



FAX COVER SHEET

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RE: Script Notes  
DATE: 12-th March 1992.  
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12

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Super Mario Bros.  
 Dick and Ian 1st Draft  
 Script Notes - 12th March 1992

#### General Notes:-

- \* More humour/sophistication. Still reads too young.
- \* Make more of the relationship between the two brothers.
  - " Daisy and Luigi.
  - " Koopa and Lena.
  - " Koopa and Daisy.
- \* Fossil fuel is sacred.
- \* Air Stompers by THWOMP.
- \* Lets put back the fungus. Appealing to teenagers and surrealists.

#### MARIO

Still love the idea that Mario reluctantly inherited the business. It plays into the Italian Family idea so well: guilt; family; responsibility; self-sacrifice.

Mario should be a very reluctant hero.

Still keen on his denial of being simply a plumber. Maybe his dreams of greater things were quashed on inheriting the family business. Keen on him discovering that it is the inherited plumbing skills of his father that enable MARIO to SAVE THE WORLD.

Very much like the idea that MARIO has guilt about making LUIGI go the same way he has: into the family business.

Miss the poverty of MARIO and LUIGI. However the responsibility of DANIELLA'S disappearance is excellent. Very into women so long as there's no commitment.

#### LUIGI

We've lost his "Zen and the Art of Plumbing" approach to life. His cosmicness could be funny and exasperating to MARIO and especially relatable to DAISY. He is the essence of today's youth:-not much interested in careers; very into music; goes with the flow; quick to fall in love and desperate to commit to the right girl.

Also has a New Age approach to dealing with the paranoid FUNGUS by informing it that each cell next to it is an enemy and must be destroyed. The FUNGUS effectively commits suicide.

#### DAISY

It would be nice to make her more instrumental in her destiny. She is a bit too much the Princess in the Tower now. If she has an innate understanding of the reptile brain she could have more interesting edgy scenes with KOOPA. Always liked the idea that she's a bit of an egghead. Scatty and endearing. Preoccupied and an obvious outsider. She could blossom into woman hood during her exposure to such danger.

**KOOPA**

Getting better and better.

Could be more eccentric. It is not clear currently that he alone is responsible for his dimensions depleted resources.

Always loved the idea of him communicating with his ex-boss who was the first to go into KOOPA'S devolution chamber. He was reduced to a single cell organism before multiplying to strangle the city. This is the MUSHROOM KINGDOM.

KOOPA'S regression is only sporadic. He never maintains the prosthetic/CGI effect for longer than a few seconds. Even at the end, his face will be pulsating back and forth from T-Rex to human. He'll never be a fully regressed man in a reptile suit.

**LENA**

Even though she's nice and catty, lets make her smarter. Someone who can give KOOPA as good as she gets. It may be useful to give her a character arc that goes through a change and ends up ruling DINOYAWK with TOAD. She would be the one person who truly changes sides.

**HARK**

The Nice Goombah is great. So nice that he would be useful to kill off to make our audiences really hate KOOPA.

KOOPA can demonstrate his huge jaws in his T-Rex state by literally biting off HARK'S head. (Goombah's heads can grow back through, somewhat like a lizard growing a new tail.)

**EDDIE**

It would be great to give him more of a peculiar personality. Maybe extremely poetic, or he speaks in stupid metaphors. More Italian and individual.

**DANIELLA**

Wouldn't change a thing except that we miss her during the script because she's such A PRINCESS!!!

**YOSHI**

Shuld be in the picture in a bigger role or written out. Lengthy, expensive shooting. His scene with DAISY should be earlier if he stays in.

**TOAD**

Still a boring character. Where did his theory come from? Does he know for real? He could be one of the few survivors of KOOPA'S brutal coup d'etat. Make him more of a SAGE. One voice of reason in this crazy world.

**BURROWS**

Don't need him. Let's lose him if we can.

### SPIKE AND IGGY

The dark side of the MARIO BROS. Iggy's the smart one, SPIKE the opposite. Love the smelling and hunting of DAISY. Lets keep them very reptilian R-Brainers as a constant funny reminder of what your average DINOYAWKER is like. Very sexual; very territorial; very aggressive. Loved the notion that they are like a couple of KGB agents on a scam in the WEST when in BROOKLYN.

Love them becoming MARIO and LUIGI'S allies but could do with some ongoing motivation: an offer of a job back in BROOKLYN maybe? It would spoil the surprise of them in BROOKLYN.

### BLOOBER, TECHNICIANS ETC.

Lets combine as many of these as possible into one character who can be a good actor from L.A.

#### P.1.

- \* Establish young T-Rex in a lush Primordial landscape landscape.
- \* Dark figure focuses on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center.
- \* Create a montage of back story images to clue in our audience.
- \* The young woman has piercing green eyes (contacts).
- \* Reference to Nixon's landslide victory in the '72 elections.
- \* Young woman uses LEVER to wrench at a support beam.
- \* Timber falls and strikes Koopa's head. Nice to have him scarred.
- \* NASA style footage with JPL meteorite.
- \* Koopa's victorious self-imposed rule.

#### P.2.

- \* Establish STRANGE STONE falling to the floor.
- \* Nuns need a laugh line to break the tension and tell the audience this is a comedy.
- \* Montage of Brooklyn Street images.
- \* T.V. news establishing Brooklyn Girls missing.
- \* MARIO BROS. establishing scene:-  
     SET-UP the Bros. as guys we want to be with for the duration of he movie.  
     No egg.

#### P.3.

- \* Replace the faucet scene with something that shows the Bros. relationship more.
- \* Mario could have pretentions of grandeur, while Luigi accepts they are simply plumbers.
- \* Establish the Older brother, Younger brother relationship which is paid off on p.63.
- \* It should still have action and plenty of laughs.

- \* To make our story more Mythic, the Bros. can be very hard up, however there is a \$10K reward for information leading to the recovery of the Girls.

P.5.

- \* Something to let us know that Mario is flawed but still funny.

P.6.

- \* The legend on the side of the van says simply "Mario Bros." It is painted over Mario and Sons.
- \* Daisy appears in a cloud of steam. A Madonna-like image.

P.7.

- \* "You want a second opinion?" Too nasty.

P.8.

- \* The plates smashing is the moment which kicks off the story. It would be stronger if  
all three get kicked out together uniting them for the Adventure ahead. Daisy should be momentarily unaware she has smashed the plates, to allow Luigi to take the blame.

P.10.

- \* Daisy should be a Volunteer at the dig. She is working to save money for her dream to go to College.
- \* "Major like what?" What does that mean?

P.11.

- \* Make reference to Eddie blasting the tunnel (thus opening the Portal).

P.12.

- \* Mario could be into Opera instead of Sinatra. (Or even Tony Bennet.)

P.13.

- \* "Women are like old time sinks" something better. If there's such a thing as unlikeable sexism - this is it! Something wittier.

P.15.

- \* We are missing Eddie the plumber who has gone over to the Dark Side of plumbing. (Eddie is the Tyrant doppelganger of Koopa.)
- \* Eddie's monopoly is squeezing out the small time plumbers who are becoming Extinct.  
(Reinforcing our theme of extinction.)

- \* Mario needs more motivation to flood the tunnel. If Eddie threatens Mario with doing harm to Luigi, Mario would be compelled to protect his kid Brother. This would then pay off nicely on p.38. We would know why MARIO did the deed but LUIGI will be unaware. Pathos.

P.16.

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE EXCAVATION SITE-DUSK

P.19.

- \* "Why bother" needs clarifying. We have forgotten that Eddie has warned Mario to keep his hands off his sister.
- \* Picture of Old Man Mario on the wall which the Bros. could reference.

P.20.

- \* "I'm sorry Mario". Eddie's a bad guy and still suspicious of Mario. Doesn't seem appropriate to apologise.
- \* Eddie would threaten Mario with harm to Luigi unless he does what he needs - flood the tunnel.

P.21.

- \* Reverse shot - thru tunnel walking towards her area.

P.22.

- \* Iggy and Spike have regular looking flash lights.
- \* "I know her smell." How? Something similar but accurate.

P.23.

- \* Pumping area is behind a closed door.
- \* Daisy leaves a trail, a shoe, the Pendant etc. as a clue. She obviously believes she is being abducted and has the smarts to leave a trail.
- \* Mario and the Goon close the pumping area door behind them.
- \* The door bursts open with the force of the water.

P.25.

- \* Solid stone hands tear through the wall and grab Daisy back through.
- \* This must be why this place has been sealed up for a 100 years. Nobody's been here until Eddie blasted the bedrock with dynamite.

P.26.

- \* Insert: inside the Portal, we see how it affects them.
- \* A bizarre cosmic distortion of shifting dimensions. For a short moment.

- \* Cosmic vortex.
- \* The custodian slows the action.
- \* He needs to be more threatening to push the story forwards.

## P.27.

- \* The Bros. need forcing into the updraft. (Flamethrower gag/fireball/burning clothes etc.)

## P.28.

- \* "...I'm dreaming.." Too obvious.
- \* "The noise of the train..." Some kind of tram - or elevator.

## P.29.

- \* DAISY: "They're all Dinosaurs" would help tip off the audience.
- \* Air Stompers by THWOMP.

## P.30

- \* LUIGI: "What did Daisy mean they're all Dinosaurs." Would help the smaller ones get it.
- \* LUIGI: "Excuse me...can you tell me where I am?"  
HOMEMAKER: "You're in my way, asshole."

## P.31.

- \* Mugger would be fun as an Old Lady on AIR STOMPERS.

## P.32.

- \* "Scud, it's the kuffs!" - something else. This sounds bogus.
- \* "We didn't know..." Jerky sounding for a Brooklyn street kid.

## P.33.

- \* Put p.38 dialogue here to speed things up.
- \* "We read you our rights." Line can be added to parody current police violence.
- \* "...reptilian hand..." - Alloaurus rat.

## P.34.

- \* Lose church. Stage it all in a dark alley. Mke shorter and include "Allosaurus rats."
- \* Mario Mario. Luigi Mario. Name identification. Audience will enjoy hearing them identifying themselves. Especially when it drives GLORIA (or whoever) nuts because it seems as though they have identical names.

## P.35.

- \* Introduce Goombahs.
- \* "Like a carwash." This is manual operation. Currently too expensive to stage.

- \* Water and drying area. Finger printing gag.
- \* Lena is not a Commander.
- \* "You are convinced..." Why would she say this? You didn't bring back the girl?

## P.36.

- \* Iggy, Spike and Lena meet in the corridor and speak in hushed whispers. They are scared Koopa might hear of the problem.
- \* Look at Terry and Parker's scene p.34-36.
- \* "PORTAL" needs a new name like GATEWAY. Kids don't know the word "portal".
- \* Computers are operated by guns firing at multiple choice questions on screen.

## P.37.

- \* Look at adding some of T&P's P.36
- \* Move this scene back to p.33. Int. Cop Car.

## P.38.

- \* Change description of Koopa. He is immaculately dressed, more like a New York lawyer from the pages of GQ. He is suave and confident.

## P.39.

- \* MARIO desperate to get out.
- \* "Super" delete.

## P.41.

- \* "Scud" replace with egg. Always eggsucker.
- \* Refer to T&P P.37. "We can get you all back home."

## P.42.

- \* Lena doesn't talk in Techno speak.
- \* Buttoned up gown or something beautiful that can be ripped open.

## P.43.

- \* Champagne cork with a lethal spike which injures servant. More of a background sight gag.
- \* Gate-Keepers.
- \* Describe the difference between the reptile and human brain.

## P.44.

- \* Could be here that KOOPA reveals her mother denied him his wishes and died for it.

## P.45.

- \* Koopa explains the merging (or swapping) of the dimensions.



- \* Portal-Keepers" new word may be "Gate Keeper".
- \* The Lizard King should read King of the Reptiles.
- \* Reveal the Goombahs here.

P.46.

- \* Someone is in the process of Devolution and out comes a Goombah.

P.47

- \* Koopa turns the Devo dial all the way to the Primordial.
- \* Technician in charge is called Wart.(From the game.)
- \* Wart is sacrificed by Koopa into the Devo Chamber.

K O O P A

Who knows how to work this thing?

S I M O N

Wart sir.

K O O P A

Well where is he?

S I M O N

You just trod in him sir./He's on your shoe, sir.

- \* Mario and Koopa fight on the Devo chair hurtling back towards the device.
- \* See T&P p.40-44.

P.48.

- \* Emotional arguement as they hightail out of there.

P.50.

- \* "..tunnel." Somewhere on the perimeter of the city.

P.52.

- \* He quickly overcomes the reptilian characteristics and his features return to normal.
- \* KOOPA: "With this crystal I can merge the dimensions...It will be a new era. An era which will end an exile of 65 million years to this wretched sub-dimension."

P.54.

The Mario Bros. are awoken by the Police radio transmitting information about the immediate capture of the "Plumbers".

P.55.

- \* Something better than "gross".
- \* No TOAD.

P.56. They would discuss the skyline. Were they nuked?

P.57.

- \* Half way down:- The Bros overpower a Goombah and take his jeep. They meet with Toad and share with him past plumbing victories and deliriously declare themselves as the "Super Mario Brothers" much to Toad's despair. The Mario Bros. are seen in Iggy's binoculars who turns to Spike and says "PLUMBERS".(Great for trailer.)
- \* Consider radio controlled helicopters.

P.58.

- \* Consider replacing some street vehicles with desert vehicles. Also consider rewriting so it's just COPS, GOOMBAHS and SPIKE and IGGY on the BROS. trail.

P.63..

- \* No Burrows. Toad is a Sage, a Hermit and a recluse. But keen for company.

P.65.

- \* Make TOAD more mythic. This sounds too jokey.

P.71.

- \* TOAD refers to the Statue of Repression as a gift from the Amphibians.  
"Tasty while they lasted."

P.72.

- \* TOAD knows what the crystal is for. It's been guarded like the Holy Grail for millenia  
by the Portal keepers. The myth is that it's the missing piece that once replaced in the meteorite would enable Dino Yawk to merge with the rest of the world.

P.73.

- \* Wearing normal shoes. You can't dance in Air Stompers. They can steal them from the  
hat check later.

P.77.

- \* Luigi dances with Mario as Lena disappears. Great for the trailer.

P.78.

- \* They steal the Air Stompers.

P.81.

- \* No hologram. CGI instead.
- \* Make it clear that Koopa is responsible for the environmental decay.
- \* The intention:-

## K O O P A

We have been excited for 65 million years. Now, as King of the Reptiles, I will regain my rightful place on the Planet. Our ancestors were the most successful species ever known, whilst these mammals were little shrews crawling in the undergrowth.

P.83.

\* Better commercial. More satire.

P.87.

\* KOOPA should demonstrate (by CGI) the insertion of the crystal and it's consequences.

P.88.

\* "Superman findin' his lost cape." A Batman jibe might be more timely.

P.90.

\* The "slug" is very similar to the airstream gag on p. 38. Lets lose one or the other.

P.93.

\* We miss Lenny Young at the top of the crumbling tower. The wrong tower is a good game element.

P.99.

\* LENA begins to turn against KOOPA when she realises she's history.

P.101.

\* Tighten nuts not loosen them!

P.103.

\* The Mario Bros. need chasing by the Goombas on a gradually disintegrating door that falls apart.

\* We want to see the progress of the Brooklyn Babes. Just because DANIELLA is so great!

P.104.

\* Koopa needs some Techno speak back up by Wart as to how he will merge the dimensions.

P.105.

\* Air Stomping mugger arrives in the middle of a street basket ball game and catches the ball and jumps 30ft in the air.

P.106.

\* Terry and Parker's scene where Clive is consumed by special FX.

P.112.

\* Kills HARK by biting off his head as a fully facially regressed T-Rex.

\* EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE EXCAVATION SITE - DUSK. RAIN.

\* Reporter #2: "Ever since Eddie Scarpelli blew open the rock face 2 weeks ago there's been a series of inexplicable..."

P.113.

\* EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE EXCAVATION SITE - DUSK. RAIN.

P.114.

\* EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - DUSK. RAIN.

\* MARIO on Air Stompers with KOOPA hanging on.

P.115.

\* KOOPA is shape shifting. Not a fully regressed suited-up person.

P.116.

\* EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE EXCAVATION SITE - DUSK. RAIN.

\* Like Terry and Parker's scene where KOOPA insults MARIO by calling him a plumber. MARIO agrees and flushes KOOPA into the whirlpool with the retort "Too right, I am you piece of shit!" If we only have one swear word in the whole movie - this must be it.

\* MARIO can use his air stompers at the end to get rid of KOOPA.

General Notes on Ending:-

Should be dusk and raining at the dig. To allow for last sun at dusk for street party.

Liked LUIGI getting stuck in the jaws of a T-Rex underwater.