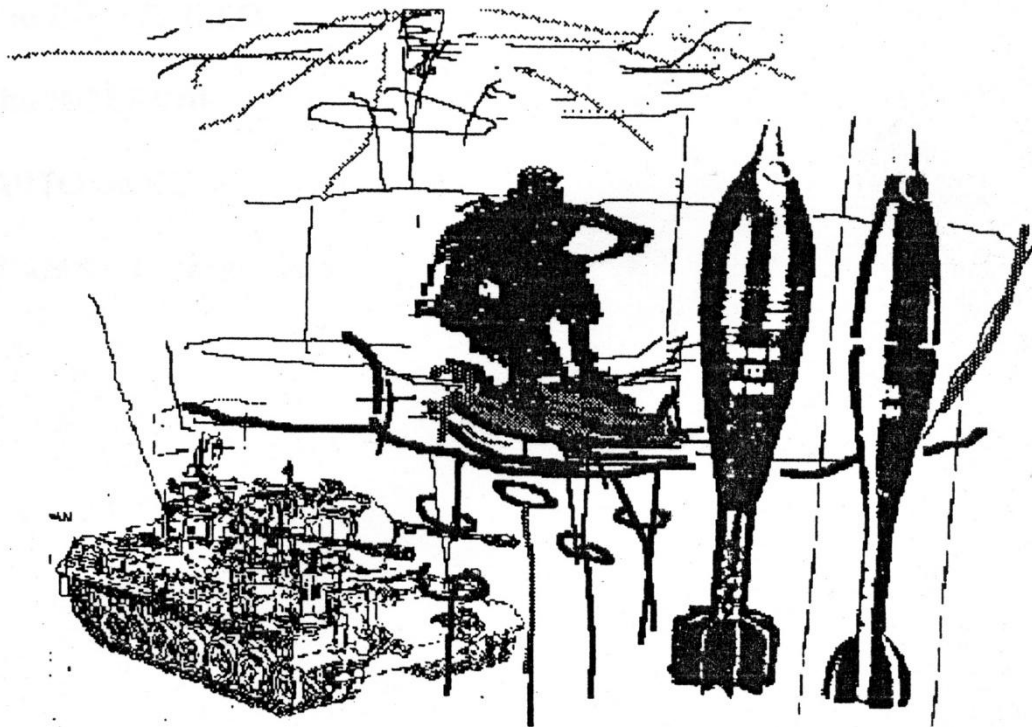


A PERFORMANCE SCRIPT by
ARTHUR WICKS

"the TRILOGY"



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EPISODE 3

**the
INTERVAL**

this point the audience will have been escorted from the main Theatre Space at the end of 'the BATTLEFIELD', will have bought refreshments etc and will have been escorted to the upstairs gallery space

An explosive sound of a rocket engine igniting and a roar which leaves a residual throbbing sound in the space. This residual sound does not in any way distort the clarity of the monologue. However, this residual sound should from time to time have injections of changes of sound, eg as if an engine is ignited or switched off. This will create occasional unevenness within the background hum.

The gallery space will be darkened so the audience will need to be assisted in sitting somewhere.

Good evening, this is your captain speaking. Let me introduce myself. My name is Enth Degree and the flight crew and myself will be looking after and caring for you during the next 15 minutes or that is for the duration of the flight. Flight Icarus. Please make sure your constraining belts are fastened as we prepare for take-off. Crew and flight attendants would you please make yourselves secure.

After take-off the crew will run through the safety procedures with you. You may think that you know all these details of by heart. I know that you have already flown many times before, but this is a special flight. Several new features have been added since the earlier unfortunate flight, but I don't want to focus on that here. I just ask that you acquaint yourselves with these new features and familiarise yourselves with the appropriate details. On a mission like this, with times as difficult as they are, we must be prepared for all eventualities. Please bear with us.

Please make yourselves comfortable on the floor; that is, as comfortable as is possible under the economic restraints caused by the huge insurance claims that our company has just settled from the previous flight; (but enough said!!). Please continue to eat and drink until otherwise instructed.

You may of course be wondering where our destination is. It is not possible just now to disclose this. You may recall that in the original contract you signed before buying the ticket for this Mystery flight that the destination would be disclosed at the discretion of the Captain and during the flight. I'm afraid that I'm going to keep you in suspense for a little longer.

The walls in the upstairs gallery will have the **Proposal** maquettes fastened. These objects will become important later as the **Travelogue** mentions various early sites and cities. At these points various of the wall maquettes will be illuminated by a bright overhead spot.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

The same intoned voice as that of the previous "captain" but sounding slightly metallic and pre-recorded.

Two flight lieutenants will suddenly appear and will mimic with a series of gestures the instructions of the monologue. Their gestures will have a sense of urgency and exaggeration which will reflect the intoned instructions.

They will initially be dressed in army or similar garb. They will be present during the entire Safety Procedures monologue.

This is your Captain saying goodbye for the moment as we prepare for our journey. On behalf of the crew and myself we wish you a pleasant, happy and safe trip. I can assure you that now the insurance claims have been settled, future flights will be luxurious!

The flight attendants will be looking after you as the flight progresses.

I repeat, please fasten and tighten your seat belts and ejection harnesses even though we are in the air. During the flight, even though the seat belt sign is not on, I ask that you keep your belts and harnesses on as a precautionary measure. The crew will ensure that this equipment is properly secured and will assist you in the proper procedures during the trip.

Over and out

Flight attendants would you please take your positions to demonstrate the Safety Drill.

The flight lieutenants will run through the Safety Procedures with you and will indicate where the buttons, levers and pull-chords are located.

In the event of a sudden loss of pressure caused by any circumstances, oxygen masks will automatically fall from the cabinet above your heads directly into your lap. The masks are to be placed firmly around your mouth and you should then immediately take in large lung fulls of oxygen.

The flight attendants will demonstrate how to use them. I should point out that randomly scattered among the oxygen masks are masks containing nitrous oxide and other pleasant substances. They may not be useful in rectifying the immediate situation but their location should be noted for a later time should you find that the flight develops moments of tedium. Please note that when pressure has

been restored the masks will automatically be drawn back into their cabinet for future use.

At this point the sound of someone falling from the craft - a loud cry that suddenly fades to the background hum of the motor.

Should we pass through contaminated clouds or contaminated areas of the atmosphere you should understand for your own peace of mind, that the craft is heavily insulated. There is a protective ionic barrier to care for our safety. This was added after the unfortunate incident with the previous flight.

The flight lieutenants will dress themselves in the white protective paper suits.

Sounds:
another scream that rapidly fades to nothing.

In the event of the outer skin of the craft being punctured and contamination enters craft, the emergency light forward will operate. Decontamination equipment located beneath your seats will become unlocked. This will take the form of special protective suits. These suits are to be pulled over your present clothing and zipped tightly.

sound of a rapid burst of backfiring (is it the engine or small arms fire?) then silence, ie the background hum.

Should there be any attempted hijacking or unofficial boarding, the cabinet containing the oozies and grenades will flick open. The sub machine guns are easily put together and the magazine can be quickly inserted. Note that the weapon is immediately useable. Health and safety regulations forbid such use of these weapons inside the craft. These pieces should be taken with you as you leave the craft for your personal protection. They should only be used when the appropriate signal is given. I repeat; these weapons are not to be used until authorisation is given. And that is indicated by the flashing red light immediately to the upper right hand section of the craft. This is visible both inside and outside the craft .

The attendants, once the monologue on the safety instructions has finished, will stay dressed in their white protective paper suits.

In the event that the craft becomes disabled and there is no contamination or alien forces the siren to the rear will sound and the pull-chord immediately above your head will lower to within your reach. This is the eject lever. The upper section of the craft will fall away allowing you to eject safely into the outside space. Make sure that your oxygen mask is clamped over your face. You should take that with you as you eject. Your parachute will eject with you. A few seconds later, a small explosion will separate you from your now unnecessary seat. and your parachute will automatically open as you descend. You may be asking yourselves where, in this event, you may be landing but as I mentioned earlier, I am unable to give any more information.

end of the Safety Drill monologue

On a more delicate note, and taking into account the political and military uncertainties of the present, I have been instructed by our company to mention an addition to the present flight. Should contamination reach an unacceptable level or the craft be completely overpowered by alien forces an abort siren will sound. At this point there is little to do other than pray and reach for the second mask that will fall into your laps. It is of course your decision whether to use this mask or not, but reports from the previous flight indicated that much unnecessary suffering could have been avoided.

return to the 'normal' voice of the earlier monologue.

So thank you, on behalf of the flight lieutenants and myself, this is your Mission Commander signing out and wishing you a pleasant and safe return. On your return you may wish to consider our warm and friendly service and fly with us again.

TRAVELOGUE

This voice will be the same as the original voice with the same intoned monologue.

NOTE: The **Proposal** maquettes will be illuminated by a solitary spot, one by one. The effect will be to freeze particular images as if seen through the window or porthole of a craft or ship.

The illumination of these objects will now continue for 5-10 minutes.

This is your Mission Commander again. We are now able to give you some information about the territories over which we are now flying. Some of you may be interested in knowing a little more about them. Those on the starboard, ie the right-hand side for civilians can see through the window the territory that once was **ANAESTHESIA**, the scene of recent heavy fighting and now devastated and wasted. We will fly as low as is safe to view the remains of this once proud and vital civilisation. As one of our historians recently observed, "**ANAESTHESIA** had a history of being a peaceful and lovable civilisation. Here, what historians call democracy had its birth. However, in more recent times Anaesthesia became involved in a series of idealistic disputes that led to border problems. For instance, the now famous conundrum: "how many democratic statesmen can fit into the end of a rainbow" was resolved one fateful day in June. All the citizens from the neighbouring cities; Brain Death, Babylon, Sodom, came to witness the solution. None of the parliamentarians of Anaesthesia survived and the series of wars that followed claimed numerous lives and led to continuing conflict. In retrospect and to our enlightened minds such idealistic fervour seems quite misplaced and certainly not worth dying for.

From the other window you can see enormous stretches of desert. There were of course deserts here from the beginning. You will recall that in recent times technology was able to make these deserts bloom and a great string of cities were able to thrive along this area of the globe. From the right-hand window you will see the remnants of one of these cities; the city of Babylon.

We should note, as has been observed by reporters in recent past, that this great civilisation was governed by a group of generals; General Ashur-banipal, General Sennacherib and General Tiglith-Pileser-Sadam. The inhabitants were wanting to bring their wonderful culture to all the neighbouring cities. As was observed, by the journalists at that time, this created an enormous tension in the area. This was further exacerbated by the warlike traits that gradually infiltrated into both their cultures, and the exclusive ambitions that accompanied this.

The **Proposals** on the walls continue to be illuminated.

The audience at this stage are likely to be on their feet and chattering, eating and drinking.

Among the problems was the continuing lightning raids made by the warlords from Babylon to cities as far north as Brain Death even. A quote from that time "the showers of the tracers rained down on the enemy like hail sent by god, and eventually these warriors in their Leopard mark 2's fell upon the city like vultures". Civilians had to be evacuated until safety and sanity was restored. One field reporter observed that this behaviour was giving warfare a bad name. Another field report indicated that several retreating tanks were actually dragging behind them harvesters that were actually sowing the ground with huge quantities of rock salt. The anger of the farmers in that area was such that they dumped a year's supply of manure into the water supply of the Babylonians. The situation became very touchy. Another field reporter noted that he heard a series of chants that rather disturbed him. In fact that field position was destroyed by mortar attack a few moments later. He noted; "fire; destroyer of enemies; terrible weapon which destroys all sickness, brilliant fertile fire; destroy this evil." The report was documents but there was no report on which evil was being referred to. The report was sent to indicate the distressing obsession that some of these people had and in the hope that there may have been enough time to rectify the situation.

If you look out the left window now, we are passing over ARMAGEDDON. I really don't want to focus on that event, except to ask you to please fasten your belts and secure your safety harnesses as we rapidly ascend to a safer altitude. Safety regulations still do not permit us to fly too close to this part of the earth's surface.

An image of a skeletal structure: sculpture-like. Does one of the **Proposals** look like this?

We are approaching another site; the site occupied by the Babel Tower Project. This project was initiated by the Body of the United Nations as an attempt to focus the energies of all the cities into a single goal and to divert the energies away from the constant conflict. This worked brilliantly for a whole generation and the Tower reached monumental heights. One day, and there is no single explanation none of the workers were able to communicate with one another. This was very puzzling, as up to that point every stage of the planning was achieved with full co-operation. Of the outcome there is no confusion. Armed assault groups began fighting for control of the building floor by floor. This reached a stalemate with each city controlling one levels each. This worked for a short space of time until disputes began over the access particularly with the lift and stair-well. The situation was resolved when one of the Inertian warplanes crashed directly into the building exploding on impact. It was suspected that this was deliberate, as the floor occupied by Inertia was reported empty at the time. However, this is entirely conjecture, and now a rather academic point.

Historians note that the situation kept on deteriorating and walls gradually appeared until the entire stretch of the earth was divided at regular intervals into small discrete areas. Inside each of these lived the occupants of each of the cities. "Living" is probably not the right word to describe conditions that followed. After each conquest, the walls would be re-aligned to mark out the new territory for whoever had made the latest excursion and had expanded. One of the earliest field reports file the story of one of the messengers who had been sent from Extinction to Lobotomy. There are no other reports of this event but there is no reason whatever to doubt the authenticity of the report. I quote directly, "when the field messenger arrived at Lobotomy with a request to begin peace negotiations, he was held as a prisoner, interrogated and when no further information was forthcoming, a collar was wrapped around his neck and he was housed in a kennel just outside of the city without food or water. When the reinforcement field messenger arrived and discovered how the peace ambassador had been treated, he withdrew several kilometres and called in a retaliatory air strike".

Another of the
Proposals is spot-lit.
Which one?? Does it
matter?

The field report stops abruptly at that point but we are looking right now through the window at the final result of that peace attempt.

Anyone who has been reading recent newspapers will know that THE JUDGES have been appointed to govern the surviving groups of people and to rehabilitate the devastated area. These JUDGES have total control, military, political and for want of a word religious, since they have the power over every aspect of our lives at this time. One of the first acts of reconciliation will be to hold a trial in which the blame and responsibility can be apportioned out.

We have just picked up a message from our communication satellite. It is understood that the authorities have issued a warrant for the arrest of someone who will be charged for the destruction that has overtaken our civilised world. Details are sketchy; there is no description and I understand that there is a problem positively identifying the person concerned. I will give you more information as it comes to hand.
Thank you for your patience.

Will need to leave a
small amount of time
here. In reality it will
probably be about 5
minutes so that the
audience has time to
relax.

This becomes a
commercial with a
two line jingle that
will close this
monologue. It could
be repeated again.

Thank you for flying with Mystery Voyages. Next time you want the thrill of a lifetime, just give our office in your nearest city a call.

after a total of 25-30
minutes, an alarm
will sound to
indicate that the
audience needs to
return to the Theatre.

The audience will be allowed another 5 minutes to relax before the instruction is given to return to the Theatre.

This instruction will need to be put onto a separate closed loop tape.

THE COURT WILL SOON BE IN SESSION. IF YOU ARE WANTING TO WITNESS AND POSSIBLY TO ASSIST THE JUDGES IN DISPENSING JUSTICE PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS IMMEDIATELY. THE DOORS WILL BE LOCKED WHILE THE COURT IS IN SESSION.