

I LOVE YOU, BETH HOOPER!  
Draft 4.13.16

By Nicolas Curcio

Director: Steve Robbins  
Producer: Sarah Gross

For 546 Consideration  
Ncurcio@usc.edu  
(310) 488-0437

**INT. BATHROOM - MORNING**

A young girl stands in her underwear, in front of a mirror and inspects her body. She's big for her age, with rosy red cheeks.

She pokes at her stomach, twirls around a few times. Then, she takes a deep breath, and exhales slowly.

BETH  
Today's the day.

WHAM! She strikes a dance pose.

BETH (CONT'D)  
My name is Beth Hooper, and I am  
here to blow your minds.

This is BETH HOOPER, 17, and she is awesome.

**INT. BETH'S ROOM - MORNING**

Beth is sprawled out on shag carpet, digging through a heaping pile of CASSETTE TAPES. She wears eccentric '80s workout clothes and a colorful headband.

A cute CAT sits atop a messy bed and observes the scene.

Beth grabs a tape called "Epic Dance Mix" and inserts it into a portable Walkman.

She reaches out and pets the cat.

BETH  
Wish me luck, Cat Damon!

CAT DAMON  
(encouraging)  
Meow!

Beth grabs her backpack and heads for the door. On the way out, she shoots a "you go girl" finger gun at a POSTER of CYNDI LAUPER on her wall.

**EXT. BETH'S HOUSE - PORCH**

Beth quickly exits her house and heads for school. Her PARENTS appear in the doorway to wave goodbye.

MOM  
Good luck at the audition today,  
Bethie!

Dad squints at Beth's outfit as she walks away.

DAD

Where in the hell did she get those clothes?

MOM

Looks like something you would wear back in the day.

**EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY**

Beth arrives at the front lawn of GREENFIELD HIGH. She wears HEADPHONES and listens to music.

A few RANDOM STUDENTS stare at her outfit.

She hurries toward the entrance of the school, and passes by a group of POPULAR KIDS:

CLAUDIA WINTER, 16, the preppy leader, throws a CANDY BAR at Beth.

CLAUDIA

Hey, Big Beth! Slow down!

Claudia's stooges, MINDY AND PAULA, both 17, laugh hysterically.

MINDY

Yeah, or you'll run someone over!

Beth turns up the volume of her music to drown out the voices and walks past the girls.

**INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY**

Beth walks through the hallway and sees a group of JOCKS conversing. She stops dead in her tracks and stares at one in particular:

It's SVEN SVENSON, 17, a Swedish jock with an accent. He's wearing an ironic t-shirt with a large CAT'S head on it.

Sven turns to his JOCK FRIEND.

SVEN

It's great that Americans are obsessed with Ikea. Makes Sweden very rich.

Sven notices Beth staring. She raises her hand to wave. Sven almost raises his, too. But then-

WHAMMM!

Beth runs right into GOTH DAVE and they both tumble to the ground.

GOTH DAVE  
Watch where you're going, weirdo!

Beth stands up and looks back at Sven, who has now retracted his greeting.

Beth brushes herself off and walks away.

**INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY**

Beth Hooper sits in the front row with her books open.

MRS. PLINKETT, 50s, stands in front of the class and holds up a copy of "Julius Caesar."

MRS. PLINKETT  
Now class, who can tell me what happens in the third act of Julius Caesar?

Claudia raises her hand.

MRS. PLINKETT (CONT'D)  
Yes, Claudia?

CLAUDIA  
Uh, Mrs. Plinkett? I don't have my book.

MRS. PLINKETT  
And why is that, Claudia?

CLAUDIA  
I don't know. It's gone. I think Big Beth ate it.

BETH  
Did not!

CLAUDIA  
It's okay, Big Beth. You thought it was a Caesar salad, didn't you?

A few students laugh. Beth notices Sven in the back, chuckling too.

BETH  
It's not true, Mrs. Plinkett. I  
hate salad!

Beth looks around to see if her joke landed. Crickets.

MRS. PLINKETT  
Enough from both of you.

The bell RINGS and students begin to pack up.

MRS. PLINKETT (CONT'D)  
Don't forget class: this year's  
talent show auditions will be held  
in the auditorium today at lunch!

Claudia smiles at Beth, who turns around and packs up her books.

**INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY**

Beth places some books into her locker. There's a MINI POSTER of Cyndi Lauper inside.

She SLAMS the door shut and - GASP!

Claudia is leaning against the lockers, smiling, with her arms crossed.

Beth jumps and puts her hand over her heart.

BETH  
God, you scared me.

CLAUDIA  
Hi, Big Beth.

BETH  
Claudia Winter, you are like,  
literally, a supervillain.

CLAUDIA  
I just wanted to say, as class  
president AND head judge of the  
talent show: good luck.

BETH  
... Really?

CLAUDIA  
Of course. We're all rooting for  
you. Don't be late!

Claudia walks off. Beth looks confused, then slightly smiles.

**INT. SCHOOL BATHROOM - DAY**

Beth stretches in the bathroom. She lifts her leg all the way up to the sink to get a nice stretch.

BETH  
(to herself)  
You're super cool, Beth. And you're  
so super cool that you're gonna  
nail this audition today. You're  
gonna nail it harder than a... than  
a hammer hitting a nail... into a  
plank... a plank of WOOD! No- A  
PLANK OF AWESOME!!

FLUSH! A RANDOM BATHROOM GIRL pops out of one of the stalls and washes her hands at the sink next to Beth.

Random Bathroom Girl stares as Beth switches legs and continues to stretch.

BETH (CONT'D)  
Feel the burn, am I right?

**INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY**

Beth walks in and takes her spot at the end of the audition line. There's a UNIFORMED DANCE TEAM stretching in the back. She GULPS nervously.

Claudia sits at a judge's table, along with Mindy and Paula. The JOCKS and some other STUDENTS are seated behind them.

Beth watches as several acts perform:

BECKY WATERS, 15, walks a tiny PUPPY on a leash, like a runway model.

CLAUDIA  
You're in. Congratulations.

Everyone in the auditorium CHEERS.

JIMMY JEFFRIES, 17, a buff football player, holds out a moleskin notebook and reads slam poetry. His SIDEKICK plays a bongo.

JIMMY  
Athlete... red meat..... large  
feet... on the street...

CLAUDIA  
Beautiful. You're in.

The jocks CHEER like crazy. Beth notices Sven among them.  
She shuts her eyes and takes a few deep breaths.

BETH  
I can do this. I can do this.

CLAUDIA  
Beth Hooper! You're next.

Beth walks on to the stage and hands a CASSETTE TAPE to the school TECH BOY.

BETH  
Ladies and gentleman: my name is  
Beth Hooper, and I am here to blow  
your minds.

Crickets.

Then, Beth's DANCE MUSIC begins to play. She moves to the beat, somewhat nervously.

Beth glances at Sven, but can't tell whether or not he's enjoying it.

Beth gets warmed up. Her moves start looking better and better.

Hold the phone, she's actually... **great.**

But suddenly, someone turns on the projector and the screen behind Beth begins playing various videos of PIGS eating and playing in the mud. Everyone in the auditorium begins laughing.

Beth turns around and sees the video. The music keeps playing. She notices everyone laughing.

Beth runs off the stage, horribly embarrassed.

Everyone continues laughing, but Sven looks concerned as Beth runs away.

Claudia smiles and high fives Paula and Mindy.

#### **INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY**

Beth sits by herself and opens up a THINK FIT protein bar.

She sees Claudia, Mindy and Paula on the other side of the cafeteria going through a long list of names with a permanent marker.

Claudia locks eyes with Beth and dramatically crosses her name ~~off the list~~.

Beth throws her protein bar aside and eats chocolate pudding from her cafeteria tray.

**INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY**

The final bell rings and students fill up the hallway.

Beth opens her locker, then watches as everyone crowds around the bulletin board to check the results.

CYNDI LAUPER (O.S.)  
Are you really gonna give up that easily?

Beth looks around, then notices the poster in her locker.

(Cyndi's voice is in Beth's head)

BETH  
Cyndi Lauper?

CYNDI LAUPER (O.S.)  
Listen to me, Beth Hooper. In the third grade, your classmate stole your stupid rock for show and tell, and what did you do? You let it slide.

BETH  
It wasn't stupid, it was an amethyst quartz igneous geode.

The RANDOM BATHROOM GIRL from earlier stands next to Beth's locker and watches as Beth talks to herself.

CYNDI LAUPER (O.S.)  
And last year in Biology, you took the blame for the Fall Frog Massacre, even though everyone knew that it was all Goth Dave's fault!

BETH  
Well I...



CYNDI LAUPER (O.S.)  
No excuses. No surrender. Today is  
the day, Beth Hooper. Now you march  
right up to that girl and show her  
how awesome you are!

Beth turns to Random Bathroom Girl and smiles.

BETH  
I want a re-do.

Beth slams her locker shut and walks away triumphantly.

RANDOM BATHROOM GIRL  
(to herself)  
Girl needs some therapy.

Beth marches over to Claudia Winter and stands right in front  
of her.

BETH  
I want a re-do.

CLAUDIA  
I'm sorry, Big Beth. Try harder  
next year, okay?

Beth steps closer and confronts Claudia. A few students  
gather around in anticipation. Beth (very dramatically)  
raises her arm and points it at Claudia.

BETH  
Claudia Winter, **I CHALLENGE YOU TO  
A DANCE OFF!!**

The hallway goes SILENT. The crowd waits in anticipation.

CLAUDIA  
Why would I ever agree to that?

BETH  
What are you, scared?

CROWD  
OOOOOOOOO!

CLAUDIA  
You'll regret this moment, Beth  
Hooper.

Claudia rips off a pullaway outfit, revealing a badass dance  
uniform.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
LET'S DO THIS!

The crowd goes crazy. Claudia snaps her fingers and Tech Boy instantly runs up with a Boombox and hits play. Intense dance music comes on.

(Claudia and Beth each have their own theme when they dance.)

THUMP THUMP THUMP.

Claudia begins. Her moves are so fast and hip, it's hard to keep up. The dancing creates vibrations that physically push Beth Hooper, like gusts of wind.

The crowd goes NUTS. Paula and Mindy high five Claudia.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
Bring it on, Big Beth.

All eyes on Beth. She takes a breath, closes her eyes, then launches into an all out GROOVE, pulling out every move in the book. Her style is an eccentric combination of disco and hip-hip.

The crowd begins cheering for Beth, louder and louder.

Claudia catches Mindy bobbing her head and smiling.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
Mindy! Stop that!

Claudia jumps back in and the two battle head to head.

The crowd is losing their minds. Beth and Claudia are neck and neck. Claudia stomps on Beth's shoe, and she trips to the floor.

BETH  
Ow! Cheater!

The music PAUSES for a dramatic beat. Beth pulls out the CASSETTE from her pocket and throws it to the Tech Boy.

New music starts playing for the final battle. Then, something happens:

RANDOM STUDENTS begin to join in on Beth's side, even the SCHOOL MASCOT, MRS. PLINKETT and Mindy and Paula.

More and more allies begin to join Beth, until the entire hallway is turned into one giant dance party.

Confetti blasts through the air as Beth finally wins the battle. Claudia is physically knocked to the ground, like a K.O., in slow motion.

The dust settles and Beth stands over Claudia, then extends an arm to help her up.

BETH (CONT'D)  
Sorry Claudia, but you're out of  
your weight class.

Beth helps Claudia up.

CLAUDIA  
I underestimated you, Beth Hooper.

Beth shoots her a DO NOT MESS WITH ME, BABE face.

**EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - LATER**

Beth struts down the steps and away from her school, victoriously.

In the distance, Beth hears a boy running after her.

SVEN (O.S.)  
Hey, Beth! Wait up! Beth!

Sven catches up, out of breath.

SVEN (CONT'D)  
Where'd you learn to dance like  
that?

BETH  
YouTube.

Sven laughs.

SVEN  
You're seriously awesome. Do you  
think you could teach me some of  
your moves?

BETH  
Sure thing. Now if you'll excuse  
me, I've got to get home to feed  
Cat Damon.

Sven watches her walk away, puppy dog faced.

SVEN

Hey, wait! Are you going to the  
dance?

Beth spins around, shrugs *I dunno* and continues on her way.

SVEN (CONT'D)

(to himself)

But I... I think I love you, Beth  
Hooper!