

MY WAY

Short film

Dmitry Popov

Interproduction Film Company
info@interproduction.org
+1 (310) 760-6022

1. INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Someone holding a cell phone playing a video that resembles a famous movie. LITTLE GIRL (12) wipes blood from her face with a napkin. She asks an enormously statured MAN (50) a question.

GIRL

Is life always this shitty, or is
it just shitty when you're little?

2. EXT. DANCE FLOOR - DAY

The phone is removed and instead we see an open summer veranda where the filming is taking place. There is a band on stage, a film crew, a camera, a jib and tracks in front of the stage. Actors in pairs dance on a half-empty dance floor. The DRONE OPERATOR(25) checks the drone, CAMERAMAN (30) the camera, and the DIRECTOR (50) commands into the horn.

DIRECTOR

Quiet on the set!

DAISY (O.S.)

Well, what's next?

MASHA (O.S.)

And then audition after audition
and, finally, I landed a role. Not
the main role, but the series is
top notch and I got the opportunity
to work!

MASHA (O.S.)

And then audition after audition
and, finally, I landed a role. Not
the main role, but the series was
very famous and I got the
opportunity to work!

(after a pause)

And then, you know, it all came
crashing down. And... here I am.

There are 2 girls on the veranda, one of them is an "experienced" girl, DAISY (25), a walkie-talkie headset in her ear. The other one is a modest girl, Masha (22). She looks around as if in a dream, raises her sunglasses, squints funny from the sun and finishes her cocktail through her straw.

MASHA (CONT'D)

Thank you, Daisy, for having me for
a few days and inviting me here.

This is my first Hollywood shoot!

(after a pause)

I'll move out soon, I promise. As
soon as I find a place.

DAISY
It's okay, don't worry!

Masha is distracted by a text message. She scrolls through her phone with a serious look. Daisy, noticing this, looks over her shoulder and hugs Masha.

DAISY (TENDERLY)
Enough news already, calm down,
look how great it is here!

Daisy gets a message on the walkie-talkie, listens, and leaves.

DAISY (INTO THE HEADSET)
OK, got it.
(To Masha)
I'll be right back.

Masha puts the phone away and looks around, her attention is drawn to the musicians on stage. Among them is JULIO (50) in a beautiful shiny gold-colored artistic suit. He moves rhythmically with his bass guitar and sometimes purrs into the microphone, singing.

Daisy returns with two glasses and holds one out to Masha. Masha thanks her friend with a look and turns away towards the stage. Daisy catches her gaze, looks at the stage herself, and sighs with a dreamy smile.

DAISY (CONT'D)
Ohh... That's Julio. Great guy. A
real Rock Star.

MASHA (QUIETLY)
But, he plays really good.

3. EXT. DANCE FLOOR - DAY

A pause between takes. Julio speaks on the phone, looking off somewhere in the distance.

MALE VOICE (ON THE PHONE)
Listen Julio, come to Roni's
tomorrow. It'll be great as always,
we'll have fun!

Julio wrinkles, tiredly.

JULIO
I'm not sure, I'm fucking busy. Who
haven't I seen in there yet?
(laughs)
That stupid Sarah's gonna be a pain
in the ass again - I don't want to
see her anymore.

Julio has a second line and, apologizing, switches over.

JULIO (CONT'D)
Hang on, second line. I'll call you
right back.

A serious female voice is heard from the phone.

FEMALE VOICE (ON THE PHONE)
Hello, this is a reminder that you
can visit Alex tomorrow at 9am.
Please don't be late.

JULIO
I'll be on time. Thank you so much!

FEMALE VOICE (ON THE PHONE)
You're welcome. Have a good day.

4. EXT. DANCE FLOOR - DAY

The musicians perform a their hit song spectacularly. Fog machine's working. The cameraman's filming inspirationally. Julio notices Masha from the stage, winking at her mischievously. Masha can't believe it's for her and looks around coy. There is no one except her, everyone is on the dance floor. Julio winks once again and chants to the rhythm of the music.

JULIO
Ladies and gentlemen, welcome the
beauty queen to our dance floor!

The cameraman shoots Julio improvising, approaching Masha and invites her to dance, gesturing in spectacular fashion. Masha plays along and artistically descends the stairs. The guitar solo sets the drive as all the couples part a little - forming a circle in which Julio and Masha dance.

Daisy and the crew, watches them dance with her mouth aghast. She exhales smoke and, coughing, excitedly to Director.

DAISY
Wow...

Toward the end, Julio very effectively embraces Masha and rolls over, supporting her on his arm. Masha is frozen in Julio's arms and looks up at him in embarrassment. He brings her upright, curtsies and goes back on stage, continuing to play rhythmically on the bass guitar.

A dazed Masha stands alone in the circle, all eyes on her, cheeks flushed. She fixes her hair, goes back to the table, finishes her cocktail in one gulp and hides in her phone.

5. EXT. AT THE TABLE - DAY

Daisy approaches in the company of the director.

DAISY

5 minutes and already in the shot!

Wow!

(to director)

This is Masha, my friend and talented actress.

The director greets Masha with a smile.

DIRECTOR

Hey, you rocked it! A little off script, but it's OK...

Masha is a little embarrassed. Daisy winks cheerfully at her.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Anyway, It's a wrap! Time to rest and relax!

(and after a pause, conspiratorially)

We thought we'd relax and powder our noses.

(looking playfully at Daisy)

Let's rehearse the bed scene.

(to Masha)

Let's get to know each other?

Daisy frowns a little, rolls her eyes and shrugs her shoulders. Masha tenses up a little, but then politely declines.

MASHA

No, thanks, I'm OK. It's so great here!

6. EXT. DANCE FLOOR - DAY

The music picks up, the actors and crew are dancing. From out of nowhere, a motley assortment of local bohemians appear. Everyone kisses and hugs like old friends. Masha smiles embarrassedly at the fleeting greetings, sipping a cocktail. She feels good!

7. EXT. DANCE FLOOR - EVENING

Masha is asleep, peacefully resting her head on the table. It is noticeably dark outside with the people having dispersed. The musicians and the film crew are packing their gear.

A CAMERAMAN (30) walks past Masha with a camera in his hands...

CAMERAMAN
What's up, beautiful?

... and dissolves into darkness.

Julio appears.

JULIO
C'mon, everyone's leaving. Time to go.

Masha gets up and follows him, staggering.

JULIO (CONT'D)
Whoa, whoa. Are you okay? Can you drive?

MASHA
No... I'm with my friend... but she's gone somewhere. But you can drive me, right?

Julio wrinkles a little.

JULIO
I've got a lot to do in the morning. I'm sorry, it's not a good time.

Masha stops.

MASHA
Then I'll stay. I don't know anyone else here.

Julio bites his lip. He looks at her seriously, then, pulling himself together, abruptly turns around and walks away.

Masha slumps down in her chair and wraps her arms around her head in despair.

MASHA (IN RUSSIAN)
You shouldn't have danced with me... I thought...

Julio turns around, and returns to Masha

JULIO (IN RUSSIAN)
Holy crap!

8. INT. CAR - EVENING

The dark mountains, illuminated by the setting sun, flicker outside the car window.

MASHA

Daisy lives in Hollywood, but she's gone off the radar. She's not even answering her phone.

(after a pause)

Damn, all my stuff is in her apartment.

Julio makes a turn and the Los Angeles evening lights - burning in some places - opens in front of them from high upon the mountainside.

JULIO

How long have you been in America?

Masha, enchanted, takes pictures of the landscape on her phone.

MASHA

I got here just a couple of days ago.

Julio perks up.

JULIO

Wow, so you're fresh! Do you want me to show you the best spots here?

Masha is clearly uncomfortable with the surprise, she hesitates, looking out the window, at Julio and at the dark mountains. Her gaze falls on a photograph glued to the dashboard, on which the musicians pose with instruments in spectacular poses. We see Julio with a huge balalaika at the head. The caption above the musicians reads: LOS JULIOS.

Vivid images of previous party and the Daisy's voice merge in Masha's mind.

(BEGINNING OF THE FLASHBACK) Julio and Masha are twirling in a dance. Julio spectacularly topples Masha with support.

DAISY (O.S.)

This is Julio. Great guy... A real Rock Star.

(THE END OF THE FLASHBACK)

Masha smiles and nods.

MASHA

OK, until Daisy calls, there's time.

Julio gladly retorts.

JULIO

Great! And we can grab a bite to eat near the ocean.

He's obviously interested in the new girl.

JULIO (CONT'D)
So, what do you think of LA? What
are your first impressions?

Masha yawns.

MASHA
(Sighs)
Yeah... it's great, everything is
flashing in front of my eyes. New
people, impressions, mountains all
around me...
(Yawns)
In fact, I'm still a little jet-
lagged and barely hanging on.

Julio turns on the radio and the sounds of classic jazz blare out. He looks in the rearview mirror.

JULIO
Where did you come from?

He looks at Masha and finds her sweetly asleep, her beautiful hair flowing in the evening breeze. Julio carefully closes her window. The car disappears behind the hills, between which the orange sun sinks into the ocean.

9. EXT. OUTSIDE GARAGE - EVENING

Masha opens her eyes to noise outside the car. She sees Julio opening the garage and turning on a light. He places an instrument down, carefully. There is a beautiful drum kit, amplifiers, and speakers in the garage.

MASHA (QUIETLY, RAPTURED)
Wow, a whole studio in the garage!

Julio closes up the garage and cheerfully says:

JULIO
We'll be there in five minutes!

10. EXT. ON THE BEACH - NIGHT

Julio and Masha sit on the sand, drinking wine, and snack on pizza - listening to the sound of the night surf.

OPTION#1

Masha gets a text message with a cheerful guy in her avatar and the caption SMILE-INSTITUTE.

TEXT MESSAGE (FROM SMILE)

How are you, Mash? We're all
rooting for you! Just watched the
show with you in it, it's great! We
can't wait for the second season!
Hugs))))

Already heavily inebriated, Masha tries to concentrate and writes:

TEXT MESSAGE (FROM MASHA)

Yo, oops... Very cool and nice!
Hugs to everyone! Your Masha.

Masha attaches a photo from the day show, where she is in the company of young people, bright and happy and puts emoji of heart and kiss.

Julio lights a cigarette and pours the rest of the wine into plastic glasses. Masha drinks hers down in one gulp and turns to face Julio. Eyes wet with tears, she is clearly upset.

MASHA

You know, it's really bad where I came from. I had a normal life, a good life, and I had no intention of moving anywhere. Thank God my mama and grandmother are still alive. But still, I don't like to leave them for such a long time...

Julio throws a pebble into the ocean. Masha wipes away a tear and continues.

MASHA (CONT'D)

I'm an actress and I finally got my first legitimate roles. And now everything is fucked up all of a sudden. It's bad. Very bad.

Julio listens attentively, then pulls out his phone.

JULIO

Oh, do you want to see my music video? I have a lot of them!

Masha, as if not hearing Julio, looks sadly into the night ocean. Julio nudges her lightly with his shoulder in a friendly way.

JULIO (CONT'D)

Hey!

His attempt to change the subject and cheer Masha up works. The two watch Julio's performances with intense interest.

Masha likes the videos, she laughs, puts the phone down and leaps up unexpectedly.

MASHA

Hey, I have an idea. The sea's
right there - let's go swimming!

Julio is clearly taken aback.

JULIO (QUIETLY)

Hey, that's not a sea... That's an
ocean.

Masha throws off her dress on the sand, wades into the night ocean and a big wave covers her. Julio gets up anxiously and takes a step towards the water. A few seconds later, Masha emerges from the darkness, squealing happily, covering her nakedness with her hands.

Julio gazes rapturously at Masha, beautifully moonlit.

JULIO (CONT'D)

You are so cool!

Masha laughs and hops on one leg with her head bowed. Then she takes her dress and dries herself with it like a towel.

JULIO (CONT'D)

It's getting late. Let me take you
somewhere you can get some rest.

Masha looks at him gratefully, then unexpectedly, kisses him on the cheek.

11. INT. AT THE MOTEL - NIGHT

Masha sleeps, covered with a sheet. Her hair is scattered on the pillow in the moonlight. On the nightstand is an electronic clock that reads 3:50 am.

Hands place a paper note under the clock.

NOTE'S TEXT (JULIO'S VOICE IN
BACKGROUND)

Masha, I have urgent business. Get
some rest and breakfast. I'll stop
by in the morning before checkout.
Julio.

Julio is wearing the same clothes as at the ocean. He gets up from the chair and closes the door carefully behind him.

12. EXT/INT. NEAR THE MOTEL - NIGHT

There are many cars in the motel night parking lot. One of them turns their headlights on. Julio starts the Uber app and drives off into the darkness.

13. INT. IN THE MOTEL - MORNING

Masha opens her eyes from the morning sun, looks sharply at the pillow close to her. She sees the blanket tucked in and untouched, looks under her sheet, and exhales. She sees Julio's note and reads.

Next to the note is a banana and a bottle of juice. Masha opens the bottle, sniffs it with disdain, wrinkles her nose and after a second drinks it in a gulp.

Next, she rummages through her handbag. She pulls out her passport, and from it, falls a picture of a happy little Masha with her family at the dacha. We see her mom, dad, and grandmother, as well as a cat in her hands - all smiling.

Masha tucks the photo into her passport, and finally finds her phone. She disregards her Instagram and Facebook messages, and makes a phone call to Daisy.

DAISY'S ANSWERING MACHINE (IN ENGLISH)

Hello, do you know that YOU are
AWESOME! But even so, I can't help
you. I'm busy and I'll call you
back as soon as I can.

Masha bites her lip, looks around, sees the banana, and falls back on the bed.

14. INT. IN THE CAR OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL - MORNING

Julio parks and makes a phone call. After a while, a woman's voice is heard.

FEMALE VOICE (ON THE PHONE)

Hello, this is nurse Michaels at
St. Jacob's hospital. Your father
was taken into emergency surgery.
He's stable so far, but call us
after 5 pm for more information.

Julio's face changes disposition.

JULIO

Hello?! What's wrong with him?
Appendicitis, like we expected?

FEMALE VOICE (ON THE PHONE)

No, I'm afraid it was something
else. I can't comment now, but I'll
provide you with all the details
later.

(after a pause)

Please leave the groceries at
reception, goodbye.

15. EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL - MORNING

Julio ends the call and stares in front of him for a while. Then he takes a bag from the back seat, gets out of the car and enters the hospital building.

16. INT. IN THE MOTEL - MORNING

Masha is sitting on the already made bed and makes a phone call. Finally... Daisy's voice.

DAISY (ON THE PHONE)

Oh Masha, I'm sorry. I lost my mind last night. I blacked out and forgot all about you. Did you stay there last night?

MASHA

Hi, Daisy... Julio and I walked along the promenade, under the stars. But I don't remember much past that.

DAISY (LAUGHS)

Whoa, you're chilling with Rock Stars! Good for you! On your way to the American dream by leaps and bounds!

(seriously)

Make sure, you don't get pregnant along the way.

Masha rolls her eyes.

MASHA

Daisy, will you be home soon?

DAISY (SERIOUSLY)

So... We're recuperating in Malibu right now, it's kind of far away. Then we have a casting call at 3:00, I'm the cool assistant director, you know.

(after a pause)

Mash, I'm sorry, I need my room. You can stay tonight, I won't be home, but tomorrow, please find another place to stay. Oh... my Spielberg is coming, I can't talk, I'll call you later.

Daisy disconnects, Masha tensely looks at the phone, obviously not happy with these turn of events. Then she sees a missed call and calls it back and a joyful female voice answers.

FEMALE VOICE (ON THE PHONE)
 Finally! You've already talked to everyone, but you haven't talked to me. How are you, Masha? I hope everything is going according to plan?

MASHA
 Mammy...

Masha can barely hold back from crying.

MASHA (CONT'D)
 Everything's... fine. Listen, how's grandma, how's my little Vassili?

MAMA
 Masha, what's going on there? You're so upset! Cheer up, baby! Everything is calm here, thank God. It's so beautiful at the dacha, it's raining right now.
 (after a pause, seriously)
 We miss you so much. Don't worry about Grandma and me, do what you set out to accomplish. Did you go to the audition? How'd it go?

MASHA (LAUGHS THROUGH HER TEARS)
 Oh mom, that's so lame... 2 Armenians in an empty office. They mistook a feature movie with a silly unpaid skit. I just want to forget about the whole thing. But yesterday I was at a real shoot and even twirled in a dance in front of the camera!

MAMA
 Oh, that's great!

MASHA
 (after a pause, sad)
 Miss you so much, mammy. I feel disconnected, like I'm in space. I don't want to be here, it's too foreign. I don't want to get further away from you. I want home.

MAMA (AFFECTIONATELY)
 Masha, come on, what are you my darling? You're strong. I believe you'll succeed. Go forward with a song!

An unexpected knock on the window distracts Masha. Masha wipes away a tear.

MASHA

(sighs)

Mammy, you're right. Ok, I'll call you tomorrow. Say hello to everyone for me. Bye, now. Love you very much!

17. INT. MOTEL - MORNING

Thinking it's Julio, Masha quickly opens the door, adjusting her dress and hair along the way. Instead, however, at the entrance is a mustachioed MEXICAN (40) in uniform. He gestures and explains something in broken English.

MEXICAN

Check out half hour ago. If you don't want to stay any longer, it's goodbye out of the room.

18. INT. IN THE CAR - MORNING (MONTAGE, DISTURBING MUSIC)

Julio looks at his phone, a call from Masha. The passenger says something to him and Julio drops the call, nods to the passenger and looks at his watch.

19. EXT. NEAR THE MOTEL - MORNING (CONTINUED MONTAGE)

A frustrated and upset Masha looks at her phone and puts it away. She stands alone with her purse near the motel. Overhead, airplanes land low.

20. EXT. AT THE BUS STOP - MORNING (CONTINUED MONTAGE)

Masha walks along the airport fence with barbed wire towards the bus stop. A stream of cars and buses rush past. She stops at the fence and looks sadly at the airplanes. A HOMELESS PERSON (30), sitting on a cardboard, looks with genuine interest at the beautiful girl standing nearby.

21. INT. IN THE CAR - MORNING (CONTINUED MONTAGE)

Julio turns the car and stops. There is a dark-skinned PASSENGER (35) in the back seat.

PASSENGER

Hey, don't be to long. I got to go to the airport.

JULIO

I'll be quick!

Julio runs out towards the motel and after a few seconds runs back out and gets into the car.

22. EXT. AT THE BUS STOP - MORNING (CONTINUED MONTAGE)

The homeless man drinks from the bottle, says to Masha:

HOMELESS

What's up? Where you headed? This way or that way?

Masha quickly brushes away a traitorous tear, smiles sincerely and nods in response.

MASHA

Oh, man. Hell knows.

23. INT. IN THE CAR - MORNING (CONTINUED MONTAGE)

Julio sees Masha at a bus stop and dangerously crosses several lanes to turn around.

PASSENGER

Hey, wrong way! What again?

Julio pulls over, opens the passenger door and says, forcing himself to smile.

JULIO

Sorry, it's my daughter. She just got lost after school.

24. EXT. AT THE BUS STOP - MORNING (CONTINUED MONTAGE)

Masha sees the car and Julio, who embarrassedly points to his watch, saying I'm in a hurry. He gestures for her to get in.

25. INT. IN THE CAR - MORNING

Masha walks to the car and opens the door abruptly.

MASHA

Why the hell didn't you come back like you told me you would? Plus, you paid for the motel?? I'm like an idiot out there...

Masha turns her head and sees an extremely frightened dark-skinned passenger who is frozen with his phone at his ear and his mouth open. His eyes quickly run back and forth between Julio and Masha.

MASHA (CONT'D)

Oh... I am sorry.
(to Julio in surprise)
Who's that?

26. INT. IN THE CAR - MORNING (CONTINUED MONTAGE)

Masha rides in the front passenger seat, next to Julio, who looks at the road, then at Masha, then in the mirror at the disgruntled passenger in the back, talking on the phone. Masha doesn't understand situation and gives Julio a questioning look, but Julio gestures to Masha as if to say 'I'll explain later.'

The passenger exits. Masha looks at Julio. He exhales, tired, but charming. Masha fixes her hair and asks embarrassedly:

MASHA

Look, I'm sorry, how did it end last night? I mean... with us.

Julio winks mischievously and enigmatically says:

JULIO

Everything was great!

(BEGINNING OF THE FLASHBACK) Julio carries an sleeping Masha in his arms into the motel room. He carefully covers her with a blanket and goes to write a note. (THE END OF THE FLASHBACK)

JULIO (CONT'D)

We looked at the stars all night, and then you were talking in your sleep... The usual things))).

Masha wrinkles, sighs relieved, but a little embarrassed.

MASHA

Hey, I'm hungry and hm... my head is pounding.

Julio nods, knows what to do. He starts driving.

27. INT. RUSSIAN FOOD STORE - DAY (CONTINUED MONTAGE)

They stop by the Russian food store "Babushka". Masha looks at the products, among them sausages, ice cream, and with a smile picks up a large bottle of kvass.

MASHA (QUIETLY, WITH A SMILE)

Oh, long time no see.

At that moment, Julio hugs someone with a cheer.

JULIO (LOUDLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY)

Oh, Seva himself! Haven't seen you in a long time!

Julio hugs SEVA (70) and introduces him to Masha.

JULIO (CONT'D)

Masha, this is Seva, the owner of this wonderful store. He sang with Okudzhava and Vizbor himself!

Seva sings them a song, playing the piano set up right at the entrance. Masha and Julio sing along and take pictures.

28. INT. RUSSIAN FOOD STORE - DAY (CONTINUED MONTAGE)

While Julio pays at the cash register, Masha looks curiously at the unusual surroundings, local newspapers, and posters. Her gaze falls on a photograph standing on the piano. There are many people in the group photo, all goofing around and looking happy. Masha looks closely and sees two MEN (40) and a young guy (15) who resembles Julio.

MASHA (EXCITEDLY)

Wow... this is... Julio!

Seva walks up.

SEVA

And Sasha, his dad.

MASHA (SMILING ENTHUSIASTICALLY)

Awesome! I love family photos.

(after a paused, sadly)

But my father is only in my memory.

Seva shifts his gaze from the photo to the excited Masha, hugs her gently and takes her aside.

SEVA

Good of you to stop by.

(towards Julio)

How long have you two been together?

MASHA (EMBARRASSED)

No, Julio's just helping me out, I just got here.

SEVA (THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING)

Uh-huh. He's a great guy, just like his dad.

MASHA (INTERESTEDLY)

Is he a musician too? Where is he? What's wrong with him?

SEVA (AFTER A PAUSE)

You know, me and his father, we've been friends since we were kids. We came to America together.

Masha listens attentively. Seva thinks for a moment.

SEVA (SERIOUSLY)(CONT'D)
 Julio doesn't know anything yet...
 but Sasha doesn't have
 appendicitis. It's much worse. You
 understand? He'll need serious help
 when he's discharged. About half a
 year...

(THE END OF MONTAGE)

29. INT. IN THE CAR - DAY

Julio and Masha drive silently through the city. At the end of the street mountains we see, in huge letters, the word HOLLYWOOD on top. Masha, amazed, takes a picture and immediately sends a message somewhere. Julio smiles.

MASHA
 Seva's just beautiful. He told me
 about your dad. What's going on
 with him?

Julio wrinkles a little.

JULIO
 My dad is really cool, he and Seva
 used to rock the stage...

Julio pauses, thinking about something.

JULIO (CONT'D)
 But he's very stubborn and does
 things his own way. So, everything
 is kind of complicated.

Masha looks at Julio with understanding.

JULIO (CONT'D)
 And then there's his old age, and
 all sorts of diseases that come
 with it. He's in the hospital now.

MASHA
 Are you helping him?

JULIO
 Yes, of course I am.

30. EXT. AT HOLLYWOOD SIGN - DAY

The two sit practically under the HOLLYWOOD letters. Julio pours vodka from a thermos and shares something passionately with Masha.

MASHA

Man, America and, uh... This food.
That's so cool, how is that even
possible?

They clink glasses and Masha ineptly drinks the vodka, washing it down with kvass. Julio smiles and holds out a sausage sandwich to her.

JULIO (WITH LAUGH)

Well, that's how it is.

Masha turns around and stares in admiration at the powerful, huge, peeling letters, a symbol of success. Nearby, the famous Griffith Observatory is visible, along with the idle tourists taking pictures of a sun-drenched Los Angeles. A few even wave hello to them.

Masha turns on her phone, from which the sounds of a news program can be heard. The announcer talks fervently about the offensive and the retreat. Masha switches the channel, only to find the same thing - arguments, provocations, swearing.

Julio turns on his phone and after a while, the familiar chords of the song 'My Way'.

It's as if the music stops the moment, freezing everything as if it were a dream.

Masha stares into the distance, mesmerized by the fantastic panorama of Los Angeles. The sun-melted city lies at her feet. From far away comes car horns, birds chirping, and the smells of Mexican street food.

Masha turns on a video on her phone and shows Julio. It appears like it's some famous movie. On it, a little girl wipes the blood from her face with a napkin and asks a tall man standing next to her a question.

GIRL

Is life always this hard? Or is it
just when you're a kid?

MAN (AFTER A PAUSE)

Always like this.

MASHA (SADLY)

You know, a long time ago, in my
childhood, my dad and I used to
watch his favorite movies, and Leon
was the best one. We even re-shot
some scenes ourselves. I tried my
best, imagined myself as an
actress, but he was the only one
who really believed in me
seriously. It was really great...

Julio looks at Masha, she wipes her eyes, looks at the city and continues with a smile:

MASHA (CONT'D)

I've seen this kind of thing a hundred times in movies and now I don't believe it. Is it real?

Julio smiles and looks thoughtfully into the distance. Sinatra's music playing, the fantastic landscape, and drunk vodka are reflected with happiness on his face. He looks at his phone and shows it to Masha.

On the screen is a black and white amateur video of a man, who looks exactly like Julio, but with a different hairstyle and mustache, singing the song MY WAY, accompanying himself on the piano. His friends are around him, some singing along, some just listening with a smile. Everyone is in high spirits, someone has Christmas tree tinsel on, glasses in their hands, and a festively set table in the background. A little BOY (10) takes a picture of them with a flash.

JULIO

That's my dad. Young and happy. Strangely, I remember our first New Year here as the most vivid impression of my childhood.

Masha looks at Julio with a smile. The music is interrupted by an incoming call - 'Mama' on the screen. Masha gestures to Julio, apologizing, and steps aside.

MASHA

Mammy, hi. Why you don't sleep? It's so late.

MAMA (ON THE PHONE)

Masha, hi, I can't sleep after our conversation. What's going on with you?

MASHA

Mammy, it's just really hard on my heart, worrying about you.

MAMA

Masha, come on, everything's fine, don't worry so much.

MASHA

Also, Mammy, I've decided to stay here after all. I need to help some good people.

MAMA

Masha, what are you talking about?

MASHA

I'll tell you all about it later.
Don't worry about me.

Masha wipes her eyes and looks at Julio.

MASHA (CONT'D)

(with smile)
And maybe I'm not the bad actress
after all, and I'll do well here,
and finally play Spider-Man's
girlfriend after all.

MAMA

I don't doubt you.
(after a pauses)
Daddy would be proud of you... Bye,
my good girl.

MASHA

Bye, Mommy.

Masha walks up to Julio and playfully encourages him.

MASHA (CONT'D)

Yo, Rock Star!

Masha's words bring Julio back to reality, and it's as if
he's remembering something important.

JULIO

Listen, there's a movie producer's
birthday tomorrow night. I'll be
there starting at 8 pm.
(after a pause, to
himself)
Before that, I have to visit my
father in the hospital...

Masha looks at Julio, squinting. Julio says cheerfully to
Masha:

JULIO (CONT'D)

If you want to meet people in the
industry, come on down. Networking
is everything!

MASHA (THOUGHTFULLY)

I don't have a car, maybe you can
pick me up?
(after a pause)
And we'll stop by to see your dad
together?

Julio looks at Masha, she wrinkles at the sun and smiles.

31. EXT. AT HOLLYWOOD SIGN - DAY (CREDITS)

They stand up. Masha stretches.

MASHA

Hey Julio, what's that weird name
you have?

JULIO

I found myself here about 30 years
ago and, standing exactly here, I
looked at all this beauty and said
to myself "А ХУЙЛИ!"

(It sounds like JULIO in Russian,
meaning- WHAT THE FUCK!)

And that's how it started.

Suddenly jazz is drowned out by shrill electric guitars, and
Frank Sinatra's pleasant baritone is replaced by an insane
Sid Vicious, and the song 'My Way' takes on a new sound with
a Sex Pistols arrangement.

THE END