

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

Sunbeams through lush trees glisten on a bean-shaped pool. A BBQ fills the air. PEOPLE, young and old, chat in groups.

DAKOTA steps up to the unattended mic as the BAND breaks - his flushed cheeks suit his unintentionally loud voice.

DRIVEWAY

JON BERRY and his Baywatch bud RYAN smoke cigs by the garage.

A little background - Jon was a closet singer inspired by Simon & Garfunkel. He recently posted a video of him singing "For What It's Worth" by Buffalo Springfield on Facebook.

JON

Crazy these guys are graduating.

RYAN

Wild.

DAKOTA (O.S.)

Will Jon Berry please come forward and sing us a song?

Jon and Ryan smirk.

JON

You're kidding.

BACKYARD

Jon enters the vacant half of the yard.

DAKOTA

Has anyone seen Jon Berry? Is Jon Berry still here? Oh, there he is. Come on forward and sing for us, Jon.

Jon can't hide his smile as he approaches the mic - friends chuckle, parents politely confused.

DAKOTA

Everyone, Jon Berry.
(to Jon)
Sorry but not sorry.

He slaps Jon's ass. Jon bends over to the mic.

JON

Hey.

Microphone SQUEAL.

JON (CONT'D)

Sorry. This is a bit of John Mayer's
Free Fallin'. Tom Petty original, John
Mayer's rendition.

Jon fails to adjust the mic - he bends and clutches it.

JON (CONT'D)

*She's a good girl, loves her
mama/Loves Jesus and America too...*

You know the tune. Dakota's mother CHANDRA jumps to her feet
as the CROWD APPLAUSES.

CHANDRA

Woooo! That was awesome! Go, Jon!

JON

Thank you.

BACKYARD - LATER

MICHAEL STEIN strolls in with his dad, MARTY. They split -
Marty heads towards the parents.

Michael got into music when he was 14 - the spirit of Georgia
and John Mayer close to his heart.

Jon excuses himself from a conversation.

JON

Yoo, what's good, brotha?

MICHAEL

What's up, dude, it's been a minute.

JON

Seriously. How've you been?

MICHAEL

Good, dude, how about you?

JON

Good, good, same old. Yo, you're not
gonna believe what happened.

MICHAEL

What?

CUT TO Jon and Michael singing John Mayer's "Waiting on the
World to Change" at the mic - the party-goers watch.

MICHAEL AND JON

Now we see everything that's going

MICHAEL AND JON (CONT'D)
*wrong/With the world and those who
 lead it/We just feel like we don't
 have the means/To rise above and beat
 it/So we keep waiting (waiting)
 Waiting on the world to change*

A NARRATOR with a resonating voice reads.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 The following week, the two got together and learned 'No Diggity' by Blackstreet - a tune they're still very unsure of why they chose. In September, Jon went down to the University of Maryland for his senior year, while Michael continued his studies at NYU. It wasn't until the following June of 2017 they'd get back together. In the depths of Michael's cluttered basement, they penned their first original tune 'Maze.' Yet again, time passed with a handful of unsuccessful meetings between the two. Alas, in the cold of February 2018, they committed to creating ten original tunes for a mixtape titled "Goodnight Melodies" under the name Michael & Berry.

INT. METRO-NORTH TRAIN - NIGHT

ALEX KATZ, a Bucknell graduate battling cancer for the fourth time, heads home from work. He focuses on his iPhone - an Instagram vid depicts Jon and Michael performing.

MICHAEL AND JON (V.O.)
 I'm waterfallin/I'm waterfallin,
 feelin' right as rain/I'm waterfallin/
 I'm waterfallin, ridin' one-way
 train/This dream is here to stay/I'm
 waterfallin

ALEX
 Hm. Not bad.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex paces back and forth, phone to ear - he glances at The Beatles' portrait on his wall.

ALEX
 Heyyy, Jon. How's it goin', man?

INT. MICHAEL'S BASEMENT - NEXT DAY

Eyes closed, Alex performs his original tune 'Sparrow.'

ALEX

*Tell me a story/Of a beautiful
dawn/Tell me a story/So I can go on*

Michael and Jon smile as Alex pours his soul into the piano.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And so it began. They tossed the name Michael & Berry and replaced it with MAB - a unified acronym to represent the three dreamers.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex puts his pajamas on.

ALEX

It's funny isn't it, how things work out. Ya never really know what life has in store for ya. Seven years ago, when we walked the halls of Byram Hills High School, it would've been doubtful for us to have a conversation together.

INT. MICHAEL'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Michael tunes his guitar. He puts it down and walks upstairs.

MICHAEL

Today, we're bound by what we love to do. Create. Whether it's music, writing or animation, there's just something about creating that rushes through our blood. And the hope of sharing our creations with the world...

INT. JON'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Jon shuts his laptop. He grabs his car keys and heads out.

JON

The oxygen we breathe. Seriously. For whatever reason we were brought together, our greatest aspiration is to Create & Connect with people across the globe. It's amazing, how art brings people together.

INT. ALEX'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Jon joins Michael and Alex on a leather couch. They play Super Smash Brothers on Nintendo 64.

JON (CONT'D)

And while music is the core of our group, our dreams go far beyond any song that could be crafted. Movies, animation...

ALEX

Instilling hope.

MICHAEL

Creating worlds.

JON

MABstudioz and water will be keys to world peace. Mark my words.

ALEX

I'd love to own a MABrewery someday.

JON

We'll sell MaBeer at our shows.

ALEX

I love that. Write it down.

MICHAEL

Imagine Mario giving Bowser a thick five-star and whispering in his ear, "There's nothin' like taking down a cold one with Peach."

The guys laugh.

MICHAEL

But seriously, since I was a kid, I've dreamed of creating worlds. Conjuring melodies and places I could escape into. It keeps me going.

ALEX

Oh, the things we'll accomplish. You guys wanna jam?

JON

I'm d.

MICHAEL

Down as well.