

Act 1 Scene 3

Lights up in the 24/7 production office. Annette has a clipboard and is noting down the shots in the vision on the screen. Michael is also watching. It appears to be raw footage of a foot-in-the-door ambush by a reporter.

Digital Vision (DV):

THE CAMERA FOLLOWS A REPORTER 'ROUND THE SIDE OF A HOUSE TO THE BACKYARD WHERE A MAN IN T-SHIRT AND SHORTS IS SCRAPING DOWN THE GRILL PLATE OF HIS OUTDOOR BARBEQUE.

Reporter (on DV): Excuse me sir, Simon Downey from 24/7...

THE MAN LOOKS UP, SEES THE CREW, COVERS HIS FACE BY PUTTING OUT A HAND TOWARDS THE CAMERA, AND THEN MAKES A DASH THROUGH (OR OVER) HIS BACK FENCE. THE REPORTER GIVES CHASE FOLLOWED BY VERY BUMPY CAMERA VISION. THE SOUND RECORDIST AND HIS/HER BOOM MIKE OCCASIONALLY SLIP INTO FRAME DURING THE CHASE. THERE ARE A FEW TUMBLES.

Reporter (on DV)(contd): Sir we just want to ask you a few questions.

Reporter (on DV): Sir, why don't you want to talk to us?

THE SOUND RECORDIST SLIPS OVER AND IS CAUGHT IN THE FRAME.

Cameraman (on DV): Shit. Watch it!

MICHAEL (on stage at 24/7 to Annette): Here comes the bit I really like.

DV Contd.

Reporter: Sir would you mind explaining why the Gerards paid you three hundred thousand dollars four years ago to build their house and all you've done is lay a slab .. that council wants pulled up again?

THE MAN STOPS AND TURNS ROUND. THE CAMERA CREW AND REPORTER ARE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE AND ALMOST TUMBLE INTO EACH OTHER.

Reporter: (under his breath) OK fellas he wants to talk.

Man: What?

Reporter: Could you explain why you've taken 300-thousand dollars to build the Gerards House..

Man: You've got the wrong guy.

Reporter: No we haven't: Brian Chappel, Building Contractor?

Man: That's not me.

Reporter: You sure?

Man: I'm Pete Howarth. Financial planner. (He feels in his pockets) I've usually got a card on me. (He finds one and hands it to the reporter)

Reporter: (Reading the card) Shit mate. Sorry. Fuck.

Man: *Yeah, fuck! Thank God. Shit. You had me worried...*

Reporter: *Mate...*

Michael onstage flicks the DV material off (or pauses it).

MICHAEL (on stage in 24/7 office): After that it gets boring.

ANNETTE: *We're not going to show that...*

MICHAEL: *Course not. I want it for the Christmas tape.*

Annette rips off the page of detailed shot-listing she has just finished and puts it in the bin. Jeremy enters.

JEREMY: *Hey matey. Great stuff you shot on Friday. How did you do that?*

MICHAEL: *You liked it? Right time, right place, that's all. And we were lucky with the light. What are we doing today?*

JEREMY: *It's an evolving feast so standby.*