

Aftermath

By

Zachary Bucholtz

Based on:

"Casting Call"

By Zachary Bucholtz

SERIES OF SHOTS: CHARACTERS INTRO COMMENTS

The characters all address the camera. Christian Bale is in a chair in a room. Penelope Cruz is standing in a similar room. Katie Holmes is standing in a hallway. John Belushi is crying, seated in a chair.

CHRISTIAN BALE

1.4 billion dollars with a sequel
on the way.

PENELOPE CRUZ

(in Spanish)

That Judd Apatow has no
manners. None!

KATIE HOLMES

I don't even know how to feel right
now.

JOHN BELUSHI

Speechless.

CHRISTIAN BALE

1.4 billion dollars that voice has
made me.

MOLLY RINGWALD

Every single audition. Every
Goddamn one of them.

PENELOPE CRUZ

(in Spanish)

Unbelievable.

JOHN BELUSHI

Why? Why?

KATIE HOLMES

You just don't think that things
like this will ever happen to you.

JOHN BELUSHI

It's one of those times where I sit
and wonder if my life is turning
out as I'd hoped.

MOLLY RINGWALD

So much promise, and
then...poof! I'm stuck playing the
mom on an after school special.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTIAN BALE
I think we can all agree that one
thing is clear after all of this.

MOLLY RINGWALD
Judd

KATIE HOLMES
Apatow

JOHN BELUSHI
Is

CHRISTIAN BALE
An

PENELOPE CRUZ
Asshole.

TITLE CARD: "AFTERMATH"

JUDD APATOW - 1

For all further scenes, an INTERVIEWER is heard, but not
seen.

Judd Apatow is seated in a chair at a desk. It's dark,
apart from a desk lamp.

INTERVIEWER
A lot of people seem to be very
upset with you right now.

JUDD APATOW
(angrily)
People...upset with me? WITH
ME? Are you serious? Let me tell
you something. I'm supposed to be
this big shot director, yet I've
done a grand total of three fucking
films in my lifetime. I need
this. They don't need
nothing. You think Meryl Streep is
pissed off? She's sitting on
seventeen Oscar
nominations. C'mon, man. Give me
a break!

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Paul Rudd and Kristen Bell eat together.

PAUL RUDD

I don't know what Judd's deal was. I really didn't think it was as bad as he thought it was, now that I think about it.

INTERVIEWER

Did he offer any explanation as to why he wouldn't just cast you two?

KRISTEN BELL

No. I'm confused. He asks us to come in and read yet makes it clear that he wants nothing to do with us.

WILL FERRELL - 1

Will Ferrell sits in a chair, his legs spread. His private region is blurred out.

WILL FERRELL

Judd needs to stick with what he knows. He writes sex comedies. Jonah Hill and Seth Rogen should star in all of his movies.

(beat)

Or me, for that matter.

MOLLY RINGWALD - 1

Molly Ringwald stands against a wall in a hallway.

INTERVIEWER

How did you find out about the audition?

MOLLY RINGWALD

My agent. My agent told me I should give it a try.

INTERVIEWER

Did you have any expectations going in?

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY RINGWALD

I knew that Judd was known for a certain type of movie, but was trying to break from that mold a little bit. I thought I had a chance.

INTERVIEWER

And how did it go?

Juxtapose shots of her audition.

MOLLY RINGWALD

I thought I read really well. I was excited because he seemed to really like me.

CUT TO:

PENELOPE CRUZ

Penelope Cruz standing against a wall in a hallway.

PENELOPE CRUZ

(in Spanish)

And then he kicks me out!

CUT TO:

MOLLY RINGWALD

Molly Ringwald, still standing as before.

MOLLY RINGWALD

And then he kicked me out.

CUT TO:

PENELOPE CRUZ

Penelope Cruz, as before.

INTERVIEWER

How would you describe Judd Apatow's behavior today?

SERIES OF SHOTS: CHARACTERS ANSWER

WILL FERRELL
Irrational.

CHRISTIAN BALE
Irrational.

JOHN BELUSHI
Irrational.

LINDSAY LOHAN
Totally irrational.

MOLLY RINGWALD
Completely...

PAUL RUDD
...utterly...

KRISTEN BELL
...inexplicably...

PENELOPE CRUZ
(in Spanish)
Irrational.

SUBTITLE: "SPEAKING OF IRRATIONAL..."

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Katie Holmes stands in the cold, giving her interview.

Shots of the incident from the audition are intercut.

INTERVIEWER
What happened in there?

KATIE HOLMES
I couldn't find Tom. He likes to play these games of hide and seek. I was here auditioning for another movie, and he disappeared when I went to the bathroom.

INTERVIEWER
Did you find him?

KATIE HOLMES
Yes, although he was being held hostage by Al Pacino.

(CONTINUED)

INTERVIEWER

Excuse me?

INTERVIEWER

Yes. And he held that poor Kristen
Bell at gunpoint. And

(beat)

What the hell?

The camera pans to show ROBERT DE NIRO walking towards Katie Holmes, looking pissed off as he does. He approaches Katie.

ROBERT DE NIRO

You seen a guy?

KATIE HOLMES

What guy?

ROBERT DE NIRO

Any guy look suspicious?

KATIE HOLMES

I'm sorry, I...

She's interrupted by De Niro, who turns to the Interviewer.

ROBERT DE NIRO

You, Mr. Big Shot camera man. You
seen any crazy guy around
here? Some fuck rear-ended my
Mercedes!

INTERVIEWER

No, I'm sorry, I haven't. I'll keep
my eyes open, though.

De Niro storms off.

JUDD APATOW - 2

Judd Apatow, as before.

JUDD APATOW

De Niro? I don't know what his
fucking deal was. I don't know if
it was some kind of method actor
thing, but whatever it was, I had
no idea what the fuck he was doing.

INTERVIEWER

Would you work with him?

(CONTINUED)

JUDD APATOW

I'm not going to say that I'm too good to work with Robert De Niro...but yeah, I think I'm too good to work with him.

INT. HALLWAY

MERYL STREEP walks down the hallway, away from the camera.

INTERVIEWER

Excuse me, Ms. Streep!

She turns around.

MERYL STREEP

I'm sorry, I'm in quite a hurry.

INTERVIEWER

Can I have just a minute of your time? I'm doing a story about the casting of the new Apatow movie and heard you were spotted leaving the auditions today.

MERYL STREEP

Okay, you can walk with me.

The camera follows Meryl Streep as she walks through the building.

MERYL STREEP

What would you like to know?

INTERVIEWER

What is Meryl Streep doing auditioning for a Judd Apatow comedy?

MERYL STREEP

Well, to be honest with you, it was all a big misunderstanding. I had no intention of going to the audition.

INTERVIEWER

What do you mean?

MERYL STREEP

My agent and I had a slight miscommunication. I had the wrong room number. I was here to read

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MERYL STREEP (cont'd)
for the lead role in a new Barbara
Walters biopic. But you didn't
hear that from me.

INTERVIEWER
Why not?

MERYL STREEP
It's very hush-hush right
now. That's all.

INTERVIEWER
So how'd the audition go?

They reach an elevator, and get in and go up.

MERYL STREEP
Which one? The Apatow or the
Scorcese one? Not that it
matters. I fucking killed them
both.

INTERVIEWER
Did you say Scorcese is doing the
Barbara Walters biopic?

She gets off the elevator.

MERYL STREEP
I don't remember talking to you.

The door closes in front of the camera.

INT. ROOM

Paul Rudd, Kristen Bell, Molly Ringwald, Christian Bale,
John Belushi, and Penelope Cruz sit in a room together. All
are out of their previous costumes, except Belushi, who is
still in a toga.

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)
Trying to interview all these
celebrities one-on-one was much
more difficult than I had
anticipated, and the documentary
was not going as well as I'd
hoped. So I decided I'd get as
many of them in the same room as I
could.

(CONTINUED)

INTERVIEWER

Thank you all for coming. I really appreciate it. I'm trying to understand what happened inside the auditions. Judd has been very angry the last few hours.

PAUL RUDD

Yeah, I don't know what his deal was today. I've never seen him this angry.

KRISTEN BELL

Well, I mean, he does get angry.

PAUL RUDD

True, but not like this.

JUDD APATOW - 3

Judd Apatow, as before.

JUDD APATOW

Paul and Kristen? I love them. Two of my closest friends in the business. But they need to realize, I'm trying to do bigger and better things here. I can't tell penis jokes my whole career! Sure, I'd love to make another movie with those guys. But I'm not getting any younger.

INTERVIEWER

Why were they there, then?

JUDD APATOW

Excuse me, I need to take a leak.

Apatow gets up and walks out of the room.

EXT. BATHROOM

Apatow approaches a bathroom. He goes up to the door.

REVERSE: INT. BATHROOM

From the inside of the bathroom, we see AL PACINO, snorting cocaine in front of a mirror.

Judd Apatow enters. Pacino takes a snort and looks up at Apatow.

Apatow gets a disgusted look on his face and walks away.

INT. ROOM

The five actors are still seated.

JOHN BELUSHI

My guess, and I'm no expert, is that the guy was just having a bad day. It happens, you know!

PENELOPE CRUZ

That's brilliant, Sherlock Holmes. Did you come up with that yourself?

JOHN BELUSHI

Hey!

PENELOPE CRUZ

He was having a bad day? I'm sure Bin Laden was having a bad day on September 11th, too.

KRISTEN BELL

Whoa, too soon. Too soon.

PENELOPE CRUZ

Go fuck a sloth!

KRISTEN BELL

Is he coming to the interview?

Enter Lindsay Lohan.

LINDSAY LOHAN

Sorry I'm late.

MOLLY RINGWALD

Again...

LINDSAY LOHAN

(with middle finger)

Fuck you. What are you supposed to be anyway, Molly Ringwald?

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY RINGWALD

Yes, as a matter of fact, I am.

PAUL RUDD

Okay, am I the only one who doesn't
know who you are?

KRISTEN BELL

Yes, Paul. Stop talking.

INTERVIEWER

Lindsay, thank you for
coming. We're trying to figure out
what happened in the audition room
that has put Judd Apatow in such a
bad mood.

LINDSAY LOHAN

I'll tell you what happened. This
Spanish slut comes in thinking like
she owns the Goddamn place!

PENELOPE CRUZ

Bitch, you wanna go?

LINDSAY LOHAN

Bring it, hombre!

PENELOPE CRUZ

That doesn't even make sense.

They stand up, and get face to face.

John Belushi rises to settle them down.

JOHN BELUSHI

Ladies, ladies, let's relax.

He put his hands on their faces, then slowly moves his hand
down towards their breasts, but they sit back down before he
reaches second base.

LINDSAY LOHAN

Sorry. It's that director I should
be mad at. Although, I think he
liked me.

Lindsay Lohan looks off toward to door of the room.

CUT TO:

DOORWAY

Al Pacino walks by.

BACK TO SCENE

Lindsay Lohan's eyes widen.

LINDSAY LOHAN
There he is!

KRISTEN BELL
Judd?

LINDSAY LOHAN
No, Pacino!

She gets up and runs toward the door.

EXT. ROOM

Al Pacino realizes he's being chased by Lindsay Lohan and takes off running. She chases him.

JUDD APATOW - 4

JUDD APATOW
Al Pacino came, too. I thought I'd hit the jackpot.

EXT. ROOM

The chase continues...

INT. ROOM

The five remaining actors, as before.

Molly Ringwald is talking, as if continuing on an earlier conversation.

MOLLY RINGWALD
Pretty in Pink, The Breakfast Club,
Sixteen Candles? Seriously?

PAUL RUDD
Nope.

(CONTINUED)

INTERVIEWER

Kristen, what was like being a woman next to Paul Rudd and Judd Apatow, known for their brand of dirty, inappropriate humor?

KRISTEN BELL

It's a challenge. But I think it's a welcome challenge. Humor is humor, and if people laugh and the movie sells, that's all that matters.

PENELOPE CRUZ

I disagree. I think they're perverts.

KRISTEN BELL

No, they're really nice.

The camera pulls out to reveal Paul Rudd staring at Kristen's breasts.

KRISTEN BELL

Well, maybe a little perverted.

Paul realizes he's been caught and looks up.

PAUL RUDD

Okay, can we talk about the real issue here?

MOLLY RINGWALD

What might that be, Paul?

PAUL RUDD

The fact that we've all changed and John is still in a toga.

JOHN BELUSHI

Okay, have you ever worn one of these? It's so comfortable! I like a healthy breeze in the basement, you know what I'm sayin? It just feels more natural. Plus this material is so soft!

JUDD APATOW - 5

He is seated as before.

JUDD APATOW

I feel I'm on the verge of greatness. Like Washington at Valley Forge. Like Marty before the Enchantment Under The Sea dance. Like John Cusack when he decided to hold up the boombox in Say Anything.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Robert De Niro is checking license plates, writing down their numbers.

EXT. BUILDING

Al Pacino exits the building, followed closely by Lindsay Lohan. They're both running. Pacino turns a corner, then quickly hides behind a bush.

Lindsay turns the same corner. Pacino grabs her from behind, tackles her to the ground, puts her to sleep, and hides her in the bushes. He brushed off his pants, shirt, and his hands, then walks back in the direction he came.

Pacino unlocks a car.

ROBERT DE NIRO (O.S.)

That's it! That's the car!

The camera pulls out to show De Niro staring at Pacino. Pacino looks up and realizes that he's being watched. De Niro recognizes him.

ROBERT DE NIRO

Al? My buddy? My friend? You betrayed me! I can't believe this. My own friend, bumping into my precious Mercedes.

Al Pacino looks guilty for a second, then jumps into his car and drives away quickly.

De Niro stops a man getting out of his car, holds a gun to his face, then steals his car and takes off after Pacino.

JUDD APATOW - 6

Judd as before.

INTERVIEWER

So, what are you going to do?

JUDD APATOW

I've been thinking. And I need to think outside the box. I need to try something crazy and new. I've got all these famous actors and actresses. But, Molly Ringwald isn't famous enough to be a lead. Penelope Cruz is too damn confusing. John Belushi and Lindsay Lohan have their problems. Individually, they all suck. But together, they make something. What if I rewrote the script? What if I made it an ensemble romantic comedy? Like Love Actually? With these people, with my writing? It'd be huge!

A POLICE OFFICER walks by with a handcuffed Al Pacino.

THE END