

DEAD ON ACTING

"Pilot"

Written and Created By:
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Mayamo Jimmy Productions

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LIST OF CHARACTERS:

GRIMM GARRISON, 40's, an oddball acting coach with a long list of dead acting roles.

MARIO BRUGAL, 20's, a classically trained thespian with a friendly urban appeal.

EMILY MCCORMICK, 20's, a naive, cute, children's theatre performer with a voice made for cartoons.

HANK BEMILY, 70's, a Korean war veteran looking to revisit an acting career after a 50 year absence.

RANDY GARY WILSON SMITH, 20's, an aspiring stunt man with a false sense of confidence and an obnoxious need for attention.

BOBBI PRINCETON, 20's, a tomboy nurse who's takes this acting class to help treat her thanatophobia (fear of death).

FADE IN:

EXT. ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

A CHURCH SIGN reads: "DEAD ON ACTING W/ GRIMM GARRISON"

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT- CLASSROOM - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS:

A.) Grimm WALKING in between a group of STUDENTS on the floor with their eyes closed. He examines two of the students with his STETHOSCOPE.

GRIMM (V.O.)
Great work today everyone.

B.) Grimm and the students WALKING like Zombies.

GRIMM (V.O.)
But before we wrap up our first
class, let me leave you with this.

C.) Grimm instructing two pairs of students to SLASH the throats of their partners with an IMAGINARY KNIFE.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT- CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

GRIMM walks before a group of FIVE STUDENTS with a SCYTHE in his hands.

GRIMM
You're all here for different
reasons. You may be an aspiring
stunt man with ambitions to change
the face of the stunt industry.

CLOSE ON Randy Gary Wilson Smith in his seat.

GRIMM (CONT'D)
Or a classically trained actor
who's manager told him that the
could make more money playing a
gang banger on Law and Order than
Othello in Shakespeare in the Park.

CLOSE ON Mario Brugal sitting in his seat.

GRIMM (CONT'D)

Or maybe your an actress looking to pursue more dramatic work after a casting director told you that your children's theatre credits looked "silly" and "unimportant".

CLOSE ON Emily McCormick.

GRIMM (CONT'D)

But despite your different reasons, the one thing that unites you all here today is your feeling of incompleteness. The feeling that you are headed toward a dead end in your life. But from this day forward, you won't need to get hung up on that feeling anymore.

He turns to the wall to HANG UP his scythe. He turns back.

GRIMM (CONT'D)

Because I, Grimm Garrison, will make you feel alive again by teaching you how to die. I'm living proof that this can happen, people. Heck, I can fill a cemetery with the amount of dead acting roles that I've done in my career. Did you know that some actors got their big break doing dead roles? Kevin Costner did in *The Big Chill* and so did Terry Kizer when he played Bernie in *Weekend at Bernie's*. And tell me this, what would CSI be without cadavers? What would horror films be without gruesome death scenes? What would *The Walking Dead* be if their actors couldn't convincingly "walk dead". The industry is in desperate need for people like us and after six weeks in this class you will be there to its rescue. In six weeks, you'll no longer see death as a homeless guy who asks you for change on the subway. Death will become your roommate. And once you can learn that, you'll be able to have the confidence to walk up to any casting director--

He PULLS OUT an imaginary handgun, COCKING IT with a bad sound effect. He then WALKS toward Randy, POINTING the gun right in his face.

GRIMM (CONT'D)
-- and shove your talent right in
their face.

He then PULLS the trigger, using yet another bad sound effect. Randy dramatically FALLS BACK into his chair.

GRIMM (CONT'D)
-- and blow their mind.

Randy continues SLIDING DOWN in his seat. He CARESSES the leg of Bobbi, who shews his hand AWAY.

Grimm TOSSES his handgun, PULLS an imaginary cigarette from behind his ear and LIGHTS IT. He takes a drag before TOSSING it at his students.

GRIMM (CONT'D)
I'll see you all next week.

EXT. OUTSIDE CLASSROOM- CONTINUOUS

Mario, Emily, Hank and Bobbi stand and talk outside class.

EMILY
What did you guys think?

BOBBI
That was intense.

MARIO
Are you talking about the class or
Grimm shooting that guy with four
names in the face?

BOBBI
(laughing)
Both I guess.

They share a laugh.

EMILY
So what was his name again?

MARIO
(sarcastically)
Randy Larry Garry Barry something?

BOBBI
Randy Gary Wilson Smith.

MARIO
Sounds like a law firm.

They all share a laugh.

BOBBI
Isn't he a stunt man, or something?

MARIO
He's a piece of work, that's for sure.

A beat.

BOBBI
(Re: Her watch)
Well, speaking of work, I got an overnight shift at the hospital calling my name. Nice to meet you all!

EMILY
You too!

MARIO
See you next week.

BOBBI (CONT'D)
Cya next week Hank.

As Bobbi leaves, Hank walks toward them.

HANK
(To: Bobbi.)
Bye sweetheart.
(To: Mario/Emily)
Well, we still got enough for a threesome.

Mario looks confused.

MARIO
A what?

HANK
To go out for some drinks. You both down?

EMILY
I'm down!

HANK
How bout you, amigo?

MARIO

Um...

EMILY

Come on! The first round of shots are on me.

HANK

(playfully)

I hope you mean body shots.

Mario looks even more perturbed.

HANK (CONT'D)

Plus I already got the hook up.

He pulls out his cellphone.

EMILY

Oh yeah? Where at?

HANK

(on the phone)

The VFW in Jersey City. (*proudly*)
I'm a member there.

EMILY

Why hello Mr. VIP.

HANK

B-R-B.

Hank walks a few steps away to talk on his phone.

MARIO

(To: Emily)

Actually, I think I'm gonna sit this one out.

EMILY

(surprised)

Wait, why?

MARIO

For some reason, I just suddenly started to feel a little nauseous.

EMILY

Really?

MARIO

Yeah. I think it'd be best if you two just went without me.

EMILY
You sure?

MARIO
Absolutely.

Hank returns.

HANK
They're guarding the bar with a M-14 until we get there.

MARIO
Actually Hank, I'm gonna sit this one out. I'm not really feeling well.

HANK
No problem. More drinks for us.

Hank puts his arm around Emily. She glows.

MARIO
I'll see you both in class next week.

Mario moves in on Emily to give her a kiss on the cheek. Hank is forced to adjust.

MARIO (CONT'D)
(brief)
Later Hank.

HANK
Peace out.

He extends a pound out to Mario, who awkwardly pounds it back before leaving. Hank explodes the pound.

EMILY
(sadly)
Feel better!

A beat passes. Hank reaches into his pocket and pulls out a pill container. He dumps one in his mouth and passes it to Emily.

HANK
Want one?

She grabs the container and looks at it.

EMILY
What is this?

HANK

Ecstasy.

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT--CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Grimm comes back into the classroom. He's talking on the phone.

GRIMM

(on the phone)

Hi, I'd like to make 7 o' clock
dinner reservations for two under--

Suddenly he notices Randy, still dead in his chair.

GRIMM (CONT'D)

(Re: Randy)

Holy Dick!

(Re: phone call)

I'm sorry. Please reserve the table
under Grimm Garrison, not Holy
Dick. OK. Thank you.

He hangs up and cautiously walks toward Randy. He hovers over him and slowly CLOSES Randy's EYES with his hand. He then crouches DOWN and gets near his FACE.

GRIMM (CONT'D)

(whispering)

It's like I'm looking right in the
mirror.

Grimm GETS UP and WALKS AWAY. As he does, a smirk slowly emerges from Randy's face.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW