

Pericles
Prince of Tires

by
Joe Popp - Lyrics
Neil Gobioff & Shawn Paonessa - Book
Joe Popp, Tylor Durand and Brian McCabe - Composers

Based on the play by William Shakespeare
Adaptation Concept by Joe Popp

Current Revisions by
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WGA East Registered - I210545

Scene Excerpt: Act I, Scenes 2-3

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SCENE 2 - RED HOOK, BROOKLYN - "PRINCE OF TIRES" AUTO SHOP

VIDEO TITLE: "PRINCE OF TIRES,
RED HOOK, BROOKLYN." AN IMAGE OF
AN AUTO GARAGE/CHOP SHOP.

Prince of Tires back office. Perry
enters the back office. Henry is
reading a magazine.

HENRY

Hey Perry, how was Jersey City? I got good news about that
labor job in Bushwick.

Perry heads straight for the filing
cabinet and pulls out a bottle of
scotch.

HENRY (cont'd)

Little early for lunch isn't it?

Perry barely acknowledges Henry. He
paces, pours a shot, pounds it. Paces,
pours another and pounds it.

HENRY (cont'd)

Jesus, you okay?

Perry paces, another shot down.

HENRY (cont'd)

Perry?

SONG: HANGING OVER MY HEAD

PERRY

Trouble brewing
Something is stewing
Weight looms heavy
There's no undoing
Try to succeed - an impossible role
Shoveling dirt in a bottomless hole

One step from the gallows, so close to death
Life is constantly dangling by a thread
Never answers just things hanging over my head

HENRY

Listen dear friend
This is not the end
You've got problems
I can mend
We've all been hurt, we've all bled
Gotta fight to try and stay ahead

(CONTINUED)

PERRY, HENRY

One step from the gallows, so close to death
Life is constantly dangling by a thread
Never answers just things hanging over my head

Vicious and cruel
That's the run of the mill
People try to destroy you
And break your will

The farther the fall
The more people watch
It just confirms
We're equal after all

One step from the gallows, so close to death
Life is constantly dangling by a thread
Never answers just things hanging over my head

END SONG

HENRY

So what's going on?

PERRY

Fat Tony's gonna whack me.

HENRY

C'mon. Tony's not gonna whack you. You're like a son-

Perry grabs him by the collar.

PERRY

I'm not fucking around.

HENRY

Jesus, Perry, what'd you do?

PERRY

I took that lunatic daughter of his out last night is what I did. Gino Vino, Louie Three Hands, Paulie Weed Whacker? All those guys, fucking Tony. Tony clipped 'em. And I'm next, because I'm banging his whore daughter!

HENRY

Perry, slow down.

PERRY

Slow down? That psycho fuck Nicko is probably coming over here right now. God, I wonder if I have some kind of fat mob boss herpes or something.

(CONTINUED)

HENRY

Herpes, Nicko, Paulie Weed Whacker? What the fuck are you talking about?

PERRY

Alright. Remember when Vito Finger Trap went missing, and Tony said if anyone brought it up, he'd personally stab them in the nuts with an olive fork?

HENRY

Yeah.

PERRY

And then he said if anyone talked about the cops finding Joey Pink Shoes under the pier, he'd remove the guy's eyes with an olive fork and wear them as earrings?

HENRY

Yeah. And no one even knew he was under the pier.

PERRY

Right, and you said, maybe Tony's losing it. And I said, but Tony's always been a little crazy.

HENRY

Yeah, I remember.

PERRY

Well, he's lost his fucking mind. I saw their heads in crushed car cubes. Tony whacked them all.

HENRY

Why would he do that?

PERRY

Where were you? He's fucking crazy.

HENRY

Yeah, but you even said, he's always been crazy.

PERRY

He's banging his own daughter.

HENRY

What?!

PERRY

And she fucking likes it.

HENRY

Perry, I think you might be reading into things—

(CONTINUED)

PERRY

(Suddenly very focused)

Henry, I swear on my mother. A week ago, Tony's telling me I should find a nice girl like his daughter, right?

HENRY

Right.

PERRY

So I figure, he's telling me maybe I should hook up with his daughter. Make tight with him, right?

HENRY

Sure.

PERRY

I show up today, drop off that gomatta. Tony knows I took her out last night. We go to Umberto's, drop a few bills on dinner. The whole nine yards. Back to her place, I bend her over the kitchen counter—

HENRY

Perry, you're getting a little off topic.

PERRY

Sorry. So I drop her off at her old man's. I need to talk to him anyway. He comes up to me, and says,
(imitating Fat Tony's nipple
rub, and possibly something
gross with his tongue)

I got a riddle for you—

HENRY

A riddle?

PERRY

Yeah, a riddle. If I don't answer it right, he's gonna kill me.

HENRY

What's the riddle?

PERRY

He's fucking his daughter is what the riddle is.

HENRY

That's the riddle?

PERRY

In so many words, yeah. It's the dumbest riddle in the world. A moron could figure it out. Problem is, I figure it out, I know he's banging his daughter.

(CONTINUED)

HENRY

You know this for sure?

PERRY

On my mother.

HENRY

This don't make sense.

PERRY

It does if you've lost your fucking mind. Think about it, Henry. All those guys that went missing, all about my age, right?

HENRY

Right.

PERRY

So, they're all dating his daughter. If he's banging his daughter, Tony might get a little possessive, right?

HENRY

Well, either way...

PERRY

Right either way. So the nutjob, he comes up with this riddle. You don't figure it out, in his head, gives him cause to whack the guy. If you do figure it out—

HENRY

Then you know he's banging his daughter, and he has to whack you.

PERRY

Right.

HENRY

And he'd never hesitate to whack a guy.

PERRY

What am I gonna do?

HENRY

You can't stick around here. Hell, even if he sends some ape-dick retard over here with a baseball bat, what are you gonna do when the ape-dick don't go home with your head?

PERRY

Yeah, but the tire store, the labor job—

HENRY

I'll take care of it. It won't mean shit if your head's in a car cube.

(CONTINUED)

PERRY

But where? He knows all the places to lay low.

They think a minute.

HENRY

Coney Island.

PERRY

Coney Island? Why the fuck would I go to Coney Island? What and shack up with a bunch of carnies? And do what, count their teeth?

HENRY

Look, no one's crazy enough to think you're in Coney Island. I know a guy out there, runs things, name's Cleo.

PERRY

He owe you a favor?

HENRY

No, but he knows me.

Perry reaches into the filing cabinet and takes a wad of money from a box.

HENRY (cont'd)

That's the emergency fund.

PERRY

I think this qualifies. And Coney Island's strapped these days. Maybe a little donation will do them good. I ain't working no hot dog stand. What's the guy's name?

HENRY

Cleo. He's like the king of Coney Island, I'm telling ya. Tell him I said hi.

PERRY

Coney Island?

HENRY

Yeah. You'll be alright.

PERRY

What about you?

HENRY

I got things covered here. What matters is you're safe. You gotta get out of here until this settles down.

PERRY

Thanks Henry.

(CONTINUED)

Perry hands him his keys.

HENRY

What's this?

PERRY

I'm taking the train. I don't want my car spotted out of this neighborhood.

HENRY

Good thinking. Take care Perry.

They hug.

PERRY

You too. I'll give you a call when I'm set up.

PERRY AND HENRY

From a pay phone.

PERRY

Right.

Perry exits. Lights out.

SCENE 3 - CONEY ISLAND

VIDEO TITLE: "CONEY ISLAND" - AN
IMAGE OF CONEY ISLAND (A CARNIE,
LOCATION SHOT, ETC.)

Perry is onstage as lights come up.
Cleo enters.

CLEO

Someone looking for me?

PERRY

You Cleo?

CLEO

Yeah.

PERRY

I'm Perry. You know Henry the Fixer?

CLEO

Sure, I know Henry.

PERRY

Yeah, he's my right hand. He sends his best.

CLEO

He's a good guy. Helped me with some things awhile back.

(CONTINUED)

PERRY

Yeah, I grew up with him. We're like brothers. So how's business?

CLEO

Eh, not so fucking good. Things are tight. Half my crew can't pay the rent. I'm running around like crazy.

PERRY

I hear ya. Look, I'll cut to the chase. Henry said you might need some help.

CLEO

Well, no disrespect, but my problems aren't the kind that can be managed by your services. My problem is the rubes aren't showing up like they used to.

PERRY

Well, perhaps I can make a donation.

CLEO

Again, no disrespect, Perry, but I can't afford a loan right now.

PERRY

It's not a loan. Think of it as rent.

CLEO

Rent? What do you want to rent?

PERRY

You got a back office? Y'know, a desk, a broom closet no one goes into?

CLEO

How big a broom closet?

Perry pulls out a roll of bills. Gower sings The King of Coney Island, while the ensemble folds in. The ensemble comprises of Dion and miscellaneous Coney Island carnies, vagabonds, etc. Through the song, cash bills are distributed, and kitschy carnival accessories are adorned upon Perry, making him the King of Coney Island.

SONG: KING OF CONEY ISLAND

GOWER, ENSEMBLE

What does it take to inherit a land
Lead the souls who are floating lost
Build new homes and facilities
Money cures the cost

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GOWER, ENSEMBLE (cont'd)

It's not hard
It's not hard
It's not hard
To be the King of Coney Island

How do you vote when you're pulled from the flames
Savior is the one who's crowned
Regardless of your jaded past
All you know is you're not down

Money's what it takes
Money's what it takes
Money's what it takes
To be the King of Coney Island

He's the King, he's the King
He's the King of Coney Island
He's the King, he's the King
He's the King of Coney Island
It's not hard
Money's what it takes
It's not hard
Money's what it takes

King of Coney (repeat 7 Times)
King

It's not hard
Money's what it takes
It's not hard
To be the King
To be the King
To be the...
King

GOWER

To be the King

END SONG

THE ENSEMBLE FADES OUT. LIGHT
SHIFT. VIDEO TITLE: "A WEEK
LATER."

PERRY

I tell you what Cleo, you guys know how to fucking party. I'm
just now recovering from that hang over.

CLEO

Well, you've been a great help to us all Perry. It was the
least we could do.

(CONTINUED)

PERRY

I never knew a broad could do that thing. Y'know with the cotton candy machine.

CLEO

So, how's your office?

PERRY

Oh, fine. Just fine. You sure it's okay with everyone?

CLEO

Are you kidding me, Perry? You're the king of Coney Island now, not me. If anyone comes around, no one's gonna bother wondering what the assistant supervisor of stuffed pandas does back in this room. Here's to you Perry.

Cleo pulls a flask out, and they share a shot. Dion enters.

DION

Hey Cleo, there's some guy snooping around the boardwalk.

CLEO

Who is he?

DION

Well, his pants are on, and he's not trying to violate any children, so he ain't related to you.

CLEO

You're a fucking riot. One cousin of mine dates a 12-year-old.

(To Perry)

You hear this? Some marriage, huh?

DION

(Over Cleo's last line)

Oh, please!

PERRY

(Interrupting)

Who the hell is the guy?

DION

I don't know. He's too creepy, even for a cop. I think he's looking for you.

PERRY

What's he look like?

DION

About six-eight. Ponytail. Wrap around sunglasses. The guess-your-weight guy figures about 350.

(CONTINUED)

PERRY

Fuck me. That's Nicko. They know I'm here.

CLEO

We can take care of this guy.

PERRY

You can't afford to lose the number of guys he'll take out. Don't matter anyway. If he knows I'm here, they all do. I need to discreetly get the fuck out of this borough all together.

DION

Okay, great, so you're on it.
(Starts to exit.)

CLEO

Dion, tell Lorenzo he saw someone like Perry on the other end of the island, hanging around some hoods in leather jackets. Get the word around.

DION

What am I, your secretary?

CLEO

Dion—

DION

You ain't the king of Coney Island no more, so what? I'm still the queen. Deal with it.

CLEO

Dion, please. For Perry?

Dion chews her gum for a second,
looking at Perry. She exits.

CLEO (cont'd)

There's a bunch of thugs over there — maybe thirty of them. They're always snapping their fingers and playing with their switchblades. Irritating as fuck, but always looking to "rumble" whatever that means. That'll keep this Nicko asshole busy for a while.

PERRY

Thanks, but I gotta get out of here.

CLEO

We got an old skiff we use to run stuffed animals full of crank up the coast. Get out to the Gulfstream, that'll take you north. Hell, you could be eating Maine lobster by the end of the day if you get a good wind.

(CONTINUED)

PERRY

Thanks Cleo. I owe you one.

CLEO

Bullshit. I owe you. You saved Coney Island, Perry. You come back any time. This one's on me. And don't worry about that rube on the Boardwalk. We'll keep him busy.

END SCENE