guys! Ima go home too.
(pause)
Coming Dana?

Dana looks at Alex, who's in deep thought.

DANA GELERA
No, I think I'll stay a little bit.

BARBARA PERRY
Okay girl.
(To Alex)
Hey Alex, watch my girl. You're in charge.

Alex nods. The kids leave.

17 EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY 17
Adrian drops off Drop at his house.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Later!

DROP SANTIAGO
See you tomorrow.

Drop continues to walk the street. Now alone, Adrian begins to imitate some of the dance moves he saw during the battle. At that moment, a car pulls up in front of him. He looks up and sees his dad.

CHRIS DIAZ
Hey son, get in.

Adrian opens the door and hops in.

18 EXT. DIAZ CAR/DRIVING - DAY 18
The car drives off. Adrian chats with his dad.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Where we going, dad?

CHRIS DIAZ
 Grocery shopping and we have to
 fill our big water jugs. I need
 help carrying them. Then I have to
 drop off a job application.

ADRIAN DIAZ
 Okay, dad!

CHRIS DIAZ
 I need to get a job soon or we
 won't have enough money to pay the
 rent three months from now.

They see homeless people loitering outside.

CHRIS DIAZ (CONT'D)
 (jokingly)
 Soon, we'll be like those homeless
 people.

ADRIAN DIAZ
 That's not funny, dad!

CHRIS DIAZ
 Don't worry son, I'll let you sleep
 on the cardboard.

ADRIAN DIAZ
 DAD!

Chris laughs out loud. Adrian reacts to his dad's joke. Then
 he looks out the car window, in deep thought.

19 EXT. PARK/BUS STOP - DUSK

19

Dana sits with Alex on the bench.

DANA GELERA
 (to Alex)
 Why didn't you join the dance
 circle earlier? You usually never
 miss that.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 Didn't feel like it.

DANA GELERA
 What's wrong? I've noticed you've
 been quiet since the bus ride.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 I don't know.

DANA GELERA
I know somethin's up with you!

ALEX O'CAMPO
Well, I feel stupid... lost! I
don't know what I'm doing.

DANA GELERA
Are you worried about tomorrow
after school and Mickey?

Alex doesn't answer.

DANA GELERA (CONT'D)
Hey Alex, I know you better than
anyone here. You're a tough guy,
but deep down, you're still that
scared little boy I've known since
we were 5 years old.

ALEX O'CAMPO
Really wow! I'm not scared.

DANA GELERA
Okay, well...
(pause)
But Alex, you're wrong.

ALEX O'CAMPO
(pissed off)
What? I'm wrong? When those idiots
came into our hood and disrespected
us! I'm wrong?

DANA GELERA
Fighting is not the answer! You
don't have to prove anything. No
one judges you because of your
dad's situation.

ALEX O'CAMPO
My dad? What does my dad have to do
with this? You know what? Never
mind. If you're not with me, then
you're against me. I need friends
to support me, not tell me I'm
wrong!

DANA GELERA
Really Alex? I'm your friend and I
care about you.

Dana picks up her things and walks away.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Hey, I have to walk with you. It's not safe for a girl alone.

DANA GELERA

Don't worry about it. I can take care of myself.

ALEX O'CAMPO

C'mon Dana. Dana!!!

Dana continues to walk away. Alex follows her.

20

EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD - DUSK

20

Queue song - LOVE IS A BATTLEFIELD (1983) by Pat Benatar.
Dana walks through neighborhood.

DANA GELERA

We are young, heartache to heartache we stand. No promises, no demands. Love Is A Battlefield.

ALEX O'CAMPO

We are strong, no one can tell us we're wrong. Searchin' our hearts for so long, both of us knowing. Love Is A Battlefield.

From behind, Alex is calling her. Homeless people pop up.

ALEX O'CAMPO (CONT'D)

Dana! Dana, wait up.

(pause)

Fine... go!

Dana runs.

ALEX O'CAMPO (CONT'D)

I'm kidding. Come back here, Dana.

He runs after her.

DANA GELERA

You're beggin' me to go, you're makin' me stay. Why do you hurt me so bad? It would help me to know. Do I stand in your way, or am I the best thing you've had? Believe me, believe me, I can't tell you why. But I'm trapped by your love, and I'm chained to your side.

Dana looks back and sees Alex trailing behind.

DANA GELERA (CONT'D)
I told you, I can take care of myself.

ALEX O'CAMPO
Okay, I just want to make sure you get home safe.

ALEX O'CAMPO (CONT'D)
We are young, heartache to heartache we stand. No promises, no demands. Love Is A Battlefield.

DANA GELERA
Just go home, Alex! I'm good!

DANA GELERA (CONT'D)
We are strong, no one can tell us we're wrong. Searchin' our hearts for so long, both of us knowing. Love Is A Battlefield.

ALEX O'CAMPO
C'mon Dana, don't be mad. I care about you, too! I mean, you're my friend.

Dana can't help but smile to herself.

ALEX O'CAMPO (CONT'D)
We're losing control. Will you turn me away or touch me deep inside? And before this gets old, will it still feel the same? There's no way this will die. But if we get much closer, I could lose control. And if your heart surrenders, you'll need me to hold.

DANA GELERA
We are young, heartache to heartache we stand. No promises, no demands. Love Is A Battlefield.

ALEX O'CAMPO
We are strong, no one can tell us we're wrong. Searchin' our hearts for so long, both of us knowing. Love Is A Battlefield.

DANA GELERA

Bye Alex. Thanks for making sure I got home safe.

ALEX O'CAMPO

No problem. We're cool, right?

DANA GELERA

Yeah we're cool! Good night, Alex.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Good night!

As Alex walks away, split screen to --

ALEX & DANA

We are young, heartache to heartache we stand. No promises, no demands. Love Is A Battlefield.

We are strong, no one can tell us we're wrong. Searchin' our hearts for so long, both of us knowing. Love Is A Battlefield.

Music ends. Dana shuts the front door.

22 EXT. FANCY RESTAURANT - EVENING 22
Adrian and his dad arrive in front of an upscale restaurant.

ADRIAN DIAZ

This is where you wanna work?

CHRIS DIAZ

I was referred by a friend who works here. C'mon, let's go.

Adrian walks out with his dad.

23 INT. FANCY RESTAURANT/FRONT - EVENING 23
Adrian and his dad enter the restaurant. They immediately feel under-dressed. All the male patrons are wearing suit and tie or at least a jacket. They are greeted by a HOSTESS.

HOSTESS

Hello, can I help you?

CHRIS DIAZ

Oh yes ma'am, I'm here to see Oscar for a job opening.

HOSTESS
Okay, hold on please.

Hostess leaves and then comes back.

HOSTESS (CONT'D)
Okay sir, follow me.

Chris looks over at Adrian.

ADRIAN DIAZ
I'll wait here, dad.

Chris nods and follows the hostess. At that moment, his crush, Isabelle comes in, then her friends Gloria and Diane.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
Well if it isn't drool boy!

Isabelle and Diane laugh.

ADRIAN DIAZ
(uneasy)
Ummm, hello girls! Fancy seeing you here.

ISABELLE STEVENS
Well, we come here for dinner a lot.

Adrian smiles at Isabelle, but looks dorky instead.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
So what are you doing here?

DIANE WALCHER
Yeah, don't you live down south, like in the ghetto side of town?

ADRIAN DIAZ
I'm, I'm just visiting my dad who ummm works here.

He looks down and notices something peculiar.

HOSTESS
Ladies, follow me.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
Well drool boy, see you around.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Okay, enjoy your meal.

The girls swagger to their table. At the same time, Adrian's dad walks past the girls. When Chris reaches the front, Adrian pulls him out the door quickly.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)
Let's go, dad. Let's go!

They exit the restaurant.

24 INT. DIAZ CAR/DRIVING - EVENING
Chris notices his son's uneasiness.

24

CHRIS DIAZ
What's the hurry, son?

ADRIAN DIAZ
Nothing dad. I just need to go home and do my homework.

Chris smiles.

CHRIS DIAZ
I'm so happy to hear that, son. You know how important education is. That's our dream for you.

ADRIAN DIAZ
I know, dad.

CHRIS DIAZ
We expect you to study hard, get good grades, go to college, and find a stable job, work for a big company or even the government.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Yes, I will, dad. I will.

CHRIS DIAZ
Don't be like me. I didn't go to college. Your mom too. Your lola, she didn't even finish elementary school. You need to be an example for your sister.

ADRIAN DIAZ
I know, dad. I'm trying my best.

CHRIS DIAZ
Make connections with the right people, not troublemakers in our hood. It's all about who you know.
(MORE)

CHRIS DIAZ (CONT'D)
 Look, I'm going to work at the
 restaurant because of who I know.
 (pause)
 You're our only hope, son!

ADRIAN DIAZ
 I won't let you down, dad.

Adrian looks down, teary-eyed.

25 INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 25
 Adrian and his dad enter the house. Alysa runs up to them.

ALYSA
 Daddy, daddy, daddy!

Alysa hugs her dad and kisses him.

CHRIS DIAZ
 Hey Babydoll!

ALYSA
 Where you go?

CHRIS DIAZ
 To the store Babydoll to buy food
 and water.

ADRIAN DIAZ
 Where's my hug, Alysa?

Alysa hugs her brother and kisses him too. Grandma comes in.

ALYSA
 I love you, kuya!

ADRIAN DIAZ
 I love you too, babydoll!

GRANDMA LILIA
 Ang tagal tagal niyo.
 (Subtitled as: You guys
 took a long time)

ADRIAN DIAZ
 Mano po, grandma.

Adrian takes his grandma's hand and puts it on his forehead
 as a sign of respect and blessing from an elderly.

GRANDMA LILIA
 God bless you.

CHRIS DIAZ
 Ma, ako na ang magluluto.
 (Subtitled as: Ma, I'm
 going to do the cooking)

26 INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT 26
 It's very late. Chris sits with his wife at the kitchen
 table. He has food heated up for her. He notices a bruise on
 her face.

CHRIS DIAZ
 What happened to your face?

LIGAYA DIAZ
 Oh, it's nothing. One of the
 patients hit me today while I was
 trying to give him a shower.

CHRIS DIAZ
 Are you okay?

LIGAYA DIAZ
 Okay naman. We were short staffed
 again. Next time, I'm going to
 refuse that patient if I don't get
 someone to help me.

CHRIS DIAZ
 Just eat. You worked hard.

LIGAYA DIAZ
 How was job hunting today?

CHRIS DIAZ
 Okay. I might work at this
 restaurant. I'll know by next week.

LIGAYA DIAZ
 Let's pray for that.

27 INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT 27
 Ligaya comes out of the bathroom, with wet hair, wearing
 pajamas. Chris is lying down.

CHRIS DIAZ
 Good talk with your son today.

LIGAYA DIAZ
 Yeah, about what?

CHRIS DIAZ
 About our dreams for him.

LIGAYA DIAZ
 Dreams? What he say?

Chris turns over, asleep. Queue music - THESE DREAMS (1985)
 by HEART.

LIGAYA DIAZ (CONT'D)
*Spare a little candle,
 Save some light for me.
 Figures up ahead,
 Moving in the trees.
 White skin in linen,
 Perfume on my wrist.
 And the full moon that hangs over,
 These dreams in the mist.*

*Darkness on the edge,
 Shadows where I stand.
 I search for the time,
 On a watch with no hands.
 I want to see you clearly,
 Come closer than this.
 But all I remember,
 Are the dreams in the mist.*

28

EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

28

Ligaya walks outside, looking at the moon and stars.

LIGAYA DIAZ
*These dreams go on when I close my
 eyes. Every second of the night I
 live another life. These dreams
 that sleep when it's cold outside.
 Every moment I'm awake the further
 I'm away.*

*Is it cloak n dagger,
 Could it be spring or fall.
 I walk without a cut,
 Through a stained glass wall.
 Weaker in my eyesight,
 The candle in my grip.
 And words that have no form,
 Are falling from my lips.*

The door opens and out walks grandma Lilia.

GRANDMA LILIA
 Ligaya, what are you doing? It's
 so late.

LIGAYA DIAZ

It's okay, ma. I can't sleep. I need to relax a little, get some fresh air.

GRANDMA LILIA

Okay, anak.

Grandma closes the door. Ligaya continues singing.

LIGAYA DIAZ

These dreams go on when I close my eyes. Every second of the night I live another life. These dreams that sleep when it's cold outside. Every moment I'm awake the further I'm away. There's something out there, I can't resist. I need to hide away from the pain. There's something out there, I can't resist.

29

INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

29

Adrian is asleep. His mom opens the door, checks on him. She kisses him on the forehead.

LIGAYA DIAZ

The sweetest song is silence, That I've ever heard. Funny how your feet, In dreams never touch the earth. In a wood full of princes, Freedom is a kiss. But the prince hides his face, From dreams in the mist.

She closes the door. Adrian opens his eyes and sees it's 1:30am.

30

INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

30

Ligaya walks around the living room, looking at family pictures.

LIGAYA DIAZ

These dreams go on when I close my eyes. Every second of the night I live another life. These dreams that sleep when it's cold outside. Every moment I'm awake the further I'm away.

She holds a picture frame on her heart.

31 INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT 31
Ligaya walks in her room. Chris is still sound asleep. She
lays on her bed.

LIGAYA DIAZ

*These dreams go on when I close my
eyes. Every second of the night I
live another life. These dreams
that sleep when it's cold outside.
Every moment I'm awake the further
I'm away.*

She closes her eyes.

32 INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/GRANDMA'S ROOM - NIGHT 32
We see grandma Lilia praying the rosary. On the bed is
little Alysa sound asleep.

Music ends.

33 EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING 33
It's a new day. The neighborhood kids walk on the street,
same homeless men asleep on the street.

34 INT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING 34
Barbara is in the middle of singing, I'M SO EXCITED (1982) by
The Pointer Sisters. The kids all get up and dance feeling
the song and showing excitement except for the ABC Posse
who's whispering in the back corner of the bus.

BENDER FREEMAN

Today Mickey is finally gonna pay!

ALEX O'CAMPO

Hey remember, this is my fight.
You guys just stay back.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

Okay, just in case his idiot
friends jump in. We got your back.

Dana glances at Alex, worried. Adrian and Drop quietly talk.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I got a bad feeling about this.
He's gonna get himself beat up or
maybe worse...

DROP SANTIAGO

Yeah, killed!

One seat over, Dana overhears them and says --

DANA GELERA
We gotta do something.

LATER

The song LIVIN' ON A PRAYER (1986) by BON JOVI is playing on the radio. The kids all sing along.

ALL THE KIDS
We've gotta hold on to what we've got. It doesn't make a difference if we make it or not. We've got each other and that's a lot. For love we'll give it a shot. Whoa, we're half-way there. Whoa, livin' on a prayer. Take my hand and we'll make it. I swear. Whoa, livin' on a prayer. Livin' on a prayer. We've gotta hold on ready or not. You live for the fight when it's all that you've got. Whoa, we're half-way there.

Alex looks out the window in deep thought. Dana also seems worried.

35 EXT. SCHOOL BUS/DRIVING - MORNING 35
We see the school bus driving on the streets. Song continues.

ALL THE KIDS (V.O.)
Whoa, livin' on a prayer. Take my hand and we'll make it, I swear. Whoa, livin' on a prayer.

36 EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING 36
Music fades and stops. The school bus arrives in front of the school. The kids get off the bus and head off.

37 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 37
In Mrs. Garrett's class, Mickey and his friends talk. Adrian overhears this. Mickey pulls out a BRASS KNUCKLE.

MICKEY PORTER
(re: brass knuckles)
Look, I got this!

TERRY ROBINSON

Damn, that's beautiful.

KEVIN LEW

Mickey, you're gonna mess him up. I don't think you need that.

MICKEY PORTER

I want to teach him a lesson. I want Alex and the rest of the ghetto kids to know we're not gonna take it -- anymore!

We see Mrs. Garrett asleep on her desk.

Queue song - WE'RE NOT GONNA TAKE IT ANYMORE (1984) by TWISTED SISTER.

MICKEY PORTER (CONT'D)

We're not gonna take it. No, we ain't gonna take it. We're not gonna take it anymore.

We've got the right to choose and there ain't no way we'll lose it. This is our life, this is our song. We'll fight the powers that be just, don't pick our destiny 'cause You don't know us, you don't belong

The rest of the kids, except for Adrian, get up and rally.

CLASSROOM KIDS

*We're not gonna take it
No, we ain't gonna take it
We're not gonna take it anymore*

TERRY ROBINSON

Oh, you're so condescending, your gall is never ending. We don't want nothing, not a thing, from you. Your life is trite and jaded, boring and confiscated. If that's your best, your best won't do.

Mickey stands on his chair while Adrian shakes his head.

MICKEY PORTER

*We're right, yeah!
We're free, yeah!
We'll fight, yeah!
You'll see, yeah!*

KEVIN LEW

We're not gonna take it. No, we ain't gonna take it. We're not gonna take it anymore. We're not gonna take it. No, we ain't gonna take it. We're not gonna take it anymore. No way!

MICKY PORTER

*We're right, yeah!
We're free, yeah!
We'll fight, yeah!
You'll see, yeah!*

The kids are jumping in the classroom like it is a crazy rock concert.

CLASSROOM KIDS

We're not gonna take it. No, we ain't gonna take it. We're not gonna take it anymore.

*We're not gonna take it (no!)
No, we ain't gonna take it.
We're not gonna take it anymore
(just you try and make us)*

Mrs. Garrett wakes and looks up from her desk. Music stops. Silence. Everyone pretends to be reading.

MS. GARRETT

It's reading time, all the talking needs to stop!

Adrian looks at Gloria, then stares down at her shoes, noticing they are untied.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Gloria, tie your shoes.

She turns to him and doesn't say a word, then ties her shoes.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)

You're welcome.

38

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

38

The bell rings. The kids start coming out of the school from different directions.

Familiar kids are waiting for the school bus. Alex and his posse are looking around, nervous. The bus arrives.

DANA GELERA

Come on, Alex. You have to take the bus home or you'll get stuck here.

ALEX O'CAMPO

I told you guys, Mickey Mouse is a chicken. He didn't show.

Just as Alex is about to hop on the bus, he hears --

MICKEY PORTER

Hey loser! Where you going?

Alex looks back and smirks. Mickey is with Terry and Kevin. The kids on the bus expressions change from happy to worried. They all get out of the bus.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Didn't think you were gonna show.

MICKEY PORTER

Well I'm here. Let's see how bad you are!

Queue song - BAD (1987) by MICHAEL JACKSON. Mickey and his group vs. Alex and his group, dance choreography both sides.

MICKEY PORTER (CONT'D)

Your butt is mine. Gonna tell you right. Just show your face. In broad daylight. I'm telling you, On how I feel. Gonna hurt your mind, don't shoot to kill. Come on, come on. Lay it on me. All right.

ALEX O'CAMPO

I'm giving you, on count of three. To show your stuff, or let it be. I'm telling you, just watch your mouth. I know your game. What you're about.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Hey guys, there's no need for this.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Shut up, Adrian. Let's do this!

MICKEY PORTER

Well they say the sky's the limit. And to me that's really true. But my friend you have seen nothing.

(MORE)

MICKEY PORTER (CONT'D)

*Just wait 'til I get through.
Because I'm bad, I'm bad,
shamone!(Bad, bad, really, really
bad)*

ADRIAN DIAZ

You're both going to be expelled.

ALEX O'CAMPO

I don't really care anymore.

ALEX O'CAMPO (CONT'D)

*You know I'm bad, I'm bad, you know
it. (Bad, bad, really, really bad).
You know I'm bad, I'm bad, shamone,
you know. (Bad, bad, really, really
bad)*

ALEX/MICKEY

*And the whole world has to answer
right now. Just to tell you once
again who's bad?*

Adrian, the neutral party, gets between the boys.

ADRIAN DIAZ

*The word is out. You're doin'
wrong. Gonna lock you up, before
too long. Your lyin' eyes, gonna
tell you right. So listen up, don't
make a fight.*

Mickey pushes Adrian, he falls down on the grass. Mickey goes to Alex's face.

MICKEY PORTER

*Your talk is cheap. You're not a
man. You're throwin' stones, to
hide your hands. But they say the
sky's the limit. And to me that's
really true. But my friend you have
seen nothing. Just wait 'til I get
through. Because I'm bad, I'm bad,
shamone (Bad, bad, really, really
bad).*

ALEX O'CAMPO

*You know I'm bad, I'm bad, you know
it.(Bad, bad, really, really bad)
You know I'm bad, I'm bad, you know
it, you know. (Bad, bad, really,
really bad) And the whole world has
to answer right now. Just to tell
you once again who's bad?*

Adrian is trying to stop the fight from happening.

MICKEY PORTER

*We can change the world tomorrow.
This could be a better place. If
you don't like what I'm sayin'.
Then won't you slap my face.
Because I'm bad, I'm bad, shamone!
You know I'm bad, I'm bad, you know
it.*

MICKEY PORTER (CONT'D)

This is my hood!

Music fades. Start fight choreography between Mickey and Alex. Mickey makes the first move with a punch, Alex ducks and he misses.

ALEX O'CAMPO

You can't even punch.

TERRY ROBINSON

Get him, Mickey!

Alex kicks Mickey hard in the stomach, making him crunch in pain. Mickey takes out the brass knuckles from his pocket and makes a fist with it. Mickey turns around and punches Alex.

SLOW MOTION - Alex turning his head, spewing blood from the impact. Dana sees this and screams --

DANA GELERA

STOP! Stop it!

MICKEY PORTER

*You know I'm bad, I'm bad, you know
it, you know (Bad, bad, really,
really bad) (And the whole world
has to answer right now just to
tell you once again...)*

ALEX O'CAMPO

(re: brass knuckles)

You're such a cheater. I'll beat
you with my bare hands.

Alex wipes the blood off his face and attacks. He puts Mickey in a headlock. Soon they are on the ground, wrestling and pouncing on each other while the crowd is around them rallying and making a lot of noise.

All of a sudden a deep voice is heard.

MR. JOHNNY

Stop this nonsense or I will beat
both y'all's silly.

Everyone stops dead on their tracks. Then, music starts
again. Mr. Johnny performs Michael Jackson moves.

MR. JOHNNY (CONT'D)

*You know I'm bad, I'm bad, you know
it, you know. And the whole world
has to answer right now, just to
tell you once again who's bad?*

Mr. Johnny looks crazy scary. Music fades.

39

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

39

Principal Dewey sits behind a desk talking to both Alex and
Mickey.

MICKEY PORTER

Principal Dewey, why'd you call my
mom?

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Both of your parents have been
called.

At that moment, CRISTY O'CAMPO, (40s), FILIPINA, and RICHARD
PORTER, (50s), CAUCASIAN walk in at the same time. We can
tell the difference in class and status at the way they are
dressed. They sit next to their sons.

Cristy sees the bruise on Alex's face.

CRISTY O'CAMPO

What happened?

RICHARD PORTER

(To Mickey)

You know I don't have time for
this.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

I called both of you in here
because your boys got into a fight
on school grounds.

(To Richard Porter)

Your boy brought this to school and
used it.

Principal Dewey shows the brass knuckles.

CRISTY O'CAMPO
 (to the principal)
 How could this happen? He could've
 really hurt my son!
 (to Richard)
 Your son is dangerous. I need to
 report this to the police.

Richard Porter laughs.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY
 Now, Mrs. O'Campo, there's no need
 for that. I called you in here to
 discuss this amicably.

RICHARD PORTER
 I'm sure my son was provoked. He
 obviously felt threatened. This boy
 is not from around here...and my
 son felt he needed protection.

CRISTY O'CAMPO
 I know my son. He's a good boy. He
 doesn't start nothin!

RICHARD PORTER
 Isn't your husband serving time in
 prison?

Cristy looks at him in shock.

RICHARD PORTER (CONT'D)
 I dug up dirt on your family. So if
 I were you, I'd shut my mouth,
 Chink lady.

Alex is pissed and gets in front of Richard.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 Don't talk to my mom like that. I
 don't care who you are, just
 because you got money, you think
 you can...

PRINCIPAL DEWEY
 Hey, hey...just relax, Alex.

CRISTY DIAZ
 Alex, sit down! It's okay son.

Alex sits down, trying to calm down.

RICHARD PORTER
 Look, I don't have time for this.

ALEX O'CAMPO

My dad has nothing to do with this!
Mickey Mouse, I mean Mickey was the
one who started it. I'm just
trying to stand up to him.

MICKEY PORTER

I didn't start it. We never invited
you to come to our school.

CRISTY O'CAMPO

I can't believe this. My son is
forced to go to this school, take
the bus every day for 40 minutes
and this happens? I tried enrolling
him in the school close to our
house and they don't want him
there. They say he has to come to
this school. Why is that?

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Desegregation busing, also known as
forced busing.

CRISTY O'CAMPO

I don't understand!

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

It's the practice of assigning and
transporting students to schools so
as to correct prior racial
segregation of schools or to
overcome the effects of residential
segregation on local schools.

RICHARD PORTER

Doesn't make any sense!

CRISTY O'CAMPO

Another school close to our home
said they have no room for him.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Yeah, most schools down south are
overcrowded. They have too many
students.

CRISTY O'CAMPO

I don't know what to do.

MICKEY PORTER

We don't want them here!

ALEX O'CAMPO

Believe me, we don't wanna be here either.

RICHARD PORTER

Who do I need to talk to make this go away?

CRISTY O'CAMPO

It seems like the school is not doing a very good job at desegregating their students.

ALEX O'CAMPO

All the kids at the bus, we never feel like a part of this school.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Well, there's a lot of activities you could participate in. It's a choice you've made.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Again, nobody wants us to join anything.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Well, you probably never tried before, have you?

Alex doesn't respond.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY (CONT'D)

Have you tried joining anything?

ALEX O'CAMPO

NO!

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Okay, there's a talent show...

Principal Dewey takes out a flyer and puts it on his desk. The parents look at it.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Oh no!

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

This is a perfect opportunity to participate and be a part of the school community.

CRISTY O'CAMPO

Yeah, my son has a lot of talents.

ALEX O'CAMPO

I don't really care. I'll be out of here soon.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Not necessarily. You may get expelled or even held back.

ALEX/CRISTY

What!?

CRISTY DIAZ

I don't think that's right. I'm not gonna allow it.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

I'm afraid you can't do anything about it, Mrs. O'Campo.

ALEX O'CAMPO

But I want out of this school.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Okay, here's what I'm gonna do. For you Alex, I'm requiring you to be a part of the talent show and recruit the rest of the kids on the bus.

Mickey laughs.

MICKEY PORTER

That will be a comedy show.

Principal Dewey gives him a dirty look.

ALEX O'CAMPO

But, but the talent show is in a week.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Then I suggest you work fast!

CRISTY O'CAMPO

You can do this, son!

MICKEY PORTER

Great. That settles it then. We'll be watching...

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Well Mickey, I will also require you to join the talent show and recruit your friends.

MICKEY PORTER

What? NOOOO!

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Expulsion will be the result if you fail. I will be watching very closely. Do I make myself clear?

RICHARD PORTER

Mickey, just do it son. It might be good for you.

Alex and Mickey both nod their heads, defeated.

40 EXT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DAY 40
A car pulls in front of an apartment complex. Alex and his mom hop out and walk to their apartment unit.

41 INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DAY 41
Alex marches into the house and immediately rushes to the phone.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Hey Chandan! We need an emergency meeting. Meet me at the park in an hour. Call everyone, even the girls.

Alex hangs up.

42 EXT. PARK - EVENING 42
All the kids from the bus are seated in a big circle. Alex is in the middle of talking.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Who's in?

Everyone raises their hand.

DROP SANTIAGO

YESSS! I'm so excited!

DANA GELERA

But I'm worried we don't have time.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I really don't want to do this, but if the principal says we have to, then I guess we must.

ALEX O'CAMPO
Principal Dewey said we can perform
as a group and/or individually.

DROP SANTIAGO
I think as a group.

The rest of the kids agree in unison.

ALEX O'CAMPO
But if you all want to perform on
your own like I know Bender has mad
skills in rapping, might as well do
it too.

DROP SANTIAGO
Yeah, we need to show them what we
can do.

BENDER FREEMAN
Yeah, I can definitely rap.

CHANDAN AGARWAL
I'm good at Indian dancing.

DANA CAMPBELL
I can breakdance.

ANITA MENA
I can salsa.

ADRIAN DIAZ
I can play the piano.

BARBARA PERRY
I can beat box.

ELIZABETH WARNER
I can sing.

ALEX O'CAMPO
(To Drop)
What about you, Drop?

ADRIAN DIAZ
Yeah, you're the one who really
wanted to do this.

DROP SANTIAGO
I'll do... umm, umm, I'm not sure.

The kids all shake their heads, laughing.

From behind a tree, the mysterious dancer with a hoodie is watching. Adrian is the only one who notices the mysterious dancer. Adrian sees the mysterious dancer walking away and rushes the conversation.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Okay guys, I need to go home and practice the piano.

ALEX O'CAMPO

But you're going to be a part of our dance, right?

ADRIAN DIAZ

Yes, of course! Just let me know when's the rehearsals.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Sure. See you tomorrow.

Alex and Adrian bump fist while the rest of the kids wave at him. Adrian quickly departs.

43 EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD/STREETS - AFTERNOON 43

Adrian is following the mysterious dancer through the neighborhood back alleys and streets, but he disappears. Adrian can't find him. Puzzled, he starts walking back.

44 EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD/HOUSE - AFTERNOON 44

In front of a random house, he bumps into Gloria coming out.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Oh my God, you scared me!

GLORIA DAVIDSON

You need to watch where you're going, drool boy!

(pause)

Wait! Are you stalking me?

ADRIAN DIAZ

No, I'm not stalking you. This is my hood. The question is... what are you doing here? Who's house is this? You don't live here!

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Umm, no! I'm just visiting my nanny, who's like my second mom.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Wow, she lives so close to my
house.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
Okay well, nice seeing you.

She walks back to the porch and sits on a bench. At that
moment, Adrian looks down.

ADRIAN DIAZ
That's why you're bumping into
people, your shoelace is untied!

Then his brain registers some memories.

START FLASHBACK

45 EXT. PARK/BUS STOP - DAY 45
Adrian tells the mysterious dancer --

ADRIAN DIAZ
Hey man, cool LA Gear shoes...

The mystery dancer ignores him, leaves without saying a word.

46 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 46
Adrian looks at Gloria, stares down at her shoes, noticing
they are untied.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Gloria, your shoe's untied.

Close on the shoes.

END FLASHBACK/BACK TO SCENE

47 EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD/HOUSE - EVENING 47
Adrian smiles and walks over to Gloria, sits next to her on
the bench.

ADRIAN DIAZ
So Gloria, where did you learn to
dance?

GLORIA DAVIDSON
(surprised)
Huh? What are you talking about?
I'm not a dancer.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Don't even lie about it. I know
you're that dancer wearing the
hoodie and bandana.

Adrian shakes his head like he still can't believe it.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

I don't know what you're...

ADRIAN DIAZ

Your shoes gave it away. Why are
you hiding? Why don't you want
people to know?

Gloria shakes her head like she's been caught.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Okay, you got me. It's hard to
explain. You wouldn't understand.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Try me. By the way, your secret's
safe with me.

Suddenly a sleek black Mercedes Benz with tinted windows
pulls up in front of the house. Gloria gets up quickly.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

My dad is here. I gotta go.

Gloria's dad, THOMAS DAVIDSON, CAUCASIAN, (50s), handsome and
fit wave at them. Gloria yells from outside.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Oh my God, I've seen that car in
this neighborhood a lot.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Maria, I'm going now. Hasta manana!

Gloria looks back and says--

GLORIA DAVIDSON (CONT'D)

I come here 2 to 3 times a week
after school. I'm here again
tomorrow, same time.

Gloria hops onto the back seat. The car drives off. Adrian
is left speechless, he smiles.

Mike Reno and Ann Wilson on the piano. Next to him sits his little sister, Alysa.

49 EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 49
We hear the song from outside. Pan up to the blue cobalt colored moon above.

50 INT. SCHOOL BUS/DRIVING - MORNING 50
LET'S DANCE (1983) by David Bowie is playing on the radio. We see kids singing along and getting into the song.

ALL THE KIDS

*And if you say run, I'll run with
you. And if you say hide, we'll
hide. Because my love for you,
would break my heart in two.
If you should fall into my arms,
And tremble like a flower.
Let's dance!
Let's dance!*

The main kids are in the middle of a hushed discussion.

ALEX O'CAMPO

I've stayed up late watching MTV music videos. I'm halfway done with the choreography.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

It's so good, you guys.

DROP SANTIAGO

You saw it?

CHANDAN AGARWAL

Yeah, and we're gonna blow everyone out of the water. That's how dope it is.

BENDER FREEMAN

That's great man, I can't wait!

ADRIAN DIAZ

When do we start practicing?

ALEX O'CAMPO

Today at lunch at the football field. Then after school at the park.

51 EXT. SCHOOL BUS/DRIVING - MORNING 51

We see the bus on the freeway.

ALL THE KIDS (V.O.)

*Let's dance!
Put on your red shoes
And dance the blues...*

Music fades.

52 INT. SCHOOL BUS/DRIVING - DAY 52

The song switches to I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY (1987) by Whitney Houston and immediately Dana is energized and gets up to sing.

53 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 53

All the kids settle in. Adrian sits at his desk. He stares at Isabelle, who is wearing a miniskirt. Gloria sees him staring, smirks at him.

MRS. GARRETT

Let's talk about the upcoming Talent Show. If you're interested or thinking about signing up, you better do it today. Today is the last day to sign up.

Some of the kids perk up.

MRS. GARRETT (CONT'D)

A surprise guest judge will be there. Hint, a famous singer.

MICKEY PORTER

Who is it?

MRS. GARRETT

(To Mickey)

I have no idea. They won't tell us.

(To class)

The favorite act at our talent show will be performing with this famous singer during their concert here in San Diego.

KEVIN LEW

Wow! This is a big deal then!

TERRY ROBINSON

Maybe it's Madonna!

ADRIAN DIAZ

What! I'm going to die.

ISABELLE STEVENS

Oh my God! Maybe it's Rick
Springfield!

(To her friends)

We gotta do something good for the
talent show.

ADRIAN DIAZ

(To Isabelle)

I'm sure whatever you do, I, I
mean, WE will enjoy it. And you'll
look amazing! I mean, your
performance will be amazing!

Gloria shakes her head.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Just stop talking.

DIANE WALCHER

Yeah, he's giving me a headache.

Isabelle just laughs, ignores him. Adrian looks down while
Gloria shoots him a smirk. The kids chat among themselves.

MRS. GARRETT

Stop the chattering! Let's get to
work. Everyone should have read
Chapter 8 by now.

The kids open their textbooks.

54

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL/FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

54

It's lunchtime. Adrian is with Drop, Alex, Chandan and the
rest of the kids from the bus. Alex is in front of the kids,
teaching them a dance routine.

ALEX O'CAMPO

C'mon guys, I need to teach you at
least half of the dance, then the
other half at the park after school
today.

The kids are not getting it. Elizabeth is tired and sits
down on the grass.

ELIZABETH RUSSO

I'm tired and hungry. I haven't
eaten lunch yet.

Alex becomes irritated.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 (yelling)
 C'mon Elizabeth, you're always
 hungry. Get your fat self up!

Everyone turns to look at Elizabeth, who's now red faced and forcing a smile. AWKWARD SILENCE. Alex is not done yet.

ALEX O'CAMPO (CONT'D)
 (mean to Elizabeth)
 Why you smiling, huh? You think I'm
 joking? Naaah! You won't die if you
 skip lunch today. So get up, fatso!

Elizabeth gets up. All the kids stare at her from head to toe.

BENDER FREEMAN
 Yeah, you need to lose weight. It
 seems like you're getting bigger
 and bigger every day.

CHANDAN AGARWAL
 It's the french fries and junk food
 you're eating.

ELIZABETH RUSSO
 I'm not even eating anything. In
 fact, I've been starving myself.

DROP SANTIAGO
 Um, we're your homies. That's why
 we're telling you straight up.

ADRIAN DIAZ
 Sorry Elizabeth, but this is tough
 love!

Elizabeth continues to smile, but now holding back tears.

DANA GELERA
 Leave her alone, guys!

BARBARA PERRY
 Yeah, not cool.

ANITA MENA
 Let's move on.

Drop and Adrian move closer to Alex.

DROP SANTIAGO
I think we should throw in some
Michael Jackson.

He imitates Michael Jackson's moonwalk.

ALEX O'CAMPO
Okay, I'm cool with that.

DANA GELERA
Don't forget Janet.

The boys nod in agreement.

BENDER FREEMAN
Aaah, yes my future wife, Ms. Janet
Jackson.

ALEX O'CAMPO
In order to win the talent show, we
need to stand out.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Drop is right. We need some Michael
in there.

DROP SANTIAGO
Yes, we need to show them something
they haven't seen before.

CHANDAN AGARWAL
We need to throw in everything we
got.

BENDER FREEMAN
Yeah, we need to entertain these
white people like they've never
been entertained before.

ALEX O'CAMPO
Ummm, you're right and I'm getting
stressed out. This is impossible!

Alex looks defeated, ready to give up.

From afar, Isabelle, Gloria and Diane are watching the group,
spying. The group notice them. Adrian is enchanted seeing
Isabelle. Drop makes him snap out of it.

DROP SANTIAGO
Let's focus! We can do this!

The bell rings. Isabelle and Diane depart followed by
Gloria, who catches some of their choreography.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Okay, we meet after school at the park today.

(Looking at Elizabeth)

Eat before you come. Bring your energy!

Elizabeth looks at Alex, sadness all over her face. Dana walks by and pats her gently on the shoulder.

55 EXT. PARK/BUS STOP - DAY 55

A small group of teens and adults hangs out listening to freestyle music, LOOKOUT WEEKEND (1984) by Debbie Deb.

The kids hop out of the school bus and sprint to the park. They drop their bags and form a circle.

In another part of the park, Alex takes the initiative and begins to teach the kids the rest of the dance routine he choreographed.

From behind a tree, we see Gloria wearing the hoodie and bandana observing. Adrian sees her and waves.

56 EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD/HOUSE - EVENING 56

Adrian rings the doorbell. Gloria answers the door.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Nanna, es mi amigo de la escuela.
I'll be outside.

NANNA (V.O.)

Si.

Gloria and Adrian sit on the same bench on the front porch.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Look, I'm confused. Why do you come here to your nanny's house after school?

GLORIA DAVIDSON

It's really none of your business.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Okay, I see. I guess the mystery dancer's identity will be revealed.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Oh come on! You promised you'll keep it a secret!

ADRIAN DIAZ

That was yesterday. Today is a different day.

Gloria shakes her head and takes a deep breath.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Okay, Nanna took care of me since I was a baby. Now that I'm older, she only works 3 to 4 times a week at my house. When she's off, she doesn't like me being home alone, so she picks me up after school. I'm here until my dad picks me up. Sometimes I spend the night when he works late.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Ah, I see. That makes sense. So you're an only child then?

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Yup!

ADRIAN DIAZ

It doesn't answer how you learned to dance like that. I mean, you're crazy good. The kids won't believe it.

Gloria laughs.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Thanks. I wish I had a better answer for you. Honestly, I pick up dance moves really fast. My parents put me in so many dance classes since I was 3 years old, ballet, tap, jazz, and gymnastics. I love all types of dancing. Freestyle street dancing is my favorite.

Adrian gets up and performs some dance moves. She looks at him like he's "weird." Adrian stops and says--

ADRIAN DIAZ

I want you to do the exact same moves.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

(laughing)
You're so dumb!

ADRIAN DIAZ

No, I'm serious. Just humor me.
I'm still in complete and utter
shock. I thought you were a guy!
Please! Pretty please!

He playfully begs. Gloria feels more comfortable with him.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Okay fine, you dork!

Gloria gets up and does the same exact dance moves as Adrian,
but better. He's speechless!

ADRIAN DIAZ

Okay, time to go home! Thank you
for making me feel horrible. Syke!

She laughs.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

You're funny!

ADRIAN DIAZ

Thanks, but really I gotta go home.
I have to practice piano and finish
homework. Nice chatting with you.

Gloria smiles.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

How well do you play the piano?

ADRIAN DIAZ

Really well. My parents don't have
a lot of money, so they got me a
used piano from a PennySavers ad
for like \$25.

He laughs, proud.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Oh my God, that's awesome!

ADRIAN DIAZ

It works fine, just a couple of
keys that get stuck once in a
while.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

You're actually a really cool guy.
You know, I can help you with
Isabelle. We all know you have the
hots for her.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Really?! You will?

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Yeah, when I'm not here, I see her
and Diane after school.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Oh my God, that would be a dream.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Okay, I'll see what I can do. Good
night, Adrian.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Good night Gloria! I'm so happy
we're friends.

Adrian rushes out, smiling from ear to ear. He looks back
and waves at her. She waves back and watches him disappear.
Gloria looks up the full moon above, walks to the house and
closes the door.

57

INT. SCHOOL BUS/DRIVING - MORNING

57

The kids are in a happy good mood, singing to the song, COOL
IT NOW (1984) by New Edition.

BENDER FREEMAN

*When ya got a girl who takes her
time. You must slow the pace you
can't mess with her mind. If she
feels the same she'll let letcha
know Just prepare yourself or be
ready to go. And I hope this
message stays in your mind. Cause
you almost lost a girl who is right
on time. There's one more thing
that ya got to know. Just cool it
down and stay in control.*

ALL THE KIDS

*Cool it now. You got to cool it
now. Ooooooh watch out. You're
gonna lose control. Cool it now
You got to slow it down.
Slow it down...
You're gonna fall in love baby. All
I keep thinking about is her in my
arms. (Got to see what love is all
about). And I'll never be the same
until you are mine, oh. Listen to
me let me tell you.*

Alex starts rapping.

ALEX O'CAMPO

*Why you all coming down on me?
Tryin to tell me how my life is
supposed to be. I know you're only
trying to help me out. Tryin to
show me what life is really about.
But this time I'm gonna make it on
my own. So why dontcha fellaz just
leave me alone. Adrian, Bender,
Chandan, and Drop. If I like the
girl who cares who you like.*

All the kids laugh out loud. Mr. Johnny looks at the rearview mirror and smiles.

ALL THE KIDS

*Cool It Now! Ooooooh watch out,
out, out, out. Cool It Now! Slow it
down, down, down, down. Cool It Now
Ooooooh watch out, out, out, out.
Cool It Now. Slow it down, down,
down, down.*

Music fades.

A new song, GLORIA (1982) by Laura Branigan comes on the radio. The girls scream and start to sing. Adrian starts to think about his friend, Gloria.

Flashback to Adrian and Gloria's conversations.

58

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

58

Adrian is approached by Mickey and his sidekicks, Terry and Kevin. Behind them are the girls - Isabelle, Gloria and Diane.

MICKEY PORTER

Adrian!

Adrian turns.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Yeah.

MICKEY PORTER

We're looking for someone to play keyboards in our band for the talent show. Gloria says you're really good.

Gloria steps up and smiles at him.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Really? Ummm...

MICKEY PORTER
If Gloria says you are, then you are.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Well, thank you, but I'm already doing the talent show...

GLORIA DAVIDSON
You need to join our group.

Gloria gives him a look like, "I'm trying to do you a favor."

GLORIA DAVIDSON (CONT'D)
(Looks at Isabelle)
Right Isabelle?

ISABELLE STEVENS
(smiling at Adrian)
Right! We're gonna have so much fun!

Adrian is conflicted.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
Isabelle is very talented. You gotta see her. She's amazing!

ADRIAN DIAZ
Oh yeah? I can't wait!

Isabelle flirts with him.

ISABELLE STEVENS
Yeah, I've always thought of you as a cool guy and cute...

ADRIAN DIAZ
(stuttering)
Oh wow, re, re, really?!

MICKEY PORTER
Anyway, let us know.

Adrian hesitates but is drawn to Isabelle and he blurts out --

ADRIAN DIAZ
Yes, yes, I'll do it!

Happy, they high five him.

MONTAGE BEGINS:

- 59 INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - DAY 59
Adrian studies at home. His dad gives him a drink and takes away little Alysa so he can focus on his studies.
- 60 EXT. PARK - DAY 60
Adrian rehearses with the ghetto kids.
- 61 INT. SCHOOL/MUSIC ROOM - DAY 61
Adrian practices with the rich kids. He's glances at Isabelle. Gloria sees this and looks down.
- 62 INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT 62
Adrian comes home and passes out on his bed. His grandma puts a blanket on top of him and tucks him in.
- END MONTAGE
- 63 EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD/HOUSE - DAY 63
Adrian visits Gloria and shows her the routine.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I think you should dance at the talent show.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Are you kidding me?

ADRIAN DIAZ

You have a real talent. You should be proud of it.

Gloria tries to change the subject.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

When you talk to Isabelle, you need to be more confident. Look her straight in the eyes.

(looks into his eyes)

And tell her how much you're into... ummm her.

They make eye contact, a connection is made. Then an awkward silence. She breaks the eye contact and continues--

GLORIA DAVIDSON (CONT'D)

Umm, yeah... you need to tell her how you feel.

He moves in closer to her face. In his excitement, he touches her hands.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Ummm, you think so?

They look down at their hands and they both pull away.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
Yeah, I think so.

She plays it off, but her facial expression reveals confusion. He seems caught off guard too.

GLORIA DAVIDSON (CONT'D)
Umm, you need to go now. It's late.
I'm spending the night here. Let's
talk tomorrow.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Okay. I just want you to know that
I feel more comfortable with you
than anyone at school and I'm just
really happy that we're friends.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
Me too. Good night Adrian.

Adrian departs.

Queue music - I WANNA KNOW WHAT LOVE IS (1984) by FOREIGNER.

64

EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD/STREET - NIGHT

64

Adrian slowly walks home, breaks into a song. A small group of neighborhood kids show up behind him. Choreography of kids dancing on sidewalk and street.

ADRIAN DIAZ
*I gotta take a little time. A
little time to think things over.
I better read between the lines.
In case I need it when I'm older.
Aaaah woah-ah-aah!*

INTERCUT: GLORIA in front of her Nana's house.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
*Now this mountain I must climb.
Feels like a world upon my
shoulders. And through the clouds I
see love shine. It keeps me warm as
life grows colder.*

ADRIAN DIAZ

*In my life there's been heartache
and pain. I don't know if I can
face it again.*

GLORIA DAVIDSON

*Can't stop now, I've traveled so
far, to change this lonely life.*

ADRIAN/GLORIA

*I wanna know what love is!
I want you to show me!
I wanna feel what love is!
I know you can show me!
Aaaah woah-oh-oooh*

GLORIA DAVIDSON

*I'm gonna take a little time.
A little time to look around me,
oooh ooh-oooh ooh-oooh oooh
I've got nowhere left to hide.
It looks like love has finally
found me.*

ADRIAN DIAZ

*In my life there's been heartache
and pain. I don't know if I can
face it again. I can't stop now,
I've traveled so far. To change
this lonely life.*

ADRIAN/GLORIA

*I wanna know what love is.
I want you to show me.
I wanna feel what love is.
I know you can show me.
I wanna know what love is.
I want you to show me.
And I wanna feel, I want to feel
what love is.
And I know, I know you can show me.*

The neighborhood kids serve as back-up singers as needed.

ADRIAN/GLORIA (CONT'D)

*Let's talk about love.
(I wanna know what love is) the
love that you feel inside.
(I want you to show me) I'm feeling
so much love.
(I wanna feel what love is) no, you
just cannot hide.
(I know you can show me) yeah, woah-
oh-oooh.*

(MORE)

ADRIAN/GLORIA (CONT'D)

I wanna know what love is, let's talk about love. (I want you to show me) I wanna feel it too. (I wanna feel what love is) I wanna feel it too. And I know, and I know, I know you can show me. Show me what is real, woah (woah), yeah I know. (I wanna know what love is) hey I wanna know what love. (I want you to show me), I wanna know, I wanna know, want know. (I wanna feel what love is), hey I wanna feel, love. I know you can show me, yeah!

The song ends. Gloria walks inside the house as Adrian continues to walk home.

65

INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/FRONT - NIGHT
Adrian's mom and dad are waiting for him.

65

CRISTY DIAZ

Where'd you go? We've been waiting for you.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Oh, just visited a friend.

CHRIS DIAZ

You have too many barkadas. That's why your grades are slipping. I was wondering why I haven't seen your progress report.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Oh, Dad. You looked in my room? How could you do that?

CHRIS DIAZ

Yes, I went to your room like I always do and saw it in your drawer. You had straight A's last time and now, you have 2 B's.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I'll get it up before the end of the school.

CHRIS DIAZ

You better, or else!

ADRIAN DIAZ

I promise!

CHRIS DIAZ

Your mom is not working 3-11 pm tonight so she cooked sinigang. She's happy because I got that job at the restaurant.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Oh good, Dad! I'm happy too!

CHRIS DIAZ

So go wash up, we're eating soon.

The phone rings. Adrian picks it up.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Hello.

MICKEY PORTER (V.O.)

Hey Adrian. We only have this weekend to practice, so we'll meet tomorrow at my house first thing in the morning. We'll pick you up.

ADRIAN DIAZ

You'll pick me up?

MICKEY PORTER (V.O.)

Yes, I have your address.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Oh okay. See you tomorrow then.

He hangs up the phone. The phone rings again. He answers again.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)

Hello.

ALEX O'CAMPO (V.O.)

We're practicing tomorrow at the park.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Tomorrow? What time?

ALEX O'CAMPO (V.O.)

Around noon.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I might be a little late.

(pause)

That's ok. Okay, see you tomorrow.

Adrian takes a deep breath and puts his hands over his head.

66

INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/DINING - NIGHT

66

Adrian's whole family is present, eating a nice dinner.

LIGAYA DIAZ

What happened to your grades? Why did they go down?

ADRIAN DIAZ

It's okay, ma. I just forgot to do assignments and I turned it in late. I got deducted points, but don't worry, I'll bring my grades back up to straight A's.

Grandma Lilia is feeding Alysa some soup from the sinigang.

ALYSA

Yummy soup!

GRANDMA LILIA

Masarap!

LIGAYA DIAZ

Adrian, you need to focus. Stop hanging out with your friends. Study more! You got that from your dad, laging nagbabarkada.

CHRIS DIAZ

Ay, ako nanaman ang nakita mo! I thought we're celebrating I got a new job.

LIGAYA DIAZ

Oo nga pala.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Don't worry, I'll make straight A's. I'll do extra credit work. I promise!

The parents smile at him, pleased. Their attention turns to Alysa when she reaches for the bowl of soup.

ALYSA

More soup.

LIGAYA DIAZ

Wait Alysa, I'll do it.

CHRIS DIAZ

It's so yummy, right Babydoll?

ALYSA

Yummy!

ADRIAN DIAZ

Yup, mom is the best cook.

GRANDMA LILIA

You said I'm the best cook, apo!

ADRIAN DIAZ

Oh yes, lola, you're the best cook,
too!

67 EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 67
From the outside of the house, we hear the family laughing
together.

68 EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - MORNING 68
The doorbell rings. Chris answers it and is surprised to see
an unfamiliar face - it's Mickey! Mickey shows politeness
and respect.

MICKEY PORTER

Good morning, Mr. Diaz. I'm Mickey
Porter and I'm Adrian's classmate.

Mickey extends his hand. They shake hands.

CHRIS DIAZ

Nice to meet you, Mickey. Come in.

Mickey comes in and sees Grandma Lilia and Alysa eating.

CHRIS DIAZ (CONT'D)

Mickey, c'mon let's eat.

Chris offers Mickey pandesal bread with fried eggs.

MICKEY PORTER

No, thank you, sir. I'm here to
pick up Adrian.

Chris smiles, pleased.

CHRIS DIAZ

Okay, let me get him. Make yourself
at home, Mickey.

Chris leaves the room. Mickey looks around, notices the
family pictures. Chris comes back with Adrian.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Okay, Dad... I'll be back.

CHRIS DIAZ
Mickey, I'm glad you're working
with my son. He hasn't been
focusing on his school. He needs to
get his grades up.

ADRIAN DIAZ
(shaking his head)
DAD!

CHRIS DIAZ
Well, it's true!

MICKEY PORTER
Adrian is the smartest person I
know. So I don't think you have
anything to worry about, Mr. Diaz.

CHRIS DIAZ
Wow! Really? That's great to hear.
What a nice boy!

They walk out the door, Chris follows them out.

69 EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/MUSTANG GT CONVERTIBLE - MORNING 69

Mickey's brother, Jack, is waiting in his Mustang GT
Convertible.

CHRIS DIAZ
Wow! Nice car.

MICKEY PORTER
Thanks. It's my brothers. Nice
meeting you sir.

CHRIS DIAZ
Nice meeting you too.

Chris waves at Jack and he waves back as he drives off.

70 EXT./INT. MUSTANG GT CONVERTIBLE/DRIVING - MORNING 70

Mickey sits in the front passenger's seat, talking to Adrian
sitting in the back.

MICKEY PORTER
Look man, you're the only one that
we can tolerate from that group.

JACK PORTER
Yup, the diamond in the rough.

MICKEY PORTER
If you wanna be one of us, you need
to stop hanging around them.

ADRIAN DIAZ
I can't stop hanging around them. I
live here and I have to take the
bus.

MICKEY PORTER
Well, you'll be in high school
soon, and I'm sure your dad wants
you to go to a good college.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Of course! I wanna go to a good
college.

MICKEY PORTER
I can help you with that. It's all
about who you know.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Oh, who do you know?

MICKEY PORTER
Let's just say we know people close
to us who make big donations to
very prestigious universities.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Really?

MICKEY PORTER
All I'm asking is that you have my
back when I need you.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Okay, sure. Just let me know what
you need. I have your back!

Mickey smiles, pleased with his response.

71

EXT. MICKEY'S MANSION - DAY
The Mustang GT Convertible drive up a beautiful and well-
manicured estate. Adrian is in extreme awe.

71

ADRIAN DIAZ

Wow! You live here? This is gigantic! What do your parents do for a living?

MICKEY PORTER

My dad is a serial entrepreneur. He's involved and invests in many different industries.

They walk in the front door.

72

INT. MICKEY'S MANSION - DAY

72

Jack, Mickey, and Adrian march in the huge estate. The interior of the house is even more spectacular, with high vaulted ceilings, dual spiral staircases, marble flooring throughout, and mountain views from every room.

Adrian stops when he sees a CHARLOTTE PORTER, (50s), CAUCASIAN, sickly and wearing a scarf around her head, sitting on a wheelchair. Charlotte smiles when she sees Mickey.

MICKEY PORTER

Hi mom!

Mickey gives her a kiss on the forehead.

CHARLOTTE PORTER

Hey baby!

Charlotte looks at Adrian.

MICKEY PORTER

Mom, this is my friend, Adrian.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Hi, Mrs. Porter. Great to meet you.

She looks at him from head to toe.

CHARLOTTE PORTER

Nice to meet you, too.

MICKEY PORTER

We're practicing for the talent show, Mom. We'll be in the garage.

CHARLOTTE PORTER

That's nice, baby. The rest of your friends are already in the garage.

MICKEY PORTER

I hope you can watch the show, Mom.
It's this week.

CHARLOTTE PORTER

You know I wouldn't miss it. I'll
be there, baby!

Mickey and Adrian depart.

73

INT. MICKEY'S GARAGE - DAY

73

Isabelle, Gloria, Diane, Terry and Kevin are already in the garage. An impressive drum set, keyboard, and guitars are in the middle of the room.

KEVIN LEW

Hi! C'mon, let's get started.

TERRY ROBINSON

Let's practice our top 3 songs.

DIANE WALCHER

Yes, and then we'll decide which
one we'll perform at the talent
show.

Kevin hops on the drums while Mickey and Terry pick up the electric and bass guitars. Adrian smiles at Gloria as he saunters to the keyboard. The girls stand in the middle behind a microphone holding a tambourine and a shaker. They play around with their instruments, then sings PRIVATE EYE (1981) by Hall & Oates,.

MICKEY PORTER

*I see you, you see me
Watch you blowin' the lines
When you're making a scene
Oh girl, you've got to know
What my head overlooks
The senses will show to my heart
When it's watching for lies
You can't escape my*

EVERYONE

*Private eyes
They're watching you
They see your every move
Private eyes
They're watching you
Private eyes
They're watching you watching
You watching you watching you*

We see Gloria glancing at Adrian. He looks up at her, but she looks away, avoiding eye contact.

ISABELLE STEVENS

*You play with words you play with
love. You can twist it around baby
that ain't enough. 'Cause boy I'm
gonna know. If you're letting me in
or letting me go. Don't lie when
you're hurting inside. 'Cause you
can't escape my...*

EVERYONE

*Private eyes
They're watching you
They see your every move
Private eyes
They're watching you
Private eyes
They're watching you watching
You watching you watching you*

MICKEY PORTER

*Why you try to put up a front for
me. I'm a spy but on your side you
see.*

ISABELLE STEVENS

*Slip on, into any disguise
I'll still know you. Look into my*

EVERYONE

*Private eyes
They're watching you
They see your every move
Private eyes
They're watching you
Private eyes
They're watching you*

*Private eyes
They're watching you
They see your every move
Private eyes
They're watching you
Private eyes
They're watching you*

All of sudden, the garage door opens and Jack screams--

JACK PORTER

HELP! HELP ME!

The group stops playing and looks at Jack.

JACK PORTER (CONT'D)
 (frantic)
 Mom is throwing up blood. I don't
 know what to do.

Mickey quickly runs out while the other kids follow.

74

INT. MICKEY'S MANSION - DAY

74

Adrian, Gloria, Isabelle, Terry and Kevin collect in the living room while Mickey, Jack, Charlotte, a NURSE, 40s, FILIPINO-AMERICAN, are in a bedroom nearby. They overhear the conversation.

NURSE
 Coughing up blood is one of the
 most common symptoms.

JACK PORTER
 She's not eating. She's lost her
 appetite and she's weak.

Mickey is feeding his mom soup.

MICKEY PORTER
 Mom, you need to eat. How else are
 you going to get better?

CHARLOTTE PORTER
 Oh baby, I just want to rest now.

MICKEY PORTER
 Just a couple more spoonfuls, then
 I'll let you rest, ok?

She nods. He continues feeding her.

CHARLOTTE PORTER
 I'm happy you're singing again. I
 can't wait to see you perform.

MICKEY PORTER
 (holding back tears)
 Mom, all I wanna do is make you
 happy. I need you, mom. I'm lost
 without you.

The kids in the other room feel Mickey's pain.

ISABELLE STEVENS
 You know what? Let's just practice
 without Mickey right now. He can
 join us later.

The kids agree. They depart and head to the garage.

Back in the room with Mickey and his mom. He is laying next to her. Queue music - TIME AFTER TIME (1983) by Cyndi Lauper. Charlotte Porter sings while holding her son.

75 EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - DAY 75
The Mustang GT Convertible pulls up to the curb. Adrian gets out of the vehicle.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Thank you!

MICKEY PORTER

This performance is really important to me...

ADRIAN DIAZ

Yeah, I know.

MICKEY PORTER

I was thinking, if you could just focus on our side, help us win.

ADRIAN DIAZ

You want me to quit Alex's team?

MICKEY PORTER

Yeah, I do. Adrian, you have to pick sides. At least do it for my mom. My mom has lung cancer.

Adrian looks down, in deep thought.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Okay. I'll do it.

Mickey smiles, please with his response, waves as the Mustang drives off.

76 EXT. PARK - DAY 76
The ghetto kids are in the middle of practicing their dance routine with song. Adrian comes running. He's late. He joins the formation. They are sweating like pigs.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Good job, team.

They high five while drinking water from their water bottles.

DROP SANTIAGO

(To Adrian)

Where did you go, cuz? I went to your house and your grandma said you were picked up by a friend.

Everyone looks at Adrian.

DROP SANTIAGO (CONT'D)

Oh no, ummm don't believe my grandma, ummm you know she has dementia. She doesn't remember things. I was with my dad at the store.

Drop smirks. He knows Adrian is lying.

Elizabeth takes out a pill out of her pocket and swallows it. Dana sees this.

ALEX O'CAMPO

I think we got it. I don't know if you guys know, but it's Chandan's birthday, so we're celebrating.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Oh, happy birthday, Chandan.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

Thank you.

BENDER FREEMAN

We have to do something.

ELIZABETH RUSSO

I know, let's go get ice cream.

25

25

Everyone screams for ice cream.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I'll catch you guys another day. I have to go home.

DROP SANTIAGO

No way! You're coming with us.

DANA GELERA

Yeah Adrian, this is team building. You can't miss that.

ANITA MENA

Wait! We have to stop by the thrift store.

BARBARA PERRY

That's right. We almost forgot.

77 EXT. THRIFT STORE - DAY 77
Trash on the street and graffiti on the building. A HOMELESS
MAN asleep at the corner.

The ghetto kids run into the local thrift store.

78 INT. THRIFT STORE - DAY 78
The kids run through rows and rows of old second hand
clothes. Adrian is lagging behind, uneasy.

DANA GELERA

We need to look good.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Yes, as individuals with our own
unique style, but uniformed too.

The kids try on different clothes. The girls come out of the
dressing room with Old Hollywood style dresses and big hats
like Mae West. The boys come out with old tuxedos and suits
with top hats and sticks a la Fred Astaire.

Queue music PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ (1982) by Taco, a fun musical
number with hip-hop choreography. They mock and make fun of
the rich.

DANA GELERA

*If you're blue and you don't know
where to go to why don't you go
where fashion sits.
Puttin' on the Ritz.*

ANITA MENA

*Different types who wear a day
coat pants with stripes and cutaway
coat perfect fits.
Puttin' on the Ritz.*

DROP SANTIAGO

*Dressed up like a million-dollar
trooper. Tryin' hard to look like
Gary Cooper!*

EVERYONE

Super duper!

ADRIAN DIAZ

*Come let's mix where Rockefellers
walk with sticks or um-ber-ellas
in their mitts. Puttin' on the
Ritz.*

ELIZABETH RUSSO

*Have you seen the well-to-do
Up and down the avenue
On that famous thoroughfare
With their noses in the air.*

BARBARA PERRY

*High hats, and arrow collars
White spats, and lots of dollars
Spending every dime
For a wonderful time*

CHANDAN AGARWAL

*If you're blue and you don't know
where to go to why don't you go
where fashion sits.
Puttin' on the Ritz*

BENDER FREEMAN

*Different types who wear a day
coat pants with stripes and cutaway
coat perfect fits
Puttin' on the Ritz*

ALEX O'CAMPO

*Dressed up like a million-dollar
trooper. Tryin' hard to look like
Gary Cooper!*

EVERYONE

Super duper!

ALEX O'CAMPO

*Come let's mix where Rockefellers
walk with sticks or um-ber-ellas
in their mitts
Puttin' on the Ritz*

Crumping/hip-hop break, instead of tap dance.

EVERYONE

*Dressed up like a million-dollar
trooper. Tryin' hard to look like
Gary Cooper (Super duper!)
If you're blue and you don't know
where to go to why don't you go
where fashion sits.*

(MORE)

EVERYONE (CONT'D)

Puttin' on the Ritz
Puttin' on the Ritz
Puttin' on the Ritz
Puttin' on the Ritz
Move...Move...Gotta dance
Gotta dance...
If you're blue and you don't know
where to go to why don't you go
where fashion sits
Puttin' on the Ritz...
Puttin' on the Ritz...
Puttin' on the Ritz...

Music fades.

At the end, everyone laughs, having a great time.

79 EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY 79
 Establishing shot of a popular Ice Cream Parlor. We see people from adults to toddlers stroll in, smiling.

80 INT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY 80
 The ice cream shop looks like time warped back in the 1970s, colorful neon lights with a jukebox on one wall. One part of the shop is candy store where all the little kids gather to admire the different assortments of candies and chocolates.

Adrian, Alex, Bender, Chandan, Drop, walk in. Behind is the group of girls: Dana, Anita, Barbara, Elizabeth and Alex's mom.

Adrian immediately sees Gloria, Isabelle, and Diane sitting at a table, sipping on milkshakes. Mickey, Terry and Kevin are sitting at the next table. They all notice each other.

DIANE WALCHER

Hey, Adrian and his ghetto friends are here.

Adrian waves, but they ignore him. Mickey stares at him and shakes his head.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

He has the hots for you, Isabelle.

DIANE WALCHER

Yeah, poor guy stares at you all the time like his eyes will fall out of their sockets.

They all laugh.

KEVIN LEW

Nah, I think Adrian has the hots for you, Gloria. He was looking at you during practice today.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Naah, I don't think so. He was staring at Isabelle the whole time.

ISABELLE STEVENS

He's cute, but he's just not my kinda guy.

Adrian and his friends sit at a table.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

He's nice, smart, and he's brilliant on the keyboard and...

ISABELLE STEVENS

And he's POOR! No thank you!

Isabelle flicks her hair like a stuck-up gal.

DIANE WALCHER

Yeah, I don't blame you. He's too ghetto.

Queue song MATERIAL GIRL (1984) by MADONNA.

ISABELLE STEVENS

Some boys kiss me, some boys hug me, I think they're ok. If they don't give me proper credit I just walk away. They can beg and they can plead, but they can't see the light.

GLORIA/DIANE

That's right!

ISABELLE STEVENS

'Cause the boy with the cold hard cash is always Mister Right. 'Cause we are living in a material world and I am a material girl. You know that we are living in a material world And I am a material girl.

Some boys romance, some boys slow dance. That's all right with me. If they can't raise my interest then I have to let them be.

(MORE)

ISABELLE STEVENS (CONT'D)
*Some boys try and some boys lie but
 I don't let them play.*

GLORIA/DIANE
NO WAY!

ISABELLE STEVENS
*Only the boys who save their
 pennies make my rainy day. 'Cause
 we are living in a material world
 and I am a material girl. You know
 that we are living in a material
 world and I am a material girl.
 Living in a material world and I am
 a material girl. You know that we
 are living in a material world and
 I am a material girl.*

One by one, all the boys give her plastic diamond rings,
 bracelets and necklaces made from candies.

ALL THE KIDS
Living in a material world!

ISABELLE STEVENS
MATERIAL!

ALL THE KIDS
*Living in a material world.
 Living in a material world.*

ISABELLE STEVENS
MATERIAL!

ALL THE KIDS
Living in a material world.

ISABELLE STEVENS
*Boys may come and boys may go
 and that's all right you see.
 Experience has made me rich
 and now they're after me.
 'Cause everybody's living in a
 material world and I am a material
 girl. You know that we are living
 in a material world and I am a
 material girl.*

*Living in a material world and I am
 a material girl. You know that we
 are living in a material world and
 I am a material girl.
 A material, a material, a material,
 a material world*

ALL THE KIDS
Living in a material world!

ISABELLE STEVENS
MATERIAL!

ALL THE KIDS
Living in a material world!
Living in a material world!

ISABELLE STEVENS
MATERIAL!

ALL THE KIDS
Living in a material world!
Living in a material world!

ISABELLE STEVENS
MATERIAL!

ALL THE KIDS
Living in a material world!
Living in a material world!

ISABELLE STEVENS
MATERIAL!

ALL THE KIDS
Living in a material world!

Music fades. Everyone sits back down. We see Elizabeth, Dana, Anita and Barbara sitting together. Elizabeth takes pills out of her purse, pops one in her mouth and swallows it with a glass of water.

DANA GELERA
What's that?

ELIZABETH RUSSO
(hushed tone)
Oh, it's diet pills. I got 'em from my older sister. It helps curb my appetite so I can lose weight.

BARBARA PERRY
Are you sure it's safe?

ELIZABETH RUSSO
I'm sure. I've already lost 5 pounds since I started 2 days ago.

Elizabeth pops another pill in her mouth. At the next table, Adrian, Alex, Bender, Chandan and Drop are hanging out.

A cute WAITRESS comes by with their ice cream orders. An ice cream cake is placed in front of Chandan with a candle.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Okay, time to get embarrassed!

They all laugh out loud.

ALEX O'CAMPO (CONT'D)

A one, a two, a three...

Then everyone sings.

ALL THE KIDS

*For he's a jolly good fellow. For
he's a jolly good fellow. For he's
a jolly good fellow, which nobody
can deny.*

Chandan blows out his candles, looking very happy. They all dig into their ice cream.

At that moment, Mickey, Terry and Kevin approach the party. Mickey looks at Adrian and says --

MICKEY PORTER

Adrian, buddy. I thought we had a deal! Why you still hanging around with these losers!

Everyone looks at Adrian.

ALEX O'CAMPO

(To Mickey)

What are you talking about?

TERRY ROBINSON

He's part of our group now! He's gonna do the talent show with us.

Everyone can't believe what they're hearing. They look at Adrian for answers, but he stays quiet, looking down.

KEVIN LEW

Yeah, he was rehearsing with us earlier today.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

Naah, he was rehearsing with us earlier today.

MICKEY PORTER

Why don't you ask him yourself?

The kids look at Adrian, guilt written all over his face.
Adrian's friends are hurt.

ALEX O'CAMPO
You're nothing but a traitor.

One by one, the kids walk out.

CHANDAN AGARWAL
Thanks for ruining my birthday!

BENDER FREEMAN
Yeah, good luck with your new
friends.

DANA GELERA
You're gonna need it.

BARBARA PERRY
You're off the team!

ANITA MENA
I don't get it.

ELIZABETH WARNER
I may be fat, but you're ugly...
(touching her heart)
Here!

Drop is the last one to leave.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Cuz...

DROP SANTIAGO
Stop! Not cool, cuz. How could
you? I'm your blood. We stick
together.

Drop shakes his head and follows the rest of the kids.
Mickey, Terry and Kevin smile at him while Gloria shakes her
head, worried.

MICKEY PORTER
(To Adrian)
Keep your head up!

KEVIN LEW
You don't need them!

TERRY ROBINSON
Yup, good riddance!

81 EXT. ICE CREAM SHOP/PARKING LOT - DAY

81

The kids hop inside the van. Alex's mom is outside the van.

CRISTY O'CAMPO

Go get Adrian. He doesn't have a ride back home.

DROP SANTIAGO

That's right. We can't leave him.

ALEX O'CAMPO

But he can get his own ride.

CRISTY O'CAMPO

Alex NO! We're not leaving him unless he has a ride home.

(to Drop)

Go get your cousin!

Drop nods and runs out as Alex makes a face.

82 INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

82

Adrian is sitting next to Mickey when unbeknownst to them, Drop sneaks up, hearing their conversation.

ADRIAN DIAZ

But I haven't even had a chance to figure out how to tell them.

MICKEY PORTER

You should be happy that it happened sooner than later. You don't have to stress out anymore.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Why me, Mickey?

MICKEY PORTER

You're in most of my classes and helped me with homework and so many projects. Now, my grades are up which makes my mom happy.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I'm glad I could help.

MICKEY PORTER

Your friends suck. They left you here all alone. Don't worry, we'll drop you off.

Drop sneaks back out after hearing that. He doesn't hear Adrian say --

ADRIAN DIAZ

They may suck right now but they're real people with a good heart. They're kids who just wanna have fun! And they're my friends.

83 EXT. ICE CREAM SHOP/PARKING LOT - DAY

83

Drop runs to the van and hops in.

DROP SANTIAGO

Let's go. He's getting dropped off by Mickey. He's fine.

CRISTY O'CAMPO

Are you sure?

DROP SANTIAGO

Yeah, I'm sure.

Cristy starts the engine and drives off.

84 INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

84

The wealthy kids and Adrian are sitting together. A young SERVER brings ice cream.

ISABELLE STEVENS

Oh no, I pass on the ice cream. It takes work and a lot of willpower to look this good.

DIANE WALCHER

Yeah, I pass too.

The guys and Gloria grabs the ice cream.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

I need the calories. I dance a lot.

DIANE WALCHER

You dance? I thought you stopped taking ballet.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

I mean, I dance at home for fun.

Gloria glances at Adrian.

MICKEY PORTER

So everybody knows exactly what to do for the talent show, right?

TERRY ROBINSON

Yeah, we're ready.

KEVIN LEW

We are the best.

At that moment, Adrian stands up.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I'm sorry. I can't do this.

MICKEY PORTER

What's wrong?

ADRIAN DIAZ

Look, I can't abandon my friends. I don't feel right.

(pause)

How about if I perform on both teams?

MICKEY PORTER

No, there's only 1 winner! And with this team, you're a winner.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I'm sorry, I can't.

Adrian walks away.

MICKEY PORTER

You don't want to piss me off, Adrian. You're going to regret it.

KEVIN LEW

Loser!

Terry throws soda at Adrian. Adrian runs away.

85

EXT. ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

85

Adrian runs out of the ice cream shop. Mickey, Terry and Kevin catch up to him. Terry and Kevin each grab a hand of Adrian, pushing him against a wall, pinning him. Mickey comes up to him, shaking his head.

MICKEY PORTER

You're a back-stabber! That's why no one's here to help you.

Mickey punches him in the stomach, making him scream in pain. Then he strikes Adrian on the face. The girls come out and Gloria yells -

GLORIA DAVIDSON
Stop it, Mickey! Stop it!

DIANE WALCHER
That's enough guys!

ISABELLE STEVENS
Yeah, don't waste your time with
this loser anymore.

Mickey stops and the guys let him go. Adrian falls to the ground.

MICKEY PORTER
Let's go!

Gloria looks at him, feeling sorry.

KEVIN LEW
C'mon Isabelle, let's go!

They go back inside the ice cream shop. Bruised and in pain, Adrian slowly walks away.

86 INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - DAY 86
Dressed in restaurant uniform, Chris is clearing the tables when an extremely slow talking OLD MAN, 70s, CAUCASIAN, calls him from the other side of the room.

OLD MAN
Excuse me, busboy!

Chris looks up and walks all the way to the man's table.

CHRIS DIAZ
Yes sir?

OLD MAN
I was wondering if you could
provide me a new... fork. I dropped
mine on the floor.

Chris tries to get him to speak faster.

CHRIS DIAZ
No problem sir.

Chris hurries and comes back with a fork.

CHRIS DIAZ (CONT'D)
 (handing the fork)
 Here you go sir.

Again, the old man moves and talks like a snail as Chris tries to be patient.

OLD MAN
 Thank you. Would you be so kind as to bring me more water? My mouth is dry. It's awful.

Chris smiles and nods.

CHRIS DIAZ
 Sure sir. Anything else I could get you?

OLD MAN
 No, that will be all. Thank you.

As Chris is about to leave, the Old Man slowly says --

OLD MAN (CONT'D)
 Wait, wait, wait. Would you be so kind as to bring more bread and more butter too please.

Chris leaves and comes back with a pitcher of water and a fresh bread basket with butter.

CHRIS DIAZ
 Your server should be with you shortly.

At the back of the restaurant, Chris talks to a WAITER, 30s.

CHRIS DIAZ (CONT'D)
 Oh my God. That customer is killing me. It's not even my table. Where's Oscar?

WAITER
 Oscar is running late. You might have to stay until he gets here.

CHRIS DIAZ
 Okay, overtime and I need the money.

Chris goes back to his designated area and is surprise to see Adrian standing there, all bruised up.

CHRIS DIAZ (CONT'D)
Adrian!!! What happened?

Chris quickly runs to his son.

87 EXT./INT. CAR/DRIVING - EVENING

87

Chris and Adrian drive home.

CHRIS DIAZ
Did you at least get a good jab in there?

No answer. Adrian looks out the window in deep thought. Chris grabs his Ray Ban shades and puts it on, making faces at his son to make him laugh. Adrian looks at his dad.

ADRIAN DIAZ
You're weird dad. You look blind.

CHRIS DIAZ
And you look beat up.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Why you wearing your sunglasses at night?

CHRIS DIAZ
Cause I'm cool.

Queue song, I WEAR MY SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT (1983) by Corey Hart. Throughout his dad's singing, Adrian shakes his head, laughs, and bops his head sporadically.

Music fades.

88 EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

88

A car pulls up the curve. Adrian walks into the house with Chris slowly trailing behind him.

89 INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

89

Adrian is on the phone, while Chris is disinfecting his bruises with alcohol while Alysa and Grandma Lilia watch.

ALYSA
Grandma, kuya has owwwieeee!

She starts to cry.

GRANDMA LILIA
He's okay baby.

CHRIS DIAZ
Ma, I told you not to come in here
with Alysa.

Grandma Lilia carries Alysa out of the room who's now crying
harder and louder.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Don't cry, babydoll. Kuya is okay.
(to Chris)
Owww dad, that stings.

Adrian takes the phone and dials.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)
(on the phone)
Hi Auntie. Can I talk to Drop
please?

CHRIS DIAZ
Stay still, son.

AUNTIE BENG (V.O.)
Okay, hold on.

Adrian could hear a muffled conversation. Chris is done and
leaves the room.

AUNTIE BENG (V.O.)
Drop, Adrian on the phone.

DROP SANTIAGO (V.O.)
Tell him I can't talk. Tell him I'm
doing homework right now.

AUNTIE BENG (V.O.)
Sorry Adrian. He's doing homework
right now.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Thanks Auntie!

Adrian dials again. We see him calling and hanging up
multiple times.

ADRIAN DIAZ (CONT'D)
Just tell Dana I called please.

Defeated, he leaves the room.

ALYSA
Kuya, come eat!

ADRIAN DIAZ
I'm not hungry.

ALYSA
Why? Your owwiee still hurt you?

She stares at his face and then kisses his bruise.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Wow! My owwiee doesn't hurt anymore. Thank you, Babydoll.

ALYSA
Yay!

ADRIAN DIAZ
But I'm still not hungry.

Alysa runs out happy. Adrian hears her yell --

ALYSA (O.C.)
Kuya not hungry! His owwiee no hurt anymore.

Adrian lies down and closes his eyes. DING DONG! Adrian opens his eyes after hearing doorbell.

From outside the door, we hear Alysa.

ALYSA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Kuya, where is you?

Alysa comes in the room.

ALYSA (CONT'D)
Kuya, someone is here for you.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Who?

ALYSA
A girl with yellow hair.

Adrian quickly gets up and runs out. From behind, we hear Alysa ask --

ALYSA (CONT'D)
Who is her? What her name?

91

EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

91

Adrian sees Gloria waiting outside, holding a plate of cookies. He looks at her, quiet.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Hey! Just checking on you.

(Gives plate)

Here, I baked you some cookies.

At the same time, Alysa comes out and smiles.

ALYSA

I want cookies too!

ADRIAN DIAZ

(To Gloria)

Umm, sorry my little sister.

(To Alysa)

What do you say?

ALYSA

Can I have cookies, please?

Gloria smiles at Alysa and gets down on her level.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

Oh, hi there. And what's your name?

ALYSA

I'm Alysa Diaz. He's my brother. His name Adrian Diaz. My grandma's name Lilia Diaz. My mom's name Ligaya Diaz and my dad's name Chris Diaz. What's your name?

Adrian shakes his head as Gloria laughs.

GLORIA DAVIDSON

You are so cute Alysa! My name is Gloria and yes, you can have cookies.

ALYSA

Yay!

Alysa takes the plate happily.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Naah Alysa, did you forget something?

Alysa looks at him and then looks at Gloria.

ALYSA
Thank you for the cookies.

ADRIAN DIAZ
That's my girl.

Alysa goes inside.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
Oh my God, your sister is so
adorable.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Are you kidding me? She's a brat.
(pause)
You didn't have to bring cookies.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
You okay?

ADRIAN DIAZ
Not really. Honestly, I don't know
what to do.

92

EXT. GHETTO NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING
Adrian walks his usual route, alone. He looks around, but
none of other kids are on the street.

92

The black Mercedes Benz with tinted windows stops in front of
him. The window opens and Gloria looks out and asks --

GLORIA DAVIDSON
You wanna ride?

He thinks about it.

ADRIAN DIAZ
No, but thank you.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
Are you sure?

ADRIAN DIAZ
Yeah, I have to face them sooner or
later. Now is as good as ever.

She nods and puts up the window. The car drives off.

93

EXT. PARK/BUS STOP - MORNING
Adrian gets to the school bus stop and sees all of the ghetto
kids huddled in a circle and one by one dancing to the song,
ATOMIC DOG (1982) by George Clinton.

93

Dana is in the center, showing off her skills. Then Alex jumps on with hip-hop dance moves. All of a sudden, Adrian is in the center, face to face with Alex. Drop and Elizabeth stay quiet, looking on.

TERRY ROBINSON
Ooooooh snap, Judas here.

CHANDAN AGARWAL
And he wants to battle.

Adrian and Alex are back and forth with their hip-hop skills. No words are thrown. Their frustrations and anger shown through their hip-hop dancing.

The girls whisper to each other.

DANA GELERA
What happened to his face?

ANITA MENA
He got into a fight.

BARBARA PERRY
With whom though?

Then, Mr. Johnny comes in the center.

MR. JOHNNY
Move out of the way! My turn!

Last time for this character to show-off his dancing. This time, he does moves the kids haven't seen him do before. The kids go crazy. Music stops.

MR. JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Okay kids, that's enough.

They all walk towards the school bus.

ADRIAN DIAZ
Hey guys, the talent show is today
after school.

Everyone ignores Adrian. He tries to talk to them, but to no avail. The ghetto kids board the bus. Adrian, eyes downcast, stands apart from the other kids as they board, with many kids happily slapping the palm of Mr. Johnny.

Adrian turns and see the Mustang GT convertible speeding off in the distance.

94 INT. BUS - DAY 94
Mr. Johnny starts the engine and begins to drive but a homeless man approaches the driver side. The homeless man waves for Mr. Johnny to come out. Then he points at the side of the bus.

MR. JOHNNY
What? I need to get these kids to school.

The homeless man continues to point at the side of the bus.

MR. JOHNNY (CONT'D)
What?!

The homeless man, waves at him again to come out. Mr. Johnny turns off the engine.

There is a collective groan from the kids.

95 EXT. STREET/BUS STOP - DAY 95
Mr. Johnny and the kids are looking at the side of the bus in shock. The words, STINK BUS is written in red color.

The eighth-grade boys and Drop look at each other with sad resignation. Adrian stills stand on his own, eyes downcast.

ALEX O'CAMPO
(staring at Adrian)
I think I have a pretty good idea who did this.

TERRY ROBINSON
They need to pay for this.

CHANDAN AGARWAL
They keep making us look like fools.

MR. JOHNNY
Hey kiddos, all it needs is a fresh coat of paint and it's as good as new. C'mon, let's get to school.

The boys' shoulders all slump in sadness.

96 INT. SCHOOL BUS/DRIVING - DAY 96
Mr. Johnny sees the kids quiet, upset. Not their usual happy, upbeat selves. Mr. Johnny turns on the radio and THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR (1985) by Dion Warwick come on. No one is excited to sing along. Suddenly, Adrian gets up and sings to everyone's surprise.

After the song is over, he pours his heart out to them.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I, I just wanna say I'm sorry. I don't blame you for never talking to me again. I wasn't a good friend, or a good person and even a good cousin. I was looking for acceptance with the wrong crowd and I've forgotten the people who genuinely love and care for me. I want redemption. I want to earn your trust and friendship again, however long that takes.

Drop is teary-eyed.

DROP SANTIAGO

C'mon guys, my cousin is not a bad guy. He just made a wrong choice.

DANA CAMPBELL

We all do. No one's perfect.

ELIZABETH RUSSO

Yeah, we all make mistakes.

ANITA MENA

He's one of us and always will.

BARBARA PERRY

Yeah, he's still our homie.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

Are you still performing with them?

ADRIAN DIAZ

I gave them my word. I'm just not sure if they still want me to. I want to fulfill my obligation for both sides.

TERRY ROBINSON

The ABC posse will decide on what to do.

Alex, Terry, and Chandan quietly whisper to themselves. Alex refuses to talk to Adrian.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

We've decided to let you perform with us since we have no time to change the routine.

TERRY ROBINSON

Unfortunately, to whoop the white
people's butts, we need you there.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I understand. Thank you.

CHANDAN AGARWAL

We practice one last time at lunch
at the football field.

97 EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY 97
The school bell rings. The kids scamper to their classes. A
big banner says, "Talent Show Today."

98 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 98
Adrian stays quiet in the classroom. Mrs. Garrett, wearing a
Hawaiian dress, is full of energy.

MRS. GARRETT

There will be a teacher's
performance at the talent show
today. Oops, I'm not suppose to
mention it.

ISABELLE STEVENS

Really? Who's in it?

MRS. GARRETT

Well, it's supposed to be a
surprise. You all gotta attend if
you wanna see.

MICKEY PORTER

A bunch of old fogies on stage, no
thanks.

MRS. GARRETT

Did you say something, Mr. Porter?

MICKEY PORTER

No, Mrs. Garrett.

Adrian stares down Mickey.

ADRIAN DIAZ

I know it was you who vandalized
the bus today.

MICKEY PORTER

Prove it!
(whispering)
(MORE)

MICKEY PORTER (CONT'D)
 Don't mess with me! You're in my
 hood now.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
 You both need to stop!

MRS. GARRETT
 Is there something you wanna share,
 Mr. Porter.

MICKEY PORTER
 No, not at all, Mrs. Garrett.

The bell rings and they leave the classroom.

99

INT. SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY
 Outside the classroom, Adrian confronts Mickey and the
 wealthy kids.

99

ADRIAN DIAZ
 Am I still performing with you
 today?

MICKEY PORTER
 Nope, we don't need ya anymore.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
 But Mickey, we need him.

ISABELLE STEVENS
 We're gonna sound terrible without
 keyboards.

MICKEY PORTER
 I recorded the instrumental. So we
 will just sing along. No more live
 instruments.

DIANE WALCHER
 So we're all just gonna stand there
 and sing?

KEVIN LEW
 Like a choir?

TERRY ROBINSON
 It's gonna be boring!

MICKEY PORTER
 I don't care. This is stupid. I
 just wanna get it over with. My mom
 isn't coming anyway.

(MORE)

MICKEY PORTER (CONT'D)
I don't care about winning, I don't
care about anything.

Mickey, holding back tears, rushes out.

GLORIA DAVIDSON
He's worried about his mom.

100

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY
Adrian and the ghetto kids are rehearsing at the football
field when all of a sudden, Elizabeth has a hard time
breathing.

100

ELIZABETH RUSSO
I need to sit down for a little
bit. I'm tired guys.

ALEX O'CAMPO
Elizabeth, it's not time for a
break yet. You need to get your fat
self back up. What did I tell you?

Elizabeth ignores him.

ALEX O'CAMPO (CONT'D)
You hear me, Elizabeth?

Elizabeth passes out, then her body trembles violently.
She's having a seizure.

DANA GELERA
Oh my God! SOMEBODY GET HELP!
HURRY!

Adrian takes the cue and sprints like a maniac.

SLOW MOTION - The kids trying to wake her up, give her water.
Scared and worried, tears fall down on their faces.

LATER

Elizabeth is whisked away in a gurney by paramedics in an
ambulance, while the kids stay behind at school.

DROP SANTIAGO
Now what? We can't do the talent
show without Elizabeth.

BARBARA PERRY
Yeah, it's too late to try to do
anything else.

ALEX O'CAMPO

You know what... I don't care. This talent show is stupid. I never wanted to do this in the first place.

ANITA MENA

We didn't either. It was Drop's idea.

DROP SANTIAGO

But it wasn't because of me, you made a deal with the principal, remember?

ADRIAN DIAZ

Wait, I think I have a solution.

101 EXT. AUDITORIUM/STAGE - DAY 101
A long line of people await for the door to open. We see Grandma Lilia and Ligaya talking while Alysa sits on Chris's shoulder. Cristy and her family are also in line. The door opens and it's a mad rush.

102 INT. AUDITORIUM/STAGE - DAY 102
Principal Dewey, wearing Hawaiian clothes and straw hat, gets on stage.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Welcome everyone to the first La Jolla Middle School Talent Show.

The crowd go crazy. In a far corner sits a MYSTERY WOMAN, dressed in a black trench coat, big glasses, scarf on her head with TWO BODYGUARDS, observing the scene.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP of her hands showing different bracelets, finger-less lace gloves, and multiple layers of multi-colored beaded necklaces.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY (CONT'D)

We have a lot of talents to see so without further ado, let's introduce the first act, shall we? Let's give a round applause to the DEMENTIA TEAM. They are Mr. Campbell, Mr. Folwarski, Mrs. Galambos, Mrs. Walters, Mrs. Garrett, and of course... yours truly.

(to the audience)

C'mon, I don't hear you!

The audience yell and scream. The lights come out then a spotlight on the stage. The teachers come out dressed in tourist outfits. Queue song, KOKOMO (1988) by The Beach Boys. The teachers sing and dance, making the audience laugh, a memorable opening act!

Richard Porter comes in pushing Charlotte in a wheelchair. She's wearing a mask and holding Jack's hand. They wheel her in the front row.

Mr. Johnny comes in and finds a seat in the back.

One by one, different kids perform on stage.

MONTAGE BEGINS

- A TINY BOY playing cello
- A BOY doing a terrible ventriloquist act
- THREE GIRLS doing a gymnastic routine
- TWO BOYS doing martial arts
- A duet of GIRL/BOY singing PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (1987)
- A GIRL dances ballet
- A BOY juggling, but mostly dropping the balls
- A GIRL dancing hula

MONTAGE ENDS

PRINCIPAL DEWEY (CONT'D)
Are you having fun yet?

The audience go wild.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY (CONT'D)
Next up is the Southside Posse.
Let's all clap for them.

Principal Dewey leaves the stage.

The song, I CAN MAKE YOU DANCE by Shy Shy and the C.R.I.M.E fill the auditorium as the curtain opens. Adrian, Alex, Bender, Chandan, Dana, Anita, Barbara, Drop and new team member, Gloria start a choreographed hip-hop dance number. Everyone is shocked to witness the token white girl, Gloria, move and maneuver effortlessly in the performance.

Adrian immediately notices Mickey's mom in the front row.

103

INT. BACKSTAGE AREA - DAY

103

From the side of the curtain, Mickey and his crew watch Gloria dance with the ghetto kids in shock and amazement.

ISABELLE STEVENS

Are you seeing what I'm seeing?

DIANE WALCHER

Yes, Gloria can move.

ISABELLE STEVENS

(re: ghetto kids)

I mean, she's with them!

(to Mickey)

How could she do this to us?

TERRY ROBINSON

Are we letting her perform with us?

MICKEY PORTER

What a bitch!

From where the kids are standing, Kevin sees Mickey's mom sitting in front.

KEVIN LEW

Oh my God Mickey, your mom is here.
I thought you said she wasn't coming.

Mickey scans the audience and spots his mom, dad and brother. CLOSE ON - Mickey's perturbed, stressed out face!

104

INT. AUDITORIUM/STAGE - DAY

104

The ghetto kids are sweaty and out of breath but they continue to perform an exciting, full-energy hip-hop dance choreography with a splatter of breakdancing, popping, locking, crumping.

Music is mixed with the song, DREAM TEAM IS IN THE HOUSE (1986) by LA Dream Team and ROCK THE BELLS (1986) by LL Cool J to the delight of the crowd.

We see Adrian's family standing up, clapping their hands and screaming at the top of their lungs.

Mr. Johnny is smiling from ear to ear, proud of his kids.

The group's thrilling hip-hop number comes to an end. The crowd is at its feet, completely entertained.

The kids hug each other as they leave the stage, giving Gloria props for her performance.

DANA GELERA
 (to Gloria)
 Gloria, you're great. You held your
 own.

BARBARA PERRY
 Yup, you're the first white girl we
 know who could do that.

ANITA MENA
 I'm just happy you're able to take
 Elizabeth's place.

From the corner of the auditorium, the Mystery Woman writes
 something down on a notebook.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY
 Wow! That was an incredible display
 of dance skills. Let's give the
 Southside Posse another round of
 applause.

105 INT. BACKSTAGE AREA - DAY 105
 Mickey and his friends greet Gloria and the ghetto kids
 backstage.

MICKEY PORTER
 Gloria, you're part of the stink
 bus crew now?

GLORIA DAVIDSON
 Look guys, I...

Adrian interrupts and gets in front of Gloria, trying to
 shield her from Mickey.

ADRIAN DIAZ
 Hey, don't blame Gloria. I asked
 her to do it as a favor. There's no
 need for all this hostility.

MICKEY PORTER
 Stop! No one wants to hear you
 talk!

ADRIAN DIAZ
 Look, your mom is here and she's
 sitting in the front row.

Mickey shakes his head, sadness in his eyes.

MICKEY PORTER

I know. I had everything planned
but you and Gloria ruined it.

ADRIAN DIAZ

Your mom is here because she loves
you. Despite the fact that she's
sick, she came to see you perform.
We owe it to her to give her the
best show.

A TEACHER comes up to Mickey and says --

TEACHER

Mickey and Friends is up now.

ADRIAN DIAZ

(to all the kids)

I have an idea.

CLOSE UP on Mickey and the rest of the group, nervous.

106

INT. AUDITORIUM/STAGE - DAY

106

Principal Dewey is waiting for the last act - Mickey's group.

PRINCIPAL DEWEY

Okay, I think they're ready. Next
up is Mickey and Friends.

Charlotte claps her hands and makes noise. Lights are turned
off. Curtain opens. In darkness, Mickey, Isabelle, Terry,
Kevin, Diane, Adrian and Gloria walk in a line formation,
then stops in the middle of the stage to face the audience.
Spotlight shines on Mickey and Isabelle.

Queue song, WE ARE THE WORLD (1985) by USA for Africa.

ISABELLE STEVENS

*There comes a time. When we heed a
certain call. When the world must
come together as one. There are
people dying. Oh, and it's time to
lend a hand to life. The greatest
gift of all.*

MICKEY PORTER

*We can't go on. Pretending day-by-
day. That someone, somewhere soon
make a change. We're all a part of
God's great big family. And the
truth, you know, love is all we
need.*

The back of the stage lights up to reveal the ghetto kids in the line formation. All the kids sing together.

EVERYONE

We are the world. We are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving. There's a choice we're making. We're saving our own lives. It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me.

ISABELLE STEVENS

Oh, send them your heart. So they know that someone cares. And their lives will be stronger and free. As God has shown us by turning stones to bread. And so we all must lend a helping hand.

EVERYONE

We are the world. We are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving. Oh, there's a choice we're making. We're saving our own lives. It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me.

MICKEY PORTER

When you're down and out, there seems no hope at all.. But if you just believe there's no way we can fall.

ISABELLE STEVENS

Well, well, well, well let us realize.

MICKEY PORTER

Oh, that a change can only come. When we stand together as one.

ISABELLE STEVENS

Yeah, yeah, yeah!

EVERYONE

We are the world. We are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving. There's a choice we're making. We're saving our own lives. It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me.

(MORE)

EVERYONE (CONT'D)

We are the world. We are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving. There's a choice we're making. We're saving our own lives. It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me. We are the world (are the world) We are the children (are the children) We are the ones who'll make a brighter day, so let's start giving (so let's start giving). There is a choice we're making. We're saving our own lives. It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me...

It is a moving performance. Music fades, then lights go out. The room erupts in loud applause. Charlotte is in tears watching the show. Mr. Johnny is whistling, happy as can be.

Everyone in the room is standing up and with a full-blown standing ovation.

107

INT. BACKSTAGE AREA - DAY

107

All the kids are happy, high-fiving each other. Mickey, Alex and Adrian face each other. Mickey stick out his hand.

MICKEY PORTER

Truce?

Alex smiles and shake his hand.

ALEX O'CAMPO

Friends!

Then Mickey and Adrian shake hands too. The rest of the kids start mingling, talking and laughing. Then Alex and Adrian hug like brothers.

Close up on Adrian. He is savoring this experience.

ADRIAN DIAZ (V.O.)

At this moment, our color, culture, neighborhood, or class in life didn't matter one bit. We didn't care if we won the talent show. In fact, we all felt we were all winners and having so much fun!

108

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

108

Elizabeth is talking to her mom, JEANNIEANN, (50s), who's sitting next to her bed.

ELIZABETH RUSSO

Mom, when can I go home! I don't wanna be here.

JEANNIEANN

Honey, you gonna have to wait for the doctor.

Queue song, LEAN ON ME (1986) by Club Nouveau. Elizabeth hears her friends singing, and it's getting closer.

ELIZABETH RUSSO

Mom, you hear that?

ALL GHETTO KIDS (O.C.)

Sometimes in our lives, we all have pain. We all have sorrow but if we are wise, we know that there is always tomorrow.

The kids enter Elizabeth's hospital room holding flowers and balloons. Elizabeth is in tears.

ALL GHETTO KIDS (CONT'D)

Lean on me, when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend. I'll help you carry on. For it won't be long, til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

Please swallow your pride. If I have things you need to borrow. For no one can fill those of your needs that you don't let show.

Lean on me, when you're not strong and I'll be your friend. I'll help you carry on. For it won't be long, 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

If there is a load you have to bear that you can't carry. I'm right up the road. I'll share your load if you just call me.

So just call on me sister, when you need a hand. We all need somebody to lean on. I just might have a problem that you'd understand.

(MORE)

ALL GHETTO KIDS (CONT'D)
We all need somebody to lean on

*Lean on me when you're not strong
 and I'll be your friend. I'll help
 you carry on. For it won't be long
 'til I'm gonna need somebody to
 lean on.*

Music fades. They all run up to Elizabeth and hug.

109 EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY 109
 The ghetto kids get out of the bus and walk to the school.

CHANDAN AGARWAL
 One more week, then we're on to
 high school. Except for Drop, who
 has one more year with the little
 kids.

The kids in the group all playfully punch Drop in the arm and
 push him on the head, but he laughs, happy to still be part
 of the group.

BENDER FREEMAN
 High school means getting to know a
 whole new bunch of kids again.
 Damn. Can we handle that again?

Alex looks at his friends as he walks.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 As long as we stick together, we'll
 be okay. Right, Adrian?

ADRIAN DIAZ
 Right, Alex! You are the man!

Alex grabs Adrian in a loving headlock as the group continues
 to walk towards the school.

They see Mickey, Terry, Kevin, Gloria, Isabelle and Diane
 standing in front of the school. Adrian runs to Gloria. They
 hold hands as they walk to school. Behind them, Alex grabs
 Dana's hands too. The other kids all make kissy noises.

ALEX O'CAMPO
 Shut up, you guys!

Everyone are friends and most of all -- equals.

110 INT. SPORTS ARENA/CONCERT - NIGHT 110
 The crowd roars. It's a huge concert auditorium.

CYNDI LAUPER

Now let's give it up to the talent
show winners of the La Jolla Middle
School!

The audience goes wild. They are screaming at the top of
their lungs.

Queue music - KIDS (GIRLS) JUST WANNA HAVE FUN (1983) by
Cyndi Lauper. The kids make a dramatic entrance dressed in
fun and colorful 80s garb. A full on dance choreography --

CYNDI LAUPER (CONT'D)

*I come home in the morning light
My mother says, "When you gonna
live your life right?" Oh, mamma,
dear, we're not the fortunate ones*

CYNDI LAUPER/ALL THE KIDS

*And kids—they wanna have fun.
Oh, kids just wanna have fun.*

Mr. Johnny, Mrs. Garrett, and Principal Dewey are sitting in
the audience. They are jamming to the music.

CYNDI LAUPER

*The phone rings in the middle of
the night. My father yells, "What
you gonna do with your life?" Oh,
daddy, dear, you know you're still
number one.*

CYNDI LAUPER/ALL THE KIDS

*But kids—they wanna have fun. Oh,
kids just wanna have.
That's all they really want.
Some fun. When the working day is
done. Oh, kids—they wanna have fun.
Oh, kids just wanna have fun.
Kids—they wanna, wanna have fun
Kids wanna have...*

Adrian's family - Chris, Ligaya, Grandma Lilia and little
Alysa are dancing in the crowd. Next to them is Alex's mom,
Gloria's dad and nanny.

CYNDI LAUPER

*Some boys take a beautiful girl
And hide her away from the rest of
the world. I wanna be the one to
walk in the sun. Oh kids they wanna
have fun. Oh kids just wanna have.*

Mickey's cancer-stricken mom is backstage sitting in a wheelchair looking out at the stage, smiling with her husband.

CYNDI LAUPER/ALL THE KIDS

*That's all they really want.
Some fun. When the working day is
done. Oh, kids—they wanna have fun.
Oh kids just wanna have fun.
Kids—they wanna. Wanna have fun.
Kids wanna have... They just wanna.
They just wanna...Kids! Just wanna.
Kids just wanna have fun. They just
wanna... Kids just wanna have fun.
Just wanna, just wanna. They just
wanna. They just wanna. When the
working day is done. Everybody!
They just wanna...*

The song ends. The auditorium roars with applause. Cyndi Lauper and all the kids bow, wave and blow kisses to the audience.

111

EXT. LAKE / BEACH - DAY

111

All the kids are hanging out at the beach having a great time. Start dance choreography.

START CREDIT - Each character will sing a verse and will include their credit.

ADRIAN DIAZ

*I was dreamin' when I wrote this
Forgive me if it goes astray.*

ALEX O'CAMPO

*But when I woke up this mornin'
Could've sworn it was Judgment Day.*

GLORIA DAVIDSON

*The sky was all purple. There were
people runnin' everywhere.*

MICKEY PORTER

*Tryin' to run from the destruction,
You know I didn't even care.*

ALL THE KIDS

*'Cuz they say 2000 zero zero party
over, oops, out of time! So tonight
I'm gonna party like it's 1999.*

DANA GELERA

*I was dreamin' when I wrote this
So sue me if I go too fast.*

DROP SANTIAGO

*But life is just a party and
parties weren't meant to last.*

ISABELLE STEVENS

*War is all around us, my mind says,
'Prepare to fight.'*

ELIZABETH RUSSO

*So if I gotta die, I'm gonna listen
to my body tonight.*

ALL THE KIDS

*Yeah, they say 2000 zero zero party
over, oops, out of time! So tonight
I'm gonna party like it's 1999!
(Yeah, yeah)*

CHANDAN AGARWAL

*People, let me tell you somethin'
If you didn't come to party. Don't
bother knockin' on my door.*

BARBARA PERRY

*I got a lion in my pocket and,
baby, he's ready to roar. (Yeah)*

BENDER FREEMAN

*Everybody's got a bomb, we could
all die any day. (Oh)*

TERRY ROBINSON

*But before I let that happen, I'll
dance my life away.*

ALL THE KIDS

*Oh, they say 2000 zero zero party
over, oops, out of time!
(We're runnin' out of time) So
tonight I'm gonna party like it's
1999! (We gonna, we gonna, oh!)*

KEVIN LEW

*Say it one more time. 2000 zero
zero party over, oops, out of time!
(No, no). So tonight I'm gonna
party like it's 1999! (We're gonna,
we gonna) Alright, 1999, you say
it, 1999, 1999 (1999)*

ANITA MENA

*Don't stop, don't stop, say it one
more time. 2000 zero zero party
over, oops, out of time!(Yeah,
yeah) So tonight I'm gonna party
like it's 1999!(We gonna, we're
gonna) Yeah, 1999(1999)*

ALL THE KIDS

*Don't you wanna go? (1999) Don't
you wanna go? (1999) We could all
die any day (1999) I don't wanna
die, I'd rather dance my life away
(1999).*

We see Mr. Johnny at the beach too.

MR. JOHNNY

*Listen to what I'm tryin' to say.
Everybody, everybody say party.
Come on now, you say it (Party!)
That's right, everybody say!
(Party!)*

ALL THE KIDS

*Can't run from revelation, no
Sing it for your nation, y'all
Dreamin' when you're singin', baby
Say the telephone a-ringin', mama,
now.*

And Mrs. Garrett comes up in front of the camera.

MRS. GARRETT

*Come on, come on, you say.
Everybody, two times. Work it down
to the ground, I'm sayin' (Oh baby,
say it again) (Oh, shake your body,
baby!)*

We see Adrian's family at the beach.

CHRIS DIAZ

*That's right, come on, sing the
song. That's right, everybody say
Got a lion in my pocket mama, say
Ah, and he's ready to roar, yeah*

*Mommy, why does everybody have a
bomb? Mommy, why does everybody
have a bomb?*

FADE TO BLACK

*