MY SESSIONS WITH DR. ROBERT MCGEE

BY JAMES ELWOOD FADE IN:

INT-HALLWAY-DAY

A young boy is entering his class room with a sopping wet paper towel in his hand. He walks back to his seat. He is JASON. When the teacher turns to write something on the board he throws the wet wad of paper at the board next to her. You can't hear anything but the background music. The song is <u>Blister in the Sun</u> by The Violent Femmes. The teacher turns around immediately knowing it was Jason. She points to the door and mouths "Get Out"!

CUT TO:

INT: ATTENDANCE OFFICE-DAY

Jason enters the attendance office. The secretary rolls her eyes.

SECRETARY You're here already?

JASON Come on now, what'd you expect?

Secretary What'd you do this time?

Jason I *may* have "tossed" a wet paper at the board during class

Secretary

What is it with you? In here every day.

Jason I gotta keep the place interesting. You wouldn't want a boring day would

you?

Secretary Keep the place interesting? How by holding your math teacher hostage?

Jason (Defensive) That was a joke! she just didn't get

it.

Secretary Alright, just sit where I can keep an eye on you.

Jason

'Kay.

INT-CLASSROOM-DAY Jason approaches the teacher.

Jason What are the chances of this guy usin' the facilities?

Teacher

Write out a pass.

Jason Ten steps ahead of you.

Jason pulls out a pass, the teacher signs it, and Jason walks out the door.

CUT TO:

CUT TO:

INT-BATHROOM-DAY

Jason is standing in the handicap stall, nervously sipping from a POLAND SPRINGS bottle.

A boy enters the bathroom, looks at himself in the mirror, and notices Jason, obviously not going to the bathroom.

BOY What are you doing?

Jason (shocked) Nothing!

Jason starts dumping the water into the toilet.

Boy What's in that bottle?

Jason

Water.

Boy If it's water, than why'd you dump it out?

Jason I wasn't thirsty anymore.

Boy Alright buddy, Whatever.

Jason Leave me alone.

CUT TO:

INT-DR. MCGEE'S SECRETARY'S DESK-DAY

A teacher enters to talk to Dr. McGee

TEACHER

Hi, excuse me, is Dr. McGee in?

Dr. McGee's Secretary No, sorry, he's with a client.

Teacher Ok, well I'd like to make an appointment for a student.

Dr. McGee's Secretary Ok, what's the problem.

Teacher	
I have a student, Jason Hughes,	
who's been frequently visiting the	
restroom and a few students believe	
they have seen him drinking alcohol,	and I
fear he may have a drinking	
problem. He really is a good kid, I	don't
want to jump to conclusions,	but this
seems pretty credible.	

Dr. McGee's Secretary Ok, I'll pencil him in right away.

CUT TO:

EXT-OUTSIDE OF CAFETERIA-DAY

Jason and his friend CUNNINGHAM are leaving detention.

Jason Alright, we've been getting hours like it's our freakin' job.

CUNNINGHAM Yeah I know, and it's like they take longer every time.

> Jason Yeah, dude, hours should only take like twenty minutes.

> > Cunningham

Yeah, If I ever get class president, I'm makin' that a rule.

Jason Are you gonna run?

Cunningham

For what?

Jason Class President.

Cunningham

No, why?

Jason 'Cause you just said... forget it.

Cunningham

'Kay.

Jason Okay, you know that school psychologist?

Cunningham Yeah, why?

Jason I have to go see him now.

Cunningham

Why?

Jason I have no idea.

Cunningham So how do you know you have to see him, if you don't know what it's about?

> Jason They told me about it on call-list

but they wouldn't tell me what it was about.

Cunningham So when do you have to go see him?

INT-DR. MCGEE'S OFFICE-DAY

A boy is sitting in Dr. McGee's room in session. He is wearing a black with a wise "just be glad I'm not your kid" type saying on it. He is BEN.

BEN The trees... were waving because of the wind and stuff. The dirt was cold because it was cold out. The puddle was cold, but it wasn't frozen yet.

Dr. McGee is nodding agreeingly the whole time, obviously not paying attention.

Ben (continued) Everyone was crying really hard because they were really sad.

An egg timer beeps.

DR. MCGEE

Whelp, time's up.

Ben But I didn't finish my poem!

Dr. McGee Yeah I think we're going to go with a different approach next time. Forget the poetry.

> Ben But I worked really hard!

> Dr. McGee I'm sure you did.

CUT TO:

Dr. McGee's Secretary (o.s) Dr. McGee! your two fifteen is here!

Dr. McGee You heard the lady. I'll see you next week.

Ben

Doubt it.

Jason walks in. He accidentally bumps shoulders with Ben on the way out. Ben then flashes Jason a dirty look. Jason is unfazed.

Jason Hurry up buddy, you're gonna be late for practice, you play sports right?

> Dr. McGee Dr. Livingstone I presume?

Jason Huh?(looks behind) No, I'm uh Jason Hughes, I have an appointment.

Dr. McGee I know, It was just a little Humor. of course it would have worked better had *I* been entering the room.

Jason

Of Course.

Dr. McGee

Have a seat.

Jason

Here?

Dr. McGee

If you like.

Jason

'kay.

Jason sits down and shifts around.

Dr. McGee Now, do you have any idea why you're

here?

Jason Is it 'cause I threw the paper towel a wall?

at the wall?

Dr.McGee No, that's not the type of thing people get sent here for.

Jason Yeah, but I do it everyday, and I think my teacher thinks I'm insane.

Dr. McGee Either way that's not the reason you're here.

> Jason Can you tell me why I'm here?

Dr. McGee If by can you mean "have the ability" to tell you, then yes, but if you mean "will" I tell you then no.

Jason

Why not?

Dr. McGee I think it'd be better for you to figure out on your own.

Jason Well then I can't wait to figure it out then. It'll be a learning experience in more ways than one. Dr. McGee That's the attitude I like.

Jason

I do what I can.

Dr. McGee

Excellent.

Jason is looking around at Dr. McGee's Awards and Diplomas.

Jason Do you mind if I uh, peruse your works?

Dr. McGee

No, not at all.

Jason gets up and walks to one of the diplomas on the wall.

Jason

Is this legit?

Dr. McGee It's legitimate, of course.

Jason Your name's Robert McGee?

Dr. McGee Yes, but I don't see what's humorous

about that.

Jason You know the song, Me and Bobby McGee?

Dr. McGee You'll have to bear with me, I'm unfamiliar with you kids' new music.

Jason

Us kids' new music? The song was written in like the sixties, you know when you were a "Kid."

Dr. McGee

Well I admit I wasn't really familiar with the kids' new music even when I was in fact a kid myself.

Jason

I can't believe you've never heard that song though, it's been done by a buncha people, you know, Kris Kristofferson, The Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin.

> Dr. McGee Some of those names sound familiar.

Jason You should hear it though, with it being your name and all.

Dr. McGee I just might have to.

Jason So what do you listen to?

Dr. McGee

The classics.

Jason That's a pretty broad generalization.

Dr.McGee You know, Mozart, Beethoven, Johan Sebastian Bach.

Jason Sebastian Bach was the singer from Skid Row.

Dr. McGee Johan Sebastian Bach was a composer.

Jason Oh, I get it like different people.

INT-CUNNINGHAM'S ROOM-DAY

Jason, Cunningham, and their friends, THUMPER and ETHAN, are hanging out in Cunningham's bedroom.

Cunningham So, did you go to that meeting that guy yet?

> Jason Dr. McGee? yeah.

Cunningham What'd you talk about?

Jason I dunno, stuff. The guy's kind of a push over. I don't think he accomplished anything.

> THUMPER So are you insane?

Cunningham Shut up Thumper.

Jason Naw, but I don't think they ever thought that.

> Thumper Then why'd you go?

> > Jason

I'm not sure.

Cunningham You still haven't found out?

Jason

No.

Cunningham That's a joke.

Jason Yeah, I know. But dude, guess what his name is.

Thumper

Thumper!

Cunningham Shut up Thumper. Thumper You shut up. You just painted your fingernails!

Cunningham It was a clear coat buddy, It doesn't even count.

> Ethan Ok, because you two make the worst arguments ever, how about you shut up and listen to Jason.

> Jason Thank you Ethan. As I was saying, The dude's name... is Bobby McGee.

Thumper I heard a song called that once!

Cunningham Thumper! Please. I hope it's like "American History X" and he makes you write a paper. Ethan You can call it "Me and Bobby McGee."

Jason No, this dude's such a tool he'd make me call it "My sessions with Dr. Robert McGee."

> Thumper Who's Robert McGee?

INT-DR. MCGEE'S OFFICE-DAY

Jason and Dr. McGee are in mid-session.

Jason It would be like Bob Sagget without his cunning wit, It just wouldn't make sense.

Dr. McGee I see what you mean. Now would you say that you have a tightly knit group of friends?

Jason I guess, no less than any other group at least.

Dr. McGee

l see.

Jason We got the whole inner circle type of thing goin'.

Dr. McGee Tell me about your friends.

Jason

Well, Cunningham's Probably my best

friend.

EXT-OUTSIDE SCHOOL-AFTER SCHOOL

Jason and all of his friends are standing around after school.

Jason(v.o) He can be obnoxious, and he's not very bright, but he's a good kid. He's pretty rich, his dad invented the leopard print steering wheel

cover.

Throughout the whole time of Jason's talking The camera is on Cunningham and he's "Hollering" at girls, not getting nearly the reaction he's looking for.

Jason(v.o) (continued) Then there's Ethan. He'd probably be considered the normal one of the group. He kinda keeps us together.

This time the cameras on Ethan. He doesn't do anything out of the ordinary. He just stands there and talks once in a while.

Jason(v.o) (continued) Then there's Thumper. Remember how I said Cunningham's not very bright? Thumper makes him look like a freakin' genius.

Dr. McGee(v.o) His name is Thumper?

Jason(v.o)

(continued)

His name's Andy. But spend five minutes with the kid and you'll know why we call him Thumper. Have you ever seen anyone fall tying there shoes? Just pull his shoe shoe string and watch the show. As Jason is talking the camera is focused on Thumper. He is playing with a rock.

Jason(v.o) (continued) My last close friend is John. He doesn't talk. He can talk, he just chooses not to. But when he does listen close because it's usually something important.

As Jason is talking the camera is focused on John. He is just sitting there, his eyes following whoever is talking.

CUT BACK:

INT-DR. MCGEE'S OFFICE-DAY

Dr. McGee

I see.

Jason Yeah, that about sums it up.

Dr. McGee That seems like an interesting group.

Jason They're alright.

Dr. McGee Now, what would an average night out

entail?

Jason Friday or Saturday?

Dr. McGee We'll go with Friday.

Jason Okay... Well we usually go to Big Y.

CUT TO:

INT-BIG Y-DAY

Jason and his friends are in Big Y doing as he describes.

Jason (V.O.) We'll spend a solid twenty minutes in the cereal aisle.

Dr. McGee (V.O.) Twenty minutes? Really?

Jason (V.O) Well, roughly, you know, It's not exact, we don't time it or anything.

> Dr. McGee (V.O.) Does it really take that long though?

Jason (V.O) Yeah, we'll have, like, arguments over which cereals are better, stuff like that. It can take some time.

Dr. McGee (V.O) Is that all you do there?

Jason (v.o) No, we're not losers. After that we'll get, like, lunchables or ice cream or whatever and eat at the table set up they got there. we'll go hang out at the tables.

> Dr. McGee Stables? Is that a name for a popular hangout?

Jason No. It's not popular at least. It's what we call the tables outside of White Hen.

Dr. McGee

And why do you call them the stables?

Jason You know, come to think of it, I have no idea.

CUT TO:

INT-DR. MCGEE'S OFFICE-DAY

Jason (Continued) Yeah, but that's about it for Friday.

> Dr. McGee And how about Saturday?

> > Jason

I can't tell you.

Dr. McGee

And why not?

Jason it's not the type of thing you discuss in school.

Dr. McGee You're not supposed to think of me as a teacher. Just tell me like you'd tell a friend.

Jason We just sit around.

CUT TO:

CUT TO:

INT-CUNNINGHAM'S ROOM-NIGHT

The boys are running around Cunningham's room with ping-pong paddles hitting ping-pong balls at each other.

INT-DR. MCGEE'S OFFICE-DAY

Jason (continued) Yeah, we basically just sit around.

Dr. McGee You're gonna stick with that?

Jason

Yeah.

EXT-STABLES-NIGHT

The boys are sitting around outside White Hen.

Jason No way. I refuse to believe that Lion King 2 is better than Lion King 1 1/2. Disney gets better with every sequel. And that's both a prequel and a sequel.

Ethan No. The first one's the best. And D3 kind of ruins the first two.

Cunningham First of all we're talking cartoons only buddy, and your just saying that because of the lack of Emilio. You can't stand to see O'Ryan tackle the job.

Jason You basically have a biased opinion against sequels that we really just don't have time for.

> Thumper Is Old Yeller a sequel?

John pats Thumpers shoulder.

Jason On that note I'm gonna go get some more gum for Thumper. CUT TO:

Thumper I chewed four packs at once before.

Jason gets up to buy Thumper more gum.

Ethan Sometimes I wish you all didn't have the worst opinions in the world.

> Cunningham Hey, you don't even know John's opinion.

> > Thumper John says smart things.

Jason returns.

Jason Here you go buddy.

He hands the gum to Thumper. Thumper put the whole pack in his mouth.

Jason Go easy with that brosef.

Ethan So you still seein that guy?

Jason

Yeah.

Thumper begins singing the "Old Yeller" theme

Jason (Continued) We've been talkin' about you guys a bunch lately.

Cunningham Did you say I was handsome? Jason

No.

Cunningham Did you say I was cute?

Jason That wasn't really the type of stuff we talked about.

> Cunningham I don't believe you.

Ethan So what did you talk about?

Jason Just like, your role in my life and stuff you know like therapist stuff.

> Cunningham No buddy, we don't "know".

Thumper (with mouthful of gum) We don't know at all.

Ethan I don't know if you remember, but you're the only one who see's a therapist.

Jason Ok, I just talk about like what we do when we hang out, I'll leave it

at that.

Thumper Can we go play sting-pong?

Cunningham (Yelling) No Thumper! It's Friday! We play Sting-Pong on Saturdays only!

CUT TO:

INT-DR. MCGEE'S OFFICE-DAY

Dr. McGee and Jason are in mid-session

Jason You know, so it's like why even bother renting movies when I have twenty four copies of Uncle Buck right there if anything happens to one of them.

> Dr. McGee It would be pointless.

Jason My point exactly.

Dr. McGee Now has there been any problems with you emotionally?

> Jason Emotionally? Like happiness, anger, all that?

Dr. McGee Sort of, I mean has there been anything going on in your head that would make you do something you feel you shouldn't be?

> Jason Like dreams?

Dr. McGee Sure, dreams are good.

Jason Well sort of, I mean I guess so. I've been having a lot of dreams about David Schwimmer lately. Dr. McGee

Really?

Jason (Hurriedly) Nothing Sexual! he just keeps seeming to show up.

Dr. McGee Oh, no, I would never imply...

Jason Damn right you wouldn't.

Dr. McGee As interesting as that sounds, Jason, I don't think you're understanding the point of the question.

Jason

Okay?

Dr. McGee You've been coming here for six weeks now. Have you figured out the reason why?

> Jason No, I'm acctually still clueless.

Dr. McGee (Getting upset) Jason, you don't need to lie.

Jason (Still calm) Dude, I seriously still have no idea.

Dr. McGee Ok then Jason, why don't you tell me.. why do you bring that water bottle to school everyday? Jason

I get thirsty.

Dr. McGee Then why do you bring it to the bathroom?

> Jason I carry it with me everywhere.

> Dr. McGee So you haven't been drinking alcohol?

Jason Alcohol? What? No. I hate Alcohol, I don't think I'll ever drink it.

Dr. McGee So that's not what you've been doing in the bathroom?

Jason No! I told you, I spend my Friday nights at the Big Y eating lunchables. Does that sound like the behavior of an alcoholic?

> Dr. McGee Well, you do have a point. But, you never would tell me what you do on Saturday nights.

> > Jason We play sting-pong.

Dr. McGee Sting-pong? Do I even want to know?

Jason We hit ping-pong balls at each other. Dr. McGee

Apparently not.

Jason

You asked.

Dr. McGee I guess then you are officially my most normal patient. I guess there's no reason for you to return.

Jason Sick. Think you could write me a pass to the bathroom?

Dr. McGee

Sure can.

Dr. McGee writes out a pass.

Jason Thanks man, it's been real.

Jason takes the pass and heads toward the bathroom. Dr. McGee walks back to his desk. He looks up like he just figured something out.

> Dr. McGee He thinks he can trick me?!

Dr. McGee gets up and storms after Jason.

INT-BATHROOM-DAY

Jason enters the bathroom, walks to the handicap stall, closes the door, leans against the door, opens a POLAND SPRINGS bottle and walks toward the toilet.

Dr. McGee sneaks the bathroom quietly and hears water filling a bottle. He opens the door to find Jason drinking from the bottle.

Dr. McGee Aha! I knew I'd catch you!

Jason

What?

Dr. McGee What's in that bottle?

Jason What? It's water. Are you forgetting that little talk we just had?

> Dr. McGee Sure it's water, lemmie see it.

> > Jason

Go for it.

Jason hands the bottle to Dr. McGee. Dr. McGee smells it and takes a sip. He looks into the bottle with a questioning look on his face.

Dr. McGee Ok, I guess you're right, it is just water, pretty bad tasting water, but water all the same.

Jason

Told ya.

Dr. McGee I stand corrected.

Dr. McGee leaves. INT. OUTSIDE BATHROOM

> Dr. McGee I could've sworn there was something funny going on in there, I guess not.

INT. INSIDE BATHROOM STALL

Jason That guy's so weird.

He dunks the bottle in the toilet filling it up, he pulls it out and takes a big sip.

FADE OUT: