HE - CRY-O-MATIC
 written by
Olivier Carrère

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EXT. STREET - DAY

In the town's TRAFFIC NOISE, the anonymous crowd go to their daily work.

A man with opaque sunglasses pushes hastily his way through the crowd, hiding the lower part of his face.

He pushes past a man with a bowler hat.

Policemen, their mouths covered with scarves and their eyes hidden by reflecting glasses, catch up with the fugitive, pin him down to the ground and handcuff him.

The crowd gathers. Policemen open their prisoner's raincoat collar to reveal his mouth.

The crowd, among which stands the bowler hat man, step back and emit a frightened MOAN, MOUTH CLOSED. Dressed in a classical manner, wearing hats and opaque glasses, they do not have mouths.

A POLICE SIREN sounds and a police tram stops next to the crowd.

Policemen bully their prisoner into the tram.

The tramway leaves, SIREN SCREAMING.

INT. OFFICE STAIRCASE - DAY

The bowler hat man ascends the stairs which lead to his office with a rigid and tragic gate.

His tie features a smiling cartoon mouse.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

The bowler hat man steps in a large room at the end of which stands a movie screen on top of which is an "Empire Advertisement" placard. The screen displays electronic snow and an ELECTRONIC HUMMING NOISE is heard.

He sits down at a cutting-desk on which is a metal panel reading "HE".

On his sides are seated other mouthless operators with opaque glasses. On their cutting-desks are panels reading the following names: "The", "You", "I", "Me", "El", "Le", etc.

They read advertisement storyboards or handle controls.

A JINGLE sounds. Operators take off their hats and apply captors on their bald scalps. They stare at the screen and handle their controls.

The ELECTRONIC HUMMING NOISE fades into an oscillating ELECTRONIC HISS.

The "Empire Advertisement" credits appear on the screen over a HISTORICAL EPIC MUSIC.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A mouthless man with opaque glasses seats in a sofa in front of a television on which the "Empire Advertisement" credits are broadcast.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

An advertisement is broadcast. A young woman shows a dirty plate with a disgusted air.

YOUNG WOMAN

Tired of washing dishes?

She shows a soap bottle with an exhilarated air.

YOUNG WOMAN

With Breezy, dish-washing is so easy!

EXT. ROAD BY SEASHORE - EVENING

On the projection room's screen, another ad appears after a JINGLE.

A car is parked in front of a luxury villa.

A young woman in an evening dress looks at the car, biting her lip with lust.

She climbs up in the car and drives off.

VOICE OVER

The new XRTorpedo Limousine.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

A mouthless man with opaque glasses rides his indoor bike. He watches an ad projected on the wall.

The car drives along the sea.

From behind, it seems that the man rides his bicycle on the road.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

On the projection room's screen, the car stops on a beach, in the sunset. A man is standing in front of the sea.

The man and the woman exchange lusty glances, then kiss passionately before the car.

VOICE OVER

The road to paradise is paved with macadam.

Operators, sitting at their desks, look concentrated and are busy in a highly painful atmosphere.

Captors turn to vapor the sweat that floods from their foreheads.

INT. CHILD ROOM - DAY

A child, a skateboard under his arm, runs into his room, where is plastered the image of the smiling cartoon mouse.

INT. TRAMWAY - DAY

An hologram of the child is projected in a tramway corridor.

The mouthless commuters, with opaque glasses, read their newspapers, without taking notice.

The child winks.

He eats greedily a yogurt.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

On the projection room's screen, the child licks his lips.

The clock which stands above the entrance door strikes pm and a BELL SOUNDS.

A JINGLE sounds and the "Empire advertisement" end credits are displayed on the screen.

An ELECTRONIC HUMMING NOISE is heard, then turns to a $\operatorname{HIMMING}$

Exhausted, operators take their captors off, breathe and stretch, then take their belongings and leave.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The bowler hat man leaves his office building by a large door, among other operators.

About fifty feet high, the building has a round shape.

EXT. NEWSPAPER BOOTH - DAY

In front of a newspaper booth located near a park gate, the mouthless news vendor with opaque glasses takes a braille magazine and turns to his client. Coins TINKLE.

Two coins can be seen on the counter. The client wears black glasses for the blind.

The news vendor hands him the magazine but realizes he doesn't have arms.

He holds the magazine out to the lower part of the client's face, as if he wanted him to hold it in his mouth, but the client has no mouth.

The news vendor lifts the client's hat, puts the magazine on his head, then puts the hat back.

The blind client nods to the news vendor, then leaves.

The bowler hat man, who was queuing up after the blind client buys, a newspaper.

Before leaving, he looks at his reflected image in a metallic part of the booth. On his temples are two round marks left by the captors.

He man rubs his temples and walks towards the high park gate.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Walking past a poster advertising a human zoo,

The bowler hat man enters the park.

He walks through the park.

He exits the park through a low gate beside which the human zoo poster can also be seen.

INT. CORRIDOR - EVENING

In the corridor leading to his flat,

The bowler hat man stops before a door on which stands a panel reading "HE" and opens the door.

INT. FLAT - EVENING

At home, the bowler hat man puts his briefcase down and hangs his hat at the coat hanger.

In his shirtsleeves, a soda in his hand and fried chips on a low table, he sits down comfortably in his armchair, and puts a joystick on an arm of the chair.

Seen from besides, he takes off his glasses and puts a mask on his face.

He clicks a button on his joystick.

EXT. JUNGLE -DAY

In a virtual jungle, a JINGLE sounds and the bowler hat man's avatar jumps from a bush.

The avatar is a chimpanzee wearing a bowler hat and opaque glasses.

Another JINGLE sounds and another chimpanzee with a fedora hat and opaque glasses appears in front of the avatar.

INT. FLAT - DAY

The bowler hat man clicks a button on his joystick.

EXT. JUNGLE -DAY

The avatar leans on his fists and hits the ground with his feet, ${\tt CRYING.}$

The chimpanzee with the fedora hat jumps in a bush and reappears holding bananas that he throws at the avatar.

INT. FLAT - EVENING

The bowler hat man clicks a button on his joystick.

EXT. JUNGLE -DAY

The avatar ducks to dodge the bananas, then springs back to his feet carrying pineapples that he throws towards his attacker.

A female chimpanzee with opaque glasses, a hat and a skirt walks between the two adversaries, interrupting the match.

INT. FLAT - EVENING

The bowler hat man stands still for a moment, then fiddles frenetically with his joystick.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

The bowler hat man avatar pounces on the female chimpanzee and copulates with her, CRYING, the other chimpanzee gazing vacantly.

INT. FLAT - EVENING

In a spasm, the bowler hat man grips his joystick, then lets it fall on the ground.

INT. FLAT - NIGHT

Later on, the bowler hat man, asleep in his bed with his glasses on, has a nightmare.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

The bowler hat man dreams he stands in the deserted street before the building where he works. The entrance door of the building opens and he enters the building.

INT. CIRCUS -NIGHT

In his dream, the bowler hat man stands in a circus ring among circus dogs and plays tricks with them, under the control of an invisible tamer who makes his whip CRACK.

INT. FLAT - NIGHT

Early in the morning, a wooden effigy of the smiling cartoon mouse springs like a cuckoo from the clock on the wall. It holds a tiny gas horn which SOUNDS SIX DEAFENING BLOWS. A crude light turns on abruptly.

The bowler hat man awakens with a start, stands up and goes to his bathroom.

He looks at himself in the mirror of his bathroom cabinet. He casts a prudent look around him, then slips his hand under the cabinet.

He takes a lipstick, sticked with tape, from under the cabinet.

He draws awkwardly a mouth on his face and looks at himself for a moment.

He wipes the fake mouth in a hurry and washes his face with a lot of soap.

INT. FLAT - DAWN

The bowler hat man, neatly dressed and without lipstick marks, leaves his flat.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The bowler hat man enters the park by the the low gate.

In the park stands a little crowd.

He stops among the crowd.

Black men in loincloths stand with a despondent air and a pout on their lips in the center of a fake African village.

Before them, a monkey dressed like a groom BEATS THE DRUM and passes the hat around.

A mouthless white tamer with opaque glasses CRACKS HIS WIP towards the Black men. They reluctantly begin a would-be African dance, to SING a would-be African song and to BEAT a would-be African rhythm.

The crowd APLAUSES.

Among the Black men stands a Black little girl, with a sullen air.

The bowler hat man stares at her. She looks at him and sticks out her tongue. He smiles back to her.

Realizing suddenly that he has a mouth, he hides it hastily with his hand.

He flees shamefully, jostling a few persons.

EXT. NEWSPAPER BOOTH - DAY

The bowler hat man gets out of the park through the high gate, still hiding his mouth.

He stops near the newspaper booth.

Two policemen stroll behind him and, seeing them, he pretends he's having a look a the magazines.

When the policemen have left, he draws close to the reflecting metallic surface on the booth.

He casts a prudent look around him, then slowly draws his hand from his face. The metallic surface reflects his mouthless face.

He stands up straight in a relief.

He buys a newspaper, then leaves.

INT. OFFICE STAIRCASE - DAY

The bowler hat man climbs the staircase to his office.

INT. OFFICE CORRIDOR - DAY

In the corridor that leads to the projection room, the bowler hat man jostles involuntarily another mouthless employee busy reading a file.

The employee's opaque glasses fall on the ground. His face appears naked: he doesn't have eyes.

The bowler hat man and the employee both bend down hastily to get the glasses and knock their heads against each other. They stand up swiftly and MUTTER PAINFULLY.

While they jump around with pain, the glasses can be heard BREAKING.

Both come to a standstill, face to face, appalled.

Under the bowler hat man's heel are the broken glasses.

He picks up the glasses, throws them to the bin unobtrusively, then slips away shamefully.

The employee, blinded, feels his way along and falls by an open window.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

As if nothing had happened, the bowler hat man sits down to his desk and fixes captors on his bald head.

A HUMMING fly flies into the theater. It comes close to him, who chases it away with his hand.

The "Empire Advertisement" credits appear on the screen over a HISTORICAL EPIC MUSIC.

EXT. YACHT - DAY

A man sunbathes on a yacht desk. He protects his eyes from the sun with his hand to look at a young woman who walks towards him, a glass in her hand.

VOICE OVER

Sea.

INT. ROOM - DAY

An obese mouthless woman with opaque glasses lies on cushions. Clad in a negligee with lace, she watches the advertisement.

EXT. YACHT - DAY

The young woman parts her lips, drinks a sip of alcohol, then hands the glass to the man.

VOICE OVER

Sun.

INT. ROOM - DAY

The obese woman sets prisms on her glasses.

She now sees the advertisement as through a kaleidoscope.

EXT. YACHT - DAY

The man grasps the woman's hand, draws the woman close to him and kisses her.

VOICE OVER

And. Extasia.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

The fly settles on an operator's desk. The operator tries to kill it with a file, in vain.

A JINGLE SOUNDS and the next advertisement is displayed on the screen.

EXT. LUXURY TERRACE - EVENING

A couple is embracing. The young woman draws a coffee cup to her lips.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

The fly settles on an operator's forehead.

The operator s releases his controls to chase it, spilling his coffee on his storyboard.

EXT. LUXURY TERRACE - EVENING

The young woman spills the coffee on the man who CRIES with pain and SLAPS the woman across the face.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

Operators turn round briskly toward their awkward colleague who wipes the coffee off his storyboard, then fiddles with his controls.

EXT. LUXURY TERRACE - EVENING

The young woman, embracing the man again, draws the cup to her lips and sips it ecstatically.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

Operators stop looking at their colleague and concentrate on their work.

A JINGLE SOUNDS and the next advertisement is displayed on the screen.

EXT. WATERFALL -DAY

A young woman bathes her hair under a waterfall, her eyes closed, her lips parted.

VOICE OVER

Evoa. And your hair...

INT. PRISON WARD -DAY

In his ward, a mouthless prisoner with opaque glasses watches the advertisement on a TV set whose screen is protected by a grate.

EXT. SEA - DAY

The young woman's hair is like a sea on which a yacht sails.

VOICE OVER

... is a sea of pleasure!

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

A JINGLE sounds and the "Empire advertisement" end credits are displayed on the screen, then the screen displays electronic snow.

Operators take off their captors and leave.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The bowler hat man walks to the high park's gate and stops before the human zoo panel. He hesitates, then makes his mind to enter the park.

A POLICE SIREN HOWLS far away.

He stops, then, changing his mind, jumps in a tramway that leaves.

INT. FLAT - EVENING

The bowler hat man wears his 3-D mask. MONKEY CRIES are heard.

INT. FLAT - NIGHT

Laying asleep in his bed, the bowler hat man has a nightmare.

INT. CIRCUS -NIGHT

In his dream, the bowler hat man plays tricks with dogs.

The little girl joins him and plays tricks with him, smiling at him.

He smiles back at her.

A tamer's whip CRACKS.

INT. FLAT - NIGHT

The smiling cartoon mouse springs from the clock on the wall and SOUNDS SIX DEAFENING BLOWS.

He awakens with a start in the crude light.

He tears off the lipstick from his bathroom cabinet, then throws it to the bin.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

The bowler hat man walks towards the low park's gate and stops.

The human zoo poster can no longer be seen.

He enters the park.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The bowler hat man stops before the empty space where the human zoo stood. He stays still for a moment, as if he vaguely missed the little girl.

A NOISE OF AFRICAN DRUMS AND SONGS is heard and he swiftly turns his head to where the noise came from, in a mix of fear and hope.

The noise comes from the game console on which a mouthless child with opaque glasses is playing.

On the console screen a cartoon is displayed. In the cartoon, the smiling cartoon mouse strikes a golliwog female mouse dressed like the little girl.

He leaves despondently.

EXT. NEWSPAPER BOOTH -DAY

The bowler hat man buys a newspaper at the booth, carefully examines his face in the reflecting surface, arranges his tie, then leaves.

The vendor puts down a cigarette pack for the next mouthless client.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

The bowler hat man sits down to his desk and wears his captors.

INT. KITCHEN -DAY

The young woman featured in the first advertisement hands a soap bottle, smiling.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

The bowler hat man turns a leaf of the advertisement's storyboard.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The young woman takes up a dirty plate and shows it to the camera.

YOUNG WOMAN

Tired of washing dishes?

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

The bowler hat man writes down something on the storyboard.

INT. KITCHEN -DAY

The young woman dances, washing the plate.

YOUNG WOMAN

With Breezy, dish-washing is so easy!

At the far end of the kitchen, the little girl shows her head through the door, then disappears.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

The bowler hat man sits up vividly and stares at the screen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The young woman did not notice anything and keeps up performing.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

The bowler hat man stares the screen for a moment, then shrugs his shoulders and resumes his writing.

INT. KITCHEN -DAY

The little girl enters the kitchen by the back door, holding the bowler hat man's lookalike's hand. The young woman does not notice them and keeps on dancing.

YOUNG WOMAN

And dirt goes off in a samba!

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

The bowler hat man startles, stares at the screen, then frenetically browses through his storyboard.

The storyboard displays the advertisement, without the little girl nor the lookalike.

INT. KITCHEN -DAY

The lookalike and the little girl stand still at the far end of the kitchen, holding each other's hand. The young woman keeps on dancing with her plate. She has a forced smile and seems worried. She noticed the intruders and casts furtive glances at them.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

Operators turn to each other and fiddle with their controls.

The bowler hat man fiddles frenetically with his controls. Behind him stands a manager, his arms folded.

INT. KITCHEN -DAY

The lookalike releases the little girl's hand. The little girls stays still, smiling like a good girl. The lookalike draws near to the young woman and stops at her side.

The young woman casts hostile and worried glances at him, still dancing and singing.

YOUNG WOMAN Breezy, the end of your worries!

The lookalike walks pas the woman and puts his face close to the camera, hiding the kitchen.

The young woman SHRIEKS with fear and flees, dropping the plate that BREAKS.

YOUNG WOMAN

Heee!

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - DAY

All operators are standing and fiddle frenetically with their controls.

The bowler hat man, sitting, fiddles with his controls. Three managers stand behind him.

On screen, the lookalike's face is displayed in close-up. A dim shadow appears on the lower part of his face, then becomes clear: it is a mouth. A scandalized MUTTER can be heard.

In a panic, the bowler hat man stands up and tears off his captors.

Jostling the three managers, he rushes to the screen and tries in vain to hide the blasphemous mouth with his body.

The lookalike's mouth opens and swallows the bowler hat man.

INT. CIRCUS - NIGHT

CYMBALS CLASH. The bowler hat man is blinded by a blazing light. He stands in the middle of a large empty space. CYMBALS CLASH again and a THUNDERING CIRCUS MUSIC begins.

Animal shapes jump around him while a WHIP CRACKS.

He startles.

The WHIP CRACKS several times and he moves back, protecting his face with his arm from the blazing light and the whip lashes.

He bumps against into a block behind him and climbs on it.

He begins to be accustomed to the light and sees his whereabouts. He stands under a circus big top. Besides him are dogs playing tricks on blocks. They jump through a hoop held by a tamer with a whip.

The tamer whose shape he can vaguely make out CRACKS HIS WHIP at him and signals him to jump through the hoop. He protects himself from the lashes and refuses to jump.

Now fully accustomed to the light, he startles; the tamer is the smiling cartoon mouse.

He jumps down from the block.

The mouse is scared and zigzags off to flee him, SHOUTING STRIDENTLY.

He pursues the mouse in a large circle. Both come back before the dogs.

He pounces on the mouse. They both roll on the ground. He unties his tie with one hand, puts it around the mouse's neck and strangles it.

The mouse struggles, then collapses, SQUEAKS and dies.

He takes the whip from the dead mouse's hands.

He stands up before the dogs, raises the whip as if he was going to make it crack, then breaks it in two and throws away the pieces, signaling thus to the dogs that they are free.

The dogs stay still, looking at him, then sit up and beg.

Disappointed, he leaves his arms fall.

Pulling himself together, he walks towards the dogs, takes off their collars and throws them away.

The dogs climb up on balloons and turn around him; he hides in face in his hands, mad with the dog's stupidity.

He sits down on a block and holds despondently his head in his hands.

A little dog comes close to him, waving his tail.

He kicks him. The little dog rolls away and hits the circus' terrace.

The little dog stands up and begin to GROWL. He grows up and turns into a wolf.

All the dogs turn into wolves and begin to GROWL.

They surround him; he looks up at them, alarmed. He jumps to his feet, crosses the wolves' circle and runs to the ring's exit, the pack of wolves pursuing him.

He stumbles and falls. The crowd runs past him and flees to the outside.

He stands up and follows them.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

The bowler hat man looks out from the outside door which stands ajar.

The town is totally empty. It is in ruins, surrounded by a jungle. The WIND BLOWS. A rusted police tramway lies on its flank.

He goes out and makes a few steps.

He turns round and looks up to the building he comes from. About fifty feet high, the building has the shape of his head, with his glasses and bowler hat. The door stands where the mouth should be located. Although cracked and deteriorated, it is the only building that is still standing. The others are in ruins. He stares at the building for a moment.

He turns back from the building. He now has a mouth. He opens his mouth and YAPS like a little dog.

THE BOWLER HAT MAN

Weef!