

ETERNALLY EXTREME II

PREVIEW SHOW

[We start on a black screen as most shows do. We fade up into a black screen with white uplighting shining on large ovals that spin by, highlighting the individual sports that Fox Sports presents. A strong instrumental track plays as a voiceover begins.]

"Home to the GFC... the UEFA Finals... the U.S. Open Championship... the MLB All-Star Game... the NFL... Big Ten Football... and the FIFA World Cup.]

[The final oval falls away, leaving the Fox Sports logo center screen.]

"The world's biggest events are on Fox Sports."

[The music drops off...

...and a giant CGI robot appears, holding up another version of the FOX Sports logo with the signature line.]

"WE ARE... FOX SPORTS!"

[And we cut to another black screen.

Slowly, a graphic in stark white print that reads "December 28th, 1994" comes up on the screen.

A voice is heard over the graphic. An unknown voice.]

"Let's start at the beginning."

[A voice responds. The easily-recognizable voice of the former EMWC owner and operator, Chris Blue.]

CB: Alright.

"Showtime I. Where it all started."

CB: Yep.

"What was it like?"

[Blue chuckles.]

CB: How the [BLEEP] should I know? I wasn't there.

[Blue's laughing response gives way to the (heavily edited) sounds of L7's "Shitlist" playing over a montage of famous EMWC moments.]

#When I get mad
And I get pissed#

[Simon Ezra throws a lighter towards Tiger Claw, lighting up the Muay Thai warrior at the conclusion of the infamous Killing Box II.]

#I grab my pen
And I write out a list#

[Devon Case springboards from one end of the ring to the other with a flying dropkick on the Ribera Kid at the first Eternally Extreme.]

#Of all the people
That won't be missed#

[John Wesley Hardin stands over a motionless Bobby Taylor during the Legends Beatdown at No Imitations Accepted 1997.]

#You've made my shitlist#

[Todd Michaelson breaks out the Billion Dollar Bomb on a bloodied Olaf Proet to win his one and only World Title at the Rumble In The Sunshine State.]

#For all the ones
Who bum me out#

[Curtis Hansen and Steve "The Fury" Kowalski pop a buyrate on an episode of An Evening To The Extreme in the one and only meeting of the EMWC and IIWF World Champions.]

#Shitlist#

[Gabriel Whitecross uses his famous anklelock to force a submission out of Lord Byron to become the EMWC World Champion at NIA '97.]

#For all the ones
Who fill my head with doubt#

[Casey James goes plummeting down to the canvas, now missing a finger thanks to Caleb Temple and some "well-placed" barbed wire as part of Killing Box III at Showtime VIII.]

#Shitlist#

[Narcissus holds the Universal Title overhead after winning it for the first time at the Rumble In The Windy City.]

#For all the squares who get me pissed#

[Chris Myers counters a piledriver by backdropping Sam Willis off the massive steel structure known as the Woodshed, sending him crashing through the ringside announce table at Showtime VII.]

#Shitlist#

[Kevin Slater drops Curtis Hansen on his head with Hansen's own Thunder Bomb to win the World Title at Showtime V.]

#You've made my shitlist#

[Caleb Temple and Jeff Matthews goes sailing off the top rope, crashing down onto a metal casket at ringside during their battle at No Imitations Accepted 2001.]

#Shitlist#

[Steve Spector twists his body in mid-air to hit a Goddess Cutter on The Gremlin, snatching the World Title and making us all believe in miracles.]

#Shitlist#

[Alex Martinez Firebombs Mark Langseth THROUGH the ring at Showtime VII to win his first EMWC World Title.]

#When I get mad
And I get pissed#

[While dangling from the roof of a cell, Tiger Claw locks Devon Case in a Kata Ha Jime before both men plummet down to the ring canvas.]

#Shitlist#

["Crimson" Joe Reed tosses Mark Langseth over the top rope to win his second EMWC World Title at the Rumble In Sin City.]

#I grab my pen
And write out a list#

["Dreamlover" Trey Porter snaps a DreamKick up under the chin of Roscoe Law en route to winning the gold at No Imitations Accepted '95.]

#Shitlist#

[With Tiger Claw draped over his shoulder, Casey James charges towards the wooden double doors of the Syndicate Dojo during their infamous battle inside that building, exploding through the doors.]

#Of all you assholes
Who won't be missed#

[Chris Courtade unleashes a nasty lariat on Mark Langseth at the first Eternally Extreme, sending him flying backwards and down down down through five wooden tables.]

#Shitlist#

[Adam Rogers holds up the EMWC World Title - the last man to wear the legendary gold.]

#You've made my shitlist#

[Eddie Van Gibson holds up the gold, having just defeated Joe Reed in one of the biggest World Title upsets in company history.]

#Shitlist#

[Ego MAX stands in the ring as a unit, posing in front of the crowd.]

#Shitlist#

[Caleb Temple lovingly cradles Debbie Matthews in his arms just before the ring explodes all around them in a massive detonation of fire, smoke, and sparks...

...and as the music fades, we hear another familiar voice. This time of Colt Patterson.]

CP: No, he wasn't there... but I was. December 28th, 1994... the very first EMWC show.

"23 years later... did you think that night we'd be talking about it today?"

[Patterson chuckles.]

CP: No way. When you think about the E now... the big stadiums... all the money... all the legends, the Hall of Famers who came through there... you never would've guessed that night in New York. Not a chance.

[We fade to a shot of Colt Patterson - then known as Narcissus - standing in the ring that night. His voiceover continues.]

CP: I was back home... working for ICW with my dad. Just a young, dumb kid, you know? Trying to pay my dues in the business up and down the roads. And one day - out of nowhere - I got a call from a guy calling himself Adam Smash. Can you believe that?

[Fade back to current day Patterson who is laughing.]

CP: Adam Smash. He's lucky I didn't hang up on the spot. But again, young and dumb... so I listened. And he pitched me on this big idea of a new company running out of the Northeast... and he wanted me to be a big part of it. I was so excited... and then my dad came home and sat me down and said... "Son, it's time you learned about money marks."

[Patterson grins as we get a shot of Narcissus posing for a publicity photo with original AWA owner Adam Smash.]

CP: Now, I don't know if I'd go that far. Adam loved the business. He was a fan. He had big visions and... well, he got a lot done to tell the truth but... you never quite got the sense that he exactly what he was doing. But he hired my dad to come in and help run the place so that went a long way to get ol' Blackjack to shut his mouth.

[We get another shot, this one of Patterson holding a title belt over his head.]

CP: But I'll never forget that first night. That was the night I won my first major title - the EMWC North American Title. It was a special night for sure.

[We cut back to Patterson in current day as the narrator speaks.]

"Explain the mail thing."

[Patterson smirks, shaking his head.]

CP: I wish I could, man. So, this was '94, right? The Internet as we know it now was barely even a thing yet. But Adam had this vision. He kept telling us that someday, we'd be able to get wrestling shows on the Internet.

[Patterson shrugs.]

CP: He was right, sure... but it was years after that. But I think he thought he was in on the ground floor and it made us sound cutting edge or something. The guys all thought he was nuts for it but hey, the checks kept clearing so...

[Colt trails off as we fade to black and a new graphic that reads "ENTER CHRIS BLUE." We fade back up to Blue sitting on the set.]

CB: It was sometime in early '96... maybe the spring?... and I had been working for the E for a while, doing odd jobs in the office, pitching in where I could. I was a young guy who loved the business so... I just loved being around and being a part of things. One day, Adam calls me into his office and asks what I'd think about being his Vice President.

[Blue chuckles.]

CB: I had no idea what the hell a Vice President did... but he said I'd have more influence on what happened on camera and I'd get a pay raise so I was all in, brother.

[We fade to a shot of Smash and Blue shaking hands at a press event around that time.]

CB: The early days were wild. Adam had a knack for finding good, young talent. Narcissus, all those Brotherhood guys... Steve Rogers... Roscoe Law... and then when he landed Trey Porter? Whew. We were on top of the world.

[A new graphic comes up on a black background - "THE E IS FOR EXTREME." Colt Patterson is heard again.]

CP: Sometime in '95, I guess, Smash called a locker room meeting and said we were now gonna be "extreme"... chairs, tables, all that stuff. It wasn't really my scene but the crowd dug it and the paychecks got bigger.

[Cut to a different talking head shot, this one of Todd Michaelson.]

TM: Extreme is a lot of fun to watch... not a lot of fun to wrestle. But it was all the rage at that point. There were a lot of promotions dabbling with that hardcore style thanks to how popular it was in Japan and... well, another Northeast-based promotion with an E in their name.

[The narrator voice is heard.]

"Are we allowed to talk about that?"

[Michaelson shrugs with a smile as we fade to a black screen with a graphic that says "BLUE BECOMES THE BOSS."]

CB: You'd think I'd be better with these dates but the mid-90s are a bit of a blur.

[Blue sighs deeply.]

CB: To the best of my recollection, it was late '96 and Adam was kinda over the whole thing. I don't know if he lost interest... if he was running out of money... I don't know. I never really got it out of him. But he called me into his office again and said, "You're doing a great job as Vice President... and I want you to run the show." I was shocked. Floored. And honestly, I wasn't sure I could do it. But he told me he was going to keep footing the bills for the time being and that he just wanted me in charge.

[Blue shrugs.]

CB: I couldn't say no so I took the gig... and the rest - as they say - is history.

[The narrator speaks up.]

"You're not getting out of this that easy."

[Blue chuckles as he snaps his fingers.]

"What did you do with your new-found power?"

[Blue shrugs.]

CB: The same thing any dumb kid with power would do. Nearly blow it all. I didn't know anything about running a promotion and so I went out and signed a bunch of guys who couldn't draw a dime. Our shows were all over the place. Totally inconsistent. We lost a lot of the guys we had at the beginning. There were a few times where I was pretty sure either the company was going to go under or I was going to be out of a job. And then... in then in early '97, I had a bit of an epiphany. I don't even know where or how it happened but someone left some tapes in my office one day. One of them was of a promotion called WAR! and one of them was for the Mighty Double Eye themselves - Ring Wars 3.

[Blue leans closer to the camera, stage whispering now.]

CB: Now... I'd never tell Spreadbury this to his face but... I was blown away... and I was determined to do whatever it took to get to that level. And so, I went to Adam and told him my plan. We needed to get better. We needed to find better talent... better production... we needed to put on better matches. We just needed to get better. And I told him it would be expensive... but if we did it right, we'd change the business for good.

[The narrator speaks up.]

"Please tell me you're not going to skip over the ECW stuff."

[Blue sighs.]

CB: That was all Adam. Can I just say that and leave it be?

"No."

CB: Fine. Look, ECW was making a big name for itself. It was getting a lot of eyeballs on it. And somehow, Adam struck a deal to get some of their talent on our shows. ECW was important enough... it was influential enough for the first Eternally Extreme to be all about them, right? So, it made sense for Adam to try to strike some kind of partnership.

[Blue sits quietly.]

CB: I'm not giving you more. Move on.

[With a grin on his face, Blue disappears as we fade to another title card that reads - "UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT."]

CB: So, in the summer of '96, we were starting to make some noise. The ECW thing was going on. We were pulling in some former IWF guys like Tony Starks, Dirt Dog Unique Allah, and of course, Creed. And one day - again - Adam calls me to his office and says he's done. He's out. I don't know why. To this day, I don't know why. But he's out.

[Blue shrugs.]

CB: I pulled together every single dollar I could find, borrow, or beg for and I made him an offer. Because now I could see the potential and I wasn't ready to give up. He agreed and sold me the company... and agreed to stay on as on-air talent. But that didn't last long.

[The narrator speaks up.]

"The racism story."

[Blue cringes.]

CB: Not our finest work. But... yes. That was how he was taken off screen... and actually, he left the E completely shortly after that. He really made a... a total break, I guess you'd call it. He was just gone. He didn't want to visit... didn't come by shows to see how things were going... just gone. It was strange.

[The narrator speaks.]

"Where is he now?"

[Blue shrugs.]

CB: I wish I knew. I'd love for him to be there Sunday night, you know? He should be there. He got the whole thing started but... no one's heard from him in years so...

[Blue trails off as the narrator speaks again.]

"Now fully in charge, what did you do first?"

[Blue smiles.]

CB: I asked for a meeting with the other side.

[A new title card comes up that reads "THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN" as the narrator speaks.]

"So, the way I've heard this told is that you went to see Daniel Spreadbury to make him an offer.."

[Blue nods.]

CB: That's right. Look, I was still young and dumb in this business - the original "dumb kid." I looked at the landscape and I thought the E was hot [BLEEP] so I asked for a meeting. He took the meeting surprisingly but it didn't last long. I sat down and laid out a pitch... a talent exchange agreement... a working agreement... maybe even some co-promoted shows.

[Blue laughs.]

CB: It's so silly to think back on that. Here I was... essentially a nobody going to see the biggest promoter on the planet and trying to sell him on running co-promotions with me and my tiny little company trying to make a dent on the wrestling world.

"He shot you down?"

CB: Of course! And he should have! But that's hindsight that says that. At the time, I was hot... I was pissed. And I decided that I would not stop... would not rest... would not sleep until the IIWF was dead and buried and the EMWC was on top of wrestling.

"How were you going to do that?"

CB: I had no idea.

[A title card that says "TALENT RAIDS RUN WILD" precedes the next segment.]

"You went after Hardin?"

CB: I did. It was the big fish, right? So, the IIWF had just run the big Triple Cross segment... it was the talk of wrestling... everyone wanted to know what in the hell had happened. But all I knew was that Hardin was pissed and he was looking for a way out. Coincidentally, one of my young guns, Bobby Taylor, had been going into business for himself for months calling himself the Outlaw and ripping on Hardin. I let him do it because it got some eyeballs on us and I've never been above taking a shot at a competitor. Honestly, I never dreamed anything would come of it... but I took my shot. I reached out to Hardin... I asked him about coming in... and he said not only would he come in but he had a surprise for Taylor... and me... that would make the entire wrestling world want to know what the hell the EMWC was and how could they watch it.

[Blue sits back in his chair, a grin on his face. We cut to a shot that reads "No Imitations Accepted 1997."]

CB: Hardin wouldn't tell me everything but I knew it was going to be one hell of a moment. So, Taylor's in the ring running his mouth... and then Hardin comes out... and then the rest... James, Claw, Verhoeven, Thunder, Subway Psycho, even Kauffman. The Legends Beatdown is what it was called the next day and... you talk about an overnight sensation. That one moment changed everything for us. Everything.

[We fade from Blue to a shot of Jon Stegglet.]

JS: I was on commentary that night in Toronto and Blue hadn't given us anything. He told us to be ready. But I knew something was up. He was... he was practically giddy. And rightfully so, you know? Until then, I was the lead commentator on a promotion that was running buildings way too big for them... that was reaching for the stars from a stepstool. But after that... my phone was ringing off the hook for days. Magazines wanting interviews. Wrestlers wanting help getting a job. And it wasn't just Hardin, you know? During that period, we signed Gabriel Whitecross, Curtis Hansen, Kevin Slater, The Fraternity Boys, Lord Byron, Mad Dog Watkins... it was crazy. It really was. Blue had managed to completely rework the roster overnight and... well, we were off to the races and I'd say we never looked back.

[We get a series of shots of headlines from wrestling magazines - "LEGENDS BEATDOWN TURNS THE TABLES!" "EMWC MAKES WAVES!" "WHAT THE HELL IS THE EMWC?"

The shots fade to another title card, this one reading "POPPING A BUYRATE."]

TM: Anyone who wasn't paying attention to us by the spring certainly were after the Kowalski thing.

[Cut to Blue.]

CB: I don't remember who tipped me off but at some point, we learned that Steve Kowalski - the IIWF World Champion at the time - had a loophole in his deal that allowed him to work.. essentially independent dates. He could wrestle anywhere he wanted as long as the IIWF got him first for their dates. So, I took my shot and made a call.

[We get a graphic that reads "An Evening To The Extreme - April 6th, 1998" along with some footage from that show. We see a shot of Steve Kowalski standing in the ring with Stegglet and Michaelson on commentary.]

JS: GOOD GOD!!! CHRIS BLUE HAS DONE IT AGAIN!!!!

TM: I never thought I'd see Steve Kowalski on an EMWC show - especially with the IIWF title over his shoulder! Can you believe it? The wrestling world's two hottest champions are going toe to toe in that ring!

[We fade from the old footage back to a smiling Blue.]

CB: The EMWC World Champion. The IIWF World Champion. Together. In our ring.

[He smirks with a shrug.]

CB: It was gorgeous.

"But then you got the call?"

[Blue smiles, nodding.]

CB: And then I got the call. Turns out that Kowalski told them he had a date to work... but didn't tell them a thing about it. So, when Spreadbury found out that HIS World Champion with HIS World Title had appeared on our show, he called me.

"And what did he say?"

CB: Ever wonder where the Big Poppa Buyrate nickname came from? Well, now you know. He accused me of trying to use his champion to "pop a buyrate"... some threats were made... and that was that.

"And?"

CB: And I knew we were getting under his skin. The E was hot at that point. Red hot. You had James and Claw now. Brody Thunder was feuding with Ronnie D. We had Hansen and Slater feuding on top. Joe Reed was on board. Mark Langseth was just getting started. You could feel momentum growing on our side with each and every show.

"And then?"

[Blue shrugs.]

CB: Everything changed.

[A new title card comes up "THE MIGHTY IIWF FOLDS."]

"Just a few months after Showtime V, the IIWF goes under."

[Blue nods.]

"How did you feel that day?"

[Blue sighs.]

CB: I'm not gonna lie. It felt good at the moment. Spreads would tell you them closing had nothing to do with us... and maybe he's right. But you never would've convinced me of that then... or my guys. We were convinced we'd put 'em under and we were pretty proud of that.

"At the moment?"

CB: Sure. Looking back, it makes me a little sad, you know? The IIWF, for all its flaws, was one of the most successful promotions this business has ever seen. Memorable competitors, memorable matches, memorable moments... and boy, were they a great rival to have. Always pushing us to be better. Always forcing us to top ourselves every week. So, in that way, it was a sad day when they went under.

"But you didn't let up."

CB: No. In fact, we probably got hotter because most of the guys who worked there were suddenly looking for a new gig. Besides, one thing about this business that I quickly learned... there's always new competition right around the corner.

[We fade through black to a pulsating Eternally Extreme 2 logo and the sounds of Korn and the Dust Brothers' "Kick The PA" - the longtime anthem for EMWC television. After a few moments of that, the logo spins away and the music dips in volume before we get a glimpse of long-time EMWC color commentator and current AWA owner, Todd Michaelson. Todd's wearing an old school "EMWC: AS EXTREME AS IT GETS" t-shirt and a grin as he speaks.]

TM: Hello everyone and welcome to the Eternally Extreme 2 Preview Show! I, of course, am Todd Michaelson and I hope you're enjoying our little history lesson on the EMWC. We'll be bringing you Part 2 of that in just a moment but they sent me here for one reason and one reason only... SHILL, BABY, SHILL!

[Michaelson smirks.]

TM: That's right because this Sunday night, Chris Blue and his band of merry misfits are coming to the 2300 Arena in South Philly one more time for Eternally Extreme 2 - a night where all bets are off, all limits are gone, and you just never know what's going to happen. I wanna be there, you wanna be there, we all wanna be there but that baby is SOLD OUT so the only way any of us can be there to see just what in the world Chris Blue has up his sleeves is to buy this show on PAY PER VIEW! It's a night the wrestling world will be talking about for a long time to come... it's a night that just may be too hot to ever be seen on TV again so if you're not with us Sunday night on P-P-V... you may never get another chance.

[Michaelson gets a serious look on his face.]

TM: Now, I've also been asked to be here on behalf of AWA ownership, FOX television, and the Korugun Corporation. Let's be honest. The EMWC wasn't for everyone. You had chairs and tables and that was a good night. Some nights we had barbed wire and thumbtacks and lightbulbs and weed whackers and... look, this one night we even had a match inside a woman's...

[He pauses, holding up his hands.]

TM: Okay, there are some things we don't need to relive. But what I'm trying to say is that if you and your kids tune in to Saturday Night Wrestling on the norm, you kinda know what to expect. With the E? You just never know. So, on behalf of the AWA and all of our ownership partners, I am here to deliver those four magic

words - "VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED!" This may not be the show for grandma and grandpa to join in on. This may not be the ideal way to break in your kids to the world of wrestling. That's your call - not mine... but we want you to know that while the AWA is bankrolling this show... we have NO control over it.

[Michaelson smiles again.]

TM: And that's just the way Blue wanted it. He got to pick the wrestlers. He got to make the matches. This is his baby. And while that's exciting for most of us in the industry, it also means that anything goes and be careful what you wish for.

[Michaelson points to the screen.]

TM: A lot of this show is being kept under wraps - not too many people know everything or everyone coming to South Philly this weekend... but we do know a handful of matches so let's go over a few of those right now.

[Cut to a graphic that shows the words "DOUBLE TABLES" with two wooden tables on the shot. On one side of the graphic is Charisma Knight and Dr. Leah White. On the other is Skylar Swift and Trish Wallace.]

TM: How about this one? After almost a year of being tormented by Charisma Knight, Skylar Swift is finally going to get her hands on her... and Dr. Leah White and Trish Wallace are there to double the carnage! This one is Double Tables which means it's essentially a Tables Elimination Match. To win the match, you have to put BOTH of your opponents through tables.

[The graphic switches to showing the Rage brothers on opposite sides of the screen with some snazzy font that looks like dripping blood with the words "DEATH IN DARKNESS" between them.]

TM: The return of Derek Rage and the announcement that the Prophets of Rage would be teaming in the Stampede Cup was shocking to wrestling fans all over the world but you have to wonder if there will be enough left of them to team after they meet in a Death In Darkness match Sunday night. This one's so big, it won't even fit in the 2300 Arena! They're sending this one down the road to a local high school football field where these two can do whatever they want to each other without putting anyone else in danger!

[Another change on-screen switches to showing the face-painted Supernova on one side of the screen and the claw-wielding Jack Lynch on the other.]

TM: Supernova's been fired from the AWA by Korugun! He can't even be in the building for an AWA show without risking arrest... but on this show? Everything is fair game! After Nova's recent attack on Lynch, the Iron Cowboy is out for payback in South Philly Sunday night.

[The graphics fade to leave just Michaelson.]

TM: We've got a lot more still to talk about but right now, let's go back to the history of this company we're all coming together Sunday night to salute... the EMWC.

[We fade through black to a title card that reads "BACKSTAGE DRAMA." The narrator's voice is heard again.]

"Let's talk about the first signs of trouble..."

[Blue sighs.]

CB: At some point in early '99, the locker room was a mess. Politicking, backstabbing, egos... you name it. And really, it was becoming clear there was a problem in the form of Ronnie D. He was rubbing people the wrong way. And worse, he was trying to turn people against one another. The bigger problem was we were right in the middle of D feuding with Serge Annis over the World Title. The Rumble In Sin City was supposed to be the big match for the title... and things started to fall apart just a couple of weeks before.

"It was Annis first, right?"

CB: It was. Serge had decided he was overcommitted and was running himself into the ground physically AND mentally. So, he wanted to leave the promotion after the Pay Per View - win, lose, or draw. I never wanted people around who weren't happy to be there so we reached a deal pretty easily.

[Blue shrugs.]

CB: And then right after that, Ronnie tells me he's leaving too. Problems with other talent in the locker room. Not feeling appreciated. Whatever excuse you buy. That one was unexpected... and with both my champion and challenger leaving after the next show, it got ugly... fast. I gave him an immediate release after a pretty nasty argument in the locker room. It was on the Internet in minutes... he leaked it, I'm sure... and... well, no one likes to see how the sausage gets made. We'd had some backstage politics become public before but this... this one was the worst... and I honestly wasn't sure how to recover from it.

"But you figured it out."

CB: I decided to try to take a negative and make it a positive. One day shortly after all this went down, I was in my office and someone told me I had to see the latest UWF show. Turned out that I was watching a show where some old friends were now working for the other guys. I was hurt. I was angry. And I decided that if that's the way it was going to be played... that's how we'd play it too.

[The shot fades to footage marked "April 21, 1999 - An Evening To The Extreme." The clip shows Blue in the ring, his face etched out of anger.]

CB: But as much as the stuff you saw on TV hurt. As much as the Blackheart Punches, the Barbed Wire Powerbombs, the Crown of Thorns...as much as those hurt me...they'll NEVER compare to the betrayals...to the pain, I felt off camera.

And Chris...Kevin...Ronnie...you know I'm talking to you!

[There's a loud ovation for the line, bringing a grin to Blue's face, as we can hear shouts of "SHOOTER!" and "DON'T HOLD BACK!" from the crowd before we fade back to modern day footage.]

CB: I aired that backstage dirty laundry for all to see... and some of it was me putting on a show for the sake of the ratings... but a lot of it was real... very real to me. And it kind of kicked off a new era for us - an era where the Double Eye was gone but the UWF? The UWF was Public Enemy #1 to the E and its fans.

[We get another black title screen with the words "THE BOX" on it as we fade back up to Jon Steglet.]

JS: The Killing Box? Good lord. I'm not sure who came up with it really. Temple maybe? Ezra? I could totally see that.

[Cut to Blue.]

CB: There was a backstage employee in the E by the name of Scott Blair... Blackie, we all called him. He passed away not that long ago. The Killing Box was his baby to be honest. And... uhh... well, let's say when he gave me the idea, I was shocked. It was extreme for sure... more extreme than probably any of us had seen at that point. We ran the first one as a King of the Death Match finals and it turned some heads but the one that really is arguably the most famous match in EMWC history happened at Showtime VI... July of '99.

[Back to Stegglet.]

JS: What was the Killing Box? You mean there's people on this planet that haven't seen it?

[Stegglet smiles.]

JS: Lemme see if I can remember it all... there were three walls to the cage.

[Cut to Todd Michaelson.]

TM: There was a barbed wire wall...

[To Blue.]

CB: Plexiglass on one side.

[Over to Colt Patterson.]

CP: Chicken wire? I think there was a chicken wire wall.

[And back to Stegglet.]

JS: And then they put this super thick glass ceiling on the damn thing...

[Back to Blue.]

CB: Oh god, that glass ceiling. That thing seemed to always come down or... you know that thing was responsible for the second version of the E, right? I'll tell that story later.

[Back to Stegglet.]

JS: Oh, and then there were the corners. They put boards up in the corner... sheets of particle board... one with nails on it... one with barbed wire... one with broken glass... and just in case bleeding someone out wasn't good enough, the last one had friggin' land mines on it!

[Stegglet shakes his head as we go back to Blue.]

CB: It was brutal. It was violent. And in the hands of most wrestlers, it would be very dangerous. But Tiger Claw and Simon Ezra weren't most men... and in their hands, it was nearly lethal.

[We cut to a series of clips from that match.

Simon Ezra getting unimaginable speed and impact with his small body crashing into Tiger Claw in a spear that sends both men crashing through a propped up table against the turnbuckles.

The Blood Angel throwing himself into a lunging lariat that results in both he and Claw tangled up in the barbed wire wall.

Tiger Claw using a pair of handcuffs to repeatedly lash the back of Ezra, leaving deep red welts on already burned flesh.

Claw using his Exploder Suplex to throw Ezra into the board with the concussion mines, resulting in a huge explosion of smoke and sparks.

And lastly - and infamously - with Claw clinging to his back with the Kata Ha Jime, Ezra throws himself backwards onto the glass ceiling...

...and it all comes crashing down as we fade to black before we get a title card - "THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD."]

JS: The EMWC style was hard... and that's an understatement. Guys were seeing their careers shortened. Guys in their mid to late 20s were walking around the locker room like old men... just ask Steve Spector... with serious injuries. And when you've got injuries and money... there were drugs.

[We fade to Blue who looks solemn.]

CB: I... it's one of my great regrets in my life. This business has been a living dream for me but if there's one thing that haunts me, it's the trail of bodies I left behind. And yeah, there's a lot to be said for personal choice and all that... but at the end of the day, it was my show. My company. My decisions. I let Simon Ezra go out there with a serious drug problem. I let Caleb Temple go out there knowing he had a painkiller addiction. I let Devon Case dive off the top rope knowing his knee was falling apart on him. Those were my decisions and they ruined a lot of careers... a lot of lives. And I have to live with that.

[Fade from a very emotional Blue back to Todd Michaelson.]

TM: But as guys dropped off due to injuries or better offers or whatever, there was a whole new crop of superstars that were rising to the top. Eddie Van Gibson become a household name. Adam Rogers. Alex Martinez. Steve Spector. Chris Courtade. Devon Case. We may not have had Hardin around anymore or Annis or Hansen... but the guys who came after them were just as special.

[Cut to a title card - "STAYING ON TOP."]

"They say that it's one thing to get to the top... it's quite another to stay there. True?"

CB: Without a doubt. The fight to get to the top was... it was energizing... it was something that drove us. You wanted to get the better of the other guy... you wanted to top what they did every week. You went after their talent and fought them off from getting yours. But once you get there...

[Blue shakes his head.]

CB: It's a different feeling. The competition is different. The thrill is gone in a lot of ways. So, you put up a fight to keep your spot... but it's not the same at all. It's a lot harder to get "up" for the fight... if that makes sense. And that's when things start to go wrong.

"Tell me about Mike Justice."

CB: Oh, Jesus.

[Blue sighs as the footage fades to something marked "December 31st, 1999 - New Year's Revolution" As the shot comes up, we see Jeff Matthews and Alex Martinez

prone on the canvas inside a steel cage as Mike Justice is climbing the cage from the outside.]

JS: What the hell is Justice doing?! Mike Justice...head heavily bandaged...and he's climbing the damn cage from the outside! The Apostle is heading for the heavens!

[As the Foundation member reaches the peak of the cage, he spreads his arms...feeling the jeering crowd's hatred seep into his body... and with the hatred of thousands atop him...HE LEAPS!]

[illegible]

JS: RAINING FIRE!!! RAINING FIRE BY THE APOSTLE!!!

BL: HE LANDED ON BOTH OF THEM!!! JUSTICE WITH THE FROG SPLASH ON BOTH MEN!!!

[And cradling his ribs, Justice rolls Matthews onto his back...placing a fist in the chest of both Matthews and Martinez... and orders Barnes to count.]

JS: WHAT?! This isn't a legal match! This is not a legal match!

LD: Barnes doesn't know what to do! He's totally lost!

JS: Oh man...look at the eyes of Justice.

[And that's exactly what Mike Barnes is doing...staring into the cold, unfeeling eyes of the Apostle...feeling fear in it's basest form.]

JS: Barnes...no! DON'T!

[But the referee has no choice...but to count...

ONE!

TWO!

THREE!!!!!!!!!!]

JS: NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE!!!

[Barnes waves wildly at the timekeeper...before Justice can get to him. A confused Ken Graham rises...looks at Barnes...and then speaks.]

KG: Your winner of the match...

and....NEW EMWC WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION.....

MIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIKE

[illegible]

[The crowd erupts in a horrid heel pop as the stadium clock continues to tick away...at seven minutes and counting...as Mike Justice is handed the EMWC World Title belt.]

JS: This can't be! This is impossible! Mike Justice can not be the EMWC World Champion! He wasn't even in this match! He wasn't even a part of it!

BL: Tough luck, Stegglet! Justice is the champ...Justice...has arrived.

LD: Since when the hell can someone who's not even in the match win the title?! How the hell can that possibly happen?!

JS: I have no idea. No, forget that! It can't happen! IT CAN NOT HAPPEN!

[The footage fades through black back to Blue.]

CB: What can I say? That one was my call too. I could've overturned it but part of me thought the promotion had gotten stale and that this was a chance to shake things up. I got crucified in the press for that one... online... whew. You think Twitter is toxic now?

[We fade through black to a title card that reads "ETERNALLY EXTREME."]

"Tell me about the first Eternally Extreme."

[Blue chuckles.]

CB: You know I didn't want to do it at all, right?

[Fade to Todd Michaelson.]

TM: He said he didn't want to do it? Yeah, he wasn't the only one. We were booked to be in Japan. I love Japan. I love wrestling in Japan. And I was so excited for that show. But... there was a problem. A big one.

[Fade to Jon Stegglet.]

JS: Blue was talking about selling the company... or just closing it down and walking away. He was tired. He was burned out. He just didn't want to do it anymore. He even had a Press Release drafted... I was with him when he wrote it... he had tears in his eyes when he wrote it but... he was ready to do it. I talked him into holding off... just a little while...

[Back to Blue.]

CB: And then...

[We get a shot of a newspaper reporting the closing of ECW.]

CB: ...do you believe in miracles?

[Blue chuckles.]

CB: When they went under, the guys in the locker room were heartbroken. So many of them had gotten into the business because of what went down in that little bingo hall in South Philly. They all wanted to do something... they wanted to show that love for what happened there. By that point, I had a few silent partners helping finance the company and.... they made it pretty clear.. they wanted to pull the Japan show and run a tribute show instead.

[Blue shrugs.]

CB: Honestly, I didn't care. I wasn't even sure if it would even happen. That's how done I was. So, I agreed to it... let them lock it in... and started the planning wondering if the show would ever ever go down. And... it was like the phoenix rising out of their ashes pulled right into me and...

[He makes an upward gesture with both hands.]

CB: I was... inspired.

[We get a shot of the exterior of the world-famous wrestling venue formerly known as Viking Hall.]

CB: It was a great night. A wonderful night. Absolutely tremendous. I had so much fun. I have so many great memories of that night... and it didn't hurt that it produced some of the E's most famous matches... Born To Be Wired... that Stairway To Hell... and of course, the Three Way Dance.

"Oh, you knew that was going to come up."

CB: Beat you to it, huh? Ask the question.

"Was the Ribera Kid supposed to be Tommy James?"

[Blue smirks.]

CB: Was the Ribera Kid supposed to be Tommy James? That's a damn fine question.

[Blue scratches his chin.]

CB: Let's put it this way. I thought I knew exactly who was in that mask all along... and then suddenly I didn't. So, when the mask came off, a lot of people got to be as surprised in that moment as I felt in the days before.

"That doesn't make a lot of sense."

CB: Well, you didn't think I'd answer everything tonight, did you? I gotta save something for my eventual podcast.

[Laughter all around.]

CB: But to drastically change the subject, I'll say Eternally Extreme was a rebirth for the E. There are certain moments, you know, in the history of the E that signal a major change. Tentpole moments like the Legends Beatdown... like Reed losing to EVG... like... yeah. Eternally Extreme is one of those moments. It was like the E was given new life.

[Blue's mood darkens.]

CB: But nothing lasts forever. When Creed and I had our blowup, he told me "all things end... and most things end badly otherwise they wouldn't end." I never forgot that... and Eternally Extreme kept us going for about another year but... eventually it had to end.

[We fade to black...

...and then back to the Eternally Extreme logo with Todd Michaelson.]

TM: Alright, fans... I hope you're enjoying this history of the E and with just a little bit left of that, I wanted to break in here and talk about what else you're going to see just two nights away - Sunday night in the 2300 Arena in South Philly. We've already run down a few matches, let's talk about some more that have already been announced...

[We cut to a graphic showing a ladder with the words "STAIRWAY TO HELL" written under it.]

TM: This one's been building up for months now and finally, it'll come to a head when the American Idols take on the Shooting Stars in a Stairway To Hell match! You think these two high flying teams are exciting to watch on a normal night... imagine what it'll be like when we add ladders to the mix.

[The graphic changes to show Julie Somers and Kurayami with a silhouette next to each.]

TM: Mystery partner tag team matches have been a long-time fan favorite in the 2300 Arena and on Sunday night, we should see another to add to that legacy when Julie Somers and a partner of her choice take on the AWA Women's World Champion, Kurayami and a partner of her choice.

[Another graphic change shows the bearded and eyepatched Supreme Wright and King Kong Hogan.]

TM: Supreme Wright shocked the world when he returned to the AWA a few nights ago at Liberty Or Death and made it clear he was coming to South Philly and he's coming for blood. King Kong Hogan's no stranger to weapons and violence... but that's NOT Supreme Wright's game. Just what can Wright bring to the table in the land of Extreme? We'll find out Sunday night.

[And one final change shows Bobby Taylor, Kevin Slater, and Robert Donovan surrounding a grinning Javier Castillo on the graphic.]

TM: And in the night's Main Event, we're going to see a ten man tag under EMWC Rules when the Outlaw, the Wild Thing, and Big Bad Rob take on the Korugun Corporation led by Javier Castillo. So much mystery surrounding this one. So much excitement for who will be on the teams. And fans, I promise you, this is going to be a fight for the ages.

[The graphic fades, leaving Todd Michaelson behind.]

TM: It's surprise, it's excitement, it's violence, it's athleticism. It's the EMWC... one more time... at Eternally Extreme 2. Sunday night. The 2300 Arena in South Philly... ONLY on Pay Per View. Fans, make your plans now... make sure you're with us... make sure you join us. You may not get another chance to see this. You may not get another chance to witness what the E was all about. It's going to be the talk of wrestling on Monday morning so make sure you're with us on Pay Per View so you can join the conversation. You can be a part of one of the biggest shows of the year. You can be a part of celebrating what the E was all about. You can be a part of Eternally Extreme 2!

[Todd ends his rant by pointing at the camera as we fade to black...

...and get a title card that reads "THE END...?"]

CB: I was tired. I wanted to pursue other dreams. I wanted to start a family. And honestly, I was just done. I walked away abruptly. I probably could've sold the company if I'd hung on just a little while but... as much as I was done with it all, it broke my heart to think of someone else running my show.

[Blue sighs.]

CB: That was probably the selfish thing to do. I probably should've let someone else run the show... all those people needed jobs and I just walked away from them after they'd done so much for me but...

[Blue pauses, shaking his head.]

CB: ...I just couldn't do it anymore. Not one more day. Not one more second.

[Fade to Stegglet.]

JS: It was a sad day for sure. The E meant so much to so many of us and... it was there one day and gone the next. I won't say that a lot of us didn't see the writing on the wall but... you never really believe it til it happens.

"Is that when the idea for the AWA started?"

JS: Not... yet. I think a lot of us were as tired as Blue was. I went home and didn't even watch wrestling for months. Todd... well, he had other plans.

[Cut to Todd.]

TM: I decided I wanted to start my own company. My own promotion. My own training school. So, I went home to Los Angeles and did exactly that - Pro Wrestling Revolution - the best little indy that almost no one has ever heard of.

[Todd grins as we fade back to Blue.]

CB: I went home. I took a vacation. I did a few other projects... but once wrestling is in your blood, it's hard to get it out. I started up Empire Sports and started looking at ways to monetize the EMWC library. Eventually, I got a call from Todd.

[Back to Todd.]

TM: I had a vision. A giant multi-promotional event called the J*STAR Festival. PWR was going to be a part of it and I was trying to bring in a lot of talent from all over the business. But to do it right, I needed money.

[Back to Blue.]

CB: Todd wanted me to bankroll a big portion of the show. First money in, first money out. I wasn't sure it was going to work but... what did I have to lose?

[Blue shakes his head.]

CB: Worst. Question. Ever.

[Cut to a series of shots of headlines that say things like "DISASTER STRIKES J*STAR" with a photo of a downed Killing Box with pieces in amongst the crowd.]

TM: It was the worst moment of my professional life... maybe saying "professional" is limiting it. It's up there for the worst moment of my life period. We had scheduled a Killing Box match... and honestly, there was a lot of talk this might be the last one. Blue was pretty wrecked over some rumors we were hearing about Simon Ezra's health. Caleb Temple had just gone public with his painkiller addiction issues. Blue was pretty sure he never wanted to do another one anyways and then... the Box came down that night and parts of it actually fell into the crowd.

[Fade to a solemn-looking Blue.]

CB: People got hurt. Some people got hurt bad. And... well... they sued. Rightfully so too, I guess. Back then I didn't think so but looking back... if that was me in that crowd and I got hurt... or my wife... or god forbid, my kid... yeah, I'd be out for blood too.

[Back to Todd.]

TM: The insurance kicked in on some of it but I was done. I lost just about every dime I had. PWR had to shut down shortly after because I just didn't have the money to keep it going. And Blue...

[Back to Blue.]

CB: My personal wealth took a substantial hit... let's put it that way. And the only way I could get back on solid footing was to do the one thing I swore I never wanted to do - bring back the E.

[Fade to a title card marked "You Can't Go Back Again."]

CB: I tried, you know? If I was going to bring it back, I wanted it to be what it was... but different. I couldn't do the extreme anymore. I just couldn't be the reason that another generation of guys got sent into retirement early. So, I made some changes.

[Cut to Jon Stegglet.]

JS: I still remember that first meeting. No more hardcore. Wrestling the way it was meant to be. I loved it... but I was concerned. The E was built on hardcore. Yeah, we had great talent putting on great matches outside of that too but the fans knew the E was for Extreme... not Empire. And... well, I just didn't know if they'd accept it.

[Cut to Blue.]

CB: They didn't. We did okay at first. The wrestlers were excited. We had a great roster of established superstars and younger talent. The fans came back to welcome us back like a family member who'd been gone too long. But... it wasn't the same. The magic was gone. I was in it for the money now... not the passion of it. And I think that shined through. Our backers were not happy. This wasn't the E they wanted. It wasn't making the money it needed to make to be viable.

[Cut to what looks like a format sheet reading "THE E IS FOR EXTREME" on the top.]

CB: Against every wish I had, the money guys said we had to change things to stay solvent. We had to do the one thing I didn't want to do... again. We had to go back to Extreme. It broke my heart. I almost quit on the spot but if I did, I knew the whole thing would come down around me and...

[Blue trails off as we cut back to Stegglet.]

JS: I was the on-camera authority at the time. Blue didn't want to be on TV anymore so he gave me the gig. It was fine but it wasn't what I loved... although it did allow me to see the other side of the business a little more and really set the stage for what would become the AWA later.

[Back to Blue.]

CB: We had set this show... back to Viking Hall to see if we could recapture some of that old magic. It was going to be a reboot for the company... throwing out the new rules and embracing the extreme again. We were all set. It actually was going to be a hell of a show - on paper at least. But then...

[Blue pauses, struggling to stay under control. When he speaks again, his voice cracks.]

CB: An old friend of mine... someone I'd grown up with... he passed away very suddenly from leukemia. It was... I don't know... a month maybe from when he was diagnosed to when he died and... that was it. It broke me. I gave the money men my notice and walked away. After all those years, the E was truly... finally... gone.

[Fade to black with a title card that reads "Eternally Extreme Once More." The narrator speaks.]

"Tell me about Eternally Extreme 2."

[Blue smiles.]

CB: It started as a joke really. Every spring or early summer, AWA management has a retreat. It's a tradition from the early days of the company - back before they'd even acknowledge I was a part of it. We'd all get together, go away for a long weekend to somewhere isolated, and have a few days to discuss the company, the business, and what we wanted to do. Part of that would always be talking about the following year - what cities did we want to run in, what big shows did we want to do. So, last year during this summit, someone said we should run some cities we've never been to - places like Chicago and Detroit... and of course, Philly.

[Blue chuckles.]

CB: And Michaelson shouts out, "You can't run Blue's territory! He'll send some goons after us!" Everyone started laughing and we moved on... but I kept thinking about it. Ever since that first Eternally Extreme... that rebirth for the E... I felt a bond to that city. And of course, because of its history, it has always had a certain... extreme... reputation. So, I said... "He's right. If the AWA is running Philly, so am I." And so the idea of the Chris Blue outlaw mudshow came to be... at first, it was just going to be my friends and I having some fun... a few familiar faces from the past... some guys from the AWA who I enjoy watching... maybe even some indy or international talent. And it kept growing and evolving... and growing and evolving... and soon, someone said... "you know, this might be your last chance to really get some closure on the E."

[Blue shrugs.]

CB: And they were right. The E never got the final show it deserved. And Sunday night is my chance to change that. It'll be a little different. There'll be a lot of guys and girls on the show that never stepped foot in an E ring... but the spirit will be there.

"And the talent?"

[Blue smirks.]

CB: I've got a few surprises up my sleeve. Back in the day, we used to say you never knew what might happen on an E show. And I think come Monday morning, there will be a lot of wrestling fans talking about what went down at that little former bingo hall in South Philly once again.

"Can you give us some hints as to who might be there?"

[Blue shrugs.]

CB: What's the Hank Williams line? "All my rowdy friends are comin' over tonight."

[Blue nods.]

CB: Yeah, that sounds about right. You want to know more? Buy the [BLEEPING] Pay Per View.

[And as we fade away from the former EMWC owner, we get a graphic on screen with all the details on Sunday's night big event...

...and fade to black.]