



End of The Day Ep. 1

Waukegan Theatre Festival Concept Packet
Mack Finklea

Playwright Logline:

Tud, Myleigh, and Lancelot are perhaps the only surviving contestants of a British reality dating show broadcast during a massive extinction event. Isolated from the outside world, they dance between denial and acceptance, searching for love and meaning in a pointless, absurd existence

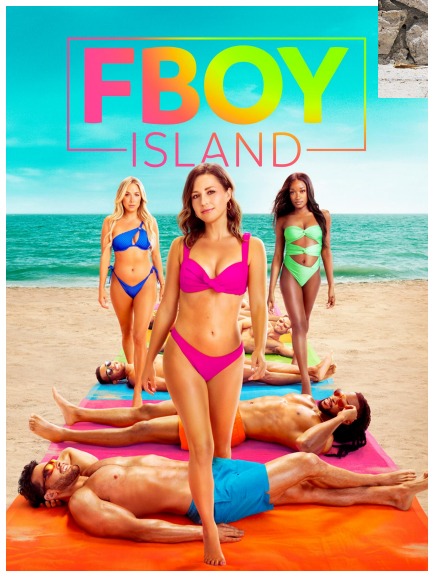


Director Logline:

Nearly everyday it feels like we are facing a new catastrophic event between natural disasters, pandemics, genocides, and major political traumas. Many people use media to escape from these events and “turn their brains off”. This show points at reality tv as one of these escapist tools, but begs the question- what is the line between escaping and ignoring. At the same time, it is full of farcical comedy and loveable characters. The audience has such a fun time watching them, that it becomes easy to forget the disasters raging around them (just like actual reality tv 🙄)



Inspo Images



Interesting Articles!

<https://www.themarysue.com/trash-tv-escapism-with-drawbacks/>

<https://time.com/5534364/reality-tv-is-back/>

<https://www.liberalcurrents.com/american-freakshow-our-reality-tv-driven-media-is-killing-our-democracy/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2023/dec/12/viewers-enjoy-seeing-people-suffer-reality-tvs-desperate-struggle-to-be-more-ethical>

Characters: Tud

Description: (20s, M Black) Fit. Footballer. Tall, dark, handsome. Bit of banter. Here to win.

Tud is on this island for one reason only: to win the prize. He wants the audience to believe that “the prize” is true love and to root for him; in reality his prize is fame and fortune. He never forgets that there are people watching and is very aware of how his actions will be perceived. It is easy to write him off as a stereotype- don’t!

“You’re fine, she’s fine, we’re all of us - we’re fine! Plenty of food and drink! We got this stunning view, vista! And they’re all- they’re still watching. They’re watching”



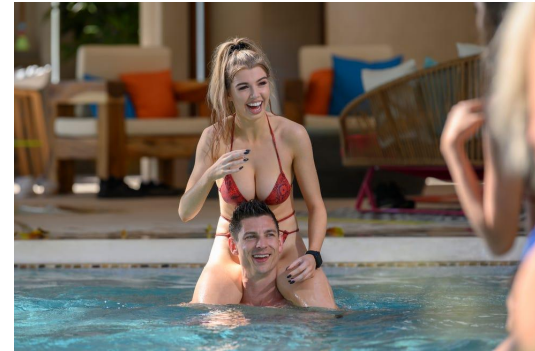
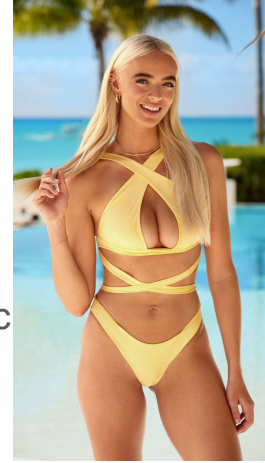
Characters: Myleigh

Description: (20s, F White) Fit. Blonde. New to the game. Here to win love.

Myleigh is in a position of power throughout the show as the one woman between two men although she doesn't utilize that power for much of the show. She has "hidden" depths that she frequently brings to the surface. Upon first meeting her, our audience may begin to write her off as a classic ditz character, but she immediately shows that she offers so much more. She knows how to use the perceptions others have of her to her advantage. The boys are playing checkers, she's playing chess.

"I'm excited cos what if it could be real love? What if I could find him, the man I've always dreamed of, the man I'll be with for always and forever so help me God. What if I'll never be alone again? What if I'll be happy?! What if I could actually be happy? I'd be happy? I'd be happy??"

"Honey, nothing natural 'bout me - I go, it's straight to (the) landfill for me, nothing recycled."



Characters: Lancelot

Description: (20s, M White) Fit. Builder from Amble. Tall. Not sure why he's here, honestly?

If Tud represents the classic contestant, Lancelot represents the classic viewer. He is the only one to truly discuss the catastrophic events of the world around them and how it affects them. He tries to put his self awareness aside, but fails. He wants to participate but after a loss, his heart is not it.

“Dunno where it go, all that hunger, all that sad, but I just - I put it out of my mind. Got the surgery, personal trainer. Just live at the gym now. That's my whole life. Gym. Work. Gym. Work. Gym.”

“If Billie were here? Dunno. If Bill were here, and she and Gil (were) done, I guess. Yeh. I guess I could try? Could bring us closer. Could make us feel something. Feel less dead inside.”



Keystone Quotes

- “What? Have to face facts. The world as we knew it, the world we were born into, don’t exist no more. And it won’t again, ever. There’s nothing we can do about it or we did already, we did everything we could possibly do and still, still don’ t matter anyway cos nothing, and I mean nothing you can love in this world can survive! ... So. Myleigh . . . Myleigh, how ‘bout it? How bout we play the game?”
- “You’re fine, she’s fine, we’re all of us - we’re fine! Plenty of food and drink! We got this stunning view, vista! And they’re all- they’re still watching. They’re watching.”
- “it’s Casa en Fuego. In the midst of a major extinction event! Seeing any kind of future with anyone it’s . . . I mean not even psychics or scientists can tell that anymore. Literally anything can happen. And has. And will.”