Slient Laugh*

by
Claudymir Baptiste and Christopher Hoffman
INT. NIGHT CLUB - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

LOGAN OWENS, late 20s, tall and slender built, stands off to the side watching his roommate, MATT RYAN, mid 20s, short and chubby built, performing his stand up act with his dummy.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - STAGE - NIGHT

Matt looks around the AUDIENCE of about 50 people at the sleazy night club.

    MATT
    What makes you think that everyone in here will look at me with great concern?

    MATT’S DUMMY (MATT O.S.)
    Because they will all know that you are a sick and twisted pedophile.

Matt uses the dummy’s hand to grab an adult-sized pacifier and shove it on Matt’s mouth. The pacifier has a note in the front that reads: YOU’RE MY BABY, NOW.

Half of the audience laughs, but the other half gasps. Everyone claps and cheers. Matt drops the pacifier filled with saliva, grabs it and puts it in his pocket.

    MATT
    Thank you, thank you.

The audience is silent as they gaze at Matt. The HOST walks onto the stage and pats Matt on the back.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Logan walks towards Matt. Matt sits the dummy on the floor and they perform their secret handshake. Logan gets uncomfortable as he feels the saliva on Matt’s hand.

    LOGAN
    Tough crowd out there?

    MATT
    Yeah, at least I made a reasonable chunk of the crowd laugh. But right now, it’s not about me. You’re up next, buddy.

Logan sighs.
INT. NIGHT CLUB - STAGE - NIGHT

The audience chants.

AUDIENCE

The Host silences the audience.

HOST
He is no stranger to us. Please help me welcome our very own, Logan Owens.

Logan walks onto the stage, grabs the microphone and continues walking around the stage.

LOGAN
Who’s ready to party with me tonight-?

Logan falls off the stage. The audience gasps. Logan jumps back onto the stage, unharmed.

LOGAN (CONT’D)
It’s okay, it’s okay. I was distracted by this hot and sexy couple in the front.

Logan points at a couple sitting in the front row. The audience laughs and cheers for the couple.

LOGAN (CONT’D)
After all, the vintage clothing you guys are wearing makes you two look like you traveled to here from the 40s.

The crowd laughs. The wife of the couple throws a banana peel onto the stage floor. Logan steps on it as soon as it lands. He slips and falls. The crowd laughs harder.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - STAGE - NIGHT (LATER)

Logan waves goodbye to the audience.

LOGAN
Thank you, thank you. Love you all.

Logan walks off the stage.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Logan walks backstage and sees Matt. They perform the secret handshake. A BUSINESSMAN, mid 30s, in a black suit and black tie, approaches Logan.
BUSINESSMAN
Hey, I wanted to tell you that you were great out there.

LOGAN
Thank you. I appreciate that a lot.

BUSINESSMAN
Next week at Claude’s arena. We will have some big name comedians like Devin Dart, Ike Depps and Claudymir Baptiste just to name a few. We are looking for an opening act and I think you will be perfect-

MATT
Can I audition too?

The businessman stops to look at Matt.

BUSINESSMAN
No, but better luck next time, pedophile.

The businessman shakes his head and looks back.

LOGAN
Wow, thank you. I would be honored to-

The businessman pulls out a business card to Logan.

BUSINESSMAN
Tomorrow, my business partners and I will be holding auditions over here. So, I hope to see you tomorrow.

LOGAN
Yes, I will be here.

Logan and the businessman shake each others hands.

INT. LOGAN’S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Beer and chips are scattered across the living room floor and coffee table of the filthy apartment.

MATT
I almost forgot about the game.

LOGAN
Oh shit, me too. Let me grab some beers and find the remote.
INT. LOGAN’S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT
Logan grabs two beers from the fridge.

INT. LOGAN’S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
Logan hands a beer over to Matt.
Logan grabs the remote control from between the couch cushions. Logan turns on the TV as he and Matt sink into the couch. Matt raises his beer to the air.

MATT
A toast to my friend.
Logan raises his beer to the air as well. Matt and Logan CLINK their beers and drink them.

INT. LOGAN’S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)
Logan and Matt are cheering. Logan is screaming as loud as he possibly can.

LOGAN
Let’s go team. Tackle team grandma to the ground. The 30. The 20. The 10. Touchdown. Yes. We won.
Logan turns the television off. He chants.

LOGAN (CONT’D)
Let’s go, tigers. Let’s go, tigers.
Logan screams while staring at the blank screen.

INT. LOGAN’S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY (LATER)
Logan enters and attempts to talk to Matt. Logan is unable to speak.

MATT
What the fuck Logan?
Logan shrugs his shoulders, points at his throat and shakes his head.

MATT (CONT’D)
Damn, you lost your voice from all that screaming last night. Try drinking some tea and honey. That should do the trick.
Logan shifts through the kitchen cabinets and grabs some tea and honey. He grabs a cup, mixes the tea and sips.

Logan attempts to talk, but nothing comes out.

MATT (CONT’D)
I think your best bet at the moment is to find an alternative way to act out your skit for your audition today.

Logan slaps his forehead with his hands.

Matt looks on the floor and sees an ad for Clown Mart.

MATT (CONT’D)
Everything will be okay. Let’s go to a little place called Clown Mart.

Matt shows the ad to Logan.

INT. CLOWN MART - DAY

Logan walks up and down the aisle. He grabs a clown costume and unicycle.

Logan runs to the fitting room and tries on the clown costume.

He comes out of the fitting room, struggling to ride the unicycle. Logan falls on his back.

Matt looks and shakes his head.

Logan and Matt see a deaf couple walk past them. Matt and Logan look at each other and walk to the mime aisle.

Logan grabs a mime costume and runs up to the fitting room to try on the costume.

Logan walks out and knocks over a couple that happen to be mimes. The mimes frown and wrap Logan with invisible rope. They throw him back to the fitting room.

Matt places his hand on his face.

Logan and Matt stroll out of the store.

EXT. CLOWN MART - DAY

Logan sees a doll, grabs it and throws it to the floor.

Matt looks at the doll and looks back at Logan.
MATT
I think I got an idea, my friend.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - STAGE - NIGHT
Matt places a chair in the middle of the stage and sits.
The businessman and INVESTORS sit in the front of the
audience.
Logan sits on Matt’s knee as if he were a lifeless doll.

MATT
Hello. I am Matt, the ventriloquist. And
this is my doll, Logan.

Matt grabs Logan’s hand and waves it to the judges.
Logan’s mouth moves in an animated way.

LOGAN (MATT O.S.)
You know what I hate more than clowns?
Mimes.

MATT
Why is that?

LOGAN (MATT O.S.)
Because they will tie you up with
invisible rope and throw you in the
fitting room.

Matt looks off to the corner and sees the same mimes from
Clown Mart.

Matt steps on Logan’s toes.

LOGAN (MATT O.S.) (CONT’D)
Ouch!

The businessman and investors chuckle.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT
The businessman and investors walk toward Logan and Matt.

BUSINESSMAN
You guys got the job. Do you two accept
the offer?

MATT
Yes.
LOGAN
Yes.

Matt and Logan look at each other and smile.

BUSINESSMAN
See you guys next week. Congratulations.

The businessman and investors shake their hands and walk out.

Logan pulls Matt to the side. Logan is able to speak again, but is having a hard time doing so.

LOGAN
I couldn’t have done this without you. Thank you.

MATT
Anything for a friend.

Logan embraces Matt with their secret handshake. They hug each other.

FADE OUT:

THE END