

## VISIONS OF JOHANNA

### LOGLINE:

Possessed by Bob Dylan's spirit, a travel coordinator at a daytime television show obsesses over a promiscuous blonde producer. Being John Malkovich meets Broadcast News.

### SYNOPSIS:

The year: 2133. STEFI LINK, a daytime television talk show, is the outrageous setting for this absurd, cerebral and surreal romantic comedy.

The film opens on a three minute, black and white documentary about the origins of early freak shows and carnivals. Then we cut to the outside of a skyscraper in Manhattan where a media circus has surrounded the building. It is then that we meet our reluctant hero, BENNY KING, a shy, anxiety-ridden, love-sick travel coordinator and struggling stand up comedian. He walks into his office and has to deal with two logistical nightmares. First, he gets chewed out by high-strung producer REBECCA CHILDS, who is upset that her potential guests didn't receive their travel arrangements. A sudden diarrhea attack has Benny rushing to the bathroom, where he laments about his terrible job, his lack of talent, and his desire to be a famous rock star, like Bob Dylan. Senior producer RACHEL ADAMS knocks on the men's room door. She needs Benny's help because her guest ERIKA is stranded at JFK airport with her lover FRAN and field producer VICTORIA. They need to fly to Toronto (pronto!) for ERIKA's gender re-assignment surgery.

ANNE STEINMEN, Stefi's Executive Producer, is disgusted by the relentless news anchors and paparazzi surrounding the production offices outside over her possible resignation. JIM LAVINPOOL, CEO of Stoner Studios, and Stefi's boss, wants to give the show a "new look" since the latest Nielsen ratings show that LARRY, another daytime television show and Stefi's main competitor, has higher ratings.

Anne calls Benny into her office and berates him for his incompetence. Then the morning production meeting commences with Anne and a few female producers and we hear about the potential guests and stories for Stefi's next show. To put an end to the rumors, Anne announces her resignation to the staff and begins crying. Benny is delighted by this. Suddenly, Mark Kaplan, the megalomaniacal, verbally abusive Executive Producer taking over Anne's position, enters the production meeting on a Hoverboard and demeans Anne in front of her colleagues.

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Later that afternoon, during his lunch break, Benny wanders into a one product gadget store owned and operated by eccentric millionaire BERKOFF ZIMMERMAN. Zimmerman shows Benny his invention, a magical office chair nicknamed, "The Celebrity Simulator," which allows the person sitting to live in the consciousness of any celebrity. Benny rents the chair and enthusiastically waits for its arrival later that week.

As the production week progresses, a love triangle forms when the quirky, epileptic blond producer, JOHANNA SHACK begins a lustful relationship with office manager STAN FRANKLIN, whose growing gambling addiction and estrangement from his father makes him treat Johanna like shit. Despite this, Johanna is smitten with Stan, while nice-guy Benny becomes sexually obsessed with Johanna after she leads him on with her flirtatious behavior and a brief one night stand. After a few drinks at an after-work party, Benny follows the couple back to the office, and tortures himself by watching them have sex in the office. To get his mind off Johanna, Benny begins a relationship with Johanna's production assistant, the exotic Caribbean-born Louise Pantin, who is struggling with an out-of-control heroin addiction.

Johanna convinces Benny to be a part of her story, "I'm Not Shallow" and to go on a date with a blind-folded stripper from Kansas.

A few days later, the Celebrity Simulator arrives. Benny sits in it. Then things really get weird at the office. The appearance of tumbleweeds, cold drafts, and a bizarre looking mule head in Johanna's office. Later that night, while working late, Benny fights with Johanna over her relationship with Stan. He forces her into the Celebrity Simulator with him. The Bob Dylan song, "Visions of Johanna" plays and the film becomes a music video illustrating Benny's obsession.

The day of the show, we meet the outrageous guests that have made it to New York for the show taping and hear their stories. There is VAMP MOSKOWITZ, a Jewish modern-day vampire, his sister Irene, and his mute son CHARLIE. They are manipulated by Rebecca to make their story more dynamic for the show.

Benny warms up the audience with his stand-up comedy routine, but the audience doesn't really "get" his jokes. His job is on the line.

A major conflict occurs when Johanna's other story has a flamboyant gay guy admitting his secret crush to his neighbor, Scott. This leads to a shocking aftermath that threatens the fate of the Stefi show and all of its employees.

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Will Benny get over Johanna and move on with his life and career? Will the Celebrity Simulator be destroyed? With a cast of colorful characters, snappy dialogue, and a unique premise, this may prove to be one of the most original and bizarre films ever made.