

BEHIND THE GAME

Written by

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INT. STUDIO - DAY

Text on screen: And now, a sneak peek at VH1's "Behind the Game"

Camera zooms in on large tv from the 90s playing montage of Mario games chronologically from the late 80s up until present day.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In the 80s, the world of home entertainment was forever changed thanks an unlikely source. A new video game focusing on an Italian plumber, marketed by the Japanese, was sold to millions of Americans, forever changing the way we view video games. The plumber's name was Mario. From the 8-bit days of the 80s to today's high definition installments, Mario has enthralled children and adults alike for over 30 years.

TV screen suddenly changes to a static screen.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But the road to the castle wasn't all stars and princesses.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Luigi sits in living room talking to interviewer.

LUIGI

In the beginning it was innocent and fun, we were basically kids, but soon, Mario was taking mushrooms like they were Advil. Morning and evening, like clockwork.

Black and white clip from video game of Mario taking mushroom, getting bigger and running around.

LUIGI (CONT'D)

At one point he tripped for four days straight. I mean, he made Jim Morrison look like an amateur, and I don't think Yoshi's ever forgiven Mario for forgetting to feed him. Poor dinosaur.

Charts of rising Nintendo sales and clips from mid 90s Mario games.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

By 1990, Mario was a household name, and as the flower of popularity blossomed, seemingly endless fruits of wealth bloomed.

90's camcorder footage of a gold Rolls Royce pulling up to a curb on the Sunset Strip. Mario steps out of the Rolls Royce wearing a mink fur coat and holding a cane with a koopa head as the handle. Mario's hat has the Gucci symbol instead of the trademark M.

REPORTER

Mario! Is it true that you sold thousands of armed Yoshis to Saddam?

MARIO

What I do with my highly dangerous dinosaurs is my business, and if Bush has a problem with it he can kiss my ass. So, are you making one of those new home videos?

REPORTER

I'm a reporter for CNN sir. We're live.

MARIO

(surprised)

.....Oh.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

As sales rose, so did Mario's mishaps and mushroom-filled escapades.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Yoshi sits down on chair talking to interviewer. Subtitles appear at bottom of screen while Yoshi talks.

YOSHI (SUBTITLE)

By the early 90s, Mario was always high, and the few times he wasn't he got depressed. Violently depressed.

LUIGI

He was never home. It was always  
"let's a-go" and he'd leave at like  
3 in the morning to go kill  
turtles, or something.

News graphic of Petco logo appears with audio playing from security recording. Text transcription of audio appears on screen next to Petco logo.

PETCO EMPLOYEE

Hi sir, welcome to Petco. How can I  
help you?

MARIO

It's-a-me, Mario. Now tell me,  
where are the turtles?

PETCO EMPLOYEE

Right this way, follow me.

Audio of Mario walking briskly.

PETCO EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)

You seem like you know what you  
want. Have you owned turtles  
before?

MARIO

I-a-buy the turtle, then I-a-stomp  
the turtle with my boot.

PETCO EMPLOYEE

Um... I'm not sure I can sell you  
one of these sir.

MARIO

I-a-must destroy the turtle!

Audio plays of Petco employee and Mario getting into a scuffle. Glass breaks, followed by sounds of turtles being crushed.

PETCO EMPLOYEE

(aghast)

Oh my god! You sick monster!

Audio of Mario's jumping sound effect plays followed by sounds of breaking through a wall.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

YOSHI (SUBTITLE)

Koopas began to trigger Mario, and he should've gotten help. Hell, I should've told him to go get help. Saying it was a massacre would be an understatement.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

For Mario, the burden of being a star took it's toll, and the star's shine began to dim with the weight of the video game industry on his shoulders.

TOAD

Mario became a real asshole in the 90s. You know I wasn't supposed to wear a diaper right? His decision. I'm an adult man... wearing a diaper... It's fucking demoralizing.

Montage of Mario merchandise.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

By 1995 Mario was in millions of American homes, cereal boxes, action figures and womens lingerie, but this eruption of influence contained an excess of debauchery.

Behind the Game logo on screen.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Coming up, on Behind the Game:

INT. STUDIO - DAY

TOAD

Listen, we didn't know that Goombas fall under the protection of animal rights. We just thought it'd fun to see them fight against eachother... For money. Lots of money. If we were more careful, none of them would have escaped and ratted us out.

The End

