

SUS

an original screenplay by

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1 INT. VENUE RESTROOM - DAY

Glue is swabbed on a young mans lips. A fake mustache is pressed in to place. The lips belong to: NOODLE, Mid-twenties, dressed as Freddie Mercury. Noodle's phone rings. He answers.

2 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

ROBERT, Mid-fifties, OFFICE ATTIRE, sits behind a DESK, holding an OLD PHONE, with a FEATHER DUSTER he cleans a BASS GUITAR.

ROBERT  
So he finally answers his phone.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

NOODLE  
Hi Dad. Can we talk later? Im busy.

ROBERT  
Busy finding a job I presume?

NOODLE  
Do we always have to talk about this?

ROBERT  
As long as you keep borrowing money  
from me and your Mom, yes.

A DRUMMER walks out of a bathroom stall and signals Noodle to follow him out of the restroom. Noodle hangs up.  
Robert exhales and dials his phone.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Hello, this is Robert. I have called  
you to ask about our mutual son.

3 INT. VENUE STAGE - DAY

MANDY, Mid-40's, sits in a sea of empty chairs near the stage.

MANDY  
What's today's problem Robert?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

ROBERT  
I'm trying to meet him on his level  
like you said but he might as well be  
on a milk carton I never see him. Do  
you know what he is up to?

MANDY  
I haven't a clue.

Mandy waves to Noodle as he takes the stage holding a BASS.

ROBERT

Mandy, we are raising a nobody. No job, no girlfriend, no interests. Tell me: how is he going to function in a society without any chutzpa?

MANDY

Our son is plenty interesting. He's ambitious, he's creative. Much like someone I knew back in the day.

ROBERT (V.O.)

Interesting how Mandy! He's a bum!

MANDY

He's a really sensitive kid Rob.

NOODLE

We are the fat bottomed Boys!

A FLAG that reads: "Fat Bottomed Boys" rolls out behind them. Mandy hangs up her phone and claps alone in solidarity.

NOODLE (CONT'D)

Y'all ready for some Queen covers?  
Sound check, sound check.

Time stands still. Red light floods the scene. In the blink of an eye, Robert appears in Mandy's place.

ROBERT

So this is what you hide from me.  
What a life plan. A queen cover band?

NOODLE

It's not just a queen cover band.  
And we might do original songs too!

ROBERT

Look at this bullshit. Look at him!  
Look at your shitty guitar! Maybe you'd have a better bass if you applied yourself and got a job.

NOODLE

People are going to remember tonight as the night I began my rise to fame. In a few years when you see me on the Jumbotron- I will sneak up behind you with my shitty bass and smack it across your ass!

Noodle's face boils with rage. He throws the bass at Robert. Robert smiles and disappears as time resumes. The falling bass shatters against the floor.

The Fat Bottom Boys stare at Noodle. Noodle covers his mouth in shock.

FAT BOTTOMED BOY  
I love you like a brother but you  
are killing this opportunity for us!  
You better get your act together.

The Fat Bottomed boys strut away in a huff. Noodle sits at the edge of the stage. Mandy sits beside him.

MANDY  
Hey, you ok? If there is a reason  
you just threw your bass across the  
room you can tell me; as your mom or  
as your band manager.

NOODLE  
Tonight was gonna be our big break,  
and I ruined it. I can't play without  
a bass.

MANDY  
I'm sure you could find another one  
last minute. Don't beat yourself up.  
I gotta run to work.

Mandy pats noodle on the head and exits. Noodle, alone, curses.

4 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Robert sits at his desk. He answers the old phone.

NOODLE (O.S.)  
Hey, can we do dinner? I have  
something important to tell you.

ROBERT  
I'm glad to hear that. See you soon.

Noodle hangs up the phone. Robert's forehead wrinkles.

MANDY, NOODLE, AND ROBERT (V.O.)  
He's a really sensitive kid Rob.  
Something important to tell you.  
Never had a girlfriend.

ROBERT  
I understand. My son is.. Gay?

Robert closes his eyes and fantasizes.

5 INT. DREAM OFFICE

Robert leans on a WATER COOLER. Manly shadows climb the wall.

## SHADOW

Robert, whats up! I was just telling the guys about me and my sons fishing trip. How's it going with your boy?

The shadows reciprocate with approving chatter.

## ROBERT

Me and my son have been at odds lately. My ex wife says he's creative. The only thing he creates is pain in my ass. The kid is passionate about bupkis! I just wish I could break through to him: show him he can shine!

## SHADOW

Your son sounds like a big pussy!

Robert writhes in agony. A heavenly light showers him. He stills. Noodle in WHITE ROBES reaches down to Robert.

## NOODLE

Tell them father. Empower me!

Robert rises to his feet dressed as the LONE RANGER.

## ROBERT

My son is not a pussy! He's got heart! And with his Dad by his side, he has nothing to hide. My son is GAY!

Robert rips open his shirt to reveal a pride flag beneath. Shockwaves rip through the shadows. Robert stands proud.

## NOODLE

Thank you daddy. You found my spark! Now I can blossom in to a man!

## GOD (V.O.)

You are the true hero of progress.

A NOBEL PIECE PRIZE lands around Roberts neck. Applause.

6 EXT. ROBERT'S FRONT DOOR - EVENING

Noodle puts car keys in his pocket and rings the doorbell. In the door's glass reflection he sees his costume.

Noodle grows a frightened expression and yanks on his mustache. Robert opens the door and looks at Noodle with a half smile.

## ROBERT

Hey, kiddo. Dressed up for something?

NOODLE

No, this just the fit fo today pops.

7 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Noodle and Robert sit at a TABLE enjoying SPAGHETTI, BREAD STICKS, and MILK. "Call me by your name" plays on the TV. Noodle bites a PHALIC BREAD STICK. Robert Side-eyes Noodle.

ROBERT

You know, that Timothee Chalamette is the new big teen heartthrob.

NOODLE

What's this movie?

ROBERT

Call me by your name? It's a queer cinema modern classic.

Robert's bass hangs on the wall. Time stops. The space divided.

NOODLE (V.O.)

So close yet so far.

NOODLE (CONT'D)

I have some surprise news. I had a job interview at a guitar store.

ROBERT (V.O.)

My son? Work? Please. But behind every lie is the truth, tonight is the night my son comes out. And when he does, he is going to feel welcome.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Meet anyone special?

NOODLE

The boss of the place, I told him about your bass. He asked if I could bring it in tonight. I think it could make a good impression on the guy.

The room spins. Robert hoists a breadstick skyward.

ROBERT (V.O.)

Eureka! A ploy to woo the same sex with MY prized bass? I would be the perfect person to include in this, yet you hold us at arms length. Mark my words: I will free you from the closet even if it kills me!

The room stills. Robert mumbles to himself in his seat.

NOODLE

Dad? Are you listening?

ROBERT

I need to go to the bathroom.

Robert exits. Noodle's phone rings.

8 INT. ROBERT'S CLOSET - NIGHT

Noodle sits in Robert's closet. He answers his phone.

FAT BOTTOMED BOY (O.S.)

We're on soon. You got a new bass?

Robert waits outside the closet. He holds his ear to the door.

NOODLE

Don't worry. Y'all are getting nonstop  
tasty licks when I get there. The  
fat bottom boys are my top priority.

FAT BOTTOMED BOY (O.S.)

You need to get your ass here ASAP.

Robert's eyes bulge out of his head. Noodle hangs up his phone.  
Robert power walks out of sight. Noodle opens the closet door.

9 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Robert power-walks to his desk and poses. Noodle enters.

NOODLE

Were you listening through the door?

ROBERT

Perhaps I overheard. Son I think its  
time you came out of the closet.

NOODLE

Dad, i'm not in the closet.

ROBERT

And I support that.

NOODLE

So you know about tonight? Me playing  
with the fat bottom boys?

ROBERT

Play with whoever you want. I have  
one problem: I don't want you using  
my bass to impress your boyfriend.

NOODLE  
My boyfriend?

ROBERT  
Tell it to me straight. You're gay.

NOODLE  
What? I'm not gay! What do you think  
is happening tonight?

ROBERT  
Gay mustache stuff! "Tasty licks" I  
don't know!

NOODLE  
I need your bass for the fat bottomed  
boys!

ROBERT  
I know!

NOODLE  
Without it: I lose everything!

ROBERT  
Well you didn't earn it. It's my  
bass, I bought it. Do you think that  
when I was your age, I went to my  
Dad for hand outs? No, I put on my  
big boy pants and I worked for it.

Noodle sees red. His eyes well with tears.

NOODLE  
If you like your bass so much why  
don't you marry it!

Noodle throws a breadstick at the Bass. Robert turns around  
mouth agape. It ricochets off the bass in to Roberts throat.

NOODLE (CONT'D)  
And while you are at it, crawl out  
of my asshole and grow a heart! Im  
figuring myself out ok! And if what  
I am isn't what you want then- are  
you choking?

Robert chokes on the breadstick. He slumps to the ground.

Noodle gets on top of robert and applies chest compressions.  
Robert coughs up the breadstick. It bounces off Noodle's face.

ROBERT  
Son, I think we started off on the  
wrong foot.

NOODLE

Dad I-

Robert slips on the breadstick, and falls. Noodle cradles Robert. Noodles takes a fake mustache and uses it as a bandaid for Robert's head wound. Noodle is inconsolably sobbing.

ROBERT

What's on my head?

NOODLE

You didn't have any bandaids and I always keep a spare mustache.

Robert wipes a tear from Noodle's eye.

ROBERT

Listen: when I was young, your grandfather and I butted heads. My hair, my music. When I got older I realized: fathers judge, guide, push you to be what they know is best.

NOODLE

Why can't we be our best us? You're guiding us apart. I want to confide in you without feeling like I'm being dissected. Why cant we be friends?

ROBERT

A father can't be your friend son.

NOODLE

Why not?

ROBERT

Because if we could've always been friends, that means its my fault we're not.

NOODLE

What do you want?

ROBERT

I want what all Dads want: to be in your life, I want to know that my son can succeed.

NOODLE

I can prove it, but I need your help.

10 INT. VENUE STAGE - NIGHT

The crowd hushes. The Fat Bottomed Boys, DRESSED IN FUR-SUITS, wielding instruments, wait on stage. Mandy sits crowd-side.

FAT BOTTOMED BOY  
Everyone, we're sorry but, we wont  
be able to play queen covers tonight.

NOODLE (O.S.)  
What about an original instead?

Noodle rushes onstage followed by Robert who holds his bass.

ROBERT  
You are a furry. One question: why  
are you Freddie Mercury?

NOODLE  
I'm not Freddie Mercury. I'm Freddie  
Meow-cury.

Noodle puts on a pair of FLUFFY CAT EARS.

NOODLE (CONT'D)  
Just follow our lead, hit it Dad!

Robert and the boys play a sick tune. Noodle provides vocals.  
Noodle swings his behind revealing a TRAMP STAMP: "SUS"

ROBERT (V.O.)  
Son, you rock.

NOODLE (V.O.)  
No Dad, WE rock!