

REVIEW

## *Idris Elba-starring 'Hijack' is full of twists, cliffhangers*

Gautaman Bhaskaran Chennai

Apple TV+'s latest hijack drama series, smartly titled with no frills, sees fan favorite British actor Idris Elba take on an unexpected group of hijackers aboard a Dubai-to-London flight.

Scripted by George Kay, who also gave us the marvelous Netflix show "Lupin," co-directors Kay and Jim Field Smith throw up twists and cliffhangers that will keep viewers glued to the TV. The series of events is compelling, with violence and chaos on the plane flying at 30,000 feet juxtaposed with incidents on

the ground that not only provide relief as the tension on board ratchets up, but also push us to want more.

Elba plays Sam Nelson, a high-level corporate negotiator who gets what he wants in the boardroom without fail.

He is in first class on a flight from Dubai to London when it gets hijacked by criminals, all British nationals (an important point in this politics-free offering).

The seven episodes — played out almost in real time as it takes roughly seven hours to fly from Dubai to London — are evenly paced and "Hijack" comes



'Hijack' is being screened on Apple TV+. Supplied

to the point quickly without dilly-dallying.

Led by Stuart (Neil Maskell), the hijackers' intentions are not too clear at first, and Elba is

almost magnetic as he peels layer after layer off the hijackers' hold on the plane. While the events on the plane are tightly edited and an exhilarating ride

to watch, characters and events on the ground could have been fleshed out more. Counter-terrorism officer Zahra (Archie Panjabi) is the only exception to this.

"Hijack" is a never-ending flight of danger, fear and tension — all packed neatly into an imaginatively penned screenplay. Yes, there are a few flaws here and there that cause a wobble of turbulence (it is a rather outlandish plot that rests heavily on Elba's undeniable charisma, for example), but on the whole the series goes off like clockwork and is a masterful excesses in suspense.