

20,000 EARS

Written by

Nick Fletcher & Alexa Hamlin

FADE IN:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL QUAD

DANIEL PETERSON (16) and BRAYDEN SMITH (17) are standing in the quad sharing a pair of headphones. They are visibly enjoying the music, nodding their heads and discreetly dancing. The boys notice a GROUP OF GIRLS walking towards them.

BRAYDEN

Dude, look. It's (girl group name).

DANIEL

Yeah. Probably coming to make fun of us for something again.

The girls approach the two boys. They have malicious smiles on their faces. The middle girl, LAUREN JONES (18)

LAUREN

Hey losers.

DANIEL

What do you want Lauren.

Lauren ignores the question, and goes to grab Daniel's phone out of his hand. She puts in the headphone and presses play.

LAUREN

You know, this isn't actually the worst thing I've ever heard. It actually kind of sounds like you guys.

DANIEL

Oh it's n-

BRAYDEN

Yeah, 'cause it's our song.

Shock and panic takes over Daniel's face. He immediately turns and stares at Brayden. Lauren seems pleasantly surprised.

LAUREN

Wait... really?

BRAYDEN

Yup. 100%. Our song.

LAUREN

Well then... if you guys are rappers now, you should have a show or something.

DANIEL

We aren't actual-

BRAYDEN

Yeah we actually are having one. Friday. Daniel's house.

LAUREN

Well! The whole school will be there, don't suck!

Brayden seems to realize what he has just done. Daniel is staring at the ground in disbelief. The girls walk away, the boys stay in the same spot.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - AFTERNOON

Brayden and Daniel are walking in silence home from school.

DANIEL

Brayden.

BRAYDEN

I'm sorry.

DANIEL

Why.

BRAYDEN

I panicked!

DANIEL

Why.

BRAYDEN

I said it by accident.

DANIEL

Why.

BRAYDEN

I think it'll be fin-.

DANIEL

No Brayden! It's not going to be fine!

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You scheduled a show, to perform songs we don't actually have, at my house. On Friday. Which is in 4 days. What are you doing.

BRAYDEN

Dude you know I get nervous around Lauren.

Daniel immediately stops walking. He looks at Brayden.

DANIEL

You're an idiot.

BRAYDEN.

We can cancel, tell the truth...

DANIEL

And be a fraud to the whole school? Hell no. You put us in this, so now we have to do this.

BRAYDEN

I mean... I guess we have to.

DANIEL

This is a one time thing. We just have to make a couple songs, do the show, and then this is done. Okay?

BRAYDEN

You're right. We can do this. I'm still sorry.

DANIEL

You're still an idiot.

The boys walk off and return to Brayden's house and go into grind mode. Montages of them making songs, screaming lyrics and being ridiculously over the top in performance. The boys are visibly stressed and close montage on them passed out on the floor.

INT. DANIEL'S GARAGE - NIGHT

DAY OF SHOW shows on screen. Daniel and Brayden are sitting in Daniel's garage, now a decked out venue. There is a small stage on one side, and standing room and couches on the other. Snacks and drinks are on a table on the side, presumably set out by Daniel's mom.

BRAYDEN  
 (while looking at watch)  
 Almost 8 o'clock dude. Where is  
 everybody?

DANIEL  
 They'll come alright. They said  
 they'd be here.

More time passes, as Brayden becomes discouraged.

BRAYDEN  
 It's over dude! It's 9 already. No  
 one's coming!

DANIEL  
 You're right.

As Daniel tosses his Mic, they here a knock on the garage door. They look at each other and Daniel opens up the door. As the door opens, they notice a large mass of people outside the door. They start to file in, and they start to notice people. Brayden and Daniel look confused, then Daniel grabs a mic, and proceeds to say;

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
 So... who's uh, ready for Lil Dan  
 and Lil Bray?

The crowd roars, and everybody jumps to their feet. The boys stand on stage, make eye contact, smile and nod, and proceed to turn up. Cut to concert clips, garage is packed to the brim. Concert ensues, goes great, crowd of about 40-50 high schoolers are loving it, with the garage being packed to it's brim.

The concert ends and the boys bow to the crowd.

BOTH BOYS  
 Thank you everybody!

The crowd cheers and they start to file out. Brayden and Daniel turn to each other with smiles on their faces.

BRAYDEN  
 This... this is insane.

DANIEL  
 We can't stop now.

The boys get up the next morning and check their music profile page. They notice their numbers are exponentially rising.

BRAYDEN  
Dude... we hit 10,000 plays.

DANIEL  
Overnight. This is crazy.

BRAYDEN  
It's a shame we're going to have to  
leave it behind.

Daniel turns and grabs Brayden by the shirt.

DANIEL  
Dude. What are you talking about.  
How can we stop now? 10,000 plays?  
That's like... 10,000 people.  
20,000 ears if you will. How can we  
stop now? We're on a rampage.

BRAYDEN  
Dude... we said we would stop after  
1 show.

DANIEL  
We can't stop.

BRAYDEN  
We're literally applying to college  
right now. How are we going to  
balance this?

DANIEL  
Think about it. We won't go to  
college. No college. Zero college.  
We move to LA. Become uber famous.  
And get rich. No degree needed.

Brayden starts to laugh thinking Daniel is joking. Daniel  
doesn't falter, and his eyes stay locked to Braydens.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
(whisper)  
I'm not joking.

BRAYDEN  
You're ridiculous.

DANIEL  
We can do this dude, how hard can  
it be?

BRAYDEN  
Hard, Daniel! Are you kidding me?  
You really want to do this?

DANIEL

Yes.

BRAYDEN

You're crazy. How about we do a couple more songs, and hopefully get your priorities straight by then.

DANIEL

Fine, but I can guarantee you'll agree with me soon.

BRAYDEN

I really don't think I will, but sure.

The boys sit in silence for a while.

DANIEL

(muttering)  
20,000 ears...

INT. PROFESSIONAL GRADE STUDIO - DAY

BRAYDEN

How'd you even book this place?

DANIEL

You know my uncle works at Guitar Center! He hooked it up fat.

BRAYDEN

Let's make these last couple songs.

DANIEL

You mean our next couple songs.

BRAYDEN

Sure.

The boys start to record. Brayden is on the mic doing a verse. The verse is lackluster. Daniel is furious and slams the keyboard, pausing the beat.

DANIEL

What are you doing?

Brayden is visibly confused.

BRAYDEN

Uh... rapping?

DANIEL

Badly rapping! You don't even care  
about it anymore, you don't care  
about the group!

Brayden is taken aback by the accusation, but the look on his  
face shows that he agrees.

BRAYDEN

I... I do care! I'm trying my best.

DANIEL

Well your best isn't good enough  
Brayden!

BRAYDEN

So you're saying I'm not good  
enough.

DANIEL

Basically. You kinda suck dude.

BRAYDEN

You know what? I'm done. I don't  
need this. I'm going to go to  
college and get a degree, I don't  
even want to be a rapper!

DANIEL

Fine! I can do this by myself.

BRAYDEN

Oh good look with that...

Brayden drops the headphones and leaves the studio. Daniel is  
left there realizing what he's just done.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY

Brayden is walking by himself with headphones in. He notices  
a bright orange flier taped to a pole. He takes his  
headphones and goes over to look at it. It reads "FIRST SOLO  
SHOW FOR YUNG DAN - FRIDAY AT 7pm" with a photo of Daniel  
wearing obviously fake jewelry. Brayden starts to notice  
everyone is holding these fliers, and everyone is talking  
about the show.

BRAYDEN

(under breath)

Jesus...

Brayden puts his headphones back in and continues to class.

INT. DANIEL'S GARAGE

Daniel is setting up the stage again, this time alone.  
Daniel's mom cracks the door to the garage and peeks in.

DANIEL'S MOM  
Hey honey, you need anything?

DANIEL  
(borderline screaming)  
No mom! I'm good, okay? I can do  
this by myself. Just me. No one  
else.

DANIEL'S MOM  
You seem stressed.

DANIEL  
(screaming)  
I'm not! Okay Mom? It's gonna be  
fine. It's gonna be great.

DANIEL'S MOM  
Okay hon, just keep a positive  
attitude!

DANIEL  
Okay mom! Leave! People are getting  
here soon.

DANIEL'S MOM  
Okay, good luck!

People start to file in, and soon the garage is packed beyond  
a safe amount of people. Everyone is inside, and the crowd  
starts to get restless. Daniel, visibly nervous, gets on  
stage.

DANIEL  
Hows... hows uh... how's  
everybody's day going?

Lauren is in the front row with her girls.

LAUREN  
Just start the damn show!

DANIEL  
Oh... oh okay...

Daniel walks over to the laptop on stage and presses play. A  
heavy hip hop beats comes on. Daniel stands on stage,  
paralyzed by the huge crowd. He looks to his left, and  
instead of seeing Brayden, sees nobody.

He nervously looks back at the crowd. He holds up to his mouth, but says nothing as the beat continues to play. Boos start to rain down on him.

LAUREN

Let's get out of here guys, he's a phony anyway.

Everybody starts to leave, and Daniel stands in the same spot with his head down. Everybody is gone. Daniel doesn't look up. He then hears a single person, slow clap from the crowd.

BRAYDEN

(jokingly)  
Good show man!

DANIEL

Shut up.

Daniel seems the slightest bit amused, but is refusing to get out of his slump.

BRAYDEN

Come on man. I meant... It wasn't that bad.

DANIEL

It was pretty bad.

BRAYDEN

Actually, it was really bad.

Daniel chuckles at this and looks up at Brayden

DANIEL

Can't believe you actually came.

BRAYDEN

I mean, I saw your stupid flier. I had to see this.

DANIEL

I was up there by myself, and I just froze.

BRAYDEN

Maybe you're not cut out for this. I know I'm definitely not.

DANIEL

I think you're right bro.

BRAYDEN

Is this over?

DANIEL

It's over.

Brayden helps Daniel up, and they walk out of the garage, leaving the empty set behind.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL QUAD - DAY

The boys are standing together, sharing a pair of headphones. Lauren and her crew approaches.

LAUREN

Hey los-

BRAYDEN

Save it. We're listening to Limbo.

DANIEL

He's actually right over there.

Brayden and Daniel both point over to another high school kid LIMBO (17).

BRAYDEN

He's actually a real rapper.

Immediately, the girls run over the Limbo, asking him what he's listening to.

FADE OUT.