

"Lawn Boys"

by Steve Cleary

(213) 555-0000 – steve@stevecleary.com

Logline: A washed-up city guy and a crew of misfit landscapers must become champions of nature when a shady artificial turf dealer sets up shop in their hometown.

Dejected STEVE (30s), after losing his big city advertising job, returns to his suburban South Jersey hometown to regroup. He's eager to get back to city life, but decides to help his friend HEIKO (30s), who owns a failing landscaping company that's under constant threat from a rival crew run by Steve's high school nemesis, MIKE (30s).

On the job, Steve discovers the hard way that the physical demands of landscaping work is much higher than he'd imagined. But the crew, RIPPY (18) and MUNGO (20s), help Steve learn the basics. Still, his ineptitude ultimately costs them business after he runs a riding mower into a golf course water hazard. To save face, Steve comes up with a brainwave to rebrand Heiko's company by appealing to local lonely housewives and divorcees. Business picks back up and the company does better than ever while Steve becomes an adept landscaper. Mike isn't happy.

In the best shape of his life, Steve attracts the eye of single mother garden center clerk, SUNNY (early 30s). They strike up a friendship, but she's hesitant to take it any further. Steve's work catches the attention of charismatic Philadelphia businessman TAD (40s) who courts Steve with the idea of becoming his in-house creative director. Steve's thrilled, but torn as he's enjoying being in nature and his budding romance with Sunny.

Nights before a big July 4th parade, Heiko's gear is sabotaged. Steve attempts an inventive work-around, but his plan backfires, destroying the lawns on the parade route. Heiko loses all of his customers and the crew and Sunny all turn their backs on Steve.

Steve discovers that the area lawns are all converting to a new gaudy artificial turf product promoted by Mike. The Summer's Eve crew was also behind the sabotage. Fearing the imminent blighting of his hometown, Steve hatches a desperate plan to put Heiko's business back on track: entering a regional landscaping competition where the victor wins a lucrative county contract. He enlists Rippy and Mungo's help.

The competing teams play dirty, but Steve settles old scores with Mike by vanquishing him in an event that escalates into a weedwacker battle. A team of Mexicans wins, but Tad, surprisingly a judge, produces evidence of undocumented workers on their crew. Mike's crew is bumped to first, but Heiko shows up with a landscaper from another county. He exposes Tad as the owner of the artificial turf company whose installations drove home values down enabling his investors to convert properties to condos.

Steve appeals for Mike not to be given the contract, but it's ruled his activity is immaterial. However, an official shows up with evidence that Mike's crew all tested positive for steroids. Heiko's crew wins! Steve stays in the area and, in partnership with Heiko, starts a landscape design business with Sunny. They ride off together into the sunset... on a zero-turn mower.