THE ACADEMY

My P.E. Kids Film & Media Academy | Scary short + academy commercial

Revised "Do Not Open" cut | Working shooting draft | Target screen time: 2-3 minutes

What changed in this revision: the DO NOT OPEN box is now the engine of the story — it replaces the trunk, the court stare, and the missing poster. A radio news report raises the dread — then its anchor is revealed at the news desk, closing the story: it was the academy all along. Five setups, same scare, bigger commercial, room to breathe.

ONE-HOUR SHOOT: 6:30-7:30 PM

Time	Activity / shot checklist
6:30-6:42	Class introduction + logline (2 min) / Confirm pre-assigned acting and crew roles (3 min) / Table read of dialogue and cues (7 min)
6:42-6:50	S1 Testimonials — portrait wall
6:50-7:02	S2 The box discovery / S3 The last item + lights out (hallway, one setup)
7:02-7:14	S4 The chair scene — the scare
7:14-7:19	S5 CUT! reveal / S6 Box callbacks (final room, everyone in place)
7:19-7:30	S7 News desk reveal / S8 Crew roll call + commercial

SCRIPT LOGLINE: A newcomer opens a sealed "DO NOT OPEN" box in the academy's lost-and-found — every item belongs to a missing student, and the last one has her name on it — only to discover the kids are creating a scary film at My P.E. Kids Film & Media Academy.

READY BEFORE 6:30: Stage the box (jacket, lunchbox, spare phone, name tags — every tag marked FILM PROP in small print; "DO NOT OPEN" sign; tape; marker). Print the fictional missing-student names and the THE ACADEMY sign. Light the final room. Stage the chair + breakaway costume material (an adult checks the setup). Prepare role cards with pre-assigned names. Have scripts ready for the table read. Record the testimonial voiceovers. Record the 20-second radio news report before class. Stage a simple news desk in the final-room corner (table, mic prop, hand-lettered "MY P.E. NEWS" sign). No car, no trunk, no drone needed.

READING THE SCRIPT: Slugline = where/when (INT. = indoors). Direction = what we see (not spoken). Dialogue = spoken by the named character. V.O. = voiceover, O.S. = voice from outside the frame.

CHARACTER COLORS (cue lines match these colors through the script)

ALEX (newcomer) | **RILEY** (guide and box-planter) | **JORDAN** (missing character / chair actor) | **TEACHER** | **PARENT** | **CREW KID** | **DIRECTOR** | **NEWS ANCHOR** (news anchor) |

Names are placeholders — pre-assign before Tuesday. Other students rotate crew and opening voiceovers.

S1. OPENING: THE TESTIMONIALS

INT. RECREATION CENTER — PORTRAIT WALL — AFTERNOON

[S1] Tight, mugshot-style portraits. Each kid faces the lens, holds a serious expression, then turns to profile. Plain wall or height-chart backdrop. Low rumble under the turns.

ALEX (V.O.)
This place changed my life.

RILEY (V.O.)
I never thought this could happen to me.

JORDAN (V.O.)
They saw something in me nobody else saw.

CREW KID (V.O.)
This is what happens when you let your imagination run.

TITLE ON BLACK: THE ACADEMY.

S2. ARRIVAL: DO NOT OPEN

EXT. RECREATION CENTER — ENTRANCE — AFTERNOON

[S2] Parent drops Alex off outside. Insert: a sign reading THE ACADEMY.

PARENT
Are you sure this is the place?

ALEX
Yes. You signed me up.

INT. RECREATION CENTER — HALLWAY — AFTERNOON

Alex enters. Riley waits by the lost-and-found corner — a taped-shut cardboard box with "DO NOT OPEN" in thick marker.

RILEY
Nobody opens it. That’s the rule.

ALEX
Whose is it?

RILEY
…Nobody knows.

Beat. Riley grins.

RILEY
Open it.

They tear the tape. One by one, Alex pulls items out — each with a name tag (fictional names, FILM PROP in small print): a jacket… a lunchbox… a phone at 3% battery. The phone screen lights up with a text: "GIVE IT BACK." They laugh — until the hallway goes quiet.

S3. THE LAST ITEM

[S3] Same hallway. Alex reaches in for the final item: a name tag. She turns it over. It reads: ALEX. Her smile dies. The phone buzzes again in her hand. The hallway lights flicker — and die.

The phone crackles to life — a radio news report, tinny in the dark:

RADIO REPORTER (V.O.)

A developing story out of the old academy building, where a student was last seen entering late yesterday. The student, identified only as Jordan, has not been seen since…

The report cuts to static.

TEACHER (O.S.)

We've been waiting for you.

A door marked QUIET PLEASE swings slightly open.

S4. THE CHAIR

INT. RECREATION CENTER — PRODUCTION ROOM — AFTERNOON

[S4] Extreme close-up of the teacher's mouth. Keep the camera and script out of frame.

TEACHER

No one leaves this room until we're finished.

A chair scrapes.

JORDAN (O.S.)

Please… one more chance.

TEACHER

Then make this one count.

Alex pushes the door open. Jordan sits upright in a stable chair under a dramatic light, apparently restrained — suggest it with loose breakaway costume material across the lap; hands and feet stay free, no actual binding, no tipping, no struggling. An adult checks the setup. Frame tightly so the crew stays hidden. Jordan looks frightened.

ALEX

Jordan? Is that the missing kid?

Jordan and the teacher look toward Alex. Hold one silent beat.

S5. REVEAL: THAT'S A WRAP

[S5] A crew kid leans into the tight frame, looking toward Jordan. No blade or cutting action is shown.

CREW KID (slow, unsettling whisper)

Cuuut.

Hold one silent beat — the chair scene gives the word its threatening meaning.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Hey! That's my line.

DIRECTOR

CUT! That's a wrap!

Switch to a bright, wide view of the SAME room: student director, camera operator, boom mic, lights, clapperboard, teacher holding a script. Jordan casually stands and smiles. The change comes from the wider view and sound — no lighting reset.

JORDAN

You ruined my scene!

ALEX

Wait… we're making a movie?

TEACHER

Welcome to My P.E. Kids Film & Media Academy.

The teacher turns to the student camera operator.

TEACHER

Did we get it?

CREW KID

Got it!

TEACHER

Now let's meet the people who made you nervous.

Students cheer.

S6. CALLBACKS: THE BOX EXPLAINED

[S6] Quick, funny callbacks in the final room — everyone is already in place. Keep each to one beat.

- Box: Riley holds up the "DO NOT OPEN" sign, grinning. RILEY: "I wrote the names. I sent the text. You screamed a little."
- Missing kids: the "missing" students step forward, totally fine, waving at the camera.
- Phone: the crew kid wiggles the spare phone — the "GIVE IT BACK" text was theirs all along.

S7. THE NEWS DESK

INT. RECREATION CENTER — PRODUCTION ROOM, NEWS DESK — AFTERNOON

[S7] A corner of the final room dressed as a tiny news studio: a table, a mic, a hand-lettered "MY P.E. NEWS" sign. The student news anchor sits at the desk — finishing the very report we heard on the phone.

NEWS ANCHOR

…authorities say the search continues. But here's what the report didn't tell you — the missing kid? He's our lead actor. The haunted academy? That's us. This whole mystery was a movie, made by kids, right here at My P.E. Kids Film & Media Academy — where we teach news, film, and everything behind the camera. I'm [Name], and this is My P.E. News.

The anchor smiles — then joins the roll call lineup.

S8. CREW ROLL CALL / ACADEMY COMMERCIAL

[S8] Upbeat roll call: each student looks into the lens, says their real name and position, delivers the

signature line. Show the student doing the job. 30–40 seconds; one quick take each. The director opens with ACTION!

DIRECTOR

I'm [Name], the director. I call the shots. ACTION!

CAMERA OPERATOR

I'm [Name], camera operator. I've got the angles.

LIGHTING TECHNICIAN

I'm [Name], lighting technician. You could say… I'm lit.

SOUND RECORDIST

I'm [Name], sound recordist. I heard that.

SCRIPT COORDINATOR

I'm [Name], script coordinator. Keeper of the script.

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

I'm [Name], watching continuity. Same hand. Same spot. Every take.

PRODUCER

I'm [Name], the producer. I make it happen.

EDITOR

I'm [Name], the editor. I make the cut.

NEWS ANCHOR

I'm [Name], news anchor. I report the story.

JORDAN

I'm [Name], the actor. I had you worried, didn't I?

TEACHER

Now that's a wrap. Time to eat!

ALL

My P.E. Kids!

Students cheer. Cut to the parent in the doorway, visibly confused — film during the arrival setup; frame a matching doorway so the edit lands.

PARENT

Wait… what exactly did I sign you up for?

Alex walks past carrying a camera — now part of the crew.

ALEX

The Academy.

Alex smiles. Cut to logo and website.

MY P.E. KIDS FILM & MEDIA ACADEMY

Find your role — in front of or behind the camera.

www.MyPEkids.com

Premiere: Fall Festival, Friday, October 30th

End-card change: the "October 20th, 6:30–7:30 PM" class line is off the premiere version — it would be a past date for the Oct 30 audience. Keep it on any cut shown at class itself.

SAFETY NOTES

- All apparent danger belongs to the students' fictional film. The "restraint" is loose breakaway fabric — hands and feet free, no binding, no tipping, no struggling. An adult checks the setup.
- Name tags use fictional names, each marked FILM PROP in small print.
- Lights-out beat: keep one practical light on for safety; sell the darkness in the edit.
- First-aid basics on hand. Scare the audience, not the cast.

POSITION GUIDE

Script coordinator organizes the script and revisions. Script supervisor watches continuity — props, actions, dialogue match across takes. One student can do both. If running late: protect the box, the chair, the reveal, the news desk, and the roll call — in that order.

Instructor sign-in sheet lives in the original draft (The_Academy_Script_and_Shoot_Plan_4.pdf) — unchanged.