



A Fully Interactive Theatrical Event.

Written by Cissy Conner and Paul Stroili

Based on an idea by
Cissy Conner, Paul Stroili
and Scott Umfress

www.flyplanecrazy.com

The worst flight you'll ever love.

Check your seat belts my wary travelers.

Plane Crazy will soothe and provide cathartic release for every anxious, stressed-filled flight experience you've ever had. You will laugh it away.

What could be riper for a tease than air travel? There's almost too much to spoof and everyone who's ever taken a flight will relate. *Plane Crazy* is an interactive experience where the audience (travelers) – YOU, get to express things you might not be able to on a real flight.

I am one of the creators of *Tony n' Tina's Wedding* and played the role of Tony in the original cast. That show has now had a 25 year run and been performed in every major city in America. I've had two other interactive shows; *Johnny Boy's Graduation* and *Birdy's Bachelorette Party*. Both have had long runs in Chicago and New York respectively. Interactive theater is conducive to a long run; people love to submerge themselves in an experience. Plus, they return again and again, as the show is different every night.

I've been approached with innumerable ideas about what might be a good premise for an interactive show. I almost always politely decline my involvement and focus on my own work, but I think *Plane Crazy* is a dynamite concept. When Paul Stroili (who I worked with closely in the original Chicago production of *Tony n' Tina's Wedding*) approached me with the idea, I knew it was a good one. When I read the very funny and extensively researched first draft that he and Cissy had assembled, I was sold and enthusiastically offered my services as director.

I believe *Plane Crazy* has the potential to redefine interactive theater. Not only will the performers provide a humorous take on the challenge of commercial flight, but the audience will as well. Imagine the fun and camaraderie when years of travel-related frustrations are released. The set design alone will make this a completely unique experience. Aaron Henderson and our design team have come up with a plan that effectively creates the feeling of being on an actual flight, while at the same time creating a playing space that is comfortable, with optimal sight lines for the audience. It's pretty brilliant all the way around and I'm very excited about flying this baby.

Bon Voyage!

Mark Nassar
Director, Plane Crazy



Mark Nassar with Kirk Douglas at
Tony n' Tina's Wedding

Prepare for take off.

Plane Crazy has been airborne for a while, but it's about to break the sound barrier.

In its original form, *Plane Crazy* was a successful solo flight; a one woman show, where Cissy Conner parodied nearly 40 years of her real life adventures as a flight attendant for a major carrier. She began her flying career as a "stewardess" which will give you an idea of how many "real-life" experiences she can draw from.

While Cissy was wrapping up three extended runs in Chicago and Los Angeles, I was completing nearly nine years on the road with my own solo outing *Straight Up with a Twist*. The show enjoyed over 1,400 performances nationwide, culminating in a twice-extended Off-Broadway run.

I loved *Plane Crazy* as a solo show, but Cissy and I, along with her creative cohort Scott Umfress (also an experienced flight attendant) knew it could fly even further.

Prior to *Straight Up*, I had enjoyed over a year performing in the original Chicago Production of *Tony 'n Tina's Wedding*, the interactive play that started it all.



We immediately realized that *Plane Crazy* should evolve from a solo show into a fully interactive theatrical experience. Our belief and enthusiasm were reinforced when Mark Nassar (co-creator of *Tony 'n Tina's*) signed on as director.

As much as we enjoyed the *Airplane!* films (that spoofed the industry so effectively) *Plane Crazy* will accomplish something that movies can not. We will create a realistic (albeit heightened) world for the passengers to inhabit. The 60+ years of collective flight attendant experience from our creative team provides us with endless comedic scenarios. They are especially funny and identifiable as they are culled from real experiences, rather than a broad and cartoonish depiction of air travel.

The appeal of this show and the potential audience is vast and virtually unlimited; anyone who has flown in the last twenty years will find a great deal to laugh about in *Plane Crazy*. Guests will go through security, can order a cocktail, board the plane and experience "the worst flight they'll ever love" on the lowest of low budget carriers: WindBreak Airlines. In addition, the unique style of the set lends itself to endless possibilities during daytime or non-performance hours; corporate events, children's parties, private parties, fear-of-flying seminars, you name it.

Cissy and I appreciate your interest in helping us develop this completely unique idea into a high-flying, rip-roaring reality.

Sincerely,

Paul Stroili
Coauthor, *Plane Crazy*

SYNOPSIS



Trudy White-Worthington in 1973.

After 30 years of flying, Flight Attendant Trudy White-Worthington is finally ready to hang up her wings and retire from Windbreak Airlines. It's been a helluva ride going from stilettos to aerosoles, garter belts to spanx, but swollen feet, broken nails and unaccompanied minors have finally gotten the best of her. If one more passenger says, "Time flies when you're having fun" she's gonna be escorted by an F-14.

Still she's delighted at the prospect of her retirement flight with you and her "besties". That is until she realizes that the pilot is none other than Captain Jack Worthington; her ex husband from a marriage she refers to as "the battle of Gettysburg on oxycontin."

So what happens? What doesn't happen is more like it. The passengers go through security and discover embarrassing items they do NOT remember packing. They are aided, assisted and accosted by gate agents and TSA officers who vary from militant to misfit.

Once on board, Federal law may prohibit smoking but Murphy's is the law aboard WindBreak; incorrect seat assignments, a faulty PA System, a flight attendant with an incapacitating fear of flying, a misplaced Chinese baby... and we haven't even taken off yet.

At 30,000 feet we get a PSA on Deep Vein Thrombosis (with complete choreography) a full out retirement party, food and beverage service, a pilot with a peanut allergy, a nun who's packing heat, a restroom incident that can't be discussed pending litigation and we still can't find that Chinese baby. Fasten your seatbelts, there's some rough air ahead.



Trudy today.

PLANE CRAZY CREW & PASSENGERS (Characters)

Flight Attendant Trudy White-Worthington | White Female, 50's

Her motto: Place character above appearance and get out while you can still button your pants. She's a career flight attendant and devout practical joker who was ready for retirement five years ago. Don't let the dumb blonde routine fool you. She holds a U.S. patent on the first infant car seat designed for use in an overhead bin. This is her last flight as a Sky Goddess for WindBreak Airlines.

Flight Attendant Simon Blair | White Male, 45

Impeccably dressed with perfect manners, he can turn a stack of Pringles into a bouquet of yellow roses while simultaneously removing a red wine stain from linen. He's the perfect flight attendant, if you overlook the germophobia, the stress-induced narcolepsy and the fact that he's allergic to everything... except gossip.

Flight Attendant Raul Raimondo Rodriguez | Hispanic Male – early 30's

Trilling every R with the relish of Fernando Lamas, Raul is proud of his grand Puerto Rican heritage, even though he was born in Jacksonville. A perennial host, he enjoys bringing zest to an otherwise drab flight. Highly superstitious, he is never without a small bottle of 'holy water' he wears in a bedazzled holster.

Flight Attendant Crystal Fontaine | African-American Female – early to mid 30's

Crystal is always on the lookout for "Ghost Riders"; incognito quality control passengers who report directly back to the airline. She is always coiffed and dressed to the nines with every hair in place. This external armor serves only to hide the fact that she is a white knuckler. Flying absolutely terrifies her. Always has.

PLANE CRAZY CREW and PASSENGERS (continued)

Captain Jack Worthington (Pilot/Trudy's Ex Husband) | White Male, late 40's, early 50's

The only thing that Captain Worthington loves more than flying is himself, and the tanning salon, in that order. He's worked for WindBreak Airlines for over 20 years, and is so enamoured of his stripes and rank, he wears his uniform to the grocery store. His body is so accustomed to polyester, it is believed he stopped sweating in 1994.

Gate Agent Sally Osheffski/Sister Kathleen Magdalene O'Brien | White Female, 50's* (dual)

Sally: Born and raised on Chicago's South Side she delights friends and family at the holidays with her Nativity scenes made entirely from Polish Sausage. A lifelong White Sox Fan, she speaks entirely in baseball euphemisms. A no-nonsense broad, she's so frugal she saves her coffee grounds to use as an inexpensive exfoliate.

Sister: From a devout military family, she left the Marines because she felt it lacked structure to become a nun... or so she'd have you think. She's actually Brenda Schultz, the top female Air Marshall in the country, and a recent recipient of the Golden Cloud Award, recognizing her constant diligence on a direct flight to New Zealand without a bathroom break.

Gate Agent James Smallwood / Saul Rabinowitz | White Male, Late 50's – Early 60's* (dual)

James: Look closely. A tiny straw protrudes behind the required pocket square of Mr. Smallwood's uniform; hidden in the jacket pocket, a miniature bottle of liquid courage. A true multitasker, he can handle anything that's thrown his way... but his passion? Bags. And not the ones under his bloodshot eyes.

Saul: A full time veterinarian and part time taxidermist, Saul has been mostly deaf since 1996, but has yet to tell his wife. One of his true joys is sharing his interests with others, not realizing that pulling a giant, mummified fruit bat from a backpack can be off-putting to some.

TSA Agent Cassandra Wilkens / Edith Rabinowitz | White female, early to mid 50's* (dual)

Cassandra: Armed only with a can of Lysol and her mildly disguised sarcasm, Cassie is making the world a funnier, safer and healthier place. A one-woman army against athlete's foot, fungus and ringworm, she's proud to be TSA's employee of the month, again. In charge of the not-so Voluntarily Abandoned Property that is confiscated each week by TSA agents, Cassie has not gone Christmas shopping since the invention of the full body scanner.

Edith: After 30 years of marriage, divorce was never an option for Edith... until today. Mr. Smarty Pants (Her husband, Saul) used his mileage to get an upgrade and left her in a center seat in coach. A hard core hypochondriac her blood pressure increases with each step into 'economy'. All of this is complicated by her "carry on"; an adopted Asian baby named Hu (pronounced "who") that she can't quite keep track of.

TSA Agent Ned Hoover / Skippy Happerton | White Male, 40's* (dual)

Ned: Could anyone instill less confidence while protecting the free world? He makes Barney Fife look as relaxed as the Dalai Lama. Nearsighted (read: legally blind) since birth, he once dislocated his shoulder saving a woman from a boa constrictor that turned out to be an infinity scarf.

Skippy: It's been 20 years since the short-lived sitcom "Mind Your Own Business" went off the air, but the child star continues to wear his signature costume: a baseball cap (worn backwards), khaki Bermuda shorts, red Converse All-stars, and a T-shirt emblazoned with his childhood likeness, in hopes of being recognized; Currently, he's playing the sympathy card with his recently broken arm, set in a heavily autographed cast. Too bad all the signatures are his.

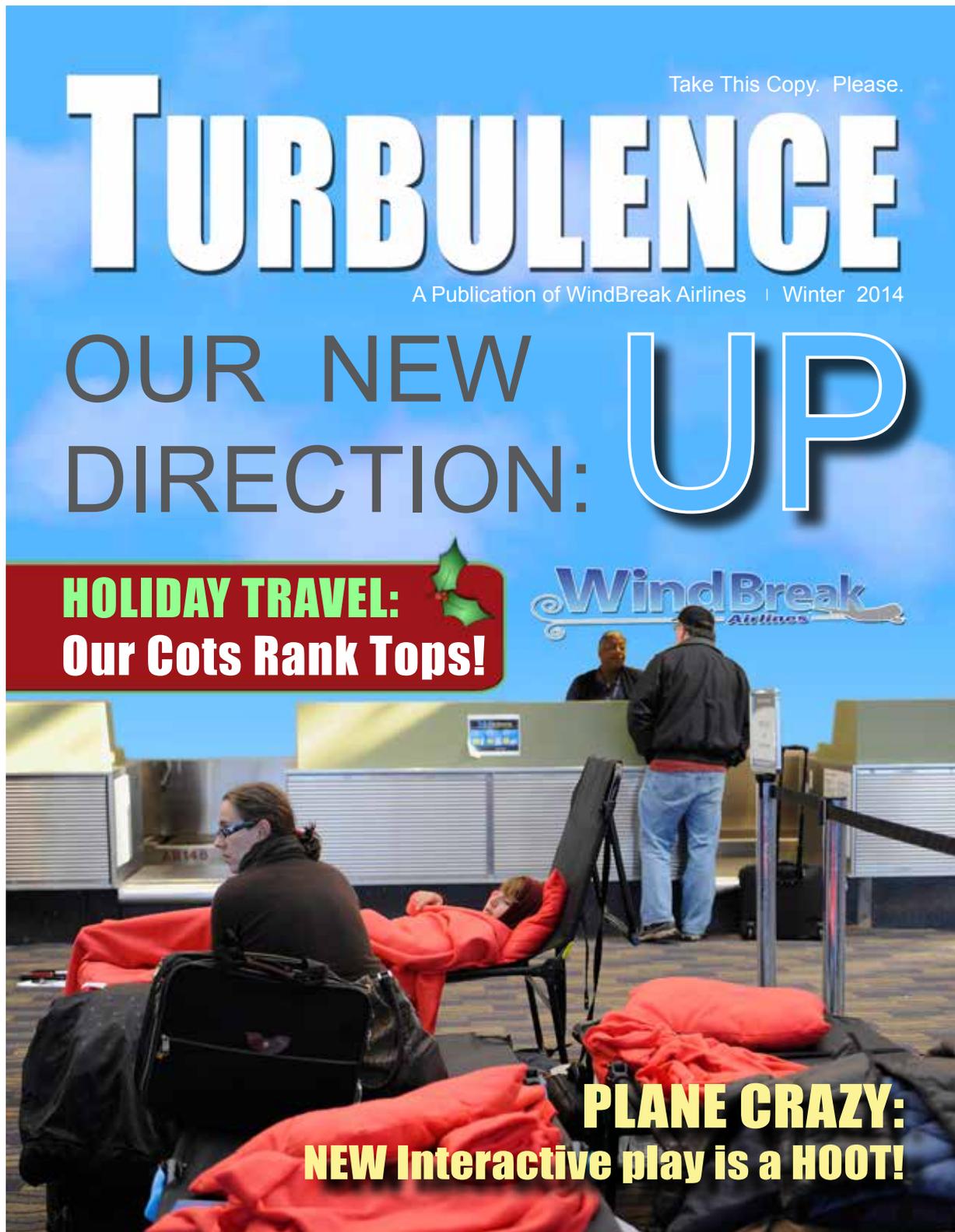
Flight Attendant Trainee Alfred Grape | Understudy for All Male Roles

Alfred wore a uniform his entire life: to school, to karate class, to ballet, to boy scouts. You name it. Why is he a flight attendant? Simple: The uniform. It is very important to him. How important? You'll find out if you touch him. Don't touch him... that would be bad.

Flight Attendant Trainee Annie Sheckman | Understudy for All Female Roles

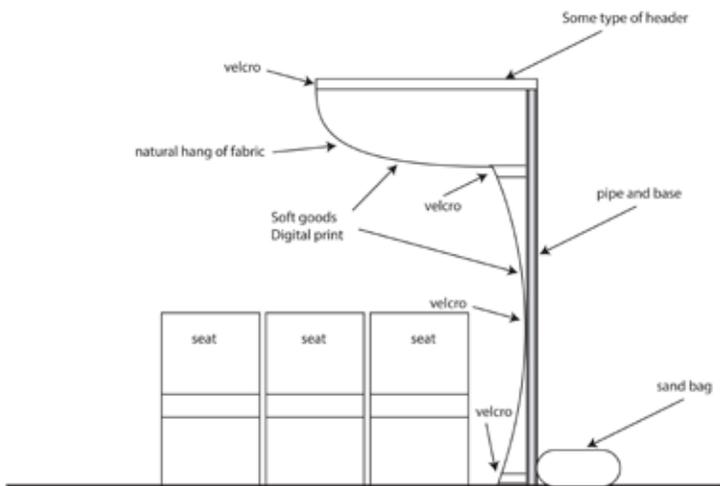
Her career started off great but pretty soon Annie couldn't help herself. She began collecting what she called 'Windbreak Memorabilia' (with dreams of someday making a killing on ebay). Little airline packages were so cute: little nuts, little cheeses, little liquor bottles. In other words, stealing. Annie is a klepto. Currently on 6 months probation. Watch your purse. Wait a minute... where is your purse?

* Notated dual roles are both played by one actor.

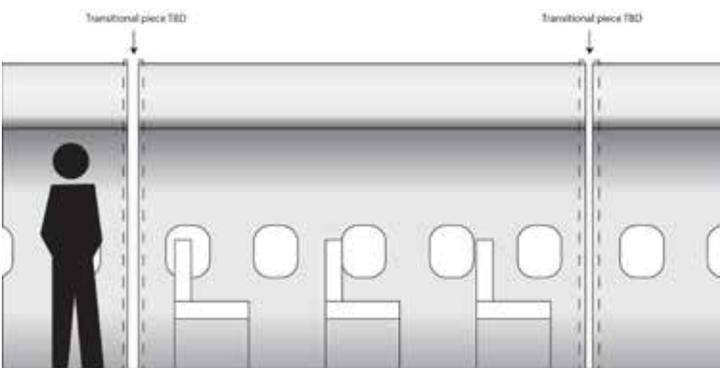


Windbreak Airline's inflight magazine, *Turbulence* - To be distributed after the performance as guests are "disembarking." It will contain fictional articles, a crossword puzzle, safety instructions, advertisements, airport maps, snack options, etc. It will function not only as a free promotional souvenir but also as the theatrical program, containing information about actors, crew and production team.

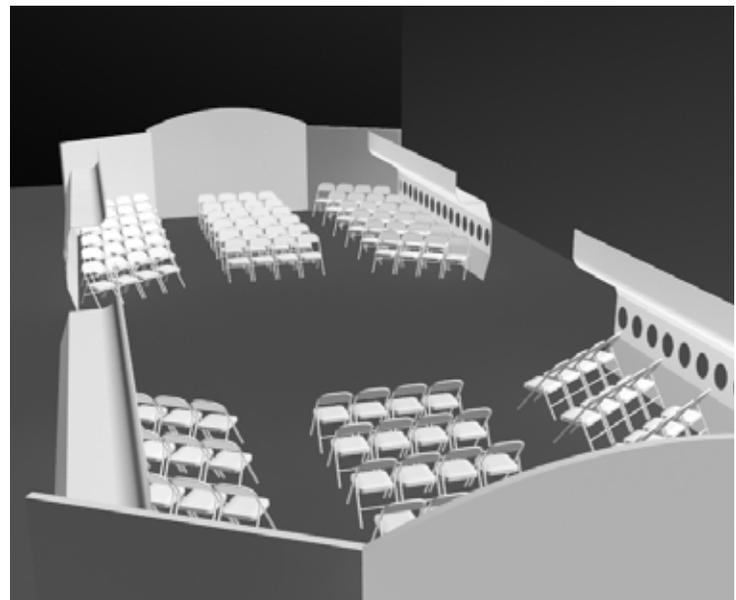
DESIGN ELEMENTS (Aircraft)



Front view



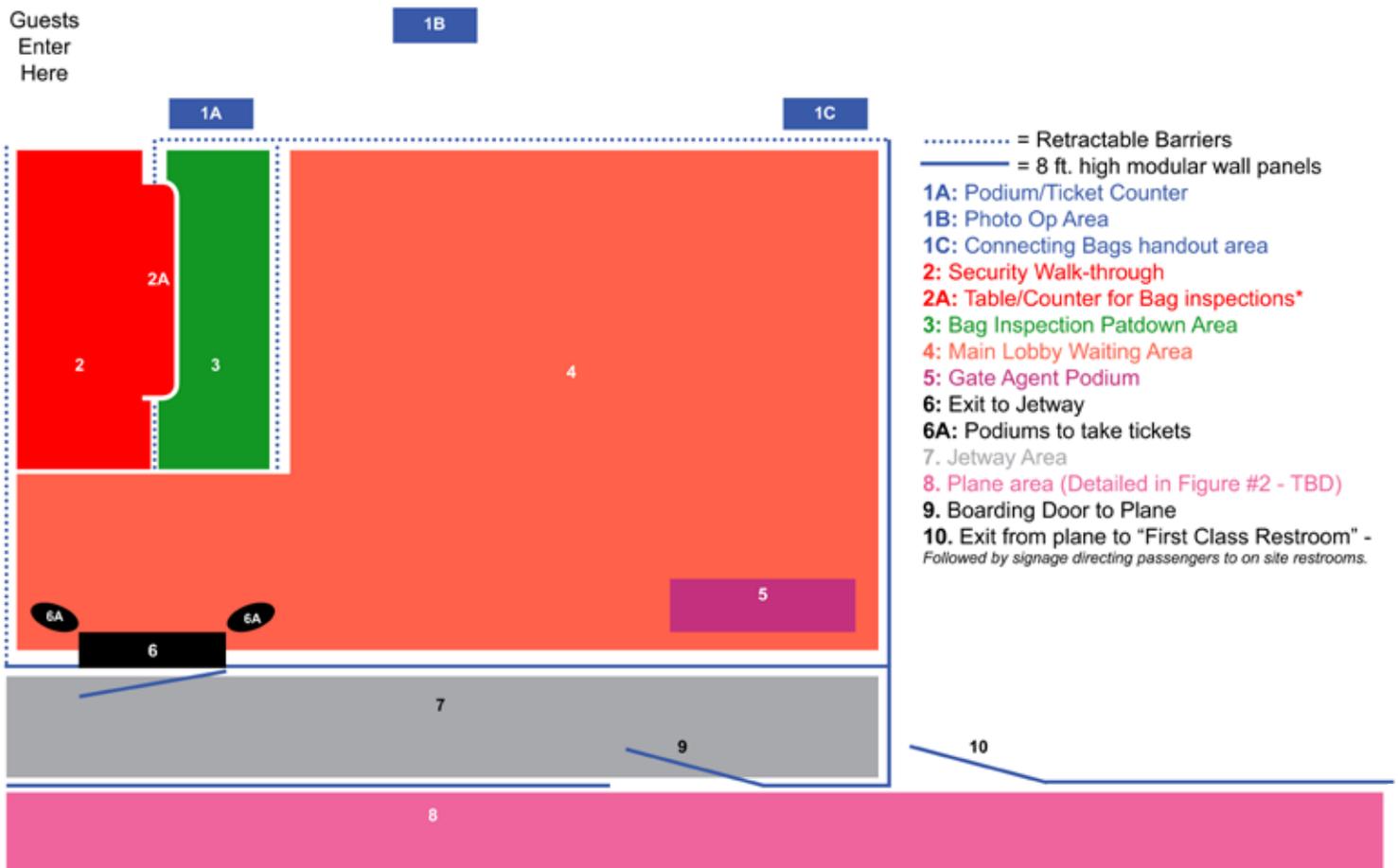
Side view



Set design by Aaron Henderson

Initial design concepts for *Plane Crazy*. These designs were created with the idea of a modular set that will break down and travel easily. Permanent and/or long term installations of the show will be more intricate in style and detail. Lobby/Gate Area design will run alongside the exterior of the “fuselage” and is shown on the following page.

DESIGN ELEMENTS (Security and Gate Area)



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Cissy Conner (Co-author) was a flight attendant for a major carrier in the US for more years than she cares to admit. Many of the events described in *Plane Crazy* are variations on actual occurrences that took place during regularly scheduled flights. Everything from food poisoning to passengers stuck in bathrooms, children in overhead bins and an incident involving a drunken European businessman that decorum prohibits repeating here. She was nominated for a LA Ovation Award for outstanding lead actress in 2006 for *An Evening with Marlene*. Cissy has garnered critical acclaim for solo performances: *Look at Me* and *Kate* as well as her award-winning original stage play *Plane Crazy*. She is an accomplished stand up, author of two screenplays and a much sought after cabaret performer in Chicago and Los Angeles.



Paul Stroili (Co-author) Paul's writing credits include work for Los Angeles Magazine, The Chicago Tribune, NY Blade Magazine and the LA Stage Alliance. He recently wrote the short film *The Beating* – which premiered at The Sedona International Film Festival and was selected by Columbia College to be added to their curriculum for their course of study on short filmmaking. His autobiographical solo show, *Straight Up with a Twist* enjoyed over 1400 performances nationwide, including a twice-extended Off Broadway run. Other playwrighting credits include the plays *Cheese Louise*, *The Day the Arts Stood Still* and *My Dinner with Arlecchino*. He is the co-host of the top rated arts podcast in Los Angeles; *State of the Arts with Michael Sterling and Paul Stroili*, and is Managing Director of LA's critically-acclaimed SeaGlass Theatre Company. Paul is the recipient of an LA Weekly Award as well as Broadway World, Garland Award and Ovation Award nominations for acting, writing and directing.

