

CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM

Spec script

"Le Merde"

Written by

JAK BURKE

Sixth draft

Cast:

LARRY DAVID... Himself  
CHERYL HINES... CHERYL DAVID  
JEFF GARLIN ... JEFF GREEN  
SUSIE ESSMAN ... SUSIE GREEN

Guest Starring:

JOHN MALKOVICH ... Himself  
ROSIE O'DONNELL ... Herself

To be cast:

Director WILLIAM X ...  
French historian LOUIS Y ...  
ELDERLY DECORATED VETERAN ...  
DOG LADY ...  
PILOT (Charles Lee) ...  
FLIGHT ATTENDANT  
VET 1 ...  
VET 2 ...  
WAITER ...  
DINNER GUESTS ...  
DRIVER ...  
PORTER ...  
SERVER ...

Premise

Larry is invited by Rosie O'Donnell to attend a long weekend with Hollywood director William X at John Malkovich's Bordeaux Chateau in France. Also in attendance will be a well-known French historian Louis Y. The weekend has been organized to explore John Malkovich's new screenplay 'La Resistance Jonzac' with possible writing and acting opportunities for the Davids. Through a series of cultural and social blunders Larry squanders any hopes of networking.

TEASER

FADE IN:

1. INT. JEFF & SUSIE GREEN'S LOUNGE - AFTERNOON

A small social gathering at JEFF'S (GREEN) house to celebrate a veteran's birthday. LARRY looks unhappy sat next to an ELDERLY DECORATED VETERAN who talks non-stop. LARRY winces when CHERYL takes a photo using LARRY'S phone. SUSIE (GREEN) walks over and notices LARRY'S face.

SUSIE

Something up Lar?

(shouts)

Not enjoying the company of our decorated war hero here?

JEFF

(approaches)

Hey did he tell you about his platoon taking that village in.

LARRY

(holds up hand)

About a hundred times.

CHERYL

Larry!

SUSIE

If it wasn't for the likes of my courageous uncle here you ungrateful fuck you'd be papering some lamp in Berlin.

LARRY

Is that so?

SUSIE

Yeah. So suck it up you moronic ingrate.

LARRY

Well I don't see you sat here savoring the same military maneuver in minutia detail every five minutes. How strange?

SUSIE

Right that's it. Get out! You spit on the graves of braver men than yourself, but not in my house. Out!

LARRY

Gone.

By front door Jeff calls Larry to one side.

JEFF

Listen Rosie O'Donnell wants to meet you tomorrow at 10. Her office. She's got a writing proposal and.

LARRY

What?

JEFF

I don't need to come right?

LARRY

Uch! I'm not doing any more fillers for her game show!

JEFF

No it's something with that director, you know, William X. Foreign film I think. Just go and check it out.

LARRY

She's so intellectually draining.

JEFF

Good man. Oh and maybe look up some facts about the Second World War. It's kind of important apparently.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

## 2. INT. ROSIE O'DONNELL'S OFFICE - DAY

Larry gingerly enters ROSIE O'DONNELL'S office. Rosie chewing gum, is playing a video game, she motions for him to wait but sit down.

ROSIE

Gotchya! God I love Angry Birds. You play that Lar?

LARRY

Nah I got plenty in my garden.

ROSIE

(puzzled)

Okay so John M calls me this morning.

LARRY

John M? Who's John M?

ROSIE

John Malkovich. Everyone knows that Lar.

LARRY

What he's so important now he's known universally as John M?

ROSIE

John's one of my best friends actually.

LARRY

Really?

ROSIE

So he's working with William X, you know, the director, on this incredible new movie.

LARRY

Best friend?

ROSIE

Based on John M's new screenplay, La Resistance, or something, dunno, anyways it's French.

LARRY

Would never have put you two together.

ROSIE

What's that?

LARRY

I mean you know I'm just curious?

ROSIE

Curious? Like what's a talented intellectual like John M got in common with some Mick broad from Long Island like me kinda curious?

LARRY

Well yeah, quite frankly.

ROSIE

What the fuck is wrong with you Lar?

LARRY

What?

ROSIE

You know what? You piece of ignorant shit, I invited you over here to tell you that William X and John M are interested in inviting you over to Bordeaux this weekend to discuss some writing possibilities on a movie. Because I wrote you up Lar, now what you got to say about that?

LARRY

What you have in common? Chess?

ROSIE

We stamp collect okay? There you dragged it out of me that's right, we meet and swap fucking stamps, happy now, Lar?

LARRY

Stamps?

ROSIE

Anyways here's the address, a car will meet you at Bordeaux airport but you got to get there before tomorrow night. That's when the meeting happens. And what do you know about World War 2?

LARRY

Ach.

(holds up his phone)

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

See that? That's my uncle, a decorated war hero. I rest my case.

ROSIE

Okay so just get your ass over there and don't make me look like an idiot oh and take your better half.

Rosie picks up I-pad begins to play Angry Birds again. Larry smirks and mutters something.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

What was that?

LARRY

Nothing O'Donnell nothing.

Larry goes to the office door.

ROSIE

And another thing Lar don't call me O'Donnell. I got two names. Friggin use it.

3. EXT. AN LA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - LATE DAY

A few hours later. Larry and Cheryl queue in a long line at a crowded airport.

CHERYL

(frustrated)

Oh my god Larry let it go!

LARRY

(impersonates a Long Island accent)

I got two names so friggin use it. That doesn't even make grammatical sense.

CHERYL

Our flight looks full. I hope we get on.

LARRY

Do I complain that she calls me Lar? What's Lar? It sounds like a grunt.

CHERYL

Probably all for economy.

LARRY

What two syllables too difficult? Lar-ry.

CHERYL

(to a FLIGHT ASSISTANT)

No we're looking to go business? There are no more seats available?

LARRY

(hands American Express card to Cheryl) Just book first class.

CHERYL

There are no more seats left Larry. Period.

LARRY

What are you talking about?

CHERYL

All they have are two seats in economy. We have to take them. It's the last flight.

LARRY

I'm not flying economy, with my neck, my back, I get claustrophobic, I can't do it Cheryl, I'll go nuts. No way!

#### 4. INT. FLIGHT AIR FRANCE 767 CABIN - NIGHT

Half way into a transatlantic flight. Larry and Cheryl sit in economy opposite a toilet, next to a woman with two dog boxes. It's a night flight. A baby wails in the aisle in front. The food trolley bashes into Larry. There's turbulence. A MAN IN TOILET comes out of the toilet. The toilet reeks.

LARRY

That's his third trip in an hour.

(to MAN IN TOILET)

There's a cure for dysentery you know. Jesus I'm praying the plane crashes.

CHERYL

(whispers)

At least the baby went to sleep. Now you can watch your movie.

LARRY

(taps screen)

Oh Christ! I lost it!



Larry hits his screen repeatedly, rocking the chair in front and waking the baby, who begins to cry again.

GUY IN FRONT

I just got him to sleep jerk!

LARRY

My TV won't work!

GUY IN FRONT

I don't care if the engines fail you knock this chair again I'll smash your face in.

DOG LADY

Hey. You're disturbing my dogs.

LARRY

You know I've been sitting here mildly curious as to how two dogs got seats, I mean, what's wrong with steerage?

DOG LADY

They can't do steerage it's too traumatic?

LARRY

Too Traumatic?

GUY IN FRONT

Keep your mouth shut.  
(the baby cries)

DOG LADY

That's right. I got a letter from their psychiatrist saying they can't fly steerage 'cause the last time they did, they got sent to China by mistake, I didn't get them back for 6 weeks.

LARRY

Your dogs got sent to China? I hate to tell you lady but that's like getting Jewish relatives back from Auschwitz. It doesn't happen.

DOG LADY

Oh I got them back.

LARRY

You sure about that? They clone dogs in China.

DOG LADY

These dogs are not clones!

LARRY

There's a barcode on that dog! I can see it.

DOG LADY

That's from the vet.

LARRY

In Chinese?

DOG LADY

Chinese?

The PILOT approaches. He's Asian.

LARRY

That's right. Your dogs didn't even make it off the plane. The cabin crew ate them so they sent you those clones.

PILOT

Is there a problem here?

LARRY

You the Pilot?

PILOT

Yes I am.

LARRY

So who's flying the plane? I mean that's the bigger question here.

PILOT

TV issue huh?

LARRY

(points to FLIGHT ATTENDANTS)  
Get one of those to deal with this.

PILOT

They're busy.

LARRY

Giving out snacks?

PILOT

I know about these screens. Let's take a look.

DOG LADY

Can you just move him somewhere else?

MAN IN TOILET

(passes by)

He made fun of my IBS.

The seatbelt sign lights up. The plane begins to rock. The Flight Attendant approaches, she whispers something to the Pilot.

PILOT

Really? Okay give me a minute.

LARRY

What did she say?

PILOT

It doesn't concern you.

LARRY

It doesn't concern me?

Flight Attendant lingers whispers something again to Pilot.

PILOT

(irritated)

Tell John to deal with it! I need to check this screen first!

LARRY

Who's John the co-pilot?

PILOT

None of your concern! Move to one side.

GUY IN FRONT

He kept hitting it. I think he broke it.

LARRY

(to GUY IN FRONT)

What are you nuts? The plane could crash because the PILOT is listening to this mundane shit?

PILOT

So it's a classic screen pressure issue. It won't take long.

LARRY

I don't care about the TV right now. I CAN READ A BOOK!

PILOT

No-no you're entitled to the TV. Hey!

CHERYL

Oh no Larry please!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

## 5. INT. CAR - DAY

The following day in France. Cheryl and Larry are being driven from Bordeaux airport.

LARRY

(rubs wrists)

It was very uncomfortable being restrained like that for four hours.

CHERYL

It was your own fault.

LARRY

I was simply trying to draw attention to a safety lapse. That's all.

CHERYL

By brandishing a weapon?

LARRY

It was a plastic spoon!

CHERYL

Oh wow. Is this it?

DRIVER

Oui Madam, this is Monsieur Malkovich's chateau.

LARRY

Good I'm exhausted.

CHERYL

Well you have just enough time to shower before dinner.

LARRY

Dinner? My body clock's on breakfast.

## 6. EXT. JOHN MALKOVICH'S CHATEAU - CONTINUOUS

JOHN MALKOVICH stands at the front door. He greets the Davids in French. All dialogue to be spoken in French with English subtitles unless indicated by (English).

JOHN M

Hello and welcome. I trust your trip was easy?

LARRY

(English) Huh?

Larry extends his hand but John M leans in, kissing Larry and Cheryl on both cheeks.

CHERYL

Excuse my high school French. Thank you. Yes our trip was good.

JOHN M

A porter will show you to your room. Dinner is in an hour.

LARRY

(English) What?

CHERYL

(English) Come on Larry.

JOHN M

(English) Is he okay?

CHERYL

(English) He's a little jet-lagged.

JOHN M

Not a problem. We are in the smoking room. Someone will bring you down for an aperitif.

Camera pans in on Larry's horrified face.

7. INT. THE DAVID'S BEDROOM/CHATEAU – HALF AN HOUR LATER

A sumptuous en suite bedroom. The Davids have showered and are dressing. A porter gently raps the door.

PORTER

Five minutes Mr. and Mrs. David for aperitifs.

CHERYL

Thank you.

LARRY

(English) Malkovich's so fucking pretentious. I can't stand it. He's American I'm American, you're American, but no let's talk in French.

CHERYL

(English) We're in France. It's polite to make the effort.

LARRY

(English) They speak English here. It's Europe.

CHERYL

(English) They speak English in England. Look I'll translate for you. Just don't say anything offensive.

8. INT. A LARGE SMOKING LOUNGE/CHATEAU - CONTINUOUS

Twenty minutes later the Davids enter a large smoking lounge. A few guests sit sipping cognacs. John M, Hollywood director WILLIAM X, and French historian LOUIS X stand to one side. John M motions for the Davids to approach. John M offers Larry a cigar.

LARRY

(English) Thanks. You got AC? It's like an oven in here.

JOHN M

(English) No Larry in France we perspire.

ASSISTANT

A drink sir?

LARRY

(English) What's he saying?

CHERYL

(English) Take the drink! What a wonderful chateau John.

JOHN M

Oh this little shack? It's sixteenth century. I had it fully restored with the money I made from 'Being John Malkovich'.

CHERYL

Wow!

Larry is talking loudly to the Assistant in English, trying to get a window open. In frustration he tries to do it himself. An ornate handle falls off the window. Larry tucks it into his pocket.

JOHN M

Cheryl may I introduce you to acclaimed Hollywood director William X, and to Noble Peace Prize winning historian Louis Y. Gentlemen, this is Cheryl David, the

(MORE)

JOHN M (CONT'D)

beautiful wife of Seinfeld writer, Larry David. I saw her in a sitcom two months ago and thought to myself. I just have to have her.

(laughter)

CHERYL

(English) John sorry you have to slow down. I can't understand what you're saying.

WILLIAM X

A pleasure.

LOUIS Y

Madam David (kisses hand) you are both charming and beautiful.

CHERYL

Thank you.

JOHN M

Oh, this is Larry David.

LARRY

(English) Hi.

A bell rings a call for dinner. Everyone is ushered to another room.

9. INT. A DINING ROOM/CHATEAU - CONTINUOUS

The guests led by John M enter a dining room, where they cluster awkwardly around a long banquet table. The table is laden with dishes. John M seats everyone. He seats Cheryl to his immediate right, like a consort. Next down are William X and Louis Y who sit opposite one another. There is an empty seat next to William X. Larry tries to sit down there.

JOHN M

(English) No not there!

LARRY

(English) What's wrong with here?

JOHN M

(English) It's not your seat.

LARRY

(English) It's empty!

JOHN M

(English) It's reserved.

CHERYL

(English) LARRY just sit where you're assigned!

LARRY

(English) Yeah I'll be sure to write.

Surrounding Larry on the table are dishes with snails in shells, unappetizing organ meats and assorted entrails. Larry cautiously picks as groups of guests on either side of him, ignore him. Finally another dish is placed on the table.

JOHN M

Ah! Steak Tartare!

LARRY

(English) It's not cooked.

WILLIAM X

What's the problem?

LARRY

(English) I can't eat this. It's salmonella ala cart. Look they cracked a raw egg over the top so if the bacterium in the raw meat doesn't kill you, the bacterium in the egg will!

CHERYL

(English) Just eat it.

JOHN M

I've no idea what she sees in him.

LARRY

(English) This dish is a loaded gun.

JOHN M

(English) It's perfectly safe. Unless you have some underlying medical condition that you don't know about.

LARRY

(English) How comforting. Like what?

JOHN M

(English) Oh I can't recall which ones.



LARRY

(English) Listen. Underlying medical conditions are generally named after my family members.

JOHN M

(English) It's extremely bad manners to refuse the chef's signature dish.

LARRY

(English) But it's good manners to kill the guests? Interesting culture.

JOHN M

(English) Larry you just ate snails, lamb testicles and half a pig's brain, some ground beef won't make much difference.

LARRY

(English) This isn't a dinner it's a massacre.

LOUIS Y

He's funny all right.

WILLIAM X

Yeah I like him.

LARRY

(English) Hey d'you want to hear a funny story but it's in English? It's about a woman and two dogs.

LOUIS Y

(English) I do.

WILLIAM X

(English) Me too.

JOHN M

(English) You appear to have a captive audience.

As Larry tells his story, the camera slowly pans across the faces of Louis Y and William X, who find Larry hilarious. Camera pans onto Cheryl, who glows, and to the French guests who are laughing and enjoying Larry. It seems everyone loves Larry except John M.

LARRY

So then this schmuck comes over, and he wants to look at my TV. Just then the plane takes a 90

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)  
 degree dive, I mean, everyone's falling around,  
 cases, drinks, the seatbelt sign flashes, and who  
 do you think this putz was?

A man enters the room discreetly.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
 The pilot! Can you believe that?

A hushed silence as the man approaches the table.

PILOT  
 (English) Mr. David. We meet again.

LOUIS Y  
 (English) You two know one another?

PILOT  
 This was the idiot I was telling you about.

JOHN M  
 (English) Well - well - it's a small world.

LARRY  
 (English) I just want to know. Did you fix  
 the TV? You know 36 thousands miles up in  
 turbulence.

CHERYL  
 (English) Larry please.

LARRY  
 (English) That's important no?

PILOT  
 (to the others guests.)  
 I had him restrained on my flight today.  
 (extends his hand to Larry)  
 Charles, a pleasure.

LARRY  
 Larry. Nice to meet you again Charles.

JOHN M  
 No it's Charrllles.

LARRY  
 That's what I said.

LOUIS Y

No you said Charles and there's no such name in French.

JOHN M

Here take some wine and gargle it in the back of your throat, then try the name Charles again. Roll the 'r' Larry.

LARRY

I'm not doing that.

PILOT

It's okay.

LARRY

See he says he doesn't care.

PILOT

I didn't say I didn't care I merely said it's okay if you do not wish to say my name properly.

CHERYL

Just try it Larry.

LARRY

No way – no! Anyway he didn't say my name properly.

PILOT

Yes I did.

LARRY

No you said Larr-ry, you rolled the 'r' in my name and frankly there's no such name in English.

JOHN M

Oh my god can we move on?

Ad lib Pilot attempting unsuccessfully to say 'Larry' multiple times. He gets frustrated.

LARRY

You know what? It's okay.

PILOT

Really? Are you sure?

LARRY

Sure it's not a big deal.

PILOT

Oh thank you Larry.

Everyone begins to laugh again. The pilot takes his seat. The one that Larry was earlier denied. This scene moves forward, an hour passes, drinks are poured, guests relax, they sit with arms around one another, all the while John Malkovich sulks. Larry is talking to a captivated audience. Finally the table retires to the smoking lounge.

10. INT. HALLWAY TO SMOKING LOUNGE/CHATEAU - CONTINUOUS

As everyone slowly makes his or her way to the smoking lounge, Larry takes Cheryl aside.

LARRY  
They love me!

CHERYL  
They love you!

LARRY  
Even when I'm obnoxious!

CHERYL  
We should move here.

LARRY  
Listen I got to go to the toilet. Don't let Malkovich paw you no more. He's all over you like a rash.

CHERYL  
I know. He's creeping me out.

LARRY  
He's a creep.

CHERYL  
He hates you.

LARRY  
He hates me.

CHERYL  
Maybe you intimidate him?

LARRY  
I intimidate him.

CHERYL  
This is his first attempt at writing you know?

LARRY  
I think that's it. My success intimidates him.

CHERYL

Okay so hurry. I don't want to be left alone with him.

Cheryl exits to SMOKING LOUNGE. John Malkovich wanders into the hallway spies Larry.

JOHN M

Did you ever see my movie 'Dangerous Liaisons' Larry?

LARRY

I don't think so.

JOHN M

The plot was a bet between two people as to whether one of them could seduce Madame de Tourvel, a married woman.

LARRY

Okay.

JOHN M

Life so often imitates art my friend.

LARRY

(long pause)

What?

JOHN M

One man's comedy is another man's tragedy?

LARRY

Huh?

JOHN M

Adieu!

(wry smile, wanders away)

#### 11. INT. BATHROOM/CHATEAU - CONTINUOUS

An 18<sup>th</sup> century bathroom. Larry tries to figure out which receptacle to urinate in: one toilet, two sinks and a boudoir. Then Larry notices a small wooden cabinet. Curious he tries to open it. It's stuck shut. Larry levers it open. It's a medicine cabinet filled with Viagra prescriptions made out to John Malkovich. Larry gleefully snags two bottles. The door to the cabinet falls off. Larry wedges it back shut. Some paint chips fall onto Larry's pants. He jubilantly returns back downstairs.

## 12. INT. THE SMOKING LOUNGE/CHATEAU - CONTINUOUS

Larry enters to find John M with his arm draped over Cheryl.

LARRY

(English) Nice bathroom John

WILLIAM X

(English) We were just talking about the script.

LOUIS Y

(English) Yes, John's done some extensive research. He's quite the historian.

JOHN M

(English) Oh please.

LARRY

(English) He's just so good at rising to the occasion.

WILLIAM X

(English) But now we're really looking for someone to come in and write dialogue for the movie's American soldiers.

LOUIS Y

(English) Yes John perfectly captures the French resistance fighters, quite remarkable in fact.

LARRY

(English) But he flops when it comes to the.

WILLIAM X

(English) Americans.

LARRY

(English) So he needs a little help, to get his juices going?

CHERYL

(English) Gentlemen. I'm going to retire with the ladies.

JOHN M

(English) But I haven't shown you my plum trees yet?

CHERYL

(English) Sorry I'm beat. I can't stay up any longer.

LARRY

(mumbles)

(English) Neither can he.

WILLIAM X

(English) Once we get the script back to New York. We'll get you in Cheryl.

CHERYL

(English) Thank you so much! (winks at Larry)  
Goodnight everyone.

The other guests, all women, leave.

LARRY

(English) So tell me more about the script.

WILLIAM X

(English) It's about this region, about a group of resistance men in World War Two. We hear you know about this period Larry?

LARRY

(English) I do. My uncle's a decorated war veteran. See?

He produces a photo of Susie Green's uncle and himself. The Pilot comes into the room. He kisses Louis Y lightly on the lips.

PILOT

(English) Goodnight Mon Cher. I'm going to bed. Larry, it was a pleasure to handcuff you.

LARRY

(English) Pleasure was all mine.

The Pilot exits. Larry gapes at Louis Y

LOUIS Y

(English) What?

LARRY

(English) You two?

LOUIS Y

(English) Partners yes. And?

LARRY

(English) Well you come across a lot of gay air stewards, but a gay pilot? Unusual.

LOUIS Y

(English) Really? How so?

WILLIAM X

(English) Let's stick to the script guys.

LOUIS Y

(English) Yes, yes, the history connected to this particular project was extremely valid to the outcome of the war. But little understood.

LARRY

(English) Totally!

LOUIS Y

(English) The actual sabotage operations of the French Resistance against the Germans in that particular region probably turned the tide of the war.

WILLIAM X

(English) This movie will rewrite the history books Larry.

LARRY

(English) Are we talking hard facts here?

JOHN M

(English) Of course!

LOUIS Y

(English) John's screenplay concentrates on the conspirators' plot.

LARRY

(English) The main thrust of the movie?

WILLIAM X

(English) Yup. But we'd need you to come in and add some fluff.

LARRY

(English) Fluff?

WILLIAM X

(English) Yes base it on your uncle's experiences.

JOHN M

If he's anything like his nephew it'll be complete fluff! (laughs)

WILLIAM X

(English) In all seriousness, we do need some American characters you know, coming in towards the end.



LOUIS Y

(English) Making an appearance. But not saving the day.

LARRY

(English) Fluff, huh?

JOHN M

(English) You see Larry I've written a serious historical movie. But I can't do fluff.

WILLIAM X

(English) Yeah this is not just another bullshit war movie.

LOUIS Y

(English) About Americans coming in and winning the war.

LARRY

(English) Gee I had no idea the French won the Second World War single handedly?

WILLIAM X

(English) No one does, but thanks to John.

JOHN M

Oh please.

LOUIS Y

(English) We now truly comprehend the integral role that the French resistance played. It's like (pause).

LARRY

(English) Viagra?

JOHN M

(English) Not a metaphor I would choose.

WILLIAM X

(English) No it works, I think.

LARRY

(English) They were the Viagra of the war.

LOUIS Y

(English) Let's get back to the fundamentals.

LARRY

(English) No I got it. The allies didn't end the war. The French did it all by themselves. And you'd like me to come in and write some

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

fluff about you know some American heroes, make it more palatable to an American audience. Correct so far?

JOHN M

(English) It's not that crude.

WILLIAM X

(English) He's not far off.

LOUIS Y

(English) Indeed. It is time people know that it wasn't the British and Americans who chased Hitler out of France. It was the French.

WILLIAM X

(English) Are you feeling it Larry?

LARRY

(English) I'm feeling a certain sensation of historical discomfort actually.

JOHN M

(English) Maybe that's the Steak Tartare?

LARRY

(stands up)

(English) The hundreds and thousands of allied troops who died on French soil would turn in their graves, if they heard this travesty of history.

LOUIS Y

(English) What are you saying?

LARRY

(English) I'm saying my decorated uncle is no piece of fluff.

JOHN M

(English) Oh fuck no LARRY we're not pissing on anyone's grave here.

LARRY

(English) I hate to break it to you Mr. Revisionist, but without Americans this country wouldn't have been liberated!

LOUIS Y

(English) How dare you!

LARRY

(English) Without American fluff you'd still be saying Bon Jour Hitler and drinking Riesling.

WILLIAM X

(English) No Larry you misunderstand!

LARRY

(English) Oh I got it all right! I'm no fluffer.

A porter enters and whispers in John M's ear. Then points to Larry's pants.

JOHN M

(English) Larry, did you break into an antique closet in the first floor bathroom tonight?

LARRY

(English) What?

JOHN M

(English) The paint chips on your pants seem to match the flecks missing from a vandalized 18<sup>th</sup> century cabinet. I recall a toilet trip you took after dinner?

LARRY

(English) I didn't break no cabinet!

JOHN M

(English) We'll have the police determine that. Please do not step out of the pants.

LARRY

(English) What are you nuts?

An antique latch falls from his pocket. Everyone looks at it.

JOHN M

(English) Aha more evidence! (to porter) Call the police.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

13. INT. JEFF GREEN'S OFFICE IN LA — TWO DAYS LATER

Larry saunters in. Jeff sits behind the desk. He looks pissed.

JEFF

What the fuck?

LARRY

What?

JEFF

Only you could get invited to France to work on a script by John M, and manage to screw it up.

LARRY

That sick son of a bitch wanted to rewrite history.

JEFF

I don't care if he wanted to rewrite The Constitution you don't mess with John M.

LARRY

You too?

JEFF

What?

LARRY

What's with *the* M? Malkovich's so big he occupies the entire M in an alphabet?

JEFF

Now everyone in Hollywood thinks you're anti-intellectual.

LARRY

Are you serious?

JEFF

Rosie's pissed.

LARRY

Really?

JEFF

Yeah don't run into her.

LARRY

(puzzled)

Huh.

JEFF

Shame. Would have been a good move.

LARRY

Aaa I can live with it. Actually I'm on my way to settle with John Malkovich now.

JEFF

Good. That cabinet incident was nasty.

LARRY

Yeah-yeah we'll see.

JEFF

Hey I had no idea your uncle was a World War Two vet.

LARRY

What?

JEFF

John M told me. Said it was crass to bring it up.

LARRY

Oh I used Susie's uncle.

JEFF

You what?

LARRY

You know to make a point.

JEFF

That's just awful.

14. EXT. LA STREET - LATER IN THE DAY

Larry walks past a French cafe and turns to see Susie Green dining with Rosie O'Donnell.

SUSIE

(spies Larry)

There he is! In broad daylight, can you believe it?

LARRY

Susie, Rosie, what a pleasant surprise.

ROSIE

Lar David, the guy who crossed the Atlantic in handcuffs, rewrote modern French history and vandalized John M's antique cabinet.

LARRY

I didn't touch his cabinet!

ROSIE  
Paint chips don't lie.

SUSIE  
But you do you sick fuck.

LARRY  
What?

SUSIE  
How's your uncle doing? The war hero Lar!

ROSIE  
(to Susie)  
I mean, how could you use a decorated  
veteran like that?

LARRY  
Listen ladies I got two names. So use it.

Larry struts off.

ROSIE  
Jesus he's seriously challenged.

15. INT. AN LA LAW OFFICE — HALF AN HOUR LATER

Larry sits cheerfully in a room. John Malkovich enters  
the room, grinning, with his legal COUNSEL.

JOHN M  
Larry? No lawyer? Ouch! This might hurt.

LARRY  
You know John M I prefer to settle this like  
gentlemen.

JOHN M  
Are you challenging me to a sword fight?

LARRY  
Not a good metaphor for you.  
(to Counsel)  
Could we have some privacy for a moment?

JOHN M  
Of course.  
(Counsel leaves room)

(MORE)

JOHN M (CONT'D)

Here's the sum I was thinking of to repair the vandalism on the cabinet. A check is fine.

Larry pulls out a plastic vial of Viagra made out to John Malkovich.

LARRY

Will this cover it?

JOHN M

(attempts to swipe bottle)

Why you mother!

LARRY

I got one more at home. Insurance, should anything happen to me.

JOHN M

Okay, okay I'll drop all charges of vandalism.

LARRY

And one more thing?

JOHN M

What!

LARRY

Drop the 'M'

JOHN M

What? I can't drop the M.

LARRY

Drop it. Start correcting people. Tell them you think John M sounds.

(pause)

Pretentious.

JOHN M

But that's what I'm known as in Hollywood. I am the M.

LARRY

(muses)

M for male dysfunction?

JOHN M

Okay, okay. I'll get the word out. Give me some time though. Have some compassion.

LARRY

Sure, one more thing.

JOHN M  
(exasperated)

What?

LARRY  
Do you really collect stamps?

JOHN M  
(rolls eyes)

Yes. I have one of the largest collections  
in the world. I trade with Rosie O'Donnell.  
Why?

LARRY  
No reason.

16. INT. DINER - ONE YEAR LATER/DAY

Larry sits eating lunch with Jeff in an LA diner. Some  
elderly vets walk in.

JEFF  
I'm telling you!

LARRY  
He finally dropped the M?

JEFF  
It's official. People don't know what to  
call him now. It's weird.

LARRY  
Jeez.

JEFF  
And his war movie tanked. Went straight to  
DVD.

LARRY  
Glad I didn't touch it.

JEFF  
Would have been the touch of death.

The Veterans sit down adjacent to Larry and Jeff.

LARRY  
Malkovich's full of shit. Here let me show  
you. Excuse me, sirs, you're vets correct?

They nod.



LARRY (CONT'D)

Do you mind us asking what tour of duty you took?

VET 1

Our squadron was in France son. 1944-45.

LARRY

My uncle too.

(pulls out his cell phone)

See?

JEFF

Oh Jesus Larry.

LARRY

I went to France last year! I was going to work on that movie 'La Resistance Jonzac'!

VET 1

We just watched it!

LARRY

What a coincidence? What did you think?

VET 1

(tears up)

We're just glad the truth is out.

LARRY

(aside to Jeff)

See?

VET 2

We carried a terrible burden for 60 years.

LARRY

Burden?

VET 1

You see, those boys in Jonzac, the French boys, they won the war. We were just what would you call it Hank?

VET 2

Fluff.

VET 1

Yeah we was the fluff. But we took the credit.

VET 2

It's been hell. But now we're at peace.

JEFF

Ha what do you know?

VET 1  
Hey let me see that photo on your phone  
again.

LARRY  
Why?

VET 1  
The fella looked familiar is all. Herb take  
a look would you?

LARRY  
Ah I can't find it now, I think I deleted  
it.

JEFF  
Here let me help.

LARRY  
Nah it's okay.

VET 1  
Anyway, we're meeting Ms Rosie O'Donnell  
here today. She's a good friend of John M's.

VET 2  
We're hoping John M shows too

LARRY  
Well thanks.

(jumps up)  
Gotta go. This has been wonderful.  
(throws down money at his table)

JEFF  
Another time.

Rosie O'Donnell, Susie Green and an Elderly Decorated  
Veteran enter the diner.

ROSIE  
I don't believe this.

SUSIE  
Going some place Lar?

LARRY  
(beams)  
Hey.

ROSIE  
What's this? Some kind of a La reunion? John  
M's just parking. He'll be right in.

SUSIE  
Expect he'll be pleased to see you Lar. Sit  
the fuck down Jeff!

ELDERLY DECORATED VETERAN

(points to Larry)

This is the schmuck I was telling you about.  
Tells people I'm his uncle!

Camera close-up on Larry's face.

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END