

Boeing, Boeing – Character Descriptions

Bernard

(Male-identifying; 30s–40s; American)

A self-satisfied bachelor living in a sleek Paris apartment, convinced he has perfected the ultimate romantic system: three stewardesses, three timetables, zero overlap. Bernard is polished, charming, and smugly in control—until he's not. The role demands strong **farce timing**, confident physical comedy, and the ability to unravel from suave certainty to panicked chaos without losing likability. An actor with a natural sense of rhythm, verbal dexterity, and the ability to juggle rapid-fire shifts in emotional temperature will excel here. Must handle high-energy scenes and escalating stakes with precision.

Gloria

(Female-identifying; 20s–30s; American; TWA)

Sunny, enthusiastic, and delightfully all-American. Gloria embodies wide-eyed confidence and patriotic pep, the kind of woman who advertises her country just by walking into a room. Her affection for Bernard is wholehearted and unfiltered, and her physicality tends to be athletic, practical, and direct. Comic energy leans toward **bubbly, earnest, and slightly oblivious**. Requires an actor with strong movement skills, comedic innocence, and the ability to make her heightened “Americanness” both funny and endearing rather than caricature.

Gabriella

(Female-identifying; 20s–30s; Italian; Alitalia)

Passionate, romantic, expressive—a woman who feels things at full volume. Gabriella sees herself as Bernard's true love and brings both warmth and volatility to the apartment. Her appeal comes from her intensity: quick turns of emotion, heartfelt declarations, fiery affection. Comedy here lies in her **dramatic physicality and rapid emotional pivots**. The actor should be comfortable with bold gestures, strong comedic conviction, and playing large romantic stakes while keeping the character grounded in genuine feeling, not parody.

Gretchen

(Female-identifying; 20s–30s; German; Lufthansa)

A commanding presence, both emotionally and physically. Gretchen is sincere and disciplined, but her version of devotion is forceful, almost militaristic. She loves Bernard with total conviction and expects the same in return. She crashes through the door with energy, intensity, and single-minded loyalty. Comedic style is **big, earnest, and unstoppable**—she's the steamroller who doesn't know she's a steamroller. Ideal for an actor who can blend power with vulnerability, using both precision and bold physicality.

Robert

(Male-identifying; 30s–40s; American, from the Midwest)

Bernard's old schoolmate, dropped into Paris with the social instincts of a man who still lives with his mother. Awkward, wide-eyed, and terminally honest. As the situation spirals, Robert transforms from a timid mouse into a flustered accomplice, then into an unlikely hero of the farce. This role demands strong **physical comedy**, impeccable **comic panic**, and an arc that takes the character from meek bewilderment to wild improvisation. Think nervous energy wrapped in a wrinkled suit. Great for an actor who can play innocence and explode into chaos on a dime.

Berthe

(Female-identifying; 40s–60s; French)

The weary, sharp-tongued housekeeper who has seen Bernard's elaborate system up close for far too long. Berthe is sarcastic without being cruel, practical without being warm, and deeply committed to the household (even if she thinks her employer is an idiot). She navigates the shifting flight schedules and romantic collisions with grumbling competence. Requires an actor skilled at **dry humor, precise timing, and grounded sarcasm**. Physicality is controlled, economical, and deliberate—she's the quiet counterweight to the chaos around her.
