

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT
"Tequila"
by Gabe Uhr

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. BLUTH MODEL HOME -- DAY

MICHAEL drives up to the model home in the Bluth step truck. He grabs a new sleeping bag from the passenger seat.

NARRATOR

It was Friday, and after a long week with no major SNAFUs at work, Bluth Company President Michael Bluth had quit work early and was looking forward to a relaxing camping trip with his son.

INT. BLUTH MODEL HOME LIVING ROOM -- DAY

GOB, eating an ice cream sundae, lounges on the couch in Michael's bathrobe. He is watching MTV's Real World.

Michael enters.

GOB

Michael, come here and check out the Real World.

MICHAEL

This is the real world? My unemployed brother wearing my bathrobe and eating ice cream in front of the television at one in the afternoon?

GOB

No, Michael, you square.

LINDSAY enters dressed in pajamas and drinking a margarita.

LINDSAY

MTV's Real World, Michael. "Seven strangers picked to live in house..."

Tobias enters wearing a jump suit and carrying a box of donuts.

TOBIAS

"To find out what happens when people stop being polite, and start being real."

MICHAEL

Do the strangers have jobs? If they do, I'm in.

(CONTINUED)

GOB

No, Michael. Don't you see? These beautiful, naive kids get to live it up in a luxurious crib, smoke cigarettes, drink every night, and cheat on the significant others they left behind in their quiet, boring everyday lives.

TOBIAS

Truly, it is paradise.

MICHAEL

Gob, some might say this is a luxurious crib.

GOB

This place is a dump.

Gob puts his ice cream on an end table, which collapses.

MICHAEL

And they might add some people are just too busy to smoke and drink all the time.

Michael gives Lindsay a look. Lindsay raises her glass.

LINDSAY

TEQUILA!

MICHAEL

And others are not. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to pack for my camping trip with George Michael.

LINDSAY

Really, Michael? Do you think George Michael really wants to spend a weekend in the woods with you? Really?

MICHAEL

Yes. Yes, he really does.

EXT. HIGHSCHOOL -- DAY

GEORGE MICHAEL and MAEBE get on a school bus. Maebe waves at a FRIEND.

MAEBE

See you at Steve's house! This is going to be the coolest party ever.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I don't really want to go camping... I want to... party.

INT. BLUTH MODEL HOME KITCHEN -- DAY

Michael is packing camping gear into back packs when a disheveled LUCILLE enters.

MICHAEL

Hey Gob, have you seen the tent?
Oh, hello, mother. You're looking
as ravaged as ever.

Lucille pours herself a gin and sits down.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What's wrong, mom?

LUCILLE

I fired the maid and my arthritis is
killing me.

MICHAEL

You fired Lupe?

NARRATOR

In fact, Lupe had quit. But it was
true that Lucille's arthritis was
killing her.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCILLE'S APARTMENT BUILDING -- DAY -- FLASHBACK

LUCILLE OSTERO and Lucille play bridge. Lucille Ostero nods
her head.

NARRATOR

And she had shared her malady with
her neighbor and bridge partner,
Lucille Ostero, who had recommended
medical marijuana.

Lucille Ostero pantomimes smoking a joint.

INT. LUCILLE'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Lucille lounges in a bathrobe with an eyeshade on, while
LUPE cleans around her.

LUCILLE

Oh, my aching... I wish I had some
grass. Lucille Ostero has grass,
but she won't share it.

(peeking to look at

Lupe)

Do you know where I can get some
grass?

Lupe does not respond. Lucille grabs Lupe as she goes by.

(CONTINUED)

LUCILLE (CONT'D)

Pot? Can you get me some pot? One of the dozens of people you live with must have some marijuana. MARE-AH-WANNA.

CUT TO:

INT. BLUTH MODEL HOME KITCHEN -- BACK TO PRESENT

MICHAEL

Well, mom, maybe with the next housekeeper... try not to be such a racist.

LUCILLE

That's absurd, Michael. I need a new housekeeper -- I don't care about race at all... anyone brown will do.

George Michael enters.

MICHAEL

Hey, kiddo. You ready for a couple of nights under the stars? I got you a new sleeping bag -- no Power Rangers, like you said.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Uhm, Dad. Could we go camping some other time?

MICHAEL

Well, yeah, but I thought we had plans? Bluth boys?

LUCILLE

Michael, you're pathetic. Let the boy have his own life.

MICHAEL

We were gonna go fishing...

Lindsay enters and opens the freezer.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Yeah, it's just that it's the end of the year and there's this party with...

Lindsay pulls out a gallon of ice cream and smiles at her mother. Lucille gives her a disgusted look.

LINDSAY

ICE CREAM!

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

We were gonna make s'mores...

LINDSAY

Not any *s'more*.

Lindsay laughs at her own joke and eats ice cream.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I'm sorry, Dad. We can go next weekend. I have to get ready.

George Michael exits. Lucille hugs Michael.

MICHAEL

Well, I'm going camping anyways.

LUCILLE

There there, Michael. It's a tough lesson, but eventually they grow up and leave you to die.

MICHAEL

Thanks, mom.

Michael exits.

LUCILLE

Lindsay, come here. Can you get me some pot?

Lindsay laughs hysterically and exits.

INT. GEORGE MICHAEL AND MAEBE'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Maebe smokes a cigarette -- her pack sits on a dresser by the door. George Michael enters.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Hey... when did you start smoking?

MAEBE

Oh, a couple of years ago, but I hid it, you know.

CUT TO:

EXT. BLUTH MODEL HOME -- DAY -- FLASHBACK

Maebe is smoking outside when Tobias and Lindsay arrive home. Tobias and Lindsay casually walk by her.

NARRATOR

In fact, Maebe had been smoking conspicuously for weeks, but her parents had failed to notice.

(CONTINUED)

LINDSAY

Is that a new shirt? It's cute.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE MICHAEL AND MAEBE'S ROOM -- BACK TO PRESENT

Tobias enters and takes a cigarette from Maebe's pack.

TOBIAS

Mind if I bum one? They have such a rich, full-bodied flavor. Do they not?

INT. BLUTH MODEL HOME CLOSET -- DAY

Gob has turned a cramped closet into a Real World-style confessional, complete with a camcorder.

GOB

(to confessional camera)

And how am I supposed to relax when Michael is always swooping in Monday through Friday, between the hours of 4 and 6? I need some *me* time.

Michael opens the closet door.

MICHAEL

Why am I still surprised?

GOB

See what I mean?

MICHAEL

Have you seen the tent? Nevermind. There it is.

Michael enters the closet and retrieves a tent bag. He exits the closet to find Tobias smoking outside.

TOBIAS

Is he done in there? I have some things I'd like to get off my chest.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. PRISON VISITING ROOM -- DAY

Lucille sits at a table with GEORGE BLUTH SR.

NARRATOR

Unable to score her illicit medication from her daughter, Lucille visited a more infamous pharmacy.

GEORGE BLUTH SR.

This I cannot do.

LUCILLE

Oh, why not?!

GEORGE BLUTH SR.

If by chance an honest woman like yourself should make enemies, then they would become my enemies, and then they will fear you.

LUCILLE

What are you talking about? Are you high right now?

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON CELL -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK

George Bluth Sr. sits in a cafeteria full of OTHER PRISONERS and GUARDS, watching the Godfather projected onto a large sheet.

NARRATOR

George Bluth was not high, but he was suffering from Brando-Imitation Syndrome after seeing the Godfather the previous night at the prison's annual film festival.

As the Godfather is gunned down on screen, a CRAZY LOOKING INMATE pantomimes shooting a gun at George Bluth Sr.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON VISITING ROOM -- BACK TO PRESENT

Lucille sits at a table with George Sr.

GEORGE BLUTH SR.

Here's what you do...

George leans towards Lucille and whispers in her ear.

INT. BLUTH MODEL HOME LIVING ROOM -- AFTERNOON

Michael sits on the floor of the living room, constructing his tent. Gob enters.

GOB

Michael, I know you're angry, but I refuse to sleep in the back yard again.

MICHAEL

I'm not angry, Gob -- it's just... I'm a little disappointed.

GOB

Is the tent not as big as you thought?

MICHAEL

You know what? Let's forget me. Let's talk about you.

Gob starts to exit. Michael grabs his pant leg.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Sit down. Gob, what's the one thing that makes you happy?

GOB

(beat)
Mexico?

MICHAEL

I was thinking more along the lines of a career.

GOB

Ah, my magic!

MICHAEL

Yeah, why haven't you been working?

GOB

I don't know -- I've got a new commercial on TV, but no calls yet.

INT. STEVE HOLT'S LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Maebe and George Michael arrive at the party. STEVE HOLT and other TEENAGERS drink beers and watch television. Gob's commercial comes on the television.

CUT TO:

GOB'S COMMERCIAL:

Gob stands in front of a poorly chroma-keyed stage setting. A muzak version of the Lovin' Spoonful's "Do You Believe in Magic?" plays in the background of the commercial.

GOB

Believe in me for your birthday, bar mitzvah, or bachelorette party.

Gob pulls fake flowers out of a hat. A large yellow 900 number flashes at the bottom of the screen: 1900MAGGICK

GOB (CONT'D)

It's magic time!

Gob reaches towards camera and doves fly out of each of his sleeves.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE HOLT'S LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

GEORGE MICHAEL

Hey! That's my unc...

Maebe elbows George Michael square in the ribs.

GEORGE MICHAEL (CONT'D)

That's my... uh, favorite commercial.

Steve Holt picks up the phone and dials the number from the commercial.

STEVE HOLT

Magic time! Magic time! Magic time!

INT. LUCILLE'S OSTERO'S APARTMENT -- DAY

BUSTER, dressed all in black, nervously enters Lucille Ostero's apartment.

NARRATOR

Acting on instructions from his mother, Buster began a clandestine operation.

He creeps into Lucille's bedroom, knocking over a plant on his way. He searches through her bedside table until he finds a bag of pot.

BUSTER

You can't hide your oregano from me!

Lucille Ostero enters from her bathroom, drying her hair.

(CONTINUED)

LUCILLE OSTERO
Buster is that you, dear?

BUSTER
No!

Buster runs out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Buster, his arms flailing, frantically runs back to his mother's apartment.

BUSTER
Abort! Abort!

INT. LUCILLE'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Buster enters out of breath. He leans his back, shutting the door behind him. Lindsay enters -- Buster swings with the door, and she doesn't notice him as the door shuts.

BUSTER
Hey, sis, how are...

Lindsay screams and karate flips Buster over her.

LINDSAY
AHHHHHHH!

The bag of pot lands on the ground next to Buster.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
Oh! Buster, what were you doing?
You're all sweaty!

Lindsay picks up the bag of pot.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
And what is this?

BUSTER
That's mom's oregano, to make me spaghetti, but Lucille Ostero took it, probably to make me spaghetti.

Lindsay smells the bag.

LINDSAY
Tell ya what, you go get cleaned up and I'll make you some spaghetti.

BUSTER
Thanks, sis.

Buster tries to hug Lindsay, but she pushes him away. Buster goes to the bathroom. Lindsay exits.

INT. STEVE HOLT'S LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

The teenagers play drinking games like caps and quarters. A SLUTTY GIRL dances on a table. George Michael is transfixed by the slutty girl. Maebe enters.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Hey, Maebe. Uh...

MAEBE

Having fun?

GEORGE MICHAEL

Yeah, I mean, it's okay. Everyone is drunk and I think some guys are doing drugs in the kitchen.

MAEBE

Grow up, George Michael. This is Orange County -- haven't you ever watched the OC?

The doorbell rings and Steve Holt opens the front door. The doorway appears to be empty and then Gob slides into view.

GOB

Ta-DAH! Somebody call for a magician?

STEVE HOLT

Like two hours ago.

Steve Holt walks away. Gob walks to the center of the party, but no one takes notice.

GOB

Maybe this will grab your attention.

Gob sets down a mini-stereo and presses play. America's "You Can Do Magic" starts. A ball of flame bursts in Gob's hand and then fades away -- still no one takes notice.

GOB (CONT'D)

Nothing?

PARTY GOER (O.S.)

Have a beer, Copperfeld!

A plastic cup of beer flies by Gob's head.

GOB

George Michael?

Gob joins George Michael on a couch, and they watch the slutty girl dance.

(CONTINUED)

GOB (CONT'D)

George Michael, what are you doing here?

GEORGE MICHAEL

It's an end of the year party, but I didn't think it would be like this.

GOB

Who would? These kids aren't even old enough to be on the Real World.

Gob eyes a bottle of tequila on the table.

GOB (CONT'D)

Oh, tequila. I shouldn't, but it's the one thing I can't resist: temptation.

Gob grabs the bottle of tequila and takes a swig.

GOB (CONT'D)

Ah, just like being back in Me-hi-co.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Sorry they pranked you.

GOB

It's alright. I need a good party.

NARRATOR

In fact, the last thing Gob needed was a good party.

CUT TO:

INT. STRIP CLUB BATHROOM -- DAY -- FLASHBACK

Gob, dressed in expensive suit and tie, looks at himself in the mirror -- his nose is caked in white. He stumbles out of the bathroom and into the club.

NARRATOR

In the late 80's, Gob was an up and coming executive at the Bluth Company.

At his seat next to the stage he pounds two shots, orders four more, slaps a WAITRESS on the ass, and covers himself in dollar bills.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Until he had one too many good parties and his indiscretions landed him in hot water.

EXT. STRIP CLUB -- A LITTLE LATER

TWO BOUNCERS toss Gob out of the club and onto the street. Gob lands face down and turns over to find two COPS looking down at him; Gob waves.

EXT. REHAB CENTER -- DAY

A sign reads "Rainbow Farms Rehabilitation Center & Clown School"

NARRATOR

To save the face of the Bluth Company, George Sr. promptly entered Gob into the cheapest rehabilitation program in California.

GOB sits with a GROUP OF CLOWNS, seated in a circle of chairs. Several of the clowns smoke cigarettes.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And it was here that Gob begin his love affair with magic.

A CLOWN pulls a cigarette from Gob's ear to Gob's delight.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE HOLT'S LIVING ROOM -- BACK TO PRESENT

George Michael and Gob stare up at the slutty girl.

GOB

(to George Michael)
Do you have any dollar bills?

INT. BLUTH MODEL HOME LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Michael sits inside the tent in the middle of the living room. Lindsay enters the tent.

LINDSAY

Hey, can I come in? Oh, what's wrong?

MICHAEL

I'm just a little disappointed.

LINDSAY

The tent isn't as big as you thought, is it?

MICHAEL

It's not the tent.

LINDSAY

Well, maybe this will cheer you up.

(CONTINUED)

Lindsay pulls out the bag of pot and some wrapping papers.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

POT!

MICHAEL

Marijuana? Where did you get that?

LINDSAY

I stole it from Buster.

MICHAEL

What!?

LINDSAY

He was stealing it from Lucille Osteros...

MICHAEL

What!?

LINDSAY

For mom.

MICHAEL

Oh.

LINDSAY

C'mon, Michael. It'll be just like junior high.

MICHAEL

I didn't get stoned in junior high.

LINDSAY

Oh. Well then, it'll be just like college or whatever. You need to loosen up. Don't take things so seriously. Be more like Gob.

INT. STEVE HOLT'S LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Gob does the Pee Wee Herman dance across the countertop island in the kitchen, while the Champs's "Tequila" plays on his mini-stereo. He wears one of his magic scarves around his head like a bandanna. Some teenagers watch, while others throw beer cans. Gob stops dancing, stands up straight, and drinks more tequila.

GOB

C'mon, "Tequila?" It's a classic. None of you saw Pee Wee's Big Adventure? Maebe? George Michael?

Maebe and George Michael stand on the edge of the kitchen, pretending not to hear Gob.

(CONTINUED)

MAEBE

I could die right now. Let's get
out of here.

GEORGE MICHAEL

You mean leave the party?

Maebe sees Steve Holt making out with two girls on a couch.

MAEBE

Yeah, this party sucks.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Ok, just let me use the bathroom.

George Michael walks up stairs.

INT. THE HOLT'S BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

George Michael sits down on the toilet to find there is no
toilet paper. He searches under the sink and finds several
kilos of cocaine, but no toilet paper. Unsure what he has
found, he sticks his nose in one of the bags and it comes
out caked in cocaine.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Whoa.

There is a loud knock at the door.

AGENTS (O.S.)

OPEN UP!

George Michael tries to hide the drugs.

GEORGE MICHAEL

There's someone in here!

DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENTS burst through the door, catching
George Michael red handed.

GEORGE MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Whoa.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. BLUTH MODEL HOME LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Michael and Lindsay sit in the tent, stoned and watching the Real World on TV.

MICHAEL

This girl Robin really has problems.

LINDSAY

I know.

The PHONE RINGS and Michael tries to answer it. He talks into the wrong end of the receiver. Lindsay laughs hysterically before he turns it right side up.

MICHAEL

Hello?

GEORGE MICHAEL (O.S.)

Hey... Dad?

MICHAEL

Oh, hey, buddy. I wanted to tell you that I was disappointed we didn't get to hang out. You know? It's important to me that we spend time together. With Pop Pop in jail, it's clear to me that the time we have together is precious.

GEORGE MICHAEL (O.S.)

I know, dad, and...

MICHAEL

Well, that's all I wanted to say. So how is your little ice cream social going?

LINDSAY

ICE CREAM!

Lindsay heads for the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION INTERROGATION ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

George Michael sits at a table with Drug Enforcement Agents around him.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Uhm, it was... okay. Uncle Gob showed up, and then...

CUT TO:

INT. BLUTH MODEL HOME LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

MICHAEL

Oh, that's great. Listen, you have fun, buddy. Don't give away any of uncle Gob's tricks. I love you.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION INTERROGATION ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

GEORGE MICHAEL

I love you too.

Michael hangs up.

GEORGE MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Dad?

George Michael looks around at the Drug Enforcement Agents.

CUT TO:

INT. BLUTH MODEL HOME LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Lindsay returns with a bucket of ice cream and sits next to Michael.

MICHAEL

The kids are having fun. Gob put on a magic show at their little party.

Lindsay shrugs.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hey, do you mind if we watch the end of the baseball game?

LINDSAY

Go for it.

Michael points the remote at the TV, but he holds the remote backwards. Lindsay and Michael laugh hysterically. The TV comes to life on a news channel.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

This is tape from earlier this evening, when Drug Enforcement Agents raided an Orange County residence and seized 8 kilos of cocaine from this young man, identified as George Bluth Jr.

A file photo of George Michael, dressed as Adam from the Living Classics Pageant, appears on the screen.

(CONTINUED)

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Allegedly, Bluth was trying to flush
the drugs down the toilet when he
was apprehended.

Michael and Lindsay watch as the agents place George Michael
in the back of a police car.

MICHAEL
I am never smoking pot again.

INT. PRISON CELL -- DAY

George Michael, wearing an orange jumper, eyeshadow, and red
lipstick, stands next to George Bluth Sr. in a prison cell.

NARRATOR
On the next Arrested Development,
overcrowding at the local jail allows
George Michael to spend some quality
time with his grandfather.

GEORGE MICHAEL
Pop pop, I'm scared.

GEORGE BLUTH SR.
This is the only way I can protect
you, George Michael.

FOUR ARYAN THUGS walk by the cell.

GEORGE BLUTH SR. (CONT'D)
(to George Michael)
SHUT UP, PRAG!

CUT TO:

INT. LUCILLE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Buster sits in front of an empty plate at the dining room
table, pounding his fork and knife on the table.

NARRATOR
Buster's one-track mind gets derailed.

BUSTER
Spaghetti! Spaghetti!

Lucille throws uncooked spaghetti at Buster.

LUCILLE
Will you shut up already?!

INT. REHAB CENTER -- AFTERNOON

Lucille Ostero sits with a GROUP OF CLOWNS, seated in a circle
of chairs. Several of the clowns smoke cigarettes.

(CONTINUED)

"Tequila!"

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NARRATOR

And Lucille Osterero checks into rehab.

END ACT THREE

FADE OUT:

END SHOW