

What the World Turns or Gee it's a long way down.

by

John Fraser Laing

Final Draft TV Series

October 2014

© COPYRIGHT John Laing, 2014

9 Bernarra St

The Gap

Australia 4061

ph 07 3312 2364

mob 0409 612 058

johnlaing90@hotmail.com

While the World Turns

By

John Fraser Laing

No one can hear you scream in space, but if its beamed into living rooms during prime time TV, well they can and often do.

The dysfunctional crew of a space station are televised to the world by their cash strapped Government – “Big Brother in Space”

Synopsis: When the money runs out for the operation of the Australian Space Station the only option left for the incoming Government is to outsource it and the only person with any interest and funds is a TV station. How much money can be made from a dysfunctional group of astronauts told they are stranded 330 km above the Earths surface, will they find out it is all a setup to keep them in space and will Big Brother in space work?

The series is set in in Australia’s new space station, which is in orbit 330 km above the Earths surface. It was set up to work as test base for space travel and drug research. There have been two previous missions made up of the best Australia and its partners have to offer and well quite frankly the third mission is struggling to find a decent crew, however due to the Federal election the crew selection process was rushed, which could lead to serious consequences down the track for the new crew and in turn the mission.

Australia is missing out on the benefits of being a partner in the international space station and in turn the benefits of the space race, so they have decided to partner with New Zealand, some pacific island and Indonesia. This is not a match made in heaven but a recipe for disaster. Whilst beginning in a positive manner, the costs are becoming a greater burden as some of the other partners drop out due to costs and coercing from Australia’s competitor NASA, China and Europe. Eager to build upon the gains made from the previous missions and to generate some national pride during an election year things are progressed without the previous due diligence, especially regarding the new crew members and their proposed areas of research.

Characters:

Crew:

Commander Frank Wilmot: The mission commander, an Air Force pilot who keeps getting shifted on a regular basis to new commands. He is highly religious, officious, lacks honour and deep down is a coward. They are his good qualities (Australian) (Male)

Doctor Loretta Holmes: The military doctor assigned to the new mission. She is army through and through, she bleeds khaki and everything is by the book. A competent Doctor, she would prefer to be a warrior and practices regularly in preparation for the call to arms. (Australia) (Female)

Dr Pieter Vreemde: A prominent Drug Researcher with some dubious connections and perhaps mentally unstable. Brought onboard to undertake the keynote research program on board, focusing on cancer research, however possibly his focus is elsewhere. (South African) (Male)

Major Rara Salju: A naive, yet career focused Indonesian Air Force pilot. Has a string of honours and achievements and is completely focused on her career. She has no interest in relationships of any kind.

Hilda Sweer: The mission engineer, is an only child who hides her sexuality. Grew up on a farm and became her fathers right hand man. Able to fix anything but she has no ability to show any real emotion. (New Zealand) (Female?)

Howard Adams: The mission scientist, an astro physicist with a range of skills to support the existing research programs being undertaken on board the ship. A true geek with a heart of gold and perhaps is a reluctant hero. He is prone to be nervous in new situations. Has limited experience with the opposite sex, but hopes to win Rara's heart. (Australian) (Male)

Earth:

Science Minister – Darcy Waters: Not his preferred portfolio with his understanding of science being limited to inadvertently watching one episode of “Why Is It So” with Professor Julius Sumner Miller, however being a mover and shaker, he can see possibilities everywhere and can see no reason why this science stuff couldn’t turn a profit. (Australian) (Male)

Advisor – Lee Smith: Like his boss, Lee has little interest in science, he is Darcy’s mate and just along for the ride. (Australian) (Male)

Space Agency CEO - Julius Clump: A scientist with little business sense and is deeply focused on science. Often comes across as an absent-minded professor, which is in fact mostly true. (Nationality?)(possibly male)

Mission Controller – Alvin Garnett: A macho angry white male, works hard to portray a macho image in the world of science, can be a touch racist and insensitive. (Australian) (Male)

Technician – Peter Puck: The court jester of the mission control, seeks to provide input and every occasion, often says what everyone else is thinking.

Intruders:

Bambi Jones: A hairdresser and beautician by trade, she has all the skills necessary for this role. She can talk on any subject for extensive periods without the burden of actually knowing anything about the topic without pausing. She not just blonde she is beyond blonde.

Calvin Klime: A gym instructor by day and a gigolo by night, a born athlete, he has everything, except the ability to read without moving his lips and access the neurons in brain.

Steffan Martin: An air steward with a focus on appearance, if there ever was a stereotypical Gay Air Steward, Steffan is it.

Relationships:

RARA is the object of the affections of both Howard (Male) and Hilda (Female). Rara is not interested in either one or a relationship at all, her career is her focus, yet both Howard and Hilda persist.

The Commander Frank Wilmot and the mission doctor Loretta Holmes are becoming an item due to their mutual love of bureaucracy and discipline. However Frank gradually becomes aware that there others in this relations, which is not so much a love triangle but a love heptacontakaiheptagon, which includes DARCY, the PM, most of Cabinet, JULIUS and ARCHIE.

Episodes:

1. Auto Pilot
2. In Orbit now
3. To the rescue
4. Who goes home
5. Housing shortage
6. Last chance
7. Hasta la vista baby

Scene 1: Int **News Studio** **Day 1**
A national TV station news room, with one reader at a desk with relevant background.

NEWSREADER

The latest polling indicates that the Government, if an election was held today, would lose in a landslide.

Graphics of Poll results.

The Government on today's figures would suffer its worst defeat in nearly 50 years if an election were held today, with analysis showing that voters are angry at the Government's lack of action on a range of projects.

New Graphics

Australia's space program took another turn for the better today, when the crew of the second mission of the Oceania space station returned to Earth. The crew landed safely at Woomera amid large crowd of family and supporters. The second mission has been instrumental in ground-breaking research into a cure for Herpes.

Cut to interview with Space agency CEO.

JULIUS

This has been a great day for the Oceania Space program and I hope that the Government will see the value in continuing this program through further funding.

Cut back to newsreader

NEWSREADER

The Government was not available for comment and indicated that space program funding is currently under review.

Now for sports news

Scene 2: Int **Ministers Office** **Night 1**
The plush office of the Science Minister embellished with sports trophies etc, no indication of science role. Two men are in the office watching a TV, the Minister and his Advisor, there are empty beer bottles and fast food containers on the desk.

The minister uses the remote to switch off the TV.

DARCY

Get a good result and we don't even get credit for it.

ADVISOR

Not sure what you mean minister, you turned it off before I could see the scores, Tigers are looking good but.....

Harry looks away

Come guys...anything

DARCY
I might have something

PM turns to person next to him.

PM
Who is he?

DEPUTY PM
Darcy someone, I think he is the science Minister

PM
Science minister ...do we have one? Right what is it

DARCY is happy, he finally has been noticed.

DARCY
Well there's the space thing, where we send up people in space
and....

PM
And its cost money

DEPUTY PM
And for little return

MINISTER
Yeah and no interest

DARCY
But what say we tell everyone we are going to cure cancer by
sending people up into space because its doesn't have any
gravity.

EVERYONE else nods

EVERYONE
No gravity

PM
Brilliant get onto it Dally

DARCY smiles the smile of victory.

Scene 4: Int Ministers Office Day 2
Same ministers office, this time during the day with the desk clean, DARCY
behind his desk, his Advisor behind him and the CEO on a smaller chair in front of
the desk.

DARCY
Glad you make it JULIUS

JULIUS
Didn't have much choice, your hired gun made several offers that I couldn't refuse.

ADVISOR just shrugs.

I don't like being threatened, I don't like wasting time and I have important work to do.

DARCY
Julius lets not get of to a bad start, I have something important to discuss about this space thingy, you know when you send those chaps into space for a couple of months.

JULIUS
Ah yes our space program, very important, making great inroads into a number of key areas, it will.....

DARCY interrupts

DARCY
Yes yes Julius good, very important, we would like to continue this stuff and send people up to find a cure for cancer, there's no gravity up there.

JULIUS
But what has gravity got to do with curing cancer

DARCY
Because the none up there

JULIUS
But....

DARCY
Don't worry about the details, lets get this thing up an running.

JULIUS
Okay Minister, we can get right on to it, should be ready to go in around 2 years

DARCY
2 years!!!

JULIUS
Yes at best, we need to get a crew together plan the research programs.....

DARCY
2 years.. we cant wait 2 years the elections in 6 months,I mean we need a cure for cancer, it cant wait

JULIUS

We cant assess crew members in that time, without a full assessment it could lead to all sorts of problems.

DARCY

Julius, I will put this very simply, no mission before the election, no more funding, no space program, we will sell the lot to the Indians or if they don't want it then North Koreans.

A dejected Julius nods and gets up.

Scene 5: Int Space mission control centre Day 3
The control room of the Oceania Space Program, 3 people are together behind a glass window that overlooks a room full of screens.

ALVIN

I don't know how we did it, but we got this mission up in 3 months

JULIUS

I don't either Alvin, I am a bit worried we haven't done a suitable crew selection.

ALVIN

They were on the short list anyway from the 2nd mission.

PETER

I think they were the ones that didn't make it through the assessment process.

JULIUS

Alvin, do your best with this lot, they should be okay, we can talk them through most things

ALVIN

Yeah and most of its automated, we can run the launch and fly it from here.

PETER

Unless the switch to manual

JULIUS

No one could be that stupid

They all nod

Scene 6: Int News studio Day 3
A national TV station newsroom, with one reader at a desk with relevant background.

NEWSREADER

Today the third mission to the Oceania Space Station will take off, which hopes to find a cure to cancer.

Shot to screen with interview with Science Minister, with Advisor, both with Footy scarves on.

DARCY

This is a momentous occasion my fellow Australia, we are sending a team up to find a cure for cancer, because as we all now there is no gravity in space.

Shot continues and Minister and Advisor head in sporting venue.

NEWSREADER

Great news for Australians that at last a cure for cancer can be found with the help of zero gravity.

Scene 7: Int Cockpit of space shuttle Day 3
The cramped but obvious cockpit of a space craft with the crew strapped in and focused on the front of the ship.

RARA

All checks completed ready for take off Commander, systems switched to auto.

FRANK

Ok team looks like we are off in the wild blue yonder, no turning back now

Voice over radio – T minus 10 seconds

Crew looks nervous

Cockpit shakes, loud noise

Voice over radio – Blast off

Crew looks as if they are under great pressure.

Voice over radio – Mission control to Wombat 1 boosters ejected, we will take over from here and guide you in

FRANK

Boy I would love to fly this baby

LORETTA

Oh FRANK its look so difficult

FRANK

No its quite easy if you are trained

RARA

Commander you haven't successfully completed your flight training.

FRANK

Its okay Major, I have sorted out the bugs

RARA

But Commander I not sure this is

