



The Chucklers - a silent movie

A Movie Parties movie script

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Cast of characters

Character	Played by
Ben : (the big brother)	
Joe : (the middle brother)	
Daniel : (the little brother)	

Top director's tip: Once you've made this silent movie, it is best viewed on your TV with the volume on mute to eliminate the sound you will inevitably have recorded. However, in the tradition of the great silent movies, you ideally need to fill this silence with some complementary music. If you can, find a suitable piece of music you can play in the background (say on a CD player) while you're watching the film. Alternatively, you can create the same effect using standard video-editing software on your computer. The effect will transform your 'mute' film into a genuine 'silent movie!'

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Scene 1: The kitchen

The kitchen is quiet.

Ben Ben enters the kitchen looking as if he is doing something he shouldn't be. He looks around carefully, then opens a cupboard door. Inside, he finds a bag of small chocolate bars. He looks inside and picks out the last one. He puts the bag back in the cupboard, then sneaks out of the kitchen.

director's tips

[Throughout this movie, everyone needs to really 'ham it up.' In this case, Ben needs to almost tip-toe about and look around as if he's about to rob a bank!.]

Scene 2: The kitchen, a short while later

The kitchen is quiet.

Joe & Daniel The boys enter the kitchen chatting happily. Joe opens the cupboard door and takes out the bag of chocolates. He puts his hand in it but finds nothing. He turns it upside down and shakes it, but nothing falls out. He looks at the bag very crossly, then throws it to the floor. He motions to Daniel and they leave the kitchen, banging the door behind them.

[Focus on the cupboard door while you're waiting for Joe and Daniel to enter.]



Scene 3: The living-room, a short while later

**Ben, then
Joe &
Daniel** Ben is sitting on the sofa, enjoying the chocolate he took from Joe's bag. He looks very pleased with himself. Very quietly, two faces peer round the door - it's Joe and Daniel. When they realise what Ben is doing, they look very cross. Joe shakes his fist at Ben (Ben can't see them from where he is sitting). Daniel then does the same.

[Ben is taking no notice of what's happening by the door; he just carries on eating. Ideally the door should be out of his line of vision.]

Scene 4: The kitchen, a short while later

Joe and Daniel have decided to try to find a way to get their revenge on Ben

**Joe &
Daniel** The boys have got a pair of binoculars and are painting the rims of the eyepieces black. They hope to persuade Ben to look through them so that he will be left with black circles round his eyes. They giggle while Joe paints, and look up at the camera from time to time, laughing mischievously.

[If you don't have any real (or children's) binoculars in the house, you can make some using toilet roll inserts. The boys are obviously just pretending to paint the rims, but for effect they can be seen holding face paint, shoe polish, etc..]



Scene 5: Near a window, a short while later

Ben is standing by a window. He is listening to music on his earphones, and trying to look cool.

Ben, Joe & Daniel

Joe and Daniel arrive. They stand next to Ben and take out the binoculars. Joe looks through them for a few seconds, and then suddenly acts as if he's spotted something really interesting. He points through the window excitedly and shouts at Ben to look; Daniel does the same. Joe offers the binoculars to Ben. Ben shakes his head, and motions that he's too busy listening to his music. He wanders away, dancing to the music. Joe and Daniel are really disappointed. They walk off slowly, looking very cross that their plan hasn't worked.

[Joe and Daniel have to be really excited when they start pointing out of the window; they might even tug at Ben's clothes to grab his attention.]

Scene 6: The living-room, a short while later

Joe and Daniel have come up with another plan!

Joe & Daniel, then Ben

Joe and Daniel walk into the living-room carrying two buckets containing shredded up newspaper. They climb up onto the furniture in order to place the buckets on top of the door. They leave the door as closed as it can be with the buckets on it, then run off to hide behind a chair, giggling as they go.

After a while, Ben enters the room. He pushes the door open, but the buckets don't fall on him. He is carrying a book with him

[If you don't have one, it's worth borrowing a bucket or two for this scene...!]

[If Joe and Daniel have to move chairs, etc, to allow them to reach the top of the door, then film this too - it adds to the fun!]



and he sits down to read it on the chair behind which Joe and Daniel are hiding.

From behind the chair, Joe and Daniel look at one another in disbelief.

After a short while, Ben gets up and leaves the room by the door with the buckets on it. They still don't fall on him.

When he is safely gone, Joe and Daniel come out from behind the chair. They stand looking up at the buckets and scratch their heads, clearly puzzled as to why their trick hasn't worked. Joe grabs the door and shakes it. The buckets fall straight onto their heads, with paper going everywhere. They totter off one behind the other, dazed and unable to see where they're going, the buckets still on their heads.

[Secure the buckets on the top of the door - 'Bluetack' works well, providing Ben doesn't push the door too hard.]

[Take the 'falling bucket' shot in several stages, one after the other: 1. Joe and Daniel looking up, scratching their heads (buckets out of sight); 2. Quick shot of buckets; 3. Joe and Daniel shaking the door (buckets having been removed from the door at this point!); 4. Buckets falling from top of door (you can push them gently from behind) (the boys are out of shot at this point!); 5. Bucket landing on Joe's head as he looks up in despair; 6. Bucket landing on Daniel's head as he looks up in despair..]



[It's easy to make the buckets appear to fall on the boys' heads: get someone to hold the bottom of the upside-down bucket with their fingertips, then film Joe's head from close-in as they place the bucket on his head. At the last minute, just before your helper's fingers would come into shot, have them let go of the bucket - this effect can work really well.]

Scene 7: Near another window

Joe and Daniel are trying their 'binoculars' trick again!

Ben, Joe & Daniel Ben is sitting underneath a window - still listening to music. Joe and Daniel arrive and try their 'binoculars' routine again. This time, Ben points at his watch and rushes off. Once again Joe and Daniel trudge away looking deeply disappointed.



Scene 8: The kitchen

A kitchen chair has been placed in the middle of the floor. Joe is standing next to it, giggling. In his hand, he's holding a tube of Super Glue.

Joe, then Daniel, then Ben Joe smears Super Glue all over the seat of the chair. As he does so, he suddenly realises his hand is stuck. He tries hard to dislodge it but only succeeds in sliding the chair to and fro across the floor.

Daniel comes in and sees what has happened. He shakes his head and tuts. He goes over to help pull Joe's hand away, but gets stuck himself! The two of them continue to pull the chair to and fro, but they are stuck fast.

Ben enters, and waves at Joe and Daniel. The boys try to smile and wave back. They move themselves in front of the chair so Ben won't see that they're stuck. Ben settles down on a chair nearby and starts reading a newspaper. Joe and Daniel realise they've got to get away. They slowly drag the chair with them as they sidle out of the room. Ben looks at them just as they leave, and shakes his head in disbelief.

[After you've got a simple shot of Joe, film a close-up of the bottle of glue; if you don't have one, stick a label on a suitable jar saying 'Acme Super-Strong Glue'.]

[The trick for both Joe and Daniel here is not to allow their hands to move from their position on the chair once they've been 'glued,' especially while they're moving the chair about - the end result is very effective.]

[If your kitchen floor isn't slippy enough, try putting the chair legs on pieces of cardboard.]



Scene 9: The kitchen

Joe and Daniel have decided on a much more direct plan of attack...!

Joe & Daniel

Joe is soaking a flannel or tea-towel underneath the cold tap in the kitchen sink. Once he's finished, he wrings it out, then weighs it in his hand as if he's going to throw it. He looks at Daniel and they both cover their mouths and giggle.

[Both boys can look directly at the camera once they start giggling here...]

Scene 10: Outside the back door

Joe is crouching to one side of the back door, wet flannel in hand. On the other side of the door, also hiding, is Daniel.

Joe & Daniel, then Ben

Ben emerges from the back door with his coat on looking as if he's about to go for a walk. He pauses and looks up at the weather. As he does this, Joe gets up and throws his flannel directly at Ben. Just as he does this, Ben notices his shoelace is undone and bends down to tie it. Instead of hitting Ben, the flannel hits Daniel! Daniel picks the flannel off his face and looks completely exasperated.

[The position of the camera is very important here - it needs to be facing Joe, in the position where Daniel is supposed to be hiding; this way, Joe will throw the flannel directly at the camera; the next shot will be one of Daniel being hit in the face with a flannel (someone can throw the flannel gently at Daniel from out of shot to achieve this effect).]



Scene 11: The kitchen

Joe and Daniel are all out of ideas and have given up. They have put the binoculars on the kitchen table and are sitting staring at them looking very depressed.

Joe and Daniel Joe and Daniel stare at each other, then at the binoculars, then at each other again. They sigh and then turn and walk out of the kitchen door.

Scene 12: The kitchen, a short while later

The kitchen is quiet. The binoculars are sitting on the table.

Ben Ben comes into the kitchen wearing earphones and dancing. He sees the binoculars on the table and appears to remember that the boys have been trying to get him to look through them. He looks around for the boys but they're nowhere to be seen. He shrugs, picks the binoculars up, and puts them to his eyes, looking out of the window. When he takes them away from his eyes, he has black circles all round them. He shrugs again, puts the binoculars down, puts his earphones back on, and dances out of the room.

*[As before, take this shot in stages:
1. Ben puts the binoculars to his eyes;
2. Stop filming now & use face paints to paint big black circles around Ben's eyes;
3. From a different angle, film Ben taking the binoculars away from his eyes, revealing the black circles..]*

The End