

CATHY'S CLOWN

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EXT. FAIRGROUND - DUSK.

A fair is in full swing.

We see people gathering around various booths.

Young people smash in to each other on the 'Dodgems'.

Children ride on horses on the Carousel.

There's a rifle shooting booth. A hoopla stall. Candyfloss site. Coconut Shy. Cranes.

During this visual tour of the fair we hear all the sounds associated with the sights we have been seeing.

FAIRGROUND BARKER

Roll up. Roll Up. Roll Up.

FAIRGROUND BARKER 2 (SINGS)

Roll or bowl a ball a penny a
pitch. Roll or bowl a ball a penny
a pitch.

Accompanying the various calls from the stall holders we hear snatches of songs from a blaring loudspeaker which continue throughout.

MUSIC

The Entrance of the Gladiators
Tears of a Clown
The Carny by Nick Cave
Ha Ha Said the Clown.
The Show Must Go On.

A young man, Phil, early twenties, good looking, casually dressed in chinos and polo shirt approaches the sideshow stall featuring the Hungry Clown challenge.

MUSIC (CONT'D)

Cathy's Clown.

Behind the counter stands a beautiful, young gypsy girl, CATHY. Curly black hair, long eye lashes, rouged cheeks, large gold earrings, a winning smile on her face.

Phil sees her and stops. He looks around the stall

Rather than the usual five or six wooden clown heads there's one large clown sitting in his own large chair with his mouth wide open almost mocking the would be thrower. The clown is made up in the classic way with red nose, madly coloured wig under a funny hat, painted face, and his mouth in a downward curl. He is also dressed in a black jacket.

Phil looks at the prizes. Various bits of tat but on a shelf in splendid isolation, there's also a huge Doll.

Phil looks at the Doll and then again at the Gypsy girl. They are remarkable alike, both in their looks and make up and adornments.

Very much in the shadows at the back of the stall Phil catches a glimpse of a well built, tough looking young man with the same gypsy good looks as Cathy

PHIL

What do I have to do to win the doll?

Cathy indicates a large sign which reads

"5 BALLS - £2. ALL FIVE IN & THE DOLL IS YOURS"

CATHY

It's not easy.

Phil looks at her. A challenge has been made.

PHIL

I'll give it a go.

Paul goes to his trouser pocket. Takes a £2 coin and hands it to Cathy.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I'm Phil by the way.

Cathy holds her hand out. She's flirting. Phil takes it and kisses it.

Cathy says nothing but smiles at him.

Cathy collects five balls and hands them to Phil.

Phil inspects them carefully. Selects one. Takes careful aim.

Cathy stops him from throwing, a look of mischief on her face.

CATHY

Hang on. Got to get Chuckles on the go first.

Cathy flicks a switch and the clown's head starts to revolve from side to side.

Although he has obviously been conned, Phil says nothing. Throws the ball.

Wham. Straight in to the clown's mouth.

Cathy nods her approval.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Good shot.

PHIL
Beginner's luck.

Cathy turns away, muttering so Phil can't hear what's she's saying although he knows she's saying something.

Phil takes a second ball. Inspects it closely. Throws it. Wham. Straight in to the clown's mouth.

Cathy gives Phil a big smile.

CATHY
You're good.

PHIL
Na, just more luck. It'll run out soon.

Phil picks up third ball. Throws it. Wham. Straight in to the clown's mouth again.

CATHY
You've done this before

PHIL
No, honest it's just luck. Run out soon.

Cathy picks up one of the balls. Tosses it to Phil.

Phil catches it in his left hand, tosses it to his right hand, throws it immediately at the clown. Wham. The ball goes straight in.

Phil laughs. He looks at Cathy, an amused look on his face.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Oooops, it is my day isn't it.

A number of people have caught on to what's happening and stop at the stall.

CATHY
Play cricket do you?

PHIL
Na, baseball. At Uni in America. Pitcher.

CATHY
HMMMMMM.

PHIL
Tell you what, Cathy. I'll throw the next ball left handed. But if it goes in get it I get a kiss on the cheek.

Cathy looks pleased that she is being wooed. A crowd is beginning to gather. They shout their encouragement. Cathy looks behind her to where we had last seen the young man

CATHY
OK, you're on.

She throws the ball to Phil. Phil catches it in his left hand. Tosses it up a couple of times. Faces the constantly moving clown. Measures up his throw. Throws. Wham. Straight in to the clown's mouth.

The crowd shouts its approval.

PHIL
Hmmm, easier than I thought.

Cathy walks towards him. He places his cheek forward for it to be kissed. Cathy obliges.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Blind folded.

CATHY
What?

PHIL
I'll throw the last ball blind folded.

CATHY
And?

PHIL
And if it goes in as well as winning the doll I get to take you out to dinner.

Cathy puts her finger to her lips as if she's considering whether to or not.

CATHY
Well....

PHIL
Come on Cathy. Left handed and blindfolded. What chance have I got?

Cathy still hesitates. She glances behind her again.

The crowd urge her to take the bet.

CATHY
Well, OK then

Cathy takes the scarf that's round her neck and ties it round Phil's eyes.

Phil feels for the last ball. Picks it up with his right hand. Switches it to his left.

Sways from side to side in time with what he imagines to be the clown's movement.

Throws the ball.

The ball hits the outside of the clown's mouth.

Rolls around the mouth two or three times.

Then finally goes in.

The crowd breaks out in to raucous cheers.

Cathy goes over to the huge doll and takes it off the top shelf.

Brings it over to Phil. Hands it to him.

This time he gives her a kiss on the cheek.

CATHY (CONT'D)
16 Everleigh St. Near the Rialto.
8 o'clock. I'll be ready. Wear a
jacket.

Phil gives her a questioning look.

CATHY (CONT'D)
Wear a jacket.

Phil puts his hands up in surrender.

PHIL
Ok. Ok. I'll wear a jacket

PHIL'S FLAT - NIGHT

Phil is getting himself ready for his date.

Following Donna's instructions he is wearing an open-neck white shirt and a black jacket, dark chinos.

He checks himself out in the mirror, smiles, he likes what he sees.

He speaks to someone in the room.

PHIL (MOCK AMERICAN GANGSTER)
Well, doll, what do you think?

He walks across to the armchair where sits the Doll he won that day. He picks the doll up, holds her level with his face.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Will I do?

He laughs to himself happily and leaves for his date.

EXT. EVERLEIGH ST - NIGHT.

Phil skips down the street carrying the doll. He is as happy as can be.

He comes to No 16, knocks on the door and is surprised to find it already open.

He pushes it further and walks in to a dark corridor.

He looks nervously around. Sees what he thinks is a person in the shadows.

PHIL
Hallo.

Gets no response. Decides he must have been wrong.

PHIL (CONT'D, SHOUTING) (CONT'D)
Hallo..... Cathy..... I'm here.

CATHY(OS)
Down the stairs.

Phil sees a flight of stairs leading down in to the basement.

A faint light is shining through the bottom of a door

Phil walks down the stairs.

MUSIC: We hear a snatch of *Here he comes, it's Cathy's clown*

It's dark so he's somewhat disoriented. Carrying the large doll isn't helping things.

He comes to a door which is ajar and leaking what little light there is.

Paul pushes the door open wide.

Sees Cathy who is standing in the middle of the room looking even more beautiful than she did at the Fair.

He holds the doll out to her, a big smile on his face.

PHIL
Hi Cathy, I brought a present for you.

As he steps further inside the room he sees other dolls exactly the same as the doll he is about to give Cathy.

As he is looks round the room more he sees, in the middle of the room, the same type of chair as the clown was sitting in earlier. Phil clearly sees that the chair has arm and leg restraints and a spider gag.

On the seat of the chair he sees a red nose. A silly wig. A funny hat. A set of makeup brushes. Small tins of face paint.

Phil looks down at his jacket and realises it's basically the same as the original clown was wearing.

Phil looks round to Cathy who is standing there juggling a couple of the wooden balls he had thrown earlier.

CATHY (ALMOST TO HERSELF)

Why do men always bring me a doll
when I much prefer to play with
clowns?

As he turns further round a shadow passes across the screen and Phil's world goes dark.

EXT. FAIR GROUND - NIGHT.

The Fair Ground is deserted.

Back at the Hungry Clown stall the clown is still there

BUT

Instead of his mouth curing down it is curling up.

He is smiling.

In the distance we hear a young man's voice singing the old Music Hall song:

Roll or bowl a ball a penny a pitch

Every ball you roll will make me rich.

There stands my wife, the idol of me life.

Singing roll or bowl a ball a penny a pitch.

Singing roll or bowl a ball a penny a pitch

FADE OUT.

