

Home Improvement Revival

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INT. TOOL TIME SET - DAY

TIM, 39, and AL, 39, stand in the middle of their crowded *Tool Time* set.

An audience looks on with wonder as the two make their way to an over-sized tool bench. Their looks are dated as is their studio space.

TIM

Why don't you tell them what we're doing next?

They walk to the middle of the studio where a small floor set has been constructed.

AL

Okay, well... Next we are going to be demonstrating how to lay a new floor but first, we need to calculate just how much hardwood we are gonna be needing.

TIM

Right! And for that, we'll be using mathematics - the language of the universe. And that's according to Ernest and Guilio Gallileo. I bet you didn't know that, did you, Al?

AL

I don't think anyone did, Tim.

TIM

That's right. Our project board here is about 8 feet by 4 feet. To get the square footage you wanna multiply those two numbers.

Al takes his tape measure and begins to measure the board.

TIM

Since I walk the mathematical walk [Walks in a weird way] and talk the mathematical talk, I know that's [Directly to the camera] 32 square feet.

AL

Actually, Tim, the exact measurements are $8 \frac{1}{2}$ by $4 \frac{1}{3}$.

TIM
What are you getting at, Al?

AL
Well, Tim, since you walk the
mathematical walk you need to multiply
those two numbers, oh human abacus.

Tim gets annoyed and corrects his tie.

TIM
Well, I'd love to my stout little
assistant but... we're out of time. Ha
ha ha. So I just have to round it off
to 32.

AL
36 4/5.

TIM
Whatever, Al. In order to get a new
floor, we have to lift off the old
floor.

AL
That's right. And for that, we can use
a simple basic scraper.

TIM
That wouldn't be any fun. Let's use
the "Dry Ice" method. You just put dry
ice down there and lift the asphalt
tiles right off there.

AL
Actually, Tim... [Tim leaves] Eh...
Using dry ice, you'd need an awful lot
of dry ice for that to work.

TIM
[From backstage] For once, Al, you're
totally correct.

AL
So what we'll do is, we'll be using
the...

You can hear some rumbling from backstage. An engine starts.

AL
...the simple basic scraper. [Takes

one from beside the workbench] You can pick this up at just any... [Tim comes driving a little truck loaded with dry ice] ...any hardware store.

Tim drives forward and up on the board.

Tim then loses control and the truck first stands on the back wheels, before leaning forward and smashing the little cupboard with Al's mother's teacups.

TIM

[From the truck] We'll be right back after these messages from Binford Tools.

Al looks on with sadness.

INT. SHOP CLASS - DAY

The camera zooms out to reveal that the previous clip was being played from a cell phone.

A student, MICHAEL, 16, watches with great excitement from his desk.

He stands and walks toward the other side of the room where a teacher, TIM TAYLOR, 63, is helping a student operate a buzz-saw. The class is full of students completing a similar task.

MICHAEL

Is this you, Mr. Taylor?

Tim turns around and removes his safety glasses. The saw buzzes loudly in the background.

TIM

What?

MICHAEL

Is this you?

He thrusts the phone into Tim's face. The saw continues to buzz.

TIM

Huh?

Shocked by the sight on the phone, Tim loses control of the saw and the sleeve of his shirt gets caught in the machinery, effectively ripping it to shreds.

Tim turns off the saw and rolls up his sleeve. The students laugh.

TIM
[Grunting] Uh oh. Where did you find that?

MICHAEL
Reddit.

TIM
You read it?

MICHAEL
No, Mr. Taylor. Reddit. It's like a...never mind.

A group of students gathers around.

MICHAEL
What is it?

TIM
Back in the '90s, I used to host a local tool show up in Detroit. Called *Tool Time*.

Another student, DANNY, 16, joins the conversation.

TIM
Old teach here had a pretty big following too. We're talking fan mail like you wouldn't believe.

DANNY
People sent you mail? With like stamps?

TIM
Yeah, Dan. With stamps. We also used to get our driver's licenses at 16 and actually talk to one another too. Weird, huh?

Tim looks towards the class and sees a dozen students with their faces buried in their phones.

MICHAEL
Who is the other guy?

TIM

Al.

DANNY

I like his shirt.

MICHAEL

Yeah, he's cool. Seems like HE knows what he's doing.

Tim is visibly frustrated by this.

TIM

Don't you guys have some sawing to do?

MICHAEL

In a second, Mr. T.

TIM

I pity the fool who doesn't get back to work.

DANNY

What?

TIM

He was a...never mind.

TIM

Seriously, guys, can we get back to it?

MICHAEL

In a second.

DANNY

You know this video has like 100,000 views.

TIM

Why?

MICHAEL

Nobody knows why anything gets looked at online.

DANNY

You think it'll ever come back?

TIM

What?

DANNY

Tool Time.

TIM

Not in a thousand years.

MICHAEL

Why not?

TIM

Nobody wants to watch an aging star
replay their greatest hits.

Tim's phone vibrates in his pocket. He fishes it out and sees that it is an incoming call from Jill.

TIM

Excuse me, guys.

Tim steps out to the hallway and takes the call. His face takes on a saddened look.

INT. TAYLOR HOME - NIGHT

Tim enters through the side door and finds Jill sitting at the kitchen table alone. She stands as he approaches and the two embrace.

JILL

How are you holding up?

TIM

I'm fine. You?

JILL

Hanging in there.

TIM

I can't believe he's gone. Just like
that.

JILL

I can't either.

Tim walks over to the mantle and picks up a photo of the family standing in front of a picket fence. Wilson peers over.

TIM

You couldn't ask for a better neighbor
or a better friend.

JILL
No, you couldn't.

TIM
Did you tell the boys?

JILL
Talked to Brad and Mark. They'll be at
the wake on Thursday. Couldn't get a
hold of Randy.

TIM
I talked to Al on the way home. He
said we could stay with him for a few
days.

Jill nods and Tim looks back at the family photo.

INT. AL'S HOME - DAY

Tim and Jill stand outside of a white door with their luggage
by their side.

Tim raises his fist to knock, but before he can do so, the
door opens and Al appears.

TIM
How you doing, Al?

Al stares silently at Tim for a several seconds before he
grabs him and gives him a bear-hug.

AL
Oh, how I've missed you!

TIM
(choking for air)
Take it easy, Al. I think one funeral
is enough.

Trudy appears in the doorway as well.

TRUDY
Please come in.

Al releases Tim from his hug.

AL
Yes, come in. Come in.

TRUDY
How was your drive?

JILL
It was fine. We would have been here
faster if Tim would have listened to
my directions.

TIM
Your directions?

JILL
My map app.

TIM
I know how to get here. I don't need
some tiny woman inside your phone
telling me where to turn.

JILL
Then why'd we get lost twice?

Tim says nothing to this.

AL
What matters is that you made it and
made it safe.

TRUDY
That's the truth.

TIM
Where's AJ?

AL
I think he's out in the shop. I'll go
get him.

Al disappears down a hallway.

TRUDY
AJ really is a chip off the old block.
Says he wants to join the Navy just
like his father.

AL
Look who I found?

TIM
(sarcastically)
I've got a guess.

Al and AJ, 16, the spitting image of Al down to the outfit, enter through the very same hallway.

AJ
Hey, Uncle Tim!

AJ approaches Tim and gives him a bearhug much like his father did minutes before. He lifts Tim off the ground as he does so. Jill looks on with amusement.

TIM
(trying to breath)
Like father, like son.

AJ puts Tim down and hugs Jill.

AJ
Sorry to hear about Wilson.

JILL
So were we.

AL
When do the boys arrive?

JILL
I think Mark flies in from LA tomorrow morning.

TRUDY
LA! Wow. How's he like it?

TIM
Pretty well when he's employed, but it's inconsistent.

JILL
And I think Brad will just drive over from Lansing in the morning.

TRUDY
I'm going to check on dinner.

TIM
I'm starved. What are we having?

TRUDY
Well, since Al's heart scare last year, we've cut out red meat. So tonight we're having meatless sloppy joes. Hope that's alright?

Tim's face takes on a sour look.

TIM
Meatless sloppy joes, just like
Grandma used to make them.

Jill hits Tim on the shoulder.

JILL
Trudy, I'll help you in the kitchen.

Jill, Trudy, and AJ head into the other room, leaving just
Tim and Al.

TIM
So how's business?

AL
Booming. We're considering opening a
second location.

TIM
Another Borland Hardware.
Congratulations.

AL
Thanks, Tim. Sure is good to see you.

TIM
It's good to see you too, Al.

AL
I wish the circumstances were better.

TIM
Yeah. The funeral circuit is
exhausting. I remember when we got out
of college, our refrigerator was
covered in wedding invitations, but
now in our 60s, it's all obituaries
and funeral arrangements. I'd like to
retire, but I don't know how I'd cover
all the dry cleaning bills.

TRUDY
(from the other room)
Dinner is ready.

Tim begins to gag. Al shakes his head at Tim.

INT. FUNERL PARLOR - DAY

Tim stands alongside Jill and Al as groups of people exit the funeral.

JILL
It was a beautiful service.

TIM
It really was.

Brad Taylor approaches with ASHLEY, 35, and their two children, JONATHAN, 5, and MADISON, 2.

BRAD
Hi, Dad.

TIM
Good to see you, Brad.

Tim and Brad hug.

Jill picks up Madison.

BRAD
Sorry we got here a little late. Kind of a tough ride.

Brad points to Jonathan.

TIM
Just glad you made it.

Tim bends over to inspect Jonathan.

JONATHAN
What are you doing, Grandpa?

TIM
Just making sure you're still my grandson, Jonathan.

JONATHAN
Why wouldn't I be?

TIM
Well, the last time I saw you-you weren't nearly this tall. I think you're an impostor.

JONATHAN
No, it's me.

TIM
You sure?

JONATHAN
I'm sure.

Tim ceases with his mock inspection and hugs Jonathan.

BRAD
Nice service.

TIM
Nice service.

BRAD
Where are Mark and Randy?

JILL
Mark's in the bathroom and
Randy...Randy wasn't able to make it.
He had a surgery that he couldn't
reschedule.

TIM
I have a feeling we'll be seeing him
soon.

Mark, 32, approaches to the group.

BRAD
Hey, Mark.

Mark greets his nephew and niece.

MARK
Nice service.

TIM
Nice service.

BRAD
Nice service.

TIM
Closed casket didn't come as much of a
surprise.

Mark and Brad laugh.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Groups of people exit the funeral home and head toward their cars.

The Taylor family and the Borland family stop in the middle of the parking lot.

AJ

I think I ate too much.

TIM

Typically people don't go up for thirds at a funeral dinner.

AL

He's a growing boy.

TIM

Must take after his grandmother.

AL

Very funny, Tim.

BRAD

Well, I think we're going to head back home. I've got a stack of papers to grade.

JILL

That's a sentence that still baffles me. We couldn't get you to look at a textbook for 18 years and now they are your life.

BRAD

No one was more surprised than me.

ASHLEY

Bye, guys.

Brad and his family say their goodbyes.

MARK

Al, do you mind if I stay at your place tonight?

AL

Not at all. The more the merrier.

AL
(to Trudy)
I've got to go close up the hardware
and then I'll be home.

TIM
You mind if I join you?

AL
As long as you don't try to steal
anything.

Tim gives Al a quizzical look.

INT. AL'S HARDWARE - NIGHT

The hardware store is quiet and virtually empty.

Al stands behind the register and Tim walks the aisles
aimlessly picking up products.

TIM
I'm jealous.

AL
Of what?

TIM
This place. You get to live and
breathe tools every day.

AL
Tim, you teach woodworking.

TIM
Yeah, but it's different. 90 percent
of my job is keeping kids off their
phones.

Al laughs.

TIM CONT'D
All they want to do is record things
that no one could possibly ever want
to watch.

A customer enters, MARSHALL, 28, a young trendy looking man
with slicked-back hair.

He quickly disappears into one of the aisles.

AL

I wish you were up here to help me with this second store.

TIM

I do too. I miss the mitten. Brutal winters, sports teams that'll break your heart, and a government that doesn't have its people's interests at heart.

Al laughs heartily at this. Marshall pretends to read a magazine near the conversation.

AL

We better think about heading back.

TIM

Not yet. This is my sanctuary.

Marshall needles closer to them. Still reading the magazine.

TIM

You ever hear from Harry?

AL

Not since I bought him out. He and Delores moved down to Orlando last year.

Marshall is now virtually on top of Tim. He takes notice.

TIM

Can I help you?

Marshall is startled.

MARSHALL

Me?

TIM

No, the other guy reading a magazine upside down.

Marshall looks down at his magazine and it is, in fact, upside down.

MARSHALL

Are you Tim "The Tool Man" Taylor?

Tim's chest swells with pride.

TIM
Yes and this is my assistant Al
Borland.

Marshall bursts out with laughter, eventually composing
himself.

MARSHALL
I thought so. It's a pleasure to meet
you two.

AL
Nice to meet you.

They all shake hands.

MARSHALL
I grew up on *Tool Time*. My dad was
obsessed with your show. We never
missed an episode.

TIM
That's nice to hear. What's your old
man up to these days?

MARSHALL
He passed last year.

AL
We're very sorry to hear that.

MARSHALL
Your show meant a lot to him and our
entire family. I remember that stunt
when you smashed your wife's car with
that beam.

TIM
Yeah, that was a great stunt.

There is a pause.

MARSHALL
Look, guys, I'm going to be honest
with you.

TIM
OK.

MARSHALL
I didn't just happen to randomly walk

in here. I was at Wilson's funeral today too.

AL
How'd you know Wilson?

MARSHALL
He used to volunteer at the community center from time to time when I was a kid. He taught us all about the Yoruba people.

TIM
I know them well.

MARSHALL
I followed you here because I wanted to talk to you guys about something serious. Deadly serious.

TIM
Poor choice of words today.

Marshall winces.

MARSHALL
I want to bring back *Tool Time*.

AL
We'll do it!

Tim looks at Al with confusion.

TIM
Jeez, Al. Don't you know anything about negotiating?

AL
Sorry, I got excited.

MARSHALL
You should be excited. It's all very exciting. I'm excited.

TIM
No one wants to watch *Tool Time*. It's a relic of some bygone era. The world has changed... and it wouldn't age well...like Al here.

MARSHALL

That's where you're wrong. For the past six months, I've been uploading old *Tool Time* clips to the internet and they've all taken off. Not one of those videos has less than 50,000 views.

TIM

That was you?

MARSHALL

That was me.

TIM

But just because people watched some videos online that doesn't mean that they want the show to come to back.

AL

Do you have the knowledge to launch something like this?

MARSHALL

I studied video production at Wayne State.

AL

What channel would it be on?

MARSHALL

We would launch it as a web series.

TIM

A web series? Is there any money in that?

MARSHALL

Well maybe not at first, but with time we could get sponsors. Maybe start a podcast too.

TIM

A what?

MARSHALL

A podcast. It's...

Tim holds up his hand in protest.

TIM
Marshall, why do you want to do this?

MARSHALL
I want to do something that my dad
would be proud of.

AL
He's trying to make his father proud,
Tim.

Al begins to cry.

TIM
Oh come on, Al. We're 60-year-old men.

AL
It's just so sweet.

Marshall begins to cry too.

MARSHALL
This could be something special.

Al and Marshall embrace.

AL
He's right, Tim. You could help me
with this second store too.

TIM
I don't know.

AL
You're a Michigan man, remember?

TIM
Can I think on it?

MARSHALL
Of course.

Tim puts his coat on.

MARSHALL
Does everybody know what time it is?

TIM
Time to go home. We'll think about it,
Marshall. We'll think on it.

INT. BIG MIKE'S TAVERN - DAY

Tim and Jill sit at a table in an overcrowded bar. The walls are lined with old photographs and a jukebox plays.

A waitress, KELSIE, 26, greets Tim and Jill.

KELSIE

What'll it be?

JILL

Caesar salad, please.

KELSIE

And you?

TIM

Three Stinkys and something light on draft.

Jill reacts to the order by rolling her eyes.

JILL

Oh joy.

TIM

I'm stress eating.

JILL

Tim, why did you drag me down here?

TIM

Can't a guy just want to spend some time out with his wife?

JILL

A guy can, but you typically don't.

TIM

I got an interesting offer today.

JILL

What kind of offer?

TIM

When Al and I went back to the hardware a guy asked us if we'd be interested in bringing back *Tool Time*.

JILL

Wow.

JILL CONT'D
What did you tell him?

TIM
We told him we'd think about it.

JILL
What does Al think?

TIM
Oh, he's very interested. I think he just wants to get away from those meatless sloppy joes.

JILL
Be serious, Tim.

TIM
Okay.

JILL
Is this something you want?

TIM
Being back here has brought out a lot of feelings and I'm not always the best at dealing with those. But I think I want this.

JILL
Then we do it.

TIM
Just like that.

JILL
Just like that. 20 years ago you moved to Indiana and gave up your show, your friends, everything, for me.

TIM
But what about your practice?

JILL
We'll figure it out.

TIM
You're one of a kind. You know that?

JILL
I do.

TIM
Only one question, where are we going
to live?

JILL
I might have an idea.

INT. WILSON'S HOME - DAY

Tim and Jill walk through Wilson's home. They look around the house in awe as it's covered in unique artifacts, oddities, and knick-knacks.

JILL
Still looks the same in here.

TIM
A regular "Wilson's Believe It or
Not."

Jill walks up to a suit of armor and lifts the shield. She appears relieved.

JILL
Oh, thank god.

TIM
This is weird, right?

JILL
What?

TIM
Moving into our deceased neighbor's
home.

Tim picks up an expensive looking glass egg.

JILL
Maybe so, but the price is right.

TIM
How much?

JILL
Well, that's a bit complicated.

Tim nearly drops the egg, but catches it midair.

TIM
What are you not telling me, Jill?

JILL
Wilson left us this house.

Tim drops the egg on the floor and it shatters.

TIM
When were you going to tell me?

JILL
I didn't want to overwhelm you.

TIM
Why would he leave it to us?

JILL
It's unclear, but he wanted you to demo it and build something new. His will specified that.

Tim grunts.

TIM
Love a demo. Love a demo. What about all of this?

Tim points at the bizarre objects that make up the room.

JILL
It's to be donated to the Detroit Museum of Art.

Tim nods.

TIM
So your proposing that I knock down Wilson's house and rebuild a new one for us?

JILL
Sounds like a great idea for a *Tool Time* episode.

Tim looks on with confusion.

TIM
What have you done with my wife?

Jill laughs at this and as she is set to respond, her phone rings.

JILL
One second.

EXT. SIDE YARD - DAY

Tim closes the slider and admires the side yard in all its glory. He stares at the fence and hears Wilson's voice.

WILSON
(voice-over)
Tim, it was the Roman philosopher Seneca who said, "if we let things terrify us, then life is not worth living."

Tim smiles at this. He walks closer to the fence and peers over into to his old yard.

He sees a man, RON, 34, raking leaves.

Tim extends his hand over the fence. Ron takes notice.

TIM
Tim Taylor, nice to meet you.

RON
The same Tim Taylor that used to live here?

TIM
Yeah, that's me.

RON
So you're who I should thank for all this faulty wiring.

TIM
I-

RON
Kidding. Wilson used to talk about you a lot. He thought very highly of you.

TIM
That's funny. He never mentioned you.

They both laugh.

RON
He'll be missed around here. My boys are taking it pretty hard.

TIM
How many you have?

RON
Three little terrors. You?

TIM
Three fully grown monsters.

RON
So what brings you back to the old neighborhood?

TIM
Looks like we're moving in.

RON
Yeah? That's good. Wilson said you were one of the smartest men he knew.

Tim grunts in confusion.

RON
He also said you did a lot of that.

TIM
Nice to meet you, Ron.

RON
Right back at you, Tim.

Ron abandons his rake and heads inside to his boys, MATT, 7, TOM, 9, and NICK, 10. He kisses his wife DANA, 34, before sitting down at the table.

Tim looks on with wonder.

Jill enters the side yard.

JILL
So what are you thinking?

TIM
I'm thinking this fence needs a good washing. Really amp up the old pressure washer. Give her the power that she deserves. I could make this fence look so new you'd think the trees came right right out of the dirt.

JILL
Ok, Tool Man.

They grunt together.

INT. TOOL TIME SET - DAY

HEIDI stands at the center of the recreated *Tool Time* set. She leans into her microphone.

HEIDI
Does everyone know what time it is?

An audio clip plays in the background of a crowd shouting "*Tool Time*." The camera cuts to the audience, but there is no one in attendance.

Mark operates the lone camera.

HEIDI
Marshall Media is proud to present Tim
"The Tool Man" Taylor.

Marshall stands behind Mark and gives the men a thumbs up.

Tim and Al both enter from backstage. Tim wears a blue blazer and Al dons his flannel.

TIM
After nearly 20 years away, I'm still
Tim Taylor and hopefully you all still
know my assistant Al "Coco Flanel"
Borland.

Al considers this briefly.

AL
I don't think so, Tim.

TIM
Today on the show, we're doing our
Tool Time tribute to pressure washers.

The camera zooms out as the action on the show continues.

FADE TO BLACK

