

Sinbad

2 / 8 / 9 4 T r e a t m e n t

Concept:

SINBAD is a screwball romantic comedy in the tradition of It Happened One Night, Sullivan's Travels, Bringing Up Baby, and What's Up, Doc? A somewhat repressed man and a free-spirited woman, each with their own separate desires, must work together (despite their initial animosity) to achieve their goals. In the course of their adventures, they change, bringing out the best in each other, and fall in love.

The reality-world of Sinbad is comedic, even more so than in Aladdin or Beauty and the Beast. Every character is allowed to have a sense of humor, and the world itself is allowed to conspire to create comedy. All the elements--plot, songs, dialog, situations--are fair game to be played for humor.

Characters:

Sinbad - Sinbad is an apprentice map maker--he lives in a world of straight lines and accurate numbers. He has an incredible knowledge of the world's trade routes, ports, gulf streams, reefs and the like, but it is only 'book learning'; he has never actually left Mahrajiapur.

Sinbad's cautious, careful nature has resulted in a conventional, stable, secure life, peaceful and risk-free--which he likes just fine. For the greater part of the story, his strongest desire is simply to get safely home. But in the course of his adventures, his heroic side asserts itself, and comes to understand that only by taking risks do you have a shot at happiness.

Sinbad is the somewhat arrogant, wise-guy character with limited real-world experience (Joel McCrea in Sullivan's Travels, Cary Grant in Bringing Up Baby) who changes and grows due to a relationship with an exceptional, free-spirited woman.

In terms of character quality, Michael J. Fox would be a pretty good touchstone (although Sinbad is tall, to better contrast with Peri).

Synopsis:

1. INTRO PERI, GORGIA, YORICK

Night in the city of Mahrajiapur, a great trading port, a city built on pilings and stilts. It is thronged with traffic, as sampans and junks ply its waters, navigating the harbor and canals.

PERI and a thoroughly frightened INDIGO navigate through the fog for a rendezvous with GORGIA and YORICK. Peri was hired to deliver a magic compass, but hasn't found it yet. Peri offers various magic talismans instead--a magic Rope, a piece of Reverse Wood--but Gorgia is furious. She desires the compass and nothing else. Peri is cheated out of her expenses, and left destitute.

2. THE MAGIC COMPASS

SINBAD, an apprentice map maker, is offered a compass from a CAPTAIN in payment for some charts. The compass seems to be broken--the Captain claims that it's magic, and can guide the way to the lost Valley of Diamonds. This is, in fact, the very compass that Peri has been looking for. Sinbad takes it--he just thinks it looks cool.

MASTER DAJI is angry at the transaction. He orders Sinbad away on a simple, dull errand--to travel to Zanzibar to purchase a ship. Daji pretends it is a test of worthiness for Sinbad to earn the hand of his daughter, AMRITA. Really Daji just wants to get rid of the kid.

Sinbad agrees to go on the trip, but tells his friend, VIJAY, that he'd just as soon stay home. Has no real desire to leave Mahrajiapur and see the world; after all, he knows where everything is--he's drawn up the maps.

3. AMRITA

Vijay is jealous of Sinbad, because the lovely Amrita has decided on Sinbad as the man she wants to marry. At the docks, Amrita gives Sinbad a very chaste peck on the cheek, and admonishes him to hurry up, get the ship, and impress her father, so she can get on with her life. Despite his better judgment, Sinbad negotiates passage, and sets sail.

4. SUPERSTITIONS

As the ship leaves Mahrajiapur, Sinbad hears various sailor's superstitions, and dismisses them. He does not believe in magic. The sailors tell him otherwise, singing stories of the huge Kraken, the flying Roc, the Valley of Diamonds, Cyclopes and