

CHEKHOV'S LADYBUGS - MOULTON - D06

ONE - THE WARNING

A WARNING comes up on the screen accompanied by a voice.

VOICE

WARNING: The following sketch show contains the release of live farm-grade ladybugs purchased off the internet. 55,000 of them. If you're allergic to, or frightened of, small insects, please see a UCB work-study participant for accommodations.

TWO - THE PITCH (video)

INT. UCB SUNSET CLASSROOM - NIGHT

TEXT: May 27th. 11:47pm. Bombardier Pitch Meeting.

ZED

(referencing whatever sketch he has later in the show)
...long story short, the princess puts a frog in her butt. Is that something?

EVERYONE

(in unison)
We value and cherish your pitches.

GEORGE WENDT

(via Skype)
Okay, who's next to pitch--

LONDALE

Twenty-five dollars. Wow, each of us probably waste that much money once or twice a week on several organic lattes. But have you ever wondered, what could we--
Bombardier--purchase if we pooled that money?

We Brady Bunch split screen as everyone says their own bit.

LONDALE

I have the only correct answer.
Lady bugs, farm grade, nine thousand for fifty dollars.
(MORE)

LONDALE (CONT'D)

This is a real thing that anyone
can buy on Amazon. If we each chip
in, that's almost 55,000 lady
bugs.

Everyone's nodding solemnly. This pitch/comedy is important.

LONDALE

We've done balloons, we've broken
fake glass, we've eaten a lot of
cake. You may call me insane, but
releasing 55,000 live lady bugs
onto an audience isn't just kind
of funny... it's our birthright.

Everyone claps.

GEORGE WENDT

So... what exactly is the sketch
that your pitching?

LONDALE

Special celebrity team director
George Wendt, dang it, we'll
figure that out.

EVERYONE

Hooray!

George Wendt frowns.

TEXT: T-Minus FIVE SKETCHES until Lady Bug release sketch.

THREE - Lady bug trivia

Onscreen, we have Bombardier trivia (like at a movie theater). The answer is always 55,000 lady bugs. What has the intelligence of a lower than average dolphin? what could eat roughly one hundred and thirty pounds of aphids in 5 minutes?

Tweet your answers with the official ladybug hashtag (#LadyBugbardier) for a chance to win this t-shirt--also for sale in the lobby.

We see a t-shirt with "I was there when Bombardier released 55,000 ladybugs and all I got was covered in ladybugs... and this t-shirt!"

The obnoxious t-minus graphic comes up and it's more intense than before.

GRAPHIC: T-MINUS THREE SKETCHES until LADY BUG-A-PALOOZA.

FOUR - "The Day the first batch of Lady Bugs Arrived" (VIDEO)

TEXT: June 14, 2015 - The first batch of ladybugs

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mark has a box.

MARK

Well, we got the first thing of ladybugs in this morning so we wanted to get this on tape.

He opens the box, inside there's a tiny container of ladybugs. He opens it, we see real live ladybugs.

JOCELYN

They're so... beautiful.

LONDALE

Huh. I suddenly feel a little bad for using these living creatures.

Everyone feels bad for a beat.

KAT

Lady bug fight!!

She throws ladybugs (red lentils) at people. We MONTAGE between the ladybug fight and:

- Members of the team talking about how important this is to comedy.

ARIK

Andy Kaufman. Steve Martin. Jesus. Bombardier? Bombardier.

JOHN

After this show, there will never be a time when UCB sunset doesn't have at least a few lady bugs living in the theater. They're impossible to clean up. It's just nice to know we'll have a legacy.

- The group is in a prayer circle.

EVERYONE

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name--

CYNTHIA

Father God, please guide our lady bugs straight and true. Thank you for the ladybugs and thank you for our team who have the courage and the strength and the humility to use the ladybugs for comedy.

- Zed shakes his head (he doesn't like them). Later, he smiles and likes them.

- someone whispers to the ladybugs

DIONA

It's truly a blessing to give your life for comedy.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

KAT

We've got the lady bugs. Only God can stop us now.

She flips on the light in a garage--it's FILLED with barrels and barrels of lady bugs. We hear the hum of 55,000 lady bugs ramping up as we SMASH TO BLACK.

T-MINUS 1 sketch until LADY BUG RELEASE SKETCH. GET. READY. TO. FUCKING. SHIT. LADY BUGS.

Insane quotes fly on the screen:

"A TRUE GAME CHANGER - US"

"WE REMIND US OF THE BIRTHDAY BOYS. - US"

"GREAT SHOW. - OUR PARENTS"

FIVE - The Ladybug Sketch (stage)

GRAPHIC: T-MINUS 0 SKETCHES until LADY BUG A PALOOZA.
 THAT'S RIGHT. The LADYBUG SKETCH STARTS NOW.
 PUT YOUR LADYBUG 3D GLASSES ON... NOW.

Air horn sound effects. The writers move into position with
 barrels of lady bugs. LIGHTS UP.

INT. DINNER PARTY - NIGHT

A couple, CLAIRE and MARTIN, stand on stage prepping for a
 dinner party.

CLAIRE

I'm so excited for our first fancy
 dinner party as a couple! I just
 hope there are no... "unusual
 things" to ruin it.

MARTIN

Oooooohhh... I can't believe I
 forgot to mention this but...
 Larry from work--he sneezes lady
 bugs. A lot of lady bugs.

CLAIRE

Oh no! I was planning on serving
 my grandmother's famous recipe
 "big giant piles of loose pepper"!
 I guess he'll just have to mostly
 eat the bean dip--

MARTIN

oh no no no! That'll make him
 fart!

CLAIRE

So? Everybody farts!

MARTIN

But Larry Ladybugs farts Lady
 bugs!!!

CLAIRE

Oh no! This guy sounds like a real
 weirdo!!

MARTIN

Tell me about it, and you'll never
 believe what happens when he CUMS.

CLAIRE
He cums lady bugs?

MARTIN
(to audience)
He CUMS LADY BUGS.

CLAIRE
Oh no!!! I invited that super
sexy, comedy-friendly, local dance
troop! I think you know the one.
They'll make him cum for sure!!!

KNOCK KNOCK on the door, it opens, revealing LARRY.

LARRY
Did somebody say ladybugs?! HIT
IT!

"Ya'll Ready for This" starts playing. Larry dances around the stage. He knows the audience wants it, he messes with the pepper but doesn't sneeze. Larry wiggles his butt as though he's about to fart.

CLAIRE AND MARTIN
Ladies and gentlemen, the LA
MUNICIPAL CITY DANCE SQUAD...
couldn't be here!

The rest of the cast and writers come out and try their best to do a cool dance (they also throw bombardier ladybug t-shirts into the audience). It's all too sexy! Larry is going to SNEEZE FART CUM!! He psyches the audience out a bit and then IT HAPPENS--

The lights go out, music stops--the writers dump their buckets on the audience, but they're empty apart from a few dry lentils. After the audience screams die down/lights come back up--

JESS SK
Oh no, that was my lentils! I was
going to bring them to the monthly
post-show potluck after this!

LARRY
woah, then what happened to the
ladybugs?

ARIK
They must have escaped and gained
sentience!

CLAIRE
That's a bit of a leap.

A buzzing hum rises through the theatre.

LADY BUG SWARM (god mic)
ha ha ha ha... You thought you
could use us as your prop, well
now I've escaped and gained
sentience.

CLAIRE
(to the writer that suggested
they gained sentience)
I'm sorry I snapped at you.

LADY BUG SWARM
And now it's humanity's turn to be
a prop!

JAY IN THE BOOTH (god mic)
I'll stop them, no problem!

JOCELYN
Jay in the booth!

A loud buzzing. A Jay body double is thrown from the sound booth. Screams.

EVERYONE
Jay!

CYNTHIA
Oh no! I'm a quarter aphid! You
guys, my grandmother was an aphid!
I've gotta get out of here!

They run backstage. Buzz sound, a body double is thrown over the top of the wall.

EVERYONE
No!!!

ARIK
I've got an idea, it's crazy, but
it may just work!

He exchanges meaningful eye contact with Kat and then runs backstage. Everyone asks if they were together. BUZZ SOUND, a body double is thrown out the side of the stage against the wall.

KAT
Noooooo!!!!!!!!!! ...And no we
weren't together.

MARK

I'll handle this--alright Lady Bugs, what do you want? Human flesh? How much? We'll give you John and Kat and all of the writers and also Jocelyn but that's it--that's where we draw the line!

LADY BUGS

Well, I'm afraid the days of you humans getting to decide what happens is over... From now on, I get to decide. And oh ho ho, I only want one thing...

Everyone screams for like twenty seconds. Finally--

BLACKOUT.

"TO BE CONTINUED" slams onto the screen. Credits roll: thanks to everyone, directed by Beth Appel, Stay tuned for the next team, check out the bombardier Zazzle to get those t-shirts and other merchandise. Reservations for our next show open on such and such a morning.

NONE OF US EVER MENTION THE LADYBUGS EVER AGAIN.