

GRAVEYARD SHIFT

Written by

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1

FADE IN:

1

Cue "Welcome to the Machine" by Pink Floyd.

TITLES

Graveyard Shift

a Todd L. Ouzts film

starring Matt Mead

Justin Finestone

Paul Elkort

Joel Adler

Steve Krenik

music by Pink Floyd

2

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

2

A gold 1971 Maverick pulls into the McDonald's parking lot, with one working headlight. It backs into a spot, hits an unseen post and busts a tail light. MATT sets the parking brake and exits the car swigging a beer. While he walks to the back door, a globulous ghost materializes screen left.

FUTURE MATT

(Ominously)

You don't want to go in there. Not tonight, buddy.

The wobbly ghost follows MATT for a few steps but fades out when MATT drops his bottle on the pavement. MATT rounds the corner to the back door.

3

INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

3

MATT enters through the metal door, opens the circuit panel, flips a few circuits on and closes the panel. He then turns to the walk-in refrigerator.

MATT

(Muttering)

Beer me!

He enters the fridge, retrieves a Budweiser stashed inside a box of eggs and exits the fridge, closing the door behind him.

He walks around the grill, checks the clock, then heads to register #1. He punches in his employee number to clock in. He rounds the corner toward the desk, struggling to open his beer. Finally the cap twists off with the help of his polyester crew shirt. At the desk he takes a swig of beer, pulls a notebook off the top shelf and skims it. Finding nothing of interest, he sets the notebook down and checks the old pay phone for unclaimed change. Then he picks up the latest employment application from the middle shelf and starts to read.

MATT (CONT'D)  
 (Disgusted)  
 Night Maintenance? That's my job!

He tears up the application and throws it in the waste bin.

MATT (CONT'D)  
 (Muttering)  
 Try Taco Bell!

He takes another drink, pulls a heavy binder from the top shelf and plops it onto the counter. He opens the manual and starts reviewing some maintenance procedures.

MATT (CONT'D)  
 Okay, let's see what toxic waste I get to clean up tonight. Oh goody, it's the grease traps.

4 INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT 4

The clock shows 12:15.

5 INT. DESK AREA - NIGHT 5

Still standing at the desk, MATT takes another swig, then notices a cardboard box on top of the safe.

MATT  
 (Excited)  
 Oh ho ho, new game pieces!

He moves the open box to the desk, drags the waste bin over, pulls the chair in and takes a seat. He's going to be here a while.

MATT (CONT'D)  
 (Confidently)  
 Bonus.

He picks up a bottle cap and starts scratching off tickets.

6 INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT 6

The clock rolls from 1:13 to 1:14.

7 INT. DESK AREA - NIGHT 7

MATT takes a swig from beer #3 and reaches into the box for another ticket. He scratches it off and...

MATT  
(Cynically)  
Winner, winner, same ol' dinner.

He adds the torn-off ticket to his little pile of winners and throws the rest of it in the waste bin, which we see is now half full of stubs.

8 INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT 8

The clock rolls from 1:59 to 2:00.

9 INT. BACK AREA - NIGHT 9

MATT finally gets to work and walks to the back, where a full trash can awaits.

MATT  
They don't empty themselves,  
people.

He gathers up a large trash bag, pulls it out of the can and exits the back door, into the dark of night.

10 EXT. THE CORRAL - NIGHT 10

MATT carries the trash bag from the back door to the garbage "corral." As we watch him from BIG MAC's voyeuristic perch above the trash compactor, we see FUTURE MATT take a ghastly form over MATT's bust as he approaches -- as if to protect him. MATT opens the corral gate and as he flings the trash bag into the compactor, FUTURE MATT is hurled off into the night. MATT hits the compactor's power button but suddenly we hear an unearthly sound and the dumpster begins to lurch.

MATT  
What the--?

The dumpster begins to shake, rattle and roll towards MATT, pinning him in the corner of the cinder block walls.

MATT (CONT'D)

AARGH!

MATT manages to climb atop the dumpster, jumps to the ground and runs back to the building. We linger in the corral to follow a trail of overturned crates leading up to the compactor's gaping mouth. We hear an tortured alien voice and see a goop-covered arm flexing from inside the dumpster, trying to free itself.

11 INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

11

MATT flies through the back door in a panic and dives for the phone. He punches in 9-1-1 but we hear a recording.

OPERATOR

(Recorded)

We're sorry, the number you have dialed is no longer in service at this time.

MATT pounds the keypad in vain and hangs up the phone. He moves to the desk, opens the drawer and pulls out a large knife. He gathers himself as he tests its sharpness with his thumb. He moves to the side door and lifts the metal view port. Through the small reinforced window we see BIG MAC's goop-covered hand slowly wind up and then splat the window with malice. Horrified, MATT drops the knife and runs toward the front counter. He vaults over the counter between registers #1 and #2 and lunges for the glass doors on the east side of the lobby. These doors have escape bars but somehow they won't open. MATT pounds the latches a few times, then runs and slides to the southeast door. Same result. He runs to the southwest door, followed by the west doors. They too won't open. MATT begins to doubt his sanity. He puts his back to the doors and begins to collapse.

MATT

(Desperately)

My gawwwd, what is happening?!

12 EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

12

We follow BIG MAC's approach to the building from its POV, hearing its humanoid feet dragging on the asphalt. It rounds the corner near the air conditioning unit, turns to look down the dark stairwell and pauses. When BIG MAC starts moving down the stairs, FUTURE MATT materializes down in the depths. The basement door next to him is slightly ajar.

FUTURE MATT  
(Protectively)  
Leave the kid alone. Leave him  
alone.

But BIG MAC walks past and through him, opening the basement door fully and entering the lighted basement.

13 EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT 13

After a moment of peace, we see the building's lights go dark.

14 INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT 14

MATT clicks a flashlight on. It briefly illuminates his face but is suddenly joined by FUTURE MATT's face as well. FUTURE MATT appears to make his way to the top of the stairs before disappearing back into the light beam from whence it came.

15 INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT 15

MATT continues down the basement stairs and we hear a cacophony of zombie noises growing louder and closer. Seemingly unfazed, MATT continues through the basement into the utility closet. He throws the main circuit breaker lever and the lights power back on.

Cue "Time" by Pink Floyd.

MATT rests briefly on the power panel but is startled by a sound from under the stairwell, behind him. He turns to scan the pile of junk with the flashlight. Convinced nothing is there, he starts to relax when suddenly a bundle of fluorescent bulbs come crashing down at him, followed by the ghost of FUTURE MATT fleeing the scene again in a panic.

MATT  
(Panicking)  
ARRRRGGGGGHHHH!

MATT bolts out of the utility closet and turns to see the basement door still ajar. But by the time he reaches it, the door seals itself shut. MATT begins pounding it with his shoulders, but to no avail.

MATT (CONT'D)  
Let me outta here!

Exhausted, MATT falls to a seat and buries his head in his arms. He knows this is just a dream. Right?

Then he has a flashback. He remembers the knife he dropped on the floor upstairs. He gathers himself, to his feet and makes a mad dash through the basement and up the stairs.

16 INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT 16

MATT rounds the corner behind the refrigerator and skids to a stop. But the knife is not there. In its place is a hand-shaped smear of Big Mac sauce on the floor. Now emboldened and determined, MATT heads to the grill and finds a large spatula that is sufficiently sharp. He heads back to the top of the stairs, past the coat closet. As he pauses to muster his courage, we see BIG MAC's arm slowly emerge from the closet door behind MATT's back. MATT hears the creaking and turns just in time to see the knife in BIG MAC's goopy hand. MATT loses his balance and starts to fall.

17 INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT 17

From the landing below, we hear MATT bouncing down the stairs and see him come to an abrupt stop against a wooden platform used to catch stock. A trickle of blood flows from his mouth as we hear BIG MAC's footsteps coming down the stairs at him. It sounds like death.

MATT  
(Terrified)  
NOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

Still on his butt, MATT's legs flail into a defensive position but there's not enough traction or time. BIG MAC is right on top of him now. The knife raises high above him and comes slashing down at MATT's head.

CUT TO:

18 INT. BASEMENT BREAK ROOM - DAY 18

A sopping wet mop head fwaps MATT in the face, jolting him awake. The mop is wielded by PAUL, MATT's obnoxious crew mate.

PAUL  
(Dutifully)  
Wake up, Matt! Your shift's over, man. Joel wants to know why you never clocked out.

MATT  
(Groggy)  
Wha--? Hey, Paul. Okay, okay.

MATT heads out of the break room toward the stairs, still wiping the mop slop off his face.

19 BLACK 19

We hear only a cacophony of fast food lobby noise, reminiscent of the basement zombies.

20 INT. DESK AREA - DAY 20

While staring at the maintenance manual on the safe, MATT nearly jumps out of his skin when JOEL, an Assistant Manager, pats him on the shoulder from behind.

JOEL  
(Apologetically)  
Whoa, sorry Matt!

MATT  
(Anxiously)  
Oh, hey. Yeah. Long night.

JOEL  
Sure. Take it easy.

MATT  
See ya, Joel.

MATT lifts the metal view port on the door -- behind which there is no evidence of goop. He waves to JOEL and heads outside.

21 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY 21

Cue Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb."

From the back seat of MATT's car, we see MATT casually approach. Now sober, he seems to have weathered the storm unscathed. He opens the door, cranks down the window and takes the driver's seat. He closes his eyes and starts to nap, then decides to turn on his radio -- which produces only garbled static. We see his face in the rear view mirror as he tries to relax, drifting off.

Now from outside the car, we see BIG MAC's arm emerge in slow-motion from the back seat. And yes, there's a knife in its goop-covered hand. MATT's eyes open just as the knife slashes his throat wide open, splattering the windshield with blood.



MATT's eyes bug out of his head as he grasps his throat with both hands and slowly hunches over.

DISSOLVE TO:

22 MONTAGE - DAY 22

MATT's teenaged life flashes before his eyes. But it's all a mix of scenes from his life working and playing with friends at McDonald's. MATT is playing QB at a touch football game at the high school. He's stalking the Filet Lady across the McDonald's parking lot. He's goofing off behind the grill. And all the while, we see FUTURE MATT playing guitar, superimposed over the top of it all.

DISSOLVE TO:

23 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY 23

Meanwhile, back in MATT's car, there are unexpected signs of life. He gathers himself, still in slow-motion but in full reverse now. We see MATT being "unkilled." His throat is "unslashed," BIG MAC's arm retracts out of sight, and MATT exits the car. He returns to work, his world still rolling in reverse, to do it all over again for \$2.85 per hour.

24 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY 24

FUTURE MATT is still playing guitar on the side as we see the front of the McDonald's building, and the music ends on time.

FADE TO BLACK.

25 ROLL CREDITS 25

CREDITS

Graveyard Shift

a film by Todd L. Ouzts

starring

Matt Mead (1980)

Matt Mead (2018)

Big Mac

Justin Finestone

Steve Krenik

Paul Elkort

The Mop Boy

(MORE)

CREDITS (CONT'D)

Paul Elkort

Key Grip (1980)  
Steve Krenik

Green Screen Grips (2018)  
Olivia Derridinger  
Steven Ouzts

Music

"Welcome to the Machine" written by  
Roger Waters and performed by Pink  
Floyd

"Time" written by Roger Waters and  
performed by Pink Floyd

"Comfortably Numb" written by David  
Gilmour and performed by Pink Floyd

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