

The seat belt

By Ian Stroud

INT. Van, dusk

A large man in his 50's, SAL, is sitting in the middle row of a van. His row has three seats. He is in the far left. We see the entire scene from behind Sal. He is hapless and sort of jolly, but also useless. You know this guy.

Sal begins what will become three straight minutes of attempting to put on his seat belt.

He begins with the act of pulling the belt from it's resting position. Seeming to have never used a seat belt in his life, he doesn't realize that there is a catch in the belt when it's pulled super quick. He YANKS the belt from the start, causing it to stick . He finally gets the seat belt to a good length.

Next we see him stretching the seat belt, trying to fit it into the seat on the far right, completely skipping the middle seat. He is persistent and manages to get it within about a foot. Still, he needs more space to get it there.

He allows the belt to retract and tries to fit it again, only to have it catch once again.

Repeat

Sal looks around, wipes the sweat off his brow.

Sal

Woo! Tricky lil' bastard!

Sal is large. He has an epiphany. He's been covering up the spot for his own seat belt with his rear end. He gives a slightly over-acted slap to the forehead and almost gives a small laugh at himself. He checks the spot and realizes that there are no actual seat belt holsters. They have fallen through the seat.

He merges around to the back of the seat and bends underneath to try and push them back up. We see the classic butt crack, but not obscenely. Classy. Somehow. We see that there are two holsters fallen and they feed up to the same spot. One is for him and one is for the person in the middle seat. He gets one up and ignores the other. He's too excited that on got in, and he races clumsily around to try it out.

Repeat with the yanking of the seat belt. He finally get's it slow enough to unravel the belt, and

finds that it doesn't lock. He's gotten the middle seat lock, not the left seat.

Back to behind the seat. More enthusiasm, and more pain. Finally gets the other one up.

Seriously. He still repeats the yanking. He refuses to learn. With sweat beading down his balding head and a 'T' of sweat on his chest, Sal basks in triumph, for he has successfully put on his seat belt!

The sliding side door opens and a pretty young college girl enters with a backpack.

Girl

This is the shuttle to the airport, yeah?

Sal

Yeah. Oh...if you have any questions about the seat belt, feel free to ask. I'm sort of an expert on them around here.

Girl looks concerned and goes to the very back corner seat, the furthest seat possible from Sal. She effortlessly puts on her seat belt.

Sal

Wow, you must be some sort of prodigy. Nice!!!

BLACKOUT