THE CURSE OF THE PENISLESS MAN

SIMPLE GRAPHIC ANIMATION: “Prevue Of Coming Attractions”

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Black.

Cheesy dramatic MUSIC throughout.

Film scratches. Hissy audio. An occasional bad splice.

SUPER: “TERROR!”

SUPER: "SHOCK!”

SUPER: "THE MOST GROTESQUE MONSTROSITY OF ALL TIME!"

A wide-eyed WOMAN’s face rises in the dark like a summer moon. She recoils and looses a BLOODCURDLING SCREAM.

This is DIXIE LeCLAIR, 20s. She faints after an over-the-top dramatic swoon.

SUPER: “THE CURSE OF THE PENISLESS MAN”

A deep, deadly serious voice-of-doom,

NARRATOR (V.O.)
The Curse of the Penisless Man.

WIPE TO:

INT. LAB - DAY

A low budget plywood set decorated with a hodgepodge of war surplus electronics to infer a Fifties’ High Tech Laboratory.

A cobbled together tube formed by round copper coils takes up half the set. A plywood table slides within the tube.

Wires snake from it to banks of bright vacuum tubes and a TV.

A Periodic Table hangs crooked on a wall.

DR. RICHARD GELB, 30s, unkempt, nervous, fiddles with dials on a plywood control panel illuminated by blinking lights.

He throws a large switch. A HIGH PITCHED WHINE rises to earsplitting. The copper coils pulse with light.

SUPER: “1959’s BRIGHTEST STAR - A. FRANK POLLA!”

NARRATOR (V.O.)
The scintillating A. Frank Polla stars as Doctor Richard Gelb, P-H-D, a scientist filled with self-questioning doubt on a journey of discovery to find the truth... or die trying.

Smoke swirls from the machine. A roaring electrical BZZZZTT. A storm of white hot sparks. The WHINE dies.

SUPER: “FAILURE AFTER FAILURE!”

SUPER: “CAN HE GO ON?”

Gelb pounds the table.

DR. GELB
I’ll never find it. Never.

DR. SIGMUND WEASELSCHEIßE (Veaselshysa), 60s, distinguished, beard, glasses, bow tie and his pert and pretty niece, Dixie, Gelb’s girlfriend, step from behind a lead curtain.

Gelb sobs. Weaselscheiße sucks on an unlit pipe.

DR. WEASELSCHEIßE
(bad German accent)
Fool! Like a kind you cry.

DR. GELB
A what?

DR. WEASELSCHEIßE
Kind. Kind.
(to Dixie)
How to say this?

DIXIE
Baby. Child.

Dr. Weaselscheiße raises a hand to strike Gelb.

DR. WEASELSCHEIßE
A kind with fright that does not know what they are in the world.

Dixie blocks her Uncle’s hand.

DIXIE
No!

She smacks Gelb.

DIXIE
Have some backbone, Dick.

DR. GELB
Don't you know what's at stake? The F-E-A-R, Farad Electro Ampere Resonator, will show doctors Three-D pictures of patient's insides. Think of the lives they'll save.

DIXIE
Three-D is for Science Fiction movies, Dick.

Gelb lays his head on the table.

DR. WEASELSCHEIßE
Why to look inside? What does it help? Make weapons for government. In Washington they are kuckucksuhr.

SUPER: "BARBARA PAXTON!"

NARRATOR (V.O.)
You loved her as Cherry LeTour in "The Amazing Ordinary Man." The vivacious Barbara Paxton is back as Dixie LeClair, Doctor Gelb's loyal yet long-suffering girlfriend.

SUPER: "TONY CURTES JUNIOR!"

NARRATOR (V.O.)
He delights audiences everywhere. The actor with the forgettable name but recognizable face, Tony Curtes Junior is Doctor Weaselscheiße, a brilliant genius who escaped Nazi hordes for America - land of the free and home of the brave where men speak their minds whenever they choose.

Weaselscheiße and Dixie roll their eyes at Gelb.

WIPE TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gelb, in boxers and a t-shirt, perches on the edge of a bed. He cradles his face in his hands.

In a babydoll nightie, Dixie kneels behind Gelb. She massages his shoulders. A soft, sensual touch.

SUPER: “THEIR WORLD DOOMED BY THE UNKNOWN!”

DIXIE
Little Willie wasn’t in the mood tonight, Dick. You just need a little more... confidence.

Gelb turns to her.

DR. GELB
How could it be I’m so lucky to have someone like you?

DIXIE
I love you, Dick.
(smiles)
And Willie too.

She kisses him. Gelb leaps off the bed as if it were afire.

DR. GELB
I can’t make sense of anything anymore. What do I do? What do I say?

Frustrated in several ways, Dixie drops flat on the bed.

DIXIE
What happened to...

BAD SPLICE - A FEW MISSING SECONDS

DIXIE
...men, Dick?

WIPE TO:

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Dim streetlight. Overflowing garbage cans. A MEOW.

Gelb prowls with a can of tuna.

DR. GELB
Here kitty, kitty.

An ALLEY CAT hisses.

WIPE TO:

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Gelb twiddles and tweaks. Satisfied, he slides a box from under the table. Inside, the Alley Cat growls.

Gelb pets the mangy Cat then straps the pissed-off feline to the FEAR table.

SUPER: “SCEINCE [sic] GONE WRONG!”

DR. GELB
Don’t worry, pussy. You won’t get hurt. We’re going to make history.

SUPER: “DANGEROUS EXPERIMENTATION... ON CATS!”

Gelb throws the switch. FEAR coils glow. WHINE rises.

ON THE TV

a split second display of the cat’s innards.

OFFSCREEN: the cat YOWLS. The last thing it will ever do.

A cloud of smoke envelops Gelb. He waves it away, grimaces.

DR. GELB
Ten to the third less amps. Yes. That’s it.

Dixie enters with lunch. Her nose scrunches.

DIXIE
What’s that awful smell, Dick?

Gelb flashes a sheepish grin and shrugs.

Dixie hands Gelb a white bread sandwich.

DIXIE
Baloney, Dick.

DR. GELB
I don’t like baloney.

Dixie throws him a sharp look.

DIXIE
You’ll swallow the baloney, Dick. And like it!

He bites into the sandwich.

WIPE TO:

INT. LAB - DAY

Gelb trains a sixteen millimeter film camera on the TV. He rolls the camera.

Dixie stands by the switch.

DIXIE
Oh, Dick. Please don't do it!

DR. GELB
I must. Must! Don't worry. One day people will use FEAR every day.

Gelb pecks Dixie on the cheek.

DR. GELB
Don't forget. When I say 'Now'.

DIXIE
Okay, Dick. I love you.

He climbs onto the table and wiggles into the FEAR. Halfway in his belt catches on an edge. He tugs at the buckle.

SUPER: "PREPARE FOR A NEW DIMENSION IN HORROR!"

Gelb's aggressive struggle merely tightens the stuck buckle.

DR. GELB
What now?

Dixie throws the switch. The FEAR powers up.

DR. GELB
NO!

ON THE TV

a flicker then an image of Gelb's midsection anatomy.

Gelb SCREAMS.

Dixie faints.

WIPE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - WARD - DAY

The silhouettes of Gelb and a Doctor on the privacy curtain surrounding the bed. The Doctor lifts the sheet, flinches.

Anxious, Weaselscheiße and Dixie wait outside the curtain.

A NURSE carries a food tray. She parts the curtain, peers in, drops the tray. She runs from behind the curtain.

The Nurse SCREAMS as she rushes from the room.

SUPER: "NO SACRIFICE IS TOO GREAT FOR AN IDEAL THIS BIG!"

Head bowed, DR. SNYDER (40s) steps from behind the curtain. Dixie grabs him.

DIXIE
How is he? May I see him?

Dr. Snyder holds Dixie by the shoulders. He shakes 'No'.

DR. SNYDER
That's not advisable, Miss LeClair.

DR. WEASELSCHEIßE
Fool! Make weapons I tell him.

Dr. Weaselscheiße taps Dr. Snyder with his pipe.

DR. WEASELSCHEIßE
So? The prognosis?

DR. SNYDER
Miss LeClair...

DIXIE
I can take it, Doc. I'm a tough American woman. They broke the mold when they made me.

Dr. Snyder turns from them, paces a bit and turns back.

DR. SNYDER
The worst burns I've ever seen.

Dixie gasps. Dr. Weaselscheiße steadies Dixie with an arm around her shoulder.

DR. SNYDER
I can only describe it as... a complete... cautherization.

Near tears, Snyder shakes his head in sadness.

DR. SNYDER
Navel to mid-thigh.

DR. WEASELSCHEIßE
You mean...

DR. SNYDER
Yes.

DIXIE
What? What is it? Uncle Sigmund?

Dr. Weaselscheiße looks directly into the camera,

DR. WEASELSCHEIßE
He has no schwanz.

Dixie faints.

GELB'S SILHOUETTE ON THE CURTAIN

A painful MOAN.

SUPER: "AMERICAN EAGLE NATIONAL CINEMA PICTURES PRESENTS"

NARRATOR (V.O.)
American Eagle National Cinema Pictures presents...

SUPER: "THE CURSE OF THE PENISLESS MAN"

NARRATOR (V.O.)
...The Curse of the Penisless Man.

SUPER: "HOW CAN MAN CONTROL UNCONTROLLABLE POWER?"

SUPER: "UNBRIDLED AMBITION UNNOTICED UNTIL IT IS GONE!"

SUPER: "IN WIDESCREEN SUPER MONO SPECTACT-O-VISION"

NARRATOR (V.O.)
In widescreen Super Mono Spectact-o-vision.

WIPE TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Gelb, naked save a cloth diaper, teeters on the ledge of a tall building.

Dixie pleads from a few feet away,

DIXIE
I still love you, Dick.

FRONT OF THE BUILDING - STREET LEVEL

Dr. Weaselscheiße points his pipe at Gelb.

DR. WEASELSCHEIßE
Fool! Come down. There is surgery.
(sucks pipe)
In theory.

ROOFTOP

DR. GELB
Don’t you understand, Dixie? I see the truth now. What happened made it crystal clear. A man without... courage... is no man at all.

DIXIE

holds her arms out to embrace Gelb.

DR. GELB (O.S.)
Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!

Her eyes widen. She SCREAMS. Faints.

SMASH CUT TO:

BLACK

SUPER: "???"

THE END