

The Great Journey

1994 Spring Olympics -- The Bronx, U.S.A.

Characters

Flo Jo

Chico Escuela

Bolivian Swim Team

USA Women's Relay

Ethiopian Dream Team

Abubuku Ojukwu-Jabar

Najibubuku-Pooh

Marathon Runners

Phil Murray

Connie Chin

Jojo Starbuck

Sadie Tong

2-man Chinese Luge

Olympic Artist (graffiti)

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Scene I

Yankee Stadium
Phil Murray &
Connie Chin

PHIL: Hello. I'm Phil Murray and this is Connie Chin.

CONNIE: *(Smiling)* Glad to have you with us.

PHIL: We're here live at Yankee Stadium where in only moments fans from all around the world will come to watch their favorite athletes compete for the Gold in the 1994 Spring Olympics. The scene is the Bronx, a place where crime and violence are common, everyday events. You may be saying to yourself, "Olympics in the Bronx? That's crazy." May be. Risky? Definitely. But one thing is for certain. This will be an Olympics the world will never forget.

CONNIE: It may be crazy Phil, but there's something about Spring in the Bronx that gets people's adrenaline going -- maybe it's the fear...or maybe it's the savage **determination** to survive one more day in this brutal environment. Speaking of determination, can you believe that Ethiopian Dream Team! What haven't they endured on their journey to America. We now go live to Jojo Starbuck who has a special report on these incredible athletes as they near the end of their voyage to New York City Harbor. Jojo.

Scene II

Staten Isl. Ferry
Jojo Starbuck &
Ethiopian Dream
Team

JOJO: Thanks, Connie. I'm here with the captain of the Ethiopian Dream Team, Abubuku Ojukwu-Jabar. Abubuku, after 90-days on this boat, what is the first thing you want to do when you land in America?

ABUBUKU: We very hungry. We search for Ronald McDonald and Big Mac.

JOJO: Well, everybody has dreams. Abubuku, seriously, does your team feel prepared to compete in **every single** event for your country?

ABUBUKU: Sometimes you feel like a nut...sometimes you don't.

JOJO: Okay. Well, Abubuku, do you think your team could do a quick demonstration for our TV audience?

ABUBUKU: We do chicken right! *(turns to teammates) s;lkj rtu f;kml 'srj 'fxokj 'dtp. ffhj fhj u r76i (Do demo; 5 seconds Fancy moves, in jerseys and bare feet to Globetrotter Music.)*

JOJO: Back to you, Phil.

Scene III
Yankee Stadium
Phil & Connie

PHIL: That was very informative, Jojo. Unfortunately, the Ethiopians aren't the only athletes encountering difficulties on their journey to the Bronx.

CONNIE: That's true, Phil, we have people from all over the globe just trying to find **some** form of transportation to the Bronx. Whether it's train, bus, cab, or on foot, these athletes have done it all in their quest to reach Yankee Stadium. Here are some clips that tell the emotional, even traumatic story, of the challenges these athletes have encountered today.

Scene IV
Edited footage

(Impossible Dream Music) Clips of trials and tribulations.

For example:

Try to get cab

Miss the bus

Stuck in traffic

Train delay on platform

Lost in Grand Central

The Luge guys show up at Yankee Stadium with their sled, the only athletes to make it on time.

Scene V
In Locker Room

PHIL: Sure tells a story. Even though most of the athletes have arrived by now, we really don't have time for the Opening Ceremony. We'll have to skip all that pomp and circumstance. So, we'll now cut to our first event, the Men's 400 meters. Join me as I interview the Dominican Decathlon Champion, Chico Escuela. Chico, you've come here from the Dominican Republic, you're 40 years old, you've had numerous injuries. Some people question your ability to even complete a lap. There's a lot of skepticism. Do you really think you can do it?

CHICO: Nike been belly belly good to me. Just do it. Chico belly belly strong *(Strike a pose)*.

PHIL: Yes. Well, I think we should probably get out to the track.

Scene VI
On Track

Film the start, through first corner *(to Rocky)*, cut to final stretch in slow motion of race. Chico breaks the string in triumph *(Chariots of Fire)*. *(Crowds go wild)*

Scene VII
Sadie at Hunt's
Point

SADIE: That Chico Escuela. Another amazing victory! Well, we finally caught up to the Ethiopians. They found their own practice court deep in the South Bronx. Let's just watch some of their strategic moves! *(Watch for couple seconds, until he's ready to shoot)* Najibubuku, tell America what's going through your head right now.

NAJIBUBUKU: (*Crouched, ready to shoot*) Nothing beats a great pair of legs. (*Quick shot of their legs.*)

SADIE: Back to you, Phil.

Scene VIII

Begins at
Olmstead Park.
Marathon all
over the Bronx

PHIL: Thanks, Sadie. We're about to begin the most dangerous event, what many are calling "the **Bronxathon.**" Not only are they pushing their bodies to the extreme limits of human physical endurance...they are literally risking life and limb as they go out unarmed and unprotected into the wild, untamed wilderness we call the Bronx. (Race begins in park beside church. Music starts (*Eye of the Tiger*) Large numbers dwindle as runners go to more remote areas of the South Bronx. Near the end of the race, music fades to Phil Murray's comments.

PHIL: It appears as though Zorina Ramdhan, the stout-hearted Trinidadian, is in first place. The Ethiopians close behind...but where's Chico? (*Cut to Chico on ground. Cut back to Phil.*) Ramdhan is about to grab the Olympic Torch! (*Show Zorina taking torch*) What an Olympics this has been.

CONNIE: My sentiments exactly, Phil. (*Phil breaks down on Connie.*) Phil, Phil, please. Uh...let's..uh... look at a few highlights. (*Music of Hallelujah*)

Javelin thrower lands in dumpster
Synchronized swimming
Chico doing high jump
Trip on Hurdle
Fall on tennis court
Handing baton to Flo Jo
Olympic Artist doing graffiti
George and Barbara Bush say hi
Tourists waving at camera

Scene IX

Toxic Waste Hill

Entire cast comes down the hill, silhouetted by the sun, they gather at the base of the hill in a large group, look to the heavens, arms raised, and sing:

EVERYONE: "And should we die before our journey's through, HAPPY DAY!, ALL IS WELL!"