

Plants vs. Zombies - Pilot

by

Stephen Notley

Plants vs. Zombies (c)
Electronic Arts

EXT. LAWN. DAY

SUNNY, a Sunflower, bobs gently back and forth, smiling.

She looks over to her left (our right) and sees PEEBS, a Peashooter, firing a pea off to his left about once a second.

SUNNY

Hey! Peebs!

Peebs shoots another pea.

SUNNY

PEEBS! HEY PEEBS! PEEBS PEEBS PEEBS

PEEBS

A little busy at the moment, Sunny!

SUNNY

You ever wonder, you know, what it's all about?

PEEBS

I try not to.

SUNNY

Because I've been working on a song that I think sums it up perfectly!

PEEBS

Please no.

SUNNY

Please YES!

The intro for "Zombies on your Lawn" has been rising, and now --BLACKOUT!-- except for Sunny in a spotlight.

SUNNY

(singing)

"There's a zombie on your lawn,
"There's a zombie on your lawn,
"There's a zombie on your lawn,
"We don't like zombies on our--

Record scratch --end BLACKOUT-- back to the lawn. A ZOMBIE lunges at Sunny and Peebs!

ZOMBIE

BRAAAAAINZ!

PEEBS

AHHHH!

Peebs frantically fires peas at the zombie, 1-2-3!

At the third pea, the zombie's head pops off and lands on the ground in front of Peebs. The head looks unimpressed.

PEEBS

That was too close!

SUNNY

So? Did you like it? It actually means something kinda personal and important to me that you do.

PEEBS

Are you really going to put me in a box like that?

SUNNY

No box. I'm just very interested in positive feedback right now.

PEEBS

Well if you must know, I like it a lot. Maybe a little repetitive at the start--

ZOMBIES

BRAAAAAAAINZ!

THREE zombies are bearing down on Sunny and Peebs.

SUNNY

Oh jeez, HELP!

WALTER, a Wall-nut, drops out of the sky and land in front of them with a mighty THUD! The zombies cluster around Walter, gnawing at him.

SUNNY

Walter!

WALTER

Easy, now. No need to push. There's plenty of Walter to go around. Peebs, would you mind?

Peebs fires peas at the zombies chewing on Walter, popping their heads off one by one.

SUNNY

So what did YOU think, Walter?

WALTER

What did I think about what?

SUNNY

My song!

WALTER

It's incredible. It's fully magnificent. You could build an entire franchise around that song. What song was it again?

SUNNY

It's just, I think I have a strong start, but I'm not sure where to take it.

PEEBS

There's lots of different directions you could go.

WALTER

For sure.

SUNNY

INCOMING!!

A huge wave of zombies attacks! It's pandemonium!

Quick shots:

- PETER, a Repeater, grimly blasts away at an All-Star Zombie.
- CHAD, a Chomper, gulps down a Buckethead Zombies, swallows, tries to burp-

CHAD

I... I can't breathe. I CAN'T BREATHE!

- SNOPEs, a Snow Pea, freezes a Balloon Zombie, whose balloon deflates with a sad little farting noise.
- etc. etc. etc., finally
- WALTER, blissfully getting chewed on
- PEEBS, blasting away

- SUNNY, buckling down and popping out some sun

Pull back to the whole lawn engulfed in a cartoon fight dust cloud a la Peanuts, zombie fists and roots and suns and peas popping out as we go to title:

PLANTS vs. ZOMBIES

FADE TO:

INT. GREENHOUSE. NIGHT

The greenhouse is where plants live when they're not fighting zombies. It's like a greenhouse crossed with a shopping mall/apartment block crossed with Fraggle Rock. Various plants hang out and chat, sitting in flowerpots like chairs.

Peebs and Walter are at a side table, nursing their wounds from the earlier battle, or at least Peebs is. Walter is chipper as ever with his head wrapped in bandages.

PEEBS

And it doesn't hurt at all?

WALTER

With my limited senses, the most I feel is a mild tingling!

Sunny barges in, scuffling on her little leaf-feat, holding a scrap of paper in a thin frond extending from her stem.

SUNNY

GUYS GUYS GUYS!

PEEBS

Ah, not so loud, Sunny, I think a zombie broke a tooth in my brain.

SUNNY

Sorry. But look!

Sunny holds out her flyer. It reads, in shakey script:

SINGING CONTEST!

SHAKER'S, 8 p.m. TONITE

REWARD: TBD

SUNNY

Do you see that? Reward: TBD. "To Be Determined." That means it could be ANYTHING!

PEEBS

Or nothing.

SUNNY

Nothing's nothing! I gotta go win that contest!

PEEBS

You have fun. Personally, I-

SUNNY

Which means I needs my friends to come with me and support me when I'm putting myself out there because they would want to come out and support me because they're my friends.

PEEBS

You're really leaning on the whole friends thing.

WALTER

Wait. Go with you?

SUNNY

Yes.

WALTER

To The Shaker?

SUNNY

Right!

WALTER

WITH you?

SUNNY

I think we're getting sidetracked, here. What I mean to say is: PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE-

CUT TO:

INT. SHAKER'S. NIGHT

Shaker's is a cozy little venue, with tables and seating and a dance area in front of a tight little stage. Maybe looks a bit like the Neon Mixtape Tour world in PvZ2? At the moment, though, it seems like nobody's home.

Sunny, Peebs and Walter creak open the door and enter.

Sunny and Peebs scuffle along on the leaf-feet while Walter rolls end-over-end. They make their way to the sound table by the stage, which is a bit better lit.

SUNNY

Hello?

PEEBS

Anybody here?

SUNNY

Here? Hear! Do you hear that? That's acoustics! La la la laaaaa! I am going to do so well. I am going to crush all other contenders into a garden assortment of pastes, jellies and jams.

PEEBS

You know, I'm not entirely sure there's a singing contest here tonight.

Walter pipes up from beneath a huge neon sign blinking "SHAKER'S."

WALTER

Maybe we got the wrong place?
Shaker's?

Sunny studies the flyer.

SUNNY

I don't understand it. "Singing Contest. Shaker's. 8 p.m. Tonite. Reward: TBD"

Peebs sees the flyer from the other side. His eyes widen.

PEEBS

Sunny.

SUNNY

Peebs.

PEEBS

Turn it over.

She does. On the back, it says:

SIGNED, THE ZOMBIES

WALTER

That's a wrap! No, sorry, the other one. It's a trap!

IT IS A TRAP! Zombies lurch out of the shadows, surrounding the plants!

ZOMBIES

BRAAAAAAAAAAINZZZZ!!!

SUNNY

Oh fudge!

There are a LOT of zombies. Tough ones. All-Stars in football jerseys. Dancing Zombies in disco outfits. Three zombies sporting rubber ducky inner tubes around their waists.

They close in around the plants. Their "leader," Screen Door Zombie, shambles forward in the lead.

SCREEN-DOOR ZOMBIE

BRAAAAAAAAAINZ!

The plants cower together.

PEEBES

There's too many of them!

SUNNY

Fudge, fudge, fudge!

WALTER

I never in my life thought I'd say this, but I don't think there's enough Walter to go around.

SUNNY

Guys, I'm sorry!

PEEBES

You should be!

SUNNY

Okay, yes, and I am! I didn't mean to put you guys in danger! I just really wanted to sing my song! And you know what? I'm gonna! Might as well die winning a singing contest, right? ONE TWO THREE

(singing)

"There's a zombie on your lawn!"

The zombies pause: huh?

SUNNY
 (singing)
 "There's a zombie on your lawn."

Zombies consider this: there are indeed cases in which zombies are on lawns.

Peebs and Walter meet eyes, and then join in:

SUNNY, PEEBS & WALTER
 (singing)
 "There's a zombie on your lawn!"

Appreciating the harmonies, a zombie or two start to bob their heads.

SUNNY
 (singing)
 "We don't like zombies on your lawn!"

RRRR! This angers the zombies! Screen Door Zombie shakes his screen door angrily at them!

SUNNY
 Wait! Wait!

Sunny dances up to Screen Door Zombie, gives him the big eyes.

SUNNY
 (singing)
 "I know your type; tall, dark and dead
 "You want to bite all the petals off
 of my head
 "And eat the brains of the one who
 planted me here!"

Screen Door Zombie nods: that sounds accurate.

Peebs and Walter have snuck onto the stage and grabbed instruments. Peebs drops something jammy with a guitar while Walter blisses out behind a keyboard.

SUNNY
 (singing)
 "I'm just a sunflower but see me power
 an entire infantry
 "You like the taste of brains, we
 don't like zombies!"

(MORE)

SUNNY (CONT'D)
TAKE IT AWAY, ZOMBIES!

And the zombies SING!

ALL-STAR ZOMBIE
(singing)
"I used to play foot ball."

SUNNY
Amazing!

DOLPHIN-RIDER ZOMBIE'S DOLPHIN
(singing)
"I want to eat your head."

SUNNY
Less amazing!

SCREEN-DOOR ZOMBIE
(singing)
"I have a screen door shield."

SUNNY
There we go! Good for you!

ALL ZOMBIES
(singing)
"We are the Undead!"

SUNNY
Yeah! YES!
(all singing)
"There's a zombie on your lawn!"
"There's a zombie on your lawn!"
"There's a zombie on your--"

THWAP! A snow pea blasts a Disco Zombie's head clean off! The head tumbles through the air with a this-is-so-not-groovy look on its face.

Snopes, the Snow Pea, with several other Snow Peas as well as Peter, the Repeater, with some other Repeaters along with Chad the Chomper and maybe a Torchwood or two, have burst into The Shaker from the front, blasting away at the zombies!

PETER
GET DOWN!

SUNNY
No, no! We're doing it! Stop! This is
(MORE)

SUNNY (CONT'D)
not cool, guys!

The rescuers can't hear, or pay no heed, and advance, blasting the zombies before them.

It's zombie carnage. Peter and Snopes pick their shots with careful precision. Chilled zombies slam into each other, knocking their own heads off.

Screen Door Zombie has lost his screen door and is retreating out the back way, shielding himself from fire and expressing himself with, wouldn't you know it, a stop sign.

SUNNY
No no no! Come on you guys, knock it off!

They do knock it off, but only because they've shot down the entire mob of zombies, who lie in decapitated heaps.

PEEBES
Thanks for the save, dudes!

SUNNY
Save? SAVE? They ruined everything!

PEEBES
How did you know we were here?

SNOPEES
Are you kidding? Walter instagrammed the whole thing.

WALTER
I like to maintain a robust social media presence.

Peter the Repeater shoves in.

PETER
You're lucky Snopes here pays attention. You three were sloppy getting trapped here, damn sloppy.

SUNNY
Sloppy? You blew away my audience, you basket of bruised produce!

PEEBES
Whoa, whoa, let's not say anything we
(MORE)

PEEBS (CONT'D)
might regret later or right now. What
are you so mad about, Suns? We
survived, didn't we? And didn't you
win the contest like you said?

SUNNY
Well, yeah, but...

PEEBS
Let's go home.

There's nothing else to do.

INT. GREENHOUSE. NIGHT

Sunny, Peebs and Walter chill in their favorite spot. Sunny
is on a tear.

SUNNY
And another thing, who does Peter
think he is, ordering everybody around
just because he's got that big firing
rate?

PEEBS
Look, I'm the last plant who wants to
defend that guy, but do you really
think it's him you're mad at here?

SUNNY
Yes! No! I don't know. This is just
great. First I was wondering what it
was all about, and then I found out,
and now I'm not sure about anything
any more!

WALTER
I feel like that all the time. I enjoy
it!

SUNNY
But there was something there! Didn't
you feel it? When we were all singing,
I just... don't you think we might
have the wrong idea about zombies?

PEEBS
I don't want to straight-up block you
here, but no way, I don't think. I
know all I need to about zombies,

(MORE)

PEEBS (CONT'D)
thanks. I am fully educated.

He takes a swig of whatever plants drink, if they drink at all. Water, probably.

PEEBS
Cheer up, Sunny. You won the contest, just like you knew you would. And I will duly admit I did not hate singing your song with you.

SUNNY
You didn't?

PEEBS
Nope. I'm not signing on to do it every weeknight, but that was fun. Shame about the reward, though.

SUNNY
Yeah...

Sunny looks forlornly down at the flyer, which she somehow still has.

SUNNY
T.B.D. Is that my reward? To be determined?

PEEBS
You are definitely determined, I'll give you that for free.

SUNNY
I am, aren't I? Aw, shucks. Thanks, Peebs.

She leans into him and smiles. Peebs sighs.

PEEBS
Yeah, until next time.

Annnnd

FADE TO BLACK