

Work Blues
Pilot
Draft 2.

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INT. JAMES HOUSE. DAY

A nice upscale house on the edge of town with a 2 car garage and white picket fence.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE is a 17 year old recent high school graduate with a well quaffed blonde Pompadour and silly grin.

His lovely mother MRS. DUPREE insists James works a part time summer job to help her boy stay grounded. Today is his first day but in his usual fashion he's loafing around while tapping on his phone.

MRS. DUPREE

James darling put that thing away
and get ready for your first day at
work?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE

(annoyed)

Ugh Do I really have to go?

Mrs. DuPree puts her hand on her son's shoulder.

MRS. DUPREE

We discussed it sweetie. It's for
your personal growth.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE

Mom you're the worst!

James grabs his keys and storms out the door.

Mrs. DuPree pulls a bottle of wine from behind the sofa and pours herself a glass, looks at her watch, shrugs and takes a drink.

CUT TO:

INT. GILBERTS HOUSE. DAY

A modest home in the center of town. An old Jeep and a couple of bicycles lie in the driveway. The outside is pretty well maintained but the inside is fairly lived in with toys and clothes thrown about.

GILBERT CLAY is a 25 year old tall work horse of a man. He graduated 2 years ago with bachelor's degree in computer animation. The economy is rough so it's been hard for him to find a job in his field. The universe seems to spit on him. He lives with his mom and two brothers.

Gilbert is also starting a new job today. He has his uniform on tight (maybe a little too tight for his large build) and a sack lunch in hand.

GILBERT CLAY

Hey mom have you seen my keys?

MRS. CLAY is running all around trying to keep her younger children in line.

MRS. CLAY

Gilbert you're not leaving are ya?

GILBERT CLAY

Mom I'm running late for work.

MRS. CLAY

(yelling to her other son)

Stevie put that knife down!

Gilbert continues to look for his keys and opens up the fridge, where he finds his keys.

GILBERT CLAY

Of course they would be in the fridge.

MRS. CLAY

(grabbing Gilbert by the shoulder)

Hey, look at me.

Gilbert stops what he's doing and looks at his mom. The two share an intense look.

MRS. CLAY (CONT'D)

It's gonna be okay.

GILBERT CLAY

(embarrassed, trying to squirm away.)

Mom, what are you talking about?

MRS. CLAY

I know this isn't your dream job but it's something. I'm proud of you, so don't be nervous.

GILBERT CLAY

I'm not nervous!

MRS. CLAY

It's okay to be nervous on your first day. I'm sure you'll make at least one friend there.

GILBERT CLAY

Geez mom I'm not going there to make friends. This ain't no pep rally.

MRS. CLAY

Darling just remember, Mommy always loves you.

(leans in, whispers)

No matter what.

GILBERT CLAY

(embarrassed)

Yeah mom, I got it. I love you too. Now go stop Stevie before he stabs the cat.

MRS. CLAY

Steven!

Mrs. Clay runs after her bad child. Gilbert grabs a beer for the road.

FADE TO:

EXT. LANSING MALL CINEMA. DAY

Welcome to the Lansing Mall Cinema which isn't in the mall but adjacent, on the other side of the street. It's cheap but not too cheap. The paint on the outside is a bit faded and there are a handful of weeds in the parking lot. It's a six screen theater that's seen better days but it's good enough for the loyal customers.

An old beater squeals into the parking lot. Gilbert hops out fixing his clothes and hair before going in.

CUT TO:

INT. LANSING MALL CINEMA. DAY

Gilbert walks in, checks his watch and realizes he's not late after all. He takes a breath and walks back to the manager station. As he walks past the concession stand the other employees eyeball him.

The manager, JULIAN KILLROY, is a happy-go-lucky man in his mid 20's. He welcomes Gilbert with a warm smile.

JULIAN KILROY
Hello sir, good to see you. Gilbert right?

GILBERT CLAY
Yes sir.

JULIAN KILROY
Right on time, I like that. Hey, where's the other guy?

GILBERT CLAY
Other guy?

CUT TO:

EXT. LANSING MALL CINEMA. DAY

James pulls in with his luxury car, bumping some 90's R&B track. He looks at his hair in the reflection of the window, pulls a comb to his hair then shrugs just like Fonzie from Happy Days.

CUT TO:

INT. LANSING MALL CINEMA. DAY

James walks in all cool acting, the music still playing despite not being near a music source. The other employees give him a good look over.

EMPLOYEE 1
Who's that guy?

EMPLOYEE 2
I don't know, some schmuck.

James makes his way to the manager's station.

JULIAN KILROY
Well, well, well, you must be James, I've heard good things about you.

Julian extends his hand for a handshake. James nods his head.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
What's up man?

Julian puts up a fist.

JULIAN KILROY

Ha. Right on. Well James you are a wee bit late but it's all good, just try to be on time next time.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE

Sure.

JULIAN KILROY

Alright guys, ready for work?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE

Okay.

GILBERT CLAY

Yes Mr. Kilroy.

JULIAN KILROY

Oh please, call me Julian. Heck my friends call me Jules.

GILBERT CLAY

Alright Jules.

JULIAN KILROY

Well hold up, we aren't friends yet. Julian is just fine.

GILBERT CLAY

Oh okay Julian.

JULIAN KILROY

Guys, I want you to meet your assistant manager, Penny Cho, she's gonna be training you. I would do it but I have a meeting to catch, so I'll see you all later.

Julian grabs his stuff and leaves. Penny Cho is a heavy set Asian lady in her early 30s, mother of 2. She is fun and sassy with a bit of a ghetto side.

PENNY CHO

Hey guys welcome to the Lansing Mall Cinema, or the LMC as I like to call it. Are you down with LMC?
(puts her hand over her mouth)

"Yeah you know me"

Penny laughs awkwardly, The guys give her a blank look.

PENNY CHO (CONT'D)
Anyway, I'm Penny.

GILBERT CLAY
Gilbert.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
I'm James Clover Harris DuPree.

PENNY CHO
Wow that's a mouthful, that's your
real name?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
As real as it gets.

PENNY CHO
Well nice to meet you James Clover
uh ..

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Harris..

PENNY CHO
Harris Dupree, right?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Yeah.

PENNY CHO
(so excited)
Well great. Are you guys excited to
be working for a movie theater?

GILBERT CLAY
(sarcastic)
Oh yeah...

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Not really.

PENNY CHO
Wow guys, we will have to work on
that enthusiasm, this is suppose to
be a fun job! I love it here and so
should you.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Is it break time?

PENNY CHO
You literally just started less
than 5 minutes ago. So, no.
(MORE)

PENNY CHO (CONT'D)
But now that we are on the subject
let me show you how to clock in.

Penny walks the boys over to the POS computer.

PENNY CHO (CONT'D)
So when you begin your shift you
first come over to one of our POS
stations.

The boys look blankly.

PENNY CHO (CONT'D)
You know what POS stands for right?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Piece of s-

GILBERT CLAY
Shut your mouth!

PENNY CHO
(annoyed)
Point of sale, guys.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
I was gonna say that.

PENNY CHO
First thing you take your ID and
you swipe it like so. Then if
you're clocking in you hit IN and
if you're clocking out you hit OUT.
Just like that.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
What do we do for our breaks?

PENNY CHO
Good question. You basically do the
same thing.

James goes over to the computer and swipes his ID.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Like this?

James hits out.

PENNY CHO
Well yeah but.

James walks away.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
I'll be back in 30.

PENNY CHO
Wait hold up! James! You don't get
to break until we tell you to!

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
(defeated)
Wack

James turns around and walks back.

PENNY CHO
Listen guys this goes better for
everyone if you don't go rogue.

GILBERT CLAY
Yeah dude she's our boss.

PENNY CHO
Thank you Gilbert.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Sorry, this is my first job.

PENNY CHO
That's okay, we hire a lot of young
people here.

Penny takes a look at Gilbert.

PENNY CHO (CONT'D)
And older people too. With
different levels of experience.
Let's move on.

She walks over to the popcorn popper.

PENNY CHO (CONT'D)
(slaps the popper)
Now this bad boy is the life blood
of our industry.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
How do you know it's a boy?

PENNY CHO
It makes a lot of noise, requires a
lot of attention and can get pretty
salty.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Sounds more like a girl to me.

GILBERT CLAY
Sounds like my ex.

PENNY CHO
Guys, this is gonna be your best
friend or your worst enemy. You
just need to know how to treat it.
Don't get burned.
(touches the popper)
Pssssss.

A voice from Penny's walkie talkie rings out.

K.D.
(over the radio)
Theater 3 is out!

Penny stands looking at Gilbert and James.

PENNY CHO
Well boys don't just stand there.

GILBERT CLAY
Huh?

PENNY CHO
Theater 3 is out!

Penny gestures to the corner where a flock of people are
exiting.

PENNY CHO (CONT'D)
Guys! Grab a broom and help K.D.
Clean it. I'll be there in a bit to
help you out.

Gilbert grabs a broom right away from behind the stand and
heads over to theater 3. James looks confused.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Wait, what are we doing?

PENNY CHO
Cleaning of course, that's your
job.

Penny hands James the sweeper kit.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Cleaning? This is lame.

PENNY CHO
What you really need to clean is
your attitude.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
 (sarcastically)
 Oh boy! My favorite.

Penny shakes her head.

PENNY CHO
 (defeated)
 Just... go.

James slinks off to catch up with Gilbert.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
 Aye yo Gilly.

GILBERT CLAY
 It's just Gilbert please don't call
 me Gilly.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
 Ok geeze don't get your panties in
 a bunch.

Gilbert gives James a stern look. The two of them arrive at
 the theater waiting for everyone to exit.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE (CONT'D)
 So what's the deal with that Penny
 chick?

GILBERT CLAY
 Mrs. Cho?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
 What a stick in the mud right? She
 must be a lesbian.

GILBERT CLAY
 Dude!

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
 What about this Katie chick though?

GILBERT CLAY
 Who?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
 The one we are helping. I bet she's
 hot, most Katies are hot. Like
 Katie Homes, Katy Perry, Katie from
 'Jon and Katie Plus Eighty'

GILBERT CLAY
I think it's just Kate and you
really think she's-

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
She's a MILF.

GILBERT CLAY
Dude you got some real messed up
logic. Listen man I'm here just to
work. That's it. I'm not interested
in dating coworkers.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Geez didn't mean to offend you sir
white knight. That's fine more
babes for me.

The crowd thins out. The two enter.

CUT TO:

INT. THEATER 3. DAY

All the theaters look pretty much the same. Stadium style
seating with the old fashion fold-up style chairs with red
backs and a screen on the smaller side.

GILBERT CLAY
Come on. Let's go.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
(with arms wide open)
Oh Katie my sweet I am here to
rescue you!

In the theater a chubby older guy with thinning hair sweeping
and singing along to the closing credit music. James runs in
looking all around.

K.D.
(finishing his singing
then turns around)
You make me feel! Oh hey, you're
the new guys right ?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Yo ... where's Katie?

K.D.
I am K.D.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
(confused)
Your name is Katie?

K.D.
K.D. Kevin Daniel to be exact.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
But...

Gilbert looks amused.

K.D.
You guys loves movies?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
What?

GILBERT CLAY
Sure.

K.D.
Then you guys will love working
here. Free movies, and all the free
popcorn you can eat.

K.D. Picks up some popcorn from under the seat and sticks it
in his mouth.

GILBERT CLAY
That's disgusting.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Wait... so your're not a girl.

K.D.
No dude, I'm a guy.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
I really heard...

K.D.
Katie, yes I know, but I'm a man.
Sorry to disappoint you and my
parents.

Mrs. Cho walks in with a look of disgust.

PENNY CHO
Come on guys we need to hurry up!
Theater 1 is almost out.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Theater 1, theater 3... ug it's
never ending.

PENNY CHO
Come on guys don't let me and K.D.
do all the work.

Penny starts sweeping, setting a good example. K.D. Continues
to sweep and hum the music.

The guys start to sweep. James holds his broom like a pencil
and gently flicks the floor. Gilbert holds the broom with his
entire fist giving it harty thrusts.

PENNY CHO (CONT'D)
James come on it's cleaning not
homework.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
What do you expect I don't do
either one

GILBERT CLAY
You don't do homework?

Penny's radio goes off again.

PENNY CHO
Guys I'll be back, they have an
emergency at the box office. But
really guys please hurry up in
here. K.D. Please show them how to
properly sweep.
(under her breath)
Honestly who doesn't know how to
sweep?

Penny leaves. The credits are halfway done. James stops
sweeping and throws down his broom.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
I hate that chick!

K.D.
Whoa settle down!

GILBERT CLAY
Yeah dude.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
She's always telling me what to do!

K.D.
Well she is the assistant manager

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
So?

GILBERT CLAY
So? How many times do I need to
tell you, she's your boss!

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Ug ain't nobody the boss of me but
me!

GILBERT CLAY
C'mon just sweep dude.

Gilbert continues to thrust the broom. K.D. Sees and tries to
help him out.

K.D.
Hey um Igor... you don't need to be
so heavy handed with that thing. It
just takes a light touch.

GILBERT CLAY
Who you calling Igor, four eyes?

James looks on with delight.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Now this is entertaining

K.D.
Listen all I'm saying is do it like
this.

K.D. Grabs Gilbert's arm from behind and tries to show him
the perfect broom stroke.

K.D. (CONT'D)
You just need to hold it like
this...

Gilbert recoils to K.D's grasp but K.D. Holds tight.

GILBERT CLAY
What are you doing ?!

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
I knew it, y'all gay!

GILBERT CLAY
Get off me!

K.D.
Don't squirm, I'm just showing you
how to be a good employee.

Gilbert brushes it off.

GILBERT CLAY
(angry)
I got it!

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Do it like this.

James shows his method, the pencil style, which is really wrong.

GILBERT CLAY
Bro you're struggling to even get
one piece.

K.D.
Here what you need to do is put
some peppa on it. See watch me. I
sweep to the music.

K.D. Demonstrates his method. Swaying back and forth to the tune of the song on the screen. Then a very energetic song comes on and James starts to get really into it.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Oh yeah! Uh! Uh!

James starts to bust a move and he's not half bad.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE (CONT'D)
Who's your daddy!

GILBERT CLAY
Hey how about more sweeping and
less dancing?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Chill dog, you mad cuz you ain't
got the moves like Jagger?

Penny walks in this time with Julian back from his meeting.

PENNY CHO
What in the world is going on here!
Nut-uh none of this! Guys stop
clowning around!

JULIAN KILROY
James!

James stops dancing for a moment and looks up at Julian. For once he actually seems worried. Gilbert also looks up but in delight.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Yeah boss?

JULIAN KILROY
James, where did you learn those
sweet dance moves?

PENNY CHO
What!

GILBERT CLAY
Oh come on!

Julian rushes down and does a funky dance with James. K.D.
Tries the dance as well but comes off as a bit awkward.

GILBERT CLAY (CONT'D)
This is insane! I am over here
actually trying to work and he's
goofing off, doesn't that bother
you at least a little bit?

JULIAN KILROY
I like to have a fun work place,
it's very important to me, right
Penny?

PENNY CHO
(sarcastically)
Sure Julian.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Haha! I think I will like it here!

K.D.
Yeah you'll fit right in.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Thanks Katie, at least you're cool
unlike Frankenstein over there.

GILBERT CLAY
Excuse me? I don't care if I am
cool or not. I just want to work,
and get paid because unlike you
pretty boy I actually need this
lousy job.

JULIAN KILROY
(offended)
Whoa whoa whoa, lousy? I beg your
pardon.

GILBERT CLAY
I didn't mean it like that. I'm
sorry Julian-

JULIAN KILROY
It's Mr. Killroy.

GILBERT CLAY
I don't mean any disrespect, I
just-

JULIAN KILROY
But yet here you are.

GILBERT CLAY
It's just...

JULIAN KILROY
Just what? Go on.

GILBERT CLAY
No it's okay. I'm sorry.

JULIAN KILROY
No hold up. It's not okay. I know
this isn't some fancy big time gig
like microbiologist or video game
tester or something but it's a
decent job and we are like a family
here.

EMPLOYEE 1
(over the radio)
Theater one just let out.

PENNY CHO
(soft spoken)
Come on K.D. Let's go.

K.D.
But I want to see what happens.

PENNY CHO
No you don't.

Penny and K.D. Exit.

GILBERT CLAY

Family? I don't even want to spend time with my real family, I really don't want to be part of another one. Please just let me work, I don't complain, I don't take days off. You won't even notice me.

JULIAN KILROY

You know what, I don't like your attitude. I can't have a negative Nancy on my team, you are fired Gilbert!

GILBERT CLAY

What!? Come on Mr. Kilroy.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE

Ha. Sorry Gilly. Them's the breaks sucka.

GILBERT CLAY

I can't believe this.

JULIAN KILROY

Sorry, but you gotta go.

GILBERT CLAY

(angry)

Fine! I don't need this job anyway!

(under his breath,
defeated)

Even though I kinda do.

Gilbert hangs his head in shame and slinks off.

PENNY CHO

(over the radio)

Julian Theater 1 is disaster, I need the newbies pronto!

JULIAN KILROY

(into the radio)

Oops, I'll send James right over but uh I had to let Gilbert go.

PENNY CHO

(over radio)

What! Come on Julian, not again, I swear...

Julian turns off the radio.

JULIAN KILROY
Well pal you better get going.
She's in a mood.

Julian grimaces, James shrugs and runs out.

CUT TO:

INT. GILBERTS HOUSE. DAY

Gilbert enters looking more depressed than usual. His mother is on the sofa watching TV.

MRS. CLAY
Gilbert what are you doing back
already?

GILBERT CLAY
I don't want to talk about it.

MRS. CLAY
(annoyed)
Excuse me?

GILBERT CLAY
Mom. Just leave me alone.

MRS. CLAY
Gilbert, don't talk me like that.

GILBERT CLAY
I got fired, okay!

MRS. CLAY
From the movie theater?

GILBERT CLAY
Yes!

MRS. CLAY
On your first day?

GILBERT CLAY
Yes!

MRS. CLAY
Wow, how did you manage that?

GILBERT CLAY
I don't know mom. The guys at
work... they just suck.

MRS. CLAY
Aw Gilbert, baby, you know-

GILBERT CLAY
I said I don't want to talk about
it mom!

Gilbert storms off to his room and slams the door. Wait 5
seconds and he comes back out.

GILBERT CLAY (CONT'D)
(on the verge of tears)
I'm sorry mom. I just don't know
what I'm doing wrong. It's like no
matter what I do nobody wants me.

MRS. CLAY
Well, you're always welcomed here
sport.

GILBERT CLAY
I know mom... I know, it's just....

MRS. CLAY
Don't worry, we'll figure something
out.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES HOUSE. NIGHT.

James staggers in looking exhausted. His mom is sitting on
the sofa with a glass of wine in one hand.

MRS. DUPREE
James how was your first day at
work?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
I'm beat mom. It kicked my butt.

MRS. DUPREE
The 4 hour training shift?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
I thought it would never end! I had
to sweep the floors, take out trash
and deal with idiots all day.

MRS. DUPREE
Rough customers ?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
No idiot coworkers. Penny bosses me around even though she's not really my boss, K.D. isn't a sexy girl and that one dude, Gilbert was a total tool.

MRS. DUPREE
What makes him a total tool?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
You should have seen this guy. "Yes Sir, yes ma'am, right away. Grunt grunt grunt. Wah don't fire me please" Haha what a loser.

MRS. DUPREE
He got fired?

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Yeah the fool didn't appreciate my sick dance skills.

MRS. DUPREE
Well your dancing is pretty majestic.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Thanks mom. At least you get it, and my manager Julian. He's cool too.

MRS. DUPREE
That's great hunny. Well I hope tomorrow is a better day for you.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
Yeah I'm gonna try to unlock a new skin in Fortnite.

MRS. DUPREE
Oh no you don't. You're going to work.

JAMES CLOVER HARRIS DUPREE
What! Two days in a row!? Life is unfair!

James runs off and slams the door to his room. Wait 5 seconds and he doesn't come back out but instead he turns up his stereo.

FADE TO:

INT. THEATER LOBBY. NIGHT

It's closing time. The last guest just left and the crew is finishing up the chores.

JULIAN KILROY
Guys, everything's done?

K.D.
Yes sir.

JULIAN KILROY
Alrighty then let's go home gang.

The two remaining employees put on their coats and head towards the door with Julian right behind them. K.D. holds the door. Julian pauses.

JULIAN KILROY (CONT'D)
That's okay, go on without me.

K.D.
You sure?

JULIAN KILROY
Yeah yeah it's fine. I forgot something. I'll lock up.

K.D.
Okay boss. See yeah tomorrow.

Julian smiles and waves. K.D. Leaves.

Julian sneaks back to the office, unzips a little black bag and walks in and closes the door. What he did have in there? no one knows.

FADE TO BLACK.