

FADE IN:

INT. CLASSROOM - EVENING

A crowded grade school classroom. Parents Night.

LIV (O.S.)
It was on the downtown 5...

A circle of friends holds beverages in plastic glasses as OLIVIA "LIV" BURKE, 50, regales them with a story. Intense, smart and sassy, you know she's somebody from a mile away.

LIV (CONT'D)
...the express that used to stop
by Ground Zero, but now goes
straight to Brooklyn.
(sips, makes a face)
This water tastes like mouse.

Liv unabashedly pours her glass in the classroom trash can. Giggles and gasps from the group.

LIV (CONT'D)
So I'm standing on the crowded
train, marking my Weekly Planner,
and right in front of me this young
guy's seated, reading the paper.
He's glancing up, taking in my tits
-- I mean, I'm old enough to be his
momma...

ANGLE ON MIKE

A friend and acerbic art critic.

MIKE
He doesn't know that. You're well-
preserved.

Liv's eyes dart to TWO YOUNGER MOMS in tight dresses. She feels fat, sucks in her stomach.

LIV
Anyways, I turn away, kind of
grossed out, but moreover,
wondering why the "F" he doesn't
give me his seat...

She looks for validation to her longtime pal, CAROL, who stands alongside her husband, BRAD, a jazz musician.

LIV (CONT'D)
 ...but when I turn back, I now see
 he's jerking off behind the paper.

CAROL
 No!

LIV
 Yep. There he is, pounding the
 flounder, looking right in my eyes.

A GAY MALE COUPLE pass in the background. Liv waves to them
 like the town mayor.

LIV (CONT'D)
 I knew I had a choice. If I get
 uncomfortable, or freak out, it's
 just gonna make him more excited.
 That's what he wants.

Hiding behind his wine glass, Brad listens with perverse
 interest.

LIV (CONT'D)
 So I decide I'm not going to give
 him that power.

She offers a mischievous smile.

BRAD
 You didn't!

LIV
 I did. I watched.

Mike grins in approval.

MIKE
 Kinda like barking like a dog if
 someone tries to attack you?

LIV
 Exactly: you be the crazy one. So I
 train my eyes right on his tugging
 hand. Just me and his Johnson.
 Intense. No one knows what's
 happening.

BRAD
 Did he lose his erection?

LIV
 No. He came. A real mess.

Carol makes a face.

LIV (CONT'D)

But at least I was in control. Not
a victim.

The friends consider, sip their wine.

CAROL

Why didn't you just walk away?

LIV

Oh. I forgot that part. The guy was
hot.

As they erupt in laughter, a WIDER ANGLE reveals they are a small group amongst a much larger crowd -- not in a real classroom -- but inside a "classroom" installation in a large art gallery.

LIV (CONT'D)

That's what happens when you go
through extreme celibate periods!

MIKE

Why don't you just get laid?

LIV

Oh please Mike, I want the real
thing. *A partner.*

MIKE

Greedy bitch.

She takes Mike's arm as, in the background, a MAN'S FRENCH ACCENTED VOICE comes over A MICROPHONE. FEEDBACK. The guests respectfully move in that direction.

JACQUES (O.S.)

Bonsoir. Thank you all for
coming...

As the crowd empties out of the installation, we see that the classroom walls and students' desks are smeared with "blood" and riddled with bullet holes.

INT. THE NEW BRIDGE GALLERY - CONTINUOUS

An upscale gallery in New York's Chelsea arts district. JACQUES DEBOUT, 55, addresses the attentive crowd. It's a characteristically eclectic bunch, comprised of DOWNTOWN HIPSTERS, INFLUENCERS, SERIOUS COLLECTORS, and WALL STREET PLAYERS who've come straight from work.

JACQUES

...I am Jacques Debout, director of the New Bridge Gallery. How do you like the space?

(off applause)

Tonight we welcome you to an exclusive preview of the second installation in a series by our very own Olivia Burke.

Jacques smiles to his star artist as Liv warmly acknowledges the crowd. A FEW PRESS CAMERAS FLASH AWAY.

JACQUES (CONT'D)

Burke first gained recognition...

Jacques's voice DIPS as a sage NARRATOR FADES UP.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Liv was a working artist, an anomaly in the art world. She often felt guilty about being part of the one percent, while her contemporaries...

MOVE PAST envious ONLOOKERS watching Liv...

NARRATOR (V.O.)

...still struggled decades later.

...and landing on Carol, who's genuinely happy for her friend.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She often wondered why she -- a middle-class, college dropout from Jersey -- was the fittest to survive.

THE LIGHTS DIM as a VIDEO is projected on the wall behind Jacques, where we see photos of Liv's previous installation, *Ballot Booth*.

JACQUES (O.S.)

Following *Number 1, Ballot Booth*, *Number 2: Classroom* grants viewers another first-person perspective of today's atrocities...