

Professional Agency:
An Atlanta-based Professional Workplace Drama

"Time Machine Burger"

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FADE IN:

INT. GRAPHIC SOLUTIONS ASSOCIATES OFFICE - DAY

The office for the Graphic Design Agency known as Graphic Solutions Associates is trendy and professional. The atmosphere is a little tense, and an awkward silence fills the office.

Orlando Cruz is standing by the water cooler slowly drinking some water. He is visibly uncomfortable. Orlando is doing his best to make conversation, but he can't think of anything appropriate to say.

Karen Tsu is standing next to Orlando holding onto a cup of water. She feels tense and awkward, but she is doing her best to seem as serious and professional as possible. Karen is completely quiet and motionless hoping that Orlando doesn't try to make conversation.

Valen Lorenz approaches the water cooler. He slowly and uncomfortably pours himself a water while Orlando and Karen stare at him. Once Valen is done pouring himself a water, he stands next to Orlando and Karen quietly. The three of them look extremely uncomfortable and awkward.

Valen hesitates to make conversation, since he is not very knowledgeable of other cultures, but something in him compels him to try to be professional and converse with Karen. Against his better judgment, Valen breaks the tense and uncomfortable silence.

VALEN

(apprehensive)

Karen, what's your country like?

KAREN

I'm American.

Valen is extremely nervous. Since he doesn't know how to speak to people from different cultures his nerves prevent him from understanding what Karen said.

Valen looks at Orlando confused and tense. Orlando reciprocates the look Valen gave him and stays quiet. After a brief moment, Valen's anxiety makes him completely forget what just happened, and he speaks once again as if it were the first time.

VALEN

(apprehensive)

Karen, what's your country like?

KAREN
I'm American!

Valen is still extremely nervous. Valen's anxiety makes it impossible for him to understand anything, but he is becoming concerned because Karen is raising her voice.

Orlando, against his better judgment, feels the need to interject. He slowly drinks a little bit of water before he begins to speak.

ORLANDO
(hesitant)
This water is really good... I really
like water...
(beat)
Good... water...

Valen looks like he has blacked out from anxiety. However, he still feels the need to make conversation. In a very professional tone, Valen looks at Karen once again to make conversation.

VALEN
(overly respectful)
Do they have water in your country,
Karen?

KAREN
(annoyed)
I'm American!

Valen is so nervous that it looks like his soul has left his body. He doesn't understand anything that is being said to him. After a brief moment, Valen looks Karen in the eyes, and gently bows at her in the most awkward way possible. Valen walks away from the water cooler after bowing.

Karen gives Orlando an extremely annoyed look. Orlando is motionless unsure of what to do. After a moment, Orlando reciprocates Karen's annoyed look. Karen seems satisfied with Orlando's reaction.

After a few seconds, in the most awkward yet professional way possible, Orlando gently bows at Karen and walks away.

Orlando looks extremely stressed as he walks away. Orlando hopes his behavior was appropriate and professional, but it's impossible to know what happened.

INT. RAY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

RAY, an approachable, dedicated, and engaging restaurant owner, is sitting at a table in his restaurant with Orlando Cruz and Alex Iverson.

Ray, Orlando, and Alex all seem very attentive and engaged as they discuss what Graphic Solutions Associates can do for Ray's Restaurant.

ORLANDO
Graphic Solutions Associates offers a wide suite of services.

Ray is very focused and doing his best to look like he understands what Orlando is saying.

ORLANDO (cont'd)
What's important to remember here, is that when it comes to our services, our goal -- really, our aim, is to give you what is *right* for your business.

RAY
(confused)
Your aim?

ORLANDO
Yes. We aim to create solutions that are the *right* fit for your company.

RAY
I am in fact very much interested in the right fit for my *company*.

ORLANDO
Exactly.
(beat)
Could you please share with us a little bit about your company? It will help guide our analysis.

Ray blanks for a moment. He is having a hard time understanding what in the world Orlando could possibly be saying.

RAY
My company...

ORLANDO
Yes. Your restaurant. What is it like? Who is it for? How would you describe your brand?

RAY
My restaurant?

Orlando and Alex both hold a very professional poker face, as they patiently wait for Ray to answer something.

RAY (cont'd)
(professionally)
Well... the restaurant is really a place where our customers come to eat and have a good time.

ORLANDO
Hmmm... That's very interesting. What can you tell us about your customers?

RAY
Well... our customers really like the restaurant. It's mostly the food that they like. It's very good food. The customers really like it.

ORLANDO
That's very good. But the customers... What are they like?

RAY
The customers?
(beat)
They are really good... Really good customers...

ORLANDO
That's good... It's always good to have customers like that.

RAY
Yes. It is.

There's an awkward pause. The silence is tense and suspenseful. Alex feels compelled to be professional and speaks up in an extremely formal tone.

ALEX
If you don't mind me asking, sir --

RAY
I don't mind you asking, sir.

ALEX

If you don't mind me asking, sir. Are there any services in particular that you would be interested in commissioning from Graphic Solutions Associates?

RAY

(very confused)

What?

ORLANDO

Is there anything in particular you wanna hire us for?

RAY

Oh... Yeah. Absolutely. That's why I called you.

ORLANDO

Good.

RAY

Good.

(beat)

So you know how some places have like really cool names for their burgers? Like how some places have burgers named like "the cowboy" and "the big kahuna"?

ORLANDO

Yes. I know exactly what you mean.

RAY

You do that, right?

ORLANDO

Do what?

RAY

Do the burgers?

ORLANDO

(anxious)

Do the what?

RAY

You do the burger names, right? Solutions... right?

ORLANDO
(very worried)
Ummm... Yeah we do that. The burger solutions. Of course. We are very professional.

ALEX
(to Orlando)
I don't think we do burger solutions, sir.

ORLANDO
(to Alex)
We definitely do burger solutions.

ALEX
(to Orlando)
Are you sure?

ORLANDO
(very unsure)
Yes. I'm sure.
(to Ray)
We can definitely do burger solutions for you, Ray.

RAY
Ummm... What are burger solutions?

ORLANDO
We can name the burgers for you.

RAY
Good.

ORLANDO
(tense)
Good.

RAY
(energized)
That's really good news, Orlando.
Thank you very much.

ALEX
No problem, sir.

Orlando and Ray both give Alex a confused look. They don't seem to understand why an account executive is speaking out of turn.

RAY
So I also need social media. You do that, right?

ORLANDO
Oh yeah, *that* we definitely do.

RAY
What?

ORLANDO
Ummm... We also do for you social
media, sir.

RAY
(relieved)
That's really great. Thanks, man.
I've been needing a social media guy
really bad.

ORLANDO
That's no problem. We are
professionals, we can take care of
your social media needs.

RAY
Good! With you guys on it, I can
already tell the video is gonna be
amazing.

ORLANDO
(concerned)
What video?

RAY
The video. For the social media.

Orlando looks like he is starting to sweat. He is having a panic attack and doing his best to hide it. There seems to be no way out of this one so he just decides to jump in with both feet.

ORLANDO
Yeah. The video! It's gonna be great.
The best one.

RAY
That's exactly what I'm looking for.

ALEX
(to Orlando)
What video?

ORLANDO
(to Alex)
The video.

ALEX

Okay.

Orlando takes a brief pause. He takes a deep breath to help mask his panic attack while doing his best to be as professional as possible.

ORLANDO

So... Ummm... Can you... Ummm...
What's the theme? The theme here for
the restaurant.

RAY

(excited)

Oh that? Well we really are the type
of restaurant that sells everything.

ORLANDO

(confused)

Everything?

RAY

Yes, we have something for everyone.

ORLANDO

Everyone?

RAY

Yeah. We are the type of restaurant
that has just about everything. And
we really aim to please everyone.

ORLANDO

(concerned)

You sell everything?

RAY

That's correct.

ORLANDO

(worried)

And your customers are... everyone?

RAY

Yep. That's exactly right.

(beat)

We have a very modern vibe here. It's
really for everyone. We have a
classic look. But it's also very
important to remember that we are
very progressive. I would even go as
far as to say that we are *futuristic*.

Orlando seems to be paralyzed by the panic attack he has been trying to hide. There's a moment of silence, and Orlando's eyes look like they are staring into the void. He looks like he is about to faint from anxiety.

ORLANDO

(stuttering)

So... So -- Ummm... It's just... So Ray...

(beat)

So just to be clear... Just to make sure I -- Ummm... Just to make sure I heard correctly... Your restaurant is classic, modern, and also futuristic?

RAY

Yes! That's exactly right. I can tell you are a real professional. That's very good listening. So we need burger solutions and *the* video that is *right* for the *company*.

ORLANDO

Obviously -- Of course. That's... Ummm... That's what we do. That's what we do...

INT. GRAPHIC SOLUTIONS ASSOCIATES OFFICE - DAY

All the employees of Graphic Solutions Associates are gathered in the office. There's a whiteboard with crossed out names for burgers, and the office is messy with crumbled up pieces of paper on the floor.

The employees have been working together for a while so the situation is tense and stressful.

ASHLEY

How do you even name a freaking burger!

Everyone is quiet and scared because Ashley Williams is yelling. After a brief moment Chase Rogers interjects to cut the tension.

CHASE

What about "the wooper"?

KAREN

Ummm... It's "*the whopper*"...

KRISTINE

That's not a whopper.

VALEN
That's a Pokemon.

ANTHONY
That's a burger.

VALEN
No. Wooper is a Pokemon.

KAREN
It's whopper.

KRISTINE
No it's not. It's clearly not a
whopper.

There's a pause. Everyone looks confused. Nobody seems to understand anything that is going on in the conversation. Orlando Cruz has a perplexed look on his face.

After a moment of uncomfortable silence, Anthony LeTrois raises his hand to speak. Anthony begins speaking without anyone calling on him.

ANTHONY
Ooh! What about the happy burger?

DAUNTE
Oh, so like a happy meal?

ANTHONY
No. Like a happy burger.

CHASE
What about a sad burger?

ASHLEY
Why would you say that?

ANTHONY
Happy burger.

ALEX
Why would the burger be happy?

Everyone gets quiet. They seem concerned with Alex's question. After reading the room Alex expands on his earlier comment.

ALEX (cont'd)
I don't think burgers have feelings.

KRISTINE
Burgers definitely have feelings.

DAUNTE
Uhh... Burgers *had* feelings.

Shocked and wide-eyed, Orlando interrupts Daunte Peters.

ORLANDO
Daunte!

DAUNTE
What?

ORLANDO
No!

DAUNTE
Okay...

Everyone gets quiet once again. It's tense. Nobody has any clue what is going on. They all look around trying to figure out what would be appropriate to say next.

ANTHONY
So... Happy burger?

KAREN
Definitely not whopper.

KRISTINE
It's a wooper!

VALEN
That's a pokemon.

ORLANDO
(to everyone)
Alright, guys. Let's focus.

Orlando takes charge of the meeting. He gets everyone's attention and starts writing on the whiteboard. Orlando writes "classic", "modern", and "futuristic" on the whiteboard.

ORLANDO (cont'd)
So the restaurant is from the past,
the present, and the future.

There's a brief awkward pause since nobody knows what in the world that could possibly mean.

ORLANDO (cont'd)
So we need a burger names that are
right for this business...

ASHLEY

Oh my God!

VALEN

Why are you yelling!

ASHLEY

What about time machine burger!

ORLANDO

Please stop yelling guys...

(beat)

I guess that works for now.

Orlando writes "time machine burger" on the whiteboard.

DAUNTE

So their burgers are time machines?

KAREN

No. Their burgers are from the future.

ANTHONY

How did they get burgers from the future?

KRISTINE

With a time machine... How else would you get burgers from the future?

DAUNTE

I thought the burger was the time machine.

KAREN

No. The burger is from the future.

ALEX

Do they also have burgers from the past?

Everyone is quiet since they have no idea how to answer Alex's question. Orlando thinks about it for a moment before speaking.

ORLANDO

Hold on. No. That's not gonna work.

Everyone is confused about everything. They are quiet waiting for Orlando to continue speaking.

ORLANDO (cont'd)

A burger from the past just sounds like a run around way of saying their burgers are old...

CHASE

(disappointed)

Their burgers are old? I go there all the time.

DAUNTE

Their burgers are time machines. From the past.

Orlando takes a seat. He is wide-eyed and pensive. Daunte picks up on Orlando's frustration. Daunte walks up to the whiteboard, and takes a moment to take a hard look at the words "time machine burger".

DAUNTE (cont'd)

I got it.

With all the confidence in the world, Daunte slowly writes on the whiteboard "machine burger time". Daunte steps back from the whiteboard. He is visibly proud of the idea he just put together.

Orlando stands back up. With a defeated look on his face, he addresses everyone.

ORLANDO

Okay... I think that's it for today.
Thank you all for your... Ummm...
Thank you for your good effort.
Thanks.

INT. RAY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Orlando Cruz and Alex Iverson are sitting at a table in Ray's Restaurant with Ray. Alex is doing his best to seem as professional as possible. Orlando is visibly worried about the deliverables that he is about to present to Ray.

Orlando has his laptop open. On his laptop, Orlando pulls up the video the agency put together for Ray's Restaurant.

We close in on the laptop screen to watch the video. The video starts with an extreme close up of a burger. The camera is zoomed in so close that we can't tell what we're looking at initially. The camera slowly zooms out during the video.

A voice over of Orlando doing a deep and overly manly voice is playing while the camera slowly zooms out.

ORLANDO (V.O.)

It's juicy.

(beat)

It's tasty.

(beat)

It's 100% beef.

(beat)

Two patties. Cheddar cheese. Bacon. A sunny-side up egg. Matchstick fries. And Ray's signature hot sauce.

(beat)

Introducing Ray's Sunfire Burger.

(beat)

Damn! That's good!

As the voice over ends, the camera finishes zooming out so that we can see the full burger with a side of fries.

The video cuts to a shot of a new logo for Ray's Restaurant.

The logo reads "Ray's Fusion Cuisine. America in Atlanta."

The video ends and Orlando looks at Ray. Orlando is so worried and stressed that he is almost sweating.

Ray keeps staring at the screen after the video ends with his eyes wide open and a look of shock on his face. It's impossible to tell if this is good or bad news.

After a drawn out moment of suspense. Ray starts looking very happy with Orlando's work.

RAY

This. Is. Amazing. This is something else, Orlando. Now that's what I'd call a damn good professional!

Orlando is confused and in disbelief. Orlando can't believe this actually worked.

ORLANDO

(unconvinced)

Really?

RAY

Yes! This is incredible!

ORLANDO

(confused)

Are you sure?

RAY
Yes, I'm sure! You're a freaking
genius, Orlando!

Orlando takes a brief pause to slowly accept reality.

ORLANDO
(concerned)
So we're good?

RAY
(overly dramatic)
All I can say is...
(beat)
Damn! That's good!

FADE OUT

THE END