

DREAMBOX

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A cheesy intro to an interview show about science and technology. This is a table format interview show along the lines of Charlie Rose. The host's name is GILBERT STEVENSON his guest is MICHAEL TRANCE.

GILBERT STEVENSON

Hello and welcome to Technology Tomorrow, I'm Gilbert Stevenson. (beat) Today my guest has a long list of accomplishments when it comes to the world of science, but none more revolutionary than his latest invention the DREAM BOX. Fresh off a flight from of Kyoto, Japan Dr. Michael Trance. Welcome to the show.

MICHAEL

Thank you Gil.

GILBERT STEVENSON

Your newest invention, the DREAM BOX, is soon to be released to the public via IPO and retail stores this holiday season. Tell us a little about how this works and can you really record my dreams?

MICHAEL

We sure can Gil, it's essentially a dream reading machine. We've learned how to interpret what you're dreaming about by measuring your brain activity while you sleep. This data is then plugged into an algorithm that reconstructs your dream so that it can be played back for you when you're awake.

GILBERT STEVENSON

And how accurate is the playback to the actual dream?

MICHAEL

In past years we've always lingered around 60% accuracy. In the development of this particular product my team and I have been able to bring that up to 95%.

The crowd cheers and MICHAEL smiles to the camera.

GILBERT STEVENSON

Wow, that's impressive. (beat) So tell me, do you see any harm this can have...socially?

MICHAEL

We've embraced the social aspect of this, Gil. As soon as you wake up you can share your dreams with your friends within minutes through our app or online on every social platform available.

The crowd cheers again.

GILBERT STEVENSON

Wow, marvelous! Well, I think I speak for everyone when I say we can't wait to test this gadget out.

MICHAEL

We're excited too Gil. Just drop by one of our retail locations starting the 1st of December and we can get you signed up for an implant plan for as low as \$49 / a month.

Roaring cheers again. The doctor and host stand up, shake hands and wave. Pause, static, zoom black.

Title Card: DREAM BOX

Michael falls into water and covers the title as he sinks, he's dreaming.

Title Card: 5 Years Later

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Michael sleeps soundly as a light flashes on his bed stand, it's a black cube with digital Z's streaming out of the top of it. A cord follows from the DREAM BOX to Michael.

He wakes up suddenly and gasps for breath as he was drowning in his dream. He rubs his eyes, blink, blink. A screen opens on the DREAM BOX with a logo and a question that asks "Download your dreams?" He screen swipes down to the left.

MICHAEL

Put it in the water file.

The dream downloads as indicated by the status bar. He yawns gets up and swings his legs out of bed rubs his eyes again.

Michael's wife, SARA, wakes up next to him. She's stretches and yawns. Michael unplugs walks into the bathroom. Her prompt comes up and she swipes down and to the left. Downloading...

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

They are both brushing their teeth, Michael has wet hair. Each of them have their own BOX screen about 15 x 15 inches screening their dreams from the night before. Sara laughs at hers, Michael spits out his toothpaste. His screen starts fizzling static in and out. He then feels the implant on the back of his neck. Rubs it and then slaps it a few times to get the picture back. He spits again.

DOWNSTAIRS -

Michael, dressed for work, walks past the kitchen table with briefcase in hand. No screen. At the table their two kids, a boy JOHN and a girl MEGAN are both watching their mini-screens and eating cereal. John winces at his screen as he's flying in his and Megan dreams of laying in an open field smelling flowers.

MICHAEL

Hey guys? What'd we say about Boxes at the table?

The kids mumble an apology but never take their eyes off their screens. Sara is now cooking eggs as she scrolls through her screen, Michael walks over and pecks her on the cheek.

SARA

Don't let the guys at the office hear that.

Sara jokes.

MICHAEL

Happy birthday baby!

He holds up a present for her. She diverts from her screen and it powers down and they hug.

SARA

Thank you! What is it?

She is excited and opens the package and it's a new portable pink DREAM BOX.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Yes! My favorite color!

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CAR - DAY

SARA  
Remember John needs you to pick him  
up today from school early.

MICHAEL  
Oh yea right. (beat) Will do.

He enters his car, she bends down stares behind her and turns  
back. Their neighbor DENNIS comes out to get the paper. Sara  
notices.

SARA  
Oh you have to go to your dream  
wall and watch Dennis's dream from  
last night. What a perv!

Dennis picks up the paper and waves. Michael waves back.

MICHAEL  
Morning Dennis.

DENNIS  
Mornin'.

Sara smirks at Michael.

MICHAEL (TO SARA)  
What a perv.

They kiss.

INT. CAR - ON THE WAY TO WORK

Michael is driving and passes a wreck on a main road. Two men  
with their portable DREAM BOX's open are screaming at each  
other. He dials the phone and his secretary AMANDA picks up.

AMANDA  
Good morning Mr. Trance, what can I  
do for you?

MICHAEL  
Morning Amanda, do you have my BOX  
archive available?

AMANDA  
Yes sir.

MICHAEL

Great, it's my wife's birthday tonight, can you go to the family folder and pull my dream from last 4th of July, you know the barbecue? She loves that one. Have a new drive on my desk when I get in.

AMANDA

Consider it done sir. (beat) Just so your aware The Awake Coalition is protesting outside again.

MICHAEL

(beat) Ok and what's the day like today?

AMANDA

We have a reporter here from the *Times*. She's here for that fluff piece.

MICHAEL

Ahhh, shit. Ok, I'll be there in 5. Tell her 15.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING -

Michael walks past the Awake Coalition protesters and in the front door of the DREAM BOX building with their logo on the side, the building is built exactly like a product model.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING -

A quote on the wall 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams' -Eleanor Roosevelt. Down a cubicle hallway with multiple co-workers typing and talking on phones, working, but swiping on their DREAM BOX machines. A few workers greet him with "Good morning Mr. Trance." "Hello, Mr. Trance."

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE -

Michael walks into his high rise office with a view and puts in his new implant that says 4th of July on it. His window with a view boots up and his computer now distracts the view from the outside world as a touchable mega screen is operating. He moves various screens, checks email, weather prompts, basketball scores. Amanda walks in with the *Times* reporter PENELOPE behind him.

AMANDA

Mr. Trance, this is Penelope Strife  
from the *Times*. (beat) Penelope  
this is our CEO Mr. Michael Trance.

They shake hands.

MICHAEL

Nice to meet you Penelope.

PENELOPE

Nice to meet you sir.

MICHAEL

You ready to do this?

INT. DAY - DREAM BOX DATA RESEARCH CENTER

Michael gives Penelope a tour of the building and starts in  
the rat trap that is the research center. Many scientists and  
researchers test and work at computers diligently to get the  
latest DREAM BOX to be more innovative then ever.

MICHAEL

These folks are the life blood of  
this company.

PENELOPE

It's very impressive.

MICHAEL

We have a black market to compete  
with, software to improve and a  
strong problem with recidivism so  
we need to stay sharp.

Penelope's face is blank. Raises his eyebrows.

PENELOPE

Recidivism?

MICHAEL

People keep seeing the same dreams.  
There's so much sharing these days  
that people are dreaming about  
other peoples dreams. Our dreams  
come from our connection with the  
real world when that starts  
overlapping, it becomes a problem.

INT. MEZZANINE / BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Michael peers upon the protesters who have grown on the ground floor.

PENELOPE

What happens when a person stops dreaming?

Michael turns to her.

MICHAEL

It's not in our nature to stop dreaming, cavemen had dreams. We all have dreams whether we want to or not.

PENELOPE

Why do you think people are so fixated on watching their dreams? Aside from the purely voyeuristic reasons.

MICHAEL

The fact of the matter is we give people the chance to fly, fight a dragon, spend time with a loved one that has passed away, create a piece of art. (beat) What we do here is let people see what their subconscious wouldn't normally allow them to see.

PENELOPE

Are you worried about the contagion effect? There have been cases reported in the last several years of people obsessing over horrible things they have done in their dreams. There was the grandmother in Orlando who dreamed of eating her two granddaughther, and after watching the download several times, she-

MICHAEL

I am aware of what happened. Her families lawsuit was found to have no basis in reality. At the end of the day it is no different than an R-Rated movie. We have archives, prompts, and filters to let people decide what's necessary or not.

(MORE)



MICHAEL (CONT'D)

We don't have any control over what some crazy bitch did or what people are willing to watch.

Penelope looks outright disturbed and shocked, they are just looking at each other.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Jesus, I thought this thing was supposed to be a puff piece.

Penelope fake smiles.

PENELOPE

Sorry, sir. Just trying to answer a lot of questions that the public has. DREAM BOX tends to be a little insularly in regards to your access to the public.

Michael points to the protesters below him.

MICHAEL

With that out there, could you blame us?

PENELOPE

What do you think of groups like Awake?

MICHAEL

Their happy with the way things were. Our product isn't for them. It's for those who feel that they need more answers. We here at DREAM BOX want to give people the opportunity to see their dreams more vividly so they can come that much closer to achieving them. And the message that the coalition is sending? They want us to "wake-up", right? Stop profiting off of people's dreams, or nightmares or whatever. The truth is our real identities already exist inside of us. (beat) My dreams? They are MY property and this is still America. We'll never stop chasing our dreams.

PENELOPE

But what's the practical application of having a hard drive full of sex dreams about my boss or nightmares about showing up to high school naked?

MICHAEL

Well, I could show you the latest downloads number.

They both chuckle.

PENELOPE

Sure, sure.

MICHAEL

No, your on. (beat) You said practical. Come with me. I want to show you something.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING

Michael and Penelope walk out and past a homeless man holding a sign that says "Lost my dreams, spare a dollar?". Now are greeted by the mob of the Awake Coalition screaming in their faces and holding picket signs that say "This is your wake-up call!", "Dreams are fake!", "My nightmare has come true!"

Michael pushes through the crowd to break through on the other side and points across the street. Penelope lags, gets caught in the crowd but is following.

MICHAEL

See that?

PENELOPE

What sir?

Michael is pointing at a restaurant across the street.

MICHAEL (TO HIMSELF)

My friend Reggie saw that place in a dream he recorded. (smiles to himself) Within the next year he got a loan and now runs a successful business. If that's not practical application then I don't know what is.

He turns around. Penelope has a gun point blank to Michael's head. Michael tenses up and BAM! Penelope shoots Michael in front of her comrades in the Coalition.

Penelope turns toward the coalition and starts chanting and raising her gun in the air.

PENELOPE

Wake up! Wake up! Wake up!

The coalition runs over and crowds around her, chanting along.

FADE TO BLACK-

Audio - Radio Show : We are sad to report the shooting of inventor and pioneer of the DREAM BOX Michael Trance is currently in critical condition. The shooter claimed to be a reporter from Orlando that blames Trance for the death of her young children. Michelle, 7, and Jonathan, 3.....

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Michael lays with a bandaged head, lifeless in a hospital bed. Above him is a huge flat screen TV linked into Michael's DREAM BOX projecting his dreams to his mourning family. The dream being projected is the 4th of July BBQ that Michael wanted for his wife's birthday.

His family sits surrounding his bedside diligently watching. MEGAN holds her small portable DREAM BOX. The doctor comes in. Sara approaches him for some answers. They shake hands.

DOCTOR

Hello, Ms. Trance. I'm Dr. Stevens and I performed the procedure on your husband.

SARA

Hello, thank you. How is he doing?

DOCTOR

As you know we were able to remove the bullet but his brain activity is very low.

SARA

How long will he be like this?

DOCTOR

I've seen comas last 2 weeks or 2 years, there really is no telling. All we can do is keep monitoring his activity and be hopeful, but I have to tell you our prognosis is that he's in a vegetated state.

She turns around and looks at the screen of the 4th of July BBQ, it's on a loop.

SARA

But what about this dream? We've watched it a dozen times, and little things keep changing. One time he's wearing an apron the other he's cooking a burger instead of hot dogs.

DOCTOR

It's just a dream ma'am.

SARA

But it's got to mean something, he's trying to tell us something!

DOCTOR

Ms. Trance, dreams are the brain's attempt to make sense of random brain activity. I know what your husband stood for and what your family thinks but the truth is there is no deeper cognitive meaning. (beat) Just be happy he's stuck somewhere nice. I'm sorry.

He exits the room and she turns away, starting to tear up. Sara stares at her kids watching the monitor as they try to relive this one moment in their father's mind. Whether it's accurate or true we'll never know. Michael flips burgers and lights off fireworks.

CREDITS ROLL - THE END