

Jason Mamoia Saves Everything

Jamie McGhee

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - DAY

BRAD and DANIELLE shuffle into their seats.

DANIELLE
Come on! Previews are about to
start!

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE SCREEN AND BRAD/DANIELLE.

ON SCREEN: Camera pans into the depths of the ocean.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
Coming this summer... He breathes
underwater... He swims at the speed
of light...

DANIELLE
Wait, don't tell me it's Aquaman.

BRAD
Anything but Aquaman.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
He owns a deep sea man cave... And
communicates with goldfish...

BRAD
What, did they go through all the
good superheroes?

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
It's...Aquaman.

DANIELLE
Kill me.

BRAD
I'm not seeing that shit.

ON SCREEN: actor JASON MAMOJA appears in a blue Speedo,
muscles bulging as he grips a trident.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
...with Jason Mamoja.

DANIELLE
(shocked)
The hot warrior guy from Game of
Thrones?

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
You know him as Khal Drogo, the hot
warrior guy from Game of Thrones...

BRAD
No way.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
Yes way.

DANIELLE
If Jason Momoa's in it, we have to
go.

BRAD
(typing on his phone)
I'm already buying pre-sales.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Brad and Danielle share a meal. The TV is on.

ON SCREEN: The original GHOST BUSTERS TEAM strides proudly
down a hallway.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
First, they kicked ectoplasmic
butt.

ON SCREEN: The 2016 ALL-FEMALE GHOST BUSTERS TEAM strides
proudly down a hallway.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
Then, they kicked more ectoplasmic
butt.

DANIELLE
Ugh, I hate remakes.

ON SCREEN: Dan Aykroyd's 2018 ALL-MALE GHOSTBUSTERS TEAM
strides proudly down a hallway.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
Then, even more ectoplasmic butt.

BRAD
Who keeps financing these films?

DANIELLE
Who keeps watching them?

ON SCREEN: Camera pans down an empty hallway. Tension
builds.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
But finally, Ghostbusters as you've
never seen it before.

BRAD
No, thanks.

DANIELLE
Change the channel.

ON SCREEN: Jason Mamoas shoots a proton gun.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
...with Jason Mamoas.

DANIELLE
We have to see it.

ON SCREEN: Three Jason Mamoas join the first one, all
wielding guns.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
...times four.

BRAD
I will sell a kidney to see this
film.

DANIELLE
I will sell both of your kidneys to
see this film.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Brad sits with several other EMPLOYEES, suffering through a
corporate training video.

ON SCREEN: Grainy 1980s office. A WOMAN in a suit walks up.

WOMAN
Hello, today we'll be talking about
the "Don't"s of office behavior.

Brad snores.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
Coming right now... Sexual
harassment prevention training as
you've never seen it before...

ON SCREEN: Jason Mamoas hobbles up in heels, a skirt and a
low-cut top.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
...with Jason Mamoa.

Brad snorts awake.

INT. OFFICE BREAK ROOM - DAY

Brad flips channels on the TV.

BRAD
C-Span?

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
...with Jason Mamoa.

ON SCREEN: Jason Mamoa sits down beside JOHN BOEHNER.

INT. CUBICLE - DAY

Brad sits at his computer when employee CINDY walks up. She thrusts her phone in his face.

CINDY
Brad! Look at the videos my
husband made of our trip to Hawaii!

BRAD
I don't want--

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
...with Jason Mamoa.

Jason Mamoa hula dances beside them.

INT. CUBICLE - A MOMENT LATER

Employee TODD walks up to Brad.

TODD
Hey, Brad! Come see my pantomime
improv troupe perform tonight.

He hands Brad a flyer.

BRAD
'The Flying Nazis'?

TODD
Pretty great, huh?

BRAD
I'm Jewish.

TODD
Did I mention we have a guest star?

BRAD
I'm not going to see The Flying
Nazis!

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
...with Jason Mamo.

INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

Brad sulks in the front row as the PANTOMIME IMPROV TROUPE mimes the Nazi march. Jason Mamo nowhere in sight.

BRAD
Where's Jason Mamo? Todd lied to
me.

Behind him, a STRANGER in sunglasses shakes his head.

STRANGER
Todd lied to me too. Said there
would be free popcorn.

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
No free popcorn...

The stranger removes his sunglasses. It's...

DRAMATIC MOVIE VOICEOVER
...with Jason Mamo.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DAY OF THE YEAR

A play in 1 act

By Jamie McGhee

10A Stockholm St. Apt 2
Brooklyn, NY 11221
1 (704) 340-3726
Jamie.M.McGhee@gmail.com

CHARACTERS

JOSEPHINE A no-nonsense woman in her early 20s.

MARGAUX Josephine's scatter-brained
girlfriend.

SETTING

A grimy subway car with flickering lights.

TIME

Morning, just after rush hour.

ACT I

SCENE 1

(A dingy subway car. MARGAUX and JOSEPHINE skid into the car, barely making it before the doors slam shut. Josephine pants and plops into her seat.)

MARGAUX

(to audience)

Josephine died on the most beautiful day of the year. The sun was so bright I thought it was exploding. And my girlfriend - I couldn't stop looking at her. She's beautiful, isn't she? Even underground, her hair catches the light like it's made of glass. Actually...

(Margaux scrutinizes Josephine's hair.)

MARGAUX (cont'd)

(to Josephine)

Jo, why is there glass in your hair?

JOSEPHINE

What? How?

MARGAUX

(pulling Josephine's hair)

How should I know?

JOSEPHINE

Ow!

MARGAUX

I'm trying to get it out.

JOSEPHINE

You're ruining my hair.

(Margaux extracts an invisible shard and holds it to the light.)

MARGAUX

See?

JOSEPHINE

I don't see anything.

MARGAUX

I mean, it's a sliver, but...

JOSEPHINE

(taming her disheveled hair)

A sliver. A sliver! You ruined my hair for - Jesus. I'm not just late, now I'm late and I look homeless. Oh God.

MARGAUX

I'll fix it! Let me get a mirror.

(The subway lights flicker out.)

JOSEPHINE

Just leave it, Margaux.

MARGAUX

We'll use the light on my phone.

JOSEPHINE

Leave it!

MARGAUX

(softly)

Okay. I'm sorry.

JOSEPHINE

No, I'm sorry. I just...I need this.

MARGAUX

I know.

JOSEPHINE

We need this.

MARGAUX

I know.

JOSEPHINE

I'll talk to the landlord, see if he can give us another week.

MARGAUX

Good idea.

JOSEPHINE

Although it would be great if you could talk to him...

MARGAUX

He makes me nervous.

JOSEPHINE

Everything makes you nervous, Margaux.

(Margaux looks ashamed.)

JOSEPHINE (cont'd)

(after a moment, gently)

You didn't eat this morning. Is everything okay?

MARGAUX

(to audience)

Stars explode, right? Sometimes I imagine the sun watching them, and every time one dies, the sun asks it, "What's wrong? Are you okay?" The sun never imagines it could be next.

(The lights come on.)

JOSEPHINE

Thank God!

(Margaux helps Josephine fix her hair.)

JOSEPHINE (cont'd)

Drill me on interview questions again.

MARGAUX

I had a dream last night.

JOSEPHINE

I think you mean: "What makes you a good fit for this company?"

MARGAUX

It was a nightmare.

JOSEPHINE

Please, can we focus? Please? I promise you can tell me all about your dream once I get the job.

MARGAUX

Okay. What's your biggest weakness?

JOSEPHINE

I'm a team player.

MARGAUX

I said weakness.

JOSEPHINE

I'm too much of a team player, and I'm too good of a leader.

MARGAUX

Excellent, you're hired! Please be our next secretary - no, CEO! No, US President!

JOSEPHINE

I'll settle for secretary.

(leans head on Margaux's shoulder)

Okay, for real this time. My weakness is that I get too caught up in details, so I miss the big picture.

MARGAUX

And your biggest strength?

JOSEPHINE

Loyalty. I'll stick around until the end.

MARGAUX

Even if this company goes down in flames?

JOSEPHINE

I'll bring a fire extinguisher.

MARGAUX

And if the fire extinguisher goes down in flames?

JOSEPHINE

I will personally extinguish the flames by blowing on them.

MARGAUX

You start Monday.

JOSEPHINE

Thanks for coming to the city with me, Margaux.
Really. Just having you here is keeping me calm, you
know. Relatively calm.

MARGAUX

I'll be working at the coffee shop around the corner.
Call me when you're done and I'll buy us a round of
celebratory espressos.

JOSEPHINE

I prefer vodka.

MARGAUX

There's another...

JOSEPHINE

What?

MARGAUX

In your hair. Another shard.

JOSEPHINE

Jesus, no, I just fixed my hair.

MARGAUX

It's small. If I could just -

JOSEPHINE

Leave it.

(Margaux yanks it out.)

JOSEPHINE (cont'd)

Ow!

MARGAUX

Where are they coming from? Did you smash a picture
frame and then sleep on it?

JOSEPHINE

Ha ha.

MARGAUX

It thundered last night, remember?

JOSEPHINE

Yeah, it woke me up and our mirror smashed.

MARGAUX

That's it!

JOSEPHINE

And our bedspread looks like a lake.

MARGAUX

Maybe when the bathroom mirror fell, some miniscule shards fell in your brush without you noticing, so when you brushed your hair this morning...

JOSEPHINE

Thanks for reminding me that we need a new mirror. And a new landlord.

MARGAUX

Do you think that's bad luck?

JOSEPHINE

New mirror, new light bulbs, new glasses. Everything is breaking.

MARGAUX

Bad luck would explain my nightmare.

JOSEPHINE

If I don't get this job, I don't know what I'm going to do.

MARGAUX

I couldn't sleep afterward.

JOSEPHINE

I don't know where we're going to live.

MARGAUX

Do you think nightmares come true?

MARGAUX/JOSEPHINE

I'm just so scared.

MARGAUX

If you knew you were going to die, what would you tell me?

JOSEPHINE

Excuse me?

MARGAUX

If you knew you were going to die.

JOSEPHINE

Do you want me to die?

MARGAUX

No!

JOSEPHINE

There's nothing in my will except student loans.

MARGAUX

It's just a question. It won't come true.

JOSEPHINE

Remember the part where I'm trying to relax because I have a job interview in...

(checks watch)

Five minutes ago. Jesus!

(banging on the subway wall)

Hurry up!

MARGAUX

I'd tell you I was sorry.

JOSEPHINE

What?

MARGAUX

If I were going to die.

JOSEPHINE

Subject change. Now.

MARGAUX

I'm sorry for making your life difficult. I'm sorry that my anxiety makes it hard for me to hold a job. I'm sorry for being a burden.

JOSEPHINE

You're not a burden -

MARGAUX

I'm sorry I made you late for your interview.

JOSEPHINE

Well, you... It's not your fault. You spilled that juice by accident...

(through gritted teeth)

...sweetheart.

MARGAUX

No, I didn't.

JOSEPHINE

Excuse me?

MARGAUX

Promise you won't be mad.

JOSEPHINE

I can't promise that. And you know what? I don't want to know.

MARGAUX

It's just - Josephine - you were wearing the grey blazer this morning, just like you were wearing the grey blazer in my nightmare, and I knew it was your best blazer so you were definitely going to wear it to the interview today unless I ruined it so I just leaned over and...

(mimics spilling juice)

JOSEPHINE

You made me late. Because of a dream.

MARGAUX

I panicked. I wanted to save your life.

JOSEPHINE

If I don't get the job today, it's because of you. If we get evicted...

MARGAUX

I know.

(after an excruciating silence)

What makes you a good fit for this company?

(silence)

What makes you a good fit -

JOSEPHINE

I'm punctual. Or, I try to be.

(sighs)

And I overcome any challenge. I never give up. Et cetera, et cetera.

MARGAUX

You're going to get the job.

JOSEPHINE

What was in your dream?

MARGAUX

It doesn't matter.

JOSEPHINE

It kept you up last night, so tell me.

MARGAUX

(to audience)

Last night, I stayed awake counting her heartbeats to make sure she was still alive. I matched my breaths to hers because if she stopped breathing, I wanted to go too.

(to Josephine)

I dreamed you were walking across the street.

JOSEPHINE

And?

MARGAUX

And you didn't make it.

JOSEPHINE

That's it?

MARGAUX

That's it.

JOSEPHINE

So I was hit by a car?

MARGAUX

And it kept driving.

JOSEPHINE

That dream took place today?

MARGAUX

It could have been any day.

JOSEPHINE

But...

MARGAUX

But I feel like it's today.

JOSEPHINE

It's obviously a metaphor. The car is a symbol for life. Or for this city. This city runs me over. Or, um, you said I was wearing my grey blazer, so this is some sort of metaphor for corporate takeover. Capitalism.

MARGAUX

Definitely.

JOSEPHINE

It doesn't mean anything.

MARGAUX

No, it doesn't.

JOSEPHINE

Except capitalism.

MARGAUX

Exactly.

JOSEPHINE

But you think it means something.

MARGAUX

I don't know.

JOSEPHINE

It was just a dream.

MARGAUX

I don't know. I just keep feeling...like this is our last train ride together. Is that stupid? Am I just being too anxious?

JOSEPHINE

This isn't our last ride. I'm going to get the job, and we'll ride into Manhattan together every morning. We'll ride this train so much you'll be sick of it.

MARGAUX

(to audience)

And there it was, a third shard of glass. Maybe she was right. Maybe the glass came from that mirror. But to me it looked like the embers of a dying star, telling death where to land next.

(trying to yank it from Josephine's hair)

There's one last shard - I need to -

JOSEPHINE

Stop! It's fine.

MARGAUX

But I think it's the last -

JOSEPHINE

Is it noticeable?

MARGAUX

Not really, but -

JOSEPHINE

Then leave it.

(The subway screeches to a stop.)

JOSEPHINE (cont'd)

Hallelujah! We're here.

MARGAUX

If this were our last conversation, what would you say to me?

JOSEPHINE

Not now, I need to clear my head.

MARGAUX

Please?

JOSEPHINE

I'd say we'll talk about this when we get home.

MARGAUX

Really? That's all you'd say?

JOSEPHINE

I'd say I love you.

MARGAUX

I love you too.

JOSEPHINE

I'd say wish me luck.

(They kiss. Josephine pulls away first. As Josephine turns to leave, Margaux reaches for the final shard stuck in her hair, but her girlfriend hurries offstage.)

MARGAUX

But...it's the last...

(The lights fade.)

(END PLAY.)

Sketch: Big Promotion

J McGhee

ACT I

Scene 1

The inside of an office building. WOMAN sits working at her desk when MAN enters, both dressed sharply in business attire. Man is trying too hard to appear happy.

Man approaches Woman's desk and pretends to knock on an invisible door. He grins.

MAN

Knock knock.

Woman doesn't look up.

MAN

I said, knock knock.

WOMAN

There's no door, Adam.

MAN

No door yet. I just wanted to congratulate you on that big promotion. Soon you'll have your own office! With a door...and windows...(wistfully) and sunlight.

WOMAN

Thank you.

MAN

No, really, congratulations. You know, a lot of people were up for that promotion--working double overtime, donating their kidneys, taking out a second mortgage to buy Mr. Turnbull a Christmas present... But you! You beat them all.

WOMAN

I'm excited.

MAN

I would be too. Between you and me, how did you do it?

WOMAN

Hard work.

MAN

Even with the whole "glass ceiling" thing? You know: women - *can they really have it all?*

WOMAN

Yes.

MAN

I bet the board loves this. Promoting a woman! We've really sprung into the twenty-first century with this one, eh?

WOMAN

Not really.

MAN

And it doesn't hurt that you're one-quarter...what was it?

WOMAN

My grandfather is American Indian. Cherokee.

MAN

Cherokee! Not a lot of companies have Indians. Cherokee, how exciting. Have you seen Pocahontas?

The woman glares.

MAN

Anyway. How's your wife?

WOMAN

She's great.

MAN

And your sister? She's transgender, right?

WOMAN

Yes, *he* is.

MAN

Excellent. Good for him. Consistency. (*beat*) How about your son? Still deaf?

WOMAN

Yes.

MAN

Your daughter, the one you bought...

WOMAN

Adopted.

MAN

What foreign country is she from again? Sudan? Syria?

WOMAN

Chicago.

MAN

(horrified)
Oh God.

WOMAN

Look, I have a lot of work--

MAN

All right, fine, let's cut right to it. We both know why you got the promotion.

WOMAN

Excuse me?

MAN

It's diversity! There aren't a lot of people of your kind, so we have to promote one every now and again. The board loves diversity. Doesn't matter who works harder, or who sells their kidneys--

WOMAN

Stop talking about that damn kidney!

MAN

I gave Mr. Turnbull my kidney, Mary! And I still came into work the next day. What have you done for him?

WOMAN

I worked hard for this job.

MAN

He gave it to you.

WOMAN

I put in my time!

MAN

He calls me Fido.

WOMAN

I earned this!

MAN

(slow, angry, on the verge of a
psychotic break)
Every night, I cry myself to sleep. Every morning, I
cry myself awake.

Woman leaps up, exasperated.

WOMAN

All right! Fine, you're right. It was affirmative action, diversity. I was promoted just to make this place look good.

MAN

I knew it.

WOMAN

But you don't know what I've been through. You haven't walked in my shoes, experienced my pain, my struggles, my nightmares. I'm *different*, Adam. Whenever I look in the mirror, I see a monster.

MAN

But that doesn't--

WOMAN

You don't know what it's like to live in a world that's not designed for you. People call me a freak. They say that I'm possessed, that they can "change" me. They say I'm not suited for work but I can't be a proper mother, either. So I'm tired, Adam. *I'm tired.*

Beat.

WOMAN

This world is not meant...for left-handed people.

MAN

I'm sorry.

WOMAN

I have to use special left-handed scissors and special left-handed desks. When I write, my hand smears the ink. (*She demonstrates in the air.*) I can't use a baseball mitt or a can opener. I'm always bumping elbows at the dinner table. Did you know left-handed people die up to nine years sooner than right-handed people? It's because of all the stress! So dammit, I'm proud! I got the promotion because I'm left-handed, and I deserve it!

MAN

(meekly)

I gave him a kidney...

WOMAN

I can't use a spiral notebook.

MAN

You win. You deserve the promotion. Let's just call a truce. Okay?

WOMAN

Okay.

MAN

Shake on it?

They go to shake hands. Man offers his right hand, but Woman offers her left, thereby messing up the handshake.

WOMAN

Goddammit.

END.

FADES AWAY FAST

[VERSE]

I can only love you after six shots

Your kisses make sense with a bottle of wine

Don't you touch me till I'm tipsy

Honey, we're doing fine

[REFRAIN]

And everything that I hate, it

Fades away fast when I'm wasted

[VERSE]

I keep stumbling to your doorstep

You pull me inside, push me to the wall

We keep bumping that old mirror

Honey, let's just let it fall

[REFRAIN]

And everything that I hate, it

Fades away fast when I'm wasted

[VERSE]

I sweat too much when I stay the night

Dreaming of whiskey and fireflies

I ask you twice tonight if you're all right

Honey, I wish you could cry

[BRIDGE]

I can still see her face when my eyes close

So kiss my neck while I drink slow

Fill up my glass

Let it overflow

Let me pretend she's coming home

I can still hear her laugh when I call her
On your front steps with my back turned
I need to believe
That she's kissing me
Tell me again that she's coming home

[REFRAIN]

*And everything that I hate, it
Fades away fast when I'm wasted
And everything that I hate, we
Fade away fast when I'm waiting
And everything that I hate, we
Fade away fast when I'm waiting*

JOAN'S LULLABY

[VERSE]

Doctor with a picket fence

A careful plan and no regrets

Two sterile hands

A practiced laugh

Pure symmetry in photographs

A sturdy check deferred a dream

Now faded at the furthest seams

Two grasping hands

A desperate laugh

A gilded, waiting epitaph

[CHORUS]

Hush, John

Rest your head

Come here, you deserve the best

You've worked so hard

You are so strong

Now fall into your favorite song

[VERSE]

You reach for me and say come in

You need my touch, you love my grin

You hold my hands

Ask me to laugh

Our every moment choreographed

You sign my check, I stay the night

And gaze into your greying eyes

I grasp your hands

Draw out your laugh

And pose for you in photographs

[CHORUS]

Hush, John

Rest your head

Come here, you deserve the best

You've worked so hard

You are so strong

Now fall into your favorite song

[VERSE]

Another man, another day

A lawyer begging me to stay

I count my bills

Practice my laugh

And feign a grin in photographs

[CHORUS]

Hush, Joan

Rest your head

Come here, you deserve the best

You've worked so hard

You are so strong

Now fall into your favorite song

SPEAK SLOW

[VERSE]

My bookshelf is empty

I'm not the guy you need

I can't quote Camus

Can't speak French, cannot read

Foucault

Oh

Yes, you live in a world

That I'll never know

So baby, you'll have to speak slow

[PRE-CHORUS]

You ask me what I think about

When my head's so empty

I tell you I'm dreaming

With my eyes open

[CHORUS]

I see the world in technicolor

Glitter bombs and peanut butter

Chewed-up feet

And lemon hair

Charcuterie and camembert

I'm popping knuckles

Diving deep

Into a red and golden sea

Come play with me

Come play with me

A weirdo kid with weirdo dreams

[VERSE]

I'm always barefoot

I have the wrong tattoos

You mention Kisner

And I stare blankly back at you

So why

Try?

How do I catch your eye
When I'm not that kind of guy?
But if you teach me I'll comply

[PRE-CHORUS]

You ask me what I think about
When my head's so empty
I tell you I'm dreaming
With my eyes open

[CHORUS]

*I see the world in technicolor
Glitter bombs and peanut butter
Chewed-up feet
And lemon hair
Charcuterie and camembert
I'm popping knuckles
Diving deep
Into a red and golden sea
Come play with me*

Come play with me

A weirdo kid with weirdo dreams

[VERSE]

I gave up running

Now I walk like I'm made of gold

I'm learning the Classics

Can recite

Plato and Rosseau

And you don't want me

Now that I covered my tattoos

No

Oh

You wanted a world where you'd never go

The exotic, the funny, the stupid, the slow

[BRIDGE]

I've got papercuts

From catching up

To you

Feel my hands, the withered tan

I've got no grace

But I've got

Good intentions

I am your invention

[CHORUS]

I see the world in technicolor

Glitter bombs and peanut butter

Chewed-up feet

And lemon hair

Charcuterie and camembert

I'm popping knuckles

Diving deep

Into a red and golden sea

Come play with me

Come play with me

A weirdo kid with weirdo dreams

I've got no grace

But I've got

Good intentions

she breathes on my chest

I don't do feelings

her skin smells like cocoa butter

and I'm too selfish

shining like black gold from her bright eyes

to stay faithful.

to her round thighs;

I find excuses

any girl can provide sex

at the bottoms of bottles

and I don't believe in making love

and don't realize what I've done

but holding her in my arms feels like

until her voice cracks

God on the seventh day

as she sobs,

admiring his creation:

choking on my name.

It is good.