

window box

by

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Actor to improvise dialog into scenes when shooting

EXT. HOUSING ESTATE - DAY

Springtime. A grey tower block reaches up into infinity.

CUT TO:

EXT. WINDOW BOX - DAY

A tiny stalk is reaching up from the soil, visible is a tiny bud. The bud is being blown back and forth by a gale wind.

FADE TO:

(MUSIC VO)

INT. FLAT - DAY

Camera pans around a mantelpiece. An old picture of a young soldier is on display, a large teak box conceals a small velvet box that is half open, but we cannot see what is inside.

Camera pans around the room, which is bare with very little furniture. An old horse blanket covered armchair sits opposite an old brown teak television. A camel coloured blanket is thrown over the arm chair. Moments go by and we hear keys rattling in the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

(overhead camera) An OLD MAN in his mid to late seventies, he appears to have the appearance of physical fitness past. He takes off his overcoat and hat and hangs them on two hooks by the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The OLD MAN has a Summerfields shopping bag from which he produces two cans of Guinness, a tin of corn beef and a box of matches. He takes his gardening magazine from his pocket and looks towards the living room window which he can see

through a large breakfast hatch. He sees a bird pecking in the window box.

He strides over to the window and flings it open. The bird flies off. He examines the bud shielding it from the wind by cupping his hands around it. A thought occurs to him.

CUT TO:

ECU on bud

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The OLD MAN enters the room, goes to the wardrobe, opens it and takes out a wooden hanger. He sits on the bed placing the hanger between both feet and pulls upwards until it the bottom breaks off the hanger, producing a stick.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The OLD MAN is rummaging through a drawer. He pulls out some sticky tape and scissors. He cuts a short length from the roll of tape and winds it around one end of the stick.

CUT TO:

EXT. WINDOW BOX - DAY

The tiny bud looks frail. Suddenly the OLD MAN appears. He attaches the bud to the stick, thus we have support. He studies the bud for a moment then from the windowsill he takes a 12 inch ruler and measures the height of the bud. Making a note of this in a little black book, he closes the window.

FADE OUT.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

The OLD MAN is standing in his slacks and vest. The sink is filled with hot water. The old man is shaving and having a wash down. He looks in the mirror, smiles to himself then continues to shave.

3.

CUT TO:

EXT. WINDOW BOX - DAY

The little stalk is fighting against the wind.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The OLD MAN is standing in his bedroom, the room is bare. No carpet on the floor, an old teak wardrobe stands alone in an awkward place in the room. The bed has blankets folded on the mattress in a military fashion. He opens the wardrobe. One shirt, a tie a pair of slacks and a beige cardigan hang inside. The OLD MAN takes them out and places them elegantly onto the bed.

CUT TO:

INT. FLAT - DAY

The OLD MAN stands smartly dressed, he walks into the kitchen and takes a watering can out from under the sink. He fills it and walks towards the window box. He sees it's pelting down with rain.

CUT TO:

EXT. WINDOW BOX - DAY

The tiny stalk is being blown back and forth in the wind. Rain is drizzling onto the window box.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The OLD MAN is drying up his breakfast utensils. It is a beautiful day. He is dressed in a paisley dressing gown. He goes to the cupboard, inside there is an old box marked "plant feed" sitting alone in the bare cupboard. He takes the box.

CUT TO:

EXT. WINDOW BOX - DAY

The tiny bud is basked in glorious sunshine. The window opens and the OLD MAN appears with plant feed in his hand. He shakes a handful of plant feed from the packet into his hand and scatters it around the bud.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The OLD MAN puts the plant feed box onto the floor as he gazes proudly at the bud. As he closes the window, he turns and knocks over the box. He makes his way to the kitchen and returns with a broom. He sweeps the seed into a small pile, then holding the broom on his knees about six inches from the handle in order to brush the plant feed back into the packet. As he pulls the brush back we hear the sound of breaking glass. He stops, realising what has happened. He stands up to find a window pane broken. He studies the damage and then picks up the ruler from the windowsill and measures the broken section. He goes into the kitchen returns with a bowl and pours the remains of feed from the packet into it. He cuts a square of cardboard from the packet and places it over the broken pane. It fits. He sticks the square to the metal window surround. He is pleased.

FADE TO:

EXT. WINDOW BOX - NIGHT

Rain is pouring down onto the little stalk and the wind is howling, we can make out the reflection of the television from inside the flat but we cannot hear what is going on.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The OLD MAN is dressed in a cardigan with a shirt and tie. The gas ring on the cooker is alight and he is rubbing his hands together, warming them. He turns and reaches up to a cupboard and pulls out one of his cans of Guinness. He notices the square packet repair on the window in the living room is flapping in the high wind. He moves into the living room and he fixes it back into place. Satisfied he goes back to the kitchen and reclaims his can of Guinness. As he walks off towards the living room we see the gas ring still flaming away.

CUT TO:

EXT. WINDOW BOX - NIGHT

A strong gale is now building up. The little bud is fighting against the rain and wind.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The OLD MAN is sitting in an armchair sipping on his can of Guinness. We hear a politicians voice from the television talking about how pensioners have never been better off.

CUT TO:

ECU on Window Pane. The window square covering is trembling in the wind.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

The OLD MAN has dozed off and he is snoring gently. Camera pans across to the window, where the square covering is in place. We see the wind tear it free. The camera pans across the room and into the kitchen via a breakfast hatch, to the gas ring, being battered by the wind. A particularly high gust blows out the flames.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sunlight fills the room. The OLD MAN is in the same position; he has not stirred. The camera moves around the room. Across the OLD MAN first, then towards the mantle piece. (CUE MUSIC) The camera tracks over the large teak box, and onto the small velvet box. We can now see inside. The medal of Valour is on display. We see some old photos of a young soldier.

CUT TO:

EXT. WINDOW BOX - DAY

The tiny stalk has survived the nights storm, it stands upright. The tiny bud has started to open and we can see inside a bright yellow flower waiting to flourish.

6.

The end roll credits