Tarred and Feathered
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CAST: 3 (all m or f)
Lee (m or f) 11-12; Determined to get his message of protest out to the world
Pat (m or f) 11-12; Lee’s extremely good-natured friend
Kerry (m or f) 11-12; Always connected

Setting: spring afternoon on a suburban street

Running Time: 10 minutes

SNOPSIS: Pat and Kerry agree to be the look-out for Lee when Lee must spread his message across the globe – through graffiti. But things don’t go as planned.

Tarred and Feathered was produced July 2014 by Youth Education on Stage in Williston, North Dakota.

Director: David Gillam Fuller
Lee: William Gergan
Pat: Libby Swensrud
Kerry: Paige Wold
(AT RISE  LEE is hiding in a yard with a chicken coop. KERRY is texting. PAT is calling for LEE.)

PAT

Everyone’s gone, Lee! You can come out!

KERRY

Whoa! That was a close one!

LEE

Is anyone anywhere?

PAT

No one’s here. Let’s get going!

(LEE emerges. He is blackened with tar and covered in chicken feathers.)

LEE

Don’t laugh.

(KERRY uses phone to take a photo of PAT.)

And put away the camera! I don’t need to be sprawled all over the internet!

But it’s newsworthy!

LEE

Stop laughing!

PAT

(Suppressing laughter)

Who me? I wouldn’t dream of it.

(Under his breath)

Chicken.

LEE

What did you say?

PAT

Nothing – but you know – if it looks like a chicken and acts like a chicken –

LEE

There was a chicken coop in the backyard!
KERRY
Oh yeah. Everyone knows the Coopers keep chickens.

(Snaps photo.)

LEE
I didn’t! Give me that!

KERRY
That’s my lifeline!

LEE
The world does not need to see me like this!

KERRY
We could be become a media sensation! Hey! Do the chicken dance and we’ll put it on Youtube. Who knows? Maybe we’ll get on TV!

LEE
Nooooo!

PAT
The feathers are stuck on the tar you got on the street – you know what that means, Lee?

LEE
Don’t say it.

PAT
Tarred and feathered!

KERRY
There needs to be a record of this!

LEE
Don’t make me smash the phone!

KERRY
No violence, please. Not healthy.

LEE
Look at me! I can’t go home like this.

PAT
No one’s home at my house. Except Mitzi and she won’t tell. She just barks. You can shower there.

LEE

What about your Mom?

PAT

My mother’s at her “self-help-healing-find-your-inner-voice-and-center-yourself” meeting. She never misses it.

LEE

Oh man, you two! What kind of friends are you? You were supposed to be my look-outs!

PAT

I was guarding you – from cars! I was looking up! Not down!

LEE

And where were you looking, Kerry?

KERRY

At my phone! I was texting Josh and Mary about the movie tonight. Somebody has to make plans.

LEE

Someone should have noticed they had just tarred the streets!

PAT

I was looking at the horizon for cars so you wouldn’t get run over. One second I’m looking up the street and the next moment – you’re screaming, “hot bituminous, hot bituminous!” Didn’t even know that was a word!

LEE

It means asphalt! Some people look out for their friends. Some people wouldn’t let their friend crawl onto hot bituminous, burn themselves and then leap onto the cool grass only to be covered in more … gross stuff.

PAT

Some people don’t have friends that feel the need to write graffiti all over the street. Look at you – you’re just a mess!

LEE

It’s not my fault!

PAT

You’re the one who crawled backwards into some freshly filled-in pothole and screamed –\
LEE

It burned!

KERRY

Screaming did not help.

PAT

It brought people out to see what was going on so you ran into the Cooper’s yard – and backed into their chicken coop.

LEE

I was just trying to get out of sight!

PAT

It worked. You are now “unsightly!” Maybe you’ll lay off creating graffiti for awhile.

LEE

It’s my way of warning society. You can’t miss something written in the street.

PAT

You missed the hot tar!

LEE

Because you two weren’t doing your job!

PAT

It was my job to keep you from being run over. I succeeded.

LEE

At least I have written my slogan “Fight Apathy! Or Don’t!” on the street. Mission accomplished! Best slogan ever!

KERRY

I don’t know what it means but I’ll defend your right to write it in the street.

LEE

It’s deep, you know. Double meaning and all of that.

PAT

Cool. Unlike the street.

LEE

Don’t remind me. So, I can use your shower? No one will ever know?
PAT
Yeah, sure – I told you I’d help you. You know, you could consider suing the city and getting some money out of it. I’ve heard of people doing that. Nothing was posted that the cracks were resurfaced with hot tar. They really should do that for people who want to sprawl graffiti all over the street.

LEE
Get Real, Pat! How could I sue the city without my mother finding out? And how could I explain the feathers?

KERRY
Maybe your mother would understand. Maybe she’d want to sue. How many kids wind up tarred and feathered these days?

LEE
My mother would never sue! She’s into this personal responsibility, “take charge of your own life” stuff. I’ll shower, wear your clothes home and sneak in and change before she sees me.

PAT
Whatever you say. We’ll have to use the towel we use when we wash Mitzi. Then I don’t have to explain to my mother why the towel smells.

LEE
The dog towel????? I have to use a dog towel?????

PAT
And the soap would never work. I’ll get my mom’s nail polish remover! That stuff takes off anything.

LEE
Nail polish remover? We have a problem here, Pat! You can make me use the dog towel but I draw the line at showering with nail polish remover!

KERRY
Pat’s just being a good friend, Lee!

LEE
I guess.

KERRY
You know, it’s a shame to not have a record of this. I mean – how many of my friends end up tarred and feathered? Just one photo?

LEE
No!
(KERRY goes over and pulls a few of LEE’S sticky feathers and attaches them on him/her. PAT notices and does the same.)

What are you doing?

KERRY

Trying to looks as silly as you!

(After feathering their faces, KERRY poses with the phone.)

Come on, a selfie? Or selfies – of the three of us?

LEE

You just tarred and feathered yourself – for me?

PAT

We’re in this together.

LEE

You’re the best!

KERRY

We know.

(AND KERRY holds up the camera and snaps a photo of the three of them as the lights fade to black.)