



2003

Airline

Jennifer Eskelsen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Eskelsen, Jennifer (2003) "Airline," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 24 : Iss. 1 , Article 43.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol24/iss1/43>

This Play Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Kelly, Tim. *Airline*. Pioneer Drama Service, 1981. \$35.00. 50 pp.

Reviewer: Jennifer Eskelsen

Reading Level: Young adult;

Rating: Shortcomings;

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Play; Adventure Play; Fantasy Play;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Responsibility (Character trait)--Juvenile drama;

Theme: You will never know what life will throw at you.

Production Requirements: Simple Props/costumes/sets.

Acts: 3

Run Time: 120 min

Characters: 12F, 12M, 8+ Universal

Cast: 3 Teenaged F, 9 adult F, all adult M, 8 adult Universal other universal characters of varying ages.

Time Period: Present Day

A group of stewardesses are getting ready for their final flight, which will determine if Go Bananas Airline will hire them. An ex-stewardess sneaks on to the flight, after tying up the real stewardess, to meet Rock Starr, the latest media craze. Meanwhile, Mrs. Dragbottom finds that her husband has snuck off to catch the Go Bananas flight. After he leaves, she entertains the idea that her husband is the mad bomber she heard about in the newspapers. A collection of various eccentric passengers assemble, including Lulu Van Oops the actress, two flight-fearing teenagers, Mr. Mann the superhero, the suspicious Paper Bag Man, three-footed tap dancer Happy Tappy and the owner of the airlines, Sherwood Forest. The plane, flight 007, takes off and immediately there are problems. After a sore attempt to solve problems such as there being no navigation system in the plane, no seatbelts and also not enough fuel for the plane to fly farther than a few hundred yards, they are forced to land. The stewardesses are hired after apprehending the Paper Bag Man, Mrs. Dragbottom finds out that her husband is going to a bowling tournament and isn't a bomber, and the teenagers who were afraid to fly, feel only slightly better about it.

The plot in this play is so complex that the characters aren't given adequate stage time to develop. There are no set main characters. There is no real change in any character except that two teenagers were afraid to fly, and then felt only slightly better after their flight. There are too many stories trying to be told in too short a play, so the audience doesn't really get to know the characters enough to care about them. The first act in particular is confusing because the author is trying to introduce several stories at once and then they all end up coming together in the second and third acts. Due to the jumping from one story to another, the pace is disjointed and varies dramatically. For example, in the beginning the stewardesses are running around and are very frantic when trying to get ready on time for their flight but then it moves to the Dragbottom family that is dimwitted and who don't move very much. The dialogue of the story is filled with puns. Certain characters don't help to further the plot. For example, Mr. Mann, a superhero who doesn't do anything very heroic, except pledge to watch the mysterious man with a gun who has boarded the plane and in the end, isn't the one who stops the mysterious man. Another example is Happy Tappy who's growing a third foot, literally. There is no point in trying to create complex characters that are not major contributors to the plot. This play doesn't seem appropriate at this time due to its subject content and the experiences that we as a nation have had the past couple of years. Granted, it was written in 1981 in which situations were different, but the idea that an airline would allow a man with a paper bag over his head and a machinegun onboard a plane doesn't seem to be realistic nor does it further what the play is trying to say.