

SCREENWRITERS PARADISE

AN ORIGINAL DRAMEDY WEBISODE SERIES

S01E08 | "Fuck CBS"

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Produced by

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SCREENWRITERS **PARADISE**

"Fuck CBS"

MAIN CAST

ANDREW ZAHIR..... MANISH DAYAL
JOSHUA LAWSON..... MATT COHEN
EMILY MOORE..... SHARON LEAL
SHAWN LEONIDAS..... ROMEO MILLER

GUEST STARRING

FREYA MALEK..... FREIDA PINTO
JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT..... HIMSELF
JILLIAN ROSE REED..... WENDY

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

A typical hotel room.

EMILY rests beside an unknown man atop the Queen-sized bed. She wakes up from her slumber. Looks over at the clock on the night stand beside the bed. It reads 5:25 A.M.

Emily pulls the blankets back, and swings her legs out of bed. Quietly. She stands up and starts getting dressed.

Once she's fully dressed, she sneaks out of the hotel room. Closes the door behind her softly, making sure to not wait the man up.

EXT. DWIGHT LOFTS - COURTYARD - DAY

Emily walks across the courtyard, heading to her apartment. Halfway, she gets stopped by a young woman who seems to have come out of thin air.

Emily lets out a quick YELP at the sight of her.

EMILY

God! Where the hell did you come from!?

WOMAN

Oh, I was just standing over there. Waiting for ... someone...

Emily looks at her strangely.

EMILY

Well, good luck with that.

WOMAN

Actually, you may be able to help me. My name's Wendy.

EMILY

Well, Wendy. I don't mean to be the bearer of bad news, but I doubt I'll be able to help you or anyone for that matter at six in the morning.

WENDY

I was just wondering which one of these apartments belongs to Shawn Leonidas.

EMILY
 (rolls eyes)
 Sorry. Definitely can't help you.

WENDY
 Oh, don't worry! I'm just a fan!
 I'm not dangerous!

EMILY
 Go home, Wendy.

WENDY
 But --

Emily walks up the stairs leading to her apartment. We stay on Wendy for a moment, appearing saddened.

INT. DWIGHT LOFTS - APARTMENT 211 - DAY

The door to the apartment opens very slowly. Emily creeps her head inside in an attempt to not be heard, but it's no use, as FREYA is already up and about.

FREYA
 Good morning.

Emily sighs. Then steps into the apartment.

EMILY
 Morning.
 (beat)
 You're up kinda early. Like...
 suspiciously early. What's going
 on?

FREYA
 Troy was ever so kind enough to
 point me in the direction of a few
 castings. I'm gonna spend the day
 checking them all out. Wanna tag
 along?

EMILY
 Not really. No offense, but that
 sounds like a lot of work. But be
 careful. Some of these directors
 and photographers are real shit
 stains.

FREYA
 Thanks for the warning. I'll make
 sure I bring the Clorox.

Emily scrunches up her face.

EMILY

Gross.

FREYA

So, how was your night?

EMILY

Fantastic.

FREYA

Another "fantastic" night? That's the fourth time this week.

EMILY

You've been keeping count?

FREYA

No, not really. It's just -- well, Troy told me to keep an eye on you. He gets worried.

EMILY

Aww, you two are worried about me. That's so cute.

FREYA

Actually, I'm more concerned about your vagina.

Both women pause. Emily is pleasantly surprised while Freya doesn't even believe what she just said.

EMILY

Come again?

FREYA

I think you and Troy might be rubbing off on me in a very bad way.

EMILY

No, I'm loving it! You should say stuff like that more often.

She smiles.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Look, I appreciate the concern. But I'm just having fun. People do tons of stuff to make themselves happy.

(MORE)

EMILY (CONT'D)

My thing just so happens to be
booze, and hot, meaningless sex
with complete strangers.

Emily sticks her tongue out at Freya, then steps into her room. Shuts the door behind her. Freya shakes her head. Then heads for the front door.

INT. DWIGHT LOFTS - APARTMENT 205 - ANDREW'S ROOM - DAY

ANDREW stands close in front of JOSHUA, who's helping him put on a black tie. Both men are in business casual attire, dressed in slacks, a dress shirt and tie.

JOSHUA

You'd think of the two of us, you'd
be the one who'd know how to do
this.

ANDREW

What do you mean?

JOSHUA

Well, you're the attractive, but
quiet, antisocial business type.

ANDREW

Okay...

JOSHUA

And I'm the equally attractive,
wild, funny guy.

ANDREW

You do realize you just stereotyped
yourself, right?

JOSHUA

Well, if I don't do it, the world
will.

ANDREW

Wow. Well, thanks for calling me
attractive, I guess.

JOSHUA

Don't thank me. Both of your
parents are hot.

ANDREW

Eww.

Joshua finishes the tie.

Pats Andrew on the shoulders and nods his head. Andrew looks himself over in the tall mirror on his door. Excited.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I can't believe we're actually going to meet with Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

JOSHUA

I can't believe I didn't know who the guy was. Thanks for forcing me to watch everything he's ever been in. Don Jon was an instant classic. He looks a lot better shirtless than I would imagine.

ANDREW

Please, don't flirt with him during the meeting. It's unprofessional... and kinda creepy.

JOSHUA

I'll try to contain myself, but I make no promises.

Andrew sighs. Knowing that's the best he's going to get. They head out of the bedroom and leave the apartment.

EXT. DWIGHT LOFTS - APARTMENT 205 (CONTINUOUS)

Andrew and Joshua leave the apartment and are instantly greeted by Wendy, standing outside their door with a wide grin. Caught off guard, they yell at the sight of her.

WENDY

Why do people keep doing that?

JOSHUA

Sorry, you kinda just came outta nowhere... Who are you?

WENDY

I'm Wendy. Nice to meet you. I was wondering if you could point me in the direction of Shawn Leonidas' apartment.

Short pause.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm his sister.

The two men eye one another, then look back at her.

WENDY (CONT'D)

I was adopted?

JOSHUA

Oh, well okay. His apartment's right over --

ANDREW

Uhhh. How 'bout you give him a call and ask him yourself?

WENDY

But --

ANDREW

We were actually just on our way to a pretty big meeting. So, we really should be going. Good luck, Mindy!

They head down the stairs with haste.

WENDY

It's Wendy.

We stay on the young woman, looking down.

INT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - HOTEL CAFE - DAY

Later in the day, Joshua and Andrew walk into a hotel cafe. They spot JGL almost instantly, sitting at a table at the far end of the cafe.

ANDREW

Here goes everything...

JGL spots them. Waves them over. They walk to the table. He stands to shake both of their hands.

JGL

Josh, it's nice to see you again. And you must be Andrew.

ANDREW

Yep, that's me! It's great to meet you, finally.

The very casually dressed JGL looks at their attire. Slightly curious.

JGL

And suddenly I feel under-dressed.

ANDREW
Oh, this?

JOSHUA
Yeah, we just came from church.

Andrew eyes Joshua. Eyebrow raised.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
Wednesday night bible study.

ANDREW
It's morning!

JOSHUA
That's what I meant.

He chuckles nervously.

JGL
Well, sober's a good look on you.

JOSHUA
And you look incredible in a tank
top.

Andrew closes his eyes, slowly. Takes a deep breath. Joshua notices.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
He started it...

ANDREW
Sorry about my friend here. He's
such a joker.

JGL
It's fine. People are too serious
in this town.

They all finally sit down at the table.

JGL (CONT'D)
So, I guess I'll start by filling
you in on my company. I started
hitRECORD about ten years ago as an
outlet for artists to collaborate
on short films, sketches and even
books.

Andrew and Joshua look interested.

JGL (CONT'D)

It wasn't until recently we decided to expand and start doing features. And I'm looking to venture into full scale drama and comedy TV productions to air online like Netflix and Amazon.

ANDREW

I've noticed more and more companies going online. But I never know if the idea is here to stay or just a faze.

JGL

It's the future of television. Internet and mobile media has been taking over the world ever since YouTube. Creators are starting to realize they don't have to go through gatekeepers and studio execs get their ideas out there.

(beat)

But I've talked enough for today. Let's hear this idea of yours.

JOSHUA

Well, its basically the story of a recently deceased man, trapped in a Limbo state with seven other people.

JGL

Go on...

JOSHUA

Each episode would bring the characters to a different level of Limbo where they'd face all kinds of mysterious tasks and personal struggles, testing them and bringing them closer to moving on.

ANDREW

Think LOST meets Doctor Who.

JGL

Wow, guys. That sounds like a wild ride. Very high concept. Hard to sell to a network like CBS. That meeting would probably have been pointless anyway.

Andrew and Joshua look disappointed.

JGL (CONT'D)
But hey, fuck CBS! Gatekeepers,
remember? That's why I'm here.

They grin, getting their spirits back up.

JGL (CONT'D)
Look, it's still early but I wanna
know more. Send me a script to look
over and we'll talk.

JOSHUA
Will do!

They stand up. Shake heads.

JGL
I've got another meeting to get to,
but I'll be in touch.

JOSHUA
Oh, I'm looking forward to it.

He flirts. JGL just grins, amused. He walks out of the hotel.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
So... that was a thing.

ANDREW
Yeah. Went better than I thought.

JOSHUA
Then why don't you look that
excited?

ANDREW
Of course, I'm excited. I just
don't wanna get my hopes up. Last
time we did that, we got let down.

JOSHUA
Get a grip, Andy. This is
happening. We made it!

Joshua pats Andrew on the back, before walking away.

ANDREW
I hope you're right.

He follows behind him.

INT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - MODELING AGENCY - DAY

A row of gorgeous women sit in chairs against a white wall. At the end of the row is Freya. She's fiddling with her finger nails, nervously.

She starts to bite them but the girl next to her looks at her. Shakes her head. Freya lets out a chuckle, then puts her hand back down in her lap.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)
Freya Malek, you're up!

FREYA
Oop, that's me.

She stands from her seat, smiling. Then steps into the casting room.

INT. MODELING AGENCY - CASTING ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

Inside the room, three men sit behind a desk. A camera is set up on a tripod between them and Freya.

FREYA
Hi, I'm Freya Malek--

MAN #1
Yeah, yeah. We'll call out a bunch of emotions and you're gonna pose appropriately. Capeesh?

She bites her lip.

FREYA
Yeah...

MAN #2
Alright... neutral.

Freya gives them a neutral, blank pose as the camera flashes.

MAN #3
Excited.

She lets out a gasp. Widening her mouth and eyes. FLASH!

MAN #1
Seductive.

Freya adjusts her pose. She doesn't quite know what to so she bites her lip, seductively. FLASH!

MAN #2

Sexy.

She puts her left hand on her lip and pouts her lips. FLASH!

MAN #2 (CONT'D)

Sultry.

Freya narrows her eyes. Growing confused of having to do the same kind pose over and over again. The men whisper amongst themselves. Then turn back to her.

MAN #1

Alright. Lose the shirt and bra.

Freya looks shocked.

FREYA

E-excuse me?

MAN #1

Did I stutter? Take your clothes off.

FREYA

But, I wasn't told--

MAN #3

Look, you either follow the instructions or you get the hell out of here but don't waste our time. There's a dozen girls who look just like you right outside.

She pauses for a long moment. Completely stunned.

MAN #2

Somebody get this girl outta here.

FREYA

No, no! I -- I'll do it.

She unbuttons her shirt. Shaking as she does. Then hesitantly unstraps her bra. Both garments hit the floor.

The man gawk at her like she's a piece of meat. She's disgusted, but tries to hold back her emotions.

There's a few more snaps of the camera.

MAN #1

Alright, you're done. Next!!

She grabs her clothes off the floor. Begins putting them on. Another girl steps into the room. Very preppy and enthused.

MAN #3

(to Freya)

Why are you still here?!

She hurries out the room. Tears now flowing down her face as she exits the building.

EXT. DWIGHT LOFTS - COURTYARD - DAY

Wendy is sitting on the side of the pool, with her feet in the water. She looks hopeless until she looks up to see SHAWN walking into the courtyard.

Her eyes light up in excitement. She gets out of the water, then runs up to Shawn. His eyes widen as she jumps in front of him.

SHAWN

Ummm....

WENDY

Oh my god!!! You're Shawn Leonidas!
And you didn't scream at me!!

SHAWN

Yes, I am. And why would I scream
at you?

WENDY

I don't know. It's been happening
all day. I'm Wendy, it's sooo
amazing to finally meet you! You're
my favorite actor -- no, you're my
favorite person ever! I love you
more than I love my parents!

SHAWN

Wow, that's... something. Thanks?

He chuckles.

WENDY

Can I please have your autograph.

SHAWN

Well, I would I don't have a pen.

Wendy pulls out a marker and one of his head shots out from behind her back.

SHAWN (CONT'D)

Woah, somebody came prepared, huh?

WENDY

I've been waiting for this moment since I first saw you on TV in the 3rd grade. You're my everything!

Shawn smiles, uncomfortably.

SHAWN

Cool...

He puts the photograph up to her back and signs it for her. She turns back around and jumps up and down in excitement.

WENDY

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

She hugs him, tightly. He pats her back. Eyebrows raised. Slightly scared. He struggles to get out of her grasp, but finally manages to.

SHAWN

I gotta get going but, thanks for the support.

He heads off to his apartment. Wendy watches him as he does.

WENDY

Yeah, okay!! Thanks again! YOU'RE THE BEST!

She lingers in the courtyard, carefully noting which apartment he walks into. Her once innocent smile TRANSFORMS into something sinister. On her ominous expression, we...

BLACKOUT.

END OF EPISODE