CLEANING THE GOWANUS

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INT. PUBLIC CONFERENCE

LIGHTS UP ON TWO PEOPLE: EDLEN LUDLEN, the Kings County
representative of the EPA stands at a podium addressing a
crowd of Brooklyn residents. Next to him is his assistant,
TEDDY JIMMY.

EDLEN speaks in an exasperated, deadpan but caring way.
TEDDY JIMMY is a dummy with attitude.

> EDLEN
> Hello, residents of New York. My
> name is Edlen Ludlen, I'm the Chief
> King's Country representative of
> the Environmental Protection Agency
> here in Brooklyn. This is my
> assistant, Teddy Jimmy.

TEDDY JIMMY nods and smiles.

> TEDDY JIMMY
> Teddy Jimmy in the house.

> EDLEN
> I'm here today to give our annual
> update on the cleaning of the
> Gowanus Canal.

TEDDY JIMMY cheers. No one else does.

> EDLEN
> Now as we know, the Gowanus Canal
> is a Superfund site. Residents of
> New York: this is not a good thing,
> despite the fact it has the word
> "super" in it. Please don't bring
> your visiting family to come see
> it. This carcinogenic zone is not a
> safe or fun tourist attraction.

> TEDDY JIMMY
> It's nothing like Disneyland, I
> checked.

EDLEN holds up a flyer.

                    EDLEN
          Residents of Brooklyn: please stop
          throwing Gowanus Canal-themed
          parties. For example,
                    (reads flyer)
          Gowanus Summer Bash. Featuring
          electronic duo "Mutated Dolphinz".
          Free lemonade made with local canal
          water. Skinny dipping contest from
          The Water Hose. It is NOT SAFE to
          throw such events. Do not throw
          them.

                    TEDDY JIMMY
          And if you do, you better invite us
          mofos!

TEDDY JIMMY takes the flyer and tears it up.

                    EDLEN
          Residents of Gowanus, please do not
          attempt to clean the canal
          yourselves. Any treatment of the
          water must be conducted only by the
          EPA. Don't follow the example of
          Carroll Street Resident Otley
          Manchez who attempted to dump
          10,000 gallons of dishwashing soap
          into the canal late at night. His
          intentions were good but his
          actions were wrong.

                    TEDDY JIMMY
          HE DIED DOING THAT. Did he?

EDLEN shakes his head "no".

                    EDLEN
          The EPA has invested over $500
          Billion to attempt to clean this
          site. You must help us help you -
          please stop throwing things into
          the Canal. That's really such basic
          advice.

TEDDY JIMMY angrily mouths the word "basic".

                    EDLEN
          To help illustrate my point, we've
          compiled a slideshow of the things
          we found in the canal this year.
          Teddy Jimmy?

TEDDY JIMMY switches on the slideshow projected behind them. The slideshow shows photos of the canal with items that were found in it.

                    EDLEN
              (deadpan)
          An unopened six-pack of Pabst Blue
          Ribbon. An iPhone 4S, corroded
          almost beyond recognition. A
          lifesize Elmo costume knock-off.
          Half of a canoe. A stroller for
          quadruplets. A stinky piece of
          canvas, or, possibly an original
          art piece from the gallery around
          the block. Sorry.

He takes a breath and continues.

                    EDLEN
          A baby sized office chair. A
          half-built Ikea Malm. A
          self-driving car. Kat Williams. An
          entire subway car of what looks
          like the F train, and its full of
          passengers. A test drone from
          Amazon Air. An empty rehearsal room
          that was canceled last minute. A
          tab that opened in a new window. A
          twenty-something freelancer who
          started a pickling business because
          he believes in himself. And a
          Malaysian Airplane - no, forget
          that last one.

The projected slideshow ends.

                    EDLEN
          The items shown here have been
          purchased by the Art Gallery down
          the block, and the funds will be
          used to further the cleaning
          budget. If you have any questions,
          please come see me in the lobby
          afterwards. Now, have I forgotten
          anything?

                    TEDDY JIMMY
              (steps forward)
          Yeah. One more thing. This is a
          dope ass neighborhood with a dumb
          ass dirty canal and it's your
          fault, losers. To demonstrate how
          shitty it is, I'm gonna drink this
          water from the canal!

TEDDY JIMMY picks up a glass of brown water and chugs it. A
dribble of blood comes out of his mouth and he shakes and
collapses.

                    EDLEN
          Teddy Jimmy?

He nudges him.

                    EDLEN
          Teddy Jimmy, that was a stunt
          right? You didn't actually-

NO ANSWER.

                    EDLEN
          Ummm. On second thought, don't come
          find me afterwards in the lobby.

Beat. He runs to the exit.

                    EDLEN
          RUNNING A CANAL IS HARD, OKAY!?

                                             BLACKOUT.