

EXT. MAXWELL STUDIOS BACKLOT - MORNING

A tour tram WINDS its way up a twisting road. Looming above it is a large Southern-style plantation home--almost like Tara. It even looks like it's been through the Civil War... if the Union had atomic bombs. Windows are SHATTERED, there are large holes in the front, one of the columns is at a 45 degree angle to the rest of the house, and the roof is SAGGING dangerously.

On the side of the tram, we see an image of LumberMax, the studio mascot. He's a strapping man holding an enormous axe. Our tour guide ZEKE, 20, is a pale, scrawny version of LumberMax, wearing a bright orange faux-lumberjack outfit and holding a plastic microphone in the shape of an axe. He looks extremely frazzled and FLIPS nervously through a sheaf of notes, facing a tram full of eager tourists staring at the mansion.

ZEKE

Okay, yes, here we are. We have now arrived at...

(reads from notes)

...the futuristic space port featured in the Maxwell Studios hit Beyond Nebula 3!

The tourists' heads TURN in unison to the house and then back to stare at Zeke. A little boy tugs on his dad's shirt.

TOURIST BOY

It looked a lot different in the theater.

TOURIST FATHER

That's movie magic, son.

ZEKE

(shuffling through notes)

Whoopsee doodle! This is the famous Stunt House. According to legend, the great founder of Maxwell Studios, Ernie Maxwell--

TOURIST BOY

(yelling out)

His head's being kept alive in a big freezer tank three miles under the earth!

TOURIST FATHER

(proudly to other tourists)

We just got the Learning Channel.

ZEKE

Yes. Well, according to this, Ernie Maxwell was dedicated to the preservation

(MORE)

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ZEKE (cont'd)
of one of Hollywood's greatest
institutions...the stunt man. He
bequeathed this glorious home to the
original king of stunt men, Wilford
Stunt. In fact, the word "stunt" comes
from his first name.
(flips to another page)
Last name.

TOURIST#3
This is your first day, right?

ZEKE
(caught)
First day? Sir, I assure you I'm a
seasoned veteran.

Zeke leans smoothly on the tram console, PUSHING the gear
shift into reverse. The tram begins to SLIDE down the
embankment, until the driver finally gains control. He
glares at Zeke.

ZEKE (cont'd)
(to driver)
That should be labelled.

INT. STUNT HOUSE, WILFORD'S ROOM - MORNING

A beautiful chamber, decorated in old Hollywood fashion.
Black and white photos on the wall show a dashing young man
with Humphrey Bogart, Marilyn Monroe, and Bette Davis.
WILFORD STUNT, now 70, is SLEEPING peacefully on a large bed.
Time has turned him into a grizzled tough guy with a shock of
white hair. Every line (and scar) on his face has a story to
tell. None of them are fit to be printed. Above his bed
hangs a scary looking chandelier made of wrought-iron spikes.

The clock next to his bed reads 7:59. It flips to 8:00 and
the alarm goes off. Wilford's eyes fly open. He ROLLS right
off the bed, barely avoiding the chandelier, which PLUNGES
from the ceiling and PUNCTURES the bed. Feathers fly through
the air.

WILFORD
(looking at his wristwatch)
I'm getting slower.

He presses a button on his nightstand, and the chandelier
RISES back up to the ceiling.

EXT. BACKLOT - MORNING

The tram has come to a stop in front of the Stunt House.

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ZEKE

Rumor has it that Wilford and his family still live in the old house, but I sure hope not, because I smell SMOKE!

A simulated FLASH FLOOD is unleashed on the house.

ZEKE (cont'd)

(frustrated)

I mean...water.

INT. STUNT HOUSE - MORNING

ROSE the maid is carrying a huge tray of dirty dishes. Sixtyish, she looks like she's been used up and spit out. An unfiltered cigarette dangles from her bottom lip. She DROPS the tray out on the balcony, and closes the window just before the flood waters SMASH against it.

EXT. BACKLOT - MORNING

The waters are slowly receding. The tourists are still excited from the show.

ZEKE

(lost in his notes)

And coming next is...ummm...something really bad.

Huge flames LEAP up, scorching the house. The tourists ooh and aah.

ZEKE (cont'd)

Ah yes, fire. Water's natural enemy.

INT. STUNT HOUSE - MORNING

Wilford is in his bathroom, brushing his teeth at the sink. Hanging down from the ceiling is a piece of WHITE BREAD on a string. Just as Wilford ducks to spit, flames EXPLODE through the window, BLOWING glass and fire directly over Wilford's head. He rises just as the inferno dies down.

He casually YANKS the now burnt toast off the string, picks out a piece of glass, and bites into it.

EXT. BACKLOT - MORNING

ZEKE

Hey group, let's get out of here before something really dangerous happens!

The tram rolls onto a wooden bridge. A fake earthquake begins, and the bridge ROCKS back and forth.

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