

Cast of Characters

DREW:

LOU:

DAVIS:

JUSTIN:

LARRY:

DENNIS:

HAILEY:

COMPUTER:

BELL:

NIXON:

MAID:

CLONE NIXON:

CREATURE/OLLIE:

SCENE 1

Wormhole offices in the late 21st century. DREW, LOU, and DAVIS all stand onstage next to a cloning machine.

DREW

Well, Professor Davis, you really did it.

LOU

And to think, sixty years ago, cloning would've been the work of science fiction!

DAVIS

Sixty years ago it was science fiction, but thanks to 2087's wonderful technology, and the resources supplied by Wormhole Incorporated, it's now more than a reality.

DREW

And you can guarantee it'll work?

DAVIS

Of course, of course! Slight chance of exploding, but...

LOU

Slight?

DAVIS

Twelve, thirteen percent? Nothing worth worrying about. If we have any organic material on hand, I'd be more than willing to demonstrate...

LOU

Drew, get in.

DREW

What? Lou, it might explode!

DAVIS

If she's inside, it should be fine.

LOU

See? You'll be fine. Please? For me?

DREW

I don't... No, I refuse.

LOU

Fine, I'll do it.

DREW

What? No, Lou, I'll do it.

LOU

Don't trouble yourself. You said no, so I'll do it myself.

LOU enters the cloning machine.

DREW

But Lou!

LOU

I won't hear any more on it.

DREW

But... I love you!

LOU

Uh-huh, love you too.

The cloning machine activates,
alarms go off.

DREW

What's...

DAVIS

It's exploding!

DREW

What? Lou! Don't just stand there, run!

DAVIS

5, 4, here we go, 2, 1!

The cloning machine explodes, DREW runs away from the blast and is unharmed, DAVIS, paralyzed in wonder, is killed in the blast.

DREW

Lou! Lou. No! He, said you'd be fine, and now, you're gone. It should have been me...

(LOU climbs out of the rubble.)

Lou! I thought I'd lost you. But how did you...

LOU

I think... I think the cloning machine worked.

Gameshow intro music through scene transition.

SCENE 2

DREW

Hey, hey, hey, and welcome to another round of Timeline'd!

LOU

Brought to you by Wormhole. She's Drew...

DREW

And she's Lou! And together we're...

DREW AND LOU

Improving your life, for you.

DREW

Now, three lucky contestants are going to be sent back in time to collect historical artifacts.

LOU

To collect historical artifacts?

DREW

To collect historical artifacts! The person with the most historical artifact wins!

LOU

And they can go anywhere!

DREW

Anywhere before the year of our lord 2368, that is.

LOU

But Drew, isn't time travel dangerous?

DREW

Nonsense, Lou! Time travel cannot, under any circumstances, change the past, leaving it perfectly safe for all parties involved.

LOU

Isn't that just fantastic!

DREW

Now let's meet our contestants! Come on out!

(LARRY, HAILEY, and DENNIS enter.)

How about you start us off, Larry?

LARRY

Okay, what should I say?

DREW

Just your name, and how about an interesting fact about yourself?

LARRY

Okay, my name's Larry, and my social security number is 374-98-7083.

LOU

And why are you competing today?

LARRY

I was dared to.

DREW

You were dared to enter Timeline'd!?

LARRY

Yeah!

DREW

All right then. Now, Larry, are you ready to win a million dollars?

LARRY

There's a prize for winning this? Cool!

DREW

There is! Funny that.

LOU

Next up, Dennis!

DREW

Say hello to the world, Dennis.

DENNIS

Uh... Hi.

DREW

And the world says hello right on back! Now riddle me this, just why are you competing today?

DENNIS

I, erm, well, rent is a lot these days...

LOU

And you think the million will cover it?

DENNIS

Maybe half of it.

DREW

Only half?

DENNIS

Inflation... it's... it's bad, man.

LOU

Bit nervous to be up here, Dennis?

DENNIS

Yeah...

LOU

Oh don't worry, I understand. Just imagine everyone in their Wormhole brand undergarments and you'll be fine.

DREW

And now, for our final contestant of the evening, Hailey!
Why are you competing today, Hailey?

HAILEY

Well, that's for me to know, isn't it, Drew?

DREW

Why, aren't you the little firecracker...

HAILEY

Call me that again...

DREW

You little fire...

LOU

Just the sort of person deserving of a million dollars! How about it?

HAILEY

How about we get started already?

DREW

Okay, okay! Without further ado, let's begin the first round of *Timeline'd*!

LOU

Larry, you're up!

LARRY

Oh, me first?

DREW

You're first! Come right on up to the plate.

LARRY

Okay! Where am I going?

LOU

Don't you mean, "when?"

LARRY

No, where?

DREW

But definitely somewhen.

LARRY

What?

LOU

And off he goes!

Gameshow music, blackout.

SCENE 3

A Laboratory on Europa. DOCTOR BELL frantically enters, radio in hand. The CREATURE, unseen to the audience, lies behind a locked door.

COMPUTER

Reactor burst in 10 minutes.

BELL

This is Doctor Bell, colonist number 1179. This will likely be my last mission log; whether it end as a success or... I'm afraid that despite the best efforts of Wormhole staff, the colonists were left no choice but to abandon the Europa base.

(LARRY enters)

Other then myself, there are no remaining intelligent life forms on board.

LARRY

Howdy! Where are we?

BELL

Oh my god.

LARRY

Most people call me Larry...

BELL

What are you still doing on board? Where were you during the final call for survivors? How are you still alive?

LARRY

Uhhh, yes?

BELL

None of those were yes or no questions!

LARRY

Oh.

BELL

What's your colonist number?

LARRY

Well my social security number is...

BELL

Not social security number, colonist number!
(The CREATURE roars, the door rattles.)
Back, back!

LARRY

What's in there?

BELL

Don't go any closer! It's a creature, we found it on the surface. We figured we were alone in the solar system, so when we found those things, well, imagine our surprise.

The CREATURE roars again, more desperate than angry.

LARRY

It sounds lonely.

COMPUTER

Reactor burst in t-minus 8 minutes.

BELL

Ah! Losing time...

LARRY

Hey, maybe I can help.

BELL

No, no no, no, noooo. This is delicate technology, and regardless of who you might be, you do not have the experience to so much as approach it.

LARRY

I'm Larry. It's French.

BELL

Because that's supposed to clear up anything.

The CREATURE roars, the door rattles again.

LARRY

That's a really weak door.

BELL

It's a really strong creature.

LARRY

I really think its just lonely.

BELL

And I really think your just insane.

LARRY

Well, would an insane person do this?

(LARRY runs into the door at full speed.)

That's a really strong door.

BELL

Really?

LARRY

Really.

COMPUTER

Reactor burst in t-minus 6 minutes.

BELL

Really?! Look, do whatever you want, I have a base to save, and refuse to have it jeopardized by a singular, impossible to predict, variable.

LARRY

Just, let me try something....

BELL

No.

LARRY

Because if I've learned anything from watching Official Wormhole Films...

BELL

Walk away from the control panel.

LARRY

It's to always press the green button.

LARRY presses the green button.

COMPUTER

Reactor burst in t-minus 2 minutes.

BELL

What did you do?

LARRY

I pressed the green button.

BELL

You... stay away! Do anything you want, just, I have a base to save!

LARRY

Okay! Okay!

(The CREATURE roars again.)

Hey computer, what's this door passcode?

COMPUTER

0...

LARRY

Okay.

COMPUTER

0...

LARRY

Okay.

COMPUTER

0...

LARRY

Okay. 0?

COMPUTER

1.

LARRY

Darn it! Hey! It works!

LARRY exits through the door. He screams. BELL looks up for a moment.

BELL

Final mission log; addendum one. This is Doctor Bell, colonist number 1179. I am distraught to report that the mission is a failure. It is quickly becoming apparent just how out of my depth I am, and any chance there once was of success is quickly diminishing. To my fellow Wormhole staff, I'm sorry. To my mother, I love you. To my grandpa...

(LARRY enters with the CREATURE.)

How in god's name are you still alive?!

LARRY

Turns out these creatures really love belly rubs!

BELL

But, how...

(The creature snarls and jumps onto BELL, eating them.)

Ahhhhh!

LARRY

Jeez, you should've given him belly rubs.

(The creature doesn't stop.)

Wow, that sure is an appetite you have there.

SCENE 4

An informercial for Wormhole, DREW and LOU wait center stage.

DREW

Hi, I'm Drew!

LOU

And I'm Lou! And we're...

DREW AND LOU

Improving your life, for you!

DREW

Whether it be through the sciences, social services, or security, Wormhole has you covered.

LOU

But Drew, how are we improving their lives right now?

DREW

Why Lou, with the newest line of official Wormhole security measures! Introducing, through the latest cybergentic-nanite research, the fly-spy!

DREW pulls the fly-spy out of his pocket.

LOU

But, Drew, I don't see anything!

DREW

Exactly! Genetically identical to a real fly, picture quality in 24k, and so small you barely know it's there.

LOU

Amazing! I've been so worried as to what the neighbors have been up to.

DREW

Well, worry no longer, the fly-spy will report any suspicious activity straight to the the associated Wormhole Law Enforcement Division.

HAILEY enters, seemingly with a fly bugging her. DENNIS follows shortly after.

LOU

Well, isn't that just what Wormhole stands for: saving your life, for you.

HAILEY

Why are there even flys on set?

DREW

And remember, damaging Wormhole equipment is punishable with 15 years in your local prison complex.

HAILEY manages to swat the fly,
before overhearing the commercial
and reacting accordingly.

HAILEY

Ah... I'll hope they don't notice.

LOU

You know, Drew, Dennis and I were talking backstage, what
did you say you did for work, again?

DENNIS

A... a historian. 20th century.

LOU

Really? 20th century? Wormhole was only founded in the 21st,
isn't that right?

HAILEY

Aren't you supposed to know that?

DENNIS

Yeah, that's right.

DREW

And just who was in power before that point?

DENNIS

Oh, well, there was your Kennedy's, Roosevelt's, Thatcher's,
Nixon's...

DREW

Nixon's?

(LARRY enters.)

And the man of the hour is back!

LARRY

Where?

LOU

Right here, Larry!

DREW

So, we hear at *Timeline'd!* were watching you every step of
the way, and I think I speak for all of us when I say it was
a ride.

LARRY

It was awesome!

DREW

I'm sure it was.

LARRY

I even made a new friend!

LOU

That you did! How about you send him in now!

LARRY

Ollie. Ollie!

(The CREATURE, now OLLIE, enters.)

Isn't it just so cute?

HAILEY

You named it?

LARRY

No, it told me its name!

DREW

Well, as cute as Odie...

LARRY

Ollie.

DREW

Ah! Ollie. Well, as cute as Ollie might be, I can't say it really holds any historical value, so I'm afraid I can't award any points.

LARRY

Don't worry! I have more than enough friendship points with Ollie!

DREW

Great, great...

LOU

Dennis! You're up.

DENNIS

Me? Already? Okay...

DENNIS nervously makes his way to the time travel plate.

DREW

And Larry, mind taking that thing to the green room? We're going to need to send it back to Europa soon.

LARRY

What? But it'll die!

DREW

Okay, hand it over...

LARRY

No! Ollie's my friend!

(JUSTIN tries to tear OLLIE away from

LARRY, OLLIE bites JUSTIN and leaps towards DENNIS)

Ollie!

LOU

No!

HAILEY

What?

DENNIS

Ahhhh!

SCENE 5

The president's bedroom, NIXON'S term. A very anxious DENNIS enters.

DENNIS

It's impossible to change time, impossible to change time. Grab something and go, grab something and go... What at I supposed to grab? There's nothing in here!

(OLLIE enters.)

Oh my god. Please, please don't hurt me...

(OLLIE starts approaching.)

Nice Ollie. That was your name, Ollie? Nice Ollie...

OLLIE almost reaches DENNIS as NIXON enters.

NIXON

(To Offstage)

When the President does it, that means it's not illegal! And I won't hear any more on it.

(Noticing DENNIS and OLLIE for the first time.)

Who the Hell are you? What the Hell is that?

(OLLIE jumps at Nixon and drags him offstage, various body parts are tossed back.)

Auuuugh!

OLLIE, DENNIS, and NIXON exchange alien roaring/screaming/Nixon noises back and forth, until Nixon has been sufficiently devoured.

DENNIS

Oh my... that could've been me. That was, I was, too close. Okay, focus, there has to be something around here...

PRESIDENTIAL AID enters, shouting through the closed doorway.

PRESIDENTIAL AID

Mr. President, are you all right? We heard you scream from out here.

DENNIS

President... uhh, yes, I'm fine, just, what year is it?

PRESIDENTIAL AID

1973, are you sure you're all right?

DENNIS

(Impersonating NIXON badly.)

Yes! I'm fine. Arrrrrg.

PRESIDENTIAL AID

Are you sure? I am completely willing...

DENNIS

No! No. Please don't come in. Please.

PRESIDENTIAL AID

Mr. Nixon, do you need help?

DENNIS

Please, just, leave me alone.

PRESIDENTIAL AID

Okay! Call if you need anything!

DENNIS

I... I need a lot of things.

(OLLIE enters again with an arm in hand.
DENNIS takes the arm.)

So, this, this was Nixon, huh. I spend years studing about him, and he's torn to shreds before my eyes. Okay, don't think about it Dennis, just breath. It's a good thing we can't change time, isn't it, then we'd be in trouble. Why am I still holding this?

(OLLIE stares longingly at the arm.)

What do you want? You don't want to play with this, do you? You do? Well... No! Focus! I have to get that million. But what in here could be historical enough?

(OLLIE darts off.)

Wait, you can't take off like that! Ollie, come here!

(OLLIE returns with NIXON'S skull.)

I wasn't going to play fetch with Nixon's arm and I'm not about to play fetch with Nixon's skull! I need to find something historical, something important, something... like Nixon's skull! Oh my goodness, Ollie, you're a genius! Maybe Larry's onto something with you.

DENNIS and OLLIE exit. PRESIDENTIAL AID enters.

PRESIDENTIAL AID

Mr. Nixon, so sorry to interrupt, but an urgent phone call from- oh my god!

SCENE 6

Set of Timeline'd!, Drew and Lou are arguing.

DREW

We're still doing the show, after what just happened?

LOU

Of course! Imagine the ratings; the star power.

DREW

But Lou, there isn't a single person on the planet that doesn't know your name. Let's shut the program down for tonight and take care of it privately.

LOU

No! Everyone will be watching *Timeline'd!* tonight! We have to keep going.

DREW

Listen, please...

LOU

The red lights on.

DREW

The red lights on? The red lights on.

(Immediately professional.)

Hi, I'm Drew.

LOU

And I'm Lou! And we're...

DREW AND LOU

Improving your life, for you.

LOU

You know who else is improving your life, though?

DREW

Why, I don't know.

LOU

Everyone! Wormhole is responsible for 98% of the employment of men, women, and children!

DREW

Oh? And isn't it also true that Wormhole is responsible for 97% of educated employed adults?

LOU

It is! In a world where you're given everything on a silver platter, would you choose anything but Wormhole?

DREW

No, no, you wouldn't. After all, 100% of people who truly matter claim Wormhole was their number one choice for education, employment, and government functions. If you matter, join Wormhole.

LOU

This has been Wormhole...

DREW

Choosing your life, for you.

(Changing persona.)

Now then, the stakes sure are high tonight!

LOU

We've got rampant aliens...

DREW

We've got dead presidents...

LOU

And we've got to find a way out of this situation before we all cease to exist. How exciting!

LARRY

Here's to hoping Ollie's alright.

DREW

Yeah, that's at the top of my priority list too, buddy.

(DENNIS and OLLIE enter, OLLIE growls and leaps at LARRY in a much more friendly manner than usual.)

LARRY

Ollie! I knew you'd make it!

DREW

DENNIS! Deeeeennnis. Do you have any idea what you just did?

DENNIS

Did I, did I win?

DREW

Did he win? Tell me live studio audience, did he win?

LOU

No!

DREW

You've endangered the entirety of time and space as we know it! That's what you've done!

DENNIS

But I thought- But you said-

DREW

That time travel doesn't change the past?

LOU

That's a clever line we say to stop people from worrying!

DENNIS

Oh. Oh! What did I cause?

LOU

I don't know Mr. historian, what did you cause?

HAILEY

A mess. That's what you caused.

LOU

Yes, we need to fix this.

DREW

Nixon is dead, there is no fixing that!

LOU

Of course there is.

DREW

But there's not. Not on television.

DENNIS

I'm sorry!

HAILEY

Ugh! How about we stop panicking and start brainstorming?

LARRY

Ollie's got an idea!

DREW

Go on, shoot.

LARRY

Why don't we go back in time and stop Dennis from killing this Nixon guy?

DENNIS

I killed? It was your...

OLLIE growls at DENNIS

LOU

No, that would never work.

HAILEY

Why not?

LOU

Because that doesn't make for good entertainment! Next idea.

OLLIE growls at DENNIS.

HAILEY

Fine, I have an idea.

LOU

Go on...

HAILEY

Why don't we clone Nixon? Problems solved.

DENNIS

But, but, cloning machines have been banned since their inception!

HAILEY

I think you're forgetting what we have at our disposal.

DENNIS

You're not suggesting...

HAILEY

Going back to the inception of the cloning machine? I think I am.

SCENE 7

Wormhole offices in the late 21st century. DREW, LOU, and DAVIS all stand onstage next to a cloning machine.

HAILEY

Okay, Drew, Lou, when am I?

DREW

Late 2080's, original Wormhole offices.

DENNIS

Why didn't we get earpieces when we went back?

LARRY

Ollie would've loved one of those.

DREW

We told you two to wait in the green room! And take that thing with you.

LARRY, OLLIE, and DENNIS exit.

LOU

Okay, now Hailey, dear, do not change time anymore than it already has. Just find a chance to use the cloning machine, clone Nixon, and get out of there.

HAILEY

Yeah, sorry, not happening.

LOU

Sorry, what?

HAILEY

Right now I have a chance to stop Wormhole from ever taking over! I'm, going to take that chance.

LOU

Don't you dare...

DREW

Lou...

LOU

Don't 'Lou' me! She wants to erase all of my precious hard work! You listen here...

HAILEY

You're really not helping your case with that attitude.

DREW

Lou, give Hailey and I a moment.

For a moment, it looks as if Lou is going to further explode, before cooling down.

LOU

Okay, Fine.

LOU stomps off and talks to the contestants.

DREW

Hailey, listen, you can't change time.

HAILEY

If I couldn't change time, I wouldn't be doing this.

DREW

That's not what I meant. You don't know what will happen if you change the past. One moment could change everything!

HAILEY

And this is that moment.

DREW

A very delicate moment, understand? I understand Wormhole might not be your first choice, but it could be so much worse. Who knows, SpaceX could've taken over instead.

HAILEY

That doesn't...

DREW

Or, it could be better. And what then? Neither of us would live to see it. In fact, in this better alternate future, no one here would exist. I'm sure the new resident to this future would be ever thankful, if they were not ignorant to the fact they were born on the backs of genocide.

HAILEY

I'm still doing it.

DREW

Hailey, no!

HAILEY breaks the device she's using to talk to JUSTIN. JUSTIN exits. HAILEY braces herself to enter the meeting room.

HAILEY

Well Nixon, it looks like you're stuck with me now. Or rather, I'm stuck with you. Ugh. Let's change history.

LOU

Fine, I'll do it.

DREW

What? No, Lou, I'll do it.

HAILEY

How about instead of using volatile technology on a living person, how about we use it on this skull instead?

DREW

Who are you?

HAILEY

I could say I'm a time traveler from the 23rd century, but you wouldn't believe that, so let's just say I'm a janitor from the lower floor.

LOU

But we're on the bottom floor.

HAILEY

Then let's go with the first one and be done with it!

DREW

Where's security when you need them?

HAILEY

So how about it? I have a perfectly good skull right here. Let's clone it.

DAVIS

Well, all we need is a small sampling of organic matter to create the perfect clone. I say we do it.

DREW

A strange woman barges in here, claims she's a time traveler, offers a skull to clone, and you're all for it?

DAVIS

Why not?

LOU

Drew, please? Let's do it. After all, much better than two of either of us running around. I don't know the world could ever be ready for that.

DREW

You know what? Fine. Put it in.

(DAVIS grabs the skull and turns on the cloning machine.)

Who's skull is it anyways?

HAILEY

It's Nixon's.

DREW

What?

Alarms go off.

DAVIS

It's exploding!

DREW and HAILEY dart out of the room. DAVIS and LOU remain paralyzed. DAVIS out of excitement and LOU out of fear.

DREW

Lou, don't just stand there, run!

DAVIS

5, 4, here we go, 2, 1!

The cloning machine explodes. LOU and DAVIS are killed in the blast.

DREW

Lou! Lou. He said you'd be fine, and now, you're gone...

HAILEY

And with her, any hopes you have of world domination.

DREW

World domination? She was my world, and now she's gone! You knew this would happen!

HAILEY

Hey, wait, do you hear that?

DREW

She might be alive!

CLONE NIXON enters the light.

CLONE NIXON

Do either of you two know where I am? Last I recall, I was in my bedroom with an unknown assailant eating my... is this Heaven?

DREW

No, it's 2087... and Lou...

HAILEY

There's no way the future hasn't changed now.

SCENE 8

CLONE NIXON stand facing the audience, the light solely on them. NIXON opens the gameshow Timewarp'd!

CLONE NIXON

Hello, and welcome to another game of *Timewarped!* Sponsored by the United Nations. I'm your host, the clone of Richard Milhouse Nixon, and it is time for another journey through our storied history. But first, a reminder for everyone, as our best chronographers have shown time and time again, there is extremely minimal chance that time travel changes the past in any meaningful way, meaning time travel is perfectly safe. Now, let's meet our contestants...

Blackout; end of play.