

The Barber Ninja

Production & Prompt Guide

A complete, repeatable workflow for a 15-second cinematic 3D barbershop comedy — from character reference images to the final Seedance 2.0 render.

15 sec · 9:16 vertical · Pixar look · No dialogue · Built for virality

THE IDEA

A haircut staged like an action-movie duel.

Milo walks in with an enormous, untamable explosion of frizzy hair — a genuine emergency. Towering over him is the Barber Ninja: hulking, tattooed, scissors gleaming, every move a martial-arts finishing strike. He circles the chair like a predator, sizes up the chaos, and goes to work in a blur of snips and clipper buzz while Milo sits frozen with his eyes squeezed shut. Then the cape whips off, the chair spins, and the terrified nerd match-cuts into a sleek, sharp, freshly-styled Milo. The gap between the barber's deadly drama and the absurd hair situation is the whole joke. No dialogue — cartoon SFX only.

WORKFLOW AT A GLANCE

01. Design characters — Lock the looming barber and the terrified Milo as references.
02. Build key frames — Three stills: the hair chaos, the dramatic snip, the reveal.
03. Animate in Seedance 2.0 — Feed refs + master prompt, render 9:16 at 15s.
04. Polish & post — Cartoon SFX, gold title card, publish to Reels.

CHARACTER REFERENCE IMAGES

Consistency is everything — the same face, body and shop must appear in every frame. Lock two clean reference images — the hulking Barber Ninja and tiny terrified Milo — in Nano Banana (Gemini) or GPT Image, then upload both into Seedance 2.0 as references. Milo's face has to be recognizably the same person under the wild before-hair and the sleek after-cut, or the transformation gag breaks.

The Barber Ninja (The Looming Master) — Hulking and tattooed, sharp goatee, black apron, scissors in one hand and clippers in the other. Treats the cut like a duel — every snip a finishing move. Secretly a craftsman, never cruel.

Milo (The Terrified Client) — Small, skinny, round glasses, and an enormous wild explosion of frizzy hair. Rigid in the vintage chair, knuckles white, eyes huge. Lovable, never pathetic.

STORYBOARD THE CHAOS, THE STRIKE AND THE REVEAL

[BEFORE] Tiny Milo dwarfed by his enormous frizzy hair, rigid in the chair, eyes huge; the Barber Ninja looming behind, scissors glinting.

[ACTION] The barber mid-strike with a martial-arts flourish, a clump of hair flying in slow motion; Milo flinching, eyes squeezed shut.

[REVEAL] Cape whipped off — Milo now sleek and sharp with a crisp fresh cut, staring into the mirror, jaw dropping; the barber nods approvingly.

KEY FRAME · THE STRIKE (ACTION)

ACTION FRAME – the dramatic snip

[STYLE] Pixar / Illumination 3D animation, moody vintage barbershop, hard spotlight, noir shadows. 9:16.

[ACTION] THE BARBER NINJA – hulking, tattooed, black apron, sharp goatee – mid-strike with a martial-arts flourish, scissors flashing, a clump of frizzy hair flying in slow motion, deadly-serious focused eyes.

[FOREGROUND] Tiny MILO – round glasses, enormous wild frizzy hair – rigid in the vintage barber chair, knuckles white, eyes squeezed shut, flinching.

[NEGATIVE] Maximum drama over a harmless haircut. No text, no logos, no real menace, no inconsistent identity.

TIMELINE

0:00–0:02 The arrival — the barber looms, cracks knuckles, scissors glint; cut to tiny Milo gulping.

0:02–0:05 The size-up — the barber circles the chair like a predator; one of Milo's curls boings nervously.

0:05–0:08 First strike — a dramatic slow-motion "SNIP", a clump of hair flies; Milo flinches.

0:08–0:11 The flurry — ninja barbering blur, clippers "BZZT", hair flying; Milo peeks with one eye.

0:11–0:13 The finishing move — chair spins, cape whips off "FWAP", the barber strikes a pose.

0:13–0:15 The reveal — match-cut to a sleek fresh-cut Milo, jaw dropping; barber nods — freeze-frame.

THE 15-SECOND MASTER PROMPT

This is the whole thing — copy it, swap the trade (tailor, dentist, manicurist) and you have your own dramatic-transformation series.

MASTER PROMPT · THE BARBER NINJA

CINEMATIC 3D AI CARTOON MINI-STORY – THE BARBER NINJA: MILO'S HAIR EMERGENCY

[STYLE] Pixar / Illumination-inspired 3D animated comedy with dramatic action-movie staging, exaggerated but clean cartoon anatomy, hugely expressive faces, glossy barbershop render, warm tungsten light fighting hard rim shadows, shallow depth of field. The whole story plays like a tense action showdown – except the only stakes are one terrified nerd's haircut. Duration: 15 seconds. Aspect ratio: 9:16. Resolution: 720p or higher. No dialogue. No speech. No subtitles. No logos. Cartoon SFX only.

[CHARACTERS – use the 2 uploaded reference images]

THE BARBER NINJA (The Looming Master): a hulking, broad-shouldered barber, easily twice Milo's size, heavily tattooed forearms, sharp goatee, slicked-back hair, black apron over a tight tee, scissors gleaming in one hand and clippers in the other. Moves with deadly-serious martial precision – every snip a finishing move. Intimidating and theatrical, but secretly a craftsman who loves his work. Never actually cruel.

MILO (The Terrified Client): a small, skinny young man in his early 20s with oversized round black glasses, sweet nervous energy, and an ENORMOUS wild explosion of frizzy hair that dwarfs his head – a chaotic shrub of curls. Sits rigid in the vintage barber chair, knuckles white on the armrests, eyes huge behind his glasses. Expression arc: terror -> flinching -> cautious peeking -> astonishment -> delight. Lovable and funny, never pathetic.

[ENVIRONMENT] A moody vintage barbershop at dusk. A single ornate leather-and-chrome barber chair under a hard spotlight, a big wall mirror with warm bulb frame, shelves of pomade jars and bottles, a striped barber pole spinning slowly outside the rain-flecked window, checkerboard floor, gleaming chrome and scissors catching the light. Premium, dramatic, slightly noir – like a duel is about to happen.

[MOOD] Maximum action-movie tension over a completely harmless haircut. The barber treats the cut like a life-or-death duel; Milo is genuinely terrified of his own hair situation. Tension real, comedy huge, stakes hilariously imaginary – and the reveal deeply satisfying.

[TIMELINE] 0:00-0:02 THE ARRIVAL: low-angle hero shot, the Barber Ninja looms into frame, cracks his knuckles, scissors catching a dramatic glint; cut to tiny Milo dwarfed by his own frizzy hair, gulping. · 0:02-0:05 THE SIZE-UP: the barber slowly circles the chair like a predator, eyeing the wild hair from every angle, narrowing his eyes; Milo's pupils shrink, one curl boings nervously. · 0:05-0:08 FIRST STRIKE: the barber whips out the scissors with a martial-arts flourish, a single dramatic "SNIP" sends a clump of hair flying in slow motion; Milo flinches, eyes squeezed shut. · 0:08-0:11 THE FLURRY: rapid-fire ninja barbering – scissors blur, clippers buzz "BZZT" up the side, comb-and-snip combos, hair flying everywhere, the barber's serious eyes never blinking; Milo peeks with one eye. · 0:11-0:13 THE FINISHING MOVE: the barber spins the chair, whips the cape off with a matador "FWAP," strikes a victorious pose; the spotlight flares. · 0:13-0:15 THE REVEAL: same angle, clean match-cut – Milo now sleek and sharp with a crisp fresh cut and styled hair, staring into the mirror, jaw dropping in delight; the barber gives a single approving nod and a thumbs-up – freeze-frame.

[CAMERA] Low-angle hero shot as the barber looms; slow predatory circle during the size-up; whip-pan and slow-motion on the first strike; fast rhythmic inserts on the flurry; dramatic chair-spin on the finishing move; clean match-cut to the reveal; final hero freeze-frame on Milo's gasp.

[LIGHTING] Dramatic barbershop noir: a hard overhead spotlight on the chair, warm tungsten glow from the mirror bulbs, cool blue from the rainy window, hard rim light on the barber's silhouette, glints flashing off scissors, chrome and Milo's glasses.

[AUDIO] Cartoon SFX only: a dramatic action sting and a low "hmmm" hum on the arrival, tense ticking during the size-up, a sharp "SNIP" with a sword-unsheathe "shhk" on the first strike, a rhythmic flurry of "snip-snip-snip" and a clipper "BZZT," a matador "FWAP" on the cape, a sparkling "TING" on the reveal, a triumphant little fanfare on the thumbs-up. No speech, no subtitles.

[NEGATIVE] No subtitles, no logos, no on-screen text, no dialogue, no blood, no real

QUALITY CHECKLIST

- [] Both characters look identical to their reference images in every beat (identity consistency)
- [] The shop stays consistent — same chair, mirror, spotlight throughout
- [] Clear mismatch: action-movie drama vs a harmless haircut
- [] Milo reads as the same person transformed — wild frizz -> sleek fresh cut, same glasses
- [] Cartoon SFX only — no dialogue, no subtitles, no on-screen text
- [] Strong first 2 seconds (the looming barber + the wild hair) so it stops the scroll
- [] 9:16, 15 seconds, 720p or better, gold title used sparingly

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