

Visual Guide



THE HIGH LIFE: THE MUSICAL

VISUAL SYNOPSIS

The show begins with a big musical number. Afterwards the characters Steve and Sebastian (who work for Air Scotia) discuss vanishing planes and getting older. We are also introduced to the other crew members Shona, Captain Duff, Kylie and the intern Miley.

They all go on a flight and Steve meets Heather Argyle, an old flame. The crew also find out that their airline has been sold and that the person who has bought it is travelling incognito on the plane. The hapless crew decide to really impress this buyer but hijinks ensue.

The show shifts between different locations and features lots of different musical numbers. These numbers involve singing and dancing from the main cast and ensemble.

Due to scenes of mild aviation peril, accidental drug taking, strobe lighting and some strong language, this show is recommended for those aged 14+

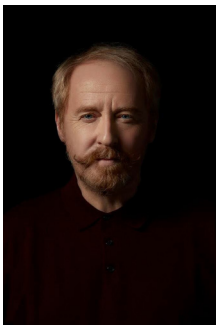
Running time: 2hrs 35 mins including an interval.

CAST



SEBASTIAN FLIGHT

An air steward played by Alan Cumming.



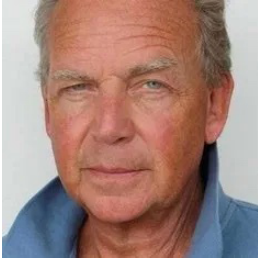
STEVE MCCRACKEN

An air steward, played by Forbes Masson.



SHONA SPURTLE

Chief stewardess at Air Scotia, played by Siobhan Redmond.



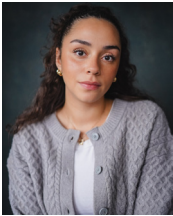
CAPTAIN DUFF

Air Scotia flight captain, played by Patrick Ryeart.



HEATHER ARGYLE

A mysterious former air stewardess, played by Louise McCarthy.



KYLIE

A Gen Z air stewardess, played by Rachael Kendall Brown.



MYLIE

A young Air Scotia intern, played by Kyle Gardiner.



ENSEMBLE

Various characters, played by Ross Baxter.



ENSEMBLE

Various characters played by Ciara Flynn.



ENSEMBLE

Various characters played by Grant McIntyre.



ENSEMBLE

Various characters played by Lauren Ellis Steele.



STANDBY SEBASTIAN AND STEVE

Standby for Sebastian and Steve played by Darren Browlie.

THE HIGH LIFE SCENE BREAKDOWN



SCENE 1 - OPENING

The ensemble appear onstage as holiday-goers ready to fly on Air Scotia from Glasgow Prestwick singing the title track 'The High Life'. Our main characters, Sebastian and Steve appear. They continue to lead the song as the ensemble dance and the Air Scotia band are revealed at the back of the stage.

SCENE 2 - THE CREW ROOM



We are now in the Air Scotia staff room at the airport, Steve and Sebastian read a newspaper which says that Air Scotia is at risk of shutting down. Noticing the date on the newspaper, Steve realises it's been 32 years since he first met Heather Argyll, a flight attendant he had a brief fling with at a training weekend.

We are then introduced to Kylie who is very excited to announce that there is a new intern for Steve and Sebastian to look after. The intern, Mylie, though very timid, introduces himself and Sebastian takes him under his wing.



Captain Duff enters with sci-fi synth sounding music and claims he is the only person able to battle an intergalactic species ready to attack earth. Shortly after, Shona arrives. She receives an email which states that Air Scotia has been acquired by, the mysterious financier, Fran Fouter. This is very bad news for our characters who are at risk of losing their jobs. Shona also reveals that Fran Fouter will be travelling on today's flight. Shona believes she can save Air Scotia if Fran Fouter is impressed with the cabin crew's work.

SCENE 3 - FRONT OF CLOTH



Steve and Sebastian are left onstage and spot Captain Duff in the audience dressed as an usher selling ice cream. Steve and Sebastian then tell the audience that behind the curtain, the show's stage crew are valiantly changing the scenery. Steve and Sebastian then pull down the curtain with a flourish to reveal the inside of the Air Scotia aeroplane!

SCENE 4 - AIR SCOTIA FLIGHT

There aren't many passengers on the flight and so the crew fill seats with blow up dolls to make the flight look full. The crew begin singing through the in-flight safety demonstration before Captain Duff announces that the plane has taken off!



A passenger requests some in-flight entertainment in the form of 'Shuggie the Dug', Air Scotia's mascot. Shona asks Sebastian to dress up in the Shuggie costume. Steve speaks to the passenger and discovers it is his old fling, Heather Argyll. Sebastian is jealous of Heather commanding Steve's attention which makes him ignore Mylie's pleas for him to pay attention to the plane's flashing warning light.



Captain Duff informs the crew and passengers that Storm Fud has now escalated to Hurricane Fud and the plane is going to be diverted over the Lower Largo Triangle. Mylie is stressed and Kylie offers him a pill which contains ketamine the horse tranquiliser. Captain Duff lets everyone know that the plane is losing fuel and that they are all at risk of imminent death.

Mylie reveals that he is Fran Frouter and is not impressed with Air Scotia. Steve chooses to go to Heather over Sebastian. Kylie declares her love for Shona. Captain Duff abandons the plane, Sebastian phones his mother. There is a countdown and a huge crash.

INTERVAL

SCENE 5 - THE BEACH

We hear a voiceover reporting that Air Scotia Flight 123 has gone missing over the Lower Largo Triangle while searchlights scan the audience.



A curtain rises to reveal Mylie in a submarine, he sings about the Lower Largo Triangle. At the end of the song, the sound of a wave crashing sounds and the underwater scene disappears to reveal Mylie being given CPR by Shona on a bleak beach. The gang remember that they are sure to be found due to the aircraft's 'Black Box', a flight recorder which can be tracked. They feel hopeful until Heather spots the Black Box which is broken beyond repair – they are doomed.

The distant sound of bagpipes begins, the gang decide to follow the noise in the hopes that there is shelter and people to help them. Sebastian doesn't trust this and tries to convince Steve and the gang to stay with him. Torn between Sebastian and Heather, Steve chooses to go with Heather towards the bagpipe sound, leaving Sebastian all alone as night descends.



SCENE 6 - FLYING SOLO

Sebastian begins to sing 'Flying Solo', when the lights and music focus on a bag falling from the sky. He opens the bag and finds a book titled 'Sabotaging the Plane for DUMMIES'. This leads Sebastian to a revelation that someone has caused the plane crash on purpose, he finishes the song with a new sense of confidence.

SCENE 7- WELCOME TO DUNLIVVEN



Mylie pushes onstage a sign which reads 'Welcome to Dunlivven Guest House', followed by Steve and Heather. Heather rings the doorbell and the lighting is plunged into darkness. There are thunder crashes and lighting strikes revealing four redheaded guest house employees wearing 1970s garb. The employees sing 'Come Away In' to welcome the crew to Dunlivven which is full of Scottish clichés, outdated memorabilia and has no way of contacting the outside world.

The employees try to get the crew to drink a strange orange liquid. They are interrupted by Sebastian entering and declaring that Fran Fouter was the one who sabotaged the plane.



Fran rebuts the accusation, blaming Sebastian for the crash as he turned off the warning lights on the plane before take-off. Steve and Shona do not defend Sebastian. Sebastian then says a series of insults to Shona until she runs offstage very upset. Fran, Heather and Steve leave Sebastian alone, convinced that he's making excuses for his actions. The Dunlivven staff lead Sebastian to his room and, once he is gone we hear them suspiciously confirm that the plan is working and none of their new guests will ever leave the guest house again.

SCENE 8 - NEVER TOO LATE



In Shona's bedroom, Kylie tries to comfort Shona and admits her feelings for her. Shona rejects Kylie as she is her workplace superior.

The set rotates and Steve and Heather's room is beside Shona's. Both sets of couples sing the song 'Never too Late'. The song finishes as a gong sounds signalling that dinner is about to be served. Heather leaves the stage to freshen up. Shona refocuses Kylie on the mission, getting Fran Fouter to save Air Scotia.

Kylie and Steve finally take a drink of the orange liquid. It makes them gag.

SCENE 9- BANQUET HALL

Sebastian chases Shona onto stage trying to apologise, which Shona doesn't accept. They are interrupted by the Dunlivven Guest House staff who are joined by Kylie – who is now sporting a ginger wig and orange tartan dress.

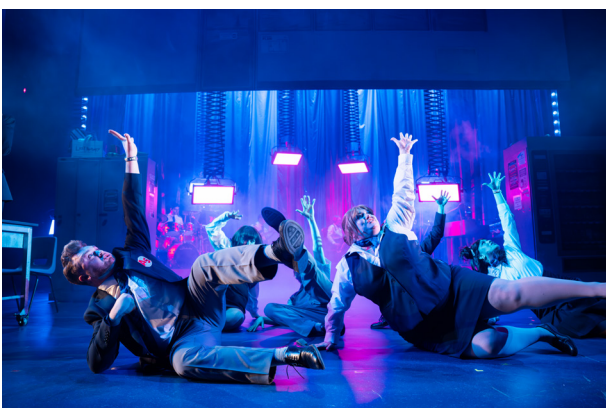
They are quickly joined by Heather and Steve both also head-to-toe in orange before Fran enters in a tartan suit and ginger mullet.

Sebastian quickly realises that whatever the orange liquid everyone has been drinking has turned them all ginger and into old-fashioned Scottish stereotypes. Mylie coaxes Shona to drink some liquid and she begins to turn. Sebastian realises that Heather Argyll is responsible. Caught, Heather divulges that she hatched this plan to create a place where everyone was ginger and loved Scottish things from the 70s in an attempt to make her feel better after she was bullied for being ginger as a child.

She finishes her impassioned tirade by claiming her aim is to 'Make Airdrie Ginger Again' whilst pulling on a red baseball cap which reads MAGA. The other ginger converts pull on identical hats. Heather bursts into the song 'Become the Ginger' in which she makes it very clear that Sebastian must join the ginger clan or die.

Sebastian, ready to face his fate takes a moment to confess the truth to Steve. That Steve is his best friend and he loves him!

At this declaration, Heather lifts and blows into bagpipes which shoot a dart at Sebastian's neck. Sebastian falls on the table as he slowly dies. Steve, while comforting him notices there is a piano inside the table and settles in to serenade Sebastian about how much he means to him.





Just before the climax of the song Sebastian dies – Steve is overcome by emotion and leans in to kiss Sebastian. As they get closer, an almighty zap sounds, jolting Sebastian back to life. His heart has been kickstarted by an electric current caused by the friction of the synthetic materials of the cabin crew uniforms.

Sebastian's near death experience has made him realise that his age isn't something to be ashamed of and he feels sensational at sixty years old!

SCENE 10 - THE BEACH



Steve, Sebastian, Shona, Kylie and Fran are on the beach faced with Heather who is pointing a gun at them.

Steve tries to reason with her to let the Air Scotia crew use the plane to return home but Heather wants to destroy them if they won't join her. She cocks her gun ready to shoot Steve and the others are willing to take a bullet for him. But as Heather vows to shoot all five of them, she misses and the bullet ricochets off a metal tray held by Shuggie the Dug!



The bullet bounces all around until eventually it lodges itself in Heather's own stomach. She goes down. Captain Duff reveals he is inside the suit. Captain Duff realises that they can't use the plane to get home as there is no fuel. However, the gang hatch a plan. Steve and Sebastian throw charging cable into the audience and encourage the audience to rub sleeves with their neighbours to build enough synthetic material friction to cause a big enough electric shock to jumpstart the plane. It works.

Fran Fouter reveals he isn't going to turn Air Scotia into Air GB. Instead he will expand and improve it and give Shona a promotion to be his second in command. Kylie congratulates Shona and they share a kiss.

Heather is still dying in the background and eventually stumbles offstage to die in the wings.

Steve and Sebastian reflect on the last 30 years, excited for the next 30 as long as they're with each other.

The crew get set to board the plane reprising the title song, 'The High Life'.



SCENE 11 - EUROVISION

The set changes to a blank stage and a voiceover from Graham Norton begins, reporting on how the characters have been fairing since the plane crash. Kylie has turned Air Scotia into a green airline, powering planes by the electricity created from cabin crew uniforms.

Heather was sent to a ginger supremacy deprogramming centre and is now blonde. Captain Duff has retired and lives on the planet Venus.

Shona saved Air Scotia from shutting down and is now engaged to Kylie.

And Steve and Sebastian are now the oldest contestants in the Eurovision Song Contest. Steve and Sebastian appear in short metallic dungarees and sing their Eurovision song entry 'Pif Paf Pof'. The rest of the cast sing and dance alongside them in shiny metallic costumes, encouraging the audience to clap and sing along.

They finish and eagerly await the results. A French voiceover announces they have received 12 points! Everyone cheers and exits the stage.

