

"TOP GUN" - Scene 4

By Rob Biesenbach

CAST

Master Instructor Hardwood - tough-but-glamorous woman instructor

Jester - wacky "character" actress, big gestures

Mustang - hotshot, cocky, not a team player

Ice-cool - brooding narcissist, Mustang's chief rival

Moose - big, loveable dolt, a physical comic

Tigress - hot, oppressed woman improviser

Ivan - the Russian (played by actor who plays Moose)

(Hardwood, Tigress, Jester and Ice-cool gathered on wings of stage.)

HARDWOOD

All right, people, we're down to the elimination round. I don't have to tell you if we lose this, we're out of the tournament. It's all on you, Ice.

TIGRESS

Where's Mustang?

HARDWOOD

AWOL. When I told him he was benched, he took off. Nothing could keep him here - not even my sleeping with him!

(They react.)

JESTER

And Moose?

HARDWOOD

Pay attention, Jester - the doctors said he couldn't make the flight in his condition. You were there, weren't you?

JESTER

Oh, right ...

TIGRESS

But what about us?

JESTER

Yeah, why don't you put us in?

HARDWOOD

Get real, ladies, what did I tell you?

TIGRESS/JESTER

(Resigned) Women aren't funny.

HARDWOOD

Exactly. Now let's focus, people! Ice, your opponent is Ivan. This is gonna be a tough dogfight - his object work is unparalleled. Hey, there he is now!

(Ivan enters - it's the actor who plays Moose in a ludicrously fake mustache and fur hat.)

HARDWOOD

All right, Ice, get on out there!

(Ice-cool and Ivan face off as "Danger Zone" music comes up. Ivan pantomimes mopping a floor and leaning on the mop, Ice-cool duplicates it with his own flourishes. Ice-cool's turn: he does a needle and thread sewing routine, but Ivan tops him by running a sewing machine. Ivan's turn: he starts jump roping. Ice tries a few tentative jumps and is obviously struggling.)

JESTER

Uh-oh, Ice is in trouble. He's breaking up!

TIGRESS

Yeah, Ice is having a meltdown!

(Hardwood and Jester turn and stare at Tigress)

What? That was funny! See, I can be funny!

(Hardwood shakes her head. Ice stumbles and loses the match. Ivan lassos Ice, hogties and brands him.)

JESTER

Uh-oh! Ice has been lassoed with an imaginary rope!

(Mustang enters from wings, cuts Ice free, who retreats to side, sullen.)

TIGRESS

It's Mustang! He's here!

HARDWOOD

Well, I'll be damned!

TIGRESS

Yeah, who would have predicted that?

(Mustang proceeds to create and play on an elaborate pool table over Hardwood's objections.)

HARDWOOD

Mustang, I hope that's not a pool table ... Mustang, I order you to disengage ...

JESTER

Oh, look - he's stripes!

(Mustang continues. Twirls the cue like in The Color of Money. Ivan does his own pool thing, Russian-style. Then Mustang pulls a complex, behind-the-back shooting maneuver. Ivan tries to duplicate and falls through his table.)

(Music from Top Gun's final "aircraft carrier" scene comes up. Jester and Tigress erupt in celebration and mob Mustang as Ivan stalks off. Hardwood then joins Mustang and they embrace. Moose rolls in on a wheelchair.)

MOOSE

(With slurred speech) Way to go, Mustang!

ICE-COOL

Hey, Mustang! You're still dangerous ... but you can be my wingman anytime.

MUSTANG

BULLSHIT! YOU CAN BE MY WINGMAN!!

(The two grab each other as if to start fighting, then Take my Breath Away comes up and they embrace passionately. Lights out.)