

"GROUNDED CANDY"

a

TILTED TEXAS FILM
production...

OVER BLACK

TITLE CARD: (Halloween Night)

SUBTITLE CARD: (1993 Houston, TX)

FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

- Halloween Decorations show on individual Patios and Doors.
- PARENTS and KIDS in costumes roam excitedly about.

EXT. MAGGIE'S APT - FRONT DOOR - 2ND FLOOR

Ascending up some stairs, we focus on APT #267 and can hear yelling coming from inside.

INT. MAGGIE'S APT - HALLWAY (CONTINUOUS)

JESSE MENDOZA (12), a tall lanky Hispanic boy, escapes running from his bedroom panicking.

JESSE/FREDDY'S BEDROOM

MAGGIE MENDOZA (29), short, pretty and strong-willed, holds a belt in one hand and BAGS of Halloween Candy in the other.

She towers over one of her four sons, FREDDY MENDOZA (11), short and rambunctious, who has a fading black eye.

MAGGIE

Freddy, I'm gonna ask you once! Where
did you get this candy from?

Freddy stares back and shrugs his shoulders.

HALLWAY

Jesse reaches the Hallway Restroom and enters as he hears Freddy getting whipped by their Mother.

MAGGIE (O.S.)

You tell me, right now!

HALLWAY RESTROOM

Jesse locks the door behind him and looks in the mirror. He notices chocolate on his lips and washes up.

LIVING ROOM

Two other smaller siblings, ADAM (6) and CHRIS MENDOZA (4), sit still dressed in their Halloween Costumes watching TV. They munch happily on their haul of Halloween candy.

HALLWAY RESTROOM

Jesse still washing up, hears a small knock at the door.

HALLWAY

Adam stands pacing by the Restroom Door, as Freddy can still be heard getting reprimanded by his mother.

ADAM
(knocking)
Open the door, I have to go pee!

HALLWAY RESTROOM

Jesse dries his face and hands.

JESSE
(yells out)
Go use Mama's!

MAGGIE (O.S.)
Where's your brother at?

HALLWAY

Maggie still holding both Belt and Candy Bags, tries to unlock the closed restroom door.

HALLWAY RESTROOM

Jesse stares at the doorknob as it rattles.

HALLWAY

Maggie pounds on the restroom door.

MAGGIE
Jesse, you open this door right now!

JESSE/FREDDY'S BEDROOM

Freddy crying on the floor, stops and wipes his tears away. He reaches under his bed and pulls out a LARGE BOWL of Candy.

JESSE/FREDDY'S BEDROOM - CLOSET

Under a pile of blankets, Freddy hides the Candy Bowl.

HALLWAY

Maggie continues her efforts to enter the restroom.

MAGGIE

Boy, you better open this door! Your
brother standing here has to go pee!

JESSE (O.S)

No! You're just gonna hit me!

Chris the littlest brother now approaches.

CHRIS

Pee-pee, go pee-pee mommy!

HALLWAY RESTROOM

Jesse reaches to open the door, but backs away when his
mother suddenly bangs and yells out!

MAGGIE (O.S.)

Jesse, open this fucken' door right
now! You're the oldest going on 13,
and this is the way you act? You
wonder why I can't keep a Man? It's
because who wants to raise Boys that
won't listen!

HALLWAY

Maggie focuses on her two little ones watching.

MAGGIE

Adam, take your brother into mama's
restroom, Okay Mijo?

Adam leads Chris into their Mother's room and Maggie adverts
her attention back to the closed door in front of her.

HALLWAY RESTROOM

Jesse breaths heavily.

MAGGIE (O.S.)
You're supposed to be a leader, set an
example for your brothers! You know
yaw two are grounded for fighting!

HALLWAY

Maggie raises the BAGS of candy towards the closed door.

MAGGIE
Now tell me, don't lie! How the hell
you two get this Candy?

JESSE/FREDDY'S BEDROOM

Freddy sneaks his head out into the Hallway to listen.

HALLWAY RESTROOM

Jesse looks at himself in the mirror and takes a deep breath.

CUT TO:

OVER BLACK

TITLE CARD: *(Getting Grounded)*

SUBTITLE CARD: *(a few days "BEFORE" Halloween...)*

FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - FRONT OFFICE - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Freddy and BETH (12), a tall-pretty, smart Caucasian girl,
are both leaving from getting their mail.

The Apt Manager, MRS. BRACHER (60's), sweet and kind,
instructs a MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE (40's), on where to hang
Halloween decorations. She hands them a printed flyer.

MRS. BRACHER
Don't forget to dress up you two and
most be safe.

CLOSE UP:

The Flyer reads: "*Halloween Safety and Fun!*"

CUT BACK TO:

Freddy and Beth thank Mrs. Brasher, as they walk away. Beth grabs her bike parked out front and walks it alongside Freddy, who doesn't have one.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX

Freddy and Beth pace slowly towards the rear of the Complex where they separately live.

BETH
So, where's Jesse at?

FREDDY
Probably still getting ready. He likes you, you know?

CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S APT - HALLWAY RESTROOM

Jesse looks in the mirror slicking his hair back.

JESSE
(talking to himself)
Oh, hey Beth, you get your mail here too? Course I'll be your boyfriend!

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Beth smiles as she and Freddy walk.

FREDDY
But I beat em to getting the mail today, we both know it's me you want.

BETH
(laughs)
Boy please, plus my cousin Melissa who I told you about? She's coming to stay with me this Halloween weekend.

FREDDY
Yeah, so she likes me or what?

BETH
I don't know, why don't you ask her yourself weirdo.

FREDDY
(looks at the flyer in his hand)
Are yaw wearing Costumes?

A group of BOYS, (9-13), suddenly appear on bikes causing the two of them to stop.

DAMION (12), a redhead-freckled and slightly overweight Caucasian, leads the group of Bike Boys.

DAMION
Sup Beth, why don't you come ride with us. Let this poor loser walk just like his punk ass brother does.

The group of Bike Boys laugh.

BETH
Damion, just leave us alone!

FREDDY
Yeah, fuck off! You probably need that bike to get around Fat-Ass!

The group of Bike Boy gasp is shock.

DAMION
What did you say!

FREDDY
You heard me.
(snorts like a pig)
Oink... Oink!

Beth covers her giggle as some of the Bike Boys laugh. Damion drops his bike and threateningly approaches Freddy.

BETH
Damion, don't you hit him!

Freddy stands his ground as Damion stops in front of him towering over. The group of Bike Boys watch.

BETH (CONTD)
Just stop it right now, both of you!

Damion sneers, bumping against Freddy, who bumps back.

FREDDY
You better watch it, my brother and I been learning karate!

CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S APT - LIVING ROOM (FLASHBACK)

The TV shows a Saturday "KUNG-FU-FLICK" playing.

Jesse, Freddy, Adam and Chris are imitating the karate moves, jumping from the couch, punching and kicking in the air.

Freddy accidentally kicks Adam who starts crying. Jesse and Freddy try to calm Adam down. Chris yells out in anger.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Damion pulls back his fist to swing at Freddy, when a CAR passing by HONKS it's horn. Damion reluctantly backs away.

DAMION

You're dead meat poor boy.

Damion gets back on his bike.

DAMION (CONTD)

See you walking around loser.

Freddy gives his middle-finger to the group of Bike Boys as they ride off.

BETH

Oh my gosh, he's such a prick.

FREDDY

He's lucky that car saved him.

BETH

I thought he was going to hit you.

FREDDY

I'm not scared. I could take them all.

BETH

(smiles)

Hop on, I'll pump you before they come back.

Freddy hops on the back extended PEGS on Beth's bike.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - BETH'S BIKE (MOVING)

Freddy stands holding on to the back of Beth's shoulders, as they ride to the back of the Apartment Complex.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - BETH'S FRONT DOOR

Freddy gets off Beth's bike as they come to a stop.

FREDDY

I thought you were taking me home?

BETH

Yeah but it's hot, and now I'm all sweaty. What if your brother comes out?

Freddy stares blankly at Beth.

BETH (CONTD)

Just let me change real quick!

FREDDY

I'm good. I'll just take the back way.

BETH

Ok, be careful then!

Freddy heads around the corner, as Beth enters her Apt.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX

Freddy walks along the back-fence-line and comes to a small clearing field. Damion and his group of friends are now playing catch and spot Freddy.

INT. BETH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Beth freshens up and hears commotion coming from outside her window. She leaves outside to investigate.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX

Beth sees that Damion and his friends have Freddy encircled.

- Beth gets on her bike pedaling fast.

- Damion and his friends push Freddy around.

- Beth gets off her bike, runs up some stairs and knocks frantically on Jesse's Door who answers.

- Damion punches Freddy in the face.
- Jesse runs fast behind Beth on her bike.
- Freddy on the ground, touches his swollen eye and looks at Damion and his friends who laugh at him.
- Beth points and Jesse sees Damion looking at someone on the ground, his wide-back fully exposed.
- Running full speed, Jesse karate kicks Damion in the back.
- Damion falls to the ground gasping for air next to Freddy, who gets up and slaps Damion across his face.
- Jesse punches one of the Boys, gets grabbed from behind, and elbows that Kid.
- Beth watches as the other Boys start running away.
- The brothers approach Damion alone on the ground.

DAMION

No... no wait!

FREDDY

Wait on this you stupid b--

DAMIONS POV: Receives a stomp from Freddy to the face!

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. MAGGIE'S APT - KITCHEN (MOMENTS LATER)

A Lid from a pot cooking on the stove is removed as Maggie serves her Boys sitting at the Dining Table.

FREDDY

--Beans and Weenies again?

MAGGIE

Aye, you lucky we have food to eat.
You know how many people out there are
starving? Let me see your eye.

Maggie examines Freddy's now swollen black eye.

MAGGIE (CONTD)
(to Jesse and Freddy)
Yaw need to be more careful throwing
the ball around. Last thing I need is
for one of yaw to get hurt.

The HOME PHONE rings and Maggie answers.

MAGGIE
(into phone)
Hello, I'm sorry wait... my sons did
what?

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - FRONT OFFICE

Mrs. Bracher on the phone, tries to cover the speaking end
with her hand as a burly woman sits angrily across her desk.

MRS. BRACHER
Mrs. Karenson, please!

MRS. KARENSON (40s), a heavy-set Caucasian woman, points to
her son Damion who has an ice over his busted nose and who
winces about his aching back.

MRS. KARENSON
Ain't no one in hell, going to be
kicking my honey-child in the back!

MRS. BRACHER
I understand, but we simply can not go
around threatening children.

MRS. KARENSON
Well, the mother of them boys ain't no
child. Bring that bitch here to this
office!

INT. MAGGIE'S APT - KITCHEN

Jesse and Freddy both try to explain it wasn't their fault.

MAGGIE (CONTD)
I don't want to hear it. You two can
forget about Halloween coming up. Your
asses are grounded!

Jesse and Freddy bow their heads, defeated as their mother
continues on the phone.

CUT TO:

OVER BLACK

TITLE CARD: (Candy Time)

SUB TITLE CARD: (5:30 PM "EARLIER" Halloween Day)

FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DUSK (CONTINUOUS)

PARENTS and KIDS roam about in full Halloween Costumes.

INT. MAGGIE'S APT - LIVING ROOM

Adam is dressed as a "GHOSTBUSTER" and Maggie still in her work uniform, finishes up Chris as a "NINJA TURTLE".

CHRIS

Tic-r-teet!

MAGGIE

That's right mijo. Should mommy change
out of her work clothes, or just go
like this --

(attempts scary face)

-- an Evil Baker who cooks kids!

Maggie playfully tickles her youngest son who laughs.

JESSE/FREDDY'S BEDROOM

Jesse reads a Novel in bed, as Freddy lays on the floor
sorting through his Comic Books.

Maggie enters the room and the brothers sit up. They notice
she has a large Plastic Bag.

MAGGIE

Have you thought about what you did?

The Brothers nod their heads.

Maggie pulls out two costumes from the bag, a "HALLOWEEN
JASON" and a "FREDDY KRUGER".

Jesse and Freddy get excited.

MAGGIE (CONTD)

You know I do all I can to provide for you boys! Working overtime, sometimes on the weekends... and what do I simply ask for in return?

Jesse and Freddy look away in silence.

MAGGIE (CONTD)

That you help watch your brothers... pay attention in school... and most importantly stay out of what?

JESSE

(mumbles)

MAGGIE

I can't hear you speak up!

JESSE

Trouble?

MAGGIE

That's right... stay out of trouble. Well did you listen?

The Brothers continue in their silence.

MAGGIE (CONTD)

Guess who has to pay that boys medical bill because his mother took him for a check up? You think your good for nothing Father's gonna help pay?

Maggie begins putting the Costumes back in the large bag.

MAGGIE (CONTD)

Now I have to see what kind of Money I can get back tomorrow returning these.

FREDDY

But mom --