

EXTREME Parenting: "YouTube" 1.

Fade in:

INT. TV STUDIO - DAY

A pair of SPORTS ANCHORS, SCOTT and MIKE, are revealed as the lights come up on the (virtual) set. They both speak directly to camera.

VFX: TITLE "EXTREME Parenting"

SCOTT

Welcome back to "EXTREME Parenting", where parents raise their kids just like you, only much, MUCH better! I'm Scott Robison...

MIKE

And I'm Mike Algonquin. Scott, I don't know about you, but I'm still trying to catch my breath after last week's Battle of the Birthdays.

SCOTT

A truly epic battle of passive-aggressive pugilistic parenting.

VFX: Photo of JAMES and KIM MEY, an attractive young couple, with an adorable adopted toddler, SEBASTIAN MEY. The following recap is illustrated with stylish photos of the amazing event.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

League leaders James and Kim Mey took an early lead. Sebastian's party featured a trained monkey, three actual clowns - and not one toddler cried.

VFX: Photo of ROSE and DAVID MELLING and 2 year old son GRIFFIN in the awkwardest of family photos.

MIKE

So perennial underdogs Rose and David Melling planned to step up their game with a western style rodeo party for their son Griffin - featuring live pony rides.

VFX: perhaps a sketch, or "artists rendering" of the party they had imagined, followed by a series of awkward, poorly framed and out of focus photos capturing the chaos of the party gone wrong.

SCOTT

But it was not. To. Be. A poorly timed thunderstorm forced the party indoors - where David's innate claustrophobia, mixed with an anxious equine nearly resulted in tragedy.

VFX: end on a headline "Local couple cleared of animal cruelty Charges" and a mugshot of David.

MIKE

Scott, I just don't see how they come back from such a big loss. What's more important to the parent of a young child than the birthday party?

SCOTT

But that's the thing about Extreme Parenting, you never know - anything can become a life and death struggle.

MIKE

Let's check in on our competitors.

INT. MELLING APARTMENT - OFFICE - DAY

Davis and Rose sit at the desk, staring unhappily at the computer screen (NOTE: two shot, looking at camera as if they are looking at the screen). We HEAR a giggling toddler (on the computer). Griffin plays in the background.

After a bit:

EXTREME Parenting: "YouTube" 3.

ROSE
Half a million views.

DAVID
It's cute. Sebastian's a cute kid.

Rose turns to David. A slow burn.

ROSE
Wow. Way to stab your son in his tiny heart.

SECOND SCREEN: TODDLER-CAM (the scene from Griffin's point of view)

DAVID
So Sebastian's in a video, who cares?

ROSE
(looking at him in disbelief)
Who cares? I'll tell you who cares! You're going to care in two years when Sebastian toddles into his prekindergarten interviews as a Youtube celebrity, while Griffin disappears into the vast teeming ocean of unnoticed kids until he emerges forty years later with a C average asking if you want fries with that!

DAVID
When they tell you to plan for their future, I don't think that's what they mean.

Griffin has lost interest in the conversation and is playing with a box.

ROSE
Look at him. He's so cute, and funny, and no one knows.

DAVID
We know.

ROSE
We don't count.
(remembering)
(MORE)

EXTREME Parenting: "YouTube" 4.

ROSE (CONT'D)

What was that thing he said that made us
laugh yesterday?

DAVID

Oh.. Uh

(as Griffin)

"How about yes?"

They laugh and end up looking at him wistfully as he pulls the box over his
head.

GRIFFIN

(in box)

You want fries with that?

END SECOND SCREEN

Their faces fall. A beat, then:

DAVID

(with determination)

We're getting a camera.

INT. TV STUDIO - DAY

Scott and Mike, back on the set.

MIKE

Viral Video! The 21st Century Popularity
Contest.

SCOTT

What better way to bring a child in to the
exciting world of social media, than as a
YouTube celebrity.

VFX: Photos of the Meys, smiling, with a video camera.

MIKE

And the Meys have a clear advantage. Kim's blog, The Chosen Child, is all business when it comes to showcasing Sebastian. And let's face, it, the kid is a major ham.

SCOTT

No Mike, you can cure a ham.

They fake laugh.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Factor in daddy James' Twitter wit and uncanny ability to post video at the optimum time for maximized views and you've got the beginnings of a social media tsunami.

MIKE

Griffin has a tough act to follow. Let's check back in with the Mellings.

INT. MELLING APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Seen through a camera: Griffin, clad in a diaper, plays with his Little People.

DAVID (O.C.)

Come on, buddy, say it again - "You talking to me?" "You talking to me?" can you say "You?"

GRIFFIN

You.

DAVID (O.C.)

"Talking."

GRIFFIN

Talking.

DAVID (O.C.)
"To."

GRIFFIN
To.

DAVID (O.C.)
"Me?"

GRIFFIN
Cooky.

Reveal full scene: David down low, directing, as Rose stands by the camera, shaking her head.

DAVID
No! No. I mean good job.

GRIFFIN (O.C.)
Thank you much.

ROSE
Honey, I just don't get it.

DAVID
"Baby does Scorsese!" It's a natural, and think about the sequel possibilities.

ROSE
Jergen, what do you think?

Jergen, the European Director of Photography, Drifts to the camera with a flourish.

JERGEN
Is derivative. Must go verité. Babies are best subjects. Allow them to be themsel-

He snatches away Griffin's Batman. Griffin cries.

JERGEN (CONT'D)
No, baby. We do no pay for rights to Batman.

EXTREME Parenting: "YouTube" 7.

He walks back to camera. Rose looks through Griff's toys for a replacement.

DAVID
(quietly, to Rose)
Tell me again why we need a director of
photography.

ROSE
(quietly, to David)
It takes a lot of planning to capture a
spontaneous moment.
(frustrated)
Does he have ANY toys that aren't
trademarked?

Jergen walks back over, Griffin still cries.

JERGEN
Is good! Drama. Natural. Real.

DAVID
Except we were going for comedy.

He picks up Griffin and exits as Rose's phone rings.

ROSE
S'cuse me.

She steps away. Jergen is left alone.

JERGEN
(in exasperation)
We lose the light!

INT. MELLING APARTMENT - OFFICE - DAY

Rose answers her iPhone. Video call from Kim. (Second screen, Kim's video call.)

ROSE
Hey, Kim.

KIM

Hi, Rose; just confirming our play date today.

ROSE

What?

KIM

James and Sebastian. Play date. We set it up four months ago. Remember?

ROSE

Oh no! I forgot. We have to cancel.

KIM

(a beat)

No.

ROSE

No?

KIM

We can't disappoint Sebastian on such short notice.

ROSE

He's two! How's he going to know?

KIM

He's extremely perceptive.

Door bell rings.

KIM (CONT'D)

That's them! Have fun!

End second screen. Rose stares at her phone as David walks past with Griffin to answer the door.

ROSE

F*#&!

GRIFFIN (O.C.)

F*#&!

DAVID

(over shoulder, to Rose)

Nice.

(into intercom)

We'll be right down.

(to Rose)

Let's call it off for today. Griff needs a break,
I need a break, Jergen needs a break.

JERGEN (O.C.)

I am not complain.

ROSE

But, the video - Griffin's future -- fries with
that-

DAVID

We're gonna go to the playground with James
and Sebastian, because that's what being two
is about. Swings and sandboxes and not
caring about how you stack up next to your
friends.

This seems to get through.

ROSE

You're right. You boys go have fun.

She kisses them goodbye as David grabs a diaper bag from the doorknob
and heads outside. We HEAR Griffin in the hallway:

GRIFFIN (O.C.)

I said F*****#%!!!

Hold on Rose.

ROSE

(with a crafty smile)

Jergen!

JERGEN (O.C.)

Verité?!?!

ROSE

Ja.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

From a distance, we see Griffin and Sebastian, playing in a sandbox.

Rose and Jergen stand behind a mini-rock wall, Jergen running the camera.

SECOND SCREEN: Terminator style POV, first zeroing in on the kids, then an ALERT as it zeroes in on Rose and Jergen

ROSE

It's boring.

JERGEN

Patience. Is babies. Is drama. It take the time.

ROSE

(standing, starts to go)
Maybe I can get him to laugh.

JERGEN

No! We do no stage reality!
(shakes head, to himself)
Hippie copter parents...

And again we watch the kids.

SECOND SCREEN: RACING in to them, until:

KIM's face fills the screen! (End second screen on Rose & Jergen screaming?)

KIM

What the F*#&, Rose?

BACK TO SCENE as Kim confronts Rose (and Jergen).

ROSE

Oh, hi Kim, we were just...

KIM

Oh I know what you're doing. Where's your video release? Did you ask James? Have you called Sebastian's agent?

ROSE

Sebastian has an agent?

JERGEN

He is a natural.

KIM

Taking advantage of OUR friendship to put my son in your two-bit student film-

Rose sees a small crew standing in the distance behind Kim.

ROSE

Is that...you have a SOUND GUY?!?!

Kim closes in. They are nose to nose.

KIM

Of course. So, I have to ask you to move Griffin out of the sand box. We're about to start shooting. And I have a permit.

DAVID (O.C.)

Honey, honey!

David races in:

DAVID (CONT'D)

(enthusiastically, to Rose and Jergen)

You've got to get this. First, Griff was all "F*#&!!!", and then Sebastian started chiming in and now, they're both all "F*#&, F*#&, F*#&, F*#&, F*#&!" Kinda blue, but hilari--Oh, hi Kim.

Kim is speechless as James appears, carrying Sebastian, whose words are a constant stream of "F*#&, F*#&, F*#&, F*#&, F*#&!"

JAMES

(to Kim, incredibly excited)
Guess who just said his first word!

ROSE

(gleefully shocked)
Sebastian still isn't talking?

KIM

(to James)
We weren't going to tell anyone, remember?

JAMES

Who cares? He's talking now!

KIM

No! "F*#!" can NOT be his first word! No one can know about this!

JAMES

I already tweeted it.

KIM

Delete it!

DAVID

(shakes head, holds up his phone)
It's gone viral.

Silence as Kim stews.

ROSE

Griffin said his first word at ten months.
(pause)
It was "Mama."

Kim lunges for Rose. James covers Sebastian's eyes, and a second later, David covers Griffin's. ANOTHER ANGLE shows quiet, judgmental parents (DANNY and JANET) stealthily taping the melee on their phones.

JANET
You getting this?

DANNY
I'm getting it.

JANET
Promise me we'll never be those parents.

DANNY
Never.

JANET
(looking around, and running off)
Alex? Alex, no, no, put the poop down. We
don't put that in our-

DANNY
(looks up, seeing what Janet saw)
Oh, sh-

Back to melee: FREEZE FRAME on Rose getting floored by Kim's right
cross.

End show.

During CREDITS

MIKE
And so the match ends in a draw, and a
summons for disorderly conduct.

SCOTT
But on the bright side, the video of Rose and
Kim punching it out is approaching two million
views on Youtube!

MIKE
Quite a filming feat from Janet and Danny
Smith, our video voyeurs. I'm sure we'll be
hearing more from them, after their son
recovers from eating dog feces.

SCOTT

Yeah, they'll be starting at negative parenting points for that gaffe, but for Extreme Parents, there's always a chance to come back. Until next time, I'm Scott Robinson-

MIKE

-And I'm Mike Algonquin. Reminding you, if your kid doesn't grow up to be President.

MIKE AND SCOTT

You're a failure. See you next time!

END CREDITS