

The Life Woodhullian with Richard Ryder

By Toby Ilogu

Based on: "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou"

by Wes Anderson

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INTRODUCTION

EXT - CIRCLE - DAY

A boy faces the camera, addressing it in a reality TV style

RICHARD

Recently, my film teacher assigned our class a project. Our task was to find a community on campus to explore for a week and document it on film. I saw this as a perfect opportunity to conduct my research. You see, after freshman year, the boys are spread amongst one of six Circle houses, and I wanted to learn all I could about the world I was entering into.

Richard pauses. The scene cuts away.

EXT - CIRCLE - DAY

Richard surveys a group of boys standing outside their house

RICHARD

So, what do you... do?

A group of students stutter to respond. One group of guys shrug.

EXT - CIRCLE - DAY

Richard continues.

RICHARD

After quickly realizing the mediocrity of some of the other communities on campus, I found myself on the porch of Woodhull House

Richard turns around to stare at the Woodhull house behind him.

EXT - WOODHULL PORCH - DAY

Richard stands at the porch. He knocks and then looks around for a while. Finally, MICHAEL WOODLEY answers the door wearing a hotdog suit.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL WOODLEY
Who are you?

RICHARD
Richard Ryder

MICHAEL WOODLEY
Who is that?

RICHARD
What?

MICHAEL WOODLEY
I said... Who is *that*?

RICHARD
Oh. That's my associate, Squanto.

PAN: WHIP PAN TO SQUANTO (ALEXIS VALADEZ)

SQUANTO
Yoooooooo.

RICHARD
We're making a project for film
class.

MICHAEL WOODLEY
(skeptical)
Come on in...

Richard is pulled into the house.

PAN: DOWN TO "WOOD" MAT

WELCOME TO WOOD

EXT - WOODHULL FOYER

Richard stands in the foyer of Woodhull, facing the camera.

RICHARD
Why are you dressed as a hotdog?

Pause.

MICHAEL WOODLEY
(Disheartened)
It's Wednesday...

BIBLE STUDY

INT - WOODHULL HALLWAY - DAY

Richard explaining to the camera.

RICHARD

I began my observations that afternoon. The first thing I noticed was the increased foot traffic between 4 and 5 in the afternoon. Kids from all over, Hamill, Kennedy, even Griswold... falling upon Woodhull with a common destination: room 302. And I had to find out, "What is going on behind that closed door?"

Richard opens the door. People sit in a circle with Bibles open. They do not realize that Richard entered.

INT - WOODHULL: ROOM 302 - DAY

DAVIS

"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven"

Davis looks up from his Bible toward the camera (Squanto) and Richard.

Ah. I see we have a couple visitors...

The congregation turns to Squanto then Richard.
Welcome...

INT - ROOM 302 INTERVIEW SET - DAY

LACHLAN sits in a chair facing the camera. Seated to his right is JACK COLLINS.

JACK COLLINS

We've been having these sessions since the beginning of the year. At least twice a week, we all make out time to come together and share words of praise and thanksgiving.

LACHLAN

We read scripture, we sing... You know, The Holy Bible says that when two or three are gathered, the good

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LACHLAN (cont'd)
 Lord is in their midst. So,
 overall, it's a good time.

JACK COLLINS
 I think people are quick to judge.
 People get the wrong idea and they
 begin to make assumptions. Little
 do they know what's going on behind
 closed doors.

LACHLAN
 (sniffling. about to cry)
 You know... If it weren't for Bible
 Study... I don't know where I'd be

Jack consoles him, gently patting his shoulder as he weeps
 into his hands.

PAN: PAN TO CONFUSED RICHARD

HOUSE MEETING

Richard explains to the camera.

RICHARD
 At that point, I began to realize
 that I wasn't dealing with your
 ordinary group of Lawrenceville
 students. The unique nature of
 Woodhull can best be observed when
 the entire house gathers on Tuesday
 night for their weekly house
 meeting, led by the house president

TOBY, the house president, stands at the front of the common
 room.

TOBY
 Aight, boys. House meeting. First
 up, Ms. Guido has an announcement

Ms. GUIDO enters. There is scattered applause.

MS. GUIDO
 Hi guys. Brief announcement. Now,
 correct me if I'm wrong, but I was
 under the impression that you had
 to be able to *read* to get into this
 school. Your grades... suggest
 otherwise. Our collective house GPA
 is a 2.5... Tell me why Fred's C-

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MS. GUIDO (cont'd)
in English is the highest grade in
the house? Do better!

Students look uncomfortable. Ms. Guido shuffles off screen. Obviously disheartened, Toby returns to the front of the room.

TOBY
(looks around uncomfortably)
...Next up, Davis...

DAVIS walks to the front of the room.

DAVIS
So, the Stephens house social rep
asked me if we wanted to do an
invite-a-house this weekend. She
needs an answer by tonight. What do
you guys think?

DAVIS looks around. Everybody looks at each other and around the room. Everybody bursts into laughter. ROBERT laughs. FRED person points and laughs. HARRISON begins slapping his knee. NICK KOCA slaps NIKITA on the back, violently. CHARLIE CHEN holds TONY in a headlock while KENNY punches the shit outta his stomach. Everybody is dying of laughter.

DAVIS
(chuckling)
Yeah... That's what I thought...

CLOSING

EXT - CIRCLE - AFTERNOON

Richard faces the camera and delivers the closing remarks.

RICHARD
After less than a week in Woodhull,
I feel as though I've seen all that
I needed to see.

TOBY, CASEY, and DEV enter the frame from behind.

TOBY
Wait!

DEV
Before you go, can we share a few
words with the camera?

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD

No. You guys... you're just too weird...

CASEY

Please. Just give us a chance.

CASEY turns to the camera to deliver this line.

TOBY

Squanto, what do you think?

SQUANTO

Yooooo

RICHARD

(holding breath)

Alright. You guys have less than a minute.

HEARTFELT ADDRESS

DEV

We aren't the fastest.

TOBY

We aren't the strongest.

CASEY

And we don't get straight A's.

DEV

But at the end of the day...

CASEY

We're a family

TOBY

And when things don't go our way...

DEV

We make the most of it. Because

TOBY

Woodhull isn't like the other houses...

CASEY

And that's what makes us so great.

VIEWING PARTY

Richard's film class watches his film. Somebody begins clapping and slowly stands up. The rest of the class follows. Squanto and Richard wave from the front of the classroom

FIN