

MR TALENT

Written by

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ii.

We don't know what's on the other side when we die...

...if there is another side.

FADE IN:

Within a black void, a TV drifts towards us.

From OFF SCREEN an INTERVIEWER (20) speaks with a soft, affected sexy, female voice.

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)
That's insane! UK number 1, 42
weeks! You think you'll ever write
something like that again?

INTERVIEW RECORDING 2010S:

On the screen, two glamorous pretty boys in a standard interview format. Flamboyant, massive hair, Christmas design tracksuits, tinted sunglasses that balance on the line between tacky and hip.

Their body language says it all: HARRY (24)/ songwriter, BARRY (25)/ rock 'n' roll star --> All day long.

Typically, suburban London boys interrupting each other is a sign they're having a good time, but today something's off...

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
Truthfully, what has changed?

Harry opens his mouth, but Barry cuts him off.

BARRY
(poking Harry in the side)
Naah. What's the point if nothing
changes but your outfit, right? You
need to fake it.

Harry raises an eyebrow, used to that tone.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
It's been almost ten years since
"Waking Up With You". A song that
was voted Christmas single of the
decade. What--

BARRY
Everything. When you start out when
you're 15--

HARRY
14.

BARRY
So true, 14.

The Interviewer senses her chance. Fluttering her fake eyelashes, she innocently tilts her head.

INTERVIEWER

You mean you have to feel what you write?

Barry leans in to her, but this time Harry's faster.

HARRY

Well, some people think that being in a band is about the performance. I disagree. I think it's all about what you create in the studio. It--

BARRY

(nudges Harry)

What's the meaning of life, if people don't remember you for your art, right?

Harry closes his eyes, massages a spot above his eyebrow.

HARRY

Or your good looks.

The Interviewer smiles amorously at Harry, nervously tugs at her oversized blazer.

INTERVIEWER

You still got the looks.

HARRY

(mumbling)

Great...

He gives her a thumbs up.

INTERVIEWER

(to Barry)

But seriously, after all, I bet every couple in love would agree you have written a massive modern classic--

BARRY

No, we don't.

A grin crosses Barry's face.

INTERVIEWER

Oh, but history says when you two shared a porta-potty backstage--

BARRY

I think my associate here should take that one. After all, "Waking Up" is *his* brainchild.

Barry tries to pat Harry's cheek.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Naah, come on.

An awkward pause. Harry, a ticking bomb, blinks way too often.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Go on, world exclusive. Maybe this time your daddy will be proud--

PURE RAGE! Harry's fist -- a swing -- Barry's face -- but just before it connects the interview cuts away.

END OF RECORDING.

On-screen, the Interviewer (30) is now wandering through a beautiful park. She's wearing a bright pink CHELSEA BOYS T-SHIRT under her used military jacket. Her make-up face has given way to a fake natural one.

She stops next to a weathered park bench, surrounded by majestic RHODODENDRONS gently covered in snow and overflowing with CHELSEA BOYS MEMORABILIA.

INTERVIEWER

This all came on the The Chelsea Boys' 10th anniversary, leaving many fans, including myself, heartbroken. Shortly after this last interview aired, just days before Christmas, the duo announced they would part ways, quote, "due to artistic differences".

She walks OFF CAMERA, the documentary cuts again.

On-screen is an aerial shot of a music festival, the crowd packed in shoulder to shoulder.

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)

Just one day after the band split, Barry Wilson announced his first solo tour.

On stage, Barry, wearing a jelly bag hat, struts back and forth, performing the splits over and over again.

We catch our first taste of "Waking Up With You" (Waking Up). It's catchy, soulful, every girls dream, and sounds a little wrong coming out of Barry's mouth.

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)
10 years later, he's still going strong, cracking down this one-hit-wonder image, with his first solo album "So Long Chelsea" making the Top 300 of that year.

A black and white album cover of Barry posing in an all-white leather ensemble, the most retro thing you've ever seen.

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)
As for Harry Bonner, the brains behind "Waking Up With You" and the prettiest half of The Chelsea Boys, well...

The TV shows the still image of Harry swinging at Barry.

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)
It is tragic but we all know where he's now...

A BLACK SCREEN.

INT. MUSIC QUEST STUDIO - BACKSTAGE - DAY

Darkness. Seeping through the black, we hear the SCENERY OF A TALENT SHOW in full swing. The sound is narrow, slowly widens.

AUDIENCE (O.S.)
(chanting, drawing closer)
MUSIC QUEST! MUSIC QUEST! MUSIC
QUEST! MUSIC QUEST!

Blasting from stage speakers, a unique voice breaks through the overpowering roars: This is PANT (44) and his broad smile, etched into his features after all these years. He's THE host, a seasoned full-blooded professional.

PANT (O.S.)
Thank you, thank you, thank you!
Ladies and Gentlemen! Welcome back to the biggest party on TV! Say it with me now, one last time: Are you ready to embark on a--

The audience dies down, then screams.

PANT (O.S.) (CONT'D) AUDIENCE (O.S.)
 MUSIC QUEST! That's right, MUSIC QUEST!
 that's right!

Little by little, a SPOTLIGHT breaches through the black, and we see the small gap of the stage entrance.

Like a searchlight, it illuminates a familiar but wrinklier and chunkier face.

Eyes closed, blocking out the light and the cacophony of noise, HARRY (35) rubs his temples. The muscles around his left eye contract, sweat on his forehead.

He reaches OFF CAMERA, produces an orange PILL BOTTLE. Trembling, he unscrews the lid, pops a couple and swallows them dry.

PANT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Now then. You all know me, I'm your
 host with the most!

INT. MUSIC QUEST STUDIO - MAIN STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Working the audience, Pant runs up and down the stage. His colourful suit flashes in the lights flooding the stage, and his whitened teeth sparkle as he smiles INTO CAMERA.

PANT
 It sends shivers down the spine,
 knowing that today the honeymoon
 period is over. Yes, yes, yes, yes,
 tonight's the night, ladies and
 gentlemen! It's the beginning of
 the end! The first episode of the
 Music Quest Christmas Edition
 finals!

The crowd hoots and hollers like a madhouse.

PANT (CONT'D)
 Thank God I don't have to decide
 anything tonight. Speaking of
 which, look at our amazing judges!

Pant gestures down to his right, the CAMERA PANS following him.

Just off-stage sits the judges' table. Seated at it, all smiles and waves are MELISSA (34), the glamorous ex-model in a sparkling dress, and THOMAS (45), the bespectacled music producer in a glittering suit.

PANT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Mrs. Melissa Sharma and Mr. Thomas
"Cowbell" Carter!

More smiles, more waves, more cheers. An empty chair sits between them.

PANT (CONT'D)
But what's this?! We seem to miss--
(playing dumb)
Who's missing?

INT. MUSIC QUEST STUDIO - BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

The bellows of the audience muted, Harry squirms around on the saddle of a PURPLE VESPA ELETTRICA. He scratches his neck, the fancy Santa-like fur on his lapel driving him crazy.

We now see he's wearing his definition of a perfect suit, the same shade as the Vespa.

"Waking Up" starts playing on stage, backed by ringing bells. Harry wrestles with his shirt, struggles to tuck it in.

PANT (O.S.)
Please welcome back the one, the
only, the best judge in the biz,
the delightful Mr. Harry Bonner!

Harry gives up with his shirt, straightens his too well-set HAIR, revs the Vespa before taking off through the stage entrance.

INT. MUSIC QUEST STUDIO - MAIN STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Harry rides like a lunatic. The bike lurches from side to side as he crosses the stage.

PANT
(to audience)
Are you ready to have the time of
your lives?

The audience sings along as "Waking Up" hits the chorus. Harry wobbles on the Vespa, misses Pant by just a hair.

With no intention to make it look intentional, Harry bails on the Vespa, lets it careen off-stage -- *Someone else's problem.*

Melissa and Thomas bathe in the audience's attention that follows Harry.

Harry strides to his seat and hits his juror-buzzer: BZZZZZT!

PANT (CONT'D)
(into camera)
Let the finals begin!

FEEL FREE TO GET IN CONTACT IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN READING
THE FULL VERSION :D