

TEASER

EXT. PUBLIC SQUARE - DAY

A statue of a MAN sits in the middle of a fountain, the words 'BARR VON GRUSS, FOUNDER OF ORHILL' etched on the side.

Suddenly, INNOCENT CITIZENS run across the square. One of them (30s, perfect teeth) stops right in front of the camera.

INNOCENT CITIZEN
Watch out! It's Electro Mace!

We PAN up as a figure soars over the sky, landing in the middle of the crowd. They all stop and stare.

In a triumphant move, the figure reveals itself to be a man wearing a crimson red suit, mask and cape: the GRIFFIN (30s).

THE GRIFFIN
Don't worry, the Griffin is here!

The ground shakes. The citizens gasp. Another fearsome figure approaches the statue. It ROARS menacingly.

REVEAL that Electro Mace is actually a MAN (20s) in a grey mo-cap suit, holding up two large sticks with eyeballs on top.

MO-CAP MAN
Raaaaaaaaawwwrrrrr!

The Griffin looks at the camera.

THE GRIFFIN
CUT! What the hell is this?

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

We see the public square is inside a soundstage, surrounded by green screens. A film crew steps into view.

CARLSON (40s, 'MR. DIRECTOR' beret) runs at the Griffin.

CARLSON
Jason, you can't just call cut!
You're not the director!

The Griffin takes off his mask: this is JASON CALDWELL (30s, handsome, perfect curly hair). He holds Carlson back.

JASON

I thought we agreed that Electro Mace would be a practical effect?

CARLSON

And I thought we agreed that such a thing would be a waste of money.

JASON

This is the most important scene in our movie, Carlson! This is the moment Simon Shaw becomes a hero!

CARLSON

Honestly, Jason, who cares?

Jason stumbles back, as if the words have hit him physically.

JASON

Who cares? People who read *Griffin Comics #12*, one of the most iconic moments in comic book history, and who have been waiting their entire lives to see that moment done right in the silver screen!

CARLSON

And Jason, tell me: apart from you, who is in that group?

Jason throws down his mask and points at Carlson.

JASON

I'll be in my trailer.

He stomps away, and Carlson throws his hands up.

CARLSON

It's lunch everyone! Again! Even though it's eleven in the morning!

The mo-cap guy stumbles towards Carlson, still in the suit.

MO-CAP MAN

Was it my fault, Mr. Carlson?

CARLSON

No, Peter, you did great. But next time, give me more 'raaaaaaaawr'.

MO-CAP MAN

Got it, Mr. Carlson.

INT. JASON'S TRAILER - DAY

Jason slams the door in his trailer, which is covered tip to toe in framed Excellent Comics covers.

From the early 30s, to the dark and edgy 90s, every part of comic history is represented in these covers, all of them showing one character: "the Griffin AKA Simon Shaw".

Jason throws his gloves away and opens a mini-fridge filled to the brim with BOTTLES OF BEER. His hand starts shaking.

A voice echoes from the doorway-

MICHAELA (O.S.)

How about we avoid making mistakes?

-Jason turns and sees MICHAELA (46, business suit, bob cut).

JASON

I wasn't going to drink.

MICHAELA

You did yell at our director again.

JASON

We should have gone for Cameron.
He'd get what I was going for.

MICHAELA

Carlson is a great director.

JASON

He thinks we're just making low-grade Marvel copycat fare!

Beat. Michaela raises an eyebrow.

MICHAELA

We're not?

JASON

You're not giving me a lot of faith in the goddamn studio, Michaela.

MICHAELA

You don't need to have faith in us. You just need to do your part. And that involves going out there and acting against a 20-year old in a way too tight mo-cap suit.

Jason sits down and crosses his arms.

JASON
I'm not doing it.

Michaela throws her hands up and groans.

MICHAELA
Jason. We're adults. Please fight against the underpaid crew member and just take your forty million.

JASON
When I bought the rights for Griffin, I made a promise to myself, that I would respect those comics just like they respected me!

MICHAELA
Nobody cares!

Michaela jabs a finger at Jason's nose.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)
We did market research, Jason. No one knows Excellent Comics. It's not worth the headache! Either you start working with us, or there's not gonna be a Griffin movie at all. You got it?!

Jason looks down. His hand starts shaking again.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)
(sighs)
Okay, maybe I was too harsh. But it's better for you to have a job than for you to go back to how things were before. I made you a promise and I'm going to keep it. Take some time, relax, and then let me help you, Jason.

JASON
I'll think about it.

Michaela nods and walks towards the door, stopping to look at one of the many Griffin posters.

MICHAELA
Wish I knew why you love this guy.

Off Jason, looking at one of the posters, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JASON'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - NIGHT

A young Jason (8), sitting in bed with KATIE CALDWELL (38, greying hair). She's reading issue #12 of Griffin Comics.

KATIE

Simon Shaw knew that it was his turn to be the Griffin. Because if he couldn't stop the Electro Mace, then who could?

She puts down the comic.

YOUNG JASON

Mom? Do you think one day, maybe I could be the Griffin?

Katie smiles. FOOTSTEPS can be heard outside. She frowns.

A thunderous voice booms through the door.

FATHER (V.O.)

KATIE! WHERE ARE YOU?!

Katie looks down at Jason and hugs him.

KATIE

You have to, darling. You have to.

Jason eases into his mother's hold. He smiles.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. JASON'S TRAILER - NIGHT

Jason's defeated mug, staring at the mirror.

He's shirtless and wearing the lower half of his costume.

JASON

You can do this.

Jason looks down at script pages in his hand. Entire swaths of text are crossed out with red marker.

He glances at the mini-fridge. His hand starts shaking.

JASON (CONT'D)

(muttering)

Sorry, Michaela.

He opens the mini-fridge, grabs a BEER, and digs in.

TIMELAPSE

Of Jason's trailer, growing dirtier and dirtier as the night progresses. Bottles on the floor. Clothes on the ceiling.

Pizza gets delivered. Then booze. Then more pizza. Then scantily clad women accompanied by a man with a boombox.

A wilder and wilder time, until-

CUT TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

Jason's groans. A massive, splitting headache.

JASON (V.O.)
Ow. Ow. OWWWWWWW.

He slowly opens his eyes...

INT. PENTHOUSE - POV - DAY

We see a large, imposing penthouse, decorated with lavish tapestries, golden trophies and a giant window-wall.

Things look different: from now on, everything is **ANIMATED**.

JASON (V.O.)
My head. My heeeead.

Jason looks to the side, at a sleeping form near him.

He reaches over to poke her, but stops. Jason looks at his hand. Then his clothes. Then his bed. Then the penthouse.

JASON (V.O.)
What.

Jason hurries to the window, pressing his face against it.

We see an amazing retro-futuristic CITY out the window, with flying cars, silver towers and the occasional flying hero.

Jason backs up. Looks at his own reflection. Except Jason's not the one who looks back: it's SIMON SHAW.

JASON
Holy *shit*.

END OF TEASER