

Behind the Scenes of the 23rd Air New Zealand Safety Video

Start of transcript.

We open on film action clapper.

(Bell rings)

Producer: Here we go. And background!

We see a split second of Kiwi basketball legend Steven Adams from behind the clapper, then we reel through quick cut shots of behind-the-scenes content from Air New Zealand's latest basketball inspired safety video, ending on internet sensation, Tom Sainsbury, in a suit court side practicing his lines for the safety video.

(Cheering)

Tom: Ref! Height...

Tom: What's my first line?

We cut to Tom backstage getting his hair and makeup done and warming up for this big performance. He is our host for the behind-the-scenes video.

(Mumbles)

Tom:

My name is Tom Sainsbury and I'm an actor.

Acting.

I am an amazing actor.

Tom is clearly having some fun with it, and not taking himself too seriously. It sets the tone for the rest of the video as a parody and mockumentary. We watch Tom comically introduce us to his two roles in the video – one as the ref and one as the coach in theatrical style, he spins for the camera.

Tom:

I've been cast to not one.

Ref! Unfair height advantage!

But two roles in the new Air New Zealand safety video.

Again, we reel through behind-the-scenes footage of the multiple filming locations including an outdoor basketball court by a beautiful beach, and an impressive indoor basketball stadium. We see various talent having their hair and makeup done along

with behind-the-scenes staff setting up gear. You get the sense a lot is about to take place.

Tom: I have unauthorised access to some of the biggest names in Aotearoa.

Producer: Action!

Tom: It's time to fire up the handycam, go deep undercover, interview other actors and see what it takes to become the greatest actor of all time.

We see a still frame of 'Air New Zealand Presents Tom's Documentary', it's from a handycam. We then cut to a selfie camera shot of Tom with a tiny mic with his face comically half cut off.

Tom:
Good acting.
What is it?
When is it?

We then cut to a professional camera of someone filming Tom filming himself. Tom spots the person filming him and questions who he is; it's the actual behind-the-scenes director and crew.

Tom: Excuse me, who are you?

Camera operator: Just shooting some behind the scenes.

Tom:
Oh, I think you're mistaken, I'm shooting the behind the scenes.
Wait, yep. You work for me now.

Tom decided this new guy works for him and encourages him to follow along.

Tom: This is great! Two cams. Cool, let's do this.

We see a time lapse of the indoor basketball arena being set up, and we hear Grace's voice telling us what it's all about.

Grace: Safety video #23 is all about Steven Adams, an iconic Kiwi legend playing a game of basketball against a group of growing Kiwi kids.

Tom then takes us behind the scenes with the two hero flight attendants, and questions how they are so convincing in their roles as 'fake' flight attendants.

Tom: I watched you guys on set. I'm like, those two are such convincing flight attendants. How did you get so good at it?

Flight attendant 1: We are flight attendants.

Flight attendant 2: Yeah, Air New Zealand uses real flight attendants.

Flight attendant 1: Yeah.

Tom is playfully shocked the real flight attendants don't break character.

Tom: This is Daniel Day-Lewis level acting. These two never break character.

We cut to footage on the court with kids having fun.

Flight attendant 2: I think for some of these kids they're actual basketballers so this is probably, like, a dream for them.

We're back with Tom who is telling the flight attendants how shocked the kids were to see him, as such famous talent.

Tom: The kids, when they came here, they were like woah. Woah. Fainted with kind of like shock when they saw me. It could have been 'cause the room was so hot.

Tom surprises Kiwi commentator Andrew Mulligan, the commentator of the basketball match, making a coffee in the kitchen.

Tom: You're one of the actors from the video. Do you have any advice to me to become the best actor ever?

Tom has a little mic ready for questions. They go back and forth on the mic until Tom realises he's not actually an actor, and he makes a quick and comically rude exit. Andrew is left alone and gives the camera man an awkward wave.

Andrew: I'm not an actor, I'm actually a sports presenter. Ha, yeah.

Tom: Like theatre sports?

Andrew: Ah, like sports. Like basketball, rugby and netball.

Tom is back on his handycam, and he's found the director in the indoor basketball set. He's very excited about it. We reel through shots of the director doing his job on set on the outdoor court as he explains the creative idea.

Ryan:

My name is Ryan Heron, and I am the director.

Oh. Are we going to need to cover up all that with some bushes or something?

Crew: Copy.

Ryan: This safety video is set in the world of basketball. Kind of a bit of a fantastical one. It starts with the kids on the court and the world just grows from there as Steven introduces his magic.

We're back with Tom and the director in the indoor basketball set.

Tom: You know how I'm playing two roles?

Ryan: Yeah.

Tom: Is there any scope for maybe three or four roles? Do you think that's a possibility?

Ryan: Umm.

Tom has now moved on to speak to the camera crew, where he introduces us to the equipment used to make the video. We flick between shots of Tom and the camera man and shots of the impressive equipment including a drone and more.

Tom: Tell me about the toys you're playing with on the shoot.

Camera operator: We've got a Red Raptor X, Red Raptor XLX, another Red Raptor XL.

Tom: Okay.

Camera operator:

Inspire 3 Drone.

A Cinebot.

Tom pats the Cinebot (a camera) and then questions if he could have not just shot the safety video on an iPhone 4. The camera man plays along.

Tom: Hi, Cinebot.
Couldn't we have just shot this on my iPhone 4?

Camera operator: Yeah, yeah for sure.

Tom: Oh, okay.

We are now on the outdoor court, and we see the behind the scenes of Steven Adams and some kids getting ready to play a game of basketball on the outdoor court near the ocean.

Producer: Action!

We're now outside a building on the grass with one of the hero kid basketball talent who is taking a break from the action – it's a teenage boy called Paku.

Tom: What tips would you give someone to be a better actor?

Paku: I'd just say yeah, be yourself, be confident and don't listen to what anyone else thinks of you.

We see several shots of Paku during the filming of the video and shots of the crowd to showcase his journey on set. We then see shots of another hero female talent in the video and her journey on set as she speaks candidly with Tom.

Basketball kid 2: If you wanna be a good actor just like, be yourself. That's what I'm trying to do. That's what my mum tells me to do.

Tom is back with Paku now with his handheld mic and cam, asking him if he enjoyed meeting any of the actors. Tom is disappointed his name doesn't come up.

Tom: Any other actors you enjoyed meeting?

Paku: Valerie Adams.

Tom: Yeah, anyone else on the video that you're like wow I'm so glad I got to meet him.

Paku: Theo Shakes.

We see a laminated low-fi sign on a door with 'Theo Shakes' on it, then we see Theo behind the door. Tom interviews Theo with his tiny mic, and we cut back and forth between footage of Theo doing his thing on set.

Tom:

Apparently he's a really big deal so we'll see if he's got any advice for me.
So, you're in the video? You're in the safety video?

Theo: Yes, yes I'm an actor. Yes.

Tom sits down and Theo is acting confused about who this guy is, he gives the camera a few concerned looks, as Tom continues with his line of questioning about Theo's acting background.

Tom: You're an actor. Have you been on Shortland Street before?

Theo: Ah, no. No.

Tom: Okay. A bit inexperienced. How about I give you a few tips?

Tom offers to give Theo a few acting tips and they roll through a series of very unconventional and humorous actions, such as clapping hands and vocal coaching.

Tom:

Clap those hands together. And then (muffled).
Loosen that jaw.

(Muffled).

Tom & Theo:

Safety, safety, safety.

Air New Zealand. Air New Zealand.

Tom: No, that sounds like hair, you're saying hair New Zealand.

Theo swings around on the chair to give the camera a look in character as part of the "acting lesson" with Tom.

Tom:

And, action.

Wow.

You are a natural.

I'm surprised you haven't done any acting before.

As the voiceover continues, we cut to Theo on set as a member of the crowd who drops his phone during the safety briefing. Tom's line of questioning continues.

Theo: Well, it's on TikTok.

Tom: TikTok. It's on TikTok.

We're now back on set at the basketball arena with Tom and Olympic athlete Dame Valerie Adams, Steven Adam's sister.

Tom: So there's lots of kids kinda hanging around, and I'm sure you're a hero for some of them. What does that feel like?

We reel through footage of kids playing on the outdoor basketball court and Dame Val Adams in her role in the safety video, including her shot put throw to the kids which leads to the winning basket, much to Steven's disappointment.

Dame Valerie Adams: It's amazing like I think kids meeting their heroes could really inspire them to chase their own dreams and having Steven and myself on set today could be a part of their journey.

Tom: Yeah you, Steven and Tom.

We then see Tom on a search to find the big man himself, Steven Adams. We see a moustache which could belong to Steve, but we see it's actually his body double – a teenage boy.

Tom:

As hard as I tried, as far as I searched, I couldn't find the man of the moment.

Hi Ste... Oh.

You're not Steven Adams.

Steven's body double: I'm his body double.

We see Tom sitting on a seat in the indoor arena looking disappointed, feeling as though he'd never meet the man of the hour, Steven Adams.

Tom:

Maybe I'd never discover the secret to acting.

It felt like all hope was lost.

Then, suddenly, Steven appears and sits next to Tom. We feel Tom's excitement and nervous energy as he finally gets a chance to ask Steven what his advice is for being the best actor in the world.

Tom: Steven Adams. What's your advice to becoming the best actor in the world?

Steven: Just be yourself bro.

Tom: He was right. The answer was right under my nose the whole time.

The video shift gears and becomes more emotive, as we reel through a range of shots of the kids and people on set connecting and having a great time while Tom shares what he's learnt on his journey to find out what it takes to become the best actor of all time.

(Laughter).

Basketball Kid 1: Hello!

Basketball Kid 2:

Be yourself.

Don't try too hard.

Stevens body double: I love playing. It's like therapy to me. I just grab the ball, go outside, shoot some hoops.

(Cheering)

Tom is seen interviewing an Air New Zealander in the indoor arena and asks what she takes away from the video.

Tom: So, what do you want Kiwis to take away from this video?

Grace: Kiwis can do big things if they chase their dreams.

Tome: My dream is to become a really good actor.

Grace: You already are.

Again, we see many shots of the moments between the moments with Tom and all of his guests on set, there are lots of smiles.

Tom: Air New Zealand have taken me on an extraordinary adventure and have taught me a valuable lesson. I don't need to be someone else. I just need to be myself and anything's possible.

We cut back to Tom and Steven from the earlier shot sitting in the chairs, and Steven is called to set. We see Steven walk away leaving Tom in awe.

Producer: Steven, ready for you on set.

Steven: Nice to meet you, Tim.

Tom: Yeah. Thanks Steven. Thanks Steven Adams, my new best friend.

Tom looks to the camera operator in anticipation

Tom: You got that right?

We're back reeling through shots of Tom on set acting in his two roles. Giving it everything he's got and having a blast.

Tom: Steven's insights into acting were on the money.

Tom: Yeah!

We finish on the end frame of the actual safety video, where we see Steven Adams and three kids on the outdoor court.

Tom: And my goodness, he's good at netball.

We cut to a black frame with the Air New Zealand logo.

End of transcript.