

SWING STATE

by

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1 INT. RED HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT 1

Organizers and volunteers bustle about. In the center of the storm, the RED CANDIDATE stands pensive. He subtly adjusts his toupee.

His ADVISER, a smartly dressed young woman, stands at his side. She pretends not to notice his attempt at subtlety.

They stare at an oversized MAP OF THE UNITED STATES.

2 INT. BLUE HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT 2

Different faces, but a similar scene. The BLUE CANDIDATE sits behind a desk, driving a MATCHBOX CAR around a MAP OF THE UNITED STATES.

His ADVISER, a confident young man, stands before him. He's holding two Matchbox cars, one in each hand.

BLUE CANDIDATE  
What's CNN saying?

3 INT. RED HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT 3

RED ADVISER  
Two fifty-nine apiece. It's dead even.

RED CANDIDATE  
Unbelievable.

4 INT. BLUE HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT 4

BLUE CANDIDATE  
You're kidding.

BLUE ADVISER  
No, sir. They have every state from Montana to Florida.

5 INT. RED HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT 5

RED ADVISER  
They have both coasts, plus most of the Grain Belt. No surprises. Urban centers always go blue.

6 INT. BLUE HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT 6

BLUE ADVISER  
Rural areas consistently skew red.

The blue candidate ponders the news.

7 INT. RED HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT 7

The red candidate furrows his brow.

RED CANDIDATE  
So what's next?

8 INT. BLUE HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT 8

BLUE CANDIDATE  
What now?

9 INT. BOTH HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT 9

RED ADVISER  
We win Ohio.

BLUE ADVISER  
We win Ohio.

10 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY 10

SUPER: "Columbus, Ohio"

The red team works a crowd. The red candidate spies a young TATTOOED BOY at the edge, interested, but standoffish.

RED ADVISER  
(nudging)  
Time magazine feels that you're  
"completely out of touch with young  
voters."

Straightening his toupee, he red candidate beelines toward the boy. The cameras are close behind.

RED CANDIDATE  
Can I count on your vote, son?

TATTOOED BOY  
Heh. Not a chance. I need someone  
who gets me.

The boy pulls away and disappears into the crowd. The red candidate watches him go, an idea forming all the while.



RED CANDIDATE

That one.

His adviser steps closer to take a look.

The image is an American flag, billowing in the wind.

RED CANDIDATE (cont'd)

(admiring)

God, I love that flag. (beat) Let's  
get started.

He starts unbuttoning his shirt.

16

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

16

The blue candidate walks with his advisers, sleeves rolled  
up. He knocks on his hard hat, testing it.

BLUE CANDIDATE

The photo opp is ready?

BLUE ADVISER

Your roommate from the Naval  
Academy is already here. Couldn't  
get the fire chief, but the police  
chief jumped at the opportunity.

BLUE CANDIDATE

What about the fringe crowd? I want  
to connect with everyone.

The blue adviser doesn't have an answer. Without breaking  
stride, the blue candidate scans the crowd.

His eyes settle on a MOTORCYCLE GANG, there for the show.

BLUE CANDIDATE (cont'd)

Perfect.

17

EXT. TATTOO PARLOR - DAY

17

The red candidate emerges to CAMERAS and MICROPHONES. Cheers  
erupt from the crowd: "Show us your ink!"

The tattooed boy is there. This time, he brought friends.

The red candidate smiles wide. He unbuttons his shirt.

18 EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY 18

The blue candidate adjusts his hard hat. The POLICE CHIEF stands to his left, his NAVY BUDDY to his right. The blue adviser uses a BIKER into the shot.

The men stand in front of the construction site sign and the crowd begins to laugh. Cameras flash.

The blue adviser looks up at at the construction site sign, and then at the men standing with the candidate.

BLUE ADVISER

Oh no...

19 EXT. TATTOO PARLOR - DAY 19

The red candidate opens his shirt and peels back the bandage. He's in pretty good shape for an older man, but the wrinkles betray his age.

Laughter from the crowd, followed by flashing cameras.

The red adviser takes another look at the tattoo.

RED ADVISER

Oh no...

INSERT - Time magazine: a still photo of the blue candidate, standing in front of a sign depicting a cowboy and a Native American, advertising the new casino. It's mocked up like the cover from a lost Village People album.

INSERT - Newsweek: a still photo of the blue candidate, the words of his new body art marred by his wrinkles. The text around his tattoo appears to read "I LOVE MY FAG."

20 EXT. OHIO STREETS - DAY 20

Both advisers look optimistic.

RED ADVISER

Well, there's always the gay vote.

BLUE ADVISER

Well, there's always the gay vote.

FADE TO BLACK