

HBO

REVISED SHOOTING DRAFT

UNDER OPENING CREDITS, WE HEAR:

BEVERLY (V.O.)

"As opposed to Leno, who boldly reinvented his "Tonight Show", Larry Sanders, heading into his ninth year, is exactly the same. The new backdrop gives the show a much needed lift. And the writing is not at fault. The reason for the show's spiralling decline rests squarely on the shoulders of its star and host, Larry Sanders.

A beat.

BEVERLY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Oh lord, I'm going to faint.

FADE IN:

1 INT. BULLPEN - MORNING (DAY 1)

1

PHIL, BRIAN and BEVERLY are gathered around reading the review.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

"To put it simply, Larry has completely lost his edge." I don't wanna read this.

Phil takes the review from her.

PHIL

Let me see.

(reading)

"As a child, Larry must have been cruelly starved for love by Mom and Dad. You can see the neediness on his face from the moment Larry begins what he calls a monologue, but what I call a desperate cry for love." Jesus, Tom Shales really hates Larry.

BRIAN

This is the worst review of all.

The phone rings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIAN (CONT'D)
(re; phone)
That's yours.

Beverly picks it up.

BEVERLY
(into phone)
Hello?

PHIL
Larry's going to be in a shit mood
and throw out all the monologue
jokes. Fuck.

BRIAN
It's all about you, isn't it?

BEVERLY
(into phone)
Mom, there is no silver lining in
this. Oh? Oh really? Then you tell
me the silver lining!

ARTHUR walks up to Beverly's desk.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
(into phone)
No, this is worse than the time he
said Larry's face looked puffy.

ARTHUR
Beverly, tell your mother goodbye.

BEVERLY
Mom, please stop crying. I have to
go...I am not sassing you, Mother.

Arthur takes the phone.

ARTHUR
Nancy, it's Arthur. Everything's
going to be fine here. Please, don't
call back for a couple of days.
Thanks, Sugar.

He hangs up and addresses the bullpen.

CONTINUED: (2)

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Listen, everyone. I'm sure you all want to show Larry your concern and support. But concern and support makes Larry think something is wrong. So let's just act like nothing has happened. And Phil?

PHIL

Yes, sir?

ARTHUR

Those are the last two words I want to hear out of your mouth.

LARRY enters the bullpen.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Good morning, Master Sanders.

LARRY

Morning.

PHIL

Great show last night, Larry.

LARRY

Last night was a rerun.

PHIL

Yes, but one of the really funny ones.

LARRY

You know, I used to be a bikini model for the "I Can't Believe It's A Guy Catalogue". Is that funny?

PHIL

Didn't we do that joke last week?

Larry looks at Phil for a beat, then walks into his office. Arthur turns to Phil and points his finger.

ARTHUR

What did I tell you?

CUT TO:

2 INT. LARRY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (DAY 1)

2

Larry enters, followed by Arthur.

LARRY
What's with them?

ARTHUR
I don't know. They're just a bunch
of fucking weirdos.

LARRY
You can be honest with me.

ARTHUR
Okay.

A beat.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
We had a surprise fire drill and
they're all still a little edgy.

LARRY
Oh.

ARTHUR
And Brian, well, where do I start?

LARRY
I see.

ARTHUR
And Phil found a mysterious lump
right near the crack of his ass.

Larry stares at Arthur.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
Okay. They read the review.

LARRY
What review?

ARTHUR
Oh, you want me to review? Phil
found a mysterious lump on his ass.

LARRY
What did it say?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARTHUR

Oh. I don't know. It was pretty much a rave.

LARRY

Evidently, you and I must have read completely different reviews.

ARTHUR

I thought we were being honest. I can't work like this.

Arthur throws his hands up in the air.

LARRY

What did I do to Tom Shales? This is the third time he's come after me. First it was hairplugs, then my face was puffy, and now I'm needy? What's he gonna say next time, that my cock is on backwards?

ARTHUR

Oh, what the fuck does Shales know? Remember what he said about Conan O'Brien? That he's stiff and awkward.

LARRY

Conan O'Brien is stiff and awkward.

ARTHUR

Larry, don't do this. You've gotten thousands of wonderful reviews. Every night the studio is filled with people who love you, not to mention the eighteen point two million adoring fans watching at home.

LARRY

They're not watching me, they're fucking.

ARTHUR

They could be fucking with anyone in the background, but they choose Larry.

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED: (2)

2

LARRY

It's not fair. This guy can say whatever he wants about me and I can't do anything because I'm famous. At least if I was in a bar and he said I looked puffy, I could ask him to step out in the alley.

ARTHUR

And do what?

LARRY

I am speaking in hypotheticals, Artie.

CUT TO:

3

INT. HANK'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS (DAY 1)

3

HANK is listening intently while Brian reads.

BRIAN

"You can see the neediness on his face from the moment Larry begins what he calls a monologue, but what I call a desperate cry for love."

A long beat.

HANK

Read it again.

BRIAN

I'm telling you Hank, your name's not in it.

HANK

I know. I dodged a bullet. I just wonder what I'm going to say to Larry. I'll have to choose my words carefully. Read it again.

The phone rings. Brian picks it up.

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED:

3

BRIAN

Hank Kingsley's office. Oh, hi David. I can't talk right now. Well how come when you say we can't talk about it, we don't talk about it, but -- I didn't say you were stupid.

He looks up. Hank is staring at him.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I will talk to you about this later. Okay? Goodbye.

Brian hangs up.

HANK

Who was that?

BRIAN

I'm sorry. That was my--

HANK

Your "roommate".

BRIAN

Yeah. Anyway, where were we?

HANK

What's the matter?

BRIAN

Nothing.

HANK

Come on, you can talk to me.

BRIAN

Well, I can't live like this. I'm walking on eggshells. Everything I say to David seems wrong. The only time it's good is when we're making love, and sometimes afterwards --

HANK

Read it again.

BRIAN

The review?

HANK

Anything.

CUT TO:

4 INT. LARRY'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS (DAY 1) 4

Arthur is still working on Larry.

ARTHUR

So there's a void. La vita es sueno.
Life is a dream. Nothing is real.
The trees aren't real. The mountains
aren't real. Nothing is solid and
none of this really matters. Look,
they just found a rock from Mars
that's got life on it. So who gives a
fuck?

LARRY

I do.

ARTHUR

Let's go to a strip joint after the
show. It'll be fun. I'll get us a
couple of free passes. They've got a
new girl from Tasmania.

Beverly enters.

BEVERLY

Larry, Bill Maher's on line three.

She exits.

ARTHUR

That's nice. That means he likes
you.

LARRY

He smells blood.

BILL (V.O.)

I heard that, Larry.

LARRY

Sorry, Bill. The button on this
phone sticks sometimes.

BILL (V.O.)

Jesus Christ, what does Tom Shales
have against you?

LARRY

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILL (V.O.)

Well, I'm a big fan and I'm sorry you have to go through this. How are you feeling?

LARRY

Not bad.

BILL (V.O.)

Real bad?

LARRY

Not too bad.

BILL (V.O.)

Tom Shales is tough. Well, I'd better hop off. I have to get ready for the show.

LARRY

Who you got?

BILL (V.O.)

Richard Lewis, Willie Brown, and Darryl Gates.

LARRY

Who's the fourth guest?

A silent beat.

BILL (V.O.)

Tom Shales. But I won't let him talk about you. The topic is school uniforms

LARRY

I'm wearing a school uniform.

BILL (V.O.)

See, you're the funniest. Bye.

Larry hits the button.

LARRY

He is such an asshole.

BILL (V.O.)

I heard that, Larry.

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED: (2)

4

LARRY
Sorry, Bill.

Larry picks up the receiver and drops it back down.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Beverly?

Beverly enters.

BEVERLY
Yes Larry?

LARRY
Call maintenance and have them fix
the button on this phone. It's
sticking.

BEVERLY
Right away. And Dennis Miller's on
line two.

LARRY
Jesus. It's an asshole parade.

ARTHUR
A fucking feeding frenzy.

Larry hits the button on the phone.

LARRY
Hello?

DENNIS (V.O.)
Larry, it's Dennis. Tommy Shales
taking a little swing at ya, huh
babe?

ARTHUR
Hey, Dennis, it's Artie.

DENNIS
Hey Arturo, you're the king.

ARTHUR
Right back at 'cha.

DENNIS (V.O.)
How's Larry taking this? Bad?

ARTHUR
Not bad.

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED: (3)

4

DENNIS (V.O.)
Really bad?

ARTHUR
He's doing fine.

DENNIS (V.O.)
That guy Shales fucking killed me on
the Tribune show. Him and some of my
own management people. There was
nothing wrong with that show. I'm
doing the same show now and I'm a
hit.

LARRY
Yeah, listen, good talking to you,
Dennis.

DENNIS (V.O.)
Hey, you were the first one on the
horn when my show hit the iceberg. I
don't forget my friends, Larry.
Okay, bye, bye.

Dennis hangs up.

LARRY
I've got to get out of here before
Chuck Grodin calls.

CUT TO:

5 INT. KITCHENETTE - LATER (DAY 1)

5

Hank is standing in the kitchenette eating a donut. Larry
startles him.

HANK
Oh, Larry. I didn't see you there.

LARRY
Well, it's a big kitchen.

Hank laughs.

HANK
You're funny.

LARRY
Tom Shales doesn't think so.

(CONTINUED)

5

CONTINUED:

5

HANK

By the way, I want you to know that I thought that review was just awful. So unfair.

LARRY

I appreciate that.

HANK

That review hurt me as much as it hurt you. Maybe more. Even though my name wasn't mentioned.

LARRY

Do you like the new curtain?

HANK

Oh my God. I love it. Everybody loves the new curtain.

LARRY

There is no new curtain.

Larry exits. After a moment Brian walks up with a clipboard and a pen.

HANK

He is one piece of work.

Brian hands the clipboard to him and he signs it.

BRIAN

Did you talk to him about the review?

HANK

Yes. I did. But it's hard because if you don't say exactly the right thing, he just cuts you off.

BRIAN

David is exactly the same way. If you don't say the right thing he just...

HANK / BRIAN

.....Cuts you off.

HANK (CONT'D)

That must be hard to live with.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

BRIAN

It's been very hard. I mean,
sometimes when we're in bed together
and I'll just want to touch, you
know? But he just.....

Hank exits.

CUT TO:

6 INT. BACKSTAGE - LATER (NIGHT 1)

6

We hear Hank doing his intro as Larry goes over the cue
cards with Sid.

LARRY

Sid, would you print the letters
bigger, like Leno's? Because I'm
squinting and squinting makes me look
needy.

Sid gives Larry a "thumbs up" and exits. Arthur walks
through the curtain.

ARTHUR

Terrific crowd. Ready for a great
show?

LARRY

Yeah.

ARTHUR

Let us remember the lesson taught to
us by the great Joanie Rivers.

LARRY

Don't do a TV movie with my daughter?

ARTHUR

No.

LARRY

Don't sell jewelry?

ARTHUR

Don't get caught up in the press and
what they say about you.

LARRY

But I can still sell jewelry, right?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

ARTHUR

Sure. Put me down for a Larry Sanders charm bracelet. Go get 'em, Tiger.

Arthur laughs and opens the curtain. Larry walks out on stage.

CUT TO:

VIDEO

7 INT. TALK SHOW SET - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT 1)

7

Larry enters through the curtain and does his monologue.

LARRY

(INSERT MONOLOGUE HERE)
Do I look needy tonight? Maybe somebody could tell me.

Larry reaches over to some props he has placed near the band. He puts on a pair of dark sunglasses. He hangs a sign around his neck that reads "NEEDY TALK SHOW HOST" and holds out a tin cup to the audience. They applaud.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Okay. Now I look needy, Tom Shales. We've got a great show so stick around. No flipping.

ANGLE ON:

FILM:

ARTHUR'S MONITOR - SIMULTANEOUS

Arthur puts on his show face and smiles to the crowd, holding his roll aloft.

ARTHUR

(under his breath)
Shit, shit, shit.

CUT TO:

8 INT. BULLPEN - THE NEXT MORNING (DAY 2)

8

Beverly is standing outside Larry's door. Larry is yelling inside.

LARRY (V.O.)
Goddammit. I don't deserve this.

Brian walks up.

BRIAN
We have Sally Field and Sting on the show tonight. Larry should be in a great mood.

LARRY (V.O.)
What the hell did I do? Can somebody tell me? I'm nice to people.

Suddenly, we hear something hit Larry's door and shatter. Beverly and Brian flinch.

BRIAN
What is going on?

Beverly hands Brian a copy of USA Today. He looks at it.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
It's ninety-five in Phoenix?

BEVERLY
Not that.

Beverly points to an article.

BRIAN
(reading)
"The Larry Sanders/Tom Shales feud heated up last night when Sanders ridiculed critic Tom Shales in his monologue. Shales fired back this morning by saying, "I don't mind that he made a joke about me, I just wish it was funny. But he's such a sad-eyed clown I got bored and switched to Letterman."

Brian looks at Beverly.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Tom Shales is crazy. Letterman was
terrible last night.

CUT TO:

9 INT. LARRY'S OFFICE - SAME TIME (DAY 2)

9

Larry is sitting at his desk, his head in his hands.

LARRY
Goddammit. I try to keep the show
on track. It's like a relationship.
How can you please someone night
after night? The show can only vary
so much.

Arthur enters from the hallway door and sits down. Larry
doesn't even notice.

ARTHUR
Sorry I took so long.

Larry looks up at Arthur.

LARRY
Where were you?

ARTHUR
I went to the bathroom.

In the background we hear Sting as he rehearses the song
"King of Pain" from the stage.

LARRY
I wasn't even aware you were gone.
I'm losing my mind. How's your
stone?

ARTHUR
Still moving south.
(re: Sting rehearsing)
Sting sounds great, doesn't he?

LARRY
Would you please tell him to quiet
down? He's been doing that same
song all morning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARTHUR

Larry, this situation is your fault. You've taken a bad review and turned it into a story. I begged you not to respond.

Larry listens to the sound coming from the stage.

LARRY

What is that song?

ARTHUR

"King of Pain".

LARRY

What is he, an asshole?

CUT TO:

A9 INT. HALLWAY - LATER (NIGHT 2)

A9

Arthur is at the elevator as SALLY FIELD steps off.

ARTHUR

Ah, there she is, the delightful Miss Field, a true movie star and the still definitive 'Gidget'.

SALLY FIELD

Hello, Arthur.

ARTHUR

We are so happy to have you on the show.

SALLY FIELD

I'm so fucking nervous. I don't like doing talk shows.

ARTHUR

That's exactly what Larry says.

Sally Field laughs.

(CONTINUED)

A9 CONTINUED:

A9

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

But not to worry. You are with the sherpa of talk show hosts. He will lead you through the most difficult of mountain passes. Let me show you to your dressing room.

Sally Field and Arthur exit. Brian crosses the hallway. He sees DAVID.

DAVID

Brian.

BRIAN

What are you doing here?

DAVID

We have to talk.

CUT TO:

10 INT. MAKE-UP ROOM - BEFORE THE SHOW (NIGHT 2)

10

Larry is in the make-up chair having make-up put on by BRUCE. Beverly stands next to him. She is holding a piece of paper in her hand.

BEVERLY

Oh, Larry. I don't think you want to send this.

LARRY

Just fax it.

BEVERLY

(to Bruce)

Would you excuse us for just a second?

Bruce exits.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

You want me to send this: "Dear Dumb Fuck. Who are you to sit on your fucking ass while I'm out there working my ass off trying to entertain America. You boring yellow-bellied talentless dickhead..."

Beverly stops.

(CONTINUED)

10

CONTINUED:

10

LARRY

Keep going.

BEVERLY

"You just sit there watching me,
hoping the world doesn't find out
what a fucking fraud you are.
Sincerely, Larry 'Suck My...

LARRY

Say it.

BEVERLY

...Cock' Sanders."

Beverly looks at him.

LARRY

Too strong? Should it just be
"penis"?

BEVERLY

Maybe you should show it to Arthur.

LARRY

I'm not showing Artie. He would talk
me out of it.

BEVERLY

I'm sorry, Larry. I can't do this.

She hands the paper back to Larry.

LARRY

Fine. I'll fax it.

BEVERLY

You don't know how to use the fax
machine, remember?

LARRY

You turn it on, you stick it in and
hope for the best. It's just like
sex.

Beverly exits. After a moment Larry rises and exits into
the hallway.

CUT TO:

11 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT 2)

11

Larry crosses the hallway and bumps into STING.

STING
Hello, Larry.

LARRY
Hi, Sting. Or is it Gordon?

STING
No, it's been Sting ever since my
third platinum album.

LARRY
You're funny. I tried to go by
"Pinch" for a while, but it just
didn't catch on.

STING
Maybe you didn't tell the right
people.

LARRY
I hope you know I'm a big, big fan of
all your music. What was that song
you kept playing over and over?

STING
"King of Pain".

LARRY
Yeah. Great tune. Let me ask you
something. Do you ever get really,
really sad?

STING
Not since my third platinum album.

LARRY
You're funny. Would you excuse me?

Larry walks away.

STING
See you later, Pinch.

CUT TO:

12 INT. LARRY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT 2)

12

Larry is standing, fumbling with the fax machine. He inserts the letter, presses several buttons. Nothing. He tries again. Nothing. He bangs the machine. Suddenly, the fax goes through. He looks proud.

CUT TO:

13 INT. HANK'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS (NIGHT 2)

13

Hank is sitting at his desk dressed in his show clothes. He is practicing the show introduction.

HANK

(reading)

Live! On tape from Hollywood! The Larry Sanders Show. Tonight, join Larry and his guests -- Sally Field, Sting, comedian Jake Johannsen. And me, Hey Now! Hank Kingsley.

Hank's fax machine rings and a fax comes through. Hank reaches over and grabs it.

HANK (CONT'D)

(reading)

And now because he's a....

Hank's attention goes to the fax.

HANK (CONT'D)

(reading the fax)

"Dear Dumb Fuck. Who are you to sit on your fucking ass while I'm out there working my ass off trying to entertain America. You boring yellow-bellied talentless dickhead..."

He slowly sits down.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

HANK (CONT'D)
"You just sit there watching me,
hoping the world doesn't find out
what a fucking fraud you are.
Sincerely, Larry 'Suck My Cock'
Sanders."

Hank picks up the phone. He hangs up. He grabs some paper
and begins to write.

CUT TO:

14 INT. TALK SHOW SET - DURING THE SHOW (NIGHT 2)

14

Larry is interviewing Sally Field. Hank is clearly upset.

LARRY
I must tell you one of my favorite
movies was "Absence of Malice". I
have to ask you, what does "malice"
mean?

SALLY FIELD
Evil.

LARRY
Now the whole movie makes sense.
Boy, you are just wonderful. Isn't
she, Hank?

HANK
Oh yes, Larry. Everyone is
wonderful.

LARRY
Can you stick around for the rest of
the show?

SALLY FIELD
I'm never leaving.

LARRY
You are a joy. Isn't she a joy,
Hank?

HANK
Yes, Larry. Everything is a joy.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

LARRY

Hank is looking for a new clinic.
Okay, our next guest is a very funny
comedian. Please give a warm welcome
to Jake Johannsen.

JAKE JOHANNSEN comes out and begins his monologue.

CUT TO:

FILM SHOT:

INT. TALK SHOW SET - CONTINUOUS

As Jake does his jokes, Sally Field leans over to Larry.

SALLY FIELD

How did I do?

LARRY

You were really terrific.

SALLY FIELD

Was I really?

LARRY

Really.

An awkward beat.

SALLY FIELD

Oh, and you? You are hilarious.

LARRY

I'm a little off. I don't think I
was very good. Did you?

SALLY FIELD

Yes, I did. Very funny.

LARRY

Isn't it odd that even after doing
this for so long, we still need to
hear that we did good.

SALLY FIELD

It never ends. When I get home
tonight, I'm going to ask my son how
I did. I think I care about his
opinion more than anyone's. He's so
bright and --

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

LARRY
Isn't Tom Shales an asshole?

SALLY FIELD
Who is Tom Shales?

LARRY
He's a television critic.

SALLY FIELD
Oh, well, I dont do television.

They turn and watch Jake Johannsen.

VIDEO:

Jake tells several more jokes.

CUT TO:

FILM:

INT. TALK SHOW SET - CONTINUOUS (NIGHT 2)

Sally Field and Larry are in mid-conversation.

SALLY FIELD
But what did I know? I was only
thirteen, so I thought, I can do
Romeo and Juliet.

LARRY
This is really helpful.

SALLY FIELD
Is it?

LARRY
Yes.

SALLY FIELD
Well, I remember driving home with
Momma, sitting next to her -- she
hadn't said a word -- when she turned
to me and said, "You have magic."

LARRY
What if Tom Shales is right?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (3)

14

SALLY FIELD

Who?

Jake Johansen finishes his set. Larry and Sally Field applaud.

VIDEO:

LARRY

Jake Johansen everyone. Great set.
We'll be right back.

The band plays as we go to commercial.

STAGE MANAGER

We're clear!

FILM:

Hank leans over to Sally.

HANK

Having fun?

SALLY FIELD

I like him.

HANK

I'd be careful.

SALLY FIELD

Why?

HANK

You sit next to someone for eight
years. And you think you know them.
But you don't know them at all.

Sally looks at Hank. She turns back to Larry, who is taking a sip from a large fruit smoothie. He smiles at her.

CUT TO:

15 INT. HALLWAY - AFTER THE SHOW (NIGHT 2)

15

Brian and David are standing at the soda machine.

BRIAN

Cherry coke?

(CONTINUED)

15

CONTINUED:

15

DAVID

Okay.

Hank walks through the crash doors and sees them.

HANK

Brian.

BRIAN

Hank. Have you met David?

HANK

I don't think so. Hello. Hank Kingsley.

DAVID

Oh my gosh, this is really a pleasure. Brian has told me all about you and I --

BRIAN

David.

Hank takes Brian aside.

HANK

Who is that?

BRIAN

That's David.

Hank turns back and shakes David's hand again.

HANK

Hi there. Hank Kingsley.

He turns back to Brian.

HANK (CONT'D)

I want you to go down to the first floor and get me some boxes.

BRIAN

What for?

HANK

I'm quitting.

BRIAN

What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

HANK

Larry's not going to treat me this way anymore.

BRIAN

I don't know what this is about, but just go to Larry and talk with him. That's what David and I did.

HANK

Listen, that may work in your little gay paradise, but this is my life.

Hank shakes David's hand again.

HANK (CONT'D)

Now let's wrap up the social hour and get me those boxes.

Hank walks down the hallway

CUT TO:

16 INT. SALLY FIELD'S DRESSING ROOM - SAME TIME (NIGHT 2)

16

Larry and Sally Field are talking.

LARRY

Tom Shales has gone after me three times. And it's always so personal. He said I have neediness written all over my face.

SALLY FIELD

I thought he said your face was puffy.

LARRY

He said that too.

SALLY FIELD

I hate it when they go after your physical appearance. That's so hurtful. And unfair. And besides, you're a very attractive man.

CUT TO:

A16 INT. HALLWAY -- SAME TIME

A16*

Brian and David are walking down the hallway.

DAVID
Can we go now?

BRIAN
I can't. I have to stay and take care of this.

DAVID
I thought we were going to dinner.

BRIAN
I'm sorry. He needs me.

DAVID
He always needs you. What about me, Brian?

BRIAN
Look, there's just a lot of things going on here that you don't understand.

DAVID
Why? Because I'm stupid?

BRIAN
I never say you were stupid.

CUT TO:

B16 INT. SALLY FIELD'S DRESSING ROOM -- SAME TIME

B16*

Larry and Sally Field are kissing. They stop.

LARRY
Really?

SALLY FIELD
Yes.

LARRY
Would you like to go to dinner?

CUT TO:

C16 INT. LARRY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (NIGHT 2)

C16

Beverly is holding a piece of paper as Arthur enters.

ARTHUR
Let me see it.

Beverly hands him the paper.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
(reading)
"Dear Larry, Tom Shales is my
favorite writer. Sincerely, Hank
'Blow Me' Kingsley".

Arthur looks at Beverly.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
It's got to be a hoax from Phil.

BEVERLY
There's nothing funny about it.

ARTHUR
Another indication it's Phil.

BEVERLY
Arthur, that is Hank's handwriting.

Arthur takes the fax and walks out.

CUT TO:

17 INT. HANK'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (NIGHT 2)

17

Arthur enters Hank's office and closes the door behind him.

ARTHUR
Packed up and ready to go?

HANK
That's right.

ARTHUR
So this is your inter-office
communique.

He shows it to Hank.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

HANK

You bet it is. Larry sent me the most vile, filthy fax. It was not only immature, it was disgusting. I mean to tell you, the language.

ARTHUR

Larry didn't send you that fax, Hank.

HANK

Oh, really? Why was it in my fax machine?

ARTHUR

I don't know.

HANK

And why does it start, "Dear Dumb Fuck"?

ARTHUR

I can understand your confusion. But the truth is, he was trying to fax Tom Shales.

Hank sinks into his chair.

HANK

Oh my God. Oh my God. What am I going to do?

ARTHUR

Aren't you quitting?

HANK

No. Oh God. Help me, Artie.

ARTHUR

I'll take care of it this time, Hank. But if you ever pull a dumb stunt like this again, I'll make sure Larry replaces you with a fucking floor lamp.

CUT TO:

18 INT. ORSO'S RESTAURANT - THAT NIGHT (NIGHT 2)

18

Larry and Sally Field are sitting at a table. Larry is drinking a little too much.

SALLY FIELD

And then I thought I'd become an Olympic swimmer. But I was too worried about how my makeup would look at the finish line.

Larry sees something across the restaurant.

LARRY

Oh my God.

SALLY FIELD

What? Is that sickening?

LARRY

Tom Shales just walked in.

SALLY FIELD

Who?

LARRY

The critic.

SALLY FIELD

I thought you said he wrote for the Washington Post.

LARRY

He's doing "Politically Incorrect".

SALLY FIELD

I did that show and Bill Maher hit on me.

LARRY

I hate when a host does that.

Larry looks over at Tom Shales and gets up, a bit unsteadily. He composes himself.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I'll be right back. No flipping.

Larry walks over to Tom Shales.

(CONTINUED)

LARRY (CONT'D)

Hi, Tom.

TOM SHALES

Hello, Larry.

LARRY

I have something to say. I respect what you do. And you have every right to criticize my work, but when you make it personal, that's wrong. And I think somebody needs to tell you that.

TOM SHALES

Why haven't you ever had me on the show?

LARRY

What?

TOM SHALES

I've never been on your show, Larry. You've had Siskel and Ebert on, and Rex Reed, and Gene Shalit, but never me.

LARRY

Well, Tom, we would love to have you on the show.

TOM SHALES

I respect that you had the courage to come up and tell me what you told me, because not many people would do that. And you're right. I let my feelings affect my criticism of you, and for that I apologize.

LARRY

And I'm sorry about the fax I sent you.

TOM SHALES

I didn't get a fax from you.

CUT TO:

19 INT. LARRY'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3)

19

Larry is at his desk talking to Arthur.

LARRY

I'm glad I talked to Tom Shales.
He's just a nice guy who got a little
hurt.

ARTHUR

I'm going to order him a lovely fruit
basket. Something tells me he's a
mango fan. And I think you should
drop a line to Jake Johannsen.

LARRY

I like him. We should have him on
the show sometime.

ARTHUR

He was on last night.

LARRY

Was he good?

ARTHUR

A big bag of fun.

Larry grabs a pen.

LARRY

I'll just jot that down for the note.

Hank sticks his head in the door.

HANK

Busy?

ARTHUR

Yes.

HANK

Did Arthur tell you? I got the Tom
Shales fax.

LARRY

I know. I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

HANK

No, it's good. Now I know how hurt
you were. So I faxed that asshole
this morning.

Larry looks at Hank.

ARTHUR

You dumb fuck. You just sit on your
fucking ass while Larry's out there
working his ass off trying to
entertain America. You boring, yellow-
bellied talentless dickhead..."

And on Larry's reaction we:

FREEZE FRAME

END OF SHOW