

Destinations 1 & 2

***Aim :** This sketch challenges people to think about where they are going. How can we pack for a journey if we don't know the destination? How do we prepare in life when we're not sure where it's leading? As Christians, we need to have a confidence as to where our faith is leading us. We live in a world where knowledge is power and our pursuit of it can sometimes make us forget the simplicity of faith and trust.*

The two sections deal with different aspects of the same issue. The first part can be evangelistic, raising the question of "Do we know where we are heading – in life, and beyond?" The second part is a challenge to Christians about the certainty of faith we have. They can therefore be performed separately or together, straight after each other or at different points in a presentation or service.

***Characters :** 4 people – any age, either gender.*

Because the two pieces are connected, you could use the same two people to perform both sections of the piece, particularly if you run them at different times in the same service or presentation. But it would work equally well using four different people

***Props :** 1 large & 2 small cases*

2 pairs of shorts, T-shirt,

sunhat, sunglasses & shirt – all as large and bright as possible

snorkel mask

scarf, hat, gloves, snow goggles (if possible)

atlas, small Bible, 5 or 6 large books

2 necklaces/chains

***Notes:** This piece was originally performed as part of an open-air service, which is why it is so visual. There are a lot of props to find, but we found that between us we had everything –maybe that's a sad admission to make! Take your time putting on the different clothes etc. Much of the humour is watching the build up. The acting style is large and clear rather than naturalistic. It's certainly a sketch to have some fun with!*

Destinations – 1.

Person 1 is pushing down the top of a large suitcase. There is another case next to it as well. Person 2 enters with one small case.

2) I think I'm ready for the off then. ***(They notice the cases)*** Gosh! How long are you going for?

1) Two weeks, like you. You know that.

2) You can't be taking all that stuff for just two weeks.

1) ***(Still struggling with the case)*** What's the matter with it? It's not that much.

2) Even if you wore four outfits every day, you'd have some spare by the looks of it.

1) I've only packed the essentials

2) The essentials for what? A three month expedition?

1) Well you can't be too careful. I mean, how can you fit everything you might need into that little case? You're bound to get caught out.

2) Even if I did, at least I'd have actually *got* on holiday.

1) What do you mean?

2) Well, unless you've chartered a private plane, there's no way they're going to let you on with all that lot. There *are* other people on the flight as well you know. They'll make you leave at least half of it behind.

1) But I can't.

2) I'm sure you can. Let's have a look.

Person 1 opens the first case back up and starts taking things out. As he talks about the items he puts them on. Person 2 is also looking through the second case.

1) Right, well, start with beachwear . . . I've got shorts, 2 pairs

2) Good. That's okay.

1) A few T-shirts ***(will already have one on so doesn't need to add)***

2) Of course

1) A shirt to cover up in case the sun's strong ***(throws it on over his shoulders)***

2) Sensible. If not stylish.

1) Sunglasses ***(as large as possible. He puts them on)***

2) Okay

1) Sun hat ***(on)***

2) Yes, I get the picture

1) And of course, snorkeling gear (*Puts on the mask. The last bit muffled behind mask*) cos I love a bit of snorkeling. It's absolutely great.

2 shakes head and looks through second case.

2) What?! Hang on a minute. (*Something has caught his eye*) What's all this stuff in here?

1) *Muffled* Well you can't assume it's going to be hot, can you?

2) Take that thing off will you? I can't tell a word you're saying

1) I said, (*taking off the mask*) you can't assume it's going to be hot can you?

2) So you've packed

As these items are said, 2 holds them up 1 takes them and puts them on

2) Scarf

1) Don't want to get a sore throat

2) Hat

1) You lose most of your heat from up there you know

2) Gloves

1) A nice pair of warm hands. Lovely.

2) Snow goggles?!

1) Well, if I get a chance to go skiing . .

2 stands up

2) Skiing? What on earth are you talking about? One minute you're talking about lying on the beach and getting too hot and the next minute you're off skiing!

1) Exactly. Which is why I don't see how they can expect me to pack the ridiculous amount that you've got. I mean, how are you going to manage?

2) Quite easily. With a bit of beachwear, some stuff for the evening, a couple of books, my factor 6 and a big bottle of "Aftersun".

1) But what about all the other stuff?

2) That's what I'm trying to tell you. I don't need anything else. I'm going for two weeks to the Costa Del Sol. I don't need gloves, hats, coats, brollys, skis or anything else. Where are you going to be able to use all that stuff, anyway?

1) Don't know yet, do I? I'll find out when I get there.

2) Oh right, you get your accommodation when you're there eh? I've always thought that was a bit risky. But what country are you off to? Where are your guidebooks? Don't tell me you've forgotten them in the midst of everything else?

1) No, course not. It's in here somewhere . . . ah yeah, here it is.

Person 1 pulls out a big atlas

2) That's not a guide book. Where on earth are you going?

1) Yeah, that's it. Somewhere round there.

2) What? Round where?

1) Earth.

2) You don't know any more than that?

1) No. Honest Bob said it all added to the excitement.

2) You *are* joking?

1) No. That's why I had to pay a bit extra he said. More complicated booking, you see.

2) So where are your tickets?

1) Honest Bob said he'll meet me at the airport with them. Which reminds me, we'd better get going.

2) I despair. I really do.

1) I know. But don't. . . Jealousy doesn't suit you. Is that the taxi?

2) Yeah. Hurry up.

1) But I've got all this to pack away first.

2) I wouldn't bother. If by some miracle Honest Bob does turn up with your tickets to Destination Anywhere, you're going to have to wear all that to avoid excess baggage.

1) Good thinking. Come on.

Both exit with bags.

Destinations – 2

Person 1 is looking in “mirror”, playing with hair as though making final preparations before going out. Person 2 enters carrying a small book (a Bible)

2) I think I’m ready for the off then. Oh, you look nice.

1) Thanks. I’m nearly ready.

2) Great.

Person 1 turns back round carrying a pile of books

2) Gosh! How long are you going for?

1) Well, just about an hour hopefully. I’ve left my dinner in the oven.

2) So why are you taking all that lot? Just for one service?

1) What’s the matter with it? It’s not that much.

2) Even if you read at the speed of light, you’d still have half those left.

1) They’re only the essentials.

2) The essentials for what? A theology degree?

1) Well you can’t be too careful. (*He indicates the Bible*) *You’re bound to get caught out.*

2) Even if I was, at least *I’d* have *got* to church.

1) What do you mean?

2) Well how are you going to get there carrying all that lot? Why don’t you leave some of it behind?

1) I can’t.

2) I’m sure you can. Let’s have a look.

Person 2 takes the books off person 1 one at a time and looks at them

2) The Bible. Well that’s a good start I suppose.

1) Yep. With the Apocrypha.

2) The what?

1) The Apocrypha. The books that nearly made it. There might be some good stuff in them.

2) A commentary on the Bible.

1) Well you can’t always trust the preacher can you?

2) A Bible dictionary

1) I might need to look up the exact meaning of a word. Just to be sure. I don’t want to miss out just cos I don’t understand.

2) Okay . . .a book on Buddhism?

- 1) Can one religion hold all the answers? How can we be sure?
- 2) "Know your Horoscopes", "Interpreting Dreams"
- 1) There's a lot in our subconscious you know. We need to understand ourselves more fully, surely, to know how we *really* feel and what we should be doing next.

2) Can't you trust God to help you do that?

1) Well yeah, yeah of course. This is just a bit of extra insurance. Ooh that reminds me. . .

Person 1 puts two chains around his neck

2) What are you doing now?

1) I've got to take my St. Christopher, there's a lot of roads to cross on the way to church. Don't want to take any chances.

2) And what about the rabbit's foot? Is that some sort of Roadkill?

1) No. That's come down our family from my great great grandma. It reminds me she's looking down on me. Makes me feel looked after. Safe. You know.

2) But can't you feel safe anyway? Without all this stuff?

1) I think you're being a bit naïve to be honest.

Person 1 starts taking back all the books

1) I mean, how are you going to understand anything with that little book there.

2) But this is all I need. And God.

1) So how are you going to know all the ins and outs?

2) Of what?

1) Everything. Knowledge is power you know?

2) Well, I suppose I feel I know what I need to know. I trust God for the rest.

1) And you're happy with that?

2) Yeah. The Bible tells me of God's promises and his love. My common sense helps me with decisions. Simple really. I mean, do you know any more about who you are or where you're heading with all that lot?

1) I dunno really.

2) Round in circles probably. Tell you what, why don't you leave them here and see how you get on?

1) Oh I don't know

2) Go on. Give it a go. What have you got to lose?

1) Okay. I will

2) Great.

Person 2 goes to take the books back, but at the last moment person 1 refuses to let go

1) Err . .but maybe tomorrow. My stars said I'd be freed from a great weight at the beginning of next week.

2) All right. One step at a time, eh?