

PUNK KIDS

Pilot

Written by

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INT. RIO THEATRE - NIGHT

A three piece PUNK BAND thrashes around on STAGE. They're playing fast, aggressive, PUNK ROCK music.

Title: **The Rio Theatre, Berkeley California, 1995**

CLOSE UP bodies SMASH into each other down in the MOSH PIT.

The band keeps ROCKING - The guitar player SCREAMS into the microphone. Loud, scratchy, guitar blasts out the amplifier, tearing through a three chord progression.

CLOSE UP the mosh pit is RAGING. Shoulders SLAMMING, hands PUSHING, feet STOMPING.

WIDE SHOT reveals the entire theatre.

The band is only playing for a few TEENAGERS, a couple DRUNKS at the bar, and an OLD MAN moshing by himself in the back.

The THREE teenagers look about 15 or 16. They're MOSHING their little hearts out for this band - SMASHING into each other non-stop until the song ends.

INT. RIO THEATRE HALLWAY - LATER

With a CONTINUOUS SHOT we follow the teenagers as they walk out of the theatre.

In the middle of the pack is SID(15) a skinny WHITE punk kid with SPIKY HAIR and a BAND T-SHIRT. He's orchestrating the conversation.

SID

- Do you need glasses!? It's the same one. Same color and everything!

On Sid's left is NANCY(16) his older sister. She's TALL with MULTI-COLORED HAIR and facial PIERCINGS.

NANCY

They're not the same. It said Fender on his headstock. That's a real guitar, Dad got yours from a Sears catalog.

SID

So What? It doesn't matter, they look exactly the same.

NANCY

It does matter, if you care about
your sound.

To Sid's right is ELMO(15) a BLACK punk kid with an AFRO
wearing a DENIM VEST with PATCHES all over it.

ELMO

They cost over five hundred
dollars.

SID

Seriously!? Screw that! Our sound
is fine right now. We just need to
book a gig and get off the ground-

NANCY

No, we need to record first. People
wanna hear who they're booking at
their club, that should be our
first priority.

SID

Um, recordings cost money. And if
you "care about your sound" then
it's gonna cost a lot more than
five hundred dollars...

(fantasizing)

I just wanna play one BIG show in
my life, with a HUGE mosh pit.
That's all I want.

NANCY

That's never gonna happen without a
demo.

SID

Don't crush my dreams Nancy!

ELMO

I think we can get a show without
any recordings...

SID

Yeah? Think we can get one here?

ELMO

Maybe, we just have to talk to the
right people.

The group says GOODNIGHT to the door man STEVE(50).

SID

Night Steve!

He hands each of them a FLYER on their way out.

EXT. RIO THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

Staying with the CONTINUOUS SHOT the group walks out to the sidewalk. Elmo walks toward the camera. He looks left and right down the street - WORRIED.

NANCY

Don't worry, we're just getting started. We'll get there...

(beat)

Now that we have Elmo.

Elmo turns around, smiles at Nancy, then rejoins the group.

SID

So... practice tomorrow after school?

NANCY

Can't, lessons.

SID

You still go to those?

NANCY

I told you, some of us care about the music more than the image Sid...

SID

(offended)

Image?! Fuck you dude!! You know I'm about the message! I got something to say, I'm gonna change the world...

Nancy rolls her eyes.

NANCY

(to Elmo)

Hey, what time is it?

ELMO

(checks watch)

Nine thirty.

NANCY

Shit, we're gonna miss our bus again.

(to Elmo)

You comin' with us?

ELMO
 No, my dad's supposed to pick me
 up...

Elmo looks out to the street - his face is lit by HEADLIGHTS.
 A CAR pulls up with a JESUS FISH on the bumper.

ELMO (CONT'D)
 (relieved)
 I'll see you guys a school.

NANCY
 Okay later.

Nancy and Sid walk away, Elmo walks to the car.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Elmo gets in, his father REGGIE(40) is in the drivers seat.

REGGIE
 (excited)
 How was it?

ELMO
 You're late.

REGGIE
 No I'm not, it's nine thirty.

ELMO
 My watch says nine forty.

REGGIE
 Ah come on Elmer... You gotta give
 me a break, I'm tryin here-

Elmo puts his HEADPHONES on - punk music drowns out Reggie.
 He sighs, puts the car into gear, and pulls away.

Title: Punk Kids, First Gig

We go along for the ride, watching from the backseat while
 the OPENING CREDITS play.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
 She describes the monster as it
 moves through the snow as an
 "apparition". Now why would she use
 the word apparition, of all the
 words in the English language...
 she chose that one, can anyone tell
 me why?

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Title: **Fillmore High School, Hayward California, 1996**

Elmo is at his desk. His afro is bigger than when we last saw him. He's DRAWING a picture of a band on stage in his NOTEBOOK. The bass drum has the word "Snotty" on it.

He's drawing dozens of LITTLE CIRCLES in-front of the stage representing all the fans.

His teacher MR. DAY(45) is speaking to the class holding a copy of Mary Shelley's FRANKENSTEIN. He's the type of teacher who wears T- SHIRTS and SNEAKERS, and has POSTERS of The Beatles all over the classroom.

MR. DAY (CONT'D)

Can anyone tell me why? Anyone?
Anyone at all?

He looks around the class. Students DART their eyes around, no one wants to raise their hand.

MR. DAY (CONT'D)

(to student)

Charlie! I know you didn't read it, but just think about this one for a second man... Why would Mary Shelley use the word apparition when she describes Frankenstein's monster?

STUDENT 1

...What's an apparation?

MR. DAY

(emphasizing)

Apparition. It's like a ghost.

STUDENT 1

Um... because... it's snowing, and... you can't see him, cause of all the snow?

MR. DAY

Water is wet. Give me more. Think deeper!

Mr. Day looks at Elmo who's still drawing at his desk.

MR. DAY (CONT'D)

Elmo.

Elmo looks up.

MR. DAY (CONT'D)
Can you help us out here?

ELMO
Sorry, what's the question?

MR. DAY
Why would Mary Shelly describe
Frankenstein's monster as an
apparition.

Elmo thinks for a beat.

ELMO
Because... he's not really alive,
and he's not really dead either...
He's made of the pieces of other
people, so his life isn't really
his own. He doesn't belong there,
like a ghost.

MR. DAY
(satisfied)
Thank you Elmo. You can go back to
whatever you were doing now.

Elmo resumes drawing. The bell RINGS.

TIME CUT. Elmo's on his way out of class.

MR. DAY (CONT'D)
Hey Elmo! Hold up!

Elmo turns around semi annoyed.

MR. DAY (CONT'D)
Have you guys booked a gig yet?

ELMO
No... not yet.

Mr. Day hands Elmo a FLYER for the school TALENT SHOW, It
says: *Auditions EVERY Saturday until March 30!*

MR. DAY
I'm in charge of the talent show
this year! I was thinking this
could be a really great first show
for you guys! You know, I was in a
band in high school too, we thought
playing a talent show was so lame,
but you know what? You have to take
every opportunity you get when you
first start out man-

Elmo hands back the flyer.

ELMO

I know, I know Mr. Day, sorry... we want our first show to be at the Rio.

MR. DAY

Oh... well... you know, maybe it could be like a warm up show? I'm sure you'll play at the Rio soon enough, it wouldn't hurt to know what it's like to play in-front of people before you play there right? Get some experience?

Mr. Day hands the flyer back to Elmo.

Elmo thinks for a beat - he takes it.

ELMO

Thanks.

EXT. BUS STOP - LATER

Elmo, Sid, and Nancy joke around at the bus stop after school.

Sid looks down the street and spots a pretty PUNK GIRL. She walks down the sidewalk in slow motion. She's a SENIOR, dressed in the same punk style as Sid. He keeps staring, trying not to be obvious.

A muscle car pulls up beside the punk girl, she gets in and starts making out with the boy driving. He pulls away.

The car passes right in-front of Sid and the others. Sid keeps his eyes fixed on the couple as they pass.

SID

Hey Elmo... does your sister have a new boyfriend?

ELMO

Yeah I think so, she's been sneaking out a lot lately.

SID

I think her boyfriend is Tim Freeman... I just saw them together.

NANCY

Tim Freeman? From Soup and
Crackers?

SID

Tim Freeman from Soup and
Crackers...

Sid and Nancy start jumping up and down celebrating while
Elmo stares at them.

ELMO

Who's Tim Freeman?

SID

He's a senior at Fillmore! He just
started playing bass for that band
Soup and Crackers. You haven't
heard of them!?

ELMO

No.

SID

They play at the Rio all the time
dude!

(serious)

This is it man, this is our in...
You gotta talk to your sister and
see if she'll talk to Tim for us!

Elmo is taken by surprise but excited.

ELMO

Okay, I'll see what I can do. Tim
Freeman?

SID

Tim Freeman from Soup and
Crackers!

NANCY

Tim Freeman from Soup and
Crackers!

INT. ELMO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Reggie is setting the table for dinner. There's a noticeable
absence of a fourth seat.

Elmo's sister TAY(18), the pretty punk girl from before, is
talking on a bulky cordless PHONE on the couch.

REGGIE

(to Tay)

Get your brother for dinner.

TAY
 (on phone)
 - Okay, I have to go... Talk to you
 later.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Tay BANGS on Elmo's bedroom door. The door has a DENT in it like someone punched it.

TAY
 DINNER!!

ELMO (O.S.)
 OKAY!!

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Reggie, Tay, and Elmo sit together at the table over a HOME COOKED meal. They're saying GRACE.

REGGIE
 (in prayer)
 - Thank you for our family, for
 this food, and for blessing us with
 our new home. Amen.

They start EATING, occasionally Reggie looks over at the empty space at the table.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
 How was school today Taylor? You
 guys do anything fun?

TAY
 (passive)
 Not really... just another day ya
 know.

REGGIE
 (to Elmo)
 How bout you Elmer? Tell me a story
 about your day.

ELMO
 (mouth full)
 Um... well-
 (swallows food)
 I think we might get our first gig.

REGGIE
Really? That's great news! Where
at?

ELMO
The Rio.

TAY
(suspicious)
How did you get a show there?

Elmo continues to eat.

ELMO
We know a guy.

TAY
Who?

ELMO
Tim Freeman from Soup and Crackers.

Tay gives Elmo a DEATH STARE.

REGGIE
Soup and Crackers?

ELMO
It's a band.
(to Tay)
You know Tim? He's a senior at
Fillmore.

TAY
(cold)
Nope, never heard of him.

REGGIE
Well that's great! I'm proud of you
Elmer.
(to both kids)
See, It's not so bad up here right?

Elmo and Tay continue eating, IGNORING Reggie's question.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Elmo is WASHING dishes. Tay walks by and PINCHES him HARD on
his side.

ELMO
(dropping dish)
Agh!

TAY
What do you want?

ELMO
What I said... a show at the Rio.

TAY
(softens)
Tim is new okay, he can't just go up to his band and say hey... get my girlfriend's brother's band a show at the Rio. You guys aren't even good, I hear you practicing.

Elmo's feelings are hurt. Beat.

TAY (CONT'D)
(sympathetic)
Look... maybe when you're ready, but I think you guys could use more practice before you play at the Rio. Just saying.

ELMO
Please Tay, I'm begging you. Ask Tim if he'll come to practice or something. Maybe he'll like us?

TAY
(whisper yelling)
I can't bring him here! You know that!

ELMO
Will you please at least just tell him about us?

Reggie ENTERS the kitchen.

REGGIE
What are you two bickering about?

TAY
Nothing.

Tay EXITS.

REGGIE
Teenage girls, am I right?

Elmo resumes WASHING dishes.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
So, when's the show? I can't wait
to be there...

ELMO
(aloof)
Don't know yet.

Reggie waits for a beat, then EXITS.

EXT. FILLMORE HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD - DAY

Elmo, Sid, and Nancy sit together at a table EATING LUNCH.
It's a balanced meal of CANDY, FRENCH FRIES, and SODA.

SID
Did she at least say she would tell
him about us?

ELMO
I think so?

SID
You think so!? What did she say!?

ELMO
She said we suck.

Sid's OFFENDED.

A SHORT, BUBBLY, VIETNAMESE kid PHUOC(15) comes walking up to
the table with his lunch. He slaps a FLYER down on the table.

PHUOC
Hey, you guys seen this!? You
should audition!

It's a flyer for the TALENT SHOW.

SID
Shut up Phuoc! Like we'd ever play
the talent show. That's gotta be
about the least punk rock thing I
could ever think of.

Phuoc's smile DROPS.

ELMO
What if... we looked at it like a
warm up show. You know, before the
Rio. I don't want our first show to
suck...

SID
We're not gonna suck dude, come on.

NANCY
It's not a bad idea.

SID
Are you kidding me? You guys seriously want to play the school talent show? That's what we're about? Okay...

NANCY
Um, I thought we were about being in a band? I don't want to be in a band that doesn't do anything! Since we can't afford to record right now we should take every opportunity we got.

Phuoc has a BIG smile.

SID
It's not even a battle of the bands, you want to play with comedians and plate spinners?

ELMO
There's one other thing...
(beat)
The whole school will be there. That means, Tim will be there, he'll have to watch us play. We won't need my sister.

Nancy SMILES, turns to Sid.

NANCY
We should do it!

SID
No, no, no... this isn't happening.

NANCY
All in favor!?

Everyone at the table RAISES their hand except Sid.

Sid smacks Phuoc's arm.

SID
Put your hand down.

EXT. ELMOS HOUSE - DAY

Title: **The next day**

The song "Berkeley's on Fire" by **SWMRS** plays over a MONTAGE of the band getting ready for the audition.

The garage door OPENS, the band's inside PACKING their instruments into cases. Reggie pulls into the driveway in a big white CHURCH VAN. The band loads their gear into the van.

EXT. FILLMORE HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Continuing the MONTAGE - the van pulls into the parking lot. Everyone gets out, UNPACKS the gear, CARRIES it to the auditorium where the MONTAGE ENDS.

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

LOUD, PIERCING, guitar NOTES ring out of a tiny AMPLIFIER.

Sid is TUNING his GUITAR. Three STUDENT JUDGES wait behind a table impatiently - WINCING at the high notes.

Nancy stands there with her BASS glaring at Sid, Elmo's waiting behind the DRUMS looking around awkwardly.

Mr. Day is watching from the side trying to hold a SMILE.

Sid finally STOPS tuning. He walks up to the mic. LOUD FEEDBACK - Everyone WINCES.

SID
(on mic)
We're Snotty.

Sid breaks into a FAST guitar riff. Elmo and Nancy follow, the band BURSTS into a SLOPPY punk rock song.

Sid starts SCREAMING into the microphone.

SID (CONT'D)
(screaming)
I don't want your sympathy! You
have no integrity, I just want you
away from me, I want you away from
me!!!

The band THRASHES around in-front of the judges.

Judge 1 STANDS up WAVING her hands.

JUDGE 1

(shouting)

Excuse me!! Excuse me!! I'm
sorry... I think we've seen enough.

SID

We haven't even gotten to the
chorus yet?

JUDGE 2

Thank god.

SID

(to Judge 2)

Are you serious dude?

NANCY

(steals mic)

Do you want us to play a different
song?

JUDGE 1

No, I'm sorry... I think we're
going to pass. Better luck next
year!

JUDGE 2

(smugly)

Try getting a different singer.

Elmo is CRUSHED, Sid is FUMING, Mr. Day is CONFLICTED.

SID

(unplugs guitar)

I didn't wanna play this stupid
talent show anyway! All of you can
kiss my ass!

Sid WALKS OUT of the auditorium.

EXT. FILLMORE HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Sid's HOODIE is pulled low to hide his face. The band
finishes PACKING the gear into the van. Reggie puts his hand
on Elmo's shoulder.

REGGIE

It's okay, this ain't your last
hope. We'll figure it out.

ELMO

(cold)

I'll figure it out.

Reggie just SMILES. Suddenly Mr. Day comes running up.

MR. DAY
Hey you guys.

Sid gets inside the van when he sees Mr. Day.

MR. DAY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about what happened in there. They should have let you finish.

NANCY
Yes they should have.

ELMO
Thanks Mr. Day... It's fine-

MR. DAY
So listen, what they did was not cool, so I pulled some strings. If you guys want to... you can audition again next weekend-

SID
(out window)
And get cut off again? I don't think so man.

MR. DAY
No, no, It won't happen again, I promise. You deserve a fair shot. I just hate to have'ta make ya lug all your stuff back here...

REGGIE
I can take them again next weekend.
(to band)
What do you say? You guys want to try again?

Elmo looks at Nancy, she SHRUGS. Sid sticks his head back inside the van. Elmo TURNS to Mr. Day.

Elmo thinks for a beat.

ELMO
We'll do it.

INT. ELMO'S GARAGE - NIGHT

The garage is re-purposed into a space where the band practices. There's old COUCHES and POSTERS of punk bands all over the walls. The band is setting up their gear in silence.

ELMO

(beat)

What if we-

SID

Don't try to convince me! It's not happening, I don't care what you say. They're just gonna say no... no matter what we play....

ELMO

Hold on-

SID

That was the most humiliating thing that's ever happened to me man. I was really about to go punch that dude-

ELMO

Sid, just listen!

(beat)

You remember Nirvana?

SID

(sarcastic)

Uh, yeah I've heard of em.

ELMO

Remember a few years ago they played live on some TV show, but they played the wrong song on purpose?

SID

I don't know what you're talking about.

NANCY

I remember! I read an article about that... they were supposed to play Lithium but they played Territorial Pissings instead. It was the BBC, they pissed off everyone at the station.

SID

What's your point?

ELMO

We're going to do the same thing...
all we have to do play a song
that'll get us past the auditions,
then when the talent show comes, we
play whatever we want!

NANCY

Won't they just cut us off?

ELMO

Mr. Day won't let them do that to
us. As long as we don't cuss or
anything, we can pull this off!

SID

No cussing?
(beat)
Still... That's pretty punk rock...
What do we play for the audition
then?

TAY

I think we should play a cover
song.

ELMO

Great idea! Got anything in mind?

NANCY

I can go to Rasputin tomorrow and
pick something out. I'll find
something current but cool, Punk
but poppy- To win over the judges-

SID

Okay, okay. I'm making a lot of
compromises here, but if you expect
me to sing some POP song, then you
might as well find another singer.

Beat.

NANCY

It's not a bad idea...

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Title: **The next day**

A CONGREGATION sits in pews watching a CHURCH BAND play a
praise song. The band is made up of people of all ages. On
drums is Elmo, he plays softly along with the song.

The SINGER is a shy, young, redhead GIRL with a beautiful voice. RUBY(15), wearing her Sunday DRESS, finishes singing the song, hitting impressive notes.

Reggie walks up to the PODIUM.

REGGIE

Thank you so much for that beautiful song. I am so grateful to God for bringing my family here to you all today. When we moved here last year, you accepted us into this community with open arms and open hearts. Now... it was not without a great deal of fear did we make that change, but overcoming fear brings us closer to God. Doing things that scare us is good for our souls, because not only do you become a stronger person but you put into practice your faith in God... I would now like to recite a verse from the book of Luke about fear.

The church band watches from their positions. Tay is sitting down in a pew watching.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, more than clothes. Consider the ravens, they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn, yet God feeds them. Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? If you can't do this, why worry about the rest?"

Elmo FOCUSES on Ruby from behind the drums.

EXT. CHURCH - LATER

Elmo RUNS UP to Ruby and her family on their way to their car.

ELMO

Hey Ruby, wait up!

Ruby turns around, so does her giant FATHER. Elmo slows down.

ELMO (CONT'D)

Hey... you sounded great today! Do you mind if I talk to you about something for a second?

Ruby looks up at her Father PHIL(50). He's about to say no, but her Mother KAREN(45) speaks up.

KAREN

(to Phil)

Phil, that's the pastor's son.

Ruby's Father changes his demeanor - he NODS in approval. Ruby and Elmo stay behind while her parents walk off.

ELMO

Hey... So um, I was wondering... Are you going to try out for the talent show at school?

RUBY

(softly)

No, I wasn't planning on it.

ELMO

How come? Your voice is awesome. You could probably win.

RUBY

(smiles meekly)

Thanks.

ELMO

So... um I was wondering, since you're not trying out yourself, would you be into singing for my band?

RUBY

You want me to be the singer for your band?

ELMO

Yeah! I mean, for the talent show... I think we could win if you sing for us.

RUBY

That's really nice of you Elmer-

ELMO

Oh, Elmo... call me Elmo.

RUBY
Oh, that's silly.

Beat.

ELMO
So, auditions are next weekend, you just have to learn to sing one song. We can practice as many times as you want before the audition! Sound good?

RUBY
I don't know... I have to ask my dad...

ELMO
Okay, here-

Elmo GRABS Ruby's hand. She BLUSHES.

He takes out a PEN and starts writing his PHONE NUMBER on her hand.

ELMO (CONT'D)
Call me if everything works out! It will be really fun Ruby! I'll see you at school!

Elmo walks away. Ruby looks down at her hand. She STICKS it in her pocket before she walks back to her parents.

INT. ELMO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tay is laying on the couch in the LIVING ROOM talking on the phone. Elmo walks in, he signals that he has to use the phone. She ignores him.

Elmo walks to the KITCHEN and unplugs the phone cord.

TAY (O.S.)
You're DEAD!!

Tay comes CHARGING at Elmo.

ELMO
(plugs cord back in)
I'm expecting a call!

Elmo SNATCHES the phone from her and RUNS around the table.

TAY

This is not very smart if you want me to help you get a show...

ELMO

Don't need you anymore.

TAY

(surprised)
And how's that?

The phone RINGS. Elmo gets nervous.

ELMO

Shhhh! Leave me alone!
(picks up)
Hello?

RUBY (O.S.)

Is this Elmer- I mean Elmo?

ELMO

Yeah this is me!

Tay leans in trying to LISTEN.

ELMO (CONT'D)

(pause)
Really? Yeah totally! Tomorrow
after school... Got it! Okay bye!

Elmo HANGS UP.

TAY

You have a date?! Well, look at you. My brother's not such a loser after all.

Elmo ignores her and frantically starts dialing the band. They answer.

ELMO

(on phone)
She's in!

INT. ELMO'S GARAGE - DAY

CLOSE UP of hands struggling to play a guitar riff. Sid's fingers JUMP AROUND the fretboard like they're LOST.

Nancy and Elmo look at each other, Sid keeps trying to play the same riff over and over.

NANCY
No... it's a fret up.

SID
(looking down at guitar)
I got it!

Nancy SHRUGS at Elmo.

ELMO
If you need more time to practice
it's okay-

SID
(to Nancy)
Why did you choose this damn song
anyway?

NANCY
Because it's perfect! We got a girl
singer, this song will definitely
get us in the talent show. And... I
didn't think it would be that hard
to learn.

ELMO
You'll get it man...

Sid keeps trying to play the riff. He gets frustrated, takes off the guitar, tosses it on the couch.

Nancy takes off her bass, picks up the guitar. She plays the riff PERFECTLY.

NANCY
Like this... see?

SID
(irritated)
Why don't you just play it then.

ELMO
(looking at Nancy)
It's not a bad idea...

Nancy smiles at Elmo.

BANG. BANG. BANG.

Everyone JUMPS. Someone's knocking on the garage door. Elmo opens it.

SID

So I lose the guitar, and now here comes my other replacement. I'll be a roadie by the end of the day if this keeps up.

(walking up to garage)

Well, well, well if it isn't the innocent little church girl?

The garage door REVEALS a POLICE OFFICER standing in the driveway. It's Ruby's Father Phil, in full uniform. Ruby peeks out from behind him.

Sid GULPS.

SID (CONT'D)

Hello officer...

ELMO

(waving)

Hey Ruby! Thanks for coming!

Ruby looks up at Phil.

PHIL

One hour.

RUBY

Okay Dad.

Phil gets back on his POLICE MOTORCYCLE and rides away.

ELMO

You rode on that over here? That's rad.

RUBY

(shy)

I've been doing it since I was little. I don't even think about it.

Nancy walks up and extends her hand to Ruby.

NANCY

Hey Ruby, I'm Nancy.

Ruby smiles and shakes her hand.

RUBY

Nice to meet you.

Sid rolls his eyes, grabs the bass, and plops down on the couch.

SID
So we gettin' this show on the road
or what?

Elmo hands Ruby the MICROPHONE.

ELMO
You know all the lyrics?

RUBY
I think so...

ELMO
Okay, well let's try it.

EXT. ELMOS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

TIME LAPSE on the front of the house. FIVE DAYS pass while the camera pulls backward.

The garage door opens and closes, the band comes in and out, Ruby gets picked up by her Father every day. Sometimes the band spends time outside talking, sometimes Ruby and Elmo talk alone before her Father arrives.

Title: **Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday - Friday**

When the TIME LAPSE ENDS, the garage door stays OPEN. The camera PUSHES back in.

INT. ELMO'S GARAGE - DAY

The band hits the last note of the song. They're drenched in SWEAT and smiling - even Sid.

NANCY
Hell yeah! That was sick you guys!
I think we're ready.

ELMO
We kinda messed up on the
transition after the bridge but
otherwise it was pretty solid. I
think we're good, Sid?

SID
Oh, we're good... but I've got my
sights set on the talent show not
this dumb audition, right Ruby?

Elmo GLARES at Sid.

RUBY

I can't wait! I'm trying not to think about the talent show too much and just stay focused on the audition.

Elmo and Nancy give each other a concerned look.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Do you think we could actually win?

SID

(facetious)

Oh we're definitely gonna to win if you're singing Ruby. Just don't freeze up okay? The whole school is gonna be watching...

RUBY

Oh dear, I'm getting diz-

Ruby FALLS backwards onto the couch.

NANCY

(rushes over)

Breathe Ruby... you're okay.

Ruby starts hyperventilating. Sid LAUGHS.

NANCY (CONT'D)

(calming Ruby)

It's just the audition, breathe... breathe... You can do this.

ELMO

You'll be fine Ruby. You heard that just now, we are gonna kill this audition!

SID

I think this audition is gonna kill her.

RUBY

(breathing normally)

I can do this... I'm sorry you guys.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Everyone from the first audition is BACK. The same three judges are staring at the NEW Snotty lineup featuring Ruby. Sid's staring at Judge 2.

Mr. Day WIPES sweat off his forehead.

JUDGE 1
 (forced pleasantry)
 Welcome back... Let's see what you
 have for us this time...

Ruby walks up to the microphone, closes her eyes, takes a deep breath, OPENS her mouth-

CUT TO:

INT. PIZZA PARLOR - LATER

Soda SPITS into a CUP from a dispenser.

Sid MIXES soda from all the dispensers into one cup, he carries it back to a table where the band is celebrating over a PIZZA. They passed the auditions. Ruby is ecstatic, she's talking Reggie's ear off.

RUBY
 I was so scared! I can't believe we got in, I think we sounded pretty good right? Do you think we sounded good? I messed up the second chorus, but I don't think they noticed? It doesn't matter right? We got in! But now I have to sing in front of the whole school... Oh dear...

Nancy and Elmo LAUGH at Ruby's enthusiasm. Elmo looks over at Sid, he's smiling menacingly, Elmo's smile DROPS.

INT. FILLMORE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The bell RINGS. Elmo's walking through the HALLS with his HEADPHONES on.

Title: **The day of the talent show**

Ruby is walking in the opposite direction of Elmo. They make EYE CONTACT. Elmo turns a corner to avoid her, but she catches up.

RUBY
 Hey Elmo!

ELMO
 (taking off headphones)
 Hey Ruby, what's up?

RUBY
I'm so excited for today, aren't
you excited!?

ELMO
Yeah, sure.

RUBY
This is my first time singing in
front of people that aren't at
church ya know? But I'm not scared,
I mean... I'm terrified, but I
kinda like it.
(beat)
Elmo, can I ask you a question...

ELMO
Yeah?

RUBY
Am I still in the band after the
talent show?

ELMO
You want to be?

RUBY
More than anything.

EXT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

Students file into the auditorium for the talent show.
They're in SINGLE FILE lines being led by their teachers.

We see Tay and Tim going inside.

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

A STAGE is set up in the center of the basketball court with
a DRUM SET and AMPLIFIERS already in place. The students fill
up the BLEACHERS facing the stage. Tay and Tim sit together
near the top of the bleachers. Phuoc is front row center on
the bottom.

Mr. Day takes the stage.

MR. DAY
(on mic)
Thank you all for coming to the
Fillmore High School talent show!

Someone YELLS from the bleachers.

STUDENT 2

We were forced to be here!

MR. DAY

(on mic)

Alright! Well... we have a lot of acts for you today, the best talent Fillmore has to offer. We have music, comedy, plate spinning-

The acts are GATHERED in an area AWAY from the stage.

The band, including Ruby is gathered together. Elmo is PACING, he keeps looking at Ruby - then at Sid. Sid SIGNALS Elmo to follow him.

SID

(to band)

I gotta take a piss.

ELMO

Me too.

They WALK OFF.

EXT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

Sid walks out the doors. He turns to CONFRONT Elmo.

SID

How come she's still here!?

ELMO

I... I was thinking-

SID

Nothing changes! We get rid of her and play as Snotty, case closed.

ELMO

We can't do that to her man, she'll be devastated.

SID

Does it look like I care?

(beat)

Technically this is our first show. Do you want our first show to be as a girl band? You know once you have more than one girl, you're a girl band!

ELMO

I didn't think it would go down like this... But look, Snotty isn't going anywhere, lets just do this show with Ruby and move on-

SID

Did you forget that Tim is out there watching? He won't even pay attention to a girl band, much less book us at the Rio!

ELMO

He's not our only hope, we can still get a show without him-

SID

Without your sister, without Tim, you know you do a lot of talking with no results man... You know what, I'll make this real simple for us. If you don't wanna go in there and tell Ruby the deal, then I will.

Sid PUSHES Elmo out of the way.

SID (CONT'D)

I'll show you what punk rock is all about-

ELMO

Crushing someone's dreams is not puck rock.

Sid STOPS. Turns around.

Nancy walks out the doors.

NANCY

Everything cool?

(beat)

Elmo?

ELMO

Everything cool Sid?

SID

(begrudgingly)

... Everything's cool.

They go back inside.

INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

On stage, a STUDENT COMEDIAN is performing.

COMEDIAN

(on mic)

- It's like a sucker punch! BAM earthquake! At least in Florida where there's hurricanes you know it's comin'. Now that's like an abusive relationship, you know you're gonna get hit-

Mr. Day comes on stage, GRABS the mic.

MR. DAY

(on mic)

Okay, alright... thanks very much Danny! Didn't put that one in the transcript, everyone give it up for my son Danny Day. Alright, next up...

Mr. Day STOMPS and CLAPS.

MR. DAY (CONT'D)

(singing)

We will, we will, rock you! We will, we will, rock you!

NOBODY joins him. Sid puts his hand on his face.

MR. DAY (CONT'D)

Fillmore High, please welcome to the stage... Snotty!!

The band walks on stage and grabs their instruments.

Ruby walks up last, she goes to the microphone very methodically, and looks out at the crowd. The whole school is looking at her.

In the bleachers Tay SMACKS Tim who's not paying attention. Phuoc made a Snotty SIGN but is too shy to hold it up. Ruby walks up to the microphone - gets loud FEEDBACK. Everybody WINCES.

Nancy walks to her amp, turns up her guitar, strums a hard POWER-CHORD. She starts playing the song "I'm Just a Girl" by **No Doubt**.

Elmo and Sid FOLLOW with DRUMS and BASS. Sid keeps nervously looking out at the crowd.

When Ruby starts singing, she keeps her EYES CLOSED at first. The audience hears her voice, they start BOBBING their heads along with the song.

When the chorus HITS, Ruby OPENS her eyes, the band starts ROCKING OUT behind her. They're JUMPING around, BANGING their heads, going nuts!

As the chorus ends, Sid SCREAMS into the mic.

SID
(to audience)
GET THE FUCK UP HERE!

The students REACT. They start to STAND UP and RUN down to the stage. Ruby takes the mic OFF the stand and STRUTS around the stage. The teachers try to stop the students, but by the second chorus, the bleachers are EMPTY.

Everyone is now down in-front of the stage.

In the middle of the crowd, Phuoc starts PUSHING people, starting a HUGE MOSH PIT. Sid sees the pit and SMILES ear to ear.

The band continues to ROCK OUT. Phuoc runs on stage and does a STAGE DIVE. In the back of the crowd, Tay and Tim are watching.

TAY
Not bad right? You think they would
be good at the Rio?

TIM
Yeah, they could definitely play
there.

TAY
Really? With you guys?

TIM
I don't know about with us... we
don't play with girl bands.

TAY
Did you really just say that?

TIM
(frazzled)
I'm just saying, it would be hard
to book, we only play with certain
types of bands-

TAY

Well, you said hard, not
impossible... come on, help my
brother out.

(seductive)

I can help you out...

TIM

I'll see what I can do.

The band keeps rocking on stage. While playing, Sid turns to
Elmo.

SID

Hey dude!!

(beat)

This is pretty punk rock!!

Elmo smiles. The band HITS the last note of the song. The
crowd goes WILD.

The camera pulls out to a WIDE SHOT of the entire auditorium.

FADE OUT.

THE END