

Portlandia Skit: Mannequins
by

Zachary Elwood
and
Molly Elwood

Molly Elwood
PO Box 42505
Portland, Oregon 97242

mollyelwood@speedymail.org

EXT. PINE STREET BISCUITS RESTAURANT - MORNING

Fred and Carrie (or a couple they play) are waiting in line at Pine State Biscuits. The line is several blocks long, stretching up ahead very far. The line is so long they are standing in front of residential homes.

FRED

This is ridiculous.

CARRIE

It IS a LITTLE ridiculous. But they have such good biscuits.

FRED

I LOVE their biscuits. But seriously, why is their room so small?! They can only seat 8 people.

CARRIE

If they could seat more, nobody would want to go there. Like that place

Carrie points across the street to a similar place called Pine Country Biscuits. It's significantly bigger but is completely empty.

CARRIE

(cont.)

It's what makes it so special and cute!

FRED

So I was waiting in line last night--

CARRIE

Where?

FRED

Salt and Straw.

CARRIE

I was in that line too!

FRED

I thought I saw you.

CARRIE

So long last night!

FRED

And that's when I thought of THIS!

Fred points to the mannequin mounted on a wheeled platform standing beside him, which he hadn't seen before.

CARRIE
I was wondering about that.

FRED
See; he can hold our place in line. And we just ask
these nice people--excuse me, would you guys
mind pulling this behind you for us?

There is an older couple in front of them who are too nice and enthusiastic to help.

OLDER MAN
Of course! Love to!

FRED
And now we come back in half an hour and meet
up with our guy.

CARRIE
(genuinely)
I don't see ANY flaw in this plan.

FRED
(speaking to mannequin)
We'll be back in 30 minutes.

OLDER MAN
Okay!

Fred and Carrie leave to go walk around.

DISSOLVE TO --

EXT. PINE STREET BISCUITS RESTAURANT - LATER MORNING

The Older Man is wheeling Fred's mannequin behind him. The wheels are very squeaky. The Older Man and his Wife approach the Waiter. The Waiter looks at the mannequin then looks at the man. The Older Man shrugs, not taking any responsibility for the mannequin. The Waiter isn't sure what to do; he doesn't want to potentially offend anyone, even the mannequin.

WAITER
(to mannequin, confused but
polite)
How can I help you?

The mannequin is silent. The Waiter draws the attention of a manager walking by.

WAITER
What do we do here?

The Manager stares at the mannequin, also perplexed.

MANAGER
(to mannequin)
Party of one, sir?

The mannequin is silent.

MANAGER
(shrugging)
I don't know. Better just seat him. We don't want
to exclude anyone. For any reason.

WAITER
Ok, right. Right this way!

The Waiter takes the rope and pulls the mannequin behind him, its wheels
squeaking loudly.

CUT TO

INT. PINE STATE BISCUITS RESTAURANT - LATER MORNING

Fred and Carrie come into the restaurant and find their mannequin sitting at a table.
They take seats with him.

FRED
Wow. This is great. He got us a seat and
everything.

CARRIE
He's got appetizers. That's weird.

FRED
We won't pay for those.

CARRIE
This was a great idea, Fred!!

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. SALT AND STRAW - AFTERNOON

Fred and Carrie are waiting in a super long line at Salt and Straw Ice Cream with
their mannequin. There are several other mannequins interspersed throughout the
line.

CARRIE
Your idea really took off! Look at you, you
trendsetter!

FRED
(with false modesty)

Oh, it was nothing. I'm sure SOMEBODY was going to think of it sooner or later.

Fred turns to the people in front of him, pointing to his mannequin.

FRED
(cont'd)
Would you guys mind doing us the honor?

WOMAN IN LINE
Our pleasure! You can get us next time.

CARRIE
Of course!

FRED
Okay, we got our spot.

Fred and Carrie start walking down the street. They pass a few other restaurants, where there are an increasing number of mannequins waiting in line. They pass an outdoor seating area where there are several mannequins sitting at tables alone. It has become a bit creepy, and some subtle scary music creeps in.

CARRIE
(nervously)
Huh. It's really caught on.

FRED
Yeah. Huh.
(he laughs nervously)

CUT TO

EXT. WIDE SHOT OF CITY - DAY

We see a wide shot of the city, with the caption: TUESDAY. A scary chord is struck.

CUT TO

EXT. PORTLAND STREET - DAY

There is a line stretching out the door of a restaurant; the entire line is mannequins. Inside the restaurant, there are mannequins dressed like servers. The hostess mannequin is topless and has the words "SEAT YOURSELF" spray-painted on her chest, with the 'S' backwards. A few mannequins sit at a table and a mannequin waitress stands over it.

The camera travels into the street and we see there are mannequins standing around in various poses, like people who have suddenly stopped walking. There are only a few actual people; they wander, dazed and scared.

There is a car stopped in the middle of the street with a mannequin behind the wheel. It is very post-apocalyptic.

Fred and Carrie walk through this landscape. They look around in horror and disbelieve.

FRED
What have I done?

CARRIE
This is bad, Fred.

FRED
I took it too far.

CARRIE
No. Don't blame yourself.

FRED
I should have known! I should have seen this coming. Portland wasn't ready for this. Why couldn't I just leave well enough alone? The lines weren't that bad. I liked drinking coffee while we waited for an hour or two. Now it's all gone. All gone. What are we gonna do?

Fred stares forward at the street but there is no response from Carrie. He looks back at Carrie and screams. There is a mannequin version of Carrie beside him, with her hair and a face that kind of looks like hers.

Fred screams in horror, looking up at the sky.

FRED
NO!!!!

CUT TO

EXT. PINE STATE BISCUITS RESTAURANT - MORNING

Fred and Carrie are waiting in a restaurant line. Fred has fallen asleep, leaning against a wall. He wakes up violently, screaming. The people in line react.

CARRIE
Fred! It's okay! What's wrong?

FRED
Oh! Such a bad dream. Oh my.

He looks around, calming down.

CARRIE
What was it about?

FRED

That's not important. I'm just glad we're here,
waiting in this line, like two normal people.

CARRIE

I got you some coffee.

Fred takes the coffee cup.

FRED

(smiling)

Ahh, yes, wonderful!

CARRIE

Oh, I wanted to ask you; why'd you bring that?

Beside Fred is the mannequin on wheels from the first scene.

FRED

This? Nothing. It's nothing. Forget about that.

Fred pushes the mannequin and it rolls away, squeaking.

CARRIE

God, this line is RIDICULOUS! Can you believe
this?

FRED

NEVER say that! NEVER!! We're LUCKY to have
this line.

CARRIE

Okay, geez. Whatever you say.

Fred sips his coffee and smiles, contented.