

TP-8 The Potato Conspiracy Reenacted: Episode 2

CAST: 17 Characters

Jazz
Gemini 1 & 2
Fractal
Singe
Verity
Enigma
Quentin
Jeopardy
Mechanoid
Agents 1 & 2
Jane Jones, aka Solitaire
Potato Patrol 1 & 2
Director
Host

PRE-SCENE: REDUX

(Voices are heard offstage; no action is visible.)

Gemini # 1: Gemini!

Gemini # 2: Gemini!!

Gemini # 1 and 2: *(from opposite sides of stage)* Gemini! Where are you? Gemini!

Verity: *(crying)* I was right! The world *is* a betrayal.

Fractal: Fractal is vanquished!

Singe: You can't keep me here! I'll, like, burn this place to the ground!

Jazz: Don't worry, everyone. These pitiful cell bars will soon fall beneath my brutal attack. Hii-yah! Hiii-yah ... it's no use.

Fractal: Fractal will never escape ... we're doomed! Doooomed!

All Members of the Group Formerly known as The Rogue

Cortex: Nooooooo!!

Jeopardy: Muahahaha. Finally, we have imprisoned The Rogue Cortex. Muahahaha! Muahahaha! Muahahaha!

SCENE I: THE ESTABLISHMENT

(Jeopardy's evil laughter is heard from offstage. Quentin enters first and listens to Jeopardy's laughter and rolls his/her eyes. Jeopardy then enters, still laughing. Jeopardy is petting Foo-Foo, his pet cockroach.)

Jeopardy: Muahahaha! Muahahaha! ... *(Jeopardy talks to Foo-Foo.)* Laugh with me, Foo-Foo. Laugh with me! Oh, you laugh so beautifully. You're the best cockroach in the world! You are so cute! What did you say? No, no, I love you more!

Quentin: Sir, can we get started?

Jeopardy: Yes, yes, of course we can. I insist that we start immediately!

Quentin: *(talking to the audience)* You will be lucky participants in a brand-new reality show. The name of this show is "Staying Alive".

Jeopardy: We will film the show in front of a live audience! *(Jeopardy whispers to Quentin.)* Hopefully, none of them will turn into potatoes.

Quentin: *(whispering to Jeopardy)* We shouldn't talk about that right now, sir. *(Quentin talks to the audience.)* Since we require only the best audience members for our show, you will be subjected to a careful screening process. The scan will be conducted by the Gamma Five Thousand Six Hundred Point Nine Dash Four Mechanized Interactive Security Mechanoid. *(Quentin presses a button on a remote control, and the Mechanoid enters.)* The 'Mechanized Interactive Security Mechanoid' is a highly advanced security device.

Jane Jones: *(calling out from the audience)* How long is this going to take, anyway? And what was that about turning into potatoes?

(Quentin and Jeopardy exchange nervous looks.)

Quentin: Remember that at the end of the day you will receive your special prize of a free satellite package. This will allow you to watch the many fine programs we offer, including 'Staying Alive'! Let's move on to the security phase.

(Quentin presses a button on a remote control and the Mechanoid begins to speak. The Mechanoid's voice does not come from her, but is in the background or recorded. Her mouth does not move, but her motions, although mechanical in nature, correspond to what is being said. The Mechanoid's voice should be friendly, yet sound artificial.)

Mechanoid: Welcome to the operating system for the Gamma Five Thousand Six Hundred Point Nine Dash Four. Bienvenue au système d'exploitation pour le Gamma Cinq Mille Six cents Tirets Quatre Du Point Neuf. *Benvenido al sistema operativo para el Gamma Cinco Mil Seiscientas Rociadas Cuatro Del Punto Nueve.* Welkom aan het werkende systeem voor Gamma Punt Zeshonderd Negen Streepje Vier van vijf Duizend.

I speak several languages.

Jeopardy: *(interrupting)* Quentin, make it speak English.

(Quentin presses button on the Mechanoid's remote.)

Mechanoid: You have chosen English. Vous avez choisi anglais. *Usted ha elegido inglés.* U hebt Engels gekozen.

(Jeopardy takes the remote from Quentin and tries to press buttons, but the voice continues. Finally, Jeopardy short circuits the Mechanoid. The Mechanoid falls down.)

Quentin: *(frustrated)* There goes another of my prototypes. I suppose we'll have to do this the old-fashioned way. *(Quentin speaks into walkie-talkie.)* Please send personnel to Zone 901, Quadrant Seven.

(The agents enter and salute.)

Quentin: Thank you for responding so quickly. *(Quentin rolls his eyes and gestures to broken Mechanoid. Jeopardy looks away and cuddles Foo-Foo.)*

Agent # 2: I see. We'll take care of it, sir.

(The agents pick up the broken Mechanoid and take it offstage. They reenter and address the audience.)

Agent # 1: You are here because...

Intercom: Jeopardy to Zone 847, Sector 2.

Jeopardy: We'd better go. Sector 2 is the Snack Sector. Are you hungry, Foo-Foo? I have some cream puffs with "Foo-Foo" written all over them. Yes, I do!

(Jeopardy exits and agents salute.)

Quentin: *(talking to Agents)* We'll leave this group in your capable hands.

(Quentin exits and agents salute.)

Agent # 2: *(talking to Agent #1)* We shouldn't have any problems with them. They look like a very passive group.

Agent # 1: Yes, easily intimidated.

(The agents chuckle and pat each other on the back.)

Agent # 2: *(talking to Agent # 1)* Activate Phase 1.

Agent # 1: *(talking to the audience)* Please perform the demonstrated actions exactly as instructed. Raise your right hand above your head, fingers open, and palm facing forward. *(The agents encourage the audience to comply.)* Superb.

Agent # 2: Keep your hands in the air. Shift your weight forward in your chair, and push with the soles of your feet and straighten your legs. This will bring you into a standing position. *(The agents wait for audience to comply.)* Well done.

Agent # 1: Now, close your eyes.

(The agents pause.)

Agents # 1 and 2: Phase 1 complete.

Agent # 1: You may open your eyes, be seated, and place your hands at your sides.

Agent # 2: *(talking to Agent # 1)* Activate Phase 2.

Agent # 1: Underneath your chairs you will find two circles. One of them is red, and the other is blue. Please remove the circles from your chair seat now. *(The agents wait for audience to comply.)* Indicate your answers to the questions we will ask you by holding the circles in the air. You will hold up the red circle to indicate "yes", and the blue to indicate "no".

Agent # 2: Are you ready?

Agent # 2: Have you ever worn socks? *(The agents encourage the audience to response.)*

Agent # 1: Excellent. Do you like mashed peas? *(The agents encourage the audience to response.)*

Agent # 2: Very good. Do you have cable television, or a satellite? Okay, now raise the red circle for cable and the blue for satellite. *(The agents notice that Jane Jones has not raised either of her circles in response to the question.)*

Agent # 1: *(pointing to Jane Jones)* Subject 368, why have you not complied with this query? Do you fail to understand the procedure?

Jane Jones: My name is Jane Jones, not Subject 368. I don't have cable or a satellite, just regular TV.

Agent # 1: *(talking into a walkie-talkie)* Attention Potato Patrol. Code Brownish-Grey in Zone 901, Quadrant Seven. Stand by for updates.

Agent # 1 and 2: Phase 2 complete.

Agent # 2: *(talking to Agent # 2)* Activate Phase 3.

Agent # 1: Remain still while we perform Phase 3 of the security procedure.

(Agent # 2 takes out brain-scanning device and scans the crowds foreheads with it. When Agent # 2 reaches Jane Jones, the device begins to beep and flash.)

Agent # 2: Alert! Alert! Phase 3 has detected extreme levels of subversive brain activity! Look at these readings – they’re off the charts!

Agent # 1: *(talking into walkie-talkie)* Potato Patrol to previously specified zone! Now, now, now!

(The agents subdue Jane Jones until the Potato Patrol arrives. The Potato Patrol removes Jane Jones. She is kicking and screaming as they drag her off.)

Agent # 1: Ignore this brief interruption.

Agent # 2: *(talking to Agent # 1)* The monitor shows that global delta wave activity is stable. The disturbance has been neutralized.

Agent # 1 and 2: Phase 3 complete.

Agent # 1: *(talking to the audience)* Congratulations. Group C-7 has completed the tri-phase security analysis. You will now be permitted a short rest period, with some restrictions. Restriction A: Do not move more than five inches outside the perimeter of your seat. Restriction B: Do not attempt to communicate with other audience members. Restriction C: Breathe at a regular and even pace.

Agent # 2: This is a highly controlled environment. Any non-compliance will result in a security breach.

Agent # 1: Please stand by.

(The agents exit.)

SCENE 2: THE REBELS

(The group formerly known as The Rogue Cortex are in prison. Each member of the group is in a different cell. Jazz is wearing a karate suit, Singe has a lighter, and Verity hides in a box.)

Gemini # 1: My head is spinning. My eyes are throbbing. I can't see anything except the television images that are burned into my memory. Gemini? Gemini? What is your status?

Gemini # 2: Condition deteriorating, Gemini. They were merciless. They made us watch music videos, sitcoms, talk shows...

Gemini # 1 and 2: Are all members of The Group with No Name present?

Fractal: Gemini! Is that you? *(wailing manically)* Gemini, they've taken it all away. All of my machines. Fractal's binary combustion obfuscator. Fractal's infrared view-capture monitor. They are all gone! Fractal *needs* these mechanical devices. Without them, Fractal is helpless! We're doomed! Dooooomed!

Singe: You are, like, such a wimp, Fractal.

Gemini # 1 and 2: Singe?

Singe: I'm in the cell, like, across from you, Gemini. Jazz and Verity are, like, on either side of me. Enigma is across the hall, too. Everyone is, like, basically fine. Except that it's way too dark in here. *(Singe talks out his/her lighter.)* Fire. Need fire. *(Singe lighes the lighter.)* Ahhhh...

Jazz: Everyone is all right for now ... but who knows when the villains will come back? And when they do, I'll be ready for them! Hii-yah!

Verity: *(crying)* I'm so scared. How else can they torture us?

Enigma: No need to cry, Verity. They may have imprisoned our bodies, but they will never capture our souls! The Group with No Name will prevail!

Members of the Group Formerly Known as The Rogue Cortex:
For the public! For the public! *(The group perform their secret handshake by waving their hands in the air.)*

(As the group performs their secret handshake, Jane Jones is dragged onstage by the Potato Patrol.)

Jane Jones: What's going on? Is there some kind of prison rebellion happening?