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Treatment for FAR OUT & GROOVY

Screenplay by **Simon Moseley**
 Jerry Browning

Far Out and Groovy Sales Pitch

This project is aimed at nostalgic 50 year olds, and their teenage kids. As **Almost Famous**, **The Beach**, **Hideous Kinky** and the continued fascination of **Withnail & I** have proved there is enormous interest in this subject and this period. I suspect that to our teenage kids the seventies are like “what did you do in the war daddy?” There is the potential to cast attractive teenagers with serious adult actors in cameos.

There would be a great soundtrack album featuring songs of the period and new material written for the boys. We have some songs which could be brushed up; alternatively contemporary songwriters writers could be approached for material

Financially this project offers the prospect of EU funding, and European Co Production.

Far Out & Groovy Logline

Set in the seventies, two British schoolboys travel around France & Spain looking for life experience. Their experiences are reflected in and their progress is measured by songs that they write along the way. Beyond that is a salutary tale about parents and their relationship with their children.

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Far Out & Groovy Synopsis

The year is 1975. JEFF and STEVE are both 17. They have no desire to follow the straight paths offered by their uptight Grammar School and would prefer to be Rock Stars. Both boys come from broken homes, JEFF lives with his overprotective mother and sister, STEVE with his under protective oldest swinger in town father. STEVE wants to break out into the world and go on a Road trip in the footsteps of Jack Kerouac. JEFF is reluctant to leave home. A disastrous gig at which everyone mocks their irrelevant pretentious songs propels JEFF into action and he agrees to the trip.

Attempting to hitch hike outside Paris with an absurd amount of luggage they meet ROLF a German in his 40s who has much experience on the road. ROLF advises them to ditch most of their belongings, and suggests they head for Almeria the site of a summer festival. Eventually they find a lift with HUBERT, another hitch hiker who has a car, but no cash. He will drive if they pay for petrol. HUBERT drives like a lunatic and turns out to be a neurotic mess between fixes. He eventually drops the boys off in Montpellier station in the early hours. They sleep on the platform until they are woken by a French drunk pissing all over JEFF. Disgusted JEFF wants to give up and go home but STEVE talks him into continuing. They cross the border into Spain and discover a beautiful Fishing Village where they are inspired to write their first song.

Travelling on a train they meet CARLO an right wing Spaniard, and American LISSA. They get drunk together and STEVE spends the night with LISSA. Next morning he wakes to discover her children in the next bed.

Arriving in Almeria they are befriended by a Colombian drug dealer, JULIO. They get stoned together on the beach. STEVE is captivated by JULIO. He's just like a Kerouac character. They write a song about JULIO; to JEFF he is like a werewolf... They hang out on the beach with the local bums, and remeet LISSA. This time she pulls JEFF and takes him back to her place. After sex her kids discover JEFF in bed with her, and her Husband comes home forcing JEFF to make a run for it. Meanwhile STEVE has been getting stoned with JULIO and smashed up their hotel room. JEFF reaches the Hotel to find their stuff dumped on the pavement and STEVE stoned and incoherent.

As JEFF takes all this in ROLF appears with his girlfriend ANGELICA. They invite the boys to stay with them in the Castillio. The boys are dismayed to discover that the Castillio is a ruined fortress overlooking the sea where they must camp out. Next morning they discover it is a beautiful spot. ROLF and ANGELICA are pacifists into Yoga, Meditation and foraging from nature. JEFF is well impressed and tags along eagerly. To STEVE, ROLF is another old guy trying to be cool like his dad. While JEFF fits in well to their routine, learning to swim amongst other things, STEVE sulks and wishes he was getting stoned with JULIO. He does however write quite a good song about them. One day the Police arrive and make them leave. ROLF persuades the Police to give them a lift into town. ANGELICA checks into a hotel and

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offers to buy STEVE's Jeans. While she tries them on in her room STEVE, misreading the situation makes a lunge for her. He is repelled, she is faithful to ROLF. Downstairs ROLF waits a little anxiously. They bump into JULIO who offers to score for STEVE. ROLF warns them not to trust JULIO.

Back at the castillio JULIO arrives to collect their money. STEVE shows him where they keep their valuables. Next night is the big Easter festival parade with float masks and a sinister drum beat. JULIO doesn't show. They join the festival celebrations and bump into CARLO who is out with his extended family. He takes them back to his village where they have the time of their lives dancing and singing.

Back at the castillio they discover their guitars and valuables have been stolen. STEVE refuses to believe it could have been JULIO and they have a huge row.

Next morning ROLF and ANGELICA have disappeared. At the bottom of the castillio the cops are waiting and the boys are arrested. Their interrogator turns out to be CARLOS, who was following a Drug ring undercover. JULIO, HUBERT, LISSA and Osvaldo are all implicated. Locked up the boys have to do some soul searching. STEVE has to admit he was wrong about JULIO. They write a wistful song about home. They are released from Prison, and decide to head for home stopping on the way to stay with STEVE's mum in the south of France.

She is not at home and they have to break in to the primitive cottage she is staying in. Their new survival skills come in handy and they light a fire and prepare a meal. In contrast to JEFF's mum, STEVE's is off hand and undemonstrative. She has quietly got married to her boyfriend without even telling STEVE. JEFF starts to realise why STEVE is so abrasive and aggressive. STEVE's MUM is heading for home and they all cram into her husband's small car. The boys are dropped in Paris in the middle of the night. As the car drives off they realise they left their passports and what little money they had left in the car.

Destitute and penniless they wander the streets, eventually making camp by a canal. JEFF begins to appreciate the journey, and they realise how much they have learnt and grown. They have a party by themselves. Next day they galvanise themselves into action. They busk to make some money which they use to tidy themselves up before getting temporary passports at the British Embassy.

Returning late at night to JEFF's house they are surprised to find it empty. They go to bed but are woken by the sound of JEFF's mother returning home slightly tipsy with a new boyfriend. JEFF realises he must leave home to give his mother some space. As a postscript we see JEFF and STEVE performing the songs they wrote on the road to an appreciative audience.