

FBC

arrested development

"The Fam"

Written By

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Imagine Television
20th Century Fox Television

Network Draft
1/10/03

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT

"The Fam"

COLD OPEN

An anchorman, RICK NICELY, promos the eleven o'clock news. A graphic over his shoulder reads "Wild Pigs!"

RICK NICELY

Housing developments have forced them out of their natural habitat, now hundreds of aggressive, displaced pigs have been forced to live in ours. We'll show you how, at eleven.

Fade out. **Back up on a party boat on the Newport Harbor at twilight.** A likeable narrator (we'll call "Ron") tells us:

RON (V.O.)

On this Boat, in Orange County, California, Michael Bluth is celebrating the fiftieth wedding anniversary of his parents.

Cut to Michael Bluth (mid 30's, type A personality) posing for a photo. Chyron reads: "Michael Bluth. Sales"

RON (V.O.)

It's the first time he's gathered with all of his siblings in years.

Widen to reveal he's surrounded by his siblings on the boat. The photo's taken and they disperse. Lucille approaches Michael.

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

This is Lucille, Michael's mother. Currently she's upset about some protesters on a nearby boat.

Chyron reads: "Mrs. Lucille Bluth. Socialite."

LUCILLE

This is such an important night for me and look what they've done to me. Look at what the homosexuals have done.

MICHAEL

You can't just comb it out and start over?

Lindsay (early 30's) approaches.

LUCILLE

They make everything so *dramatic* and *flamboyant*. I could scream.

LINDSAY

You know, Mom, not everything is a stereotype. Not all homosexuals are... (THEN, NOTICING PROTESTER ON DISTANT BOAT) Oh, my God, I have the exact same blouse.

A chyron reads: "Lindsay 'LumLum' Bluth. Activist."

LUCILLE

I like it better on him.

RON (V.O.)

This is Michael's sister Lindsay. Lindsay is the sole liberal of this conservative family. She lives in Boston where she's become well known for her wine and cheese fundraisers.

Quick cuts. 1.) An elegant party at Lindsay's. A banner reads, "No More Meat!" A chyron reads, "Anti-cattle ranching campaign." 2.) Another party. Banner reads, "No More Fish!" Chyron reads, "Anti-fish-farming Commission." 3.) Another. A banner reads, "More Fish and Meat!" Chyron reads, "Committee to improve school lunches."

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

There's been tension between Michael and his sister since she missed the funeral for Michael's wife.

Grainy footage from on high of a forking road. We see a line of cars with their lights on. Chyron reads: "Courtesy of the Newport Beach Police Department traffic camera."

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In actuality, Lindsay had attended the services and was on her way to the cemetery, but her husband Tobias was driving and he ended up following a random car that had its lights on.

A highlighted area depicts Tobias' car making a sweeping right turn behind a van with its lights on.

RON (V.O.)

Then, there's Michael's oldest brother, George Oscar Bluth Jr. He's goes by his initials, G-O-B, or Gob. ("JOBE")

Back on the boat. Michael speaks with Gob, (late 30's) as he prepares a magic trick called "The Aztec Tomb." Chyron: "George Oscar Bluth II. 'Gob' Magician. (Part time)"

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Gob had promised Michael to chip in for his share of the party tonight.

GOB

I thought instead I'd perform a new illusion, tonight. *Gratis*.

MICHAEL

A trick? That's your contribution?

GOB

I perform *illusions*. A "trick" is something a whore does for money.

MICHAEL

Great, she gets cash, and I get a magic trick.

GOB

Can't you ask Buster?

Angle on: Buster, mid-20's, staring into the middle distance.

RON (V.O.)

And finally there's Buster, the youngest of Michael's siblings.

Buster begins to look uncomfortable. Chyron reads: "Byron 'Buster' Bluth. Scholar."

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Thanks to his family's largess, Buster has remained in graduate school...

Buster's hands have started pulling away at his collar. He breathes hard trying to "Blow it out."

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...studying everything from cartography to foreign languages and playing the tympani drums. He also suffers from crippling panic attacks.

Buster sinks out of frame. Back to Michael and Gob.

MICHAEL

That's okay. I'll cover it.

RON (V.O.)

But Michael's in a good mood tonight, as he hopes to finally get promoted to partner by his father, George Sr.

Angle on George Sr. Standing to make a toast. Chyron reads: "George Bluth Sr. CEO."

GEORGE SR.

Hope you're having fun, because this
sure cost me a lot of bananas.

Photo of George in front of a sign reading "Bluth's Banana.
The Original Frozen Banana." A chyron reads: "1953."

RON (V.O.)

Michael's father first tasted success
in 1953 when he opened a small stand
selling frozen bananas at a tourist
destination called Balboa Island.

Archival footage. A banana is dipped in chocolate, rolled
in nuts, then locked into a deep freezer.

RON (V.O.)

The profits were invested in real
estate, and soon George Sr. amassed
a fortune as the largest builder of
high-cost, low-quality, mini-mansions
in all of Southern California--

Quick cuts. 1.) A cupboard door comes off in a woman's hand.
2.) A garage door comes down at an angle over a Mercedes.
3.) A shelf supporting a TV collapses as a family watches.

RON (V.O.)

While Michael has remained a salaried
employee since college.

Back to the boat. Michael awaits his fate stiffly.

GEORGE SR.

Before I make my announcement I just
want to say that I believe this year
is going to be the best year the
Bluth family has ever had.

RON (V.O.)

What no one in this family realizes,
however, is that tonight is the night
that their lives will change forever.

We hear a low heavy ominous drum beat. Then.

GEORGE SR.

Is that necessary?

Angle on Buster, at his tympani.

BUSTER

Sorry. Thought you wanted a drum
roll.

We hear the driving arpeggio that intros the song "And Your
Bird Can Sing" as we cut to Main Titles.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. MICHAEL'S HOME - MORNING

We start on a sign that reads "Bluth Developments Marquis Homes" over a picture of 25 beautiful matching homes. We pull back to reveal that only one of the homes is built, there is no landscaping.

RON (V.O.)

The morning of the boat party began like any other.

We hear an alarm clock and cut to the master bedroom. Michael and George Michael sleep in adjacent inflatable beds. Michael turns off an alarm clock and wakes up his son.

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Michael and his son George Michael cleaned up their home so it could again function as the model unit for the latest of the Bluth Developments.

MICHAEL

Up and at 'em, Buddy.

We see quick cuts of this as they talk throughout. Michael and his son deflate and roll up the remnants of their beds.

GEORGE MICHAEL

So you think once you get this promotion we'll have more money?

George Michael covering the small portable working TV with a large plastic big-screen TV facade.

MICHAEL

That's not really the issue. We're doing fine.

Michael removes his lunch from the refrigerator and replaces it with a large plastic turkey.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

But I'll be able to make my own schedule. We'll get more time together.

George Michael crouches and enters a crawl space where he keeps all his worldly goods -- it's his true bedroom. (Note: There are five or six boxes of the game Monopoly stored here.)

GEORGE MICHAEL

You'll get it. You deserve it.

Michael is in his own crawl space getting his bicycle helmet.

MICHAEL

I don't know about that but at least we've earned what we have.

Michael and George Michael remove and roll up the giant blue tarp that covers their couch.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Which is a hell of a lot better than being like my aunt and uncles and having life handed to us on a platter.

MICHAEL

Whoa -- Where'd you get that?

GEORGE MICHAEL

From you. You said it last night when we were hiding our leftovers.

They're seated by the door putting on their bike helmets and shoes. They get their bikes and cross out over the following.

MICHAEL

Well, maybe you're right, maybe they have been spoiled. But they're coming in today, so don't tell them you feel that way.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I'm actually excited about seeing everybody.

MICHAEL

That's right. What do we care? We've got a great life going here. We can be ourselves. We don't have to pretend we're something we're not. And, frankly, I think--

They exit out the front door, to find a young couple, brochures in hand, approaching to check out the model. Father and son immediately go into their act.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

--this is the nicest one we've seen.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Should we make an offer?

MICHAEL

Yeah, but we better hurry. These homes are going to get snapped up. That's quality construction.

Michael and his son exit through the gate, which then falls off its hinge. George Michael reenters, fixes it, and exits.

EXT. BALBOA ISLAND - A LITTLE LATER.

Michael and George Michael approach the Bluth's Banana stand on their bikes. Michael notices two other men nearby (Chester and Steve.) One wears a hat that reads "The Bluffs".

MICHAEL

Why don't you open up, I have to talk with these guys.

RON (V.O.)

Michael got his son a job here at the original "Bluth's Banana" to build the boy's self esteem since the death of his mother.

INT. BLUTH'S BANANA.

Cut to George Michael chipping ice from the inside of the banana freezer. Gob approaches the shop on a "Segway" human transporter scooter. He rocks back and forth by the window.

GOB

Hey, what do I have to do to get some service here?

GEORGE MICHAEL

Uncle Gob.

GOB

(TOSSES HIM A BAG) I bought you a birthday present.

GEORGE MICHAEL

(PUZZLED) It's not my birthday.

GOB

Well, I didn't actually buy it for you. It's my old Monopoly set. You don't have it, do you?

Flashback: We see the shot from earlier of Michael and his stack of Monopoly games. **Back to present.**

GEORGE MICHAEL

No. Not really. Thanks.

GOB

I used to love it. It's a great game to play with all your brothers and sisters.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I actually don't have any brothers and sisters.

GOB

Well, you might yet. You're lucky.
I'd give anything to be eight again.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I'm thirteen.

GOB

Naw, I wasn't so crazy about thirteen.
The acne. The erections.

George Michael looks away, self-conscious.

GOB (CONT'D)

Hey, Give me a twenty. You got a
twenty? This'll blow your mind.

Gob reaches for a bill from the cash drawer. He goes into
his magician character as he performs a magic trick.

GOB (CONT'D)

"In days of yore, it was thought
that money was magic, granting special
powers to all who...

Gob spots Michael talking to the two men. He starts out,
absent-mindedly pocketing the bill.

GOB (CONT'D)

Oh, there's your Dad. I better, um...
(TO GEORGE MICHAEL) Take it easy.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Um, Uncle Gob. Where's the twenty?

GOB

Hey. A magician never reveals his secret.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Well, I just need to--

GOB

Look at me. It's magic.

Gob winks and rides off on his Segway.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Wow. It's so much like stealing.

EXT - BALBOA ISLAND STREET.

Michael is talking with the two men. Gob approaches on his
gyroscopic scooter.

MICHAEL

Gob. Long time.

Gob dismounts for an awkward hug then nods towards the men.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Oh, um.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Chester, Steve... this is my brother
Gob.

CHESTER

How you doing?

GOB

Incredible. I'm having a great year.

Gob high fives them.

CHESTER

(TO MICHAEL) Give us a call.

Chester hands Michael a card but Gob intercepts it and the
men ride off.

GOB

(READING) "The Bluffs"?

MICHAEL

Housing Developers. The competition.

GOB

Oh, that's fine. I thought they
were TV executives.

Michael doesn't ask why. Gob explains anyway.

GOB (CONT'D)

See, I wrote a pretty threatening
letter to the Fox network after they
aired that "Magician's Secrets
Revealed" special. Some ...meaty
words were used. Salty language.

MICHAEL

Well, it sounds delicious.

GOB

I even started an "alliance of
magicians" where any magician that
reveals his secret on TV can no longer
work in the business. Ruffled some
feathers. So, I've got to stay alert.

A wild pig charges down the street behind them, tourists
duck out of the way. Gob and Michael continue on, oblivious.

MICHAEL

Well, believe it or not, it wasn't
about you. They're interested in me
running their company.

GOB

What'd you tell them?

MICHAEL

I told them to go to hell.

Flashback to earlier. Michael speaks with Chester and Steve.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Wow... I'm flattered! I mean... I really can't right now, but... I mean, wow. I'm flattered.

Back to present. Michael is with Gob.

GOB

Well, you better have. We don't need them knowing our secrets.

MICHAEL

Our secrets? I've never seen you down at the office.

GOB

I don't work there.

MICHAEL

That's my point.

GOB

No, that's my point.

MICHAEL

Then we're both making the same point.

GOB

Fine, we'll just agree to agree.

MICHAEL

The reason I said no is because Dad's making a big announcement at this party tonight. I think he might give me control of the company.

GOB

No, I don't see him doing that.

MICHAEL

What else could it be? He's done everything else. What more is there for a successful, wealthy man to do?

GOB

They also like being confined in remote airless spaces. Always hot air ballooning or getting shot into space. Could be something like that.

MICHAEL

Well, I say he's going to acknowledge that I'm ready to step up and take on more responsibility in this family.

GOB

And I say he's getting shot into space!

MICHAEL

Oh, good grief, why are you here, Gob?

GOB

Hey, you asked me to bring you a check for the party.

MICHAEL

Oh. Thanks.

GOB

Yeah, I don't have it. Maybe tonight. Can't you ask Lindsay?

MICHAEL

Naw, I can't do that--with what her husband's going through.

Newspaper photo of Tobias over caption "Dr. Tobias Fünke."

RON (V.O.)

Lindsay's husband, the psychiatrist Dr. Tobias Fünke, recently lost his medical license for administering CPR to a person who, as it turned out, was not having a heart attack.

Widen to reveal the picture next to it. Paramedics surrounding a man lying on a beach. Headline reads: "Sleeping tourist has sternum broken." **Back to Michael and Gob.**

GOB

Don't worry about Lindsay. Mom gives her plenty of money. She's been staying at the Four Seasons for a month.

MICHAEL

Lindsay's been here for a month?

GOB

Yeah. You're not exactly "plugged in." You didn't even know Dad was getting shot into space.

RON (V.O.)

It bothered Michael that Lindsay hadn't called him. He also thought it might be a good idea to confirm his promotion.

INT. GEORGE AND LUCILLE'S BALBOA BAY CLUB PENTHOUSE

RON (V.O.)

So he went to the one person he knew
was ultimately responsible for both.

Lucille is examining a fox stole complete with head, tail,
back legs and one paw.

LUCILLE

Look. Look what happened to my fox.
Someone cut off his little foot.

MICHAEL

Awww. Of course that was *after* he
was killed and made into a scarf.

LUCILLE

I want to look nice tonight. After
all, the (MOCKING GRANDIOSE) "Widow
Austero" is going to be there.

MICHAEL

Mom, don't try to compete with Lucille
Austero. She owns more stock in
Bluth Development than Dad does.

LUCILLE

I'm not competing. She's my good
friend, and I may not have her money
but at least my husband's not dead.

MICHAEL

Wow, that's really... (WIPES MOCK
TEARS AWAY) Is that a lyric or
something? (THEN) I'm just here
because I want to make sure I'm not
going to be disappointed tonight by
what dad says. At the party.

LUCILLE

You know your father. He'll probably
be funny and say how many bananas
it's costing him.

MICHAEL

Yeah, actually the bananas are coming
out of my tree, but, hey, that's why
Dad gets the big laughs. I'm talking
about the promotion.

LUCILLE

Lindsay's right about you. You're
so "concrete and literal."

MICHAEL

Oh, yeah thanks for not telling me she was here, by the way.

LUCILLE

(SNAPPING) If you're saying I play favorites, you're wrong. I love all my children equally!

Flashback to Lucille and Buster at a restaurant. Chyron reads: "Earlier that year."

LUCILLE (CONT'D)

I don't care for Gob.

Back to present.

LUCILLE (CONT'D)

Dad will take care of you, Michael. He always has. Besides, if you need money I'd be happy to write you a check. You're too stubborn to ask.

MICHAEL

I just want to be rewarded for my work. Not... given a gift.

LUCILLE

At least you'd be able to buy a real home. Living in a model. Good grief. And that boy of yours is getting too old to share a bedroom.

MICHAEL

It gives us less to clean, okay?

LUCILLE

I'm just saying, he's going to want to date, soon. And you've got him working all the time.

MICHAEL

Hey, he needs that now. And Buster's twenty-five I don't see him dating.

LUCILLE

That's because he wears those horrible glasses; makes him look like a praying mantis. Plus he's self-conscious.

MICHAEL

Hmm. I wonder why?

Buster greets Michael from behind with a back rub.

BUSTER

Hey, brother.

MICHAEL

Hey, Buster... How are-- (STOPPING THE BACK RUB) You can stop doing that. How are you?

LUCILLE

Tell him about your cartography.

BUSTER

It's really amazing. Mom just got me these state of the art mapping tools. Takes all the guesswork out of charting unknown topography.

MICHAEL

But, is there still guesswork? I mean, hasn't everything already sort of been discovered. Like by Vasco Da Gama and Cortez and those people.

BUSTER

Yeah, those guys did a pretty good job. But there's still... you know.

LUCILLE

You still have to double check.
(THEN, TO BUSTER) I don't want you to wear those glasses tonight.

BUSTER

Well, I kind of need them.

LUCILLE

No, you don't. You need a girlfriend. Besides I hate those glasses. They make you dependent.

MICHAEL

See, and I think you did that to him.

Lindsay enters.

LINDSAY

Michael.

MICHAEL

Hi, Lindsay. Need some help with your bags?

LINDSAY

Um... actually I'll wait until I check in at the hotel and--

Lucille shakes her head frantically to signal Lindsay.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

I mean I just checked in--

LUCILLE
(SOTTO) He knows!

LINDSAY
--A month ago. I'm sorry. How's
your son?

MICHAEL
He's fine. Don't worry about him.

LINDSAY
I just needed time to decompress.
It's been so busy. We just had an
amazing fundraiser for HOOP.

MICHAEL
Hoop?

LINDSAY
My anti-circumcision movement.

Quick shot of an elegant party at Lindsay and Tobias' house.
A chyron reads: "Anti-circumcision Movement." A banner
reads; "Hands Off Our Penises." **Back to present.**

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
Believe it or not, we brought in
over a hundred thousand dollars.

MICHAEL
No kidding. So does that mean there
will be a hundred thousand more
foreskins out there, or am I being
too "literal and concrete."

Lindsay looks to Lucille.

LUCILLE
He knows that, too.

Lindsay rolls her eyes and crosses off. Tobias enters with
Lily (16). They ad-lib greetings.

TOBIAS
Michael! (DEEP MEANING) How are
you?

MICHAEL
I'm good, you?

They ad-lib greetings. Lindsay excuses herself.

TOBIAS
Well, I'm out of work, as you know.
But, I'm hoping the universe will
provide a path for me.

MICHAEL

Hey, maybe you'll be inspired by the boat party and start a career as a pirate.

Tobias appears to consider this, then.

TOBIAS

(DEEP MEANING) How are you?

MICHAEL

Still good, not much has changed.
(TO LILY) You having fun out here?

LILY

It's awful. Everyone's an actor.
With their fake body parts...

MICHAEL

Well, this is Orange County. I think the only actor we have is Buddy Ebsen. Although I have a feeling that's not his real hip.

TOBIAS

Besides, we don't need to start all that "everyone's phony" stuff, again.

RON (V.O.)

A year earlier, after reading a book by J.D. Salinger, Lily gave up all that was "phony" and began to pursue a life of continual prayer.

Quick cuts: 1.) The Fünkes at dinner--Lily bows her head to pray over an empty plate. 2.) Lily prays during a wine and cheese party (under the banner "Our bodies, our choices.") 3.) The Fünkes are back at the table eating dessert. Lily continues to pray over an empty plate, now smiling and dizzy.

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It wasn't until she claimed to have rapturous religious experiences that the Fünkes sought psychiatric council.

Lily, Tobias and Lindsay sit in a Psychiatrist's office.

PSYCHIATRIST

Perhaps she's turning to "our father" because her own father is somehow... not present.

This sits for a beat, as Tobias appears to consider it. He suddenly exclaims;

TOBIAS

The depression symposium!

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

That's how I know you! (THEN, WITH DEEP MEANING) How are you?

Lindsay at home, flipping through "Rolling Stone."

RON (V.O.)

Lily's piety was something of a let down to a mother who had always hoped her children would rebel against traditional values. She was even more unprepared for the choices of her younger daughter.

LINDSAY

Honey, this is a cute tattoo for you.

Maebly (13) enters in a ball gown wearing glamorous make-up.

MAEBLY

I want to enter beauty pageants.

Lindsay gasps.

RON (V.O.)

Mae, or Maebly, was endlessly inventive in finding ways to alarm her parents.

Maebly enters the living room, where Lindsay is hanging a banner, which reads "World Wildlife Fund."

MAEBLY

That's tonight? I asked some friends from my club to come over.

LINDSAY

Well, they're welcome to join us.

Cut to later that night as the elegant party is underway. Maebly opens the door ushering in a large group of rifle toting NRA members. Chyron reads: "Greater Newton chapter of the National Rifle Association."

EXT. BLUTH'S BANANA - BACK TO PRESENT.

Maebly approaches the Banana stand. There are two people on line and George Michael works the counter.

RON (V.O.)

Currently, Maebly is visiting a cousin who hasn't seen her in years.

MAEBLY

I'd like to speak to the manager? I bought a frozen banana here, and when I bit into it, I found this.

She holds up the missing foot from Lucille's Fox stole.

CUSTOMER #1

Oh, my God.

CUSTOMER #2

It looks like a foot!

MAEBY

It tasted like a foot!

Perhaps a shriek from a customer. The customers clear away.

MAEBY (CONT'D)

Which I didn't mind, but I'm pretty sure I said "no nuts."

GEORGE MICHAEL

(DAWNING ON HIM) You're my cousin.

MAEBY

Maebly. Hi George Michael.

GEORGE MICHAEL

You know what, I'm actually trying to get people to just call me George.

MAEBY

Really? Why?

GEORGE MICHAEL

No reason.

Footage of the April '98 arrest of performer George Michael in a men's room. We hear "I Want Your Sex." **Back to present.**

MAEBY

So you really didn't recognize me?

GEORGE MICHAEL

Well, we never see you. We never see anybody in our family.

MAEBY

I know. It's our parents' fault. We should teach them a lesson.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Yeah, ha! (THEN) No, I don't think so.

MAEBY

You know what we should do? I should go to my Mom tonight and be like; I met the cutest guy. And then she'll see you and I totally making out.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Yeah, ha! (THEN) But, not really, right?

MAEBY

It's perfect. She'd freak out and I'd be like "Mom, if we saw each other more this wouldn't happen."

GEORGE MICHAEL

But... We're cousins.

MAEBY

That's what makes it funny.

GEORGE MICHAEL

But--isn't it against the law?

MAEBY

I don't think so.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I know for certain that the yacht club would have a problem with it.

Maeby paws at George Michael with the fox foot enticingly. He looks concerned.

INT. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL.

We're in the hotel room as Tobias emerges from the bathroom in a robe. He begins looking through luggage.

RON (V.O.)

That night, the Fünke girls left early for the party. Tobias, having misunderstood Michael's comment...

Flashback to Michael and Tobias in Lucille's apartment.

MICHAEL

Maybe you'll start a career as a pirate.

Back to present.

RON (V.O.)

...now believed this to be a pirate party. He began searching through his wife's clothing for an outfit.

We're outside the hotel now as Tobias emerges in a brightly colored Versace blouse, tights, a scarf, etc. He's waved over to a flamboyantly dressed group of men boarding a van.

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Then, mistaking a group of garishly dressed men for pirates, Tobias boarded a van full of homosexuals.

EXT. PROTEST BOAT - LATER THAT NIGHT.

Tobias is speaking to large man in a powdered wig.

RON (V.O.)

Soon, he was unknowingly part of a protest against the local yacht club.

TOBIAS

How are you?

RON (V.O.)

Meanwhile the Bluth family boat party had begun.

EXT. BLUTH FAMILY BOAT PARTY - SIMULTANEOUSLY.

Lindsay is with Lucille in a moment from the start of the show. Lindsay looks at a distant boat.

LINDSAY

Oh, my God, I have the exact same blouse.

LUCILLE

I like it better on him.

Lucille exits as Lindsay takes a closer look. It is her blouse. And Tobias is wearing it. Angle on Buster, standing on the deck smiling at someone.

RON (V.O.)

Buster was trying to get by without his glasses, and doing pretty well.

BUSTER

¿Cómo estoy?

We reveal he's speaking to an array of tortilla chips arranged under a large sombrero and serape. Buster is embarrassed.

Angle on Lucille and her friend Lucille Austero.

LUCILLE

I'm so glad you're here to celebrate my wonderful marriage.

WIDOW AUSTERO

Oh, darling, I can afford to be anywhere and yet there's nowhere else I'd want to be.

They laugh and hug. Then.

LUCILLE
But I have a husband.

WIDOW AUSTERO
And I own more shares of
your company than you do.

Angle on: Maeby and George Michael.

MAEBY
I don't understand why you work every
weekend. Aren't you, like, my age?

GEORGE MICHAEL
Well, It's important to be
responsible. I think there aren't
enough young people today who have a
real work ethic.

MAEBY
(CONSIDERS, THEN) What do you mean?

GEORGE MICHAEL
(REALIZING) I don't know.

Angle on Lucille Austero noticing someone. She smiles.

RON (V.O.)
Meanwhile the widow Austero, perhaps
because of Lucille's taunts, or
perhaps because he's without his
glasses-- took an interest in Buster.

Buster stares back, smiling confidently.

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Buster, however, failed to notice her.

The Widow Austero looks away, then back. "Are you smiling
at me?" Buster nods to the music. She writes "Call me.
Maybe we could have some fun together" on a note and hands
it to a waiter, who approaches Buster. He reads it.

BUSTER
Who gave you this? Was it a girl?

WAITER
Um. Yes.

BUSTER
Which girl.

WAITER
(AS DELICATELY AS POSSIBLE) The...
um, "blonde"... um... "girl."

The waiter exits as Buster myopically searches in vain.
Angle on George giving his toast.

RON (V.O.)

And George Sr. finally made his announcement.

GEORGE SR.

I've spent many years at the head of a business, but there's one thing I just wasn't ready to do. Well, today I'm ready to. And thanks to the hard work of my team... (MICHAEL BEAMS) The support of my wife... (LUCILLE ROLLS HER EYES) ...and the break up of the former USSR... (MICHAEL LOOKS CONCERNED) I'll be spending three weeks in a decommissioned nuclear submarine traveling underneath the Arctic Circle!

GOB

It's funny; I'd completely come around to hot air balloon.

The P.A. system blares "Under The Sea." Michael is stunned.

BUSTER

But, what's going to happen to the business while Dad's submerged?

LINDSAY

Well, Michael can't do too much damage.

Michael takes this in, then turns to Gob.

MICHAEL

Give me the card.

GOB

What?

MICHAEL

The card. From "The Bluffs." The development. I'm taking that job.

Michael takes the card and pulls out a cell phone. He crosses away as he dials. Lindsay follows.

LINDSAY

Michael...

Angle on Maeby with George Michael.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I guess, well, when you think about it, what else is there besides work?

Maeby looks up to see Michael approaching followed by Lindsay. She grabs George Michael and kisses him. Michael walks past pursued by Lindsay and Gob. No one notices the kids kissing.

LINDSAY

I didn't mean it that way.

In the background we hear the rising noise of speedboats.

MICHAEL

I've had it. I'm out. I've got a son to think about. It's over.

There are flashing lights and sirens now.

GOB

Is that... are those police boats?

POLICE (V.O.)

Please prepare to be boarded.

Angle on: George Michael and Maebly. They break the embrace.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I knew it was against the law!

George Sr. approaches Michael.

GEORGE SR.

Give me the phone. It's the SEC. The Securities and Exchange Commission!

MICHAEL

Well, why would they--

GEORGE SR.

I need to call the damned attorney!

Lucille approaches the captain of the ship.

LUCILLE

What are you doing?

CAPTAIN

We're being pulled over.

LUCILLE

We certainly are not. My husband has business to take care of. You're taking us into international waters.

George Michael approaches Michael.

GEORGE MICHAEL

What's going on, Dad?

MICHAEL

I didn't get the promotion. (THEN)
And we're on the run from the law.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. BOAT PARTY - CONTINUOUS

The boat party continues to flee, pursued by police boats. Lucille is with the captain as Lindsay and Buster approach.

LUCILLE

Lindsay, take the wheel. Buster, find us a channel to the ocean.

BUSTER

Oh. Gee.

LINDSAY

(AT WHEEL) Where am I going Buster?

BUSTER

See, I don't really have any of my mapping equipment with me.

LUCILLE

You've had eighty thousand dollars worth of cartography lessons. Get us the hell out of here.

BUSTER

Okay, lets see... Um... (HE LOOKS AT THE MAP) Okay if this blue area here is the land... that would make us... (STARTING TO PANIC) Oh, boy.

George Sr. is yelling into the phone.

GEORGE SR.

Well, empty those accounts!

LILY

They're gaining on us!

Gob comes up and manhandles his father away.

GOB

Get in here. The Aztec Tomb.

GEORGE SR.

I don't have time for your tricks.

GOB

Illusions, Dad! You don't have time for my illusions! I'm not a whore.

GEORGE SR.

I don't know what you are.

GOB

Just get in. It's got a false back. You push it and it swings you into this bag! They'll never find you.

Gob pushes his father into the box as Lucille approaches Michael with a headful of steam.

LUCILLE

Who did this Michael? Who turned your father in?

MICHAEL

How the hell should I know?

Michael turns to see one of the approaching boats. He recognizes Chester and Steve wearing yellow SEC windbreakers. They wave. Michael waves back. Then realizes who they are.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Oh. Right.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOCAL NEWS ANCHOR DESK.

We're back at anchorman RICK NICELY's news desk this time on a two-shot that includes co-anchor Jennifer Thoon. This time a graphic over his shoulder reads "*Disoriented Pigs!*" -

RICK NICELY

...remember, while these pigs may be angry and confused, the greatest danger they pose is to themselves.

RON (V.O.)

The Bluth family dominated the news that night. Scoring not one, but four of the top news stories.

We see a series of upcut news stories.

1.) Jennifer Thoon in front of a graphic that reads: "*Slow speed boat chase!*"

JENNIFER THOON

Southern California is the home of the slow speed freeway pursuit, but tonight's flee from justice was on the sea.

2.) Rick Nicely and graphic: "*Arrested Development!*"

RICK NICELY

Bluth was arrested tonight for defrauding investors by hiding debt, and using the company as his personal piggy bank...

Footage of George being led away in handcuffs.

RON (V.O.)

Even Tobias made the broadcast.

3.) Rick in front of a graphic that reads "Swish-Bucklers!"

RICK NICELY

More trouble on the high seas tonight as dozens of homosexuals protesting the yacht club's discriminatory policies were arrested.

Footage of Tobias and the protesters. They shout "We're here, we're queer, get used to it!" Tobias double-takes.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - THAT NIGHT.

The Bluth's absent George, Michael, and Tobias are waiting to be released. They watch a TV in the corner.

GOB

Doesn't get much worse than this.

Angle back on news: A graphic behind Jennifer Thoon reads; "Magician's secrets revealed!"

JENNIFER THOON (ON T.V.)

Bluth is also being charged with evading arrest by hiding in the most unusual of places. Trisha Itsanaki has that story.

Cut to Trisha Itsanaki on the boat by "The Aztec Tomb."

TRISHA ITSANAKI (ON T.V.)

...it was Mr. Bluth's son Gob (PRONOUNCED 'GAWB') a part time magician who hid his father here.

GOB

Oh, this isn't good.

TRISHA ITSANAKI (ON T.V.)

By pushing with his heels, Mr. Bluth was able to slide from behind this panel and curl up in this bag. Perhaps a good trick for a human, but the dogs found him almost instantly.

Gob grimaces. Tobias enters from the holding area.

TOBIAS

I'm all right.

LINDSAY

(COULDN'T CARE LESS) Thank God.

Tobias hugs Lindsay and attempts to bring the girls into the hug. They're out of his reach so he brings an uninvolved Gob into the embrace. Buster gives him a back rub.

TOBIAS

Oh, my God, what an adven-- (TO
BUSTER) you don't have to do that.
(THEN) What an adventure.

Tobias breaks the hug and tells his family (as if it's news.)

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

I thought the homosexuals were
pirates. Turns out a lot of these
guys are from a local theater group.
Actors and so forth.

GOB

Well, blow me down.

Michael enters, they all rush to him.

MICHAEL

They're going to keep Dad in jail,
but we're free to go. Also the
attorney said they're going to shut
down our bank accounts for a while.

This gets gasps.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Gee, I kind of expected that after I
said "they're going to keep Dad in
jail."

LINDSAY

Well, they can't keep him here.

GOB

She's right. He's a wealthy man.
He's not used to this kind of thing.

MICHAEL

Well, look at the bright side; he's
finally got that confined airless
space he's been working for.

They exit.

RON (V.O.)

With all the assets frozen, Michael
had no choice but to sort out the
family's financial matters.

Footage of a stack of bananas being shut into a deep freeze.

INT. LUCILLE'S APARTMENT - DAYS LATER.

Michael is sitting with Lucille going over some books. The
rest of the family is around as well.

MICHAEL

...two hundred thousand dollar Ritz restaurant disbursement. Little much for a dinner, no?

LUCILLE

Well, good grief, Michael, where would you like me to eat? (WITH MEANING) Applebee's!?

RON (V.O.)

George Michael meanwhile was increasingly infatuated with his cousin.

Angle on George Michael smitten with Maeby.

MAEBY

Can you believe this? So much waste.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I know. I'm tempted to kiss again, so we could teach them a lesson.

MAEBY

Well, why would that teach them a--

GEORGE MICHAEL

No, I mean, to freak them out.

MAEBY

Well, but that doesn't make sen-

GEORGE MICHAEL

(A LITTLE DESPERATE) Isn't that what makes it funny?

Back to others. Gob enters.

GOB

Well, I'm out of the Magician's alliance. They saw the piece on the news and they kicked me out.

LUCILLE

But that's not fair. It was your alliance.

GOB

You think magicians care about fair? They're liars. They trick people and manipulate their trust. Actually they kind of remind me of Dad.

TOBIAS

Listen, I didn't want to interrupt before, but... well, first of all, how are yo--

ALL
 (ANNOYED) Fine! / We're fine! /
 What?!

TOBIAS
 Well, I've been hoping the universe
 would provide me a path, and I kept
 thinking about what happened to me
 on that boat with the theater group
 the other night and--

LINDSAY
 Oh, dear God, you're gay.

TOBIAS
 Gay? No, honey, I'm not gay.

LILY
 Oh, dear God you want to be an actor.

TOBIAS
 I want to be an actor!

SFX: Dramatic drums. Lily looks concerned and exits. Reveal
 Buster sitting at his tympani wearing a walkman.

LUCILLE
 (POINTEDLY) Shouldn't you be studying
 your maps?

BUSTER
 (A PITIFUL DEFENSE) I thought the
 blue part was the land.

INT. DEN - CONTINUOUS

George-Michael enters to retrieve his bike. Lily is there
 praying, but stops immediately as if she was caught smoking.

GEORGE MICHAEL
 Sorry. I have to go to work. (THEN)
 Hey... can I ask you something? I
 like this girl and... I feel like
 it's wrong, you know? I mean, what
 do you think I should do?

LILY
 Honestly? I think you should try to
 avoid this person. Because impure
 thoughts often lead to impure actions.
 And that's sin. And I sort of have
 this theory about sinners.

GEORGE MICHAEL
 What is it?

LILY

I think they burn in hell.

George Michael considers this, then.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Okay. Well. This is helpful. And she's going back home later so it's fine. But listen... don't tell anyone I told you this, okay?

LILY

I was going to ask you the same thing.

George Michael exits as Lily returns to prayer.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS.

GOB

Okay, let's think this through. Dad wouldn't leave us high and dry. One has to assume he put some money in a safe place. (THEN) The couch!

LUCILLE

Don't you dare!

GOB

I'm taking off the slipcover, Mom!

MICHAEL

(FACETIOUSLY) Maybe it's at my place. Maybe there's a safe deposit box key inside the plastic turkey.

GOB

(SUSPICIOUSLY) I never said anything about a safe deposit box key.

LINDSAY

I hate to say it, but I don't understand how you could let this happen, Michael. I mean, it is your job isn't it?

MICHAEL

I'll tell you what my job was supposed to be. I was supposed to be in charge. I should have been made an officer of the company tonight. I should be behind bars right now. (THEN) I'm not really sure what point I'm making.

LINDSAY

Well, what have you been doing at that company?

MICHAEL

(BUILDING) What have I been--? I've been working eighty-hour weeks. I've been earning the money that pays for Buster's school and... this one's "illusions"--

GOB

Aw, they're just tricks.

MICHAEL

--and of course my sister's illustrious penis parties.

LINDSAY

I'm really sick of your judgments. You can't support a single thing I do.

MICHAEL

Hey, I earn the money that supports everything you do.

LINDSAY

I'm not talking about money. You're so damned literal! You've never even asked me about my life...

MICHAEL

And you haven't exactly been cheerleading for my son and me. We've been completely alone out here. You were my sister, Lindsay. Where the hell did you go?

LINDSAY

Yeah, well it doesn't sound like you want me. All I ever hear from Mom is you don't approve of me as a parent--

MICHAEL

--and all I ever hear from Mom is how uptight you think I am!

LUCILLE

I wish I knew why my children don't get along!

MICHAEL

So, you know what? This time I'm really done. I'm done with the insults, with the job, I'm done with the family.

Michael exits. Lindsay does as well.

RON (V.O.)

Lindsay had decided to go back to Boston, but she was angry and, after checking out of the the Four Seasons...

We follow Lindsay and her family, bags over their shoulders, as they hit the emergency exit of a back stairwell and run like fugitives as she barks; "go, run, dig, move" Etc.

RON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...she found herself searching the model home for her father's safe deposit box key.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOME - LATER.

Lindsay enters the model home and starts looking in shelves, behind picture frames, in the plastic turkey, etc.

INT. CRAWL-SPACE - MOMENTS LATER.

George Michael is in his cramped crawl-space "bedroom" when Lindsay throws the door open. They both jump.

LINDSAY

What are you doing?

GEORGE MICHAEL

I'm getting ready for work. What are you doing?

LINDSAY

I'm going home.

GEORGE MICHAEL

Well... why are you here?

LINDSAY

Because-- To say goodbye to you.

GEORGE MICHAEL

(MOVED) Really?

Lindsay is also moved, despite the fact that it's not true.

LINDSAY

Of course. You're my nephew. I wouldn't leave without seeing you.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I'm going to miss you guys.

LINDSAY

Well... we'll be back next, um--
(SEARCHES, THEN) Don't say that.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I just mean it's been nice having family around. You know? Since Mom died... I mean, there's Dad, but--

George Michael thinks better of going down this road.

LINDSAY

(FEARING THIS IS TRUE) It's been lonely?

GEORGE MICHAEL

It's not that bad. I shouldn't have said anything. I mean, as he always says, we're a team, and that's more than most people have. Plus, we've both got our work.

LINDSAY

You ever tell him how you feel?

GEORGE MICHAEL

I don't want him to think I'm complaining or anything. He tries so hard to take care of everyone that... I don't want to disappoint him.

Lindsay nods. Then.

LINDSAY

Listen, I know that he and I haven't been that close lately, but I know my brother. And he'll love you no matter what you do. I guess that's the good part about someone who's stubborn.

George Michael nods, then.

GEORGE MICHAEL

I better get to work.

He starts out, then grabs Lindsay and holds her tight for a moment. She's stunned. He exits.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER.

Michael enters with his bike. Lindsay is there.

MICHAEL

Looking for money?

LINDSAY
(OFFENDED) No, Michael. I actually
came to say goodbye to your son.

MICHAEL
You did?

LINDSAY
Yes.

Lindsay actually believes this now.

MICHAEL
Thanks. Where is he?

LINDSAY
He had to work.

MICHAEL
He doesn't work today.

LINDSAY
Yeah... I think he was trying to
take his mind off things. (THEN) I
think he's lonely.

MICHAEL
Well, why doesn't he say that to me?

LINDSAY
Because you're his father. And he
doesn't want to disappoint you.

MICHAEL
That's ridiculous. He could never--

LINDSAY
I told him that.

Michael is surprised. With more meaning,

MICHAEL
Thanks.

LINDSAY
I guess we all don't want to
disappoint you.

MICHAEL
Well, it's not exactly like I'm some
great example of accomplishment.

LINDSAY
Are you kidding me? You're the only
one of us who is.

MICHAEL

Oh, come on.

LINDSAY

It's true. You're the one everyone's counting on now. Look at my life, Tobias is out of work, we're in debt...It's embarrassing. That's why I didn't call you.

MICHAEL

Well, you don't have to be ashamed in front of me. I'm your brother.

They regard each other for a moment. Then.

LINDSAY

How did we get so screwed up.

MICHAEL

I don't know. (THEN)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Mom.

LINDSAY

Probably Mom.

They laugh. Then,

MICHAEL

Listen, I don't want us to slip away from each other.

LINDSAY

I know. Neither do I. Because to tell you the truth--

An older couple, brochures in hand, enter to see the model. Lindsay and Michael go into their act without missing a beat.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

...I love the kitchen.

MICHAEL

And that master bathroom... They're going to sell a bunch of these.

LINDSAY

I think it's perfect for us.

MICHAEL

Oh, the kids are going to be thrilled.

They head out, nodding hello to the incoming couple.

EXT/INT. BANANA BLUTH STAND.

George Michael is cleaning out the melted chocolate bins. Michael enters with a bag.

ON THE NEXT "ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT"

A series of quick cuts as we hear;

RON (V.O.)

On the next "Arrested Development."

1.) Buster speaks with Michael in a doctor's office while the Widow Austero receives botox injections.

BUSTER

We're going to try to make this work!

RON (V.O.)

The family adjusts to their new
circumstance.

2.) George Michael in his bedroom listening to Maebly singing in the shower. He burns with lust.

RON (CONT'D)

Many finding work for the first time.

3.) Lindsay at Cartier. Her boss shows her a watch.

SALESWOMAN

...and it's the most expensive watch
we have, so only let the customers
who are serious try it on.

LINDSAY

It is a fun watch. (Then) I'll
take it.

4.) Gob addressing Chester and Steve.

CHESTER

I know we promised, but "The Bluffs"
doesn't exist. We work for the SEC.

GOB

Fine, I'll take a job there.

RON (V.O.)

And Michael finds it difficult to
get his father out of jail.

5.) Michael and George Sr. (in orange jumpsuit) at the prison.

MICHAEL

You... love it here?

GEORGE SR.

I'm having the time of my life!

FADE OUT: