

SONG

Written by Eric Hansen

"All you need is a song"

FADE IN:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

It is the day after a high school prom, and decorations are still hanging clumsily off the walls. Paper plates and other garbage are strewn across the floor. A few empty tables and chairs remain.

A lone WOMAN CUSTODIAN in her mid 30's is pushing a broom across the gymnasium floor. She is listening to an I Pod while she works. Every so often she looks up and surveys the damage.

She picks up garbage off the floor with her bare hands and stashes it into a large garbage bag that is almost as big as her.

Afterwards the custodian wipes down a few of the tables.

IN. SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATER

The woman drags the large garbage bag down the hallway. It makes a dragging sound.

EXT. BEHIND THE SCHOOL - LATER

The woman exits the school and drags the bag towards a dumpster. She rolls it up the edge of the dumpster and with a load grunt pushes it in.

The dust cloud clears and something inside the dumpster captures her eye. She reaches inside and pulls out two drawings.

One is of a young Michael Jackson on stage raising his fist in the air in front of a large crowd holding a microphone, and the other is of Charlie Chaplin walking down a dirt country road beside a beautiful woman.

On the Charlie Chaplin drawing is the inscription, "SMILE".

The custodian smiles to herself.

INT. GYMNASIUM - LATER

The woman re-enters the gymnasium holding an old unvarnished guitar. She walks towards a lone chair in the middle of the gym.

She sits down and carefully places the guitar in her lap. Her fingers pick at the old steel strings. She plays a folk song from memory.

She starts to sing. Her voice is weak and strained from years of neglect. She comes to a part she doesn't remember and suddenly stops.

The woman tries to play the song again, with a little more gusto but once again she gets stuck on the same spot.

She tries a third time but this time has a problem remembering the right notes. She struggles until she finally gives up.

The custodian buries her face in her hands and starts to cry.

She drags her guitar to the side of the gym and lays it down like a wounded animal. She kneels beside it and places her hand on the bridge and the other over her eyes wiping away her tears.

She rests her head against the wall and starts to improvise a monologue on her life.

During her monologue she hears things in her surroundings: At first the sound of water rushing through a pipe in the wall, then the sound of an outside generator humming, and lastly the sound of air moving from the ventilation ducts.

The custodian voice imitates the cadence she hears in the noise. She hums the melody.

She improvises words to the melody. Suddenly the custodian gets up and runs to her guitar.

The custodian sings the song and tries to play her guitar at the same time.

She struggles to find the right notes to play the melody that's in her head.

Desperate she puts down her guitar and starts to sing her song with all her will A Capella.

The song flows out of her mouth. She sings and sings. Finally she stops and looks down at her guitar. She picks it up and starts to strum the tune.

She picks up her broom and guitar. She carries them towards the door.

She exits the door that leads to the outside. As she does her body disappears into the hot light emitted from the sun.

FADE OUT