

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



# The August Moon

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by Adam Grossetti and Jean Marc Russ

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EXTRACT

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This script is distributed by The Australian Script Centre  
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In the original production of *The August Moon* produced by The Queensland Theatre Company (July 2008) film footage, photographic images and sound recordings made by the authors of this work were used to support and enhance the script, which should be considered as only one part of a multi-media experience. Examples of film footage, photographic images and sound recordings can be provided upon request.

## CHARACTERS

Paul            *part owner of the August Moon caravan park*

Gretta        *Paul's sister and co-owner of the park*

Leanne        *bar maid in an Innisfail hotel*

Adam         *writer*

Jean-Marc    *writer*

Ed             *resident of the park*

1.

*Pre-Show: In the foyer of the theatre are large photographic images of The August Moon Caravan Park taken by the authors of this work in the wake of Cyclone Larry, March 2006. A sound loop of audio recordings accompany these photographic images.*

*Adam and Jean Marc in a plane flying to Far North Queensland.*

Adam: Yeah so.

Jean Marc: We got a lotta technology.

Adam: This mic looks ridiculous.

Jean Marc: Look at that –

Adam: Hello...testing....

Jean Marc: Hi.

Adam: I'm traveling at thirty five thousand feet in the air.

Jean Marc: Are we really thirty five thousand feet in the air

Adam: Some may say this is a tragedy waiting to happen but we're just two playwrights about to head to Innisfail

Jean Marc: And this is the beginning of the project loosely titled, 'windy'.

Adam: A.K.A caravan thirty-two.

Jean Marc: Caravan thirty-two is our secret cool title.

Adam: Yeah.

Jean Marc: But –

Adam: Windy is our –

Jean Marc: Windy is our joke title.

Adam: Yeah. Our funny title. The title that we go ‘oh it’s a verbatim piece of theatre’.

Jean Marc: Verbatim theatre – what is that anyway?

Adam: Definition - being in or following the exact words

Jean-Marc: Yeah... playwrights go to a disaster zone – interview survivors from a cross section of the community, record their stories – go home turn their stories into a play.

Adam: And pretend they weren’t there

Jean Marc: And pretend they weren’t there

Adam: Isn’t that what were doin’?

Jean Marc: Well no.

Adam: We don’t even know what we’re doing yet

Jean Marc: That’s true

Adam: Okay – so

Jean Marc: It’s um – there’s an enormous amount of flying time still to go.

Adam: I bought a digital voice recorder today. JM’s gone for the old school version

Jean Marc: We do have a lot of technology

Adam: Yeah we got a lot of technology. A lot of new stuff. We've got a usb cable.

Jean Marc: Mmm. He's got a digital voice recorder and mine is an old school analog one.

Adam: Just to convince you in case we're ever kinda held hostage I just want to hold up today's paper.

Jean Marc: Oh yeah, indeed. That's today's paper.

Adam: You can see the date on it.

Jean Marc: Tony Blair came to Australia yesterday.

Adam: The date's up here somewhere. Tuesday March 28, 2006. There you go. Now, so, for those of you that might get this recording....

Jean Marc: Yeah, after we crash.

Adam: After we crash. We're heading up to the cyclone devastated area -

Jean Marc: Cyclone Larry.

Adam: - of Far North Queensland, Innisfail specifically.

Jean Marc: Yeah we're doing a what could be

Adam: What could be

Jean Marc: A verbatim piece on cyclone Larry.

Adam: We don't even like verbatim theatre.

Jean-Marc: Researching real stories from real people who went through cyclone Larry. And we're starting at the epicentre of the cyclone

Adam: Hate verbatim theatre

Jean Marc: Yeah, which we think is um,

Jean Marc: at The August Moon caravan park.

Jean Marc: The August Moon caravan park.

Adam: There was a guy, um, Brian Young.

Jean Marc: Brian Young.

Adam: We're starting to sound like the –

Jean Marc: The Kransky sisters.

Adam: The Kransky sisters.

Jean Marc: Well, things happen.

Adam: Yeah, well Brian Young was so far the only fatality. Found –

Jean Marc: That's right, found in his caravan park, in his caravan two days after he died. No-one noticed that he was dead.

Adam: Yeah.

Jean Marc: Um, we think there's a story there.

Adam: Yeah.

Jean Marc: In fact there is a story there.

Adam: Yeah.

Jean Marc: It's just whether or not we can get access to that story.

Adam: Yeah, and so like good students we've just flown up there, or we are flying up there.

Jean Marc: This was an idea born from – well actually Sunday morning when we first learnt of Brian and his fate, we booked flights that afternoon.

Adam: Yeah.

Jean Marc: Is that what happened?

Adam: Yeah, pretty much, yeah.

Jean Marc: Wow. That's what happened. Um and now we are at thirty two thousand feet –

Adam: Is it thirty-two or thirty five thousand feet?

Jean Marc: I made that up.

Adam: Well we need to be specific. *(To hostess)* Excuse me, can you tell me is it thirty-two or thirty-five thousand feet that we're traveling at?

Jean Marc: Yeah, what thousand feet do you think it'd be?

Hostess: We normally travel at around thirty-nine to forty thousand feet.

Adam: Wow.

Jean Marc: Cool.

Hostess: I can find out exactly what speed we're traveling at.

Jean Marc: No, no.

Adam: And the average kilometres per hour is what, several hundred?

Hostess: Average is about eight or nine hundred.

Jean Marc: Cool.

Hostess: Eight or nine.

Jean Marc: Thanks for that.

Adam: Wow.

Hostess: Normally nine.

Jean Marc: Okay, so there you go, it's forty thousand feet and –

Adam: It's very quick.

Jean Marc: Could go a little bit faster.

Adam: Yeah could –

Jean Marc: Maybe a little bit faster, but that's -

Adam: - just touch faster.

Jean Marc: That's okay. Eight or nine hundred k's, that's alright. That's nothing –

Adam: I've never done that on me pushie.

Jean Marc: The hire car we got won't do that. The magna.

Adam: I've done over sixty on me pushie.

Jean Marc: Yeah. Probably done sixty.

Adam: Yeah. Um –

Jean Marc: So when we get in, when we land, we're picking up the magna.

Adam: We got a magna because it kinda looks a bit more, what did you say, you said something like, like um, it means business or something.

Jean Marc: Something like that. We mean business.

Adam: Rather than getting a little two door, three cylinder, hatchback...

Jean Marc: It's a bit -

Adam: Truman Capote?

Jean Marc: Yeah.

Adam: Look, cos the other thing is, the film, 'Truman', it's just come out, the film -

Jean Marc: Yeah.

Adam: And the whole thing going to a country town –

Jean Marc: Yep.

Adam: Um, being a writer –

Jean Marc: Yep.

Adam: That's why we needed a big car – cos we mean business.

Jean Marc: Yeah, so if there's ever a reference to each other or ourselves as Truman it's not in a small car, two door hatchback, kind of way.

Adam: It's more in a big 6, five on the floor, four door, magna kind of way.

Jean Marc: Yeah, a meaning business kind of way. And by the way, I'm a little bit more like David Mamet anyway.

Adam: Only because you've got a cap. But I've got a hat so -

Jean Marc: You might want to put the hat on and see what people –

Adam: No.

Jean Marc: Then also, of course, you're wearing very bright white trousers.

Adam: Thanks mate. Anyway they're cotton. Cotton breathes. Why would you wear thick denim jeans in the tropics?

Jean Marc: David Mamet would.

Adam: Yeah well it's not strictly speaking a Truman hat. Nor are these Truman pants. I'm dressed more like an adventurer.

Jean Marc: It's a hat and pant combination like Truman would wear.

Adam: Again, it's more functional than your cap and or slash, your denim jeans.

Jean Marc: Well, let's just say it looks slightly, 'playwright'.

Adam: Sure.

Jean Marc: Yeah.

Adam: But in a good way.

Jean Marc: Very good way.

Adam: It looks like I mean business.

Jean Marc: So we get there –

Adam: Yeah we get there and we hire a car. We spend the night at my brother's house in Kuranda and we zip off at six o'clock in the morning and arrive in Innisfail at about eight thirty, before trade starts to happen. We want to kinda be there as the shops open. And then get to The August Moon and then start talking to someone.

Jean Marc: We'll radiate out from there. It sorta starts right at the caravan that um, Brian Young ahh, perished in. Caravan thirty-two. So we'll be going straight to site thirty-two and then radiating out from there.

Adam: I'm not sure your use of the word radiate is correct.