

Drawn to Campus

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INT. DORM ROOM, DAY

We open in the dorm of OLLIE J. THOMAS, who is being prepared for an in-home interview.

There are several messy shots of cameras and lights being set up. Titles are intercut.

We see OLLIE, a traditionally animated cartoon character living in the human world. In our world, he is about three feet tall, and while he is a humanoid, he has Muppet-esque facial features, purple skin, and orange hair. Nonetheless, he is dressed casually in a baseball cap, a t-shirt, jeans, and sneakers.

He is attempting to clip on his lavalier microphone. The crew has him test it a few times. We get to hear his gentle but squeaky voice.

OLLIE

Test, test?

(a pause, as they work with it)

Is that it? That all you needed? Oh more? Oh, I don't know, I've never done this before!

(laughs)

The lights and cameras reach their final setup, completed by a focus on OLLIE. We hear the DIRECTOR kick off the interview.

DIRECTOR

(offscreen; almost inaudible)

Alright, so just look right into the camera, and tell us who you are.

OLLIE

Okay, yeah, can do...

He prepares himself; this is where the final cut of the documentary would begin

OLLIE

Hi! I'm Ollie J. Thomas, and I'm the University's first animated student!

EXT. A COLLEGE CAMPUS, DAY

A shot of OLLIE walking around campus, using a campus computer, and reading in a library. The audio from his

interview covers the b-roll, in true documentary fashion.

OLLIE (V.O.)

So yeah, I mean it feels pretty special to be the first one of my kind on campus. Those kinds of people have been legendary in the past, but, I mean, the main thing I want to be is just...myself. That's most important to me. Thing is...

INT. CLASSROOM, DAY

We see Ollie at the back of a classroom. He is raising his hand to ask a question, but the PROFESSOR at the front of the room can't see him for his size.

OLLIE (V.O.)

...needless to say, there are certainly some challenges.

INT. CAFETERIA, DAY

STUDENTS give Ollie weird looks as he sits and eats his lunch.

OLLIE (V.O.)

There's always times when people are looking at me funny...

INT. OFFICE, DAY

Ollie tries to get the attention of an ADMINISTRATOR at a desk, but is too short to be seen.

OLLIE (V.O.)

...where I can't complete a simple task like everyone else...

INT. BUS, DAY

Ollie is sandwiched between two bus riders.

OLLIE (V.O.)

...and when people just straight-up reject me because of preconceived notions they might have. It can be hard.

CUT TO:

An old photograph is shown of an artist, drawing a sketch of OLLIE.

OLLIE (V.O.)

I guess my story began back when I was created. Acclaimed animation director Doug Finster drew me up back in 1999. He also created my parents, Mary and Ward. They were real big in 90's cartoons.

An accompanying photo.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM, DAY

Back to the interview setting.

OLLIE

There's a lot of pressure for animated characters to...you know...move to Hollywood, get a job in cartoons, all that kind of stuff. But me...I didn't want to do it. I just felt like that sort of lifestyle, you know, wasn't for me. I wanted to take some chances. I remember sitting down with my dad and saying...

(collects his thoughts)

"Dad, I know this is gonna hurt you, but I just don't want to do this. I want to be a child psychologist." And I remember, he smiled at me, he just sort of chuckled, and he said, "I want you to be only what you want yourself to be." And he gave me a hug, and... that was it.

(smiles)

INT. PSYCH. OFFICES, DAY

We see CHILDREN in the offices of child psychology.

OLLIE

I'm now a second-year student at the University, currently on track to get my degree in Child Psychology.

Ollie watches a CHILD play and talk, taking notes.

OLLIE (V.O.)  
When I tell people I'm studying that  
they usually go, "Wow, how fitting!  
Kids love cartoon characters!" I'm  
just like...  
(doesn't know what to think)  
"Ok, I guess so?"  
(chuckles)

INT. DORM ROOM, DAY

OLLIE  
I think a lot of people have  
preconceived notions about cartoon  
characters. They think we're all  
natural comedians or something or that  
we enjoy bouncing around all the time,  
so I think they get a little  
disappointed when they see that I'm  
not that way.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS, DAY

The b-roll shifts to highly positive imagery.

Ollie sits in a hippie circle with some STUDENTS, one of  
which plays GUITAR.

A SEXY GIRL looks over at Ollie and winks at him. He blushes

OLLIE  
But really, I've just grown to learn  
that the people who matter the most  
are the people who accept you for who  
you truly are. When I think back to  
that conversation I had with my dad, I  
realize that it was actually just  
about me staying true to myself. If  
you can dream it, you can do it.  
(smiles)

FADE OUT.