Page One: "Tootsie" (1982)

[Scott Myers](#)

Screenplay by Larry Gelbart and Murray Schisgal, story by Don McGuire and Larry Gelbart

1.   MACRO SHOT. LIKE AN ABSTRACT PAINTING

Only one area in focus. It is an actors' character box.
We SLOWLY PAN to see: a monocle, different pairs of
eyeglasses, rubber appliances, various makeups, a
collection of dental applications, an assortment of
brushes. A hand comes into frame and removes a small
bottle. WE FOLLOW to see it is spirit gum. The other
hand enters frame and uncaps the bottle. FOLLOW one
hand as it applies the spirit gum to a cheek. We see
only a portion of the cheek. Now the hands apply spirit
gum to a rubber scar. Again we FOLLOW the hands as they
place the scar upon the actor's cheek. The ritual
continues as we watch a moustache being applied. The
hands then search out the dental appliances and pick
one. We study the movement as the appliance is inserted
into the actor's mouth. Throughout the above we HEAR
someone mumbling, but we cannot make out the words.
Suddenly we HEAR:

                    A VOICE
          Next!

2.   A BLACK SCREEN: OR SO IT SEEMS.

Really a darkened theatre. We're looking out toward
the auditorium.

                    VOICE
                 (continuing)
          Michael ... Dorsey, is it?

PULL BACK to hold MICHAEL in fg., looking out toward the
darkened auditorium. He is an actor, 40 years old. He
holds a script.

                    MICHAEL
          That's right.

CAMERA CIRCLES to reveal Michael's face. The scar is
present, as is the moustache. He also has perfect teeth.

                    VOICE
          Top of twenty-three.

                    MICHAEL
                 (with feeling)
          "Do you know what it was like
          waking up in Paris that morning?
          Seeing the empty pillow where ...
          wait a minute, cover your breasts!
          Kevin is downstairs! My God --
          what are you?"
                              (CONTINUED)

The movie version of the opening (credit sequence).

I'm often asked: "May I write a credit sequence in a spec
script?" Some people in the development community may

chafe at that seeing as it's the director's job. There's no rule against it, but to be on the safe side, you can do like the opening of the *Tootsie* script does: Write a credit sequence **without** calling it a credit sequence. [Obviously, by contemporary standards, you would break up the paragraph into several smaller ones to make it more readable].

You may download the screenplay here.

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