

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: Willian Gergan

Pat: Libby Swensrud

Kerry: Paige Wold

Tarred and Feathered

(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!

KERRY

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 look 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.)