

Zac Efron is



## Teddy Ruxpin



**“What Teddy knows from books is about to be tested in the real world.”**

*After playing Nuke, Zac may need a role where he can use his extra body weight. The role of Teddy Ruxpin, a branded talking bear, who also reads children's stories, is an iconic character that offers the intersection of a story with a message, and a role with opportunity for Zac to build performance from his imagination. The hybrid of live action, motion capture, voice and CGI will also offer a rich palate for shaping a character design into a stretch of pure screen fiction.*

Teddy Ruxpin, an old teddy bear, discovers he can become human when he is discarded by his owner and sent to a second-hand store. But what he doesn't know is that the world isn't an easy place for a teddy bear to fit into. Overweight, out of shape, naked, broke and hungry, Teddy must figure out that his true purpose is not to be loved, but to find those who most need to be loved by him. But only if he survives the transition phase, where he must learn the ways of the world, will he be granted the right to be human, and the privilege to truly make others happy.



Trapped in a second-hand store by day, Teddy and his stuffed buddies make adventures into the night to learn about the real world and the right to be human.

# TEDDY RUXPIN

## LOGLINE

When Teddy Ruxpin is thrown away, he is offered a chance to become human. But first he must complete basic training in an under-shopped second-hand store. However, once he has learned enough to survive reality, he must venture beyond the storefront window to prove that he can be useful to the world. But beyond the thrift shop sanctuary, he must find three humans who can help him transition to the promise of a new life. And with only twenty-four hours to complete the mission, Teddy must use all his stories to earn the right to be human.

## SYNOPSIS

### ACT 1

Teddy Ruxpin is a talking bear who tells stories. He has lived a playful life until his owner, a little girl, is forced to leave her childhood home due to the divorce of her parents. While packing, the mother decides to put the bear in a box of giveaways, since the bear had been a present from the dad. Much to the dismay of the little girl, the mother promises to buy her a new one, while Teddy is carried away by a thrift shop donation driver.

In the process, Teddy is separated from his box of books on tape, which leaves him with only one tape inside -- *and a double case of separation anxiety*. Confused and distressed, he ends up at a used toy store that is frequented by humans who need toys

for their pets. In fact, while domesticated pets “shop around” for used toys, the reality becomes clear that many toys will be eaten alive, mangled, or destroyed by “jaws and claws” alike.

At night, the few toys that are spared plot for a way to escape, but the Big Bear in charge assures them that there is a plan for their life that is bigger than the reality of a stuffed animal. And so he educates the stuffed menagerie on what really lies beyond the walls of their temporary housing arrangement. And he tells them that by some miracle, once in an epoch, under the blue light of a supermoon, one of the toys is chosen to transition to the human realm.

## **ACT 2**

Over a stretch of time, Teddy has averted being snatched by snarling, sniffing pets, but he has also lost a few of his new friends. And generally the environment is terrifying to all. But one night Big Bear learns that it is Teddy who has been chosen to transition, because of a halo of super-moonlight seen around Teddy’s head while sleeping in the window.

The next day, Teddy is run through basic training, an eight minute crash course on reality, from an everyday survival guide (by Bernie Sanders), and then he is thrown out the back door of the store.

And so it is that Teddy's unexpected journey to become human begins. Reluctant and dismayed once again, Teddy spends the night in the alley by the dumpster. But by morning he is already partly becoming human, and he soon accepts that it appears that the other toys no longer want or need him.

But Teddy barely knows anything about the world that lies in front of him, and with his memory divided between his past life, and one that has been promised, Teddy must set out on his journey.

Warned that he would experience an emptiness inside of him, "like the stuffing has been ripped out of his middle," Teddy endures hunger pangs that send him in quest of his first real meal. During his search he learns that food costs money, that there are many kinds of food that are designed to look good but are not real, and that a person needs to eat right to grow and be strong.

After missing breakfast, and starving through lunch hour, he comes across a group of Rainbow Gathering kids, who think Teddy is dressed as the Grateful Dead dancing bear, and take him under their wing. But protective of their panhandled food reserves, Teddy only hears tales from these kids who lost their family members, have run away from abuse at home, or had beliefs that took them to the street and into the forest to find a better way to survive, "outside of the system, but inside of creation."

It is not until one homeless boy, who is moved by Teddy's story of being thrown away by his

family -- and separated from all of his tapes, and then having his friends eaten by animals -- that he is accepted into the group long enough to have a shared meal, part of a half eaten sandwich and dumpster fries. This is Teddy's first "twinkle" experience, earning him one of three human sparks.

Soon after eating, Teddy has his first urge to go to the bathroom and is separated from the group. But as he wanders looking for his newly made friends, who have vanished from the neighborhood, Teddy begins to change again, losing enough of his fur to make him the suspect of indecent exposure.

Teddy, half naked, realizing that he is suspect to a police pursuit, is able to cover himself with a large crowd gathered around a film shoot. As he inches his way past a barricade, during a fuss from a temperamental actor, about his costume and the quality of his lines, the crew is distracted as the enraged actor storms off the set. Teddy, unwittingly arrives at the costume trailer where another celebrity, the scene partner, is being dressed. Assuming that he is the same actor, in character, for the toy commercial being filmed, he is outfitted with an overcoat that conceals his unfurry parts, while being handed a revised script for the next scene about to be filmed.

Not knowing how to read, Teddy makes up his own lines from improv, and from memory, which surprises the director and starlet making the commercial. Teddy's heartfelt lines about why toys are important inspire the starlet to compliment "the actor" (earning Teddy his second

human spark) on what a great job he did. But when the real actor comes from his trailer, after his tantrum, and Teddy is removed from the set.

Lost again in a city approaching dusk, Teddy wanders the street in an upscale neighborhood, home to a famous toy store, F.A.O. Schwarz, where he is hoping to run into the little girl who he used to belong to. Instead he sees a few moody kids, begging for the latest toys, but is still taken by the magic of the store and the world that toys seem to come from -- a true inspiration and a missing piece of Teddy's own story, that toys are meant to be taken home.

But this bodes hard for Teddy because night has fallen and he realizes that he -- unlike all the other toys who were being purchased -- has no home. Teddy continues to wander the neighborhood until he happens upon a man (a once prominent hotel mogul) sweeping the street in front of an expensive hotel. But although the old man tells Teddy to leave his property, that he is ruining the quality of the neighborhood, Teddy persists in asking him why he is sweeping the streets and where the man sleeps. The man is intrigued by Teddy's insistence and tells Teddy that he built the hotel from the ground up, but that his wife divorced him and now the hotel belongs to her, and that everybody is angry with him, and that he says things that he sometimes doesn't really mean.

Teddy assures him that it's Christmas and that somewhere, somebody must love him enough to forgive what he says with words, and to see him for only the good parts. The man says that his good parts are his kids. Teddy asks him if he has a daughter, and if she had a teddy bear when she was little. When Teddy offers the details of her name, and when the family split up, Teddy informs the man his name is Teddy Ruxpin. "You're Teddy Ruxpin?" I was wondering what

happened to you. You were my daughter's favorite present, something I hoped she could keep and give to her daughter. Teddy tells the man that after he was given away, he ended up at a place where attack dogs come to pick out new chew toys to practice their killer instincts, ripping the stuffing out of many of his friends in front of his very eyes. He likes Teddy's story, earning Teddy his third human spark, and an invitation to a first class hotel suite for one night. Teddy falls asleep during an on-air broadcasting of the commercial he starred in earlier that day.

### **ACT 3**

During the night Teddy undergoes his final transition, waking transformed into a young prince. Groomed and safe for the first time, Teddy is reunited with the same girl who he had been taken from. But it seems that years have gone by now and she is quite a bit older. Though she does recall vividly that she was ripped away from her favorite toy, she admits she refused to ever have it replaced.

After a delightful breakfast, Tiffany, now a young lady, takes her old friend Teddy to work with her. She is now a toy marketer working for the company that made the toy that she had once lost. Teddy is included in a focus group that allows him to share one last story about the power of storytelling and why Teddy Ruxpin can be a success in the new digital age where experience design can change how kids interact with Teddy. They come up with a new prototype based on Teddy's concept and feedback -- and then he says goodbye to his previous owner.

Teddy goes back to the second store where he came from, but somehow it is actually years later and the store has been replaced by a pet store. Teddy asked if there had ever been a second-hand store there and how long ago it had been. More than fifteen years have gone by he is told. But

then he runs into the boy that he met from the Rainbow tribe, and the boy is still the same age as when he met him the night before. The boy tells him that the night of the supermoon has just passed, which only comes every couple decades. The boy thanks him for sharing his story, and tell Teddy that he is going home to his family on the bus. But just as soon as the boy shares his story, however, he vanishes into the store. Teddy follows him deeper into the store where there is a commotion of barking dogs, and then miraculously Teddy finds himself inside the second-hand store where he once lived. Teddy watches as he sees a boy asking his father to buy the plush animal from the window that looks just Teddy -- then Teddy remembers the place that he grew up and the other stuffed animal, his playmate, that he used to share the window seat with. But in a flash the sound of the barking dogs begins again and Teddy finds himself staring at an empty cage, instead of an storefront window. A few of the puppies stare at Teddy as he realizes that the boy, and all the second-hand stuffed animals, were never really there.

It's Christmas at FAO Schwarz and Teddy, now a young man, wanders the aisles filled with Christmas cheer. He makes a purchase, and offers his purchase as a donation to the Unicef Children's Toy Fund. The clerk thanks him, telling him he made a dream come true for a child somewhere. A girl, in the final stages of transition from life as a stuffed animal, stands behind Teddy in the same line and donates a plushee to the fund. They catch eyes. She looks a lot like the other teddy bear (in fact she still has white fuzzy ears), the same as his very first friend from the house he grew up in. "I like your ear muffs," Teddy pauses. "Did you ever live on Park and 52nd Street?" The girl smiles and for the first time the sparkle comes from Teddy's eye, making her wish come true -- the final sparkle she needs to transition from her life as a toy. It's snowing outside, and Teddy asks the girl if she wants to get some icecream.

**THE END**