

POKEWEED P.S.

A series based on the books by Frank Edwards and John Bianchi
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Welcome Back
By Tony Ascroft

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POKEWEED P.S.

WELCOME BACK

FADE IN:

EXT. PANORAMIC OF POKEWEED VALLEY-MORNING

Open on a picturesque valley dotted with farms and country style houses. The sky is clear, the birds are singing and the trees have just a hint of their Fall colours.

Slowly PAN across the valley.

NARRATOR

(v.o)

In a valley not far from here, one morning not long ago...

DISSOLVE to the exterior of Eggberty's General Store.

NARRATOR (CON'T)

...at Eggberty's General Store.

PUSH IN: on Eggberty's.

NARRATOR (CON'T)

Emily Ewing was getting ready for her first day back to school.

CUT TO: a wide interior shot.

Emily and her mother are looking at a rack of new clothes while old Mr. Eggberty looks on smiling.

EMILY (V.O.)

Hi, I'm Emily...

That's me in the yellow sweater...

Emily secretly glances at the camera and gives a little wave.

EMILY (CON'T)

and that's my mom.

CUT TO: a MEDIUM SHOT of Emily and her mother. Emily's mother is holding up a conservative top. Emily holds up a skimpy top. Emily's mother shakes her head while Emily visually pleads.

EMILY

Ahh Mom...

MRS.EWING

I don't think so young lady.

EMILY

Mr.Eggberty?

CUT TO: WIDER SHOT of Emily, her mother and Mr. Eggberty.

EMILY

What do you think?

MRS.EWING

Yes Mr.Eggberty, what **do** you think?

Mr. Eggberty suddenly realizes he's being asked to make a decision.

CUT TO: ONE SHOT of Mr.Eggberty. He's flustered and holds up his hands while fervently shaking his head no.

MR.EGGBERTY

I..I.. I'm not the one to ask...

BACK TO: Emily and her Mom.

They both look at him with pleading eyes.

MRS.EWING

This **is** your store...

MR.EGGBERTY

Wellllll... yes...

BACK TO: Mr.Eggberty

MR.EGGBERTY

That is... **Mrs.** Eggberty actually...

BACK TO: Emily and her Mom.

EMILY

Please...

BACK TO: Mr.Eggberty

MR.EGGBERTY

I'm more the hardware... guy.

He hesitates then looks around to ensure there's no one else is watching.

WIDE SHOT: of Eggberty, Emily and her Mother. Mr. Eggberty turns away from the camera, Emily Shrugs at the camera.

MR. EGGBERTY

Well actually, I've always been partial...

Mr.Eggberty turns around holding up a pink flowered dress to himself.

...to pink.

He starts holding up other items becoming engrossed in what he's doing.

TWO SHOT: of Mr.Eggberty and Emily's Mother holding up different items. Mrs. Ewing holds up a plain green dress.

MR.EGGBERTY

(gently shakes his head)

No, no, no... **florals** are in this year!

WIDER SHOT: of all three of them as Emily moves along leaving Mr.Eggberty and her mother to compare and discuss fashions.

MEDIUM SHOT: of Emily.

EMILY (TO CAMERA, WHISPERS)

School starts next week and Eggberty's always has the coolest clothes and **thee** latest school supplies! If I can just convince my Mom...

Emily Smiles.

and Mr. Eggberty.

WIDER SHOT: of Emily admiring a new backpack. In the background we can see Mr.Eggberty wearing a women's hat and holding up a sundress as he admires himself in a mirror. Emily turns towards Mr. Eggberty.

TWO SHOT: of Mr.Eggberty and Emily's mother. Mrs. Ewing shakes her head.

MRS.EWING

It's much too flat.

Mr. Eggberty shakes his head and admires himself in the mirror.

MR.EGGBERTY

I think it frames my face quite nicely.

CUT TO: MR. EGGBERTY'S POV. We see Mr.Eggberty admiring himself in the mirror as MRS.EGGBERTY enters the image looking on from behind her husband with raised eyebrows. When Mr.Eggberty sees her in the mirror his face turns red and he quickly takes off the hat. Mrs.Eggberty smiles and puts a large flowered hat on his head.

MRS. EGGBERTY

Now that is more your style!

CUT TO: A CLOSE SHOT of Emily in the foreground and Mr.Eggberty, Mrs.Eggberty and Emily's Mother in the background. Emily has her back to us watching what's happening. Emily's Mother and the two Eggberty's break into laughter. Emily turns her head to the camera with a smile; she then swings a backpack over her shoulder.

WIPE with backpack to Emily standing in her bedroom facing us, the backpack is over her shoulder.

EMILY

It took a little while to get everything sorted..

CUT TO: A WIDE SHOT OF INTERIOR EMILY'S BEDROOM. Every inch of Emily's bedroom is covered with school supplies, and clothes. Emily tosses the backpack on her bed.

(beat) but I'm ready for school.

Emily's smile wavers as she glances at the disorganization of her room but her smile quickly returns and she beams at the camera in triumph.

SOUND FX: Loud bus horn beeps in the distance. Emily's eyes widen.

CUT TO: WIDE SHOT. EXT. DAY in front of Emily's House.

A school bus roars in with a cloud of dust and comes to a skidding stop in front of Emily's house.

SOUND FX: Loud bus horn.

Emily runs out the front door towards the bus.

EMILY (V.O.)

The bus always picks me up
precisely at 7:30 a.m. (beat) give
or take half an hour.

CLOSER ON: Emily and the bus door. The door opens and Emily gets on.

WIDE SHOT: from above and behind as the bus roars off in a cloud of dust. The bus gives out two blasts of the horn as it disappears in the dust.

CUT TO INT. of the bus.

TWO SHOT: of Emily and MELODY MOONER. They're sitting in the front seat on the passenger side. The two girls sit talking excitedly to each other.

EMILY (V.O.)

My best friend Melody always saves
me a seat.

CUT TO: THREE QUARTER view of Emily (closest to camera) and Melody as Melody discusses her morning.

MELODY

Oh Emily I'm sooo excited, I just
can't wait to see who's in our
class this year...

Emily turns towards the camera and whispers conspiratorially.

EMILY

We like to sit up front. It's the
absolute **best** seat on the bus.

Emily returns to her excited talk with Melody.

CUT TO: EXT. SHOT of the bus racing past in a cloud of dust.

BACK TO: INT. of the bus.

WIDE SHOT: of Emily, Melody and the bus driver. As the bus
roars along hitting potholes and bumps in the road the
passengers are all tossed into the air.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

Our bus driver, Bernie, loves to
yell...

BUS DRIVER BERNIE yells

BERNIE

Speed bump!

As all the kids are tossed in the air laughing.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

...as we go over potholes, but no
matter how late we leave...

CUT TO: SHOT of bus zooming past the camera with lots of dust
f behind.

EMILY (V.O.)

...we always arrive right on time!

CUT TO: Shot of the bus door as kids, dizzy and green, stagger
off the bus.

VARIOUS KIDS
(getting off the bus)

Thanks Bernie!

See you tonight!

Bye Bernie!

BERNIE.
(o.s)

Have a good day kids!

The door to the bus closes.

CUT TO: Shot of kids going into the school as PRINCIPAL SLUGMEYER smiles and nods.

EMILY (V.O.)
Principal Slugmeyer welcomes us
all back to Pokeweed Public School
every year.

VARIOUS KIDS
Morning Mr. Slugmeyer.

MR. SLUGMEYER
Morning children!

CUT TO: Wide shot of Emily and Melody going into MRS. MUDWORTZ class as she stands at the door welcoming them.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)
Melody and I are in Mrs. Mudwortz
class this year. We have some new
students joining us from distant
countries.

CUT TO: Shot of a new student talking to Mrs. Mudwortz. With a camera flash it turns into a snapshot.

PULL BACK: to reveal the snapshot is now on a map of the world-with the student's picture over their original country. The camera pans across the map showing the different student pictures.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)
Australia, Africa, China, and
someplace called Anaheim!

The California student is a duck.

FX: CAMERA FLASH.

DISSOLVE: to WIDE SHOT of auditorium stage.

EMILY (V.O.) CON'T
After we've found our class and
gotten our books...

CUT TO: CLOSER SHOT OF STAGE. Principal Slugmeyer standing to the side, behind the curtains, holding sheets of paper in his hands.

EMILY (V.O.) CON'T
...we all go down to the auditorium
for Principal Slugmeyer's official
Welcome Back speech.

Principal Slugmeyer walks up to the microphone at centre stage and taps the mic. Nothing happens; He clears his throat and says a few words... we just hear the sound of children shuffling in their seats and a random cough. Principal Slugmeyer turns and looks to his left.

CUT TO: An over the shoulder shot of Principal Slugmeyer watching four guys in maintenance overalls standing just off stage. They're huddled around an amplifier with the cover removed revealing the electronics inside. The BUNGALO BOYS are trying to fix the sound system. The three tallest ones wear tool belts, the shortest one doesn't.

CUT TO: Medium shot of the group. The Three taller Bungalos are in a serious discussion, we can't make out what they're saying.

Little SHORTY BUNGALO is standing just off to the side. He looks at the amp like he's trying to solve the problem. Slowly he reaches out to touch the amplifier but has his hand slapped by JOHNNY BUNGALO who shakes his head no.

Shorty, pauses then reaches out again and has his hand slapped by BILLY BOB BUNGALO who wags his finger 'no'.

CUT TO: a close up of Shorty. We can see the frustration in his eyes.

BACK TO: a medium shot of the group.

Shorty reaches out yet again but pulls his hand back as CURLY BUNGALO is about to slap it.

CUT TO: a close shot of Shorty as he rubs his hand with a look of defiance.

CUT TO: a close shot of Curly who gives Shorty a stern look.

CUT TO: a medium shot of the group as Curly looks around then hands Shorty the flashlight he has hanging on his tool belt. Shorty looks delighted and examines the flashlight like he's never seen one before.

BACK TO: a close shot of Shorty. He turns the flashlight in his hands then just as it's pointing at his face he turns on the light, shining it in his own eyes, and temporarily blinding himself. Shorty staggers a few steps and reaches out for balance.

CUT TO: a wider shot of Shorty and the amplifier. Shorty puts his hand right on to the amplifier. Shorty's eyes bug out, his hair stands up on end and the amplifier begins to buzz.

CUT TO: Medium shot of the group. The three other Bungalo's look at Shorty in astonishment.

CUT TO: a closer shot of the three taller Bungalo boys exchanging glances not knowing what to do.

CUT TO: a wider shot of the group as Johnny Bungalo disconnects the plug for the amp from an extension cord.

SOUND FX: the buzzing stops.

CUT TO: a shot of Shorty who now pulls his hand back like it was stuck. His eyes return to normal but his hair stays on end, gently smoking.

Cut to: the three older brothers shaking their heads and rolling their eyes at Shorty's fiasco.

CUT TO: A WIDE SHOT of the stage as Principal Slugmeyer standing at the microphone looking at the Bungalo boys. He clears his throat.

CUT TO: a wide shot of the Bungalo Boys looking back at Principal Slugmeyer.

JOHNNY BUNGALO

Oh!

Johnny Bungalo reaches down and plugs the amplifier back in.

CUT TO: A CLOSER SHOT of the stage as Principal Slugmeyer taps the microphone again. This time we hear the thumping through the speakers. Principal Slugmeyer smiles and gives the thumbs up to the Bungalos.

CUT TO: the Bungalo's who nod acceptance. Shorty stands perfectly still, an odd look on his face, his hair standing straight up and still smoking slightly.

CUT TO: Principal Slugmeyer squints at Shorty.

BACK TO: the Bungalo's smiling and nodding like everything's ok.

BACK TO: Principal Slugmeyer with a strange, concerned, look on his face. His eyes are on the Bungalos. After a beat he shrugs and slowly turns back to the microphone.

CUT TO: an over the shoulder of Principal Slugmeyer as the Bungalo's turn and walk Shorty off the stage. We can just hear them talking.

SHORTY

(mumbles something incoherent)

JOHNNY BUNGALO

I don't know what Maws going t'say

SHORTY

(mumbles a response)

CURLY BUNGALO

(confirming what Shorty's said)

Yeah, I guess it does make you look a **little** taller.

BACK TO: a close shot of Principal Slugmeyer.

PRINCIPAL SLUGMEYER

I'd like to welcome you all back to another fine year at Pokeweed Public School, this year..

CUT TO: a close side view of Emily as we hear Principal Slugmeyer in the background. Some students behind Emily are sleeping; others are staring at the ground. Emily looks at the camera.

EMILY

It's never a very interesting speech but this year Principal Slugmeyer had a few surprises for us.

DISOLVE TO: INT. Computer Lab. Rows of computers in a room lit by the glow of the LCD Screens.

EMILY (V.O.)

The school has a new computer lab,
as well as a computer controlled
fire alarm and sprinkler system.

CUT TO: Principal Slugmeyer's office where the PC 5000 whirs and clicks beside Principal Slugmeyer's desk.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

They're all controlled by a master
computer in Principal Slugmeyer's
office. Pokeweed Public School is
now on-line and very Hi-tech!

BACK TO: THE COMPUTER LAB- ON EMILY

EMILY

(looking at the camera)

Right after the assembly Mrs.
Mudwortz took us on a tour of the
new computer lab.

CUT TO: a wider shot of the computers. Pan across as students sitting at the computers are doing various activities.

EMILY (V.O)

Some of us sent e-mails; some of
us played games and some of us
searched the internet. No one had
any problems.

CUT TO: A CLOSE SHOT over the top of a computer monitor; we see the top half of Principal Slugmeyer's face. We can see a computer login reflected in his glasses. The screen turns red and flashes.

CUT TO: a shot of the screen. The screen flashes "Warning, hard drive is about to be erased".

BACK TO: Principal Slugmeyer. He makes quick darting looks, side to side, to make sure no one's watching. Suddenly we hear the sound of the computer crashing.

CUT TO: the computer screen as it shows a parade of death graphics then goes up in smoke.

BACK To: Principal Slugmeyer, but he's gone, one of the students slides into view reading the screen. He looks around to see who's on that computer but no one's around.

CUT TO: WIDE PAN of the room. We see all the students looking at the computer spark and splutter. We slow on Principal Slugmeyer who is now sitting on the far side of the room; he looks up from a magazine, pretending he was there all along.

CUT TO: a wide shot of the kids eating lunch in the cafeteria.

EMILY (V.O.)

As we left the computer lab
Principal Slugmeyer announced that
there would be a fire drill later
that day. Sure enough...

CUT TO: Shot of the Hi- Tech alarm going off.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

...right in the middle of lunch the
alarm went off.

CUT TO: A shot of Principal Slugmeyer napping at his desk, he has a submarine sandwich half eaten in his hand. He doesn't wake up.

CUT TO: the kids lining up in the cafeteria.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

We all lined up and filed outside
as we're supposed to do. It all
went wonderfully...

CUT TO: A SHOT OUT Principal Slugmeyer's window of the kids walking out of the school in an orderly fashion as Principal Slugmeyer wakes up looking stunned and confused, not knowing what to do.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

...except for the sprinklers. I
don't think they were supposed to
come on.

Suddenly water showers down on Principal Slugmeyer. His sandwich sags, Principal Slugmeyer drops his now soggy sandwich.

SOUND FX: buzzing and electrical sounds.

Principal Slugmeyer's eyes bug out.

RACK PULL BACK to reveal the PC 5000 surrounding Principal Slugmeyer's desk is sparking and buzzing as water falls on it.

Suddenly the alarm stops, the sprinklers shut off.

CUT TO: Closer on Principal Slugmeyer. He sighs and slumps back down into his chair in relief.

SOUND FX: Knocking on a distant door.

Principal Slugmeyer raises an eyebrow.

CUT TO: a shot of Mrs. Mudwortz trying to open the front door and knocking on it.

CUT TO: an over the shoulder shot as Emily looks on. She turns and faces the camera.

EMILY

When it was time to go back in the doors were locked. The computer was acting up and had locked the doors. There was no way for us to get back in.

Emily turns back to watch Mrs. Mugwortz attempts.

CUT TO: Principal Slugmeyer standing in ankle deep water trying to open his office door, the door doesn't budge. Principal Slugmeyer frowns then turns and looks at the PC 5000 with both hands on his hips.

CUT TO: EXT. SHOT looking into the school. We can see Principal Slugmeyer in silhouette as he moves about the room.

EMILY (V.O.)

Through the window we could see Principal Slugmeyer trying to fix the problem.

CUT TO: Principal Slugmeyer as he pulls cables from the back of the computer.

Changing cables, changing plugs,
Principal Slugmeyer knows a lot
about computers (beat) but not
when they're wet. I think he had...
technical difficulties.

BACK TO: EXT. SHOT. We hear electrical noises like live power
lines touching. Then there's a series of flashes inside the
room.

CUT TO: Principal Slugmeyer. Holding a sparking cable in his
hand with his head turned away in fear. The window behind him
opens and Mrs. Mudwartz reaches in through the window and
unplugs the computer. The electrical noises stop and we hear
doors clicking.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

Mrs. Mudwartz reached in through a
window and unplugged the computer,
which unlocked all the doors.

CUT TO: a shot of Mrs. Mudwartz caring for Principal Slugmeyer
who's sitting on a bench in the hallway with a towel around
his shoulders, he's still dripping. Shorty Bungalo is sitting
beside him. They both look dazed and confused.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

Mrs. Mudwartz wrapped Principal
Slugmeyer in a towel then
announced that we were going to do
something new this year.

CUT TO: Mrs. Mudwartz whispering in Principal Slugmeyer's ear.
He nods as she talks but he doesn't appear to be coherent.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

For the first day of school we
would all go on a field trip to
find the first signs of fall.

CUT TO: EXT. SHOT of the students walking along looking at
various signs of fall.

CUT TO: Emily walking with her friends, she looks at the
camera.

EMILY

As we walked around we saw all
sorts of different things.

CUT TO: Boys throwing a football.

EMILY (V.O)

Billy told us he knew fall was coming when the Pokeweed Grizzlies started practicing.

CUT TO: a shot of geese flying south.

EMILY (V.O)

Melody and I watched the birds flying south for winter...

CUT TO: Panoramic of the town. The trees have a little more colour.

EMILY (V.O CON'T)

and we all noticed the trees were starting to change colour.

BACK TO: Emily walking with her friends, she looks at the camera.

We were all so well behaved Mrs. Mudwortz decided to stop at the Scoop Ice Cream Factory.

CUT TO: EXT. SHOT. Ice Cream factory sign.

DISSOLVE TO: Inside the ice cream factory.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

We saw where they make the ice cream.

CUT TO: People making ice cream.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

And they even asked us to suggest names for their new fall flavour.

CUT TO: A sign with a picture of a cone filled with orange ice cream.

I thought Melody's ..

CUT TO: Shot of Emily and her friends.

MELODY

Pumpkin Paradise.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

...sounded best.

CUT TO: a shot of the dairy bar with the kids getting ice cream treats.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

The best part was when we stopped by the Dairy Bar. I had a Hay Freezie and Melody had Mint Corn Chip on a waffle cone and we didn't even have to pay.

CUT TO: Shot of Emily.

EMILY

Mrs. Mudwartz asked Mr. Slugmeyer to show us how his new electronic bankcard could pay for everything.

CUT TO: Principal Slugmeyer proudly holding up his card, the kids cheer, then he swipes his card and the kids all ooo and ahh as the numbers flash and we hear the modem sound but..

CUT TO: a close shot on the screen the price says \$100.00

CUT TO: Close on Principal Slugmeyer as his eyes widen. He has a very pained look on his face.

BACK TO: The screen, a different hand enters and presses OK.

CUT TO: Mrs. Mudwartz and Principal Slugmeyer. She's pressed the OK button. Principal Slugmeyer shrugs and smiles.

CUT TO: a school bus pulling up in front of the school.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

By the time we got back to school our day was done.

CUT TO: the kids getting back on the bus and Principal Slugmeyer waves good bye.

CUT TO: the bus driving off in a cloud of dust.

EMILY (V.O. CON'T)

As we rode the bus home Melody and I agreed that even though there were lots of changes...

CUT TO: a shot of the school. Principal Slugmeyer is being lead back into the school by Mrs. Mudwartz.

...things seemed to be off to a
great start this Fall at Pokeweed
Public School.

FADE TO BLACK

End