

17's Company – Series 999
"Open for Business"
Episode Five: FatWhitey's Wild, madcap (yet slightly
disturbing) adventure into the Unknown...

The pub regulars are walking back to the OD Pub with the (previously deceased) Run. FatWhitey lags behind. All of a sudden, he spots a man selling waffles at the side of the road.

Scarily Suspicious Waffle Salesman: (singing) *Vwaffles, Vwaffles... Vwaffles for Sale – Vwaffles for Sale – Vwaffles for Sale... Vwaffles, Vwaffles...*

FatWhitey: (walking over) Mmmm, looks good. Do your waffles come with free syrup?

Scarily Suspicious Waffle Salesman: (turning to FatWhitey) *Vwhy my boy, Vwaffles wouldn't be Vwaffles vwithout a bit of syr-up. (handing Whitey a waffle, leering) Here, have a tas-te. It's on me!*

FatWhitey: (grinning, biting into the waffle) Thanks, Waffle Man, this tastes really nice and sweet...(swaying)...and hallucinogenic...and uggghh.... (he collapses)

Scarily Suspicious Waffle Salesman: *Bvwahahaha! Nobody escapes US! No-one!*

Sinister music plays. Cut to titles.

Title Music Lyrics

*There's a pub - in your imagination,
There's a pub - where all your dreams come true,
There's a pub – that is a real sensation,
There's a pub – for me and for you.*

*But this isn't the pub.
But this isn't the pub.
This isn't the pub – you're – looking for.*

*This is a pub – of laughter and disaster,
This is a pub – where pickles are dispensed,
This is a pub – of crazy crazy people,
This is a pub – but of pubs it's the best.*

*Things aren't always in black and white,
Things aren't always simple,
Things aren't always wrong or right.
This is the pub.*

*Open the door if you dare,
Open the door if you care,*

*For we are here and we're going to win the war.
This is the pub.*

This is the pub.

Beer and grub.

This is the pub.

Cast

1. Worm Mad (clip of Worm Mad dropping a Ming vase),
2. Paul.Power (three short clips of Paul.Power mixing various potions),
3. SargeMcCluck (clip of a shocked Sarge chin-driving down a hill),
4. thomasp (shot of a scared thomasp running as X-Boxes fall from the sky),
5. FatWhitey (shot of FatWhitey throwing a cake aside and eating a plate of crisps),
6. Pickleworm (shot of Pickleworm serving drinks from the bar),
7. Squirminator2k (shot of S-2k with half his face showing the robotics beneath)
8. Blinx (shot of Blinx levitating),
9. KamikazeBananze (joint shot with MtlAngelus, they stand next to each other looking out on the city, KamikazeBananze has detective clothes on)
10. MtlAngelus, Ghost of (see KamikazeBananze)
11. K^2, Ghost of (Shot of darkened room with creepy flickering computer)
12. PinkWorm (shot of PinkWorm playing ice hockey)
13. SomePerson (shot of SomePerson swimming under water with various fishes)
14. Ploegman (shot of Ploegman playing cards)
15. Star Worms (Shot of a burnt out spaceship)
16. MonkeyforaHead (shot of an ape attacking MFAH)
17. tundraH (shot of an asleep tundraH)

Also Starring

The truly demonic, Neo-Casket (shot of furious flaming NC) and
The downright odd, Mischief (shot of Mischief holding a Viking hammer and grinning)

Watch Out For...

Run (shot of Run with glowing red eyes) and
Reddi Myal (shot of Reddi Myal eating crisps)

Cut to Open Discussion Pub. Worm Mad is talking on the phone to Zero72.

Worm Mad: (mid-conversation) ...so then Run appears and says 'Hey, how come I'm alive?'

Zero72's Voice: (shocked) Run's alive? But that's impossible! (Pause) Betong staked him. We saw him die!

Worm Mad: I know, he says that he's been a ghost for a while now... then all of a sudden, he found himself snapped back into his old body which had rematerialised in his coffin. Dug himself out of the ground and came and found us.

Zero72's Voice: (uneasy) Hmm... and he's still a vampire?

Worm Mad: Yes!

Zero72's Voice: I don't like it. I recommend using extreme caution when you're around him. He may have turned good since we last met him or he may just be waiting for the right moment to strike. Be careful.

Worm Mad: I will and if there's any trouble with him – I'll let you know about it.

Zero72's Voice: Okay. (Pause) Now, back to my original question – do you know how to play DVDs through a washing machine?

Worm Mad: I really don't think it's possible.

Zero72's Voice: Damn it! I just brought "The Simpsons – Series 1" DVD!

Worm Mad: You could just buy a DVD-Player.

Zero72's Voice: (laughing bitterly) Yeah, like that's gonna happen.

Cut to dark room. FatWhitey is lying tied to a marble desk.

FatWhitey: (coming round, groaning) Oooh, this can't be good. (Pause) Who knew syrup could be so potent?

Voice: Welcome back Mr.Whitey.

FatWhitey: Who is that? Who's there?

Voice: An old friend. (the figure steps out of the shadows, it is Cloud Strife from FFVII)

FatWhitey: (annoyed) Okay, now this is just getting silly.

Cloud Strife: (angry) Sillier than Sonic's appearance in Series 1?

FatWhitey: I can see you're still bitter about that.

Cloud Strife: Hmmph. (Pause) Anyway, I'm so glad to have you back in the corporation. (Pause) The lamb has returned to the flock.

FatWhitey: What corporation? What are you talking about?

Cloud Strife: (sulkily) Well, I'm not talking about ShinRa, that's for damn sure!

FatWhitey: (thinking) This isn't some rather strange marketing campaign for the "Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children" movie, is it?

Cloud Strife: (laughing) Ha ha...no. (Pause, thinking) Although... (Pause) But no.

FatWhitey: So what is this all to do with?

Cloud Strife: (sighing) I'll give you the recap, shall I?

FatWhitey: Please. (Pause) Also, do you have any Pringles? I'm starving.

Cloud Strife: (ignoring the question) Five years ago, you were a member of the government organisation – QuestorZ8 – which was dedicated to finding a way to enter alternative dimensions and realities. (Pause) The research was cancelled due to the lack of progress we were making and all of its employees were laid off or reassigned.

FatWhitey: (confused) Wait a minute... I'm fairly sure that I'd remember working for an organisation like that. (Pause) Or did you wipe my memory?

Cloud Strife: (peevd) Your job was making coffee for all the researchers.

FatWhitey: (laughing) Oh, yeah! Now I remember! (Pause) That was one hell of a month.

Cloud Strife: (continuing) Anyway – two weeks ago, it was discovered that the research hadn't been an entire failure after all. (Pause) One of the researchers had come up with a means of opening wormholes in space and time into parallel worlds

by means of a small microchip. The microchip had been lost and the researcher had never told anyone of his work.

FatWhitey: So, what had happened to the microchip?

Cloud Strife: YOU had happened to the microchip.

FatWhitey: I don't follow...

Cloud Strife: He left it on top of a sandwich next to his computer.

FatWhitey: And?

Cloud Strife: You ate the sandwich.

FatWhitey: (thinking) It was ham and cheese, I think.

Cloud Strife: The point is that the chip has integrated itself into your system. We believe that with practice, you might be able to open wormholes!

FatWhitey: I've heard plotholes are more efficient.

Cloud Strife: That's a vicious industry rumour. (Pause) Anyway, we're going to keep you here till we can get you to do something cool.

FatWhitey: And where exactly is *here*?

Cloud Strife: ~~Squaresoft HQ~~ Area 58-D.

FatWhitey: Fair enough. (Pause) Now, about those Pringles...

Cut to Open Discussion Pub. Run is sitting alone at a computer.

Run: (singing to himself) *Back alive, I'm ready to fight. To fight for my own survival. Didn't you know – I'm a creature of the night. And the blood it will soon – soon be spilt. It's the... Eye of Vampire. It's the thrill of the bite. To stand up to the challenge of mere mortals. With that alien helping, I will do it alright. And my revenge will soon be complete! Eye of Vampire! Dun-Dun-Dun Dun-Dun-Dun Dun-Dun-Dah!...*

Ghost of K^2: (from inside the computer, happy) Yo, Run! You're alive!

Run: (turning to the computer) K^2? Is that you?

Ghost of K^2: It sure is!

Run: (grinning) Man, the old gang reunited at last! (Pause) Did you know that they sent me to a place of torture and pain for a whole month for my crimes?

Ghost of K^2: Where was that?

Run: McDonalds. (Pause, shuddering) Still feel the pain in my gut sometimes. (Pause) But that's all over now. I'm back in the flesh!

Ghost of K^2: How'd that happen?

Run: Some alien did it. It's planning to bring back all of the pub regulars' old enemies. (smiling, licking his lips) It'll be a bloodbath.

Ghost of K^2: Sounds good. Have you decided on a time yet?

Run: Well, we wanted to hold it in a fortnight but the spirit of Sonic's on holiday then and I couldn't make it the week after. (Pause) Maybe...er, three weeks time?

Ghost of K^2: I was planning to hack into NASA then.

Run: (annoyed) Damn it! I told Sonic that he should postpone his holiday! Now our entire plan's ruined!

Ghost of K^2: (thinking) Maybe...or maybe not.

Cut to Area 58-D's Lounge Area. FatWhitey is lying across the sofa while watching a film on a large TV-screen.

Random 58-D Employee: (to Cloud Strife) He's been like this for hours!

FatWhitey: (annoyed) Shhh! I'm concentrating!

Random 58-D Employee: You're not doing anything!

Cloud Strife: Who was that?

Employee: I'm not sure. Then again, we did leave the door to the building open (a dog walks in and licks his foot)

Cloud Strife: (to FatWhitey) You can leave now, Whitey. We're keeping a track of you via a chip we put into your head and if you open any wormholes then we'll come running.

FatWhitey: (stepping off the trampoline) Mmm, did you say something about chips? Because I'm hungry!

Employee: (to Whitey) Just leave already!

FatWhitey: Well, if you take that attitude with me then maybe I'll stay another month. I want to see "The Lion King" again.

Employee: (screaming) Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

FatWhitey: (to Cloud Strife) He's got some serious problems.

Cloud Strife: (to FatWhitey) Tell me about it. When we wanted to watch "Aladdin" last week, he threw me out of the seventh floor window.

FatWhitey: Why didn't you have him fired?

Cloud Strife: (whispering) He's got nowhere else to go. In fact, I'm not even sure what he does round here.

Employee: (starting up) Hmm, what? What about me? You can't fire me. Hmm?

Cloud Strife: (to FatWhitey) Get out...while you still can. (FatWhitey runs for it)

Employee: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Cloud Strife: (unsheathing his sword) This...ends...NOW!

Cloud and the Employee clash blades. Cut to FatWhitey walking out of the building.

FatWhitey: Hi, Britney!

SlimBritney: Hi, Whitney!

FatWhitey: Er...it's actually 'Whitey' – FatWhitey.

SlimBritney: Really? Cause Blinx said it was 'Whitney'

FatWhitey: You know Blinx?

SlimBritney: We were on the prison-colony together.

FatWhitey: Oh, really? I didn't think there were any survivors other than Blinx on the penal colony. (he shrugs) Meh. (he walks off)

SlimBritney: (turning her face, the other half is zombiefied and her eyes turn red) There weren't.

Cut to Open Discussion Pub – Paul's lab.

Paul.Power: (holding up a flask containing a chemical) Okay, I've formulated a potion that should let us know whether Run is still evil or not.

SargeMcCluck: Good. What flavour?

Paul.Power: Cranberry.

SargeMcCluck: (disgusted) Cranberry? Ewww, he's never going to drink that!

Paul.Power: (irritated) What's wrong with Cranberry?

SargeMcCluck: (loudly) What's right with Cranberry?

SomePerson: (walking in, urgently) Run's gone!

SargeMcCluck: Are you telling me that Run made a run for it? (Pause, to Paul) That sounded really stupid, didn't it? (Paul nods)

SomePerson: Me and Worm Mad went in there to interrogate him only to find he'd disappeared.

Paul.Power: (angry) Damn it! I knew he wasn't to be trusted!
SargeMcCluck: (sadly, to Paul) And you spent all day working on that formula too.
Paul.Power: (shaking his head) Nah, it's just Cranberry Juice.
SargeMcCluck: (annoyed) Then what have you been doing?
Paul.Power: Watching re-runs of "The Fish Files"
SomePerson: (excitably) That's my favourite show! I've got every episode on tape!
Paul.Power: (to SomePerson, excitedly) Does Lenny get eaten by the crocodile?
(quickly) No, wait – wait – don't tell me!
SargeMcCluck: But what are we going to do about Run?

FatWhitey puts his head round the door.

FatWhitey: (holding up a "Lion King" DVD) Did someone say "Hakuna Matata"?

SomePerson and Paul.Power run into the other room with Whitey.

SargeMcCluck: (irritated) Useless. Absolutely useless.

Cut to credits.

I did it my way – Interesting(?) Trivia on this Episode

Waffle Salesman: Prior to this episode, I had a few e-mails from FatWhitey with suggestions for his character's story. Although I didn't really use any of them, the Waffle Salesman is a reference to one of the ideas which concerned an 'evil waffle'. Instead of an 'evil waffle', it's an evil waffle salesman who thwarts FatWhitey's plans for a quiet evening in.

Alternative Episode Idea: My original idea for this episode was one called 'tundraH and lightninG' which would have had tundraH as a Hellraiser, a creature built to make sure that all spirits were in the right place (Earth, specific Hell Dimension, etc). His task would have been to try and bring Run back to the Underworld through whatever means necessary. After careful consideration, I decided to scrap this idea.

From Zero to Hero: Zero72 makes his first non-flashback appearance of the series in this episode. Although, it's not technically an appearance (it's a phonecall). Expect to see him again (albeit briefly) later in the series.

Cloudy Skies: I'm a big fan of the Final Fantasy VII game (although I never fully finished it) and I always find putting Cloud in other situations funny (despite not doing this very much). Here he appears as a shifty government agent. Expect to see him again once more before the series finishes.

Run's Song: Run's song is a parody of the, quite frankly, excellent "Eye of the Tiger" song from "Rocky III"

Sonic Boom: Although Sonic is mentioned as a possible reoccurring enemy in this episode, it is unlikely that he will reappear this series (or in fact, ever again).

Bloodbath: This episode marks an important role in the ongoing story this series, featuring as it does over two factors that will be important later on. Expect a big two-part finale this series as well. It's going to be one hell of a ride.

The Fish Files: This ongoing joke about a fictional, yet much-loved, TV show has been going since *72 Ways to Die: Series One: Episode Four* (in which it got cancelled then later un-cancelled). I've even considered making an episode of it but I thought that was too crazy an idea (even for me) to be successful.

No Planning Required: For previous series, I have planned out the series fairly strictly prior to writing any episodes (especially when it came to the second series of *72WTD*). This series I've taken a more back-to-basics approach (similar to my approach with *17C:S1*) and haven't really planned out the series as a whole (although I do have a number of ideas for the major storyline and individual episodes).