M.A.S.Q.U.E.S.

Written by

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INT. OFFICE - DAY

A cramped office with harsh, fluorescent lights and yellowed paint houses a small camera crew and their interviewee. MELINDA, 30s, sits in a rolling desk chair. She seems uninterested.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
Tell us what MASQUES does.

MELINDA
So, MASQUES was put into place to make sure students and staff are following the CDC guidelines for social distancing and mask use. I'm Melinda Miller and I'm the head of this operation, but we are technically a subset of campus security.

SAME OFFICE

Now REGINALD, 20s, sits proudly in the same chair. He chest is puffed, and he adjusts his glasses with sharp movements.

REGINALD
Hello, I am Reginald Marks, I'm the head officer of MASQUES and I've been here since the beginning. Although, recently I've been assigned an assistant officer.

SAME OFFICE

INTERCUT INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

WALLY, 20s, rocks the rolling chair back and forth in an eager fidget. He smiles widely at no one in particular.

WALLY
Hello my name is William Stryder, but everyone calls me Wally. I'm super excited for the opportunity to work on keeping our campus safe from COVID by being a part of mask-quez!

He gestures excitedly to a whiteboard behind him, the acronym written out in faded expo marker.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
So what does MASQUES stand for?

Wally swallows hard.

WALLY
Um I think it’s Masks And Squad Quad um- no I got it hold on. Masks Are Sure Quite.. no no.. Um..

His hesitation alongside interspersed jump cuts show he has no clue what the acronym is, but his heart is in it.

WALLY (CONT'D)
Masks Against Suspicious... Questionable Under Exposed Squirrels?

Reginald stands and smacks each letter of the acronym on the board pointedly as he says each word.

REGINALD
Mask Association for Student Quad Undercover Exposure Services.

He pushes up his glasses.

MELINDA
We let Reginald come up with acronym.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
What kind of resources does MASQUES have?

WALLY
We have masks.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
Is that it?

WALLY
Well...

REGINALD
I use my personal vehicle as a method of high speed transportation across varying terrains of school property.

WALLY
Reggie has his bike. Sometimes he pulls me on the back on my skateboard.

REGINALD
The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill has 835 cases of the ‘rona. George Fox? One. And it’s all thanks to this organization.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPER:

Wally and Reginald work tirelessly patrolling campus for CDC violations every day.

Except Thursday afternoons, when Wally has tap practice.

EXT. UNIVERSITY QUAD - DAY

Reginald stands on the edge of the quad, speaking to the camera.

REGINALD
Now this is a very serious job, it’s life and death out here.

Wally in the background walks up to a maskless woman in a lawn chair on the quad.

WALLY
Excuse me, hey, could you put your mask back up over your nose-

Reggie runs towards him as the woman pulls her mask back on.

He body slams Wally.

REGINALD
What are you doing? Six feet at all times. You could have been killed.

WALLY
Oh my gosh you’re right what was I thinking. Thanks for looking out for me Reg-

REGINALD
Not you!

He redirects his scorn from Wally to the woman in the chair.

REGINALD (CONT'D)
This *miscreant*. If I catch you without a mask one more time I'm sending you to Willcuts 1.

He spikes the camera to intimidate potential viewers.

MELINDA
Willcuts 1 is where people have been quarantining if they're waiting for test results. He doesn't actually have the authority to send students anywhere.

INT. UNIVERSITY BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

A GIRL sits drinking water. Reginald jumps out and smacks the bottle out of her hand, splashing against the water. She stares daggers into him.

GIRL 1
Um, I was taking a water break?

Reginald points at the camera.

REGINALD
COVID doesn't take water breaks.

EXT. UNIVERSITY PARKING LOT - DAY

Reginald rides a bike alongside a group of students walking less than six feet apart, unmasked. As he rides further forward, we see Wally is being pulled on his skateboard, holding on to Reginald's seat for dear life.

REGINALD
Hey, pull over.

The students pay him no mind.

REGINALD (CONT'D)
I said pull over! Wally, deploy!

Wally lets go of the bike, continuing to roll on his own, arms out stiff for balance.

WALLY
Hey guys you need to be six feet away- Reggie.

He continues rolling past the students down the parking lot.

WALLY (CONT'D)
Reggie!

WALLY (CONT'D)
Reggie Help!

REGINALD
Wally no!

Wally slowly and avoidably runs straight into a car.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPER:

M.A.S.Q.U.E.S. Was disbanded only two weeks after it was started. Reggie sprayed a student wearing a face mask with pepper spray claiming “if you can see through it, you can infect through it” which is, in fact, not true.

Reggie still pulls Wally on his skateboard sometimes.