

# The Naked Truth

By  
Ron Frank  
Tony Eldridge

(Based on the book by  
Leslie Nielsen and David Fisher)

PROPERTY OF  
FRANK Productions  
14709 Valley Vista Blvd.  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403  
(818) 788-5501

THE NAKED TRUTH

BEGIN CRAWL:

*"This Documentary Film is gratefully dedicated to all those people who have made the motion picture industry what it is today - the only business in the world where the trailer comes first."*

END CRAWL:

CLOSE UP: A TV SET CLICKS ON TO THE SCI-FI CHANNEL: A MOVIE CLIP FROM "FORBIDDEN PLANET" WITH LESLIE NIELSEN.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Most people believe his career began in the movies.

TV CLICKS TO THE NOSTALGIA CHANNEL: A TELEVISION CLIP from "Studio One" with LESLIE NIELSEN

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

But it was television, where he really got his start.

TV CLICKS TO ROMANTIC CLASSICS CHANNEL: A MOVIE CLIP from "Tammy and the Bachelor" with LESLIE NIELSEN.

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

He's had many kinds of roles in his long career. Roles like the romantic leading man.

TV CLICKS TO THE DISASTER CHANNEL: A trailer from "The Poseidon Adventure" The tidal wave is about to strike. LESLIE NIELSEN plays Captain Harrison.

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

Or the Captain of a doomed cruise ship.

CAPTAIN HARRISON

Oh my God.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Stay tuned for "The Hindenburg" coming up next!

TV CLICKS TO THE COMEDY CHANNEL: A MOVIE CLIP from "Airplane!" and "Naked Gun" with LESLIE NIELSEN.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In his later years, he was able to demonstrate his tremendous gift for comedy.

TV CLICKS TO THE GOLF CHANNEL: A VIDEO CLIP from "Bad Golf My Way" with LESLIE NIELSEN.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And perform some lesser-known skills.

On the golf course, LESLIE instructs fellow actor JACK NICHOLSON on the many alternative uses for a nine iron.

LESLIE  
So you place your feet like this and swing.

The club smacks into JACK, knocking him over and out of frame.

TV CLICKS TO THE GOSSIP CHANNEL: JOAN RIVERS is interviewing LESLIE NIELSEN before the Academy Awards out on the red carpet.

JOAN RIVERS  
So, Leslie Nielsen, what is it really like to be considered one of America's greatest living actors?

LESLIE  
Well Joan, being at the very, very top isn't as easy as it looks. To those legions of actors looking up at me, it probably looks incredibly glamorous and exciting,.

BIRD POOP plops on Leslie's shoulder. LESLIE looks down at it and back to Joan.

LESLIE (CONT'D)  
But to those pigeons flying overhead, all I am is a big target

JOAN turns her head to the CAMERA.

CUT TO:

PBS: OPENING for the acclaimed television series, "NORTH AMERICAN MASTERS". SERIOUS FACES of FAMOUS PEOPLE fly across the screen to THEME MUSIC.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Tonight on "North American Masters", a story that for some will be just too hard to believe. It is a story about one man's incredible journey. His relentless search to find the basic truths of life and the real price of fame. This is the story of Leslie Nielsen.

The last FACE is of LESLIE NIELSEN, with a very surprised look. It comes to a FREEZE.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Uncensored! Uninhibited! Unbelievable!

Opening production credits are presented with traditional documentary-style orchestral score.

OPENING TITLE: "THE NAKED TRUTH"

A MONTAGE OF STILL PHOTOS portraits of LESLIE, then: LESLIE with DEMILLE; LESLIE WITH LEE; HAWKS; MINNELI; HITCHCOCK; LEAN; ESTEVEZ; SPIELBERG; AND WILDER.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He is a gifted talent that worked with the best in the business. Directors with names like C.B. DeMille, Spike Lee, Howard Hawks, Vincente Minnelli, Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean, Emilio Estevez, Billy Wilder and Steven Spielberg.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

STEVEN SPIELBERG  
I remember when we did the remake of "The Invisible Man" with Leslie in the lead role. Leslie would show up on the set of the grab his bagel and coffee, then he'd just disappear.

A PRODUCTION STILL from the movie shows Leslie's head completely wound up in bandages, wearing sunglasses and a hat.

STEVEN SPIELBERG (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The studio kept pressuring me to replace him. But I said why bother?

STILLS of LESLIE with: DEAN, BRANDO, KELLY, PANTHER, DeNIRO AND EASTWOOD.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And Nielsen worked with great actors such as James Dean, Marlon Brando, Grace Kelly, T.P. Panther, Robert De Niro, and Clint Eastwood.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

CLINT EASTWOOD

Leslie.... Leslie Nielsen...Well I don't remember much but I knew he was married at least four times.

TITLE: "CHAPTER ONE: THE FIRST CHAPTER OF MY LIFE"

EXT. LOG CABIN, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, CANADA - DAY

It is snowing heavily.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

It was a life that started out in a log cabin, far away in the cold and barren world of the northern Canadian frontier.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of Bernard Nielsen in the snow

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

Bernard Nielsen, Leslie's father, was a constable in the royal Canadian Mounted Police when he met Emily Young.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO Of BERNARD with EMILY YOUNG in the snow.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of THE NIELSEN FAMILY (the parents, 2 boys, and a baby), in the snow. MOVING IN on the baby being held by Emily.

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

They married and had three sons. After their youngest, Leslie, was born in 1926, Bernard was assigned to the small outpost of Fort Norman, in the Northwest Territories.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of the one residence making up Ft. Norman.

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

The population of Fort Norman consisted of... the Nielsen family. It was a place accessible only by boat and only when the weather turned warmer. From this

forgotten spot, a future career in  
Hollywood seemed a world away.

INT. LESLIE'S HOME - DAY

LESLIE stands next to hanging portraits of his parents dressed  
in winter coats.

LESLIE

Neither my mother nor my father cared  
much about show business. The truth is  
that they were both very cold people. In  
fact, everybody in my family was very  
cold.

Camera PANS to reveal more photos of family members bundled in  
winter coats.

EXT. SCENES OF EDMUNTON, CANADA - DAY.

A horse and carriage pass a "Welcome to Edmonton" sign. PAN  
downtown Edmonton in the distance blanketed in snow.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But at age 4, Leslie's family moved to  
the city of Edmonton, where the boys  
could attend a regular school. It was  
here that Leslie discovered his love for  
the theater.

INT. LESLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

LESLIE'S MOTHER enters in silhouette to peer over a crib.

LESLIE (V.O.)

From a very early age, I was an actor.  
Perhaps my earliest memory is my mother  
looking down lovingly at me as I lay in  
my crib telling me..

LESLIE'S MOTHER'S P.O.V. of SIX YEAR OLD LESLIE lying down in  
a crib he does not fit in.

LESLIE'S MOTHER

(yelling...obviously at her wits  
end)

Leslie, you're six years old, for God  
sake, stop acting like a baby!

On LESLIE's boyhood desk is a framed photograph of his fourth grade class (1935) posing with teacher Dean Stockwell. Two girls sit on a smiling Dean Stockwell's lap.

LESLIE (V.O.)

My fourth-grade teacher was Mr. Stockwell who probably had more impact on my life than anyone other than my parents and my second wife's attorney.

In a FLASH, the photo comes to life. The girls hop off Stockwell's lap.

DEAN STOCKWELL

(fiendishly)

And now class its Leslie and Diane's turn.

LESLIE & DIANE

(groaning)

Again!

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

Rehearsal of the school play. LESLIE, AGED 9 is dressed as a Knight.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Mr. Stockwell was a warm, caring man. He loved children and the theater and tried to share his love as often as he could with his students.

In the background, a screaming STOCKWELL is being led away in handcuffs by two uniformed policeman.

LESLIE (V.O.) (cont'd)

Something Social Services and the police finally came to understand.

CUT TO:

To the applause of TEACHERS and PARENTS at the performance of the school play. The KIDS in the cast take a curtain call at the foot of the stage.

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

Standing on the stage in a school play for the first time, bathing in the applause of the audience, I felt happier and warmer than I'd ever been in my life.

Every time YOUNG LESLIE bows, his Knight's helmet slams shut in his face.

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

It was a magical moment, and I knew then that I would spend my life learning how to act, being in the movies, going out with starlets, paying divorce lawyers large sums of money. But first I knew I had to finish fourth grade.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of GREAT GRANDPA WYATT JAMES NIELSEN dressed as a western cowboy.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Leslie came from a family that had a history in show business. His great-grandfather was Wyatt James Nielsen. It was said that Wyatt was one of the finest actors from America's Old West.

EXT. OLD WESTERN TOWN FROM LATE 1800'S - DAY

A dirt street of a typical frontier town.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Despite the fact that records never mention any roles Wyatt might have played, his talent was commonly known.

A MAN'S BOOTS climb onto a stagecoach that kicks up dust as it heads out of town.

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

Every time he arrived in a new town, he was ordered to get on the stage.

A series of ARCHIVE STILL PHOTOS of AUNT LILA.

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

The first actress in the Nielsen family was Lila, a great-aunt. Lila was famous for the roles she created in still pictures.

PHOTO of AUNT LILA lying naked with her back to the camera.

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

But to those who really knew her, Lila's real talent lay somewhere else.



INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Movie critic and film historian LEONARD MALTIN sits in his office.

LEONARD MALTIN

There was also Leslie's uncle, the actor Jean Hersholt. Born to famous Danish performers, Hersholt entered the family profession as a young man, touring Europe before emigrating to the United States in 1914.

A series of ARCHIVE STILL PHOTOS of actor JEAN HERSHOLT.

LEONARD MALTIN (CONT'D)

By the 1920s he was recognized as one of the movie world's premier supporting actors, who prided himself on creating his own character makeup. Hersholt devoted himself to many humanitarian and charitable causes offscreen, inspiring the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to establish the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award.

A CLOSE-UP of the Oscar statue for Jean Hersholt.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Leslie grew up with an inherent interest in the theater.

EXT. OLD MOVIE THEATER - DAY

YOUNG LESLIE enters the theater with his TWO BROTHERS. On the marquee it says "Frankenstein".

LESLIE (V.O.)

It was in Edmonton that I went to the movies for the very first time. I was five years old, and I went with my brothers on Saturday morning to see the original Frankenstein, starring Boris Karloff, Colin Clive, Steven Wolf, and Mae Clark.

MOVIE CLIP from "Frankenstein"

COLIN CLIVE

(from the film)

He's alive!... He's alive!

Watching "Frankenstein" from the audience.

LESLIE (V.O.)

As a child, I learned many of life's most important lessons from those Saturday-morning movies.

MOVIE CLIP of COWBOY IN A WHITE HAT in a duel and killing his opponent.

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

Never get involved in a showdown with a cowboy wearing a white hat.

MOVIE CLIP from a modern war film. A SOLDIER declares victory only to get shot by a sniper.

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

Never stand up on a battlefield and say loudly, "It's over. We won. Those cowards are gone."

MOVIE CLIP of the Frankenstein monster.

FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER

(from the film)

Friend.... Good.

LESLIE (V.O.)

And never, ever trust anyone whose head is bolted on.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of a YOUNG LESLIE in military uniform.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In the summer of 1943, Leslie left home to join the Canadian Air Force. He dreamed of becoming a fighter pilot, instead he became a pilot fighter.

ARCHIVE FILM NEWSREEL: a Canadian military recruitment film to defend against Fascism during World War Two.

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

In the desperate days of World War II, when casualty rates among fighter pilots was unacceptably high, ranking officers blamed part of that on a lack of confidence. Too many had seen their fellow pilots go down in flames. They were tired and scared. In order to help

restore their self-confidence a top-secret, elite corps was created. Leslie was ordered to volunteer for this unit. Their covert mission coded word was Operation Punchbag.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of PRIVATE ARNOLD CAHOON with PRIVATE LESLIE NIELSEN in uniform, 1943.

ARNOLD CAHOON (V.O.)  
I was in the same unit as Leslie.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Arnold Cahoon now retired is sitting in his home.

ARNOLD CAHOON  
Our mission was to infiltrate the pilots' favorite drinking hole the night before they were to fly a dangerous mission. There we would get drunk, make lewd comments about their mothers and the girlfriends they left behind, pick fights with other airmen smaller than we were and let them throttle us. I saw Leslie get the crap kicked out of him over and over again.  
(choking up)  
He was really damn good at it.

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE of Air Force planes taking off.

ARNOLD CAHOON (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I think we helped give those guys a little more confidence when they took off.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
To this day Operation Punchbag remains classified. Its success has never been officially determined. Although many years later there was a rumor that its creator became a top political consultant for Ralph Nader.

EXT. CKMM RADIO STATION WITH ITS BROADCAST TOWER - DAY.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
After the war, Leslie got a job at radio station CKMM, a Canadian station with five thousand watts of power. The

opportunity to be on radio was exciting.  
It gave him a variety of experiences.

ARCHIVE FILM CLIPS of YOUNG LESLIE; as a disc jockey;

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Here, Leslie was a disc jockey...

YOUNG LESLIE sings to the microphone, while a CLEANING WOMAN  
dusts in the background holding one ear.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He sang gospel music on Sunday  
mornings...

YOUNG LESLIE reads commercials;

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Read commercials....

YOUNG LESLIE reads from a newspaper into the microphone.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Delivered the news....

YOUNG LESLIE at his desk on the telephone.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Sold airtime...

A CLOSE-UP from behind of a COUPLE entering the studio  
together and closing the door.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And tried to sleep with the boss'  
wife....

LESLIE (V.O.)  
Actually, I tried to sleep with the  
boss's wife by mistake. She was having  
an affair with the most popular deejay at  
the station, and one night he got sick  
and asked me to fill in for him.

Through the glass door we see their silhouettes as the man  
leans in to kiss the woman. Followed by a loud SLAP.

YOUNG LESLIE  
Ow!

LESLIE (V.O.)

Only later did I find out that he'd meant  
he wanted me to do his show.

EXT. LORNE GREENE SCHOOL OF BROADCASTING - DAY

A SIGN on a run down building reads "Lorne Greene School of  
Broadcasting."

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Leslie was advised that he needed more  
training to make it on the air. He  
enrolled in Lorne Greene School of Radio  
Broadcasting.

INT. OFFICE RECEPTION AREA.

A framed still PHOTO of LORNE GREENE hangs in the lobby.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Named for the actor and future star of  
television, Lorne Greene was the voice of  
Canada during the dark days of World War  
Two.

INT. HALLWAY WITH CLASSROOMS AND STUDIOS

The CAMERA travels past open doors of studios and classrooms  
where STUDENTS are practicing to be radio broadcasters.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I learned a great deal at his  
broadcasting school. The only course I  
had trouble with was Emergency  
Broadcasting.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A TEACHER enters the room. STUDENTS are seated along with  
YOUNG LESLIE.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I was doing pretty good until our teacher  
announced a pop quiz one day.

TEACHER  
It's a simple test. I want to hear each  
of you announce the words, "This is not a  
test."

YOUNG LESLIE raises his hand.

TEACHER (CONT'D)  
Mr. Nielsen.

YOUNG LESLIE  
Is this a test?

TEACHER  
No, that's wrong, this is not a test.

YOUNG LESLIE  
I'm sorry, I thought you said this was a test.

TEACHER  
It is. This is not a test. That's the test.

YOUNG LESLIE  
Let me get this straight. If I say to you, this is not a test, then I've passed the test?

TEACHER  
That's right. It's a very simple test. This is not a test.

YOUNG LESLIE is confused as the test begins.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I began to realize that this radio business was a little more complicated than I anticipated.

DISSOLVE TO:

A LETTER lies opened on a table announcing Leslie's scholarship to study in New York City.

TWO PACKED SUITCASES stand by the door.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Nevertheless, by the end of his first year at Radio School, Leslie was awarded a scholarship to go to New York City and study acting with the esteemed teacher Sandy Meisner at the Neighborhood Playhouse.

EXT. U.S. - CANADA BORDER CROSSING, NIAGARA FALLS - DAY.

From far away, YOUNG LESLIE approaches the border on foot, carrying a suitcase.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
In 1948, Leslie crossed Niagara Falls and entered the United States.

YOUNG LESLIE approaches a CUSTOMS AGENT

CUSTOMS AGENT  
Anything to declare?

YOUNG LESLIE  
Absolutely!

YOUNG LESLIE turns to face Canada

YOUNG LESLIE (CONT'D)  
(shouting)  
One day I'm going to be a great actor!

YOUNG LESLIE continues on foot into the United States.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
He left Canada with hope, determination, and one clean shirt, confident of the future in front of him.

ARCHIVE FILM of New York City in the 1940's. The skyline and street scenes.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
New York in the 1940's was perhaps the most exciting place to be on earth. A place where buildings scraped the sky. A city of dreams and opportunities.

YOUNG LESLIE looks up at buildings.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Like most actors who made New York their mecca, Leslie was young, ambitious and poor.

A boarded up tenement on West 92nd street.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He shared a tiny apartment on West Ninety-Second street.

LESLIE (V.O.)

The best thing about it was we never  
needed curtains for the windows.

VIEWS of the Actors Studio and Neighborhood Playhouse.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Neighborhood Playhouse and the Actors  
Studio were the training grounds for  
young actors. Many talented performers  
were just beginning their careers here.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTOS portrait shots of Dean, Brando, Wallach  
and Jackson, Winters, Gazzara, Roger Rabbit Sr., Newman and  
Woodward, Monroe.

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

Their names became legend. James Dean,  
Marlon Brando, Eli Wallach and Anne  
Jackson, Shelley Winters, Ben Gazzara,  
Roger Rabbit, Sr., Paul Newman and Joanne  
Woodward, even Marilyn Monroe.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of Martha Graham.

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

It was at the Neighborhood Playhouse  
where a ballroom dance instructor made  
her residence. Martha Graham was a  
conservative and internationally known  
artist.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Martha tried everything to teach me  
ballroom dancing, but I just wasn't very  
good at it. I have terribly bowed legs,  
and I just couldn't seem to get them  
moving in the same direction. One day we  
were trying to master the box step and I  
suggested we try something slightly  
different. Miss Graham was very upset.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - DAY

MARTHA GRAHAM faces YOUNG LESLIE.

MARTHA GRAHAM

Absolutely not. The beauty of dance is in  
its tradition. The reason for doing it  
this way is because it's always been done



this way. There's only one correct way of doing these steps, and that's the way we're going to do them.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I told her I was sorry, that I couldn't because of my bowed legs.

YOUNG LESLIE demonstrates a new move.

YOUNG LESLIE

But maybe if I moved my right leg slowly across my body, then twisted my left leg behind me, turned swiftly, then raced across the stage and leaped into the air as if I were being carried on the wings of angels.

MARTHA GRAHAM

Wait a moment, I'm beginning to see what you mean. You're talking about putting...movement into dance.

YOUNG LESLIE

It certainly would be different.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I could see she was intrigued.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Acting gave me a unique opportunity to grow as a human being, to put myself inside the minds of an extraordinary variety of real and imagined characters, to explore my own emotions, to travel, to experience the world in a fascinating way, and to meet a lot of great looking girls. Acting is truly a wonderful profession.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

They were ambitious and dedicated to the theater. With apartments of their own, and their parents thousands of miles away, these free-spirited performers sometimes wrote their own scenes.

EXT. NEW YORK APARTMENT BUILDING

Moving in on an apartment window.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

It was here in New York, that Leslie made love to a woman for the first time. But to the naive young actor "love" was just another four-letter word.

INT. LESLIE'S NEW YORK APARTMENT

YOUNG LESLIE and his actress companion JOANNA JONES are sitting on the floor rehearsing.

LESLIE (V.O.)

One rainy afternoon I was rehearsing with a lovely young woman named Joanna Jones. In this scene, she was supposed to say, "Could I hold your umbrella? Instead she said....

JOANNA JONES

I'd like you to rip off all my clothes and lick every part of my body.

YOUNG LESLIE looks over his script.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I looked at my script. At first I thought she might have had a revised edition. I couldn't find that line anywhere.

YOUNG LESLIE

What page are you on?

JOANNA tosses her script over her shoulder.

JOANNA JONES

Forget the script.

JOANNA takes the script out of LESLIE'S hands and puts her arms around him.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Then I realized what she was doing...She wanted to do an improvisation.

JOANNA JONES

I want you, I want you right now.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I didn't know what to do. I had just started acting classes. So I made the silly mistake that all men make at one time or another in affairs of the heart. I told her the truth.

YOUNG LESLIE

I'm a va..va..virgin.

JOANNA JONES

Virginia...Delaware...Arkansas.. I don't give a damn where you're from. Now take off those pants.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING WINDOW

LESLIE (V.O.)

I began to realize we probably wouldn't be doing that scene in class.

INT./EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING LOBBY

JOANNA slips slowly out the front door and blows a kiss to LESLIE.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Our relationship had a lot of ups and downs that afternoon, but as we parted, I remember she said....

JOANNA JONES

I'd like to see a lot more of you.

LESLIE watches her leave.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I was puzzled by that. I thought she'd already seen everything there was to see.

EXT. CHINATOWN, NEW YORK CITY - DAY

YOUNG LESLIE is walking on air down a New York City street. Oblivious to the pedestrians around him.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I was a changed man. I'd finally found out for myself what all the fuss was about.

EXT. CHINATOWN, NEW YORK CITY

LESLIE stops in front of a Chinese Restaurant.

LESLIE (V.O.)

To my great surprise, sex had a lot in common with something else I'd recently discovered--Chinese food. When you finished, you were content, but fifteen minutes later you were ready to start all over again.

LESLIE sees a CHINESE MAN sitting on a stoop.

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

Suddenly I understood why China had the largest population in the world.

The CHINESE MAN gives LESLIE a big grin.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - A SUMMER DAY.

The park is filled with COUPLES making out on the lawn. YOUNG LESLIE is seen from afar surrounded by limbs.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

From that moment on, Leslie had discovered that sex was becoming more and more important in his life. Yet often, something was missing.

LESLIE gets up and walks away. The limbs turn out to be other couples making out in the foreground.

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

Most of the time it was a woman.

EXT. BROADWAY THEATER DISTRICT - DAY

The bright lights of Times Square and theater marquees.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The lives of Leslie Nielsen and other struggling actors in New York, revolved around the theater. While they all dreamed of opening on Broadway in the latest hit by Tennessee Williams...

EXT. RUN DOWN THEATER - DAY.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

... They were just as content to be working on an experimental play in a converted loft down on MacDougal Street.

EXT. NEW YORK KOSHER DELI - DAY.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Or, as in Leslie's notable performance of Richard III in the back of a kosher deli on Hester Street.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTOS with LESLIE from the production of "Accent on Youth" and "The Pope Tells a Whopper".

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Finally, the young actor did get a few breaks. He was in "Accent on Youth" in Boston with Paul Lukas, and "The Pope Tells a Whopper" with Gillian Boswell.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTOS of the Actors Studio.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
After completing his formal training at the Neighborhood Playhouse, Leslie often worked at the Actors Studio.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of LESLIE with JAMES DEAN

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
During this time, Leslie met a talented young actor who would become a legend. His name was James Dean.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of a YOUNG GIA LOCKHART

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Gia Lockhart was Dean's girlfriend at the time.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Gia Lockhart sits in her New York Penthouse. She still has sex appeal, and has aged gracefully.

GIA LOCKHART  
I think Leslie really saved James' career. Very few people knew that James always had difficulty expressing real emotions when he was acting. So when Elia Kazan invited him to audition for the

starring role in "East of Eden", he panicked. He said he couldn't do it, because its a character that gets hurt and angry. He just couldn't do it. So Leslie came to James with an idea.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

I asked James how he would feel, I mean really feel, if he knew that while he was auditioning, Gia and I were going out behind his back. That we would be alone together, hugging, kissing.....touching private parts.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

GIA LOCKHART

Oh James was hurt and angry just at the thought of it. But he agreed. So Leslie and I did it... ah, for James of course.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Gia wasn't really my type. I've never been very attracted to absolutely gorgeous women with perfect bodies. But.....this was for a friend.

EXT. NEW YORK RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A French restaurant on 52nd Street. Through the front window is a table with the silhouettes of YOUNG LESLIE and YOUNG GIA dining by candlelight.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

While James Dean was auditioning for Kazan, Leslie and Gia had an intimate dinner at this candlelight bistro on Fifty-second Street.

EXT. UPPER EASTSIDE BROWNSTONE - NIGHT/INT

Through the front window is the living room. YOUNG LESLIE and YOUNG GIA sit inside facing a fire with their backs to the window.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Later that night they huddled together in front of a roaring fire in Gia's East Side home.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I have to admit I was very surprised. Gia obviously liked Jimbo much more than she let on...

CLOSE-UP of YOUNG GIA'S HANDS unbuttoning her blouse.

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

... Because she was willing to do anything with me that would help him get that part

CLOSE-UP of YOUNG GIA'S MOUTH whispering into YOUNG LESLIE'S EAR.

YOUNG GIA LOCKHART

I wouldn't do this for anyone but Jimmee.

CLOSE-UP of YOUNG LESLIE'S HANDS caressing GIA'S NAKED SKIN.

YOUNG LESLIE

He's lucky to have friends like us.

PUBLICITY STILLs with JAMES DEAN from "East of Eden".

NARRATOR (V.O.)

James Dean was able to overcome his emotional barriers. Elia Kazan gave him the part. His performance would make him into a star. In the meantime Leslie caught the attention of a New York talent agent.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Harry Moskowitz is a heavy set talent agent who is still working. He sits in his dusty old office overlooking Times Square and speaks while eating a sandwich.

HARRY MOSKOWITZ

The first time I saw Leslie he was performing a showcase in the back of O'Reilly's, a bar down on 22nd street. After his performance, I think he was doing Shakespeare, I came up to him, gave him my card and said, "I'd like to talk to you about your future." I remember at

first he thought I was a Gypsy fortune teller. But, when I told him I could make him a star, that got his attention. We shook hands and I left him with two words, "Trust me".

(He lets out a big smile showing off bad teeth)

INT. 1950'S TELEVISION STUDIO.

Various angles on the CONTROL ROOM: DIRECTOR, MIXER, SWITCHER PRODUCERS. And in the STUDIO: CAMERAMEN, FLOOR MANAGER, ACTORS, BOOM MAN, PROPS.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Almost immediately, Harry Moskowitz began getting Leslie work on television. Radio and the motion picture industry feared the new competitor and prohibited their contracted actors from appearing on TV. The ban gave a lot of young actors like Leslie, their first break.

ARCHIVE CLIP with LESLIE in "Studio One".

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

Leslie's first leading role was on a dramatic television series called "Studio One." Within months Leslie became one of television's first stars appearing on any show that would have him.

ARCHIVE CLIPS with LESLIE in "Suspense Theater", Armstrong Circle Theater", and "Philco TV Playhouse".

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

He performed on shows like "Suspense Theater"; "Armstrong Circle Theatre," "Philco TV Playhouse".

TV SCREEN of LESLIE'S FACE in a TV test pattern.

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

When work got slow he did test patterns late at night.

ARCHIVE CLIP with LESLIE from "You Are There" hosted by WALTER CRONKITE.

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



He also appeared on "You Are There," with the television newsman Walter Cronkite.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Walter Cronkite sits on a stool in an empty TV studio.

WALTER CRONKITE

We did a show about the Crusaders that week. Leslie Nielsen played Richard the Lionheart. I remember thinking that kid is going places. Just not on our show again.

ARCHIVE CLIP with LESLIE and DAVE GARROWAY on the Today Show.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

With his career off and running, Leslie was interviewed by Dave Garroway on the "Today Show" in 1952.

ARCHIVE CLIP of YOUNG LESLIE from a live television show. YOUNG LESLIE plays a doctor and enters a hospital room set, trips, knocks over a NURSE, and falls on top of a bandaged patient in bed, knocking over the set wall causing a chain reaction whereupon the entire set collapses.

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

Live television was a time often remembered for its live mistakes. Coincidentally it was also a time when Leslie Nielsen's career started.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Most actors are plagued at some time in their career with insecurity, and I'm no different. In my case, my insecurity took the form of a dream. As I look back, I realize now that that was when the dream first appeared.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LESLIE'S APARTMENT, NEW YORK - NIGHT

In a DREAM SEQUENCE with distorted VIEWS and ANGLES. YOUNG LESLIE is woken up out of bed to a POUNDING at his door. HE makes his way to the front door.

LESLIE (V.O.)

It was hazy in those days, and in black and white. In this dream I was awakened from a deep sleep by a persistent pounding at the door. I went to the door in my nightshirt and opened it.

YOUNG LESLIE opens the door

ANGLE ON TWO POLICE-TYPES

ANGLE ON YOUNG LESLIE who stands naked wearing an open shirt and quickly buttons up.

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

Then I realized I was standing there buck naked in an open nightshirt and I quickly buttoned up. Two people were at the door, dressed in what appeared to be law enforcement uniforms of some kind. Their hats were pulled down over their faces, but one of them looked vaguely familiar to me.

YOUNG LESLIE

Can I help you?

FIRST COP

Acting Police. You're under arrest. Get your things, you're coming with us.

YOUNG LESLIE

But...what for?

SECOND COP

Impersonating an actor. We've seen you on television, we have all the evidence we need.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I started to sweat, yet I was very cold. I glanced to my left, no escape; then to my right, blocked. The walls began to close in on me. I knew I had to make a break for it. Suddenly I.....

YOUNG LESLIE suddenly sits up in bed, covered in sweat.

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

...I woke up.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

For years I was afraid to tell anyone about that dream. But it got worse and worse until I was afraid to go to sleep at night. The more successful I became, the more threatening the Police seemed to be. I needed help.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE OF DR. ROBERT ACTON - DAY

A PAN across the office wall reveals hundreds of hanging CELEBRITY PHOTOS. Most are autographed "To Bob".

LESLIE (V.O.)

Some years later, I gathered enough courage to consult the noted Beverly Hills psychiatrist, Dr. Robert M. Acton.

The PAN ends on DR. ROBERT ACTON, a handsome celebrity himself.

DR. ROBERT ACTON

When Leslie first came to see me I think he was a little skeptical about the whole process. It took him another ten years of analysis before he was able to reveal his dream to me in detail. We discussed it for a long time and developed it. Finally I optioned the rights and set it up at NBC.

EXT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

FRED SILVERMAN, former programming executive stands in front of NBC Studios, in Burbank, California.

FRED SILVERMAN

I remember we wanted to rewrite it as a woman's dream, thinking it might be a good vehicle for Lindsay Wagner. Eventually, though, the network found out that CBS had a similar dream in development and we let the option expire.

ARCHIVE CLIP of LESLIE in a television drama.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In reality, Leslie Nielsen's childhood dream was coming true. He was making a

living as a professional actor and seemed to enjoy every minute of it. Life seemed good.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO color portrait of Grace Kelly.

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

Then,...he met Grace Kelly.

ARCHIVE CLIP of GRACE KELLY in an "Armstrong Circle Theater" production.

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

They first met in 1951, while working on "Armstrong Circle Theatre." Leslie took one look at her elegance and knew that his eyes would never be the same. They became friends, but Leslie wanted more.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

One day I couldn't hold back my feelings any longer. I confessed that I wanted to make love to her. She resisted, but I pursued her. I couldn't get her out of my mind. And eventually she succumbed. I'll never forget the first time she slept with me....During dinner I was regaling her with tales from my eleventh-birthday party when I noticed she had fallen asleep. I didn't want to wake her, so I lowered my voice and finished the story. Later she admitted she loved sleeping with me.

MOVIE CLIP with Grace Kelly in "To Catch A Thief"

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Four years later, while making Alfred Hitchcock's "To Catch A Thief", Grace Kelly met Prince Rainier of Monaco.

ARCHIVE CLIP of PRINCE RAINER engaged to GRACE KELLY

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

The Prince proposed to Grace, asking her to be his Princess. Grace considered her future.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

She didn't know what to do. She knew that if she married him, it would be over for good between us. But there were some negative aspects about it, too: the end of her acting career, the loss of her privacy. She called me from France to discuss it.

CLOSEUP of YOUNG LESLIE and GRACE KELLY's mouth speaking into telephone receivers.

GRACE

Oh Lez, I don't know what to do.

LESLIE

Princess, I don't think you have a choice. He's offering you a kingdom, he's offering you your own stamp collection--

GRACE

Many people have their own stamp collections.

LESLIE

Not with their own picture on the stamps. Look, I know it isn't easy, but you're going to have to forget about me, forget about that incredible night under the stars in Spain.

GRACE

What night under the stars in Spain?

LESLIE

That's good. Don't let the fact that Prince Rainier is young and handsome bother you, go for the security.

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE of the Royal Wedding of Princess Grace.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Grace had marched down the aisle and out of Leslie's life.

EXT. LESLIE'S NEW YORK APARTMENT BLDG. - DAY.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Back in New York, he knew had to pull himself together, he was ready to move on in his career and meet his destiny.

INT. LESLIE'S APARTMENT

A CLOSE-UP of a LESLIE'S SUITCASE being packed. A pair of white boxers with red hearts; a copy of the Kinsey Report; a teddy bear are all tossed in.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Leslie Nielsen had come of age and New York was only the beginning. A casting call hailed from the west.

A pair of sunglasses and suntan lotion are tossed in the suitcase.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Hollywood was beckoning.

TITLE: "CHAPTER TWO: THE FIRST CHAPTER OF MY LIFE (CONTINUED)"

EXT. TRAVELING GREYHOUND BUS - DAY.

A CLOSE-UP of the wheel of the bus spinning over a highway. MOVING BACK to reveal YOUNG LESLIE staring out the window. In its REFLECTION is the scenery of 1950's America. Farms; Big Boy restaurants; Gas stations, and cities like Chicago.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Four days before his twenty-fourth birthday, Leslie hit the road, riding a Greyhound bus three thousand miles to Hollywood, California. It was just a few days before that Leslie withdrew all his television earned money out of the bank. He calculated that he could live on it in Hollywood for at least six or seven hours.

A REFLECTION of palm trees; the Hollywood sign; Warners Studios.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
When President Franklin Roosevelt announced his New Deal to America, in Hollywood they thought he meant he had three pictures in development at Warners. Hollywood was Leslie's new home.

The BUS STOPS in front of Grauman's Chinese theater. YOUNG LESLIE gets off.

ARCHIVE FILM on: the Hollywood Wax Museum; Babylonian Gardens; the Brown Derby.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He went to Grauman's Chinese Theater.  
Stopped by the Hollywood Wax Museum.  
Leslie frequented great restaurants like  
the Babylonian Gardens, which had been  
built to be an exact replica of  
Nebuchadrezzar's Babylonian gardens; the  
Brown Derby, built in the shape of a  
brown derby;

A CLOSE-UP of the sign "Cock and Bull"

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
and the Cock and Bull.....

EXT. NEWSSTAND - DAY

A PAN of the trades: "Variety", "Hollywood Reporter" and "Fat Chance".

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Leslie did what all newcomers to  
Hollywood would do, he read the trades.

CLOSE-UP of an ad for auditions for "The Thing" at RKO studios

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Among the parts he tried for was the  
title role in RKO's newest science-  
fiction thriller, "The Thing".

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Actor JAMES ARNESS sits in his Los Angeles home.

JAMES ARNESS  
We were all auditioning for the lead  
which described the Thing as "an  
intellectual carrot." Actually I thought  
Nielsen would be perfect for that role.  
Coming from the Actors Studio, he would  
get into the carrot's motivations, its  
hopes and dreams. What did this carrot  
want? He tried to put himself in this  
carrot's place, to peel away its

emotional defenses, and by the time he'd finished he managed to get to this carrot's roots.

MOVIE POSTER and CLIP with James Arness in "The Thing".

JAMES ARNESS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Eventually, I got the part of the carrot. The producers thought I had more training for it than he did. While Leslie had been studying the acting school method, I was cutting classes at the Culinary Institute of America.

EXT. SANTA MONICA BEACH - DAY

YOUNG LESLIE sits on a bench reading Variety.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Leslie Nielsen was getting desperate. There did not appear to be any parts for actors with talent of his caliber.

He circles an ad for extras.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He finally accepted the realization that he had to take work as an extra.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of ERIC NIELSEN, Leslie's brother and Deputy Prime Minister of Canada.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
Back home his brother Eric, a high ranking politician who would become deputy Prime Minister of Canada, had some difficulty understanding just exactly what he was doing in Hollywood.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

ERIC NIELSEN sits in his office decked out with Canadian flags.

ERIC NIELSEN  
The family was getting a bit worried when Leslie called to tell me he was working as an extra. I said, "an extra what?" Well I didn't understand. Calling someone an extra means they're not necessary, that means they don't need you right? I



thought Leslie would be damned good at that.

MOVIE CLIP from "Indy!." A BINOCULAR EFFECT magnifies an area of the grandstand and spots YOUNG LESLIE.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Leslie worked in many films as an extra.

A CAR CRASHES.

YOUNG LESLIE looks away.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He was there, sitting in the grandstand when Stewart Granger crashed his race car in "Indy!."

MOVIE CLIP from "Quo Vadis?". TWO GLADIATORS are clashing swords in the Coliseum.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
In "Quo Vadis?" Leslie played a Christian slave.

ONE GLADIATOR pins down the OTHER. ROMANS are voting thumbs down.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
In the film's most famous scene the Romans are all voting thumbs down.

MOVING IN on an area of the crowd, YOUNG LESLIE is in the middle, shouting.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I'm there in the background. If you listen carefully you can hear me screaming "Recount! Recount!"

A tiny voice is heard above the crowd shouting "Recount".

PUBLICITY STILL of DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS and a busty JANE RUSSELL in "Treasure Chest".

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. starred with Jane Russell in the pirate adventure "Treasure Chest."

MOVING BACK reveals LESLIE NIELSEN playing a one eyed Pirate, sitting on a treasure chest and gawking at JANE RUSSELL'S PROFILE.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Leslie played the part of a one-eyed pirate.

MOVIE CLIP from "Mess Hall" with ABBOTT and COSTELLO in uniform. YOUNG LESLIE walks up with a cream pie and trips tossing the pie.

The Pie lands in COSTELLO'S FACE.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He even did a brief walk-on as the cream-pie delivery man in the Abbott and Costello army comedy "Mess Hall."

MOVIE CLIP from the documentary "This is Cinerama." A nauseating P.O.V. from a roller coaster ride.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The work wasn't always easy. He was one of the people riding the giant roller coaster in "This is Cinerama" but was cut out of the picture.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE  
I'd eaten a big lunch just before we shot that scene...

A clapstick reads "This is Cinerama, Shot 22" snaps shut.

ANGLE on the screaming RIDERS. YOUNG LESLIE sits squarely in front.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
... and when the roller coaster went straight down.

YOUNG LESLIE gets sick and throws up covering the entire lens of the CAMERA.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
...my lunch came straight up, in full Cinerama.

PUBLICITY STILLS of LESLIE mingling with CLARK GABLE; sitting with MARLENE DIETRICH; and chatting with RONALD REAGAN.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Going from one studio to next, Leslie was getting to know some of the biggest names in Hollywood at the height of their careers. No one it seemed impressed him more than an actor named Ronald Reagan.

PUBLICITY STILLS of "Bedtime for Bonzo" with REAGAN and LESLIE

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

Leslie worked with Reagan for a few days in "Bedtime for Bonzo." Although he did not realize it at the time, Leslie was about to change the fate of a single acting career and the destiny of the entire free world.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

One day the shoot was being held up by Bonzo the Chimpanzee who refused to come out of his cage for the scene. I happened to overhear Ronnie, backstage, talking in a soothing manner, trying to calm Bonzo down. He finally convinced the chimp to cooperate and we finished the shoot.

ARCHIVE FILM CLIP of YOUNG LESLIE walking over to RONALD REAGAN (His back to the camera).

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

Later, I introduced myself to Reagan and told him how much I admired his diplomatic method of handling a difficult situation. He got a little embarrassed.

REAGAN

Oh, shucks, that's very nice of you to say.

YOUNG LESLIE

I'm serious. You are a natural. Have you ever considered going into politics?

REAGAN

Well I'll see what Nancy says.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTOS of RONALD and NANCY REAGAN getting married.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Ronald Reagan married his girlfriend, the actress Nancy Davis.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of Ronald Reagan's presidential portrait.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He took Leslie's advice and left show business to become the 40th president of the United States.

EXT. COLUMBIA STUDIO LOT - DAY.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
For Leslie, his work in "Bedtime for Bonzo" caught the attention of Columbia.

INT. SCREENING ROOM

LESLIE'S SCREEN TEST is projected on the screen of the smoke-filled room.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
He was offered a screen test. A week later, Leslie got a call. Mr. Cohn wanted to see him.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of HARRY COHN.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Harry Cohn had turned a small film-distribution company he'd founded with his brother into the powerful Columbia Pictures by the force of his own personality.

ARCHIVE FILM of HARRY COHN at the studio.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
"Harry the Horror," as he was known, could make or break a career with the snap of his fingers. Leslie knew how critical this meeting would be.

INT. OUTSIDE HARRY COHN'S OFFICE - DAY

YOUNG LESLIE in suit and tie arrives to a RECEPTIONIST and told to take a seat.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I arrived at his office on Tuesday  
morning precisely at nine-thirty, as I  
had been told.

DISSOLVE TO:

YOUNG LESLIE sprawled out on two chairs, sleeping.

LESLIE (V.O.) (cont'd)  
By the afternoon, I was ushered into his  
office.

INT. HARRY COHN'S OFFICE.

YOUNG LESLIE walks into an enormous office. HARRY COHN sits  
behind a large desk, on the phone.

HARRY COHN  
Now you listen to me, when I want your  
opinion about something, I'll tell you  
what it is!

He slams down the phone and examines Leslie's file. He lays  
it down and lights a cigar and finally looks up at YOUNG  
LESLIE.

HARRY COHN (CONT'D)  
I've seen your screen test, kid. Lemme  
tell you something. I've watched a lot  
of screen tests in my day, but I've never  
seen anything quite like yours. You have  
that one special thing that practically  
guarantees success here in Hollywood...

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I knew my screen test had been good; I  
hadn't realized it had been that good.

HARRY COHN  
...a powerful relative in the business.  
That means we can forget all about your  
screen test. So after considering your  
talent and your uncle Jean, we've decided  
to offer you a contract with Columbia  
Pictures. Congratulations. Now the  
first thing we gotta do is figure out who  
you are. Don't worry. They're expecting  
you over at the publicity mill. They'll  
tell you who you're going to be.

EXT. THE COLUMBIA STUDIO LOT - DAY

WORKERS are moving sets, ACTORS are taking lunch breaks, ANIMALS are herded between buildings. YOUNG LESLIE is walking through.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Work in Hollywood in 1955 was still a time when studios determined who you were going to be for the rest of your career. Each studio had a roster of actors under contract to fill every type of role from leading man to scarred villain. Once cast as a certain type those were the roles assigned by the studio. It was either acceptance or face unemployment for as long as you lived.

YOUNG LESLIE turns a corner and enters a bungalow marked, "Publicity Department".

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

EMILY PERSCHETZ, former head of publicity department at Columbia Pictures is seated.

EMILY

When I met Leslie, I immediately saw that he had been the wrong type. So we tried to cast him in our usual roster of types:

PUBLICITY STILLs of YOUNG LESLIE in various outfits, facial hair, hats and makeup.

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

Leading man, hero, sidekick, Latin lover, handsome rival, all-American boy, debonair foreigner, mysterious foreigner, debonair criminal, street tough, heel, ordinary working Joe, kid dog, comedian, animated rodent.

BACK to EMILY.

EMILY (CONT'D)

He didn't seem to be right for any of the common types. Finally, we agreed that he would become the studio rebel, the one man they couldn't control.

PUBLICITY STILL of YOUNG LESLIE dressed up as a rebel.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Leslie Nielsen finally had a character;  
now all he needed was a career.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE  
Columbia decided that the best way to  
build my career as a movie star was to  
keep me out of movies. They wanted to  
create excitement about me by publicizing  
the fact that I refused to appear in the  
movies they wanted me to make. The  
bigger the movie I wasn't in, the bigger  
star I would become.

MOVIE CLIP of the fight scene in "From Here to Eternity".

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Remember the classic fight scene in "From  
Here to Eternity"? I wasn't in that.

MOVIE CLIP of the chariot race from "The Robe".

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The spectacular chariot race in the  
CinemaScope picture "The Robe"? I wasn't  
in that one either.

MOVIE CLIP of the court martial scene in "Caine Mutiny"

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Perhaps the best film I didn't appear in  
during this period was "The Caine  
Mutiny", in which I never costarred with  
Humphrey Bogart and Jose Ferrer.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I honestly believe that the only reason I  
didn't receive an Academy Award  
nomination for my work in this film is  
that I wasn't in it.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY.

YOUNG LESLIE drives his cart up to the tee off.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Leslie was not the only actor who was not  
making movies at the time, but he was  
perhaps one of the most successful.

He gets out and sets up a shot.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Eventually, Columbia decided that the time had come for Leslie to risk his career - and make a movie. The question was which one.

He winds to take a swing with his club, when a ball hits him on the head.

From far away JERRY LEWIS, holding his club, is embarrassed. DEAN MARTIN is barely visible, seated in the parked golf cart.

DEAN MARTIN  
Tell him you're sorry you numbskull.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
It was decided he would co-star in a Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis comedy.

PUBLICITY STILL with DEAN MARTIN, JERRY LEWIS and YOUNG LESLIE in "A Pair O'Docs".

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
It was called "A Pair O'Docs"

EXT./INT. MUSSO AND FRANK'S - NIGHT

YOUNG LESLIE is seated at a table with JERRY LEWIS.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
In a break during the filming, I had dinner with Jerry. It was at "Musso and Frank's" on Hollywood Boulevard. I took advantage of a quiet moment to ask him a question.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING AT JERRY'S HOME - DAY

JERRY LEWIS  
And after dessert, Nielsen says to me "maybe it's none of my business, but...you know, a lot of people wonder, how did you and Dean decide that Dean's name would come first in the billing?"

Back at the restaurant with YOUNG LESLIE and JERRY LEWIS.

ANGLE on LEWIS who has a confused, contemplative look.



JERRY LEWIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I never really thought of that before.

STILL OF VARIETY HEADLINE: "MARTIN AND LEWIS SPLIT"

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I have to admit I was shocked when I  
heard a month later that Martin and Lewis  
decided to split up.

STILL OF MOVIE POSTER FOR "A PAIR OF DOCS"

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
A "Pair o 'Docs" was never released.

TITLE: "CHAPTER THREE: A NEW ERROR IN MY LIFE"

MOVIE CLIP from "Forbidden Planet". Leslie Nielsen plays  
COMMANDER ADAMS of his SPACE CREW that has just landed.  
ROBBIE the ROBOT appears.

ROBBIE THE ROBOT  
If you do not speak English, I am at your  
disposal with 187 different languages and  
along with their various dialects and  
subtongues

COMMANDER ADAMS  
Colloquial English will do fine, thank  
you.... Ah this is no offense but you are  
a robot aren't you?

ROBBIE THE ROBOT  
That is correct sir. For your  
convenience I am monitored to respond to  
the name Robby.

CREW MEMBER COOKIE  
Is it a male or female?

ROBBIE THE ROBOT  
In my case sir the question is totally  
without meaning

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
It was hailed as the futuristic version  
of Shakespeare's "The Tempest". In the  
sci-fi boom of the 1950's, "Forbidden  
Planet" was a classic and Leslie's  
biggest break yet.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Leonard Maltin sits in his office.

LEONARD MALTIN

This is the Roman Empire of Science Fiction films. All films before lead into it, and all films since flow out of it. It captures the romance, the spirit, and the nifty look of 1950's pulp science fiction.

MOVIE CLIPS from "Forbidden Planet"

LEONARD MALTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The producers and creative team took Shakespeare's "The Tempest," moved the story to the year 2200 A.D., cast Walter Pidgeon and turned him into a mad scientist, made Anne Francis a fabulous scientist's daughter, and threw in super character actors Warren Stevens, Jack Kelly, Richard Anderson, and Earl Holliman, and invented the most eloquent, talented, and likable robot ever to grace the screen, and mixed science fiction, a love story, and a murder mystery on a planet light years away from Earth! This film is a masterpiece.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

GEORGE LUCAS sits in his office surrounded by posters, models and other paraphernalia from Star Wars.

GEORGE LUCAS

As an adolescent back in '56 or '57, I couldn't believe what I had just seen. There were plenty of B sci-fi's out there but this was really different, and the women...oh my God, the women!

PUBLICITY STILLs of a curvaceous ANNE FRANCIS in "Forbidden Planet".

GEORGE LUCAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It broadened my sense of imagination that has remained with me ever since. I'd have to say that "Forbidden Planet" is among my favorites.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
We had a beast in the film, and Anne Francis was our beauty. And boy, did she ever look good in a bathing suit.

MOVIE CLIP IN SLOW MOTION: ANN FRANCIS comes out of the water in a wet swimsuit in a scene with LESLIE NIELSEN.

COMMANDER ADAMS  
(staring at Anne)  
Holy murder!

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I was excited because I would finally get to prove myself, even in front of Anne.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Anne Francis is at home.

ANNE FRANCIS  
When I watch it now, I can see even see a small glimpse of the comedian in him. Back then, Leslie was a real ladies man. He was the strong and handsome commander.

MOVIE CLIP with LESLIE from "Forbidden Planet"

ANNE FRANCIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I think the role gave him a chance to show what a terrific, well rounded leading man he really was. It was only later he got real goofy.

MOVIE CLIP with ANNE FRANCIS in "Forbidden Planet".

ANNE FRANCIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I had to hide my love for him.... In the movie of course.

ALTAIRA  
I just don't like him!

MOVIE CLIP with ROBBIE THE ROBOT from Forbidden Planet.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
Robby was unlike any other actor I'd ever worked with. Off screen he was as tough as nails, but very, very nice.

INT. THE ACTOR'S RETIREMENT HOME. - DAY

INTERVIEW SETTING with ROBBIE THE ROBOT sitting in his room.

ROBBIE THE ROBOT

Forbidden Planet, had everything, a hero, space travel, a nice pair of legs, and me. For once in his life, Leslie could call himself an actor. But then he had to go out and make his fortune doing that dreck comedy. He is a traitor to the profession.

(looks offscreen)

Hey, my bed pan needs changing over here.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LEONARD MALTIN

It was one science fiction movie that had a theme, not just eye candy. No matter how high humanity climbs on the evolutionary scale, no matter how advanced our technology becomes, we must never forget the primal instincts of our darker nature.

MOVIE CLIP with LESLIE NIELSEN looking at ANNE FRANCIS in "Forbidden Planet."

LEONARD MALTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Perhaps the best way to describe "Forbidden Planet" is to quote Leslie Nielsen's final line in the movie.

COMMANDER ADAMS

"It will remind us... after all...that we are not God..."

ARCHIVE FILM of "Forbidden Planet" merchandising. LESLIE'S face on cups, lunchboxes, toy ray guns and a life size poster.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

With the success of "Forbidden Planet", the studio offered Leslie several exciting projects. His career was going well. As for his social life, it was another matter.

ARCHIVE FILM of young blondes socializing at nightclubs, parties

LESLIE (V.O.)

Most of the girls I went out with aspired to be starlets. They were called "twinkies." Although many people thought that these girls weren't very smart. As far as I was concerned, they were all Superwomen who could see right through me.

ARCHIVE FILM of YOUNG LESLIE attempting to mingle with women.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I tried all my best lines: "I know Cary Grant personally." "I can get you Gable's autograph." I really didn't have a lot of success with women.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Mickey Rooney is sitting outside by his pool.

MICKEY ROONEY  
I remember in those days, Leslie was trying to get on the invitation list of some of Hollywood's more fashionable parties. After the release of Forbidden Planet, everything changed. He didn't exactly make it on the so-called A-list - the list of the most important people in the industry; or the B-list - the people who get invited when the most important people aren't available; or even the "short list," which consisted mostly of me.

ARCHIVE FILM of exclusive Hollywood parties in Bel Air.

MICKEY ROONEY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The truth is, Leslie was on the "wait list."

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Shirley Maclaine is in the sitting room of her home.

SHIRLEY MACLAINE  
It was at a cocktail party at Bing Crosby's magnificent home in Bel Air, when I first met him. Leslie and I eventually became good friends, and then I introduced him to my brother.

EXT. BEATTY'S DRIVEWAY, BEVERLY HILLS - DAY.

Warren Beatty, in sunglasses, behind the wheel of his sports car, is being interviewed.

WARREN BEATTY

Oh when I met the guy he was in sad shape. Not one girl in his life. I ended up teaching him everything I knew about picking up women. I even told him by best line.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

I practiced what Warren taught me. I'd see a lovely woman and approach her, and smile and ask in a soft voice, "Excuse me, but what's the most orgasms you've ever had in an hour?"

EXT. BEATTY'S DRIVEWAY, BEVERLY HILLS - CONTINUOUS

WARREN BEATTY

Well it worked for me.

Warren drives off.

EXT. THE PATIO OF A BEL AIR HOME - NIGHT

YOUNG LESLIE has drifted away from the party to smoke a cigarette by himself.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

While Leslie was certainly not the ladies' man that Beatty was, he was nice-looking and polite. Occasionally, at one of these parties he would meet a woman who seemed interested.

A YOUNG WOMAN moves close to LESLIE.

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

Then one day he met one of Hollywood's most legendary stars. She was a sexy, dynamic, young actress. Her name was Shelly Winters.

STILL of a sexy SHELLY WINTERS.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Back then, Shelly had already established herself as one of the most talented actresses in the business. I was quite flattered that she paid any attention to me at all.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Shelly Winters today, sits at her home.

SHELLY WINTERS

I think one of the reasons we got along so well is that we had both been trained in New York theater. You could always tell the difference between the formally trained actors and movie stars in Hollywood, because movie stars would sit and gossip about who was sleeping with who while those of us with professional training in our craft would sit around discussing who was sleeping with whom.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

I can't honestly claim that we ever slept together. When we were alone together, the last thing we wanted to do was sleep.

STILL of SHELLY WINTERS AUTOBIOGRAPHY BOOK COVER.

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

Years later, in her frank and often startling autobiography, she told the entire story about our relationship.

The book opens to a page with ROBERT MITCHUM'S PHOTO.

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

The oddest thing about the book was that she kept referring to me as Robert Mitchum.

TRADE PAPERS announce the 1956 Academy Award nominations.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Fame struck Leslie like a lightning bolt, when he heard the news that he was nominated for an award as best supporting actor in "Forbidden Planet."

STILL PHOTO of LESLIE in the newspaper.

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

There was only one problem: how to find the right woman to take to the ceremony. The studio publicity department was nervous. Leslie could not be seen at the ceremony without a woman on his arm. He needed help.

STILL PHOTO of mug shots of NICKY FABIAN who is dressed like an Italian hitman.

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

Nicky Fabian was a former producer who was acknowledged in the industry as the expert in the supporting-actress category. He claimed to have supported more actresses than anyone else in show business. Under contract by the studio, Fabian had arranged a date for Leslie for the Oscars ceremony.

STILL PHOTO portrait of SUE KING.

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

She was a beautiful young actress named Sue King who would one day become Leslie's first wife.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Believe me, if I had known then what I know now, things would have been very different. To start with, I would have married my third wife first, because when she divorced me she got everything I owned, so my first wife, who married me only for my money, would never have married me. Then I would never have even met my second wife, who was working for the lawyer I used to divorce my first wife.

ARCHIVE NEWSREEL of Academy Awards night, 1957

NARRATOR (V.O.)

It was a sparkling night of stars. Hollywood basked in its box office



successes of 1956, strutting out its merchandise for all the world to see.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO AUDITORIUM - OSCAR NIGHT

LESLIE exits limo.

CLOSE-UP on LEGS of SUE KING exiting limo.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I shall never forget that night. Sue King was one of the most beautiful women I'd ever seen.

ANGLE on SCREAMING FANS.

ANGLE on PRESS as their flashbulbs go off.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The press seemed to notice too. Perhaps that's because of what she was wearing.

ANGLE on SUE KING dressed in a brown paper envelope.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I don't want to say she exuded sex or anything, but she was the only woman wrapped in a plain brown envelope.

INT. AUDITORIUM - OSCAR CEREMONIES

YOUNG LESLIE and SUE KING are seated in the AUDIENCE.

CLOSE-UP of YOUNG LESLIE nervous with anticipation

LESLIE (V.O.)  
People have often asked me what goes on in the mind of an Academy Award nominee while he or she is waiting for that big moment. The answer is many things.

ARCHIVE FILM of celebrities presenting awards in the 1957 Oscar ceremonies.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
While they were filling time giving away some of the less important awards like Best Actor and Best Director, I started negotiating with God.

CLOSE-UP YOUNG LESLIE looking up and thinking.

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

If you let me win the Academy Award,  
I'll...I'll never take the name of the  
Lord in vain. This was absurd. Who did I  
think I was, a mere actor, to negotiate  
with the Almighty? Clearly that was a  
job for William Morris.

More ARCHIVE FILM of Oscar night.

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

Think positive, I told myself, think  
positive, think positive. And sure  
enough, by the time they were ready to  
award the Oscar for Best Supporting  
Actor, I was positive I was going to  
lose.

CLOSEUPS of the NOMINEES in the AUDIENCE: ANTHONY PERKINS;  
ANTHONY QUINN; MICKEY ROONEY; and ROBERT STACK.

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

They announced the nominees. Anthony  
Perkins in "Friendly Persuasion," Anthony  
Quinn in "Lust for Life." Mickey Rooney  
in "The Bold and the Brave" and Robert  
Stack in "Written on the Wind."

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

MICKEY ROONEY

All the others were great, but I had no  
doubt they were going to give it to  
Leslie.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

ROBERT STACK

It may have looked close, but Leslie  
seemed the obvious choice.

CLOSE-UP of YOUNG LESLIE looking tense.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I held my breath. I reminded myself to  
smile no matter what happened.

ARCHIVE FILM of the announcement for best actor.

ARCHIVE SOUND

And the winner is....

CLOSE-UP YOUNG LESLIE ready to jump out of his seat.

ARCHIVE SOUND (CONT'D)  
Anthony Quinn.

CLOSE-UP YOUNG LESLIE falls back into his seat dejected as the AUDIENCE erupts in APPLAUSE. ANTHONY QUINN walks by and pats YOUNG LESLIE'S shoulder.

ANTHONY QUINN (OFF SCREEN)  
Nice try, amigo.

ARCHIVE FILM of ANTHONY QUINN going up on stage and accepting the award.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I smiled. I applauded. I cheered. The  
rest of the ceremony was a blur of tears.

EXT. BACKSTAGE - OSCAR NIGHT

ANGLE from OVER THE SHOULDER of ANTHONY QUINN posing for the PRESS. Flashes go off.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I asked my soon-to-be wife, what is it  
that Anthony Quinn has that I don't?

PUBLICITY STILL of ANTHONY QUINN and his statue.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
"The Oscar", she told me. But none of  
that is why I shall never forget this  
night. It was what happened after the  
ceremony that made it so memorable.

A MONTAGE of sensual CLOSEUPS of hands touching limbs and other smooth parts of the body.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
We went back to my place and I opened the  
envelope and started looking for trouble  
in all the wrong places. We did things  
we would never have been allowed to do in  
the movies. If we'd dared, not only  
would we have been ejected from the  
theater, we would probably have been  
arrested. We spent the night making  
wild, passionate love.

ARCHIVE FILM of a wedding.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Two weeks later, Sue King and Leslie were married.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

The REVEREND HORACE LEDBETTER, now an old man, in his parish.

REVEREND LEDBETTER

I remember warning Leslie that a lot of people get married too early. He said that he certainly did not want to make that mistake, which made me feel good. So he asked that the ceremony begin after nine p.m.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

I admit it, the marriage was a real error in my life. I was foolish, I was madly in love with her, I allowed her beauty to make me overlook what was so obvious to everyone else. I should have known better. Our marriage was never very good. Right from the beginning she gave me hints that she didn't really love me.

A CLOSE-UP of a HAND holding a postcard from Istanbul, Turkey.

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

Sometimes, when we were together, she would hand me picture postcards from foreign countries.

The HAND turns the postcard over. On the other side is written, "Wish You Were Here".

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Leslie filed for divorce. But it could have been much worse. He could have gone to the Academy Awards without a date.

DISSOLVE TO:

A 50's style map of the world. An airplane takes off and is superimposed over the map as it flies from Hollywood to Paris.

SCENES of Paris city life.

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

Leslie needed some time out from his own life. He had to get away from Hollywood and all the disappointment that came with it. He escaped to Paris. In a matter of days he received a message that a young French director named Roger Vadim was making a movie in St. Tropez and needed an American actor. Leslie could not resist.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

BRIGITTE BARDOT still very sexy, sits in her French country home.

BRIGITTE BARDOT

Leslie met Roger at a small cafe on the Champs-Elysees. Leslie asked him what type of film he was making.

EXT. PARIS SIDEWALK CAFE - DAY

YOUNG LESLIE and a young ROGER VADIM sit at a small table sipping espresso. As Vadim speaks he is blowing smoke from his cigarette into Leslie's face.

ROGER VADIM

I know you're concerned about your reputation back home but there's nothing to worry about. This is a Bible picture. It is about the creation. I will direct and my wife will star.

STILL of a movie poster from "And God Created Woman".

NARRATOR (V.O.)

It was called "And God Created Woman". The movie would launch the career of a beautiful young actress named Brigitte Bardot.

TRAVELING across the French countryside.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I figured this was going to be some sort of an expensive vanity production or an artsy home movie. But I was in France with nothing to do, and being paid to spend a few days on the beach in St. Tropez sounded as if it might be fun.

SCENES of the beaches of St. Tropez in southern France.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Here in this small resort town in the south of France, Leslie met Brigitte Bardot for the first time.

ARCHIVE FILM of BRIGETTE BARDOT, 1957

LESLIE (V.O.)

I thought she was as intelligent as she was beautiful, completely fluent in a foreign language.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

BRIGITTE BARDOT

Leslie's scene did not require great acting ability.

YOUNG LESLIE is sitting on a beach staring to the sea.

BRIGITTE BARDOT (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He played the role of a forlorn American actor sitting on a French beach, staring into the sea.

MOVIE CLIP of BRIGITTE BARDOT coming out of the water in a hail of sparkling light from "And God Created Woman".

LESLIE (V.O.)

Suddenly, the sun flashed brightly on the calm waters, and rising out of that shower of sparkles comes this magnificent woman. There she stands completely naked. As I looked at her standing there it suddenly hit me.

The naked image of BARDOT freezes.

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

I was looking at the naked truth. In that moment I suddenly realized something. Below the skin, we are no more than who we are as physical beings and the more truth about that we can bring ourselves to bear, the more freedom we can earn in exchange.

But from the skin and up, it's an entirely different matter. From the skin up, it's the *naked* truth: One person looks

like Brigitte Bardot and everybody else  
looks -- not as good.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

And that's the naked truth. Life isn't a  
fairway. The dice are loaded. The stakes  
aren't even. We have to take a good  
look at what we have been given,  
recognize the fact that it is who we are,  
and do the most we can possibly achieve  
with what we've got.

FREEZE IMAGE of BARDOT.

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

And some really got 'em.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

BRIGITTE BARDOT

It was Roger's style never to really work  
from a script. And this was true with  
"And God Created Woman". He set the scene  
for Leslie and me, then let us react  
naturally.

In a series of CLOSE-UPS YOUNG LESLIE and BRIGETTE BARDOT roll  
in the sand making love.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Wordlessly, she took me in her arms and  
we made love, rolling passionately on the  
beach.

BRIGETTE BARDOT, stands and returns into the sea.

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

When we finished, she stood up, turned  
and walked back into the water, leaving  
me staring once again into the sea.

CLOSE-UP of YOUNG LESLIE staring into the sea after her.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

BRIGITTE BARDOT

Well I never realized how difficult  
Leslie could be on the set. He was a  
very serious actor who respected his

craft. He insisted on doing that scene over and over again, until he got it right.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

What can I say? Five takes went up to ten. Something just kept going wrong.

CLOSE-UP of a clapstick and slate for "Take 22". The stick claps.

More CLOSE-UPS of the love scene on the beach.

BRIGITTE BARDOT (V.O.)

We spent hours rolling around on that beach, the hot sun beating down on us. But I never heard him complain once.

EXT. PARIS SIDEWALK CAFE - DAY

ANGLE on the table and two mugs filled with coffee.

BRIGITTE BARDOT (V.O.)

A few weeks later, I saw Leslie in Paris, for the last time. Although we spent two days making love in the movie we never had the chance to really get to know each other.

CLOSE-UP of BRIGETTE BARDOT' EYES flirting into the camera.

CLOSE-UP of YOUNG LESLIE'S EYES throwing a surprised look back.

BRIGITTE BARDOT (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I think there remained something unspoken between us.

CLOSE-UP of empty coffee mugs.

ANGLE OVER YOUNG LESLIE'S SHOULDER watching the back of BRIGITTE BARDOT as she walks away.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Who knows what might have happened if we had met at a different time, in another place,.... or if I had been someone else?



TITLE: "CHAPTER FOUR: "THE CHOICE TO PLAY BOND"

ARCHIVE FILM of an airplane landing in Los Angeles.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Leslie finally returned to the place where his career began. It was time to get back to some serious work. In the late fifties, Hollywood was changing rapidly. Leslie would discover that the old ways of doing business were over.

INT. A PALATIAL MOVIE THEATER OF THE 1950'S.

The ornate house is dimmed and empty.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

A studio system that exerted so much control over actors and theaters for almost half a century was finally breaking down. And across the country, those magnificent movie palaces were closing, forever.

EXT. THEATER MARQUEE - NIGHT.

The lights go out on the marquee of The Belasco Theater.

NARRATOR (V.O) (CONT'D)

Leslie's contract with Columbia expired and would not be renewed. The era of Harry Cohn was over.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Well my first reaction was terror. How could I possibly survive without the security of that \$187.50 check every two weeks? But as I got used to the idea that I would be free to do whatever projects I wanted, I started getting excited. I searched for a new agent.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of FRED ALLEN.

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

Legendary comedian Fred Allen, once joked about agents, "Picking an agent is like picking a scab, but not nearly as much fun."

YOUNG LESLIE sits and listens.

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

Each agent I interviewed told me why I should sign with their agency. Thomas Fenton Jr. of the Ashley Agency promised me he would always be truthful with me, no matter how difficult that might be....

CLOSE-UP of THOMAS FENTON

THOMAS FENTON JR.

(to camera)

But do me a favor will ya, don't tell anyone I made that promise.

CLOSE-UP OF LEW WASSERMAN

LESLIE (V.O.)

I was particularly impressed with Lew Wasserman of MCA.

LEW WASSERMAN

(to camera)

I'm gonna tell you the truth. Sometimes I gonna lie to you. Now that's the truth. Would I lie to you?

CLOSE-UP of BILL CHAPMAN

LESLIE (V.O.)

CMA's Bill Chapman held my hand and looked deep into my eyes.

BILL CHAPMAN

(to camera)

I don't want to be just your agent. Anybody can be your agent. I want to be your friend -- even though I get ten percent of everything you earn.

CLOSE-UP of SHELDON WEISMAN

LESLIE (V.O.)

I finally decided on Sheldon Weisman of the William Morris agency.

SHELDON WEISMAN

(to camera)

You pick every project as if it's the last project you're ever going to make

kid, 'cause if you pick the wrong one, it just might be.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY.

YOUNG LESLIE is meeting SHELDON WEISMAN at a bowling alley.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
Sheldon had the curious habit of never meeting in his office.

SHELDON WEISMAN  
What we do is wait for the right project to come along. Something real, something meaningful.

A bowling ball rolls down the lane and into the gutter.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
We had several offers but Weisman thought they would all be losers.

MOVIE CLIP from "Sayonara" with Marlon Brando.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
There was director Josh Logan who wanted me to team with Marlon Brando in the Japanese romance "Sayonara", but Weisman thought it might be a little too ethnic for me, so we nixed it.

MOVIE CLIP from "Bridge over River Kwai".

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Producer Sam Spiegel offered me the leading role of Lt. Kimball in David Lean's World War II flick, "Bridge on the River Kwai", but Weisman felt it wasn't contemporary enough for me, so we rejected it.

MOVIE CLIP from "A Touch of Evil".

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Orson Welles was desperate for me to costar opposite Janet Leigh in his psychodrama "A Touch of Evil". Weisman believed it was too obscure and negative for me, so we booted it.

INT. LESLIE'S HOME. EVENING - DAY.

The PHONE RINGS and YOUNG LESLIE walks over to answer it.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I was getting very anxious to get back to work, when the call came.

YOUNG LESLIE

Hello?

EXT. OUTSIDE THE OFFICES OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES - CONTINUOUS

SHELDON WEISMAN is on a pay phone, very excited.

SHELDON WEISMAN

I finally found the right project for you. It's everything we've been waiting for. It's a gritty, hard-hitting drama about two good people struggling to find happiness in a world gone mad.

ANGLE on YOUNG LESLIE

LESLIE

Sounds perfect. What's it called?

ANGLE on SHELDON. ELVIS walks out the door behind him, visibly upset.

SHELDON WEISMAN

"Tammy and the Bachelor". It was written for Elvis Presley, but when they heard you were available, they dropped Elvis faster than a cement overcoat. You play the bachelor, a veteran pilot.

MOVIE TRAILER with DEBBIE REYNOLDS and LESLIE in "Tammy and the Bachelor"

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Tammy was an examination of contemporary relationships as seen through the lives of two people brought together by tragic circumstances. Leslie would co-star with Debbie Reynolds, who already had been making movies for the past ten years.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

DEBBIE REYNOLDS sits in her Los Angeles home.

DEBBIE REYNOLDS

I played an innocent country girl and Leslie played a cynical bachelor who literally crashes into my life. I had no idea what it was like to work with him. Then, Anne Francis warned me all about Leslie, what a ladies man he was. Thankfully, I was happily married at the time.

ARCHIVE FILM of DEBBIE'S marriage to EDDIE FISHER.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Debbie Reynolds had become America's sweetheart, and her recent marriage to the handsome singer Eddie Fisher had captivated the nation.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

EDDIE FISHER in his Beverly Hills home.

EDDIE FISHER

Well I was over there on the set for Tammy almost every day. I remember Leslie and I became quite friendly. We'd talk about our lives late into the night. He told me how lucky I was to have found the right girl at my age. How fortunate I was, that with all the beautiful and available women in Hollywood, I had been able to commit myself to marriage.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

I admired him for being able to resist temptation in exchange for the security of spending the rest of his life with Debbie. I told him how deeply I respected his decision to come home every night, every single night, night after night, to the same dependable, reliable, comfortable woman.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

EDDIE FISHER

He says, "I'm just not sure I could do what you've done." To tell you the truth, I really hadn't given it much thought... until then.

PUBLICITY STILL/POSTERS of LESLIE from "Tammy and the Bachelor" and "And God Created Woman".

NARRATOR (V.O.)

With the imminent release of "Tammy and the Bachelor" and "And God Created Woman", Leslie felt it was time to recast his image. He met with agent needed something to help define his status in Hollywood.

EXT. LOS ANGELES ZOO - DAY

SHELDON and YOUNG LESLIE sit and watch the gorillas.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I was beginning to believe that Sheldon didn't really have an office.

SHELDON WEISMAN

How would you like to go out with Elizabeth Taylor?

YOUNG LESLIE

What?

LESLIE (V.O.)

It would be a great story, he insisted. Taylor's last husband Michael Todd had been killed in a plane crash a few months back, and I had just played a pilot who crashed his plane in "Tammy".

SHELDON WEISMAN

It's a perfect match. It will take just one phone call.

YOUNG LESLIE

Okay. Go ahead and call her.

SHELDON WEISMAN

Call her? We don't need her. I'll just call Louella and offer an exclusive. The two of you'll make a great couple.

NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: "LESLIE AND LIZ LOVEFEST" from "The Examiner" with a tell-all article about Liz and Leslie.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The headline appeared in the paper a few weeks later. Gossip columnist Louella Parsons broke the story in the Examiner.

CAMERA pans over the article by gossip columnist Louella Parsons.

LOUELLA PARSON (V.O.)

Two people who know all about plane crashes seem to have found each other. Actor Leslie Nielsen was spotted consoling the beautiful widow Liz Taylor at a recent charity auction for Breast Enhancement. It was heartwarming to see La Liz laughing the night away on the arm of charming Mr. Nielsen.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LIZ TAYLOR at her favorite restaurant.

ELIZABETH TAYLOR

Before I knew it, we were an item. It was the beginning of a passionate Hollywood relationship. I mean we were being seen holding hands in Hollywood's most fashionable restaurants. I mean it was really scandalous. The more we denied it the larger the story grew.

EXT. LESLIE'S HOME - DAY

PAPARAZZI PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS and REPORTERS stake out in front of Leslie's home.

LESLIE (V.O.)

It seemed as if every time I left my small house the celebrity photographers, the so-called paparazzi, were waiting outside for me.

LESLIE, on the phone, looks out at them through the window.

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

At first I was thrilled that anyone outside my immediate family wanted to take my picture, but then Weisman warned me that I had to do everything possible to avoid these photographers.

EXT. LESLIE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Young Leslie is on the phone looking outside.

YOUNG LESLIE

Why avoid them? They're just trying to  
do their job.

EXT. BEVERLY HILL HOTEL POOL - CONTINUOUS

SHELDON WEISMAN sits by the pool and is on the phone. He slaps  
his forehead.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I could hear him slap his forehead with  
the phone.

SHELDON WEISMAN

You're a trial, kid. Here's how it  
works. If they can take your picture,  
they don't want it. It's simple  
economics. The more pictures of you  
around, the less they're worth, so these  
guys can't afford to wait around for you.  
The easier you make it, the less they  
want it. You avoid them, you're worth  
more money, so they'll do anything to  
take your picture.

MOVIE CLIP from a "Universal Studios Newsreel".

NEWSREEL OPENING. YOUNG LESLIE is seen taking out his garbage  
to the street in his pajamas.

NEWSREEL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Actor Leslie Nielsen, seen here taking  
out his garbage, is the talk of  
Tinseltown.

When he encounters the PRESS flashing bulbs, shouting  
questions about him and Liz.

NEWSREEL ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Nielsen, the legendary ladies man is  
denying any truth to the rumors of his  
romantic affair with Elizabeth Taylor,  
making him one of the most important  
stars in Hollywood.....

YOUNG LESLIE, acts horrified, and runs back in the house.

LESLIE (V.O.)



Whatever was going on in my fictitious love-life was taking its toll on my real social life.

NEWSREEL continues with an interview with a PINUP BLONDE on the street.

BLONDE

I said forget about it. Who'd wanna date that guy while everyone was talking about him and Taylor? He tried to tell me that he never even met the woman. Sure. It's just like a man, you know?

NEWSREEL continues with quick cuts: LIZ getting into a limo; LESLIE ducking into a restaurant.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Meanwhile, my relationship with Liz had started going sour. It was terrible.

UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL OPENING. STILL PHOTOS of LIZ TAYLOR and LESLIE

NEWSREEL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Just last week we reported to you right here that Leslie was making Liz happier than she'd ever been since the death of her late husband, Mike Todd. What went wrong?

NEWSREEL continues with a SERIES OF INTERVIEWS with EDITORS of the trades in their offices.

EDITOR, VARIETY

We broke the whole story about the fight between Leslie and Liz at Ciro's.

EDITOR, HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

We got the scoop that Leslie was heartbroken.

EDITOR, TRUE ROMANCES

Well it was clear to us that Leslie tried to win her back with flowers and a promise.

EDITOR, JEWELER'S DIGEST

He presented her with a gift. A three-carat marquis diamond engagement ring to be exact.

EDITOR, NATIONAL ENQUIRER

We were the first to find out that Liz was pregnant. We called it Leslie's love child.

EDITOR, MAD

Mad ran a parody claiming that Liz and Leslie had never even met. Can you believe it? It was hilarious.

EDITOR, YESHIVA MONTHLY

I'm not saying who, but a very informed source of the highest authority told us Leslie and Liz were going to raise their child in the Jewish faith to honor Liz's conversion when she married Mike Todd.

EDITOR, HOSPITAL WEEKLY

The tragedy was they lost the baby.

EDITOR, MANIC DEPRESSIVE NEWSLETTER

After that, we reported that they blamed each other. Not surprising in cases like these.

EXT. MEL'S DRIVE IN - DAY

YOUNG LESLIE and SHELDON sit in his convertible.

A WAITRESS on roller skates brings their order

LESLIE (V.O.)

Everything was going wrong. I pleaded with Sheldon to get me out of the relationship.

SHELDON

There's only one way. She's gonna have to dump you. But its going to have to be somebody big. Somebody important. Somebody no one would expect.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I had no idea who.

YOUNG LESLIE stares at a movie poster on a wall for "Bundle of Joy", a 1956 movie Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher.

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

Then it came to me in a blinding flash of inspiration. It was a moment in my life

that I was ashamed of. But I was desperate.

DISSOLVE TO:

MOVIE CLIP with EDDIE FISHER and DEBBIE REYNOLDS in "Bundle of Joy".

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

In the end, I thought I was doing him a big favor. Eddie Fisher seemed like the perfect choice. I knew his marriage to Debbie was secure. I assumed everyone would deny it completely and in a few days the story would blow over. It was perfect.

A SPINNING NEWSPAPER comes to rest with the blaring headline: "LIZ AND EDDIE SCANDAL ROCKS HOLLYWOOD"

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

The rumors started and I was off the hook. But there was one thing I hadn't expected - they were all true.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Debbie Reynolds in her home.

DEBBIE REYNOLDS

I was so mad. I vowed that one day I will find out the creep that planted such a dumb idea in Eddie's head.

MOVIE CLIP with LESLIE and DEBBIE REYNOLDS in "Tammy".

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The release of "Tammy and the Bachelor" was a modest success for Leslie. But for Elvis Presley, being passed over for the starring role did not go unnoticed. Years later, Leslie would learn the naked truth about the true price of fame.

PUBLICITY STILL of PRISCILLA PRESLEY

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

Priscilla Presley, the former wife of "The King", made a startling confession years after Elvis died in 1977.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Priscilla Presley sits home surrounded by Elvis memorabilia.

PRISCILLA PRESLEY

Well he never really recovered from being replaced in "Tammy". It was going to be his chance to prove he could act. After they gave his part to Leslie, he knew he was doomed to spend the rest of his life starring in silly movies like "Fun in Acapulco" and "Viva Las Vegas". Oh, it was awful. He became a totally different person.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTOS of Elvis Presley, older and heavier.

PRISCILLA PRESLEY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

After he saw Leslie in Tammy, he came home and started drinking to forget about it. He tried to drown his sorrows in drugs and ice cream sundaes. In just a few short years he went from being the handsomest man I'd ever seen to the poster boy for inflation.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

I couldn't believe it. To think, I was the man who drove Elvis to ice cream sundaes.

CLOSE-UP of a scripts tossed onto the table: "Psycho"; "Some Like it Hot"; "Ben Hur"; "West Side Story"; "Porgy and Bess".

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Leslie believed it was time to convert all the publicity he received into something tangible. There were many scripts now to choose from. Picking the right project would be the most important and most difficult decision he would have to make.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

I decided to accept producers Harry Saltzman and Cubby Broccoli's offer to bring to life novelist Ian Fleming's

British secret agent to the screen. I would become the original James Bond.

An action packed MOVIE TRAILER from "Agent 007" with YOUNG LESLIE.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

While "Agent 007" was the fourth-highest-grossing film of the year, Leslie turned down three additional pictures deals, well aware of how typecasting had ruined many careers. It opened up the role for other promising performers.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

SEAN CONNERY sits in his Scottish castle.

SEAN CONNERY

Leslie actually made history cast in the initial Bond picture called, "Agent 007". He created the character of James Bond - suave, debonair, cultured, confident, worldly, sophisticated, and irresistible to women. He was quite impressive.

MOVIE CLIP from "AGENT 007". YOUNG LESLIE, as James Bond, is on an expensive yacht with TWO WOMEN, one on each arm.

YOUNG LESLIE fights off a HITMAN who is coming after them with a hatchet.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Here I was, a major motion-picture star, earning more money than I had ever imagined in my life, sleeping late, working with beautiful women, and being treated as if I were royalty, but was I happy? Was I truly happy?

LESLIE subdues the HITMAN and is back with a WOMAN on each arm

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

You bet I was. Are you crazy? I was thrilled.

YOUNG LESLIE lies in bed, tossing and turning.

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

I was sooooo happy, and then, the dream returned. The dreaded actor's nightmare.

DISSOLVE TO:

A loud KNOCK on the door of a DREAM SEQUENCE as the DOOR opens. TWO COPS, one tall the other short, stand in the doorway.

TALL COP  
(flashing an ID)  
Acting chief of police

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I knew who they were.

YOUNG LESLIE  
Where have you guys been for the last decade?

TALL COP  
Very busy.

SHORT COP  
What, you think you're the only bad actor in Hollywood?

TALL COP  
You wouldn't believe it, we've been working two shifts, daydreams and nightmares. Anyway, get your things, you're coming with us. Read him his rights.

SHORT COP  
Yeah, right, I forgot.

SHORT COP takes out a large document.

SHORT COP (CONT'D)  
You hereby, now and forever, irrevocably convey all rights in any and all forms of written and electronic media, or any other forms of expression, to the material herein referred to as 'The Dream,' as well as any other stories or characters deriving from this...

INT. LESLIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A phone RINGS waking up YOUNG LESLIE who answers it.

YOUNG LESLIE  
Yeah?

EXT. HOLLYWOOD PARK RACE TRACK - DAY

SHELDON WEISMAN speaks at a payphone.

SHELDON

Leslie? Listen, we just got a terrific offer. David Lean wants you for his new picture. It's called Lawrence of Arabia. It's the story of an emotionally tortured Englishman who leads the entire Arab world to freedom."

ANGLE on LESLIE

YOUNG LESLIE

I understand, what role do they want me for?

ANGLE on SHELDON

SHELDON (V.O.)

What difference does it make? It's going to be a big picture. They want you to star opposite Peter O'Toole.

ANGLE on LESLIE

YOUNG LESLIE

Sounds great, but what's the part?

SHELDON (V.O.)

You play his homosexual lover.

TITLE: "CHAPTER FIVE: A CHAPTER WITHOUT A TITLE"

INT. KOSHER DELI - DAY

SHELDON and YOUNG LESLIE sit at a table.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I was really beginning to suspect that Sheldon didn't even work for William Morris.

SHELDON

Hey, it's a great part. You'd play the American journalist Frederick Stevens. The Hearst papers send Stevens to Arabia to track down this crazy Englishman who's leading the Arabs. The next thing you know, boom, they're an item.

YOUNG LESLIE

I just don't know. I've got my whole career to think of.

SHELDON

Okay, let's look at it this way. Liz and Dick. Bogie and Bacall. Tracy and Hepburn. O'Toole and Nielsen. What's the difference?

PRODUCTION STILLs with Peter O'Toole and Young Leslie from "Lawrence of Arabia".

LESLIE (V.O.)

Accepting the role of Frederick Stevens was a decision I've never regretted. I actually appeared in only nine scenes, but my relationship with Lawrence was his whole motivation for leading the Arab cause. He did it for me.

MOVIE CLIPS from "Lawrence of Arabia".

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

Lawrence of Arabia was an extraordinarily difficult shoot. The days in the desert were long and inhumanly hot. The nights were bitterly cold, and sand was everywhere. Sand got into everything, our clothes, our food, and the camera.

EXT. A DESERT CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

YOUNG LESLIE, O'TOOLE, and BEDOUIN EXTRAS relax around a campfire.

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

O'Toole was one of the most intelligent actors I've ever worked with. And it was obvious he was entranced by the desert.

THEY sit under a spectacular starlit sky.

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

It was a very humbling place.

LESLIE and PETER O'TOOLE'S FACES are barely lit by the fire.

PETER

Do you wonder why we're making this film?



YOUNG LESLIE

It's the story of the British Empire, and  
it's decline..."

PETER

(shaking his head)

No.

YOUNG LESLIE

It's not?

PETER

(whispering)

Soft drinks.

YOUNG LESLIE

Soft drinks?

PETER

Soft drinks. Most people don't know it,  
but the profit center in movie theaters  
barely break even on the ticket sales.  
Sure they make a little something on the  
popcorn, but the real money is in soft  
drinks. That's why they give you those  
big buckets of popcorn with plenty of  
salt on them. Sells soda, and this...

O'TOOLE scoops up a handful of sand and lets it drain through  
his fingers.

PETER (CONT'D)

It's impossible to spend three hours  
watching a film that takes place in the  
desert without getting incredibly  
thirsty. No, they care nothing about  
Lawrence, they care about selling soda.  
The movies are not a great art form, but  
a cold business. And that, my good  
friend, that is the naked truth.

ANGLE on YOUNG LESLIE

LESLIE (V.O.)

I was startled. That was the naked  
truth? What about Brigitte Bardot's  
body? Was there no truth to that?

YOUNG LESLIE

Well, with what this picture is costing,  
they'd better sell a lot of soda.

PETER

Oh, they will, they most certainly will.  
You see, the great filmmakers are gone,  
the soda sellers have gained control.  
And they are expert in this business of  
selling soda.

LESLIE (V.O.)

It was a night I've never forgotten.  
That night I learned there is more than  
one naked truth. I knew then that there  
were at least two, but were there more?

PUBLICITY STILL of LESLIE in "Lawrence of Arabia".

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

After my role in Lawrence, I believed  
that audiences were sophisticated enough  
to realize that simply because you played  
a character in a motion picture, didn't  
mean you became that person. I didn't  
even give that role a second thought.  
Instead, I got married.

STILL of COURTNEY BURKE.

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

Her name was Courtney Burke, and I'd met  
her while I was divorcing my first wife  
Sue King.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

COURTNEY BURKE, still a voluptuous blonde, is at home.

COURTNEY

I was an assistant for Leslie's divorce  
attorney. We were friends long before we  
became lovers, and I liked him very much.  
After he did "Lawrence" he seemed in an  
awful hurry to get married.

STILLS of LESLIE and COURTNEY'S WEDDING.

LESLIE (V.O.)

In retrospect, I think we ruined a good  
friendship by getting married. She  
started changing right after our wedding  
ceremony. She had been wearing a beige  
summer dress and changed into a brown

pantsuit and from that point on she never stopped.

NEWSREEL CLIP for premiere of "Lawrence of Arabia" at the Egyptian Theater.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In October of 1962, Hollywood was holding the world premiere of "Lawrence of Arabia" at the legendary Egyptian Theatre.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I was very excited by the prospect of seeing myself on their giant screen.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

In a darkened movie theater, YOUNG LESLIE and YOUNG COURTNEY hold hands.

"Lawrence" begins on the screen.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Courtney and I had just settled into our seats when the lights dimmed. My new bride squeezed my hand tightly. Just then the majestic theme filled the theater and the first showing of "Lawrence of Arabia" began.

CLOSE-UP of a tall cup of coke being filled at the concession stand in the lobby.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

O'Toole had been absolutely correct; within moments of the start of the picture I got very thirsty and went to the refreshment stand to get a cold drink.

A LONG LINE at the concession stand.

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

And as soon as I saw the long line of people at the stand not watching the movie, I knew it was going to be a big success.

MOVIE CLIP with O'TOOLE from "Lawrence of Arabia.

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

I watched more than half the picture before I realized that something was missing: me. I'd been cut out of the movie.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Anne V. Coates, editor of "Lawrence of Arabia", is sitting in her editing room.

ANNE V. COATES

I remember when David Lean came in and told me those scenes were too graphic for American audiences. So I had to cut Leslie out of the whole picture. I gave Leslie the outtakes.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Well naturally I was devastated, but not for personal reasons. It was for the damage that had been done to the integrity of the film.

ARCHIVE TV CLIP of JOHNNY CARSON hosting the "Tonight Show".

JOHNNY

Would you please welcome, Leslie Nielsen.

LESLIE makes his entrance to music and applause.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

For many years the existence of the "lost scenes" from Lawrence of Arabia, had been forgotten until 1993, when Leslie appeared on the "Tonight Show with Johnny Carson".

JOHNNY

All right, let's watch the monitor.

MOVIE CLIP of YOUNG LESLIE and PETER O'TOOLE in the lost scenes from "Lawrence of Arabia"

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The rare scenes had been the subject of debate by leading film scholars for

years. Now, Leslie was revealing these exclusive moments of film history for the first time.

COMMERCIAL for "Lost Scenes Video" with highlights of YOUNG LESLIE and O'TOOLE in the lost scenes from "Lawrence of Arabia"

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

Now, a copy of these scenes can be yours. For a limited time only, a select number of signed and numbered copies of these scenes is being made available for the amazingly low price for this incredible piece of motion-picture history of only \$129.95 plus shipping and handling. This offer will not be repeated in this film, and these clips will never be available in local video stores. One copy to a family, please. For more information, please contact your neighborhood video store. This offer is not valid in New Jersey.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

With my personal disaster of "Lawrence of Arabia" behind me, it was time for me to begin an exciting new chapter in my life. A chapter I call - Chapter 6.

TITLE: "CHAPTER 6: THE BEST TIME OF MY LIFE, 5:45PM"

ARCHIVE NEWSREEL of the reaction to President Kennedy's assassination.

LESLIE (V.O.)

President Kennedy's assassination reminded all of us that life is fragile. It brought me closer to my wife than at any other time in our entire marriage.

STILL of LESLIE and COURTNEY.

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

The knowledge that I had someone who really cared about me as a person rather than simply as a handsome movie star made me feel secure.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

COURTNEY

Leslie once asked me if he lost everything, every penny, and couldn't get a job would I still love him? I said, "off course I'd still love you. And I'd also miss you very, very much."

YOUNG LESLIE and COURTNEY drive through the Beverly Hills' neighborhoods.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

For the first time in his life, Leslie felt a tremendous desire to settle down, to buy a house, and put down roots. A place where he could raise his own weeds if he wanted to. They began their search for their dream house.

STILL portrait of BARBAREE EARL with too much makeup.

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

Their first stop was to meet with Barbaree Earl, a former child actress, now real estate agent to the stars.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Real estate agent BARBAREE EARL sits in her office.

BARBAREE

I showed them numerous Hollywood homes, each with its own history. Oh I could tell you stories. Looking for houses around here is like staring into Hollywood's past.

Reagan's former Hollywood home.

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

I showed them the small, but comfortable house where Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman had lived during their marriage.

Mae West's former home.

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

Then we saw the house Mae West built with eight bedrooms and no kitchen.

A bungalow built in the shape of a heart.

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

And the small bungalow in which Gary Cooper and Clara Bow had consummated their affair.

A ranch home on a gorgeous estate with a private lake.

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

Courtney and Leslie settled on a beautiful ten-room ranch on a lake, surrounded by majestic trees, with a perfect view of the sun setting over the crystal-clear water.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - CONTINUOUS

BARBAREE

Oh it was all wrong. I mean the location was terrible. I explained that the house was located on the wrong side of the fold.

CLOSE-UP of the Map to the stars.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The fold is a real estate term, which means everything to a career in Hollywood. The house that caught their eye was so far out of town it would only appear on the back side of the fold of every map to the stars' homes in existence. There was serious doubt whether the property would even make the auxiliary bus tour.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

BARBAREE holds up a map to the stars

BARBAREE

Look, studio executives pay close attention to those things. They'll look at the map and wonder why you're living all the way over there on the other side of the fold. That'll make 'em a little nervous about you, and maybe they won't offer you an important part, and then, before you know it, there goes the career.

A Beverly Hills mansion.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Then she took us to what she considered a great location.

A PAN from the mansion to a dilapidated shack on the lot next door.

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

The fact that the house was barely standing, was of little concern. Barbaree explained it was very simple. We were not buying a house - anybody can buy a house - we were buying an image. An address. And this one was going for 1.2 mil.

A window shutter falls to the ground.

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

Courtney and I took the place. We wanted to live the Beverly Hills life which meant the first thing to build was -- a swimming pool.

Archive FILM of famous starlets at a variety of Hollywood pool gatherings.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Swimming pools have long been among the movie colony's most important status symbols. One's status was derived from the size of one's pool. Courtney and Leslie argued bitterly over what type of pool they wanted without resolve. Finally, they decided to seek the advice of a respected "pool therapist".

PUBLICITY STILL of Richard Weingrod, pool therapist to the stars.

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

Richard Weingrod has helped many people work through their fears of building a pool which they would be ashamed of.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Richard Weingrod sits in front of one of the gaudiest pools in Hollywood.



RICHARD WEINGROD

It's not the size or the shape of the pool that matters, it's the status of the people who swim in it. Real friends will swim in any pool you build.

Samples of various pools.

RICHARD WEINGROD (V.O.) (CONT'D)

A pool is nothing more than a reflection of the way you think about yourself. Do you see yourself as a plastic, above-ground individual, or a more substantial, well-grounded person?

A series of CLOSE-UPS of tools at work: hammer; cement mixer; drill; paint brush; glass blowing, a blacksmith hammering. Their shack is under construction.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Further improvements to his million dollar property kept Leslie at work, constantly. The next few years would become the most productive of his career. He appeared in a remarkable range of leading and supporting roles in several of the most important motion pictures ever produced by American filmmakers.

Publicity still with LESLIE in "The Birds".

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

Answering a call from Alfred Hitchcock, Leslie appeared in "The Birds" as a sadistic torturer of canaries.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Right after the shoot, Courtney called to say our new home had termites.

Publicity still with LESLIE in Doctor Zhivago .

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Leslie went straight into "Doctor Zhivago" in the role of Teyve Budinsky, Dr. Zhivago's malpractice attorney.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

I've always believed that director David Lean offered this part to me as a gesture of apology for editing me out of "Lawrence". I would probably have taken some time off after completing "Dr. Zhivago", but my wife had decided to add a detached carport with a bedroom for her mother.

Publicity still of LESLIE with BILLY WILDER on the set of "Archer's Transformation".

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Leslie agreed to create the role of Archer in Billy Wilder's classic tragicomic social commentary "Archer's Transformation".

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Although I'd originally intended to spend several weeks at home once "Archer's Transformation" wrapped, my wife had decided to add a media room next to the salon. That meant taking out a wall.

Publicity still of LESLIE with TAYLOR and BURTON on the set of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Leslie joined Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" He played Arnold Nurf, the cowardly liar. For Mike Nichols, it was his debut as a film director.

Mike Nichols sits in his New York apartment with wife DIANE SAWYER wrapped around his shoulders.

MIKE NICHOLS

This was my first movie, and I relied on some of the cast to help me get through some of the more difficult moments. The credit really goes to Leslie for teaching me some handy directing terms such as "Camera," "Lunch, thirty minutes," and "Call my agent."

DIANE SAWYER

Is that really true, sweetheart?

MIKE NICHOLS

Absolutely. Leslie was a genius.

Archive film CLIP on the set of "WoOLF".

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Physically and emotionally exhausted when he finished shooting, Leslie was anxious to get home. But just as he was getting ready to leave, his wife called again.

Publicity still with LESLIE and STEVE MCQUEEN in "Sand Pebbles".

LESLIE (V.O.)

I agreed to costar with Steve McQueen and Annette Funicello in Samuel Z. Arkoff's production of "The Sand Pebbles".

Still photo of STEVE MCQUEEN on a Harley and LESLIE beside him on a Vespa.

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

I never got along well with McQueen. He was the kind of actor who'd use his good looks, talent and charisma to steal scenes. He was so jealous of me that he literally stole every scene I was in and hid it from the editor.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

For Leslie 1967, felt like the height of his career.

Publicity poster with LESLIE in "Francis Goes to Vietnam"

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

At Warners executives were offering to bring Francis the Talking Mule out of retirement to costar with Leslie in "Francis Goes to Vietnam".

A doctored poster of HOPE and CROSBY with LESLIE in "On the Road to Birmingham"

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

And MGM wanted Leslie to join Bob Hope and Bing Crosby in the first civil rights musical called , "On the Road to

Birmingham". But Leslie finally settled on a part he never regretted.

MOVIE CLIP with YOUNG LESLIE as a law officer in the final shootout of "Bonnie and Clyde."

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I played the lawman who tracks down Bonnie and Clyde and kills them in the famous ambush scene. It was a great time to be in the movies.

YOUNG LESLIE fires a machine gun with glee.

A bus lets off YOUNG LESLIE on the street in front of his home. The former shack has become a palatial estate.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I was feeling wonderful when I finished Bonnie and Clyde. Finally, I was going home.

A tour inside reveals an empty home.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Perhaps I'd been fooling myself for too long about Courtney--maybe things hadn't been quite as wonderful as I'd imagined they were. Finally, I think I saw the handwriting on the wall.

Scribbled on the bathroom mirror in lipstick are the words read aloud by COURTNEY.

COURTNEY (V.O.)  
Dear Leslie, I've sold the house and ran away with the contractor. We're going to build a new life together. Please don't be mad at me.

INT. SMOKY BAR ROOM

YOUNG LESLIE is drowning his sorrows at the bar.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
After the divorce, Leslie wasn't getting any more calls about his availability. It looked as if his career was finished, when he got a break.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The phone RINGS. YOUNG LESLIE, lying in bed, answers.

YOUNG LESLIE

Hello?

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT

SHELDON WEISMAN is on a phone.

SHELDON

Leslie, listen. I just saw Irwin Allen, the producer. He says he's doing a new picture, something about a ship. Everyone's in it. Hackman, Ernie Borgnine, and Shelly Winters. He's got a part for you.

STILL of the movie poster from "The Poseidon Adventure".

LESLIE (V.O.)

It was a small role but at least it was something. It was called "The Poseidon Adventure" which unfortunately, it turned out to be a disaster.

PUBLICITY STILLS and ARCHIVE FILM from THE MAKING OF THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE.

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

Few people know this, but "The Poseidon Adventure" was originally slated to be a complex character study of lives inexorably entwined during a fateful sea voyage. I was cast as the captain of the U.S.S. Poseidon.

PUBLICITY STILL from FOX STUDIOS BACKLOT with an enormous ship.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The Fox studio had spent nearly \$6,000,000 constructing an entire "ship" that actually floated on a huge pool in their backlot. With the exception of the pyramids built for Cleopatra, this was the most expensive set ever built to date.

CLOSE-UP of hands turning ship's wheel in demonstration.

ANGLE on ship as it leans to one side then the other.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Special effects teams rigged the prop  
ship to respond to the wheel, moving it  
from side to side.

LESLIE NIELSEN as the CAPTAIN stands waiting on the set,  
passing time and spinning ship's wheel.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
On the fifth day of filming I was on the  
bridge, spinning the wheel back and  
forth, around and around.

ANGLE on ship leaning from side to side.

ANGLE on LESLIE spinning the wheel.

CLOSE-UP of a WOODEN PLANK. It SNAPS.

WIDE VIEW of the entire Fox lot and the SOUND of a tremendous  
crash.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY.

LESLIE  
Okay everyone makes mistakes from time to  
time in their life. This was my fault  
and I admit it. I accidentally turned  
over the entire ship.  
(looks into camera)  
Okay?

A MOVIE CLIP FROM "THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE"

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
But Producer Irwin Allen turned the  
disaster into success. The movie became a  
story of people trying to escape from a  
ship suddenly turned upside down. "The  
Posedion Adventure" was a box office hit.  
Leslie received no credit for his  
contribution, only blame for turning over  
the set.

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO from the set of "The Posedion Adventure".

MOVING CLOSER to a small group of people, the CAMERA spots  
MICHELLE PFEIFFER.

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

While still basking in the glow of success from the release of "The Poseidon Adventure", Leslie met and married a young actress who had a small part as a nail decorator. Her name was Michelle Pfeiffer.

STILLS of wedding photos with LESLIE and MICHELLE.

PUBLICITY STILLS of BEAUTIFUL portraits of MICHELLE PFEIFFER.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Why marriage? It's very difficult when someone as young and innocent and beautiful as Michelle professes such deep feelings of love and begs just for the privilege of being your love slave. Being married to Michelle Pfeiffer was exactly as I imagined it would be. It was just like a fantasy.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

But I worried that she was becoming too attached to me. It was obvious that our marriage had to end. It was a painful separation. Eventually we had the marriage annulled. Legally it never really happened. To this day, I think that's how Michelle feels about it too.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

MICHELLE sits in her living room.

MICHELLE PFEIFFER

Well I'm often asked about it and all I can tell you is that it never really happened in the first place.

TITLE: "CHAPTER EIGHT: THE FINAL CHAPTER"

A MONTAGE of memorabilia from Leslie's career. AWARDS, SOUVENIRS, a PHOTO of Leslie with Bardot; another PHOTO in Lawrence of Arabia; A framed DIPLOMA from Leslie's elementary school.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Having performed so many different roles over the years in his distinguished

career, Leslie has acquired a remarkable amount of film experiences. While he earned kudos and respect from his peers, there was one award that still eluded him.

PICTURE of the OSCAR STATUETTE. Moving back reveals it framed on the wall with all of Leslie's other memorabilia.

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

It would be the highest honor he could ever receive.

EXT. UCLA CAMPUS - DAY

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Until that day would come, Leslie would share the knowledge he has acquired of his craft to future generations of filmmakers, here at the famed UCLA Film School.

INT. CLASSROOM

LESLIE teaches at the head of a CLASS.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

It was in his course on "The Art of Hollywood Backstabbing" that Leslie would meet three very bright young students with some talent, tremendous enthusiasm, and vitally important family trust funds.

MUG SHOT PHOTOS of David Zucker, Jerry Zucker and Jim Abrahams in their college years.

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

David Zucker, his brother Jerry and Jim Abrahams were about to have an appointment with destiny.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

Jim Abrahams, Jerry Zucker and David Zucker are seated in an office.

JIM

Leslie took us under his wing. He said he wanted to help develop our talent and channel it in a positive direction.



JERRY

He told us about the film he always wanted to make.

DAVID

Four hundred and fifty terrified passengers on an airplane that has lost its wings.

JIM

The entire flight crew is unconscious. Their only chance is an air to air transfer of a pilot.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

I saw it as a hard-hitting action packed adventure film that would keep the audience on the edge of their seats with their hands covering their eyes. I thought it would be so exciting that no one would stand to watch it.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - CONTINUOUS

JERRY

He was right.

DAVID

So we came up with another idea.

A MOVIE CLIPS from the TRAILER of "Airplane!" with LESLIE, ROBERT STACK and PETER GRAVES.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The result of their chance encounter made history with the film classic, Airplane! Leslie starred as "the doctor." An all-star cast included Lloyd Bridges, Robert Stack and Peter Graves.

A MOVIE CLIP with LESLIE in "Airplane!".

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

"Airplane!" gave Leslie the role of a lifetime. It allowed him to express his true self as a dramatic actor.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

All those years of training in method acting back in New York was paying off. Not only was the film a success for my fans, I never dared hope it would become the top-grossing film of the year. So when it didn't, I wasn't the slightest bit disappointed.

A MOVIE CLIP with LESLIE from "Airplane!"

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

It did incredibly well, though, and in addition to its commercial success, I was honored by my peers in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. I finally did it.

A MONTAGE OF TRADE MAGAZINES.

Headlines announce Oscar nominees. Close in on Leslie's name.

LESLIE (V.O.)

My first nomination as Best Actor.

INT. LESLIE'S HOME. EVENING - DAY.

On a table next to the invitation to the Academy Awards lies Leslie's handwritten acceptance speech.

LESLIE (V.O.)

When Oscar night arrived, I got so excited that I forgot to bring my speech. The result would be one of my most memorable triumphs.

ARCHIVE FILM CLIP 1980 OSCAR CEREMONIES.

CLIPS from nominees of lesser known categories: an animated fly being swatted: a dance number from "Fame": a documentary shot of Mount St. Helens erupting.

LESLIE (V.O.)

As I sat through all the minor awards, I reminded myself to smile when they would announce that I had lost again. At least I would have the honor of losing a much more important award than in the past.

CLOSE-UPS of the other nominees: JACK LEMMON, ROBERT DeNIRO, ROBERT DUVALL, PETER O'TOOLE.

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

The year's best actor nominees were tough acts to follow.

ARCHIVE FILM CLIP of AUDREY HEPBURN and DAVID NIVEN on stage from the 1980 ceremony.

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

Audrey Hepburn and David Niven were presenting the Oscar for Best Actor.

DAVID opens the envelope.

DAVID NIVEN

Oh, my, this is a great surprise.

DAVID hands the card to AUDREY, who reads it. AUDREY looks at DAVID in surprise.

AUDREY HEPBURN

The winner is...it's Leslie Nielsen.

The entire AUDITORIUM makes a collective GASP. Then slowly the AUDIENCE erupts in a mixture of APPLAUSE, ASTONISHMENT AND SHOCK. The CAMERA finds LESLIE as he rises up from the audience and comes down to the stage.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Well, you could have knocked me over with a wrecking ball. I was stunned, shocked, thrilled. I didn't know how to react when I heard my name....A wave of emotion swept me onto my feet and up to the stage.

LESLIE kisses DAVID NIVEN and shakes hands with AUDREY HEPBURN.

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

I kissed David Niven and shook Audrey Hepburn's hand, then reached into my jacket pocket for my speech.

LESLIE reaches into his pocket for his speech. He's horrified to discover his pocket is empty.

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

It was at that moment that I discovered I'd left it home. I looked out at the audience, waiting expectantly for my reaction.

A PAN of the silent audience waiting in expectation. LESLIE looks into the CAMERA.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I stared into the camera, knowing untold millions were watching around the world, and then I told them the naked truth.

LESLIE (CONT'D)  
(addressing the audience)  
This is indeed a great honor you have bestowed upon me and it is very difficult for me to express how truly grateful I am. One of the primary reasons for the ascendancy of mankind over the world of animals is that animals have tails, and if you have a tail, you can't hide your emotions. I tell you this tonight, and I mean it from the very bottom of my heart, if I had a tail, right now I'd be wagging it in your face.

LESLIE is escorted off the stage.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Then I walked off the stage and into Oscar history.

The AUDIENCE sits in dumbfounded silence.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LEONARD MALTIN  
I think the "Hollywood Reporter" called Leslie's speech one of the most emotional and heartfelt in Oscar history.

EXT. HIGH ANGLE VIEW LOOKING OUT OVER L.A. - MORNING

LEONARD MALTIN (V.O.)  
The next day, Hollywood was buzzing.

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL LESLIE'S DECK.

LESLIE is lounging out on his deck overlooking all of Los Angeles. He is dressed in a bathrobe, reading all the papers headlining his upset win. The phone RINGS next to him. He answers it.

LESLIE (V.O.)

My life changed immediately and drastically. Early in the morning Sylvester Stallone called.

INT. BOXING GYM.

STALLONE'S FACE is masked in his boxing sweats. He stands speaking into the receiver of the gym's payphone.

LESLIE (V.O.)

He offered me the role of an over-the-hill former champion in "Rocky V: Repeating His Comeback Again". Almost as soon as I hung up, George Lucas was on the line.

INT. LUCASFILMS CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

A speakerphone is on a huge table. At the head sits GEORGE LUCAS speaking into the phone surrounded by a company of SPACE CREATURES.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I couldn't believe it. The Sci-fi producer was offering me the lead in "Star Wars IV: Extremely High Noon." His entire staff overwhelmingly approved.

EXT. LESLIE'S DECK - MORNING

Leslie hangs up and the phone rings again.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I hung up. When it rang again this time it was Cubby Broccoli.

EXT. ON A DESERTED ROAD SOMEWHERE ALONG THE RIVIERA - DAY.

ALBERT BROCCOLI, in large, Italian style sunglasses, is at the wheel of a sleek-looking sports convertible speeding down the road. He is talking on the car phone.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Cubby asked me to play an older, more mature James Bond this time in "Bond Retires". He said he needed an answer right away.

BROCCOLI glances at his rear-view mirror and sees a sinister-looking black Mercedes following him. BROCCOLI quickly hangs up and puts his James Bond-type coup into high gear.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING, BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

LESLIE (V.O.)

The most important call of all came from Michael Ovitz, who would become one of the most powerful agents in Hollywood.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

MICHAEL OVITZ sits comfortably in his office, surrounded by celebrity photos.

MICHAEL OVITZ

Well he was an oscar winner now. So I called to invite him to come sit at my usual table at Mortons.

EXT./INT MORTON'S RESTAURANT, HOLLYWOOD - NIGHT

LESLIE (V.O.)

Mortons was one of L.A's most exclusive restaurants. Mike did ask me to be finished by eight o'clock though, so the table would be available when he arrived.

A MONTAGE OF CLOSEUPS OF OFFICE ACTIVITY.

Leslie's name is being typed onto a list of names. The paper is ripped out of the typewriter, filed into a folder; which is carried to a desk.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Leslie's triumph on Oscar night was more than just receiving a statute. He had joined the ranks of the Hollywood elite. To the studios, Leslie Nielsen was now just another name added to a very special list.

Still in CLOSE-UP a studio executive receives the folder, opens it and goes through the pages. One is marked "B List" another says "Shopping List", "Laundry List" and finally the "A List".

LESLIE (V.O.)

They called it the "A" list with names of most talented directors, writers and actors in the business.

The "A List" is removed from the folder. There are names on it like Dustin Hoffman, Jack Nicholson, Al Pacino. Leslie's name is underlined.

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

Now, I could sell out my status to the highest bidder, who would pay to have my face on the screen. I was part of the great Hollywood mythology. More importantly, I got invited to all the best parties.

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON DC - EVENING

LESLIE (V.O.)

Some were held at the most glamorous homes for movies stars.

ARCHIVE CLIP of PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN and NANCY entering the room for a formal state dinner.

Everyone including LESLIE stands to applaud the President's entrance.

STILL Photo of Leslie with Ronald Reagan.

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

But perhaps the nicest invitation of all came from my old friend Ronald Reagan, who asked me to join him and Nancy for an intimate dinner with three hundred more guests at the White House.

Fancy dishes being served up. PAN famous faces at the dinner.

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

Dinner at the White House. It was a night I shall never forget. Ambassador Dobrynin from the Soviet Union was there, Henry Kissinger was there, James Stewart..

PAN to a BONZO THE CHIMP seated in a tux, hollering away.

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

Even Reagan's old co-star Bonzo was invited.

A LONG SHOT of the long elegant large table.

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

It was a perfect evening.

A BLACK AND WHITE NEWSPAPER PHOTO of the same LONG SHOT of the table in a mess. Plates are smashed. Food and drink everywhere. The table cloth is missing.

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

My only regret was after dinner I had to be a show-off in front of everyone.

PAN over to the end of the table. LESLIE stands clutching an end of the table cloth in his hand, looking into the camera, horrified.

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

I don't know what happened. I did that trick so many times before. I was given a bill for the smashed Lincoln china and never invited back to the White House again.

EXT. LESLIE'S PALATIAL HOME - DAY.

In front of Leslie's mansion home, a DELIVERY MAN, slams the back door of his Chiquita Banana truck and drives away.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

As an Academy Award-winning Best Actor Leslie felt a little like the proverbial five-hundred-pound gorilla. He reportedly had an incredible craving for bananas.

The CAMERA moves through the front door and inside Leslie's home. A shrine for his Oscar statue stands squarely in the middle of the house.

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

But the award also gave him real power in the film industry. Leslie had become "bankable." "Packages" could be built around him and he was a "key element." He would be offered a seven digit figure to star in a film.

The phone rings. LESLIE, dressed in a movie star's monogrammed robe, enters the room and answers the phone.

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



Women he had never met called him up and asked him out on dates....

A scantily clad HOOKER is on the other end calling from a pay phone.

EXT. THE ALLEY BEHIND LESLIE'S HOUSE - DAY.

A production van from "Inside Edition" is parked. A CAMERA CREW stands by a garbage bin while a PRODUCER searches through it.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Inside Edition searched through his garbage....

A PAN of a travel brochure of Cleveland;

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
"Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" offered to send him on an all-expense trip to Cleveland.

A PAN of a flyer from the Lagos Film Festival.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The prestigious Lagos Film Festival wanted to hold a gala retrospective of his oeuvre.

LESLIE drives behind the wheel of Rolls Royce.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He owned all the accoutrements of success. And yet, Leslie was not happy. And he had no idea why.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I realized that something was missing from my life. I mean, material things just didn't matter to me anymore.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE  
What was missing was some meaning to my life, something deep inside that allowed me to thoroughly enjoy everything on the surface outside. And so I began my search for spiritual fulfillment, a search for the inner peace that can come

only from inside yourself -- the kind of peace, I knew, that some men spent their entire lives searching for.

INT. A NEW AGE-LOOKING ROOM.

LESLIE sits crosslegged on the floor with a SMALL GROUP

LESLIE (V.O.)

I began by spending a whole weekend at an EST seminar - Erhard Seminar Training. It was a fascinating and disciplined experience.

A CLOSE-UP of LESLIE'S face shows intense agony.

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

Part of that discipline was that we were not permitted to leave the room to go to the bathroom.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

After EST, I decided to try channeling. Channels are people whose body and voice are used by the spirits of long-dead people to communicate their thoughts and knowledge to living people. Perhaps there were some people who found this valuable, but I kept getting the wrong channel.

INT. LESLIE'S HOME - NIGHT

Channeler MARTIN WALSH, a grey-haired, older man with a goatee sits across from LESLIE. WALSH is speaking while in a trance.

LESLIE (V.O.)

For example, one channel, a very nice gentleman named Martin Walsh, was supposed to be channeling Cindar...

STILL ENGRAVING of CINDAR a gruff-looking Neanderthal type.

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

.... a third-century Boorish religious leader who was especially knowledgeable about herbal weight loss, but who somehow got his psychic wires crossed....

STILL PHOTO of pitcher Christy Mathewson.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
..... and instead channeled Hall of Fame  
pitcher Christy Mathewson.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE  
A lot of people in the film industry  
claimed that they'd found inner  
contentment through transcendental  
meditation....

EXT. SANTA MONICA STREET - DAY.

Young model-looking men and sexy women walk past the "Santa  
Monica TM center".

LESLIE (V.O.)  
So I went to a TM center in Santa Monica  
to learn how to do it. I didn't really  
expect to find inner contentment in Santa  
Monica, I was happy just to find a  
parking spot.

INT. MEDITATION ROOM

A dark room lit with candles, containing Buddha statues,  
burning incense, floor cushions and hanging cloths. LESLIE  
sits cross-legged with OTHERS on the floor, eyes closed. He  
opens one eye to check out the WOMAN sitting next to him and  
mimics her, placing his hands in the correct "TM" position:  
hands resting on the knees with fingers in an "OK" sign.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
Although I was asked not to tell anyone  
my official mantra, given to me by my  
personal trainer at the TM center, I'm  
revealing it now rather than have it made  
public by the National Star.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE  
My mantra, my nonsense sound, is CAA CAA.

CLOSE-UPS of LESLIE'S HAND writing out a check to the TM  
center, detaches it from his checkbook and seals it in an  
envelope.

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

I continued my quest for self-discovery.  
On this journey I discovered the one  
thing that all self-help programs had in  
common: the more you wanted to help  
yourself, the more you paid someone else.

LESLIE places the sealed envelope on his desk with other  
envelopes addressed to: "The Consciousness Raising  
Company"; "Inner Child Institute"; "Better Sex Center";  
"Unconditional Love Workshops"; "Have a Nice Day, Inc"

A MONTAGE consists of: the book cover of "Road Less Traveled;  
a PAN of the cassette box of an "Anthony Robbins" video to a  
television set with ANTHONY ROBBINS lecturing; a sandbox with  
sand toys.

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

I was willing to try anything to rid  
myself of the feeling that I didn't  
deserve my great success. I read and  
reread M. Scott Peck's "The Road Less  
Traveled"....I rented all the Anthony  
Robbins videos. I tried sandbox therapy,  
in which we were taught how to play  
nicely with other people in a sandbox.  
The object was to remind participants  
that true joy and happiness in life have  
nothing to do with material possessions  
and status symbols.

ARCHIVE TV CLIP from "Gilligan's Island"

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

I even tried the highly experimental  
Gilligan's therapy, in which you watch  
twenty-four continuous hours of  
"Gilligan's Island." This supposedly  
served to remind everyone that no matter  
how bad you thought your everyday life  
was, it could be worse.

EXT. USC CAMPUS - DAY.

LESLIE, in a running uniform, is jogging.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I was running out of things to try, so I  
decided to try running. I enrolled in a  
course in Elementary Jogging at USC.

Suddenly, a LARGE GROUP of college students in track uniforms, jog easily past him. LESLIE slows down to a stop.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And that was when I discovered something  
that has made all the difference.

CLOSE-UP of a YODELER from ARCHIVE FILM.

A collection of ARCHIVE FILM CLIPS of yodeling from Gene Autry films to various indigenous parts of the world including Switzerland.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Yodeling had become a lost art form.  
True yodeling is not at all similar to  
Western-style yodeling popularized by  
Gene Autry in his cowboy films. Rather,  
it is an ancient and revered form of  
communication between distant mountain  
villages. A perfect yodel is believed to  
emanate from the exact center of the  
human body.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS YODEL STUDIO - DAY

The building is on Rodeo Drive.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
Although I claim no credit for the  
yodeling craze that subsequently swept  
the entertainment industry,

LESLIE in one of those PBS self-help style programs is  
lecturing to a TV studio audience.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I will concede that my ground-breaking  
video, "In Search of the Perfect Yodel",  
shown on PBS played an important role in  
this phenomenon.

A CLOSE-UP of LESLIE yodeling. His face bathed by the golden  
sun.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
While yodeling enabled me to put my mind  
and body in harmony, it did not provide  
the answer for which I'd been searching.

Moving back the CAMERA reveals Leslie yodeling alone against the vast expanse of the Grand Canyon in deep red, as the sun sets in the background.

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

But what it did do was help me understand the real, unabashed, no-kidding-this-time, naked truth. And that is, that no matter how far or long we search for serenity, the only place it can be found is inside ourselves. And that's the absolute naked truth.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Sometimes, those of us in the film colony get so caught up in the glamour and the adulation and the financial rewards that we forget who we really are. At those times, times when I was so confused or anxious or egotistical that I forgot who I really was...

EXT. LESLIE'S DRIVEWAY - DAY.

CAMERA swings around LESLIE'S CAR to the front and moves in on the license plate that reads: "Lsle Nlsn"

LESLIE (V.O.)

I was fortunate enough to be able to go outside and read my license plate.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

At the home of Barbra Streisand.

BARBRA STREISAND

I first met Leslie at the Malibu yodeling group. I could immediately see the guy was no local yodel. I thought he'd be perfect for a role in my next film, "Nuts".

PUBLICITY STILLs from the movie, "Nuts"

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In 1987, "Nuts" cast Barbra Streisand as an ex-hooker who faces prosecution for killing one of her clients. She insisted

that Leslie play the role of the client  
she murders, Al Green, from Chicago.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

BARBRA STREISAND

He was perfect for the part. I had seen  
every movie Leslie had ever made and I  
just knew he was the man to kill.

MOVIE CLIP from "Nuts" with Barbra killing Leslie.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In the scene, she stabs him in the neck  
with a sharp sliver of broken mirror. As  
he is dying, Leslie reveals what would  
become his trademark to this day. One of  
the most unique dying techniques of the  
silver screen.

CLOSE-UP OF LESLIE'S DYING FINGER.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I allowed one finger to tremble rapidly,  
then gradually slow down and slow down  
further and finally stop in midair.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Since the release of this film several  
actors have copied this movement, but I  
claim credit for introducing it in  
movies.

HOME MOVIE CLIP of JOYCE COLLYER

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

Perhaps the best thing that happened to  
me while we were making "Nuts" was that I  
met the woman destined to become my  
fourth wife--Joyce Collyer. At that time  
Joyce was still a struggling actress who  
had a small part in the movie as a serial  
jaywalker.

PAN up a revealing STILL portrait of JOYCE.

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

For someone so young and so well built it  
was amazing how much Joyce and I had in

common. After I finished "Nuts", I said I wanted to do something that I'd never done before, but Joyce wouldn't go for it.

Preproduction STILLS of Leslie with the Zucker brothers, Jim Abrahams and Pat Proft.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
So instead I met with the Zucker brothers, Jim Abrahams, and Pat Proft, one of America's most respected crime writers, who were just beginning preproduction of a gritty police drama.

STILL of "Naked Gun" movie POSTER

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
It was their intention to make a film noir, The Naked Gun, the most realistic police drama ever done.

MOVIE CLIP from "The Naked Gun".

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
For my portrayal of Lt. Frank Drebin, I won the special Truffaut prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

PUBLICITY STILL of Leslie in sunglasses at Cannes, surrounded by adoring fans.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
All my European fans simply loved me.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE  
It had taken me a long time, but my life was full. Complete. Once again I was being offered the most prestigious roles in the motion-picture industry. Bob Redford was being offered the scripts I turned down. When the gossip columns wanted to promote a restaurant, they claimed I'd eaten there.

EXT. BEHIND LESLIE'S HOME - DAY

A truck dumps a mountain of garbage at Leslie's home.



LESLIE (V.O.)  
Instead of going through my garbage, the  
National Enquirer had new garbage  
delivered to my home.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

A corner aisle display for "Hollywood" brand drinking water  
with a life-sized cutout of Leslie holding a glass. All the  
packaging has his image.

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I received some seven-figure offers to  
become the spokesperson for products,  
although admittedly the first three  
figures were zeroes.

ARCHIVE SHOT of a shuttle liftoff.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
NASA wanted me to pilot a space shuttle.

STILL NEWSPHOTO of Leslie in a "Clinton style" pose as Yitzhak  
Rabin and Yassir Arafat shake hands.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Both the Arabs and the Israelis asked me  
to negotiate a peace settlement.

INT. LESLIE'S HOME - DAY

STILL wedding photo of Leslie and Joyce hangs on the wall

LESLIE (V.O.)  
I had a new home and a woman I loved very  
much, although when Joyce found out about  
her I willingly gave her up.

A CLOSE-UP of Leslie's face as he yodels. The CAMERA moves  
back to reveal Leslie sitting on top of the Statue of Liberty  
surrounded by armed police, flashing lights and radios  
blaring.

LESLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And I had my yodeling.

POLICE OFFICER  
(Through a megaphone)  
Okay Nielsen, this is your last chance!

MOVIE CLIP from "Naked Gun 2 1/2"

NARRATOR (V.O.)

When Jim Abrahams and the Zuckers brothers decided to make a sequel to The Naked Gun, they begged Leslie to return to the screen as the enigmatic Lt. Frank Drebin. Leslie agreed.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

MOVIE CLIP of opening titles of "It's An Incredible Life".

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Very few Americans have been the subject of a big-screen biography, but in 1994, Paramount Pictures, decided to make the motion picture about the life of Leslie Nielsen called "It's an Incredible Life"

The MOVIE CLIP begins with Leslie's birth.

EXT. AN IGLOO IN NORTHERN CANADA - NIGHT.

A Hollywood music score is playing as crying is heard from within the igloo that is lit inside. The character of LESLIE'S FATHER brings out a baby covered in a blanket.

LESLIE'S FATHER

(to his baby)

And someday my little one, your life will shine, like a star in the sky....

INT. LESLIE'S DRESSING ROOM.

YOUNG LESLIE is looking at himself in his makeup mirror. ROBBIE THE ROBOT stands behind him with his mechanical arm around Leslie's shoulder

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Even Leslie's old friend Robby the Robot, with whom he worked so long ago in "Forbidden Planet", came out of retirement to put on the grease, one last time.

ROBBIE THE ROBOT

Com'mon, Leslie, cheer up. You have your whole career ahead of you.

INT. LESLIE'S MANSION - DAY

An ACTRESS playing LESLIE'S WIFE is confronting LESLIE at home in front of his Oscar shrine.

LESLIE'S WIFE

You don't have to decide between me or your career anymore Leslie, I've already decided for you.

The music swells as she storms out of the house.

LESLIE (V.O.)

The most difficult part of playing yourself, I learned, was determining who wins. Playing me served to remind me how incredibly lucky I've been, how many wonderful people I've worked with, how many great movies I've made.

She leaves the front door open and LESLIE all alone.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

(calling after her)

Ever try yodeling?

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

On the marquee is "It's An Incredible Life"

NARRATOR (V.O.)

When it was released, reactions were mixed.

A series of MAN-ON-THE-STREET SOUNDBITES with the marquee in the background.

OLD MAN

(stiffly, looking into camera)

One of the best biography pictures, I have ever seen.

(Lowering his voice)

What's this ABC?

A WOMAN looks into the camera.

WOMAN

Well I never knew that about him. And what an actor!

An OLD WOMAN looks into the camera.

OLD WOMAN

Well to tell you the truth, I expected worse.

MAN looks into camera.

MAN

Good. Not great, just good.

Back to OLD WOMAN.

OLD WOMAN

But now I'm confused, I thought it was that picture with Jimmy Stewart. He didn't look at all like Jimmy Stewart.

BACK TO MAN.

MAN

Okay, maybe somewhere in between good and great.

Back to OLD WOMAN.

REPORTER (OFFSCREEN)

Did you know this was the life story of Leslie Nielsen?

OLD WOMAN

(Into Camera)

Leslie who?

EXT. YALE UNIVERSITY DRAMA SCHOOL - DAY.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Recently, Leslie announced that he was endowing the "Leslie Nielsen Chair of Good Acting" at the Yale Drama School, in New Haven, Connecticut.

INT. INTERVIEW SETTING - DAY

LESLIE

Actually it's not a complete chair; it's the "Leslie Nielsen Folding Chair of Good Acting" at the Yale Drama School..... Perhaps it's not an official folding chair. Officially, it's the "Leslie Nielsen Stool of Acting" at Yale Drama School. And I'm very proud of it.... All right, it's really the "Leslie Nielsen Hammock of Acting."

DISSOLVE TO:

ARCHIVE STILL PHOTO of LESLIE as a boy in the snow.

DISSOLVE TO:

YOUNG LESLIE crossing the border at Niagara Falls.

DISSOLVE TO:

Various MOVIE CLIPS with LESLIE in: "Forbidden Planet"; "Tammy and the Bachelor"; "Airplane!".

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Leslie Nielsen has learned the price of fame. He has had his pick of great parts. Casting directors were posting notices for "a Leslie Nielsen type." And he has received one of the greatest honors that can be bestowed upon an actor...

INT. DELI - DAY

A CLOSE-UP of a NIELSEN PASTRAMI SANDWICH being served up.

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

A sandwich named after Leslie at the Stage Deli.

LESLIE hangs out with GRACE KELLY; MICHELLE PFEIFFER, BRIGETTE BARDOT.

LESLIE is driving his Rolls Royce.

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

Leslie had it all, women he loved, a successful career that brought fame and satisfaction, and the security that money could bring.

LESLIE'S ROLLS passes a BUS with a billboard for "The Naked Truth" with a picture of LESLIE'S SURPRISED FACE (as in the "Biography" opening).

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

For Leslie Nielsen, he was at the top of world. But fame doesn't come cheap.

LESLIE'S ROLLS drives by an ENORMOUS BILLBOARD on Sunset Blvd. advertising "The Naked Truth" with LESLIE'S SURPRISED FACE.

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

The price of fame is steep. While many who come to Hollywood are desperate for it, they crave it, they even pray for it....

A SMALL AIRPLANE flying in the sky is tugging a banner for "The Naked Truth" with LESLIE'S SURPRISED FACE.

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

But few really know how expensive it can be. Except for an actor who came from the north to become a star.

LESLIE WALKS along the beach and watches the plane fly past.

LESLIE (V.O.)

I've gone back over all my old tax returns and I think I've figured it out.

LESLIE continues WALKING along the beach, reflecting.

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

Including the cost of all lessons, management publicity and legal fees, minor plastic surgery, transportation, communications, and incidentals, the price of fame, adjusted for inflation, is precisely \$19,264,744.88. New Jersey residents add 3 1/2 percent sales tax.

The SUN sets.

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

And that Ladies and Gentlemen is the real, the absolute, the ultimate and forever uncontested Naked Truth of what it takes to make it in the only town on earth where dreams are really made.

LESLIE is alone on the beach as the CAMERA pulls back in a LONG helicopter shot slowly revealing the vast metropolis that is Los Angeles.

RANDY NEWMAN'S "I LOVE L.A." BLARES OUT:

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

SUPER:

*"THE PRODUCERS WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR THANKS AND APPRECIATION  
TO ALL THE INDIVIDUALS WHO GRACIOUSLY DID NOT APPEAR OR  
PARTICIPATE IN THE MAKING OF THIS MOTION PICTURE IN ANY WAY  
SHAPE OR FORM AND WITHOUT WHOSE ABSENCE THIS PICTURE MIGHT NOT  
HAVE BEEN MADE"*

CLOSE-UP OF A TELEVISION SET

THE TELEVISION SET clicks off as we....

FADE TO BLACK.