

9/14/05 (Edited 7/1/08)

The Amazing Fettucini Brothers Drive Toward Irrelevance

by Michael Alahouzos

Inspired by characters created by Ron Gilbert

(A lone, broken down, sky blue compact clown car sits still in the middle of an empty, less-traveled dirt road. The two costumed-performers, one tall and one short, who do not appear to be blood-related whatsoever, sit inside the car - stranded and restless.)

ALFREDO

You are a lazy, know-nothing, good-for-nothing, no-game, no-juggle, sword-eating, elephant-crap-shoveling, ring-tossing loser!

BILL (with a Russian accent.)

Oh yeah? Well yous are a no-laugh, no-talent, milk-toast, stale-bread, h'asshole!

ALFREDO

You're a high-flying midget hooker.

BILL

You're a fat lady.

(The two wrestle each other in the small clown car, barely able to move anything but their arms in the tight space.)

ALFREDO

I will slap you on your funny face if you say that to me again.

(BILL SLAPS ALFREDO).

ALFREDO (in pain)

Why I oughtta!

(They scuffle once more, then frustratingly cease.)

ALFREDO

That's it! Get out and push!

BILL

No, a'jewh get out and push!

ALFREDO

No, you!

BILL

No, YOU!

(They flail their arms, fighting like girls. ALFREDO stops.)

ALFREDO

Damn War on Terror! Seventy-dollars a barrel, I tell you!

BILL (Quickly, facing outside)

Zhutup.

ALFREDO

I'd be able to afford a new battery for this old puppy if gas-o-line weren't so dag-nabbing expensive!

BILL (Quickly)

Zhutup.

ALFREDO

It's all our own fault, you know!

BILL (Quickly)

Zhutup.

ALFREDO

Silly us, thinking that voting a clown into the oval office might spell advancement for our kind!

BILL (Quickly)

Zhutup.

ALFREDO

'War on Terror'... pfft. How can a guy declare war on a noun anyway!?

BILL (Quickly)

Zhutup, zhutup, and zhutup!

ALFREDO

Well fine! Hmph!

BILL

Instead of moaning about oil, why don't you get out of the car and push?

ALFREDO

ME? ALL BY MYSELF? Oh, I'll tell you why! I'd get out and do it, but the exhaust makes me sneeze.

BILL

Well I can't do it, I hurt my 'a hand taming the shrews last week.

ALFREDO

I hardly think that little scratch compares to my chronic allergies. You push the car.

BILL

You don't have any allergies, faker! You get out and push.

ALFREDO

No, you get out and push!

BILL

No, you get out and push!

ALFREDO

Lazy!

BILL

Loser!

ALFREDO

Slacker!

BILL

Fop!

(A well-used pickup truck pulls up behind the clown car and a ROUGH-LOOKING MAN, 35 years-old, in a baseball cap and unshaven, calls out to the Fettucini Brothers.)

ROUGH-LOOKING MAN

You boys okay out there? There's a service station just a few miles up...

(ALFREDO and BILL float out of the car as fast as possible and interrupt with their schtick.)

ALFREDO (speaking very loudly)
Say there, ROUGH-LOOKING MAN! How would you like a chance -

BILL (also speaking loudly)
- a once in a lifetime chance -

ALFREDO
- to perform an amazing feat -

BILL
- a deaf-defying feat! -

ALFREDO
- well, not that death-defying, really -

BILL
- a dangerous feat! -

ALFREDO
- no, not so dangerous at all -

BILL
- but it-z an astonishing feat! -

ALFREDO
- an easy feat! -

BILL
- a baby's feat! -

ALFREDO
- but an exciting feat! -

BILL
- of both heroism -

ALFREDO
- and... er, pragmatism! -

BILL
- with the Amazing -

ALFREDO
- the Adventurous -

BILL

- Acrobatic, Incredible -

ALFREDO

- incredibly well-known -

BILL

- and exceedingly handsome -

ALFREDO

- Fabulous, Flying -

BILL

- Amazing -

BILL & ALFREDO (TOGETHER)

- Fettucini Brothers!

BILL

My brother, Alfredo -

ALFREDO

- and my brother, Bill.

They pause, hands in the air, huffing and puffing from exhaustion.

ROUGH-LOOKING MAN (Confused)

Uhh, this here is your brother?

ALFREDO

Why, yes! Sound good?

PUPRLE

It sounds exciting!

ALFREDO

Alright?

BILL

Good.

ALFREDO

It's incredibly simple -

BILL

- incredible fun! -

ALFREDO

- and incredibly helpful -

BILL

- exceedingly helpful -

ALFREDO

- see our car right here?

BILL

Our classic automobile iz on iz last leg -

ALFREDO

- and all we need you to do -

BILL

- iz get in the car -

ALFREDO

- steer the car until we can get it rolling -

BILL

- and then flick-a the engine!

ALFREDO

- quite safe, actually -

BILL

- quite daring, I'd say! -

ALFREDO

- so what do you say?

BILL

Are you ready?

(There is a moment of silence while the man thinks.)

ROUGH-LOOKING MAN

Ah... sure, I guess. Whatever helps you guys out.

ALFREDO

Great!

BILL

Watch your head as you climb on in.

(The two move open the driver's side door for the man and welcome him in. The ROUGH-LOOKING MAN stands by the car door for a moment, suspicious about getting inside.)

BILL

Before we begin -

ALFREDO

- Oh yes! You will have to wear a helmet!

BILL

Can't do the trick without a helmet -

ALFREDO

- nosiree!

BILL

It's not our rule, really -

ALFREDO

- but the circus requires it -

BILL

- iz a safety thing -

ALFREDO

- really more like an insurance thing -

BILL

- forced upon us by the state -

ALFREDO

- damn bureaucrats! -

BILL

- they say you must wear the helmet -

ALFREDO

- just in this stunt -

BILL

- or in all our stunts! -

ALFREDO

- and take full responsibility -

BILL

- for whatever harm may come to you.

ROUGH-LOOKING MAN

But... this isn't a stunt, right?

ALFREDO (in hysterics)

Ha ha ha ha ha! - of course it's not.

BILL

We just wouldn't want you hurt -

ALFREDO

- nosiree!

BILL

And the state wouldn't want you hurt, either -

ALFREDO

- nosireebob!

(ALFREDO rummages in the trunk for a helmet. He gasps as he pulls out a cooking pot and hands it to the ROUGH-LOOKING MAN.)

ALFREDO

Ah, this will work as a helmet!

BILL

Now we can do the trick!

ALFREDO

Step right over here, friend -

BILL

And, put on your helmet -

ALFREDO

- and get in the car -

BILL

- and we'll take care of the rest!

ALFREDO

Are you ready?

ROUGH-LOOKING MAN

I think so, fellas. Let me just squeeze on in here.

(The ROUGH-LOOKING MAN squeezes as best as he can into the driver's seat, barely fitting in. He PLACES THE HELMET/COOKING POT on his head. ALFREDO & BILL step behind the car).

ALFREDO

Alright, now... push!

BILL

I'm pushing!

ALFREDO

You're a baby! Push, you mighty stallion, push!

BILL

You're not even pushing!

ALFREDO

I'm pushing harder than you are!

BILL

You couldn't push a haystack!

ALFREDO

I'm pushing hard enough to knock you over!

BILL

You're a wimp!

ALFREDO

No, you're a wimp!

BILL

SLACKER!

ALFREDO

LAZY!

BILL

LOSER!

ALFREDO

RUFFIAN!

BILL

FOP!

ALFREDO

CARNIE!

BILL

CARNIE?!?!

(BILL becomes enraged with hate for the derogatory word and pushes the car so hard, that it jets off the road and begins swerving to the left.)

ALFREDO

Flick the engine!

(the ROUGH-LOOKING MAN turns on the engine. The car begins to sput and move about.)

ALFREDO

It works!

BILL

I'm 'zo relieved!

(Out of nowhere, a man in a plastic TREE COSTUME appears, popping out from STAGE LEFT.)

ALFREDO

Oh no!

BILL

Watch out!

The MAN IN THE PLASTIC TREE COSTUME sprints towards the clown car. The clown car veers until the two collide.)

ALFREDO

OH NO!

(The HELMET flies off of the ROUGH-LOOKING MAN in the collision and he bangs his head on the steering wheel. An airbag subsequently goes off seconds too late.)

(The performers pause.)

Uh oh...
BILL

Oh my..... it works!
ALFREDO

Triumph!
BILL

Success!
ALFREDO

Except for zee dent –
BILL

But it works!
ALFREDO

Horrah!
BILL

(The two clowns run over to congratulate the ROUGH-LOOKING MAN.
They open the car door to see him knotted inside.)

Are you okay?
ALFREDO

Where's my helmet?
ROUGH-LOOKING MAN (in a feeble voice)

(A moment passes.)

He's all right!
BILL

Hooray! We're spared an embarrassing and debilitating call to my
mother!
ALFREDO

Thank you –
BILL

– for participating in an amazing feat –
ALFREDO

BILL
- a terrifying feat! -

ALFREDO
- and a very helpful one at that -

BILL
- with the Incredible -

ALFREDO
- Ak-ero-ba-tic! -

BILL
- Daring! -

ALFREDO
- Amazing! -

BILL
- Fettu -

ALFREDO
- cini -

ALFREDO & BILL (together)
- Brothers!

(The two take a bow together. The ROUGH-LOOKING MAN musters his courage to say something, clinging onto the car for life.)

ROUGH-LOOKING MAN
?rehtom ym uoy erA .nibboB m'I

(The ROUGH-LOOKING MAN'S body goes limp and lifeless. He collapses out of the tiny car and dies.)

ALFREDO & BILL (together)
Uh oh.

BILL
Now we've-a done it.

ALFREDO
Uhh... quick! Get him into the trunk!

BILL

What? I'm not fittzing him in the trunk!

ALFREDO

Just do it!

BILL

Nevar!

ALFREDO

Phony!

BILL

Ma-goat!

ALFREDO

Ruffian!

BILL

Fop!

(ALFREDO throws his arms up and into the air, exasperated.)

ALFREDO

Fine! I'll do it myself.

(ALFREDO lifts the ROUGH-LOOKING MAN'S limp, dead arm.)

ALFREDO (CONT'D)

But just, uh, gimme a hand.

BILL

Nevar!

ALFREDO

Fine!

(ALFREDO picks up the dead ROUGH-LOOKING MAN'S body and slings it over his shoulders. BILL opens up the itty-bitty trunk. ALFREDO attempts to stuff the ROUGH-LOOKING MAN'S limp body into the trunk, to no avail. He pushes hard.)

ALFREDO (CONT'D)

Mmmph! Mmmph!!!

(With one giant heave, ALFREDO stuffs the ROUGH-LOOKING MAN into the trunk. The man's body is contorted and his limbs are sticking out. There is no way to close the trunk completely.)

ALFREDO (CONT'D)

Anyhow.

BILL

Where were we?

ALFREDO

Wait, should we say something?

BILL

Forget it.

ALFREDO

Well, I don't know. I kinda feel bad.

BILL

Good!

ALFREDO

I mean, what are we going to do with him?

BILL

Please, Eye-am Russian. I know 'a lots of things to do.

ALFREDO

Really? Cause this whole time, I thought you were Italian.

BILL

Why? Do a Italian speak like deez?

ALFREDO

Well, no... but... I'm not Italian either!

BILL

So why are we named after pasta?

(The two ponder this quandary.)

ALFREDO

I don't care - what are we going to do with him?

BILL

We will have my brother chop him up into iddy-biddy pieces. We will feed him to lion and seals.

ALFREDO

But don't you think we're being a bit... I don't want to say 'crooked' because that is not the right word.

(BILL sighs.)

ALFREDO (CONT'D)

Shouldn't we do something more?

BILL

I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to drive.

ALFREDO

No way, I am!

BILL

No way!

ALFREDO

Yes way!

BILL

You heard me, fat lady, gimme the keys and let's go.

ALFREDO

No way! I was driving before!

BILL

Jou're such a butt.

ALFREDO

Hey! Don't be so mean, friend!

BILL

Whatever you say, girlfriend. I'll take the keys now.

ALFREDO

No, I'll drive next!

BILL

No, I'll do it next!

ALFREDO

No, me!

BILL

No, ME!

ALFREDO

Butt-head!

BILL

Ring tosser!

ALFREDO

Salad-tosser!

BILL

Asshole!

ALFREDO

Ass-clown!

ALFREDO

Slacker!

BILL

Loser!

ALFREDO

Ruffian!

BILL

Fop!

(FADE TO BLACK.)