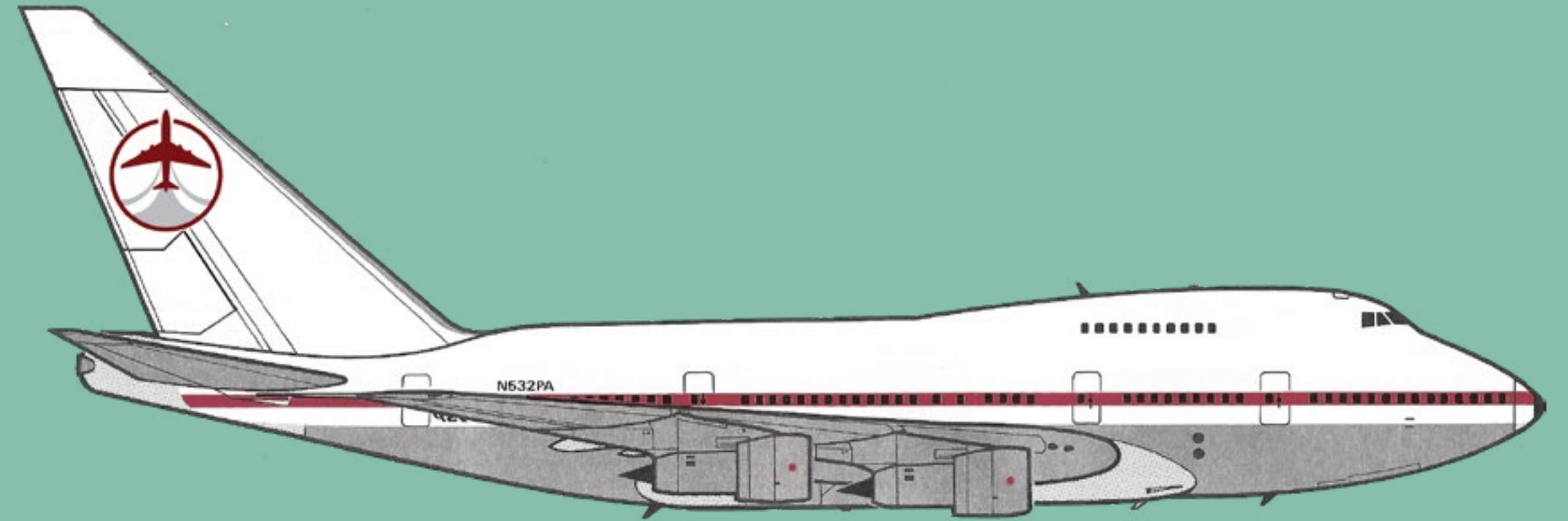


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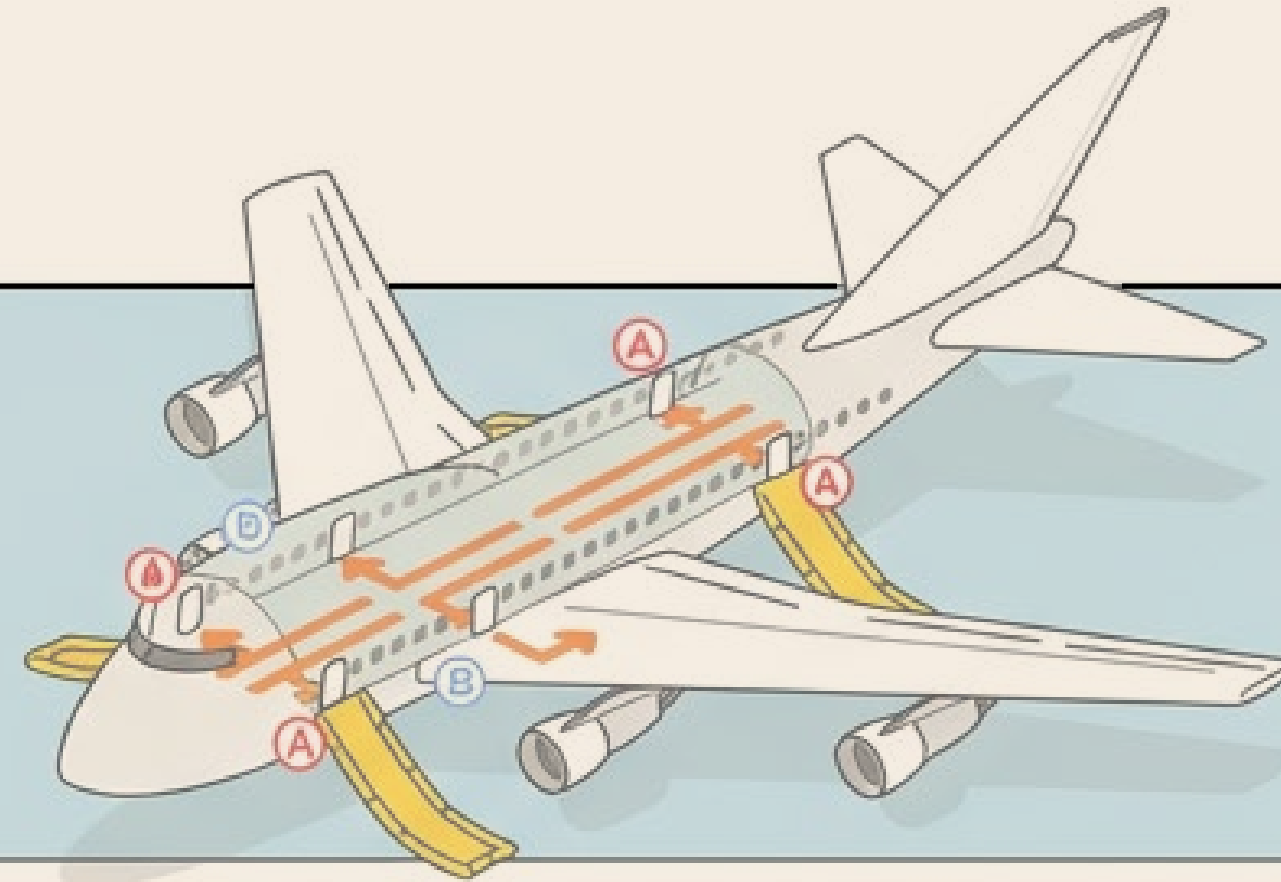


AIR QUOTES

An in-flight dark comedy.

LOGLINE

A dark comedy. 3 people meet in a row in coach and have to do the one thing they're desperate to avoid...engage with people in a row in coach. It gets worse when they realize they have opposing world views and oh f*ck...do they know each other?



1



2



3



SUMMARY

A dark comedy ensemble piece that hides political views inside quirky dysfunctional relationship issues...set on a single flight from JFK to LAX.

SEAT 29D - RYAN

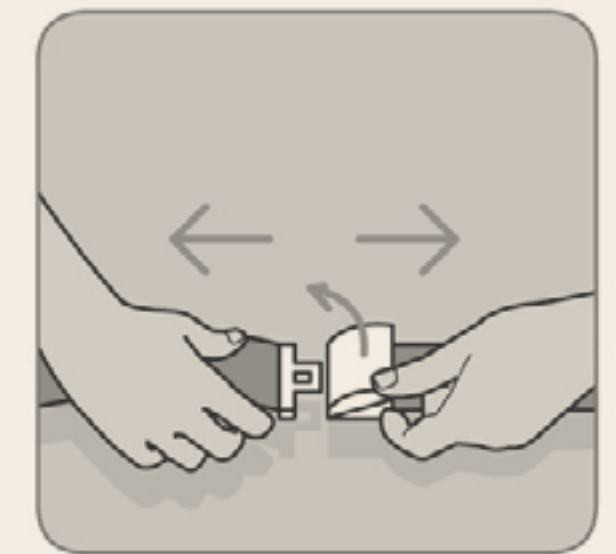
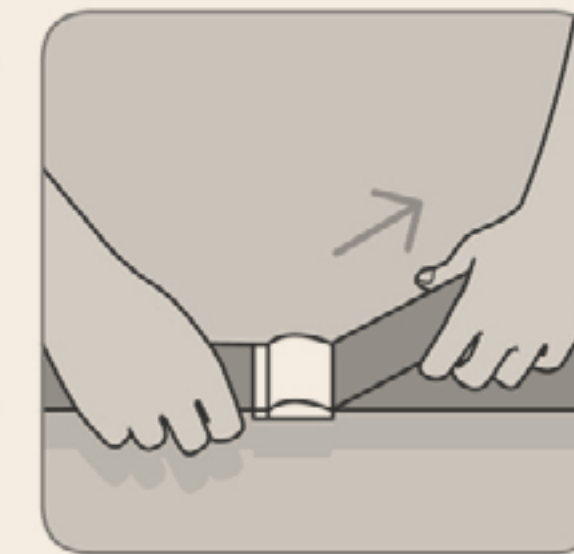
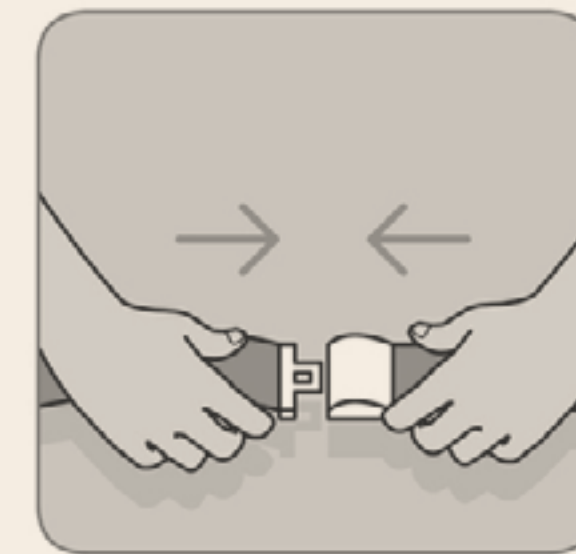
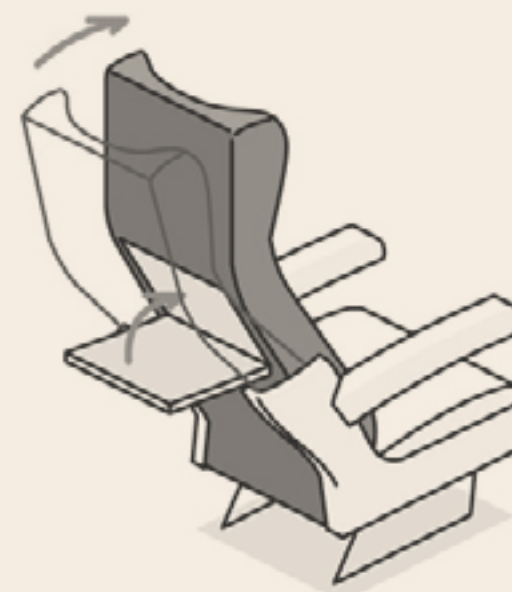
When an older sophisticated male stranger (with opposing world views) sits in the seat next to him and seems to know way too much about him... Ryan is forced to listen to this man's less than liberal statements about the world and Ryan's place in it. With no ability to get away, as he's trapped in a row in coach, Ryan must now reluctantly face this man's perceptions of his failed life choices as his self-perception begins to quickly erode. His life is already in flux with a contentious co-dependent relationship and a nepo-poser lifestyle, but will this be the thing that finally pushes him over the edge to DO SOMETHING to change his cowardly MO once and for all...?

SEAT 29E - ETHAN

Ethan has a party trick, he can clock people so well that it's as if he's read an entire dossier on them...in his mind. When he finds his middle seat on this flight, he also finds libby-complainer Ryan, a young man he can help learn to self-actualize...and he's going to teach him all of it on this flight. Clearly his own conservative demons are barely being kept at bay as he uses thinly veiled insults as the truths that will help Ryan to finally get his life to be great.

SEAT 29F - ALEX

Alex just wants to sleep through this flight but these guys in her row are loud and annoying. As the men talk endlessly it becomes clear they might actually know her in ways that are about to upset everyone.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A large number of my mother's family were pilots and flight attendants for Northwest Airlines. Her parents actually met on a flight in the 1940s, he was the pilot and she was the flight attendant. Much of the family also went into the biz as a result of their meeting this way. My grandfather had been the second ever hired pilot by Northwest and he helped design safety protocols and systems, eventually ending up being an engineer who helped design various aspects of planes and air travel. Many of the safety regulations in place to this day were created by him and his team in that era.

My mother ended up being a flight attendant, despite having her pilot's license and a family-run nepo stream like no other...and this fact has stuck with me for decades.

The airline business has always intrigued me, the gender dynamics and the antiquated roles that still continue to this day are alarming in a modern era...and yet these unspoken policies remain. There is a military/conservative heart that still reigns even with persistent raised concerns.

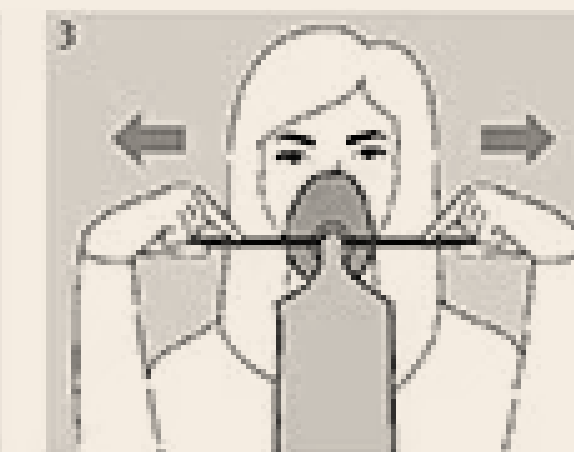
This fascinated me, and I imagined it would make an interesting backdrop for a dark comedy with a strong look at iconic societal roles and how they can be used to manipulate people, communities, and humanity as a whole...while also highlighting the "fun" of very unhealthy relationships and the couples who just can't seem to extricate themselves from exhausting dysfunction.



1
An oxygen mask will automatically appear in front of you.
Maska s kisikom se bo avtomatsko pojavila pred vami.



2
Place the mask firmly over your nose and mouth with the elastic band.
Masko si trdno namestite čez nos in usta s pomočjo elastike.



3
Secure the elastic band, and breathe normally.
Zategnite elastiko in dihaite normalno.



4
Secure your mask on first, and then assist the child.
Če potujete z otrokom, najprej masko nadenite sebi, šele potem otroku.

THE CAST





ROBB DERRINGER
“ETHAN”

Robb Derringer was born in Palo Alto, California. He studied at the Foothill Theatre Conservatory in Los Altos California before receiving his Bachelor's degree from UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television acting program.

Upon graduation from UCLA, Robb was invited to become a member of the award-winning dance troupe, Diavolo Dance Theatre. His work with Diavolo included acclaimed runs at the Edinburgh International Festival and Fringe, and Los Angeles Dance Kaleidoscope.

Robb began his career as a professional actor in 1995 and has been a familiar face on television and in feature films for over 25 years. You might recognize him from his wide ranging body of work in projects such as *Breaking*, *Queen America*, *Stumptown*, *Agents Of Shield*, *AJ and the Queen*, *The Exes*, *CSI's Las Vegas*, *Miami* and *New York, The*

Odd Couple, *NCIS*, *Air Force One*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, *General Hospital* and *Days Of Our Lives*.

Robb has also continued to work creatively in the professional Theater. He has performed with companies such as Pacific Resident Theatre, The Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, The Whitefire Theatre and The New American Theatre, with leading performances in plays such as *The Time Of Your Life*, *Of Mice And Men*, *Othello*, *The Trip Back Down*, *Prelude To A Kiss* and *The Blue Dahlia*.

Robb is also a prolific poet and writer, and has been published in various national magazines, blogs and trade publications. In 2012 Robb was the adapter and primary creative force behind a stage adaptation of John Steinbeck's timeless novel *Sweet Thursday*. He resides in Los Angeles and is an avid bibliophile, pilot, motorcyclist, surfer and outdoors-man.



HESTON HORWIN

“RYAN”

Heston Horwin is an actor, comedian, writer, and producer known for his work across independent film, television, and viral comedy. A graduate of Chapman University’s Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, Horwin has built a career rooted in both performance and filmmaking.

Horwin is a longtime member of the viral YouTube comedy group Almost Cool, where he has helped create comedic content reaching millions of viewers. His own comedic work has amassed more than 350,000 followers across YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram, establishing him as a prominent voice in digital comedy.

A Groundlings-trained performer of 11 years, Horwin performed with the prestigious Sunday Company at The Groundlings Theatre in Los Angeles. His improvisational and comedic background has become a defining element of his screen work.

As an actor, Horwin has starred in a number of acclaimed indie and cult films, including *Rock Steady Row*, *Dead Dicks*, *Echoes of Violence*, and *Trust*. His upcoming projects include the horror comedy *Ride or Die* and *Air Quotes*.

Horwin recently made his feature-film debut as a writer, producer, and star with *The Misadventures of Vince & Hick*, a genre-bending crime comedy that showcases his distinctive blend of physical comedy, character work, and indie filmmaking.



MELANIE STONE

“ALEX”

Melanie Stone was born and raised in Modesto, California, in a family of nine children. With a lifelong interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy, Mel began her on-screen career in that very vein, leading the five-film fantasy series *Mythica*. Since then, she has worked steadily in film and television.

Stone is particularly drawn to independent filmmaking and genre projects. Her acting credits include the critically acclaimed horror-comedy *Deadstream*, which premiered at the 2022 SXSW Film Festival, and *V/H/S/99*, in which she plays Mabel in the segment

“To Hell and Back.” The film premiered at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival’s Midnight Madness program, where Stone’s performance was praised as “especially fantastic” by Gizmodo, which also called the segment a standout of the anthology.

In addition to acting, Stone has worked as a producer and writer, giving her experience on both sides of the camera. She continues to pursue acting while developing original projects, particularly stories that resonate with her more colorful and eccentric side.



ALEJANDRA CEJUDO

“MAUDE”

Alejandra Cejudo is a Los Angeles-based actor and improviser whose career spans 20+ years across film, television, theater, voiceover, and immersive live performance.

Her television credits include the Emmy-winning series, *BOOK OF QUEER*, where she appeared as various characters, including Eleanor Roosevelt. She also joined the cast of the YouTube series and Streamy award nominee for Best Ensemble Cast, *ESCAPE THE NIGHT*, as the Killer Clown Leader and starred in season 2 of *COXMAN: THE SERIES* as “Nitrus”.

Her voice work includes the popular horror fiction podcast, *THE SHERIDAN TAPES*, where she voices “The Beachwood Monster” and “Amanita”, and the fantasy podcast, *TALES FROM THE ECHOWOOD*, as “Maeven”.

Alejandra’s recent film credits include a devilish “Bellhop” in *ROOM SERVICE*, and “Laura” in *THE SEA WAS NEVER BLUE*, which received an Official Selection for the Workers Unite Film Festival.

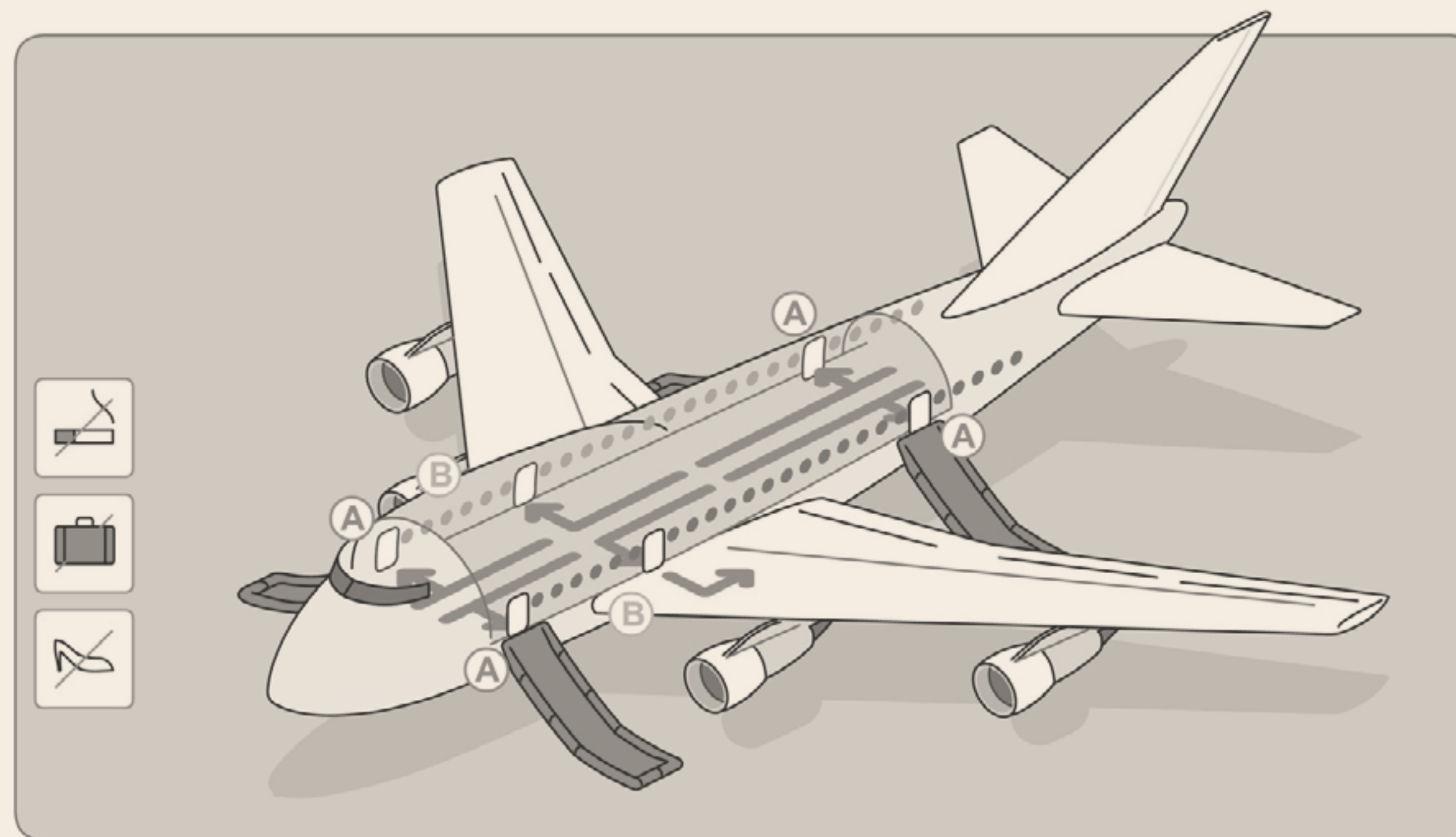
Her theater career encompasses more than 30 productions, including an off-Broadway production of Jean Genet’s *THE MAIDS*, in which she starred as “Claire”. Most recently, she played “Rachel” in *LA NOIR RADIO* at the Hudson Theater as part of the 2026 Hollywood Fringe Festival. She has also frequently worked with CAPS Productions and played “Frida Kahlo” in the first English performance of *THE DAY CONTINUES STILL*.

She is also member of the improv troupe, *DESTROY ALL MONSTERS*.

Beyond traditional stage and screen work, Alejandra spent a decade as a live fantasy performer for the Labyrinth Masquerade Ball, developing a deep appreciation for immersive storytelling and the creation of richly imagined worlds. Her versatility is further grounded in extensive improvisational training at The Groundlings, IO Chicago, and UCB, as well as classical training in Shakespeare at the British American Drama Academy in Oxford.

Alejandra holds a BA in Theater from Loyola University New Orleans.

THE PRODUCTION



1. Locate the nearest exit.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit dolor con sectetur adipiscing.



2. Pull the emergency release lever.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit dolor con sectetur adipiscing.



3. Open the hatch and exit the plane.

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4. Use the slide to safely exit the plane.

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PRODUCTION STORIES

Shot mostly in sequence, 8-10 pages a day, 90% on a 737 in a soundstage in Santa Clarita, it's very odd to be trapped on an airplane for 3 weeks...making a movie.

Every minute of every day the producers worried someone might get COVID and shut production down. Throughout our 11 day shoot there were hundreds of things that could stop all of it. If we lost even just one day of production we might've lost the entire shoot due to complicated scheduling and a short window with the actual plane. One day would've meant an entire 10 pages would have to be abandoned and the story would've made zero sense. No one got sick, no one had a flat tire, no one was even late to set.

Equally, our cast had to have their lines completely memorized to ensure we wouldn't get behind schedule even a minute. Luckily, without our even insisting (but having back-up plans) - because it was wall to wall dialogue...our incredible cast was so professional they had all 10 pages completely down and ready to shoot, PLUS the next day's dialogue as well in case we had time. THIS SAVED US.

Having worked in reality TV for the last couple decades, the director made sure to hire a mostly reality TV crew knowing how quickly they set, move, and shoot. It paid off huge to have their rapidfire skills to get us through every production issue.

Shot on the Alexa 35 for ease of movement between airplane seats, the cinematographer shot mainly handheld to deliver the airplane vibe our director wanted. He also researched all the commercial airplane lighting cues to make sure they were all accurately timed per scene.

The background actor passengers, who sat on this plane for 10 days straight, were told to just bring their work or books or phone or anything they'd do on any flight. One background actor drew pictures of the plane while another wrote poems about us as we worked. They kept our shoot light and got to hear the story as it unfolded in order, keeping them at least slightly entertained.

The director has worked with 3 of the flight attendants on multiple films and TV shows.

All 3 of the main cast were hired without auditions and just on strong recommendations from other trusted filmmakers and friends. They ended up bringing rich characterizations to the first rehearsal and very little redirecting needed to happen at any point...this cast showed up as these characters.

The director broke her wrist just a few weeks into the edit and a month later had a plate and 9 screws installed. She was forced to edit the entire movie with one hand on a mirrored iPad...and it took FOREVER.

The composer is the director's son...and also the key set PA. Biggest promotion on someone's first film we've ever heard about.

The original script was written more than a decade earlier and Heidi did a page-1 rewrite without reading it in 2025. When her first draft was complete she sent it off to the actors and producers and never rewrote a single word of the script...until the edit...other than logistic issues on set of course.

Heidi's mom was one of the 25 (out of 1500) flight attendants who took the sexual harassment/discrimination settlement money and full retirement benefits.

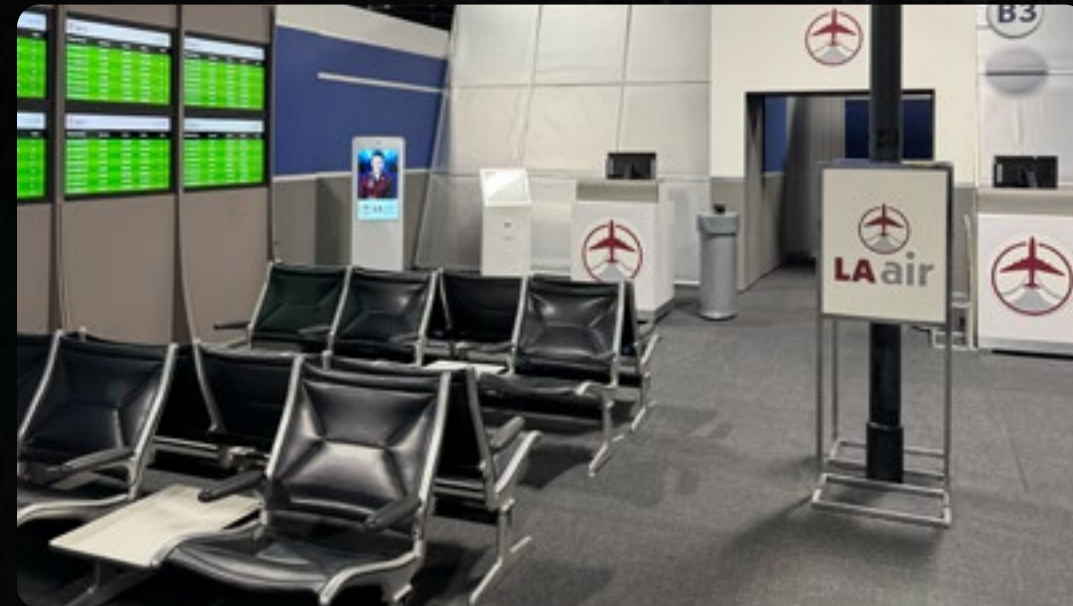
The sexual harassment and discrimination lawsuit was the 3rd ever class action suit that tackled this, and HUGE changes were definitely made and enforced while many also slipped through the cracks post-win. Female pilots are still only 14% on commercial airlines, and there is still a culture of discouragement when women want to go to flight school.





LOCATIONS

AIR QUOTES



Shot entirely at Santa Clarita Studios on what is called The Autoplane. The Autoplane is a fully customizable 727/737 that is housed on a flatbed truck and deliverable anywhere in the country. We had it delivered to the soundstage next to the parking lot where it sleeps.

THE TEAM



A life vest is located in a pouch under your seat.
Rešilni jopič se nahaja pod sedežem.



Slip the life vest over your head.
Rešilni jopič si povzrite čez glavo.



Pass the straps around your waist.
Namestite si trakove okoli pasu.



Lock the straps at the front.
Trakove spnite na pasu spredaj.

Heidi has been writing and directing films since before most people reading this were even born. (Heidi is old.) Heidi was at one point (100 years ago) the youngest person to attend the Sundance Screenwriters Lab, and she was the first woman to win the Grand Jury Prize at the Slamdance Film Festival...both accolades she clings to 25 plus years later to attempt to appear relevant. Heidi wrote a now obsolete book for film schools called The Indie Film Rule Book, about indie film strategy...something she no longer has any clue about so this is going to be an interesting year. Heidi made her first film in Chicago by forcing her ex-NBA father to ask for free stuff around town...she called him The Human VIP Card, and it worked. (Unfortunately that only works once.) After her momentarily decent writing career fizzled when she got pregnant

(and the biz decided pregnant writers are weird), Heidi moved to ruining America 1 hour at a time...by producing ever-glorious basic cable reality TV for a decade and a half and she loved it.

She is still working on ruining America, but reality TV has dried up...so she made another indie movie to help that effort.

Air Quotes is exactly the kind of movie she's been dying to make again...while single-momming a high maintenance kid in private school. (Said child is now 24 and scored this film.) (Heidi should stop talking about the single mom struggles-it's been 6 years since he moved out.)

Heidi continues to make films and content while trying to figure out how to get people to see a movie she's oddly proud of.

HEIDI VAN LIER
WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



Cynthia E. Walker is a producer with more than 15 years of experience in the entertainment industry. One of seven kids growing up in the Midwest, Cynthia learned early how to speak up, work with different personalities and find the humor in just about any situation.

She has worn a lot of hats throughout her career, starting in acting and working her way through production before finding her place as a producer. Along the way she has worked on nearly every side of a production and learned what it takes to get a project from an idea to the screen.

As a producer, Cynthia likes being hands on. She has managed budgets, hired crews, handled contracts and payroll, secured locations and permits, managed talent and built production schedules.

She has developed stories, directed shoots, conducted interviews and worked closely with teams to bring projects together from start to finish.

She is a true team player who believes that good productions happen when everyone feels supported and knows they are part of the process. Cynthia is never afraid to jump in wherever she is needed. Whether she is figuring out a production challenge, working with talent or making sure the day stays on track, she is always looking for a way to help the team succeed.

After 15 plus years in the business, she has learned that producing requires equal parts creativity, organization, patience, curiosity and the ability to stay calm when someone says, “We have a little problem.”

CYNTHIA WALKER
PRODUCER



David is an award-winning Creative Director who, throughout his illustrious marketing career, has worked with some of the top brands in the world including Dodge, Jeep, Chrysler, Lincoln, American Express, and AT&T. A few highlights include the Lincoln Mark LT Super Bowl website featuring alternate endings to the commercial, directing a 3 month long, \$1M photoshoot that spanned 5 different cities, and helping to grow the American Express account from a single project to a \$9M account.

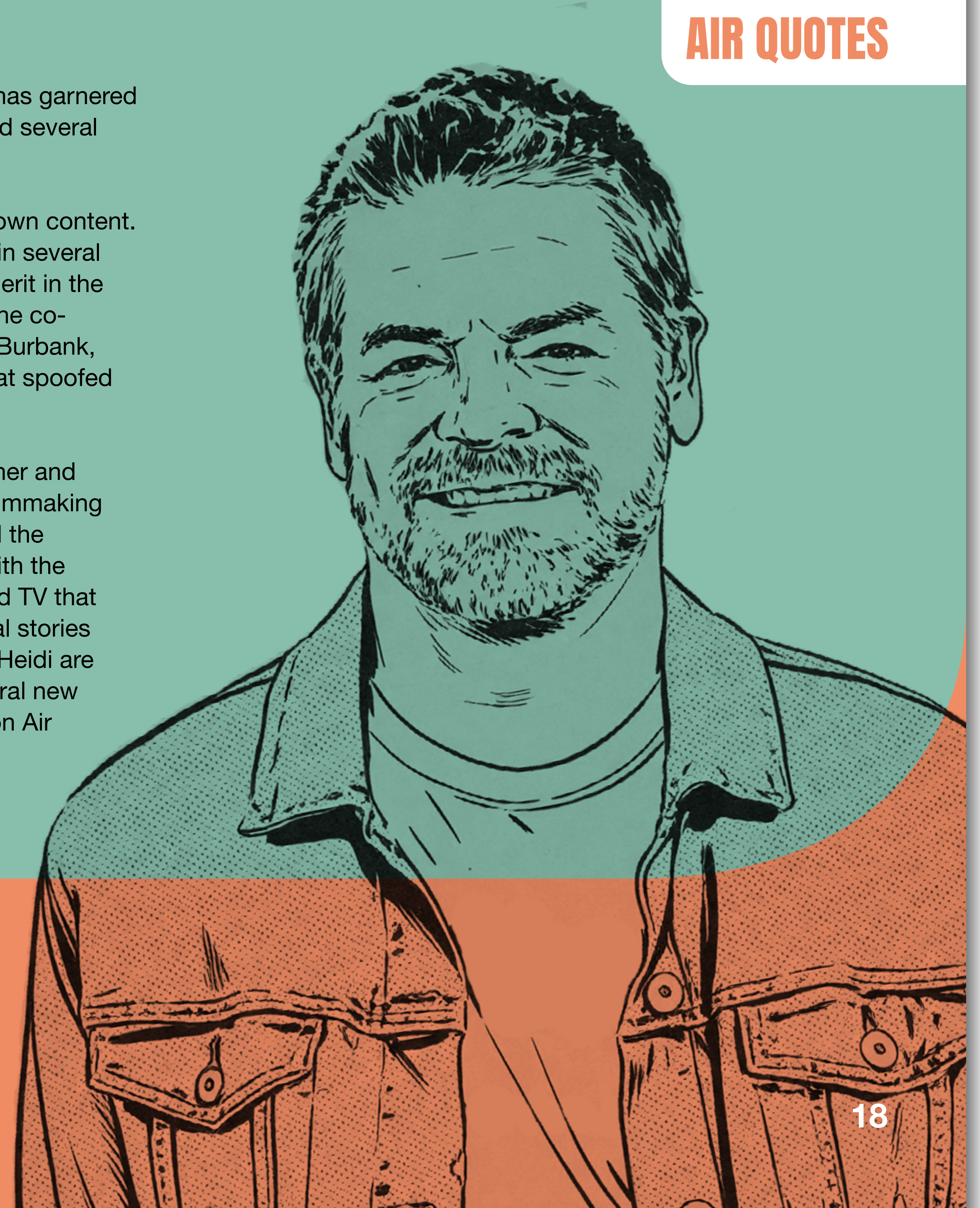
But, outside of his career in marketing, David continues to pursue his true passion - filmmaking. Growing up in Michigan, David would shoot and edit his own short films and skateboarding videos. After graduating college, he took a year off to write a novel on alien abductions in hopes that someone would option it. He decided to take more a direct approach and turned the novel into a script. This was David's entry into screenwriting. Since then, David has written dozens of scripts including Open World, which is currently certified "Black List Recommended"

and was featured on the homepage, has garnered a lot of industry attention, and has had several Producers attached.

David also continued to produce his own content. His short film The Alley was featured in several film festivals and won the Award of Merit in the Best Short Competition and he was the co-creator and co-writer of Paranormal, Burbank, a 30+ episode comedy web series that spoofed popular ghost hunting shows.

It wasn't until David met his true partner and collaborator, Heidi Van Lier, that his filmmaking career took off. Together, they formed the production company Evenly Media with the goal of creating independent films and TV that tell compelling, smaller, more personal stories that hold bigger meaning. David and Heidi are currently writing and developing several new projects including a TV show based on Air Quotes.

DAVID EYMAN
PRODUCER



Sam Rosenthal is a Los Angeles-based cinematographer and Director of Photography with more than 15 years of experience crafting visually compelling stories across documentary, branded, corporate, and unscripted productions. His work has contributed to projects for outlets including Netflix, Hulu, National Geographic, VICE, and The New York Times.

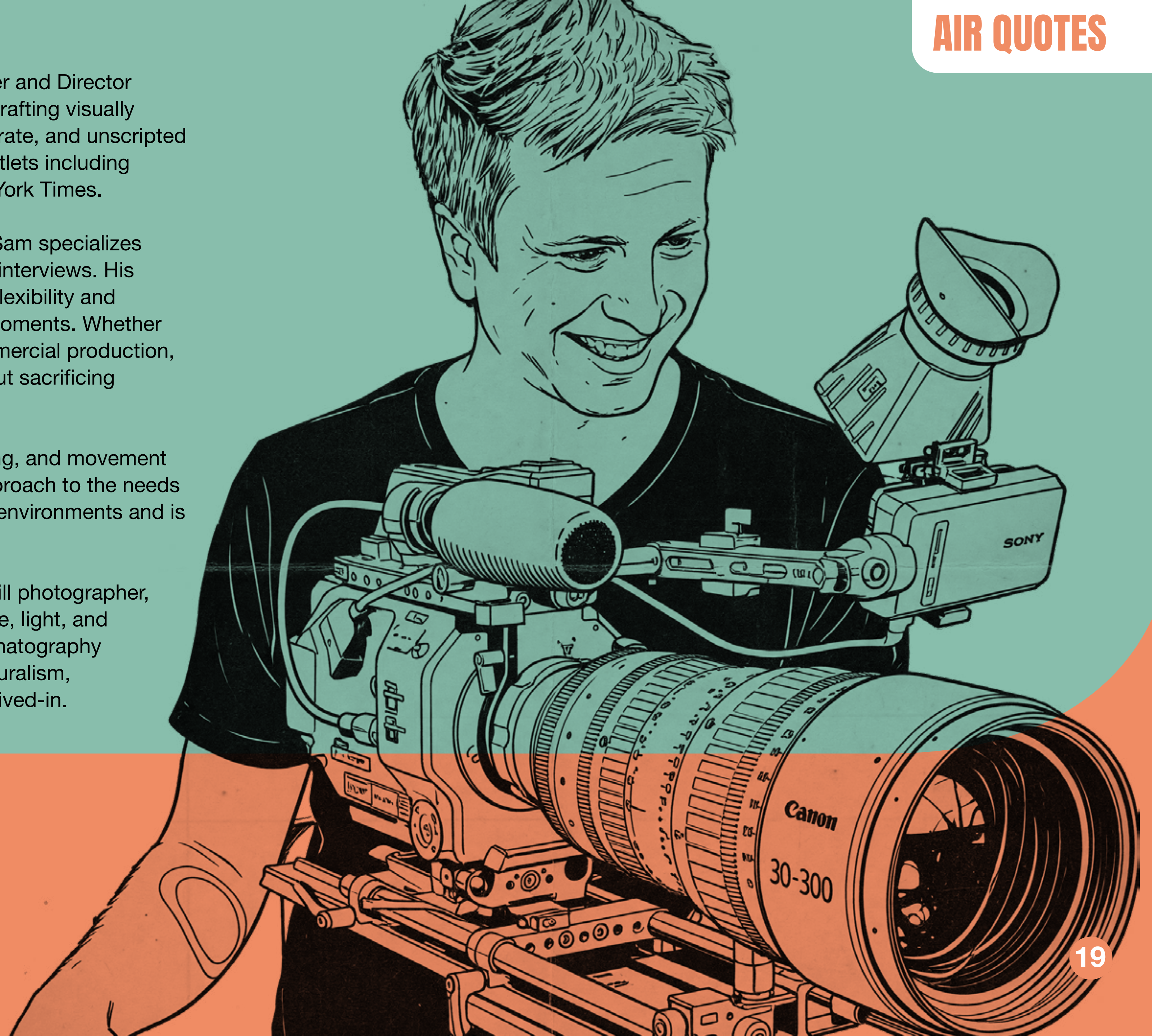
With a background rooted in documentary filmmaking, Sam specializes in vérité cinematography and intimate, character-driven interviews. His approach combines strong visual composition with the flexibility and instincts required to capture unpredictable, real-world moments. Whether working with a small documentary crew or a larger commercial production, he focuses on creating images that feel cinematic without sacrificing authenticity or emotional immediacy.

Sam brings a hands-on understanding of camera, lighting, and movement to every production, allowing him to adapt his visual approach to the needs of each story. He is experienced working in challenging environments and is both drone certified and HEFAT trained.

Alongside his cinematography work, Sam is an active still photographer, an extension of his ongoing interest in portraiture, texture, light, and experimental image-making. His photography and cinematography continually inform one another, with an emphasis on naturalism, atmosphere, and images that feel both considered and lived-in.

SAM ROSENTHAL

CINEMATOGRAPHER



AIR QUOTES QUOTES

***“What’s her attractiveness level?
Fuck, marry, or kill?”***

“That’s not how you play the game.”

“I’m Oprah-level healthy.”

“I guess this is the talking to ourselves portion of the flight.”

“You’re like the male version of the undateable feminist woman.”

“I’m a male man. I don’t deliver mail...”

“Nobody has sex every day.”

***“Can we talk about something else?
Something lighter - like religion or politics.”***

“You mansplain - like 10 times a day - to everyone - including men - including about mansplaining. You’ve mansplained more to me about mansplaining than anyone has mansplained to me about anything ever.”

“Fuck me off this plane.”

“What is fucking you off this plane?”

“Please mind your own penis.”

“My dick, my choice.”

“Let’s get out your meds and count them. That’s my favorite part.”

“Your gaydar was rendered inoperable after college...”

***“And I didn’t know you were 14 when you lost your virginity.
That just makes me sad. Your virginity makes me so sad.”***

LINKS

AIR QUOTES



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