

FRATERNIZING: THE PILOT
a half-hour single-cam comedy
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FADE IN:

EXT. SAN ANTONIO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS GREEN - DAY

Fly in from a beautiful, big, blue, Texas sky down onto a modern, college campus filled with flora, fauna, and 2000's architecture. In the center of campus, a group of angry college students protest the invasion of Iraq. We follow them across the green to another large group protesting abortion with giant posters of fetuses, and move on to a third unruly group holding an anti-gay protest with massive crosses held high in the air. A few of their silly posters get our attention. One says "God made AIDS to kill the gays," one says "Keep the faggots out of our school," and one says **"VOTE NO TO THE GAY FRATERNITY!"**

INSERT - SAN ANTONIO, TX 2003

NARRATOR (V.O.)

It was 2003. The war in Iraq was raging, the Dixie Chicks were canceled, climate change was still fake, and though it might seem like we were universally hated by an entire world that was still scared to death of AIDS, believe it or not... being gay was actually the best god damn thing that ever happened to us.

A trio of hot college juniors, DANNY - Latino, KYLE - Black, and HUSTON - White, stop to read the posters. They shake their heads and laugh in that judgy way only gays can.

DANNY

A gay fraternity in San Antonio?

KYLE

Why? Like... why would anyone join?

DANNY

As if your little music fraternity wasn't already gay enough right?

HUSTON

You wish you were in our fraternity.

DANNY

No you wish I was, so I could haze you all night.

Danny pulls Huston away from the crowd and they make-out

furiously as protestors react in horror. Off of Kyle's annoyed face we smash to--

INT. UNIVERSITY THEATRE, DRESSING ROOMS - NIGHT

Danny and Huston are still making out, only now they're dressed like Victorian sailors. No it's not a kinky role-play thing, they're in a production of H.M.S. Pinafore and Danny is playing the Captain; wearing that big ole Captain hat. They're really going at it. Oh damn, they're tearing off each other's costumes. Oh fuck, their up against the mirror - Huston's legs are in the air. Danny's fucking the shit out of him.

HUSTON

Fuck me Captain! Fuck me Captain!

INT. DRESSING ROOM HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A group of three freshmen twinkles stand outside Danny's dressing room listening breathlessly as they drool. ANGELA, a busty mezzo-soprano approaches.

ANGELA

Get to your places freshmen it's top of the show.

FRESHMEN #1

But... I left my gloves in there, and... um...

ANGELA

Ugh, grow some balls.
(pounding on the door)
Danny, the pimply freshmen kid needs his gloves!

INT. UNIVERSITY THEATRE, DRESSING ROOMS - CONTINUOUS

As Danny brings it home, he stretches across the counter to reach the Freshmen's gloves.

STAGE MANAGER (O.S.)

Places. Places for the top of the show.

HUSTON & DANNY

(climaxing)

Thank... you... places!!!!

INT. DRESSING ROOM HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Danny exits the dressing room, while fixing his costume and gives a devilish smile to the Freshman twink as he tosses the gloves at him. The twink smells them as we smash to--

INT. UNIVERSITY THEATRE, STAGE - NIGHT

Curtain call; Danny, Huston, Angela, and the rest of the cast take bows as the audience roars. Kyle applauds from the pit with bow in hand. After the cast exit, Danny must come back for a second bow. Off of Danny's gracious face--

EXT. BONHAM EXCHANGE NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

The line to get into this pumping, thumping, three-story, mega-dance club, built in a historic landmark wraps around the street and circles all the way to the actual Alamo in downtown San Antonio. Danny and his friends walk right past the line as several waiting gays smile and wave hello to them. A sort of non-distinct gay shouts.

NON-DISTINCT GAY #1

You were so good in Pinafore Danny!

DANNY

Awww thank you!

HUSTON

Wait, aren't those the Mormon boys
from a few weeks back?

Huston points out two Mormon missionaries standing across the street where a small group has gathered to protest the night club. Though the missionaries don't actually seem to be protesting, just trying to pass out pamphlets.

DANNY

Awwwww poor things, I guess everyone
needs a little excitement in their
lives.

Danny and the other cool kids approach the door like royalty, flash their passes and walk right in.

INT. BONHAM EXCHANGE - CONTINUOUS

As Thalia's "Arrasando" plays we float across the enormous entrance and varied rooms of the Bonham Exchange. Danny and his friends make their rounds as they clink their glasses, laugh, kiss, and dance the night away in this crowded

danceteria that is packed wall to wall with sweaty stylish bodies. It's gay heaven. Peep the variety that San Antonio, military city, has to offer. There are a thousand gay men here, and yet on the dance floor Danny and Huston can only seem to see each other. Their droplets of sweat entangle the same way their gaze does. This is true love. Danny moves closer to Huston's ear so that only he can hear what he's about to whisper.

DANNY
Let's get tacos.

EXT. A NEARBY TACO STAND - NIGHT

The pang of a dull metal spatula on a greasy used-up skillet as peppers, onions, and fajitas are flipped. The smoke and aroma fills the air as a Latina woman hands several tacos to Danny and he hands her a five dollar bill.

HUSTON
(gringo accent)
Gracias.

DANNY
(imitating him)
Gracias.

HUSTON
Shut up, I'm trying.

EXT. DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO STREET - NIGHT

They sit on the curb and listen to mariachis play.

HUSTON
God I love San Antonio.

DANNY
(sensually)
Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

HUSTON
More tacos?

DANNY
More tacos!!! And we should get some
for the mormon boys!!!
(yelling to the taco maker)
Oye Clara, dame quatro mas, porfa! La
misma!

EXT. BONHAM EXCHANGE DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

The line to get back into the club is as long as ever but the boys ignore it. Danny walks up to the two, blonde, Mormon missionaries.

DANNY

Jonah and Phillip right?! You came by our apartment last month.

JONAH

Yes! You gave us cranberry juice!

DANNY

Sorry we didn't join your church, but we did bring you tacos!

PHIL

Wow! Thank you! And congrats on the play. I heard people talking.

HUSTON

He's amazing, you should come see it.

DANNY

Ohhh staaaarrrrt!

JONAH

We'll definitely try.

HUSTON

Then you can swing by our place after and try to convert us again. You know where we live.

PHIL

We'd be happy to come anytime.

HUSTON

(sexually)

Did you hear that Danny? They'd be happy to come... anytime.

Off of Jonah's sexually confused face--

INT. BONHAM EXCHANGE - NIGHT

Danny and the cool kids take shots from a sexy shot boy.

KYLE

Fraternizing with Mormon boys?

DANNY

Always be kind to those who are less fortunate. Even if they're misguided.

They slam their shots down as Beyonce's version of "In Da Club" swells and we follow grinding bodies down to the beer-stained ground. We watch their feet trample over several flyers that read **JOIN ALPHA LAMBDA TAU, THE GAY FRATERNITY.**

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The music continues as Danny and Huston go at it like bunnies in EVERY POSITION YOU CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE - EVEN SOME THAT AREN'T HUMANLY POSSIBLE. The entire bedroom seems to spin and spin until we smash to neon and see:

TITLE CREDITS

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny feels the Earth spinning as he lies in Huston's arms, starrng up at the ceiling as if he can see the stars.

DANNY

The perfect end, to a perfect day.

HUSTON

It did have all you could ask for. Theatre... tacos... and dick.

DANNY

You have a one track mind.

HUSTON

When it comes to your... Captain.

DANNY

For me, the perfect day is just a day I get to spend with people I love. Like you. I love you so much, I almost can't comprehend it. Like... I didn't know it was possible to feel these kinds of things.

HUSTON

(frightened?)

Really?

DANNY

I wanna marry you Matthew Huston.

HUSTON

Wow.

DANNY

Could you imagine it?

HUSTON

No. I really can't.

DANNY

You don't think we'll ever be able to?

HUSTON

No. All these people calling for gay marriage. That's a... fantasy.

DANNY

It's a beautiful fantasy. My dad used to say if you can dream it you can be it. And I can dream it. You and me, walking down the aisle in a church.

HUSTON

(uncomfortable)

Really? A big foo-foo wedding?

DANNY

Doesn't have to be. Just you and me and city hall.

HUSTON

Why not a beach while we're at it?

DANNY

A destination wedding; that's perfect! We'll invite everyone we love, and if they don't wanna come we'll pretend it's cause they can't afford the destination, and not because they think we're evil perverts.

HUSTON

(sadly)

It's a nice dream.

DANNY

Or we could be married in Vegas, and all the groomsmen would be guys we've slept with, and the bachelor party would be...

HUSTON & DANNY
Celine Dion!!!!

DANNY
And we'll both find cozy jobs teaching
voice at a university, and have little
dinner parties with the town's
intellectuals. And we'll have kids.

HUSTON
Kids?

DANNY
I want kids. But I want them to be
from both of our DNA. Yours and mine.
I think by the time we want kids,
they'll invent that, right?

HUSTON
You're a dreamer.

DANNY
Will you?

HUSTON
Only if we invite the mormon boys.

Off the moment of immeasurable gay joy--

EXT. CAMPUS GREEN - DAY

A week later: mobs of masticating protestors spit and scream.

PROTESTORS
Gay Fraternities burn for eternity!
Gay Fraternities burn for eternity!

A hateful Christian protestor screams at a sophisticatedly
dressed Asian junior, CHRISTOPHER VUONG as he walks by.

HATEFUL CHRISTIAN #1
You belong in jail sodomite!

CHRIS
What argument do you want to hear
today?

HATEFUL CHRISTIAN #1
What?

CHRIS
I'm kind of in a rush so just pick
one. Sexism? Theology? Science?
Separation of church and state?

HATEFUL CHRISTIAN #1
Men can't love men!

CHRIS
Okay I'll bite. What is your
profession ma'am?

HATEFUL CHRISTIAN #1
None of your business...

Chris isn't impressed.

HATEFUL CHRISTIAN #1 (CONT.)
(beat)
I'm a teacher.

CHRIS
What if I told you in my religion only
men could be teachers?

HATEFUL CHRISTIAN #1
That ain't true.

CHRIS
Actually there are several countries
with that law. Should we make it
against the law here?

HATEFUL CHRISTIAN #1
Um...

CHRIS
Okay, how about we don't instate laws
based on religious beliefs. Thanks.

Off her dumb face--

EXT. CAMPUS GREEN - DAY

Across the green at a picnic table Chris is joined by a
Versace clad international Latino model-type, ROBERTO.

ROBERTO
Why do you waste your time with that
trash?

CHRIS

That's how activism works. Changing one person's mind at a time.

ROBERTO

Boring. How long is this gonna take because I have a date with my engineering professor.

CHRIS

Does he know it's a date?

ROBERTO

It's best if we keep that a surprise. He has office hours at two and...

Chris stops hearing anything that Roberto says as soon as he spots Danny and his posse coming his way. All he sees is the sun shining off of Danny's branchial cleft, his lips, his hair, his...

DANNY

What?

CHRIS

What?

DANNY

Do I have something in my teeth or something?

ROBERTO

Danny de la Garza and the music gays, who gave you permission to talk to us?

DANNY

You're really going through with this gay fraternity thing?

KYLE

You could just pledge Phi Mu Alpha if you need friends Chris.

CHRIS

Unlike some people, we're proud to be gay.

DANNY

You can be proud to be gay and not tell every single person you meet.

CHRIS

Theoretically, but maybe telling the people who are important in your life would be a good start. Do your parents know that you and Huston bump privates or do you still introduce your boyfriends as "roommates?"

DANNY

(ouch)

Who I choose to let into my personal life, is my own business.

(beat)

Certainly not yours.

CHRIS

Then I guess you'll never know what it's like **not** to carry the heavy burden of shame. What do you think Roberto? Anything heavy weighing you down?

ROBERTO

I feel lite as fuck.

Off of Danny's embarrassment, and Huston's complete and utter look of shame--

INT. UNIVERSITY COUNSEL CHAMBER - DAY

A staunch counsel chamber lined with wooden panels and filled with older white and Latinx suits sitting in a row facing Chris, Roberto, a LAWYER, and their faculty advisor, JANE, a middle aged woman with a big heart. We sit in awkward silence as the suits look at each other, whisper, and nod.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL

On this Fraternity, you would *actually* ask pledges if they're homosexuals?

CHRIS

It's my belief that their desire to pledge would speak for itself.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL

I see... and um... what about dating?

CHRIS

What about it?

LAWYER

The personal sex lives of students is off the table.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL

Yes, but... fraternizing is, unfortunately very relevant in Greek life. Due in part to a particularly large amount of documented sexual misconduct, whether proven or not.

CHRIS

I'm sure that any gay sex will be enjoyed by all parties involved.

LAWYER

What he means to say is...

CHRIS

It's in the bylaws. No fraternizing allowed within the group.

Off of the official's disapproving face--

INT. UNIVERSITY HALLWAY - DAY

Roberto, Jane, and the Lawyer sit on a bench outside the counsel chamber as Chris paces.

ROBERTO

All parties involved?

LAWYER

Media's on standby, and I can get the ACLU in here by tomorrow if need be.

CHRIS

Why did I say that?

JANE

Lord, I need hot cheetos with cheese as soon as this is over!

Roberto makes a face. A chanting in the distance grows louder as our group turn towards the entrance to the building in disgust. Through the glass doors we see--

EXT. UNIVERSITY MAIN BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

A large group of protestors chanting.

PROTESTORS

Faggots, Sissies, you're not cool!
We don't want you at our school!

INT. UNIVERSITY COUNSEL CHAMBER - DAY

The counsel members look as nervous as Chris.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL

It is the decision of the university
that the Alpha Lambda Tau organization
must be allowed on campus.

Chris and company celebrate.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL

Provisionally! The fraternity must
maintain at least eight members at all
times, and keep a grade point average
of 3.0 for the first two years.

Off of Chris' accomplished and emotional face--

EXT. SAN ANTONIO RIVER WALK - NIGHT

Kylie Minogue blasts loudly as Christmas lights twinkle and
reflect on the beautiful San Antonio river. Chris, Roberto,
and Jane eat hot cheetos covered in nacho cheese with sporks
straight from the bag as they celebrate on a river barge.

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kylie Minogue fades as an exhausted Danny enters his
apartment, puts down his backpack, takes off his shoes and...
wait... something's not right.

DANNY

Huston?

(beat)

Huston are you home?

As Danny turns the corner to enter the living room he sees
the two Mormon boys sitting politely on the sofa as Huston
sits on a chair. Has he been crying?

DANNY

Hi. Ummm... Are you okay?

No one speaks. Huston looks up with apology in his eyes.

HUSTON
I'm sorry Danny.

DANNY
What's going on?

HUSTON
Your dream sounds real nice, but it's just a dream. I have a dream too. I want children. Real children... with a woman.

DANNY
What are you saying?

HUSTON
God wants me to do this Danny. But I love you so much, I want us to stay best friends. And one day, I hope you'll be the best man at my wedding.

DANNY
Huston, what the fuck are you saying?

HUSTON
I think God wants me to be Mormon.

Huston cries; we notice his bags are packed. The Mormon boys look content. Off of Danny's completely stunned face--

EXT. MORMON CHAPEL - DAY

The sun shines through the lush trees onto a modest chapel.

INT. MORMON CHAPEL - DAY

Sun shines through a window onto a small congregation of blonde people dressed in their Sunday best, holding tattered hymnals as they sing a sad version of the Mormon hymn "If You Could Hie to Kolob." They can't seem to stay focused on their task however, due to a lunatic Latino hysterically sobbing at the top of his lungs. Yep, you'd think Danny was being waterboarded at Guantanamo Bay. It's embarrassing really. Philip, the Mormon missionary awkwardly pats Danny on the back as the organist stares in confusion. As the song finishes, a Mormon priest pulls back a trap door below the altar to reveal a massive baptismal font that looks more like a hot tub. Huston enters barefoot from the vestibule dressed in a white robe, followed by Jonah who helps him climb in with the priest. It all happens so fast that Danny can't grasp it. Huston holds his nose as he dips into the tub.

INT. PARISH HALL - DAY

Daniel wipes his tears as a bunch of blonde people eat cake around him and try not to stare.

MORMON PRIEST

Please help us in welcoming the newest member of the Church of Latter Day Saints; brother Matthew Huston.

Red punch is served, paper plates are thrown into a bin, and children run rampant around the room. Danny still doesn't understand what the hell happened. He stares at Huston's lips, the freckles on his neck, the curve of his butt.

HUSTON

Maybe it's best if you leave.

DANNY

What?

HUSTON

You're ruining this for me.

DANNY

I'm ruining this? Me? I thought I was your best friend.

Phillip and Jonah are watching from across the room.

HUSTON

We'll talk later, okay?

Off of Huston's inconvenienced face--

EXT. DANNY'S SPORTY FORD ESCORT - EVENING

Mariah Carey's version of "Bringing on the Heartache" blasts at full volume while Danny sobs at the steering wheel.

MONTAGE:

DANNY DRIVES DOWN THE HIGHWAY BLOWING HIS NOSE, SOBBING.

DANNY PUMPS HIS GAS, SOBBING.

DANNY GOES THROUGH A DRIVE-THROUGH, SOBBING.

DANNY

He said he wanted me to be the best man at his wedding one day!

FAST-FOOD EMPLOYEE
 ... So did you wanna jumbo-size that?

DANNY
 (sobbing)
 Jumbo-size? Matthew was jumbo-sized!!!

Off of the Fast-Food employee's exhaustion--

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The sizzle of butter on a five hundred degree Fahrenheit plate as a cork is popped and a 1997 Dominus Proprietary Napa Valley Merlot is poured into a sparkling clear glass at an immaculately white linen table. MAI VUONG, eternally young, matriarchal figure, clad in Chanel, cuts into her steak.

MAI VUONG
 I'm sorry about your father, there was business in Saudi Arabia. At least his lawyers came through for you. Though what on Earth you would want to start that kind of fraternity for is anyone's guess.

CHRIS
 It's a political move.

MAI VUONG
 Well you obviously aren't winning student body president anytime soon, so... I guess this is... something.

CHRIS
 I'm honing my leadership abilities and fundraising skills.

MAI VUONG
 So this is all an elaborate plan to meet a few big donors from the Human Rights Campaign? If anything else, I guess you'll have something to write about in your law school applications.

CHRIS
 I haven't decided if I want to go...

MAI VUONG
 You didn't get into UT Business school Christopher. A law degree is your only option. Besides, you actually think

eight boys will pledge your little...
fraternity? They'd have to come out of
the closet, publicly. It's career
suicide. I just don't see it.

CHRIS
(resolute)
War is like water... it finds the
empty spaces.

Mai cynically bites her asparagus, as Chris starts to worry.

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Somewhere among piles of dirty laundry, and empty pizza boxes
Danny hides from the world under his covers. The constant
busy signal of a phone echoes around the room. In the
distance we hear pounding at the door. Danny ignores it.

KYLE (O.S.)
Bitch you better open this door!

INT. DANNY'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

Through the smallest of cracks in the door we see Kyle's
concerned face. He pushes the door open to find Danny wearing
a bedspread holding a razor phone to his ear.

KYLE
No! You're still calling him?

DANNY
I just need to understand why. Why? I
just don't get it.

The busy signal grows louder.

KYLE
Hang up the phone.

DANNY
He said we would talk later.

Kyle hangs up Danny's phone.

KYLE
Get your shit together, it's been a
week! He doesn't wanna talk to you!

DANNY
How do you know? Have you seen him?

Have you talked to him?

KYLE

You know who I've talked to? Your mother; she's wondering if you've been kidnapped by a drug cartel.

DANNY

We can work this out... if he calls me. We're in love.

KYLE

Give him space, and get your ass back to school... after you wash said ass. You gotta show to do tonight.

DANNY

(sobbing again)

A show I do with him!!!

Danny tries to grab his phone back from Kyle, they wrestle.

KYLE

(Triumphing with the phone)

Get your cheeks to the shower, and call your mother, fool!

Danny lies distraught, half-naked, on the floor.

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Danny, freshly showered, picks up the phone once more and dials. It rings.

INT. DANNY'S CHILDHOOD HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

A landline in a very Mexican-American kitchen clad with images of roosters and bright yellow walls. A Latina woman reaches for the phone and pulls it over to where she is making Spanish rice - the telephone cord twists around her.

YOLANDA

Bueno!?

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM & CHILDHOOD HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

Danny and his mother are on a split-screen.

DANNY

Hi Mom.

YOLANDA

Ohhhh, I thought you'd forgotten about us. Your Dad's grilling tripas. Disgusting, but I know you love em.

Danny's silence is immeasurable.

DANNY

Wow. Yeah. So jealous.

YOLANDA

Is everything okay?

DANNY

Um... I just wanted to talk to you about um... um...

Danny wipes his eyes, as he sniffles.

YOLANDA

Are you sick or something? We'll send you some antibiotics. Dad just got some from Mexico. (loudly) Esteban, Danny needs antibiotics!!

DANNY

(sighing)

Thanks Mom.

YOLANDA

You've gotta take care of that, cause we're coming to the show next weekend.

DANNY

Right. Can't wait to see you.

YOLANDA

(whispering)

It was on the news, your school. Jotos starting a gay fraternity. You better watch out for them.

DANNY

(blindsided)

Um, I gotta get to class Mom.

YOLANDA

Was that it? Okay, well please call us every week we're worried about...

Danny hangs up, wishing his mother could comfort him the way

she did when he was a little boy. Why does he have to keep this unbearable pain a secret?

INT. UNIVERSITY FOOD COURT, BULLETIN BOARD - AFTERNOON

Amid the french fries and open biology books, a massive banner for HMS Pinafore with Danny's face on it hangs across the airy open rotunda. He's literally the poster-child of the school. Chris looks up at it begrudgingly as he hangs flyers. He notices a feminine Latinx boy, FELIPE, reading one.

CHRIS

We're having a cool event next week.

FELIPE

Oh, um... no.

Felipe rushes off in embarrassment, as Chris spots Danny.

INT. UNIVERSITY FOOD COURT, CASH REGISTERS - CONTINUOUS

Across the food court Danny pays for a slice of pizza from a bubbly, big butted, Latino, bear cub, NICKY.

NICKY

Oooo, the pizza looks good girl. But oh shit, you look like hell.

DANNY

Thanks for your honesty.

NICKY

Gurrrlll!!!! Oh my god you precious thing. Did that hick with the big booty break your little heart?

DANNY

I don't really wanna talk about it.

NICKY

Girl, hold on. I'm going on break and you can tell Tia Nicky all about it. (shouting) Carrie I'm going on break!

Off of Danny's confused face--

INT. UNIVERSITY FOOD COURT, TABLES - CONTINUOUS

Nicky drowns his pizza in ranch as Danny spots Chris.

NICKY

This pizza is really just **not** as good as you made it look.

DANNY

Nothing in life is, I guess.

NICKY

Que triste. See your first problem was letting Mormons into your house. They're too good looking. Have you ever met a mormon you didn't want to ride like a bus?

DANNY

I don't ride the bus.

NICKY

Oh, trust me you don't wanna ride the bus in San Antonio but sometimes you don't have a choice, and when it comes to those blonde Mormon boys you don't have a choice, if you know what I mean. Watch me open these nalgas for 'em. I guess Huston couldn't resist.

INT. UNIVERSITY FOOD COURT, TRASH CANS - AFTERNOON

Messy ranch covered dishes are piled on top of each other.

DANNY

I have no idea where he's been this whole last week and I have this awful feeling that all of my friends do.

NICKY

When is your "I'm single now" party?

DANNY

My what?

NICKY

Aren't your friends throwing you an "I'm single now" party?

DANNY

I guess not?

NICKY

Okay, this is the real problem, you need new friends mi'jo. Call me up

anytime, cause us hotties gotta stick together.

Nicky hands Danny his card. It reads: "Nicholas G. Martinez, engineering major, Selina Fan Club Vice-President." Danny wonders if he might actually need new friends as they walk towards--

INT. UNIVERSITY FOOD COURT, ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON

Chris sits at a small table with a large recruitment poster hanging from it. A timid nerd, SIMON NGUYEN, stares at him from where he is eating. Chris waves at him, and Simon looks away quickly. Danny and Nicky approach.

DANNY

I think I get it now, really. This is just your latest attempt at getting attention?

NICKY

Dios Mio, girl!

CHRIS

Says the closet-case actor with his face all over campus. The Captain of the Pinafore, how brave.

NICKY

So y'all still not cool?

DANNY

For what it's worth, I voted for you.

CHRIS

No you didn't. Voting is public record.

DANNY

I'm pretty sure voting is private.

CHRIS

Who you voted for is private, who voted is public record.

DANNY

You checked to see if I voted? Wow.

CHRIS

Don't flatter yourself. I debriefed with every single voter, Nicky here,

included, but I see you're still self-obsessed. I'll try to catch the show.

DANNY

Well, I'll try to make it to the polls next time. See ya Nicky.

Nicky and Chris watch Danny leave as Chris feels the pangs of regret.

NICKY

Wow, what the hell was that Madam President?

CHRIS

I'm not the student body president.

NICKY

And I see why, puta. A president has to actually be nice to people.

CHRIS

It works both ways.

NICKY

If you had Danny in your frat, all the ducks would fall in line. I'd join.

CHRIS

Danny is a narcissistic idiot and anyone at all can see that!

NICKY

Oh really?

Nicky and Chris are still starring at Danny who has stopped to chat with the nerdy boy, Simon, on his way out. Simon smiles and laughs bashfully.

SIMON

(calling off)

Break a leg!

Off of Chris' contemplative face--

INT. UNIVERSITY THEATRE, DRESSING ROOMS - NIGHT

Danny gets ready in his dressing room alone. Huston's spot is inexplicably empty.

INT. DRESSING ROOM HALLWAY - NIGHT

Danny wanders the halls looking for Huston. He spots Angela.

DANNY
Angela, have you seen Huston around?

ANGELA
Ummm. I think he's running late?

She hurries off, biting her lip in pity.

INT. UNIVERSITY THEATRE, STAGE - NIGHT

Danny makes his entrance on stage, but is distracted when he finally spots Huston in the wings chatting with a soprano. Wait... is he actually... flirting... with that soprano? No way. God he looks good.

DANNY
(singing)
I AM THE CAPTAIN OF THE PINAFORE...

Off of Danny's heartbroken face--

INT. UNIVERSITY THEATRE, DRESSING ROOMS - NIGHT

Danny frantically moves through the busy hallway of the dressing rooms looking for signs of Huston until--

KYLE
Don't worry about him Danny.

DANNY
But, have you talked to him? I just...

KYLE
Stop it. Get some rest.

Off of Danny's tortured face--

EXT. UNIVERSITY THEATRE, STAGE DOOR - NIGHT

As Danny exits with his tale between his legs, there stands Chris with a giant bouquet of flowers.

DANNY
Chris. You came.

CHRIS
Congratulations. I guess the hype is

real. You're... hilarious.

DANNY

Um, thanks?

CHRIS

So, I know that you and I aren't on the best of terms, but I'm having a few events next week and I was hoping that maybe you could stop by.

DANNY

I don't think that's a good idea.

CHRIS

Right, God forbid it's on record that Danny de la Garza is gay. (beat) That was dumb. I just...

The stage door opens. Huston exits walking right past them.

CHRIS

Oh, hi Huston I was just... uh.

He's gone. The stage door opens again and a gaggle of freshmen twinks exit giggling. One approaches Danny.

FRESHMEN #2

Danny! There you are! There's an after-party at the Heat and you better be there cause I bought a special outfit just for this.

FRESHMEN #3

He wants you to take his virginity!

FRESHMEN #2

Shut up! He's kidding. But... since you're single now... never mind.

Chris looks at Danny, then back at the freshmen who scurry.

CHRIS

Did you and Huston break up?

DANNY

That's private.

CHRIS

Fine, I'm gonna be completely honest okay? I need this; if you just show up

to a few of my rush events next week. You don't have to pledge, there'd be no strings attached, you don't even have to tell your mommy or anything okay? I'm having the hardest time getting people to even talk to me, and for you it's so easy. If you come, I know that so many guys who are scared of being themselves will see you there and think, "Hey it's okay to be me. It's okay." So I'm asking you for old time's sake to do me this one favor; and if you won't do it for me then please do it for those Freshmen gay kids that are scared as hell. They need a role model to tell them they don't have to be ashamed. But I guess for that to happen, you would have to actually **not** be ashamed, right?

The alley behind the theatre is silent. Danny doesn't speak.

CHRIS (CONT.)

I shouldn't have mentioned your Mommy.
I'm sorry; that was mean... fine.

Chris walks down the dimly lit corridor and disappears.

INT. THE HEAT - NIGHT

The bar is filled with celebration, but Danny sits alone as the twinkies dance happily, and Kyle and the other music gays kiki by the video screens. Why won't Kyle tell him anything about Huston? Does he not think he can handle it? Maybe he really needs to find new friends... He pulls out Nicky's card from his wallet and stares at it, then downs his beer and walks over to Kyle.

DANNY

You're still talking to him aren't you?

KYLE

I think you've had too much to drink.

DANNY

You're going to actually stay friends with him? After what he did to me?

KYLE

I sort of have to.

DANNY

So this whole time you've been talking to him like nothing happened? While I've been over here **losing my mind**?

KYLE

Let's get you a ride home, we can talk about this later.

DANNY

Let's talk about this now. I forbid you from being friends with him!

KYLE

He's my fraternity brother.

DANNY

And I always thought we were real brothers. I'm the one who would take a bullet for you Kyle. Not that punk-ass closet-case Mormon-wannabe! You're my best friend! Doesn't that count for anything!?

KYLE

Let me get you home.

DANNY

Don't touch me. I guess your silly little music club is more important than all the years we've been ride or die. You're not my real friend. At least not anymore. It's done.

Danny stumbles out of the bar as everyone watches.

INT. NICKY'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Cumbias play loudly as several tejano gays in cowboy hats dip large amounts of queso dip into their mouths around several large animal cages filled with rabbits and tropical birds.

NICKY

Did you try the queso baby, I put chorizo in it just for you!

DANNY

It's yummy.

NICKY
 (offensively sexual)
 I knew you'd like my chorizo!

DANNY
 Thank you, for doing this.

NICKY
 We gotta let the boys on the block
 know that your verga's back on the
 market.

Angela enters with several bottles of booze and a tall white
 gay by her side, JASON WATSON. Danny rushes over to them.

ANGELA
 This is... eclectic?

DANNY
 Thank God you're here.

JASON
 Who even lives here? (Gasp) There are
 cowboys here! I love cowboys!

ANGELA
 You're fully having a cowboy threesome
 tonight aren't you?

JASON
 If there's a gay God; yes.

INT. NICKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jason is making out with a random cowboy in the corner as
 Angela rolls a joint. Danny is drunk as fuck. Nicky mingles.

ANGELA
 God I can't take him anywhere.

DANNY
 So I'm just supposed to like, fuck
 other guys and pretend that I didn't
 already give away my entire heart? My
 heart doesn't even belong to me
 anymore.

ANGELA
 You're being so dramatic. Matthew
 Huston is a fucking douche.

DANNY

A douche that I was supposed to marry.

ANGELA

Marry? He was fucking half the orchestra behind your back.

NICKY

Sabes que? You need a shot Papito.

DANNY

Okay, there's no need to make up lies about him, I already feel bad enough.

ANGELA

(with pity)

Oh. Oh no... that's not why you broke up? You mean you really didn't know?

DANNY

What?

NICKY

Vamos, let's dance Papito.

ANGELA

You poor thing. You really didn't know he was cheating on you?

DANNY

Stop lying.

ANGELA

He did this weird thing where he'd invite guys over to study and leave his porn out until things got frisky.

Angela tries to pass the joint but Danny is in another realm.

DANNY

That's how we first hooked up.

ANGELA

Oh yeah, sweetie you were fully supposed to be just another notch on his bedpost. I was shocked you lasted as long as you did.

DANNY

Wait. He fucked half the orchestra while we were together?!

ANGELA

Oh yeah! Marcos and Damien all the time! Like, all the time.

DANNY

Marcos had us over for game night!

ANGELA

They fucked in the restroom that night.

DANNY

That can't be true.

ANGELA

Honey, Marcos is my fag, she tells me everything.

DANNY

(devastated)

We were having unprotected sex.

The entire party is now watching.

NICKY

You okay Danny?

ANGELA

You better get tested. You know the sad thing is that he's gonna keep doing it, you know? And if she's not careful, poor Jenna Bueller's gonna end up with Hepatitis or worse, HIV.

DANNY

Jenna Bueller?

ANGELA

I mean, I don't think he'll actually fuck her though. Can you imagine?

DANNY

Wait. He's dating Jenna Bueller?

ANGELA

If you can call it that.

DANNY

Why didn't you tell me any of this earlier?

ANGELA

It's not my place girl.

Jason looks up from his cowboy.

JASON

Your titty's out!

Angela puts her titty back in.

NICKY

Really chica? This your idea of cheering him up?

ANGELA

I'm sorry Danny, but what makes a good fag hag is the ability to keep secrets. Honestly if y'all weren't so ashamed of your sex lives, then maybe we wouldn't have to.

DANNY

Ashamed? I'm not ashamed.

NICKY

Pero like... you're still not completely out though, verdad?

ANGELA

Look how ashamed Huston is... that's gonna be a whole lifetime of secrets.

DANNY

I am **not** ashamed. Falling in love was the greatest thing that I ever did, and I refuse to be ashamed of that. I refuse to let some fucking Mormons, or my ultra-Catholic parents make me feel a fucking ounce of shame for being myself or for falling in love. I refuse! And I don't want Huston to be ashamed. I don't want any other gay kids to ever have to feel ashamed of being themselves ever again! Not Huston, not anyone, ever again!

Jason starts a slow clap, and everyone joins in until they're cheering and woo'ing. Nicky turns up the music and the room bursts out into cumbias; everyone is dancing!

DANNY
 (a war cry)
 Cause being in love is amazing!!!

INT. UNIVERSITY FOOD COURT, ENTRANCE - DAY

The food court is bustling with activity from cheerleaders, college athletes, study groups, and other greek organizations. Ciara's "One Two Step" plays as the doors to the rotunda open wide and in walks Danny in a blaze of glory. He tosses his head back, takes off his shades and looks around. Everyone, including Felipe, Simon, and Nicky watch with anticipation as he approaches Chris' fraternity pledge table. He sees Kyle and the other music gays having lunch, and gives them a purposeful turn of his head. Without even acknowledging Chris, he picks up a pen and signs the pledge sheet as he arches his back for attention. You could hear a pin drop. He finally looks up to see Chris' stunned face.

DANNY
 Why Alpha Lambda Tau though?

CHRIS
 Like A-L-T, for alternative lifestyle?

DANNY
 Lifestyle? It's not a lifestyle choice. It's not a choice at all!

CHRIS
 Well whatever, it was available.

DANNY
 It sounds like a political terrorist group.

Felipe, Simon, and Nicky walk up to the table and sign up. As they do, Danny feels what some might call pride. Is it pride? What is this feeling? He could cry. Chris notices. They share a moment of gratitude before cracking gigantic smiles, it's that feeling of the sun touching your bare skin after an entire winter with sweaters on. They bask as we hear...

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 What I didn't know was that I needed them as much as they needed me. It was maybe the greatest decision that I ever made.

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)
 But several students were traumatized

by Alpha Lambda Tau, some would say permanently. That's not even bringing up the students that died. I'd like to talk, if you're willing, about the events surrounding April 8th 2004...

INT. ELEGANT LIVING ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Forty-three year old Danny looks directly into the camera.

OLDER DANNY

I'm sorry, is this a documentary about the first gay fraternity or just some muck-racking campaign against Chris?

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)

We just want to tell the full story.

OLDER DANNY

At who's benefit?

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)

You said you hadn't talked to Mr. Vuong in over ten years.

OLDER DANNY

It doesn't mean I don't care about him still; and it doesn't mean that I don't think he would be the absolute best congressman this district has ever had.

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)

We're just documenting the truth.

OLDER DANNY

(flustered)

Sure, yes. I just don't think...

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)

Can we continue?

OLDER DANNY

Have you interviewed Chris?

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)

Yes. Last week. He told us we should talk to you.

OLDER DANNY

He did?

(beat)

What did he tell you about us?

Off of Older Danny's look of curiosity--

SMASH TO NEON

Roll Credits.