

“Welcome to Starstruck!”

The beaming woman's voice is fully infused with faux corporate passion as she flashes her teeth at the myriad of cameras. The studio audience claps obligingly.

“My name is Aurora and I'll be your host for the next series!”

Behind her, a hologram subtitles out her words in pink, sparkly writing, holographic glitter gently floating to the ground and dissolving on the floor.

“So, without further ado, let's explain the rules!”

“ We'll fill this satellite with volunteer contestants, and you lovely people every week get to text in and vote for the ones you like the best!”

In small writing, the hologram says “Maximum three texts per person per week. Any further will not be counted but will still be charged. Texts are charged at 5 credits regardless of rates.”

“Each vote bumps up the contestants points! So long as their points stay above the “black hole” zone, they're safe! Remain too long in the blackhole though and they will be Starstruck!”

The hologram displays a screaming individual being ejected from the satellite into the vacuum of space.

“After eight weeks, the contestants remaining will all receive an incredible cash prize of 5 million credits. But...”

She winks at the cameras.

“It will be split amongst all of those remaining!”

“The drama is real! The contestants are real! The danger is real! I hope you're all ready to be...Starstruck!”

She waits for the cheers to die.

“Without further ado, let's meet the contestants...”

Starstruck

Starstruck is a game set in the near-ish future (about a century). Humanity hasn't mastered light speed travel, but space "holidays" to the Earth's orbit are common. Starstruck is just the newest offshoot of Orion, a massive media conglomerate formed from many smaller old companies such as Fox, Disney and Netflix. Their names are now all just brand recognition for Orion media.

You are all contestants on the show, seeking to stay alive and win that cash prize. Your coming here was voluntary in the strict sense, but all sorts of factors could have forced your hand. Perhaps you desperately need to pay a debt, a medical bill, a bank loan. Perhaps you're truly so thrill seeking and/or egotistical that you chose to be here without coercion. Whatever the reason, it's now imperative you keep those back on Earth entertained.

Setting

The year is 2111. The world is a capitalist hellscape. Pollution is rampant around large population centers, with cities covered by climate controlled domes. Those rich enough to do so have fled to the oceans on superyachts, the ultra-rich living in private satellites. The poor, with few other options, either contend with environmental hazards or reside in dirty and debt-ridden (but safer) city slums.

Orion broadcasts and media are consumed globally, with governments existing mostly to rubber-stamp Orion infrastructure and entertainment initiatives. These shows are heavily advertised and participation within them is glamorised, especially in poorer areas.

Format

Starstruck is the Society game for Trinity Term 2021. It will be a discord game reminiscent of Suspicion. Every week the cameras will be tuned in live for an episode, hosts may add or subtract factors or challenges, and the satellite may be switched up to keep things interesting. The game will run from 7-10pm, on Tuesdays, starting in 1st Week (27th April) and running for 7 sessions, with a debrief in 8th week (15th June).

In the downtime between sessions, the cameras will be on and monitored, but not live. Contestants may attempt an action to attract their attention, and before every episode goes live a "highlight reel" of the most entertaining things are displayed, which is an excellent way to keep the audience's attention, if you make it!

As may be obvious, character death is a distinct possibility. The game is not like Big Brother, as Starstruck doesn't throw players out on a schedule, instead players remain on the show as long as they appeal to the viewers. Indeed, if all players remain popular, it is entirely possible for everyone to survive to the end.

Character Creation

Character creation is simple. The character must have grown up on Earth or its orbit, from any background. The satellite is totally isolated from the world below except via the host, so

no leveraging outside contacts or resources. Only the force of your personality will avail you here.

Characters are permitted to bring one item with them on to the Satellite. This can be anything you want, but common sense should be exercised (think, “what would be allowed on an aeroplane?”).

Tone

This is a game about putting on a show, a front and a spectacle for the cameras. It's tone will aim to be tense and paranoid, but with a hope that genuine connections could be made despite the odds.

PvP

PvP will be possible in this game but inter-player combat is not something I intend to focus on. You should be aiming to outdo your fellow players performatively and socially, not via plots and poisoning. Watching someone murder a beloved character is a sure way to tank your audience goodwill.

List of Themes That Will/May Occur

Bullying and/or harassment- Harassment in a sexual context is strictly forbidden, but contestants may bully others in non-sexual contexts to gain advantages or favour with the cameras with OC consent from both players. Care should be taken that this remains strictly IC and both parties are comfortable.

Terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism- May occur, and may be referenced.

Reference to real world events and/or people- This can occur, but is not the point of the game and should not be extensively discussed and referenced.

Constant Surveillance and invasion of privacy- Is fairly self evident from the games concept

Romantic Relationships- Romantic relationships, whether real or artificial, may occur between players characters. It should be clearly communicated on an OC level the nature of this relationship, e.g whether it is performative for the cameras or not, and this should only be done with the OC consent of both players. **Sexual relations and themes are not something we wish to deal with and should be avoided.**

This will be updated in accordance with the CAT policy as soon as one becomes available to us.

As ever, if there are any questions or concerns about themes that may occur or have occurred that I have missed do not hesitate to contact me.

Inspirations

Satellite 5 from Dr Who

Suspicion

The Hunger Games

Among Us

Brave New World

Big Brother and similar style of TV shows.

Oli's Bladelock, Emma.

A discussion Geraint had with Cynthia and Andrew at 3am.