

FLUGHAFEN

The Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Freddy's - Venue 194

31 July - 24 August (not 8 August) 2025

16:45 - 17:45

We've all been there. You're in an airport in the middle of the night with three strangers. Your flight's been delayed, perhaps indefinitely. Outside the windows, a tempest rages that reflects your inner state-of-mind. Tentatively, you reach out to chat to your neighbours. Are you fated to remember this night forever? What strange forces brought you all to this German terminal? What sweet and terrifying secrets will you learn about each other before the night is through?

Conjoining elements of screwball comedy and thrilling, psychological twists, *Flughafen* is a new theatrical experience from the runaway imagination of Alice Viskat and a quartet of the wildest young acting talents in the Cape. At turns claustrophobic and liberating, whimsical and tense, the play is a locked-room mystery quite unlike anything you've set your mind to on a South African stage. Think *Knives Out* meets *The Americans* in purgatory. You'll probably want to come back to see it more than twice...

This will be *Flughafen*'s international debut, also making it one of less than 15 female-directed South African plays to be performed at this festival in its 78 year history. Snatch your seats for its run at Freddy's from the 31st July - 24 August at 16:45! Tickets available on the Edinburgh Fringe website.

DIRECTOR BIO:

Director and writer of *Flughafen*, Alice Viskat, is no stranger to the stage and has been acting, singing and dancing her way under the proscenium arch since she was 3 years old. She went on to study at the Waterfront Theatre School where she graduated in 2020, decorated with many awards including Most Exceptional Ballet Dancer. She then broadened her horizons and went into film, starring in *Resident Evil* (Netflix) and *Boetie Boer* (Showmax), amongst others. *Flughafen* was her debut writing and directing feat in 2023 and opened in Cape Town to critical acclaim. It will be performed at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival this year, 2025. Her other two original works, *Black Mouse* (2024) and *Fuck, Marry, Kill* (2024) will be performed at The National Arts Festival this year, the biggest performing arts festival in Africa. She is also the founder of the most renowned comedy event company in the Western Cape, Evil Comedy, and is a successful stand-up comic herself. *Flughafen* is a twisted tapestry of her own harrowing airport experiences intertwined with a bit of the weird and wonderful workings of her mind.

CAST:

Lead actress, Melissa Pretorius (MelFunktion), is an Actress and Singer/Songwriter from Cape Town. She has worked with well-known Producer, Gabi Le Roux and has performed with Kwaito legends General GTZ from Chiskop and the late Mandoza. She also spent multiple years as a resident performer at Stardust Theatrical dining. Mel ventured into the world of acting and did the Acting Technique 1 Short Course with Bonnie Rodini, she then studied at The Cape Academy of Dramatic Arts, she has her LAMDA Level 3 Certificate in Performance (Grade7) with Distinction and completed a BA Degree in Acting for camera at City Varsity in 2019. She has appeared on well-known shows like *Arendsvlei* as Jessie/Detective Cornelia, the hit comedy series *Tali's Joburg Diary* as Chloe on Showmax and is in the third season of *Projek Dina* on Kyknet. She also fronts a cover band and is a qualified personal trainer.

Sean Black is an actor living in Cape Town. After studying Journalism and Theatre at Rhodes University, Sean has played Geoffrey Raymond in an ensemble production of *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*; performed as Quince, Henry Higgins, Noël Coward in *Stages Through the Ages*: a variety-show celebration of theatre through time. A performer and lover of film, Sean has a particular soft spot for voice work and animation. Sean performs a lead role in *Misfit Mansion*, a forthcoming Toonz Media original animated series. Sean has two short film credits: *Little Red* and *The Catacombs*- a cinematic peek into an underground harbour nightclub during 1960s South Africa.

Jack Paine is an Act Cape Town Graduate, who has spent the last three years acting professionally in Cape Town. Jack debuted on tv, in 2022, in the "FDR" docu series on the history channel, and has from then appeared in the likes of the South African television series "Summertide" as the despicable Henry Porter and films like "Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die", "the Catacombs" and "the Ransom of Mackenzie Brown."

Lee graduated with distinction from the Cape Academy of Performing Arts in 2016. She then went on to become a performer, choreographer, writer and teacher. She danced in the Cape Dance Company from 2013 - 2017 and created her debut choreographic works for the company, *Sun -The Rite of Passage* and *A Portrait of Us*. She has performed in productions such as her independent production, *Laced*; the Awaji Arts Festival in Japan; *Standing O Immersive's Immortal*; the Fugard Theatre's *West Side Story* as *Anybody's*; *Mish Mash Media's 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* as Dale; the satirical musical comedy, *The Good, the Bad and the Fugly*; *Artscape Theatre's New Voices* production, *The Third Force*; *Arms and Length Dance Company's Balance*; the Fugard Theatre's *Kinky Boots*, *New World Dance Theatre's Minerva* and was cast as 'Bella' in the film *The Date*.

ISSUED BY: Alice Viskat

TICKET LINK: <https://www.edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/flughafen>

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