

COUNTRY BANGER

An original audio comedy with music

By Brianna O'Malley and Patrick Moran

Copyright 2023 by the authors. All rights reserved

Approximate playing time: 30 minutes

CAST

MARKUS NEWMAN

Main character, extremely average built white man, with too sharp facial features – A twenty-something Jamba Juice employee who dreams of being the best rave DJ in the world. He's terrible at it, but when he steps into the show and the water hits 108 degrees, he's able to hear and write original award-winning country music. It's a living nightmare, until he finds out his crush at work loves country music.

LIZ BODENSTEIN

The love interest, white girl stuck in 2004 – Another twenty-something, newly employed by Jamba Juice, who just moved to the city because she didn't want to live in the middle of nowhere farmland anymore. She loves country music because it's basically all that's been pumped into her ears since birth. She's tooling with the idea of becoming a country artist, but she can't find anyone else in the city who really 'gets' country like the people back home.

SAMI FUENTEZ

Markus' bestie, very tall skinny Hispanic man – Markus and Sami met in 5th-period English, senior year of high school. They don't really know how they became friends, but they are. They work together at this Jamba Juice and have lived together for 4 years. Sami doesn't have many thoughts in his head besides listening to, going to, and making rave music with Markus. He lives for making smoothies, and headbangers.

MORTIMER MULLER

Manger of Jamba Juice, German man (or undefined, thick accent) – Immigrated from Germany (or elsewhere) with his wife, and big aspirations. Big business, bigger house; his wife left him for the owner of said Jamba Juice. He was hired as an apology, after he openly sobbed during his wife's second marriage ceremony, which he insisted on attending. She's still his 'best friend' after all, even though she has him blocked on all platforms. Mortimer takes his job too seriously, he wears a button down shirt underneath his Jamba T-shirt, with slacks, and loafers. He slips multiple times a day, and his sleeves are always stained, regardless of constant stain removal.

RANDOM CUSTOMER

Exhausted but not surprised.

REGULAR CUSTOMER

A little too patient with the Jamba staff.

SCENE 11 **SCENE 1 – A**

2

3 /SFX/ BLENDER NOISES WITH SOFT CROWD CHATTER BEHIND
4 DIALOGUE

5

6 Sami (*Slightly panicked*) Sorry sir, it'll be right up.

7

8 Random customer (*To self*) This Jumbo Juice is the worst.

9

10 /MUS/ TERRIBLE RAVE MUSIC STARTS TO BUILD, MUFFLED

11

12 /SFX/ BLENDER AND CROWD NOISE FADES OUT

13

14 Sami (*Confused, but intrigued*) What?

15

16 /MUS/ MUSIC AT FULL VOLUME, NOT MUFFLED, BEHIND DIALOGUE

17

18 Sami (*Voice builds*) yyooooOOOOOO!!!

19

20 /SFX/ FULL PLASTIC CUP HITS FLOOR, SPLASHES

21

22 Random customer Was that my smoothie you just dropped?

23

24 Sami (*Ecstatically*) This is sick!

25

26 Markus and Sami (*In unison, off beat*) Aye! Aye! Aye! Aye!

27

28 Markus Wait for it!

29

30 /MUS/ CONTINUES, DOES NOT CHANGE OR GET INTERESTING

31

32 Mortimer (*Yelling in heavy accent*) Hey! Can you two actually do your
33 joooooobs?!

34

35 /SFX/ BODY HITTING TILE FLOOR WITH THUD

36

37 /MUS/ ENDS WITH RECORD SCRATCH AFTER FALL

38

39 /SFX/ LIMPING FOOTSTEPS UNDERNEATH AND MOVING OFF

40

41 Mortimer (*Angry exclamation in native language follows footsteps*)

42

43 Markus (*Aloofly*) If he'd just wear them nonslips...

44

45 Sami (*Sighing*) And not those loafers and stained button up every day.

46

1 Markus *(Laughing)* You know he wants to be fitted out in case his ex
2 swings by.
3
4 Sami You mean the owners new wife.
5
6 Markus & Sami *(Laughing)*
7
8 Mortimer *(Upset, beginning to cry)* You two stop, she's a goddess!
9 *(Whimper)*
10 *(Off-mic)* I should leave another message.
11
12 Sami Anyways, I'll clean this up.
13
14 Markus Sounds good! *(To customer)* What'll it be boss?
15
16 /SFX/ BLENDERS NOISE FADES IN AND OUT, INDICATING PASSING
17 TIME
18
19 **SCENE 1 – B**
20
21 Sami That banger earlier was so sick!
22
23 Markus I know right bro? Worked whole first half of the shift on that.
24
25 Sami *(Not angry)* Yeahyeahyeah wondering where you were at. Pretty
26 proud of myself holdin' it down up here.
27
28 Mortimer *(Pathetically, to self)* Please just work.
29
30 Regular Customer *(Neglected)* Umm, excuse me? This was supposed to have
31 blueberries.
32
33 Sami *(Genuinely)* Yeah, it's all blueberries.
34
35 Regular Customer But it's orange.
36
37 Sami *(Pause, then confidently)* Yeah...
38 *(Mumbling)* Do you wa wa want me to remake it?
39
40 /SFX/ BLENDER NOISE FADES IN AND OUT
41
42 **SCENE 1 - C**
43 Markus If only we could get booked at a club, and if only DJ Thunder
44 would come in and hear my bangers. No question he'd
45 immediately think, "Wow this is a sick beat, who made this gas?"
46
47 Sami *(Dreamily)* And what next?
48

1	Markus	Then he'd look up, and from across the club we'd make eye contact. And <u>bam</u> , we'd make music together forever.
2		
3		
4	Sami	(<i>Lost in thought</i>) Yeah, but how would he know it was you?
5		
6	Markus	(<i>Aggressive sigh</i>)
7		
8	/SFX/	OFF MIC CONVERSATION UNDER DIALOGUE SLOWLY BUILDS
9		
10	Markus	(<i>Annoyed</i>) Becauuuse bro, we're just gonna be connected like that, dude, just like when <u>we</u> see each other. Just like the first time we saw each other in high school English, except better.
11		
12		
13		
14	Sami	(<i>Disappointed</i>) Ahhhh right right, well...
15		
16	Mortimer	(<i>Behind door</i>) Can you buffoons <u>start making drinks</u> ??? There's <u>fifteen people</u> in line and <u>neither of you</u> have looked up!
17		
18		
19	Sami	(<i>Yelling off mic</i>) Bro <u>shut up</u> ! We're talking about the <u>future of raves</u> ... (<i>To customer</i>) I mean, <u>this guy</u> , am I right?
20		
21		
22	/SFX/	OFF MIC CONVERSATION ENDS
23		
24	/SFX/	FAST FOOTSTEPS FROM BEHIND BUILD AND STOP
25		
26	Mortimer	(<i>Frantic</i>) <u>Guys</u> ! Get to <u>wooorrk</u> !
27		
28	/SFX/	BODY HITTING TILE FLOOR WITH THUD
29		
30	Mortimer	(<i>Native language exclamation</i>)
31		
32	Markus	Heeey, boooss man, chiiil.
33		
34	/SFX/	CELL PHONE ALARM
35		
36	Markus	Ope, it's quittin' time! See you at home Sami, later Morti-shmear.
37		
38	Mortimer	(<i>Struggling on ground</i>) Hey! Be on <u>time</u> tomorrow, you're training the new hire. Can't trust Sami anymore.
39		
40		
41	Markus	(<i>Finger gun tongue click noise</i>) You got it king.
42		
43	/SFX/	DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES, WITH BELL OVERHEAD RINGING
44		
45	Sami	(<i>Hurt</i>) Like bro, I'm right here.
46		
47	/SFX/	BLENDER NOISE BUILDS AND FADES
48		

1 **SCENE 1 – D**

2

3 /SFX/ OUTDOOR AMBIENCE

4

5 /SFX/ CAR BREAKS SCREECH TO HALT AND ENGINE TURNS OFF

6

7 /SFX/ CAR DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

8

9 /SFX/ FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL

10

11 /SFX/ OUTDOOR AMBIENCE FADES OUT

12

13 /SFX/ KEYS UNLOCK DOOR, DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES, KEYS DROP
14 ONTO TABLE

15

16 Markus *(Sighing)* Another shift in the book. Home sweet converted garage
17 home. *(Slightly scared)* It's, shower time.

18

19 /SFX/ FAUCET CREAKS AS SHOWER BEGINS TO RUN

20

21 Markus *(Mimicking club beat)* Unce, unce, unce, unce, aye!

22

23 /SFX/ SHOWER CURTAIN PULLED OPEN, AND CLOSED AGAIN

24

25 /SFX/ WATER SPLASHING UNDER MUSIC

26

27 /MUS/ COUNTRY GUITAR STRUMMING STARTS TO BUILD,
28 CROSSFADE INTO SCENE 2 – A

SCENE 21 **SCENE 2 – A**

2
3 /SFX/ CAR INTERIOR AMBIENCE
4
5 /MUS/ EDM RAVE BEATS COMING FROM CAR RADIO
6
7 /SFX/ MUSIC CUTS OUT
8
9 Markus (*Irritated*) Oh nooooooo. Crap, beamers Bluetooth is busted
10 again.
11
12 /SFX/ CLICKING RADIO BUTTONS
13
14 /MUS/ SWITCHING BETWEEN ONLY COUNTRY MUSIC SONGS
15
16 Markus Yo, all they have on is that honkey-tonk trash right now. Who even
17 really listens to that noise?
18
19 /SFX/ TURNS OFF RADIO
20
21 Markus (*Starts slowly humming country tune*)
22 (*Screaming terror*) Ah, what are you doing Markus?! God, brain
23 stop... (*Irritated*) Stop thinking like that.
24
25 /SFX/ ALL SOUND FADES OUT
26
27 /SFX/ BLENDER NOISE FADES IN AND OUT
28

SCENE 2 – B

30
31 Sami (*From distance*) Yoooooo my dawg is here!
32
33 Markus Ayeeeeee Sam-i-eeeeeeeee!
34
35 Sami and Markus (*Chanting*) Unce, unce, unce, unce, aye! (*Panting, catching
36 breath*)
37
38 Liz (*Slightly shocked*) Oh (*small giggle*) has it been a while since you
39 saw each other?
40
41 Sami Nahhh I'd say... like (*Higher pitch*) maybe four hours?
42
43 Markus Mmm yeah maybe even five.
44
45 Liz (*Unimpressed*) Oh okay... cool...

1 (Positive) Umm... I'm Liz by the way, nice to meet you.
2
3 Markus Oh yeah for sure, Markus. It's a pleasure. Morty says I'll be your
4 trainer.
5
6 Liz (Offended) Gross, like I'm a dog?
7
8 Markus (Unfazed) Oh heck nah, you heard those sick beats when I came in,
9 we're guys of the people, lovers of all!
10
11 Liz (Questioning) Riiiiight.
12
13 /SFX/ BLENDER FADES IN AND OUT
14
15 **SCENE 2 – C**
16
17 Markus (Enthusiastically) So you already got the blending down pat, I
18 mean took me and Sami weeks.
19
20 Liz (Dejected) It's putting fruit in a blender and pressing on.
21
22 Markus Well yeah, but you know, timing, peels and all. (Introspectively,
23 with breath) It's a lot.
24
25 /SFX/ FOOTSTEPS ON TILE, SWINGING DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES
26
27 Markus Think the last thing to show you is cleanup.
28
29 /SFX/ FAUCET CREAKS
30
31 /SFX/ WATER RUNS IN SINK BEHIND DIALOGUE AND EFFECTS
32
33 Markus (Upbeat) So you really gotta be careful when washing the knives
34 owwwwww!
35
36 Liz (Unimpressed) Did you just cut yourself?
37
38 Markus (Sheepishly) No, yes, just a little.
39
40 Liz That's a lot of blood, where's the first aid kit?
41
42 /SFX/ ALL SOUNDS FADE OUT
43
44 /SFX/ BLENDER NOISE FADES IN AND OUT
45
46 **SCENE 2 – D**
47
48 Liz (Almost caring) Is that better?

1
2 Sami (Teasing, higher pitched) I, thiiinnnk so.
3 (Normal voice) Why?
4
5 Markus (Angry) Shut up bro!
6
7 /SFX/ HALF EMPTY ALUMINUM CAN WHOOSHES ACROSS ROOM,
8 HITS WALL WITH SPLASH
9
10 Sami Ah, woah! Don't throw beers man, they're a finite resource on our
11 salary.
12
13 Markus (With breath) You're right. Night bro.
14
15 Markus (Off mic) Later dawg.
16
17 /SFX/ FOOTSTEPS FADE AWAY, DOOR CLOSES IN DISTANCE
18
19 /SFX/ MARKUS SITTING DOWN ON CREAKY CHAIR
20
21 /SFX/ EDM BEAT STOPS WITH STATIC CLICK
22
23 Markus (To self, aloud) Think I've drank enough to appreciate some other
24 types of jams. Let's see who this Luke Combs fella is.
25
26 /SFX/ KEYBOARD TYPING
27
28 /SFX/ COUNTRY MUSIC PLAYS QUIETLY AT FIRST, VOLUME SLOWLY
29 RISES BEHIND DIALOGUE AND SFX
30
31 Markus (Taken aback) This... This is... This is just like in the shower. It's
32 that kind of music only I can hear under the hot water.
33
34 /SFX/ CHAIR CREAKS BACKWARDS, BEGINS TO TIP OVER
35
36 Markus (Screaming) Ahhhhh!
37
38 /SFX/ METAL ON CONCRETE CRASH
39
40 Markus Not the Harley!
41
42 /SFX/ METAL SCRAPS ROLLING TO STOP
43
44 Markus (Catches Breath)
45 (Confident) Wait a min, I can make a better country song than this
46 crap.
47
48 /SFX/ MARKUS SCRAMBLING FROM FLOOR TO CHAIR

1 /SFX/ FRANTIC KEYBOARD AND MOUSE CLICKING
2
3 /MUS/ VARIOUS BITS OF COUNTRY MUSIC SONGS PLAY, RAPIDLY
4 CHANGING, UNDER DIALOGUE AND SFX
5
6
7 Markus *(Mumbling, to self)* Trucks. Beers. Tan women. Dirt roads on
8 summer evenings.
9
10 /SFX/ PENCIL QUICKLY WRITING ON PAPER, ANALOG CLOCK
11 TICKING UNDERNEATH
12
13 Markus *(Exhausted, slurring drunk)* Tan women. More beer. Dirt roads.
14 It's time.
15
16 /SFX/ FOOTSTEPS MOVING AWAY
17
18 /SFX/ SHOWER FAUCET CREAKING, WATER BEGINS
19 RUNNING/SPLASHING, CURTAIN PULLED BACK
20
21 /SFX/ ALL SOUNDS FADE OUT

SCENE 3

1 SCENE 3 – A

2
3 /SFX/ BLENDER NOISE FADES IN AND OUT
4
5 /SFX/ WATER RUNNING FAINTLY IN BACKGROUND BEHIND
6 DIALOGUE
7

8 Sami (*Upset*) Buuuummer Liz, I'm sorry. Just wanted to make sure you
9 knew how to wash the knives without cutting yourself. It's just.
10 (*exaggerated*) It's just. So. Slippery.

11 Liz (*Disappointed, sighing*) Don't worry about it Sami, Markus

13 Sami (*Interrupting*) The Band-aids are right over

15 Liz (*Interrupting, annoyed*) Oh. I know.

18 /SFX/ WATER FADES OUT

20 Mortimer (*Anxious, off mic*) Team! We're starting to form a line!

22 /SFX/ FAST FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING ON TILE

24 Mortimer Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!

26 /SFX/ BODY HITTING TILE FLOOR WITH THUD

28 Sami (*Exaggerated*) Oooh Morty.

30 Liz (*Confused*) What was that?

32 Sami Just Morty falling again. (*Sotto*) You know the owner's wife is his
33 ex, and he cried at the wedding.

35 Liz (*Confused*) Wait what?

37 Sami Nothing. (*Jovial*) We've got smoothies to make!

39 Mortimer (*Off mic, sheepishly*) Can someone help me up?

41 /SFX/ BLENDER NOISE FADES IN AND OUT

43 SCENE 3 – B

45 /MUS/ GENERIC ROCK MUSIC PLAYS FOR FIFTEEN SECONDS UNDER
46 ONGOING CROWD NOISE, ALL UNDER DIALOGUE AND SFX

1
2 /MUS/ MUSIC CUTS OUT ABRUPTLY
3
4 /SFX/ FROM A DISTANCE, DOOR KICKED OPEN
5
6 Markus (Bad country twang) Howdy!
7
8 /SFX/ ALL CROWD NOISE STOPS
9
10 Liz and Sami (Gasp)
11
12 /SFX/ MULTIPLE SMOOTHIES HIT GROUND AND SPLATTER
13
14 Random Customer (Over it) There goes my smoothie again. Why do I even come
15 here?
16
17 Sami (Excited) Yoooooo Markus my dude! You're not on the schedule.
18
19 Liz (Confused) And why do you have such a large acoustic guitar with
20 you?
21
22 Markus (Country twang, confident) Oh, because li'l darlin', I wrote you a
23 song.
24
25 Sami (Hushed) Bro stop the voice.
26
27 Liz (Gasps) You did!
28 (Clears throat, levels tone) I mean you did?
29
30 Markus (Normal voice, confident) Oh you bet, small town girl.
31 (Clears throat) It goes a li'l somethin' like this.
32
33 /MUS/ MARKUS PLAYS AND SINGS ORIGINAL COUNTRY SONG FOR
34 THIRTY SECONDS.
35
36 Liz (Captivated) That was incredible, we have to jam! Sami doesn't
37 need the help right now. Let's go get my mandolin!
38
39 Markus (Confused) What's a mandol...
40 (Country twang, confident) Well that'd be just great sweetheart.
41 Got the Harley out front.
42
43 Sami (Distraught) But bro, it's un-road!