

the dumb show

a visual comedy series

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PILOT SCRIPT

“THE DEPARTMENT STORE”

Script - Draft 8 - September 2012

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PRE-TITLES SEQUENCE

- Sunny day – we track along an idyllic suburban street with detached and semi-detached houses.
- We pass a roadsweeper. On the back of his yellow tunic is a notice, 'How am I Walking? 0845663524.'
- A bus stop, at which a man is standing puffing on a pipe. Next to him is a Highland Scot in a kilt - puffing on a set of bagpipes (making smoke like a pipe).
- Two very old women, working as bricklayers. A small van is parked up: 'Gladys and Ethel, Builders. *No Job Too Big.*' They are both bent over, and shakily holding one brick, which they are gingerly moving from a big pile of bricks to a place on a garden wall.
- A fullsize house made out of very large playing cards. The cards are about 6ft x 3ft. There's a gust of wind and after a beat it collapses, revealing a woman ironing clothes and a man in an armchair reading the paper.
- A house with an obsessively neat front garden. A sign reads 'Please Keep Off The Grass'. Next to the doorbell, on a tray, is some Purell hand sanitiser. There is a sign next to it saying 'Please Do Not Ring The Doorbell'. Then we see a man in a boiler suit and a surgical nose-and-mouth mask washing a tree with a sponge.
- A well-kept house but with one upper bedroom window half-smashed, draped in cobwebs and with dirty net curtains. On the window sill, scowling, sits a teenage goth girl, chewing bubble gum. She blows a huge black bubble.

- A very very very large man opens his front door, bends down, picks up a milk bottle on the doorstep, downs the contents in one, replaces the bottle, belches and shuts the door.
- We pass a lampost with a notice on it: 'Missing – Lampost' and a blurry photo of the lampost.
- We reach the end of the street and arrive at a dirty, battered old caravan, standing in its own small plot, complete with front garden etc. We see a sign saying '*Pompidou Manor.*'
- We move towards the entrance of the caravan until we are actually inside.
- Pompidou – a rotund, scruffy, elderly gentleman with a small, tired toupee – is in his pyjamas and a tie, asleep in his empty bath, covered by a flea-ridden duvet and snoring happily. The bath tub almost fills the entire living space of the caravan.

A cuckoo clock suddenly on the side wall springs into action. The wooden bird pops out a few inches – 'Cuckoo, cuckoo' – before returning to its home inside the clock. Pompidou groans, keeps his eyes closed and rolls over, to get some more sleep.

Within a couple of seconds, Pompidou is snoring once more. Again, the cuckoo clock springs into action, and the bird reappears – 'Cuckoo cuckoo'. This time, Pompidou growls and waves his arm dismissively, still with his eyes closed.

Within seconds, Pompidou snores. He starts to suck his thumb and smiles, as if he is having a lovely dream. The cuckoo clock springs into

action again but this time the mechanical arm brings the wooden bird right over to Pompidou's ear. 'Cuck-oo!' yells the bird. Pompidou awakes with a start. The bird then extends a couple more inches, craps on Pompidou's forehead and whizzes back inside the clock before Pompidou can swat it away. Pompidou sighs, wipes away the mess with his tie.

Still in the bath, he reaches out a hand and taps a hamster cage on his bedside table. The hamster starts running on his wheel which provides power for the caravan. The lights flicker into life. Pompidou reaches out and grabs a kettle, fills it from the bath-tap, then plugs it in to a socket in the wall next to the bath.

The hamster has slowed down on his wheel, so Pompidou taps his cage again and the hamster speeds up. We hear the kettle start to boil.

Pompidou stands up in the bath in his pyjamas, stretches and yawns. Suddenly we hear a burst of thunder from outside. Pompidou looks excited. He yanks off his tie, pyjama top and bottoms, and scampers naked out of his caravan.

- Exterior. Pompidou's caravan. He's got a shower curtain at waist height on the side of his caravan (helpfully concealing his bits and pieces), plus – attached to the side of the caravan – a soapdish. Pompidou swipes the toupee from his own head and uses it as a flannel, washing himself without a care in the world.

An elderly female passer-by looks bemused at the sight. A soaped-up Pompidou waves cheerfully at her and starts to hum along loudly with the theme tune to the show. The title – 'Pompidou!' – appears on screen. The rain stops, just as Pompidou is nice and clean.

Inside the caravan, we see a wet, chubby arm reach through the open window for a little towel hanging on a peg.

- Outside again, we see Pompidou drying himself. Over the low garden hedge he spots the woman next door taking clothes off a rotary washing-line. Wrapped in his towel, Pompidou spots a shirt he likes, reaches over and takes it from the washing-line. He holds it up to himself and checks his reflection in a puddle: actually, no, it's not for him. He shakes his head and places it back on the washing line. The woman - oblivious to him - rotates the line a bit as she collects more clothes.
- Pompidou's seen a shirt he does like, but it's gone too far, so *he* rotates the line back a bit to get it. The woman remains unaware. Pompidou puts on the shirt, grabs some trousers and scrambles into them.
- He starts to head back towards the caravan but he's clocked a pair of boots being used as flowerpots, with earth and a plant in each – just over the hedge... Mmm...
- Back inside the caravan. C/U of the two boots, which Pompidou is now wearing.
- He opens the door of a budgie cage. There is a chessboard inside with the pieces in mid-game. Pompidou muses for a moment, then makes a chess move. He's pleased, and nods confidently at the budgie. He closes the cage door.
- He rifles through his CD collection - no, nothing of interest. He takes a slice of Hovis, cuts a circle of bread from a slice with a pastry cutter, pops the circle into the CD player – and it plays Dvorjak's New World Symphony (Hovis ad music).

- He ticks off his 'To Do' list on the wall.... First item is "Get up." Ticks.
Second item is "Tick To Do List." – He ticks. Third item is: 'Christmas Shopping.'
- He takes the pillow from his bath, removes the pillowcase, and with a pair of scissors cuts 2 slits in the top to make a handle. A shopping bag!
- He exits the caravan.

TITLE SEQUENCE

Title music: Buena Vista Social club: "Amor de loca juventud."

- Pompidou emerges from his caravan and walks up his garden path, which snakes round his garden in a really ludicrous way, at one point taking him backwards away from the front gate, and even round the back of the caravan. The snaking path finally takes him to his front gate.
- In his front garden, by the gate, is a kennel, in the form of a miniature house, even with its own tiny front garden. There's even a house-name on the kennel: '*Dun-Fetching*.' A female dog – Marion Grayson-Blythe - comes out of the kennel and trots down the path. She has a blue-rinse perm and old lady's spectacles, and pulls one of those small shopping trolleys that old women favour. Pompidou looks shocked. He shakes his head and points back at the kennel. The dog leaves the shopping trolley and goes back inside the kennel. Beat. The dog reappears, this time wearing a blouse and skirt. Pompidou nods. The dog grabs her shopping trolley and the pair exit the front gate.

- Tracking shot of Pompidou walking down the pavement smiling, waving and lifting his hat to his neighbours. At one point Pompidou breaks into a little dance to the opening music as he walks. Marion walks alongside.
- As Pompidou passes the very neat house, we pause and see the OCD Man – now impeccably dressed in a smart suit and hat, but still wearing his mouth and nose mask - leave his house. He stops on the doorstep, and clocks a magazine stuck in his letterbox. He pulls the magazine out: we cut to c/u of the cover – ‘OCD Monthly.’ He heads back into his house.
- Zooming in through the front window, we’re in the living room of OCD Man’s house. The sofa, armchair, television, table and chairs are all wrapped in sellophane. We see a bookshelf brimming with copies of the same magazine. OCD Man proudly adds the new copy to his collection.
- We pull back until we’re outside the OCD Man’s house again. He leaves the house, locks up and walks a couple of paces down the path but stops: He returns to the front door, checks that he’s locked up properly. Reassured, he walks down the path again, only stop once more as he reaches the end of the path, returning again to check that he’s locked up properly. Finally convinced, he turns, stops, shakes his head, chuckles to himself at the silliness of it all and strides confidently towards the gate. For about five paces, before scuttling back anxiously to the front door where he checks the lock again.
- We join Pompidou and Marion once more, walking down the street. They pass a poster on a telegraph pole, which reads “For Sale – Telegraph Pole.”

Pompidou passes the house with the cobwebs and black curtains in one window. As he clears frame, the Emo Girl is comes out of her house with her parents. They look very conventional, while she is dressed all in black, with black make-up, and is the most miserable looking girl we've ever seen.

There are a row of tall flowers along the garden path. As Emo Girl passes them each of the flowers droops accompanied by audible sighs.

- Pompidou passes the two *very* old women builders. They are still both bent over, and very shakily carrying the same brick as they were before – they've gone about a foot. Pompidou passes and doffs his hat. The two ladies wolf-whistle him as he passes and one of them goes 'Phwoar!'
- Pompidou passes the house of a Man with a Smartphone – a suited businessman with his head permanently down to his Smartphone, scrolling, texting etc. He emerges head down from his front door, leaving it open, and walks across his garden and – obviously – straight through his neighbour's hedge, down his neighbour's path, through a front garden pond and out next door's front gate, oblivious.
- Pompidou passes the house of the very very very large man and his equally sizeable wife, as they squeeze themselves through the doorframe one by one, and head towards the front gate. However, the effort of leaving the house requires the pair to take a rest, and they sit down together on a bench just a few feet between their front door and the gate, mopping the beads of sweat from their brows. After a beat they rise, walk four more steps and sit on another (previously unseen) bench, still in their front garden. The lady pulls out a Snickers and swallows the bar without removing the wrapper. Beat. They stand up again, go to leave, shake their heads and sit back down.

- Pompidou sees his bus and he and Marion hasten out of frame ...

Title sequence ends with onscreen title: "*The Department Store.*"

BUS

- Pompidou upstairs on the top of the bus. A conductor approaches him, with an old-fashioned ticket dispenser, and Pompidou starts fishing for his ticket money.

He dips his hands into his massive pockets and brings out: a handkerchief, a packet of sweets, a big bunch of keys, a magazine, tissues, a rubber duck – which he gives to the non-plussed conductor to hold - and more used handkerchiefs, one of which Pompidou briefly examines in disgust. Then he produces an umbrella.

As the things start piling up on his lap Pompidou starts giving them to his fellow passengers to hold. He brings out - a table lamp, a saucepan, a vinyl LP, and a large-framed painted portrait of himself.

- By now four of his fellow passengers – two in the seats in front of him and two in the seats behind him – are all holding things. Pompidou brings out a bonsai tree, a spacehopper and a dwarf – which he places on the lap of the passenger next to him.

While the conductor waits for Pompidou to find his money, he nods to Marion. The Dog ‘hands’ the Conductor her bus pass with her mouth. The Conductor checks her bus pass, but the photo on the pass is of her without her glasses. The conductor frowns and looks doubtful, holding the pass up to compare the picture with the dog: ‘Can this be the same dog?’ Marion takes her glasses off, and the Conductor twigs that yes, this must be same dog.

- Pompidou smiles. He’s found some money. The Conductor prints out a ticket. Pompidou is about to hand over a pound note when he spots that the bus has arrived at his stop. He apologises and hurries off the bus. Marion remains in her place, staring ahead, deadpan. We hear a

whistle. Marion scampers off the bus, leaving the conductor lost for words.

ABDUL - HELMET

- We are now outside a large department store, with a big courtyard area, seats, an information kiosk etc akin to 'The Eden Centre' in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

An Asian man on a stuttering moped pulls up and disembarks. He takes off his turban as if it was a crash helmet, to reveal another identicle turban underneath.

He puts the 'crash-helmet turban' in his top-box at the back of the bike...

EMO GIRL – TOOTHPASTE AD

- Emo Girl is entering the Department store courtyard behind her parents. She exudes misery from every pore. There's a bouncy castle outside the front. Emo Girl rolls her eyes at the kids having fun. The family walk past a toothpaste advertisement, with a fashion model smiling brightly with white teeth. As Emo Girl passes the poster, we reveal that the model's smile has vanished and she is now wearing a really miserable expression.

VERY VERY VERY LARGE COUPLE – ARRIVING AT DEPARTMENT STORE

- The very large couple walk slowly and with difficulty towards the front of the Department store. They are so heavy they leave footprints in the pavement (even though it's dry). At one point the wife appears to get stuck so the husband starts to push her.

MAN ON SMARTPHONE - DOORS

- The Man on Smartphone, still engrossed, walks towards the glass door of the store. However, instead of going through the automatic electric doors – which open for other approaching customers – he walks straight into the next door along, which is marked ‘EXIT ONLY’. The door shatters, covering him with broken glass. He doesn’t bat an eyelid and enters the shopping centre, still texting.

BACKPACKER

- Rudy is an Australian back-packer par excellence. On his back is the biggest backpack we have ever seen. It’s gigantic. He wanders into the Department store Courtyard studying his map. He’s clearly looking for somewhere & needing directions.
- He pops into a shop with a sign above it saying: ‘Furniture.’ We stay outside and watch as the bumbling Backpacker inadvertently smashes everything up in the shop: tables topple over, a bookcase falls and smashes, wardrobes break etc.
- Rudy exits, unaware of the damage he has caused, thanking the shop manager. As Rudy wanders off, the mortified Shop Manager hastily puts up a sign in his window saying: ‘Self-Assembly’ before the word ‘Furniture.’

POMPIDOU - CHARITY COLLECTOR

- In the courtyard of the Department store, Pompidou walks along with Marion and clocks a sweet little old man with a zimmer frame collecting for charity. He smiles at Pompidou, rattling his tin. On his tunic is ‘HELP THE AGED.’

- Pompidou grimaces. He sidesteps, changes direction, but the charity collector steps the same way etc. Kung Fu film music bleeds in, heightening the stand-off.
- They circle each other. The Charity Collector is not going to give up. Suddenly Pompidou flies through the air in slow motion – a la Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon - and fells the little old man with a karate chop. Pompidou exits frame, leaving the old man dazed on the floor. Marion digs into her pocket, pulls out a little doggie biscuit, places it in the collection tin and follows Pompidou.

SPRAY

- A woman who is holding a plant walks through the Perfume Section and a female perfume assistant sprays the woman's wrist with a sample.
- She then passes into the Gardening Section where the gardening assistant sprays the woman's plant with some sample greenfly-spray.
- She then passes into a DIY section where an assistant is holding out a pot of paint and a large brush: as the woman passes he dabs her wrist with the paint.

ABDUL - BROOCH

- Abdul is in the lift of the store and we see a strand of his turban dangling then getting caught on a woman's brooch. The doors open: the woman walks off one way, Abdul the other. The turban unravels. Abdul doesn't notice.

- After walking a few yards, though, he does notice. He stops - and just manages to catch the end as it flies off his head. He starts retracing it, and winding it up as he goes he retraces his steps, following the trail of the turban.
- He reaches an assistant – who has the turban cloth wound round her body at least four times. Bewildered, Abdul – apologetically – circles the woman four times to unwind it – and moves off after the rest of his turban...

POMPIDOU AND THE SILVER STATUE

- Pompidou and Marion are now approaching the entrance to the Department Store. Nearby is a man painted silver and posing impressively as a statue. A few passers-by give money. Pompidou studies the man and then prods him with his umbrella but he does not respond. Pompidou walks on a few paces, then suddenly darts back, shouting “AAAAHH!”, as if to scare the statue. Still the statue doesn’t move. Pompidou then puffs his cheeks and blows on the man. Again, no response. Pompidou grumbles to himself and begrudgingly drops a coin into the statue’s box before exiting frame. Beat.
- Marion remains, lifts a leg and pees on the silver man’s shoe. The silver man shakes his leg and briefly voices his frustration. Pompidou immediately reappears and takes his money out of the hat again, tuts and exits, with Marion following. The statue is about to remonstrate but as there are other people watching, he is obliged to resume his position.

HEARING-IMPAIRED COUPLE 1

- Back inside the department store, a couple - with prominent hearing aids - are wandering along an aisle and an argument develops, in sign-

language - between them. We see onscreen subtitles of their argument:

WOMAN - 'There's no point looking at it because we're not buying it.'

MAN - 'Why not?'

WOMAN – 'Because my mother said we can have hers!'

MAN – 'We don't want hers. It keeps breaking down. Tell her to stop interfering!'

WOMAN – 'Oh here we go again. You've never liked my mother! Never!'

MAN – 'Well I've never been good enough for her daughter, have I?'

- Their signing - whilst remaining completely silent - becomes angrier and more animated. A red-haired male assistant, with a tartan tie – who also has a hearing aid in – is watching them. The couple's signing becomes increasingly agitated and demonstrative.

WOMAN – 'Anyway she'll be moving into the spare room after Christmas.'

MAN – 'What?! No way is she coming to live with us.'

WOMAN – 'I'm not having her go into a home!'

MAN – 'If she moves in, I move out!' etc

- The red-haired assistant finally goes across to the couple and angrily signs to them: we see his onscreen subtitle: *"Could you please keep the noise down!"*

MAN ON SMARTPHONE – TAN

- With head down, still texting on his Smartphone phone, the man wanders through the cosmetics department. He walks obliviously through a booth with a sign on it which reads 'INSTANT SPRAY TAN' and exits oblivious to the fact that his skin is now considerably darker.

POMPIDOU ON ESCALATOR

- Pompidou strides towards an area where there are two escalators – one going UP to the next level and one coming DOWN from that level. Marion walks ahead of him and steps on to the UP escalator.
- Pompidou goes to get on the UP escalator but spots that one of his shoelaces is undone. He puts his bag on the floor and bends down at the bottom of the escalator to tie the lace up, much to the inconvenience of anyone trying to get on to the escalator. Various shoppers pass round him to get on. After a few seconds, oblivious to the hassle he is causing, he gets on to the escalator.
- Halfway up the escalator Pompidou realises something is missing. We see his bag, still on the ground at the foot of the escalator. In order to retrieve it, Pompidou starts to walk down the escalator and, of course, as it is going upwards, he goes nowhere. It doesn't help that there are lots of shoppers trying to go simply go upwards. Nevertheless Pompidou is intent on getting his bag and continues to walk against the tide of the escalator. Escalator steps are, as we all know, invariably, not very wide. Consequently all of the other shoppers beneath him are similarly obliged to turn and also walk against the tide back to the bottom.
- We see all the disgruntled occupants of the now-packed Up escalator walking downwards and not getting anywhere. Eventually Pompidou arrives at the bottom and collects his bag. An officious-looking Security Guard awaits. Pompidou goes to step back on to the escalator but the Security Guard pulls him to one side and shakes his head. Pompidou remonstrates and tries again to board the Up escalator but the Security Guard is adamant and blocks his path. A shamed Pompidou has no option but to ascend the neighbouring escalator, which, of course, is heading downward. And, of course, initially he doesn't move very far.

- Slowly he manages to create enough speed to successfully ascend. Of course, halfway through he comes up against a number of shoppers correctly travelling down. Pompidou is determined to get to that next floor, however, so once again the baffled shoppers in front of him are obliged to turn round and return back up, against the downward tide.
- Waiting at the top of the escalator for an exhausted Pompidou is Marion, sat, casually smoking a cigarette. She drops it and stubs it out with her paw. Pompidou picks up her lead and they walk away.
- To the left is a sign saying 'Ladies Wear' and the right is a sign saying 'Mens Wear'. Pompidou goes to head to the right but Marion is pulling to the left. Again Pompidou tries but Marion pulls once more. Pompidou unclips the lead from Marion's collar.
- Pompidou barks at Marion. We see subtitles – 'Okay, you go to Ladies Wear and I'll do my Christmas shopping. Meet you back here in half an hour.' Marion barks back. Pompidou barks again. We see subtitles – 'Okay then, one hour'. Pompidou taps his watch – which is actually a small travelling alarm clock, sellotaped unceremoniously to his wrist. The pair part company.

POMPIDOU EXERCISE BIKE

- In the sports section. Pompidou approaches an exercise bike. He pats it, examines it, then climbs on to it. Starts pedalling slowly. He's struggling and breathless. He spots the switch, which is set to Uphill. He changes it to Flat. He peddles more easily. Out of curiosity he changes the switch again, this time to Downhill. The pedals go round at speed as Pompidou lets his legs hang, just as though he's skimming downhill. A little magically, the wind blows in his toupee. Eventually he

rides with no hands. 'Wooh' he screams, triumphantly, to a stumped passer-by.

- The very very very very large woman from earlier is with her equally large husband, both scoffing ice creams and watching. Pompidou gets off the bike and ushers her on to it. She shakes her head, shyly. He insists. She gets on the bike. Pompidou sets the switch back to Uphill. Pompidou smiles encouragingly as the very large woman starts to peddle.

POMPIDOU DUMBELLS

- Pompidou now enters the Sports section and checks out the weights. With great difficulty he carries a large set of dumbbells to the counter, above which is a sign which reads 'HOME DELIVERY'. Gasping, he hands over some cash to the Shop Assistant on the counter and points to the sign. Pompidou fishes out his Christmas shopping list. We scan down the names – 'Auntie Barbara, Cousin Raymond, The Twins ' etc. Pompidou reaches the bottom of the list, places a large tick next to Baby Joe and nods to himself, satisfied.
- Pompidou walks back past the exercise bike from a moment earlier, where the same woman is still peddling, but she's now very thin. Pompidou looks impressed. He approaches the nearby counter where an assistant waits, points at the exercise bike and puts a tick next to Great Aunt Maude.

SECURITY GUARDS 1

- In the security room a guard sits down in front of a bank of screens showing really boring B/W views: the car-park, the Department store entrance etc. Another security guard comes in carrying two boxes of

popcorn and two drinks. He hands his colleague popcorn and drink and settles down next to him.

- They start watching the screen of the car-park, as if they are watching a film. The second guard leans over and dims the lights. Beat. He goes to surreptitiously put his arm round his colleague but then loses his courage and pulls his arm back. The colleague turns to look at him – did he just imagine that? The second guard plays dumb, apparently engrossed in the action onscreen.

EMO GIRL - LOTTERY

- The Emo and her parents are now in the newsagents' section – they've just bought a scratch-card. They give it to her to do, which she does, really reluctantly. She hands it back to the vendor. He scans it into a machine marked 'Lottery tickets' and the machine buzzes, bells ring and the electronic LED displays reads '£10,000!'. Her parents' jaws drop. Big smiles form as they hug their daughter. She rolls her eyes and heaves a massive, depressed sigh.

POMPIDOU - STORE TANNOY

- We hear the soft sultry young tones of a woman's voice making a store announcement: *'Why not visit our Audio-Visual Department on the Third Floor?'*
- Pompidou is passing a half-open door, and pauses as he realises it's the Store Tannoy Booth. He peers inside and we see a small store white-haired old man sitting at a microphone. He is the tannoy voice – and yet over the speakers in the store his voice is that of a young woman's – soft, young and sultry.

- Pompidou stays watching him as he continues his announcement, and we clearly see him mouthing the exact words that are coming over:
'We've everything from the latest flat-screen Televisions to iPhones, iPads and – for all those game-players among you – the latest Xbox 5.'
The little old man glances up at Pompidou as he finishes his announcement, then reaches over and angrily closes the door. A bewildered Pompidou moves off.

JUDGE

- In the Cosmetics section, Pompidou passes a white-bearded bespectacled judge in full outfit, including his wig, in front of a full-length mirror. He takes his wig off, and picks up a brown curly wig, and tries it on. He admires himself in the mirror approvingly...

ABDUL - TOILET

- A baffled Abdul is still following the seemingly endless trail of his unwound turban. It takes him round a corner and into the 'IN' door of a ladies' toilet. Beat. He then exits through the 'OUT' door, still on the trail of his neverending bundle of cloth, followed by an angry-looking old woman with her knickers round her ankles.

POMPIDOU IN BATHROOM DEPT

- Pompidou approaches the Bathroom Department. He walks along a row of half a dozen different display toilets. He stops at the fourth one and admires it for a moment. He then sits on and mimes reading a newspaper, engrossed in it and licking his thumb to turn the page, before straining, then getting up. He mimes wiping his bottom, hurling the toilet paper down the loo and then flushing. He then gets up and stands at the toilet, mimes drinking from a bottle, hurls the (invisible)

bottle over his shoulder as if drunk, and then crouches by the toilet seat and mimes vomiting down it.

- He then unselfconsciously stands up again and mimes undoing his flies and having a long pee, whistling halfway through and maybe shaking his left leg before miming doing up his flies again. He looks down, mimes pulling off a sheet of toilet paper and mimes wiping a little splash off the seat, before putting the sheet down the toilet and flushing. He thinks for a moment, nods and then goes to the nearby counter, where an assistant has been watching, jaw agape. Pompidou points at the toilet in question, hands the assistant a wad of used notes and then pulls out his gift list from earlier and places a tick next to 'Uncle Norman'.
- As Pompidou moves off, the same Security Guard from the escalator scene wanders up to the Assistant, and they exchange suspicious glances, watching Pompidou go...

OCD MAN IN MULTI-STOREY CAR-PARK

- The OCD Man is reversing his car into a space in the multi-storey car-park. He gets out, and examines the space between his car and the neighbouring cars.
- He gets out a tape measure to make sure he is the same distance from each. He's about a centimetre off. He takes a deep breath, grips the underside of the front of the car, and bodily lifts it, placing it in the correct place, exactly dead centre.
- He stands up, brushes his hands together – and walks off, taking off his surgical nose-and-mouth mask and carefully folding them. As he does so, he clocks a well-dressed old lady whose hat is slightly tilted to

one side (as it's supposed to be) – so quick as a flash he straightens it as he passes her...

SECURITY GUARDS 2

- In their booth, the security guards are now eating ice-cream. They're still watching the really boring shot of the car-park. On sound, there is ambient romantic music as though the soundtrack to a moving part of a film. The pair are engrossed. A third guard enters and joins them. Beat. The third guard's phone rings. He takes the call and begins chatting. The first and second guards tut and share a look of irritation. The first guard coughs loudly and demonstratively. The third guard looks over, spots their annoyance and apologetically steps outside, still on his phone.

OCD MAN JOB INTERVIEW

- The OCD Man is seated on a chair in the corridor outside door with 'Interviews' on it. The door opens and an assistant appears. She has one sleeve of her cardigan rolled up. OCD Man sees this and bristles. He starts to stand up but she signals for him to stay seated. Through the opened door we glimpse the Man on the Smartphone seated in front of panel of three official-looking Store Managers. The Man on the Smartphone is still in his permanently texting position, head lowered. The three Managers are staring at him, shaking their heads incredulously. The assistant guides the Man on the Smartphone up out of the seat by his elbow and out of the office. However because he is engrossed in his texting, he walks oblivious through a fire exit. The assistant then beckons the OCD Man into the interview room.
- Inside the office, he faces the three official-looking Store Managers.

OCD man notices some untidy papers on the desk and is about to reach out to arrange them but stops himself (like Dr. Strangelove clamping his saluting arm to his side).

- OCD Man is clearly bothered: he's battling inwardly to control his neurosis. From his POV we see it's that one of the men is bald and is on the end. As the man in the middle drones on, the OCD Man starts to breathe heavily. Eventually he gets up and, moving round the desk, bodily lifts the Bald man up and swaps him over with the man in the centre.
- The OCD Man takes his seat smoothing his hair back smiling. The door opens and another man enters and takes a seat on the end. OCD Man looks exasperated. Then he notices the new man is wearing a wig. OCD Man gives a relieved smile, gets up, removes the man's wig and sits back down, satisfied. (He's created order – hair, bald, hair, bald). The second bald man is aghast and reaches to get his wig back. OCD Man pulls it away from him – 'No! Ah-ah.' Bald Man 2 reaches out again so the OCD Man quickly opens his briefcase, pops the wig inside, snaps the briefcase shut and sits on it.
- One of the interviewers holds up a CV, and is about to speak when the office door opens and an assistant brings in a tray of coffee & biscuits. OCD Man is very unhappy about the arrangement of the biscuits. He leans over and very carefully arranges all the biscuits in a very intricate and neat pattern then sits back triumphant.
- As an Interviewer rambles on in (unintelligible) undertone, we see in the background, through the window, Abdul The Sikh making his way past the window ledge still retracing and winding up his turban. We also see The Man on the Smartphone on the roof. He wanders over to the edge of the store - and falls off.

- Cut to a Bouncy Castle in the courtyard in front of the store. We see the Man on the Smartphone just getting off the bouncy castle. He's still engrossed in his texting.
- We return to the Job Interview. The interviewers start taking sugar-lumps from a bowl: three of them take one lump but the fourth takes two. OCD Man takes three lumps and pops an extra lump into each the first three's cups so they all now have two lumps. Then the fourth man takes a third lump so OCD Man takes another three lumps and pops one more each into the other's cups.
- The interviewers huddle together for a quick discussion, nod to each other and then turn to OCD Man. They all smile. One of the interviewers extends his hand to shakes the hand of OCD Man.

POMPIDOU IN AUDIO VISUAL DEPT

- Pompidou is now passing through the Audio-visual Dept. – TV's, Playstations, Computers. In a tracking shot there are 3 gags as he passes the screens:
- On a TV, a newsreader is asleep, but wakes up when he 'sees' Pompidou, and continues reading the news. Reaction from Pompidou – did that just happen? Pompidou walks on, and the newsreader stops reading again, so Pompidou pops back – and the newsreader snaps into life again. Pompidou moves on...
- On a playstation, a teenager is playing a 'shoot 'em up' game a la 'Grand Theft Auto.' Gunfire, sirens, screeches of brakes etc. Next to him an old woman is playing 'Find the Tea-Shop' (caption title on the PC screen). On sound, pleasant tinkly music, and a graphic of a teapot pouring tea into a cup, with FX. The woman presses a few buttons on

her controller. A hand on the screen takes a slice of sponge cake from a silver platter. The hand holding the slice moves towards a plate but drops the slice just before it gets there. The caption 'GAME OVER' appears on screen. The old woman sighs.

- Pompidou moves past another TV screen, which is on, but blank. He exits frame but we remain with an assistant, who is dusting the TV. As she dusts the back of it we see a TV picture of her arm onscreen, with the duster, syncing with the real assistant.

MARION GETS A MAKEOVER

- Womens' Clothing dept. Marion walks along with various items of designer clothing in her mouth. She walks past the counter and into a curtained cubicle. She reappears a split-second later in a new designer outfit. As she passes, a female shop assistant is perched on a chair reapplying some lipstick to herself. Marion barks loudly in the assistant's face. The assistant drops the lipstick in shock. Marion picks it up in her mouth and nonchalantly walks off.

SILVER STATUE 2

- He's still trying to keep motionless. Meanwhile we see that his audience has dwindled. Why? Because they have gradually been assembling, impressed, in front of an adjacent statue – even shinier and more still. The first Silver Statue, clearly jealous, settles back to stay still. He twitches a bit. Settles down...

POMPIDOU'S TOASTER

- Pompidou enters the kitchenware dept. Pompidou heads over to the shelf marked 'Toasters'. Just ahead of him is a woman who grabs the last toaster on the shelf. Pompidou is dismayed. He watches the

woman head towards the counter where there is a waiting shop assistant, and then follows her.

- Above the counter is a sign which reads 'Kitchenware' and points to the left – where the pair have just come from - and 'DIY', signalling to the right). Pompidou creeps up behind the woman, taps her on the opposite shoulder and when she turns, he takes the toaster from her. Realising she's been tricked, she goes to grab the toaster back. A tussle ensues. Eventually Pompidou stamps on her foot. Nursing her toe, she is momentarily distracted. Pompidou snatches the toaster and exits shot, to the right. Beat. We hear the loud buzz of an electric saw.
- Pompidou emerges with the toaster cut clean in two and hands one half of the toaster to the nonplussed woman. The assistant is also stunned. He pulls out a twenty pound note, tears it in two and gives one half to the shopkeeper. He then takes a brown paper bag and tears it vertically in half, puts the toaster in and wanders off.
- The Store Manager approaches the assistant and they begin a conflag. The Manager summons the Security Guard from earlier over...

EMO GIRL BIRTHDAY MEAL

- The Emo Girl is seated in a cafe with her family, looking as gloomy as ever. Her parents look excited and expectant. A waiter brings over a birthday cake. He pauses and displays it to the delight of the family. The parents sing 'Happy Birthday,' plunging Emo Girl into greater eye-rolling gloom. The parents give Emo Girl three presents. The first is a Make-up Set. This makes her ridiculously depressed. The second present is a dress. She tosses it on the floor. Her parents are shocked. They exchange a look and with trepidation, hand their sullen daughter a third gift. She unwraps it. It is a human skull. She beams.

VERY VERY LARGE MAN AND CHARITY BADGE PIN

- Outside the store a charity collector is rattling her tin for donations and rewarding donors with pin-badges. The very very very large man and his no-longer-large wife from earlier exit the store and approach. The man pops a coin in the tin and the charity collector places a badge on him. With a long hiss, the man completely deflates, collapsing before our eyes. His wife looks understandably shocked.

POMPIDOU – SHOPPING MONTAGE SEQUENCE

- This sequence shows Pompidou ticking various items off his shopping list. We see him

... in the Cosmetics Dept where he buys some Lipstick and puts a tick on his list next to Geoffrey.

.... in the Chocolate Dept, where he buys a single chocolate in a tiny box and puts a tick next to The Williams Sextuplets.

.... in the Stationary Dept, where he wraps up a cellophaned roll of wrapping paper and puts a tick on the list next to Hilary.

..... in the Pharmacy Dept, where he buys a jar of baby food and puts a tick next to Great Uncle Sidney.

.... in the Music section, where he buys a Megadeth CD and puts a tick next to Reverend Thomas.

NB at all of the counters, we see a sign saying 'We Deliver'.

HEARING IMPAIRED COUPLE 2

- The hearing impaired couple are at either end of the washing-machine section. They start signalling to each other across the room and onscreen subtitles come up.

The man signals “We could ge.. a be..er deal on...e.”

The woman squints and signals back: “What?”

The man signals “WE COULD GE- A B---R D--L O....NE!”

The woman signals back: “Still can’t hear you.”

- Pompidou wanders into the washing-machine section and – clocking the couple signing to each other from a distance apart and noticing their difficulty – approaches the man, watches him sign, pats him on the head, signals at him to wait and then approaches the woman. He then moves his hands, as if to relay the man’s question. However, Pompidou’s signing abilities are extremely limited. During this sequence we see subtitles of all of the signing, including Pompidou’s well-intentioned but wildly inaccurate interpretations:

The man signs “I’m sure we can get a better deal online’

Pompidou relays this as: “Winston Churchill was a chronic under-achiever as a child.”

The woman signs back : ‘What are you talking about?’

Pompidou signs to the man: “This Playstation 2 is delicious.”

The Husband, non-plussed, signs back: “What? I’m saying if we are going to buy one, I’m sure they’re cheaper online.’

Pompidou relays this as: “Monaco is a principality governed under a form of constitutional monarchy, with Prince Albert II as head of state”.

The Woman signs back: “What’s got into you?’ ”

Pompidou relays this back as “Anyway I’m leaving you for John Craven.”

- Aghast, the husband crosses over, passing Pompidou, and he and his wife continue an argument in signing, while Pompidou doffs his hat to them, and makes off.

OCD MAN BEGINS WORK

- Shop floor in the Pharmacy dept. OCD Man is shown by one of the managers (from the meeting earlier) to a lit stand where products are showcased. OCD is shown behind the stand. We see that it is his job to introduce to passing shoppers a new type of Hand Sanitiser. OCD Man is clearly delighted, and eagerly cleans his hands with the sanitiser and presents them each time someone passes.

POMPIDOU AT THE BARBERS

- Pompidou is approaching the Gentlemen's Hairdressing concession. He feels the back of his toupee, and decides to pop in for a trim. The barber, who is wearing glasses with very thick lenses, enters and seats Pompidou in the barber's chair.
- Pompidou notices photos on the walls of people who've had their heads completely shaved. In addition to the photographs of bald people, there are also portraits of people with small bald patches, and people with injuries covered in bandages with small bloodstains and elastoplast; culminating in a photo of a torso wearing a shirt and tie but with no head. Pompidou looks nervous. The short-sighted barber switches on a pair of razor-clippers and so Pompidou makes his escape. The barber doesn't even notice and starts to trim the head-cushion on the chair.
- As Pompidou runs out, he passes Marion, casually sat in a hairdressing chair. Marion leafs through a catalogue of different dogs

with different glam hairstyles. She spots a picture of one with an Anna Wintour-style blonde bob and points to it. Her hairdresser nods.

- Next to Marion is a big, gruff, fierce-looking Hell's Angel reading a motorbike magazine. Next to him is a little old lady knitting a cardigan. The Hell's Angel's beard is sticking out from underneath the magazine. The Hell's Angel lowers his magazine to reveal that the old lady has unwittingly knitted his beard into her cardigan.

POMPIDOU - TOY DEPARTMENT

- Pompidou passes through the toy department. A child driving a toy buggy comes to a halt when the front wheel falls off. The child starts to cry. The mother consoles her child and as she does so, she takes out her Smartphone phone and dials. She speaks briefly on the phone. Beat. Two tiny little unformed boys arrive in a toy buggy AA vehicle, park alongside the broken buggy and proceed to fix the wheel.

POMPIDOU AT THE COFFEE STALL

- Pompidou arrives at a Starbucks-style coffee stall. He pats his stomach and sits down. He opens his wallet and finds he has run out of money. He brings a straw out of his pocket, which he proceeds to extend like a telescope until it is around 8ft. He spots two long-haired students engrossed in conversation at the next table. One is drinking iced tea in a tall clear plastic cup. Pompidou stretches the elongated straw towards one of the student's iced tea and drinks it all. Pompidou casually removes the straw and proceeds towards the exit.
- Not having noticed, the student picks up his cup for a swig and looks down in confusion at the empty plastic cup.

- Pompidou goes to exit. As he does so, he encounters a young assistant with a tray of bite-sized muffin samples. Pompidou nods appreciatively, whips out a napkin, knife and fork and tucks into the sample on the plate. The assistant is understandably surprised. Pompidou eats a few samples. A passer-by goes to take a sample but receives a small smack on the hand from Pompidou, before exiting, shocked. The assistant goes to leave but Pompidou coughs angrily, obliging the assistant to stay.
- From his magical pockets Pompidou produces salt and pepper pots and seasons the sample. Pompidou then produces a large ketchup bottle, which he pats so that a large splodge of sauce lands on the muffin pieces. He eats one of the ketchup-covered samples and unsurprisingly pulls a face – ‘ugh’. He has another and pulls a face again – ‘ugh’. He has more and more ketchup-covered muffin samples, each one clearly disgusting him and each time he pulls a bigger grimace and makes a louder groan. He continues this routine until there is just one sample remaining. He offers it to the assistant, who grimaces and shakes her head. Pompidou shrugs, as if he is unable to understand why anyone would refuse it. He eats it and gives the loudest groan yet. He walks away in disgust.
- As he exits, he passes the counter where a lady clutches a muffin and waits to pay. Pompidou points at the muffin and shakes his head – ‘ugh’. The lady – now unsure – leaves the muffin on the counter and exits. We reveal at this point that the security man has been watching the action from nearby. He approaches the assistant, talks briefly with her and then speaks into his radio before moving off in the direction of Pompidou.

POMPIDOU IN SANTA'S GROTTTO

- The Store Manager and two Security Guards are in a huddle clearly intent on catching Pompidou. They see him across the store passing near 'Santa's Grotto.'
- In the Grotto, Santa is sat under a tree surrounded by piles of parcels. A bored-looking elf sits beneath a sign which says: '£5 for a Super gift from Santa!' There is a queue of children. Pompidou hands the elf a bundle of coins, string and a selection of whatever else is in his deep pockets. By bribing some kids, distracting some and just picking up and moving others, Pompidou engineers his way to the front of the queue.
- Pompidou sits on the bemused Santa's lap. Santa groans, as Pompidou is bigger and heavier than he is. Santa gives Pompidou a present. Pompidou opens it. It's a superhero outfit. Pompidou tries to put it on over his clothes but it stretches and splits. Pompidou looks disappointed. He then looks at Santa. A suspicious look appears on Pompidou's face. Gingerly he moves his face closer to Santa's and studies it intently. Then Pompidou moves his hand slowly towards Santa's chin and tugs at his beard until it comes off. Santa does not look amused. Then Pompidou takes Santa's glasses off, then his hat and wig. Then he pulls opens Santa's coat to reveal the man is wearing just a string vest. Pompidou registers this and bursts into tears, wailing loudly. The children in the queue see this and do the same.
- An uncomfortable-looking Santa tries to console Pompidou who pushes him away, ungratefully. Santa gives Pompidou another gift. Pompidou, still wailing, opens it. It's a doll for little girls. He cries even more. Then he does that half-crying, half-hiccupping thing that kids do. Santa, coat still open, summons the watching Security Guard, who, together with some of the disgruntled employees from earlier,

approaches Pompidou. Pompidou gets up and scampers off, with the small mob in pursuit.

BACK AT THE BARBERS

- The Hell's angel puts his magazine down and his beard is now a jumper with sleeves etc. The Old Lady sees it and take her needles out. Hells Angel aghast. Embarrassed-looking Old Lady grabs a pair of nearby scissors and tries to chop the beard off. Hells Angel backs off and moves away. Old lady follows him in pursuit of the jumper.
- Meanwhile, the hairdresser lifts the blow-dryer off Marion's head to reveal a delightful blonde bob, like the dog in the photo earlier. The hairdresser shows Marion how she looks in a handheld mirror. Marion nods, produces a doggy biscuit from her handbag, hands it to the hairdresser and jumps off the chair. Marion sees Pompidou dash past, trailed by the Security Guard and his colleagues. She catches up with Pompidou and joins him.

POMPIDOU IN THE FOOD DEPT

- Pompidou turns a corner in the supermarket-style Food Department and briefly disappears from the clutches of the mob. Running through the fruit aisle Pompidou sees his path blocked by a group of nattering old ladies. Pompidou grabs a large watermelon as he passes and bowls it along the aisle. The melon knocks the old ladies down and they behave exactly like skittles, complete with the SFX, clattering to the ground. All except one old lady, who remains standing but wobbles just like a skittle that you don't know whether will fall or not.
- Pompidou cannot resist stopping momentarily and gently prodding her, so that she topples over. The Store Manager and Security Guard arrive

at the top of the aisle, and spot him. Pompidou and Marion flee, with the Security Guard and colleagues in hot pursuit.

- A small group of uniformed shop assistants appear and scoop up the old ladies exactly like the machine would do in a bowling alley – robotically gripping their shoulders and pulling them up simultaneously – complete with the machine SFX.

MAN ON SMARTPHONE LEAVES DEPARTMENT STORE

- Man on Smartphone walks away from the Department store, bouncy castle behind him, still texting on his phone. He approaches an open manhole and drops down it.

HEARING-IMPAIRED COUPLE 3

- The couple head to the counter, where the red-haired male assistant, with a tartan tie and hearing aid, who spoke with them earlier, is serving. The husband looks resigned. The wife looks at the assistant and signs 'We've decided to take the washing machine'. The assistant signs back – 'Certainly, madam. How would you like to pay?'. The wife smiles politely at the assistant and turns surreptitiously to her husband. She signs to him - 'What did he just say?'. The husband signs back – 'Don't ask me. I can never understand the Scottish accent.'

POMPIDOU TASERED

- The silver statue has finished and checks his meagre takings. He glances enviously at the other silver statue on the other side of the Department store. Then a man comes up, easily lifts the other statue – which we now realise is made of polystyrene - places it under one arm, picks up his huge takings and walks off. Pompidou dashes out of the

front door of the department store, where a bank of police officers await him.

- One of the officers pulls out a taser gun and tases Pompidou. Sparks fly off him as he wriggles from the current. His face is blackened, his trousers fall down and his wig stands on end. Both he and Marion are handcuffed and led towards a police van. We see the reactions from various shoppers, outside the Department store. Amongst them are Emo Girl, grinning whilst filming the drama on her phone. Also present is the previously-very-large woman, her baggy clothes hanging off her. She holds her alive-but-completely-deflated husband in her hands. He is compressed like a squeezed, airless lilo at the end of the holidays.

POMPIDOU GOES HOME

- Dusk. A long-shot of Pompidou and Marion being discharged from a police station. We see them only in silhouette as they stumble out onto the pavement. There is a brief tug-of-war as a Policeman takes all Marion's purloined shopping off her.

CUT TO:

- Pompidou and Marion on the bus. The Conductor approaches and gestures for Marion's bus pass. She passes it in her mouth to Pompidou who passes it to the Conductor. The Conductor looks at it, then at Marion, who we now see has a blonde bob, lipstick and designer glasses from her time in the store. He shakes his head and signals to the door.
- On the street, we see Pompidou and Marion ejected from the stationary bus. As the bus moves off Marion flicks a 'V' sign at the Conductor.

- Pompidou and the Dog walk down the pavement homewards. We can see Pompidou's home up ahead. They pass the Very Old Women Builders from the opening sequence. The women are still carrying the same brick. Pompidou and Marion pass the OCD Man's house, where he is in the garden sponging down the trunk of an apple tree. He and Pompidou exchange nods. Pompidou and Marion then pass the Emo Girl's house, where we glimpse the Emo Girl sleeping happily in a bed shaped like a vampire's coffin.
- They arrive at Marion's kennel. Pompidou crouches down and gives her a peck on the cheek. She gives him one back and heads into her house. The door closes behind her. As Pompidou heads towards his caravan, we see in the background the light go on inside Marion's kennel. She appears to sit in an armchair, recline and light a pipe.
- Pompidou snakes round the absurd route of his garden path and then enters his home. Now inside his caravan, he turns the light on and heads straight to his budgie's cage to examine the chess game: he opens the cage and reaches in to make a move, pauses, frowns, and sees that the Budgie has got him in checkmate. He groans. We hear the budgie chuckle. Pompidou yawns. He heads over to his 'To Do' list. He picks up a pen and ticks a box. Next to it we see that it says: 'Get Chased, Tasered, & Arrested'. Pompidou nods happily to himself – job done.
- He sits at a small, naff Casio electronic keyboard. He taps a few keys desultorily. Through his window he spots his neighbour hanging out black socks on a rotary washing line. As they're hung on the different levels of washing-line they begin to resemble notes on a stave of music. Pompidou starts playing the notes. The neighbour is advertently composing a wonderful tune with his socks. The music Pompidou plays becomes the closing signature tune.

- Outside, we rise up in the dusk to take in Pompidou's caravan, the street, and then the whole twinkling town.

CREDITS

POST-CREDIT – MAN ON SMARTPHONE

- The Man on Smartphone emerges from a big drainpipe on the coast. Still with had bowed to his 'phone, he walks straight aead into the sea.

ABDUL THE SIKH

- Night. Abdul the Sikh emerges from the main entrance. The door is immediately locked behind him and the store lights begin to turn off. Abdul walks away from the store, carrying an enormous pile of cloth and still following his trail – until finally it leads to... a neatly-wound turban on the head of another Sikh gentleman. Abdul and the other gentleman both look confused.