TEASER

MONTAGE:

ZOOM IN ON: A MAP OF THE EARTH shows a small DARK COUNTRY nestled between brightly colored FORMER SOVIET STATES.

ZAP (V.O.)
Welcome to Dystearia, a small country created and ruled by its mad-genius dictator, “Dr. Mekham”.

The country becomes real. Zoom through FARMLAND populated by CYBORGS (nice, normal people, with DIFFERENT TYPES OF CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS that make their lives easier). FARMERS corral SHEEP with ROCKET FEET, a WAREHOUSE WORKER uses EXTENDING ARMS to stock SHELVES. SOME ENHANCED CHILDREN FLY home as SCHOOL lets out, OTHERS board a WINGED BUS.

ZAP (V.O.)
Life here is all about technology. Everything must be constantly advanced and upgraded... Even people.

The BUS takes off. In it, kids shows off their ENHANCEMENTS, like transforming SCISSOR FINGERS or ROBOT EYES.

The bus flies towards the center of the farmland, over a WALL TOPPED BY ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND BARBED WIRE, into a FUTURISTIC CITY. Below, WHITE COLLAR CYBORGS walk the streets. Inside OFFICES, ONE cyborg uses ROBOT ARMS to type on four computers at once, ONE gestures to a CHART in a meeting using EXTENDING FINGERS, ONE heats his coffee by SHOOTING FIRE from his PALM.

ZAP (V.O.)
For most, it was a utopia, and it could have remained that way, if only Dr. Mekham hadn’t been so intent on forcing his vision of a “perfect society” upon the rest of the world.

A MISSILE strikes a skyscraper. Jets fly over the CITY, dropping BOMBS. The MISSILE LAUNCHERS on the walls FIRE at them. PEDESTRIANS scream, run for cover from FALLING RUBBLE.

In the COUNTRYSIDE, a TANK REGIMENT advances. Stone-faced GENERAL HARDT (54), rides on the MAIN TANK, leading the way. He looks through BINOCULARS at a BULBOUS BUILDING, “MEKHAM’S COMPOUND”, at the heart of the city, towering above it all.

END OF MONTAGE.
INT. MEKHAM’S COMPOUND - EXPERIMENT ROOM - DAY

Above a nightmarish EXPERIMENT ROOM, a large CAGE hangs from the ceiling. Inside, about fifty TEENS with frightening CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS live squashed together, like rats.

ZAP (13) a skinny boy with a GOLDEN GRID covering the upper-right part of his face, fights through a mob to the center, where a torrent of BROWN SLOP falls into a CENTRAL BUCKET. He grabs a meager handful, retreats to the outer bars to eat.

ZAP (V.O.)
Did I mention it’s not a utopia for everyone? Yeah, that’s me. Don’t bother asking my name or where I’m from, none of us remember. All we know is that we live for just one purpose, to be human guinea pigs in Dr. Mekham’s twisted experiments!

TYRUS (13), a skinny child with an EYE-PATCH and METAL CAP in place of a RIGHT HAND falls in through a chute, lands on his back. Zap crawls over, helps him up. They lean on the bars.

ZAP
Hey, Eight-Nine-Five-Three! Back from your experiment, already?

TYRUS
Why are you so chipper? Been narrating your own life again?

ZAP
Anything to pass the time! You hungry? I saved you some slop.

TYRUS
What’s the point? I’m not going to last another day.

ZAP
Don’t talk like that. Life’s still worth hanging onto, even in here.

Tyurus relents, accepts some of the slop, eats with Zap.

TYRUS
I don’t see what keeps you going, Six-Four-Oh-Seven.

ZAP
That’s easy. It’s you. I’ve got a friend! And you’re my only one.

(MORE)
Whenever I’m being experimented on, the one thing that keeps me going is thinking, “What would you ever do without me?”

TYRUS
Ugh! Please, don’t get mushy on me! Isn’t life here hard enough?

ZAP
I mean it! I want you to promise me, Eight-Nine, that if I don’t come back someday, that you won’t give up. That you’ll make it out!

TYRUS
I can’t promise that!

ZAP
Please, or else, what’s the point of trying to survive?

TYRUS

ZAP
(laughs)
I know, you one-handed dummy.

The sound of MISSILES EXPLODING rattles the cage. JENINA (13), a girl covered in garish BLUE VEINS, runs over.

JENINA
Listen! It’s coming from outside! It’s the Allies, they’ve come to save us! I knew they would!

KROWLY (14), a buff kid with a METAL DOMED SCALP, approaches.

KROWLY
They’re not here to save us, ding-dong! They’re here to destroy us!

ZAP
Calm down, you guys! We’ll always survive so long as we have our hope, and I’m never giving that up!

Zap’s words calm them as they huddle together. Explosions rock the building, but there is no fear in Zap’s eyes.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

The doors below open, MEKHAM (35), a tall, handsome man with thick, greasy black hair, enters with BATTERY (50) a grizzled, buff, mountain-man in brown trench-coat.

BATTERY
But, we don’t have time, Master! They’ve breached the inner wall!

MEKHAM
We will make time. I won’t allow my greatest invention and your destiny to be lost!

TYRUS
Look, it’s Mekham!

KROWLY
What are they saying?

JENINA
Shut-up! I can’t hear.

BATTERY
But, it’s still untested!

MEKHAM
Are you doubting my genius? Or, are you simply a coward?

BATTERY
I’m not afraid.

MEKHAM
Are you loyal to me?

BATTERY
Yes.

MEKHAM
Excuse me? Are you or are you not my most loyal soldier?

BATTERY
I swore my life to you, Dr. Mekham. I haven’t forgotten.

MEKHAM
Good! Then, ready your life!

Mekham and Battery climb up metal stairs to the CONTROL PLATFORM that surrounds a LARGE, CYLINDRICAL MACHINE.
ZAP
He’s finally using that thing!

KROWLY
So, no more testing it on us, then?

JENINA
Hopefully, no more tests at all!

TYRUS
(looks at his stump)
Unless it doesn’t work. You know what could happen then.

MEKHAM
Now, my dear General Battery, in just ninety seconds, you will finally earn that name.

Mekham types on the panel, the machine SPINS and LIGHTS-UP. A HOLE opens in its top, revealing a MAN-SIZED CHAMBER.

Hardt burst in with FIFTY SOLDIERS who fan out to fill the room, GUNS trained on Mekham. Above, the prisoners all shout towards the soldiers.

ZAP / TYRUS / JENINA / KROWLY
(shouting, ad-lib)
Help! Up here! Let us out!

HARDT
Dr. Evan Mekham! By order of the Allied Nations, you’re under arrest for crimes against humanity!

The shouting subsides as everyone waits on his response. The tense atmosphere of “the calm before a fight” fills the air. Mekham’s silence gives way to chuckles, then hearty laughter.

MEKHAM
Oh? But how can you accuse me of crimes against humanity, when I have transcended all human kind?!

SWERTHA (33), a gorgeous woman in leather with a SKIN-COLORED METAL TAIL that ends in a SCYTHE, leaps down from the RAFTERS, lands blocking the stairs, faces the soldiers.

SWERTHA
You just made a big mistake, boys.

GECKO (36), a man with SHIMMERING RAINBOW SKIN, deactivates his INVISIBILITY to appear next to her.
GECKO

Nobody messes with the Doctor.

DOMINGO BLANCO (45) a bald, shirtless body-builder, covered in tattoos, enters from the door next to the stairs, joins them. He says nothing, but gives an ICY STARE.

MEKHAM

You all have the privilege to meet my three greatest creations. Swertha, the sinful seductress, Gecko, the king of thieves, and finally, the silent assassin, Domingo Blanco.

HARDT

I’m not impressed. Your kingdom has fallen! Now, surrender!

MEKHAM

My dear General, it is I who am unimpressed. Because, you see, your whole army is no match for even just one of my elite cyborgs!

Swertha leaps, spins through the air, her tail SLICING every raised gun in half. Gecko becomes invisible, KNOCKS OUT the soldiers who accidentally ATTACK EACH OTHER trying to find him. Domingo’s arm transforms into a CANNON that fire ENERGY BALLS into the crowd, sending soldiers flying.

MEKHAM (CONT’D)

(to Battery)

It’s ready, Battery! Now, enter!

Battery looks down at the chamber, still hesitant.

Hardt tackles Domingo’s ankle, causing his cannon to swing up as it fires, blowing the bottom off the CAGE. CYBORG TEENS rain down. Tyrus grabs onto the bars, Zap struggles to hold onto his arm stump as he slips down towards the BATTLE.

ZAP

Help me!

TYRUS

I’m sorry! I can’t hold you!

Zap slips, falls onto Mekham, rolls across the ground and into the chamber, just before Battery can enter. It SEALS itself.

BATTERY

No! Turn it off!
MEKHAM
I can’t! It’s already started!

The cylinder SPINS as LIGHTNING BOLTS shoot off it. Battery pounds on the sealed doors, tries to pry them open.

HARDT
Get these kids out of here!

Soldiers scoop up the freed prisoners, carry them back the way they entered. One carries Tyrus, who kicks and shouts, reaches to the machine, as a SOLDIER takes him away.

TYRUS
Let me go! My friend’s in there!
Wait! Six-Four-Oh-Seven!

BATTERY
No! It was supposed to be my power!

MEKHAM
You’ve failed me, General!
(Shouts)
Retreat! Fall back to the core!

Mekham runs out through the door behind the platform. Domingo uses his cannons to propel himself up as Swertha and Gecko hold onto him. They grab weeping Battery, pull him along as they follow Mekham out through the door.

HARDT
Don’t let them escape!

Hardt leads the charge after them, up the stairs, through the door. Just as the room is empty, the machine stops, OPENS length-wise. Zap falls out, stumbles to his feet, coughing and sputtering. Mekham strolls back out from the door, closes it behind him, shutting off the SOUNDS OF BATTLE.

MEKHAM
Hello there! It’s Six-Four-Oh-Seven, right? How do you feel?

ZAP
Great, cause you’re finally beaten!

MEKHAM
Don’t you know me at all? They’ll all be gone soon, but you could be headed to a top-spot by my side.

ZAP
Why would I ever help you?
MEKHAM
Because, we’re the same breed, you
and I. We’re the ones who will
save the world.

Mekham grabs Zap’s arm, but a BOLT OF ELECTRICITY erupts from
it, throwing them both to opposite sides of the room.

MEKHAM (CONT’D)
That’s good! It seems your body
accepted the transformation.

ZAP
What was that? Say away from me!

Zap runs up the steps, through the door.

MEKHAM
Are you trying to play hide-and-
seek!? This is my base, child!
You’ve nowhere to go.

INT. MEKHAM’S COMPOUND - CENTRAL CORE - DAY

Zap emerges on a platform overlooking the massive CORE at the
center of the compound. Giant ELECTRIC WIRES form a column
extending from bottom to top of this wide, sixty-story tube.

Hardt and the soldiers lie knocked-out on the ground, with
Swertha, Gecko, Domingo, and Battery standing over them.

SWERTHA
Hi, cutie. Welcome to the party.

BATTERY
You shouldn’t take things that
don’t belong to you!

ZAP
You don’t scare me, monsters!

A wave ELECTRICITY emanates from ZAP, knocks them all to the
ground. Zap runs past, grabs a PISTOL from a fallen soldier,
leaps onto the wires, slides down them. Mekham enters.

MEKHAM
Well?

Domingo shrugs, nods towards the wires.

MEKHAM (CONT’D)
You’re all useless.
Mekham removes his shoes, leaps off the platform, falls while scraping his hand and foot on the wall, making a shower of sparks, slowing his descent. He catches up to Zap, launches himself into him. They smash through the wall into:

**INT. MEKHAM’S COMPOUND – COOLANT ROOM – DAY**

Mekham and Zap crash onto a narrow CATWALK surrounded by large TANKS labeled “DANGER: SUPER COOLANT”

RUBBLE falls onto Mekham as Zap rolls to safety. He looks back, hopeful, but Mekham stands, lifting the TEN TONS OF RUBBLE over his head. He throws it aside, walks forward.

Zap backs away, raises his hands. To his surprise, electricity shoots from them into Mekham, but he continues forward. The electricity swirls around, burning Mekham’s clothes and catching his skin on fire, but he does not stop.

**MEKHAM**
You think that will work, again? It caught me by surprise before, but now that I’ve removed my rubber souls, it just flows through me.

Mekham gestures to his bare feet. Zap stops his attack.

**ZAP**
What did you do to me!?

**MEKHAM**
Made you better! Humans are such fragile creatures, living in a very dangerous world. Rising toxins, nuclear radiation, a rapidly depleting O-zone... They’re very near to extinction!

As Mekham burns, his skin melts away, revealing METALLIC FIBERS in place of muscles.

**MEKHAM (CONT’D)**
But, I found a way to save our species. Soon, everyone will be like you and me... Beyond human.

Mekham’s human face melts off like a rubber mask, revealing a METAL FACE of computer fibers with bulging ROBOTIC EYES.

**MEKHAM (CONT’D)**
Nearly every part of my body has been upgraded.

(MORE)
Every muscle replaced by super-strong cybernetic filament. My incredible brain is the only remaining vestige of my weak human physique, and soon I’ll have a way to upgrade that, too! Once the world understands, they’ll envy me. They’ll beg to be like me!

Zap reaches the end of the platform, back to the wall. He pulls out the pistol, shoots several times.

MEKHAM (CONT’D)
Fool! That won’t work on me!

ZAP
I wasn’t aiming for you.

Mekham turns, sees STEAM hissing from a container.

MEKHAM
No!

The container EXPLODES, creating a chain reaction that causes every tank to BLOW. The room fills with steam that hardens into a THICK PLASTIC COAT over everything. It climbs up Zap and Mekham’s legs, encasing them in it. They scream.

As ZAP is sealed in, the last thing he sees is Mekham also being encased in the plastic substance, reaching for him.

INT. MEKHAM’S COMPOUND – COOLANT CHAMBER – MINUTES LATER

Zap and Mekham, frozen in clear plastic, face each other on the catwalk as the COMPOUND COLLAPSES around them. Swertha, Gecko, Domingo, and Battery enter, run to them. Swertha uses her tail to cut out the section of the floor around Mekham.

GECKO
Hurry, this place is coming down!

SWERTHA
Got him!

Domingo and Gecko lift Mekham, carry him to the door.

BATTERY
Wait! What about the boy?

SWERTHA
There’s no time!
But, he has my power!

I said, there’s no time!

Swertha, Gecko, and Domingo exit with Mekham. Battery pounds on Zap’s block, tries to pry it up. The roof caves in around them

No! Blast it! No!

EXT. DYSTERIA - FUTURISTIC CITY - DAY

Mekham’s compound collapses into a column of SMOKE.

EXT. DYSTERIA - RUINS OF MEKHAM’S COMPOUND - ONE WEEK LATER

DR. ROE (35) a SCIENTIST with thick black hair and large glasses, walks with SOLDIERS, sifting through the smoking remnants of MEKHAM’S COMPOUND in the heart of DYSTERIA.

SOLDIERS pick up PIECES OF TECHNOLOGY, show them to him.

ROE
Yes, save that. No, that’s trash.

A SOLDIER comes running over to Roe.

SOLDIER
Dr. Roe! You got to see this!

ROE runs with him to a PIT where RUBBLE has been removed to reveal ZAP, frozen in a plastic block.

ROE
Now, we’re definitely keeping this.

CROSS-FADE TO:

INT. CERA HEADQUARTERS - RESEARCH ROOM - DAY

ZAP’S BLOCK stands on a pedestal in a CYLINDRICAL GLASS TUBE at the center of a DOMED ROOM filled with SCIENTISTS working at ROWS OF GIANT COMPUTERS. Roe stands by the tube, considering, as rigid, ginger, DR. Bonnet (34), approaches.

BONNET
So, this is our new super-weapon? Some kid?
ROE taps on a SCREEN showing an X-RAY of ZAP.

ROE
Look at the circuitry working its way through his body, all stemming from those micro-chips in his fingertips. This is the most advanced technology I’ve ever seen!

BONNET
Is it wise to have him here?

ROE
The records we recovered say he was a prisoner. I think he’ll want to join us, but just in case, we need to learn all we can before he wakes up.

BONNET
And when do you think that will be?

ROE
We’re working on a solvent, but this artificial compound is tricky business. It’s already dissolving on its own, but, at the rate it’s going... Maybe a year?

BONNET
That’s unacceptable, Doctor. By then...

They stare at Zap’s ANGUISHED, FROZEN FACE.

BONNET (CONT’D)
There might not be much of a world left for him to wake up to.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE