

Buster Eagle

"making many mistakes, learning from none of them."

By Sidney Butler

EXT/INT. BROOKLYN PARKING LOT - MORNING

QUINN (21), tries to help ADAM (20) and SYLVIA (20) load the back of the van with film equipment. SAMANTHA (20) checks her teeth in the van's outside mirror while JOVI (19) walks around in circles picking grass from in between the concrete cracks.

Quinn loads the last piece of equipment in the back of the van.

QUINN

Okay guys, I think that's it.

Samantha, Quinn's right hand woman hears this as a chance to make her authority or lack there of, evident.

SAMANTHA

Alright guys! Let's go! Let's go!

Sam rapidly twirls both of her arms in the "let's go" motion but ends up looking like an idiot. Everyone slowly makes their way to the van. The CAMERAMAN (18), who is recording everything these people do, zoom in on Samantha's face as she shouts irrelevant orders at the crew.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

(re: camera)

Ronald if you don't get that fucking thing out of my face-

A Beat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

(whispers into the camera)

Look. You're only here because somehow you convinced Quinn that a "behind the scenes" reel would seem quote "dope." But I'm here to tell you Ron-ald that if you fuck up the organization of this set you're done in this industry. Done. Understand?

The camera shakes up and down in agreement.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Good.

Samantha begins to walk back towards the van.

(CONTINUED)

CAMERAMAN

Sam?

SAMANTHA

WHAT?

CAMERAMAN

Just wanted to say you're cute when  
you're angry.

Sam continues to walk without looking back.

SAMANTHA

Fuck you, Ronald.

MUSIC: 5 YEARS TIME - NOAH AND THE WHALE begins to play.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIGHT BLUE VAN - DAY

TITLE OVERLAY: "BUSTER EAGLE"

Everyone's doing their own thing, either staring outside of  
the window, or reading a book or talking with their hands  
about something they're passionate about, like politics.

MUSIC STOPS.

INT. QUINN'S LIVING ROOM (ON LONG ISLAND) - EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: Day 1

Everyone is setting up equipment in various parts of the  
house. Sylvia is trying to set up the sound equipment but is  
clearly struggling.

TALKING HEAD

SYLVIA

Uh...so I think that this cable  
goes here right?

A Beat.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Ronald can you give me something  
here I'm struggling big time.

The camera shakes up and down in a "yes" motion.

Jovi sets up the kitchen table with glassware, pausing to  
reexamine it from time to time. Samantha watches everyone  
and is displeased.

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

Everyone come in here...everyone!

Sylvia breaks the fourth wall and rolls her eye, Adam comes from around the corner while Quinn and THE DIRECTOR (20) are seen in the backyard discussing shots and schedules.

The crew piles onto the living room sofa sluggishly with bored looks on their faces, they stare at Samantha as it looks like she might make a speech. Jovi runs in at the last minute, and Sam rolls her eyes before she starts talking.

SAMANTHA

All right so Quinn wanted me to come in here and tell you all we're already four hours behind schedule-

SYLVIA

We literally just got here. How is that even possible?

SAMANTHA

No idea Sylvia but from now on I'm going to need you all to hustle. Like World Cup, we're down by 2-

ADAM

You're not even the AD?

SAMANTHA

No...but I'm the PA the Producer's Assistant-

SYLVIA

No...you're a PA, the production assistant. Technically we're all your bosses-

Sam cuts this sentence off with a "tsk" sound that she continues.

Quinn runs into the room, cell phone in hand.

QUINN

Sam! There you are- uh Kellie can't make it-she's got the flu-you're the AD now-cool?

Quinn runs back outside to deal with the director. Sam smiles and turns back to all of the crew. They all let out their respective moans and groans.

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

Well-Well...Now everyone get back to work! Jovi- go set up the opening scene outside. The director needs an inflatable UFO...

Samantha walks out of the living room into the backyard as Jovi follows her. Adam and Sylvia stay behind to set up the sound equipment.

TALKING HEAD

SYLVIA

(whispers)

Samantha Jones is a cold hearted bitch.

ADAM

(whispers)

She's like if Naomi Campbell somehow bred a child with Julius Caesar...and then that child had sex with the devil...which resulted in Sam.

SYLVIA

She stole my boyfriend freshman year...his name was Tomás and he just moved here from Argentina and it was heartaching-

ADAM

He didn't know what was happening Sylvia, he didn't speak English- I thought you were over that. You're not over that?

SYLVIA

I mean yeah...I am but...

Sylvia shakes her head at the camera. She's not over it.

EXT. QUINN'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS NIGHT

Lights are set up, illuminating the backyard. Actors walk around in full alien costume. Sylvia is trying to balance the boom pole on her back but is too weak. Quinn walks by and is almost knocked out by the boom pole. Jovi tries to fly the inflatable UFO on fish wire so it looks like it's floating but gets tangled. Samantha sits back on the porch and watches the scene unfold in front of her, wincing.

She turns to talk into the camera:

(CONTINUED)

TALKING HEAD

SAMANTHA

I am working with a gang of misfits, look at Jovi over there...he wouldn't know where his eyes were if they weren't connected to his head-

Samantha looks at Jovi pathetically.

CAMERAMAN

Yeah cause he would be blind-

SAMANTHA

Ugh...shut up...

Samantha decides to intervene into the chaos.

SAMANTHA

All right people. SETTLE DOWN. QUIET. We're going in for picture.

Adam holds the slate near the camera lens and shouts:

ADAM

BUSTER EAGLE. SCENE FIVE AGLETS, TAKE ONE.

The camera begins rolling, and Jovi stumbles and accidentally let's the UFO fly too close to the actor's face.

DIRECTOR

CUT. WHAT THE F-

SAMANTHA

JOVI. WHAT THE HELL.

Jovi breaks the forth wall and seems embarrassed.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Don't let it happen again. TAKE TWO. LET'S GO.

TALKING HEAD

JOVI

Oh Sam-uh she's great. She's super nice...amazing even-

He looks around.

(CONTINUED)

JOVI (CONT'D)

She scares the shit out of me. When she calls my name I think I pee a little.

Looks down at pants.

JOVI (CONT'D)

Ok. Phew. I'm good.

In the background Sam is yelling at the crew.

INT. QUINN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: Day 2

Everyone is sluggishly moving around the kitchen, setting up cameras and lights. Sylvia is wrapped ear to foot in sound cables while Adam eats his cereal.

HONK. Sam enters the slow moving scene with a horn/megaphone.

SAMANTHA

RISE AND SHINE PEOPLE. WHAT IS THIS? MOVE. MOVE. MOVE. WE'RE STILL HOURS BEHIND SCHEDULE AND MOVING SLOWER ISN'T GOING TO HELP. ALSO SHOUT OUT TO JOVI FOR GETTING ME THIS MEGAPHONE FROM WALMART.

Sam clicks the horn.

TALKING HEAD

JOVI

I regret everything.

INT. DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The director is peering into the camera as Jovi combs the hair of the main ACTOR (12).

DIRECTOR

More to the left.

Jovi combs to the left.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Too far. Comb right...slower.

Jovi follows his orders.

(CONTINUED)

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Perfect. Jovi, do you think you can go purchase 100 red popsicles, We need them for the final scene this evening.

Jovi looks around at the camera and breathes deeply, he exits the dining room.

Quinn enters to talk with the director and Sam quickly behind him. Quinn turns around.

QUINN

Samantha. Just the person I wanted to see.

Sam beams at the sound of this; she loves Quinn.

QUINN (CONT'D)

We got trouble.

SAMANTHA

What? What do you mean, should we go into your bedroom for this?

QUINN

What...no. I mean Carl the production supervisor is coming.

DING. The door bell rings at the front of the house.

QUINN (CONT'D)

That's him.

SAMANTHA

Goddammit...Quinn. Was it too much to give me more of a warning for this? This set is a production supervisor's wet dream right now. We got fire hazards EVERYWHERE.

QUINN

I know. Keep him distracted, I'll handle it.

SAMANTHA

Ok. Great...now what should I do with Ronald?

QUINN

What are you talking about.

Samantha looks to Ronald who has been recording the entire conversation.

(CONTINUED)



SAMANTHA

I mean should we lock him in the bedroom so he doesn't cause anymore trouble.

QUINN

No...what? Ronald is fine. Leave him alone. Deal with Carl.

INT. FOYER - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Samantha answers the door to welcome CARL (67) into the house.

SAMANTHA

Hello Mr. Carl, sir.

Samantha awkwardly leads Carl into the house.

CARL

HUH? What did you say-

SAMANTHA

Why don't we start in the backyard, that's where we will film our final scene tonight!

CARL

HUH? All right... And uh- Who is this person? Why is he filming me-

SAMANTHA

Oh that's no one. He's no one.

Samantha motions for Ronald to leave them alone.

EXT. FRONT YARD - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Sylvia is pressing buttons on the sound mixer and is trying to get good audio. Adam writes on the slate while Jovi returns, out of breath with a box full of red popsicles.

DIRECTOR

Jovi! Finally. Actually for the scene we're going to need 100 popsicle sticks. I read the shot list wrong. If I were you I would start licking...like now.

Jovi breaks the fourth wall, and begins to eat the first popsicle.

(CONTINUED)

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)  
Ok. Now, places people.

ADAM  
Buster Eagle. Scene 15  
Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious-

DIRECTOR  
Ok we get it. ACTION.

The scene begins and after a couple of scenes a cop car is heard in the background, the scene continues as the noise eventually drowns out.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)  
All right. CUT. Moving on...

SYLVIA  
I'm not positive but I think we  
could hear the cop car in the shot.

ADAM  
Yeah we should do another take.

DIRECTOR  
Nah. It makes it seem more  
realistic.

ADAM  
Isn't this supposed to take place  
on Mars-

DIRECTOR  
We'll fix it in post. All right  
guys moving' into the kitchen.  
Let's go.

Everyone begins to pack up their equipment. Adam stands in disbelief of the director's incompetence.

CAMERA ZOOMS IN TO SAMANTHA AND CARL.

Samantha is explaining the set as Carl writes rapidly in his note pad. Samantha sees Ronald filming them and motions for him to leave.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Everyone starts setting up the next shot in the kitchen. Sylvia picks up the boom pole as Jovi walks in from the backyard into the kitchen eating a popsicle. Jovi rams into the boom pole, knocking him out.

(CONTINUED)

SYLVIA

Shit.

DIRECTOR

OH MY GOD. HE'S DEAD.

ADAM

NO. WHAT.

Adam tries to get across the kitchen to see Jovi when he trips over the light cables and the light across the room falls down. Quinn runs over to Jovi.

Samantha enters the kitchen with Carl by her side and is in utter disbelief at the scene that has unfolded in front of her.

CARL

Oh dear...

SAMANTHA

Dear God.

Carl appears to be having trouble breathing and takes out his inhaler. Samantha is fuming with anger.

CARL

I will definitely have to tell the faculty about this...who's that boy on the floor there?

SAMANTHA

Uh...no...no faculty needs to know about this. Uhm. That's Jovi! He's our main actor! Right guys?

Everyone is ignoring Samantha and Carl.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

RIGHT GUYS?

EVERYONE

Oh yeah...right. Uh Huh.

Quinn gives Jovi CPR and Jovi's eyes open abruptly.

QUINN

AND THAT'S A CUT. GREAT TAKE EVERYONE. THIS MOVIE IS SO REALISTIC. I'M LOVING IT.

Adam catches on.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Yeah- can we all give a round of  
applause for our actor Jovi McNabb!

Samantha turns back to Carl.

SAMANTHA

See...this was-is all in the  
script. No worries, we have all of  
this taken care of Carl. I'm sure  
you have plenty more sets to review  
today.

INT. FOYER NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Samantha begins to guide Carl out of the kitchen and to the  
front door.

CARL

Uh-okay...you're sure that boy is  
fine? Maybe you should have gotten  
him a stunt double.

SAMANTHA

He's fantastic. He's a great  
actor...some people call him the  
next Leo.

CARL

Uh...okay. Well then goodnight  
kids, good luck on your filming.

SAMANTHA

All right Carl...goodnight. Take  
care now.

Samantha shuts the door behind Carl.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Samantha walks back into the kitchen. Jovi is sitting on the  
floor licking a popsicle. Sylvia is in shock, while Adam  
consoles her. Quinn is wiping his mouth from having to give  
Jovi CPR while the director paces back and forth.

SAMANTHA

WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?

QUINN

Samantha, chill...

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

I will not "chill," Quinn. Carl almost had a *fucking* asthma attack. You know how bad that would look to have someone DIE on our set...and Jovi...He may never walk again.

JOVI

Actually it was just my head...my legs are fine-

DIRECTOR

What's everyone talking about? The production is going great! I'm submitting this to Cannes.

ADAM

Everything's fine now, Sam.

SAMANTHA

No it's not Adam-

SYLVIA

Samantha, you're a bitch.

Samantha stops in her tracks and stares at Sylvia.

ADAM

Uh...what Syl means is Sam...you're very controlling.

SAMANTHA

Oh I'm sorry! Are we all forgetting that I'm the one who just Ocean 11'd Carl? I mean this *movie* wouldn't even get finished unless I came up with the plan to act like Jovi's accident was in the *movie*!

ADAM

And Sam we're grateful to you for that but you don't have to go crazy on us all the time.

QUINN

You don't have to yell at us with megaphones.

SYLVIA

You don't have to steal Argentinian boyfriends.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Let it go Sylvia.

SAMANTHA

How the hell am I suppose to get your attention or make you listen to me if-

ADAM

You don't have to be mean to get us to listen to you...I mean we clearly respect you.

SAMANTHA

You do?

ADAM

You scare the shit out of us but out of respect you know?

SYLVIA

Yeah...Jovi pees every time you shout his name.

JOVI

No I don't-who told you?

Adam smiles at Samantha, and Samantha shyly smiles back at everyone, realizing she's been a horrible person.

INT. QUINN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN CONTINUOUS

Everyone gets their equipment, Quinn sweeps the shattered glass in the kitchen. As the director begins to set up the next scene at the dinner table. Jovi tries to intervene.

DIRECTOR

No-stop! You're setting the table all wrong, aliens don't use spoons.

Jovi shyly walks away still eating a popsicle.

TALKING HEAD

ADAM

The director just cut five scenes seeing that we're...uh five million days behind schedule. He thinks it's possible to recreate them in green screen and ADR which I told him was technically impossible and artistically a horrible idea.

INT. QUINN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SUNSET

Everyone is huddled around the camera watching the scene between a family of aliens and a human boy. It's so quiet you can hear a pin drop. The director breaks the silence:

DIRECTOR  
CUT. ALL RIGHT. MOVING ON.

ADAM  
Ok...uh do you wanna do another take for safety or do you think we can just fix it in post?

DIRECTOR  
Adam you read my mind...LET'S GO PEOPLE.

Jovi sits on the kitchen counter eating his last popsicle. The director walks by and notices him.

DIRECTOR  
What are you doing? Oh, we won't be needing those anymore.

Jovi looks at the camera, a single tear rolls down his face.

TALKING HEAD

SYLVIA  
Thank God this is the Martini shot...I wish I could take eight martini shots to forget this weekend ever happened.

Sylvia tries to untangle the sound cables from around her.

EXT. QUINN'S BACKYARD - SUNSET/NIGHT

Bright green and blue lights cover the eerie scene as a fog machine emits fog over the backyard. Sylvia gets her boom mic in position. Jovi puts green make up on the actors dressed as aliens.

DIRECTOR  
All right people. Camera rolling.

ADAM  
BUSTER. EAGLE. SCENE 10 GARGANTUAN.  
TAKE ONE.

(CONTINUED)

Fog covers the scene as two actors dressed like aliens wave goodbye to a small human boy boarding an inflatable space ship. The director watches the camera intently. Everyone watches the scene intently until:

DIRECTOR  
AND THAT'S A WRAP ON BUSTER EAGLE.

The cameraman quickly zooms in on Samantha.

CAMERAMAN  
Sam-Sam! Any thoughts on the  
wrapping of Buster Eagle?

Sam hits the camera away from her.

SAMANTHA(O.S)  
No comment...But if you must  
know...yes I am extremely happy.

The camera then focuses on the director who is aggressively patting Jovi on the back as a "good job." In the background, Quinn is seen popping a bottle of champagne.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)  
Hey! Quinn!- watch out for the  
equipment...no one is getting  
"turnt" until we pack up for the  
morning...Ronald-get that camera  
out of my face for the last time.

Sam pushes the camera away from her face.

EXT/INT. BRIGHT BLUE VAN MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: DAY 3

Quinn, Sylvia and Jovi pack up the equipment in the van while Samantha checks her pimples in the car mirror. Adam loads the audio and camera footage onto his laptop.

Quinn jumps into the driver's seat.

QUINN  
All right guys. We're outta here!

They drive out of the driveway and down the street. The footage on Adam's laptop finally finishes loading. He looks at the footage and the plugs in his headphones to check the audio.

(CONTINUED)



ADAM

Uh oh.

Sam turns around to look at him.

SAMANTHA

Uh oh what?

ADAM

Uh.... there's no audio at all.

Adam looks over to Sylvia. Quinn stops the car. Samantha's face is frozen.

QUINN

What? What do you mean? Sylvia?

Samantha burts out into a laughing fit. Everyone stares at her and the they begin to laugh too, even Sylvia who's the last to laugh. Quinn starts up the car again. They all awkwardly laugh together.

A beat.

Samantha stops laughing, she's no longer amused.

SAMANTHA

GOD DAMMIT SYLVIA- YOU HAD ONE JOB.  
LITERALLY ONE JOB.

Everyone begins to yell at one another.

SYLVIA

I'M SORRY-I TOLD YOU ALL  
BEFORE I GOT ON BOARD I  
DIDN'T KNOW AUDIO WELL.

SAMANTHA

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL SOMEONE  
YOU NEEDED HELP JESUS  
CHRIST.

QUINN

EVERYONE CALM DOWN.

JOVI

QUINN DO YOU THINK YOU CAN  
SLOW DOWN A BIT MY HEAD IS  
STILL A LITTLE SORE...

DIRECTOR

Guys-guys...it's fine. We'll fix it  
in post.

Everyone stops yelling and stares at him.

ROLL CREDITS

TITLE: "BUSTER EAGLE OR THE UNEXPECTED VIRTUE OF COMPETENCE"