

TRAIN PLAY Synopsis

Capitalism and socialism through the allegory of a train journey.

Inspired by surrealism and absurdist theatre, *Train Play* is a short comedy play that tackles the systemic oppressions of classism and misogyny.

The cultural class systems of the UK are embodied in the class systems on a British train.

The First-Class Carriage is only for the rich and elite. In the words of their First-Class passengers and the brutish Conductor, 'the First-Class should be emulated by the Standard Carriage'. The Standard Carriage is where everyone else has to go and the quality of commute in this carriage, in terms of fixtures, customer service, and especially space, exceedingly lower. The characters are nameless because the people we commute with are mysterious strangers to us.

The train is on its normal journey and the Standard Carriage has become over-crowded to the point where passengers are starting to complain to the Conductor about cramping. Although the First-Class Carriage only has two passengers in it, the Conductor refuses to allow anyone else to enter it unless they are willing to pay an extortionate upgrade fee.

We see passengers try to buy food and use the facilities, each with problems to overcome in these simple tasks with funny and bittersweet results. Each passenger finds their own way to rebel against the system and make conditions more bearable for themselves.

However, with every attempt to improve the situation, the stern Conductor is quick to restore their preferred order. All for the convenience and comfort of the First-Class Carriage, which is the Conductor's top priority. They are repeatedly reminded by the scornful Tannoy to 'sit back, relax and enjoy' their journey.

The passengers from the First-Class Carriage argue about whether or not to let passengers from the Standard Carriage in, out of charity, or if they will 'mucky up' their carriage.

Fed up with the current system, Passenger 2 sneaks into the First-Class Carriage and has a stand-off with the Conductor, impacting the attitudes and beliefs of everybody on board the train.