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YoYo Man

a film by John Melville Bishop

Transcription of voice-over, titles,
and principal sync sound.

TITLES APPEAR IN UPPER CASE

Sync sound is transcribed in mixed
upper and lower case.

*Voice-over is transcribed as mixed
upper and lower case italic.*

*All voice-over is spoken by Nemo
Concepcion.*

Unless isolated by parentheses, all
sync sound is spoken by Nemo
Concepcion.

YOYO MAN

YoYo MAN is a 12 minute, 16mm color film. It is available on high
quality VHS tape.

**YOYO MEN FIRST APPEARED
DURING THE DEPRESSION;
THEY WERE MODELS OF
PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT
IN A TROUBLED WORLD.
ONE OF THE PIONEERS,
NEMO CONCEPCION WORKED
AS A PROFESSIONAL YOYO
DEMONSTRATER BETWEEN
1932 AND 1953.**

**THIS FILM WAS MADE
IN 1978 WHEN HE WAS
77 YEARS OLD AND
TEACHING TENNIS IN
LOS ANGELES.**

There is a kind of magical thing in the yoyo when it spins. It attracts anybody.

YOYO MAN

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**A FILM BY
JOHN MELVILLE BISHOP**

**FEATURING
NEMO CONCEPC ION**

Now this is the elevator of the Empire State Building
Down and up
And this is my version of a called the slingshot
There you are
And this is what I call
Around the corner - come up and see me sometime
And this is what I call the suicide trick.

The original yoyo that was brought over from the Philippines by Mr. Pedro Flores is very sharp. You could use it as a weapon; with the distance of four or five feet I could hit

' your head. Years, centuries ago, according to the story of the yoyo, used to be a weapon of the natives of the Philippines, before my time. From a weapon of war to a children's toy. The first yoyo that was made, it was made out of the ivory. Now later on it was made out of wood. It was improve and inrprove and improve.

Now everybody's yoyo is all right ?
no, what I mean, see like that
Are you sure now ?
We're going to do one trick at a time
The first trick to be done is how to make it spin
How to make it sleep at the bottom
You cannot make any trick unless it will spin at the bottom
Is that too long ?
No it must be here
You see, what's your name ?
(Adam)
Adam, look Adam.

There is a favorite tree there in the Philippines. It's called the nara, it hums. So we made the yoyo out of that humming tree.

All right, try the spinning wheel
That's it, now here, who is next
You have to spin little bit stronger and straight down
What's your name honey ?
(Gilly)
Gilly, look Gilly, not like this see
Straight down so it will go straight
like this, see, look, there you are see.

You hold it like this, and throw it there
Let the yoyo go, see, look
once more, once more

In loop the loop the string must be tight
And you bring the yoyo this way, look
See how easy it is.
That's called around the world
That's it right there
Go ahead, some more
That's good, that's good, real, very good
OK, God bless you.

I was born an Ilocano, in a little village of Anao., in the province of Tarloc, that's in the biggest island there, Luzon. I made the trip to USA in 1923. I was only a high school kid when I came over. At that time the Philippine Islands was a possession of the United States, so it says in my passport, "A citizen of the Philippine Islands owing allegiance to the United States. " We were enjoying the privileges of an American citizen as long as we were under the American flag.

There, see
Then drop the whole thing there, it will come back.
Look, look Janet, drop, see no, no, you don't do it

James, you don't do it like this
You do it this way
It goes down here like that.

I was going to go to college when I finished high school, but then the deadly depression came in. The story of the depression is like this: The Salvation Army were feeding up those who needs to eat. I went there to eat twice a day, they give you food at ten o'clock and then at four o'clock they'll give you the combination lunch and dinner. I survived. But the greatest thing that saved me is the Duncan yoyo.

In 1932 I meet Pedro, and he said, come here, you look like a gentleman, you dress up all the time, and you must be something all right, he said, so come with me. So

he brought me to the Duncan office, but the manager did not qualify me yet, because you have to do plenty tricks to be a demonstrator. I will come back in two weeks, I said. I went to practice in my room, day and night, day and night. So I went there in two weeks. I'll show you everything now, I said. The manager said, OK, we'll sign you up, now you are all right.

Now this is the Lone Star
This is my version of the Lone Star
One, two, three, four, five points, comes back there
(How do you know which fingers to put it through?)
Look, one, two, three, four, there
Then before it goes down
Before it dies out
You got to catch it
(Do you go from this finger to the pinky ? Oh I see.)
You'll get it, don't worry
Look at me here, how I throw it from the back.

Put it in art, in the art. Your total body's involved. It's just like any athletic event.

And this is what I call rock the baby in the cradle
Now I'll give you my version of how to eat the spaghetti
The Italian spaghetti with the meatball
One, two, three, four like that
Swing it around, humm, that's good
And this is what you call, spank the baby

I can talk all day in the salesmanship of the yoyo in the ten cent store and I don't get tired. I participated in the Philippines in a kind of oratorical contest. My declamation was the Lincoln's Gettysburg address - four score and seven years ago. I happened to win the first prize. There were many contestants.

You had to dress up good because you are always in public. It is kind of an actor's job.

The spinning is the real foundation of the tricks. I have to spin it good, if the string does not tangle, that means it's a good trick. And you got to be quick, you see all these tricks is really controlled, with the speed, speed and very smooth. The yoyo is very kind of a delicate toy, once you jerk, it's coming back right away and then you cannot make the trick.

I've taught so many American children in the east. They die for the yoyo, I mean.

It was announced that there will be international championship at the YMCA. So I entered the contest. I think about 35 countries participated. I tied up with this 16 or 17 years old boy; I tied up with the tricks. But you know how I won the applause of the audience ? There was an orchestra and I told them to play Begin the Bequine and I went with the musical beat. So that's how I got the crown there.

Another one, OK
One two three four, eat it like that
Now here comes another one
Make it bigger now, make the macaroni
Macaroni will be like this
One two three there see
There here comes the chop suey
One two three there chop suey
Here comes another trick
There, that's the dog bite
(Does it hurt?)
It hurts, ouch
(I don't see any dog?)
You don't see any dog? The yoyo's the dog
Oh the bye bye trick, you never saw it
The camera did not get it
Here is the bye bye trick
Good-bye and God bless you
Thank you.

YOYO PLAYER
NEMO CONCEPC ION

CHILDREN
ADAM FINKEL
CATHERINE GUERRERO
MELANIE GUERRERO
KEN HARRIS
MARK HARRIS
JANET JUDU LANG
JOEL JUDULANG
MACKER JIJULANG
GILLY MCGLAZE
JAMES PEARCE
PETER PEARCE

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LOS ANGELES PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S CLUB**

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