

FLIGHT DECK

Critique Analysis

Checked Bags

Created by
Mark Cline



A combat veteran is traveling by a civilian airline. The airline now requires all passengers to check their emotional baggage before boarding any flight. After checking his bags, the man experiences the serenity of becoming unburdened by the guilt and trauma that he carries inside all the time.



Critical Analysis

★★★★★

Mark Cline, a versatile filmmaker with a passion for storytelling, takes us on a profound two-minute and fifteen-second exploration of emotional healing in his captivating animation and experimental short film, "Checked Bags".

This thought-provoking creation not only showcases Cline's dedication to the art of filmmaking but also encapsulates his unique perspective shaped by a rich life journey. Cline's background, which includes a stint in the U.S Navy and a career in Information Technology, adds depth to his storytelling.

He approaches his passion for entertainment with a commitment that shines through in every frame of "Checked Bags." The film stands as a testament to his multifaceted

talent - from directing to sound design, Cline has donned many hats to bring his vision to life. "Checked Bags" delves into the poignant experience of a combat veteran navigating the turbulence of civilian air travel.

Set against the backdrop of an airline's innovative policy of requiring passengers to check their emotional baggage before boarding, the film immediately strikes a chord with its unique metaphorical premise. As the protagonist complies, the narrative takes flight into a realm of symbolic transformation.

The animation style employed by Cline enhances the film's experimental nature. With meticulous attention to detail, each frame is imbued with a sense of wonder. The character's journey is portrayed not only visually but also emotionally through the interplay of colors, shapes, and perspectives.

This innovative approach captures the essence of healing and liberation, portraying the act of shedding emotional burdens with creativity and finesse. At the core of "Checked Bags" lies

its universal message of healing and release. The combat veteran's emotional baggage, vividly symbolized as physical luggage, is the burden many carry unseen. Cline's narrative touches upon the profound serenity that accompanies unburdening oneself from the weight of guilt and trauma.

This powerful transformation is a cathartic experience for both the character and the audience. Cline's narrative innovation is matched by his ability to evoke emotions through sound. The sound design and musical choices serve as an additional layer of storytelling, guiding the viewer through the protagonist's journey of liberation.

It's a testament to Cline's dedication to his craft that he seamlessly merges visuals and sound to create an immersive experience. In a mere two minutes and fifteen seconds, "Checked Bags" manages to encapsulate a journey that resonates deeply with the audience.

It's a testament to Mark Cline's prowess as a filmmaker that he can craft such a meaningful narrative within this short

span, leaving a lasting impact that lingers far beyond the screen time. As Mark Cline continues to expand his repertoire and contribute to the world of independent films, "Checked Bags" stands as a testament to his storytelling prowess and his commitment to pushing creative boundaries.

With its emotional resonance, innovative animation, and universal themes, this short film is a testament to the power of cinema as a medium for catharsis and healing.

In conclusion, "Checked Bags" is a brief yet impactful journey into the heart of emotional healing, expertly crafted by filmmaker Mark Cline.

Drawing from his unique life experiences and talents, Cline delivers a poignant narrative that speaks to the universal desire for unburdening oneself from emotional baggage. Through its experimental animation and adept storytelling, this short film leaves an indelible mark, reminding us of the transformative power of letting go.
