

Distribution:

Production:

Sarah Wall
Meghan McCarthy
Jayson Thiessen
James Wooton
Angela Belyea

Discovery/Hasbro:

Donna Ebbs
Carin Davis
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Stephen Cramer

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Linda Steiner
Kathy Page
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro IP & Brand:

Mark Wiesenbahn
Matt Mattus
Valerie Jurries
Donna Tobin

Hasbro Design:

Liz Knight
Dean Carley

MY LITTLE PONY III

Episode 306

"Mayor, Maybe Not"

(The Musical)

Outline by

Merriwether Williams

Outline: August 11, 2011

Notes Due: August 15, 2011

TEASER

We open on a BIG MUSICAL NUMBER -- “Everything is Perfect in Ponyville.” Ponies from all over Ponyville SING while gathering together for a wonderful community project (various shots of Twilight, Applejack, Pinkie Pie etc.. singing while marching or flying down streets and jumping over fences like those old Judy Garland/Mickey Rooney movies) All the ponies finally gather together and march to a construction site where they start to work together in harmony. We see VARIOUS SHOTS of everypony pitching in and doing his or her part (while singing about it!) APPLEJACK leads a group of earth ponies to dig a giant hole and haul the dirt away. FLUTTERSHY and SPIKE circle the construction site with lemonade to help ponies cool off. PINKIE PIE pony-sits the youngsters by playing on the large mounds of dug up dirt. What starts off as an innocent game of hide and seek in the dirt soon turns into a game of whack a mole with Pinkie Pie popping up and down all over and the little ponies scrambling to whack her first.

Elsewhere TWILIGHT and RARITY sing with the other UNICORNS while using their magic to fortify the edges of the newly dug hole. Rarity, of course, is using jewel encrusted tiles! RAINBOW DASH flies overhead, waiting for the signal from Applejack. Applejack hauls one last load of dirt out of the ground and gives Rainbow Dash the okey-dokey sign. Rainbow Dash passes the signal on to the other pegasi and together they cause it to rain directly above the large hole that has been dug. When the hole is filled up Rainbow Dash signals the pegs to stop raining.

Just as the song is reaching a rousing finale we widen to reveal what the whole town has been working on. A good old fashioned swimming hole! (As a button, Pinkie Pie pops up from under a dirt pile and says, “What did I miss?”)

ACT ONE

A beautiful summer day. Twilight and Spike are outside the Mayor's office. Twilight seems nervous to knock on the door. She has been asked to come to the office and she's a little worried. Could she have done something wrong? Spike, as usual, does his best to quell her nerves. And when that doesn't work he just knocks and nudges Twilight inside. The Mayor greets Twilight warmly before rushing back to her briefcase.

The Mayor explains that she has been called out of town, quite unexpectedly, and she needs somepony to take over her duties while she's gone. Twilight immediately starts making suggestions for who should serve as the interim mayor – Cheerilee, Mrs. Cake, Big Macintosh... The Mayor informs Twilight that she has already made her decision as to who should have the job – Twilight!

Spike slaps Twilight on the back and scoffs, “And you thought you were in trouble? Ha!” Twilight gushes that it is quite an honor, but is also nervous. Everypony in Ponyville loves the Mayor. Those are big horseshoes to fill. The Mayor asks Twilight if she thinks she is up to the job. MUSIC UP as Twilight sings a COMICAL SONG that reflects her feelings about being the Mayor. She swings back and forth between being nervous about being given such a big responsibility, honored for being chosen, confident that she can pull it off and then

back to being nervous. Spike interjects his opinion throughout that he thinks Twilight is up to the challenge! At the end of the song the Mayor deadpans, "So is that a yes or a no? Because I've really got to go now."

Twilight agrees to be interim Mayor. In fact, she kind of overdoes it, making a solemn vow on a huge stack of books to the Mayor that Ponyville will be just as perfect when she returns as it is now. The Mayor is happy to see Twilight taking the job to heart. As she heads for the door, she hurriedly reminds Twilight not to forget about the swimming hole opening...as Mayor, Twilight is now in charge of the ribbon cutting.

Twilight panics, "Ribbon cutting? When is it?" The Mayor checks the time, "Actually, it's right now dear. Good bye and good luck!" And with that the Mayor leaves. Twilight frets, she can't be late! How would it look if the interim Mayor didn't show? She bolts out the door. Spike deadpans, "It's always something with that pony" before scurrying out the door after Twilight.

WIPE TO: The newly built Ponyville swimming hole. A large banner reads, "Grand Opening!" A band plays. Throngs of ponies, young and old, are lined up in their swimsuits, just dying to take a dip and cool off. A large ribbon has been draped across the entrance, waiting to be cut. The crowd is getting a little anxious, especially Granny Smith, where is the Mayor? Then suddenly Twilight arrives on the scene. She announces that she has been made the temporary Mayor and is here to cut the ribbon. Twilight's friends express their pride in knowing somepony so important. "We're so close we're practically sisters," Rarity proclaims Twilight uses her magic to lift a large pair of scissors in the air and open them. "So without any further ado, here goes!"

Twilight is about to cut the ribbon when suddenly Rarity makes her way to the front of the crowd. "Pardon me, darling, but since I was the one to design and make that beautiful ribbon....no need for applause...anyway, as I was saying, since I made the ribbon shouldn't I get to cut it? It seems only fair." At first Twilight seems uncertain... then Rarity continues, "Please Twi." Twilight would never want to disappoint a good friend...it's just not in her nature....and so she says, "Of course. Rarity will now do the honors!" and she graciously steps aside.

Rarity uses her magic to cut the ribbon and everypony rushes through the entrance toward the swimming hole. Twilight is very pleased until Granny Smith approaches her and grumpily accuses Twilight of playing favorites. Twilight is confused, "What do you mean?" Granny Smith explains, "The only reason you let Rarity cut that ribbon is because she's your friend. A mayor is supposed to look out for everypony. What you did is just favoritism...plain and simple."

This information hits Twilight like a thunderclap. Is Granny Smith right? Was she playing favorites? We close in on Twilight's worried face. She can't stand the thought that somepony thinks she did something wrong.

ACT TWO

Twilight scans the crowd at the swimming hole. She tells Spike that everything looks okay, but still, as Mayor, she is determined not to play favorites again. She can't wait for another chance to show everypony that she's not just going to grant her friends' requests. She will say yes to everypony. After all Ponyville's Mayor is for everypony. And very soon...she gets her chance.

Granny Smith approaches her again and says, "I have a favor to ask." Twilight says, "You name it!" Granny Smith wants to know if she can use the shallow end of the swimming hole to lead an aqua-fitness swimmer-size class. Twilight says, "Yes! Of course you can!" Happy, Granny Smith and some of her fiends enter the shallow end of the swimming hole and Granny Smith begins her class. Twilight nudges Spike, "See, Granny Smith is not one of my good friends, yet I helped her out." Spike agrees that Twilight did a good thing.

Twilight wants to be fair to everypony so she starts to walk around the swimming hole...making sure everypony is enjoying themselves. Soon Apple Bloom and Scootaloo run up to her and ask, "Are we allowed to play Marco Polo?" Twilight says "Yes! Of course you are!" They run into the watering hole. Apple Bloom covers her eyes and yells "Marco!" On the other side of the swimming hole Scootaloo pops up and replies, "Polo!" With her eyes closed, Apple Bloom starts chasing Scootaloo across the swimming hole. She is headed straight for the swimmer-size class and soon SMASHES right into Granny Smith. Ouch!

Twilight is about to check on Granny Smith when Snips and Snails interrupt her. They want to know if it's okay to do cannonballs into the swimming hole. Twilight says, "Yes! Of course!" Next thing you know Snips and Snails are doing cannonballs into the water, splashing everyone. Some ponies are clearly getting annoyed.

Twilight is about to check on them when Silver Spoon approaches. MUSIC UP as another SONG begins. It starts with Silver Spoon singing a request regarding the swimming hole. Gradually, more and more ponies start to approach Twilight with their requests. Twilight's head begins to spin as the song builds to a frantic pace as more and more ponies approach her! Afraid of being seen as if she's playing favorites, Twilight SINGS yes to all of them. Can Derpy Hooves go snorkeling? Yes! Can Carrotcake go rock fishing? Yes! Can Sweetie Belle go boogie boarding? Yes! Can Big McIntosh build a water slide? Yes! Can Cherilee section off a portion of the watering hole to swim laps? Yes! Can Junebug give someponies water ski rides around the swimming hole? Yes! She ends the song by singing, "See, I'm not playing favorites, I grant every request. As Mayor of fair Ponyville I am happy to say yes!"

The MUSIC DROPS OUT as Twilight looks over - the bucolic watering hole has turned into TOTAL CHAOS. Splashing, yelling, bickering! Ponies are arguing with each other about who gets use what part of the watering hole and how they get to use it. Everypony yells at other ponies, "Twilight said I could!" Soon they all surround Twilight, demanding she make some decisions.

Freaking out, Twilight realizes that saying "Yes" to everypony was a big mistake. How can she fix this mess? She needs to put her hoof down again. So she decides to start saying "No".

MUSIC UP as she starts to sing a new version of the "Yes" song only this time she's saying "No." Can we play marco polo? No. Can we do our aqua fitness? No. Can we boogie board? No. Fish for rocks? No. Water ski? No. She ends the number by SINGING, "See I can make things fair again. Yes, I can make it so. The solution to the problem is for me to just say 'No'."

WIPE TO a few minutes later - Twilight has taken the drastic step of draining the water hole completely. She uses a hose to suck out the last remaining drops of water out before addressing her "constituents." Twilight comments, "This is the only solution that is fair to everypony, right? See? No pony is getting special treatment over the others." That's for sure.

Everypony glumly stares into the now empty swimming hole and agrees that it's fair -- they guess. Pinkie Pie, Applejack, Rarity, Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy can see that things aren't going well for their friend, but they're not sure what to do.

Meanwhile the sun continues to beat down. Ponies are starting to sweat. Soon bickering starts to break out over whose fault it is that the pond had to be drained in the first place. Granny Smith blames Rarity who blames her right back. Snips blames Snails who blames Scootaloo etc... Soon it's chaos all over again. Spike gently reminds Twilight that the Mayor will be back by tomorrow evening. Twilight can see that she has failed to live up to her promise to the Mayor. Ponyville is now clearly worse off than before she left. Twilight feels terrible. MUSIC UP as she SINGS a short reprise of the opening number "Everything is perfect in Ponyville" only now it's "Everything WAS perfect in Ponyville."

ACT THREE

Back in the Mayor's office, Twilight is still upset. Applejack knocks and enters. Twilight is so relieved to see her. Twilight could really use a friend to confide in. Applejack is only too happy to bend an ear for her good friend. Twilight confesses that she's made everything terrible. She never should have accepted the job of mayor in the first place. Applejack doesn't think that's necessarily true. But Twilight seems certain that she isn't cut out to be a leader. Apple Jack gently reminds Twilight that the roosters don't crow until the fat lady sings. Twilight tries hard to decipher what the heck that means before blurting out, "Huh?"

Applejack explains to Twilight that she's still got a day! The Mayor won't be back until almost nightfall. It's up to Twilight to make this day count! Twilight takes heart in Applejack's plain spoken advice. With new resolve, she starts to brainstorm about fixing her problem.

MUSIC UP as Twilight begins a SONG about putting her thinking cap on, i.e. "Can't just say Yes! Can't just say No! Think it through then make it so." As she sings, she draws up plans and scribbles notes and makes calculations. She seems to be designing blueprints for something. The SONG ENDS and Twilight exits the Mayor's office, only to find Applejack, Fluttershy, Rainbow Dash, Rarity, Pinkie Pie and Spike waiting for her.

Twilight smiles at her friends and announces that her plans are ready. "There's just one thing..." she adds. Applejack says, "C'mon sugarcube, out with it!" Twilight says, "This plan

will only work with the help of you all. I'll need all my friends for this one." Twilight's friends happily agree to give her hand. "Yee haw! What d'you think we're here for?" shouts Apple Jack. The friends all gather round Twilight as she starts to unfurl her blueprints.

SMASH CUT to a new construction montage (similar to the opening song) Only this time a rollicking ROCK SONG plays (think "Taking Care of Business") while the ponies work together to build something brand new. Hammers, nails, planks of wood and old tires are materials used to build this time. As a gag, Pinkie Pie gets into the act by trying to use a jackhammer. She ends up bouncing uncontrollably all over the site! She tries to get somepony to help her stop "this crazy thing" but everypony is too focused on the job at hand to notice. Finally the ponies are finished.

Happy, Twilight rolls up her blueprints and we reveal what they have all created together. It's a HUGE WATER PARK! There are awesome slides, a lazy river with floating inner tubes, a platform for cannonballs, a pirate ship with spray guns, a wading pool for the little ones, a wave pool for boogie boarding and a special exercise area too. Twilight has found a way to create something that everyone can enjoy in their own way!

Soon after, Twilight announces to the crowd, "Welcome to the Grand Re-opening of Ponyville's first ever water park!" This time Twilight herself uses her magic to cut the ribbon and everypony rushes inside and starts to enjoy the area they like best.

The whole town starts to sing the BIG FINALE SONG, a reprise of "Everything Is Perfect in Ponyville" with lots of overhead shots of big Busby Berkley/Esther Williams style swimming in the pool. (For reference, see film "That's Entertainment") From above, the ponies make designs (like flowers) as they sing. We intercut these shots with small scenes of everypony having a great time. Granny Smith and her friends do synchronized swimming. Snips and Snails swing high over the park from trapezes before cannonballing into the water. Pinkie Pie dances on the deck of the pirate ship and playfully forces Spike to walk the plank. Even Twilight gets into the act, with underwater shots of her swimming through a series of sparkly hula-hoops before bursting up through the middle of the aqua flower for the big ending.

Just then the Mayor arrives at the old swimming hole and is astounded to see the new water park in its place. Twilight gets out of the water and nervously approaches the Mayor. She confesses that she made a few minor changes while the Mayor was gone. She hoped she didn't mind. The Mayor looks around the park and sees all the smiling and happy ponies. How could she mind? She congratulates Twilight on a job well done. It seems as if Ponyville is even happier now that when she left. Twilight has done more than fulfill her promise.

Later, Twilight arrives home to find Princess Celestia is waiting for her. Twilight is surprised and honored by her visit. Celestia says she just had to come and commend Twilight on her "interim Mayorship" in person. She believes Twilight really rose to the occasion and is very proud of her. Twilight confesses that it didn't go as smoothly as she'd hoped it would. She got so caught up worrying about *appearing* fair, that she neglected to take the time to actually make sure things *were* fair. Princess Celestia reminds her that in the end she was successful, and that is what matters. Twilight has learned a valuable

lesson about being a leader and if called upon to lead in the future, she will now be even more prepared to do so. Princess Celestia departs leaving Twilight to wonder what this means. Spike groans, "Oh no. Here we go again." as Twilight begins obsessing over the possibilities.