



A GAME OF SKILL

— by Len Gasparini and Robert Garen

FADE IN:

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK. NIGHT.

We move through the park and its garish lights, sounds, sideshows, rides, etc.

EXT. PENNY ARCADE.

Establishing:

ARCADE. ANOTHER ANGLE.

Three young Army recruits enter the penny arcade laughing and clowning around. One whistles at a pretty girl as she passes by.

INT. ARCADE. ON RECRUITS

as they approach one of the numerous multicolored pinball machines.

SHOT. PINBALL MACHINE.

It is equipped with an imitation machine gun. The glass-plated scene before it includes such targets as tanks, combat troops, planes, etc.

ON RECRUITS

as they look the pinball machine over. One of them is especially intrigued by the machine gun.

RECRUITS. ANOTHER ANGLE.

as they decide to flip coins to see which of them will play the machine first. The recruit who admired the machine gun seems anxious to win. He does.

ANGLE ON WINNER

He loosens up before the machine gun. His two buddies encourage him with remarks. He is going to give this exercise his best.

CLOSE ON WINNER

as he nestles into machine gun. He nods to one of his buddies.

CLOSE ON HAND

as coin is dropped into slot.

ANGLE ON WINNER

as he sets the glass-plated panorama before him into his gun-sight.

WINNER'S POV: THE PINBALL SCREEN

Planes fly past. The small, sharply focused light from the machine-gun follows the plane — and finds its mark in the fuselage. The Winner squeezes the trigger. We hear the ack-ack of the machine gun as it pours its invisible bullets into the sky.

SHOT. THE PLANE.

It turns red and dives toward the ground with a scream. There is a FLASH OF LIGHT and a distant explosion behind a plastic hill. More planes appear. The Winner shoots them down, one by one. The last plane, a fighter jet, is difficult to bring down. But The Winner finally gets it. A bell rings. A sign flashes on and off:

SHOT. RECRUITS. 10,000 POINTS!

as they applaud and cheer the Winner's victory.

ANGLE ON WINNER

as he flexes his arms and gets a fresh grip on the machine-gun. He loves this.

CLOSE ON WINNER'S FACE.

Note the sensual expression on his open, almost drooling mouth.

WINNER'S POV: THE PINBALL SCREEN

as tanks appear coming over the horizon toward him.

ON WINNER

as he draws a bead on the tanks.

ON RECRUITS

as they cheer The Winner on.

ON WINNER

as he pulls the trigger.

ON TANKS

as they begin to explode, one by one; as the white target-light finds its mark. The tanks fire back with amazing ferocity.

ANGLE ON TANK

This is the last one left. The target-light finds it, the Winner pulls the trigger, and the tank explodes.

ANGLE. SCOREBOARD

as lights go on and off. A siren SOUNDS this time. BELLS RING. The score snaps onto the screen: 100,000 POINTS.

SHOT

A crowd has gathered around the pinball machine, their faces half-hidden in shadow. They cheer the Winner along.

ON WINNER

as he bows to the crowd.

SHOT. PINBALL SCREEN.

The final game comes up. Now the enemy will be infantrymen.

ON WINNER

as he grits his teeth. He flexes his arms again. This is going to be the ultimate confrontation with the enemy, and he is determined to win.

ON PINBALL SCREEN

As infantrymen approach with fixed bayonets, popping up from behind trees and rocks. Their rifles spew intense red flashes.

ON WINNER

as he fires with frenzied abandon. He's really gritting his teeth now. His eyes are flashing with hatred, even a kind of pitched lust. His involvement is total.

ON INFANTRYMEN

as they fall one by one. The last soldier falls dramatically.

SIGN FLASHES ON AND OFF: 1,000,000,000 POINTS!

ON CROWD AND RECRUITS

as they cheer ecstatically.

ON PINBALL MACHINE.

It stops. The lights go out. One flashing word can be seen on the screen: TILT.

ON RECRUITS

as they give the pinball machine a sullen stare. They slap at it. They slap at it some more. One of them curses and gives it a vicious kick. All three recruits and some people in the crowd attack the pinball machine, kicking and pounding and tearing at it.

ANGLE ON PINBALL MACHINE

as one side falls off. A bloody arm flops out and drops to the floor.

ON CROWD

as they leap back with a gasp. They begin to disperse.

ON PINBALL MACHINE

as a truncated leg falls out; then a head, and another head. A body; a leg; arms. More heads and legs, all of it lubricated with red, glistening blood. More limbs and heads continue to slither out of the gaping hole in the pinball machine's side. Then entrails slide out.

ON ARMY RECRUITS

alone now, and aghast. THE CAMERA PANS them one by one. Their faces are expressionless, frozen. And we

DISSOLVE TO;

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK. NIGHT.

Establishing. We are left with the sideshows and the rides and the crowds and the festive sounds. SOUNDS seem to drown out everything.

FADE OUT TO:

THE END

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