

Production Company:
Dead Zone Production Corp.

THE DEAD ZONE

"INDEPENDENCE DAY"

Production #14-4014

Written by

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Directed by

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THE DEAD ZONE

"INDEPENDENCE DAY"

CAST

JOHNNY SMITH	TRUCK STOP DINER WAITRESS	
BRUCE LEWIS	JAKE PHILIPS	
	DENISE	
	HANK	
	GRIM	
	BIKER #1	
	BRIAN GRIFFITH	*
	NIKKI GRIFFITH	*
	MARVIN FELPS/FAKE OFFICER MASSEY	
	ICE CREAM TRUCK DRIVER	
	OLDIES RADIO DISC JOCKEY (V.O. ONLY)	
	REAL OFFICER J. MASSEY (1 LINE)	
	MOURNING WOMAN/MRS. PHILIPS (1 LINE)	
	FARMER (1 LINE)	
	SCRAWNY MAN/MOTORIST (1 LINE)	

NON-SPEAKING

TRUCK STOP DINER PATRONS

BIKERS #2 & #3

TEENAGERS #2, #3 & #4

MOURNING MAN/MR. PHILIPS & OTHER FUNERAL GOERS

YOUNG BOY, YOUNG GIRL & OTHER ASSORTED MOTORISTS

THE DEAD ZONE

"INDEPENDENCE DAY"

SETS

INTERIORS

TRUCK STOP DINER

VARIOUS VEHICLE INTERIORS

HOSPITAL E.R.

WAITING ROOM

EXTERIORS

TRUCK STOP DINER
PARKING LOT

I-95

MOVING

GRIDLOCK

"BAYVILLE ROAD" EXIT

FARM

HIGHWAY ROADSIDE

STATE PRISON

*

(NOTE: NO MORE RAIN, THUNDER)

ANIMALS

VEHICLES

BRUCE'S NISSAN MURANO (DENTED & CRASHED)

THE GRIFFITHS' HIPPI RECREATIONAL VEHICLE

*

DENISE'S CAR

TEENAGERS' JEEP

HANK & GRIM'S WHITE PICKUP TRUCK

MASSEY'S STATE POLICE CRUISER

REFRIGERATED CUBE (ICE CREAM) TRUCK

ASSORTED AMBULANCE, EMERGENCY & POLICE VEHICLES

ASSORTED OTHER VEHICLES STUCK IN TRAFFIC

OLD FARM PICKUP TRUCK

THE DEAD ZONE

"INDEPENDENCE DAY"

TEASER

FADE IN:

CLOSE ON a weathered light box rotating uneasily atop a rusty pole; HAPPY B-DAY AMERICA spelled out in crooked letters. SLOWLY PULL BACK to reveal the...

1 EXT. TOMMY'S DINER - DAY - ESTABLISHING 1

The quintessential American truck stop. A scorching July sun assaults the dusty parking lot. We FIND Bruce's *Nissan Murano*.

DISC JOCKEY (O.S.)

Happy fourth, friends and neighbors. Two hundred thirty and the old girl's still kickin'...

2 INT. TOMMY'S DINER - CONTINUOUS - CLOSE ON A RADIO 2

An ancient solid-state transistor; crappy speakers...

DISC JOCKEY (O.S.)

This is Jammin' Jack, keepin' you hoppin' and boppin' to the music that helped make us the land of the free, home of the brave and birthplace of the five dollar cup'a coffee! It's one o'clock and it's time to be good... Johnny B. Goode. This is Chuck Berry!

A HAND SWITCHES THE RADIO OFF just as the music is about to kick in. We PICK UP a young, attractive WAITRESS (25), MOVING through the hustle and bustle of the lunch crowd, balancing full plates above her head...

FINDING JOHNNY and BRUCE in a corner booth. Presenting Bruce with a ridiculously oversized burger.

WAITRESS

Double bacon chili cheeseburger and fries for tall, dark, and handsome.

Sliding a diminutive salad over to Johnny.

WAITRESS

Garden salad, dressing on the side for *blondie*. So, where you boys headed?

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

Harborfest.

BRUCE

Biggest fireworks display on the
East Coast.

WAITRESS

(smiling at Johnny)
Sounds like fun. Maybe I'll head
over with one of my girlfriends
after work.

She lingers a beat, then realizing he's not taking the
bait, sets the check down on the table.

WAITRESS

(dejected)
You can pay at the counter.

She walks away. Johnny dives into his salad under Bruce's
incredulous gaze, finally...

JOHNNY

What?

BRUCE

What? She was totally into you.

JOHNNY

(oblivious)
She was?

Bruce shakes his head.

BRUCE

Y'know, you might be able to see
everything, but sometimes you are
completely blind. Come to think,
she reminds me of a girl I used
to date in high school.

JOHNNY

Yeah?

BRUCE

(remembers fondly)
Marsha Harris. Man, that poor
girl was crazy about me. Took
her to the Junior prom.

(confident)
A night she never forgot.

They both reach for the napkin dispenser at the same

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

moment; their hands connecting. We hear a *WHOOSH!*

JOHNNY

Is that right?

Johnny can't help but smile.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (3)

2

BRUCE
What's so funny?

A decisive beat. Johnny relents, the opportunity ripe...

JOHNNY
I was just wondering which part
of the prom you think Marsha
remembers most? Your Mom drivin'
you guys around in the family
station wagon or you comin' up
short on the good-night kiss?

Johnny enjoys the moment. Bruce is mortified. He sets
down the burger, rising to his feet.

BRUCE
I'll get the check.

JOHNNY
You barely took a bite.

BRUCE
Lost my appetite.

Bruce walks off. Johnny is left holding his fork...

3 EXT. TOMMY'S DINER - MOMENTS LATER - MOVING WITH BRUCE

3

as he stomps through the parking lot; Johnny trails a
half step behind.

JOHNNY
Come on... I was only kidding.
So you were a late bloomer. I
missed my prom with the flu.
Sarah still hasn't forgiven me.

Bruce stops in his tracks, spinning on Johnny.

BRUCE
It's not about the prom, it's
about you and me. You think it's
hard being a psychic? Try being
a psychic's best friend. That's
hard.

(MORE)

3

CONTINUED:

3

BRUCE (CONT'D)

I mean, it'd be nice to spend
just one day without you peeking
inside my head.

JOHNNY

Alright.

Bruce's scowl ebbs.

BRUCE

Alright?

JOHNNY

You're off limits for the next 24
hours, you've got my word.

Johnny offers his hand.

Bruce hesitates, then shakes. Something O.S. draws his
concern...

BRUCE

You can't be serious!!

JOHNNY

What's wrong?

REVERSE ON THE MURANO

a large dent in the front fender; fresh **white paint**
imbedded in the metal.

RESUME ON BRUCE

He scans the lot; the perpetrator long gone.

BRUCE

Some jerk smashes into my car and
he doesn't leave note or anything.
What is wrong with people today?

Johnny steps to the fender, surveying the damage.

JOHNNY

It's not so bad.

(CONTINUED)

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3 CONTINUED: (2) 3

CLOSE ON THE FENDER

Johnny floats his palm across the damage... WHOOSH!

4 INT. MURANO - VISION 4

The car has been CRASHED, the windshield shattered. Observer Johnny, steps up to the open passenger window, as he glances over to SEE Bruce crushed down in the driver seat, still gripping the broken steering wheel; his gaze locked ahead. There's a SURREAL quality to everything, like TIME HAS SLOWED DOWN and SOUND ECHOES.

Bruce slowly turns to him... a trickle of blood escapes the corner of his mouth. Two similar streams materialize from his nostrils. His eyes flicker as he eases back in the seat, taking a final strained breath as he passes away...

Observer Johnny looks to his right, spotting an EXIT SIGN that reads, "BAYVILLE ROAD EXIT"...

5 RESUME - EXT. PARKING LOT - ON JOHNNY 5

Johnny flashes out, rattled to the core by the vision. Bruce is still checking out his bumper.

BRUCE

I don't see any other damage.

(checks his watch)

Oh, dude, we are seriously behind schedule.

JOHNNY

Bruce I just had a vision...

Bruce reacts, both hands going up; halting Johnny in his tracks.

BRUCE

If it's about me, or my car, I don't want to hear it. You gave me your word.

JOHNNY

But...

BRUCE

(adamant)

But nothing. Deal's a deal.

Johnny hesitates, trapped. Then...

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

JOHNNY

Alright, but I'm driving.

Bruce shoots Johnny an incredulous stare. Johnny is resolute; his hand outstretched.

BRUCE

As long as we get on the road.

He tosses Johnny his keys and moves to get in the passenger seat.

Johnny palms the keys, gripping them tight. No vision. He reacts with disappointment.

Bruce looks back from beside the passenger side door...

BRUCE

You comin'?

JOHNNY

Yeah, I'm comin'.

6 OMITTED

6

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER