

My Magic Ralph

Written By

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Address  
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FADE IN

EXT. PORCH

We fade in on a sophisticated, older looking man. He is sitting on his porch, reminiscing, while he stares off into the distance. This is TONY.

TONY

I know you've come to me to talk about Ralph. What a good man. Insane. But good. So insane in fact that,

He laughs.

TONY

He's been in hiding for 13 years! We still keep in touch but I swore on the Golden Blazer I wouldn't reveal his location. Speaking of the Golden Blazer...

Tony reaches under his seat and rummages around for something. He lifts up a gold-encrusted box and places it on his lap, slowly.

TONY

It's soft supple lining, beautifully embellished lapels, and padded to perfection just below the collar...

Tony takes out a dirty, old, ridiculously over-embellished plaid blazer. He turns it around to show the back revealing two top hats and a rabbit holding a microphone with words reading "Big Mig's 2 Division MAGIC and COMEDY Competition"

TONY

Ahh. She's beautiful, is she not?

Tony pauses.

The Camera reveals an older man sitting, and in a deep sleep.

Tony is then shown with a blank look on his face yet looking slightly offended.

The camera cuts to a sudden wide shot of Tony throwing bang snaps at the ground near the man and jolting him into a state of consciousness.

TONY  
...Did I wake you?

OLD MAN  
What was that?!

TONY  
...Magic. I'm...

Tony throws a handful of glitter in the air.

TONY  
...a magician. Ralph and I both actually. And that's what this story is about. That and how we came into possession of the Golden Blazer, of course. Now to the story! INT. Auditorium

The auditorium is filled with people. The stage is lit-up and a banner hangs across the back wall stating Big Mig's 2 Division Magic and Comedy Competition

TONY  
(V.O.)  
Back in the day, when I was just a young boy, Ralph was just an apprentice, studying magic under a man named Dmitri Zweig, stage named "The Grand Dmitrini". They competed at a place called Big Mig's where, each year, they held a popular contest called Big Mig's two division MAGIC and COMEDY competition.

EXT. PORCH

TONY  
I must explain... This contest was not a very showy, or shiny, glamorous kind of event. It was mostly for the unwanted entertainers. Talent was dull though it was special in its own way. Anyways, Dmitri and Ralph worked towards the title of first place in the magic division year after year. Their acts were truly unique...

INT. AUDITORIUM

ANNOUNCER

Number 184, magic act number 184.

A older looking man moon walks onto stage. He is wearing a purple flashy magician's outfit. This is DMITRI. A younger man follows behind him, pushing out a cart of magic props. This is RALPH.

DMITRI

Humans. I am here to show you what it's like to not fully understand a situation, for I am about to blow your minds...

Dmitri quickly turns around and throws bang snaps at his feet.

DMITRI

With MAGIC.

The audience stares at Dmitri in awe while he walks around the stage.

DMITRI

The pyramids, Stonehenge, Pluto, all great wonders of the world...

Dmitri pulls colored ribbons out of his jacket. Ralph picks up the ribbons.

DMITRI

But how might one explain this?

Dmitri pulls flowers out of his jacket.

DMITRI

Or this?

Dmitri takes out cards attached by a string from his pocket.

DMITRI

Or even this?!

The audience gives a look of approbation.

DMITRI

And now, for my lovely and mystifying apprentice: Ralph!

INT. PORCH

TONY

Now, I wasn't there for this part... I come in a bit later, but anyway, this is how Ralph always told the story...

INT. AUDITORIUM

Ralph and Dmitri are standing on stage. Ralph looks like he is preparing for something big. He then pulls a rabbit out of his hat. The crowd goes wild.

INT. PORCH

TONY

The act was mystifying, but always seemed to fall short to the great magical talents of Inga and Agatha Bolshkavok.

INT. AUDITORIUM, LATER

Big Mig stands on stage. The girls go up to receive their blazer.

TONY (V.O.)

Now, I've heard very different descriptions of these girls over the years. Liked by many, they were a threat to Ralph's ego, making his opinion of them very biased.

INT. PORCH

TONY

And of course Jimmy "Chuckles" Erker always won the Comedy division.

INT. AUDITORIUM, EARLIER

Mr. Erker is sitting on a stool in the middle of the stage with a microphone in hand.

ERKER

What's so special about sliced bread anyways?! And what's with that plane food... Am I right?!

The audience bursts into hysterical laughter.

EXT. PORCH

TONY

He was a comedic genius but a snob to say the least, but what can you really expect from a person who gets in the business at such a young age... anyways, one year, as Dmitri was growing old, he decided that he needed the blazer under his possession soon or he may never get the opportunity. He decided that he needed to do something crazy to win over the judges.

INT. AUDITORIUM, ONE YEAR LATER

Dmitri and Ralph are standing backstage.

DMITRI

You know I think this act could finally win us the blazer.

RALPH

Yeah, and victory will be so sweet, crushing those Bolshkavok sisters to the ground. Just look at them now.

Dmitri and Ralph look over and the Bolshkavok sisters, who smile and wave at them sincerely. Ralph rolls his eyes.

RALPH

Ugh, look at them, shunning us just before we go on stage.

DMITRI

I think we really have it, Ralphy. I mean I know it's pretty dangerous with the fire and the untamed leopard aaaaand I know I walked under a ladder and got mauled by that black cat earlier but, I just really feel that this is our year.

ANOUNCER

Act 184, Magic act number 184

Dmitri and Ralph walk confidently onto the stage.

INT. FUNERAL

Ralph is standing in front of a crowd of people, shocked. There is a large photo of Dmitri, a podium, and an urn.

Ralph is standing behind the podium preparing himself for the speech.

RALPH

Hello. Today is a day that Dmitri's friends, family, and magicians have come together to honor the great legacy of an even greater man. As many of you know, I have studied magic under Dmitri for many years and, to his disadvantage, he never did teach me how to bring a man back from the dead.

The crowd looks horrified.

RALPH

Ok maybe that one was too soon. Anyways, D devoted his whole life to magic and Big Mig's and the Golden Blazer, or lack there of... Which is why I plan on continuing on with our magical act of greatness and beauty. I plan on shining a new light on our performance. One might say the light, of Dmitri's spirit.... I plan on finding a way to get the golden blazer to fulfill Dmitri's dreams that he never quite reached, and this i do, with Dmitri's spirit by my side... And a new apprentice. I feel it is my time to shine... under the light of Dmitri's spirit. The time is now, that I pass the dirty work off to a man who I once was. And how will I find this man you ask? I will simply follow the light of Dmitri's spirit to show me the way. My apprentice is out there. I must now find him.

FUNERAL GUY

Or you could go to the Magician's Union. That's where you go when your partner dies to get a new one... Or somethin.

INT. UNION

Ralph is looking down at his card which says "Magician's Union" he looks up to find himself standing inside a run down, dimly lit waiting room. An unenthusiastic man is sitting behind a desk and typing. This is THE UNION HELPER. Ralph walks up to the desk.

RALPH

Hi.

The Union Helper looks up at him with a look of aggravation. He gives a very insincere, rehearsed speech.

UNION HELPER

Hello. Welcome to the Magician's Union. A place that fulfills your greater magical needs. We take pride in our very skilled applicants, 67% success rate, and uh, that's it... What may I help you with.

RALPH

Well, my magician died and I was the assistant, and now I'm in charge so I need an assistant...do I need to fill out any forms or anything?

UNION HELPER

Yes, Help will be granted shortly. Let me get your forms.

Ralph sits down as he gets his forms prepared. There is another person waiting in the waiting room. This person is sitting near Ralph, and stares at Ralph when he is not looking. When Ralph looks up, the person looks away and back at his papers. This happens multiple times.

UNION HELPER

Sir, here are your papers.

RALPH

Thanks.

Ralph looks down at his application form. He reads off the questions and answers them.



RALPH

Ok... "what is your name? That would be Ralph. "How old are you?" 36 and proud. "If you were put into a situation where you must either save yourself, your partner, or your act, what would you do?" Well that's easy, I would use my amazing magical powers to do some crazy trick just,

Ralph starts acting it out instead of writing it down.

RALPH

just like without even thinking and just "BOOM" save all of us like--

Ralph looks up and sees The Union Helper standing in front of him with a blank face.

UNION HELPER

...are you ready, sir?

RALPH

--uh. Yes. Here.

Ralph hands him the papers.

UNION HELPER

...Thank you. Wait here while we process you're results and find you a match.

Ralph is sitting in his seat. The person sitting next to him is staring at him again and awkwardly smiles when Ralph looks. The Union Member walks up to Ralph.

UNION HELPER

A man will be out with you shortly to help you.

RALPH

Can you just help me?

UNION HELPER

Well, apparently I don't have the people skills to tell you that you have no matches. Oops. My mistake.

RALPH

...I'm sorry, what?

UNION HELPER

Well, now that the cat's out of the bag, you have no matches... Because you suck.

RALPH

This..... Is a joke.

Ralph gets up and starts walking around mindlessly.

RALPH

(chuckling)

Ashton, come out! You got me! Ok where are the cameras, nice try guys...

There is silence in the room. The Union Helper and the other guy looks at him blankly.

RALPH

Seriously... No one? Oh I see, I see, I'm just WAY too good that no one here can live up to my expertise.

UNION HELPER

Nope you're resume was extremely unimpressive and i've seen your act... But, hey. If you really need someone, you could use that guy.

The camera pans over to a guy in the corner sweeping. He has casual clothes on and is young. This is TONY.

RALPH

Oh, yeah! That's great! Why don't I just use the cleaning guy, ok!

Ralph looks at the man sitting next to him.

RALPH

Look, do you need a magic partner?

He looks up at Ralph with a blank face.

RALPH

Ok, well you need someone, and I need someone, so what do ya say?!

He stares at him with a very creepy smile on his face. There is silence in the room.

INT. RALPH'S CAR.

Ralph is seen driving home with Tony.

INT. RALPH'S ROOM

Ralph and Tony sit in a dimly lit room. There are magic cards, costumes, disco balls, and other magical gadgets. Ralph holds a big box and is sifting through it.

RALPH

So, this is my living quarters. I know its not the greatest but it is what it is. And hey, at least my parents pay for heating and food and stuff. Anyway's, just to get a sense of who's shoes we need to fill, here is a box of gadgets and other fun nic-nacs that I've acquired over the years of working with D. To be honest, most of this stuff is just worthless junk.

Ralph takes out a bunch of things and throws them on the floor. Ralph throws a VHS tape on the group and Ralph picks it up.

TONY

What's this?

RALPH

Oh, well, Dmitri got me this magic assistant's 101 VHS tape to "help me with my basics" he said. I never watched it though, I think my glitter sweeping skills are already at their peak.

Ralph chuckles to himself.

TONY

So is this going to teach me everything I need to know or should I watch videos of You and Dmirti's old act?

RALPH

Old videos won't help too much. I'm thinking of taking the routine and giving it a little "taste of Ralph" just to... spunk it up. Give it a little "pizzazz". I think it really needs some new elements if we are going to win the Golden Blazer.

TONY

Oh. What are you adding?

RALPH

Oh, just a little something I used to do before I started working with Dmitri. I know you're "not supposed to talk bad about the deceased" but, Dmitri always stifled my performance. I used to have this great lineup in my solo years, but when I began studying under D, my artistic talents were diminished by his conservative views on magic. Speaking of that, I have to run out and grab some stuff for the show, Ill teach it to you when I get back--

A booming voice comes from upstairs. This is RALPH'S MOM.

RALPH'S MOM

RALPHY, WHEN YOU'RE OUT CAN YOU PLEASE PICK UP MY OINTMENT FOR THE LOVE OF GOD.

RALPH

AUGH. JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, I'M A GROWN MAN. I DESERVE RESPECT.

Ralph looks back to Tony.

RALPH

Anyways, I'm pretty sure this tape shows the importance of magic apprenticeship. Watch this while I'm out. I'll be back in 45 minutes. Make sure that when you come back you know the basic skills of magic assisting.

Ralph pauses dramatically.

RALPH

Alright, well bye.

As Ralph leaves, Tony puts in the VHS tape. He begins to watch it on the couch. The start is a funny intro to the video and a very boring man starts explaining the very basic magician skills.

INT. DRYCLEANERS

Ralph stands in the dry cleaners, and waits for his costume. The man behind the counter is very Italian-Mafia-esque and has on a leather jacket with slicked back hair. The room is light with candles and has a faint opera song playing in the background.

MAN

Welcome.

RALPH

Hi, I'm picking up under the name of Dmitri Zweig.

The man gets very close to Ralph.

MAN

...look, buddy. In the thirty-two years that Dmitri has been coming to me with his sparkly little getups he has not a once sent someone else to pick up for him. Now, tell me who you are and what you did Dmitri.

RALPH

I am, or was Dmitri's magic assistant. I'm picking up today because Dmitri died, thank you very much. Now that this is all settled, I'd like my things so I can be on my way free of charge... oh, and, could you keep the capes separate from the suits--

MAN

Dmitri is dead, pff, geez. They're droppin like flies these days. Everyone and their cousin Vinny seems to croak on me. WHat a pal he was.

Ralph nods his head.

RALPH

He was a pal.

Ralph stands in silence for an awkward moment. He looks down at his capes in hand.

RALPH

Yeah a real pal...Well uh, funny story, not many people know this

(MORE)

RALPH (CONT'D)

but the grain in these capes were purposely made going against the current, which was beneficial with its 1800 thread count. Ya know who invented this? A man who worked for the, uh, rabbit foot circus and magical performances, I think his name was Charles Darwin, (or something...) But uh he really broke grounds for the magic world. See one day, his wife was cooking beans and just spilled it all over the cape so she went to make him a new one an--

The man looks at him in utter boredom and confusion.

RALPH

Uh, (ehem)... Ah, and for the sequins, this is a great story--

MAN

Okay, okay. Thank you for the company, now, if you'd stop boring me with all dis malarcky...

The man gets really close to Ralph and puts his arm around him.

MAN

I'll make you an offer you can't refuse... 20% off? Eh? Yeah?

Ralph looks at him blankly.

RALPH

Oh. Uh, yeah that's great thank you.

MAN (CONT'D)

Yes yes, that's a good deal, I mean that's Lambswool, that's not easy to clean.

RALPH

Oh, yes I know much about lambswool.

Ralph then pays the man and begins to walk out.

RALPH

Ok, thank you.

As Ralph walks out the man behind the counter takes out a hitlist and crosses off Dmitri's name.

MAN

Ah, what a shame.

INT. RALPH'S ROOM

Tony is seen on the couch playing with Star Wars gummies while listening to the video inattentively.

INT. VHS TAPE

The video is playing and suddenly it jump cuts to Dmitri who taped over the video. He is standing in a small, dark room with lots of magical items dispersed throughout.

DMITRI

Alright buddy, look. I don't know who you are but you've watched past the 15 minute mark which tells me right there that you damn well aren't Ralph! Now I can only assume one of these three very plausible reasonings are the source of your viewing: either, A) Ralph sold this tape to the government to use as a torturing mechanism thinking it was a 2 hour instructional tape on learning the ins and outs of card trickery, B) Aliens....., or C) Ralph gave this tape to someone therefore he is training someone who would in that case be an assistant or apprentice which would make him in charge which could only mean one thing... That I died...

Dmitry starts to tear up and his voice gets shaky.

DMITRI

I'm sorry. I'm just so sad that I died, I must have been so young... anyways, If this is Ralph's new partner in training, there are a few things that you must know... If you fall into the categories of option A or B, just leave.

Tony looks confused...

DMITRI

See, Ralph is very stubborn in his tactics, which can be good in some ways, but in all truth... Ralph sucks. He started at age ten. It took him two years just to learn how to draw the correct card from the deck. The problem is, He thinks is a lot better than he is. He's just such a know it all. I'm sure you've noticed him rambling on and rambling on and on and on blah blah blah about these stupid facts that he clearly is making up as he speaks... Anyways. In his past years, prior to our gig, he had a solo act called "Magic Ralph". Here is a clip of his act.

INT. VHS TAPE/AUDITORIUM

Ralph is on stage doing tricks like finger locking, leg crossing, and magically appearing quarters. He is wearing a sequin top, roller-blades, and throws glitter up into the air.

INT. VHS TAPE

DMITRI

Not good, not good at all. When I took him under my wings, I knew it would be a tough task to train him into a beautiful, mystifying magician. After many failures to train him well, I decided to just give him a small piece to our act, it would have been too harsh to let the little guy go. So at the end of each show I let him have his moment with this little piece right here.

INT. VHS TAPE/AUDITORIUM

Ralph does the same trick as earlier in the movie with the rabbit, except the rabbit tumbles out of his hat and the crowd boos him.

INT. VHS TAPE

DMITRI

Awkward, clumsy little dude. Costs us the Golden Blazer every time...



INT. DOLLAR STORE

Ralph is seen looking at his list, the next item shown is glitter. He walks into an aisle looking for glitter and sees a store clerk. The store clerk looks like a young, oblivious, overly enthused high school student.

RALPH

Excuse me, do you now where I can find a giant bag of glitter?

CLERK

Yeah, right this way.

They walk down the aisle.

CLERK

Here it is, man.

Ralph starts to take copious amounts of bags of gold and red glitter.

CLERK

Whoa, dude, chah that's a lot of glitter my man. There only one guy I knew to ever buy so much much glitter.

Ralph is getting 2 bags of gold glitter and 4 bags of red.

CLERK

1 part golden goddess, 2 parts fire engine red...whoa dude, do you know--

RALPH

Dmitri, yeah.

CLERK

Ah sweet dude, he was my guy! I heard about his passing, what an awful way to die, with the fire and all... But hey! He always said he was pickin' up glitter for his buddy Ralphy!

RALPH

That'd be me. I am Ralphy--

While Ralph is saying this he leans on the carriage to be cool and it roles our from under him and he starts to trip but catches himself.

CLERK

Oh, whoah man you good? But seriously dude, that's totally sweet, D was my guy! Hey, man...

He hands Ralph a tape.

CLERK (CONT'D)

...listen to this, its a few of my new tracks. Dmitri used to be my bands biggest fan-

RALPH

Oh right, you're Cannibal Carcass. He mentioned you guys before...

CLERK

AH, sweet! He used to say our music inspired many of his magic acts or whatever!

Ralph looks at him confused and in shock.

CLERK (CONT'D)

Track five, we wrote that about him, man. He was so spectacular! But seriously listen to it bro, it'll be like listening to a million little baby Dmitri's whispering in your ear... and a cat. Purring...

He takes a long pause.

CLERK (CONT'D)

Pure gold man, lots of love. Hey, good luck with the glitter.

RALPH

Thanks, "man". I'll give it a listen.

CLERK

Oh, but wait. If you're D's little man, shouldn't you be grabbing some bang snaps?

RALPH

What?

CLERK

Bang snaps?

RALPH

Oh.

CLERK

Yeah, man. The little white things that go "bang snap" when they hit the ground. Dmitri just always said he grabbed the glitter for you and the bang snaps made the performance. Did you need some, they're right over here...

RALPH

Yeah, I'll take a few bags.

INT. RALPH'S ROOM

Tony is in shock as Dmitri is talking from the VHS tape.

INT. VHS TAPE

Dmitri is still sitting in the same room.

DMITRI

Now, If I know Ralph enough, I think I could say he will attempt to win the Golden Blazer on my behalf, being the good man that he is. But being the thick-skulled idiot that he is, he will attempt to do this with his old routine. I'm leaving it in the hands of you, oh, worthiest cousin, to be the man I couldn't, or can't or whatever, and make Ralph the best damn magician he can be. BUT, there is one thing you must be aware of while trying to train Ralph, if you use a trick even so much as use anything slightly similar to any of my old tricks, he will surely catch on to our scheme. You must find a way to teach him the goods without him figuring out that you are uprooting his entire routine. Also, if I... Truly am dead... I want my tricks to die with me... That is an order, not a request.

MONTAGE

DMITRI (V.O.)

Some things about Ralph that you will need to know is that, though I always wear a cape while performing, he likes to go capeless. Nothing but sequins.

Ralph is shown leaving the capes at the dry cleaners.

DMITRI (V.O.)

He is also more of a glitter man, where I'm all for the bang snaps.

Ralph is shown throwing out the bang snaps that he had just bought.

DMITRI (V.O.)

Lastly, and undoubtedly the most important, Ralph never likes that I made him wear sneakers, he was much more into roller-blades...

INT. SHOW STORE

Ralph is seen standing in front of a mirror wearing a ridiculous pair of roller-blades. He does a little swivel, and nods with approval.

DMITRI (V.O.)

If you can stop him from all this, than you got yourself the Golden Blazer.

Dmitri covers the screen with a black cloth. He hears Ralph walking in and shuts off the T.V.

INT. RALPH'S ROOM

Ralph walks in just as Tony is shutting off the tape. Ralph walks over to Tony.

RALPH

Alright, got the stuff, Let's get crackin' on this routine. So I got some roller-blades for us because, why not, am I right? And I was thinkin' we could roll in with a sick beat and a handful of glitter. We start off with the typical introduction, but throw the glitter at all the important parts rather than bang snaps--

TONY

Wait... Don't you think bang snaps might give it a nice touch... Add a little pizzazz?

RALPH

Well, that's a nice idea. I could see why a rookie would think such a thing, but glitter just packs a punch, no ones gunna mess with the glitter thrower, trust me.

TONY

Well yeah but, just as an apprentice, I think the bang snaps might also be easier to carry, and clean up...

RALPH

We don't need to worry about that. Plus, bang snaps and roller blades, not a good mix...

TONY

Well sneakers are always an option.

RALPH

Sneakers...Sneakers... Where are you getting these ideas? What kind of stuff did that tape tell you about the art of magic?!

Ralph runs over to T.V. And pops in the VHS tape. He see Dmitri's face and Ralph looks shocked.

RALPH

Dmitri...?! What is this?

Ralph rewinds a bit and stops it when he sees the clip of his old routine from "Magic Ralph".

TONY

Ralph--

RALPH

STOP!

Ralph plays the tape and sees the clip of his old routine. He then hears Dmitri saying that he lost him the Golden Blazer and his act was no good.

RALPH

...What. What is this, how could

(MORE)

RALPH (CONT'D)

he, when did, these lies...

Ralph is rewinding and playing repeatedly when Dmitri says "Ralph sucks".

RALPH

I can't believe this.

He sits down and continues to watch the rest.

RALPH

So, this is what Dmitri always thought of me? I was a failure? A joke?...And I'm the reason we always placed second to the Bolshkavok sisters?!

Ralph stares blankly into space. Tony looks uncomfortable and has no idea what to say. He starts to say something but Ralph begins to speak before him.

RALPH

So you were going to get me to change the whole act so we didn't fail miserably!

Tony looks at Ralph shamefully and then looks down.

TONY

I'm so--

RALPH

No, don't worry. I quit. I'm officially out of the magic business forever! Goodbye! I'm leaving!

Ralph walks up the stairs.

RALPH (V.O.)

And yes, I do know this is my house but I'm leaving for EMPHASIS.

Tony sits in the basement not knowing what to do. He sighs and slouches on the couch thinking of what just happened. He then hears a rummaging noise in the background. He looks up, attentive to the sound. He hears it again. All of a sudden, the TV screen lights up with Dmitri's face.

INT. VHS TAPE

DMITRI

Oh, and by the way. I want you to  
(MORE)

DMITRI (CONT'D)

know that the most important thing about all of this is not upsetting little Ralphy. He's such a sweet little guy, means no harm. He's kinda like Tommyboy, ya know? Just out there, for a good cause, bein a sweet little pudgy dude that unknowingly causes mass destruction. You can't really get mad at him for that... Anyways, if you upset my little Ralphy, I will haunt you for eternity, and I'm sure that by the time I'm deceased I'll have ghost friends, like the Outsiders, and we'll all haunt you. So be careful.

EXT. PORCH

TONY

In that moment, I was struck with genius. And I knew what I had to do for Ralph.

INT. RALPH'S ROOM

Tony is looking at the tape in disbelief.

TONY

...For Ralphy- ehem... Ralph.

INT. PERFORMERS ANONYMOUS MEETING

A man is standing in a dimly lit room, seemingly in a circle with other people.

MAN

--I have been attending this since 1984. My problem is I speak in rhyme and really nothing more.

The camera pans out to show a group of people sitting in a circle and talking. One is dressed like Elvis, others like clowns, others like mimes.

GROUP

Hi Jeff.

Ralph looks nervous and begins to stand up.

RALPH

Hi, I'm Ralph. I've been in the magic business since I was ten.

(MORE)

RALPH (CONT'D)

This is my first time here, and my problem is that even though I recently discovered I am inept to ever possess talent in the field of magicry, I can't stop thinking about glitter, wands, and rabbits.

GROUP

Hi Ralph.

A sad clown stand up and begins to tell his story.

INT. RALPH'S ROOM

Tony looks at the clock. He then goes over to a calender on the wall and crosses off another day. This leaves one full day before the contest.

INT. PERFORMERS ANONYMOUS MEETING

Another person in the meeting is talking.

PERSON

But I really don't understand why he would turn on you like that.

RALPH

I know. one day I was just preparing for a contest and the next I found out my dead magician teacher was trying to get me to give up my act.

PERSON

Do you think he was trying to stifle you, or help you in a strange way...?

OTHER PERSON

I think he just wants the best for you, from what you said, it sounds like Dmitri was a pretty sweet guy.

ELVIS

Yes, I do agree.

INT. RALPH'S ROOM

Tony is seen looking through old boxes for Ralph's "Magic Ralph" on VHS to watch as inspiration. He finally finds one.

INT. PERFORMERS ANONYMOUS MEETING



Everyone is standing around Ralph.

CLOWN

You can't say that! You don't know the kind of emotional turmoil you go through when your act or performance is unappreciated by someone you love!

ELVIS

But I think he was just trying to help Ralph!

RALPH

Alright, alright! Calm it down misfit toys...

PERSON

Ralph, I don't think you should give up this fast. I think you should do the show. For Dmitri...

RALPH

Augh. Look, its not that simple. I have to go.

INT. RALPH'S CAR.

Ralph walks outside and into his car, he turns on the radio and hears that he had left that store clerk's tape in it. He curiously turns to track 5, after remembering what that man said about Dmitri. Each track is heavy screamo, and track five is a very mellow, sweet song about Dmitri. In this moment, Ralph realizes that he has to honor Dmitri and do the show.

EXT. PORCH

TONY

Ralph always said that was the moment he realized what he had to do, for Dmitri.

INT. MONTAGE

Ralph and Tony are seen doing things in a training montage form, while an all vocal song is played behind them narrating their every move.

Ralph is seen getting Bang snaps, a cape, and sneakers.

Tony is seen lacing up his roller-blades.

Ralph is seen Practicing some of Dmirti's old moves.

Tony is seen practicing some of Ralph's old moves.

Ralph is again shown working on some moves.

Tony is again shown working on moves but then realizes he needs another assistant.

INT. UNION

He comes out with the other guy in the waiting room.

INT. ROOM

Ralph realizes he needs another assistant.

INT. UNION

He tries to pick someone up but he leaves empty handed.

INT. PERFORMERS ANONYMOUS MEETING

He then goes to the PA meeting room and leaves with the elvis impersonator.

Ralph and Tony are seen side by side on a split screen rehearsing pieces of their acts. Tony ends with pulling a rabbit out of a hat and Ralph ends with sparking fire from thin air (with his fire sparker that he turns on).

The montage seems like it should be over but it awkwardly keeps going.

Tony is seen crossing off another day on the calender, revealing that it is the day of the contest.

Ralph and his apprentice go to the contest and check in under act number 184.

Tony is later shown checking in with his assistant under the same act in a different check in station.

Ralph is shown back stage with his apprentice and Tony and his apprentice walk by. Neither of them see the other.

Tony gives the sound guy a tape to play for his act.

Both of the men and there apprentices are standing back stage waiting to be called on from opposite ends of the stage.

The lights are off. The camera switches back and forth from each of the men. Tony adjusts himself and fixes his hat

containing the rabbit. Ralph adjusts himself and sets his fire sparker on to a timer.

END MONTAGE

INT. BACK STAGE

Tony is seen standing backstage waiting to be called on while the Bolshkavok sisters perform.

ANOUNCER

184, act number 184.

EXT. PORCH

TONY

Now, this moment will be something  
I'll never forget for as long as I  
live. Something that some might say  
changed the business for ever...

INT. AUDITORIUM

Ralph and his apprentice and Tony and his apprentice walk out onto stage, neither of the groups know the other is there because the stage is still dark. They both stand with their backs facing the center of the stage. The apprentices stand in the back of the stage facing the audience. When the lights turn on, Ralph and Tony have their back facing each other and still don't realize what is happening. The apprentices double take when they see each other and look shocked and frightened. Tony waits for the music to start but Ralph begins his act.

RALPH

Humans...

He begins to walk backwards. Tony hears him and turns around. He realizes what is happening and tries to leave but he is so startled he freezes on stage.

RALPH

I am about to show you what its  
like to not fully understand--

Ralph backs up into Tony and falls into him. Tony's hat falls off and the rabbit tumbles out. Ralph's fire sparker falls out of his sleeve. Tony accidentally scoops in up into his hat when he scoops up the rabbit.

RALPH

(whispering to Tony)  
What are you doing here?! what in

(MORE)

RALPH (CONT'D)

God's name is happening!

TONY

What are you doing here?! I thought you quit magic!

RALPH

I did, but this guy that helped me get glitter sang a song about Dmitri and now I'm doing it as a tribute act for him. What the hell are you doing here with what seems to be my old routine?! I thought you thought it was a failing act...

TONY

I did, but then Dmitri said he would haunt me ... We have to keep going.

RALPH

But how?

TONY

I don't know but the show must go on. I think we've been talking for a while now.

The camera pans out and shows a room full of people awkwardly waiting and watching for something to happen. Ralph and Tony are just sitting in the center of the stage whispering.

RALPH

Yeah, lets get up.

Ralph has to help Tony get up. Tony then cues the music to start again. They both start to do their routine and things are going surprisingly well. Tony is using his assistant to demonstrate tricks such as pulling a quarter out from his ear. He also shows his finger locking skills and knee crossing abilities.

RALPH

The pyramids, stonehenge, pluto.  
All great wonders of the world.

He throws down bang snaps.

RALPH

But how might one explain this.

He pulls flowers out from his cape and tosses it down. The

Elvis impersonator goes to pick it up.

RALPH

Or this?!

He pulls out a handkerchief from his sleeve and tosses it down. Elvis picks it up.

RALPH

OR even this--

Ralph begins to take out a deck of cards on a string. Just then, Tony roller blades over a bang snap and caught himself from tripping but accidentally throws a handful of glitter in Ralph's face.

RALPH

Oh God!

He drops the cards. Elvis runs over to pick them up and reveals that the cards were all attached.

RALPH

Now, uhh... For my biggest trick  
yet, I will create fire from thin  
air!

Tony is still skating around stage but begins to prepare for a big trick, the rabbit in the hat. As Ralph prepares for his trick, he realizes he lost the sparker. Tony Takes his hat off and flips it upside down to pull out the rabbit. Ralph suddenly realizes that the sparker is in the hat when he hears it beep but it is too late to do anything. All of a sudden, The rabbit jumps out of the hat, engulfed in flames. It tumbles off stage and Ralph and Tony stand there in shock. Elvis runs off stage to get it. The audience then begins to laugh uncontrollably. Ralph and Tony walk off stage in disbelief of what just happened.

EXT. PORCH

TONY

As we walked off stage, I knew what we had done. I looked up and saw Inga and Agatha Bolshkovok fitting for their blazer. I knew right then just how much I had not only failed Ralph, but how much we both failed Dmitri. We got up to leave, but then I hear a booming, almost supernatural, god like voice.

INT. BACK STAGE

Tony and Ralph roller-blade offstage.

A loud, deep voice yells "stay".

RALPH

Oh My God, Dmirti, is that you?

Big Mig enters the room.

BIG MIG

Hahaha, no, no. Its just Big Mig.  
But seriously guys, stay, you don't  
wanna miss the awards, do ya?

RALPH

No, I really think we better take  
off--

BIG MIG

There's cake.

Ralph and Tony stare at him blankly.

INT. AUDITORIUM, LATER

Ralph and Tony are seen in the audience with cake, sitting next to The Bolshkavok's and Jim "Chuckles" Erker. Big Mig stands on stage with an envelope containing the results for the winners.

BIG MIG

This year, was one for the books,  
might I say. True talent has graced  
this stage tonight, along with two  
firefighters and a veterinarian.

The audience laughs, the Bolshkavoks blush, and Erker looks proud of himself.

BIG MIG (CONT'D)

Now, for the awards: In first place  
of magic, No surprise here, folks,  
Inga and Agatha Bolshkavok!

Tony and Ralph look at each other with a look of disappointment but understanding. They then start to walk out.

BIG MIG

In first place taking home the  
comedy division win, wow! Tony and

(MORE)

BIG MIG (CONT'D)

Ralph! Congrats you guys!

They look up in shock.

TONY

Did, he just say our names?

Ralph cheers and runs up onto the stage with Tony following him. Big Mig hands them their Golden Blazers.

RALPH

I'd like to say a few words.

BIG MIG

We don't do speeches, Ralphy.

RALPH

--please, just. Let me, ok?

BIG MIG

Ok

RALPH

Humans, this is a moment I will truly never forget. After all this crazy adventure, we call life, I don't know exactly how I ended up here, but I don't regret it for one moment. Thank you to all my fellow supporters, thank you to Big Mig, Elvis, the rabbit. But especially thank you to my deceased friend...

Ralph points out in the audience and a spotlight shins on a seemingly empty seat. At second glance it appears that there is an urn, Dmitris urn.

RALPH

...Dmitri. I love you forever. And thank you, to this guy right here. Even though you tried to stifle me, and you almost killed me a few minutes ago on stage, I know we'll be life long friends.

He looks at Tony. The audience claps and cheers.

BIG MIG

Welp, there you have it folks! See you next time!

The audience starts to get up and leave. A shot of Erker is shown walking out and knocking over Dmitri's urn very

nonchalantly.

EXT. PORCH

TONY

And that's how we got the Golden Blazer and revolutionized Big Mig's competition. After a few years, Big Mig retired the Magic and Comedy divisions, making it "Big Mig's one division, Comedial Magic competition. The old blazers were retired.

A shot of The Bolshkavoks is shown.

TONY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The Bolshkavoks returned a few more times, but eventually got a gig in Las Vegas after winning the very first season of America's Got Magic. Ralph likes to tell people they got deported...

A shot of The Erker is shown.

TONY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And For Jimmy "Chuckles" Erker? Well he continued in with his act, but only at the VFW bar on the first Tuesday of every month. He went down hill...

A shot of Ralph and Tony together is shown.

TONY (V.O.) (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

As for our act, Ralph and I went back to Big Mig's year after year, doing bigger and better things. Some say we revolutionized the comedy industry, I just like to say we found our calling. We soon became the face of Big Mig's, and retired after 26 more victorious years.

A picture of a newspaper headline reads "Animal Cruelty law passed" with a picture of an injured rabbit.

TONY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Well I guess it was more of a "forced retirement..."



There is a shot of Dmitri's urn knocked over on the floor of the theater, spilling out with his ashes.

TONY (V.O.) (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
Oh, and Dmitri didn't really do  
much with his life after that.

INT. PORCH

TONY  
Ahh, I really ca--

OLD MAN  
What about Ralph. I want to know  
where he is...

TONY  
Oh, Ralph had an easy retirement.  
He moved to a home in Guadalupe for  
a few years, but escaped one  
evening and went into hiding. He  
sent me a very mysterious letter  
written in magician's code saying  
that apparently he's soon coming  
out with something big...

OLD MAN  
Wow. and what do you do.

TONY  
Oh... not much really.

FADE OUT