

EXT. TOWN CENTER OF BERN - DAY

Albert is on a park bench, eating a brown bag lunch. He is tired and weary; his head FALLS FORWARD in apparent sleep. A loud BELL rings in the clock tower. Albert jolts awake.

INT. THE CLOCK TOWER - DAY

The tower bells CLANG. Followed by a distant ECHO.

EXT. TOWN CENTER OF BERN - DAY

We distinctly HEAR the sound of the bells echoing in the park. The sound is bouncing off of one building, then the next, with a slight delay. Albert's head follows the sound.

SOUND WAVE POV: Racing across the open square, and bouncing off buildings as we head to Albert on the bench. Albert bolts upright, his lunch and papers falling from his lap. He starts walking quickly, then faster, leaving the papers and lunch on the ground, now blowing in the wind.

INT. EINSTEIN'S STUDY - DAY

The face of Albert is in deep concentration. He is at his desk, papers strewn about. MOZART plays on a record player. He is writing maniacally. The paper title: ON THE THEORY OF MOVING BODIES. He stops, stuck on something.

INT. EINSTEIN LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Albert is putting on a coat and hat, as Mileva enters.

ALBERT

I thought I would take a walk over to see Michele. It's a splendid day for a thoughtful walk. Would you care to join me? We could talk of science, as we once did.

Mileva moves toward Albert, and straightens out his messy clothes, with affection but distance.

MILEVA

When we were young, I thought a man with his head in the clouds was exciting. Now, I am a mother and have more earthly concerns.

ALBERT

Dolly, I love you for freeing me to pursue these idle thoughts. I'll be back for dinner.

He kisses her on the cheek and heads to the door. As he leaves, she hesitates by the door, watching him go.

EXT. BERN STREET - DUSK

Albert strolls through busy streets on a gorgeous day. He tips his hat, waves, says hello to the people he meets. He stops in front of a small garden. ONE FLOWER stands tall, he bends down to smell it, eyes closed.

INT. BESSO HOUSE - DUSK

Albert and Besso sit at a kitchen table. A pile of papers is between them. Albert taps the pile.

ALBERT

This is the sticky little problem of relative time that I have been working on. And I come to try to explain it to you. I was once told if you can explain something to a child then you understand it. If you can't, then you don't.

BESSO

Very funny.

Later. Mrs. Besso enters. The papers are scattered across the table, the men have their heads down over calculations.

MRS. BESSO

Staying for dinner Albert?

ALBERT

No, thank you. I promised Mileva I would be home for dinner.

INT. BESSO KITCHEN - NIGHT

The Besso house is quiet, and the kitchen table is filled with empty plates, coffee cups, and an overflowing ashtray. The two men look like they have run a marathon. Albert in a chair, pipe-smoke wafting around him.

BESSO

But what if the light travels at a different speed?

ALBERT

I don't think it can. That is the heart of the matter. It seems like the speed of light is constant, although I don't know exactly what it means -

INT. EINSTEIN KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mileva sits at the table with Hans. There is an empty seat, and a complete, cold dinner sitting on it, as she looks at the clock. It CHIMES, lonely and loud.

EXT. BERN STREETS - NIGHT

Albert is walking home. He hears the clock tower CHIME. He LOOKS at his watch and stops, stands and listens. Another chime is heard in the dark. Albert is concentrating. A chime, then the echo in the distance. This confuses him.

EXT. BERN STREETS - NIGHT

Saint Peter's Clock as it CHIMES.

Another clock tower as it CHIMES.

INT. SAINT PETER'S BELL HOUSE - NIGHT

The bells CLANG with energy.

EXT. BERN STREETS - NIGHT

Albert is looking at his watch with his mouth open. Another chime rings and he looks up to the sky.

ALBERT

Thank you God.

Albert starts walking quickly. He then begins to run.

INT. EINSTEIN STUDY - NIGHT

CAPTION: BERN, Switzerland - JUNE 30, 1905

The oil lamp on his desk is flickering, nearly spent. A paper is on his desk, ON THE THEORY OF MOVING BODIES, is open to an equation that is almost finished, but incomplete. Albert stands in the SHADOWS looking out the window, puzzled. He lights his pipe.

EXT. EINSTEIN STUDY - CONTINUOUS

From the street, Albert is in the window. Below, in the foreground, the previously struggling plant is now blooming.  
EXT. SPACE (DALI LIKE SURREAL) - DAY

Albert stands on a train platform station, exactly as we last saw him. He splits in two. The two identical Einstein look at each other. (This is the Twin paradox of physics).

They both turn to a fast approaching noise and a bright light. From the light comes a

A DEEP VOICE

"Albert you must remember this. The speed of light is always, always constant." The approaching light becomes

A SEE THROUGH TRAIN

The LIGHT WAVE EXPRESS pulls into the station. One Einstein enters the train, the other stays at the station. The train exits at an incredible SPEED.

On the train, Einstein looks out the window to see the other Einstein growing smaller in the distance, and then the earth itself becomes smaller in the distance. The train curves and heads back to the train station.

INSIDE THE TRAIN

Einstein pulls out a BALL. He holds it in front of him.

The train suddenly is in SLOW MOTION, and is now passing directly in front of the station. Einstein drops the ball. As the ball falls to the train floor, it leaves a visible TRAIL, which appears as a straight line to him.

The Einstein at the train station watches the same thing. But to him, the ball leaves a TRAIL that is curved, because both the ball and the train are moving forward.

The train SPEEDS up again, and then returns in SLOW MOTION.

The Einstein at the station watches as two LIGHTNING BOLTS strike SIMULTANEOUSLY at the ends of the train.

The Einstein in the train watches the same event. But because the train is moving forward - towards one bolt and receding from the other - the lighting at the front of the train appears to strike EARLIER, and the one behind, LATER.

The Einstein at the train station looks at his WATCH.

The train speeds away out in deep space.

The Einstein on the train looks at his WATCH. The two watches appear side by side. The one on the train is normal, but the one at the station moves CRAZILY FAST.

Flying through DEEP SPACE and approaching earth again, we can see the CURVE of SPACE.

Pulling back into the station, Einstein exits.

At the station is an OLD Einstein.

The reach to hug each other, and the two Einstein fuse back into one Einstein.

Albert has a wide grin, claps his hands, and fades away until inside the

#### EINSTEIN STUDY

He shows up exactly the same in his room. The oil lamp on his desk sputters out. Albert is still. Over the horizon is a beautiful, brilliant, bright sunrise.