

# **ANYWHERE BUT UP**

PILOT

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. ADAM'S APARTMENT - DAY

ADAM BAUME - mid 30's - sits in front of a video camera, struggling to put it into position. He sits down in a make shift confessional booth using his living room as the backdrop. It's brightly lit with old comic books and vintage movies posters scattered along the walls from the heyday of Hollywood.

ADAM TALKING HEAD

ADAM

Is this thing on? Well the red light is blinking I think it's good to go. Ah, yeah, OK here we go... Hi, Adam Baume. Originally from Kansas, ye ha! A few things about me, I work at a local video store as manager, with a great group of guys. I am a self proclaimed film aficionado and when I am not working or watching a movie I am rehearsing monologues and scenes from my favorite films. I guess one day I hope to be one of Hollywood's greatest star's. It will happen. Maybe not soon, but it will. And when it does, Hollywood better be ready.

EXT. VIDEO NATALIE- DAY 1

A 1970's mini van pulls up to a hole in the wall mini mall. Adam gets out and heads towards the double doors of VIDEO NATALIE.

He theatrically swings the doors open.

ADAM

WELCOME!

INT. VIDEO NATALIE- DAY 1

The small video store has a few scattered customers lingering in the isles. Connected inside is a small Chinese eatery called WOK THIS WAY. A little Asian man sits in the corner hidden behind his large wok and table top stove.

The movies are mostly DVD's and cassette's, arranged on wire racks. The decor looks like a blast from the past, interior still has the original floral wall paper from 1993.

ADAM

This is home sweet home to me.  
Never a dull moment here, always  
something to do.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO NATALIE - SURVEILLANCE CAMERA

Adam wears a black cape tied around his neck and begins to light saber battle with Glenn (20's)- the actual manager of the video store.

GLENN TALKING HEAD

GLENN

We have fun. I have worked here for  
4 years now, Adam for 6. It's been  
great. Really good time. Well  
beside not having many customers  
due to Netflix and Blockbuster. But  
we have a pretty steady stream of  
senior citizens that like to come  
in.

INT. VIDEO NATALIE- MORNING DAY 1

ADAM

Sales have been slow, the last few  
years. But we are going strong.

Adam walks by a wooden door and swings it open. DOM - the owner of the store - sits in the bathroom/office smoking a cigarette. A cloud of smoke fills the tiny room while he sorts through an assortment of pink papers on his desk.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Mr. Dom says there is going to be  
some big changes really soon.

(To Dom)

Didn't you? We are crossing our  
fingers.

Dom looks over to Adam, giving him a look of disgust. Adam closes the door.

ADAM (CONT'D)

He's never very happy. Here we have  
our resident stoner and gaming  
professional, Cliff.

CLIFF stands in front of a mounted television playing SUPER  
SMASH BROS. His tongue hangs out of his mouth with blood shot  
eyes, lost in his own world.

Directly behind him, RANKA (29) a white guy dressed in  
traditional Indian garb thrashes a clock.

RANKA

Fucking piece of shit CLOCK!

ADAM

Ranka has some anger issues, but  
his sponsor say's he is doing much  
better.

RANKA TALKING HEAD

RANKA

This place is a piece of shit.  
Always stuck doing the dirty work.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO NATALIE - SURVEILLANCE CAMERA - DAY

Ranka is seen pushing an OLD MAN out of the adult section of  
the video store. The old man has his pants unbuttoned and  
tries to pull them up as he's rushed out the front door.

CUT TO:

GLENN TALKING HEAD

GLENN

This place feels like home.

CLIFF TALKING HEAD

CLIFF

(Confused)  
Um. Ugh...

RANKA TALKING HEAD

RANKA

(Aggressively)  
I hope this place burns.

ADAM TALKING HEAD

ADAM  
We're one big, happy family.

Adam apprehensively smiles into the camera.

INT. VIDEO NATALIE- AFTERNOON DAY 1

Adam holds a stack of movies in his arms and begins to make his rounds around the store restocking. He places the last movie on the rack and goes to greet a customer standing at the adult adventure section.

ADAM  
Hi, can I help you find anything?

BARRY  
(Startled)  
No. I'm fine.

ADAM  
OK, well just holler if you need me. Wait a minute, Barry? Barry Shatz?

BARRY  
(Confused)  
Adam?

ADAM  
Yes Adam! How have you been?

BARRY  
You work here?

ADAM  
Well, yeah...

BARRY  
(mollified)  
Wow, how are things?

ADAM  
I've been well, what brings you down this way?

BARRY  
Just looking for a movie, you guys are like the only video store left in this town.

ADAM

Hahaha. Well, we try. How is business?

BARRY

Good. Good. Producing a new film, looks promising--

ADAM

Well geese, it's so great to see you. I know we had a bit of falling out awhile back, but it's nice to see you come around.

BARRY

You still acting?

ADAM

A little bit, some, no not really. But, I am getting back into it. Can't give up on the dream...

BARRY

Well, it was nice catching up, I have the kids in the car and need to get--

ADAM

You want me to ring that up for ya?

Barry holds a DVD of AMANDA STONES AND THE NIPPLES OF DOOM.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO NATALIE - CASH REGISTER - AFTERNOON DAY 1

Adam stands on one side of the counter ringing up Barry's DVD. He places the movie in a brown paper bag and hands it to him.

BARRY

Thanks. It was nice seeing you maybe we can catch up some time.

ADAM

Yeah, that's sounds great.

Barry hurries out of the store and jumps into a small sports car and screeches out of the parking lot.

CUT TO:

ADAM TALKING HEAD

ADAM

Barry and I go way back. Used to be my manager when I first moved to L.A. But ah, things got sour, creative differences I guess. But things are different now...

EXT. HAMMERNICK STUDIO - EVENING DAY 1

We see a gritty apartment complex and a row of garages connected to one another. Inside an open garage are few people sitting in fold out lawn chairs. Two people sit on a wooden makeshift stage; one across from the other performing the diner scene from TRAINING DAY. They are anything but good.

ROBERT HAMMERNICK - tall, dark and burly, almost a chunkier Brawny man - sits to the side in his beach chair. In an instant he flings up and starts aggressively critiquing the actors on stage.

ROBERT

You need to have shwager! A hitch in yo giddy up. You're too timid. You're suppose to be the boss, king! You feel what I am say'n? Do you? Good.

(To other actor)

You're just his bitch for a day! Take it. You feel me? My Nigga!

Robert swiftly takes his seat. Settles in.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Action!

INT. HAMMERNICK STUDIO - EVENING DAY 1ROBERT TALKING HEAD

ROBERT

I have been doing this for over 25 years. Use to work as a background extra for all the major studios. Then, when I retired I felt obligated to be a guiding light for the new-comers. They don't call it the boulevard of broken dreams for nothing. These kids are sheep out here and I am their shepard.

Adam jumps up to the stage and pulls up a bar stool. He wears a black leather jacket, blue jeans and sneakers.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Every teacher has a special pupil and Adam is mine. I like to compare him to a young Brad Pitt. Why he got out of the industry beats me. He doesn't talk about it. But I tell him to use it. Reach deep and grab those dark secrets and pull it out for everyone to see.

CUT TO:

INT. HAMMERNICK STUDIO - STAGE - EVENING DAY 1

ADAM

I will be performing for you a loosely improved monologue from S.E. Hinton's The Outsiders.

Adam bows his head, and takes in deep breaths. Everyone in the room sits quietly as he prepares. Adam lifts his head and begins to explode with dialogue.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I ain't go'n walk again! Not even on crutches. But you want to know sumt'n? YOU WANT TO KNOW SUMT'N?

(BEAT)

I'm scared... And scene.

As Adam finishes his monologue the class sits speechless. Robert stands up giving him a standing ovation as the sound of clapping starts to scatter throughout the garage.

ROBERT TALKING HEAD

ROBERT

He's just great, isn't he? Always bringing something new, something fresh. Beautiful.

CUT TO:

ADAM TALKING HEAD

ADAM

I love it, being on stage. I feel at home.

(MORE)



ADAM (CONT'D)  
Sometimes when I lie in bed, I  
think about when I am a huge star,  
it's exciting.

CUT TO:

ROBERT TALKING HEAD

ROBERT  
Hollywood better watch out. The  
Adam Baume is coming.

EXT. VIDEO NATALIE - MORNING - DAY 2

As Adam drives up to the store two large trucks are parked  
outside. Four hispanic workers move giant boxes from the  
store into the trucks. Adam quickly gets out of his car.

ADAM  
What the hell is going on? Do you  
guys know what is going on?

The group of Mexicans shrug their shoulders and shake their  
heads.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
You can't do this.

GLENN  
Adam, what's going on?

ADAM  
I don't know. They're taking  
everything out of the store and  
putting them in these trucks. Did  
you know about this?

GLENN  
I didn't know about this.

Dom comes from behind one of the trucks holding a stack of  
pink papers.

ADAM  
Dom, what the hell is going on?

DOM  
I tole you dat dis was going to  
happ'n.

ADAM  
Wait, hold on. I don't remember hearing anything of this.

DOM  
I tole you.

Dom walks to Glenn and hands him a pink slip, then one to Adam. He looks down at it.

ADAM  
Let go!? What are we to do now?

RANKA  
What the hell is going on?

GLENN  
Dom is closing the store and giving everyone these.

Glenn hands Ranka the pink slip. As he reads it his eyes light up like a kid on Christmas morning.

CUT TO:

RANKA TALKING HEAD

RANKA  
(Excited)  
We should burn it.

CUT TO:

DOM TALKING HEAD

DOM  
I tole dem dat I was going to close dis prace. We don't make money. I going to open up Wok Dis Way chain wit nephew. More money.

EXT. VIDEO NATALIE- MORNING - DAY 2 CONTINUOUS

Adam stands in front of Dom, as the other workers circle around them like a school yard brawl is about to break out.

ADAM  
(Furious)  
No, not bery good. This is our family. You're splitting up the family. You home wrecker!

Glenn grabs Adam and pulls him away from the confrontation.

EXT. ADAM'S MINI VAN - MORNING - DAY 2

Adam sits in his car with his head on the steering wheel, sobbing. Adam starts the van and drives off the parking lot taking one last look at the run down mini mall.

I/E. ADAM APARTMENT - DAY 3

The apartment complex looks like a seedy motel. The pool is filled with frogs and an old deflated inflatable dolphin that hasn't been used in years.

Inside the apartment, newspapers, and TV dinner packages lay all around the floor and counter tops. Dirty laundry lays discarded along the couch. Adam sits eating a bowl of cereal, staring blankly at a black and white poster on his wall of the Hollywood sign.

Half way through his next bite his eyes enlarge in excitement. He jumps out of his chair and disappears into his bedroom.

ADAM TALKING HEAD

ADAM

So I have some exciting news. My father always told me that when one door closes another should open right? Well, I am kicking this door wide open!

(BEAT)

I figured that this happened for a reason and taking it as fate that the universe needs me to follow my dream! So I am going to do it. Today I am declaring to the world that you will see Adam Baume in Hollywood. That has a nice ring to it.

EXT. BARRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Adam walks up to a moderately sized suburban home. A giant golden door hammer has the engraving "WELCOME TO THE SHATZ". He begins to bang it repeatedly. The door flings open and Barry stands in his pajamas.

BARRY

Adam! What the hell are you doing here?

ADAM

Well, you told me if I was in the neighborhood to stop by.

BARRY

Wow, wait, wait. It's 11 PM.

ADAM

I would have called but I didn't have your number.

BARRY

How did find out where I lived.

ADAM

You were in the computer system at the store, so I just grabbed it before it got boxed up.

BARRY

The store is closed? How? I was just there yesterday.

ADAM

Yeah, but I have some great news and could really use an old friend's help.

SHERRY (O.S.)

Honey, who is it? It's late.

BARRY

Nobody honey. I'll be up in a minute.

SHERRY

If it's one of those black kids that sells chocolate for crack money I want a bar of hazelnut!

BARRY

No it's not one of the crack kids.

(To Adam)

I have to go--

ADAM

I want back in!

BARRY

What?

ADAM

I want to get back into Hollywood  
and you're the only person that can  
help me!

BARRY

No, no way Adam. You remember what  
happened last time--

ADAM

Come on Barry, things have changed  
you're different, I'm better. I  
have been practicing. Come on, help  
an old friend out!

SHERRY

Barry, who is at the door!

As SHERRY looks over Barry's shoulder she locks eyes with  
Adam.

ADAM

Sherry?

SHERRY

Adam...? Shit.

FADE OUT:

END OF EPISODE