



RODEO

Project by Jamie Lee Bolger

I declare that in submitting all work for this assessment I have read, understood and agree to the content and expectations of the assessment declaration.

Synopsis:

A middle aged man finds himself in the bizarre world of an old movie theatre, with a set of peculiar employees to match. All he wanted was a viewing experience, he just didn't need the ticket to see it.

World:

- Isolated suburban movie theatre
- Empty parking lot
- Novelty carpet and old fashioned cinema decor
- Appropriately uniformed employees
- Empty foyer
- Light background music, no chatter
- Smell of fresh popcorn

Parameters of the world:

- World is frozen in time and place
- World is like a fishbowl
- No outside influence
- World familiar characters act on a loop

Visual inspiration:

Neon lighting



Film inspiration:

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) directed by Terry Gilliam

- Neon lighting
- Wide angle lens



Suspiria (1977) directed by Dario Argento
-Neon lighting
-Italian *Giallo* films



Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me (1992) Directed by David Lynch

-Surrealism

-Uncanny tone

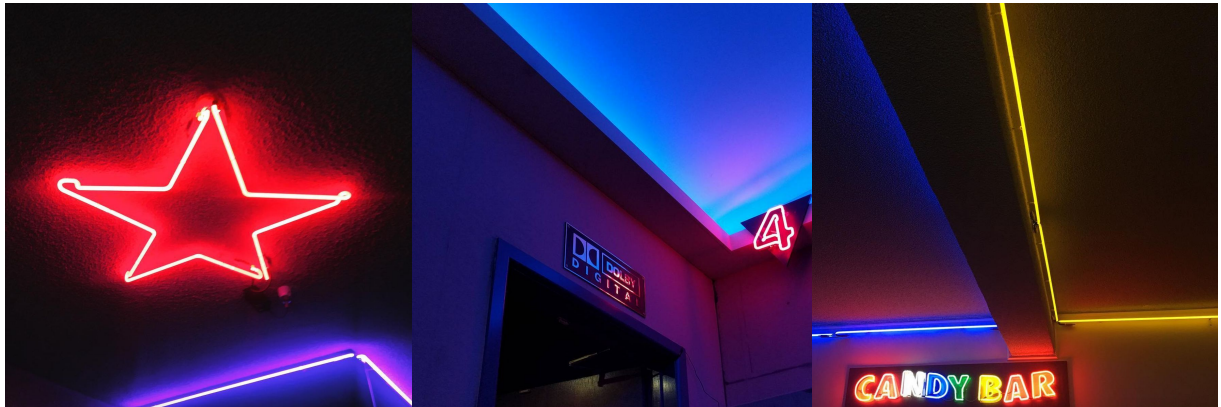


Location: WAVERLEY CINEMA

"Family-owned, longtime movie theatre in a shopping centre, screening blockbusters on 4 screens."

Located in: Pinewood Shopping Village

Address: Blackburn Rd, Mount Waverley VIC 3149



Location reel: <https://youtu.be/xvHBvs-XzQA>

Characters:

FRANK (50s)

Frank is a lonely, introverted man well past his halfway point in life. He is divorced with two kids in their late 20s. He rarely sees them. Not by his choice.

SARAH (21)

Sarah works solely at the candy bar. She refuses to clean after the movie sessions. She's above that. She dropped out of school at 17 and still believes that was the best choice for her.

EMPLOYEE (20s)

Employee is a well spoken young man, but has a bit of an odd manner about him that keeps people at a distance. He's never had any close friends, only acquaintances from the community centre he used to attend night classes at.

NOT IMPORTANT (30s)

Not Important is a well dressed man of African descent. He doesn't speak much English but is very hard working. He works very long hours but never complains. He has no family or friends.

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By

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The empty theatre foyer is drizzled with the sound of light playing music and the popping from the popcorn machine. The foyer is long and wide with movie posters covering each of the walls. The novelty carpet spotless.

A middle-aged man sits alone on a backless sofa eating popcorn with one hand and sipping a drink from the other.

He is FRANK.

A young appropriately dressed male EMPLOYEE emerges from the double doors of the cinema opposite FRANK. He is holding a black garbage bag in each hand. As he clips the doors to stay open, he nods at FRANK to welcome him into the cinema.

As FRANK stands up he notices his drink is nearly empty. He changes course to the candy bar. As he is walking, the woman at the candy bar glances up at him and straight back down.

She is SARAH.

SARAH is a 21 year old girl, in a short-sleeved white button-up shirt with black painted fingernails, chipped. She has a scratchy in her hand, which she scratches at with a 20 cent piece.

FRANK

Do you do free refills?

She stops scratching and then looks up at FRANK. She motions to the sign taped above the drink machine. It reads "NO REFILLS". She goes back to her scratchy.

FRANK opens his wallet. Empty. He smiles awkwardly and waves his hand slightly and takes a few steps back before he heads towards the cinema.

FRANK sits in the centre of the empty theatre.

He sips at his empty drink and sighs at this realisation. He looks at his popcorn as if he can no longer enjoy the salty snack.

FRANK peers around the room -- nobody there. He then sees the motion of a man in the doorway.

FRANK

(slightly irritated)

Hello? The movie was supposed to start 15 minutes ago.

No response.

FRANK

Hello?

FRANK breathes out. He gets up and climbs the stairs to the large double doors, he opens them.

3 INT. THEATRE FOYER - NIGHT

3

FRANK scans the foyer. No sign of the man. Then -- a bright coloured light catches the side of his face.

Music starts. SARAH stands a few feet away, a pink cowboy hat on her head, eyes closed. Dancing. Unaware of FRANK's presence.

Blue and red lights flash and reflect off the disco ball hanging above her.

She delicately swings the cowboy hat above her head as though she is atop a horse.

FRANK stares in confusion for a few moments and then heads in the direction of the bathroom sign.

4 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

4

FRANK pulls open the door in a rush and opens the door to the first stall. Empty. He opens the door to the second stall and locks it behind him. He puts the lid down and sits.

He rubs his hands over his face. He takes a few deep breaths to compose himself. He glances around the stall and notices a small note written in marker on the wall, it reads:

"It's not real".

He stares at the words in confusion, trying to decipher the meaning.

He gets up and unlocks the door. As he steps out of the stall he is met by a man in a black suit. He has a folded white towel draped over his forearm, with the other tucked behind his back.

His name is not important.

NOT IMPORTANT

Towel?

FRANK takes the towel.

FRANK
(caught off-guard)
Thank you.

FRANK slowly backs out of the room, towel in hand. A stunned look on his face. He uses his back to push the door open.

5

INT. THEATRE FOYER - NIGHT

5

As FRANK turns around he sees no sign of SARAH and her cowboy hat. He walks over to the box office and rings the call bell sitting on the counter.

After a few seconds he hesitantly taps the bell again.

No longer holding full garbage bags, the EMPLOYEE pops up from behind the counter. A chorus of laughter is heard.

FRANK looks again around the foyer to find no one in sight. He turns back to face the EMPLOYEE.

FRANK
Was that you?

Another track of laughter is heard. The EMPLOYEE stands tall and stiff with a large toothy grin.

FRANK stands unresponsive for a few seconds, unable to let any words fall from his mouth.

FRANK then points his thumb over his shoulder towards the door.

FRANK
(confused)
I think I might head off...

FRANK is midway to the exit when he hears:

EMPLOYEE
Sorry for the technical issues sir,
but the movie is now running.

Another laughter track. Another toothy grin.

FRANK opens the doors to the exit and sees his old beaten car alone in the carpark.

6 EXT. CAR PARK - NIGHT

6

FRANK unlocks his car with his key in the door and slides into the drivers seat.

With no luck, FRANK's engine refuses to start. After a few tries he admits defeat and rests his head on the steering wheel.

After a while, he lifts his head and rests it against the head rest. He looks to his right and sees that he's now parked outside his house.

7 EXT. FRANK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

7

FRANK gets out of his car but leaves the door wide open as he walks to his front door.

He sees the front door is ajar. He pushes it open with his palm. He stands still in the doorway.

The sound of his TV playing is heard from the lounge, with light bouncing into the hall.

He takes a slow step through the doorway.

8 INT. CINEMA - NIGHT

8

As FRANK walks through the doorway he emerges into the opening of the cinema.

He stands shocked as the film plays in front of him. The light from the film washes over his face.

He slowly walks down the stairs, until he reaches the middle seats of the cinema. He walks into the empty aisle of seats.

As he sits down, the EMPLOYEE appears on the seat to his right and hands him a bucket of popcorn. He hesitates, but then slowly takes the bucket. The EMPLOYEE smiles warmly.

From his left, SARAH reaches over to hand him a large cup filled with Coke. He takes it.

FRANK
(pause)
Thanks?

She winks back at him.

FRANK sits and sips at his drink as he turns to watch the screen.

THE END.