

WALKING ON THE MOON

© Dean Lawrence

- VOICE OVER: The most important moment of the millenium, and arguably in the whole of history, came on July 20th, 1969, when man, escaping from his earthly shackles, finally set foot on another world, for that was the day man walked on the moon.As Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin made their final preparations before leaving their lunar lander, the Eagle, we join a small meeting of two senior NASA executives, at the Flight Control Center, Houston.
- NASA 1: Gentlemen, I've just spoken with the President, and he wants the moment Armstrong steps onto the moon to be dignified by a short statement from Neil, symbolizing the solemnity of the moment.
- NASA 2: I believe Neil and Buzz were preparing something appropriate to the occasion sir. I'll contact them and find out how they're getting on (PRESSES INTERCOM) Eagle this is Houston.
- EAGLE Houston this is Eagle, Go ahead
- NASA 2 Neil, do you have your little speech prepared yet, for the moment you step onto the lunar surface?
- EAGLE Yes Houston, we do. Do you wanna hear it?
- NASA 2 Yes please Neil
- EAGLE Well, I thought I'd say something like, "Whoooooee, we won you commie rooskie suckers. Boy! your dumb. Ha!, we gonna party now boy!(LONG PAUSE)
- NASA 2 Er Neil. Can we get back to you?
- NASA 1 (SLOWLY)whoooooee, we won you commie rooskie suckers. Oh my god, we've put a couple of hillbilly rednecks on the moon!
- NASA 2 It would appear that way sir. I'll check with the personnel department and look at his file.(PICKS UP PHONE)
- NASA 1 My god. The presidents going to shut us down for this. A hillbilly on the moon. He'll want to put the lunar lander up on blocks and paint a naked woman on the side of it or something.
- NASA 2 Thank you[replaces phone]Well sir it appears that both astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin are both very competent sir, and fully qualified for the mission.

NASA 1 Well thank goodness for small mercies. You don't think they're pulling our leg's up there do you. Maybe that's it. Yes of course, a little astronaut horseplay. Ha Ha. That must be it.

NASA 2 Weeelll. There is one thing sir.

NASA 1 What's that

NASA 2 Apparently he wanted to take his dog with him sir.

NASA 1 His dog!!

NASA 2 Yes sir. It's a bloodhound called Elvis sir.

NASA 1 Elvis! How the hell did those two ever get to go to the moon? Don't we have some screening for these people. Answer me man, how did Armstrong ever get chosen to be the first man on the moon.

NASA 2 I believe he won a spitting competition with John Glenn sir. It was close but Armstrong just shaded it sir.

NASA 1 Oh my god! Look, we've got 10 minutes to think of something for him to say which wont make the USA look stupid, or start a nuclear war! Get onto them and tell them to think of something a little more dignified.

NASA 2 Yes sir. Eagle, this is Houston.

EAGLE Go ahead Houston

NASA 2 Neil, about your little speech. We like it but we feel that now we've won the space race, we feel we can be a little more generous to the Russians.

EAGLE Generous?

NASA 2 Yes. You know, build bridges with them. Open a dialog. So we'd like you to have a think. Maybe take out the anti-Russian message, and see if you can come up with an alternative.

EAGLE No rooskie bashing

NASA 2 No

EAGLE How about just a little bit

NASA 2 No

EAGLE A sly dig

NASA 2 No Neil. No rooskie bashing.

EAGLE Ooooooaaaaay.

NASA 1 Neil, we'd like something a little more up-beat, something which reflects the effort and struggle to get you up there, but reflecting the bright dawn of a new age. That sort of thing.

EAGLE Bright dawn?

NASA 1 Yep

EAGLE Okay, how about "Were here, it was tough, but now we gonna party till the sun comes up, yeee haaaw!"

NASA 1 No!

EAGLE No?

NASA 1 No!

EAGLE Well, okay. We'll have a think and git back to you. We've got a few thing to do before I climb down those 3 small steps, so we'll sign off now

NASA 2 Roger Eagle.[pondering and muttering to himself]Small steps, 3 small steps. We've got something there. 3 small steps.

NASA 1 Yeah, for him it's only 3 small steps, but goddamnit, he's go no sense of history.

NASA 2 3 small steps for Neil! Sir I think we've got something!

NASA 1 What? Tell me.

NASA 2 Its only 3 small steps for man... and that's it so far. I can't quite get the whole line sir.

NASA 1 Well it's a start. Better make it 1 small step though, that redneck might not be so good with big numbers.(MIMICKING ARMSTRONG ACCENT) Wuun, Twoo, Somemore!

NASA 2 One small step for man. Damn! I just can't get the rest of the line. Think man! Think.

NASA 1 something. Well boot it up to Neil and buzz, see if they can't think of

NASA 2 Yes sir. Eagle this is Houston.

EAGLE Yo Bubba! Hey listen, me an Buzz are gonna have a pig-roast when we git back. You guys wanna come. We'll just kick back some, and widdle.

NASA 2 Er yes thank you. Neil, we've thought of something but it's not complete. We thought you may be able to work with it.

EAGLE That's a big 10-4 good buddy. Faaayre away.

NASA 1 Oh god !

NASA 2 Er, yes. Er, well it's One small step for man...

EAGLE But it's worth for the beer boy! Heh! Heh!

NASA 1 Neil! Please try and come up with something dignified and relevant

EAGLE Okay! Loosen up some. Hey, did I ever tell you bout when I was a kid, and our neighbors, the Kochanszki's were having a row. See old man Kochanski wanted a blow...

NASA 1 Goddammit Neil, try and get with the program. In a few minutes, your going to step into the history books. Your going to make a great leap into the unknown. The whole of mankind will be watching you. We want you to say something inspirational, something lasting, something beautiful!

EAGLE ...and she said you'll get one when that Armstrong kid walks on the moon! Heh! Heh! It'll be party time in old man Kochanski's shack tonight boy!

NASA 2 (MUTTERING AND WHISPERING TO HIMSELF) Great leap, a great leap into the unknown. With mankind watching. Great leap for mankind. I think we've got it. By god, we've got it.

EAGLE Hey guys, Buzz says he's gonna enter the eagle in the tractor pull competition back home.

NASA 1 Neil, shut up. I've had it with you two.

NASA 2 Sir

NASA 1 community Armstrong, you and Aldrin are a disgrace to the astronaut

NASA 2 Sir

NASA 1 and a disgrace to the United States

NASA 2 Sir

NASA 1 and a disgrace to the planet

NASA 2 sir!

NASA 1 What!

NASA 2 I've got it sir. I've got it!

NASA 1 Got what!

NASA 2 The line sir, I've got the line. The line for the history books.

NASA 1 You've got the line! Well let's hear it man! Quickly!

NASA 2 One small step for man, a great leap, no a giant leap for mankind

NASA 1 Say it again

NASA 2 It's one small step for man, a giant leap for mankind.

NASA 1 It's a good line. A very good line.

NASA 2 Sir, thank you sir.

NASA 1 One small step for man, a giant leap for mankind. It's brilliant. It's perfect. Oh joy. Oh thank god! (DOES A LITTLE DANCE, THE PAUSING SUDDENLY) Get it up to them. Quick man. Quick!

NASA 2 Yes sir, EAGLE this is Houston

EAGLE (SOUND OF ARGUING) Buzz, there ain't no way they're going to let you put a gun rack on the next Apollo rocket son! Will too!Will not!Will too!

NASA 2 Er Neil.

EAGLE Will not!Will too!

NASA 2 Neil!

EAGLE Yeah Houston, go ahead

NASA 2 We've got your little message Neil. Listen, it's One small step for man, a giant leap for mankind.

EAGLE Huh!

NASA 2 One small step for man, a giant leap for mankind.

EAGLE No partying

NASA 2 No

EAGLE no rooskie-bashing

NASA 2 no

EAGLE Jeez, who the hell is going to remember that line in the future.

NASA 1 Just say it Neil, just say the goddammed line.

EAGLE One small step for man, a giant leap for mankind.

NASA 1 That's it Neil. Just like that. Just stand on the bottom step of the ladder and say that line.

EAGLE Boy! Y'all ain't a partying crowd are ya! Hey tell you what!. This'll kill ya! How bout I come down the steps, and we get some music playing in the background. A little Jerry-Lee Lewis, Great Balls of fire or something. That'll slay em.(STARTS SINGING]You shake my nerve and you rattle my brain.

NASA 1 No Neil. No music, no party, no nothing. Just go down the steps and say the line.

EAGLE Jeez! Okay. Okay. Anyway, it's too late to change it now. It's ShowTime! Buzz, kick that door open buddy, ah'm a going out for a while. Whoooooee!

(DARKEN THE STAGE AND PLAY A RECORDING OF ARMSTRONG'S ACTUAL BROADCAST OF ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN, A GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND)

THE END.