

= Being Tom Cruise =

The Church of Scientology Presents : Being Tom Cruise , Why Scientology Isn 't In Any Way Mental is a satirical spoof documentary from the series Star Stories , parodying the life of Tom Cruise and his relationship with the Church of Scientology . It is episode 2 of the second series of Star Stories , and first aired on Channel 4 on 2 August 2007 . The show recounts Cruise 's time with a group of some of his early acting friends . After filming Top Gun , Cruise ( Kevin Bishop ) is introduced to Scientology by John Travolta ( Steve Edge ) , who convinces him to join the organization by smashing Cruise over the head with a shovel . He meets Nicole Kidman ( Dolly Wells ) and they start a relationship . After dating Penélope Cruz , Cruise is introduced to Katie Holmes ( Laura Patch ) by Travolta . Holmes agrees to marry Cruise , and the program ends with a voiceover asking the viewer to visit a Scientology website and purchase expensive products .

The program received positive reception , and The Guardian and the Evening Times highlighted it as the " pick of the day " . The Daily Mirror described it as a " brilliant spoof " , and The Sunday Times characterized the show as " Comedy so broad it barely fits on the screen , it is hard not to be amused " . The Herald Sun called it a " ruthless but spot @-@ on parody " .

= = Plot = =

The parody of Tom Cruise ( Kevin Bishop ) is framed through the viewpoint of the actor 's association with the Church of Scientology . The show recounts the actor 's days with a group of actors known as the Brat Pack , and how he maintains a friendship with Patrick Swayze , an actor from this crowd . ( Brat Pack is a nickname given to a group of young actors and actresses who frequently appeared together in teen @-@ oriented coming @-@ of @-@ age films in the 1980s ; Cruise has been referred to as a member due to his role in the film The Outsiders . ) While filming Top Gun , Cruise is afraid he looks " a bit gay " next to his co @-@ stars . His co @-@ stars subsequently turn into the Village People . Cruise has alien spirit guides who appear as " a pair of giant blobs who speak with Welsh accents " . They comment on Top Gun , " It 's no ET but it 's got something . " Cruise is introduced to Scientology by John Travolta ( Steve Edge ) , who presents it as a " legitimate alien @-@ race @-@ based religion " . After Travolta bashes him over the head with a shovel , Cruise remarks : " Ouch . . . wait a minute . Scientology . It all makes perfect sense now . " Ewan McGregor tries to convince Cruise to convert to the Jedi methodology .

When Cruise first meets Nicole Kidman ( Dolly Wells ) , he asks her to sit down so that he will appear taller . Cruise performs his " dangling @-@ from @-@ the ceiling routine " from Mission : Impossible ? while in bed with Kidman . Cruise asks Kidman how he can prove he is not gay , and she recommends that they make the film Eyes Wide Shut . Stanley Kubrick is portrayed as a sleazy film director , and the program shows a newspaper headline giving a critical review of Eyes Wide Shut . The show portrays Cruise 's relationship with Penélope Cruz , who is seen wearing a mantilla . Travolta introduces Cruise to his third wife Katie Holmes ( Laura Patch ) who is depicted as a robotic Stepford Wife . " Greetings , Earth Man , I am here to serve you , " says Holmes to Cruise upon their first meeting . After Cruise asks Holmes to marry him , she states , " Affirmative " . The show makes fun of Cruise 's couch jumping incident on The Oprah Winfrey Show . ( This spoof is in reference to a 2005 appearance by Cruise on the Oprah program , where he " jumped around the set , hopped onto a couch , fell to one knee and repeatedly professed his love for his new girlfriend . " ) At the wedding of Cruise and Holmes , an alien bride and groom are displayed on the top of the couple 's wedding cake , and the show spoofs the couple 's wedding vows . A voiceover at the end of the program tells the viewer to visit [scientologyisgreat.com](http://scientologyisgreat.com) and purchase £ 4 @,@ 000 worth of books .

= = Production = =

Production on the second series of Star Stories was announced by Channel 4 in January 2007 , and in addition to Tom Cruise , others set for parodying included Simon Cowell , Britney Spears and

" the 1990s chart battle between Oasis and Blur " . The show was episode two of the second series of Star Stories . The episode was first broadcast on Channel 4 on 2 August 2007 . On its website , Channel 4 promoted the episode with the description , " Hollywood 's smallest actor ( after Danny DeVito ) expounds on Aliens from Outer Space and the best career choices ever . " In August 2007 , the series was set to be remade into a new version in the U.S.

= = = Legal issues = = =

Multiple publications commented on the potential legal implications of parodying both Tom Cruise and Scientology . " Given the Church of Scientology 's full @-@ throttle reaction to any criticism or mickey @-@ taking , the Star Stories boys are sure to find themselves in the firing line , " wrote a reviewer for the Evening Times . A review in The Sunday Times commented , " Taking their careers in their hands , the Star Stories team tackle the notoriously litigious Tom Cruise ... The lawyers must still be having a nice lie down after watching . "

In an interview with The Northern Echo , Star Stories actor Kevin Bishop discussed the legal issues involved with making the series : " We 're not allowed to say anything about anyone that isn 't true . It can be quite tricky . Sometimes we 've had to change lines even when the filming is all finished . We go back to the recording studio and put one line over another line . ... The only reason I reckon we 've not been sued is because actually we 've not said anything that technically we can 't . " He said the series was " well looked after " by attorneys . In a 2009 interview with The Independent , Bishop recounted an experience when he gave a copy of the program to television producers in the United States : " I gave some American producers the Star Stories DVD and those that could be bothered to watch it saw the Tom Cruise one . One guy went ' you can 't do that it 's Tom Cruise man ? [ we ? ve done it ] ' yeah but you can 't do that on TV ' [ it 's already gone out ] ' what you ? re talking about Scientology , are you fucking nuts ? ? [ er , look we ? ve done it it 's been on telly and everyone loved and we 've had no complaints ] has Tom Cruise seen this ? ! "

= = Reception = =

The Guardian and the Evening Times highlighted the Star Stories parody as the " pick of the day " . Martin Skeggs of The Guardian commented , " There 's everything you ever wanted to know about the world 's number one film star , including how he was introduced to Scientology ( John Travolta whacked him over the head with a shovel ) , the time he met Nicole Kidman and asked her if she would mind sitting down to make him look taller " . He characterized the parody as , " A toned down version of real life , then . " Barry McDonald of the Evening Times described the episode as " equally cruel and sidesplittingly hilarious " . He commented , " This is as close to must @-@ watch television as you 're likely to get and a testament to the quality of comedy writing on display . " In a later review of the program for the Evening Times when it was shown again on re @-@ runs , McDonald wrote , " I don 't care if it 's been shown several times before , this is one of the shows which you just have to see again . " Anila Baig of The Sun highlighted the show as " Best Spoof " , and wrote , " pint @-@ sized Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise is subjected to some serious mocking . We follow his film career , his marriages to Nicole Kidman and Katie Holmes ( portrayed as a robot ) and how everything in his life has been shaped by his belief in Scientology . The show is as crude as ever " . Stephen Milton of The Sun described the parody of Cruise 's appearance on The Oprah Winfrey Show as " the best gag in the whole episode " . Aidan Smith of Scotland on Sunday wrote favorably of the show , and noted , " Fearlessly , in view of how paranoid Scientologists are , the latest target was Tom Cruise . I especially liked the scene where the tiny screen giant winched himself , Mission Impossible @-@ style , on to Nicole Kidman while she slugged from a tinnie like a good Sheila . "

The Daily Mirror described the program as " far too funny " . A review in The Daily Mirror was positive , commenting , " If you want to see a brilliant spoof about Tom Cruise 's faith in Scientology and his relationship with Katie Holmes , look no further than C4 's Star Stories . " She commented , " It 's so absurd , even Tom will laugh . " The Advertiser described Star Stories as " a surprisingly

funny sendup of movie stars and pop groups " , and noted of the episode 's title , " This week 's episode is titled Being Tom Cruise - How Scientology isn 't in Any Way Mental , which should give you some idea of the vein of humour mined . " The Sunday Times observed , " Just when you thought you might go a week without seeing a mention of brand Beckham , here is a documentary on their best friends , brand Tom Cruise , as recorded by the least reverential writers and least convincing lookalikes on the planet . Scientologists might prefer something on the Sci @-@ fi channel . " Victoria Segal , Sally Kinnes and Sarah Dempster of The Sunday Times highlighted the episode in their " Critics ' Choice " column . They commented that the show 's producers " [ give ] their own account of his career , his love life and his religion : It 's all about aliens . Comedy so broad it barely fits on the screen , it is hard not to be amused " . Cameron Adams of the Herald Sun highlighted the program as his " Top Choice " . Adams commented , " This ruthless but spot @-@ on parody re @-@ enacts Cruise 's life and career through Hollywood gossip , rumour and exaggeration ( his father is a midget , Katie Holmes a robot , Nicole Kidman a beer @-@ swilling bogan ) , but is an antidote to every interview he 's ever done . " Writing for The Newcastle Herald , Anita Beaumont commented , " This is really silly stuff , but it is amusing enough to enliven a fairly dull night of TV . " The Sunday Mirror wrote that the program " was as subtle as a sledge hammer " . Simon Hoggart of The Spectator called the program " a magnificently over @-@ the @-@ top anti @-@ celebrity festival " .