

Halloweenies
by Dan Fiorella

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FADE IN:

EXT. CASTLE -- NIGHT

A dark and stormy night. Flashes of lightening. Rumble of thunder.

INT. CASTLE HALL -- NIGHT

Three young adults, TROY, WANDA and HERBERT, are making their way down the hall. Herbert carries a lantern. Troy has a map.

The long hall is lined with tapestries and suits of armor.

WANDA

I don't like this, Troy. Not one bit.

TROY

It's a treasure, love. And I am going to get it, curse or no curse.

One of the suits of armor is now gone.

HERBERT

Too many people have died. What makes you think you'll make it to the secret dungeon?

TROY

Because I have this.

He displays a medallion from under his shirt.

TROY (CONT'D)

A charm. Merlin's own. This will protect us from the curse.

Suddenly it goes dark. Wanda screams.

The lantern is on the floor. Wanda gets it and turns it up.

Herbert is pinned to the wall by a medieval lance.

TROY (CONT'D)

Well, it'll protect me, anyway.

A clanking noise echoes down the hall.

WANDA
Ohmigod, ohmigod.

TROY
Come on, let's go. The passage is
down this way.

Troy and Wanda run down the hall. They come to a larger wooden door on massive iron hinges. Troy pulls it open. There's a suit of armor, at rest position, holding a mace. Wanda screams.

As they back up, the armor takes a step toward them. It's the SCARY KNIGHT.

WANDA
The stories are true!

The Scary Knight steps forward, raising the mace. Troy holds forth the medallion. The Scary Knight backs off.

TROY
Ah-ha! It's works! Back off, you
medieval monster!

WANDA
Bill, let's go, let's just go.

TROY
We're safe as long as I retain this.
Like the medallion says--
(reading)
"Thou art protected by the grace of
Merlin."

WANDA
What's that bit say there?

TROY
Made in China.

WANDA
What?

TROY
Oh, man, that gypsy sold me a bogus
medallion!

The Scary Knight realizes what's going on and advances, swinging the mace. Wanda screams. Troy pulls out a gun and fires repeatedly, to no effect. The Scary Knight keeps coming.

Scene freezes.

Title card comes up "Scary Knight VII, opening this weekend."

INT. MALL MULTIPLEX LOBBY -- DAY

A trio of 10-year old boys are standing in front of the multiplex monitor showing the movie trailer. DOUG, ARTIE and STEVIE gaze at the screen. They each hold some shopping bags containing school supplies.

DOUG

Excellent.

ARTIE

You going to see it?

DOUG

I saw the first six. I think I'm obligated.

STEVIE

They are pretty scary.

DOUG

Of course. I don't think they could call them "Scary Knight" if they weren't.

They walk out.

INT. MALL -- DAY

They walk, then freeze up at the boarded-over store next door. A sign hangs forth saying "Coming soon, the Halloween Store."

The boys stand there.

DOUG

It gets earlier and earlier every year.

ARTIE

(raising bags)

At least it takes the edge off buying school supplies.

DOUG

What are you going to be?

ARTIE

A ghoul.

DOUG

I'm always a ghoul. Maybe a zombie.

STEVIE

A zombie's cool.

ARTIE

My brother's got a hockey mask. I could go as Freddy.

DOUG

Freddy doesn't wear a hockey mask. That's Mike Meyers.

STEVIE

Austin Powers wore a hockey mask?

DOUG

It wasn't Mike Meyers or Austin Powers. Jason wears a hockey mask.

STEVIE

Oh, right. I wonder why he does that? It can't be because he's afraid of witnesses. He never leaves any.

ARTIE

It's so they can have anyone play the part and not have to worry about him demanding big bucks.

DOUG

You really know how to destroy the illusion, you know that, Artie?

Just then some WORKERS come up and begin removing the paneling. They reveal the store window display; a chilling, haunting assortment of figures, limbs, rodents, caldrons, masks and other Halloween delights. The SHOPKEEP opens the door and places an "Open" sign in the window. He looks at the boys.

They look at each other.

They dash into the store.

A moment later, CAROL MINELLI, Doug's mom, walks up. She has her two other children with her, each carrying bundles. There's little sister HELENA and the fourteen-old twins, Ted Junior, called JUNI and EVE, both lost in their iPhones.

CAROL

Doug! Douglas!

INT. HALLOWEEN STORE -- DAY

Doug and Artie both have masks on. Doug is trying on monster hands. Stevie looks on.

ARTIE

So, what are you going to be?

STEVIE

Be?

DOUG

For Halloween.

STEVIE

I really don't do Halloween.

DOUG

What? Your mom won't let you?

STEVIE

No, no. I just, you know, don't.

ARTIE

What's up with that?

Artie shrugs.

Doug looks to the back of the shop. His eyes light up.

On display: It's an officially sanctioned, top-of-the-line Scary Knight costume.

DOUG

Look. At. That.

ARTIE

The Scary Knight. That is awesome.

STEVIE

Kind of looks like he'll reach right out and grab you, huh? But he won't, right?

DOUG

Is this for sale?

The Shopkeep walks by and places a price tag on it reading, "\$700."

ARTIE

Seven hundred dollars! For that much money, that sword better be real.

DOUG
That's a lot of money.

STEVIE
Doesn't matter how much it costs, it
doesn't even come in kids sizes.

DOUG
Bummer.

CAROL (O.S.)
Doug! Doug!

STEVIE
I think your mom's calling you.

DOUG
(takes stuff off)
Man. I gotta go.

ARTIE
Tough break, Dougie.

Artie's cell phone rings.

ARTIE (CONT'D)
Hello?

ARTIE'S MOM (O.S.)
Arthur, come home!

ARTIE
Man. Technology sucks.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD NIGHT

A lone car drives along a deserted road as a storm rages.

INT. CAR NIGHT

Lightning, rain, as a car drives on, HARRY at the wheel and SALLY navigating from the passenger seat.

SALLY
I specifically told you to take
Mockingbird Lane and not take the
old highway.

HARRY
Where have I heard that before? Oh,
right, five minutes ago the last
time you said it.

SALLY

It's still true.

HARRY

Look, the GPS said this was a short cut. There was no way it could tell the bridge washed out. It's a GPS, not an ESP! So sue me.

SALLY

Does the GPS say if there are any lawyers nearby?

Up ahead they see a spooky-looking mansion on a lonely stretch of road.

HARRY

Look, there's a house, we'll go there, call Triple A and be on our way.

EXT. MANSION DOOR - NIGHT

The storm rages on. Harry and Sally reach the door and use the giant knocker, which echoes through the castle. The door opens. Frankenstein's MONSTER stands there.

MONSTER

Aaaaarrrrh!!!

Sally screams. Graphic up with movie's title: "When Harry Met Frankenstein."

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Your favorite couple, Harry and Sally, are back! Only now, instead of facing intimacy problems, they're facing monsters!

INT. OPERATING ROOM NIGHT

DRACULA and Sally stand over the monster, strapped to the table.

DRACULA

Yes, he's a good monster, but his brain is evil. I need to replace it with a more pliant mind.

SALLY

Oh, I know what you mean, Count. Harry was that way, thought who he was, Mr. Big Macho Guy, but I finally got him to come around and realize who's boss.

DRACULA

Really? Interesting.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

What happens when best friends become lovers and then become victims?

INT. BEDROOM NIGHT

Sally is in the large, gothic bed while Harry paces.

HARRY

He came after me with a knife, like a crazed moil!

SALLY

Where? I didn't see him. You're letting your imagination run away with you!

HARRY

I saw what I saw when I saw it!

Freeze frame. Title graphic back up.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

And you thought dating was scary!
"When Harry Met Frankenstein" coming soon to a theater near you.

HARRY (O.S.)

Hey, Sally!!!!

The words "The End" get typed over the frame.

FADE OUT.

EXT. MINIVAN -- DAY

Helena is buried by bundles of new school clothes. Doug is seated beside her in the middle seat. Mom drives, with Eve riding shotgun, still texting away. Juni is behind Doug, with his feet wedged up against the back of Doug's seat. Every so often Juni pushes.

DOUG

Quit it.

JUNI

Quit what? I'm back here!

DOUG

Quit it.

JUNI
I'm not doing nothing.

DOUG
Mom, make him stop!

CAROL
Stop annoying your brother, Juni.

JUNI
(mutters to Doug)
Rat.

EXT. BUS DEPOT -- DAY

The minivan drives by the bus terminal. After it passes, two mobster-wannabes step out, FRANKIE and JOHNNY.

JOHNNY
What now, Frankie?

FRANKIE
We track down that Vitelli and get my money.

JOHNNY
Sounds like a plan.

EXT. STREET -- CONTINUOUS

The minivan approaches their neighborhood, a working class suburban area, near the harbor. There's a row of houses and across the street is an ancient boatyard with many old, forgotten boats, up on chucks, in a dry dock that will never dampen.

EXT. MINELLI HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The car pulls into the driveway of their house and they unload the car.

DOUG
But Mom, I have to get my Halloween costume! I saw the perfect one! It was the wrong size and cost too much, but it was perfect.

CAROL
Can we make it through Columbus Day first?

JUNI

You know, Halloween is the only thing standing between us and Christmas commercials during Labor Day weekend.

EVE

I can't believe you aren't more worried about the first day of school!

CAROL

Thank you, Eve.

EVE

You'll never get your look together in time. You think ensembles just create themselves? You really need to focus.

They all kinda stare at Eve, who shakes it off and goes inside, exasperated.

CAROL

I don't have anything against Halloween. Now's not the time.

Oh, yes, next door, there's a two story house. On the roof is DAVE JOHNSON. He has strings and strings of Christmas lights and it is in the process of stapling them to the roof in tight formation.

DAVE

Hi, Carol!

CAROL

Oh, hi, Dave. Aren't you starting early this year?

DAVE

It takes time to do it right. A job like this can't be rushed. I sure don't want to wait for the cold weather to arrive.

CAROL

Be careful up there.

DAVE

Hey, does Ted have extra duct tape? I might need it.

CAROL

I'll ask him when he gets off duty.

DAVE

Thanks.

Carol and kids go into the house. Dave steps over the top of the roof and suddenly drops out of sight.

FADE OUT.

EXT. SWAMP -- NIGHT

BLACK & WHITE MOVIE TRAILER:

Horror theme music up. Wind blows, waves lap the shore. The angry VILLAGERS run to the edge of the swamp, pitchforks and torches in hand.

VILLAGER 1

We'll get that monster yet!

WOMAN 1

How can you be so sure?

VILLAGER 1

It comes out of the lagoon every night at exactly 7:04! And this time we'll be ready for him!

Creature growls and water splashes. The CREATURE rises from the swamp.

WOMAN 1

Look, there he is!

VILLAGER 1

(checking watch)

Ha! Right on time!

They charge in. Gun shots, monster howls, woman screams.

Graphics up: The Creature of Habit From the Black Lagoon.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

"The Creature of Habit From the Black Lagoon." The story of a monster doomed by his predictability.

The Creature sinks beneath the surface of the water, as the villagers walk off.

Suddenly, the Creature's hand rises out of the water. Villager 1 checks his watch.

VILLAGER 1

Like clockwork.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Part of the Movie Network's Shock-tober Horror Film Festival. Coming this October. Be there to be scared.

The words "The End" are typed over the scene.

FADE OUT.

EXT. P.S. 29 -- DAY

Old style school building.

INT. CAFETERIA -- DAY

Stevie, Artie and the others, (BILL, HANK, MATT) are seated, eating. They have bag lunches, lunch boxes and hot lunch trays; sandwiches and various foodstuffs are being traded back and forth.

Doug comes in with his lunch bag. He passes a pretty little girl, LESLIE, holding her food tray.

LESLIE

Hi, Doug.

DOUG

Oh. Hi, Leslie. Er, having lunch?

LESLIE

Yes.

DOUG

That's good, 'cause, you know, it's lunch time.

LESLIE

Yes, it is.

DOUG

So, I guess I'll, well, I gotta go, you know, with the guys.

LESLIE

I know. The girls are waiting for me.

DOUG

So, ah, see ya later.

LESLIE

Bye.

DOUG

Bon appetite.

He instantly regrets that. But Leslie is off, smiling to herself.

Trying to work though it, Doug makes his way to the guy's table.

DOUG

So, guys, what are we talking about?

BILL

Halloween.

DOUG

Good topic. I saw the best costume, but they want some serious coinage for it. I have to come up with something else, unless my folks hit the lottery and I have a grow spurt.

ARTIE

Coinage?

Doug squints him off.

BILL

Well, jeez, you got a whole month.

DOUG

It's not that easy. I have to think of something, then it takes, like, two weeks to bug my mom into buying it and then you have to hope they aren't sold out.

HANK

Yeah. You want something good. But original, too.

ARTIE

Yeah, nobody wants to make that Spiderman mistake again.

FLASHBACK:

INT. FOYER -- NIGHT

Door bell rings.

Door opens to a porch-full of kids in Spiderman costumes holding trick-or-treat bags.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CAFETERIA -- MOMENTS LATER

A tough kid, VINNY, with a couple of tough-guy friends, BEEF and SPIT walks by.

VINNY

Oh, look, the babies are planning their big Halloween.

BEEF

Yeah, babies.

SPIT

Big babies.

Vinny and Beef look at Spit-really?

SPIT (CONT'D)

(trying to save face)

You, you babies are such weenies.

VINNY

Yeah, Halloweenies!

BEEF

Hey, that was pretty witty, Vin.

VINNY

Thanks.

SPIT

But I---

DOUG

You're as funny as a pop quiz, you know that?

Vinny, Beef and Spit quickly walk off. The boys are amazed at their retreat. Then a TEACHER, acting as lunch monitor, walks by. Oh.

HANK

That was fun, as usual,

MATT

But less painful than past encounters.

DOUG

What's his problem with Halloween?

ARTIE

Seriously, Doug? That's your take-away from this?

BILL

Maybe you do get a little too wrapped up in it, Doug. You've been into Halloween ever since I've known you.

MATT

Yeah, since, what, the second grade?

BILL

What's the big deal? I mean, Halloween's okay, but it's no Christmas.

DOUG

Are you kidding? Halloween is way better than Christmas.

BILL

You're nuts.

DOUG

Look at it. Christmas; the whole thing is based on how good you have to be, how well behaved. Naughty or nice. Coal or toys. Getting clothes is considered a *good* present. And they hold it over our heads, like, forever. Now, think of Halloween. Candy! All you get is candy. And you say trick-or-treat. It's an implied threat. You get to be bad. It's expected.

BILL

Yeah, but it's not an official holiday. We don't get off from school or anything.

STEVIE

Yeah, but you don't have to go to church, either.

DOUG

Plus we get to go to school in costumes and have a party. Even the teachers know they can't teach anything on Halloween.

ARTIE

It's win-win.

MATT

Plus the whole fantasy fulfillment aspect.

They all look at Matt.

ALL

Yeah.

EXT. BOAT YARD -- AFTERNOON

The boys are playing on a boat.

EXT. OLD SCHOONER -- CONTINUOUS

Doug, Artie and Stevie are playing pirate on an old schooner, sword fighting as Stevie stands on a plank.

ARTIE

Avast there, ye landlubbers! Hoist the main sail!

DOUG

What are you talking about?

ARTIE

"That's the only pirate lingo I know. Oh, and "Arrrrr." That's short for "Arrrtie."

DOUG

You're an idiot.

Down the way, MAFIA LADY, an older woman strides by. She decides to take a short cut through the boat yard. She's muttering. She carries a shopping bag which seems to be reinforced with several other shopping bags. She's got a baseball bat in the bag, amongst other things. She's wearing a beaten-up fur coat, an out-of-date wide brim hat, with her gray hair askew. She's got on an old dress with a cobbler over it and worn-out sneakers. Your basic insane apparel.

Some OLDER KIDS come riding by on bikes and taunt her.

BOY 1

Hey, Mafia Lady!

BOY 2

Eat any kids today, Mafia?

She pulls out the bat and starts swinging at the boys, who ride off laughing.

Doug and Artie see this and go into red alert.

DOUG
No! It's Mafia Lady!

ARTIE
Hide! Hide!

STEVIE
What?

Doug and Artie duck.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Guys?

They pop up and drag Steve off the plank.

ARTIE
Before she sees us!

They're gone.

Mafia approaches, muttering even louder, though I guess now it's really not muttering, but ranting. She's using the bat as a walking stick.

MAFIA LADY
Stupid, miserable brats. Should all be in detention. Bash in their skulls, that'll show them.

She passes by.

STEVIE
Who was that?

DOUG
Mafia lady.

STEVIE
What's with her?

ARTIE
She's a crazy old lady.

STEVIE
Duh.

DOUG
She lives around here. Alone. Her husband was rubbed out by the mob years ago and she went crazy.

ARTIE
She's always after little kids.

STEVIE

That's nuts. She ever catch any?

DOUG

My brother says she caught some back when he was little.

ARTIE

I never heard that.

DOUG

Yeah, they never found 'em.

STEVIE

So how come she's not in jail?

DOUG

The money.

STEVIE

What money?

ARTIE

All the money from her mobster husband.

DOUG

She was able to bribe everybody and got away with it.

STEVIE

Wow.

ARTIE

Coast's clear.

DOUG

Well, shiver me timbers, that was a close call with the sea hag.

They get up and continue the game.

FADE OUT.

BLACK & WHITE MOVIE TRAILER:

EXT. HAUNTED HOUSE -- NIGHT

Thunder, lightening, you know the deal.

Diabolical laughter.

CHARWOMAN (O.S.)

No! No!

INT. HAUNTED HOUSE KITCHEN -- NIGHT

CHARWOMAN has a mop and bucket. She's scrubbing the floor. VINCENT, a mad scientist, looms over here.

VINCENT

The floor's not clean yet.

CHARWOMAN

But doctor, I keep mopping and mopping, but it just doesn't do any good!

VINCENT

And it never will!

Diabolical laughter. Charwoman screams.

EXT. HAUNTED HOUSE -- NIGHT

Lightening, thunder. Musical sting.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

There is no hope in "The House of Waxy Yellow Buildup."

Graphic up: "The House of Waxy Yellow Buildup."

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Kicking off the Movie Network's Shocktober Film Festival this Friday. We dare to scare!

Words "The End" get typed over the scene.

FADE OUT.

EXT. MOTEL ROOM -- DAY

Flea bag establishment. But it'll do. Frankie and Johnny head in.

INT. MOTEL CHECK-IN -- CONTINUOUS

SCRUFFY DUDE is working the counter and a brewski.

SCRUFFY DUDE

Afternoon special?

FRANKIE

No. A week maybe.

SCRUFFY DUDE

Oh. Honeymooners, eh?

FRANKIE

Shut your yap.

SCRUFFY DUDE

Fine. Hundred and thirty up front.

FRANKIE

(to Johnny)

Pay the man.

Johnny makes a face.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Oh, stop with the faces. I'll pay you back after we get my money.

JOHNNY

You promise?

FRANKIE

On my mother's grave.

JOHNNY

Your mother ain't dead.

FRANKIE

She's old. It's just a matter of time.

They get the key and leave.

SCRUFFY DUDE

I give it six months, tops.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Doug, Artie and Stevie are walking along the sidewalk that borders Dead Man's Woods.

DOUG

So, you're not against Halloween?

STEVIE

I just don't like trick-or-treats.

ARTIE

How can you not like trick-or-treats?

STEVIE

Too many tricks, not enough treats.

DOUG

What's that mean?

STEVIE

Back when I was little---

FLASHBACK:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET -- DAY

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD STEVIE is trick-or-treating with some OTHER KINDERGARTENERS. Stevie's in a cowboy outfit. Very cute.

Suddenly some TEENS on bikes come riding by with water balloons. They throw.

Pow! Splash! Pow! Splash!

Stevie gets pelted. He's drenched. He starts crying.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. STREET -- MOMENTS LATER

They're still walking along.

DOUG

Harsh.

ARTIE

That's it?

STEVIE

Ever since then, I dunno, I just can't be bothered going trick-or-treating.

ARTIE

Because of that?

STEVIE

It was very traumatic.

DOUG

But you have to come. It's too much fun. Too much candy. You hafta.

STEVIE

I dunno.

DOUG

I said "hafta."

Suddenly, Juni and HARRY, his friend, step out of the woods. Stevie jumps.

JUNI

Hey, guys, you have to see this.

DOUG

What?

HARRY

We found this tree stump and it's got this pentagon in it.

ARTIE

Pentagon?

JUNI

He means pentagram. We think it's a satanic altar. The place where they perform their blood sacrifices.

DOUG & ARTIE

Cool.

STEVIE

Whose blood sacrifices?

HARRY

Don't you wanna see it?

ARTIE

Yeah.

JUNI

C'mon, it's at the bottom of Dead Man's Hill.

STEVIE

Dead Man's Hill? Why is it called Dead Man's Hill?

JUNI

It's just from sledding, you baby.

DOUG

It's a really steep hill that ends in sticky bushes and a creek.

STEVIE

Oh.

HARRY

And the dead bodies.

STEVIE

What?

DOUG

They say during the Revolutionary War, they buried prisoners here who died from horrible diseases.

STEVIE

But that was like a long time ago, right?

ARTIE

Yeah, we're studying it in history class now, you goof. So you know it's from a long time ago. Like Lincoln or the Mars Rover.

HARRY

You coming or not?

DOUG

Okay, okay. We're coming.

Juni and Harry lead the trio into the woods.

EXT. DEAD MAN'S WOODS -- AFTERNOON

They follow the older boys through a path.

EXT. CLEARING -- AFTERNOON

They come out onto a clearing of the bottom of a good-sized hill.

JUNI

It's over there.

ARTIE

You know, I heard about these devil worshipers. They kidnap babies and use them for their sacrifices.

STEVIE

Oh, man. Around here? My mom's not going to like that. She moved here to get away from all that stuff.

The older boys walk off, up the hill.

ARTIE

Have a lot of trouble with satanic cults in the old 'hood, Steve?

STEVIE

Ha-ha.

DOUG

How true can that be, really?

ARTIE

That's what I heard.

DOUG

How come it's not on the news then?
The news is always doing stories
about people killing each other or
serial killers and missing kids.
They never did anything on that.

ARTIE

They never do stories on the alien
abduction, either.

Doug and Steve have to consider this. Suddenly a car tire
rolls by them.

DOUG

Huh?

They look up to see Juni and Harry at the top of the hill
rolling old tires down at them. A tire clips Steve. Artie
and Doug split up. Tires come every which way, hitting them,
knocking them over. They get up only to get run down again.

All three are on the ground. Juni and Harry run down the
hill.

JUNI

Ha! Suckers!

HARRY

You were so used.

Doug, Steve and Artie sit up and look around.

DOUG

Can we do it again?

Harry and Juni shrug.

JUNI

Sure.

They all gather up the tires and start rolling them up the
hill.

FADE OUT.

BLACK & WHITE MOVIE TRAILER:

INT. MAD SCIENTIST LABORATORY -- NIGHT

Horror theme. Laboratory setting, bubbling tubes, electric zapping. DR. JEKYLL is mixing some test tubes. The servant, MARY REILLY walks in.

MARY REILLY

Dr. Jekyll, here you are! What in heaven's name are you doing?

DR. JEKYLL

I've discovered this formula, Mary. One that shows the dual nature of man! Watch, Mary, as I consume it!

He drinks it down. Mary gasps. Jekyll is in agony. He knocks equipment off the table. Glass breaks. He drops to the floor.

MARY REILLY

Dr. Jekyll, are you all right? What has happened to you? Doctor!

Jekyll gets up, only now he's wearing a leisure suit, with a shirt unbuttoned down the chest and his hair combed back. He has lots of gold chains on. And some pinky rings.

DR. JEKYLL

Yo, babe, how's 'bout me and you going out? I will show you such a good time. I know the right people.

Cell phone rings. He pulls a phone out of his pocket.

DR. JEKYLL (CONT'D)

'Cuse me, honey, I gotta take this.
(to phone)
Talk to me!

Mary screams.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The horror classic, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Bigshot." The restored version including the gruesome polyester scene. This weekend on The Movie Network's Shock-tober Film Festival.

The words "The End" are typed over the scene.

FADE OUT.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- EVENING

TED MINELLI is at a computer, working on something. Doug has his books on the coffee table as he wades through his homework.

DOUG

Hey, Dad, can we go to the Burger Zone for dinner?

TED

Your mother's cooking.

DOUG

Anything good?

TED

That's not the point. It's dinner and it's what we're having. What do you need to go to the Burger Zone for?

DOUG

They're making kid's meals with toys from the new "Scary Knight" movie. There's six figures. We'll have to get started if I'm going to get the whole set.

TED

Not tonight, Doug.

DOUG

But what if Mom's making something I really don't like?

TED

Then you'll eat a big breakfast tomorrow.

Doug finds the sheet of paper he was looking for.

DOUG

Oh, Dad.

TED

Yes?

DOUG

The school's doing something different for Halloween this year.

TED

What?

DOUG
A pumpkin decorating contest.

TED
Really?

DOUG
Really.

Ted reads the note.

TED
This...could be fun.

DOUG
I can't make up my mind about this.

TED
I'm not going to do this for you,
remember. I'm not one of those
parents that builds a nuclear reactor
for a kid and sends him off to the
science fair.

DOUG
I know. But you can help, right?

TED
You bet.

Ted types and pulls up a picture of a pumpkin.

TED (CONT'D)
Hmm. How to begin---

CAROL (O.S.)
Dinner!

DOUG
What are we having?

CAROL (O.S.)
Get in here.

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

A good-sized class of 6th graders is being fairly good. The teacher, MISS LYNN, is finishing putting vocabulary words on the board as the kids copy them. Ted, now on duty, in his police uniform, enters the room, with a duffel bag. Doug sees him and looks embarrassed.

ARTIE
Hey, Vinnie, your ride's here.

Vinnie grimaces as the class erupts in laughter.

TED

Hi, son.

DOUG

Hello, *Officer* Minelli.

Ted catches Doug's drift and awkwardly backs off.

MISS LYNN

Class! Settle down. This is Officer Ted Minelli, who's here to give us a safety lecture on Halloween.

Class moans.

TED

It's okay, kids. I brought visual aids.

They just stare.

TED (CONT'D)

Are you sure about this, Maggie?

MISS LYNN

It'll be fine, Ted. It'll be good.

Ted puts his duffel bag on the teacher's desk as Miss Lynn moves to the back of the room.

TED

Good day, young citizens. As Maggie, er, Miss Lynn stated, I'm Officer Ted. The department thought it would be good to remind you kids that a safe Halloween is a fun Halloween. It's great getting a bunch of candy, but you can't enjoy it if you're maimed or dead.

Ted pulls out a Halloween mask. Something in the clown vampire variety.

TED (CONT'D)

The right costume means everything but you don't want to encumber your vision.

JILL

Encumber?

TED

Oh, well, make it so you can't see so well.

He puts on the mask.

TED (CONT'D)

Sure, this mask looks cool, but I can't see a thing. If I was wearing this trick-or-treating, I couldn't see traffic or safely cross streets.

A paper airplane hits him in the head.

TED (CONT'D)

Who did that?

He looks around fruitlessly.

MISS LYNN (O.S.)

Gerald, I'll see you after class

Ted takes off the mask, gasping for air.

TED

Oh, yeah, another thing you want to consider is being able to breathe. Passing out or suffocating is totally, er, bogus, dudes.

He puts the mask away. Doug is dying from humiliation.

TED (CONT'D)

Okay, now, it's a good rule of thumb not to eat your candy until you and your parents have examined each and every piece. There's just too much danger out there. You might fall victim to this!

He pulls out an apple with a plastic disposable razor stuck in it.

MISS LYNN

What is that?

TED

An apple with a razor in it. Very dangerous.

MISS LYNN

Ted, er, Officer Ted, what is that?

TED

This Would be Sgt. Clayborn's little joke back at the precinct house. I guess they couldn't find any razor blades. But you get the idea. Fruit can be deadly. Wait, no, that's not the point I wanted to make. Also never eat Pop Rocks and drink soda, your head might explode.

Artie's hand goes up.

TED (CONT'D)

Ah, a question. Yes, Arthur?

ARTIE

How many cases are on record of kids finding razors in treats?

TED

Um, well, off hand, I'd have to say...none.

ARTIE

None.

TED

I like to think it's because we're doing such a great job talking to the youth of this town.

HANK

Okay, so like this friend of mine told me that his friend went trick-or-treating with his sister and they came to this house that was out of the way and like it was made of candy but like they went to the house, this old lady caught them and tried to eat them.

MATT

That's an urban legend.

ARTIE

That's Hansel and Gretel.

HANK

That's what my friend said.

TED

Well, Hank makes a good, if convoluted point.

(MORE)

TED (CONT'D)

You go out, stay in your neighborhood.
Go with friends. Fun is fun, but
not if you're maimed or killed.

ARTIE

Okay, we'll concede you that point.

He pulls out some safety lights.

TED

Now, when going out at night, it's a
good idea to carry a light or a
reflective shield on your bag or
person.

SALLY

Our mom won't let us go out after
sunset.

JILL

Mine neither.

DOUG

You know, once it gets dark, there's,
like, nobody out any more.

TED

Jeez, when I was a kid, we went out
forever. We'd come back, dump our
candy bags then head back out to
fill it up again. Plus, you could
do your serious mischief...but I
digress.

He puts the lights away.

TED (CONT'D)

Now then, satanic cults---

The class jumps.

TED (CONT'D)

Over the years, we've had reports of
heightened satanic activity around
this time of year. Children go
missing and are believed to be used
in ritualistic sacrifice.

MISS LYNN

Ted!

HANK

So, like this friend of mine told me that a friend of his had a Ouija board and he was messing around with it with some guys, you know, and like they decide to ask for Satan to appear and he did and he took them to hell.

ARTIE

Hank, seriously, you need to get some new friends.

EXT. MINELLI HOUSE -- DAY

Juni walks up, coming home from school. Then Doug comes by, with his school bag.

Dave is up on his roof.

DAVE

Hi, Doug. How was school?

DOUG

Good.

DAVE

Talk about anything good?

DOUG

Satanic cults.

DAVE

Ah.

Doug goes in. Dave does a take, then falls off roof.

INT. JUNI'S ROOM -- DAY

Juni enters, closes the door and takes out two cans of shaving cream from his bag. He opens his closet door and on the top shelf are cans and cans of shaving cream and silly string.

INT. KITCHEN -- EVENING

Carol is preparing dinner while Helena is seated at the table, drawing with crayons. Ted enters, carrying several medium-sized pumpkins in a box.

TED

Hi, honey, I'm home.

CAROL

Dinner's almost ready.

TED
I've got pumpkins.

CAROL
Yes, you do, honey.

TED
It's school related.

He passes through.

CAROL
Now, where were we?

HELENA
I need a costume.

CAROL
I'm cooking, honey.

HELENA
Halloween's coming.

CAROL
I know that. That's why you father
has pumpkins.

HELENA
And I need a costume.

CAROL
Yes, I know.

HELENA
I want to be a princess.

Helena holds up a drawing of her as a princess.

CAROL
I know, Helena.

HELENA
Or a Galaxy Ranger.

She holds up a drawing of her as a space ranger.

CAROL
After dinner. We'll go to the costume
store after dinner.

Doug bursts in.

DOUG
Costume store? Did you say costume
store?

CAROL
Yes. We'll go to the Party Palace.

DOUG
When? Must get costume!

CAROL
After dinner.

DOUG
Yay!

He leaves.

INT. HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Doug passes the den.

INT. DEN -- CONTINUOUS

Ted has the pumpkins in a line on a shelf. On his computer
is a design of a pumpkin. He studies some print-outs.

DOUG
Hey, Dad, how's my project coming?

TED
Almost there, Doug.

INT. DOUG'S ROOM -- LATER

Doug's room is decorated with classic monster movie posters,
along with a nice poster of the Scary Knight. He's got a
few monster and dinosaur models on his dresser. Doug lays
on his bed writing in a marble notebook.

CAROL (O.S.)
Doug! C'mon, let's go!

Doug lights up. He puts the book under his bed and hurries
out.

EXT. MINELLI HOUSE -- EVENING

Doug and Helena are in the car as Carol starts it up. And
off they go.

INT. PARTY PALACE -- NIGHT

A retail store featuring party supplies and seasonal items. Halloween supplies are in force, but there's enough Christmas stuff out to keep you guessing.

Helena is walking, wearing a wimple. Carol follows.

Doug comes around a corner, wearing a horrible Satan mask. Helena jumps.

CAROL

No.

DOUG

What?

CAROL

Nothing like that. Nothing evil.

DOUG

Mom!

CAROL

Why can't you go as a cowboy or spaceman?

DOUG

An evil spaceman?

CAROL

I'm not laughing.

DOUG

Jeez, Mom, why don't I just go as an accountant?

CAROL

Watch the attitude, young man. Besides, won't that mask encumber your vision?

DOUG

Huh?

CAROL

Isn't that what your father told the class?

DOUG

Yeah, about that. What was that all about?

CAROL
The PTA organized that.

DOUG
Oh, man. Is this widely known?

CAROL
Your father has been going to school for years to talk about safety. Yes, it's his favorite time of year and he takes it very seriously. Which is why he wants it to be safe. Now, be quiet and pick out an acceptable costume. How about a skeleton? That's kind of creepy.

They see a skeleton costume; a skull mask and a plastic bib top with a full picture of a dancing skeleton on it.

DOUG
Look, Mom, if it's a skeleton costume it should have the body bones, not a picture of a dancing skeleton. It's not a skeleton costume, it's an ad for a skeleton.

CAROL
Here's a Galaxy Ranger.

She holds up a set; a mask and plastic bib with a picture of the Galaxy Ranger in action with the "Galaxy Ranger" logo on it.

DOUG
Why doesn't it just look like a Galaxy Ranger uniform? If you have to write the words "Galaxy Ranger" on it, it isn't a very good costume.

CAROL
Now that you mention it, it is more like a billboard than a costume.

DOUG
I've thought about this a lot, Mom.

CAROL
I know, honey. And frankly, it's got me a bit concerned.

DOUG
Man.

Doug walks down an aisle. Then he freezes. He sees it. A kid's size knock-off of the Scary Knight costume called "Knight of Terror." A suit of armor, made out of silver plastic, with a working helmet and visor. It looks very good on display.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Mom! Come here!

Carol walks over.

CAROL

Well, look. It's your guy.

DOUG

It's not the Scary Knight...Knight of Terror? What's that supposed to be? Is it a rip-off?

CAROL

Probably, a cheaper knock-off of a famous costume. Remember that year we almost bought the "Iron Guy" costume, or the "Harry Wizard" costume?

DOUG

It's really not bad looking. It could be cool. How's that for a costume, Mom?

CAROL

He is evil but not outwardly so.

She leans in and sees the price tag.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Fifty seven dollars! That's a bit steep.

DOUG

It's a lot cheaper than the official one.

CAROL

That much money to wear it once? I don't think so.

DOUG

You spent more than that on your wedding dress and you only wore it once.

CAROL
Don't get fresh.

DOUG
What if I use my own money?

CAROL
You see, sweetie, you don't have any money.

DOUG
What if I earn some?

CAROL
Earn money? Sure. As long as your school work's not affected.

DOUG
Yes, this can work.

INT. GYM -- DAY

The guys are in gym class, in line during a dodge ball game. They're darting and dodging as Vinnie and his crew aim for them.

DOUG
How can I earn money?

BILL
Earning money, man, that's harsh.

HANK
Wash cars.

DOUG
That's good.

ARTIE
Make sure you charge more for minivans than the regular cars.

Hank gets hit and goes down.

ARTIE (CONT'D)
Student down!

BILL
If your folks won't just buy it for you, how good can it be?

DOUG
It was great. It looked just like the real Scary Knight.

ARTIE
Sure, for that kind of money.

STEVIE
Shoveling snow?

ARTIE
That would be good if it were winter.

MATT
Raking leaves. Lots of old people
around.

STEVIE
And lots of leaves.

DOUG
That's it, raking leaves. Manual
labor and I don't have to get wet.

Ball whizzes by and a thud and groan are heard.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Doug, carrying a rake and some big garbage bags, walks down
the block. Artie is walking with him.

ARTIE
You could go as a bum and avoid all
this.

DOUG
My mom says it's making fun of the
homeless.

ARTIE
A ghost?

DOUG
She said it would offend people
mourning their dead.

ARTIE
Pirate?

DOUG
Perpetuating buccaneer-American
stereotypes.

EXT. HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

A modest little home, well-kept, but with lots of leaves on
the front lawn.

Doug and Artie reach the door. Doug rings the bell. An OLD MAN answers.

OLD MAN

Yes?

DOUG

Rake your leaves, mister?

OLD MAN

Hmm. Not a bad idea. How much?

DOUG

Oh, say fifty-seven dollars?

OLD MAN

Are you nuts? Forget it!

He slams the door.

ARTIE

Fifty-seven dollars?

DOUG

I figured then I'd only have to do it once.

They walk to the next house.

EXT. NEXT HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Doug knocks on the door. An OLD WOMAN answers.

OLD WOMAN

Yes?

DOUG

Rake your lawn?

OLD WOMAN

That would be helpful. How much?

DOUG

Five dollars?

OLD WOMAN

For the both of you?

DOUG

No, lady. I do it.

OLD WOMAN

(to Artie)

Who are you then?

ARTIE
Quality control.

EXT. MINELLI HOUSE -- DAY

Doug and Artie are sitting on the stoop. Stevie rolls up on his scooter.

STEVIE
Hey.

DOUG
Hey.

ARTIE
Hey.

STEVIE
You raked?

DOUG
Yeah.

STEVIE
How much you make?

DOUG
Seventeen dollars.

STEVIE
That's a weird amount.

DOUG
Some of those old people are tough negotiators.

STEVIE
Doesn't seem like much.

Doug pulls out a bag of cookies.

DOUG
Plus a bag of homemade cookies.

STEVIE
Instead of money?

DOUG
What? I'm going to turn down cookies?
You nuts? Want one?

STEVIE

Sure.

FADE OUT.

BLACK AND WHITE 1940S MOVIE TRAILER:

INT. EGYPTIAN TOMB -- NIGHT

A DAMSEL runs down a passage way, terrified. A few moments later, a MUMMY slowly gives chase. One leg is dragging. His bandages are loose.

MUMMY

Dang it! Get back here, you young maiden! Blast it, blast it all! Mother of Pearl, slow down you stupid so and so. Dang it to heck. You miserable S.O.B.

His bandage gets hooked on a wall mounting and can't get it free.

MUMMY (CONT'D)

Godfrey Daniels! My wrappings are getting tangled. Sas-frackin, stupid pyramid!

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The Mummy's Curses. It's the original, not the souped up remake. This Wednesday night on The Movie Network's Shock-tober Film Festival. Rated TV-M for harsh language.

The words "The End" get typed across the screen. It dissolves into the words on a computer screen of a word processor.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. SEEDY BAR -- NIGHT

Frankie and Johnny enter. It's a sorry looking establishment that's been serving hooch since they lifted Prohibition. An older, heavy-set BARTENDER, slings the suds.

Frankie and Johnny pony up to the bar.

BARTENDER

How's it going?

JOHNNY

Yeah, good. You?

BARTENDER

Okay. What'll ya have?

FRANKIE

A couple of beers.

BARTENDER

Coming up.

Bartender draws a couple of drafts.

FRANKIE

Hey, let me ask you something. You know a Vinny Vitelli?

BARTENDER

Vinny Vitelli. "Money Bags" Vitelli?

FRANKIE

That's the guy.

BARTENDER

Oh, man, sure. But he's been dead for years now.

JOHNNY

Dead? Oh, man, what do we do now, Frankie?

FRANKIE

Zip it, Johnny. What happened?

BARTENDER

He got himself whacked. I don't know for sure, but I heard he did some skimming.

FRANKIE

I heard he was a skimmer.

JOHNNY

When was this?

FRANKIE

Shut up. So, when was this?

BARTENDER

Long time ago. Why?

FRANKIE

He and my dad did some business together and my dad was owed some money. I'm looking to collect.

JOHNNY

Any family?

FRANKIE

Yeah, any family?

BARTENDER

No kids. Had a wife. Heard she went nuts.

JOHNNY

This just keeps getting better and better.

FRANKIE

Where's the widow?

BARTENDER

Sorry, ain't knowledgeable about that.

FRANKIE

Marone. Well, okay, we'll have to make do.

They get up.

BARTENDER

Not for nothing, but it's customary to tip the bartender.

FRANKIE

Tell you what, if I get the money I'm owed, I'll do that.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. MINELLI HOUSE -- DAY

Helena and Carol are hanging Halloween decorations in the window while Doug is outside directing them from his walkie-talkie. Helena has the walkie-talkie inside.

Eve walks by, texting as she goes. She she her mom, simply shakes her head and moves on.

On the curb is some household items being tossed; a stationary bike, broken end table and an old baby buggy.

DOUG

No, more that way, to the left. My left. Make the skeleton's arm wave, not just hang there. Center the witch.

Ted drives up, gets out, carrying packages.

TED

Hey, Doug, check this out.

DOUG

What's it?

He opens up the package to show a box of Halloween lights.

TED

I thought these were cool.

DOUG

Very!

He holds it up to the window to see. Carol rolls her eyes. Doug notices the other bag.

DOUG (CONT'D)

What's that, more lights?

TED

Just some pumpkin-related items.

DOUG

We going to work on that tonight, dad?

TED

I want to test out a couple of things first, then run them by you.

(notices garbage)

Hey, Honey, what's this?

Carol has made it do the door.

CAROL

Just some stuff I'm getting rid of.

TED

The garbage men aren't going to take this.

CAROL
They will, Ted.

TED
I'll run this stuff down to the dump
myself.

CAROL
You don't have to.

TED
Want to go to the dump, Doug?

DOUG
Sure! I'll get Juni.

CAROL
Ted, they'll take it.

Doug runs into the house. Ted gets the minivan ready, opening up the hatchback and folding the seat down. Juni and Doug come running out, Juni buttoning his jacket. Doug stops at the door and yells back in:

DOUG
Hey, Eve, we're going to the dump!
You wanna come? Eve? Eve?

TED
Come on guys, let load this up!

Juni pulls Doug out.

They load up the van.

CAROL
No, really, you don't have to---

The minivan pulls out. Dave Davidson comes to his front yard carrying a box of lights.

DAVE
What's up?

CAROL
Ted just went to the dump.

DAVE
So?

CAROL
You know Ted. He's the only guy I
know who comes back from the dump
with more than he brought there.

EXT. TOWN DUMP -- DAY

A dirt road leads up to an area where people can dump their household junk. Ted and Juni toss out the last item. Doug wanders off into the junk. Juni and Ted follow.

DOUG

Hey, Dad, there's a bicycle and it's got hardly any rust on it!

JUNI

Yeah, and why would anyone throw away a perfectly good half a sled?

TED

I wonder what's wrong with this record player? Let's bring it home and find out!

EXT. MINELLI BACKYARD -- DAY

Doug is wheeling back a bike, not in bad condition, missing a seat. Juni follows, carrying a canister vacuum cleaner.

In the yard is a huge tarp covering a big something.

Ted carries in a box of metal pieces and puts that down, so he can uncover his creation. It's a large hunk of kinetic art, made up of welded together items: bikes, bedframes, car parts, kitchen utensils, etc. There's one section that has a series of bike seats.

Ted flips a switch and it begins to move, parts turning, parts spinning, an old oscillating fan, getting it to swing a fly swatter back and forth between some wind chimes, an old mixer rotates a bike tire which spun over a series of spatulas, rattling them. A metal bowl spins, rattling around the marbles in it. An electric blender feeds a bicycle inner tube/pulley along the wheels of a child's xylophone. The bike seats chug up and down like pistons.

JUNI

Looks good, dad.

DOUG

Doug, bring the bike here.

Doug wheels the bike over. Ted waits a moment, turns off the kinetic art, then removes one of the bicycle seats. He puts it on Doug's bike and tightens it on.

DOUG (CONT'D)

You sure, Dad?

TED
Of course. How's that?

DOUG
Good. But Dad, I really don't need
a bike.

TED
How about one of your friends?

DOUG
Stevie needs one. He's only got
that scooter. He just moved here
and all, and they don't have much
since his dad left.

TED
Well, do you think he'll take it?

DOUG
I don't know. Maybe.

TED
Tell him he has to. 'Tis the season.

JUNI
What season?

TED
The Halloween season.

DOUG
Think he'll go for that?

TED
Early trick-or-treat. But if he
takes it, he'll get no candy.

DOUG
He's not much into Halloween.

TED
No?

DOUG
He got bombed when he was a kid and
it's turned him off to the whole
holiday.

TED
If there's anyone who can get him
turned onto Halloween, it's you.

DOUG

I'm trying.

TED

I'm sure he appreciates the effort.

Doug walks the bike to the front. Carol comes outside. She sees the vacuum cleaner.

CAROL

What's that?

TED

I've got a great idea for a new Halloween character.

CAROL

Oh, goody.

TED

It'll be great.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Doug, Stevie and Artie are riding bikes. They carry rakes and garbage bags and go to a house with a leaf-covered lawn.

EXT. FRONT LAWN -- DAY

The three are raking away. When Doug notices a flyer stapled to the telephone pole.

ARTIE

What's the matter?

DOUG

Look at this.

They walk over to see the flyer. It reads "Halloween Hell House, open every weekend 'til Oct. 31st. Come for the scare of your life. Biblical Truths Church, 120 Oak Street."

DOUG (CONT'D)

A haunted house.

STEVIE

Really?

ARTIE

I've heard about them. Some people build them to raise money for charity. They make these great haunted houses where you're, like, in a maze and people jump out and scare you.

DOUG

Cool.

STEVIE

Real people?

ARTIE

Yeah, they ain't allowed to touch you, just scare you.

STEVIE

That's fair.

Doug pulls down the flyer.

DOUG

We've got to go to this.

They return to raking.

EXT. MAFIA LADY'S HOUSE -- DAY

An old home. Not very well kept. Lawn has gone to seed with big bare spots. Shades are drawn. Screens ripped and torn.

The boys walk up to the house, carrying their raking equipment. Doug looks down at the front stoop and sees it. A fifty dollar bill. He picks it up.

DOUG

Holy mackerel. Fifty bucks!

STEVIE

What?

DOUG

I found fifty bucks.

ARTIE

Hey, we were here when you found it.

DOUG

So?

ARTIE

So, congratulations. Hey, that means you don't have to rake anymore.

DOUG

I don't know. It must belong to who ever lives here.

Artie and Stevie start to leave.

ARTIE
But we'll never know.

DOUG
I'm going to ask.

Doug knocks.

ARTIE
You're such a goody-two shoes.

DOUG
And you're a dangerous rebel.

Door opens. They turn to see it's Mafia Lady.

MAFIA LADY
What?

They look. They freeze. They scream and flee.

FADE OUT.

BLACK & WHITE MOVIE TRAILER:

INT. MANSION DRAWING ROOM -- NIGHT

It's 1895. VAN HELSING, an older distinguished man speaks with an innocent ELIZABETH.

VAN HELSING
You must wear this garlic necklace,
Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
I cannot, Doctor.

Wolf howls. Elizabeth goes to the window.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Wolves. They are the children of
the night.

VAN HELSING
He'll be here soon. The sun is down.
You must protect yourself.

A creaking door opens. COUNT DRACULA enters.

DRACULA
Good evening.

VAN HELSING
What do you want?

DRACULA
I want to do your taxes!

Elizabeth screams.

Freeze frame.

EXT. MANSION -- NIGHT

Clear night, full moon. Bats in flight.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Bela Lugolsi stars as "Accountant
Dracula." This Thursday on The Movie
Network's Shock-tober Film Festival.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DEN -- DAY

Ted is typing on the PC.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN STREET -- DAY

Doug, Artie and Stevie are walking in town, coming up to the supermarket.

ARTIE
So, Mr. Bigshot Moneybags, what are
you going to do?

DOUG
You have to ask? I'm getting my
costume.

As they come up to the front of the supermarket, Leslie and her Mom, MRS. D'MAYO, are walking out. Mrs. D'mayo looks frantic.

LESLIE
It's okay, Mom. We'll find it.

MRS. D'MAYO
That was the last of the grocery
money for the week. How could I
lose it?

LESLIE
When you put back the keys in your
pocket book?

They go to the curb by a parked car.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

How much, Mom?

MRS. D'MAYO

Fifty. A fifty dollar bill.

Doug looks at Leslie, stars in his eyes. He takes the fifty out of his pocket.

ARTIE

Doug...what are you doing?

He approaches Leslie and her Mom.

DOUG

Excuse me, Mrs. D'Mayo---

MRS. D'MAYO

Yes, son?

LESLIE

Oh, Doug, hi. What are you doing here?

DOUG

Me and the guys were doing a little Halloween shopping.

MRS. D'MAYO

Halloween shopping?

DOUG

You know, before the big last minute rush.

LESLIE

This is Doug, Mom. From my school. The one I told you about.

MRS. D'MAYO

Oh. Hi. Yes, what is it, Doug?

DOUG

Well, I found...this.

He holds out the bill, still not sure it was a good idea.

MRS. D'MAYO

Oh my goodness! You found it! Thank you!

LESLIE

Wow, Doug, you're a lifesaver!

DOUG

You're welcome.

MRS. D'MAYO

I'm lucky you're the one who found it.

LESLIE

So, I guess I'll see you at school.

DOUG

(going for suave,
coming up short.)

Yup. It's the law.

LESLIE

See you there.

DOUG

Okay.

Mrs. D'mayo and Leslie go into the store.

ARTIE

Are you stupid?

STEVIE

I can't believe you did that.

Doug shrugs.

ARTIE

What? Is she like your girlfriend?

DOUG

Shut up.

Doug walks on.

STEVIE

Now where you going?

DOUG

To get my rake.

INT. SUPERMARKET -- LATER

Mrs. D'mayo gives the fifty and some change to the CASHIER, who puts it in the register.

Meanwhile, down an aisle:

Carol comes down an aisle. She reaches the end display of shaving cream, sidewalk chalk and eggs that holds a "Halloween Special" sign in place.

CAROL

See, now, that's just wrong.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- DAY

Frankie and Johnny are laying on their twin beds.

FRANKIE

How to proceed? How to proceed?

JOHNNY

Not for nothing, Frankie, but you got the guy's name.

FRANKIE

Yeah?

JOHNNY

Maybe the widow never married.

FRANKIE

Yeah.

JOHNNY

So we get a phone book---

FRANKIE

Where are you going with this?

JOHNNY

Look up the name in the phone book.

Frankie sits up.

FRANKIE

Good idea. You got a phone book?

JOHNNY

No.

FRANKIE

What good are you?

Johnny looks in the night stand. Next to the Bible is a telephone book. He pulls it out.

JOHNNY

Here's one.

FRANKIE
Finally, some help.

Frankie flips through the book, until he reaches "Vitelli."
There's twenty or so.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Look at all these Vitellis.

JOHNNY
Marone! That's a lot of piasans.
What now?

Frankie rips the page out.

FRANKIE
Let's start visiting these people
and find my money.

INT. SUPERMARKET -- EVENING

We see some of the cashiers all taking their cash drawers to
the HEAD CASHIER as the shifts change. There's the Cashier
with Doug's fifty dollar bill.

EXT. BIBLE CHURCH -- NIGHT

Small, older church building. There's a line of people
leading to a basement door, where a WOMAN is selling tickets.
Sign out front says "Welcome to Hell House!"

Doug, Artie and Stevie ride up. They lock up their bikes
and get on the line.

DOUG
This is so cool.

STEVIE
We sure about this?

ARTIE
It'll be fun, you baby.

STEVIE
I'm not a baby. I just have
heightened perception.

DOUG
It'll be great.

INT. HELL HOUSE FOYER -- NIGHT

There's a small GROUP OF PEOPLE in the foyer, including Doug,
Artie and Stevie.

MRS. HENSWORTH, a middle-aged woman, stands before the basement door. She wears a tweed suit and skirt and a string of pearls, which matched the gray hair of her old school bouffant.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Welcome to Hell House, a gathering
of earthly horrors and terrors.

(remembering)

Lights, Abby---

The light goes out. Mrs. Hensworth puts a flashlight under her chin.

MRS. HENSWORTH (CONT'D)

Now, where was I? Oh, yes, a
gathering of earthly horrors and
terrors. Not for the faint of heart.

Stevie starts to back away. Doug and Artie each grab a shoulder and hold him in place.

MRS. HENSWORTH (CONT'D)

Abandon all hope ye who enter here.

She opens the basement door. Bright orange lights flicker and smoke bellows forth. The group moves in, going down the stairs. Doug and Artie maneuver Stevie down.

INT. ROCK & ROLL HELL -- CONTINUOUS

Some of the congregation are dressed in lame imitation of MARILYN MANSON, KISS, and THE VILLAGE PEOPLE.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Behold, rock and roll hell. The
devil's music that beckons you to
join Lucifer.

The Band Members start to play some chords and sing.

BAND

Worship Satan! Worship Satan---

Then we realize they're singing this to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?"

BAND (CONT'D)

Worship now, worship now. Lucifer
is great. Morning bells are ringing,
ding-dong-ding, I mean, Burn in hell.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Oh, yes, Satan loves to control young minds.

The Village People start singing "American Pie."

Doug, Artie and Stevie can only stare in amazement.

DOUG

"American Pie?"

MRS. HENSWORTH

He sings about Satan.

Confused, ANOTHER MEMBER of the group raises his hand.

ANOTHER MEMBER

He's not actually singing about Satan. The song's about rock stars of the 1970s, people like Alice Cooper, or AC/DC or Black Sabbath. The song was against them. In fact, I think it may be on the same side as you guys. You've actually heard the song, right?

MRS. HENSWORTH

(stern beat)

Beware Satan's music. Now, moving on...

She leads them through a curtain into the next room.

INT. GAY BAR -- NIGHT

A cheap mock-up of a sinful bar, again with AWKWARD MALES dressed in leather, milling about. One MAN stands with a sheep. One GUY looks really comfortable in his cowboy outfit.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Oh, dear. We've entered the realm of unnatural acts. Behavior that is forbidden and only brings sadness onto the Lord.

MAN #1

Hello, hot stuff.

MAN #2

Hello.

MAN #1

I would like to have sex with you because we are both men.

DOUG

Should we even be seeing this?

ARTIE

Excuse me, my mom wouldn't let me watch stuff like this, why is a church showing it to me?

MRS. HENSWORTH

The Lord wants us all to see the truth. Let's move deeper into hell.

They exit through a curtain to the next room.

MAN #1

Next year, I'm signing up to be a ticket taker. This is ridiculous.

COWBOY

Do these chaps make me look fat?

INT. SATAN'S CLASS ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

It's a class, with a chart of evolution on the blackboard. A GHOUL TEACHER is handing out condoms to her CLASS.

MRS. HENSWORTH

(reading a card)

Well, here we are at Satan High. Where the secularists make sure the word of God can't be heard. Where our hard earned money goes to teach children stuff we don't believe in and making sure what we believe in gets stuffed.

DOUG

Are there any monsters coming up?

ARTIE

A vampire would be good.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Those are fantasies. We are showing you real monsters.

DOUG

How about Hitler then? Isn't he in hell?

MRS. HENSWORTH

Well, yes, just not in this section.
(MORE)

MRS. HENSWORTH (CONT'D)

Now, come along as we enter the land
of the heathens, featuring Jews,
Muslims and Catholics.

The crowd moves through the next curtain. Stevie starts to follow. Doug and Artie each grab a shoulder and hold him back.

DOUG

Man, they're ruining Halloween.

GHOUL TEACHER

We're trying to rescue people from
Satan's holiday.

STEVIE

Satan's holiday?

DOUG

What are you talking about?

ARTIE

Next thing you'll be telling us that
Arbor day is about Druids and tree
worship.

GHOUL TEACHER

We're looking into that.

DOUG

You got all the big holidays. Stop
trying to turn Halloween into Sunday
School. C'mon guys, let's go.

They head out.

ARTIE

Actually "ghoul teacher" is a good
idea for a costume

EXT. SUPERMARKET -- EVENING

The armored car pulls up and picks up money from the
supermarket and drives off.

The truck passes Frankie and Johnny, who are driving by.

INT. CAR -- CONTINUOUS

FRANKIE

I wish I had me some of that.

JOHNNY

You and me both.

EXT. BOAT YARD -- DAY

Boys are hanging out.

EXT. OLD FISHING BOAT -- DAY

Artie, Doug and Stevie are lounging on the deck of an old wooden fishing boat, taking in a glorious autumn day. Their bikes are parked against the boat.

DOUG

That was so lame last night.

ARTIE

Hell house. It wasn't even a heck house.

STEVIE

I dunno, that guy in the leather was pretty scary.

DOUG

I wasted money on that. Hard-earned costume money.

ARTIE

Really.

STEVIE

We could probably put on a scarier thing ourselves, and we're just kids.

ARTIE

I bet we could.

DOUG

Whoa. Why don't we?

ARTIE

Why don't we what?

DOUG

Build our own fun house. Charge the kids fifty cents just to see it.

STEVIE

That could be cool. Where?

DOUG

My backyard.

(MORE)

DOUG (CONT'D)

We've got that old lumber from the tree house in Deadman's Woods.

ARTIE

Beats raking leaves.

STEVIE

You were just quality control.

ARTIE

I was thinking about poor old Doug.

DOUG

Let's get going.

They scramble down the boat and ride their bikes to Doug's house.

EXT. MINELLI BACKYARD -- DAY

The boys are dragging in old, weathered lumber and plywood.

Doug tries to map out a path to build this thing, using the trees as support beams.

INT. PARTY PALACE -- DAY

The Boys go to the register with a collection of rubber rats, bats, snakes, and spiders.

STEVIE

Are you sure you should be spending your raking money?

DOUG

You have to spend a buck to make a buck. If we don't do it right, what's the point?

EXT. MINELLI BACKYARD -- DAY

Stevie is up in a tree, sawing a plank of extra length of 2x4 off. Only he's doing it standing, sawing between his legs, one on the secured beam and one leg on the overhang.

Artie notices this. He nudges Doug. Doug watches. Stevie is just diligently sawing away.

Doug and Artie watch as the sawing goes faster and faster. It stops. Doug and Artie drop their gazes to the ground as a thud is heard. They wince a bit, then bust out laughing.

They run over to help Stevie up.

Carol pokes her head out the window.

CAROL
Douglas! What are you doing?

DOUG
Building a haunted house!

CAROL
Why?

DOUG
To scare people and make money.

Carol thinks this over. It sounds like it should be an automatic "no," but she considers it.

CAROL
Be careful.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Carol looks over at Ted who is busy fussing over the pumpkins.

CAROL
He's building a haunted house.

TED
I wonder where he gets that from?

Carol walks by and give him a peck on the head.

EXT. BACKYARD -- LATER

They take the tarp off Ted's art work and put it as the roof of the hall they've built.

INT. FUN HOUSE -- DAY

It's pitch black.

DOUG (O.S.)
Might be too dark.

ARTIE (O.S.)
You think?

STEVIE (O.S.)
Ah! What was that? What was that?

DOUG (O.S.)
You stepped on my toe.

ARTIE (O.S.)

We'll need some sort of lights.
Where can we get some lights?

EXT. DAVIDSON'S HOUSE -- DAY

Dave is up on a ladder, attaching icicle lights to the front gutters. The boys approach the base of the ladder.

DOUG

Mr. Davidson?

DAVE

Hi, Doug. What's up?

DOUG

We're building a Halloween haunted house and we need some mood lighting and we wondered if you might have some extra lights.

DAVE

You know, when I bought a couple of strings of light, I had to trade different colored lights to different strings. I think you might find a string of all orange or blue lights in the storage him.

DOUG

Great! Thanks!

DAVE

You're welcome. Be careful.

DOUG

We will.

They run off to the back.

DAVE

Good kid.

Dave leans out a bit too far to hang a light and drops from view.

INT. BANK -- DAY

TELLERS are running bills through the counting machines. One Teller picks up a fifty and looks at it.

TELLER

Grace, got a bogus bill here.

GRACE, the head teller, comes over.

GRACE
Where from?

Checking some canvas sacks.

TELLER
Shopwell Supermarket.

GRACE
Let's phone it in.

INT. SECRET SERVICE OFFICE -- DAY

AGENTS looking at the fifty dollar bill.

AGENT ABLE
Yup.

AGENT BAKER
I told you it was a classic. How
did it get back into circulation?

AGENT ABLE
How about you head out there and
find out?

EXT. MINELLI BACKYARD -- DAY

The fun house is complete. It's basically a long hallway,
with an L-turn and a slide at the exit. Parts of the roof
are canvas, others plywood. Various ropes, handles and cranks
protrude from it.

Doug comes walking in, pulling Ted behind him. Steve and
Artie follow.

DOUG
Wait'll you see it, Dad. You have
to let us know what you think.

TED
I'm here. I'm here. So, this is
it?

DOUG
We'll get the money here and you
walk through.

Steve and Artie scramble off to take places along the roof
of the fun house, where they grab strings and ropes to control
things.

DOUG (CONT'D)

We need someone to test it out.

TED

Oh. Nobody else has been through this?

DOUG

Not all at once. C'mon, Dad, do it.

TED

Okay, okay.

Ted steps to enter, banging his head on the top of the doorway.

TED (CONT'D)

Ow.

DOUG

Sorry, Dad. But it is built to be kid-sized.

TED

Now you tell me.

Ted enters.

INT. FUN HOUSE -- DAY

The curtains close behind him. The hall is lighted with a long strand of blue and orange Christmas lights.

Spiral wheels on the walls begin to turn. A clock face is up and its hands are spinning. The "Twilight Zone" theme plays.

EXT. FUN HOUSE -- DAY

Doug is cranking a handle, which spins the wheels and clocks from the outside. He's got a boom box playing the music, then starts to play spooky sound effects.

INT. FUN HOUSE -- DAY

A day-glow sign reads "Beware of Attack Spiders."

Ted steps forward through threads and strings hanging from the ceiling. Ted brushes them away. Rubber spiders dance up and down from the ceiling.

Day glow cobwebs and spiders line the walls.

EXT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Artie is seated on the roof, pulling a string up and down.

INT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Another sign, "Don't Mind the Rats" with some rubber rats on the walls. Ted jumps in surprise. He looks down and there is a broom head sliding back and forth, brushing against his ankles.

Next up is a toilet. The lid springs up and an alligator head pops up, like a jack-in-the-box.

EXT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Doug is operating a lever which moves the brooms and alligator.

INT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Ted comes to a lighted make-up mirror. It's got horns and eyes painted on it, so when Ted looks in, it reflects back a monster face.

He steps back and a pair of rubber gloves stapled to the wall over two holes. They come to life, reaching out to grab him. Ted bumps his head.

He moves on and a blast of air hits him. Then another.

EXT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Stevie is pumping a couple of bicycle pumps while Artie works the gloves.

INT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Ted walks along. A skeleton rises out of a home-made coffin. Some pillow case ghosts fly around on an old ceiling fan. A bat comes flying down the hall ceiling on a clothes line.

EXT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The boys leapfrog passed each other to operate other levers, ropes and pulleys, until they reach the end.

INT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Ted comes to an exit sign. Suddenly, a door swings open and Helena, in a monster mask, springs out.

HELENA

Boo!

TED

Hey! What are you doing here, you little monster?

HELENA

Doug said I could help him and he'll even give me some cookies!

TED

What a good big brother he is.

He grabs Helena and climbs up the steps. He bumps his head getting on the slide and slides out with Helena.

EXT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The boys run over to join Ted and Helena.

DOUG

Well, Dad, well?

TED

Great job. It's a riot. One thing.

DOUG

What?

Ted leans in closely.

TED

You'll be giving your sister a bigger cut.

DOUG

Oh.

EXT. SUPERMARKET -- DAY

Agent Baker pulls up and walks inside, all business.

EXT. FUN HOUSE -- LATER

Doug has a table set up with a sign reading "Haunted House 50 cents." A line of KIDS wait their turn.

Other kids exit. They look like they're having fun. Some run up and get back in line.

ARTIE

(to Stevie)

The key is repeat business.

FADE OUT.

BLACK & WHITE MOVIE TRAILER:

INT. MAD SCIENTIST LABORATORY -- NIGHT

Horror theme. Lab is in full activity, electric buzzes, bubbling flasks, etc. THE MONSTER is on the operating table. DR. FRANKENSTEIN is talking to a MOIL.

MOIL

You are aware of the tradition, Dr. Frankenstein.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN

Yes, yes. I know it. But really!

MOIL

You created the monster 7 days ago and now I'm here to perform the ceremony.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN

He's not going to like it.

Monster grunts and moans as the two approach him.

DR. FRANKENSTEIN (CONT'D)

No, no. Bread good. Moil good!
Moil good!

The Moil pulls out his instruments. The Monster screams.

FADE OUT.

Graphics up for movie ad.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

"The Bris of Frankenstein" Coming soon to a theater or temple near you.

Freeze frame.

The words "The End" are typed over the scene.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DEN -- DAY

Tight on PC screen work processor of the script for that skit.

FADE OUT.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Johnny and Frankie walk down the street, checking the phone book page.

They approach a house.

EXT. HOUSE -- DAY

Johnny and Frankie knock. An OLD LADY answers. They talk. The Lady starts to close the door. Frankie holds it open. The Lady tries to close it again, Frankie still blocking it.

The door then swings open. Frankie and Johnny suddenly run away as a pit bull chases them off.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PORCH -- DAY

Johnny and Frankie knock on the door. The door opens and they are invited in. The door closes.

A moment later the door swings open and Johnny and Frankie dash out.

The HOME OWNERS come to the door. They're Jehovah's Witnesses, wearing suits and ties and carrying Bibles and pamphlets.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT STOOP -- DAY

Frankie and Johnny ring the door bell. An old ASIAN WOMAN answers. They apologize and leave.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PARTY PALACE -- DAY

Doug walks in and goes right to the Halloween aisle. He locates the Scary Knight costume and heads to the check out.

The CASHIER rings it up. Doug takes out a bag of quarters to pay for it. The Cashier doesn't look too thrilled.

INT. DEN -- NIGHT

Ted brings Doug into the room. He sits him down and goes behind his desk.

TED

Okay, I've been working on this pumpkin thing. I want to show you what we've got.

DOUG

Great, Dad.

He pulls up a pumpkin wrapped in aluminum foil with a metal funnel for a hat. The eyes blink on and off.

TED

This is Robo-Pumpkin.

DOUG

Nice.

He takes out a board with five smaller pumpkins in a row, each made-up like a boy band member.

TED

Here we have Pump'n Sync. Get it? How about "Mel-on Direction?" Is that more hip?

DOUG

No.

Next up, a pumpkin with Groucho glasses and an arrow through the head.

TED

This is a wild and crazy pumpkin.

DOUG

I like that.

He pulls up a pumpkin in a pie tin that has the letter "pi" written on it, instead of a face.

DOUG (CONT'D)

What's that?

TED

Pumpkin pie!

DOUG

I don't think so, Dad. It's a little too seventh grade.

TED

No problem.

Next is a pumpkin covered with a small sheet (or a large handkerchief) with triangle eyes drawn on it.

TED (CONT'D)

A pumpkin ghost! This is my favorite.

DOUG

It's so simple! And clever. I like it.

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

Halloween decorations are up. Miss Lynn is handing back tests to the class.

MISS LYNN

Over all, the class did very well.
However---

The PA kicks in.

PRINCIPAL (O.S.)

Good morning, everyone. This is principal Reilly. I have an announcement to make. Our annual Halloween day program is canceled. We also need to remove any Halloween decorations from the classrooms and building. Thank you.

PA cuts out.

Class is stunned.

DOUG

What? How? Why? Miss Lynn, you can't let this happen! What is going on?

MISS LYNN

This is the first I'm hearing about it.

Miss Lynn pulls out a hall pass from her desk.

MISS LYNN (CONT'D)

Doug, would you be so kind as to go to the principal's office and find out?

DOUG

Oh, yes.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE -- DAY

Doug and several other Students are talking to PRINCIPAL REILLY.

REILLY

I'm sorry, children, but it's out of my hands.

DOUG

But why? You're the principal.

ARTIE

You're all powerful.

REILLY

A committee of parents came in with a petition this week. They are claiming Halloween is a religious holiday and cannot be celebrated in a public school as such. That it's...

(pulling out papers)

A holiday for Druids and Wiccans.

ARTIE

What?

DOUG

Do we have any Wiccans here? Never mind Druids.

SALLY

What's a Druid?

DOUG

Someone who worships trees.

BILL

Why do you even know that? Are you a Druid?

ARTIE

He doesn't look Dru-ish.

SALLY

What's that Wiccan thing?

DOUG

Witches.

REILLY

My hands are tied, kids. We could get sued.

(MORE)

REILLY (CONT'D)

The group made that more than clear.
It comes under the "Separation of
Church and State" stipulation.

They grumble and leave.

DOUG

Who would even bother petitioning
about such a thing?

EXT. SCHOOL -- AFTERNOON

Mrs. Hensworth and several other of the Church Adults are in
front of the school handing out flyers to the students as
they exit.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Don't fall prey to the dark high
worship day. Come to a fun Harvest
Party. The first annual Harvest
Party this October 31st. Right after
school.

DOUG

You!

MRS. HENSWORTH

Yes, dear?

DOUG

You're the one who made the school
stop Halloween.

MRS. HENSWORTH

If you can't celebrate the birth of
Christ or the resurrection of the
Lord, why in heaven's name should
you be permitted to honor Satan?

DOUG

What are you talking about? We get
off those days! What about St.
Valentine's Day? Or St. Patrick's
Day? We get to celebrate those.

MRS. HENSWORTH

We'll be working on those papalist
days next. But not to fear, we're
holding our first Harvest Party this
year to help fill the void. Right
after school, so you won't have to
go begging for candy on the streets.

ARTIE

We like begging for candy.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Enough to go to hell for it?

ARTIE

What kind of candy are we talking about?

STEVIE

Not for gum. Or those caramel peanut things. I won't go to hell for those.

ARTIE

I might for malt balls. Malt balls are good.

STEVIE

Except you get those mutant, mushy ones every so often.

ARTIE

Right. Or the really hard ones.

DOUG

Guys, can we focus here?

MRS. HENSWORTH

The party will be fun. There'll be food and apple cider. Candy corn. A hay ride with real hay. And apple bobbing.

DOUG

Apple bobbing.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Apple bobbing.

DOUG

That sounds exactly like a Halloween party.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Except it's not.

She holds out a flyer. Doug turns his back and they walk off.

INT. MINELLI BATHROOM -- DAY

Juni has some cans of shaving cream and cans of silly string. He pries off the plastic nozzle from each can.

Then he switches them.

He shakes it up then presses it. A thin stream of shaving cream shoots across the bathroom into the shower. When he does the silly string, a thick string shoots out.

JUNI

Ah-ha! I've invented turbo-cream
and silly rope!

INT. SCHOOL HALL -- DAY

Doug stands and watches as some TEACHERS take down various Halloween decorations. He's holding his ghost pumpkin. Artie comes up to him.

ARTIE

Disheartening, isn't it?

DOUG

I just can't believe this. I live
for this time of year.

ARTIE

It's not like they can stop us from
trick-or-treating. Our class is
still having a party. Granted, it's
now an Autumn-fest, but a party's a
party.

DOUG

I always hear about losing rights
but I never thought it would happen
to me.

ARTIE

It's the law, Doug. Separation of
church and stuff.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. OPEN FIELD -- DAY

ED and NANCY are on the side of the road, Ed is changing a flat tire. In the distance they watch HEADLESS ZOMBIES come closer and closer. Nancy screams in terror but the headless zombies pass them by, stumbling along.

ED

I wonder why they just passed us?
(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

Look at that one that keeps bumping into the fence, like he can't get around it.

NANCY

They are headless.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

An unnatural act created them. Man is powerless to stop them. It's "The Attack of the Headless Zombies."

INT. LABORATORY DAY

Ed and Nancy are helping a PROFESSOR go through his files.

ED

Professor, what do they want?

PROFESSOR

Well, in the past, any zombies we dealt with would be after us to eat our brains...but these zombies are headless, so I don't know what they think they're doing.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Okay, they're not very fast and they can't see where they're going but they're attacking because it's "The Attack of the Headless Zombies!"

EXT. BATTLE FIELD DAY

A GENERAL addresses his rag-tag SOLDIERS.

GENERAL

Okay, troops, we've got every bit of weaponry set up here waiting for those headless zombies to come over that hill. When they come up, I want every gun, cannon, mortar and rocket aimed at them.

SOLDIER

Sir?

GENERAL

What is it, soldier?

SOLDIER

Well, apparently, the headless zombies wandered off to the west and fell off some cliffs.

GENERAL

Oh.

Graphics up of movie ad.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

It's "The Attack of the Headless Zombies" coming eventually to a theater near you.

FADE OUT.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DEN -- DAY

Ted is typing away at the computer. Doug comes walking up carrying the ghost pumpkin. He stops and reads over Ted's shoulder.

DOUG

What's that for?

TED

I had an idea for a skit and wanted to write it up.

DOUG

What for?

TED

Well, hum, because...did you want something, Doug?

He holds up pumpkin.

DOUG

I won't be needing this.

TED

Why not?

DOUG

School canceled Halloween.

TED

What?

DOUG

They say it's a religious holiday,
so no decorations. No jack-o'-
lanterns. No costumes.

TED

That's just ridiculous. Halloween
is about as religious as New Year's
Eve. What next? Are these people
going to make St. Louis or San
Francisco change their names?

DOUG

Dad, what are you saying?

TED

Halloween's not on any religion's
calendar. It's no one's tradition.

DOUG

Wait a second, if it's not a religious
holiday, then it can't be banned.
(calling)

Mom!

Carol comes in.

CAROL

What's the matter, Doug? Ted, you
didn't confused the kids with your
dad jokes again, did you.

TED

No.

DOUG

Mom!

CAROL

What is it?

DOUG

You got a PTA meeting coming up?

CAROL

Yes. Next week. Why?

DOUG

I need you to make a speech. You
know, to win the hearts and minds of
everyone and change the Halloween
ban.

CAROL

Oh, no. I'm not a speech maker.
..Wait, what Halloween ban?"

DOUG

What kind of president are you? A
group of parents forced the school
to take down all the Halloween stuff.
Didn't they go through the PTA?

CAROL

Not my PTA.

DOUG

Mrs. Hensworth did it.

CAROL

Mrs. Hensworth? She doesn't have any
kids in the school. Why is she
petitioning the school? And she should
be going through the PTA. What's she
poking around the school for?

DOUG

Aren't you the president or something?
You can make them listen.

CAROL

I am the president, but I'm only the
president because they caught Elaine
Peters with her hand in the cookie
jar.

TED

They caught her embezzling?

CAROL

No, we caught her with her hand in
our cookie jar. She ate all the PTA
cookies. So she was impeached.

TED

Oh.

DOUG

Well, I need someone to straighten
this out.

CAROL

Why don't you do it?

DOUG

Who you? Me? I'm just a kid.

TED
You get together your facts, you
speak to the group. You can do it.

CAROL
I can certainly put you on the agenda.

DOUG
I don't know.

Ted picks up the pumpkin.

TED
Do it for the pumpkin, boy.

DOUG
Will you help me?

TED
Oh, man, do I hafta?

Doug is shocked.

TED (CONT'D)
Of course, I will. I'm kidding.

INT. DEN -- LATER

While Doug is on the computer, Ted walks in with some books.

Doug is looking very intently at the screen. Ted comes around and sees him playing a video game.

Doug realizes his father's there and clicks off the game, bringing up the word processor with his speech on it.

INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

Agent Baker is showing some cops (including Ted) the bogus fifty. Ted snaps his fingers and goes to a file.

INT. CAFETERIA -- DAY

Doug is working on his paper at lunch, while his pals eat. They keep staring at Doug.

HANK
You're not supposed to be doing
homework during lunch.

BILL
Yeah, if you do it now, what are you
going to do on the bus ride to school
tomorrow?

DOUG
It's not homework. It's my speech.

HANK
Still, you're showing us up.

Hank hits him with a small spitball.

ARTIE
Wait...Speech? You're giving a speech?
For what?

DOUG
The PTA.

BILL
Your mom making you do it?

DOUG
No. It's to get back Halloween.

HANK
Let it go, man.

MATT
No, Doug, do it! Fight the power.

DOUG
Seriously, I found a loophole. They
can't do it. So I'm making a speech
at the PTA meeting.

STEVE
When?

DOUG
Tomorrow night. I'm asking the school
to ban the ban.

BILL
Oh, a battle of the bans.

ARTIE
And when were you going to tell us?

DOUG
Well, actually, I was just going to
do it. I didn't plan to tell you
guys.

ARTIE
You're going to the PTA! It's all
parents and teachers!
(MORE)

ARTIE (CONT'D)

It's, like, enemy territory. You're going in alone with no allies? No back up? No one in your corner?

DOUG

Well, my mom and dad--

BILL

You need a cheering section.

HANK

Yeah, we should go. And we have to bring our parents so they can vote with us.

BILL

Can kids even go to PTA meetings?

MATT

My brother went last year when the PTA presented the perfect attendance award.

Artie looks around the cafeteria.

ARTIE

And not just us. We need to spread the word. Find out what time it starts--

DOUG

--Seven o'clock, but--

ARTIE

Okay, then we better to get to it!

Artie walks over to the next table, the cool table with the cool kids. The gang is stunned. In very animated terms and manner, Artie tells the students about the big speech coming up. Amazingly, they don't pelt him with food.

Rising to the cause, the others followed Artie's lead and each go to a table as Doug watches them.

Doug sits, there, amazed at his friends' support.

Then he gets hit by a wad of wet bread.

ARTIE (CONT'D)

Stop day dreaming and get back to work on that speech!

INT. AUDITORIUM -- EVENING

There's a very good crowd for a PTA meeting, a mix of parents, teachers and kids. Doug is in a suit and tie. Mrs. Hensworth is in the back with several supports.

The board of the PTA, including Carol, sit at a table on the stage. A WOMAN, Mary, walks from the podium.

CAROL

Thank you, Mary, for the report on the candy drive. Any other business tonight?

People look around. Carol signals Doug. Slowly, Doug's hand goes up.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Yes?

DOUG

I kinda have something to say about the Halloween ban.

This gets Mrs. Hensworth's attention.

CAROL

Come on up, Doug. Tell us what's on your mind.

Doug makes his way to the podium and mike. He pulls over a box so he can be see over the top.

DOUG

Thank you, Madam chairman mom, sir. Good evening, parents, teachers and associates. My name is Doug Minelli. I'm here to protest the school ban on Halloween.

MRS. HENSWORTH

What? That's already been decided.

DOUG

But---

MRS. HENSWORTH

New business.

This is the last straw for Carol.

CAROL

Janet, will you shut up and sit down.
(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

He has something to say and it's his turn and he has the floor.

(to Doug)

Go ahead, honey.

Doug is a bit stunned by his mom's reaction. Then he gathers himself and he pulls out his index cards.

DOUG

I understand that there is a separation of church and state in our country. No one can jam their religion down anyone else's throat. And public school is paid for by the government so they can't favor one religion over another. However, and here's the thing, Halloween is not a religious holiday. It attracts a lot of people. And even though a lot of people have adopted it as a holiday, it's not religious.

MRS. HENSWORTH

What are you talking about? It was a holiday of the Druids! It is their holiday honoring Satan!

CAROL

I'm warning you, Janet.

DOUG

Oh, nuts, I'm not up to that part yet.

(shuffles cards)

Wait a second. Oh, here it is.

(answering)

It's not. It was the Celtic New Year.

MRS. HENSWORTH

It was to honor Satan.

DOUG

They were pagans. They didn't even have a Satan.

MRS. HENSWORTH

They worshipped Samhain, the Lord of Death and Evil Spirits. It's all in my pamphlet.

DOUG

Samhain was the name of the festival, not a deity. Now, we're not celebrating Samhain, anyway.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Don't you get fresh with me, young man. It's the same thing. The trick-or-treating, the jack-o'-lanterns. They would carve the pumpkins and put candles in them to mark their homes as sympathetic to the Satanists.

CAROL

Don't make me use this gavel.

DOUG

I got it, Mom. Druids didn't even have pumpkins. They used turnips. It was the immigrants who came to this country years later that discovered pumpkins and found them to be much easier to carve. These immigrants weren't Druids. Halloween is a mutt. A day made up of bits and pieces of other traditions and customs. Masquerades were done at Christmas and Easter. Begging for candy was done on Thanksgiving.

STEVIE

So what does it mean?

ARTIE

It means we can dress up for Halloween.

MRS. HENSWORTH

These children cannot bring these pagan ways into this school, it's a complete violation of separation of church and state.

MATT

Actually, he can. All restrictions on the state establishing a religion prohibits government employees from establishing or endorsing a religion. Students are not government employees. The Establishment Clause doesn't apply to us.

Everyone turns to look at Matt, who is seated beside his NERDY-LOOKING PARENTS, who are beaming.

DOUG

What he said.

ARTIE

Hey, if I want to put up a Halloween decoration, I can. It's like my freedom of speech.

DOUG

Freedom of speech. Good one!

HARRY

So, if I want to burn the flag...

JUNI

Don't push it, Harry.

Mrs. Hensworth

All right, then, it's All Hallow's Eve, a Catholic holy day. Are we celebrating that?

Ted jumps up to his feet.

TED

No, it's just the evening before All Hallow's Day. It's no more a religious holiday than Christmas Eve.

Carol is about to gavel him, so he throws up his arms in surrender.

TED (CONT'D)

Sorry, got carried away. You're doing fine, Doug. Continue, please.

He sits.

MRS. HENSWORTH

Well, then, if it's not a holiday, you shouldn't be celebrating it, because there's nothing to celebrate. The ban can still be made.

CAROL

You can't have it both ways, Janet. You can't demand we ban it because it's a religious holiday *and* because it's not.

General discussion erupts. Carol finally gets up and bangs her gavel.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Order, please! Now, Doug, is there anything else you need to say?

DOUG

(shuffling cards)

Well, just that Halloween is a great tradition that lets everyone be part of it. If it doesn't exclude anyone, how can the school exclude it? Thank you.

Doug steps down and takes his seat. There's a lot of applause.

CAROL

A motion has been put to the assembly to reverse the ban on Halloween celebration in school.

TED

Seconded!

CAROL

All in favor of reversing the ban, say "aye."

Vast majority of the room responds.

CAROL (CONT'D)

All those opposed?

The religious clique in the back of the room sound off. But it's a small minority.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Well, the vote is recorded. The parent's petition to ban Halloween is hereby overruled by the Parent Teacher Association vote.

Applause. Doug is the center of attention as kids rush up to him, pat his back, shake his head, muss his hair.

He looks over and sees Leslie and her friends looking at him. He smiles. She smiles and gives him a "thumbs up."

DISSOLVED TO:

EXT. VILLAGE -- NIGHT

Out in the countryside, circ. 1650 A few buildings, barns, horses. The Townhall is the center of activity, where some wagons are parked. The lights are on.

A lone rider, ICHABOD CRANE, comes up to the building and dismounts

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

It's a new version of an old classic, that only John Woo can tell. The legend of Sleepy Hollow as you've never seen it before, in "Hiding Dragon, Crouching Pumpkin."

INT. TOWN HALL -- NIGHT

We're in the Dutch settlement of Sleepy Hollow. There's a party going on. A tall, odd-looking man enters the room. It's Crane, the new school master.

He sees the beautiful KATRINA VAN TASSLE, daughter of the mayor.

ICHABOD

(in choppy, dubbed English)

Hello, good madam. My name is Ichabod Crane. I am to be your new school master.

KATRINA

(dubbed English)

Welcome, good sir. I am Katrina Van Tassle, daughter of the mayor. Look out behind you!

ICHABOD

What is this I see?

Whooshing noises. The door is kicked in. It is the HEADLESS HORSEMAN, in a dark suit and flowing cape.

The PARTY GOERS all dash to the sides of the hall.

KATRINA

It is the Headless Horseman!

There is echoing demonic laughter.

KATRINA (CONT'D)

See how he attempts to frighten you!

ICHABOD

Ah, Headless Horseman, I have heard of your legend. Do you think I fear you? Let us have at it!

Ichabod strikes a martial arts pose. As does the Headless Horseman. The Horseman lunges, flying across the room.

Ichabod leaps high, flipping over the beams, landing behind the Horseman who has smashed into the wall.

KATRINA

Ichabod, you are such a graceful fighter! What style do you practice?

ICHABOD

Crane style, of course.

More demonic laughter. The Horseman flips up and cartwheels over to Ichabod. They trade off martial art moves to a stalemate.

ICHABOD (CONT'D)

Ah, you think you are strong, but I am stronger!

More fighting and leaping.

KATRINA

Watch out, Ichabod Crane, he has a pumpkin!

The Horseman pulls out a flaming pumpkin and throws it at Ichabod. Ichabod bends over backward as the pumpkin passes over him in "bullet time." Ichabod rights himself and strikes a pose. Freeze frame.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

"Hiding Dragon, Crouching Pumpkin."
This Thursday on The Movie Network's
Shock-tober Film Festival.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

The kitchen phone answering machine is showing one message. Ted hits the play button.

ANSWERING MACHINE

This is for Ted Minelli. I'm Reggie Babbitt at National Radio Network. Just wanted to let you know we like your Halloween restaurant bit and want to buy it. You know what?

(MORE)

ANSWERING MACHINE (CONT'D)

I'll email you the details and where to submit the invoice to. I'm looking forward to seeing more material from you. Let me know if you want an audio file of the finished piece.

We see Ted's eyes get big and he starts to do a little victory dance.

CAROL

Good for you, Ted. But it's radio, you know?

Ted pulls up short.

INT. DOUG'S ROOM -- DAY

Doug is trying on his costume. Looks good. He checks the visor then strikes some poses in front of the mirror.

INT. KITCHEN -- MORNING

Everyone's getting ready for school. Helena's eating breakfast wearing her wimple. Eve, wearing a robe, is eating cereal while on her cell phone.

EVE

Are you wearing the poodle skirt or not?

Doug comes down in his costume. Juni enters with Carol in mid-discussion. He's wearing ratty-looking clothes.

JUNI

C'mon, Mom. We're all going out bombing. Nothing serious.

CAROL

I don't want you going out of control. I don't want to see you on some episode of "Cops."

JUNI

It's just shaving cream and silly string. Not serious string or real string. Silly string, Mom. No one can get hurt.

DOUG

My friend says that his friend was shooting silly string and there was an open flame and the string caught
(MORE)

DOUG (CONT'D)
fire and it burned all the way back
into the kids holding the can and it
exploded.

Carol gasps.

JUNI
Shut up, armor-boy.

DOUG
Oh, too late.

Juni takes a swing at Doug who dodges it, pulling his broad
sword.

CAROL
No swordplay in the house! Doug,
eat your breakfast. Juni, after
school, we'll discuss it.

JUNI
C'mon, Mom. It's not egging. We're
not throwing eggs.

CAROL
And you never will. People starving
in the world and you kids throwing
food around.

HELENA
I'm trick-or-treating for UNICEF.

JUNI
Do they still do that?

HELENA
I've got the box at school. Won't
that help starving children?

CAROL
Yes, that will, honey.

JUNI
'Cause I can send them some eggs,
too.

EVE
You're about as funny as Ebola.

JUNI
Shaving cream isn't going to hurt.
It's practically like taking a bath.
Baths are good, right?

DOUG

I heard that last year, some kids used hair removing cream instead of shaving cream, and the next day all those kids were bald.

JUNI

Be quiet, Doug.

DOUG

I don't know how you can waste your time with that.

JUNI

What are you talking about?

DOUG

Wasting time throwing toilet paper and hitting each other with socks full of baby powder when you could be out getting candy. That's nuts.

JUNI

You'll find out when you get older.

EVE

Heaven forbid.

EXT. MINELLI HOUSE -- DAY

Ted is building something. He's got a section of ladder, the canister vacuum, a white sheet a step ladder, an oscillating fan missing it's blades, some old graduation gowns, masks, gloves, etc.

Carol steps out with the kids on the way to school. Eve is wearing a poodle skirt with 1950s clothes.

KIDS

Bye, Dad.

TED

Bye, kids. See you after school.

CAROL

What are you up to now?

The vacuum has been modified to roll on the section of ladder like a train. The hose and wand are plugged into the exhaust and have been fashioned upright. Ted is placing a sheet over the frame work and vacuum and it lays there. He secures the bottom of the sheet. He plugs in the vacuum cleaner into a clapper device.

TED

It's just about done. I was about to test it. Care to do the honors?

Carol shakes her head then claps.

The vacuum comes to life. The exhaust blows up the sheet, which fills out as a ghost, arms waving. The vacuum rolls forward on the section of track.

TED (CONT'D)

Works good.

CAROL

You're sick, you know that? It amazes me to no end that the city gave you a gun.

TED

Well, no one's put it in writing yet, so I'm safe.

The ghost reverses itself on the track, reaches the end and shuts off.

TED (CONT'D)

That'll do. Let me set up the mechanical man now.

Ted stands the step ladder upright, putting the fan on the paint shelf, then puts a Halloween mask over the fan. The gown will go over the ladder for the body.

EXT. DAVIDSON'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Dave on the roof, looks down while strapping his reindeer in place. He sees Ted working on his stuff.

DAVE

What a nutty guy.

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

Miss Lynn's class is having a party. Everyone is in costume, eating candy and cake.

Every time Doug tries to eat a cupcake, his visor slips closed. After a couple of tries, Leslie, as Dorothy of Oz, walks up and holds the visor for him.

MISS LYNN

Class, class. Attention class.

(MORE)

MISS LYNN (CONT'D)

It's been a very exciting Halloween season and we're lucky to be able to have the party today. I think we should toast Doug on his efforts.

Class cheers.

MISS LYNN (CONT'D)

And I was very impressed with his research and presentation. So, as a special assignment, I'd like you all to write an essay on your favorite Halloween memory.

Class boos. Doug lowers his visor.

MISS LYNN (CONT'D)

Oh, calm down. It'll be due Monday. You don't have to do it tonight.

Class cheers.

MISS LYNN (CONT'D)

But you do have to do it.

Class boos.

VINNY

(to Doug)

Thanks, Doofus.

As Doug goes to eat again, Vinny shoves him and his visor drops.

EXT. MINELLI HOUSE -- DAY

Some MOTHERS and CHILDREN in costumes are gathering on the lawn. Carol has Helena in her Galaxy Ranger suit and a wimple. It's chilly out and people have coats and jackets on.

Ted is amongst them.

MOM

What are you honey?

HELENA

I'm a Galaxy Princess!

Doug steps out of the house with his costume on and visor down.

CAROL

Doug, where's your coat?

Doug mutters something.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Don't you argue with me, young man!
And raise your visor when you talk
to your mother.

DOUG

(lifting visor)

What?

CAROL

Your coat. It's freezing out here.

DOUG

It's not that cold, mom.

CAROL

I know how cold it is. I'm standing
out in it. Put on your coat.

DOUG

But mom, if I put on the coat, no
one can see my costume.

CAROL

Well, no one can see it if you're in
the hospital with pneumonia.

DOUG

Oh, mom.

He goes back in.

Juni comes out of the house, in old clothes and carrying a
back pack, which looks heavy and clangs, what with it being
filled with cans of shaving cream. Eve is behind him.

EVE

Busted.

CAROL

Juni, come here.

JUNI

Yeah, Mom?

CAROL

Okay, I thought about it.

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

Even though I'm not fond of the idea,
it's important to do these goofy
kind of things with your friends.
So, here.

She takes a can of shaving cream out of her coat pocket.

JUNI

I can go? Thanks, Mom.

CAROL

I got you the kind with lanolin in
it. It'll help keep your skin nice
and soft.

JUNI

Hmmm, okay, thanks, Mom.

Juni pulls away to make a cell call. He looks at Eve and
gives a big phony smile.

JUNI (CONT'D)

We're a go, Harry!

EVE

For now. I'm sure I'll be able to
use this against you sometime soon.
(to Carol)
Okay, Mom, I'm headed to Sharon's.
I'm helping her hand out candy.

Eve is off. Ted walks up to Carol.

TED

Kids. They're in a world of their
own. Oh, wait, the ghost's light
bulb went out. I have to fix that!

Ted goes over and starts adjusting his lawn decorations.

Artie and Stevie come up in costume and jackets, ready to
go. Artie is a ghoul, with bloody face and a knife in his
head. Stevie is a bum.

ARTIE

Hi, Mrs. Minelli. Is Doug ready?

CAROL

He's getting his coat on.

STEVIE

Him, too.

CAROL
(to mothers)
We ready to go?

Doug comes out with a coat on.

DOUG
Which way you going mom?

CAROL
Up the block. Coming?

DOUG
We're going down the block.

CAROL
Okay. Be careful. You know the
drill.

BOYS
Houses we know. Don't eat candy
until it's been checked.

CAROL
I'll see you later. Be good.

DOUG
Bye, mom. Bye, Helena. Bye, Dad!

HELENA
Bye! Good trick-or-treating.

The moms and kids head down the block.

DOUG
You, too!

Juni opens up his back pack to put the can of shaving cream
in. The back is filled with cans of shaving cream. The
other boys look in.

JUNI
What?

DOUG
Nothing.

Juni is off.

JUNI
I'll see you later, rat.

DOUG

I hope not. I'll be with people I like!

ARTIE

I can't believe you spent all that money for a costume and you have to wear a coat.

DOUG

That's not funny.

They look. The parents have turned a corner. Ted is inside his ghost decoration. The boys unzip their coats and stick them in their bags.

DOUG (CONT'D)

We're going for the record, guys. The most candy ever. We go 'til dusk.

STEVIE

Dusk?

ARTIE

Don't chicken out now. We'll be meeting the other guys later.

STEVIE

I dunno. Dusk.

DOUG

This is going to be the best Halloween ever!

EXT. FRONT DOOR -- DAY

The door opens. Kids yell.

KIDS

Trick-or-treat!

Candies get tossed into sacks.

EXT. FRONT WALK -- DAY

Doug and crew meet some KIDS leaving.

KID #1

Don't bother.

DOUG

What?

Kids hold out "Mary Jane" taffy bars.

KID #2
Mary Janes.

DOUG
Eww.

They head off, Stevie holds back.

STEVIE
But I like Mary Janes.

COSTUMED KIDS run by them.

ARTIE
Now what?

KID #1
House giving out full-sized chocolate bars!

DOUG
Full-sized? All right!

They hustle off.

INT. MINELLI HOUSE -- AFTERNOON

Ted is at the window, holding a bowl of candy. A PARENT comes up with his TWO SMALL CHILDREN. They approach the door. They step on a mat, which activates the ghost, a cawing raven and the mechanical man with spooky sound effects. The man is made up from the step ladder, oscillating fan with a face mask on it and the gown over the ladder, so his "head" goes from side to side.

The two kids run off terrified. Ted looks surprised as the parent chases after them.

TED
Wait! You're candy!

He shrugs and eats the candy. The phone rings. Ted gets it.

TED (CONT'D)
Hello? But it's Halloween! Yes, sir.

EXT. STREET -- AFTERNOON

Carol and the group are watching the kids get candy at a house. Carol's cell phone rings.

It plays the theme from "The Adams Family." Everyone looks at Carol.

CAROL
Ted programmed it.
(on phone)
Hello?

INTERCUT:

INT. MINELLI HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Ted on phone.

TED
I just got called into work. They're putting on extra cops.

CAROL
Did you tell them it's Halloween?

TED
Yes. That's why they want extra men on.

CAROL
Okay. Be careful. I love you.

TED
I love you, too. Happy Halloween.

CAROL
You, too.

EXT. STREET -- AFTERNOON

TEEN screams in terror when he is pelted with water balloons and squirted with shaving cream.

Juni, Harry and some OLDER BOYS and GIRLS are chasing each other. They're all pretty much covered with shaving cream at this point.

EXT. FRONT DOOR -- DAY

Doug and the boys are getting candy from the LADY OF THE HOUSE.

LADY OF THE HOUSE
What a great costume.

DOUG
Thank you.

LADY OF THE HOUSE
Are you King Arthur?

DOUG
No, I'm the Scary Knight.

LADY OF THE HOUSE
Who?

DOUG
He's the monster in the "Scary Knight"
movies.

LADY OF THE HOUSE
Never heard of it.

EXT. FRONT STOOP -- LATER

Doug and the boys are at another house getting candy from a
HOUSEWIFE.

HOUSEWIFE
Great costume.

DOUG
Thanks.

HOUSEWIFE
What's that, Sir Lancelet?

DOUG
No, I'm the Scary Knight. It's a
horror movie. It's had sequels.

HOUSEWIFE
Oh. Well, it's a very sharp looking
costume.

EXT. HOUSE -- LATER

Doug and the boys are at yet another house getting candy
from a RETIRED GUY.

RETIRED GUY
Here you go. Whoa, slick costume.
Are you one of the Knights of the
Round Table?

DOUG
Yes.

They move on.

EXT. MAFIA LADY'S BLOCK -- DAY

The boys are leaving a house.

DOUG
So, how you doing?

STEVIE
Okay, okay. I guess.

DOUG
It's not so bad.

STEVIE
Not so bad.

Doug hands him a candy bar and goes ahead.

Some LITTLE KIDS pass them going the opposite way. The kids are in costume and are so happy. Steve smiles at this.

Down the street comes Vinny and a group of kids on bikes. They've got water balloons.

They ride up to the little kids.

Stevie sees them coming.

Vinny & co. raise their arms to throw.

Stevie watches in panic.

The Little Kids aren't aware of the danger.

The gang throws, Vinny cackling.

Doug turns to see what's about to happen.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
No!

He leaps to the side, between the balloons and the Little Kids.

He takes one, two, three water balloons to the torso before hitting the ground.

The Little Kids see what happened, scream and run off, arms and snacks flailing.

The gang ride off, laughing.

Doug and the others race over to Stevie, laying there in a puddle of water.

DOUG

Steve! Steve! You okay?

ARTIE

What were you thinking, man?

STEVIE

I didn't want those kids to have their Halloween ruined like mine was. I didn't want them to miss out.

BILL

Dude, you're wet.

MATT

That was pretty amazing.

DOUG

Come on, Steve, there's candy out there with our name on it.

They get up and walk on. Doug suddenly stops.

ARTIE

What?

DOUG

Don't you realize where we are?

STEVIE

Where? Where?

DOUG

Mafia Lady's house.

HANK

Mafia Lady lives around here?

DOUG

Oh, yeah.

BILL

How do you know?

ARTIE

Doug stole fifty dollars from her.

DOUG

I didn't really steal---

BILL

No you didn't.

DOUG
I just said I didn't---

STEVIE
He did! We almost got killed!

MATT
That's hard to imagine.

DOUG
She lives two houses down.

BILL
We should like so paper her house.

DOUG
I'm not so sure.

BILL
Show us the house, Doug. We'll take
care of the rest.

DOUG
Just over here.

They walk down the two houses.

EXT. MAFIA LADY'S STOOP -- CONTINUOUS

The kids approach the front lawn. All but Steve pull rolls
of toilet paper out of their bags. Hank pulls a second roll
from his bag and hands it to Steve.

Doug notices something. The door is ajar.

Doug starts walking up the walk to the door. The others
hold back.

ARTIE
Doug? Where you going?

Doug shushes them and peeks in the door. The boys go silent.

DOUG
(softly)
Hello?

There's some money on the floor, fifty dollar bills. He
hears some muffled noises.

He pushes in the door and enters.

INT. MAFIA'S LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Doug steps in. The house was probably the height of fashion in 1970, now not so much. The furniture, what you can see of it, is covered in plastic slipcovers.

There's boxes and piles of newspapers, more than is necessary.

He takes a few steps. Suddenly, a cat lands on an end table next to him. He's startled, pulls his sword, then sees it's a cat.

He takes a few more steps and another cat pounces down on the sofa, scaring him again. Then another cat.

Doug looks around. There seem to be dozens of cats. Mafia Lady is a cat hoarder as well.

FRANKIE (O.S.)

Just tell us where the rest of the money is.

Doug makes his way to the kitchen door and looks in. There's Frankie and Johnny, standing over Mafia Lady. She's duct taped to a folding chair.

INT. MAFIA'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

Again, a 1970s affair, only now in avocado green.

JOHNNY

You better talk.

FRANKIE

It's my money. My dad deserved his cut, now I want it.

MAFIA LADY

It's under the sink, you delinquents.

Frankie opens up the cabinet under the sink. There's a couple of canvas sacks. He opens one up. There's bills and bills of money, all fifties. He begins stuffing money in all his pockets.

FRANKIE

Jackpot!

JOHNNY

Good, good. Can't we go now, Frankie?
Can't we?

Frankie opens a drawer and pulls out a big knife.

FRANKIE

Sure. Right after I finish up.

JOHNNY

What are you doing, Frankie, what are you doing?

FRANKIE

Can't leave a trail, Johnny. No witnesses.

INT. HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Doug gasps and backs up, stepping on a cat's tail. The cat screams bloody murder.

INT. KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

Frankie, Johnny and Mafia Lady look. They see Doug run off.

FRANKIE

Damn! It's some kid. After him.

They hurry after him.

EXT. MAFIA LADY'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Doug bursts out, followed by the thugs. The boys scatter, screaming, tossing their toilet paper, candy and bags into the air.

The thugs have to re-orient themselves then catch sight of Doug and go after him.

EXT. STREET -- EVENING

Doug is running hard, still carrying his candy sack and sword. The Thugs are catching up. Frankie gets hold of his shoulder and spins him around. And Doug swings the bag around, clocking Frankie in the side of the head. He's down, Johnny trips over him and the bag splits open, sending candy everywhere. Doug whack them a couple of times with the sword and runs off.

EXT. FRONT LAWN -- CONTINUOUS

The boys re-group.

ARTIE

What was that?

STEVIE

Doug's in trouble.

HANK

Call 911.

Artie pulls out his phone and dials. It's busy.

ARTIE

Busy.

MATT

They're no doubt overwhelmed by pranks and other dubious calls which are part and parcel of mischief night.

BILL

What he said.

HANK

What do we do?

STEVIE

Hank, Matt, go to the police station. Or find a cop. Bill, call Doug's house, get his dad. Artie, you're with me. Let's move it, people!

They all hustle off.

EXT. STREET -- MOMENTS LATER

It's Doug's street. He runs to his house.

DOUG

Mom! Dad!

Drat, the door's locked. Nobody's home. There's a note on the door: "Gone for burgers."

DOUG (CONT'D)

They went for burgers without me?

The thugs are coming.

Doug runs to the neighbor's door. No answer there. He sees the thugs coming down the block. Looking around, he sees Dave's master plug by the outdoor outlet.

Just as the thugs approach, Doug closes his visor and plugs in Dave's wire.

The house lights up in a blinding display of bulbs. Literally blinding. The sudden flash of light practically knocks Johnny and Frankie back.

Doug unplugs the light and runs into his back yard.

The thugs, who can only see white spots, try to follow.

EXT. BACK YARD -- CONTINUOUS

The fun house is still standing. The thugs come into the yard, just catching a glimpse of Doug going in it.

They crawl in after.

Doug comes out the slide end. He takes off some of his costume and climbs up the tree. He finds the right set of ropes.

INT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Frankie and Johnny are bumping their heads and getting tangled in strings and displays.

EXT. FUN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Doug pulls on a rope. The knot comes undone and the canvas top collapses onto the thugs.

Doug jumps down and hides behind Ted's contraption.

Thugs stumble out and start looking around, Johnny wearing the toilet seat around his head. They see Doug. They decide to sneak up, crawling through the contraption.

So, naturally, Doug turns it on. Much screaming as the thugs get caught up in the moving works.

Doug runs out, to the boat yard.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Officer Ted is sitting in his patrol car. Hank and Matt come running up from behind the car. They see Ted and run up to the car.

HANK
Officer! Officer!

MATT
Mr. Minelli!

TED
What is it, boys?

EXT. BOAT YARD -- NIGHT

Dark and eerily quiet. Doug pokes his head up out of a boat. He hears the thugs approach.

They are looking the worse for wear.

FRANKIE

Why don't you know where he went?

JOHNNY

Me? Why don't you know?

FRANKIE

I gotta do everything?

INT. BOAT -- CONTINUOUS

Doug ducks and bangs into some old clamming rakes that drop and clang.

EXT. BOAT YARD -- NIGHT

They heard that. They approach the boat and start to climb up.

FRANKIE

No, really, kid, we don't want to hurt you.

JOHNNY

We just got to insure your silence.

FRANKIE

Shut up.

With that, Doug pops up with the pirate sword and whacks Johnny on the head.

Frankie is climbing up, over the gangplank and Doug knocks it loose, sending Frankie to the ground.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Man, how many swords has that kid got?

Doug hits the anchor line, dropping the anchor.

It lands on Johnny's toes.

As they begin to climb up again, Doug grabs a rope attached to the mast and swings out to the next boat, an ancient, rotted cruiser.

Johnny and Frankie see him. They go to the railing and make a leap to the next boat.

EXT. NEXT BOAT -- CONTINUOUS

Doug scampers across the boat and drops into the next boat.

The thugs leap into the boat, crash through the deck, into the boat, and break through the bottom hull.

EXT. THIRD BOAT -- CONTINUOUS

A big, wooden cruiser. Frankie and Johnny get up just in time to see Doug go below. They follow.

Doug comes up the forward hatch, locks it, then climbs to the cabin and shuts the hatch and bolts it. He runs off.

The thugs start banging against the hatch, finally breaking through.

EXT. DEADMAN'S WOODS -- MOMENTS LATER

Doug comes to the path into the woods. He hears the thugs coming. He runs into the woods, but gets snagged on a branch.

The thugs just catch sight of him and follow.

Doug pulls off his shirt and enters the woods.

EXT. CLEARING -- MOMENTS LATER

Doug comes to the clearing. He stops to get his breath. It seems clear. Suddenly, Frankie and Johnny grab him from behind.

FRANKIE

(panting)

Not funny kid.

JOHNNY

(winded)

You shouldn't go sneaking into other people's houses.

DOUG

I didn't do anything. I didn't see you kidnap Mafia Lady.

FRANKIE

Mafia Lady? Oh, that's what you brats call her. That's pretty good.

JOHNNY

Can we get back to Vitelli's house now? I don't like this. We got all that money just laying there.

FRANKIE

Yeah, let's get back and finish this.

They both turn with Doug between them. Frankie and Johnny each get hit with an egg square in the face.

Suddenly a tire rolls behind them. They then get knocked over by a couple more.

JUNI (O.S.)

That's far enough.

Juni and more neighborhood kids, along with Stevie and Artie, step out of the woods, armed to the teeth with eggs, shaving cream, silly string, chalk socks and rolls of toilet paper.

JUNI (CONT'D)

Get over here, Doug.

JOHNNY

What the---?

DOUG

Juni!

FRANKIE

Oh, we gonna dance, kid?

JUNI

Happy Halloween, punk.

At the top of the hill, a group of the friends push dozens of tires down the hill.

Doug dodges them, but the thugs are down.

The kids pelt the thugs with eggs. Silly string and shaving cream fly. The thugs can't see and are now slipping and sliding and tripping over the tires. Once they're down, the kids move in with chalk socks and belt them into submission.

Sirens are heard. Flashing lights appear. It's the cops, lead by Ted, with Agent Baker in tow, bursting through the bush.

TED

What's going on?

DOUG

Dad!

JUNI

They were trying to take Doug!

The cops make their way to the thugs and stand them up.
They clean away their faces.

COP 2

Lookie here, Ted. Frankie Mazella.
Your parole officer is looking for
you. Seems you missed a couple of
sessions.

ARTIE

Any rewards?

TED

I don't think so, Art. But nice job
anyway.

ARTIE

I thought there'd be a reward.

Agent Baker spies some of the fifties in Frankie's pockets.

AGENT BAKER

Mazella, eh? Any relation to Rocco
Mazella?

FRANKIE

My dad? No.

AGENT BAKER

Interesting. He worked with Vinny
Vitelli making funny money years
ago. So imagine our surprise when a
fifty pops up with the same serial
number as your dad's bills. It was
nice to finally find that stash.
And this ties you in nicely, Junior.

TED

Come along, boys.

The cops walk Johnny and Frankie out of the woods.

JOHNNY

I guess I ain't getting the money
for the motel back, neither.

FRANKIE

Shut up.

STEVIE

That was better than Satanists.

EXT. STREET -- MOMENTS LATER

Outside the path into the woods. The cops take Frankie and Johnny and put them in the squad car. The others emerge.

Vinny goes up to Doug.

VINNY

For a bunch of weenies, that was pretty awesome.

DOUG

Thanks.

Carol, Eve and Helena and other adults are there.

Carol has some fast food bags. Helena has her candy sack.

CAROL

Boys, boys, are you all right?

DOUG

Fine, Mom, we're fine.

She hugs them both.

JUNI

Jeez, Mom, not in front of the guys.

She doesn't care. She hugs them tighter. He finally hugs back. Then Eve joins in.

DOUG

Hey, Mafia Lady's still tied up!

He tries to run off. Ted grabs him.

TED

Oh no you don't.

AGENT BAKER

It's okay, kid, Mrs. Vitelli was found. They tracked the bogus money to her. Quite a shock to find her tied up like that. They took her to the hospital, just to be sure.

DOUG

Mrs. Vitelli?

AGENT BAKER

That's her name.

JUNI

That doesn't sound so scary.

DOUG

I lost all my candy, though.

Helena holds up a bag bursting with candy.

HELENA

You can have some of mine.

Eve pulls out some gum

EVE

And mine.

DOUG

Thanks.

TED

Are we done here, Agent?

AGENT BAKER

I think so. For now. But don't you boys try to leave town.

DOUG & JUNI

No, sir.

CAROL

Home, boys.

TED

Okay, people, show's over. Break it up.

Leslie comes up to Doug.

LESLIE

That was something.

DOUG

Yeah.

LESLIE

How do you top this for next year?

DOUG

Well, I'll be older next year. In middle school. When you're older like that, you don't go trick-or-treating. It's for kids.

LESLIE

Oh, I was thinking maybe next year
we can go trick-or-treating together.

DOUG

Sure. I'll meet you after school.

LESLIE

Great.

DOUG

You bet.

LESLIE

I have to go.

DOUG

Yeah, me too.

LESLIE

Bye.

DOUG

Bye. See you at school.

The family heads home. Doug looks lost in thought.

TED

You okay, Doug?

DOUG

I'm just thinking.

TED

Thinking what?

DOUG

Only 365 days 'til next Halloween.

They walk home.

The End