My Little Pony: Equestria Girls

"Five to Nine
Short #403-062

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Music Video Short- Beat Sheet

LOGLINE: It seems like Applejack is always working, which would be a downer for most people, but she actually loves it. She get's going from 5am to 9am doing chores, waking up before the rooster and planning a hoedown. In the end, all the work pays off, and she's pulled together the perfect party for her friends-- only to doze off during the festivities.

SONG CONCEPT: A "working" song where instead of trying to inspire herself to get through all of her chores, Applejack sings about how much she is enjoying doing them. She dances/sings through her tasks to get her party ready.

Should be upbeat, fun, and bubbly. Pure joy.

SONG REFERENCES:

Dolly Parton: Country song storytelling.

Sweet Home Alabama/ Dixie Chicks: Rock Country.

Kacey Musgraves: "Biscuits" (Both song and video visual ref.)

Pippi Longstocking "Scrubbing Day"-- i.e. creative use of cleaning supplies like scrub-brush shoes/skates.

VISUAL CONCEPT: Old- Timey Country: Grand Ole Opry.

Rosie The Riveter style outfits (overalls, red bandanas, etc.), STOMP (the musical)-- using brooms/buckets as rhythmic props and instruments.

Straw, suds, paisley designs, wood, white string lights.

STORY BEATS:

INT. APPLEJACK'S BEDROOM- EARLY MORNING/PRE-DAWN

We open on a set of RED CURTAINS. We hear the sound of a ROOSTER CROWING and the curtains part. (The scene flickers/crackles like an old movie reel?)

CLOSE UP on the ALARM CLOCK, which is actually a PLASTIC ROOSTER. APPLEJACK switches it off and pops out of bed. It's early, but she's not groggy at all- she's SMILING like crazy!

1 APPLEJACK
Howdy mornin'!

Outside, a REAL ROOSTER opens one eye sleepily/annoyed and stands up. The rooster turns to the camera and it looks as if he starts singing in a deep, country voice.

2 ROOSTER/BIG MAC
(facing camera)
Well down on home, out Canterlot way
There's a spunky little gal, who
starts her day

PULL OUT to reveal that its actually BIG MAC singing and twanging his GUITAR.

3 BIG MAC
She goes by the name of Applejack,
Has a Granny called Smith and a
brother named Mac

Big Mac points to himself with his thumb and smirks proudly.

4 BIG MAC (CONT'D)
But enough bout me. Let's get right
back--
To that girl on a mission, to pick up
the slack!

A twangy, country rhythm begins. Applejack's BLANKET magically rises up to settles around her shoulders like a Superman cape and she "power poses". She starts tapping her toe. Applejack starts singing...

5 APPLEJACK
Before that sun comes up
Gotta start those rocket boosters

She throws open the drapes. Outside, the sky is dark.

6 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Don't need extra cheerin' on
Or the crow of the roosters

CUT TO:

RED PAISLEY pattern fills the screen and CHORES APPLEJACK appears: hair tied up in a RED BANDANA like "Rosie the Riveter" and BLUE DENIM OVERALLS. She flexes her muscles proudly.

7 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Oh, the early bird gets the worm
And bread needs time to bake
But it won't rise to the occasion
Unless you are awake

Applejack picks up a MOP and various other CLEANING SUPPLIES. A stack of TIN BUCKETS appear. The buckets spin around her and form "stairs". She RUNS down them as she sings.

8 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
So many things need gettin' done
It's time to start my day
Earlier the better
Can't dally or delay

Applejack gets to the bottom and drums on an overturned bucket with her hands. She taps her boots to the beat and everything on the floor bumps and shakes each time (table/chairs).

9 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Cause keepin' busy is keepin' good
Just keep on goin' like ya should
Cause keepin' busy is keepin' good
Just keep on goin' like ya should
And you'll have...
Time to spare
Fun to share
Time to spare
... for those who matter most!

Then Applejack flips the bucket, and hooks her arm through the handle.

10 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Most people dread,
All the grit and the grime

A STREAM OF WATER from a faucet splashes into the bucket. BUBBLES and SUDS go everywhere.

Applejack SKATES across the screen in SCRUB BRUSH SHOES. She pushes a MOP. She spins/flips the mop like a marching band tall flag performer, which causes bubbles to rain down.

Finally, she jumps into a BUBBLE and dances around. Sparkles of cleanliness appear as if they are DISCO BALL sparkles.

11 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
But puttin in some elbow grease,
makes me happy every time

The bubble POPS. Applejack lands near the CHICKEN COOP and PIG PEN. The SUNRISE is just beginning.

She throws some CHICKEN FEED like confetti/fireworks. The bounce around in formation and into the air to bite pieces of it.

She jumps on the pig gate and it swings open. The PIGS file out to line up near her. The pigs start to LINE DANCE with Applejack as she sings:

12 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Cause keepin' busy is keepin' good
Just keep on goin' like ya should
And you'll have...
Time to spare
Fun to share
Time to spare
...for those who matter most!

Applejack wipes off her sweaty forehead and looks satisfied.

Two chickens walk across screen carrying a big POSTER with a scratchy drawing of the BARN. In it, there are LIGHTS strung up, FRIENDS DANCING, and TABLES decorated with BOUQUETS of WILDFLOWERS and APPLE PIES.

Applejack BURSTS through the poster wearing a COUNTRY DRESS and COWBOY BOOTS.

She takes off running and runs across the screen to a COUNTRY FIELD. She picks wildflowers. Flowers fill the screen.

Applejack hops onto a TIRE SWING hanging from a huge TREE. She swings back and forth across the screen, strumming her GUITAR (alt: Banjo?). By now, Applejack is ecstatic--grinning and strumming away.

We ZOOM INTO the GUITAR HOLE and it becomes the interior of the BARN. AJ finishes hanging a STRING OF LIGHTS.

13 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
(BRIDGE)
Count my chickens
Feed the hogs
(CLAP CLAP)
Hang those lights
Saw some logs
(CLAP CLAP)

Applejack TWIRLS back and forth, completing more tasks (putting out checkered tablecloths, putting the APPLE PIE on the table).

14 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Invite my friends
Clean the barn
(CLAP CLAP)
Strum a guitar
Sing this yarn
(CLAP CLAP)

Her COUNTRY SKIRT swings out each time as she turns. She's having SO MUCH FUN!

15 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Ooohhh, cause keepin' busy is keepin' good
Just keep on goin' like ya should
Cause keepin' busy is keepin' good
Just keep on goin' like ya should
and...

Finally, Applejack spins around and steps back to admire:

A beautiful Barn dance/Hoedown setting (just like the drawing/plan). The sun starts to set over the horizon and FIREFLIES begin to buzz around. It's magical!

Applejack's friends: PINKIE PIE, RAINBOW DASH, SUNSET SHIMMER, RARITY, FLUTTERSHY, and TWILIGHT SPARKLE burst through the door all wearing COUNTRY PARTY ATTIRE. They are amazed at what she's done.

Applejack grins.

16 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Hiya, girls!

CUT TO:

Applejack now on "stage" (a BALE OF HAY) in the front of the barn, strumming her guitar and singing her song. Her friends dance around, happy and clapping to the beat.

17 APPLEJACK
Oh, I'll have...
Fun to share
Time to spare
Fun to share
... with those who matter most!

We PAN OVER to her friends all CLAPPING and CHEERING, but their faces turn to concern. We PAN BACK OVER to Applejack, hugging her guitar and sleeping soundly on the hay with a smile on her face.

They cover her in a red-checkered tablecloth and grin.

END SONG.

FADE OUT. *