

"FORT ZACHARY"

OVERVIEW

Fort Zachary takes place in the Florida Keys. There are four main characters in this sitcom: Aksel Nordrum, Ralph Thompson, Pierre Laboum, and Coral Salt.

Coral Salt works at her family's Salt Restaurant. She performs there on the weekends. She had a close friendship with Jimmy Buffett before he passed.

Aksel Nordrum is Coral's best friend. He is very protective over her but means well.

Pierre Laboum lives with Ralph Thompson. He is an artist and gets inspiration from Key West.

Ralph Thompson is a playwright trying to save the local playhouse from being bought.

ACT ISCENE 1

INT. PIERRE LABOUM & RALPH THOMPSON'S HOUSE - MORNING

In a colorful but run-down house, Pierre is sleeping peacefully in his twin bed just before Ralph bursts in the room.

INT. PIERRE LABOUM & RALPH THOMPSON'S HOUSE - MORNING

PIERRE IS HIT IN THE FACE BY A PILLOW THROWN BY RALPH

PIERRE

Excuse me?

RALPH
(SHOVING A SCRIPT IN PIERRE'S FACE
WITH FRANTIC SCRIBBLES COVERING
IT)

Morning! The first act of my new play,
I finished it. I was up all night and
it's done can you believe it?

PIERRE
Knowing you, I can believe it...
What's got you so inspired? You
haven't written in months.

RALPH
Well I thought about how much I love
living here and I figured out that I
want my next play to be about Key

West! I want it to focus mostly on
the stories of the people here and
Jimmy Buffett!

PIERRE
Does this have anything to do with the
theatre getting bought soon? Ralph,
This is nonsense. First of all,
there's no music, where is the music?
It's Jimmy Buffett, not Hemingway.
Second of all, do you really think
you can convince people to be part of
this when we all know nothing has been
successful at that playhouse in years.

RALPH
(MAKING A FACE)

Go back to bed, I think I know about
someone...

PIERRE
(SARCASTICALLY)

Who, Jimmy himself? Bonne chance, mon
ami.

ACT I

SCENE 2

INT. SALT RESTAURANT - DAY

CORAL SALT IS SINGING ONSTAGE AT HER FAMILY RESTAURANT. SHE
IS SINGING A JIMMY BUFFETT COVER OF CHANGES IN LATITUDES,

CHANGES IN ATTITUDES. SHOTS CUT BETWEEN CORAL SINGING AND RALPH BIKING TOWARDS THE RESTAURANT. EVENTUALLY, RALPH PARKS HIS BIKE BY THE BACK OF THE RESTAURANT. HE CHECKS HIS WATCH AND HURRIES IN AS CORAL SINGS HER LAST SONG OF THE SET. HE WATCHES FROM THE BACK AND ENJOYS THE VIBE OF THE RESTAURANT.

INT. SALT RESTAURANT - DAY

CORAL

(INTO THE MIC)

Come say hello for the next 15
minutes! I don't bite!

RALPH STARTS MAKING HIS WAY TO THE STAGE BUT IS STOPPED BY A WELL-DRESSED AKSEL NORDRUM.

AKSEL

What do you think you're doing?

RALPH

(STUTTERING)

I - I just wanted to say Hi to Coral,
I loved watching her set and wanted to
talk to her about something.

CORAL

Aksel, what are YOU doing? I just said
everyone can say hi.

(WHISPERING TO AKSEL)

I know he might be... Interesting, but
I'll hear him out.

RALPH TRIES TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE WRINKLES ON HIS SHIRT TO NO AVAIL

CORAL

Sorry, he's pretty protective.

RALPH

It's okay, do you have a minute? I want to talk to you about a new play I'm writing for the community playhouse.

CORAL

Well, my next set is in a few minutes, what is it about?

RALPH

My play will be about Key West and its people. I want to meet more locals and hear their stories for inspiration, are you interested?

CORAL

I am! That sounds great, but I have to get on stage now. Can I have your card? We can meet here later in the day and talk about it after my set is done.

RALPH

(HANDING CORAL HIS CARD)

Great! I'll see you then!

ACT I

SCENE 3

INT. SALT RESTAURANT - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - DAY

AFTER CORAL'S SHOW IS OVER, SHE GOES UPSTAIRS TO THE LIVING SPACE UPSTAIRS. AKSEL FOLLOWS.

INT. SALT RESTAURANT - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - DAY

AKSEL

What was that about? I don't like that guy... He looks like he's 30 or something.

CORAL

(ROLLING HER EYES)

30? I don't know about that, he didn't look THAT old. Something about needing advice for a play about Key West? Do you think he wants me to be in it? I'm really excited to talk to him later, this might be the opportunity that Jimmy always wanted for me. He was always supporting my success and starring in a play seems like the next step.

AKSEL

I don't know, isn't what you're doing right now perfect enough? You have a ton of fans already.

ACT IISCENE 1

INT. PIERRE LABOUM & RALPH THOMPSON'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

PIERRE IS SITTING ALONE IN HIS HOUSE WHILE DRAWING A LIZARD IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM ON HIS SKETCHBOOK. HE ADJUSTS HIS POSITION AND THE LIZARD SKITTERS AWAY, LEAVING HIM WITH A HALF-DONE PORTRAIT.

INT. KEY WEST RESORT - AFTERNOON

PIERRE WALKS TO A NEARBY RESORT FOR ART INSPIRATION AND BUMPS INTO A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN. AS HE TURNS TO LOOK AT HER, EVERYTHING IS IN SLOW MOTION AS HE IS IMMEDIATELY LOVESTRUCK.

ACT IISCENE 2

INT. SALT RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

CORAL AND RALPH ARE SITTING AT A TABLE.

RALPH

I was hoping to focus on Jimmy Buffett in this play and his effect on the community. I've heard that you knew him well.

CORAL

Wait, is this a musical or not?

RALPH

I've only written plays.

CORAL

(SARCASTICALLY)

Oh, so you hate fun... Jimmy would have LOVED you.

AKSEL IS DISCRETELY WATCHING FROM A NEARBY TABLE.

CORAL

Listen, I'm in school and perform here every weekend so I don't have a lot of time. I'll agree to help, but only if I'm given a part and the play is a musical instead.

RALPH

(SHAKING CORAL'S HAND)

Deal.

ACT II

SCENE 3

INT. SALT RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

AS SOON AS RALPH LEAVES, AKSEL GOES OVER TO CORAL'S TABLE WHERE SHE IS FINISHING THE LAST OF HER CALAMARI. HE GESTURES FOR HER TO TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED BUT SHE IS CHEWING.

CORAL

Aksel you won't believe it! I just got a part in the new musical! I'll help write it too since he wants information about Jimmy.

AKSEL

(NERVOUS)

Are you sure you want to do this?
You're already so busy, I don't want you to get burnt out.

CORAL

I know, I just really feel like this

is a big opportunity for me.

AKSEL

Okay, please take care of yourself.

CORAL

I basically invented time management.

AKSEL

I also just want to make sure you feel safe around this Ralph person. You just met him today and now you've landed a part in his musical. How do you know you're not getting scammed?

CORAL

Relax... I think we all need to take risks sometimes, when is the last time you've taken a risk?

AKSEL

I ordered Arby's a few years ago, does that count?

ACT II

SCENE 4

INT. KEY WEST RESORT - EVENING

A SHORT MONTAGE OF PIERRE DRAWING ON HIS SKETCHBOOK IN THE RESORT LOBBY LEADS TO HIM FALLING ASLEEP ON THE COUCH. RALPH IS RUSHING INTO THE RESORT WHILE GETTING RUDE LOOKS FROM THE WEALTHY GUESTS. RALPH IS FULL OF ENERGY.

RALPH

Pierre!

(PIERRE IS SOUND ASLEEP)

Pierre!

(RALPH SHAKES PIERRE AWAKE)

PIERRE
(PIERRE LOOKS AROUND HIM AND
GATHERS HIMSELF. HE HAS NO IDEA
WHERE HE IS FOR A SECOND)

Okay seriously, you need to stop doing that. How am I supposed to be a great artist without any rest?

RALPH
Do you think Picasso got rest? Do you think DaVinci got rest? If anything I'm helping you get more hours of work done.

PIERRE
Why are you here?

RALPH
Thank you so much for asking. Today was amazing, I found an actress for my play! Have you heard of Coral Salt?

PIERRE
The singer at Salty's?

RALPH
Exactly, I got the chance to talk to her today and she agreed to help me learn more about Jimmy Buffett if she had a part and if the play was a musical instead. What do you think?

PIERRE
Does she know anything about the

playhouse?

RALPH

Well... No, but come on! She was basically begging to be a part of it.

PIERRE

Okay fine, say this musical really does take off... How will you get the budget in the first place? Do you have a plan at all or are you just going off of pure hope?

RALPH

Well...

PIERRE

Wow, okay I want the best for you and this play but I also don't want you to get this girl's hopes up.

RALPH

It'll work, I'll figure it out. I always get myself out in a pinch.

PIERRE

What about the time we-

RALPH

Pierre, you're going to have to back off with the 'tude I'm getting.

PIERRE

...Fine, I'm happy for you. Be careful.

RALPH

I'll buy you dinner tonight if you help me with my visuals for the

musical.

PIERRE

Salty's?

RALPH

Where else?

ACT II

SCENE 5

INT. AKSEL'S HOUSE - EVENING

AKSEL ARRIVES HOME AFTER LEAVING THE SALT RESTAURANT. HE MISSED FAMILY DINNER AND SIGHS AS HE ENTERS THE HOUSE. HE WALKS IN AND SEES EIGHT PAIRS OF EYES STARING BACK AT HIM. HIS MOTHER EXPECTANTLY WAITS FOR HIS EXCUSE.

AKSEL

Sorry mom, I got caught up at the Salt again.

AKSEL'S MOTHER

(AKSEL'S MOTHER GETS UP AND WALKS OVER TO AKSEL, KISSING HIM ON THE SIDE OF HIS HEAD)

It's okay sweetie, I know you love to spend time with Coral. I'm just glad you have a friend.

AKSEL

Mom, I'm 17. How long are you going to call me a sweetie, I'm practically an adult.

AKSEL'S MOTHER

(ROLLING HER EYES LOVINGLY)
Okay my big man. Are you hungry? I'll

make you a plate.

(AKSEL'S MOM WALKS TO THE KITCHEN
AND PLACES SOME CRAWFISH AND
SHRIMP ON A PLATE FOR HER SON)

AKSEL

(AKSEL WALKS OVER TO THE DINING
ROOM TABLE AND SITS NEXT TO HIS
SIBLINGS. THEY ARE ALL HAPPY TO
SEE HIM.)

Dad, I know I'm late-

AKSEL'S FATHER

You know, when I was your age, if I
spent all day with a girl, I'd bring
her home to family dinner after. Why
haven't we met her yet? For all we
know you're out doing God knows what
all day.

AKSEL

Coral is just a friend, okay? She's
really busy so she doesn't have time.

AKSEL'S FATHER

We barely even see you anymore, are
you avoiding us?

AKSEL

I just need my space.

AKSEL'S FATHER

You've needed space since you were
born, I feel like you won't be
comfortable unless you're secluded far

away from us. Do you think that makes your mother happy?

AKSEL'S MOTHER
(RETURNING FROM THE KITCHEN
)
Aksel don't worry about me, your father is just upset.

AKSEL'S FATHER
No really, how do you think we all feel? Your younger siblings barely see you and they're growing older as we speak.

AKSEL
I know. I'm sorry. I'll bring Coral over and we'll have a nice dinner. Mom, I'm really sorry if I upset you.

AKSEL'S FATHER
I hate to be hard on you, I just want to know you're okay.

AKSEL
I'll be okay.

AKSEL'S FATHER
Okay.

(CHANGING THE TOPIC)

Hey, are you sure she's just a friend?

AKSEL
Yes, dad. We've been over this. I don't see anyone that way.

AKSEL'S FATHER
You know your mom was just a friend

too...

AKSEL
I'm going to my room.

ACT II
SCENE 6

CORAL IS LOOKING ON HER COMPUTER AT THE VERY OUTDATED KEY WEST COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE WEBSITE IN HER ROOM. SHE IS FINISHING UP HER CALL WITH AKSEL. SHE STARTS WRITING A LITTLE FROM HER MEMORY ABOUT JIMMY BUFFETT AND GETS TEARY-EYED THINKING ABOUT HIM. FLASHBACKS REVEAL THAT JIMMY WAS CLOSE WITH HER PARENTS AND HAS BEEN IN HER LIFE FOR AS LONG AS SHE CAN REMEMBER. SHE SENDS HER MEMORIES IN AN EMAIL TO RALPH AND AWAITS A RESPONSE.

ACT III

Scene 1

EXT. KEY WEST RESORT - EVENING

RALPH AND PIERRE ARE WALKING OUT OF THE RESORT WHEN PIERRE SPOTS THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN FROM EARLIER

PIERRE
Don't look now but the love of my life
is a few feet ahead of us. I need to
get a closer look, I want her to be
my muse.

RALPH
What are you even talking about? Have
you talked to her at all?

PIERRE
Nope, I just ran into her earlier but

it was love at first sight.

RALPH
Okay wow, at least talk to her first
if she's going to be your next muse.
You always scare people off by doing
this.

PIERRE
(PIERRE STARTS SKETCHING THE WOMAN)
She is beautiful.

RALPH
Okay DiCaprio, you need to chill
before Rose leaves you to drown.

THE MYSTERY WOMAN STOPS WALKING AND TURNS BACK TOWARDS PIERRE
AND RALPH

MYSTERY WOMAN
How do you know my name?

RALPH
I was just making a Titanic reference,
my friend over here thought it was a
good idea to draw you.

PIERRE
(STUNNED)
I-

ROSE
Is this true? Were you drawing me?

PIERRE
I'm so sorry if I've made you
uncomfortable, I just thought you were
the most beautiful woman I've ever
seen and I needed to capture that.

ROSE
Let's see it then.

PIERRE
(HANDING HER THE SKETCHBOOK)
It's just a quick sketch-

ROSE
Wow... This is beautiful. I'm actually
an art collector and I'm in town for a
couple of weeks to see the local art.
Can I have your information? I'd love
to see more.

PIERRE
Of-Of COURSE! Please, take my card. I
would love to hear from you.

ROSE
We'll be in contact!

ACT III
SCENE 2

INT. SALT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

PIERRE AND RALPH WALK INTO THE SALT RESTAURANT. CORAL IS BACK
ON STAGE PLAYING HER COVER OF SOUTHERN CROSS WHILE THE
RESTAURANT IS SETTling DOWN FOR THE NIGHT. RALPH AND PIERRE
HAVE A SET AT THE BAR.

PIERRE
What a day...

RALPH
A day full of networking, I can't
believe it's all working out. I have a
star for my musical and you have an
art collector.

PIERRE
We've done well, my friend. Are you
ready to become famous?

RALPH
Famous?

PIERRE
Isn't that what you want?

RALPH
I've never really thought about it.

PIERRE
BS! You write plays for a living
there's no way it hasn't crossed your
mind.

RALPH
I just want to save the playhouse.
That's my main priority. Do you want
to be famous?

PIERRE
I suppose, but I think I mainly just
want to be recognized for my work.

RALPH
I get that.

PIERRE
Coral is a really great singer, you
said she knew Jimmy Buffett?

RALPH
Apparently they used to perform
together.

PIERRE
That's really exciting. I've lived
here 4 years and I've never gotten
close to meeting him.

RALPH
I'm just happy I get to share his
story.

PIERRE
Absolutely.

RALPH
(RALPH ORDERS TWO DRINKS FROM THE
BAR)
It's been a hard year, we need to
celebrate.

PIERRE
I agree 100 percent.

RALPH
To networking?

PIERRE
To networking.