

MONEY-SHOT BEARS KEEP THE BEAT

An original Screenplay
for an Après-Garde film

BY JUDGE SMITH

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www.judge-smith.com

FADE IN:

SCENE 1 - THE VIDEO STUDIO

A static shot from the upper corner of a plain white video studio. In the centre of the floor is a partially inflated weather balloon, or similarly sized large, round, rubber inflatable. It is anchored to the floor internally (by sand or water) and is maybe seven feet high.

The voices of the DIRECTOR and PRODUCER (male) and the ASSISTANT (female) are heard but the characters are not seen. When they are addressing the performers, their voices are switched through a foldback speaker into the studio.

DIRECTOR

What do we have?

ASSISTANT

We have bears.

DIRECTOR

Right. Let's see the bears.

From either side of the room the two BEARS enter. These are male actors wearing Teddy Bear suits. One wears a large red bow round its neck, the other a blue bow. They prance exaggeratedly around the balloon, passing each other on their passage behind it, and come to position standing next to each other in front of the balloon, facing the wall to the right of the camera position, and looking up at the unseen control room where the DIRECTOR, PRODUCER and ASSISTANT are assumed to be.

DIRECTOR (Foldback)

Okay, Bears. You know what's required.
We want to see hot Bear-on-Balloon action.

The BEARS nod enthusiastically.

Right start when you're ready.

The BEARS repeat their prancing dance around the balloon, ending up facing the balloon on either side of it.

PRODUCER

These bears look kinda fruity.

DIRECTOR

Do you get bears like that?

ASSISTANT

I'll check it out.

DIRECTOR (Foldback)
Right. Use your hands first.
Caress the balloon.

ASSISTANT
Paws.

DIRECTOR
Why? They've just started.

ASSISTANT (Flustered)
No. I mean. Don't bears have paws
rather than hands?

DIRECTOR (With heavy irony)
I stand corrected. (Foldback) Bears?
Caress the balloon with your *Paws*.

Meanwhile the BEARS are tenderly rubbing the balloon and nuzzling their heads against it.

SCENE 2: THE DRUM ROOM

A recording studio drum room. The DRUMMER enters bringing in his kit in three or four cases. We see him unpacking and assembling the kit in a variety of medium and close-up shots. The sequence of assembly (which in fact generally takes ten minutes or so) is considerably shortened. The DRUMMER is precise and accurate in his movements, and his kit is carefully and neatly packed in its cases. Two or three short shots are filmed in reverse so that, for example, sticks, dropped into the case, appear to rise from it into the DRUMMER's hands, but these FX are not prominent and might even be missed by some viewers. The sequence ends with the DRUMMER seated behind his kit, with headphone on, briefly trying the sound of the drums.

SCENE 3: THE VIDEO STUDIO

The BEARS are now enthusiastically rubbing the balloon. (It should be noted that at no time are the BEARS' actions overtly sexual. There is no contact between the balloon and what we presume might be the genital area of a Teddy Bear.)

DIRECTOR (Foldback)
That's the way. Make that balloon
feel loved. That's good, Red Bear.

ASSISTANT

I looked up what you asked, and there's a lot about gay bears on the internet, but that seems to be something else...

DIRECTOR (Foldback)

Right now use your feet or *Back-Paws* or whatever. Go down on your backs.

The BEARS comply and start rubbing the balloon with the soles of their feet.

PRODUCER

That works.

The BEAR with the blue bow gets more vigorous and begins to pound his feet into the balloon.

DIRECTOR (Foldback)

Blue Bear! What the hell are you doing? That's a beautiful balloon. What sort of movie do you think we're making?

'Blue' BEAR immediately reverts to gentle foot movements

(Foldback Off) Some of these people behave like animals. (Foldback) Yes, that's better. Respect the balloon.

SCENE 4: THE DRUM ROOM

The voice of the MUSIC PRODUCER (The same voice actor as the video DIRECTOR) and that of THE ARTIST (the same voice actor as the video ASSISTANT) are heard in their unseen control room or over the studio foldback.

MUSIC PRODUCER (Foldback)

Okay drum room. Here's the track. Give us what you've got.

The DRUMMER plays to the track being played in his headphones. We do not hear the music, which is a mid-tempo ballad, only what the DRUMMER is playing. The two or three minute song is shot with a single, static camera angle. The song over, the DRUMMER sits quietly.

MUSIC PRODUCER

What do you think?

THE ARTIST

I kinda preferred it without the drums.

MUSIC PRODUCER

I think I agree. (Foldback) Drum room?
Thank you, we don't need you any more today.

The DRUMMER impassively removes his headphones and begins to dismantle his kit.

SCENE 5: THE VIDEO STUDIO

The BEARS are busy with their foot stimulation of the balloon.

DIRECTOR (Foldback)

Right, now use your backsides.

The BEARS quickly get on their feet, turn around and begin to rub their rumps against the balloon.

That's the way, that's the way. Keep going.

PRODUCER

Excellent.

DIRECTOR

Okay. Let's move in for the money-shot.
(Foldback) Right you bears. Coming in
for the close-ups, Red Bear first.

In the only 'Video Studio' shots not taken from the original camera position, we see a close-up of RED BEAR's face which now has a red felt tongue protruding from the side of its mouth.

Now Blue Bear!

We see BLUE BEAR's face in close-up. Its glass eyes are crossed.

SCENE 6: THE DRUM ROOM

The DRUMMER neatly packs away his kit. In this sequence, there are rather more shots that are filmed in reverse. Cymbals slide themselves into their case, stands which folded out by gravity, miraculously fold themselves back etc., but once more the effect should not be too obvious. Finally the DRUMMER exits with his equipment in its cases.

SCENE 7: THE VIDEO STUDIO

The BEARS are standing next to each other looking up at the unseen control room window.

DIRECTOR (Foldback)

Okay. Thank you Bears. What's next?

The BEARS turn and, one following the other, exit out of shot. They now walk normally, and hang their heads as if tired or depressed. As they leave, two lithe female actors enter in tight black cat costumes, with tails and quite large heads. They wear differently coloured collars in red and blue. They stand in front of the control room window making slinky cat movements and smoothing their whiskers.

ASSISTANT

These are cats.

DIRECTOR (annoyed)

Yes, I can see that!

THE END