

Black~ish (SPEC)
Neighbors Make you Sweat.



COLD OPEN

INT. DRE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING (DAY 1)

DRE comes sweeping through the living room, eyeing himself in the front window glass when he quickly notices, a moving truck pulling into the driveway next door. He looks on, shaking his head as we hear...

DRE V.O

Neighbors, we all have em, but times like today, do we really know our neighbors? It's gone with the old school days.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. RUBY'S APARTMENT BUILDING, 1979 - HALLWAY - DAY

A door opens and there stands a YOUNG DRE as RUBY all but throws him into their neighbor's house and walks off.

DRE V.O

It's like our neighbors back in the day didn't have a choice, at least my Mom's neighbors.

CUT TO:

EXT. RUBY'S APARTMENT BUILDING, 1979- EVENING

A fire burning 4 stories above Ruby's apartment, YOUNG DRE hangs out the window as his neighbor walks along the block, sees him, throws his groceries down and begins to climb up the building to save him, as Ruby pull up in her Cadillac, guy in the passenger seat, sees the burning building, and with an, "oops, I gotta avoid the cops cause I left my kid home alone" face, she pulls right off.

INT. RUBY'S APARTMENT BUILDING, 1908 - HALLWAY - DAY

A "KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK" again at the neighbor's front door, as a panicked Ruby stands in wait outside. The door swings open and an ARM reaches out holding and DROPPING a SACK of SUGAR into Ruby's arms. The still unseen NEIGHBOR, seconds later, tosses 2 packs of RED COOL-AID at Ruby and then slams the door.

DRE V.O

Those were the days in which we had what I like to call, "ride or die" neighbors. Literally!

CUT TO:

INT. RUBY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Dre at the kitchen table sipping down the cool-aid.

BACK TO REALITY:

INT. DRE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING (DAY 1)

Still peering out the window, Dre now closes the BLINDS and slips his fingers through to look out "in-cog-negro".

DRE V.O.

But today's neighbors...

EXT. DRE & BOW'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Cars riding to and fro. Dre standing on his front lawn, smiling proudly at his grass. One car filled with a family laughs and jokes until they pull up passing Dre's house then everyone is silent and the young son in the back starts to roll up his window while his mother whisper scolds his rudeness, but not "really".

DRE V.O.

Would they even help you out in your time of need when you can't even get your kids to school since all of the adult members of your household are sick?

Dre and BOW stand together on their front lawn, SICK to DEATH, pointing to all FOUR KIDS standing in front of them as all the neighbors drive past them taking their own kids to school, straight ahead they focus as to not be noticed passing the family by.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRE'S HOUSE - PRESENT DAY

Dre, Bow and the entire family standing outside holding up, a giant BERNIE 2016 sign and pointing it towards their left neighbor who is erecting the New "TRUMP TOWERS" next to their house, construction crew and all, with a mini tower going up, TRUMP TOWER sign affixed to the top, and their dog,

INSERT: in white pencil scribble, an arrow pointing at their dog and the name MARLA hovering above the dog.

DRE V.O.

Nope, no, they damn sure wouldn't. And with the way this country is

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DRE V.O. (cont'd)
 about to go down, you better get to
 know your neighbors cause they
 might just become public enemy
 number 1.

On this we

CUT TO OPENING:

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. DRE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING (DAY 1)

Dre stands with one eye out of the blind, as the MOVING VAN backs in and stops. The PASSENGER gets out and rounds the truck, Dre BOUNCES back from the window. Then, pawing at the blinds again with enough force to almost pull the whole thing down Dre peers out, now with both eyes. Now with uncontrollable excitement Dre pulls the blind completely back up again, and smiles as he recognizes his new neighbor is KEITH SWEAT. Dre lights up even more backs up and does a quick CABBAGE PATCH, with a SPIN and begins his run through the house.

DRE
 It's Keith Sweat!

He runs into the kitchen and up to Rainbow, who is dealing with her morning ritual interruption, GREEN JUICE everywhere.

DRE
 BOW! It's Keith Sweat.

BOW
 Keith Sweat. Keith -- who? Dre I don't have time for this today I really need to get out of here and I REALLY need this juice to be prefect.

DRE
 It's KEITH SWEAT!

BOW
 (continues)
 Last time I tried to make this batch it sent me straight to the
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BOW (cont'd)
bathroom for 90% of my day. 90%
Dre, do you know what it's like to
loose the day to your bladder?

DRE
RAIN-BOW!

BOW
(Flinging a juicy straw his
way)
What! What is it.

DRE
(singing to the tune of Keith
Sweat's TWISTED)
Girl ya got me twisted.

He SNAPS his fingers hard as a BIG FINISH.

BOW
Good Lord. Get out of my way.

DRE
Keith Sweat is moving in next door
Bow. Do you hear me? We getting
Keith Sweat as our neighbor. Come
on now! Don't you know who Keith
Sweat is?

BOW
Nobody.

DRE
THAT'S RIGHT! You know him.

She looks toward and through him like, WTH as he runs off.

EXT. DRE'S HOUSE - DAY (DAY 1)

Dre pulls the front door open and YELLS back inside...

DRE
I'M GOING TO WORK.

We Pan on DRE as he is decked out in a BLACK VELVET BLAZER,
White shirt, White POCKET SQUARE, jeans and white shoes.

He walks off into the front yard, and with a quick turn, as
if he's just noticing him, he holla's at Keith.

(CONTINUED)

DRE
(nonchalant and "flava"
packed)
What up Keith! I'm Dre.

He tosses him the deuces.

DRE
Welcome to the neighborhood.

And with all swagger Dre gets into his car and drives off.
Keith simply nods his way.

CUT TO:

INT. RELEVANT ADVERTISING - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (DAY 1)

Off Dre's swagger to him now damn near salivating at work in
the conference room with Mr. Stevens and Josh, who aren't
the most likely shared interest audience.

DRE
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT!

MR. STEVENS
Um, yea sure.
(a beat)
Believe what?

DRE
It's KEITH SWEAT!
(matter of fact.)
HE is my new neighbor.

MR. STEVENS
(looks around)
Who the hell is Keith Sweat? Is he
moist?

JOSH
(more matter of fact)
He just happens to be one of THE
best things to come out of 90's
R&B.

Dre, taken aback, signals for a hi-five.

DRE
Ahhh, yea my bro --
(quick snatches it away, then)
Sit yo white ass down.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
I am sitting --
(under his breath)
you know I'm right homie.
(then thinking about it,
laughs to himself)
Is he moist!

Dre attempts to continue but...

MR. STEVENS
Okay, enough about your perspiring
neighbor. We have a new client and
this is big...

As Dre sulks in his chair we cut to

INT. RELEVANT ADVERTISING - CHARLIE'S OFFICE - LATER (DAY 1)

Charlie sitting behind his desk, very attentive, as Dre
gives him the news on his new neighborhood status.

DRE
So I was like, yea, what up boi
boi, I'm your new neighbor, and HE
gave me the nod.

CHARLIE
Ahhhh, yea I see, playing it cool,
cool.
(a beat)
But wait, what was the exclusivity
of the nod?

DRE
What?

CHARLIE
I mean, a nod just ain't a nod no
more. You can't just walk around
noddin'. People gotta know WHEN and
WHERE to nod. You know I once gave
someone THE NOD and then dude
followed me to my hotel room.

DRE
Um.

CHARLIE
Yea, it's ALL about the head
placement now, and the position of
your eyes.

(CONTINUED)

Dre looks at Charlie like he still remains the weirdest person he knows.

CHARLIE

For some nods you gotta keep your head cocked high and keep that arch in ya neck. You know that one, like this.

(he demonstrates)

So what type of nod was it?

DRE

Never mind Charlie. (a beat)
Stevens wants to know if we want to tag-team this new client together.

CHARLIE

TAG-TEAM! That's exactly what that guy that followed me to my hotel room wanted to do!

INT. DRE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - (DAY 1)

Rainbow and the kids are in the kitchen doing a combination of grocery unpacking and getting ready for dinner as Dre makes it home and joins them.

ALL KIDS

Hey dad.

DRE

Good evening my lovelies.

ZOEY

What are you wearing?

DRE

Oh I just decided I'd up my daily work game.

ZOE

(disapproving)

Down it.

The kids laugh at Dre along with Zoey. Dre walks up to Bow, obviously hiding something behind his back.

BOW

What ya got there?

DRE

Well are you, "ready to learn..."
(he sings in the tune of
"right & wrong way)

(CONTINUED)

Dre takes a WALKMAN from behind his back and begins to place 4 CASSETTES on the counter before Bow.

DRE CONT'D
Here ya go baby, and YOU'RE
WELCOME.

Bow accepts her new gift by shoving it in a drawer. Dre catches it out of the corner of his eye, un-amused with a humph. Meanwhile, Diane has news she's been aching to share.

DIANNE
(to Dre and Bow)
Um, you two.

They turn to her attention.

DIANNE CONT'D
You understand how much I love the
both of you right?

DRE
Awwwww Sh--

BOW
Dre!

DRE
Ah come on Bow, we already know
what this is, why pretend?

BOW
(ignoring him)
Oh honey, I love you too. Can't
speak for him though. What is it
dear?

DIANNE
Well mom --

DRE
Don't let her do it Bow. Um umm! No
ma'am, lil' girl, go away from us
with that.

DIANNE
Father!

BOW
Dre!

DIANNE

It's time for the annual baked goods and catalog merchandise sale and this year's prize is rumored to be (Beyonce pose) Formation tickets!

Dre and Bow stare at each other and then

DRE

Oh hell no.

BOW

Why would they give out --

DRE

It doesn't matter what they're giving out Bow, we ain't doing it! These schools are trying to sell something every damn week! Don't you remember the last sale.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Bow stands over a patient on the operating table and lifts her hands.

BOW

Please close, Parker.

As Parker begins to close the patient bow slips her hands under the table into her bag and pulls out one of the kids latest school sale brochures

BOW

And while we are all here and attentive, everyone please have a look a Jack's spring school drive catalog --

As she slides the brochure in front of everyone's face the patient's monitor starts to tune as he CODES.

CUT TO:

INT. DRE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - (DAY 1)

BOW

Well, yea, but we saved that guy
and don't try to blame the kids
sale for his near death, that was
totally Dr. Ryan's fault,
forgetting that sponge.

DRE

What about the sale before that and
the one before that one, oh oh and
the big one remember they were
trying to raise fifty-thousand for
Books across America, ha!

CUT TO:

INT. RELEVANT ADVERTISING - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Dre is up at the television monitor Next to the white board
giving his spiel about the next ad campaign while Mr.
Stevens and his other department members look on. As his
pitch comes to a close...

DRE

And that's how we re-brand sunshine
cinemas.

Everyone starts to clap as Dre clicks to the next video
montage. Footage of a young girl starts to play.

DRE

But while I have you all here, this
is Sally, Sally lives in
Luckenbach, Texas. Sally's school
has limited access to new books,
which is why Sally needs our
attention and support. Don't you
feel deep in your heart like you
just want to help make Sally whole?

As Dre finishes his plea he turns to his audience who have
all left him alone in the conference room.

DRE

Dammit.

CUT TO: