

BUSH

An Original Story and Screenplay

By

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EXT. TEXAS RANGERS STADIUM- ARLINGTON, TEXAS- DAY

GEORGE W. BUSH, early forties, polo shirt, slacks, stands in center field, looking up at the empty stands, waiting for the fans to arrive, the game to begin. There is a look of supreme contentment on his face. This is his stadium, the place in the world where he feels most comfortable.

The ROAR OF THE FANS COMES UP as a EMBODIED VOICE intones:

VOICE

And now the 43rd President of the
United States, George W. Bush.

Slowly, George W raises his arms, as if to conjure the crowd.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE- OVAL OFFICE- DAY- JAN: 2002

ON CHIEF PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH WRITER, boyish, 40's, talking to
2ND SPEECHWRITER.

CHIEF SPEECH WRITER

"Axis of hatred?" I don't know.
Something about it... just misses.

Seated around the table, Bush and his inner circle: VICE
PRESIDENT CHENEY, KARL ROVE, fifties, pudgy; CONDI RICE, her
assistant, STEPHEN HADLEY, bespectacled, late 40's.

ROVE

(pipes up) Well, then what about
"Axis of the unbearably odious?"

Bush, intent. Scowls at him.

BUSH

Don't get cute, Turdblossom.
(nickname for Rove) This is
serious.

CHIEF SPEECHWRITER

What about... "Axis of Evil?"

Bush thinks for a moment.

BUSH

"Axis of Evil." I like the ring of
that. That's it.

RICE

But Mr. President, how are we going to tie them all together? It's not like they're Germany, Italy and Japan--who were on the same side.

HADLEY

Yeah, they're not aligned with each other.

ROVE

Who gives a shit? It plays.

BUSH

They may not be aligned. But they're threats to our security. Iran and Iraq is trouble next door to trouble. And they have to know that this President is telling them that they've got a problem. With us.

RICE

Still, I think the Iranian people could take offense in being lumped together with the Iraqis and North Koreans. After all, they have a president who was democratically elected.

HADLEY

(nods agreement)

Could send the wrong message to the democracy movement, sir.

BUSH

No, Hads, you don't get it. Khatami along with the students, the reformers, they'll understand. They want Freedom. It'll give legitimacy to their struggle against the hardliners, the deadenders, the Ayatollah Cockamamies. *Iran stays in.*

Rove opens a bottle of non-alcoholic beer for the President. Cheney finally chimes in.

CHENEY

Anyone can go to Baghdad. Real men go to Tehran.

Bush smirks, clinks beer bottle with Cheney's coffee mug.

BUSH

Real men.

CUT TO:

A GIANT BOTTLE OF VODKA

INT. DKE FRAT HOUSE- BASEMENT- NIGHT- 1966

YOUNG GEORGE W BUSH pours the cheap vodka into a large garbage can while fellow PLEDGE, CLAY JOHNSON, mixes in orange juice. W leans over, takes a snoot-full. Then belts out a chorus of the Yale Whiffenpoof song.

GEORGE JR. (SINGS)

We're poor little lambs who have
lost our way. Baa! Baa! Baa!

A nerdy PLEDGE, BRIAN PRINGLE, stirs the screwdriver mix with a ladle, also singing.

ALL

Little black sheep who've gone
astray, Ba-aa-aa! Gentlemen
songsters off on the spree, damned
from here to eternity. God have
mercy on such as we-- Baa Yah!
Baa!

The door opens. In walk 40 FRAT BROTHERS. DEKE PRESIDENT, WALTER BENNINGTON, smooth, uber-patrician, steps up to W, other pledges.

BENNINGTON

Good evening, young fellow
Dekesters in waiting. This is
pledge week. If you make the grade,
you will become a brother. and Deke
brothers are men of honor, decency
and God-given character. (wryly)
That, along with our family
fortunes, is why we rule the world.

His LIEUTENANT, TOM FRANCIS, a hulking athlete, barks at W and his roommates.

FRANCIS

You are all pieces of garbage. You
don't care about each other, you
don't deserve each other.

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