

Short Synopsis

During the demonstration of a new escape trick, a magic shop owner and a customer get stuck together through mysterious and comical means.

Long Synopsis

Push and Turn is a comedic short film that takes place in a magic shop. It shows how a simple magic trick gone wrong can have both disastrous and hilarious results.

The film starts with the store owner (Jeff) demonstrating magic tricks to a customer (Warren). Jeff shows Warren his newest trick: A Siberian Thumbcuff Escape. After locking Warren into the thumbcuffs Jeff realizes the keys are missing. He is forced to reveal the secret of the trick and locks himself into a second pair of thumbcuffs to demonstrate the escape.

Jeff explains that the secret to unlocking the cuffs is to “push and turn”... at least in theory. Jeff’s cuffs don’t open, and he’s also trapped. The situation further complicates itself when Jeff and Warren’s arms accidentally (and magically) become linked together.

Gary, another magician, tries to help but ends up locking himself into a third pair of thumbcuffs. He goes out to his car to get a hacksaw after all three realize they have no other means of escape. While waiting for Gary, Jeff and Warren become linked to a pipe on the wall through a further magical mishap. Likewise, Gary has become magically linked to his car’s steering wheel.

Back in the store, things take a turn for the worse when a customer takes advantage of Jeff’s incapacitation and empties the cash register.

After they manage to dial 911, Jeff and Warren are finally saved by firemen who cut them free. Police officers take their statements regarding the robbery, and Jeff is eventually left alone in the store. Gary finally returns, and triumphantly tells Jeff that he figured out the trick. It’s not “push and turn” it’s “pull and twist!”

After Gary leaves, Jeff closely examines the thumbcuffs. Foolishly, he locks himself back in and tries the “pull and twist” technique. It doesn’t work. Jeff struggles with the cuffs, and we cut to black as soon as it’s apparent that he’s stuck again.

Director's Biography

Bob Barlen graduated with honors from the Film Studies program at Ryerson University. His student film *Deportation at Breakfast* premiered at the Palm Springs International Festival of Short Films and won Ryerson's Norman Jewison Filmmaker Award. The film was purchased for broadcast by The Comedy Network, and Bob was invited to participate on Kodak's Student Advisory Council in Hollywood, California.

In 2005, Bob was selected to pitch his feature script *The Prize* at the Toronto International Film Festival as part of Telefilm Canada's Pitch This! program. He also pitched *The Prize* at the 2006 Reel World Film Festival, where it was selected as the best pitch of the festival and was awarded a \$2,500 prize.

Bob's latest short film *Push and Turn* was funded by a \$25,000 grant awarded by the Canadian Film and Television Producer's Association and Corus Entertainment. It was shot on 35mm and completed in September 2006.

Bob has written two feature-length screenplays and a six-part comedy television series called *Hocus Pocus*. He lives in Toronto, Canada and enjoys playing pinball.

Bob Barlen Filmography

Push and Turn 2006, 35mm, 10 minutes	Writer, Director & Producer
Deportation at Breakfast 2002, Super 16mm, 6 minutes <i>*Winner of the 2002 Norman Jewison Award</i>	Writer, Director & Producer

PUSH AND TURN

Cast

Warren	PHILIP WILLIAMS
Jeff	CRAIG BROWN
Gary	DARREN FROST
Thief	ALEX GUARD
Detective	DENNIS JAMES
Firemen	MICHAEL SCRATCH STEVE RICHARD
Customers	JASON BROWN ALEX IDROVO URSULA GLOWACKA
Paramedics	MICHAEL ANDRE TAREEF MAREI
Police	BOB GRANT MARK HENDERSON

Crew

Directed by	BOB BARLEN
Written by	BOB BARLEN & DAVID KNOBEL
Produced by	BOB BARLEN & DANIEL DE SANTO
Associate Producer	ANDY McDEVITT
Director of Photography	JONATHAN BENSIMON
Music by	MIKE HADDEN
Casting by	SARA KAY & JENNY LEWIS
Post Production Audio	RYAN McCAMBRIDGE
First Assistant Camera	SARA PICKETT
Second Assistant Camera	MICHAEL BLATCHFORD
Camera Trainee	MAGGIE McCORMICK
Still Photographer	ALAN GORDON
Costume Designer	JORDAN MADLEY
Makeup	AMANDA FLORIO
Art Department	ZACK HERTZMAN
Sound Recordist	GLEN DEAKIN
Script Supervisor	BRENT MARTIN
Key Grip	ALLISTER FOSTER
Best Boy Grip	NABIL MILNE
Gaffer	HUGH McJANET
Best Boy Electric	TOM KORZNIOWSKI

Catering MARISA DE SANTO
Transportation Captain JAMIE STEPHENS
Production Assistants RICHARD SIBBLIES
 JOSH HENDERSON
Colourist RYAN RUSKAY

Magic Props Provided by MIKE SEGAL

Special Thanks
SANDRA & GEORGE BARLEN
MARISA & JOHN DE SANTO
JOEY, CATHERINE & JIM BARLEN
STEPHANIE KAMPF
MANUEL FERREIRA
DAN KREZE
DAN ST AMOUR
MARK THORP
STEWART AZIZ
STEPHANIE FAGAN
RICHARD TODD
TASSO LAKAS

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Filmed on location in Toronto, Canada

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