

An Italian Haircut

By

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EXT. TORONTO - GINO'S BARBER SHOP - DAY

Toronto's busy street scenes begin a pattern that finish at the front of GINO'S barber shop.

Faint opera music (Carmen, Toreador) punctuates the HORNS AND BEEPS of city traffic

A perpendicular red white and blue barber's pole rotates in slow motion.

Gino's colorful barber shop is squeezed between the Burger King and Subway fast food restaurants.

Opera music blends with the tempo of traffic NOISE

The music increases to a crescendo;

PADDY and a young Lad approach Gino's barber shop.

The lad, a tall shaggy haired teenager in jeans and a blue Toronto Maple Leaf hockey jersey; SUNDIN #13 on the back

Paddy, a grey haired casually dressed elderly man cautiously steps forward to cross the busy street holding the lad's shoulder.

PADDY  
(Irish accent, think Barry Fitzgerald)  
Begorra! I wonder where the music is coming from.... Look over there, lad; I see Gino's barber shop. Let's get a good Old Italian haircut.

The street is wet from a previous rain.

A **SPEEDING CAR** appears from nowhere with an EAR SPLITTING, "BEEP! BEEP;" The wheels sink into a water filled pothole and disappear in a cloud of water spray.

Paddy and the Lad jump back at breakneck speed;

The lad wheels around, face flushed, Extends his arm and finger to the speeding car as it disappears with loud Vroom,Vrooms.

LAD  
(Canadian accent, yelling)  
Fuck you! Asshole; where did you learn to drive?

PADDY  
(Grabs the lad)  
Crazy drivers; watch your language lad;  
there is no call for that.

LAD  
Watch my language! That son of a bitch  
could have killed us.  
I'm hungry; let's get a hamburger and  
fries.

They both scoot across the street to avoid being splashed again.

The lad nudges Paddy with his shoulder towards the Burger King restaurant but Paddy tugs the reluctant lad towards the barber shop.

PADDY  
We came here to get our hair cut, we'll eat  
after.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. GINO'S BARBER SHOP - DAY

They enter the barber shop and are HIT WITH A FULL BLAST OF  
OPERA MUSIC.

Paddy's mouth opens wide in surprise; he spreads his two arms  
apart.

He looks around and jerks his head up with an air of discovery.

PADDY  
Ah! This is where the music comes from.  
This feels like a bloody opera house.

LAD  
Do you like the opera? Have you ever been  
to an opera?

PADDY  
No! Not really, the opera is for snobs.

LAD  
Why do you say that?

PADDY  
Because one day I went to the opera and  
they wouldn't let me in because I wasn't  
wearing a suit.

LAD

Well, what did you expect; you have to dress for the occasion.

PADDY

I still think the opera is for snobs no matter what you say, but I do find some of the songs to my liking, especially the one I am hearing now.

The Opera music BLARES from a colorful radio with a barber's face; it sits on a shelf surrounded with bottles of shampoo.

Back to the door an ebullient Italian, GINO, sings while he sweeps the hairs strewn across the floor.

He is short, pot-bellied and chubby with jet black hair parted in the middle; he sports a handlebar moustache.

He wears a hockey referee's black and white striped shirt

He dances with the broom and loudly sings the words of TOREADOR from the Carmen opera. He gyrates enthusiastically and pronounces every word with emphasis.

GINO

(Deep baritone voice)

Toreador, on guard! Toreador, Toreador!

And dream well, yes, dream of fighting

There is a pair of black eyes watching you,

That await your love.

Toreador, love awaits you!

Toreador, on guard! Toreador, Toreador!

And dream well, yes, dream of fighting

There is a pair of black eyes watching you,

That await your love.

Toreador, love awaits you!

Toreador, on guard! Toreador, Toreador!

The brightly lit salon features leather seats.

Small tables are cluttered with magazines and newspapers.

One solitary barber's chair sits facing a large mirror. Barbers' instruments are spread out on a shelf below the mirror.

The walls are typical barber shop colors, red white and blue. On the cabinet facing the chair are hair sprays, shampoos and a framed picture of a dark haired very fat woman with a pretty face.

The walls are covered with posters of various male hair styles.

Gino beams a warm smile as he greets his customers but continues with his song and dance routine.

Paddy and the lad gyrate at Gino's performance; they move their bodies and clap their hands with a rhythmic beat.

They stand to attention and stamp their feet like soldiers marching time.

Gino finally stops singing; Paddy and the lad applaud enthusiastically

PADDY

That was lovely, you sound like Mario Lanza

LAD

Who the hell is Mario Lanza?

PADDY

Mario Lanza is a famous opera singer, the best in the business. Don't you know anything?

Gino bends over to scoop up the swept hairs; he opens the lid of a garbage dispenser with his foot and empties the little scoop by rattling it against the sides of the container.

He clips the scoop to the broom handle, lays the broom against the wall and greets his two customers with open arms.

GINO

(Think Tim Conway's Italian accent in the Carol Brunette comedy)

I am Gino, I sing because I am happy. Business is good and I think this is going to be a lucky day for me I am blessed with two good customers already.

PADDY

You missed the boat Gino, you have a great voice. You should be in the opera. Even though I think the opera is for snobs I would buy a new suit just to go and see you. But word has it that you are the best barber in town.

Gino beams with pride. He looks at the lad's hair; scruffs it up a little.

GINO

I am a humble barber, I don't brag about how good I am, but you have heard right sir. I am the best; when I cut someone's hair they always come back. I can make this young lad look like a little gentleman. I am not bragging; but it is hard to be humble when you are the best.

The lad grimaces; he moves away from Gino and sits down beside the pile of magazines.

INT. GINO'S BARBER SHOP - WAITING AREA - DAY - INTERSPACE WITH BARBERS CHAIR

The lad nonchalantly fans through the pile of papers; he notices something and STIFFENS up like an animal on the prowl. His eyes light up wide.

He glances furtively at Paddy, tries to hide his actions.

He notices a couple of girlie magazines; his eyes almost pop out of his head.

He acts inconspicuously. He turns his head and neck a bit in the opposite direction but he stretches his eyes the other way and fumbles to get a glimpse of the naked ladies without Paddy noticing.

Paddy chats amiably with Gino; unaware of the lad's discovery.

PADDY

I have come to the right place then, because we both need a good haircut. I have something special planned for today. This will be a memorable day for you Gino.

GINO

A special occasion is it? I will give you extra service for the same price. I treat my customers as V.I.Ps. Sit down in my chair and watch me perform my magic.

Gino directs Paddy to the chair; Paddy sits down while Gino fastens a white protective cloth around his neck.

PADDY

(Joking)

Gino, besides giving me a haircut do you think you can make me look beautiful?

Gino plays along and laughs as he looks Paddy in the face

GINO  
(Sympathetically)  
I'm sorry sir but we don't work miracles here, you will have to go to St Joseph's oratory for that, I'm just a humble barber.

The lad continues his attempts to ogle the pictures.

He picks up a newspaper and surreptitiously slips a Playboy between the sheets.

Paddy's gaze turns to the lad; he sees the lad hiding something in the newspaper, he SPRINGS up off the chair like a wildcat.

PADDY  
(Scolding)  
Hey, what have you got there? Give me those. You are too young for this stuff. These pictures could drive a young lad like you nuts.

Paddy grabs the magazines. The lad struggles but releases his grip reluctantly.

Paddy leafs through the pile of papers and picks up a copy of a kids' book, Highlights for children; he hands it to the lad.

PADDY  
Here, there are some good stories and jokes for kids in this.

Paddy turns away from the lad; he stands behind a cupboard out of the lad's sight.

He gestures to Gino and opens up a centerfold of Playboy; he is visibly excited.

PADDY  
Wow!

Paddy opens the centerfold of Playgirl

PADDY  
Wow! Wow!

Paddy opens the centerfold of Hustler

PADDY  
Wow! Wow! Wow!

GINO  
(Whispering)  
You better put those magazines away sir,  
you sound like a dog in heat. Wow! Wow!  
Wow!

Paddy smirks and places the magazines on a shelf.

He sits down in the chair. Gino stands behind him and places a protective cloth around his neck. The lad pouts.

LAD  
(Moping)  
I loved this Highlights book when I was 5  
years old, but I'm 13 now and I would  
rather look at those books with the dirty  
pictures.

PADDY  
Ah! You don't want to be looking at books  
like that, lad. They get you all excited;  
we don't want to see you whacking off in  
the barber shop.

GINO  
(Pointing an accusing finger)  
Yea! Mama Mia! No whacking the dingle berry  
off in my shop. I just swept the floor.

The red faced lad smiles shyly.

Gino picks up his scissors and makes snipping sounds almost in sync with the music

Gino hums while he works and performs his routines and rituals as he cuts and styles Paddy's hair.

He dusts Paddy off and holds the mirror to the back of the neck.

PADDY  
It's perfect  
Great job, Gino, no mistake you are the  
best; I will tell all my friends what a  
good service you give.

Gino beams with pride and bows to the lad; beckons him to the chair.

GINO  
Yes I am the best but I am a humble man. I  
don't like to brag (Turning to the lad) you  
are next for a special makeover, my young  
man, are you ready?



The lad approaches the chair; Paddy picks up a copy of Hustler and sits down to wait.

Paddy gets excited looking at the magazines.

Gino looks over his shoulder.

GINO

Those girls are too skinny; I like the big fat ones. I like lots of meat. I love it when I put my arms around my wife and my hands don't touch together. My wife has a lot of meat; she keeps me warm at night.

Gino opens up and spreads his arms imitating hugging a fat woman.

He picks up the photo to show Paddy his wife.

GINO (CONT.)

Isn't she beautiful, my wife? Look at all of that meat to keep me warm in the winter.

PADDY

(Pandering)

Aye she is a beauty, all right

Gino kisses the photo and replaces it on the counter

PADDY

(Takes in a long deep breath)

Oh! If only I was on a desert island with these beauties along with a truckload of Guinness and a ton of Irish whisky, I would die a happy man.

GINO

(Scoffs)

Ah! You would burn yourself out in no time, besides you would need a lot of money to keep those girls happy. Would you like a drink sir while you wait? I think it will cool you off.

PADDY

A pint of Guinness would be nice. Boy these pictures are something else.

GINO

I'm sorry sir I don't have Guinness but I have some Coke.

Gino gives Paddy a Coke from a cooler.

PADDY  
Thanks Gino

Paddy gulps it down; bottoms up.

PADDY  
(Burps)  
You are a good man Gino; you treat your  
customers well.

Paddy jumps up from his seat abruptly and looks at his watch.

PADDY  
Wow! I didn't think it was going to take  
this long; I better put some more money in  
the parking meter.

He searches his pockets for change.

PADDY  
I don't have any change I just have hundred  
dollar bills.

BARBER SHOP CASH REGISTER

Gino goes to the cash and hands him a couple of dollar coins  
laughing

GINO  
Here use these; I'll add it to your bill.

INT. GINO'S BARBER SHOP - DAY

PADDY  
You are a good man Gino

I will give it back to you and round it off  
with a big tip for your good service.

GINO  
You have a big heart sir, thank you. I  
don't want you to get a ticket. The cops  
around here will take you to the cleaners  
every time they get a chance. It's good  
people like me and you who pay their salary  
with tickets. It does my heart good to hear  
you say you are going to give me a big tip.

PADDY  
You are a good man Gino as well as my big  
tip you will be rewarded in heaven for  
this.

Paddy leaves the shop with the rolled up Hustler magazine.

PADDY

I'll have a quick look at this before I get back.

GINO

(Teasing)

No whacking off the dingle berry in the car

LAD

(Sarcastically)

Yea! No whacking off the dingle berry in the car, you are too old for that stuff. It can drive old men crazy as well.

Paddy smiles gleefully and disappears while Gino plies his trade on the lad.

GINO

What a nice man, the world needs more people like that

Gino finishes off and removes the white protective sheet from the lad's neck; he shakes it open to send the cut hairs to the floor.

The lad gets off the chair with nicely cut hair

GINO

Your father should be coming back soon.

LAD

Who?

GINO

(Shocked voice)

Your father, isn't he your father, the man you came here with, or your uncle?

LAD

(Sarcastically)

I hate to say this, Gino, but I don't know who he is. He stopped me in the street and asked me if I could run fast. When I told him I was like Speedy Gonzales, he said "excellent." Then he asked me if I would like A FREE HAIRCUT

Gino's face changes color with shock; he opens his mouth and holds his jaw with both hands.

GINO

(Raised voice)

Santa Maria! A FREE HAIRCUT, Tell me you are kidding. Please! Please!

LAD

You really are a good barber Gino, but now I realize why Paddy asked me if I was a good runner. I have to go...See ya.

The lad grabs the Magazines and swerves around Gino. Gino tries to grab him as he bolts out the door.

EXT. TORONTO STREET - DAY

The lad scoots down the street; Gino gives chase but stops out of breath.

The nice Gino has a personality change.

GINO

Come back here you little son of a bitch

The lad stops and turns and waves the magazines in the air. He gestures with his hands towards the lower part of his body.

LAD

(Mocking Gino's accent)

I'm a- gonna whack my dingle berry with these dirty pictures.

GINO

You little cock sucker, if I ever catch you around here again I'll get the cops after you. I hope you get a hernia when you whack off.

Gino waves his hands furiously in the air

GINO

Curse that fucking Irishman; I'll sell my soul to the devil if he cuts off one of his balls and brings it back to me. I'll hang it up in my barber shop. Mama Mia (Add Italian swear words)

FADE OUT