

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 1

Jeff (O.S.)

WELL, IT'S TIME FOR THE PEBBLES, WHICH I WASHED. AND I-I TOOK OUT THE SMALL ONES. OH LORDY, HERE WE GO.

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE. BY ALFRED LORD TENNYSON, I SHOULD HAVE SAID. THIS IS A WONDERFUL POEM...REALLY VERY SAD.

HALF A LEAGUE, HALF A LEAGUE, HALF A LEAGUE ONWARD. CANNONS TO THE RIGHT OF THEM, CANNONS TO THE LEFT OF THEM, CANNONS IN FRONT OF THEM. VOLLEY'D AND THUNDER'D. STORM'D AT WITH SHOT AND SHELL, BOLDLY THEY RODE AND WELL, INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH, INTO THE MOUTH OF HELL RODE THE SIX HUNDRED.

JESUS CHRIST.

THERE WAS A GREEK MAN NAMED DEMOSTHENES, D-D-DEMOSTHENES AH-WHO THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO PUT PEBBLES IN HIS MOUTH AND YELLED AT THE OCEAN TO CURE OR TO DEAL WITH HIS STUTTERING. AND, AND I WANTED TO TRY IT OUT. I MEAN PEOPLE WILL, PEOPLE WILL TRY ANYTHING. BUT IT'S LIKE WH-WH-WH-WH-WH-WH-WH-WH-WHEN PEOPLE SAY IF YOU DON'T STUTTER WHEN YOU SING, WHY DON'T YOU JUST ALWAYS SING. ONE CANNOT GO THROUGH LIFE SINGING ALL THE TIME OR WITH PEBBLES IN ONE'S MOUTH.

THAT'S ENOUGH. [LAUGHS] I WOULD RATHER STUTTER. BOY.

Title Slate

SPIT IT OUT

DIP TO BLACK

Jeff (O.S.)

SEE YOU LATER.

Elisa (O.S.)

SEE YA.

Title Slate

MINT LEAF PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Title Slate

IN ASSOCIATION WITH AH, WESTPORT PRODUCTIONS

Title Slate

A FILM BY JEFF SHAMES AND JONATHAN SKURNIK

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 2

Jeff (O.S.)

THANK YOU.

Jeff (V.O.)

MY NAME IS JEFF SHAMES. I WORK AT A NONPROFIT HOUSING AGENCY IN NEW YORK CITY AS THE C-C-COMMUNITY LIAISON.

Jeff (O.S.)

HI, UM, THIS IS JEFF. UM-UM I-I-I-IS UM JAN THERE YET?

Jeff (V.O.)

I USED TO THINK I COULDN'T DO WORK LIKE THIS BECAUSE OF THE WAY I TALK.

Jeff (O.S.)

UM THE RENT'S LISTED, UM AT UM AT UM FOUR-FOUR EIGHTY SEVEN A MONTH.

Jeff (V.O.)

YOU SEE, EVER SINCE I FIRST BEGAN TO SPEAK, I'VE STUTTERED.

Jeff (O.S.)

...IT'S A THIRD PARTY WAS HER PARENTS WHO WERE IN FLORIDA OR SOMEWHERE.

Jeff (V.O.)

AND I-I'VE ASKED THE LANDLORD TWICE FOR A BREAKDOWN.

Jeff (O.S.)

HE HAD SAID ORALLY THAT-THAT ORIGINALLY IT WAS EIGHTEEN HUNDRED WHICH IS LIKE NINE MONTHS OF HIS RENT OR EIGHT-EIGHT MONTHS OF HIS RENT BUT I'LL...

Jeff (V.O.)

MY EARLIEST MEMORY OF STUTTERING IS FROM KINDERGARTEN DURING SHOW AND TELL. I BROUGHT A PICTURE OF A BRIGHTLY COLORED FISH TO-TO SHOW TO MY-MY CLASSMATES. I REMEMBER STANDING THERE ST-STARING AT THE BACK WALL TRYING TO SPEAK, BUT NOTHING CAME OUT.

Sub Title

SYBIL KANNRY

Sybil Kannry (V.O.)

WELL YOU STARTED TO STUTTER SOME TIME...

Sybil Kannry (O.S.)

...THE YEAR YOU WERE IN KINDERGARTEN AND IT WAS VERY SLOW AND ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE AT FIRST...

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 3

Sybil Kannry (V.O.)

...SO WE TENDED TO IGNORE IT. BUT IT WAS CONTINUING AND BECAME MUCH WORSE WHEN YOU WERE IN FIRST GRADE.

Jeff (V.O.)

I'M IN THE LIVING ROOM TRYING-TRYING TO TALK TO MY DAD. AFTER ST-STUMBLING OVER THE WORDS AGAIN AND AGAIN, MY FATHER YELLS, "COME ON JEFF, SPIT IT OUT!"

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.

Sybil Kannry (O.S.)

WELL I THINK HIS ATTITUDE WAS THAT HIS SON COULD NOT BE ANYTHING LESS THAN PERFECT. YOU WERE SO CUTE AND SO ADORABLE AND SO SMART AND SO MUCH FUN, HOW COULD YOU HAVE A FLAW.

Sub Title

JONATHAN SHAMES

Jonathan Shames (O.S.)

YEAH AND IT WAS ALWAYS FIX THE PROBLEM, FIX THE TROUBLE YOU'RE CAUSING.

Jonathan Shames (V.O.)

TRYING TO JUST FIND THE QUICKEST FASTEST WAY TO ADDRESS WHAT THE PROBLEM APPEARED TO BE FROM THE OUTSIDE.

Sub Title

ERICA SHAMES

Erica Shames (O.S.)

WELL DAD HAD THIS WAY OF MAKING YOU FEEL LIKE WHATEVER YOU WERE DOING WAS NOT ENOUGH.

Sybil Kannry (V.O.)

AS YOU CONTINUED TO STUTTER AND YOU WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL IN BURR FARMS, WE SPOKE TO YOUR TEACHER ABOUT OUR CONCERN...

Sybil Kannry (O.S.)

...AND YOUR TEACHER RECOMMENDED THE SPEECH THERAPIST AT THE SCHOOL.

Sybil Kannry (V.O.)

YOU BEGAN TO SEE HIM WITH SOME REGULARITY. YOUR FATHER DIDN'T THINK IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO THAT, HOWEVER.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 4

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

I RE- I RE- I REMEMBER THE ROOM V-VERY CLEARLY. A SMALL ROOM, A TABLE AND FOUR CHAIRS AND DARK, NO WINDOWS.

WHILE THE OTHER KIDS REMAINED IN THE CLASSROOM, I HAD TO SIT ALONE WITH THE SPEECH THERAPIST AND LEARN THESE T-TECHNIQUES.

Sub Title

TECHNIQUE #1: PROLONGING

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

PROLONGING: JEEEEFF SHAAAAMES.

Sub Title

TECHNIQUE #2: BOUNCING

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

BOUNCING: J-J-J-JEFF SH-SH-SH-SH-SH-SHAMES.

Sub Title

TECHNIQUE #3: CIRCUMLOCUTION

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

CIRCUMLOCUTION OR WORD SUBSTITUTION: M-M-MY NA, M-M-MY NA, I'M JEFF SHAMES.

Sub Title

TECHNIQUE #4: AIRFLOW

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

AIRFLOW: JEEFF SHAAMES [LAUGHS.]

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

I'M AT THE CLAM BOX WITH MY FAMILY. I WANT TO ORDER LOBSTER TAILS. AS THE WAITER TAKES ORDERS FR-FROM EACH MEMBER OF MY FAMILY, I FEEL INCREASINGLY ANXIOUS ABOUT STUTTERING ON THE W-W-W-WORD LOBSTER. MY LITTLE SISTER ERICA ORDERS FISH CAKES AND SPAGHETTI WHICH WE HAVE AT HOME ALL THE TIME. I'M NEXT. I BLOCK ON THE L SOUND FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY. MY MOTHER AND SISTER LOOK AWAY IN-IN-IN EMBARRASSMENT. MY FATHER STARES AT ME WITH TOTAL DISDAIN. I FEEL HUMILIATED! WHY CAN'T I SAY THE WORD LOBSTER! FINALLY I JUST SAY THE SAME AND GET FISH CAKES AND SPAGHETTI LIKE MY SISTER. I ONLY EAT THE SPAGHETTI.

Sub Title

FRIENDS CONFERENCE FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO STUTTER.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 5

Anthony (V.O.)

I DON'T HAVE NO ONE T-T-T-TO...

Sub Title

MY FRIEND ANTHONY

Anthony (O.S.)

...TO TALK TO AT SCHOOL C-C-C-CAUSE EVERYONE TALKS FAST, SO...

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I KNOW.

Anthony (O.S.)

AND THEY MA-A-A-KE FUN OF ME AND THEN I J-J-J-JUST WALK AWAY.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

WH-WH-WH-WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, STUTTERING TO ME WAS A BIG DEAL AND NOW I MEAN IT'S A...I DO-I DON'T LIKE IT BUT I CAN SAY THAT IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL EITHER.

Anthony (O.S.)

YEAH.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

I STUTTER, I DON'T STUTTER, WHATEVER. IT'S OKAY.

David (V.O.)

I STUTTER S-S-S. I TALK G-GOODER THAN YOU BECAUSE I DON'T STUTTER SO MUCH.

Anthony (O.S.)

YOU. YOU'RE BAD.

Anthony's Sister (O.S.)

WHY ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF HIM? WOW, HE STUTTERS MORE THAN YOU. GOSH, I'M SORRY EVERYBODY CAN'T BE AS GOOD AS YOU.

Anthony (O.S.)

EW-EW-EW-EWOO...HOW ABOUT...

Anthony's Sister (O.S.)

DARN JERK.

Anthony (O.S.)

... I MAKE FUN OF YOU.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 6

Anthony's Sister (O.S.)

THIS IS AN ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE A STUTTERING PROBLEM AND HE'S SITTING HERE TELLING ANTHONY THAT HIS SPEECH IS BAD BECAUSE HE DOESN'T STUTTER AS MUCH AS ANTHONY DOES.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

S-SO ANTHONY ARE YOU GO-GOING TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THAT?

Anthony (O.S.)

UM, EWWWOOOOO, NO, NO. HOW ABOU-BOUT I BEAT HIM UP RI...

Anthony's Sister (O.S.)

NO! ANTHONY!

Anthony (O.S.)

RIGHT IIIINEM-IIIINEM TH-THE MIDDLE OF THE WHOLE CROWD.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

WELL, THAT'S-THAT'S ONE SOLUTION. UM. WOU-YOU THINK, YOU THINK DAVID WOULD LEARN FROM THAT?

Anthony (O.S.)

YES!

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

YOU THINK THAT-THAT-THAT-THAT HIS FEELINGS WOULD BE HURT...

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

...THE WAY THAT UH THAT UH THAT YOUR FEELINGS WERE HURT?

Anthony (O.S.)

EWWWOOOOO. IF HE EV-EVER-ER M-M-M-MAKES FUN OF YOU, I'LL B-B-BEAT THE LIV-V-V-ING CRAP OUT OF HIM. I EVEN EWWWOOOOO I EWU I DON'T C-C-CARE WHAT I HAVE T-T-TO DO. LOOK AT THAT K-K-KID HE'S FAT, HIS STOMACH HANGS OV-V-VER HIS PANTS.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I CAN TELL, I CAN TELL THAT YOU'RE VERY ANGRY, AREN'T YOU?

Man (V.O)

STICK IT ON IN THERE EVERYBODY.

Man (O.S.)

PUT YOUR SPEECH MONSTER INSIDE OF IT. JAM IT IN. JAM IT IN. RRRRRR! GET IT IN THERE. YAAAHHH! GET OUT OF HERE SPEECH MONSTER!

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 7

Children (O.S.)

YAAAHHH, GRAAHHH!

Man (O.S.)

EVERYBODY JAM IT IN. EVERYBODY JAM IT IN.

Jeff (O.S.)

EXCUSE ME. YAAAAHHH!

Woman (O.S.)

SINCE WE ARE SENDING THE SPEECH MONSTERS OFF LIKE TO OUTER SPACE, WE NEED TO SHOW THEM WHO IS THE BOSS OF OUR TALKING, OKAY?

Jeff and kids (V.O.)

T-T-T-TEN, N-N-N-NINE, EI-EI-EI-EIGHT...

Jeff and kids (O.S.)

S-S-S-SEVEN, S-S-S-SIX, F-F-FIVE, F-F-F-FOUR, TH-TH-TH-THREE, T-T-T-TWO, ONE...

Kids (V.O.)

[CLAPPING] OH MY GOD, IT BLEW OFF... WOW, YEAH.

Jeff (V.O.)

MY MOM AND DAD COULDN'T WAIT TO-TO GET AWAY FROM THEIR IMMIGRANT JEWISH PARENTS. MY FATHER LEFT NEW YORK CITY TO ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA WHERE HE MET MY MOTHER, A LOCAL GIRL FROM-FROM TULSA.

Sybil Kannry (V.O.)

...AND WE BEGAN DATING. THE NIGHT BEFORE THE WEDDING MY FATHER GOT VERY UPSET WITH BILL, RUNNING THE HOUSE SCREAMING...

Sybil Kannry (O.S.)

...DON'T MARRY THAT NEW YORK KIKE. EVERYONE HEARD HIM. AND OF COURSE I WAS HYSTERICAL.

Sybil Kannry (V.O.)

SOMEHOW OR OTHER IT DISSIPATED AND THE WEDDING TOOK PLACE THE NEXT DAY.

I FELT I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE. EITHER I WOULD GO LIVE WITH MY PARENTS, GO BACK HOME, OR GET MARRIED. THESE WERE THE TWO CHOICES I FELT I HAD.

I KNEW ON MY WEDDING NIGHT I'D MADE A MISTAKE. HE WAS IMPOSSIBLE, IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE WITH.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 8

Baby cries (V.O.)

Sybil Kannry (O.S.)

HE WAS A GOOD FATHER WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, TODDLER.

Sybil Kannry (V.O.)

HE ADORED YOU. HE LOVED TO PLAY WITH YOU, HE LOVED TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

WHEN I WAS NINE YEARS OLD, MY FATHER TOOK ME TO TO MY FIRST BASEBALL GAME, THE METS VERSUS THE DODGERS AT SHEA STADIUM.

Announcer (V.O.)

...BILLY COX THE BATTER. BALL ONE, A LITTLE OUTSIDE...

Jonathan Shames (V.O.)

BASEBALL COULD BE A GOOD WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH DAD, PARTICULARLY UH YOU AND HIM, BECAUSE IT WAS SOMETHING YOU HAD IN COMMON AND IT AT LEAST HAD THE POTENTIAL TO BE REALITIVELY NON-CONFRONTATIONAL.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

EVEN THOUGH MY FATHER GREW UP IN THE BRONX WHERE THE YANKEES PLAYED, HE WAS AN AVID BROOKLYN DODGERS FAN.

Jonathan Shames (O.S.)

YEAH, HE JUST COULDN'T FIT IN. WHO KNOWS HOW THE WORLD WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF HE HAD BEEN A YANKEE FAN?

Announcer (V.O.)

ONE NOTHING BROOKLYN. SNYDER CONTINUING TO WRITE HIS NAME IN BIG LETTERS. FAIR BALL, SWUNG AT AND FOULED INTO THE STANDS...

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

DID YOU AND BILL TA-TALK ABOUT MY STUTTER?

Sybil Kannry (O.S.)

MY MEMORY IS THAT WE TALKED ABOUT IT IN TERMS OF HIS PREFERENCE WHICH WAS TO IGNORE IT OR MY PREFERENCE WAS TO GET HELP FOR IT.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

WHEN I WAS A BOY, MY FAMILY MOVED TO THE UPPER MIDDLE CLASS WASPY TOWN OF WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT WHERE MY FATHER SOUGHT RESPECTABILITY AND ASSIMILATION.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 9

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I REMEMBER BEING I-IN BACK OF-OF...

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

...THIS HOUSE ONCE WITH MY FATHER AND I REMEMBER SAYING THAT...

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

...I WANTED TO BE AVERAGE. AND I'M SURE MY FATHER WAS-WAS MORTIFIED BY THAT BECAUSE HE WAS CLEARLY NOT AVERAGE.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

DURING ALL THOSE YEARS IN WESTPORT I HAD NO ONE TO TALK TO ABOUT MY STUTTER. I WAS VERY LONELY.

MY SPEECH THERAPIST TOLD MY MOTHER THAT FOCUSING ON MY STUTTER WOULD ONLY MAKE IT WORSE SO SHE NEVER TALKED TO ME ABOUT IT. IN RETROSPECT I REALLY WISH SHE HAD BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE HELPED ME FEEL LIKE I WASN'T SO DEFECTIVE.

SHE ALSO DIDN'T TALK TO ME ABOUT HER OWN CHILDHOOD STUTTER. IT WASN'T UNTIL I INTERVIEWED HER FOR THIS FILM THAT SHE WAS FINALLY ABLE TO SHARE HER EXPERIENCES WITH ME.

Sound of fence vibrating.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR-YOUR OWN STUTTER...

Sybil Kannry (O.S.)

MY FATHER RIDICULED ME WHENEVER I TRIED TO TALK AND STUTTERED. HE WOULD MIMIC ME. MY MOTHER DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. MY STUTTER WAS ELIMINATED AS SOON AS I WENT AWAY TO COLLEGE. I HAD NO DIFFICULTY WITH FRIENDS OR IN ANY SITUATION. IT WAS TRULY A MIRACULOUS CURE.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW MUCH EASIER MY CHILDHOOD WOULD HAVE BEEN IF I HAD KNOWN THAT STUTTERING RUNS IN THE FAMILY. BUT MY MOTHER NEVER TALKED TO ME ABOUT HER STRUGGLES WITH HER OWN STUTTER. INSTEAD MY PARENTS LEFT ME ALONE HOPING THAT I TOO WOULD SOMEDAY GROW OUT OF IT.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

TODAY, I MEET YOUNG PEOPLE ALL THE TIME WHO RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. I MET DAN KREMER WHEN HE WAS THIRTEEN YEARS OLD. DAN KNOWS MORE ABOUT FOREIGN FILMS THAN

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 10

ANYONE I KNOW. HE MAKES HIS OWN VIDEOS AND IN 1999, HE STARRED IN A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT STUTTERING.

Man (O.S.)

SO YOU WANT TO BE A FILMMAKER?

Sub Title

“DANNY AND THE SCATMAN”

Dan Kremer (O.S.)

YES. G-G-G-GO TO UM-UM-UM-UM NYU AND UH BECOME A UH F-F-FILMMAKER.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

WHENEVER I FELT LIKE I’D NEVER FINISH THIS FILM, I’D THINK OF DAN AND KEEP GOING.

NEITHER OF US HAD EVER SHOT FILM BEFORE SO WE GOT OUR HANDS ON A WIND UP SIXTEEN MILLIMETER CAMERA AND SHOT EACH OTHER STUTTERING IN SLOW MOTION SO WE COULD SEE WHAT OUR MUSCLES DO WHEN-WHEN-WHEN WE STUTTER.

Dan Kremer (O.S.)

YEAH LIKE THAT. THAT. GREAT. GREAT.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

OKAY.

Dan Kremer (O.S.)

AND A LITTLE BIT MORE CLOSER. FINE. GREAT.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

OKAY?

Dan Kremer (O.S.)

ALLRIGHT. GO AHEAD.

Sound of camera.

Sybil Kannry (O.S.)

FOR MANY YEARS I LET HIM KNOW THAT I WANTED OUT OF THIS MARRIAGE.

Sybil Kannry (V.O.)

AND HE WOULD JUST LAUGH AT MY WORDS. AND SAY SOMETHING. “GO AHEAD, GO, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN.”

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 11

Erica Shames (V.O.)

I THINK JONATHAN AND I WERE WATCHING THE BRADY BUNCH ON TV IN THEIR BEDROOM AND THEY CALLED US DOWN. THEY TOLD US THAT THEY WERE...

Erica Shames (O.S.)

SEPARATING I THINK IS HOW THEY PUT IT. AT FIRST I FELT KIND OF SAD BUT THEN I FELT KIND OF RELIEVED THAT AT LEAST THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY MORE YELLING IN THE HOUSE AND THERE WOULDN'T BE THAT TENSION.

Rock Music.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

MY PARENTS DRANK BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT SUCCESSFUL MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE DID BACK THEN TO DEAL WITH THEIR PROBLEMS. MY SIBLINGS AND I LEARNED TO DO THE SAME.

Jonathan Shames (V.O.)

IT WAS DEFINITELY A GOOD IDEA TO CUT OFF THE FEELINGS.

Jonathan Shames (O.S.)

IT WAS A GOOD DEFENSE MECHANISM AT THE TIME. IT WORKED WELL.

Erica Shames (O.S.)

YOU KNOW I THINK MOM HAD A LOT OF DIFFICULTIES...

Erica Shames (V.O.)

YOU KNOW COPING WITH RAISING THREE KIDS ON HER OWN. I JUST THINK THERE WAS A LOT OF PRESSURE ON HER AND YOU KNOW, I'M NOT SURE HOW WELL SHE COPEd.

Erica Shames (O.S.)

AT THE TIME IT SEEMED WONDERFUL THAT WE HAD ALL THAT FREEDOM IN HIGH SCHOOL...

Erica Shames (V.O.)

...AS A PARENT NOW WHEN I LOOK BACK ON HOW MUCH FREEDOM WE HAD, THAT WAS WRONG. THAT WAS REALLY WRONG. I REMEMBER GOING TO SCHOOL DRUNK.

Erica Shames (O.S.)

I MEAN NOT DRUNK, BUT YOU KNOW, TIPSy.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

I USED ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA TO COPE WITH BOTH THE-THE DIVORCE AND MY STUTTER. I ALSO DEVELOPED WHAT ARE CALLED SECONDARY CHARACTERISTICS. SECONDARIES ARE ADAPTIVE BEHAVIORS, USUALLY FROM-

FROM-FROM CHILDHOOD, THAT AREN'T PART OF THE ORIGINAL STUTTER. FOR ME IT'S...

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

...THINGS LIKE SWALLOWING WHICH WHEN I STOP BREATHING HELPS THE BREATH TO GO AGAIN. OR EYE CLOSING SO THAT I DON'T HAVE TO—I THINK—WATCH THE PERSON WATCH-WATCH ME STUTTERING. OR GULPING OR BACKING UP AND TH-THAT-THAT KIND OF THING. OTHER ONES THAT-THAT I KNOW OF ARE PINCHING ONESELF OR STOMPING ONE'S FOOT. OR PUTTING ONE'S HEAD BACK UNTIL THE SPEECH BLOCK BREAKS. OR VERY SOFT TALKING WHICH HELPS-HELPS YOU STUTTER LESS.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

SOMETIMES THESE TECHNIQUES HAVE UNEXPECTED CONSEQUENCES.

Sub Title

“THE SEVEN YEAR ITCH”

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

MARILYN MONROE WAS A STUTTERER AND HER BREATHY WAY OF SPEAKING HELPED INCREASE HER FLUENCY.

Tom Ewell (O.S.)

I HAD MY APPENDIX OUT LAST YEAR.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

IT ALSO MADE HER A STAR.

Sound of Champaign cork

Tom Ewell (O.S.)

ARE YOU ALLRIGHT?

Marilyn Monroe (O.S.)

FINE.

Tom Ewell (O.S.)

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO WASTE YOUR CHAMPAIGN NOW THAT YOU KNOW THAT I'M MARRIED.

Marilyn Monroe (O.S.)

WITH A MARRIED MEN, IT'S ALL SO SIMPLE. I MEAN IT CAN'T POSSIBLY EVER GET DRASTIC.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 13

Foreboding music. Champaign glasses clink.

Sub Title

“A FISH CALLED WANDA”

Barry Yeoman (V.O.)

A STUTTER IS USED METAPHORICALLY. THEY'RE VERY RARELY USED AS ACTUAL SPEECH IMPEDIMENTS. THEY'RE USED AS WINDOWS INTO THE SOUL AND GENERALLY INTO A DARK PART OF THE SOUL, A TORTURED PART OF THE SOUL, AND...

Woman shrieks

Sub Title

BARRY YEOMAN

Barry Yeoman (O.S.)

...BECAUSE OF THAT WE NEVER SEE A STUTTER THAT'S JUST A STUTTER. AND FOR MOST OF US A STUTTER IS JUST A STUTTER. EXCEPT WHAT WE'VE BUILT AROUND IT...

Barry Yeoman (V.O.)

...BECAUSE OF HOW WE'RE TREATED BECAUSE WE STUTTER...

John Cleese (O.S.)

S-SING IT, SING...

Michael Palin (O.S.)

THE CA, THE CA, TH CA, THE CA...

Barry Yeoman (O.S.)

THERE ARE MOVIES WHERE A STUTTERER MIGHT SEEM MORE SYMPATHETIC BUT-BUT IN FACT THE STUTTER IS REALLY A SIGN OF HIS INNER ANGST AND ONCE HE WORKS THROUGH THE ANGST, HEROICALLY HE BECOMES A BETTER PERSON AND ALSO HIS STUTTER DISAPPEARS.

Michael Palin (O.S.)

I'M GONNA, I'M GU-GONNA, I'M GONNA K-KA-KILL YOU

Kevin Klein (O.S.)

OKAY FINE, FINE KEN, COME AT ME, GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT.

Michael Palin (O.S.)

DEATH.

Kevin Klein (O.S.)

ALLRIGHT, I'M SORRY I ATE YOUR FISH, OKAY, I'M SORRY.

Michael Palin (O.S.)

REVENGE.

Kevin Klein (O.S.)

AAAAAHHHHH!

Michael Palin (O.S.)

HAHAHA. GOT YOU AGAIN, YOU BASTARD. HEY, I'VE LOST MY STUTTER...IT'S GONE.

Sub Title

ARISTOTLE

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE ST-STUTTERED.

Sub Title

MOSES

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

INCLUDING MANY PROMINENT FIGURES.

Sub Title

VIRGIL

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

DOCTORS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS HAVE TRIED HUNDREDS OF REMEDIES TO-TO CURE STUTTERING.

Sub Title

CLAUDIUS

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

IN THE EARLY 1800S, EUROPEAN DOCTORS APPLIED LEECHES TO THE LIPS TO-TO DRAIN THEM OF BLOOD.

Sub Title

LEWIS CARROLL

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

IN THE 1840S...

Sub Title

CLARA BARTON

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

...BEFORE THE INVENTION OF ANESTHESIA...

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 15

Sub Title

NAPOLEON

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

...FRENCH AND ENGLISH SURGEONS...

Sub Title

KING GEORGE VI

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

...CUT OUT ENTIRE PIECES OF THE TONGUE...

Sub Title

HENRY JAMES

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

AS WELL AS SURROUNDING TISSUE AND MUSCLE. TO STEM THE BLEEDING, WHICH WAS GENERALLY PRO-PRO-PROFUSE, THEY PACKED THE MOUTH WITH ICE OR APPLIED SPONGES SOAKED IN VINEGAR. SEVERAL PATIENTS DIED OF BLOOD LOSS.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

IN THE 1920S...

Sub Title

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

...INVENTORS CREATED...

Sub Title

ANTHONY QUINN

Sub Title

VLADIMIR LENIN

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

...A-A-A VARIETY OF DEVICES TO CURE STUTTERING.

Sub Title

SOMERSET MAUGHAM

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

ONE WAS A WEIGHTED METAL CLAMP FOR THE TONGUE WHICH FORCED THE WEARER TO SPEAK SLOWLY.

ANOTHER CON-CONTRAPTION WAS WORN AROUND THE CHEST AND EQUIPPED WITH-WITH A PLUNGER ATTACHED T-TO-TO A SPRING. WHEN A FULL BREATH HAD BEEN TAKEN, THE PLUNGER WAS RELEASED AND PRODDED THE WEARER TO SPEAK.

Fade to Black.

Sub Title

MY WIFE ELISA DECARLO

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

UH I GOT OUT OF THE TAXI AND I SAW A GROUP PLAYING VOLLEYBALL AND YOU WERE IN THE GROUP PLAYING VOLLEYBALL ON ONE SIDE AND I TOOK ONE LOOK AT YOU AND I WAS LIKE, "I WANT THAT." SO I IMMEDIATELY STARTED PLAYING VOLLEYBALL, EVEN THOUGH...

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

...I WAS WEARING HIGH HEELS AND A VERY TIGHT DRESS. AND UM, I KNOW YOU NOTICED ME AND AFTER THE GAME WE STARTED TALKING. AND YOUR STUTTER WAS REALLY SEVERE IN THOSE DAYS. AND I WAS STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT YOU WERE STUTTERING REALLY BADLY. I THOUGHT IT WAS VERY SWEET, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE I THOUGHT I WAS HAVING THAT EFFECT ON YOU.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU DID IT ALL THE TIME. I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST THE YOU KNOW VOLCANIC EFFECT OF MY AMAZING ATTRACTIVENESS.

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. SO I SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "I UM NOTICE YOU HAVE A SLIGHT STAMMER," AND YOU SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "YES, BUT I WANT TO ASK FOR YOUR NUMBER AND YOU'RE VERY ATTRACTIVE AND IT'S MAKING ME NERVOUS."

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

AND THAT WAS IT. I WAS JUST HEAD OVER HEELS FROM THAT MOMENT ON.

1960s synthesizer music.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

MY FATHER WAS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN WHO DEVELOPED EARLY VERSIONS OF THE ATM AND HAND RECOGNITION DEVICES. BUT HIS TEMPER AND INABILITY TO-TO-TO WORK ON A TEAM EVENTUALLY LED TO HIS BEING OUSTED BY HIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. AFTER I GRADUATED FR-FROM-FROM COLLEGE I WENT TO WORK FOR HIM AT HIS NEW COMPANY, RISERS, BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO. NEAR THE END, MY SISTER AND I MADE UP MOST OF HIS STAFF.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 17

Erica Shame (O.S.)

I SAW MANY THINGS UM ABOUT DAD'S BEHAVIOR AT THAT POINT THAT REALLY TURNED MY STOMACH LIKE HIM PUTTING UH AN UNSIGNED CHECK INTO AN ENVELOPE TO SEND TO SOMEBODY TO PAY A BILL AND ME POINTING OUT THAT THE CHECK WASN'T SIGNED AND HIM SAYING, "YEAH. I KNOW."

Jonathan Shames (V.O.)

YOU KNOW HOW DAD WOULD JUST YELL AS LOUD AS HE COULD.

Jonathan Shames (O.S.)

HE KNEW THAT IF HE YELLED ENOUGH YOU KNOW HE COULD PUSH YOU DOWN ENOUGH TO WHERE YOU WOULD JUST STOP RESPONDING AND HE WOULD WIN.

Erica Shame (O.S.)

EVERYTHING WAS YOUR FAULT. AND YOU WERE A SCAPEGOAT I THINK FOR HIM.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

AND THEN HE WOULD PRETEND TO BE JEFF'S BEST FRIEND IN THE WORLD. THAT WAS THE FICTION THEY HAD. YOU KNOW, WAS THAT HE LOVED JEFF MORE THAN ANYTHING AND THEY WERE PALS AND IT'S US AGAINST THE WORLD.

Sub Title

MY WIFE ELISA DECARLO FROM HER PLAY "I LOVE DRUGS"

Elisa DeCarlo on stage (O.S.)

ROBBY LET ME SAY SOMETHING TO YOU. YOU NEVER LET ME BE A FATHER TO YOU. NO NO DON'T, DON'T, DON'T, DON'T, DON'T, NO NO. LET ME FINISH. NO NO. LET ME FINISH. YOU NEVER LET ME FINISH. YOU NEVER LISTEN TO ME. BUT THEN NOBODY LISTENS TO ME BECAUSE NOBODY CARES ABOUT ME. BUT I WILL BE HEARD. I WILL HAVE MY DAY IN COURT. NOBODY GIVES A RAT'S ASS WHAT HAPPENS TO ME.

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

I STARTED WRITING THIS MONOLOGUE BECAUSE...

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

...YOU KNOW YOUR DAD WOULD HAVE THESE INSANE TEMPER TANTRUMS AND I TOOK A-A REAL LIFE INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED HEAR IN THE APARTMENT.

Elisa DeCarlo on stage (O.S.)

YOU, YOU AND YOUR SISTERS JESSICA AND SUSAN AND STEPHANIE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN ME A PARTY WHEN YOUR MOTHER DIVORCED ME! TO HONOR YOUR FATHER! YOU SHOULD HONOR YOUR FATHER! YOU SHOULD LOVE YOUR FATHER!

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 18

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

WE WERE IN IN THE CAR AND HE SAID, "I'M JUST NOT WORTH MY FATHER'S RESPECT."

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

AND I LOOKED AT HIM AND I SAID, "YOU'RE WORTH HIS RESPECT BECAUSE YOU'RE HIS CHILD." IT'S JUST-I MEAN IT SHOULDN'T EVEN BE AN ISSUE.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

OUR FATHER...

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

...WHEN HE MOVED HERE IN 1971 OR 2. AT THAT POINT HE MOVED INTO NUMBER 45, WHICH IS THIS TOWER. AND THEN HE WAS THERE UNTIL 76 OR 7?

Jonathan Shames (O.S.)

YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

AND YEARS LATER HE MOVED INTO NUMBER 5 WHICH IS DOWN THERE.

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

AND THEN WE WENT TO BILL'S APARTMENT WHICH WAS IN TUDOR CITY. AND HE SAID SOMETHING LIKE, UH...

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

"WHY ARE YOU WITH A BOY LIKE JEFF. YOU'RE SUCH A SEXY, VITAL WOMAN. I COULD SATISFY YOU SEXUALLY MUCH MORE THAN HIM. CAUSE I'M A REAL MAN. I MEAN JEFF IS JUST A BOY.

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH A BOY LIKE THAT? A WOMAN LIKE YOU, YOU NEED A REAL MAN. AND HE KEPT TALKING ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW: "JEFF-JEFF HAS NO IMAGINATION, JEFF ISN'T VERY INTELLIGENT, JEFF..." I MEAN I SIMPLY COULDN'T BELIEVE...

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

...THAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU THAT WAY IN FRONT YOU AND THAT YOU WERE LETTING HIM TALK THAT WAY ABOUT YOU.

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND IN THOSE DAYS WHY YOU TOOK IT.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

I'M FEELING LIKE I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN GO ON WITH THE INTERVIEW. I FEEL LIKE WE SPENT TEN MINUTES ON STUTTERING AND HOWEVER LONG ELSE ON BILL SHAMES AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO STEER THIS BACK TO... I MEAN, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FELT A NEED TO DO ALL OF THIS BEFORE WE HAD DISCUSSED THE FUNDAMENTAL WAYS YOU THAT YOU'VE HELPED ME DEAL WITH STUTTERING.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

BECAUSE I WAS ONLY GONNA TALK ABOUT IT ONCE.

DO YOU WANT TO GO FOR A WALK? I MEAN DO YOU NEED TO GET UP AND GO FOR A WALK AND WE CAB PICK IT UP WHEN YOU COME BACK.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

I NEED A BREAK IN ANY CASE.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I MEAN YOU JUST HAD A LOT OF STUFF DUMPED...

DID I DO THE WRONG THING?

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

ELISA, NOT-NOT NOW.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

SURE?

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I'M SURE.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY SWEETIE

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

HE DROVE AWAY EVERYONE IN HIS LIFE AT SOME TIME OR ANOTHER. EVERYONE. AND I'M NOT EXAGGERATING, EVERYONE.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I KNOW.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

AND I FELT SO CLOSE TO HIM AND I TRUSTED HIM AND THAT TRUST WAS NOT RETURNED AND WAS BETRAYED.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

DO YOU FEEL ASHAMED OF WHAT HE PUT YOU THROUGH?

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 20

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I FEEL ASHAMED OF HOW LONG I TOOK IT.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

YEAH, YEAH, I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER.

Dip to Black.

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

AND THE FACT THAT THIS, AS I PERCEIVED HIM, BEAUTIFUL CREATURE, WAS NEARLY INCOHERENT MOST OF THE TIME...

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

...I FOUND THAT INCREDIBLY WONDERFUL CAUSE HE WAS HE WAS REALLY ALL MINE. YOU KNOW...

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

...AND UH, IT WAS JUST FINE WITH HIM TO HAVE ME DEAL WITH MOST OF THE CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. YOU KNOW, TAKE OUT FOOD AND ALL SORTS OF OTHER THINGS, MOVIE TICKETS.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

AND THEN THAT GOT OLD AFTER A CERTAIN POINT AND I STARTED, YOU KNOW, WHEN THE PHONE RANG I'D WALK AWAY FROM IT AND SAY, "YOU ANSWER IT."

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

AT FIRST I RESENTED ELISA FOR THIS. BUT SHE KEPT PUSHING. WE'D GO TO-TO RESTAURANTS TOGETHER WHERE I'D ORDER FOR BOTH OF US WHILE SHE HELD MY HAND.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

UM, WE'LL HAVE THE UH, THE SUSHI, THE SUSHI D, THE SUSHI D...

Waitress (V.O.)

SUSHI DELUXE?

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

SUSHI DELUXE. AND ALSO ONE UM, ONE UM IKURA ROLL, P-PIECE OF IKURA.

IKURA.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

IKURA

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

IKURA

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

IKURA

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

SUSHI DELUXE AND IKURA.

Elisa DeCarlo laughs

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

ANOTHER PERSON WHO ENCOURAGED ME TO TO STUTTER OPENLY WAS MEL TILLIS, THE GREAT COUNTRY-COUNTRY MUSIC SINGER AND TELEVISION PERSONALITY.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I-I STOPPED HERE BECAUSE I SAW A MEL TILLIS BILLBOARD SO I HAD TO GET IT. AND HIS PHONE NUMBER: 417-335-M-MEL. PERFECT.

Mel Tillis (O.S.)

HERE WE ARE. IT'S THE BAND ON OKINAWA.

Mel Tillis (V.O.)

AND UH I WAS THE FIRST ONE UH E-E-EVER TO OPENLY...

Sub Title

MEL TILLIS SINGER

Mel Tillis (O.S.)

AH-AH ADMIT THAT THEY WERE A STUTTERER AH ON TELEVISION.

Mike Douglas Show theme music and clapping.

Mike Douglas (O.S.)

YOU'VE GOT TO MEET MY CO-HOST THIS WEEK. IN THE MANY YEARS THAT HE'S BEEN DOING MY SHOW, I'VE SEEN HIM GROW FROM A SHY AND NERVOUS SONGWRITER WHO STUTTERS INTO A CONFIDENT, IMPRESSIVE PERFORMER... WHO STUTTERS.

Laughter

HE'S MY FRIEND AND MY CO-HOST... HERE IS MEL TILLIS!

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 22

Clapping

Sub Title

MEL TILLIS

Mel Tillis (O.S.)

TWENTY SIX, AH, YEARS AGO I WAS ON OKINAWA. THEY DIDN'T, UH-UH-UH-UH, KNOW IF I WAS GOING TO BE A PILOT OR A BAKER.

Mike Douglas Whistles (O.S.)

Mel Tillis (O.S.)

AND, UH, I FOUND OUT THAT I WAS GOING TO BE A BAKER.

Laughter

Mel Tillis (O.S.)

AND, UH, THEY DIDN'T WANT ANY STUTTERING...

Mike Douglas (O.S.)

PILOTS?

Mel Tillis (O.S.)

PILOTS.

Mel Tillis (O.S.)

THEY KEPT, YOU KNOW, HAVING ME BACK. "LET'S GET OL' MEL BACK," YOU KNOW, C-C-C-B, IT'S GOOD FOR THEIR RATINGS OBVIOUSLY, B-B, CAUSE THEY HAD ME ON AT LEAST EVERY WEEK A-A-A, THIS WENT ON FOR YEARS YOU KNOW.

Announcer (V.O.)

ALL ABOARD. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE WELCOME TO THE STAGE, COUNTRY MUSIC LEGEND, THAT OLD STUTTERING BOY HIMSELF, MISTER MEL TILLIS!

Mel Tillis Sings

WELL I PULL OUT OF PITTSBURGH A-ROLLING DOWN THE EASTERN SEABOARD. I GOT MY DIESEL WOUND UP AND JUST A-ROLLING LIKE A-NEVER BEFORE...

Mel Tillis (V.O.)

EVERYBODY KNOWS ME NOW AS A STUTTERER. I DON'T HAVE TO AH, BE WORRIED ABOUT THAT ANYMORE. BUT IT'S SO MUCH A PART OF ME. YOU KNOW AND WHEN I'M ON STAGE, THE PEOPLE EXPECT ME TO STUTTER. BUT, AND IF I DON'T, WELL THEY GET UPSET ABOUT IT: "I THOUGHT YOU SUPPOSED TO BE STUTTERING OUT THERE!"

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 23

Mel Tillis (O.S.)

I SAY, "WELL I'VE BEEN TRYING TO QUIT, AH, FOR SIXT-SIXTY-EIGHT YEARS.
[LAUGHS]

Dip to black

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

MY SISTER READ ABOUT THE NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION IN ANN
LANDERS AND SENT ME THE CLIPPING. I JOINED IMMEDIATELY. THE NSA IS A
SELF-HELP GROUP FOUNDED AND RUN BY STUTTERERS.

Man (O.S.)

THAT WAS KIND OF THE BEGINNING OF THIS CATHARTIC PROCESS OF DEALING
WITH THESE ISSUES THAT I STILL HAVE...

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO REALIZE THAT THE EXPERTS ON STUTTERING AREN'T
THE THERAPISTS AND THE RESEARCHERS. WE WHO STUTTER ARE THE EXPERTS
AND TOGETHER WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER TREMENDOUSLY.

Man (O.S.)

DO I STAY OR DO I GO, DO I STAY OR DO I GO, DO I STAY, DO I GO? GUILTY, YOU
STAY!

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

AT MY FIRST ANNUAL NSA CONVENTION, I MET JOHN AHLBACH, THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER.

Sub Title

JOHN AHLBACH ARCHBISHOP RIORDAN HIGH SCHOOL

John Ahlbach (O.S.)

SEE IF YOU-YOU KNOW ME AS SOMEONE WHO STUTTERS, RIGHT? SO WHEN I DO
IT, IT DOESN'T REALLY S-SURPRISE YOU OR SHOCK YOU. IF I CAME IN HERE AND
TRIED TO, SUP, TRIED TO FOOL YOU INTO THINKING I WAS A FLUENT P-PERSON,
IF I HAD SOME SHAME LEFT ABOUT MY STUTTERING, MAN, I-I'D BE DEAD IN A
WEEK. I WOULD NOT BE IN-N-IN-IN CONTROL. YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN CONTROL
OF ANY SITUATION YOU'RE IN TO THE EXTENT YOU CAN BE YOURSELF, RIGHT?

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

AS MY CURIOSITY ABOUT MY STUTTER GREW, I WANTED TO LEARN HOW IT
LOOKED TO-TO A TRAINED EYE. I ASKED MY FRIEND DR. PHIL SCHNEIDER,
WHO'S A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST, TO DESCRIBE MY STUTTER TO ME.

Sub Title

DR. PHIL SCHNEIDER SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

Phil Schneider (O.S.)

MY FIRST LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS IS THAT YOUR SPEECH RATE AT TIMES GOES SO QUICK THAT I CAN'T COMPREHEND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. AND THE FASTER YOU GO, THE MORE LIKELY YOU'LL DERAIL. AND THEN THE SPEECH BECOMES A LITTLE CHAOTIC AND THEN THERE'S A SCRAMBLE. AND THE THING WHICH FOR ME AS A LISTENER AND AS A FRIEND UH THAT STRIKES ME IS THAT I ALWAYS FEAR I'LL MISS THE POINT.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

FOR MANY YEARS MY WIFE HAD WANTED TO IMITATE MY STUTTER FOR A CHARACTER IN ONE OF HER MONOLOGUES. BUT I NEVER FELT COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO-TO LET HER. AFTER HEARING PHIL'S DESCRIPTION, I DECIDED TO LET HER TRY.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

SO WHEN I THINK ABOUT YOUR NAME, THE WAY THAT I SAY IT, IT'S LIKE I'M... I'M SURE...SHAKING AND STRUGGLING, SILENT BLOCK.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU SAY SILENT BLOCK, WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT IS IT YOU'RE FEELING INSIDE YOUR MOUTH?

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

THAT-THAT THERE'S STRUGGLE GOING ON BUT THERE'S NO SOUND. I FEEL REALLY TIGHT, I WOULD SAY ALL AROUND HERE. I FEEL MYSELF REDDENING OR BLUSHING OR I-I-BU-WD-BU-WD-BU-WD, BUT JUST GETTING-GETTING HEATED UP, UM, HELPLESS, UM, STUCK, AND JUST TRYING TO, TYRING TO GET SOME, SOME WAY TO GET OUT OF IT.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

UM-UH-EEELISA.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

YOU WERE DOING THIS, WHICH I THINK IS...IS THAT WHAT I'M?

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

YOU DO THAT SOMETIMES THOUGH.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

OKAY.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

YEAH, SOMETIMES YOU'RE LIKE, "UH-UH-UH-UH-UM, UH-UH-UH-UH-UM, UH-UH-UH-UH-UM, UH-UH-UM-UH. OOOH, THAT'S NOT FUN! [LAUGHTER]

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

PHIL AND ELISA HELPED ME SEE THAT MY STUTTER IS MOSTLY MADE UP OF SECONDARY CHARACTERISTICS. MANY OF MY FRIENDS WHO USED TO HAVE SEVERE SECONDARIES NOW STUTTER FREELY AND AS A RESULT SPEAK WITH FEWER DISFLUENCIES.

Friend (O.S.)

WHEN I WENT TO THE N-N-NATIONAL STUTTERING PROJECT AT THE TIME, I HAD JEFF'S NAME WRITTEN DOWN AND I WAS TO GO TO THE MEETING AND ASK FOR JEFF. AND SO JEFF WAS LIKE THE OLDER STUTTERING BROTHER.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

THE LAST GAME MY FATHER AND I WENT TO BEFORE HE DIED WAS THE METS VERSUS THE BRAVES AT SHEA STADIUM.

Announcer (V.O.)

...CONTROL HAS BEEN BAD TONIGHT. THERE IS A BOUNCER ON A BUNT...

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

THE METS LOST THE GAME BUT WE STILL HAD A GOOD TIME.

Announcer (V.O.)

...SACRIFICE IS PERFECT...

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

AFTERWARDS AT A RESTAURANT, MY FATHER PICKED A FIGHT.

Bat hits ball

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

I HAD COME TO REALIZE THAT I DIDN'T NEED TO DEFEND MYSELF AGAINST HIS PREPOSTEROUS ACCUSATIONS. WHEN I REFUSED TO-T-TO ARGUE WITH HIM, HE STOOD UP AND WALKED OUT.

Erica Shames (O.S.)

WE REALIZED LATER THAT THE MAN WAS DYING OF CANCER.

Erica Shames (V.O.)

THAT'S WHY HE WAS SO THIN AND HAD SO LITTLE ENERGY.

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

HE MUST HAVE HAD CANCER THEY FIGURED FOR EIGHT YEARS. AND YET HE-HE SEEMED TO BE UNAWARE OF IT UNTIL HE LITERALLY WAS SO SICK HE COULDN'T, YOU KNOW, MOVE.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 26

Erica Shames (V.O.)

I REMEMBER COMING HOME FROM THE MALL AND THERE WAS A MESSAGE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE FROM DAD...

Erica Shames (O.S.)

...SAYING THAT HE WAS IN NEWARK HOSPITAL BECAUSE THEY HAD FOUND A MASS IN HIS ABDOMEN, HA HA HA. LIKE IT WAS NOTHING.

Jonathan Shames (V.O.)

I REMEMBER HIM CALLING ME AND TELLING ME THAT THE CHEMOTHERAPY WAS NOT GOING TO WORK...

Jonathan Shames (O.S.)

...AND THAT HE WAS GOING TO DIE.

Erica Shames (O.S.)

SO WE WERE RELIEVED WHEN HE DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME TO GO TO A HOSPICE. BUT I REMEMBER GOING TO VISIT WAS SO, JUST SAD I GUESS.

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

WE DID AN ALL NIGHT VIGIL AND WE ALTERNATED TALKING TO HIM. AND THEN MORNING FINALLY CAME. JEFF GOT UP AND HE WENT AND HE LEFT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL. AND I LEANED OVER AND I SAID...

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

“BILL, JEFF HAS LEFT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL. HE’LL BE RIGHT BACK.”

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

AND THEN SUDDENLY BILL STARTED JERKING UP AND DOWN. AND I GRABBED JEFF OFF THE PHONE AND HE CAME RUNNING BACK AND HE THREW HIMSELF ON TOP OF BILL, SCREAMING, “I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU!” AND CRYING, BUT BILL WAS DEAD. HE WAS DEAD.

Dip to black.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I STARTED ACCOMMODATING THE POT SMOKING MUCH MORE BECAUSE IT ACCOMMODATED MY DRINKING. YOU KNOW, “YOU DON’T SAY ANYTHING, I WON’T SAY ANYTHING. OKAY?” AND UM, SO HE WOULD BE SITTING AT ONE END OF THE COUCH WITH HIS POT PIPE AND HIS LITTLE WHATEVER, AND I’D BE SITTING AT THE OTHER END OF THE COUCH WITH MY BOTTLE AND GLASS. AND WE’D SPEND OUR EVENINGS WATCHING TELEVISION. AND YOU KNOW, EVENTUALLY COLLAPSE INTO BED. AND, AND, IT BECAME SO BAD TOWARD THE END THAT WEEKEND AFTERNOONS HAD TO BE SET ASIDE TO DO ANYTHING IMPORTANT, OR TO HAVE SEX, BECAUSE THOSE WERE THE ONLY TIMES WE WEREN’T SMASHED.

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

I MEAN WE COMPLETELY FORGOT HOW TO RELATE TO EACH OTHER.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

WHILE I WAS ON A TRIP TO THE WEST COAST, ELISA'S DOCTOR ORDERED HER INTO AN OUTPATIENT TREATMENT-TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR ALCOHOLICS. SINCE I WAS SO DEEP INTO MY OWN ADDICTION, I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW BAD HER ALCOHOLISM HAD BECOME. WHEN I CAME HOME, EVERYTHING CHANGED.

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

AFTER I GOT SOBER, WE WERE, WE WERE AT MY PARENTS' BEACH HOUSE. WELL THE FIRST WEEKEND I CAME HOME, HE WAS STILL SMOKING DOPE AND I WAS JUST KIND OF LIKE LYING ON THE COUCH.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

AND JEFF SAID, "UM, IF I DON'T STOP SMOKING DOPE WE'LL PROBABLY BREAK UP, WON'T WE?" AND I SAID, YEAH. AND I FELT VERY SAD. I JUST DIDN'T SEE HOW THE RELATIONSHIP COULD CONTINUE IF ONE OF US WAS USING AND ONE OF US WASN'T.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

I WANTED TO MAKE MY MARRIAGE WORK, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO TALK TO ABOUT GETTING SOBER. THEN I REMEMBERED MY-MY FRIEND NORA, WHO FOR YEARS HAD LED SOBRIETY WORKSHOPS AT NSA CONVENTIONS.

Sub Title

NORA O'CONNOR SOCIAL WORKER

Nora O'Connor (O.S.)

YOU KNOW, FOR ME I MEAN WITH MY ALCHOLISM AND ADDICTION IT WAS LIKE, IT WAS, UH, IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I THOUGHT I WOULD BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE, IS IF I WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE, YOU KNOW. AND UH, TO COMMUNICATE IN THE WAY THAT I, THAT I FFFF-FFFF-FFFFELT POSITIVE ABOUT. YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT I WOULD BE AN ALCOHOLIC AND, UM, AN ADDICT AND I WOULD, UM, CONTINUE TO USE AND TO DRINK UNTIL I DIED ON THE STREETS, OR, UH, OR OR ENDED UP, UH, IN PRISON.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I, LOOKING BACK, TH-THE REASON I BEGAN USING...I THINK WITH ME IT WAS BOTH STUTTERING BUT ALSO FAMILY STUFF.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

JUST BEING ABLE TO JUST ESCAPE ALL THAT.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 28

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

SEEING THAT NOW, YOU KNOW, FOR ME, IT WAS OV-OV-OVER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OR SO THAT I STILL WAS ENJOYING THE USING BUT I WAS NO-NOT-NOT GOING TO GET WHERE IF I WANTED TO IN LIFE IF I KEPT DOING SO.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

THANKS TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF NORA AND OTHERS, I FINALLY FOUND THE STRENGTH TO PUT DOWN MARIJUANA AND ALCOHOL FOR GOOD.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I'VE BEEN SOBER ALMOST THREE YEARS. HE'S BEEN SOBER LIKE OVER TWO YEARS AND NINE MONTHS. AND THINGS ARE BETTER THAN THEY'VE EVER BEEN. I HATE TO SOUND LIKE A TV COMMERCIAL BUT... [LAUGHS.] I STILL MISS MARGUARITAS.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

NOW THAT ELISA AND I WERE BOTH SOBER, WE'D FINALLY BE ABLE TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AGAIN AND REBUILD OUR MARRIAGE. WE DECIDED TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP FOR COUPLES WH-WHERE ONE OF THE SPOUSED STUTTERS. MY FRIEND DR. WOODY STARKWEATHER IS A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST AND HIS WIFE JANET GIVENS STUTTERS. THEY ARE BOTH GESTALT THERAPISTS.

Janet Givens (O.S.)

...IS HOW WOULD YOUR RELATIONSHIP CHANGE WITH YOUR SPOUSE IF YOUR STUTTERING WERE TO GO AWAY.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

IT WOULDN'T BE ME IF I DIDN'T STUTTER SO AN-AND IT-I-IT-S-S-S-I-S-S-IS A PART OF THE MARRIAGE.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

YEAH. FOR ME IT WAS UM THE CONTROL ISSUE. YOUR CONTROLLING UM OUR CONVERSATIONS AND CONTROLLING UM BEING INTERRUPTED.

Janet Givens (O.S.)

OKAY WE HAVE ANOTHER EXERCISE TO DO. THIS TIME THE WOMEN WILL STAND IN A LINE AND OPPOSITE THEM WILL BE THEIR SPOUSES. I WILL GIVE A PHRASE AND WE'LL SAY IT FOR ABOUT TWO MINUTES. THE FIRST ONE IS, "I'M SO SORRY."

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I'M SO SORRY. I'M SO SORRY.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I'M SO SORRY.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 29

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU. [CRIES.] I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU. [CRIES.] I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I NEED YOU. I NEED YOU.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I ACCEPT YOU JUST AS YOU ARE. I ACCEPT YOU JUST AS YOU ARE.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

ELISA WAS PERFORMING FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE GETTING SOBER TWO YEARS EARLIER. SO I ACCOMPANIED HER TO THE SAN FRANCISCO FRINGE FESTIVAL TO STAGE MANAGE HER SHOW. SHE WAS TERRIFIED.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I WANT TO GO OVER WHAT GOES WHERE ON STAGE BEFOREHAND BECAUSE YESTERDAY I WAS VERY CONFUSED.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

OKAY, IT'S VERY SIMPLE.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

NOW, OKAY, FIRST OF ALL. NOW, THOSE TWO TABLES: ONE OF THEM WOBBLER AND ONE OF THEM IS STEADY.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

YES, I WANT THE WOBBLER ONE BY THE CHAIRS, BECAUSE THIS ONE IS THE BAR. I DON'T WANT TO TAKE A CHANCE ON THE BAR WITH THE GLASSES.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

ELISA, SHOULD WE BREATHE...DEEPLY? AAAAHHHH!

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I JUST, I CAN'T DO IT! [CRIES.] I CAN'T DO IT! I CAN'T DO IT!

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

ELISA, YOU'VE DONE IT TWICE. REMEMBER? IN NEW YORK?

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 30

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I HAVEN'T DONE IT SINCE I WAS...I'M GOING TO GET OUT THERE AND I'M NOT GOING TO REMEMBER...I CAN'T TAKE ANYTHING.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

CAN YOU FIGURE OUT YOUR FOOD?

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

YEAH.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

DO YOU WANT...HOW ABOUT A SALAD?

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

I'M GOING TO GET A BURRITO.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

OKAY.

Waiter (O.S.)

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME REFRIED BEANS, BLACK BEANS OR PINTO BEANS?

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

UUUUM, UUUUM, UUUUM, UUUUH...

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

BLACK.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

BLACK BEANS.

Waiter (O.S.)

BLACK BEANS? SURE.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

THANK YOU.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

ACTUALLY, WE'RE IN A HURRY. SO IF YOU COULD BRING EVERYTHING WHEN IT'S, WH-WH-WH-WHEN IT'S READY...

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

[SINGS.] YOU'LL BE GREAT, HUH HUH. OUR FOOD WAS SERVED ON A PLATE. STARTING HERE, STARTING NOW. HONEY EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 31

Ether Merman sings (V.O.)

CLEAR THE DECKS, CLEAR THE TRACKS. YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO BUT RELAX. BLOW A KISS, TAKE A BOW. HONEY EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES...

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

READY ELISA?

Sub Title
"TOASTED"

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME THAT I DISCOVERED MODERATION MANAGEMENT: A REVOLUTIONARY CONTROLLED DRINKING PROGRAM. MODERATION MANAGEMENT SAID: BE RESPONSIBLE ABOUT YOUR BEHAVIOR, SET POSITIVE GOALS, COUNT YOUR DRINKS, AND YOU CAN KEEP DRINKING. [DRINKS.] AH HH. NOW WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN THAT?

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

[LAUGHS.]

Applause

Elisa DeCarlo (V.O.)

DO YOU THINK THEY LIKED IT?

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

ELISA, THEY, UH, THEY LIKED IT A LOT. IT WA-WAS-IT WAS GREAT!

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

TH-THERE IT IS.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

WELL THAT'S BETTER. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH. NO, IT'S IT'S VERY SAD TO BE HERE. "I TOOK THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED BY." WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I DO FEEL THAT, UH, THAT I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM IN LIFE NOW IF-IF H-HE WAS STILL ALIVE. THAT I-I HAVE FELT A LOT FREER AS A PERSON. C-C-CAUSE H-HE REALLY DID DRAG-DRAG-DRAG ME DOWN SO MANY TIMES IN SO MANY WAYS.

I MEAN, I MEAN, I DON-I DON'T MIND BEING DIFFERENT AND I... NO I-I APPRECIATE THAT-THAT-THAT HE TAUGHT US TO-TO-UH-TO-TO-TO-TO NEVER SETTLE IN LIFE, BUT...BUT HE-HE WOULDN'T LISTEN. HE THOUGHT-HE THOUGHT HE HAD IT AL-ALL FIGURED OUT.

BUT HE-HE'S ALONE HERE AND HE WAS ALONE IN LIFE.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

THREE YEARS AFTER MY FATHER DIED, I DISCOVERED SOME AUDIOTAPES HE HAD DICTATED TO *HIS* DECEASED FATHER WHICH HE CALLED, “THE GENIUS ABUSES THE ABUSER.”

Bill Shames (V.O.)

IT NEVER OCCURRED TO YOU, YOU NEVER LEARNED THAT I HAD TO LIVE *MY* LIFE. MY KIDS HAVE TO LIVE THEIR LIFE. I HAVE TO BE THERE FOR THEM. BECAUSE IT’S TOUGH BEING A KID. IT’S A BITCH GROWING UP. AND IN MY STUPIDITY, I KEPT WAITING FOR YOU TO LOVE ME, TO RECOGNIZE ME, TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH ME. AND I KNOW IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, I SHOULD FORGIVE YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO STUPID AND PROBABLY TOO SICK TO KNOW ANY BETTER. BUT I FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO FORGIVE YOU.

Taro Alexander (O.S.)

UM, I STILL FEEL LIKE THE BEGINNING OF IT, THE BEGINNING OF IT NEEDS TO COME...

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

MY FATHER WAS UNABLE T-T-TO FORGIVE HIS OWN FATHER. I DON’T WANT THE SAME THING TO HAPPEN TO ME.

Taro Alexander (O.S.)

YOU HAVE TO REALLY LET GO. AND ALLOW TH-THAT, AND AL-ALLOW TH-THAT ANGRY SIDE TO COME. AND DON’T WORRY ABOUT BEING NICE.

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

LAST YEAR, I JOINED MY FRIEND TARO ALEXANDER’S THEATER GROUP FOR-FOR PEOPLE WHO STUTTER. I ENDED UP PLAYING THE FATHER IN THE PIECE WE-WE ALL WROTE TOGETHER. BEING THE OLDEST MEMBER OF THE TROUPE, I KINDA SAW IT COMING.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I DIDN’T WANT TO DO A FATHER ROLE. AND I THINK THAT A PART OF ME IS JUST HOLDING BACK FOR THAT REASON, TH-THAT I JUST CAN’T HELP BUT S-S-SEE THE PARALLELS WITH MY-MY, WITH MY-MY-MY OWN FATHER.

Jason (O.S.)

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT US NOW. BECAUSE WE NEVER EVEN TALK ABOUT US. AND WE NEVER TALK ABOUT MY STUTTER AND WHEN I WAS YOUNGER AND WHEN I WOULD STUTTER.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

WHAT COULD I SAY?

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 33

Jason (O.S.)

YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST LISTENED TO ME! I MEAN... WHENEVER I WOULD BLOCK I FELT LIKE, LIKE THERE WAS SOMETHING NOT OKAY WITH ME. LI-LIKE I WAS JUST BROKEN.

Jason (V.O.)

LIKE YOU WOULDN'T EVEN LOOK AT ME.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I DON'T KNOW WH-I DON'T KNOW WH-I DON'T KNOW WH-WH-WHAT TO SAY.
[BLOCKS.]

Jason (O.S.)

WHY COULDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT YOU WOULD LOVE ME WITH MY STUTTER?
THAT IT WAS A PART OF ME.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I WA-I WA-I WAS NOT COMFORTABLE WI-WI-WI-WITH-WITH YOUR SPEECH. BUT I
NEVER DIDN'T CARE.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

I CARE. TH-THAT YOU AND YOUR FRIEND CAME HERE STONED OR DRUNK OR
WHATEVER YOU ARE.

Jason (O.S.)

YEAH. YOU CARE ABOUT PIZZA! YEAH, HE'S MY FATHER.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

COME ON, I DO WHAT I CAN!

Jason (O.S.)

YOU'RE A JERK!

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

A JERK? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? I'M NO JERK!

Jason (O.S.)

I DON'T THINK HIGHLY OF YOU ANY MORE BECAUSE I ALWAYS FELT LIKE YOU
HATED ME, HATED MY STUTTER. YOU MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS BROKEN, LIKE
A DYSFUNCTIONAL PROBLEM!

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

YOU AREN'T A PROBLEM, MOST OF THE TIME.

Dialogue Transcript

SPIT IT OUT

Page 34

Jeff Shames (V.O.)

WHENEVER I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING-GOING ON STAGE IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE, I WAS BOTH EXCITED AND TERRIFIED. BUT I KNEW I WANTED TO-TO SING.

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

[SINGS.] HOW DID I LOSE MY SON SO EARLY. WHEN HE WAS RAW AS DOUGH? HOW DID I LEAVE THOSE SOULS BEHIND ME? HOW, I DON'T KNOW.

Applause.

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

JEFF? IS HE IN HERE? HIII!

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

HI! IT WAS GREAT. I-I FELT COMFORTABLE OUT THERE AND... I STUTTERED BETTER, BUT...

Elisa DeCarlo (O.S.)

YEAH, NO, YOU STUTTERED MAGNIFICENTLY. [LAUGHS.]

Jeff Shames (O.S.)

WE TRY!

Music. Mel Tillis Sings "Ruby"

Closing Credits.

MINT LEAF PRODUCTIONS LOGO