

The Star Theatre Company Presents

Air Turbulence A Comedy at 30,000 ft

Written By Daniel Watts

Directed By: David Schulz

The Star Theatre Company is proud to present this WORLD PREMIERE comedy by Daniel Watts. Packed full of pop culture references and premiering at the Star Theatre in Oceanside, Air Turbulence is a bumpy, hilarious ride in some very turbulent skies! Set in an airplane cabin in 2019, Air Turbulence finds cheating husband Jack flying to Denver with his wife, Monica, for their anniversary. Jack orders a drink and is terrified to discover that their flight attendant, Erin, is the lover he'd been hiding from his wife. After some incredibly awkward conversations, we learn Monica knew about the affair and picked this particular flight to confront the two of them - but first, she's going to watch them squirm. If only the other passengers would get out of the way. Erin's best friend Raheem, a fellow flight attendant, can't believe she's dating this guy - but Raheem's got his own awkward dating past. Old man Orval lost his wife and tries to reconnect with humanity by talking to strangers on airplanes. Gina, a UCLA film professor, can't stand her seatmate Carl, who orders beer and coffee to cover up his own embarrassing secret. Lawyer Jason just wants to sleep because he's got a busy schedule in Denver, where he's meeting an old flame. Sitting next to Jason is Karen, who is - well, a Karen. Then there's Monica's secret lover, the pilot Sam Sparrow. Monica doesn't realize he's on the flight either until he strolls out of the cockpit at the end of Act 2. When she discovers he's there too, it's a chaotic frenzy as the two cheating spouses try to stop their paramours running into each other. Meanwhile, the air turbulence gets worse too. Looks like the plane's going down, so they ask themselves: Should they confess their secrets? And why does everyone keep talking about Groundhog Day?

Roles

6 men, 4 women. All roles open. Ages are flexible (makeup can be used to "age up" a role calling for it.) All roles are open to actors of any ethnicity. All passengers are on stage during the entire play. When not speaking, the passengers are miming what normal people on an airplane do. There are no "small" roles - only roles with more spoken lines than others. Great opportunity to showcase the actor's ability to act using movement.

The Couple

Monica. Female. Age: 30s-40s. Smart and conniving - bordering on diabolical - but intentionally acts somewhat naive when around her husband of 20 years, Jack, because she's got a plan in motion and doesn't want him to suspect anything's amiss. She's secretly having an affair with Captain Sam Sparrow. She sits in the aisle seat next to Jack at the front of the plane. Role involves brief kiss with Jack.

Jack. Male. Age 40s/50s. Monica's husband. Thinks he's hot stuff but isn't as smart as he thinks. Blind to his wife's intelligence. He's having an affair with Flight Attendant Erin, but doesn't think his wife knows. Sitting in the window seat next to Monica at the front of the plane. Role involves brief comic "making out" with Erin and brief kiss with Monica.

The Flight Crew

Captain Sam Sparrow. Male. Age 30s-50s. American accent when speaking to people in person. Gruff in person, former military. But eloquent and refined over the plane's public address system, where he affects a British accent for marketing reasons. Awkward with people, comfortable with planes. He's having an affair with Monica and would like to get serious with her. Role involves kiss with Monica.

Flight attendant Erin. Female. Age 20s-30s. Sweet, kind, a bit insecure. She's been having an affair with Jack for the last six years and wants to get serious. She's put up with Jack's dilly-dallying for years, but is getting frustrated and more assertive about her needs. She speaks with subtext and strong hints to get the point across. Role involves brief comic "making out" with Jack.

Flight attendant Raheem. Male. Age 20s-50s. Worldly, confident, assertive, and not afraid to call out passengers on their bullshit. He used to have a midwestern boyfriend and he's still not over him, though he pretends he is. Best friends with Flight attendant Erin. Raheem knows Erin has a lover, but didn't know it's Jack until just now. Actor playing Raheem should preferably be non-white, as the script specifically calls for it.

Passengers

Orval. Male. Age 70s-100s. (Makeup can make this happen.) Traveling alone. He moves a bit slowly, sounds a bit frail and doddering. Seeking human connection after the recent death of his wife, he buys flights just to meet new people. He prattles on about his time in the "war," trying to chat up other passengers to keep himself company.

Gina. Female. Any age, but must look significantly younger than Orval. A film professor at UCLA traveling to Denver. Normally a very kind and tolerant person, she sits in the aisle seat next to Carl and becomes increasingly frustrated with him. She makes a connection with Orval, and she's the only one who isn't super dismissive of him. She loves the films of Bill Murray.

Carl. Male. Any age, but must look significantly younger than Orval. Sitting in the window seat next to Gina. He orders coffee and beer simultaneously - multiple times. He gets up frequently to use the bathroom because he's hiding an embarrassing medical condition. He's an oversharer who keeps putting his foot in his mouth, but doesn't realize he's being cringy.

Karen. Female. 30s-50s. Sitting in the aisle seat next to Jason. Psychiatrist, educated, a grammarian, compulsively corrects people's behavior. She sits one row behind Jack/Monica and overhears talk of their affair and tries to intervene.

Jason. Male. Any age, but must look significantly younger than Orval. Sitting next to Karen. He just wants to sleep and is perpetually annoyed by Karen. He tries to get Karen to mind her own business, but she puts him in his place.