Same Name

by Steven Burton
INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

The fifty year old handsome Caucasian BREN BENTON prims in front of a mirror as he speaks in voice over.

BREN (VO)
My name is Brent Benton. I started out twenty five years ago with some early successes as an actor. I did not want to believe a producer when he told me I would have more success when I get older. But, the creativity evolved into writing for stage and screen with some combining writing with my acting. Maybe, I’m about to do that again.

CHUCK approaches Brent.

CHUCK
You look great! Just go in there, be yourself and let the magic take over.

BREN
Thanks.

They hug and kiss.

FLASH on the image of the handsome thirty year old African American BREN BENTON with the caption:

“Brent Benton is in the city to promote his latest movie.”

INT. SAME MORNING

The thirty year old young Brent gets ready in front of a mirror as he speaks in voice over.

YOUNG BREN (VO)
My name is Brent Benton. Not to be confused with the other one twenty years older. I have been acting for ten years and now an action hero. Today I meet the older Brent who may help me get a more challenging dramatic part. All because of our same name. This is a crazy business!
INT. LUXURY HOTEL ROOM

Young Brent kisses HEATHER, a pretty young woman.

    YOUNG BRENT
    In case you didn’t know, I love you.

    HEATHER
    And I you big time!

    YOUNG BRENT
    Now, let’s go face the world.

    HEATHER
    Ok, you face it here while I go shopping.

    YOUNG BRENT
    Sounds good.

EXT. LUXURY HOTEL LOBBY

Brent walks through the front doors with a small brief case.

INT. LUXURY HOTEL HALLWAY

Brent stands at a door and then young Brent opens it.

    YOUNG BRENT
    Hello.

    BRENT
    Hello.

They shake hands.

    YOUNG BRENT
    Nice to meet you.

    BRENT
    Yes.

    YOUNG BRENT
    Please come in.
INT. LUXURY HOTEL SUITE

They sit on a sofa with liquid refreshments in front of a coffee table.

Brent opens his briefcase onto the table.

He pulls out a picture and then hands it to young Brent.

It is a headshot picture with his name on it from twenty years ago.

BRENT
It’s yours.

YOUNG BRENT
Wow.

Young Brent puts the headshot down on the table and then moves away as Brent pulls out a script from the briefcase.

Young Brent returns with his current headshot and then puts it down next to Brent’s headshot which displays their shared name.

YOUNG BRENT
And this one is for you.

BRENT
Thanks. Unbelievable and you can’t make this up.

YOUNG BRENT
What?

BRENT (Refers to script.)
This.

YOUNG BRENT
Oh yes. I didn’t intend to steal your name or anything. I was born with it and wanted to keep it that’s all.

BRENT
But, I had it first.
YOUNG BRENT
And it brought us here.

BRENT
Yes.

Brent picks up the script.

BRENT
You play the young one and I play the older one, with all those journeys in between.

YOUNG BRENT
It’s wild.

BRENT
And unique. There’s more magic for both of us.

YOUNG BRENT
Yes, I like the script and so does my manager. She has some ideas about it.

BRENT
Good for her. This is the latest draft.

YOUNG BRENT
Would you like to go out and get some fresh air?

BRENT
Sounds good.

EXT. SIDEWALK

Brent and young Brent casually walk together.

EXT. PARK BENCH

The Brent’s sit together.

YOUNG BRENT
Well, I do want to get into some new areas with more challenge and depth.
BRENT
Good, then you should. There’s more for both of us in the script.

YOUNG BRENT
Like I said before my manager has some ideas about it.

BRENT
Yes?

YOUNG BRENT
She thinks the story might sell better if your part is played by an actor with established box office.

BRENT
But, it’s my story.

YOUNG BRENT
I know, but she thinks it might be good to consider some other actors also for the sake of getting it produced.

BRENT
I wrote this and it won’t be done without my permission!

YOUNG BRENT
But...

BRENT
No buts! But just my ass up there! I’m not going to audition to play myself!

Brent gets up to leave.

YOUNG BRENT
Wait.

EXT. SIDEWALK

A determined Brent walks followed by young Brent who catches up to him.
YOUNG BRENT
I’m with you on this. You should play the part.

Brent turns to respond.

BRENT
Well, that is the only way.

YOUNG BRENT
Yes, please calm down. Now that I’ve met you, I see all that.

Young Brent extends his hand to a reluctant Brent and they shake hands.

They quietly continue to walk together as bystanders recognize the “celebrity” young Brent.

A small group of girls approach young Brent after which he chats and signs autographs as Brent looks on.

INT. LUXURY HOTEL SUITE

Young Brent sits on the sofa and then looks towards the coffee table to notice the headshots of the two Brent’s next to each other.

YOUNG BRENT
Oh, he forgot to take this...

He ponders as he continues to look at the compared headshots.

A knock at the door.

Young Brent opens the door to a WAITER with a food cart.

YOUNG BRENT
Come in.

Young Brent leads him in towards the dining table.

The waiter slowly puts out the food and utensils.
WAITER
Wow, Mr. Benton I’ve seen all your movies and I’m a great fan.

YOUNG BRENT
Well, thank you.

WAITER
Could I get an autograph?

YOUNG BRENT
Sure, over here.

Young Brent moves to the coffee table and then bends over to pick it up his headshot.

Young Brent groans and then slumps down over the headshots face down on the table.

YOUNG BRENT
Oh my God! Why….

WAITER
This is all I have to give.

The waiter takes the headshot out from under young Brent.

WAITER
Thank you.

Young Brent is motionless on the table with a knife in his back, as the waiter walks away.

He sits down on the sofa while he gazes at the headshot.

WAITER
Oh no, he forgot to autograph it.

INT. LUXURY HOTEL HALLWAY

Heather carries shopping bags as she approaches the door, and then puts the card key in the slot.

INT. LUXURY HOTEL SUITE

Heather opens the door to find the bloody scene.
She screams, drops the bags, and then runs out into the hallway.

The waiter calmly remains on the sofa with the headshot.

FLASH scenes with SIRENS, and NEWS REPORTS that report “Brent Benton was critically injured from stab wounds by a deranged hotel waiter.”

EXT. HOSPITAL

A frenzy of reporting media is encamped outside.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD

Police officers stand guard at a sign that restricts entry.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

In a room filled with flowers, an unconscious young Brent lays in bed attached to medical equipment.

FLASH on various press publicity that show young Brent in recovery.

INT. BRENT APARTMENT

Brent reads a backstage newspaper with interest.

INT. CASTING OFFICE

A tense Brent with a script struggles reading a scene with an actress before two casting directors observing.

    CASTING DIRECTOR
    Ok, that’s fine. You don’t need to finish the scene.

Brent turns towards him.

    BRENT
    Ok, thanks.

Brent walks away.
CASTING DIRECTOR
Please wait. There is another part that you may be interested in. This part is more involved in the story. Could you stay for some improvisation?

BRENT
Well, sure.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Young Brent sits in a lawn chair as he talks on the telephone.

YOUNG BRENT
Thanks Brent, I’m feeling much better and have had a lot of time to think. I want to do something special more than ever before it’s too late.

INT. EMAIL TEXT

“Hello Brent,

We would like you to play the part of the creepy guy Edgar which you auditioned for in the improvisation. Since, this part is major in the pilot, but may not go on in the series you will be billed as a guest star. Congratulations and we look forward to working with you.”

INT. DESK

Brent smiles at the good news to himself.

BRENT (VO)
Yes, yes, yes! A good part and it has been awhile. Maybe, this is about the when I get older thing? Anyway, this feels good.

INT. FILM SET

Brent in dress and makeup as a creepy character is among other actors, film crew, and equipment in between takes.

The DIRECTOR who was also one of the casting directors approaches Brent.
DIRECTOR
I am very pleased with what you are doing with the character. You are playing his creepiness in a subtle way, not obvious which is fresh.

BRENT
Thank you, and I really like working with you.

DIRECTOR
Good, let’s keep it going.

BRENT
Yes.

Later Brent is in front of a camera set up in a close-up scene as he finishes dialogue.

DIRECTOR
Cut, and thank you very much.

The director applauds joined by the entire crew. Brent humbly expresses thanks.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Brent deep in thought walks with Chuck on a breezy day.

CHUCK
Is something on your mind?

BRENT
I want to make a change.

CHUCK
What with us? I thought we were...

BRENT
No, no that’s better than ever. My new name is Brendon Moore.

CHUCK
Why?
BRENT
It is just the right time. A new chapter, identity and somehow my old name doesn’t suit me anymore. But, it does fit young Brent.

CHUCK
But, what about the deal with young Brent.

BRENT
Oh, I still want to work with him, but the plot has changed.

INT. DESK
FLASH on passages of time as Brent intensely types at the computer.

INT. COMPUTER
An email appears that reads, “The Medow pilot has won another festival award. Congratulations and way to go all on the Medow team!!”

FLASH on the list of “Medow” film credits with “Brendon Moore” listed as a guest star in the role of “Edgar”.

INT. BRENT APARTMENT
Brent speaks on the telephone.

BRENT
I hope you like this new departure for you.

INT. SCREENING ROOM
A scene from a new film with young Brent is being screened.

INT. BAR
Young Brent sits at a bar with a drink deep in thought.

An announcement with a flashing of lights indicates that the bar is closing.
A tipsy, but determined young Brent gets up off his stool to leave.

EXT. SIDEWALK

Young Brent walks along in the dark when confronted by a stranger.

After a quick exchange young Brent shakes his head no, and then walks away.

The mugger comes up from behind to grab his wallet out of his pocket.

Young Brent fights him off with some blood and punches.

A police car rushes into the scene with two cops.

The mugger takes off in hot pursuit by the cops.

A bloodied and bruised young Brent catches his breath in relief from the rescue.

His wallet still in his pocket.

EXT. SIDEWALK

The wounded young Brent walks with determined mission forward.

EXT. BROWNSTONE STEPS

Young Brent staggers up the steps to a door buzzer.

He pushes on it until the door opens. A groggy AIDEN, the same age as young Brent appears.

    AIDEN
    What happened?

Young Brent bounds in the door and then grabs him into a passionate kiss which takes the man by a pleasant surprise.
YOUNG BRENT
This is just the beginning of what’s going to happen. We are meant for each other, I love you, and I’m not going to beat myself about it anymore!

AIDEN
Well, all right let’s get you fixed up!

They embrace with more passion.

INT. SCREENING ROOM

Young Brent, and Brent are seated next to each other among others.

YOUNG BRENT
Thanks Brent or would you prefer Brendon?

BRENT
No, I answer to both and you are very welcome. It was my pleasure.

FLASH on press publicity about young Brent’s work in the new film More Magic with surprise at him in a gay role which may make him an awards contender.

INT. MOVIE THEATER

“The End” appears on the screen.

The packed premier audience breaks out into applause as the credits roll which show Brent Benton in the lead role and Brendon Moore as the screenwriter.

Both Brent’s sit with pride along with their escorts of Heather and Chuck among others.

FADE OUT