

THE CLASSROOM Ep. THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

By

Shane Fairbanks & Roni Hecker

**(EPISODE) THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

SCENE 1 CLASSROOM - INT. DAY

Opening sequence opens the show before cutting to FAIRBANKS in the CONFSSIONAL

FAIRBANKS

(CONFSSIONAL, excitedly)

Well! Today's the day. This just so happens to be the day that the students of Billings Central will choose the "Teacher of the Year" award, and after ten years of waiting, I think this could be my moment of glory!

Cuts to scenes of FAIRBANKS "canvassing" students by handing out candy, cards, pats on the back, looking like an awkward politician.

FAIRBANKS (V.O.)

This year I'm ready, because I've been canvassing the students to win over a little support in the votes. I've even been taking a little tally of all of the moments when it looks like I've won over a student's vote.

Cuts to FAIRBANKS handing back a huge test to CREED with a giant red A+ on it and a smiley face. As CREED stares at his test (unsmiling) FAIRBANKS is staring down at him with a big goofy smile nodding enthusiastically.

Camera cuts to different angle showing CREED in the background over FAIRBANKS' shoulder as he secretively takes a pen out of his pocket and writes a tally mark on his sticky note.

Camera cuts to MICHAEL THE DEALER running in late to class as FAIRBANKS pauses in his lesson and excitedly waives to him. Then he turns and puts a tally on his sticky note.

Cuts to THE SLEEPER asleep in class as FAIRBANKS gently places a candy or treat of some kind on his desk with a smiley face sticky note signed "FAIRBANKS"

FAIRBANKS (V.O.)

Every time I see a student who looks pleased with their grade -- one tally. Every time I let a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FAIRBANKS (V.O.) (cont'd)  
student be a few minutes late to  
class -- one tally. Every time I  
let a student stay asleep in class  
-- one tally.

Cuts back to FAIRBANKS in the CONFSSIONAL

FAIRBANKS  
The other reason I'm  
confident? There are only THREE  
(holding out fingers dramatically)  
teachers at Billings Central that  
have not won the Teacher of the  
Year Award so far: Myself, MRS  
NELSON, and NORDLUND.

Cuts to scenes of FAIRBANKS "spying" on other teachers and  
passing out "Vote for Fairbanks" items as kids pass out the  
doors of other teachers' classrooms. Camera provides student  
perspective of MRS NELSON helping students or doing an  
exciting lesson as FAIRBANKS walks by the open door several  
times, or awkwardly peaks his head around the corner to  
listen. FAIRBANKS pokes head inside of the Philosophy Class  
to see NORDLUND leading a book discussion. FAIRBANKS slides  
a book across the floor to a student who opens the book to  
find the "Vote for Fairbanks" card inside as a bookmark.

FAIRBANKS (V.O.)  
I've been doing a little  
reconnaissance on my competitors to  
see what they have been doing to  
earn the Teacher of the Year Award,  
and I gotta say, I'm feeling pretty  
confident about my chances here.

NORDLUND  
(CONFSSIONAL)  
FAIRBANKS keeps peeping into my  
classroom lately. I'm sure he's up  
to something, and I will find out.

HARMONY GRANGER  
(CONFSSIONAL, anxiously)  
MR FAIRBANKS has been so distracted  
lately because he is dead set on  
winning this stupid Teacher of the  
Year Award, when what he really  
should be doing is trying to get  
our films ready for the big  
premier.

Cuts to HARMONY GRANGER with a spreadsheet on her laptop  
crunching numbers.

(CONTINUED)

HARMONY GRANGER (V.O.)  
As the self-appointed Treasurer of the Film Class, I have been balancing the budget lately, and what MR FAIRBANKS doesn't realize is that we are completely out of money!

Cuts back to HARMONY GRANGER in the CONFSSIONAL.

HARMONY GRANGER  
If we don't have the money to rent the theater space, then we will not be able to have our big premier, which may mean that we won't bring in any more income for the class, and there will be no film class next year.

FAIRBANKS  
(CONFSSIONAL)  
Now I know what you're thinking: The Teacher of the Year Award is just about me. But it's not. It's about the Film Class. I'm confident that if I win Teacher of the Year, then that could be something that gets the attention of Ellen.

Cuts to scenes of FAIRBANKS watching Ellen re-runs on his computer.

FAIRBANKS (V.O.)  
I've seen enough Ellen shows to know that when humble people do big things, she likes to showcase that as a segment of her show.

Cuts back to FAIRBANKS in CONFSSIONAL

FAIRBANKS  
(CONFSSIONAL)  
And what do those people often get from Ellen when they go on her show -- you know besides the incredible opportunity of meeting one of the greatest people who has ever lived? *(pause for effect)* A giant cardboard check for their cause. This could be the thing that saves the film class from bankruptcy!

(CONTINUED)

HERMIONE GRANGER

(CONFESSIONAL)

I have to do something to make sure he gets this Teacher of the Year Award so that he can start to focus again on the Classroom.

SCENE 2 CLASSROOM - INT. DAY

HARMONY GRANGER sits down next to TYLER (Conspiracy Theorist) who is busying himself on an iPad.

HARMONY GRANGER

Tyler, I need to talk to you about something.

TYLER

(distractedly)

Well it better be in a whisper, because you never know who's listening.

HARMONY GRANGER

(confused)

What are you doing?

TYLER

(still fixated on the iPad, speaking rapidly)

Reading up on the government documents that have just been declassified about the Kennedy Assassination and their attempt to hide the truth from the American Citizen, and did you know --

HARMONY GRANGER

(interrupting, ready to move on to the topic at hand)

Never mind. Since you are a third year senior, I thought you might have some input on a mystery that I'm trying to solve.

TYLER

(suddenly interested)

Shoot.

HARMONY GRANGER

I want to make sure that Mr. Fairbanks gets elected Teacher of the Year, but I can't understand

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARMONY GRANGER (cont'd)  
why he hasn't been chosen yet. Do  
you have any ideas?

TYLER  
(rapidly, excitedly)  
You know why he's never won? It's  
because the administration of this  
school -- or (*air quotes*) "the MAN"  
as I like to call them -- is in  
contact with the Feds, and the Feds  
know about all of the illegal  
downloads that are on his hard  
drive, which he, of course,  
downloads on the school wi-fi  
because it's so much faster than at  
his house, and the reason it's so  
much faster here --

HARMONY GRANGER  
(interrupting, then  
sarcastically)  
Ok. Thank you, you've been very  
helpful.

Camera cuts to HARMONY GRANGER sitting down next to ASHLEY  
the Book Nerd as ASHLEY has her nose buried in the book *The  
Hunger Games*.

HARMONY GRANGER  
(business-like)  
Ashely.

ASHLEY  
(pleasantly, looking up from  
her book)  
Yes?

HARMONY GRANGER  
I need your advice on something.

ASHLEY  
(excitedly)  
Ooo! What is it?

HARMONY GRANGER  
I need to help MR FAIRBANKS get  
elected Teacher of the Year so that  
he can start to focus on Film Class  
again and get our premier ready  
without spending all of our film  
budget on candies and campaign  
materials. What would be the best  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARMONY GRANGER (cont'd)  
way to convince people to vote for  
him?

ASHLEY  
(pensively, then looking down  
at her book, suddenly  
inspired)  
I know! This is like a  
metaphorical battle to the death,  
right? So you could volunteer  
yourself as tribute for Mr.  
Fairbanks, and you could do the  
campaigning for him since he is  
clearly so bad at it.

HARMONY GRANGER  
But will that be enough? The class  
is on the verge of bankruptcy, and  
we need this -- no matter what it  
takes.

ASHLEY  
(pensively)  
Well, maybe you need another person  
as your foil, like a bad cop to  
your good cop... or a Peta to your  
Katniss!

HARMONY GRANGER  
(suddenly inspired)  
Got it. You've been a tremendous  
help.

ASHLEY  
(proudly)  
You're welcome!

HARMONY GRANGER quickly leaves her seat as ASHLEY continues  
to read.

SCENE 3 CLASSROOM - INT. DAY

NORDLUND  
(CONFESSIONAL)  
I'm assured of victory this year -  
just as the Romans were assured of  
victory when Caesar was leading his  
legions.

Cuts to scenes of Fairbanks spying and campaigning, but from  
NORDLUND's perspective.

(CONTINUED)

NORDLUND (V.O.)

I've seen FAIRBANKS mulling around trying to rig the votes, but if there's anyone who knows how to rig an election, it's me. In fact, I promised the students of Billings Central a Toga Day in honor of my most auspicious victory over FAIRBANKS.

NORDLUND

(CONFESSIONAL)

I'm so confident of victory that I've even started practicing my acceptance speech.

Cuts to NORDLUND standing in front of a mirror, speaking enthusiastically with powerful hand motions.

NORDLUND

Students and Philosophers of Central! I come among you to look you firmly in the eyes, feel your temperature, and accept this gracious award. We have been at war since Kindergarten, that is the day when we lifted the pencil of a revolution which we then defended against the dullards, practical-artists, and (*shudder*) business majors of the world.

Education takes one by the throat and forces a decision: will you fight against the forces of the ignorant machine-minded capitalist world? Or will you buckle under its weight and become a soulless cog in the machine of production?

We, the Philosophers, are not like those who hope to praise this world of shadows and illusion, the artists and the film students, who make shadows of shadows and ask you to believe it more real or more valuable than that which is copied. However they detract us from discovering the world of Forms, of constancy, that we could perceive if only we rejected the false life offered by these "artists."

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



NORDLUND (cont'd)

I promise you the Philosophy students will have their day of compensation when all the enemy forces are crushed by the heroism of our students and a triple, immense cry will ring across the mountains like lightning:

Victory, Philosophy, Peace!

FAIRBANKS

(CONFESSIONAL)

I'm feeling pretty confident! My tally sheet shows that I already have 47 tallies (*showing the tally sticky notes*). So I think that means I'll have 47 votes. How many do you need to win?

FAIRBANKS thinks about it for an awkward second.

FAIRBANKS

(CONFESSIONAL)

Mmmmmmm, not really sure. But 47 is a good start! I've also got a good luck charm to help me.

FAIRBANKS slowly pulls out a stretchy sweatband and holds it up proudly and carefully, like a holy object.

FAIRBANKS

(CONFESSIONAL)

It's my lucky headband.

Cut to scenes of the clip of Duane dancing from "Everything is Terrible!"

FAIRBANKS (V.O.)

You see, when I was a young lad, I performed in dance competitions, and I always had my lucky headband with me.

Cuts back to FAIRBANKS in the confessional.

FAIRBANKS

(CONFESSIONAL, speaking dramatically as if setting the stage)

So my plan is to put my lucky headband on as they're announcing this year's Teacher of the Year

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FAIRBANKS (cont'd)  
winner (*positions the sweatband on his head*), and then, I'll break out my *victory dance*. (pauses for dramatic effect).

I'm going to have HARMONY GRANGER filming the whole thing so that we can upload it to Ellentube,

Cuts to a secret camera shot of FAIRBANKS watching an Ellen routine on his computer while he tries to mimic the moves.

FAIRBANKS (V.O.)  
So I've been practicing, because if there's one thing Ellen loves, it's people who dance. This is guaranteed to get us on Ellen!

SCENE 4 CLASSROOM - INT. DAY

Scene opens with a shot of CREED working with headphones on as he is editing some film on a laptop. In the background over his shoulder, HARMONY GRANGER is speaking with THE FRESHMEN in the corner of the classroom. HARMONY is speaking in a very business-like manner, with plenty of hand direction and pointing to demonstrate the importance of the topic of discussion.

Camera then cuts to HARMONY GRANGER and THE FRESHMEN's conversation mid-sentence.

HARMONY GRANGER  
I need you to play the bad cop in this routine -

FRESHMEN  
(nodding, trying to keep up and taking notes in a spiral notebook without breaking eye contact with HARMONY)  
Ok. Yes.

HARMONY GRANGER  
I will, of course, be the good cop in this routine -

FRESHMEN  
Ok. Got it.

(CONTINUED)

HARMONY GRANGER

-And we need to convince CREED that he needs to cast his vote for Mr. Fairbanks, because the fate of the classroom depends upon it!

FRESHMEN

Yes, good. Ok.

HARMONY GRANGER

(straightening herself up and quickly fixing her hair)  
Ok, how do I look?

FRESHMEN

(still writing rapidly while maintaining focused eye contact)  
Excellent. Perfect. Couldn't be better.

HARMONY GRANGER

Ok. Here goes nothing.

HARMONY GRANGER walks over and sits down next to CREED who is seated at his desk still editing.

HARMONY GRANGER

(a little too enthusiastically)  
Hi, CREED!

CREED

(taken back, pulling off his headphones suddenly star struck at being able to talk to HARMONY GRANGER)  
Oh, hello HARMONY.

HARMONY GRANGER

What are you working on?

CREED

(eyes fluttering, smiling stupidly, obviously smitten)  
Oh, just a video project.

HARMONY GRANGER

(starting to revert back to her business-like air)  
That's neat. I was wondering, who are you going to vote for this year's Teacher of the Year Award?

(CONTINUED)

CREED

I'm not really sure. I'm in both  
NORDLUND's Philosophy Class and  
FAIRBANKS' Film Class -

HARMONY GRANGER

(interrupting)

Yeah, I've never really understood  
that since, you know, they're both  
during the same class period -

CREED

(moving on as if skipping an  
unwanted explanation)

- AND I'm also in MRS. NELSON's  
Physics Class, and they're the only  
three left that could win -

HARMONY GRANGER

(interrupting)

So the choice is obvious then! MR.  
FAIRBANKS!

CREED

(wincing)

Ahhh, I don't know. The guy is  
pretty annoying, and by that I mean  
really annoying.

HARMONY GRANGER

(with a touch of false  
surprise)

What? He's not *that* annoying.

CREED

Seriously? What about that time  
last week when he taught the entire  
lesson in a terrible British  
accent, without ever explaining why  
he did it.

HARMONY GRANGER

- Well, ok, but he was trying to  
get ready for an audition, and -  
(*searching for words*) - and,  
well... Yeah ok, he's really  
annoying.

HARMONY GRANGER suddenly turns a set of puppy dog eyes on  
CREED whose expression suddenly goes soft and gooey.

(CONTINUED)

HARMONY GRANGER

Well, it would certainly make me  
happy if you voted for MR  
FAIRBANKS.

She gets up slowly and walks away while his star-struck gaze  
is held on her. Suddenly THE FRESHMEN approaches and slams  
her palms on the desk, taking CREED by surprise.

FRESHMEN

(intense, Dirty Harry style)  
Listen, there's only two ways that  
this thing can go for you: good or  
bad. And I think you know what it  
will take.

CREED

(scared)  
Ah, I'm sorry wha -

FRESHMEN

All it will take is one page out of  
this spiral notebook for me to  
write a note to HARMONY telling her  
that you failed to vote for MR  
FAIRBANKS, and BAM! You're  
chances for a date are gone!

CREED

Wait, what?

FRESHMEN

(inching closer to him with  
the spiral notebook held  
between them)  
Now you might be asking yourself,  
does she have any more pages left  
in that notebook to write that  
note? Honestly, it's been such a  
busy day that I've kinda lost track  
myself. But this being a College  
Ruled Spiral, the most dependable  
notebook in the world, you've just  
got to ask yourself one question:  
"Do I feel *lucky*?" Well, do ya,  
*punk*?

HARMONY GRANGER

(CONFESSIONAL)

That's one more vote for MR  
FAIRBANKS!

HARD CUT

## SCENE 5 - CONFSSIONAL - INT. DAY

FAIRBANKS  
(CONFSSIONAL)  
I've got another idea of how to  
sabotage NORDLUND in his campaign  
to win Teacher of the Year,  
(*mischievously*) but it will  
require a little help from the Lab  
Rats.

## SCENE 6 - LAB ROOM - INT. DAY

MAXIMILIAN THE LAB ASSISTANT sits over a bunsen burner with his lab book as FAIRBANKS suddenly appears at his side. The following conversation will be done very rapidly with increasing intensity from FAIRBANKS and increasing confusion from MAXIMILIAN.

FAIRBANKS  
(rapidly)  
MAXIMILIAN.

MAXIMILIAN  
Oh, hello sir.

FAIRBANKS  
Do you have any chemical compounds  
that can create a powerful  
laxitive?

MAXIMILIAN  
Yes, I suppose so.

FAIRBANKS  
Well I need you to make me one.

MAXIMILIAN  
Ok, but for what purpose?

FAIRBANKS  
A bowel-obstructed pet.

MAXIMILIAN  
Ok.

FAIRBANKS  
What's it made of? - What's it do?  
- Would it kill a man?

(CONTINUED)

MAXIMILIAN  
(increasingly confused)  
I would hope not.

FAIRBANKS  
What about a very large - ah - *pet*?  
Say this big? (*gestures to indicate  
a tall adult*)

MAXIMILIAN  
What kind of pet are we talking  
about here?

FAIRBANKS  
Is it tasteless?

MAXIMILIAN  
Yes.

FAIRBANKS  
Is it scentless?

MAXIMILIAN  
Yes.

FAIRBANKS  
Would it be powerful enough to  
incapacitate a man?

MAXIMILIAN  
Why do you ask?

FAIRBANKS  
Safety. How big of a man?

MAXIMILIAN  
That depends.

FAIRBANKS  
I mean what would it do to, say, a  
35 year old man?

MAXIMILIAN  
That depends upon the dose.

FAIRBANKS  
Would it be enough to make his  
bowels erupt and keep him out of  
the classroom for a week or more?

MAXIMILIAN  
In large enough quantities, yes.

(CONTINUED)

FAIRBANKS

Would it come in a powder or liquid form?

MAXIMILIAN

Whichever is preferable I suppose.

FAIRBANKS

Could it be detected in a beverage - or a water dish, rather - and drunk by the - pet - without being noticed?

MAXIMILIAN

Yes, I think it might.

FAIRBANKS

(excitedly)

Perfect, give me the largest dose possible.

SCENE 7 - TEACHER'S LOUNGE - INT. DAY

NORDLUND is talking to MRS NELSON about philosophy at the table with a newspaper sitting on the table and a mug of coffee and bottle of mountain dew sitting next to each other in front of them. FAIRBANKS walks in and sits down at the table. He lifts the newspaper and pretends to read as he uses it to cover the other teachers' view of the drinks on the table. He then secretively withdraws a vile of powder and dumps it into the mug of coffee. Camera zooms to see this happen, then he looks at the camera and smiles mischievously. He then puts down the newspaper and walks out.

BELL RINGS to indicate the next classes will begin shortly. While still discussing philosophy as MRS NELSON politely nods, NORDLUND and MRS NELSON get up to leave, with NORDLUND grabbing the mountain dew and MRS NELSON grabbing the coffee, drinking as they walk out.

FAIRBANKS

(CONFESSIONAL)

Hehe, NORDLUND has got a surprise coming his way in about 20 minutes!

HARD CUT



## SCENE 8 - GYMNASIUM - INT. DAY

The scene opens with students filing into the bleachers in the gymnasium. A podium and microphone are in front of them, and sitting in the front row are the teachers with NORDLUND sitting confidently with his arms crossed, FAIRBANKS looking around the crowd of students nervously, and MRS NELSON sitting in obvious pain as she holds her gut.

FAIRBANKS (V.O.)

Well, today is the day. I have my lucky headband in my pocket, HARMONY GRANGER is waiting in the wings with her camera ready, and my dance moves are perfectly choreographed for the occasion.

FAIRBANKS

(CONFESSIONAL)

Besides, how could I lose when I have the spirit of Ellen Degeneres with me? *(holding up a headshot of Ellen and smiling broadly)*

NORDLUND

(CONFESSIONAL, enthusiastically, fists shaking in triumph)

I am Caesar! Veni Vidi Vici!

MRS NELSON

(CONFESSIONAL, wincing)

Yeah, I would be excited about today, but my stomach has been in knots!

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

(standing at the podium and speaking into the microphone)

The students and school board of Billings Central are pleased to present the following award to a teacher who embodies the spirit and character of what it means to be an exemplar of excellence in teaching.

Cutaways to scenes of FAIRBANKS on the edge of his seat, waiting expectantly and nervously, NORDLUND vigorously nodding in a Mussolini-fashion in agreement, and MRS NELSON looking pained, but looking up hopefully.

(CONTINUED)

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

This year's award recipient  
inspires with enthusiasm, instructs  
with passion, and guides and  
directs students to become their  
very best selves.

Cuts to FAIRBANKS, obviously thinking at this point that he  
has won. Cuts to close up of his hand reaching into his  
pocket and slowly pulling out his lucky headband.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

It is my pleasure to present the  
Teacher of the Year Award to... MRS  
NELSON.

Close up of FAIRBANKS in shocked despair as students jump to  
their feet to applaud. MRS NELSON, still in pain, happily  
rises to the adulation of the school as she goes to accept  
the award.

Close up of FAIRBANKS' hand slowly putting the lucky  
headband in his pocket.

NORDLUND

(CONFESSIONAL, pounding his  
fist into his hand)

Curses! The gods, in their fickle  
enthusiasms, have deemed it that I  
am Pompey, FAIRBANKS is Crassus,  
and MRS NELSON is Caesar!

MRS NELSON

(CONFESSIONAL, holding the  
award in hand as she is  
joyfully speaking)

WOW! I never expected something  
like this, it is such a tremendous  
honor - (*winces and grabs her gut*)  
- ow!

Cuts to FAIRBANKS sitting in the confessional holding his  
headshot of Ellen in one hand and his lucky headband in the  
other. Pure sadness written all over his face, maybe an  
epic tear, just sitting there silently as if looking for  
words.

HARMONY GRANGER

(CONFESSIONAL)

I thought for sure my plans would  
work, but it doesn't matter  
now. At least now we can get  
FAIRBANKS to focus on the classroom

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARMONY GRANGER (cont'd)  
again. But I think I might have an  
idea of how to break him out of his  
aparent shock and depression.

SCENE 9 - HALLWAY INTO CLASSROOM - INT. DAY

FAIRBANKS is walking slowly through the hallway with head  
hung low. His arms hang at his side with Ellen headshot in  
one hand and lucky headband in the other. As he enters into  
the classroom, the students surprise him.

CHORUS  
Surprise!

FAIRBANKS  
(taken aback)  
What's this?

HARMONY GRANGER  
(stepping forward, perhaps  
handing him a ribbon of yoda  
or some token of appreciation)  
We wanted you know that you'll  
always be *our* Teacher of the Year.

Everyone in the class is smiling and nodding happily -  
except CREED who stands just behind and to the side of  
HARMONY GRANGER.

SCENE 10 - CLASSROOM - INT. DAY

Shots of classroom scenes beginning with NORDLUND delivering  
his victory speech to his Philosophy Class where CREED sits  
in the front row (while simultaneously being in Film Class  
where he stands unsmiling when camera cuts to Film Class  
scenes). Also cuts to MRS NELSON teaching science  
enthusiastically.

FAIRBANKS (V.O.)  
What did I learn from all of  
this? I learned that titles and  
awards don't really matter. All  
that matters is that impact that we  
have on others.

FAIRBANKS  
(CONFESSIONAL)  
Perhaps you've heard it said that  
"one man's terrorist is another  
man's patriot"?

(CONTINUED)

Cuts to classroom scene from CREED's perspective where FAIRBANKS starts delivering a lesson in a terrible BRITISH ACCENT, and CREED is obviously annoyed.

FAIRBANKS (V.O.)

Well, maybe you could also say that  
"one student's worst teacher is  
another student's Teacher of the  
Year."

END