

Thank you for your attention. Enjoy your flight.

(When F.O.H. clearance is given the company assemble on stage. CAPTAIN TEMPEST enters.)

BOSUN Captain on the bridge!

(The crew salute.)

TEMPEST Carry on.

THE VOYAGE BEGINS

ACT I

BOSUN Friends, crewmen, passengers, lend me your ears.
Captain Tempest welcomes you aboard
This routine scientific survey flight.
Upon the US star-ship Albatross.

TEMPEST We hope you have a very pleasant trip.
But any questions that should come to mind,
Just ask our new Science Officer.

SCIENCE OFFICER That's me.

BOSUN If there be truth in sight, she is a woman.

SCIENCE OFFICER Think you I am no stronger than my sex?
Captain, commence the pre-flight checks.

BOSUN Check matrix.

(Synthesiser effect)

D. CONT. (AXEL) Check.

TEMPEST Check all the photon shields.

(Synthesiser effect)

D. CONT. (ANDY) Check.

TEMPEST Check the Dilithian Crystal rods.

(*Synthesiser effect*)

D. CONT. (DEE) Check.

TEMPEST The gravitational resistors.

(*Synthesiser effect*)

D. CONT. (CUTIE) Check.

TEMPEST And now check all the audio-visual screens.

(*Blackout. The on-stage video screen comes on to reveal the NEWSCASTER. In the original production this part was played by the television astronomer Patrick Moore.*)

NEWSCASTER (on video) Two parents, both alike in dignity.
In outer space, where we our play locate,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
And on Forbidden Planet meet their fate.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A lovely star-borne daughter takes her life.
Whose teenage crush and adolescent woes
Do drive her father mad and end his life.
The fearful passage of his death-marked love
And the continuance of her mother's rage,
Which but a monstrous end, naught could remove
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage,
The which, if you with patient ears attend,
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

(*The video screen goes off.*)

BOSUN We have completed all the pre-flight checks.

TEMPEST Commence countdown.

NAVIGATION OFFICER 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. . . Ignition!