

SUPPORT ANIMALS

By Jerry Rabushka

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A Ten Minute Comedy

by Jerry Rabushka

SYNOPSIS: When an airline starts allowing support animals to accompany its passengers, the airport becomes a bigger zoo than usual. Can the ants and the aardvark coexist on the same flight? Who wants to fly with a ferret? Fitting someone's "support elephant" on the plane seems to be surprisingly easy – unless you're seated in rows 15-33. An over the top comedy with a wide variety of quirky characters.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 either; gender flexible)

PLAYER 1 (m/f)..... Ticket Agent, Passenger with Ferret, Airline Passenger, Pilot, Passenger with Ant. *(48 lines)*

PLAYER 2 (m/f)..... Passenger with Elephant, Agent's Supervisor, Flight Attendant, Passenger with Aardvark, Airline President. *(46 lines)*

CAST NOTE: Character changes are marked in the script. If desired, this play can be performed with several actors, each taking the individual roles.

TIME: The very near future.

SETTING: At an airline ticket counter and on an airplane. The plane can be depicted with just a couple chairs. The Airport can have a table or counter.

PROPS: Boarding passes.

COSTUMES: The different characters can be represented through easy to change accessories: hats, scarves, jackets, glasses, purses, etc. Airline personnel will be more professionally dressed or uniformed while the passengers can be more oddly or colorfully costumed.

AT RISE: *The play opens at an airline ticket counter as PLAYER 1 (As AGENT.) is giving boarding pass to PLAYER 2 (As PASSENGER with ELEPHANT) at an airline ticket counter.*

PLAYER 1: You'll be in row 12, seat D. (*Notices something that should be obvious.*) Uh... wait, what is that behind you?

PLAYER 2: Uh, what do you think?

PLAYER 1: Uh...what I think is you can't bring it on the plane.

PLAYER 2: It's my support animal. So I can, and I'm sure it will be your pleasure to accommodate my needs

PLAYER 1: It's an elephant.

PLAYER 2: I know what it is, I brought it here.

PLAYER 1: It's really big, and you can't bring it on the plane.

PLAYER 2: It wasn't this big when I got it. It just kept growing. But she still supports me. We've added on to the house. Several times.

PLAYER 1: What if you just ride it to your destination, then?

PLAYER 2: You're making fun of my support needs, which you can see are substantial.

PLAYER 1: I'm being pragmatic.

PLAYER 2: I can't fly without her! South Coast Airlines let me take her without this humiliating degradation.

PLAYER 1: How, exactly, does this elephant support you?

PLAYER 2: Let's say I go to a restaurant. If I drop something, she picks it up. If they don't bring me what I want when I want it, she smashes the place up simply by walking in circles. I used to scream at the waitress and make a scene, but now I remain calm. Essentially, it keeps me from losing my cool in difficult situations. Oh, and I don't want to have to sit next to any crying babies, aristocratic college professors, or pharmaceutical smugglers. Once I had a lesson on the Crimean War on one side while someone was bagging up pain pills on the other. With an elephant to support me, it's peaceful.

PLAYER 1: Not for anyone else.

PLAYER 2: Either you let her on the plane or I'm going to tell her to stomp down your workstation. And I don't think you want this flight delayed.

PLAYER 1: I think I better get my supervisor.

PLAYER 2: I don't want to talk to your supervisor, I want to get my support animal on the plane!

PLAYER 1: Then this isn't a good day for you, is it?

PLAYER 2: I'm going to hug my elephant for comfort.

PLAYER TWO exits and comes back as AGENT'S SUPERVISOR, while PLAYER ONE remains as AGENT.

PLAYER 2: What seems to be the problem?

PLAYER 1: This passenger wants to bring an elephant on the plane.

PLAYER 2: Well... what did you say?

PLAYER 1: *(As the scene progresses, PLAYER 1/AGENT gets more outwardly frustrated with PLAYER 2/SUPERVISOR.)* What do you think? It won't even fit through the hatch!

PLAYER 2: Did you consult previous proper protocol?

PLAYER 1: There isn't any protocol for putting an elephant on a plane.

PLAYER 2: We're a customer driven industry. We do what's right for the customer.

PLAYER 1: You must think it's 1953.

PLAYER 2: If a customer needs the elephant, a customer gets the elephant.

PLAYER 1: No a customer does not get the elephant!

PLAYER 2: "Say yes and figure out how later;" that's my motto.

PLAYER 1: "We're boarding in 15 minutes without an elephant;" that's my motto.

PLAYER 2: In a minute, "you're fired" is going to be my motto. I'm not going to be one of those airlines that goes viral because it doesn't let a customer take a beloved support animal on a flight. Tell the crew to move some pillows and fix this very small problem of which I'm washing my hands right now. Because it's always good to wash your hands after you handle an elephant. And since you're handling it, I suggest you go wash. *(Motions for AGENT to go.)* I said wash, please.

PLAYER 1/AGENT exits and comes back as CUSTOMER WITH FERRET. PLAYER 2/still as SUPERVISOR wants to get back to work but PLAYER 1/FERRET blocks the way.

PLAYER 1: *(Sniffy and whiny, speaks as if entitled to better treatment than everyone else.)* Are you the supervisor here? I couldn't help

but overhear what I overheard and I can't overlook what you oversaw.

PLAYER 2: So do I understand what you understood?

PLAYER 1: I understood you're packing a pachyderm.

PLAYER 2: And you're yakking with wacky words. I have work to do.

(Starts to go, but PLAYER 1 isn't finished.)

PLAYER 1: And I have words for you. My support animal doesn't tolerate airborne elephants. Fee Fee is allergic. And that's quite a lot to sneeze at.

PLAYER 2: Perhaps we can put you and Fee Fee on another flight.

PLAYER 1: I want to go now! As per my ticket.

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