

SOMEBODY'S HERO

Written by

Zane Stephens

Based on, the true story of country music artist Dominic James

1 BLACK SCREEN 1

Music from Dominic James plays.

A quote comes across the screen, "You can be somebody's hero, even your own."

The quote fades. Back to black.

"Based on the true story of country music artist Dominic James" appears. Then fades.

"SOMEBODY'S HERO" appears on the screen.

"Central Maine" appears on the screen.

1 EXT. SCHOOL - LHS 1

Early morning. We see a school. Unwelcoming. Prison-like. \*\*View from corner where taller building is in the back\*\*. We see the parking lot. Different angles on the school exterior. The schools grounds. The football field. All as Dom's music leads the audience into the story.

2 INT. SCHOOL - LHS 2

Continue the opening. We see several large abandoned hallways. High ceilings. Some tight hallways. We see there are bars over the entrance to the 4th floor of the school. A black cloaked figure stands behind the bars staring out. We see the unfinished 4th floor.

DISSOLVE TO:

3 INT. SCHOOL 3

RING RING. The initial school bell goes off.

Students enter the school. Students hang out before class in the hallways, by their lockers. Dom's music still sets up the story under these images.

We see the sign for the theatre room.

A MAN approaches the theatre door. He opens it and enters.

A group of FOOTBALL PLAYERS notice and follow him.

4

INT. THEATRE - HANGER

4

A dark auditorium. Students near the stage get ready to audition. They watch each other audition. The school is doing the Twelfth Night for the spring play.

On stage two teachers are leading the audition process. MR. RHEIN and MRS. RHEIN. Mr. Rhein is the choral and theatre teacher.

The football players enter. Mock the thespian hopefuls. The man we saw earlier sits by himself. Watches how everything works. He has never been here before.

The football players sit behind him, a few rows back.

\*\*The camera continues to make its way to the stage, through the two teachers holding the auditions. They have scripts that say "TWELFTH NIGHT", note pads to make notes, and a list of the students auditioning. Then on to the student auditioning.\*\*

A STUDENT finishes his audition and walks off stage. The THESPIAN hopefuls clap. The football players point and chuckle.

MR. RHEIN (O.S.)

Next?...

Thespian hopefuls look around.

MR. RHEIN (CONT'D)

Who's next?

The man we followed earlier starts to get up. This is DOM, he is our hero, quiet, isolated, burdened, searching for his place, this is his story. FOOTBALL BULLY 1, our antagonist. Feels betrayed by Dom. Seeing what he sees now, he wants nothing more than to ruin Dom's existence.

FOOTBALL BULLY 1

(betrayed)

So it's true... He is a faggot.

Dom walks up to center stage nervous, yet excited. What will his peers think of him?

\*\*The camera moves in on Dom, wraps around him, showing the loneliness created by the bright stage lights and the darkness that settles behind the teachers. Who is in the darkness waiting for him to fail?\*

The two teachers look up at Dom. Waiting.

Dom stands with his script in hand.

REVEAL: He has a lisp.

DOM  
My name is Dominic Colizzi.

From the darkness we hear:

THEATRE JERK (O.S.)  
(laughing)  
'kid can't even talk!

Dom is paralyzed.

The football players are amused. Football bully 1 looks at Dom as if Dom is his prey.

FOOTBALL BULLY 2 leans over to Football Bully 1.

FOOTBALL BULLY 2  
(laughing)  
Look at his ears. I wonder if he's  
channeling Mars with those things.

Football bully 1 just stares him down. Laughs at the joke.

We come back to the stage with Dom. Mr. Rhein is looking through his papers to find Dom's name.

MR. RHEIN  
You're auditioning for Sebastian,  
right?

Dom nods.

MR. RHEIN (CONT'D)  
Whenever you're ready.

Dom builds courage. Looks down at his script.

FADE TO BLACK.

As the screen goes black.

FOOTBALL BULLY 1 (O.S.)  
You suck!

The football bullies laugh.

FADE IN:

5 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - 100 HALLWAY

5

The bell rings. Dom walks to class. The halls are over-crowded yet not one person seems to notice him. Students bump into him and never acknowledge it. This is the endless walk of loneliness that he suffers through every day since it happened...

The football players are there. Not in focus. Students scatter to class. Dom stays in the hall. We hear music playing. It is the band room.

5A Dom walks to the door. We see students warming up their instruments. We see Mr. Rhein, from the audition. Dom just stares. He hopes this could be the safe haven he has been looking for. The students look and dress more like him. 5A

Mr. Rhein sees Dom staring into his class and walks to the door.

MR. RHEIN  
Dominic, right?

Dom nods.

MR. RHEIN (CONT'D)  
You had a great audition.

Dom is silent. Mr. Rhein recognizes something might be going on.

MR. RHEIN (CONT'D)  
You need a pass for class?

Mr. Rhein starts writing on a piece of paper.

MR. RHEIN (CONT'D)  
Here.  
(hands him the slip)  
You should come back next period. I don't have a class.

Mr. Rhein closes the door and walks back to his students.

6 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - 100 HALLWAY

6

Dom turns around to walk to class. BAM! Someone grabs Dom by the throat and throws him up against a locker. REVEAL: Football Bully 1. Dom's feet can't touch the ground. He is choking to death.

FOOTBALL BULLY 1  
 (vindictively)  
 You actually think you'll ever  
 amount to anything, quitter?

Dom struggles to breathe. He kicks the lockers violently trying to get free.

FOOTBALL BULLY 1 (CONT'D)  
 Next time you try to perform, I'm  
 gonna take the mic and tell  
 everyone how much of a pansy you  
 really are.

Football Bully 1 releases him. Dom falls to the ground.

FOOTBALL BULLY 1 (CONT'D)  
 Watch your back faggot.

He walks away. Dom is left Weak. Desperately trying to catch his breath.

Mr. Rhein, rushes into frame. Concerned.

MR. RHEIN  
 You alright?

Dom shakes him off. Embarrassed. Quickly runs out of the school.

Mr. Rhein looks down and the hall pass he wrote for Dom is left on the ground.

7 INT. 4TH FLOOR

7

\*\*need a morning shoot for lighting\*\*

Dom runs. Embarrassed. Out of breathe. Hopeless. About to faint. Through an unfinished part of the school. Industrial looking. Walls are cement. Shadows follow him on the wall.

Dom catches his breath and stares out the window. How can he escape?

FADE OUT.

8 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

8

The early bell rings. Students are chattering. Hanging out before school starts. Still no one really notices Dom.

Dom walks up to the band room door. A group of students are all huddled around. REVEAL: the Call-sheet. Dom makes his way to the front to read the sheet.

We see his reaction. REVEAL: he booked the role of Sebastian.

THEATER KID 1  
Who's Dominic Co-lizzie?

Dom hears him. Not looking for any attention, he quietly makes his way out of the crowd.

9 INT. BAND ROOM

9

Dom walks into the band room. It is a moment of hope in a otherwise prison of despair.

He touches the piano, the ukulele, the guitars. He begins to feel that he belongs somewhere.

Dom walks over to a closed off instrument room. He enters and begins playing the piano and singing. \*\*The sound coming from the room will be Dom's music.\*\*

There are pictures on the wall of an electric guitar player.

Mr. Rhein opens the door. Startles Dom.

MR. RHEIN  
So you play, sing and act. Is there anything you don't do?

Dom begins to smile.

MR. RHEIN (CONT'D)  
I'm guessing you saw the call sheet outside?

DOM  
Yes sir.

MR. RHEIN  
You know the character Sebastian has blonde hair.

DOM  
I know.

Mr. Rhein waits to see if he'll say anything.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Mr. Rhein, who is the guy on the wall?

Mr. Rhein begins to chuckle.

MR. RHEIN

That's me. Playing Carnegie Hall 20 years ago.

Dom smiles. Mr. Rhein walks over to the pictures.

DOM

In NY?

Mr. Rhein sees his enthusiasm.

MR. RHEIN

Yes. I toured for years... There were few things that I loved more than playing on the road... City after city. Show after show.

DOM

I think that'd be awesome!

MR. RHEIN

Ask me anything. I'll tell you all about it. Good and bad.

Mr. Rhein keeps looking at the pictures.

DOM

I need to go, sir.

MR. RHEIN

Come back anytime.

Dom nods.

MR. RHEIN (CONT'D)

I mean it. Anytime.

Dom walks out.

FADE TO:

10

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD

10

Dom walks up to the field. Looks at it for a long moment. Obviously something happened here... Is this the closure he needed?

\*\*From across the field, we see the stadium, the goal posts, and Dom. He is standing in the endzone. Dom looks tiny in a big stadium. He stares at the camera.



The camera zooms across the field in an instant. Stops on his face. He stares. Screams are heard as the camera moves on to his face\*\*

FADE OUT.

11 INT. LUNCHROOM

11

Dom walks in with his sack lunch. The lunchroom is full of students. Everyone stares. Black cloaked figures line the edge of the lunchroom. Just staring. Dom looks quickly for an empty table.

As he walks towards an empty table he passes by the football bullies. They start heckling him as he walks by.

FOOTBALL BULLY 2 (O.S.)  
Look guys, it's our very own  
thespian.

2 other football players sitting at the table try to stick up for Dom.

FOOTBALL PLAYER  
He's a good guy. You should lay off  
of him.

Football Bully 1 ignores them.

Dom turns around and Football Bully 1 is standing behind him.

FOOTBALL BULLY 1  
You don't deserve to eat.

He shoves him. Dom flies backwards.

REVEAL: As Dom had turned around another football player had squat behind him.

The football players laugh.

Dom gets up and runs away.

12 INT. HALLWAY

12

Montage of Dom running down different hallways. Around corners we get quick glimpses of black cloaked figures.

13 INT. BAND ROOM

13

Mr. Rhein working in his office. Dom runs in. Looks for Mr. Rhein, does not see him. Sits down by the piano. Mr. Rhein comes out of his office.

MR. RHEIN

Dom?

Dom is silent.

MR. RHEIN (CONT'D)

Did they do something else to you?...

Dom is silent. Moves his fingers around the piano.

DOM

(to himself)

... You're safe... You're safe.

Mr. Rhein hears. He is touched. Heart-broken.

MR. RHEIN

You're safe here, Dom.

Beat.

Dom begins to open up.

DOM

I was on the football team. I loved football. It was my life.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD FLASHBACK

14

DOM (V.O.)

But during practice last fall I got hit hard.

Dom and his teammate are in pads. The teammate goes for the tackle and we hear a CRACK! We see Dom's face in agony as he falls backwards. Grass flies up into frame.

BACK TO:

13 INT. BAND ROOM

13

Back with Mr. Rhein and Dom.

DOM

I couldn't do it anymore... So I started doing music and stuff. And they call me gay. Now no girl will look at me.

Mr. Rhein feels for the kid.

MR. RHEIN

Forget 'em. Do you believe you can make something of yourself?... Prove them wrong, Dom.

Dom smiles. Acknowledges Mr. Rhein.

Beat.

Mr. Rhein exits.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

15 EXT. TOWER 15

Dom stands at the top of the tower watching the sun go down. He realizes there is hope. There is someone who cares about me. I do have a purpose. And I can be whatever I want to be.

16 INT. HALLWAY - TWO STORY HALLWAY 16

Early bell rings. Students are hanging out in cliques laughing looking at their phones. Others walk in gossiping.

Dom walks in energized. Ready to make a name for himself.

From above black cloaked students watch Dom.

On the main level, all eyes turn on him. Students are gossiping about him. Laughing at him.

Dom gets to the end of the hallway. Football Bully 1 steps in front of him. The other football bullies surround him.

FOOTBALL BULLY 1

Did you see the video I posted of you?

The other football bullies start chuckling.

FOOTBALL BULLY 1 (CONT'D)  
 You really should. Lots of laughs  
 in there, especially your  
 (impersonate) lisp.

\*\*The camera will move around the exterior of the circle the bullies have created around Dom. All of them tower over him.\*\*

The football bullies leave Dom. Football Bully 1 stares him down as his wounded prey as he leaves.

Dom realizes what everyone in the hallway was laughing about. He walks away. Tries to brush it off.

17

INT. BAND ROOM

17

The cast of Twelfth Night is rehearsing lines all walking around dramatically dressed as their parts. Mr. Rhein is getting the last minute things prepared before opening night.

Dom enters and sees his cast mates and Mr. Rhein. Being here allows him to drown out what is going on outside the band room. He puts on a blonde wig.

CAST MEMBER  
 We're about to be live!

Mr. Rhein and Dom lock eyes. Mr. Rhein approaches him.

MR. RHEIN  
 Nice hair, Sebastian.

DOM  
 (forcing it)  
 Thanks.

Beat.

MR. RHEIN  
 You can do this. Give them a reason to regret everything they've ever said to you. You can do this.

Dom nods.

Beat.

Dom begins to leave.

MR. RHEIN (CONT'D)  
 You can be somebody's hero, even your own.

Off Dom's reaction.

CUT TO:

18 INT. THEATRE - HANGER

18

Dom walks out on the bright stage.

Quote comes across this still framed silhouette of Dom in the lights.

"I want everyone that hears my message, young or old, to know that you're never alone. There's always someone to turn to for help... There's always hope... You can be somebody's hero, even your own." - Dominic James

[www.somebodyshero.net](http://www.somebodyshero.net)

THE END.

Roll Credits.

Split screen. Show live footage of the real Dom at one or more of his events. Maybe a slide show of pictures of him with Mr. Rhein and others at his school that invested in him.