

# **RIMFIRE**

A Short Play

By Mike Folie

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## RIMFIRE

### CHARACTERS:

**MARLA**, host of the TV debate show  
Rimfire

**WOODY ALLEN**, a filmmaker and  
comedian, guest on Rimfire.

**RUPERT MURDOCH**, Chairman and  
Managing Director of News Corp., guest on  
Rimfire.

**MALE ACTOR** to play Paul Henried and  
Humphrey Bogart.

**FEMALE ACTOR** to play Bette Davis and  
Ingrid Bergman.

### SETTING:

Talk show set – three chairs.

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AT RISE:

Music up. TV talk show host  
MARLA, on the set of RIMIRE, with guests  
RUPERT MURDOCH and WOODY  
ALLEN. Music out.

**MARLA**

Good evening and welcome to Rimfire!

(Holding up pistol.)

Each guest on Rimfire is provided with a fully-loaded pistol. A pistol they can use, if they get worked up enough, to shoot their opponent dead!

Today's topic is a new film process that is shaking Tinsel-Town to its toes. To discuss the pros and cons with us today are -- from News Corp and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox -- Mr. Rupert Murdoch. And representing the creative side, filmmaker, comedian and author -- Woody Allen. Gentlemen, check your weapons!

**MURDOCH**

(Checking HIS gun)

Loaded, Marla!

(ALLEN picks up HIS gun with two fingers and puts it down gingerly and disdainfully.)

**ALLEN**

I, uh, don't think I'll be needing a gun, Marla. I only plan to, uh, shoot down, uh, Mr. Murdoch's arguments.

**MARLA**

Mr. Murdoch, perhaps you should explain to us exactly what this new process is.

**MURDOCH**

I'd be happy to, Marla. It's called Product Placementization -- or P.P.-ing. A movie undergoing this process is being "P.P.-ed."

**ALLEN**

It's being pissed on, that's for sure.

**MARLA**

Woody! You'll get your chance.

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**MURDOCH**

You've heard about ordinary product placement in movies?

**MARLA**

Isn't that where a filmmaker agrees to feature a name brand product in the film for a fee?

**MURDOCH**

That's right, Marla. The filmmaker gets some extra financing for the movie, and the company gets to showcase their product. It's what we call a "win-win" situation.

**ALLEN**

It's a "puke-puke" situation.

**MURDOCH**

With P.P.-ing, we are able to use computer graphics imaging –C.G.I. -- to feature today's products in yesterday's classic movies, placing them in the film in a subtle and tasteful way that is hardly noticeable to the average viewer.

**ALLEN**

You've got John Wayne wearing Nikes in STAGECOACH!

**MARLA**

I understand you've brought along some clips of classic movies that have undergone the P.P. process.

**MURDOCH**

Yes. The first clip is from the classic NOW, VOYAGER. Remember that famous scene where Paul Henried lights two cigarettes – one for him and one for Bette Davis?

(Lush movie music up. Lights up on two actors to play DAVIS and HENRIED.)

**HENRIED**

(Displaying cigarette pack prominently)

Shall we have a Camel cigarette on it?

**DAVIS**

Yes. Let's.

(As HENRIED lights the two cigarettes in HIS mouth.)

**DAVIS (CONT.)**

I adore the fine taste of a Camel. Don't you? It's so deep and rich.

(HE gives HER one cigarettes. THEY both take deep drags. Music out and lights down on DAVIS and HENRIED.)

Rimfire/folie

**MURDOCH**

As you can see, the scene from the movie is not harmed. If anything, it's enhanced.

**ALLEN**

Enhanced? "I love the fine taste of a Camel?!"

**MURDOCH**

Here's another from one of your favorites, Woody -- CASABLANCA.

(Movie music and lights up on the same two actors, who have put on trench coats and hats to play BOGART and BERGMAN.)

**BOGART**

You have to go with him. You're his life, you're what makes him work. If you don't get on that American Airlines plane tonight you'll regret it. Maybe not today, and maybe not tomorrow. But soon, and for the rest of your life. Remember, American serves the whole world, with flights to more cities than any other airline.

**BERGMAN**

But Rick! I haven't eaten all day.

**BOGART**

I guess the problems of three little people don't amount to a hill of beans in this world. But you'll get more than beans for your supper aboard American.

**BERGMAN**

Oh, Rick!

(SHE starts to cry. Sound effect of prop plane starting up. Music swells. BOGART holds HER chin in HIS hand and looks into HER eyes.)

**BOGART (CONT.)**

We'll always have the Hilton Hotel in Paris.

(Lights down on BOGART and BERGMAN.)

**ALLEN**

You left out the best part. It's not Vichy water that Louie throws away in this version. It's Evian. Evian!

**MURDOCH**

What does it matter what kind of water it was?

**ALLEN**

Vichy was the capital of Nazi France! So when Louie throws away the Vichy water, it means something!

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**MARLA**

But isn't it true, Woody, that most people today would have no idea what Vichy was, or what it meant?

**ALLEN**

And whose fault is that?!

**MURDOCH**

Certainly not mine.

**ALLEN**

Yes it is! It's the fault of you and . . . and people like you! People who would sell our history, our culture and our heritage for a few bucks. Don't you see? Some things have to be separate from the marketplace. People who believe in nothing but money have no . . . no moral foundation.

**MARLA**

Woody, perhaps you shouldn't be the one to talk about (morals.)

**ALLEN**

Everything you people touch turns to poison. You're worse than Nazis. At least the Nazis loved good music.

**MURDOCH**

Well, there's not a damn thing you can do about it, Allen. In fact, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox just bought the rights to all your movies, and they are being P.P.-ed even as we speak.

**ALLEN**

Can't do anything? Can't do anything!?! No?! Well I can do this!

(ALLEN picks up HIS gun, aims it at MURDOCH and pulls the trigger. It clicks, empty.)

**MARLA**

Ohhhhhh, Woody! You must not be a regular viewer of Rimfire. Otherwise you'd know that we never give loaded guns to artists. Only business people and government officials.

**ALLEN**

But . . . but . . .

**MARLA**

I gave you a chance to check your weapon and you turned it down, didn't he, Mr. Murdoch.

**MURDOCH**

He sure did.

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**MARLA**

Mr. Murdoch, Woody has just tried to shoot you in cold blood. And that means that you may now shoot him with complete impunity.

**MURDOCH**

(Picks up HIS gun)

I can?

**MARLA**

Absolutely.

**ALLEN**

Me? Try to shoot Mr. Murdoch? Are you kidding?! I love Australians. It was just a joke. Ha-ha. I knew it wasn't loaded. I was . . . I was just shooting my mouth off. Ha-ha.

**MURDOCH**

Marla, Woody is such a creative genius, I could never deprive the world of him and his comic talent. So I'm just gonna shoot him in the leg.

(MURDOCH shoots ALLEN in the leg. ALLEN screams in pain and falls to the floor, where HE continues to writhe in pain for the rest of the scene.)

**ALLEN**

Aaaaagggggghhhhhhhhhh!

**MARLA**

(To audience)

That's all the time we have today. Tune in again next week when our guests will be [INSERT NAMES OF TWO PROMINENT PEOPLE - LOCAL OR NATIONAL - INVOLVED IN A CURRENT FUED]. Sparks -- and bullets -- are sure to fly. Bye for now.

(Lights to silhouette. Music up. WOODY continues to writhe on the floor. Blackout.)

**THE END**