

Based on a true story

'The Diner Suit'

an original short film script

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. VANCOUVER CITY SIDEWALK -- MORNING

JOSEPH (Young 20's), freshly imported, in search of his dream job.

JOSEPH
(Practicing)
Hello. My name is Joseph... J-Joseph!

In hoodie and sneakers and resume under arm, he heads to the door of a restaurant.

EXT. VANCOUVER RESTAURANT WINDOW FIRST -- MORNING

The MANAGER takes his resume but gives Joseph the once over, and shakes his head.

EXT. SECOND VANCOUVER RESTAURANT -- MORNING

We see a repeat performance, Joseph still out-of-a-job.

EXT. ANOTHER VANCOUVER CITY RESTAURANT SIDEWALK -- AFTERNOON

Joseph takes his dream heavy butt to the corner of the block. There across the street is a beautiful grand looking restaurant (#2) with a sign in the side window 'Employment Opportunities'. Last copy of resume and fresh breath in hand, he sets across.

EXT. VANCOUVER CITY RESTAURANT #2 CLOSER -- AFTERNOON

Joseph enters and sees the MANAGERESS standing at the bar, he walks confidently over to her.

JOSEPH
Hello, my name is joseph, I have
come in answer to you're sign, and I
have experience.

The Manageress takes the last copy of his resume and quickly glances at it.

MANAGERESS (O.S.)
Dish mopping is all I got, you wash
dishes. We give you gloves and all.
When can you start?

EXT. VANCOUVER CITY RESTAURANT #2 -- LATER THAT EVENING

It's Office Party time downtown, there are happy people everywhere. DAVE (35) and JANE (30's) make their way along.

DAVE

This was supposed to be our night out. I look o.k.? I wore this suit the last time, it's not very sophisticated for them.

Jane smiles and tugs at his tie.

JANE

I like this suit on you, and I do appreciate you hanging with my crowd, they really like you, besides I really like you.

INT. VANCOUVER CITY RESTAURANT #2 -- NIGHT

Dave and Jane are shown by the WAITER to their group, Five GLAMOROUS Women.

JANE

Dave, you remember, Natasha?
(points to Natasha
she nods)
Urasia, Mercury, Miranda and JJ?

JJ

Dave, I save you a spot
(tapping the space
beside her)
We got some bites on the way.

Jane smiles at Dave to go over and she sits opposite.

INT. VANCOUVER CITY KITCHEN RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

A heavy laden WAITER crash lands arms full of dishes on to the sinks.

KITCHEN WORKER

They drop them off here and then you sort them by size, hose them down and put them in here.

Steam and splashes scald round Joseph as the KITCHEN WORKER explains his new job.

INT. VANCOUVER CITY RESTAURANT #2 -- NIGHT

Dave checks Jane's eyes as he swallows some wine. He puts his glass down. Jane smiles. The Waiter arrives with appetizers and places them down on the table, but as he leans forward, the little pot of sauce slides to the tray's edge and trickles down over Dave's Jacket.

DAVE

Watch it!

WAITER

S-sorry man.

There's a GASP from the group as Dave stands up, and the Waiter starts to paw at the stain.

JJ

It needs fizzy water. To get out the stain.

The Manageress is over quickly.

MANAGERESS

Of course no problem sir, let me get that from you.

The Manageress whips the jacket off Dave, she hands it to the Waiter.

MANGERESS

Rinse it with soda.

(to Dave)

I'm terrible sorry about that sir, we'll take care of that for you and get it out to you shortly, and of course your meal no charge. If I could just get a contact number, my name is Shirley, so I can get this all fixed up.

Jane watches Dave as his spits out numbers to Shirley and then sees the Waiter take the Jacket off into the kitchen.

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Dave is waiting for the HELMETED COURIER. He hands Dave the Jacket. Dave quickly unwraps the plastic.

DAVE

Ta, tahh!

The Jacket looks clean, from a distance, but on closer inspection, Dave can see the stain. He backs up to his desk and picks up the phone and dials.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(into telephone)

Hello Shirley, yes it just arrived, yes right on time, ... yes it looks clean... but, there's still a stain.

Dave holds his pause as long as possible. There is a rustling from the other end.

DAVE (CONT'D)

O.K. right now, good the courier will be back. Thank you.

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

(O.S.)
Click!

EXT. FANCY VANCOUVER CITY RESTAURANT -- AFTERNOON

Joseph has the fading sun on his face and his eye wide bright as he stares at the Fancy Restaurant across the street from him, he turns remorsefully and heads off to work in his kitchen uniform.

INT. IMAGINARY RESTAURANT JOSEPH'S HEAD -- NIGHT

The place looks sophisticated but yet romantic. Passionate colors and decor. An elegant Joseph in his 'white glove' table service attire, is serving from silver platters and pouring wines into long stemmed glasses to ELEGANT CUSTOMERS who graciously hand him fat cash tips.

INT. VANCOUVER CITY KITCHEN RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

The day dreaming Joseph is steamed back on time as the hose guy on the dish line, as Shirley hovers nearby.

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE -- NEXT AFTERNOON

The Helmeted Courier hands over the Jacket, and lingers. Dave unveils it again. Up closer to the light.

DAVE

Oh dear.

And the other hand has already picked up the receiver and pressed speed dial.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(into phone)
I'm afraid it didn't work.

He holds his breath.

DAVE (CONT'D)

If you can get it clean without ruining it, then O.K.

Dave opens the door, surprised to see the Helmeted Courier waiting, he hands him back his Jacket.

INT. DAVE'S LIVING ROOM -- EVENING

Dave in Jacket paces as he reads.

DAVE

It's our corporate policy... the dry cleaner says it's clean... and we are happy to extend a coupon for dinner for two.

Dave slumps down onto the sofa next to Jane.

JANE
It's almost unnoticeable.

DAVE
Almost unnoticeable... almost...
(reading)
And we consider the matter closed.

JANE
I'll miss that suit on you-

Dave stands up again.

DAVE
Closed? I can't wear this again,
wait 'til I get a professional's
opinion.

EXT. WEST FORTH STREET FASHION STORE -- MORNING

Dave strides along the fashionable sidewalk, the Jacket in garment bag, strung over his shoulder.

INT. WEST FORTH STREET FASHION STORE -- MORNING

Dave looks in through the window before entering the store, he checks around a bit before GARRY (30's) warms up to greet him.

GARRY
Nice to see you Dave, I see you
checking out some new threads.

Garry pulls the Jacket out.

GARRY (CONT'D)
Oh the victim.
(examining the garment)
Too bad, nice material. What a waste?

EXT. COURTHOUSE DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER -- DAY

The rain is expected everyone with umbrellas. Dave with DOCUMENTS runs out between shelter into the courthouse.

INT. COURTHOUSE DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER -- DAY

Dave lines up to pay and file. The CLERK checks over his paperwork very closely, then takes his payment card, and swipes it through.

CLERK
You can send this registered mail to
their corporate offices or-

EXT. DOWNTOWN CORPORATE OFFICE TOWER -- DAY

The rain has eased off a bit, as Dave crosses over toward the building entrance.

CLERK (O.S.)

-you can hand delivery it yourself.

INT. DOWNTOWN CORPORATE OFFICE -- DAY

Dave walks up the RECEPTIONIST in her 'Chanel style' jacket. She ignores Dave. Dave coughs, and hand over an envelope.

The Receptionist looks up at Dave, and he hands her the envelope.

DAVE

You're Served.

The Receptionist calmly takes the envelope, and cuts it open with a petite sword. She pulls out the documents, reads then chuckles.

RECEPTIONIST

O.K.

Dave smiles politely and leaves.

INT. DAVE'S LIVING ROOM -- DAY

The coffee table is full of documents. Jane is making a list of them. Dave fumbles by.

JANE

You have all your papers together?
Diagram of restaurant, your
correspondence with the manageress
and your letter from Garry?

DAVE

Check. He even has a donor for it
too. I donating the suit.

JANE

Who? You're giving it away?

DAVE

Too many bad memories. Yes an
immigrant friend of his, needs one
for interviews. So I said sure, I
think the jacket is a little brighter
than the pants now. Maybe on a
shorter guy, who knows. Right, now
let's roll on to next pay day.

JANE

Thursday?

DAVE

Thursday.

INT. VANCOUVER CITY RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

Dave is reliving the whole restaurant disaster over again. The stain on his jacket bigger, the Glamorous Women, all looking at him jeering this time. It's turning into a nightmare.

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

The unguarded TELEPHONE RINGS and rings until a sleepy Dave dressed in only his underwear answers it.

DAVE

(into telephone)

Hello... yes this is he. Can I ask who is calling please?

Dave listens as he sits there naked but his underwear.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Oh your Magistracy's, I do apologize for my ab-stinence from your court room, but... I must of got confused, thought it was on 'Pay Day' 'Thursday', ...this is only Tuesday.

There is a pause on the line.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Yes, I understand... The representatives from the restaurant... there since eight thirty this morning... Hello, and they are willing to agree to a short adjournment and then to proceed by telephone... Great that would be great, I am so sorry I can't be there myself.

COURT CLERK (O.S.)

We will call you back in ten minutes.

DAVE

Until then, then.

Dave shakes himself and runs to start coffee.

INT. COURT ROOM VANCOUVER -- MORNING

The MAGISTRATE swivels a little in her chair. At one side of the oval table, Shirley and the poor Waiter sit either side of the restaurant LAWYER (50's male).

INT. DAVE'S KITCHEN -- MORNING

Dave has added only socks to his wardrobe, the suit 'Exhibit One', is hanging on the back of the door. There are a couple of full coffee cups lined up in order, when the telephone on the wall rings.

DAVE

Hello this is Dave Thomas esquire.

INT. COURT ROOM VANCOUVER -- MORNING

MAGISTRATE

Mr. Dave Thomas, are you ready to proceed?

DAVE

(Over speaker phone)

Yes, ready to proceed your honors.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE PAY PHONE -- MORNING

Joseph huddles close to the PAY PHONE, he finishes entering the coins, and dials.

JOSEPH

(In Spanish)

Mama?, yes, this is Joseph, things are going good, working very well, as ...a waiter, yes Mama.

INT. IMAGINARY RESTAURANT JOSEPH'S HEAD -- NIGHT

Again with the style and class, white gloves and linen aprons. Fictional Joseph pours the wine, forks out the entree, lights the deserts, and receives nice cash backhanders.

JOSEPH (O.S.)

You would like the restaurant Mama, and so would papa. You will see mama, I be earning a big raise with big tips soon, so I can send money home. I will dress smart like real... waiters.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE PAY PHONE -- MORNING

JOSEPH

I have to go soon, start washing salads...

And he quickly hangs up the phone.

INT. DAVE'S KITCHEN -- MORNING

Dave is pacing the length of the telephone cord.

DAVE

I know and appreciate the fact that
I could not be among you this morning,
but if you could only see this for
yourself... the jacket, it's ruined.

He holds the Jacket up to the phone.

INT. COURT ROOM VANCOUVER -- MORNING

There is a pregnant pause in the proceedings. The restaurant
Lawyer shrugs and turns to Shirley.

DAVE (O.S.)

I don't want to single any one,
individual out.

The Waiter stops vibrating and everyone focuses back onto
the speaker phone.

DAVE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Accidents happen.

Beat.

INT. DAVE'S KITCHEN -- MORNING

Dave with Jacket in hand and everything else crossed stands
by the phone.

INT. COURT ROOM VANCOUVER -- MORNING

The Magistrate sits silent. Shirley nods to the Lawyer.

LAWYER

We can cut you a cheque.

DAVE (O.S.)

By three this afternoon?

INT. DAVE'S KITCHEN -- MORNING

Dave waits baited breath.

LAWYER (O.S.)

Sure.

Dave jumps up and down.

DAVE

I rest my case your honor. And I
must say how grateful I am to have
been able to partake in this great
justice system.

INT. COURT ROOM VANCOUVER -- MORNING

A relieved Waiter jumps up and slaps his hands. Much to the annoyance of Shirley and the Lawyer. The Magistrate nods politely, holding her grin as the Clerk records the decision.

INT. DAVE'S KITCHEN -- MORNING

Dave is just finishing off his bowling and hangs up the call. He quickly hits speed dial.

DAVE

Baby we won! The case, it was today...

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Dave watches his watch as the Helmeted Courier arrives. This time with only an ENVELOPE. Dave accepts it with delight.

EXT. WEST FORTH STREET FASHION STORE -- EVENING

Joseph stares at his reflection in the store window. He smiles, takes a serious pose as if for a photograph, then turns his body right, then left. We catch a full-length reflection of him in his new Suit as he strides away long the fashionable sidewalk.

INT. FANCY VANCOUVER CITY RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

Dave looks resplendent in his new threads, Jane too looks all glamorous.

DAVE

I thought we should have our celebration meal somewhere safe.

JANE

Long overdue too.

DAVE

I've been waiting for the something appropriate to wear.

JANE

And it looks good on you too.

She smiles warmly and they hold hands across the table. Their WAITER (Joseph) appears.

JOSEPH

Hello my name is Joseph... I will be your waiter this evening, how are you folks doing?

DAVE
Fine, just fine.