

THE REGULAR GUYS

WGA#1708484

FADE IN:

EXT. A RURAL TWO LANE HIGHWAY - DAY

A car driven by LENNY, 30, black hair starting to thin, slightly chubby, with LARRY, 33, tall, trim, full head of black hair, as a passenger, speeds down a two-lane US highway. Soon it is pulled over by a police car. ANN SHELTON, 27, a pretty, blond, athletic officers exits the police car and, hand on her gun, approaches Lenny's car. Lenny rubs his forehead with a hand, while Larry can be seen laughing.

ANN

(Rather formally)

Good evening men. My name is Ann and I will be your citing officer this evening. May I see your drivers license, registration and proof of insurance, please?

LENNY

(Sarcastically)

May I see your drivers license, registration and proof of insurance? What if I said no? What if everybody said no? Your scam would be over! Over!

Larry is heard laughing. He smiles tolerantly at Lenny.

ANN

I'd have to arrest you then, sir. And that's more paperwork than either of us really wants.

LARRY

Uh-oh. Better do what she says then, Lenny.

Lenny, pretending to be peeved, looks at Larry.

LENNY

Why don't you shut-up?

Lenny finds his paperwork and hands them to Ann with both hands.

ANN

We clocked you at 92, sir. How come we're speeding today, Mr Lenny?

LENNY

We? Who's we? You on patrol with Reid and Malloy?

Lenny and Ann make eye contact and Lenny winks at Ann.

LARRY

We're heading to the next town. We're comedians. We're appearing at a world-class resort there.

ANN

The Ramada Inn? You're not playing the lounge off the lobby are you?

LENNY

(Slightly peeved.)

We're booked into the main show room, yes, Officer Shelton.

ANN

(Smiling warmly)

Well don't flee! I'm going to make sure you're not on the most wanted list.

Officer Shelton returns to her squad car.

LARRY

I think she likes you.

LENNY

Shut up. She does not.

Officer Shelton returns to Lenny's car and sticks her clipboard inside.

LENNY

Mr. Lenny, sign where the X is. Signing where the X is is not an admission of guilt.

LENNY

What the hell is it then, a declaration of innocence?

ANN

Actually, it means you'll appear in court or pay the fine beforehand.

LARRY

(As if instructing
a child)

Lenny, how about as a token of
your appreciation for Officer
Shelton not hauling you in you get
her comps for tonight's show at
the Ramada Inn's main showroom?

LENNY

(Pretending to be
peeved)

How about as a token of
appreciation for providing ground
transportation you shut your yap?

Both Officer Shelton and Larry laugh. Lenny sighs.

LENNY

Very well. Officer Shelton, if I
were to issue a comp - which I am
not prepared to do yet - would you
attend?

ANN

You charmer. OK I'll be there.

CUT TO:

INT. COMEDY CLUB AT RAMADA INN - NIGHT

Theme music plays over scenes from Lenny and Larry's
separate sets at the Ramada Inn's comedy club. Music fades
out to show Lenny and Larry sitting at bar with Ann Shelton.
The bar is moderately full.

ANN

(Drinking a glass
of wine)

You know, you two should really
work together. You'd make a nice
team.

Lenny and Larry look at each other dumbly. Plainly, the idea
had not occurred to them.

ANN

(Holding up both
hands)

I mean sure, you're both doing
great on your own...

Ann looks around, surveying the splendor of the comedy club at the Ramada Inn

ANN

...but your shtick in the car was really funny. You two have no clue what you'd accomplish.

Lenny and Larry both look at Ann. Larry, with one eyebrow raised, is intrigued by the idea. Lenny clearly is not.

LENNY

You've got to be kidding. Work together?

LARRY

Why not? What the hell?

Lenny looks at Larry, pretending to be cross, which makes Ann laugh.

LENNY

Because it's a stupid idea, that's why. Who the hell wants to see two comedians work together?

LARRY

Someone also wondered, once, who the hell would want to hear actors talk, Lenny.

ANN

(Waving a hand dismissively)

Well, even if you don't, you're still comedians hitting the road, on the edge at 92 miles per hour.

LENNY

(Shaking his head)

Actually, we're not really edgy people.

LARRY

No, we're just regular guys.

Ann stands up in front of them with her hands spread out to the side with an expectant look on her face.

ANN

Are you guys dense? There's your name!

LENNY

What name?

ANN

Your name when you're on stage,
silly goose: The Regular Guys!

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE BIG CITY COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Lenny and Larry are standing in the back of a big city comedy club. It's amateur night and this will be their first performance as a team. They are the first act and there is the general commotion of an arriving crowd taking their seats. The emcee is about to take the stage.

LENNY

This had better work. I'm only doing this because you said 'what the hell'.

LARRY

What the hell is a great reason to do something like this, partner. What've we got to lose?

LENNY

Oh, I don't know. Our careers?

Larry waves a hand.

LARRY

Our careers are going nowhere, anyway.

LENNY

(Rubbing his forehead)

I can't believe I don't have material prepared.

LARRY

Material's overrated. We'll do great winging it.

EMCEE (OS)

Good evening! Welcome to open mike night at Stacy's.

Larry takes a piece of paper out of a pocket and hands it to Lenny.

LENNY

What's this?

LARRY

It's a copy of my uncle's insurance license. It's what you have to look forward to if we fail.

Lenny takes the license and looks at it with a grim look on his face. He shakes his head.

LARRY

(Nodding head
solemnly)

I know.

Lenny sighs audibly before folding the license and putting it in his front suit coat pocket.

EMCEE

We've got some really funny comedians coming your way tonight, but before we get to them, let's bring out our first act...

The audience laughs. Larry laughs, too. Lenny pinches his nose.

LENNY

Fabulous. The emcee is funnier than us...

EMCEE

Seriously, they're really funny so give it up for Lenny and Larry!

Larry takes the stage first, leaping like a ballet dancer. Lenny came out taking pictures of the audience. Larry is bowing when Lenny nudges him out of the way so he can take more pictures.

The scene ends with The Regular Guys ad-libbing their act for a couple of minutes.

CUT TO:

INT. LENNY'S CAR. - DAY

Lenny and Larry are in Lenny's car, driving to their first paid gig as a comedy team.

LENNY

I really would've preferred a weekend gig. Who the hell's going to be there on a weeknight?

LARRY

(Waving hand
dismissively)

It doesn't matter. It's our first paying gig. There's no place to go but up.

LENNY

(Sarcastically)

Do you look on the bright side of everything? If you were on the Titanic you'd have been looking forward to the chance to ride a lifeboat.

LARRY

I had thirteen years of Lutheran schooling, partner. I know no other way. We'll take our two weeknights and put it to work for us.

LENNY

(Feigning anger)

I hate you. I want to whine and you hit me with logic.

Lenny and Larry drive in silence for a bit.

LENNY

So what did thirteen years of Lutheran schooling get you?

LARRY

I was a radio announcer for awhile. Really enjoyed it, too. It's what I wanted to do as a kid. I was a minor league baseball announcer for a few years, then got laid off when the team was sold and they brought in their own announcer.

Lenny looks quizzically at Larry.

LENNY

You didn't get back into radio?

LARRY
(Shaking his head)
No. I woke up the next morning and didn't miss it. I got into comedy at an amateur night. To impress a girl.

Lenny purses his lips and nods his head knowingly.

LENNY
Did it work?

Larry laughs and shakes his head.

LARRY
No. She probably would've been more impressed had I valeted her car well.

Lenny laughs and pulls his car into a gas station.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE A MINI-MART - DAY

Lenny and Larry are standing at the soda fountain in a mini-mart.

LENNY
So is this going to work, Larry?

Larry shrugs.

LARRY
I don't see why not. We put our cup under the dispenser, press the button and we get soda. We're pre-approved.

LENNY
(Exasperated)
No, wing nut. Not can we get a refreshing beverage, but will we work? Lenny and Larry?

LARRY
Who knows? It's the unknown that makes it fun. Let's just see what happens. Besides, we'll get to see Ann again.

LENNY

Ann! How do you know?

LARRY

Because I called her and warned her, that's why. She probably has the speed trap set for us right now. I think she likes you, Lenny. She asked about you.

Lenny and Larry approach the cashier and Larry pays for their sodas.

LENNY

Of course she did. She has quotas to meet!

CUT TO:

INT. WIDE SHOT - HOTEL HALLWAY - DAY

Scene opens with wide shot of hotel hallway. Larry turns a corner, walks down the hallway, stops in front of a room and knocks on the door.

Door is opened by Ann. Ann is wearing a bathrobe and her hair is mussed. She leans her head out the door, looks both ways, grabs Larry's hand and pulls him into the hotel room.

ANN

Get in here! I can't have people seeing me like this!

Larry recovers his balance and turns his head, as if looking for other people.

Larry and Ann enter the room. Larry takes a seat at a table near the window. Ann stands in the middle of the room.

LARRY

(Conspiratorially)

Looks like someone has spent some recent time on her back.

ANN

You will be pleased to note I got Lenny to agree to the name The Regular Guys.

LARRY

Really? How?

Ann cocks her head and smiles. Larry laughs and spreads his hands expansively.

LARRY

Hey, whatever it takes, baby!
Sometimes you've got to take one
for the team.

ANN

Oh, I took one for the team.
(Thoughtfully)
More than one, actually.

A key is heard entering a hotel room lock and Lenny enters the room, carrying a bag and cardboard holder with three coffee cups on it.

LENNY

Ah, partner, good morning.

Lenny heads to the table and takes out some bagels and muffins and hands Larry his coffee. Ann comes to the table, takes a cup and heads to the bathroom.

LENNY

You will be pleased to note we are
now The Regular Guys. I've alerted
the media!

LARRY

That's what Ann reported.
Evidently it took a lot of
persuading.

ANN (OS)

Larry!

LENNY

You were both right, I was, in the
upset of the year, wrong. The
Regular Guys will take the stage
for the first time tonight!

LARRY

We'll have a better crowd than
last night. I saw some people at
the front desk buying tickets.
They said they heard the two guys
last night were pretty funny.

LENNY

(Suspicious)
Really?

Larry nods his head emphatically.

LARRY

They're right, too. We did well last night.

ANN (OS)

You guys were fabulous. Really.

LENNY

Great! We'll be famous tomorrow!

LARRY

Tomorrow, next year, whenever. We keep doing a good show every night, good things will happen. Left to themselves things tend to work out.

LENNY

(Cocks his head towards Larry)

Really?

LARRY

(Shrugging and smiling)

Hell, I don't know. My resume is a litany of failure. I just said that to make you feel good.

CUT TO:

INT. A DARK, CROWDED COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

In lower left-hand corner of screen:

A Big City Comedy Club

MORTY KLINEMAN, early 50's, with evidence of both some hard miles and a below average toupee, wearing a dark suit and half glasses on the edge of his nose, enters comedy club, surveys the room and takes a seat at a table in the back. He is approached by a waiter who obviously knows him and already has his drink. The club is bustling as the waiter puts Morty's drink on the table.

WAITER

Morty, good evening. One of your clients here tonight?

MORTY

(Nodding)

Yeah. Who else we got tonight? Who are these misfits that are opening? The Regular Guys?

WAITER

(Smiling)

They're pretty funny. They've been here before. They get some good laughs.

Morty nods, hands the waiter some cash. The waiter leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Music over montage scene. Lenny and Larry take the stage. Lenny pulls out a wad of bills and starts handing them out to patrons in the first row. Larry enters stage with arms spread wide, then starts filming crowd with his phone. Lenny starts to give one man a bill, stops, then reaches into his pocket for some coins.

Montage scene continues with The Regular Guys performing, shots of crowd plainly enjoying themselves. Morty is plainly enthralled with The Regular Guys.

Music fades to shot of Lenny and Larry sitting at bar, with Morty approaching.

MORTY

(Extending a hand)

My name is Morty. Morty Klineman.
That was a hell of a show.

Lenny and Larry both mutter thanks. Lenny takes the card and everybody shakes hands.

MORTY

How long have you guys been together?

LENNY

(Glances at Larry)

A year or so, right? We met on the road.

LARRY

Yeah, it was love at first sight, wasn't it, partner?