

TOBY'S TRAVELLING CIRCUS

'Toby Climbs Up'

2nd Draft: 07.03.12

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OPENING TITLES

MIX TO:

1. EXT: GV's OF THE CIRCUS & FUNFAIR. (ZOOMING INTO EXT: LI & LING'S CARAVAN). DAY

LI IS CLUTCHING AN OVERNIGHT BAG, ABOUT TO HEAD OFF FOR THE BUS. LING IS SEEING HER OFF.

1. LING

Don't be late for the bus, Li.

2. LI

I won't. Bye.

LI TURNS TO EXIT AND BUMPS INTO TOBY (IN CIVVIES) AS HE ENTERS SPINNING HIS YO-YO. HE STOPS IN SURPRISE.

3. TOBY

(GIGGLES) Whoops. (TAKES STOCK) Are you going somewhere, Li?

4. LI

Uh-huh! (EXCITED) To teach a gymnastics class at Babbington school. I'll be back tomorrow.

5. TOBY

But what about the performance tonight?

6. LI

All sorted. Just for once, Ling will do a solo ribbon act on the High Wire. (TO LING) Remember, 'practice makes perfect!' (GIGGLES) See you.

LI EXITS AS LING WAVES.

7. LING

Bye! (TURNS) I'd better get rehearsing.

8. TOBY
OK. Good luck!

LING EXITS TOWARDS THE BIG TOP. TOBY <GIGGLES> & RESUMES SPINNING HIS YO-YO.

CUT TO:

2. INT: BIG TOP

MOMO IS SWEEPING THE RING. JANGO IS REHEARSING ON HIS BANDSTAND <MUSIC>.

LING ENTERS WITH HER RIBBON.

9. LING
Hi, boys.

10. JANGO/MOMO
Hi, Ling.

11. MOMO
Where's Li?

12. LING
It's just me today, Momo. Me and my ribbon.
Watch this.

JANGO & MOMO LOOK ON, INTRIGUED, AS LING BEGINS TO CLIMB UP THE LADDER TOWARDS THE HIGH WIRE PLATFORM.

CUT TO:

3. EXT: CLOWN'S CARAVAN

CLARA & FREDDO ARE REHEARSING A COMEDY SKIPPING-ROPE ROUTINE. CLARA IS SKIPPING WITH A LONG ROPE (BIG ENOUGH FOR TWO)

13. CLARA
Ready, Freddo?

14. FREDDO
(NODS & BABBLES) Yep.

TOBY ENTERS AND STOPS TO WATCH.

CLARA INVITES FREDDO TO RUN IN AND START SKIPPING

15. CLARA
Start skipping!

16. FREDDO
(BABBLES) Right. Here....goes.....no, missed it...er.....now. Whooooaaaa!

FREDDO COMICALLY TRIES TO TIME HIS RUN IN TO START SKIPPING - AND OF COURSE MUCKS IT UP, FALLS OVER, AND ENDS UP HOPELESSLY TANGLED!

17. TOBY
(LAUGHING) Brilliant! You've got to keep that in the act.

CLARA <LAUGHS> AND BENDS TO START UNTANGLING FREDDO

CUT TO:

4. INT: BIG TOP (HIGH WIRE)

WE SEE LING PERFORMING A BRIEF SNATCH OF HER RIBBON GYMNASTICS ON THE HIGH WIRE

18. LING
Ooplah! (CALLING DOWN) Not bad, eh, boys?

LING WALKS THE HIGH WIRE BACK TO THE SAFETY PLATFORM BUT AS SHE IS ABOUT TO STEP ONTO IT SHE SUDDENLY SLIPS.

19. LING
Whooooops!

SHE FINDS HERSELF CAUGHT UP, WRAPPED IN THE RIBBON, ON THE SAFETY PLATFORM (BUT QUITE SAFE).

CUT TO:

5. INT: BIG TOP (CIRCUS RING)

MOMO & JANGO REACT & LOOK UP A LITTLE ANXIOUSLY

20. JANGO
(CALLING UP) Are you OK, Ling?

CUT TO:

6. INT: BIG TOP (HIGH WIRE)

LING LAUGHS AT HERSELF.

21. LING

(GIGGLING) Fine, thanks. I just seem to be ...
a little 'tied up'.

LING TRIES TO WRIGGLE OUT OF THE RIBBON - BUT ONLY MANAGES
TO TIE HERSELF MORE IN KNOTS.

22. LING

(STRUGGLING, FRUSTRATED) Actually I
seem to be....quite a lot tied up!
(STRUGGLES MORE) In fact....I can't get
out! (IMPATIENTLY) Oh! (CALLS DOWN)
Momo? Maybe you could fetch someone to
help?

CUT TO:

7. INT: BIG TOP (CIRCUS RING)

MOMO'S EYED WIDEN, A BIT CONCERNED

23. MOMO

(GASPS & LOOKS AT JANGO) Jango?

24. JANGO

You won't catch me climbing up that ladder!

25. MOMO

OK. (CALLS UP) Wait there, Ling! (EXITS)

CUT TO:

8. INT: BIG TOP (HIGH WIRE)

LING LOOKS RESIGNED (BUT NOT SCARED)

26. LING

I don't think I have a choice. (SIGH)

CUT TO:

9. EXT: CLOWN'S CARAVAN

CLARA IS STILL COMICALLY, INEFFECTUALLY, TRYING TO UNTANGLE
FREDDO FROM THE SKIPPING ROPE. TOBY LOOKS ON, CLUTCHING
HIS SIDES WITH <LAUGHTER> AT THE CLOWNS' ANTICS.

27. CLARA

Not working. (HAS AN IDEA) Aha!

CLARA TUGS HARD AT THE FREE END OF THE SKIPPING ROPE. FREDDO COMICALLY SPINS ROUND AND ROUND LIKE A SPINNING TOP - ENDING UP RELEASED BUT VERY DIZZY!

28. FREDDO

(BABBLES) Eh? No...I....whooooooooooooo!

TOBY DOUBLES UP WITH <LAUGHTER>

29. TOBY

(LAUGHING) That is so funny!

MOMO CHARGES IN & TUGS AT TOBY'S SLEEVE

30. MOMO

Toby, come quick. Ling is stuck.

31. TOBY

What!

THEY EXIT.

CUT TO:

10. INT: BIG TOP (CIRCUS RING)

JANGO IS LOOKING UP

32. JANGO

(CALLS UP) Won't be long now, Ling.

TOBY AND MOMO DASH IN TO JOIN JANGO. TOBY LOOKS UP & CAN'T HELP BUT BE AMUSED AT FIRST

33. TOBY

Oops! (GIGGLING & CALLING UP) What was it Li said? 'Practice makes perfect'?

CUT TO:

11. INT: BIG TOP (HIGH WIRE)

LING IS STILL TANGLED UP IN HER RIBBON ON THE SAFETY PLATFORM. SHE STRUGGLES TO NO AVAIL, FRUSTRATED.

34. LING

(CALLS DOWN) Don't you dare tell her!
(HALF-LAUGHS) Well, not today. Come up
and get me out of this.

CUT TO:

12. INT: BIG TOP (CIRCUS RING)

TOBY LOOKS TAKEN ABACK

35. TOBY
Me?

JANGO REACHES INTO TOBY'S POCKET AND PULLS OUT HIS YO-YO.

36. JANGO
Toby, it'll just be like undoing knots in your
yo-yo.

37. TOBY
(LOOKING UP) Except it's about a hundred
miles up!

38. JANGO
Someone has rescue Ling.

39. TOBY
(GULPS) I've never climbed that high before.

40. LING (OOV)
I'm getting pins and needles up here!

TOBY REACTS UP AND MAKES A DECISION

41. TOBY
OK.....(TAKES A BIG BREATH).... I'm going
up.

TOBY NERVOUSLY STEPS ONTO THE BOTTOM RUNG OF THE LADDER.

42. MOMO
(GASPS!)

MOMO LOOKS VERY CONCERNED AND RUSHES AWAY

CUT TO:

13. EXT: HAMMER BELL MACHINE

THOR IS WATCHING AS DOLORES <GIGGLES> AND JUST ABOUT MANAGES TO LIFT THE HAMMER, READY TO THUMP THE MACHINE

43. DOLORES
(GIGGLING) Here goes, Thor.

MOMO CHARGES IN

44. MOMO
(BREATHLESSLY) Toby is climbing up to the High Wire!

45. DOLORES
(WORRIED) My Toby?

DOLORES DROPS THE HAMMER. IT THUMPS ONTO THOR'S FOOT <DING!> HE DOESN'T FLINCH.

46. DOLORES
Come on!

DOLORES & MOMO DASH OUT. THOR NONCHALANTLY SHAKES OFF THE HAMMER & FOLLOWS

CUT TO:

14. INT: BIG TOP (CIRCUS RING)

TOBY IS NERVOUSLY GRIPPING THE LADDER, STEELING HIMSELF TO CLIMB.

DOLORES & THOR & MOMO ENTER THROUGH THE TENT FLAPS. DOLORES <GASPS> WHEN SHE SEES HER ONLY SON ABOUT TO CLIMB UP SO HIGH.

47. DOLORES
(WORRIED) Toby! It might not be safe.

48. TOBY
Ling's in a pickle, Mum. Don't worry. You always told me to be careful when I climb.

THOR PUSHES THE SAFETY NET INTO POSITION - READY TO CATCH TOBY SHOULD HE FALL.

49. THOR
And here is safety net.

50. DOLORES

(REASSURED) Oh. Well, look where you're going.

51. TOBY
I will. Here goes.

TOBY LOOKS UP, SUMMONS UP HIS COURAGE AND BEGINS TO CLIMB THE LADDER (OUT OF SHOT)

DOLORES, MOMO, JANGO & THOR FOLLOW HIS PROGRESS AS HE CLIMBS, YELLING ENCOURAGEMENT

52. JANGO
Go for it, Toby!

53. MOMO
You can do it.

DOLORES CROSSES HER FINGERS

54. DOLORES
One step at a time.

CUT TO:

15. INT: BIG TOP (THE LADDER)

TOBY TENTATIVELY CLIMBS THE LADDER AS HE TRIES TO REASSURE HIMSELF

55. TOBY
(MUTTERS TO HIMSELF) One step at a time.

CUT TO:

16. INT: BIG TOP (HIGH WIRE)

STILL TANGLED-UP, LING LOOKS DOWN & YELLS ENCOURAGEMENT

56. LING
Keep going, Toby.

CUT TO:

17. INT: BIG TOP (THE LADDER)

HALFWAY UP THE LADDER TOBY SUDDENLY FREEZES. IT'S GOT TO HIM. HE NERVOUSLY LAUGHS AT HIS SITUATION.

57. TOBY
(LAUGHS) Oh dear. I'm(GULPS)...stuck.

HE LOOKS DOWN (HIS POV OF THE OTHERS BELOW). THEN HE LOOKS UP (HIS POV OF LING ABOVE)

CUT TO:

18. INT: BIG TOP (HIGH WIRE)

STILL TANGLED-UP, LING LOOKS DOWN & YELLS

58. LING
(CALLING DOWN) Toby! You can't stay there all day.

CUT TO:

17. INT: BIG TOP (THE LADDER)

HALFWAY UP THE LADDER TOBY LOOKS UP TOWARDS LING

59. TOBY
(CALLING UP) No, really - I...I can't move!

CUT TO:

18. INT: BIG TOP (CIRCUS RING)

AS JANGO, THOR, MOMO & DOLORES LOOK UP, DOLORES BEGINS TO FRET.

60. DOLORES
(GASPS!) He's stuck! Someone do something.

61. THOR
I fix, not climb.

62. JANGO
(MUSES) Hmm? Maybe I can help?

JANGO REACHES FOR HIS GUITAR & STRUMS A CHORD <MUSIC>

63. JANGO
(CALMLY CALLING UP) Toby? Listen to the music. It's your favourite tune.

CUT TO:

19. INT: BIG TOP (THE LADDER)

HALFWAY UP THE LADDER, TOBY IS GRIPPING ON FOR DEAR LIFE - STILL FROZEN. HE LOOKS DOWN.

64. TOBY
(GULPS!) And?

CUT TO:

20. INT: BIG TOP (CIRCUS RING)

65. JANGO
(CALLING UP) Sing along. It'll take your mind off things.

JANGO BEGINS TO PLAY THE SONG & STARTS IT OFF VOCALLY <MUSIC>. (SONG TBC BY PRODUCER)

IE:

66. JANGO
La la la la la

CUT TO:

21. INT: BIG TOP (LADDER)

<MUSIC> CARRIES OVER.

TOBY JOINS IN THE SONG AND STARTS TO CLIMB - SLOWLY AT FIRST BUT GRADUALLY WITH MORE & MORE CONFIDENCE. IT'S DOING THE TRICK!

67. TOBY
La la la la la...
La la la la la
La la la.

La la la la la...
La la la la la
La la la!

BY THE TIME THE SONG ENDS - TOBY REACHES THE SAFETY PLATFORM

CUT TO:

22. INT: BIG TOP (HIGH WIRE)

LING - STILL TANGLED-UP - REACTS AS TOBY TRIUMPHANTLY REACHES HER.

WE HEAR <HOORAYS!> FROM BELOW.

68. LING
(CHEEKILY WITH A GIGGLE) What kept you?

69. TOBY
(CASUALLY, BUT RELIEVED!) I was counting the steps.

THEY BOTH <LAUGH!>

70. TOBY
Let's get you undone.

TOBY MAKES QUICK WORK OF UNRAVELLING LING FROM THE RIBBON.

71. LING
Thanks, Toby. Were you scared?

72. TOBY
(HESITATES) Not for long. (LOOKS DOWN)
Thanks to Jango.

73. LING
Good. Now for the fun bit. (GIGGLES) Getting back down!

LING GRABS THE 'ZIP WIRE' HANDLE AND SHOOTS AWAY DOWN (OUT OF SHOT)

74. LING
(EXITING) Wheeeeeeeee!

75. TOBY
Wow! (LOOKING DOWN) I've got to try that!
(MUSES) Hmmm?

CUT TO:

VISUAL STING - TIME PASSING. BIRDSEYE W/S OF CIRCUS

CUT TO:

23. INT: BIG TOP (BIT LATER)

THE LIGHTS GO DOWN, APART FROM UPON JANGO IN HIS BANDSTAND. HE PERFORMS A DRUM ROLL.

76. JANGO

Ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to.....

THE LIGHTS ZAP UP AND TOBY (AS RINGMASTER) SHOOTS DOWN THE ZIP WIRE, HAVING A BALL

77. TOBY

.....Toby's Travelling Circus! Wheeee!

TOBY LANDS EXPERTLY IN THE SAWDUST AND TAKES A BOW AS THE AUDIENCE <APPLAUD>

78. TOBY

(LAUGHING TO CAM) What goes up, must come down!

FREEZE FRAME.

END