

RYAN HANSEN SOLVES CRIMES ON TELEVISION\*

"Jane D'Oh!"

Written by

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EPIISODE #102  
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\*though you're probably watching this on stolen Chinese internet and that's cool too.

YTR

RYAN HANSEN, shirtless and lightly perspiring (never sweating), huffs and puffs his way up this iconic "hiking" trail in the Hollywood hills, all the while talking directly into his iPhone's Periscope app.

RYAN

What-what! We got straight up picked up, ya'll! Pilot-to-series, suckas! YouTube Red in da hiz-ouse! Brace yourselves for five -- count 'em -- FIVE more eps of this bad boy right in your pie whole! Wah-DOOSH!

ON SCREEN we see a running commentary from IGS Live watchers: Who are you? -- #WeirdAF -- Don't say hiz-ouse.

RYAN (cont'd)

YTR guys said there was a "less than normal" viewership loss from this crazy viral twerking grandma video that they linked us to. Less than normal! His words, not mine. Crushing iiiit!

(beat)

BT-dubs, I just want to thank my co-star, the honorable Detective Jessica Mathers -- she made me better in every scene. You know chemistry is a two way street. And some times there are stop lights and some times there are unprotected left hand turns -- but you just keep going. Because... traffic, right?

(faux reflective)

But I'm not gonna let this show go to my head. It's all about finding my center. Staying grounded. Staying mindful. That's why I'm out here reconnecting with nature.

Ryan pans his camera to show a literal PARADE of SHIRTLESS MEN and HALF-NAKED WOMEN with insane bodies all walking up Runyon, taking selfies and shooting videos as they "hike".

RYAN (cont'd)

It's so real up here away from the hustle and bustle of the "LA scene".

YTR

Behind Ryan, a VAMPY GIRL in crazy skimpy booty shorts, holds her phone down below her ass then brings it up to her face where she smiles and gives a peace sign while holding a package of "Flat Tummy Tea" she's hawking.

RYAN (cont'd)  
Awesome tea. Totes works.

At the top of Runyon, Ryan pans the hazy skyline, landing back on himself...

RYAN (cont'd)  
Honestly though you guys, I don't know how the writers are gonna improve on the pilot. Such a barn burner. I mean, seriously -- how do you top opening on a dead body?

HARD CUT TO:

TWO DEAD BODIES

lying on the living room floor. We're...

2 INT. HOLLYWOOD APARTMENT - DAY

2

Ryan, sporting a very strange 18TH CENTURY ARMY OFFICER'S UNIFORM, kneels into frame.

RYAN  
Two dead bodies.

Ryan pulls a pair of sunglasses from his coat, inexplicably putting them on for "dramatic effect".

The crime scene has been taped off. A couple of BEAT COPS stand watching as a PHOTOGRAPHER snaps pictures and CORONERS prepare two gurneys.

MATHERS (O.S.)  
What the fuck are you wearing?

Ryan spins to see JESSICA MATHERS snapping on a pair of rubber gloves.

RYAN  
I've got an audition later.

MATHERS  
Is it to be a talking hand-job?  
Because you're nailing it.

YTR

RYAN

No. It's for Hamilton, the musical?

MATHERS

Do they serve dinner during it?

Mathers pushes past Ryan to take in the dead bodies on the floor.

RYAN

Haw-haw. No -- it's for the movie version. They're doing like an action re-imagining of it without the songs -- I'm going in for Aaron Burr who's like the co-lead. He was played by a black guy in the original, but he was originally originally a white guy, so like, I'm kinda right for it? But not in a racist way or anything. More like returning to the source material or whatever.

MATHERS

Look at me. Look at my eyes. I literally do not give a fuck.

Ryan laughs it off.

RYAN

Hilarious. Great delivery. Anyhow, I binge-watched that milk commercial like a million times to get inside his head as a character. Doing a deep dive on this one. Pete Berg is directing. I hear all the actors are gonna go through Navy Seal training for it. So cool, right? If I get it, it could like totally change my career. I'm just wearing this period plumage to fully immerse myself in the role. Streep says 80% of acting is wardrobe.

MATHERS

Unfortunately, the other 20% is you.

(beat)

Now if you wouldn't mind shutting the fuck up so I can do my job.

RYAN

Our job. For five more episodes. Guaranteed. Partner.

YTR

Ryan smiles smugly. Mathers sighs, but turns her attention back to the bodies and we get our first good look at them: late twenties, MAN and WOMAN, both dressed like they're going to a Renaissance Fair except, bizarrely, the man's wearing the dress and the woman's wearing the pants and puffy shirt (Seinfeld™).

The man has a KNIFE, buried to the hilt, sticking out of his chest and the woman's face is nearly purple, a small VIAL rests inches from her lifeless fingers.

Mathers looks to the BEAT COP standing nearby...

MATHERS

You first on?

BEAT COP

Yeah.

(to Ryan)

Hey, Ry.

RYAN

Hey, Frank. What's good?

BEAT COP

Same old.

They laugh like old pals. Mathers is confused.

MATHERS

You know him?

RYAN

Who? Frank? Course I do. Everyone knows The Franken-ator. Frankenstein!

Ryan and Frank do a fun fist bump thing. Mathers doesn't like it one bit.

BEAT COP

You still owe me twenty bucks, Hansen.

RYAN

No way! You didn't eat the whole thing -- that was the bet!

They yuck it up a bit. Clearly, Ryan's a people person and Mathers is deeply annoyed by that.

MATHERS

Hey -- sorry to interrupt  
international grab-ass hour, but you  
two mind knocking it the fuck off?

Total killjoy. Frank and Ryan straighten up.

BEAT COP

Sorry, Detective.

MATHERS

Run it for me.

BEAT COP

Happened last night. No sign of  
forced entry. Nothing missing from  
the house as far as we can tell. No  
witnesses. Neighbor found him this  
morning. Pretty thin.

MATHERS

We got names?

BEAT COP

John Smith and Jane Dough.

MATHERS

You haven't ID'd them yet?

BEAT COP

No, those are their real names.

MATHERS

God I hate this town.

(beat)

This his place?

BEAT COP

Yeah. She lives off of Melrose.

MATHERS

Do we know what's in the vial?

BEAT COP

Not yet. Lab boys are running it now.

Ryan nods, faking like he's giving this a lot of thought.

RYAN

What's your read on this one?

MATHERS

Well...they're dead.

YTR

RYAN  
 Yeah. Same. Same.  
 (beat)  
 What do you make of their outfits?

MATHERS  
 Maybe they found out they were  
 auditioning for the same role as you  
 and they killed themselves out of  
 shame.

RYAN  
 No chance. These aren't working  
 actors. I'd know.

Mathers shakes her head.

MATHERS  
 Okay, Little Lord Fauntleroy, what  
 you're looking at here is your garden  
 variety murder-suicide, with a  
 sprinkle of "Los Angeles normal"  
 cross-dressing thrown in for funsies.  
 Quick version: yada-yada motivation,  
 she stabs him...

CUT TO:

3 A CSI-STYLE GRAINY FLASHBACK--

3

we watch as Jane stabs John in the chest, then slugs back  
 the vial, instantly frothing and clutching her throat.

MATHERS (V.O.)  
 ...then tosses back whatever Hemlock-  
 light is in that vial there to off  
 herself. No forced entry, his blood  
 literally on her hands. Adds up  
 pretty clean.

BACK TO:

MATHERS  
 But that's what bothers me about it.  
 It's too clean.

Ryan nearly jumps out of his blouse-pants.

RYAN  
 Oh dude! That was sick! Great line.  
 Total trailer moment!  
 (MORE)

YTR

RYAN (cont'd)  
 (mimicking her)  
 "It's too clean." So good. Can I  
 give you a note though? I think you  
 could carve it out a little more if  
 you add some space work to it. Check  
 it.

Ryan squats by the bodies, putting his sunglasses back on.  
 He rises, taking them off as he stares into the distance...

RYAN (cont'd)  
 That's what bothers me about it: it's  
too clean.  
 (breaking)  
 See? Better right? I think you  
 should maybe consider adding a  
 toothpick or a match to your mouth.  
 Like something you're always chewing  
 on? Could be your "thing", plus you  
 know, mouth props.

MATHERS  
 You're a mouth prop.  
 (moving off)  
 Come on.

RYAN  
 Where are we going?

MATHERS  
 Jane Dough's place to see if we can  
 get some answers.

Mathers exits. Ryan calls after her, following...

RYAN  
 Ooh! Or a red coffee straw! Like  
 you're trying to quit caffeine, but  
 we never come out and say it -- it's  
 like a mystery! Baller backstory!

4 INT. MATHERS' CAR - DAY

4

Mathers drives, Ryan rides shotgun. He tugs at his collar,  
 sweating.

MATHERS  
 Why don't you take that thing off.  
 It's like 100 degrees out.

RYAN  
 Art is suffering.

YTR

MATHERS  
Especially when you do it.

RYAN  
Make fun, but I'm gonna nail this  
audition tonight.

MATHERS  
Your audition is tonight?

RYAN  
9pm.

MATHERS  
They hold auditions that late?

RYAN  
It's kind of an after-hours thing.  
The assistant associate casting  
director asked me to come in after  
they're closed. I guess she doesn't  
want me to intimidate the other  
actors. She's even keeping it off  
the books. Very hush hush.

MATHERS  
So...it's a secret audition?

RYAN  
Exactly. I'm pretty much like the  
Zero Dark Thirty of auditioning --  
swoop in at night, kill Osama -- in  
this case Osama would be the  
audition, not like a real person --  
and get out.

(beat)  
So we better solve this case before  
9pm tonight, or you're on your own.  
Cuz nothing is keeping me from  
landing this one.

(into phone)  
Siri, set an alarm for 9pm tonight,  
the moment my life will change  
forever.

SIRI  
True change comes from within.

Ryan scratches his neck...

RYAN  
 Seriously though, I think I might be  
 like legit allergic to wool. Are  
 these neck blisters?

5 EXT. DUPLEX - DAY

5

A modest duplex off of Melrose. Mathers and Ryan approach  
 the front door.

RYAN  
 So what do we know about this place?

MATHERS  
 We know she lived here.

RYAN  
 Ah. Good. Strong clue.

MATHERS  
 Just shut up and let me do the  
 talking.

Mathers knocks on the door. They wait.

RYAN  
 Hey -- you think I should have a  
 badge?

MATHERS  
 No.

RYAN  
 Really?

MATHERS  
 Yes.

Mathers knocks again, louder.

RYAN  
 Why?

MATHERS  
 Because you're a moron and it would  
 be illegal. But mostly the first  
 part.

RYAN  
 How am I supposed to give an  
 authentic performance if you guys  
 won't let me have a gun or a badge?

YTR

MATHERS

I guess you'll just have to rely on the suspension of disbelief.

RYAN

Huh?

MATHERS

Stay here. I'm gonna take a look around back.

RYAN

What do I do if someone comes to the door?

MATHERS

Ask 'em if they want to buy musket insurance.

RYAN

(90% sure)

Ha -- that's not a real thing.

With that, Mathers moves off around back leaving Ryan solo on the doorstep. Unable to be alone with his thoughts for more than three seconds, Ryan pulls out his phone.

He fucks around with some SnapChat face apps: waggy-tongued dog, squeaky-voiced deer, crying baby. Totally normal.

Suddenly, out of the corner of his eye, Ryan spots movement inside the apartment. He cups his hand to the front window and sees

A HOODIED KILLER

clutching a knife, slinking through the empty apartment. Ryan's eyes go wide.

RYAN (cont'd)

Whaaaa?

Suddenly, the bathroom door opens and out steps a stunning SIX-FOOT BLONDE wrapped in a towel having just gotten out of the shower.

She puts in her ear buds and moves off, unwitting. The Killer closes in on her. Ryan whisper-screams for Mathers...

RYAN (cont'd)

Mathers! Mathers!

YTR

Nothing. No answer. The clock is ticking. No time to lose, Ryan breaks into action!

Ryan kicks the door and falls backwards eating shit into some ADJACENT SHRUBBERY. He pops up and throws his shoulder into it. Once, twice, thrice -- BOOM -- the door opens and in rushes our hero.

6 INT. DUPLEX - CONTINUOUS

6

We're hand-held behind the killer as he approaches the girl's back. She unwraps her towel. The Killer raises his knife...

...when suddenly RYAN DIVES AT HIM THROUGH A SIDE DOOR, yelling a warrior's cry...

RYAN  
Clooooooney!

...and tackling the would-be assailant to the ground -- THUD!

The girl SCREAMS -- spinning to see Ryan standing on top of the intruder, clutching the knife.

BLONDE  
What the fuck man!? Who are you?!

RYAN  
I'm Ryan Hansen.

BLONDE  
Who?

RYAN  
The Nickelodeon Slime-Time nominated actor? I just totally saved your life.

BLONDE  
Saved my life? From who?

RYAN  
From like the killer. Duh.

On cue, the Killer groans...

KILLER  
Ow! I think you broke my arm, asshole!

YTR

Ryan looks down and spots the Killer who pulls off his authentic "SCREAM" mask a GoPro strapped to his forehead.

BLONDE  
That's my scene partner, douche.  
We're rehearsing!

Just then, Mathers rushes in, gun drawn.

BLONDE (cont'd)  
Whoa -- what the hell?!

Mathers takes in the situation, putting it together quickly. Her shoulders slump. She sighs...

MATHERS  
Dingbat -- what the fuck did you do?

Ryan looks down at the Killer...

RYAN  
My bad, dawg.

MATCH CUT TO:

RYAN'S FACE ON SCREEN.

we're watching the GoPro footage. It freezes. We're...

7 INT. PRECINCT / CAPTAIN JACKSON'S OFFICE - DAY

7

...where we meet our new captain, SHARON JACKSON.

[Reader's Note: the precinct is shot in the same faux docu-style aesthetic as THE OFFICE.]

Lady Captain Jackson rewinds the tape in disbelief...

CAPTAIN JACKSON  
Did you really yell "Clooney" before attacking?

Mathers and Ryan sit in chairs, hang dog.

RYAN  
George Clooney is my spirit animal.

CAPTAIN JACKSON  
Well, your spirit animal is about to get the city in a serious god damn lawsuit. That Spielberg Scorsese you assaulted is threatening to sue.

YTR

MATHERS

Captain, it was an honest mist--

CAPTAIN JACKSON

Nope. Detective. You don't get to talk. You're on thin enough ice as it is.

RYAN

Honestly, none of this would've happened if I had a badge.

CAPTAIN JACKSON

You want a badge? Become a real cop and stop dressing like you're in the Nutcracker.

RYAN

This is for my Hamilton audition. It's period authentic.

CAPTAIN JACKSON

Well, I'm period authentic pissed off.

RYAN

More genre authentic, but I totally honor that feeling. And before we dialogue further on this, can I just say I think it's such a cool cosmic coincidence that the old Captain Jackson and you share the same last name. Are you guys related?

CAPTAIN JACKSON

Why? Because we're both black?

RYAN

(stunned)

You're black? I honestly didn't notice. I don't see color -- just people. And auras.

(to Mathers)

Did you know she's black? Crazy, right?

Mathers looks like she's about to die.

MATHERS

Captain -- I let him out of my sight for two seconds, it was a mistake and it won't happen again.

(MORE)

YTR

MATHERS (cont'd)  
 We've got a good lead on the case and we'll close it. I promise.

CAPTAIN JACKSON  
 Yeah -- you better close it. And quickly or Vanilla Ice here won't be the only one in this room without a badge.

(beat)  
 Now get the hell out of my office.

Mathers and Ryan slink out. Ryan whispers...

RYAN  
 FYI, I think she meant you on the badge thing.

Mathers shoots him a murderous glare.

8 INT. PRECINCT / INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

8

PARKER STARR, formerly the blonde in the towel, sits opposite Ryan and Mathers...

PARKER STARR  
 What do you mean she's dead?

MATHERS  
 Well I guess I mean it literally.

PARKER STARR  
 I don't understand, I just saw Jane yesterday. She was spending the night at John's -- they were gonna rehearse for the showcase tonight.

RYAN  
 Showcase?

PARKER STARR  
 Yeah -- it's where a bunch of actors do scenes from other plays and movies for casting directors.

RYAN  
 I know what a showcase is. I'm an actor.

PARKER STARR  
 You keep saying that. Would I have seen you on anything?

YTR

RYAN

This. This show that you're literally on right now.

PARKER STARR

This is a show? Who's it for?

RYAN

YouTube Red.

PARKER STARR

Never heard of 'em.

RYAN

No one has. That's the point. My partner and I here are gonna put them on the map. Big time. Kabloom. Emmy. Kabloom Golden Globe. Kabloom other TV award I can't think of right now. Like a SAG or something.

PARKER STARR

Whatever.

RYAN

Yeah -- whatever to you.

Mathers steps in...

MATHERS

Okay ladies, calm down -- can we just focus here. You said she was preparing for a performance?

PARKER STARR

Yeah -- they were doing the death scene from Baz Lurhmann's Romeo & Juliet.

RYAN

That explains the outfits. And they flipped gender roles to keep it fresh. Clever. Makes perfect sense.

MATHERS

None of this makes sense. First of all Romeo & Juliet was written by William Shakespeare.

RYAN

Technically maybe, but Baz's was like way better than the original. Kinda like Ocean's Eleven.

(MORE)

YTR

RYAN (cont'd)  
 Pre-Titanic Leo. Post-Catalano, pre-Homeland Danes. So good. Plus, not to make this a history lesson or anything, but that Roland Emmerich movie totally disproved that Shakespeare even ever existed. So...

Mathers clenches her jaw, trying to ward off a conniption.

MATHERS  
 Never mind.  
 (to Parker)  
 Please, continue.

PARKER STARR  
 Well, they were stressed out about it. I know because we all are. I'm in the class too. Jared and I were rehearsing our scene from *Scream* before Mr. Hero here "saved the day" and broke Jared's arm.

RYAN  
 Allegedly. FYI -- I'm not really approaching my role as a "hero" per se, but more of a troubled protagonist.

PARKER STARR  
 That's such an obvious choice. Look, all I'm saying is tonight's gonna be huge. Some big time agents' assistants are gonna be in the crowd.

RYAN  
 (intrigued)  
 Really? Like who?

MATHERS  
 (cutting in)  
 What's the class called?

PARKER STARR  
 It's Alfonso Diaphano's exotic scene study and review.

MATHERS  
 Alfonso Diaphano? That's an actual human being's name?

RYAN  
 He's only like one of the best acting teachers east of the 405.

(MORE)

YTR

RYAN (cont'd)

He was Taylor Lautner's on-set coach for like all of the Twilight movies. He teaches at this old school place downtown. His class is impossible to get in to.

(to Parker)

You must be good.

PARKER STARR

Better than you.

RYAN

(aside to Mathers)

I don't like her. I think she did it.

MATHERS

Relax.

(to Parker)

Well, it looks for all the world like your roommate, Jane, stabbed her acting partner in the chest and then swallowed some poison to off herself in the process. Quite the little scene stealer, wouldn't you say?

PARKER STARR

That doesn't make any sense.

(beat)

Why would she kill John on the same day he proposed?

Ryan and Mathers share a dumbfounded look.

9 INT. PRECINCT / BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

9

Ryan and Mathers exit the INTERVIEW ROOM and walk toward us through the BULLPEN as we track with them. Ryan checks his phone...

RYAN

She wasn't lying. Look, Jane updated her Facebook page that morning.

JANE DOUGH'S Facebook page: a picture of a modest ENGAGEMENT RING on her hand with the tagline: He asked!!! #HappyWife.

RYAN (cont'd)

I didn't see an engagement ring on her finger.

YTR

MATHERS

That's because there wasn't one.

Mathers mind races. They keep walking. We keep tracking.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Still doesn't explain why his blood was on her hands.

(beat)

We're gonna need some answers.

RYAN

Totally.

Ryan's smirking.

MATHERS

What?

RYAN

We just did our first walk and talk together.

MATHERS

Huh?

RYAN

This whole thing was just a walk & talk one-er. It's like a way to make boring plot stuff less boring for the audience. They did it all the time on The West Wing (so good right?). See how we just went in like a big circle but nothing really happened--

WHACK -- Ryan walks balls-first into a BANISTER BEAM, doubling over and dropping. Mathers doesn't break stride.

MATHERS

That just did.

10 INT. PRECINCT / MEDICAL EXAMINER'S ROOM - DAY

10

The two DEAD BODIES lie on STAINLESS STEEL SLABS as Ryan and Mathers get the lowdown from PRIYA DAS (30s) a sober Indian-American Medical Examiner. She pulls down her exam mask, revealing a strikingly beautiful face.

PRIYA DAS

We got the lab results back an hour go.

YTR

Ryan is stunned...

RYAN  
Whoa -- time out -- you're crazy hot.

PRIYA DAS  
Excuse me?

RYAN  
No, I mean that in a good way. Plus, your face is like totally diverse.

PRIYA DAS  
What the hell does that mean?

RYAN  
I'm just saying you could play a doctor on TV or something.

PRIYA DAS  
I'm a doctor in real life.

RYAN  
Yeah -- but you could be one on TV.

PRIYA DAS  
Why would I want to do that?

Ryan is utterly flummoxed by that response.

RYAN  
Huh?

MATHERS  
I'm gonna step in here. What did the labs tell you?

PRIYA DAS  
She drank a concentrated form of a chemical compound NaOH.

RYAN  
Sodium Hydroxide.  
(off Mathers look)  
I played a "cool" chemistry teacher for a three ep arc on Heart of Dixie season five. No biggie.

PRIYA DAS  
He's right. Sodium Hydroxide is the active ingredient in Drano. Highly corrosive. She basically chugged acid.

YTR

MATHERS

Ugly way to go. What about the blood on her hands?

PRIYA DAS

We tested it and it isn't his and it's not hers either.

RYAN

Oh shit -- is it alien blood?

MATHERS

Ignore him. I don't follow. You're saying there was a third party?

MEDICAL EXAMINER

No. I'm saying it's not anyone's blood. Because it's not blood at all.

RYAN

It's stage blood.

PRIYA DAS

Corn syrup and red food coloring.

To prove her point, Priya runs her gloved finger along the "blood" on Jane, licking it. Ryan gags.

PRIYA DAS (cont'd)

Your partner's correct.

MATHERS

We're not partners. He's a sanctioned civilian observer.

RYAN

I'm getting a badge.

MATHERS

No he's not.

RYAN

It's being discussed.

MATHERS

(to Priya)

I don't understand, why would she bother with stage blood if she was gonna stab him anyway?

Priya picks up an EVIDENCE BAG holding the KNIFE.

YTR

PRIYA DAS

This is a prop knife. The blade is suppose to retract on impact, but someone blocked the mechanism inside of it, locking it in place.

MATHERS

So this wasn't a murder-suicide.

RYAN

This was a murder-murder sitch.

Mathers just stares at Ryan.

MATHERS

Seriously? What's wrong with you?

RYAN

What? I'm sorry I don't know the fancy term, okay? It's only the second episode. We need a technical adviser on this show.

MATHERS

I swear to god I'm not gonna make it. Look, Streisand, this means there's a killer out there and we've gotta find him.

RYAN

(proudly correcting)

Or her. It could be a her -- women can be murderers too. They're just as good at killing as men are. Equality, you know? I'm with her.

Ryan shoots the camera a little "you're welcome" glance.

MATHERS

Let's go.

RYAN

Where to?

MATHERS

Whoever fixed the prop knife also clearly replaced the fake poison in her vial with the real stuff. And whoever did that, had to know that they were doing that particular scene for the showcase -- which means the killer is in that stupid acting class.

YTR

RYAN

Whoa -- that was awesome. You're like the first half of A Beautiful Mind.

MATHERS

Come on, we don't have a lot of time.

RYAN

One sec...

Ryan turns to Priya...

RYAN (cont'd)

Hey Doc Bollywood, I've got some light smile lines coming in here and here. Can you just hit 'em real quick before we go.

PRIYA DAS

Are you asking me for Botox?

RYAN

Just a quick poke-er-roo with the ol' freeze juice and we'll be on our way. We're gonna be on the confessional couch later and that lens can be like super unforgiving.

MATHERS

Are you fucking serious right now?

RYAN

Oh and she could use it too. Like a lot. Like pretty much everywhere. Hose her down.

(stage whisper)

She's from Cleveland.

PRIYA DAS

Gross.

RYAN

Right?

11 EXT. DOWNTOWN LA BLACK BOX THEATER - DAY

11

Establishing. I have nothing else to say about this.

YTR

12 INT. DOWNTOWN LA BLACK BOX THEATER - DAY

12

Mathers and Ryan talk with a scarf-wearing ALFONSO DIAPHANO (60s) who flutters about the space getting things ready for the big show tonight. Actors rehearse in the background.

MATHERS

Mr. Diaphano, thanks for the time, is there anyone in the showcase tonight that might've had a reason to dislike Jane or John?

ALFONSO DIAPHANO

Darling -- try everyone. Jane and John were far and away the best actors in the class and tonight they would've shown it by blowing all the other performers off the stage. I bet half of them are secretly thrilled those two won't be going on tonight. The spotlight, after all, is only so big.

RYAN

So true. So true.

ALFONSO DIAPHANO

Do I know you from something?

RYAN

Probably. I'm Ryan Hansen.

ALFONSO DIAPHANO

(long beat)

Nope.

Alfonso moves on, Mathers and Ryan follow.

MATHERS

I'm sorry, you're telling me an actor would kill another actor just for a chance to get noticed?

Alfonso looks to Ryan confused. He explains...

RYAN

She's from Cleveland.

Alfonso makes a face like he caught a whiff of something.

MATHERS

I know, I know -- "gross".

YTR

Suddenly, Alfonso gets a text message. He checks it.

ALFONSO DIAPHANO

I'm sorry. I must go. Ashton has an on-set scene emergency. They want him to keep his shirt on. The fools.

(beat)

Good luck finding the "killer" -- so dramatic!

With that, Alfonso sashays off. Ryan turns to Mathers.

RYAN

Look -- there's only one way to solve this crime and catch the killer. You thinking what I'm thinking?

MATHERS

I can promise you I'm not.

RYAN

(jazz hands)

It's a...

13 INT. WELL-LIT SOFA - DAY

13

RYAN

...Showcase showdown!

On the Modern Family-style confessional couch, Ryan and Mathers address the camera directly.

RYAN (cont'd)

We're going undercover at tonight's to do. We find that engagement ring, we find the killer. Right, partner?

MATHERS

We're not partners.

RYAN

You're right. We're not partners. We're more important than that to each other now. We're scene partners.

MATHERS

This is going to be unbearable.

YTR

RYAN  
 (excited)  
 I know, right? And I have the  
perfect scene for us to do together.

14 INT. DOWNTOWN LA BLACK BOX THEATER / STAGE - NIGHT

14

A HALF-FULL AUDIENCE watches Ryan and Mathers, both soaking wet and dressed like McAdams & Gosling from The Notebook, standing center stage. A makeshift "rain machine" offers up a two-foot wide deluge directly over Ryan.

Mathers gives the stiffest reading imaginable, checking her palm for cribbed lines as she goes.

MATHERS  
 Why didn't you write me? Why? It  
 wasn't over for me. I waited for you  
 for seven years. And now it is too  
 late.

Ryan chews the scenery...

RYAN  
 I wrote you 365 letters. I wrote you  
 every day for a year.

Mathers misses her cue. Ryan prompts her. She reluctantly obliges...

MATHERS  
 You wrote me?

RYAN  
 Yes. It wasn't over. It still isn't  
 over.

Ryan goes to pull Mathers in for the big movie star kiss moment but she quickly pivots and hip-tosses Ryan to the stage in a slick Judu move.

Ryan writhes. Mathers bows and gives a genuine smile, pleased with herself. A confused crowd applauds lightly.

15 INT. DOWNTOWN LA THEATER / BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

15

Ryan and Mathers come off stage. Ryan is hot...

RYAN  
 What the hell was that?

YTR

MATHERS

I'm sorry okay? It was a reaction.  
I thought you were attacking me.

RYAN

Attacking you?! With my mouth?

MATHERS

How was I supposed to know -- I've  
never seen the movie, okay?

RYAN

(horrified)

You've never seen The Notebook???

MATHERS

I don't like movies. I find them  
hard to believe.

RYAN

I can't even with you.

Ryan moves to a WALL OF HEADSHOTS and starts pulling them  
down, one after the other.

MATHERS

What the hell are you doing?

RYAN

Our job. These are all the head  
shots for the actors in the showcase  
tonight. On the back are their  
resumes. At the bottom of every  
acting resume is a little section  
called, "special skills" which no one  
ever reads. Except me, right now,  
because whoever our killer is...

MATHERS

...has to have a background in  
Chemistry.

RYAN

I was gonna say probably studied  
Meisner. But that could work too.

Mathers starts pulling off head shots too. They scan them  
tossing them aside as they go. Ryan shakes his head...

RYAN (cont'd)

Seriously -- rollerblading counts?

YTR

MATHERS  
Hello there. Guess who minored in  
Organic Chemistry at Baylor?

Mathers turns her phone to show Ryan...

RYAN  
Told ya...

HARD CUT TO:

PARKER STARR,  
wrapped in a robe, putting on make-up in a BACKSTAGE MIRROR.

RYAN (O.S.)  
...women can be killers too.

Reveal Ryan and Mathers in the mirror. Parker spins.

MATHERS  
Not a lot of six-foot blondes know  
how to synthesize sodium hydroxide  
from liquid plumber.

RYAN  
And only one person in Alfonso's  
class does.

MATHERS  
You're under arrest, gigantor.

RYAN  
Honestly -- this all feels a little  
straight forward to me. I was hoping  
for more of a twist ending.

On cue, a gun slides into frame pointed right at the back of  
Ryan's head.

JARED (O.S.)  
How's this for a twist?

Reveal: JARED, Parker's scene partner from the GoPro shoot.

RYAN  
More of a reveal, but I'll take it.

Jared, sporting a cast on his broken arm, shoves Ryan and  
Mathers DEEPER BACK STAGE, away from everyone, as Parker  
joins his side smiling smugly.

YTR

PARKER STARR

There was no way we were going to let those two steal the show tonight. I'm the one who got Jane into this class in the first place.

MATHERS

So you killed your friend just for a performance?

PARKER STARR

She wasn't my friend, she was my competition. But that's not why I killed her.

Parker pulls on her necklace, revealing Jane's ENGAGEMENT RING.

PARKER STARR (cont'd)

I killed her because I was in love with her. And if I couldn't have her, no one could.

RYAN

Oh shit -- lesbian stuff. This is so HBO, I love it. Plus it really connects with our LGBTQ demo.

MATHERS

Oh I get it. You're not "actor crazy" you're just crazy-crazy. What's your plan, sweetheart? Kill us both? Make it look like another murder-suicide?

PARKER STARR

Why not? After the performance you two gave, anyone would believe you left the stage and immediately killed yourselves.

RYAN

How dare you.

Ryan lunges forward -- Mathers steps in front of him, holding him back.

Just then, a CHUBBY DUDE dressed like Uma Thurman from Kill Bill steps in...

KILL BILL DUDE

Parker, you guys are up next -- whoa.

YTR

He stops short at the sight. Parker and Jared are momentarily distracted. Mathers takes advantage -- knocking the gun from Jared's hand.

Instantly, it's chaos -- Ryan grabs for Parker who slips out of his grasp leaving him with a handful of terry cloth robe, revealing herself to only be wearing skimpy black lace undies and heels. Distracting to say the least.

Mathers pulls her gun but is flattened by the Kill Bill Dude who Jared shoves at her, snatching up his own gun and running toward the stage.

Parker takes off in the opposite direction, grabbing the Kill Bill Dude's KATANA SWORD as she goes -- slamming through a door that's marked ROOF ACCESS.

Ryan and Mathers pop up together...

RYAN

You go after him, I'll handle her.

Mathers rolls her eyes: typical.

RYAN (cont'd)

What? She's the one without a gun.

MATHERS

Just go!

The partners split up.

16 INT. DOWNTOWN LA BLACK BOX THEATER / STAGE - MOMENTS LATER 16

Jared comes rushing out on stage interrupting a very emotional scene from Fast and Furious (apparently Dominic Torretto lives his life a quarter of a mile at a time).

Jared leaps from the stage and hurries down the center aisle just as Mathers appears from behind the curtain.

MATHERS

Freeze! LAPD!

BANG!-BANG! Jared fires a couple of pot-shots before exiting through a SIDE DOOR. Mathers dives out of the way.

The actors are confused, but crowd loves it, pulling out their phones; filming and posing for "Peace Sign" selfies as the action unfolds behind them.

YTR

Mathers shakes her heads in disgust as she sprints past these Los Angeles idiots...

MATHERS (cont'd)  
Someone call 911!

She pounds through the side door in hot pursuit.

17 EXT. DOWNTOWN LA BLACK BOX THEATER / ROOFTOP - NIGHT

17

Ryan pushes through the ACCESS DOOR onto the roof. Steam vents and the downtown skyline give the whole thing a lush LA Noire vibe.

Ryan scans the rooftop, no sign of Parker. He pivots back and suddenly ducks, barely avoiding decapitation from the leggy blonde's home run swing -- THWACK! Steam shoots out of a freshly severed pipe as a wild-eyed Parker steps into her light...

PARKER STARR  
You thought I was a guest star on your show?! Wrong! You're just a day player on mine!

She attacks, unleashing a flurry of swings as Ryan scrambles back narrowly dodging each one.

It's an odd, albeit kinda sexy, sight as a six foot model in five inch heels, swings a four foot sword in her underwear.

RYAN  
(ducking)  
Don't you think this is a little gratuitous?  
(ducking)  
I mean, I can't really tell if this is super misogynistic or like a female empowerment thing? Can you?

Another swing sparks off of stone as Ryan jumps out of the way.

18 EXT. DOWNTOWN LA BLACK BOX THEATER / ALLEY - NIGHT

18

Jared hustles toward us just as Mathers pops into the alley from the side door. He fires at her. She dives for cover.

YTR

He's got her pinned, but Mathers spots something. She fires two precise shots -- clipping a FIRE ESCAPE LADDER just above Jared's head. The heavy iron ladder comes down like a guillotine, clonking Jared on the head. Out cold.

Mathers rushes up to him, kicking his gun away and cuffing him to the ladder. Then she hears a GIRL SHRIEK. She looks up to see Ryan standing on the ledge of the roof, his back to her.

MATHERS

Shit.

She takes off running.

19 EXT. DOWNTOWN LA BLACK BOX THEATER / ROOFTOP - NIGHT

19

His Jordan 6's on the edge of the coping, Ryan's out of real estate. Parker smiles...

PARKER STARR

Any last words?

(beat)

Wait -- I'm sorry, featured extras aren't allowed to speak.

She raises her sword when suddenly...

RYAN

Wait! Wait -- okay?!

Something in Ryan's tone give Parker pause. Gone is his glib charm, this is now something real for him...

RYAN (cont'd)

I get it. I know why you killed her. I know what it's like to love something that doesn't love you back.

(beat)

I've been a working actor for over a decade, but most people confuse me with Ryan Phillippe. And I've finally, after all these years, got my own show and it's not even on television. It's on a website that most people think they jerk off to.

(beat)

I know your pain, Parker. I'm the same as you. We all hurt.

Moved by his words, all the fire goes out of Parker, she lowers her sword...

YTR

PARKER STARR

Thank you.

RYAN

No, thank you.

(beat)

Can I just ask you one thing?

PARKER STARR

Sure. What?

RYAN

Who's your favorite Batman?

Huh? Parker doesn't follow. Then we hear the cry...

MATHERS (O.S.)

Clooooney!

Parker spins just in time to take a crisp right cross to the jaw from Mathers -- CLUNK. The spindly blonde goes down in a heap of knees and elbows, one punch knock out.

Ryan looks to Mathers...

RYAN

Took you long enough.

MATHERS

I didn't want to interrupt your monologue.

Mathers cuffs Parker, helping her to her wobbly feet.

RYAN

Case closed. Cue the sirens.

Indeed, the sound of police sirens. Parker scowls at Ryan...

PARKER STARR

You tricked me!

RYAN

(big smile)

It's called acting, bitch. Look it up.

Mathers drags her off. Ryan watches smugly, then...

SIRI

Your Hamilton audition starts now.

YTR

Ryan curses, he can't believe he forgot. Devastating.

20 EXT. DOWNTOWN LA BLACK BOX THEATER - NIGHT

20

Flashing lights and a lovely little crane shot let us know that we've reached the aftermath.

Parker and Jared are shoved into the back of a waiting squad car as Mathers and Ryan walk toward us...

MATHERS

I'm sorry you missed your big audition.

RYAN

(glum)  
Thanks.

Mathers tries to buck him up...

MATHERS

Look -- it's an aftermath scene. You love aftermath scenes.

RYAN

Yeah. I guess so.

Just then, a 22 year-old AGENT'S ASSISTANT in a suit approaches gushing over Mathers...

AGENT'S ASSISTANT

You were incredible! "Freeze LAPD!"  
Amazing! So authentic!

He hands her his card.

AGENT'S ASSISTANT (cont'd)

I work in Adam Venit's office at WME.  
Call me, I can get you work tomorrow.

MATHERS

I'm not an actress. I'm a cop.

AGENT'S ASSISTANT

Method! I love it! Don't change.

He moves off. Mathers just shakes her head...

MATHERS

I think he still had his baby teeth.  
You want this?

YTR

She offers his card to Ryan who shakes his head, defeated.

RYAN  
I just wanna go home.

Ryan moves off. We hold on Mathers feeling for him.

21 INT. RYAN'S SIT COM HOME SET - DAY

21

AMY and Ryan's THREE GIRLS sit at the kitchen table with JON CRYER, each with multiple devices in front of them (laptops, iPhones, iPads, etc.) tapping away feverishly. Ryan's youngest complains...

YOUNGEST DAUGHTER  
Mommy, my finger hurts.

AMY  
I know, honey. Just a couple more hours -- Daddy needs as many clicks as possible for his show to stay on the internet.

JON CRYER  
I love this -- it's like the cutest little sweatshop ever.

The STUDIO AUDIENCE laughs.

OLDEST DAUGHTER  
Mom -- how come I haven't seen a single ad for stuff I don't want and can't skip on YouTube?

AMY  
That's because you're not on YouTube -- you're on YouTube Red. YouTube's Premium Subscription Service channel.  
(to camera)  
It's a bargain at only \$9.99 a month.

MIDDLE DAUGHTER  
Like NetFlix?

AMY  
Well, they both cost the same.

OLDEST DAUGHTER  
I wanna watch The Crown.

YTR

AMY

Well all do, honey. Well all do.  
Keep clicking.

JON CRYER

Hang on -- you guys are on YouTube  
Red?

(realizing)

Well, that explains a lot.

AMY

What site have you been on this whole  
time?

Amy moves to look at Jon's laptop. He quickly closes it,  
standing up.

JON CRYER

A very different website with a very  
similar name. But the categories  
section make a lot more sense now.

The audience laughs knowingly. Cryer moves to the door just  
as it opens and in walks Ryan. The audience cheers his  
entrance.

YOUNGEST DAUGHTER

Daddy!

All three girls rush their father. He kneels down for a  
hug. It makes him smile.

MIDDLE DAUGHTER

We've been clicking on your show to  
help you stay internet famous, even  
though we can't watch The Crown on  
it.

OLDEST DAUGHTER

Or Stranger Things.

YOUNGEST DAUGHTER

Or Narcos.

MIDDLE DAUGHTER

Or House of Cards.

The effort melts Ryan.

RYAN

Aw -- thanks, guys.

YTR

AMY  
Why hello there, white Aaron Burr.  
How'd the big audition go?

RYAN  
It didn't. I missed it.

AMY  
You missed it? Oh no -- why?

MATHERS (O.S.)  
Because he was helping me solve a  
case.

Mathers enters. The audience cheers. She's still not used to it.

MATHERS  
I couldn't have done it without him.

Ryan nods a thank you to Mathers.

AMY  
Well, there will be other auditions.

JON CRYER  
Not for Hamilton there won't.  
Byeeee!

The crowd laughs as Jon Cryer scoots off waving to them.

RYAN  
That's okay. I don't need Hamilton,  
I've got you guys.

A big family hug. The crowd "Awwws". The hug ends. Ryan turns to Mathers.

RYAN (cont'd)  
See ya tomorrow.

MATHERS  
See ya tomorrow.

Mathers goes to the door, but stops and turns back.

MATHERS (cont'd)  
Hey Haircut --

Ryan turns.

MATHERS (cont'd)  
Catch.

YTR

Mathers tosses him something. He catches it. Then looks to see it's a SHINY GOLD BADGE.

RYAN  
Are you serious?

MATHERS  
It's a meter maid's badge, but I don't think anyone will notice.  
(then)  
See you tomorrow...scene partner.

It's a warm moment. The crowd reacts appropriately. Ryan smiles. Mathers nods back. Jon Cryer pops back in...

JON CRYER  
Does anyone know how to clear a browser history? Asking for a friend.

The audience laughs. So does everyone on stage. FREEZE.

END OF EPISODE.

22 INT. SMALL ROOM - DAY

22

A VIDEO RECORDING stutters to life as Ryan steps back and takes his mark, addressing the lens.

RYAN  
Ryan Hansen, self-tape audition for the role of Aaron Burr in Hamilton: American Vengeance.

Ryan turns left and right, offering profiles. He squares up, takes a breath, then lets it rip.

RYAN (cont'd)  
Too bad, Alexander. When the bomb I've strapped your chest to goes off, your dream of an America with a strong central government goes with it. I guess I, Aaron Burr, am finally in "the room where it happens."  
(then)  
What? George Washington? How did you get in here-- NOOOO!

Suddenly, Ryan starts jerk his body all over the place as though he were getting shot to death. In slow motion. With sound effects.

YTR

This goes on for awhile.

Ryan finally dies, pulling the backdrop sheet down with him.

Breathless, he pops back into frame.

RYAN (cont'd)

And scene.