

IT'S TIME TO LIVE. . .AGAIN

Winning a sauna not only improves an old man's health,
it also brings him back to life.

FADE IN:

EXT. MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY - FLORIDA - MORNING

A passenger van, "SENIOR EXPRESS", turns into SHADY GROVE RETIREMENT VILLAGE and parks. The DRIVER waves to a group of seniors who briskly walk toward him.

The leader, SVEN HANSON (75), big hair, white sneakers, white sweat suit and a mouth full of oversized dentures, waves back. A troop of cackling OLD LADIES dressed in shiny, multi-colored sweat suits follow.

ERNIE HENDERSON (75), bow tie, wrinkled shirt and pants pulled way too high, shuffles out of his home and slowly makes his way to the van.

INT. MAIN ENTRANCE - SHADY GROVE MALL

The glass doors open. Sven and his team of blue hairs energetically enter. He walks in place, adjusts his pedometer then takes off. The women take off after him.

The rest of the Shady Grove seniors enter, Ernie trails behind. He can't keep up and they leave him in the dust.

INT. FOOD COURT

Ernie sits alone, just yards away from the entrance. A YOUNG MAN with a clipboard scopes him out, then approaches.

YOUNG MAN

Good morning sir. I was hoping you'd be kind enough to take part in a survey. In return you'll be entered into our sweepstakes and eligible to win some great prizes. It won't take long, I promise.

Ernie looks up at the young man's pleading eyes and agrees.

INT. KITCHENETTE - MORNING

Coffee cup in hand, Ernie stares out the window. Sven and his troop are on their morning walk.

Ernie is lost in thought until the phone rings.

ERNIE

Hello? Ernie Henderson here.

MAN (V.O.)

Ernie Henderson? I'm very pleased to inform you that you've won the grand prize in our yearly sweepstakes!

ERNIE

Sweepstakes?

MAN (V.O.)

Yes sir! Get ready to be the most popular guy on your block!

Ernie's eyes light up with the possibility.

EXT. ERNIE'S MOBILE HOME - MORNING

Two husky MOVING MEN roll a room sized, wood paneled structure off a flatbed. Ernie watches nervously as they maneuver it onto his carport.

A peering eye appears from between the curtains of the mobile home across the street. It watches.

Sven and his biddies approach with curiosity. Sven stops, the biddies stop. He speaks with a Swedish accent.

SVEN

What you have there, Ernie?

ERNIE

It's a sauna. I won it.

SVEN

Sauna? Sven loves sauna! We have sauna in Sveden. You let Sven use?

EXT. ERNIE'S MOBILE HOME - NIGHT

It looks like a toga party. Everyone, except Ernie, is dressed in robes and towels and drinking. The sauna door opens, steam escapes. Three women and a man stumble out.

SVEN (O.S.)

No one can take steam like Sven!

Annoyed, Ernie walks around cleaning everyone's mess.

INT. SAUNA - MORNING

A bucket of soapy water props the door open. Ernie mops.

SVEN (O.S.)

Ernie! We come by again tonight!

Ernie rolls his eyes and continues cleaning.

EXT. ERNIE'S MOBILE HOME - NIGHT

A repeat of last night: toga party and Ernie cleaning.

INT. SAUNA - MORNING

With a scowl on his face, Ernie mops. He spots a shiny gold coin on the floor, picks it up and puts it in his pocket. He smiles and sarcastically mocks Sven's accent.

ERNIE

Thanks for tip, Sven.

INT. KITCHENETTE - NIGHT

Defeated and fed up, Ernie watches from the window as the wrinkled, old sauna groupies trash his front yard, again.

EXT. SAUNA - MORNING

Ernie wrings the mop and empties the bucket of dirty water. He grabs a hand-made sign and hangs it on the door, "OUT OF ORDER". He enters his house, satisfied.

Peeking out his kitchen window, Ernie watches as Sven stops in his tracks to read the sign. Ernie snickers devilishly.

INT. KITCHENETTE - DAY

Ernie holds a piece of paper, scribbled on it is "SHADY GROVE NEWS/CLASSIFIEDS - FOR SALE - 8x10 CEDAR SAUNA." As he picks up the phone to dial he glances out the window.

His eyes widen when he sees RUTH CLARK (70), exit the trailer across the street. Her braided gray hair lay over her white robe, her blue eyes glisten in the sunlight.

Ernie watches as Ruth limps toward his house, every step appearing painful. He quickly shuffles to the bedroom and comes out with a dress shirt on. He nervously buttons it.

EXT. ERNIE'S MOBILE HOME

Ruth stares at the "OUT OF ORDER" sign. Ernie shyly walks out of the house. Her blue eyes take his breath away.

RUTH
I finally worked up the nerve to
come over and it's out of order?

She laughs, frustrated but pleasant.

RUTH
Sorry, how rude of me. I'm Ruth.

ERNIE
Nice to meet you, I'm Ernie.

RUTH
Sorry your sauna's broken.

INT. SAUNA

A moderate amount of steam fills the room. Ruth sits on a bench across from Ernie who is now wearing a robe.

RUTH
I want to see my great grand child.
I need to get well enough to do that.

ERNIE
It's time for us to live again Ruth.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Ernie waits for Ruth. She's slow but moving faster than before. They set their pedometers and walk. Sven and his groupies eye them from the opposite side of the street.

EXT. SAUNA - DAY

The "OUT OF ORDER" sign still hangs from the door. Slowly it opens, Ernie peeks out. He signals for Ruth who steps out behind him.

They don't notice Sven who watches from behind a tree.

INT. ERNIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ernie snores away on his Lazy Boy until a loud noise wakes him. He sprints to the window and sees steam coming from the sauna. He puts on his robe and goes outside.

EXT. ERNIE'S HOUSE

Ruth peeks out her window and watches as Ernie angrily opens the sauna door. She leaves the window and a second later comes out of her front door.

SVEN (O.S.)

Ernie! Sven fix the sauna!

Ernie lunges in. A wrinkly, old lady runs out screaming. Ernie exits behind her holding some kind of furry animal.

Sven runs out, wearing a Speedo and holding his now bald head. He grabs his hair piece from Ernie.

SVEN

Give me that. You are very rude
to do that to Sven!

Sven stomps away. Ernie is stunned. Ruth approaches him.

ERNIE

That felt great.

Ruth smiles and plants one on his lips. Ernie melts.

ERNIE

That felt even better.

The sauna door is still open. Steam drifts out and surrounds them. He gently takes her by the hand.

ERNIE

Come on, I'll walk you home.

Together they walk hand in hand through the steam.

FADE OUT