

Something Special

By

Tony Campbell

FADE IN:

EXT.SCHOOL GATES - DAY

DANNY BUCKLEY, a confused looking man in his late 20's ambles past school gates.

A JACK RUSSELL dog, FREDDIE, follows at his heel.

DANNY is dressed in a garish nylon sports jacket. Skin tight jeans and cheap training shoes.

Danny ties Freddie to a lamppost with a piece of string.

He bends down and kisses Freddie softly on the nose.

Danny straightens up.

He shakes out his arms and legs.

Performs a few stretches then takes up a sprinter's starting position at the side of the road.

He pauses as he listens to the sound of an ENGINE.

He waits.

The sounds gets closer.

As the CAR draws level he's off!

His arms and legs pump frantically as he strains to keep pace with the car.

After fifty yards of manic running the car has gone.

Danny turns back and walks slowly towards his dog.

INT.CLASSROOM - DAY

A chemistry class in chaos.

Burning pieces of paper float around.

KIDS fill pencil cases with gas and sniff it.

A FAT KID with a skinhead, JOEY MORGAN, has his back to the class and stares out of the window.

The teacher, MR FORBES, a bald, dead-eyed man in his fifties goes through the motions of trying to regain order.

(CONTINUED)

MR FORBES
Morgan! On your seat. Now.

Joey ignores him.

JOEY
He's about to go again.

Some of the class shuffle over to the window. The gas sniffers don't move.

Mr Forbes follows the kids. He shakes his head as he stares out of the window.

MR FORBES
That's right. Take a good look. If you don't learn your periodic tables will be you. Do you want to spend your lives chasing cars?

EXT.SCHOOL GATES - DAY

Danny is back in his starting position.

Intense focus as he waits for the next car to approach.

INT.CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr Forbes has given up. He's back at his desk.

The kids are getting louder by the second.

KIDS
Go on mingo! Go spazzy.

EXT.SCHOOL GATES - DAY

Danny breathless as he struggles to keep up with a speeding van.

Danny's arms and legs pumping, sweat pores from his head.

The van stops.

The DRIVER gets out. A skinny man in his early 20's with a bad moustache.

The driver stares at Danny as Danny continues running towards him.

(CONTINUED)

Danny eventually realises the van has stopped.

DRIVER
Got a problem?

DANNY
What?

DRIVER
Well? You got a problem?

DANNY
I was racing you.

The driver laughs.

DRIVER
Racing?

The driver looks Danny up and down.

DRIVER
Freak.

EXT.SCHOOL GATES - DAY

Joey and a couple of friends, MAGIC, lanky with long, greasy hair and BLIMP, glasses and a squint watch as Danny walks towards them.

JOEY
Danny!

Danny looks up. He smiles when he sees the boys waving.

Danny runs towards them.

JOEY
Danny boy. My man Dan. How's it going Dan the man?

Danny smiles.

DANNY
Good. Good. Good.

BLIMP
You walking back?

Danny pulls Freddie along.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Yeah. He needs his tea.

JOEY

Where've you been? Training?

DANNY

Yeah. Y'know. The Olympics and that. Gotta' train. Had lunch at Justin Bieber's house.

MAGIC

Again?

BLIMP

What did you have?

DANNY

Sausage and beans.

MAGIC

Aah. Sausage and beans. The food of champions.

JOEY

No dessert?

DANNY

Not today. Training.

Joey, Magic and Blimp snigger to themselves as they continue walking.

JOEY

Did he pick you up in his helicopter again?

DANNY

Yeah. He just dropped me off. In the field behind St Pat's church.

Joey bends down and strokes Freddie.

Freddie backs away and GROWLS.

Joey jumps back.

He stares at Freddie from behind his two friends.

JOEY

My Uncle's got a pit bull. It would rip that rat apart.

Danny pulls Freddie closer to him.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY
He is not a rat.

INT.DANNY'S FLAT - NIGHT

The flat is small and grotty. It hasn't been decorated since 1974.

The orange and brown carpet is threadbare and thick with dog hair.

Danny's Mother, MOIRA enters, her stringy grey hair tied back, emphasising her witch like features.

Moira carries a plate of sausage and mash that looks as if was stolen from Desperate Dan.

Moira places the plate on Danny's lap.

MOIRA
What did you say you had last night?

DANNY
Cornflakes.

MOIRA
For your teas?

DANNY
They've got vitamins.

MOIRA watches as Danny shovels his food into his mouth.

MOIRA
You could eat like that every night. If you came back.

Danny stabs a sausage with his fork.

DANNY
I'm happy. Leave me alone.

MOIRA stands up.

MOIRA
This place is filthy. You are not having your birthday party here.

DANNY
I can clean it. I've got some polish left. I'm good at cleaning.

(CONTINUED)

Moira picks up a cushion to prove her point.

A half-eaten sandwich drops from it.

DANNY

I can watch what I want here.

MOIRA puts her head down. She tries to force some tears out.

DANNY

You here Daniel. By yourself. I don't know how much longer I can take it.

Danny looks down at Freddie is panting at his feet.

DANNY

I'm not alone.

Danny picks a sausage from his plate and launches it across the room.

Freddie jumps on it and devours it.

EXT.ESTATE - NIGHT

Danny with his back to a battered, dented, graffiti covered garage door.

Joey, Magic and Blimp take it in turns hammering a football towards Danny.

Danny awkwardly thrusts out arms and legs in an attempt at goal-keeping.

Danny ducks as BRICK crashes against the garage door.

Joey picks up a bottle and smashes it at Danny's feet.

JOEY

Disgraceful scenes here at the World Cup Final. Surely action will have to be taken.

Joey turns and runs away from a furious Danny.

JOEY

I don't believe it. The goalie is attacking the fans. Remarkable.

Danny jumps on Joey's back. He wrestles him to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

Freddie, who had been quite happy sniffing piss on lamp posts YELPS as he bounds to his master's defence.

Joey has manage to get on top of Danny and has his fist poised about Danny's face when Freddie sinks his teeth into Joey's leg.

Joey SCREAMS.

JOEY

Get that rat away from me.

Freddie growls as he pulls at Joey's tracksuit bottoms.

Danny forces his way on top of Joey.

He sits on his chest. Knees pinning down his arms.

Danny strokes Freddie and calms him down.

Magic and Blimp giggle as they get closer.

DANNY

Bad dog. Bad dog.

Danny stands up.

Joey struggles to his feet. His face stained with snot and tears. His tracksuit bottoms ripped to shreds.

Joey eyes Freddie nervously.

JOEY

That rat is dead. He is not getting away with that.

Joey tries to swagger back to Magic and Blimp who are attempting to throw a tyre over a lamppost.

Danny kneels down and strokes Freddie.

Danny licks the dog's nose.

EXT.WILDFOWL RESERVE - DAY

Danny, covered in mud and digging furiously.

His cheeks red with hard work and the biting wind.

Danny's boss, JAKE, a bearded, seen it all kind of man in his 50's, watches for a moment.

Danny looks up. He smiles at Jake.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Sorry Jake, I like digging.

Jake smiles back.

JAKE

I know you do son. You do a great job. Just watch out for them Aussies burrowing up.

DANNY

I just want the geese to be happy when they come back.

JAKE

I'm sure they'll love it.

Danny puts his spade down.

DANNY

Remember the one we found last year? With the bad wing?

JAKE

Oh yeah.

DANNY

Do you think he will come back?

JAKE

He'd be daft not to.

Danny smiles to himself as Jake walks away.

He picks up the spade and continues digging.

EXT.ESTATE - NIGHT

Danny at the side of the road that runs through the estate.

He's about to race a car...

He looks up.

Joey, Magic and Blimp are walking towards the lamp post where Freddie is tied.

Danny sprints towards them.

The three laugh as Danny draws closer.

Danny kneels down and pulls Freddie close to him.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY
Leave him alone.

JOEY
We weren't doing anything.

Danny stands up.

JOEY
Sorry about the other night. I
lost my temper.

DANNY
Freddie wouldn't hurt anybody.

Joey offers his hand.

JOEY
Mates?

Danny thinks about it for a second.

He looks at Freddie then Joey.

He grabs Joey's hand and shakes it.

Magic and Blimp snigger to themselves.

JOEY
So Danny boy. Now we're mates
again and everything...I can ask
you for a favour.

Danny looks worried.

JOEY
Nothing bad. Just get some drink
for us.

DANNY
I can't. My mum didn't like it
last time.

JOEY
You're not scared are you?

Danny bristles.

DANNY
No. I'm not scared of anybody.

JOEY

I'll tell you a secret. It's for
you. We're having a party for you.

Danny smiles. Then begins to giggle.

INT.DANNY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Joey takes a swig from a 2 litre bottle of cider.

He BURPS as he passes the bottle to Danny.

Danny shakes his head.

Magic grabs the bottle. He guzzles a down a mouthful.

JOEY stands up and looks around the room.

JOEY

Got any sounds Dan the man?

Danny shakes his head.

Joey spots a collection of vinyl LP's in the corner.

He thumbs through them.

DANNY

They were Dad's.

Joey pulls out QUEEN'S GREATEST HITS.

JOEY

You like Queen Dan?

Danny nods nervously.

DANNY

That's why I called him Freddie.

Joey pulls the record from the sleeve.

JOEY

You do know he was a fag don't you
Dan?

DANNY

What?

JOEY

A queer. A homo. A pervert.

(CONTINUED)

Danny has no idea what he is talking about. He forces a laugh.

JOEY
It's not funny Dan.

Danny puts his hands in his pockets and stares at the floor.
The DOOR BELL rings.

DANNY
Oh no. Oh no. I'm in trouble.

JOEY
It's not your mum Dan. More people
for the party.

Magic opens the door.

AMBER and SARAH glammed up in tracksuits and nose rings enter the room.

Sarah grabs the bottle of cider from Joey.

Joey grabs Amber by the hand and pulls her towards him.

JOEY
Amber. This is Danny. Danny,
Amber.

Sarah calls out from the sofa.

SARAH
Got any vodka freak?

Amber looks at Danny

AMBER
I like your flat.

DANNY
I did it myself.

Joey winks at Amber.

JOEY
You'll look after Amber while we go
the shop won't you Danny?

AMBER
We'll be fine.

Sarah gets up from the sofa.

She winks at Amber as she leaves the room.

Amber looks worried.

INT.HALLWAY - NIGHT

Joey, Magic, Blimp and Sarah listening at the door.

INT.DANNY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Amber takes a deep breath. She blurts out...

 AMBER
 I've been waiting for this.

Danny shuffles awkwardly.

 AMBER
 I've liked you for ages. There's
 something special about you.

Danny has no idea what to say or do. He just stares at Amber.

Amber looks around the room.

 AMBER
 Pull them down. Your jeans. Pull
 them down.

Danny laughs.

Amber tries to keep a straight face.

 AMBER
 Pull them down.

 DANNY
 Why?

 AMBER
 Because I want you to.

Danny undoes the buckle on his belt.

He looks to Amber for reassurance.

 AMBER
 Don't be shy.

Danny drops his jeans to the floor.

DANNY

Ok?

Amber sighs.

AMBER

And the rest. I won't bite.

Danny pulls his boxers down.

She stares past him and at the door.

AMBER

Wow it's huge.

Joey, Magic, Blimp and Sarah burst in.

All clutching phones and waving them around taking photos and videos.

JOEY

Cheese!

Amber runs from the room.

Danny stumbles around trying to pull his clothes back on.

DANNY

You bastards. You set me up you bastards.

INT.DANNY'S FLAT - DAY

Danny slumped in an armchair. The room is littered with bottles and crisp packets.

It's obvious that Danny hasn't moved a muscle since the previous night.

Moira is a whirlwind as she gathers rubbish from the floor.

MOIRA

Well if you haven't been drinking where did all these bottles come from?

Danny ignores her.

MOIRA

Well?

Danny puts his head in his hands.

(CONTINUED)

MOIRA

I honestly don't know how much more
I can take.

Danny snaps back.

DANNY

Leave me alone then. Just
go. Leave me.

MOIRA

I'm not going anywhere until this
place is clean.

Danny slumps back in his chair as Moira continues her
cleaning frenzy.

INT.SHED - DAY

Danny, Jake and a few other WORKERS finish their mugs of
tea.

JAKE

Come on you lazy bastards. Back to
work.

Danny springs to his feet.

The others moan as they struggle to get up.

JAKE

Not you Danny. I need a word.

Danny sits down again. Worried.

DANNY

I didn't shit in the bushes. I've
stopped doing that.

Jake sits down opposite him.

JAKE

There's no easy way to say this
son. It's not down to me. I just
get to tell you.

DANNY

But I didn't do it.

JAKE

Your twelve months are up. This is
your last week.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

What?

JAKE

I tried son. I pulled out all the stops. That's why I've left it so late. I was fighting for you.

DANNY

Why?

JAKE

If it was up to me I'd keep you on. You're worth a dozen of those lazy bastards.

DANNY just stares at the floor.

JAKE

Have another biscuit son.

INT.DANNY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Danny sprawled on the sofa. A packet of biscuits and a bottle of lemonade at his side.

A KNOCK at the door.

Danny springs up.

He listens for a moment.

The knocking continues.

Danny picks up a remote control and turns up the volume on the tv.

The knocking gets louder and louder.

Danny turns off the television and edges towards the front door.

INT.HALLWAY - NIGHT

Danny flips up the letterbox.

DANNY

Who is it?

Joey's eyes appear in the letterbox.

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

Only us.

Danny reluctantly opens the door.

Joey, Magic and Blimp all smile at Danny.

Danny keeps one hand on the door.

JOEY

Where've you been hiding?

DANNY

I've been busy.

BLIMP

Training?

DANNY

Yeah.

JOEY

Look, the reason we're here.

Joey pulls his phone from his pocket.

JOEY

We've got something interesting to show you. You're famous.

Joey grins as he looks at the phone.

JOEY

Some of those comments!

DANNY

I don't care.

Danny tries to close the door. It's blocked.

JOEY

So you wouldn't care if your mum saw this? But then again, she's seen every dick in town hasn't she?

DANNY

Leave me alone.

JOEY

What about the police? They can see it too?

Joey leans forwards. He stares into Danny's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

Fifty quid and it goes away. Fifty quid and you can have your life back.

Joey leans in closer. His nose touches Danny's.

JOEY

Do you know how old she was? Fourteen. You know what that makes you? You know what happens to freaks like you in prison? You get raped. By real men. Not skinny little freaks like you. Big huge fat bastards with big fuck off elephant dicks. Fifty quid mingo.

Joey removes his foot from the door.

The door slams shut.

Danny falls against it.

He can hear the giggling from the other side.

EXT.WILDFOWL RESERVE - DAY

Danny shakes hands with Jake.

JAKE

Thanks for all your hard work son. You've been great. Now remember, keep in touch. You never know.

INT.DANNY'S FLAT - DAY

The letterbox opens.

A sausage is shoved through and falls to the floor.

Freddie comes running.

EXT.ESTATE - DAY

Danny kicks a can as he trudges through the estate.

INT.DANNY'S FLAT - DAY

Danny opens the door carefully and pauses before he enters.

DANNY
Freddie?

Danny looks around.

DANNY
Freddie?

INT.KITCHEN - DAY

Danny takes a tin of dog from a cupboard.

DANNY
Come on Freddie.

He opens the tin and empties it into a bowl.

DANNY
Come on Freddie.

DANNY'S POV:

Freddie curled up on a blanket in a basket in the corner.

DANNY
Come on lazy bones.

Danny approaches the dog.

He bends down.

He strokes Freddie.

DANNY
Come on. Wake up.

Danny begins shaking the dog.

Eventually he realises...

He kisses Freddie gently on the nose and then lays down next to him.

Danny closes his eyes as he hugs the dead dog.

Danny springs to his feet as a brick CRASHES through the window.

He stands in the middle of the room. No idea what to do.

Danny runs to the front door.

INT/EXT.DANNY'S FLAT - DAY

Danny stares out.

Unsure what to say or do.

He closes the door.

INT.MOIRA'S HOUSE - DAY

Moira has her arms wrapped around Danny.

She strokes his head as he struggles to speak.

MOIRA

Slow down. Slow down. Mummy's
here. It's ok.

Danny backs away.

DANNY

Freddie's dead. And the window's
smashed.

Moira grabs him again and pulls him towards her.

MOIRA

Mummy's here. Mummy's here.

DANNY

Freddie's dead. I'm scared. He's
dead.

MOIRA strokes Danny's head.

MOIRA

Your room's upstairs. I haven't
touched it.

She closes her eyes and strokes his head.

FADE OUT