

MERGER: THE MOVIE

Videoplay by Richard Bellikoff

FADE IN:

EXT. MOVIE THEATER (STOCK FOOTAGE) - NIGHT

Gala Hollywood movie premiere. MUSIC: "That's Entertainment". Marquee reads:

**World Premiere
Merger: The Movie
An Amerman/Eskridge Production**

Limos drive up and disgorge celebrities, who move up carpeted walkway toward theater entrance.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Nobody does an opening night like Hollywood! And the stars are out tonight! Let's see if our roving camera can pick out a few of them . . .

Opening Night Barbie and Ken drive up in Porsche 911 Cabriolet.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Look! There's the fabulous Barbie, with her escort, Ken!

Little People drive up in their vehicles: Little People Vehicle Assortment, Little People Dump Truck, Little People School Bus.

REPORTER (V.O.)

And the Little People, in their little vehicles. Aren't they adorable?

More arrivals: Aladdin and Princess Jasmine on magic carpet ("Aladdin" footage), Polly Pocket in horse & carriage (sizzles/commercials), Baby Walk 'n Roll in walker (sizzles/commercials), Snow White & 7 Dwarfs (film footage).

REPORTER (V.O.)

They're coming from far and wide to see and be seen!

Kids of all ages cheer and applaud (sizzles/commercials).

REPORTER (V.O.)

The crowd can't get enough!

Limos pull up.

REPORTER (V.O.)

And here are the studio execs! --

QUICK CUTS: CUs, Jill Barad, Joe Gandolfo, Byron Davis.

REPORTER (V.O.)
-- Jill Barad -- Joe Gandolfo -- and Byron Davis --

CUs, John Amerman and Jim Eskridge.

REPORTER (V.O.)
-- And those legendary movie moguls, John
Amerman and Jim Eskridge!

Fisher-Price Microphone enters frame, dwarfing figures of Amerman, Eskridge and others.

REPORTER (V.O.)
Mr. Amerman! Mr. Amerman! Can you tell us --
what does it take to make a blockbuster movie like
this?

Amerman turns, speaks into mike.

AMERMAN
What does it take? Well, that's kind of a long story.
..

MUSIC: "Vertigo" flashback. Swirl or ripple DISSOLVE to:

INT. AMERMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Amerman's at his desk, checking some figures on a pocket calculator and talking to someone off-screen.

AMERMAN
. . . Let's see . . . that's three you owe me.
(Looking up)
And I can ask for anything I want?

Genie doll is sitting casually on Amerman's desk, magic lamp at his feet. All his dialogue is synched to the film "Aladdin".

GENIE
Almost. There are a few provisos, a couple of quid
pro quos. Rule number one --

CU - G.I. JOE, TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES, ready for battle.

GENIE (V.O.)
-- I can't kill anybody --

SFX: Machine gun fire. G.I. Joe and Turtles fall over, dead.

GENIE (V.O.)
-- so don't ask. Rule number 2 --

CU - Fisher-Price logo - heart symbol - Mattel logo. SFX: Kissing.

GENIE (V.O.)
-- I can't make anybody fall in love with anybody else. Rule number 3 --

CU - TOMBSTONE with epitaph, "R.I.P. He-Man."

GENIE (V.O.)
-- I can't bring anybody back from the dead. Other than that, you got it.

GENIE
(Sitting in Amerman's lap, looking up at him)
So what'll it be, master?

AMERMAN
(pondering a moment)
Well, -- I have a vision of a joint venture -- a pooling of interests -- a co-production.
(To Genie)
Is that within your job description?

GENIE
(Reclining on sofa)
No one's ever asked me that before.

AMERMAN
I'd really like this production to get a G-rating. We want it to appeal to children of all ages.

GENIE
(Hanging upside down from toy display shelf)
No problem, you've still got one wish left.

AMERMAN
(Leaning back in chair, musing)
International business will define the future. Global distribution is the name of the game.

GENIE
(In lotus position on window sill)
Now is that an official wish? Say the magic words!

AMERMAN
(Sitting up, emphatic)
I'm feeling really upbeat about this. The whole world is just there for us. Let's make it happen!

GENIE
(At door, about to exit)
I'll take that as a yes.

WHIP PAN TO:

INT. AMERMAN'S OFFICE/ESKRIDGE'S OFFICE - SPLIT SCREEN - DAY

Amerman & Eskridge having phone conversation. They're wearing shades and smoking cigars like movie moguls.

ESKRIDGE
How's the script coming along?

Amerman flips through screenplay of "The Odd Couple."

AMERMAN
It's got a few rough edges. We're changing the title. I'll fax you the coverage. I've also got some legwork for you.

ESKRIDGE
Where am I going?

AMERMAN
New York.

At the thought of his trip, Eskridge smiles, goes into a brief reverie.

EXT. MANHATTAN MONTAGE (STOCK FOOTAGE) - NIGHT

Bright lights, big city.

CU - U.S. MAP

In style of "Raiders of the Lost Ark." Moving line shows Eskridge's progress from El Segundo to East Aurora. MUSIC: Indiana Jones theme.

AMERMAN (V.O.)
East Aurora, New York.

EXT. HIMALAYAN MOUNTAIN PASS - "LOST HORIZON" - DAY

Eskridge (Ronald Coleman) and Sherpa guides trudging through raging blizzard. SFX: Howling winds.

INT. FISHER-PRICE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Thick parka hangs on a coatrack, a sled and Fisher-Price Sand & Snow Shovel leaning against the wall. A light snow shower falls from the ceiling. Eskridge, in business suit but with hair dusted with snow, sits at head of conference table. SFX: Wind howling outside.

Around the conference table, in people-sized chairs, are seated Fisher-Price Dino-roarrrrrs, Puffalump Kids, and Big Thing or Rumpel Bear. Atop the conference table is a smaller, Little People-sized conference table and chairs, with Little People seated around it.

LITTLE PERSON

Try and see it our way. Tradition means a lot to us.

An extended family of Dino-roarrrrrs is seated together: 2 Giant Dino-roarrrrrs, 2 Dino-roarrrrrs, and a Baby Dino-roarrrrr or two. There's also a family of Puffalump Kids and Newborn Puffalumps, and a family of Little People with their Little People Nursery.

DINO-ROARRRR

Yeah, and family values too.

ESKRIDGE

You don't have to give up any of that. You can be yourselves. Nobody's asking you to change. It's a partnership.

PUFFALUMP KID

Another thing we value is our lives. We've heard about your freeways.

QUICK CUT: (Commercials/sizzles) Hot Wheels Attack Pack vehicles cruising freeways, Crashpile Stunt Set, pile of cars collapsing, Key Force Chopper patrolling overhead.

ESKRIDGE

Hey, nothing ventured, nothing gained. Don't you want a piece of the action? This could be the biggest box office hit since Jurassic Park!

SFX: Grief-stricken Dino-roarrrrr cries out (actual toy noise when squeezed).

DINO-ROARRRR

We'll get eaten alive!

Eskridge produces some plane tickets, fans them out on the table.

ESKRIDGE

Don't worry, I'll be walking you through this every step of the way. I've taken the liberty of booking some seats for you. First class. Give it a shot. Fly out and take a meeting.

BIG THING or RUMPLE BEAR
(Incredulous)
Take a meeting? Take a meeting? How on Earth
do you take a meeting?

EXT. LOS ANGELES (STOCK FOOTAGE) - ESTABLISHING SHOTS - DAY

All the stereotypes: palm trees, beaches, swimming pools, gorgeous blondes, expensive cars,
Hollywood sign. MUSIC: "Hooray for Hollywood."

EXT. L.A. AIRPORT - STOCK FOOTAGE - DAY

Jets land and taxi in on runways. A Fisher-Price Pull-Along Plane taxis in among them, being pulled
along by its rope.

CU - HOLLYWOOD TRADE PAPER

Old movie spinning effect. Casting Call ad reads:

Open Audition
"Merger: The Movie"
All types needed
Must appeal to children of all ages

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Sign on wall:

Casting for
"Merger: The Movie"
Please wait until your name is called

Actors and actresses sit around, waiting for their turns to audition: Barbie & Ken, Skipper, Stacie,
Courtney, Teresa, Shani, Sally Secrets, Little Miss Candi Stripes, Jenny Gymnast, Baby Walk 'n
Roll, Polly Pocket, Peppermint Rose Dolls, Mighty Max, Beverly Hills 90210, Aladdin & Jasmine, and,
in a separate group, the Fisher-Price actors: Little People, Dino-roarrrrs, Puffalump Kids, Big Thing
or Rumpel Bear, Slumber Babies, Teether Pets, Zoo Grabbers. SFX: Voices, murmuring.

Barbie, holding a small bound volume with Shakespeare's likeness on the cover, rehearses for her
audition with Ken as audience.

BARBIE
Alright, let me try it one more time.
(Recites unconvincingly)
Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?
(to Ken)
Was that better?

Two Little People rehearse, one holding a miniature script.

LITTLE PERSON
Yo, Adrian! -- No, I can do better than that -- Yo,
Adrian! . . .

Two Fisher-Price character toys rehearse, repeating the same SFX -- actual sound of toy -- over and over again. Finally --

CASTING AGENT (V.O.)
(Amplified)
Barbie! You're next!

BARBIE
(Getting up, to Ken)
Tell me to break a leg!

KEN
(as she leaves)
Hmmm . . .

INT. BARBIE'S MAGIC TALK CLUB - DRESSING ROOM - DAY - SPLIT SCREEN

Barbie's on the phone, very upset.

BARBIE
I mean, I couldn't believe it! I thought my part was supposed to be bigger than that! Some agent you are!

INT. REN'S OFFICE (BATHROOM)/BARBIE'S MAGIC TALK CLUB - DAY - SPLIT SCREEN

Bath Tub Ren, on the phone.

REN
Trust me. You know, dollface, I hate to bring this up, but you're no spring chicken anymore, if you catch my drift.

BARBIE
(Indignant)
I'm 34. And I'm still the biggest box office draw in the industry.

REN
Yeah, sure, but a larger cast means everyone gets a smaller piece of the pie. You were 50% before, right? So maybe you're 35 or 40% now. Don't sweat it. Look on the bright side. You're still taking down over 9 figures a year. Am I right or am I right?

BARBIE
Gee, I don't know. . . Math is tough. . .

EXT. STUDIO BACKLOT (STOCK FOOTAGE) - DAY

Establishing shot. MUSIC: "Hooray for Hollywood."

INT. WARDROBE DEPT. - DAY

Sign tells us where we are. Moving along a clothing rack, we see wardrobes of various Mattel dolls, labeled with signs, perhaps also the Genie's, Dino-roarrrrr's (animal skin, if removable), and then, Barbie's wardrobe, seemingly endless (Series of DISSOLVES).

Polly Pocket gazes up at what is to her a giant clothing rack, with a sign, "Little People."

POLLY POCKET

Little people? These are for little people?

EXT. FILM SET - DAY

Toy-sized camera and lights. Cast (same toys from audition scene) standing around. SFX: Voices murmuring. Megaphone enters frame, dwarfing toy figures.

DIRECTOR (V.O.)

Quiet on the set, please. And . . . action! Wait a minute, cut, cut, cut! Where's Barbie?

EXT. BARBIE'S GOLDEN DREAM MOTOR HOME - DAY

Establishing shot.

INT. BARBIE'S GOLDEN DREAM MOTOR HOME - DAY

Hollywood Hair Barbie's at her Beauty and Makeup Center, primping in front of the mirror, helped by Skipper and/or Courtney, with Ken looking on as usual. SFX: Pounding on door.

P. A. (V.O. through door)

Barbie! You're wanted on the set!

BARBIE

Just a sec!

(To Ken)

How do I look, Ken?

(He's inattentive)

Ken!

SFX: Pounding on door.

EXT. BARBIE'S GOLDEN DREAM MOTOR HOME - DAY

Door swings open, revealing Barbie, resplendent.

BARBIE

I'm ready for my closeup, Mr. Amerman!

INT. ESKRIDGE'S OFFICE - DAY

Eskridge is holding a Fisher-Price Chatter Telephone and a Kiddi Car Phone, one two each ear.

ESKRIDGE

Yeah, I know you guys don't want me on the set, but I've got plenty to do back here . . . I don't want to be reading anything in the trades about "Mergergate."
Just bring this baby in on budget.

EXT. FILM SET - DAY

Same cast from previous film set scene, standing around in small groups. Oversized slate, with "Merger: The Movie" chalked on it, enters frame.

DIRECTOR (V.O.)

And . . . action!

QUICK CUTS -- 5 classic movie scenes, joining Mattel & Fisher-Price characters.

MUSIC: "Vertigo" flash forward. Swirl or ripple DISSOLVE to:

EXT. MOVIE THEATER (STOCK FOOTAGE) - NIGHT

Back to opening night. Amerman speaks into Fisher-Price microphone.

AMERMAN

. . . And that's how it all happened.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Wow! What a story!

AMERMAN

And it's just the beginning.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY (STOCK FOOTAGE)

Moviegoers milling about, buying popcorn.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Well, as they say in Hollywood, this picture looks like boffo box office. It's a full house, but let's see if we can sneak in and catch the closing scene.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY - DAY

MUSIC: Score from closing scene of "Casablanca". Runway shrouded in fog. Barbie, coming from screen left, meets Big Thing or Rumble Bear, coming from screen right. They link arms.

BARBIE

This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

MUSIC UP. Behind Barbie and Big Thing or Rumble Bear, other Mattel characters appear from screen left to meet Fisher-Price characters coming from screen right. On runway behind them is Little People Jetliner, with Eskridge's face visible through cockpit window.

FADE OUT.

MUSIC UP: "There's No Business Like Show Business." ROLL CREDITS:

MERGER: THE MOVIE

FEATURING:

(List toys and parts they played)