

WE FIX SPACE JUNK

MICRO-BYTES: Buttery and Charismatic

EPISODE 7

By Beth Crane

CAST

POPCORN LEADER: Chris Montague

VICE LEADER: Rebecca Evans

WRITER 1: Jack Carmichael

WRITER 2: Beth Crane

WRITER 3: Hedley Knights

ANNOUNCER: Microbytes: A We Fix Space Junk Mini-Series. Episode Seven:
Buttery and Charismatic

SCENE 1: THE POPCORN PRESS CONFERENCE

SFX BANGING OF A GAVEL

POPCORN Order! Okay! So the motion has passed. We, the popcorn
LEADER: people of Entertainia III, are in a state of emergency. The old
 films just aren't satisfying any more. Our people are rioting in
 the streets. There is only one course of action we can take. It
 may seem drastic, but... We're going to have to make a movie
 of our own.

VICE LEADER But how are we going to do that?

POPCORN We'll form a committee to look into the creation of a new
LEADER: premise. A new script! And then we'll get to work.

VICE LEADER But sir, isn't this just... patching up the problem? Wouldn't it be better to --

POPCORN LEADER: We, the popcorn people of our popcorn nation, are proud patchers of our popcorn problems! It's what we've always done and what we will continue to do!

VICE LEADER But -

POPCORN SILENCE! Form the exploratory committee and start pitching
LEADER: some screenplays! And remember, a problem patched, is a
 problem patched!

SFX: **RIOTOUS APPLAUSE**

SCENE 2: THE WRITER'S DEN

SFX:

TYPEWRITERS CLANK

WRITER 1: ...So then she's standing in front of him, heart in her hand

WRITER 2: I thought we were staying away from horror!

WRITER 1: I meant metaphorically.

WRITER 3: I thought we were staying away from metaphors!

WRITER 1: Just hear me out, okay? So she's standing in front of him, heart in hand -- metaphorically -- and she says "See, I'm just a popcorn girl standing in front of a popcorn boy, asking them..."

WRITER 3: Asking them what?

WRITER 1: I... I haven't got there yet.

WRITER 2: That's your big idea? Where's the rest of the movie?

VICE
LEADER: Wait -- I'm sorry, we've checked the Im-DUB scrolls and... I think there's something like that already. It's lost, but it existed.

WRITER 2: If it's lost, can't we just -- make it?

WRITER 1: You mean -- make a remake?

SFX

A COLLECTIVE SHUDDER.

WRITER 2: You're right. It has to be completely original. I'm sorry I even suggested for a moment...

WRITER 1: Why can't we just rerun some of the classics again?

VICE You heard the leader, it's just not working any more.

LEADER:

WRITER 2: Okay, okay, SO! I've got one. A secret agent. Right?

WRITER 1: Right.

WRITER 2: But this one's deeply flawed. He's got outdated views, a crippling sex addiction and a license to kill.

WRITER 1: And -- so who's the hero?

WRITER 2: He is.

WRITER 1: I don't... think anyone will watch that.

SFX

FRANTIC TYPING

VICE Actually, apparently there was an entire franchise based around
LEADER: that concept exactly.

WRITER 1: Well then it's not original, is it?

WRITER 2: Okay, so if we don't want a secret agent -- how about just a
guy! He's -- in a tower, dealing with a hostage situation, and --

WRITER 1: I like it, but -- I think you're ripping off Brucemas.

WRITER 2: Oh.

WRITER 1: Okay! I have it! So there's this prison spaceship full of criminals,
and one of the criminals is actually a good guy --

WRITER 2: Right?

WRITER 1: And he has to stop them from taking over. And he's got long,

flowing hair.

WRITER 3: Uh. Nope, it's been done.

VICE Okay. Right. So how about a ship that, once it goes above 1
LEADER: light year per hour, is rigged to explode if it decelerates?

WRITER 2: Couldn't they just point it at a sun and -- evacuate it?

VICE Maybe they don't have escape pods.

LEADER:

WRITER 2: They could just send out a mayday. Then someone could fly up
alongside them and help.

VICE But what if nobody is nearby?

LEADER:

WRITER 3: They could just fly in circles until they get help.

VICE Okay. Fine. That wouldn't work.

LEADER:

WRITER 2: Maybe -- maybe it just needs to be relatable. Just a couple of
workers going about their day... Maybe repairmen, to appeal to
the bluecollar market? And they work for this big corporation
and --

WRITER 1: That's the worst idea I've ever heard.

VICE These ideas just aren't going to work. We need to write what
LEADER: we KNOW.

WRITER 3: Right. Right. How about -- a race of people stuck on a planet!

WRITER 1: Yes! I like it!

WRITER 3: The main characters are -- are film makers!

VICE Brilliant! What are they like?

LEADER:

WRITER 3: Buttery and charismatic!

WRITER 1: Yes! But... why are they trapped?

WRITER 3: They know that there's a big wide universe out there. A universe of -- endless wonder and really interesting things. But they can't get off of the ground.

VICE So what -- what do they do?

LEADER:

Writer 3: I guess they have to find a way to leave?

WRITER 1: But how? We can't -- I mean, they can't - it's impossible!

WRITER 3: Maybe they -- maybe they make a ship.

VICE But out of what?

LEADER:

WRITER 1: Old projector parts?

VICE That just won't look accurate. We want it to be accurate! How it
LEADER: would be in real life.

WRITER 1: Wait -- there were those repairwomen. We saw their ship.

WRITER 2: But we didn't see the inside. What if our film needs to see the engine room? Or we need to film it fly ing away?

WRITER 3: I've got an idea. Get Props to start work on the outside. Base it on the security footage from the day -- we should be able to get it pretty accurate. And for the inside... we're going to get a closer look.

WRITER 1: What do you mean?

SFX FOOTSTEPS

WRITER 3: Drastic times call for drastic measures.

WRITER 1: Where are you going?

WRITER 3: I'm going to break a projector.

SFX: **THEME RISES**

ANNOUNCER: In the seventh episode of Microbytes, a We Fix Space Junk Miniseries, the Popcorn Leader was played by Chris Montague, the Vice Leader by Rebecca Evans and the Popcorn Writers by Jack Carmichael, Hedley Knights and Beth Crane. The programme was written by Beth Crane and produced by Hedley Knights for Battle Bird Productions.

We want to thank our patrons for their support and for making this whole show possible. This episode is dedicated to Charlie. Visit Battlebird.Productions to support the show or buy merch from our store.

In next week's microbyte, Jault has something new to worry about in "Haroldson's New Best Friend"

SFX: **THEME FADES OUT**