



the astrology play – Synopsis

We are greeted by a personified version of the planet Mercury, the narrator. He explains that he has written a play about himself. Mercury tells the crowd that his play was made to explain why Mercury Retrograde isn't such a bad thing after all. He then, brings out his play's cast of fashion girls, to explain what Mercury Retrograde is, and how it effects people on earth. Next he introduces us to Krystal, an astrologer who works at a fashion magazine, with the fashion girls. She writes horoscopes, that no one takes seriously.

Krystal is at her desk at the fashion magazine, attempting to finish the horoscopes in time but Mrs. Magazine (Mercury, wearing earrings), calls Krystal into her office and makes it very clear to her that no one cares about the truth behind the "horrorcramps", and that she could write literally anything, and no one would know the difference. Krystal leaves incredibly frustrated.

On her walk home, Krystal thinks out loud about how all she wants is to have people take astrology seriously. She launches into a song called "My Job", which communicates how she misses the truth behind astrology. Venus personified then appears and tells Krystal that she is beautiful but that no one cares about her horoscopes. Krystal tells Venus that she is going to write a book about astrology, and then runs off, inspired. Mercury then appears and attempts to describe the planets' influence over people on earth through an elaborate movement piece, but gets interrupted half way through by the start of his Retrograde. He flees.

The Fashion girls are out for Martinis when Winter, the Aquarius, suggests that they read their horoscopes. Gemma, the Gemini, snaps at Winter and declines as she knows her horoscope will solely be about how mean she is, just because she's a Gemini. Eucalyptus, the Libra, attempts to comfort the hurt Gemma, but is immediately left alone on stage.

Krystal sits down to start writing her book but is interrupted by Mercury, now Retrograde, and drunk, who has come to stay with her for the foreseeable future. They fight about Krystal's book because Mercury knows that one is not supposed to start new projects during a Retrograde. They come to a compromise, but as soon as they have done so, Mercury breaks Krystal's computer by pouring water onto it, causing her to have to re-start the book. Mercury waltzes off.

Mercury is now Retrograde and everything is terrible on earth because of it. Car crashes, injuries, and everyone running into one-another in various scenarios. Mercury comes crashing in, during this chaos, to explain the planetary connections to astrological signs, but he is too high so the explanation is convoluted. Gemma laments separately in the bathroom about how she hates astrology because of all the cruel memes about Gemini's, and because she has never felt welcome as a Gemini.

astro theatre co.

the astrology play at Toronto Fringe



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Mercury and Krystal are fighting because he wants her to continue to do the horoscope. Krystal refuses because she is frustrated that no one takes it seriously. Mercury gets his feelings hurt and Krystal storms off.

Mercury attempts to get his phone to play *The Planet Suite* by Gustav Holst, so he can dance for the audience. The suite plays. But then the music goes dark and Krystal rolls in explaining passionately that this is the Pluto part of her book. Mercury stops her as she becomes out of control and they argue once more over the importance of horoscopes. Krystal leaves because she must continue her book.

The fashion girls fight about the nature of being a Gemini and Gemma storms off angrily. Krystal runs into Gemma and Gemma gets very angry at her for writing horrible horoscopes about Gemini's. Krystal explains to Gemma through the song "My Job Reprise", how she is not just a Gemini, and how Gemma has many different signs that make her who she is. Gemma is comforted and tells Krystal to put that kind of information in the horoscopes.

Krystal arrives home to a clean house and a sober Mercury, who is direct once more. Mercury explains what Krystal should have learnt from this experience when the lights go half out. Mercury begins to explain that Fringe shouldn't schedule a festival during a Retrograde because these sort of outages happen all the time during this period, but is cut off by a complete blackout.