

House Of Myrmidon Presents

Lounge Singers, Kid.

An original script by Graham Thomas

FADE IN:

EXT. KITTY'S CREAM CLUB SIDE ALLEY-- NIGHT

Rain lashes down. Steam vents hiss. A crimson car pulls up at the end of the alley.

Two men get out of the car and walk to the trunk. They haul a man out and push him down the alley.

The first man gets to his feet and stumbles down the alley towards a dumpster. He turns and looks at the three men.

They point to the dumpster.

The man looks in.

LIGHTNING ILLUMINATES THE CONTENTS OF THE DUMPSTER.

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIES DEAD AMONGST THE GARBAGE. The crimson blood running from the bullet-hole in her forehead matches her dress, shoes and lipstick - FRANKIE DULAIN

We see the man is really a kid of around 21. He is beaten and bruised, tie undone, hat pushed back. He cries for her.

THE KID (v/o)

Who were you kidding?

He turns back to the two men and nods. Slowly and painfully he climbs into the dumpster.

The Kid holds the dead woman.

One of the two men walks up to the Dumpster, he un-holsters his gun and shoots the kid in the head.

He slams the Dumpster lid down.

The three men get into the car and drive away.

THE KID(v/o)

My brother back East warned me about city girls. He said they'd take you to the cleaners - they'll take your drink and leave you the cheque. Worst of all they'll take your heart too. For a shoeshine boy he had smarts. But he never told me about Lounge Singers. I was taken for a molly and the sting fit me pretty good. Lounge Singers...the best and worst of everything.

INT. BACK STAGE DRESSING ROOM -- EVENING

The woman we saw in the dumpster is looking at herself in the mirror. She looks anxious.

She tries to apply make-up. Her hands are shaking.

The door knocks. Excitedly, the woman opens it. Her smile drops.

STAGE HAND

This is your five-minute call Miss
DuLain.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Thanks Davey.

The stagehand leaves. Frankie closes the door and begins to pace around the room.

THE KID (v/o)

Frankie DuLain - the heartbreaker. She
couldn't help it - to some women it's
their nature. As they breathe out,
some sap is always around to breathe
it in...but damn it was sweet.

The door knocks again. Frankie opens it. The Kid stands there. She
grabs him and pulls him into the room.

They kiss passionately.

FRANKIE DULAIN

I was so worried. You made it back!
I'm happy you made it back.

THE KID

Piece of cake Tiger.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Look!

She holds up her hands - they are still shaking.

FRANKIE DULAIN

But I think it's from the kiss!

She sits in her chair. The Kid stands behind her. He pours her a
drink and massages her neck as she applies her make-up.

THE KID

I did it. We did it.

FRANKIE DULAIN

I knew you would. I never doubted it.
I love you.

THE KID (v/o)

I believed her...who wouldn't? She had
no tells...but what did I know? Never
had been much of a sharp.

EXT. KITTY'S CREAM CLUB SIDE ALLEY-- NIGHT

The rain is lashing down as usual.

A THIN MAN WALKS OUT OF THE SIDE DOOR - TONY S. He lights up a
cigar.

BEHIND HIM WE SEE THE KID SILENTLY APPROACH. He bends down and picks up a metal bar. He whacks Tony S on the back of the head. It splits open and he slumps to the floor.

THE KID (v/o)

Dumb move kid. Dumb move. You don't come back from that...but still, she's the one you need and you have to protect her, right?

INT. CORRIDOR -- MOMENTS LATER

Frankie and The Kid leave and walk down towards the backstage area. The kid walks slightly behind her so as not to suggest their collusion.

FRANKIE DULAIN

The band is playing our song...now we gotta dance to it. I want to run, I want to get the hell outta here with you...

THE KID

I know Frankie, but if we leave now the game is up. The Viper would be onto us and that's the night train to the docks. We gotta be patient. We gotta finish out the shift. And above all, we can't let Tony S leave the building. If he does...

FRANKIE DULAIN

...I know but...I don't know if I can sing tonight. They'll see through me.

The Kid puts his hand on the small of her back. She smiles.

FRANKIE DULAIN

I can do this.

They round a corner. A LARGE MAN SMOKING A CIGAR WALKS TOWARDS THEM - THE VIPER. He looks Frankie up and down and whistles.

Frankie runs up to him and throws her arms around him. They kiss.

THE VIPER

What's been the best part of your day?

FRANKIE DULAIN

Seeing my husband, my man, of course.

The Viper spins her around and nuzzles her chest. Frankie looks at The Kid. She is not enjoying it.

The Viper stops and looks at The Kid.

THE VIPER

What the hell you looking at kid? Go wait the damn tables.

The Kid walks off.

EXT. TUNNEL -- NIGHT

The rain is lashing down. The Kid stands against the wall waiting.

A crimson car with oversized running boards pulls up. The Kid smiles and walks towards it. The windows roll down.

INT. THE KITTY'S CREAM CLUB -- NIGHT

The club has a large stage and runway. Tables are positioned all around it. Huge velvet curtains hang down. It is all very decadent.

The Kid is bussing drinks from table to table. All the while he keeps his eyes on a table where sits TONY S. Around him sit three women, all stroking his lapels and handing him brandy.

The Viper walks over to him and shakes his hand. His two bodyguards stand back.

The Kid continues to serve his drinks

THE KID(v/o)

A truce. Whatever that means. They say the enemy of my enemy is my friend. It didn't take a slide-rule to figure out that seeing Tony S in The Viper's club could only mean one of two things: A massacre, or a truce. These Rank-Backs call themselves big-time. Delusional...and it stank. All I knew was that Frankie and I had ripped off The Viper and pinned it on Tony S...our escape meant that a lot of people would die...but what's a couple of dead Jodies when two people get do some good with their lives? Keep telling yourself that kid. Keep telling yourself that...if Tony S leaves before we do it's over.

EXT. KITTY'S CREAM CLUB SIDE ALLEY-- NIGHT

The Kid stands over the bloodied body of Tony S. He looks around, then drags the body behind some bags of trash.

INT. THE KITTY'S CREAM CLUB -- NIGHT

An announcer takes the stage.

The Viper and Tony S turn to look.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and Gentlemen, guys and girls.
Folks with and folks wanting...you've
been waiting

INT. BACKSTAGE -- CONTINUOUS

Frankie stands facing the curtains.

ANNOUNCER (o/s)

And wait no longer you shall. Patrons
of The Viper's 'Kitty's Cream Club',
distinguished guests, I give you
Aphrodite herself, Frankie DuLain!

The curtains pull back and Frankie steps into the limelight.

INT. THE KITTY'S CREAM CLUB -- CONTINUOUS

The crowd whoops and cheers as Frankie moves around the stage like
a velvet snake. Jaws are on the floor.

She stands in the centre of the stage and raises her arms above
her.

Frankie DuLain begins to sing a Lounge Song smoother than bourbon.

THE KID (v/o)

A pro to the last...I loved her in
that moment. She was my goddess.

Frankie gives ever-so subtle looks towards The Kid.

THE KID (v/o)

Every sap in here thinks she sang to
them...that was her job. Only I knew
she sang for me.

INT. DRESSING ROOM -- NIGHT

Frankie is sitting in her chair smoking. We can only see one side
of her face.

The Viper and a bodyguard stand resting against her dressing
table.

FRANKIE DULAIN

I'll tell you where is...if you swear
you'll keep your word.

THE VIPER

You know it sweets, I keep my word no
matter what.

FRANKIE DULAIN

I know baby, that's why I married
you...you want him? Then he'll be
here.

Frankie scribbles on a pad and hands the top sheet to a Bodyguard.
He opens it and smiles.

INT. THE KITTY'S CREAM CLUB -- NIGHT

Frankie is still singing her song. The Kid still busses drinks
about.

The Viper walks away from Tony S who sits down transfixed by
Frankie.

We follow The Viper as his bodyguards catch up with him.

THE VIPER

Tony S gets clipped outside. A single shot to the head. Cuban style, got that?

One of the bodyguards peels off.

EXT. THE KITTY'S CREAM CLUB -- NIGHT

The bodyguard stands in the shadows smoking. The club door opens and Tony S walks out. The bodyguard cups his cigarette to mask the glow and readies his gun...then he stops.

INT. THE KITTY'S CREAM CLUB -- NIGHT

Frankie is mid way through her set.

Tony S is standing to leave.

Frankie clocks him and a flash of panic crosses her face.

The Kid rushes over to him with a tray of drinks.

THE KID

On me sir.

TONY S

Not on the house, boy?

The Kid smiles.

THE KID

I work here...but I don't work for him.

Tony S smiles, sits and takes the drink.

TONY S

You wanna get outta here someday?

THE KID

Always looking to stand behind the high rollers.

TONY S

You got some brass kid, saying that to a guy like me in a place like this.

The Kid maintains eye contact, takes out a lighter and lights Tony S's cigar.

TONY S

Come see me sometime. I got shoes need shining.

THE KID

Thank you sir.

The Kid walks away. Tony S sits back down and drinks.

The Kid looks at Frankie. She winks back.

The other bodyguard clocks it.

EXT. TRAIN-YARD -- NIGHT

The Kid flies against a carriage. A fist crashes into his stomach. He spits blood and slumps to the floor. One of the bodyguards picks him up and head butts him. The Kid falls to the ground.

BODYGUARD

You wanna know who sold you out boy?

EXT. KITTY'S CREAM CLUB SIDE ALLEY-- NIGHT

The Kid hides Tony S's body, looks around and rushes back into the club.

The waiting Bodyguard steps out of the shadows.

INT. DRESSING ROOM -- NIGHT

Frankie is taking off her costume. The Kid bursts in.

FRANKIE DULAIN

What are you doing?

The kid is shaken to the core.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Oh my God, what happened?

The Kid is looking at his shaking hands.

INT. THE KITTY'S CREAM CLUB -- NIGHT

Frankie finishes a song. The crowd clap. She turns her back on the audience and walks to the pianist.

Tony S stands up and leaves.

The Kid looks panicked. He delivers his drinks and casually follows Tony S out of the club.

Frankie turns back from the pianist to see Tony S and The Kid gone. She looks visibly worried.

She goes to sing. Nothing comes out. She clears her throat.

The Viper comes from behind the bar. He looks suspiciously at Frankie. She looks back.

She steps in front of the microphone and belts out a number. The crowd clap and The Viper goes back to his business.

EXT. KITTY'S CREAM CLUB SIDE ALLEY-- NIGHT

From the hiding Bodyguards point of view we see Tony S step out of the club.

The Kid follows and clubs him over the head.

INT. DRESSING ROOM -- LATER

We come back to our scene where the distressed Kid has burst into Frankie's room.

Frankie quietly closes the door.

FRANKIE DULAIN

What happened? Kid, what happened?

She slaps The Kid hard in the face.

FRANKIE DULAIN

What happened, baby?

THE KID

I killed him?

FRANKIE DULAIN

My husband?

THE KID

Tony S.

Frankie's mouth drops.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Oh no...

THE KID

I had to...I had too.

FRANKIE DULAIN

It's ok...it's ok. We'll deal with it.

THE KID

It's over! There is no way out of this now...I've night-trained it.

FRANKIE DULAIN

No...no you haven't. There is a way.

THE KID

How?

FRANKIE DULAIN

Do you trust me?

THE KID

I do.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Do you love me?

THE KID

I do.

Frankie writes on a pad of paper and hands The Kid the top sheet.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Leave now, get to this place and wait
for me.

THE KID

No - we have to leave together as we
planned.

FRANKIE DULAIN

We can't now, we have to make a new
plan. Just get to the tunnel and wait.
You have to trust me on this...

THE KID

I can't leave you.

Frankie pulls The Kid to him and kisses him.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Go...now!

The Kid climbs out of her backstage window and climbs down the
fire escape.

INT. THE VIPER'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

The Viper is counting some money. The two Bodyguards enter.

THE VIPER

What's the coup?

BODYGUARD#1

It's about Tony S.

THE VIPER

Is it taken care of?

BODYGUARD#1

Kinda.

The Viper looks up from his work.

THE VIPER

What do you mean?

BODYGUARD#1

It's about your wife.

BODYGUARD#2

And the buss boy kid.

The Viper stands up.

INT. DRESSING ROOM -- NIGHT

Frankie is frantically packing some clothes.

The Viper and his bodyguards enter.

THE VIPER

Going somewhere baby?

FRANKIE DULAIN

Just clearing away some things. A girl
makes mess just to clean it
sometimes...

The Viper walks around the room. The bodyguards close the door
behind them

FRANKIE DULAIN

What's going on?

THE VIPER

I'm a man of my word...you know that.
What I say I do, what I promise I
stand by.

FRANKIE DULAIN

I know that baby, it's why I married
you.

THE VIPER

(to himself)
Why you married me.
(to Frankie)
Ok baby...I'll do you a deal. I'll
only kill one of you today.

The Bodyguard punches Frankie in the face. She falls to the
ground.

EXT. TUNNEL -- NIGHT

The Kid arrives at the tunnel. He paces up and down waiting for
Frankie.

THE KID (v/o)

So this is wear I am now...feeling
like a molly, taken for a sting. Like
I said...the shoe fits me pretty good.

EXT. TRAIN-YARD -- NIGHT

The bodyguard opens the trunk of the crimson car and takes The Kid
out of it.

The drag him into the open and begin beating him.

INT. DRESSING ROOM -- NIGHT

The Bodyguard holds the note given to him by Frankie.

FRANKIE DULAIN

That's where he is.

The bodyguard opens the paper and smiles. He holds it up so The
Viper can see. There is just a drawing of a heart.

THE VIPER

How touching.

The Bodyguard walks over to the pad, takes a pencil and rubs it over the tops sheet. He rips it off and hands it to the boss. He looks at it and smiles.

He hands the paper back to the bodyguards and they leave.

As they get to the door, they rifle through Frankie's raincoat and take out her car-keys.

THE VIPER

Well, baby...I will keep my word...on that issue at least.

Frankie begins to cry. She tries to light a cigarette...her hands shake.

THE VIPER

OK?

Frankie breathes in and nods.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Ok...just do one thing for me.

THE VIPER

As you wish

FRANKIE DULAIN

Then lets go.

Frankie takes his hand and they walk out.

EXT. TUNNEL -- NIGHT

The crimson car pulls up. The Kid smiles and walks towards it.

The window rolls down and a piece of paper falls to the floor.

He picks it up.

It has the imprint of the heart. In the centre is the fainter impression of the words 'Oakford Tunnel'

The window rolls down further.

The bodyguards smile.

The Kid hangs his head.

EXT. KITTY'S CREAM CLUB SIDE ALLEY-- NIGHT

Frankie stands in the rain by the dumpster.

The Viper pulls his gun.

Frankie faces him, smiles and raises her arms as if to begin a song.

Her husband shoots her through the forehead.

EXT. TRAIN-YARD -- NIGHT

The Bodyguards drag The Kid back to the car.

BODYGUARD#1

It was her Kid. She sold you out.

THE KID

It ain't true.

BODYGUARD#2

Believe what you want...it's your choice. Your last choice.

BODYGUARD#1

I would believe the truth.

They throw him into the trunk.

BODYGUARD#2

As ideas go...you had brass kid.

They slam the trunk closed.

EXT. KITTY'S CREAM CLUB SIDE ALLEY-- NIGHT

The Viper drops Frankie's body into the dumpster.

The crimson car pulls up.

INT. THE KITTY'S CREAM CLUB -- MORNING

It is before opening hours. The chairs are being taken of the tables.

The Viper sits at the bar drinking and counting money.

The Kid walks in and walks up to The Viper.

THE KID

I'm looking for a job.

THE VIPER

What can you do?

THE KID

What it takes.

THE VIPER

Kill a man?

The Kid shrugs.

THE KID

If I bring him drinks long enough.

The Viper laughs.

THE VIPER

You know what this place is? You know who I am? You're so green you look like a leprechaun.

The Kid shrugs.

THE KID

My bother says city guys talk in
colours...green being their favourite.

The Viper looks at his pile of money.

THE VIPER

Your brother is smart.

Frankie walks onto the stage to rehearse. They lock eyes.

THE KID

Who's she?

THE VIPER

They death of you my boy!

He whistles. Frankie saunters over.

THE VIPER

Frankie, this kid just walked off the
street. Don't know where he is...taken
a shine to you.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Give him a job. He's pretty enough.

THE VIPER

(to The Kid)

My wife just saved your life. Start
work in one hour. First, take this to
23rd and Madison.

He slides a stack of money to The Kid who puts it into his pocket.

THE VIPER

(to Frankie)

How do I know he'll come back?

FRANKIE DULAIN

Will you come back?

THE KID

I will.

FRANKIE DULAIN

You see...kids got integrity.

The Viper laughs and leaves.

THE KID

Thanks.

Frankie blows smoke into his face.

FRANKIE DULAIN

What's your name?

EXT. KITTY'S CREAM CLUB SIDE ALLEY-- NIGHT

The Kid walks slowly down towards the dumpster. He looks over at The Viper.

INT. DRESSING ROOM -- NIGHT

Frankie is putting on her make up. The Kid enters with a tray of drinks.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Kid, you been here six months. When you going to say it?

THE KID

You first.

Frankie closes the door and grabs The Kid and pushes him against her dresser. They begin undressing each other.

WE HEAR A GUN BEING COCKED

EXT. KITTY'S CREAM CLUB SIDE ALLEY-- NIGHT

The Barrel of the gun points at The Kids head.

EXT. DRESSING ROOM -- NIGHT

The Kid is putting his braces back on while Frankie adjusts her stockings

The Kid goes to leave.

THE KID

You'll be the death of me Miss.

EXT. KITTY'S CREAM CLUB SIDE ALLEY-- NIGHT

The Bodyguard fires. The Kid slumps down dead in Frankie's arms.

INT. DRESSING ROOM -- NIGHT

Frankie turns and looks at The Kid standing by the door. She blows him a kiss.

FRANKIE DULAIN

Lounge singers, Kid.

FADE OUT: