

THE VENTRILOQUIST

INT. A TALENT OFFICE - DAY

VINNIE STARZMAN - A SLEAZY HOLLYWOOD AGENT -  
SITS IN HIS OFFICE.

JIMMY - A FRESH FACED TALENT - ENTERS.

JIMMY

Hello, sir. I'm your 1 o'clock.

VINNIE STARZMAN

Nice to meet you, kid. I'm Vinnie  
Starzman - Man to the Stars! Now, what  
have you got for me, kid? Cuz I can make  
you a star! But you gotta "WOW" me!

JIMMY PULLS OUT A FURRY, MONKEY PUPPET.

JIMMY

Well, I'm a ventriloquist and this is  
puppet, Harry. My act's called: "Things  
Are Getting Harry!"

JIMMY BEGINS HIS ACT:

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Hey there, Harry!  
(in a gruff monkey voice for  
the puppet - but with lips  
clearly moving)

*Who you calling "hairy"? I've seen your  
back and it looks like the jungles I grew  
up in!*

VINNIE LEAPS UP IN ANGER.

VINNIE STARZMAN

Whoa, whoa, whoa!

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

Was that a "WOW"?!

VINNIE STARZMAN

No, that was a "whoa" as in "Whoa, whoa, whoa, what the hell was that?!"

JIMMY

That was part of my act. I call him by his name, Harry, and then he makes fun of me for being hairy. It's a play on words.

VINNIE STARZMAN

It's not the joke that's bad, it's your ventriloquism! I can see your lips moving!

JIMMY

Yeah, but-

VINNIE STARZMAN

No "butts" except for your butt out my door. Get outta here!

JIMMY EXITS.

VINNIE STARZMAN (CONT'D)

I can't believe that kid! And he calls himself a ventriloquist!

THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

VINNIE STARZMAN (CONT'D)

Who is it?!

JIMMY REENTERS - NOW WEARING A HUGE BEARD.

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

It's me - Jimmy. And this is my act:

Things Are Getting Hairy!

JIMMY RESTARTS HIS ACT. HIS FACE IS OBSCURED BY  
THE BEARD.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Hey there, Harry!  
(in monkey voice)

*Who you calling hairy?! You're so hairy  
you make Fidel Castro look like Cary  
Grant!*

VINNIE JUMPS UP AGAIN.

VINNIE STARZMAN

Whoa, whoa, whoa! What the hell is this?!

JIMMY

You said you didn't want to see my lips  
move. So...  
(re: beard)

...I took care of it!

VINNIE STARZMAN

No, no, no! Have you ever even seen a  
ventriloquist?! I need to see your lips  
to know that they're not moving! Now, get  
out of here, you bum!

JIMMY EXITS AGAIN.

VINNIE STARZMAN (CONT'D)

How hard is it to find some talent in  
this town?!

ANOTHER KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

(CONTINUED)

VINNIE STARZMAN (CONT'D)

What?!

JIMMY REENTERS. HE'S STILL WEARING THE BEARD.  
THERE'S A SMALLER PUPPET ON THE PUPPET'S HAND.

JIMMY

Mr. Starzman, I've perfected my act. This  
is my puppet, Harry. And this is *HIS*  
puppet, A Little Harry. And this is their  
act: Things Are Getting A Little Harry!  
(in gruff monkey voice)

Hey there, A Little Harry!  
(in a squeakier monkey voice)

Who you calling "A Little Hairy"?! You're  
so hairy you were licking yourself clean,  
and you coughed up a Bigfoot!

VINNIE LEAPS IN YET AGAIN.

VINNIE STARZMAN

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Stop right there! What  
the hell is this?!

JIMMY

Well, you said the ventriloquist couldn't  
talk. So I made Harry the ventriloquist,  
and as you saw, his lips didn't move.

VINNIE STARZMAN

I've only got one thing to say about  
that... WOW!!! That is talent! C'mon,  
kid, we're gonna make you a star!

VINNIE AND JIMMY (AND HARRY AND A LITTLE HAIRY)  
SKIP HAPPILY AND WE'RE...

OUT.