

TRANQUILITY

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LOGLINE (SERIES): A wormhole provides a gateway to a parallel universe for a band of fugitives who escape from a sinister consortium, only to become entangled in a civil war on a planet seeming very much like 19th century Earth.

GENRE / SETTING(S)

TRANQUILITY is a Sci-Fi / Western drama one hour TV pilot set first in the 26th century in a star system 950 light years from Earth known as Kepler-20. Most of the action in the pilot takes place aboard the spaceship Tranquility. Its crew of mercenaries pick up and deliver cargo for anyone willing to pay for their services - no questions asked. Their most recent adventure has the motley crew double-crossing a shady organization vying for dominance of Kepler-20: the Syndicate. Rather than hand over the precious human cargo they carry, the crew have chosen to flee. During their escape from the Syndicate's most vicious bounty hunter, an unexpected detour through a space anomaly crash lands them on a parallel universe version of Earth and the setting changes to 1863, in and around Lawrence, Kansas, although the 26th century will be revisited via flashbacks and the Syndicate's ongoing efforts to reclaim what is theirs.

MAIN CHARACTERS

VALERIE (VAL) BRENNAR: Caucasian, mid 30s. Captain of Tranquility. Growing up with a girl's first name made him thick-skinned and resilient. A bold leader who is very protective of his crew, occasionally causing indecisiveness. He is a 20th century movie buff and loves to quote movie lines to add levity to a tense situation, much to the chagrin of those around him.

QUANIKA (NIKA) LIU: Oriental, 30ish. Captain's first-mate. Detail oriented. Fiercely loyal to Val - the two have a bond, though not romantic. Superb marksman. Martial arts expert. Knows the ship well; can help in engineering in a pinch.

CISCERON (GONZO) GONZALES: Hispanic, late 20s. Tranquility's top-notch pilot. He is a liability in battle because of his inadequacy with weapons but his piloting expertise more than makes up for that. Willing to take chances; hence, his nickname. A bit of a card.

ZEBULON (ZEB) KOLTEN: African-American, 40ish. Big and burly. Not the sharpest tool in the shed but no one knows weapons better. Excellent fighter. Motivated by money. The one crew member who will openly question the captain's decisions.

ELIZABETH (LIZZY) MACINTOSH: Caucasian (Irish), late 20s. Tranquility's engineer. Smokes. Speaks with a slight brogue. Butch; tough-as-nails; has a temper. Knows her trade very well.

SUKIO TANAKA: Oriental, 50ish. Genius physicist. Part of the "cargo" Val was to deliver to the Syndicate. His research of late for the Coalition of Planets has been in the field of teleportation, and he is close to making a breakthrough.

AUTUMN TANAKA: Caucasian, late 40s. Wife of Sukio and the other half of the "cargo". Gifted surgeon and empath, who's abilities are heightened by passing through the rift.

MISCOV: Caucasian (Russian), mid 40s. The Syndicate's most adept and ruthless bounty hunter. Tasked with retrieving the Tanakas at all costs. He and Val have had previous dealings.

PILOT SYNOPSIS: The crew of TRANQUILITY are on a routine cargo delivery mission when a rocky trip through a meteor storm crashes one of the pods they carry into the cargo bay door, breaking the lid seal and setting off an alarm. The crew must open the pod to disarm it and, in so doing, discover its contents: a male adult human! Opening the second pod has a similar result, this time female.

Once revived, the mysterious couple tell the crew that they are husband and wife - SUKIO and AUTUMN TANAKA. He is a genius physicist - she a gifted surgeon. They were kidnapped from his research facility, placed in pods, and slated for delivery to the Syndicate by the unsuspecting crew of Tranquility...at least, that's their story.

The ship's captain - VAL - reneges on the delivery once he discovers the nefarious reasons the unsavory cartel has for wanting the scientists. Not at all pleased with the turn of events, MISCOV, the bounty hunter the cargo was intended for, gives chase as Val and company flee.

An EMP energy blast, courtesy of Miscov, partially disables Tranquility and, with a deadly radiation belt blocking their way, things look grim for Val and crew. However, Sukio hatches an ingenious but risky plan to allow Tranquility to pass safely through the radiation belt. It succeeds, but with an unexpected consequence: the ship inadvertently passes through a rift in the space-time continuum, and is transported half-way across the galaxy...and back in time!

With life support down, Val and crew are forced to crash land on a planet seeming very much like 19th century Earth. As the others busy themselves with repairs, Val steps outside to determine the hull damage and is not-so-warmly greeted by a man with a shotgun.

Unable to locate Val's ship, Miscov determines it must have entered the radiation belt and, despite objections from his crew, decides to take his ship through it as well, knowing the severity of the punishment for returning to the Syndicate empty-handed.

The Syndicate has been monitoring Miscov's ship and is dismayed when it suddenly vanishes. They dispatch another ship to investigate, indicating just how badly they covet the Tanakas.

FUTURE EPISODES will delve into many storylines, including, but not limited to...

- the crew's attempts to repair their ship and return to their own time and universe.
- the relationships struck with the Kansas locals; in particular, a blossoming romance between Val and the sultry widow saloon owner from Lawrence.
- the discovery that historical events on this Earth don't play out as expected (e.g., Kansas is a slave state) but one will -the Lawrence Massacre - unless the crew intervenes.
- more is revealed of the Tanakas, casting doubt on their story, and shedding light on Autumn's empathic powers.
- historical figures of that time period (e.g., Bloody Bill Anderson) who impact the plot.
- the emergence of an unexpected adversary from the past, who apparently arrived on this Earth the same way Val and crew did, two years earlier, and sees Tranquility as his ticket off "this god-forsaken planet."
- the Syndicate's ongoing efforts to recover their precious human cargo.

ABOUT ME...

Eric Christianson is an accomplished screen actor and voice artist living in Austin, TX. He took the plunge into screenwriting several months back and has been writing feverishly ever since. Credits include a three-part TV mini-series entitled Firefly: Reunion (based on the TV show), a feature-length action/adventure Western called Redemption, and now, Tranquility. All can be reviewed at the website address above.