

EARTHMEN

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY STREETS - AFTERNOON

CODY (15, Latino, beanie, baggy clothes) sprints down an alley. BLASTER FIRE singes his hoodie, fired by a monstrous tentacled ALIEN chasing him.

He emerges onto a chaotic war-torn street - alien invaders, flying saucers, screaming people.

A CAR swerves onto the sidewalk to dodge a saucer blast and pins Cody's pursuer, who continues to shoot at him as he runs.

Another saucer blast hits the building above Cody and he dives into a doorway to dodge the falling debris. The door opens against his weight and he falls into the building.

INT. DRAG CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Scrambling up, he slams the door shut, leaning and panting against it, hoodie sleeve still smoldering.

A SHOTGLASS shatters inches from his head.

CODY

Jesus-

DERRY (O.S.)

Next one goes through your eyes,
little green dick!

MARIONNE (O.S.)

Goddammit, Derry!

Cody sees he's in a small drag club, three queens huddled behind the bar staring back:

DERRY AIRE (22, Asian, flight attendant),
ELLY-MAY GUSSET (35, Black, cowgirl),
MADAME MARIONNE (58, White, evening gown)

INT. DRAG CLUB - MINUTES LATER

Derry finishes barricading the door and sits with the others at the bar. Elly-May uses her neckerchief and vodka to clean Cody's cuts (hoodie off, Judas Priest t-shirt).

ELLY-MAY

Lucky no glass got in your eyes.

DERRY

I said I was sorry.

ELLY-MAY

You got a name, kid?

Cody glares.

ELLY-MAY (CONT'D)

Well, the shotglass slinger is
Derry, that's Mamie-

MARIONNE

Madame Marianne to you.

ELLY-MAY

(feminine voice)

And most know me as Miss Elly-May
Gusset,

(natural voice)

but you can call me Cal

CODY

...Cody.

CAL (ELLY-MAY)

What were you doing out there?

CODY

Just hanging with friends.

CAL

Shit, they okay?

Cody bites his split lip.

CODY

They ditched me before the aliens
showed up.

BEAT

MARIONNE

Aliens... Jesus.

DERRY

Alright, I need a drink.

MARIONNE

Amen.

Derry climbs over the bar and haphazardly pours herself a tall
Rose Kennedy. She reaches for a handle of whiskey.

MARIONNE (CONT'D)

Hey, none of that cheap shit.

DERRY

Girl, check where you are right
now.

MARIONNE

Behind Arnold's photo.

Derry checks behind the photo hanging by the bar and finds a
hidden bottle of high-end bourbon.

DERRY

Bullshit!

MARIONNE

He keeps it for special occasions.

DERRY

Bitch was holding out on us.

She pours Marionne a glass.

DERRY (CONT'D)

What about you, kid?

Cody perks up.

CAL

Derry!

DERRY

What?

CAL

Cody, how old are you?

CODY

Fifteen?

DERRY

That's plenty old enough.

CAL

No-

MARIONNE

End of the world, Elly - might as well.

CODY

I'll have some of that.

He points to the bourbon.

DERRY

Damn, kid, you go hard.

She pours a shot. He tries to down it but splutters.

DERRY (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Okay, maybe not that hard.

CAL

Here-

Cal slides Cody Derry's drink. Cody takes a long gulp. Marionne downs the remaining half shot.

BOOMING from outside. The glasses in the bar rattle. The group quiets. Marionne strides to the sound booth - MUSIC drowns out the invasion.

INT. DRAG CLUB - LATER

Derry lies on the bar, wig off. Cody sits by Marianne, fidgeting with her boa. She takes it off and drapes it around him.

CODY

Hey, what-?

He bats it away, it lands in his lap. Marianne just takes a sip of her drink.

Cal comes from backstage, out of drag in street clothes, tall and muscular, holding his phone and frowning. Cody stares.

MARIONNE

Any luck?

CAL

Still no reception.

DERRY

I'm sure Shay's alright.

Marianne leaves, going backstage. Cal takes her seat and sees Cody staring. Cody looks away, fidgeting absently with the boa.

CAL

Ah, Shay- my fiancé...

CODY

Mm.

CAL

I'm sure you've got folks of your own to worry about. [beat] Your friends? Family? Parents?

CODY

Just drop it.

DERRY

Boy, I get it - my parents can choke too.

CODY

No, that's not- [beat] Why do you do this?

DERRY

Piss people off?

CODY

No, I mean all... this.

CAL

What, drag? I mean, I like performing, making people laugh... I think it's something we weren't allowed to have, to explore our emotions, our identity-

DERRY

Bitch please, I do it for attention.

CAL

Or that.

Cody snorts. Derry noogies Cody's head and his beanie falls off, revealing a terrible haircut.

DERRY

Woah!

CODY

What?!

DERRY

Who cut your hair, a rabid badger?

CODY

I did!

CAL

Why would you do that to yourself?

CODY

Dad said it was getting too long.

CAL

Sweet baby Jesus.

DERRY
I can't look at this, come on.

Derry grabs Cody's hand and starts dragging him to the back.

CODY
What, where-

DERRY
Relax, I used to cut my brothers'
hair all the time, I got you.

CODY
Really? But-

DERRY
Girl, life's too short to not look
cute!

She drags him to the bathroom. Cal chuckles.

INT. DRAG CLUB - LATER

The invasion outside - explosions, gunfire - can be heard
louder over the music.

Cody (better haircut), Cal, and Derry sit around a table.

DERRY
Look, I just don't do that old
stuff-

CODY
How can you not like Bowie?

CAL
Boy, you sound like my mom.

CODY
She's right!

Marionne enters, even more dressed up, and pours another
drink.

DERRY
Damn, Mamie.

CAL
You really dress for company, huh?

MARIONNE
I promised myself I'd die
beautiful.

BEAT

DERRY
There's got to be something we can
do.

CAL
Your shotglass arm isn't that
good, Dee.

CODY
Come on - the army's going to bust
in here any second, they're going
to kick those alien asses and then
we're going to get out-

Marionne snorts.

CODY
What?

Marionne gulps her drink.

MARIONNE
Kid, no one's coming for us.

CODY
What are you-

MARIONNE
Maybe for you, maybe if you
weren't stuck here. Our audience
knew what was up when they ran off
- the government's not coming for
some burned-out queens.

DERRY
Hey!

MARIONNE

The police are no help around here, why should the army? They didn't help in the 80s, they're not going to help now.

CAL

It's been 40 years-

MARIONNE

40 years and we can't even read to children.

DERRY

Bitch please, you hate kids.

MARIONNE

Well, if 40 years have taught me anything, around here, all we've got is us.

Cody runs to the dressing room, slamming the door.

MARIONNE (cont'd)

Shit.

Cal stands, Marianne holds him back.

MARIONNE (CONT'D)

Let him - he needs time.

DERRY

What time?

Derry walks off. Marianne looks at her glass, then pushes it away.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - LATER.

Marionne enters. Cody sits on the floor, holding a lipstick tube, surrounded by makeup swept off a nearby vanity. Marionne sits in a chair by him.

MARIONNE

Hey, kiddo... [beat] Look, I'm sorry. I'm an incurable cynic and I never know when to shut up. I shouldn't have said those things.

CODY

But you're right - we don't have anyone. They never help us.

MARIONNE

Oh, I know I'm right - I've been around the block enough to know that. We've only got us. But I shouldn't say that like it's a bad thing.

BEAT

CODY

Why do you do this? Drag, I mean.

MARIONNE

Because it's who I am. Who I decided to be. I wasted enough time figuring that out.

Cody stares at the lipstick.

MARIONNE (CONT'D)

Do you want to try? [beat] It's not like anyone here will judge.

CODY

Can you help me?

MARIONNE

Well, step one-

She takes the lipstick and tosses it aside.

MARIONNE (CONT'D)

That is not your color.

INT. DRAG CLUB - LATER

Cal and Derry sit silent. The invasion outside is louder than ever - the building shakes, the lights flicker, the music cuts out.

CAL

Dammit...

MARIONNE (O.S.)

Think we can get that playing again?

Marionne and Cody (makeup, sparkly top) come out of the dressing room.

DERRY

Ooh, girl!

CAL

Probably - we've fixed worse.

CODY

Can I pick the music?

CAL

Sure, if you can find something you like.

They go to the sound booth. Cal checks the connections while Cody picks a song.

"The Show Must Go On" by Queen plays.

They all sit around a table. Cody quietly starts singing along.

CODY

"Empty spaces..."

Derry stands up and begins lip-syncing - "I guess we know the score..."

Cal joins in.

CAL

"On and on..."

Derry pulls Cody up on stage. Marionne joins in.

MARIONNE
"Another hero..."

They're all on stage. Cody takes the microphone.

ALL
"The show must go on!"

They're all singing, different octaves, off-key, delirious, desperate. The booming outside grows louder.

ALL
"...but my smile still stays- "

The door explodes inward, the music cuts off. Cal throws himself in front of Cody, who clings to him. Marionne stumbles, Derry catches her. Laser sights shine through the dust.

SOLDIER 1
Freeze!

Human soldiers flow in with the daylight. The queens put their hands up.

SOLDIER 2
(to walkie-talkie)
Delta, we've got 4 more in Sector 9.

SOLDIER 1
Let's get you out of here.

Cody and the queens are herded into the street. The song continues.

"Whatever happens..."

The street is littered with rubble and alien bodies. A trio of civilians beat a twitching alien. A saucer careens overhead, billowing smoke.

Cody and the queens are loaded into a van, getting odd looks from other survivors. Derry helps Marionne in. Cal puts an arm around Cody. Cody takes Marionne's hand. The van door closes.

CUT TO BLACK