

The Plus One  
Written by Wendy Hopkins  
  
for CTV  
and Storypark Productions

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THE PLUS ONE

"PILOT"

TEASER

FADE IN:

ON VIDEOTAPED AUDITION:

POPPY SPENCER (24) pretty, charmingly awkward SMILES to camera then SLATES.

POPPY

My name is Poppy Spencer. I am 5'9",  
one-hundred and (playfully covers  
mouth with hand) ra-ra-ra pounds.

Poppy laughs -- no one else does.

POPPY

I do not have an agent, yet. But my  
cell phone is 416-972-0098 (on second  
thought) But, you know what, I'm also  
going to give you another number  
because my cell phone is sometimes  
sort of -- disconnected. You know,  
the phone company is always, "We want  
our money" and I'm like, "I'm sorry I  
had to eat. And buy a vintage canoe".  
So I'll put that number on my head-  
shot.

Poppy writes number on head-shot. Feels the nervous heat.

POPPY

It got hot in here fast, didn't it?  
So I am auditioning for the role of  
German Au Pair. And when I saw she was  
German, I was like WHAAAT?!! Because  
the role that made me want to be an  
actor was German.

A CASTING DIRECTOR off screen, tries to interject.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.C.)

Okay, let's --

POPPY

Anne Frank, that was the role. And I  
was 11 when I played her in a summer  
camp production of *The Anne Frank  
Story*. "Spellbound" was the word most  
used to describe audience response.

(MORE)

POPPY (cont'd)  
Some of the younger campers didn't  
sleep for weeks for fear of a Nazi  
invasion. I mean, I was that good.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.C.)  
Can you just do the line?!

POPPY  
Oh. Yeah. (does it) Come on, kids.

CASTING DIRECTOR  
Thank you.

POPPY  
No. Wait! I forgot to be German  
(accent) Come on, kids.

Casting Director starts to escort/manhandle Poppy out the  
door.

POPPY  
God, did that sound like Frodo? (tries  
again) Come on, kids. (German Jew)  
Come on, kids get in the attic. (Nazi)  
Come on, kids get out of the attic.

The door closes. A beat. Poppy's head-shot slides under the  
door.

POPPY  
(under crack) I look forward to  
hearing from you.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. "JUICE BOX" JUICE BAR - LATER

Poppy and her best friend, VALENCIA PAWAR (24) a cute, butchy lesbian, carry BOXES of VEGETABLES to the bar.

POPPY

The highest mark I'm gonna give myself for that audition is an A+ for punctuality. The lowest, I've gotta go C- for mentioning Anne Frank again - it's not my only role.

VALENCIA

But it's one of your finest. I know, I was there. You changed lives in that craft tent.

POPPY

The real problem with that audition is I wanted it too much -- they can smell desperation.

VALENCIA

(reassures) Don't sweat it, Poppy, it's going to happen.

POPPY

Yeah, well, in the meantime I'm going to be late for yet another job where I have to wear a polo shirt.

Poppy grabs a carrot, bites, chews. Valencia scowls.

POPPY

I don't know how many of these craptastic jobs I've had since graduating.

VALENCIA

Eleven. If you count working here three times, which I do.

POPPY

Well that won't happen again.

VALENCIA

(pointedly) No. It will not.

POPPY

Because you are a demanding boss.

VALENCIA

Or you are a terrible employee.

POPPY

Maybe it strains our friendship?

VALENCIA

Agreed.

POPPY

The truth is, I just want to be good at something I want to be good at. Is that too much to ask?

SOL, 40's, a holier-than-thou vegan (with a weakness for beef) enters with a BURGER BAG. He plunks it in front of Valencia.

SOL

Don't ask me to go to that slaughterhouse again.

VALENCIA

Like you didn't sniff the bag all the way back.

Sol did. He slinks into the back room. Valencia pulls out a BURGER, EATS it as she checks her PHONE.

POPPY

Hangover food?

VALENCIA

I met my soul mate last night.

POPPY

Again? I hope she's better than your other "soul mates".

VALENCIA

They haven't all been bad.

POPPY

Please. (recounts Val's women) "Mean Darlene", "Married Mary", "The Hulk". And the Crazy One we didn't give a fun name to because she was so crazy.

VALENCIA

Okay, fine. But this time she's the one. I know it. We had a ton of chemistry. Last night I met the future Mrs. Pawar, but today, I don't know who she is: I've got no name, number, text. Nothing.

Poppy takes out her phone -- checks her texts.

POPPY

You sent me a text last night. Maybe there's a clue. (reads text) Okay, it says, "Pig Q Labackt noy".

VALENCIA

Damn, these beautiful sausage fingers.

POPPY

Please, like I can't translate drunk text. (she does) I'm gonna say this is (translates) "Out with Lena and Troy".

VALENCIA

Yes. Lena was there. You're a genius.

POPPY

If I were a genius, I wouldn't be about to wear poly-blend to work.

INT. POPPY'S BEDROOM

Poppy pulls a polo shirt on -- pretends a magic trick.

POPPY

And voila! All shape is erased.

Suddenly, her window opens and SPOONER, 25, hot, shirtless, enters from the fire escape.

SPOONER

Pops, I think my Instagram is busted. I posted my daily ABCAM shot like 3 minutes ago and it only has 11 LIKES.

POPPY

Sounds like an emergency.

SPOONER

Totally. It's usually up over 50 by now. (then) Wait, that was sarcasm.

POPPY

Sorry, Spooner, I just had a horrible audition.

SPOONER

Was it for porn?

POPPY

Why would you think that?

SPOONER

You're dressed like a golf pro.

A BUZZ at the front door. Poppy exits. Spooner follows.

INT. POPPY AND VALENCIA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Messy but hip. It's thrift store meets hand-me-down and a CANOE!

Poppy opens the door to LLOYD, 20's, a doughy, misfit.

POPPY

Lloyd.

LLOYD

You didn't answer my email.

Spooner exits the apartment.

SPOONER

(to Lloyd) Hey man, LIKE me, would ya?

Lloyd recognizes Spooner who disappears into next apartment.

LLOYD

(to Poppy) Do I know him from the gym?

POPPY

Do you go to the gym, Lloyd?

LLOYD

No. So that's not it.

POPPY

Think underwear.

LLOYD

That's right, he's the guy on my package -- that sounded bad.

POPPY

I can't be late for work again, Lloyd. Do you need something?

LLOYD

I need us to go on a date.

POPPY

(stops) Oh. I'm flattered but I just don't feel that way about you. I'm sorry, I really have to go.

Poppy hurries down the stairs. Lloyd calls after her.

LLOYD

Hey, I don't feel that way about me  
either, but this date has to happen!

INT. COPY SHOP

Poppy makes copies at a copier. Behind her, EILEEN, 21,  
Latino, power-hungry, wearing a headset, approaches.

EILEEN

(into headset) Spencer, are you giving  
the Gibson order a PK-16 print? Over.

POPPY

You can see that I am, Eileen. Why  
even ask?

EILEEN

Because the Gibson order gets a T10  
print, single-sided. Not PK-16 double  
sided! Over!

POPPY

What?! No!

Poppy sees her error. Eileen hits a BIG RED BUTTON.

EILEEN

(into headset) Shutting down 7. Code  
91. Over.

RED LIGHTS FLASH. A BUZZER buzzes.

POPPY

What the crap?! Why do we have to use  
these stupid codes? Why can't we just  
say single sided? This isn't the Black  
Ops, it's a copy shop.

EILEEN

It's an office superstore, Spencer.  
(into headset) Re-do on 7. (to Poppy)  
That's one more demerit.

Eileen puts a SECOND STICKER on Poppy's shirt.

EILEEN

(re: first sticker) Seven minutes late  
and (re: second demerit) a re-do. Not  
a good day to be Poppy Spencer.

Poppy rolls her eyes, starts the order again.

Eileen walks away as Lloyd enters, makes a bee-line for Poppy.

LLOYD

Poppy, you have to say yes.

POPPY

Lloyd (re: Eileen) I've already got two demerits, one more and I have to clean the bathroom. Make it look like you're choosing paper.

Poppy pushes an order catalogue at him. He looks at it.

LLOYD

I'm up for a promotion at work but I had to lie to be considered.

POPPY

Everyone lies a bit -- on my acting resume it says I do Parkour.

LLOYD

I lied that you were my fiancée.

POPPY

What?!

Eileen shoots a curious look at Poppy. Poppy covers.

POPPY

There's a charge for a rush. (quietly to Lloyd) Why would you say that?

LLOYD

My bosses are this super old-fashioned couple. They only promote married people or dog owners. "People of commitment" they say. I've been passed over three times. So I lied. But now they've asked me to dinner. And dinner is the clincher.

POPPY

Married people and dogs? That's not even legal. Just confront your boss.

LLOYD

Confrontation gives me hives.

POPPY

Look, Lloyd, if you asked me any other day, but today: I had an audition that sucked, I'm at a job that sucks. I don't want to knowingly suck at anything else. Today, I'm only looking for successes.

Eileen suddenly appears BEHIND Poppy with a HOMELESS MAN.

EILEEN  
(into headset) Spencer!

Poppy is irked, turns.

POPPY  
Oh my god. (to Eileen) What?!

EILEEN  
Did you allow this J93 (Homeless man)  
to use the restroom?

POPPY  
Yes, I let Brian use the bathroom.

EILEEN  
Protocol clearly states we H10 J93's.

Poppy is at the end of her rope.

POPPY  
I don't even know what that means.  
But I do want to ask you this, Eileen.  
What is the code for "Blow Me"?

Eileen winces. Brian backs up. Lloyd starts to itch.

EILEEN  
What did you say?

POPPY  
You heard me. Now I'm just figuring  
out how I want to say this next thing.

Poppy suddenly STRIPS OFF her polo shirt, TOSSES it to the ground. Stands there in her bra and khakis.

POPPY  
BAM! I quit, Eileen. I've wanted to  
do that for so long! That felt great!  
That was amazing!!

Poppy walks away.

A beat.

A moment later, she returns.

POPPY

Actually it's cold outside. And this is a 99 cent bra so -- even though this will be a little less amazing -- I'll return the shirt later cause I'm not walking 3 blocks with flapjacks.

She calls over her shoulder, to a SHOCKED Lloyd.

POPPY

Come on, Lloyd.

INT. "JUICE BOX" JUICE BAR

Poppy and Lloyd STRUGGLE to get Poppy's CANOE into the juice bar.

POPPY

(loudly) Anyone want to buy a canoe?

Valencia, serving CUSTOMERS looks up, shocked.

VALENCIA

What are you doing?

POPPY

Making rent.

VALENCIA

What? (realizes) You did not quit?!

POPPY

Of course I did. It was exhilarating.

LLOYD

(remembering the bra) It really was.

VALENCIA

Unbelievable! You can't keep doing this! How short on rent are you?

POPPY

I don't know, two hundred and change. But I got it!

VALENCIA

Really? What if no one buys your stupid canoe? You can't work here.

POPPY

I don't want to work here.

VALENCIA

You have to call Eileen and apologize.  
You need the money.

POPPY

No. I'm not calling her.

Poppy is petulant. But truthfully, she's not sure WHAT she's going to do until she LOOKS at Lloyd - has an idea.

POPPY

I'm going to marry Lloyd.

VALENCIA

What?

POPPY

(to Lloyd) But I'll only do it for two hundred (doing math) and thirty-seven dollars.

LLOYD

Okay. Yes! I mean, I do!

VALENCIA

(to Poppy) What is happening?

POPPY

I need rent and Lloyd needs a promotion -- so I'm going to pretend to be his fiancée at a dinner.

VALENCIA

So you're an escort?

POPPY

No.

Lloyd brightens at the word.

POPPY

(to Lloyd) No! I'm an actress. And I just booked my first paying gig.

END OF ACT ONE