

Introduction

Welcome to “Forms of Things Unknown” the fourth UK International Radio Drama Festival. On behalf of International Arts Partnership, we are delighted to welcome you all to Herne Bay once more.

The festival takes place in two “live” listening venues;

- Pettman House Hanover Square
- Beach Creative Beach Street Herne

Beach Creative is fully accessible, and the plays are being heard alongside an exhibition of visual art with the festival theme “forms of things unknown”. We are grateful to Herne Bay Over 60s and Beach Creative for their hospitality.

This year we are also very grateful for the support of The Writers’ Guild and the Authors Licensing and Copyright Society and to the Arts Council England. We are excited that this support means that later in the year, the festival will be able to develop two new initiatives;

- The commissioning of a radio drama specifically for people experiencing dementia
- A special weekend children’s radio drama festival to be held in conjunction with Bundle of Books

As ever, this festival culminates on Saturday with the festival community showcase. Over the last few weeks, local people have been making radio drama with Sinead O’Brien, our outreach worker and Nicholas McNerny, our festival project manager.

The end of the week also sees not only the jury awards, ably presided over by the chair of the jury, Tomas Soldan from Czech Radio but also the opening of voting for the audience award. This takes place online with the award made at the end of the month when voting closes.

The whole festival is available to listen to online via the festival website or via the virtual Festival Facebook page.

Now, grab a cup of tea, butter a scone and sit back and enjoy some of the best radio drama in the world.

Nicholas McNerny: Festival Project Manager

Melanie Nock: Producer

Jonathan Banatvala: Artistic Director

Monday 19 March

9.00 **Formal festival opening by Sir Roger Gale, MP**

11.00 **Welcomes and introductions**
Recruitment of jury

11.15 **Voice Exercises in Style**
6.51 minutes
Serbian Broadcasting Corporation, Belgrade, Serbia
Snežana Ristić & Radonja Leposavić

Serbian

Broadcast December 2017

The Diary of Ana Sofrenović, (Serbian/British actress) is in her voice. It takes us through the various parts of the world and different cultures - from Bilie Holiday to W.B. Yeats, from Shakespeare to Serbian poet Laza Kostić, from Hamlet to the poem *Santa Maria della Salute*, from Serbia to Ireland ...Voices, languages, memory...

11.30 **Toaster**
14.52 minutes
Jack Jewers, Independent UK

English

Broadcast July 2017

Toaster is a dark comedy following the ill-fated tribulations of Frankie as he attempts to complete the hardest, and potentially last, act of his life. Having decided that he wants to commit suicide, Frankie elicits the help of stranger, Johnny, to assist him in the act. After various attempts of limited success, Frankie's convictions to take his life are tested to extremes.

11.45 **Shakespeare's Skull**

40 Minutes

Czech Radio

Werner Fritsch

Czech

Broadcast December 2016

The radio play Shakespeare's Skull (In Faustus Faust) invites listeners to a very select company and a strange theatrical world populated by Faust, Prospero, Shakespeare's skull and the ghosts of several of Shakespeare's characters. The play Shakespeare's Skull was commissioned from Fritsch by Czech Radio. Its subtitle, A Midsummer Night's Dream of Sound and Fury, aptly characterises the work. The script of the radio play Shakespeare's Skull was adapted by the editor Kateřina Rathouská. This slightly crazy and slightly mystical dream with clear references to our times was presented by Czech Radio at the end of the Shakespearean year 2016, which marked the 400th anniversary of the death of this famous Elizabethan.

12.30 **Ledobe**

41 Minutes

IRIB, Tehran

Persian

Broadcast March 2017

Rowshana, student of Ecology, and her friends are gathering in protest to the paper company which is going to be built near the forest. When students quarrel with the guards, Rowshana runs away from a disturbing guy and he's been hit suddenly... Rowshana wakes up in a cottage of an old woman who takes care of her. She begins to tell the story of Ledobe which is an old folk tale in Gilan for her guest. Rowshana sleeps through the story and wakes up on the day after with her classmates shouting and looking for her. They find her in the cottage alone where there is no sign of the old woman...

lunch

14.00 **Sound prints as memory**
43 Minutes
Colin Black, Independent, Australia

English (with some Irish, Russian and Greek)

Broadcast June 2017

Soundprints as Memory is also a sonic vestige, a mnemonic, an overlay of “mythology” and human imagination being projected onto the sonic geographical locales melding with and possibly replacing the lived experience of memory of the listener. Through the “electroacoustic perceptual looking glass” of the microphone we visit sites laced with memories; memories of sites beyond the country which many of us may have visited, an overlay of mythology, imagining and memory. As we listen in closer, the work modulates between abstract and nonabstract soundscape, the aim is to reach a point where memories are not projected onto the sonic locations, but somehow, they seem to entwine with the locations. In this sense, the work challenges the listener to ponder if these sonic memory sites are somehow energised by the past or if they are a projection from the frame of humanity in the present, or even false memories that evolved out of only dreaming of this place as the work becomes increasingly stratified and memories begin to merge together.

15.00 **Tempest**
54 minutes

RBB Berlin
Evelyn Dorr

German

The Tempest is Shakespeare’s last play - his legacy.

There are those who claim it is his most personal play, and that under Prospero’s cloak we find Shakespeare himself. The work has been described as “his poetic testament, his philosophical and artistic autobiography.” The stuff of this play is his life, - and perhaps the life of every humanbeing.

The Tempest is about the good and evil monarch, the rightful duke and the usurper; “It is about a rightful ruler, Prospero, who has been driven from his throne.” Now, he - Prospero - holds up a mirror to society. Full of rage, in a radical attack, he and his accomplice Ariel unleash an dreadful tempest that washes his enemy’s onto the shores of his island, where he will teach them a lesson. Prospero’s island becomes a stage. The stage becomes an arena for the real world of the 20th century, where world history is repeated. Apocalyptic sounds within it, the apocalypses of atomic explosion and the mushroom cloud.

In the end of the play, Prospero's wisdom is spent. "Those great dreams of humanity, solidarity and happiness have not born fruit. His magic wand cannot change the course of history. He casts the Book of Wisdom into the sea. All that remains is a bitter awareness of lost illusions." He agrees to go back to Milan. In this, and only this, lies the difficult, fragile optimism of *The Tempest*.

16.15 **Ping Pong**

40 minutes

Radio Romania

Sandu Macrinici/ Mihnea Chelaru

Broadcast 2017

Romanian

The play's theme follows the story of an estranged family, where the relationships are cold or tensioned. Things get even more strained but re-evaluated when the father from this family becomes ill and eventually passes away. The director Mihnea Chelaru explored this text through its powerful relationships, and created a radio drama play where the intimacy occurred from the acoustic space between the tensioned dialogues is one of great sensitivity. There is also the electricity of the dialogues using this game of through and through, Ping-Pong, in a metaphorical way that speaks about the gap between generations (father and sons) where the reconciliation between the two sides will probably be postponed till the moment it will be too late.

17.30 - Jury discussion. Anyone who has heard today's plays is welcome to join this discussion
18.30 which takes place in the **Four Fathoms Pub**; High Street.

Tuesday 20 March

10.00

Breaks

44 minutes

Bez Kinte Theatre Company - Ireland

Louisa Sanfey

English

Broadcast May 2017

The play explores the incredible true story of Gesche Gottfried, known as the Angel of Bremen. In the early nineteenth century she systematically poisoned everyone in her life: parents, children, lovers and friends. As the body count mounted, she layered herself in thirteen corsets, disguising herself as the image of a perfect woman. Finally, in 1831, the authorities caught up with her and she was executed for her crimes - but despite interrogation, she never revealed her motives.

When first approached about turning *Breaks* into a radio play, I thought it was a bit mad. How on earth could we make a show that included dance pieces, opera and where costume was a character in itself into an audio piece? But I was up for the challenge and set out to re-write the play for radio.

11.00

260 Days

41 minutes

HRT Radio - Croatia

Ljubo Pauzin

Croatian

Broadcast March 2016

At the begin of the Croatian War for Independence in 1991, Marijan Gubina was a ten year old boy living with his parents and three sisters in the small village Novi Dalj. The outbreak of war meant the beginning of captivity that would last 260 days for him and his family. It was marked by multiple cases of torture, violence, rapes and all types of torment. Many years later, Gubina wrote a novel about the accursed time called "260 Days", which was also adapted for theatre. Today Marijan is a humanitarian and activist who talks to people about forgiveness, tolerance, and the divide of good and evil at his lectures and workshops.

This documentary radio drama was created about the touching story of destiny of which Gubina speaks himself, including excerpts from its theatre performance.

12.00

A pilot's Honour

45 minutes

Alan Meaney/ Jason Gill Ireland

English

Broadcast December 2017

In this gripping and haunting radio thriller, a US fighter pilot almost killed in Iraq finds unexpected love on Ireland's wild western shore.

Captain Bob Conway's soul is broken, just like his body was in Iraq. In the effort to rebuild himself, he travels to Galway in Ireland, where he meets and falls in love with a beautiful young student at the local University. But Bob and Mary's lives are still being shaped by the past and by powers thousands of miles away. Those powers will compel them to face each other's secrets, leaving Conway with a terrible choice: can the pilot save his honour, can he hold on to his soul?

lunch

14.00

A short essay on the dancing body or when I dance, I dance, when I sleep, I sleep

7 minutes

HRT - Croatian Radio and Television

Katja Šimunić

Croatian

Broadcast September 2017

This short radiophonic form could be subtitled as acoustic choreography or reflection of dance through the inflection generated by sound waves modulated by other sound waves or by themselves. Some of the questions of the impossibility of archiving dance art are also the questions of how to record a dancing body, how to capture a body that produces dancing sounds? How to transfigure stage performing art, id est dance, as a theatre art into an audio record?

14.15 **From Eden**
43 Minutes
RTE - Ireland
Stephen Jones/Goretti Slavin

English

Broadcast January 2017

In *From Eden*, the characters Alan and Eva are strangers who find themselves locked in a bathroom together on New Year's Eve. As the action plays out, in the run up to the bells at midnight, the two reveal things to each other they have never told anyone else. Initially after some awkward preamble, covering topics such as the advantages and disadvantages of New Year's Eve, dodgy priests, ex cons and Tom Cruise, the two delve deeper subsequently revealing their 'deep dark secrets' or 'cries for help'. We find out that while trying to come to terms with his mother's death, Alan, attempted to take his own life and joined a religious cult. Eva had an affair with the fiancé of her best friend and subsequently faked her own suicide attempt.

These two strangers, damaged by life meet by chance and in a very small way they become a little beacon of light for each other

15.00 **Diese Nacht wird alles anders (Discoteca Paradiso)**
43 minutes
SWR - South West Radio, Germany
Manfred Hess

Broadcast 2017

German

A discotheque somewhere where globalisation has set in. It might be Cuba or Paris, Berlin or London, Tel Aviv or Madrid. With guests and staff from all over the world. The doors are wide open because this night should not be like any other night. But there's the "black dog", the bouncer who won't let in just anyone. He senses anger and the young and dangerous are denied access. Then life begins in "Paradise" like every other night. For those dreaming of/longing/gagging for happiness/intimacy the way leads through a side door straight outside to the garbage cans and rats.

At the end of the night, everything comes to an end for exhaustion; the beats of the music and dance or an unexpected explosion. Silence descends. Nobody knows what happened .

The story is told anachronologically from different perspectives. The narrator, the characters, the genders all metamorphise into hashtags. Let's hope it's only a computer game with different levels.

16.00

The Audience

7 minutes

Oontz.ru - Russia

Vladimir Kryuchev/ Svetlana Trofimova

Russian

Broadcast December 2017

Running through the lighting controls leads the stage management and front of house staff to discuss stage performance and stage aesthetics from stand up to the music hall.

16.15

Very Interesting

26 minutes

Spreeboy PublishingUK

English

Broadcast June 2017

Barking Mad is a comedic drama following the lives of a couple in their mid-thirties struggling to make ends meet in the craziness of a struggling town. Based out of a 3-Star hotel in 'up and coming' Barking, the husband who is a visionary, determined to turn their decaying investment into a 4-Star A-class Hotel is met with opposition from his very grounded and stable wife who, behind his back, signs the hotel up as Emergency Housing with the local housing authority just to make ends meet.

From week to week, not only do we have a wonderful insight into the marriage of these two struggling London-professionals as they try unsuccessfully to start a family, go into fostering and ultimately into adoption; but we will also follow the lives of their staff (the French Michelin-starred Chef who is on the run from the police for accidentally killing a number of people with food poisoning in his previous job in Paris, to the young African Sous Chef (who is also the cleaner, receptionist, chamber maid and everything else needed to run the hotel).

All of this will be interspersed with scenes between hotel guests who have travelled into London and booked what they believed to be a very nice and economical 3-Star Hotel and the various refugees and families who come to the property for varying lengths of time for emergency housing.

17.00 **Tituba**
3 minutes

Fatoumata Toure, France/ England

French

Broadcast October 2017

This work is based on the play is based on the play the crucible by Arthur Miller. I gave a voice to Tituba. She was the slave of reverent Parris as she had no right, she couldn't do anything apart admitted practice the black magic which made her the first victim of Salem witchcraft. Now Tituba is free! Her soul came back in 22 centuries. She chooses spoken word to express herself as she wants to claim her truth to the world.

17.30 - Jury Session. Anyone who has heard today's plays is welcome to join this discussion
18.30 which takes place in the **Four Fathoms Pub**, High Street.

Wednesday 21 March

9.30

A void in time

36 minutes

Amanda Whiteford, UK

English

Broadcast 2017

Two characters, the host and their guest, meet in seemingly bizarre circumstances. The ambience is menacing and the guest is puzzled by the assertive manner of his host, who challenges him on his lifestyle and the series of events that led up to his arrival.

The conversation, laced with black humour, lacks the necessary clarity to enable the guest to establish his whereabouts or his reason for being there. If it's some sort of party, where are the other guests? For although the two characters are alone, disturbing nearby sounds would suggest others, in desperate need of help, are within the vicinity.

As the tension rises, the truth of this nightmarish situation has a sudden relevance based on a factual event. The guest, trapped in what is a void in time, has only one means of escape. An escape that will bring his ordeal to a horrifying conclusion.

10.15

Surviving Ireland

28 minutes

RTE - Ireland

Tim Desmond

English

Broadcast March 2017

Imagine a place where you could go to completely escape the constant distraction of online life? A remote island where all digital devices are confiscated on arrival and where you are returned to a simpler way of life?

Comedy writer and producer Colm Tobin visit a boutique digital detox centre on the island of Carnananaunachán to follow the journey of Holly (Stefanie Preissner) and Declan (Aidan O'Donovan), a smartphone-dependent couple from Dublin.

Holly is a self-styled social influencer and online opinion manipulator who lives with her partner Declan, a trainee barber in one of Dublin's hippest grooming salons. They have created a popular personal brand for themselves online and since doing so have found

themselves becoming increasingly dependent on their phones. Declan has signed them up for this digital detox bootcamp in an effort to get Holly to put the phone down and pay him more attention. But she has no idea what he has signed them up for.

Over the course of the next seven days, Colm Tobin observes the couple's journey as they are led through a series of increasingly surreal treatment modules from cloud appreciation to appreciating your food without having to photograph it and share it online first. When Holly breaks one of the most fundamental rules of the programme, however, things start to get uncomfortably real for the couple and the bizarre series of events that follow could shake their relationship to its very core.

10.45 **The Lady of Wednesday**

34 minutes

IRIB - Tehran

Persian

Broadcast March 2017

Wednesday Khatun(The Lady of Wednesday) comes out of the well to turn the dreams and wishes of a young man into reality, but things do not go as simple as that...

11.20 **Explosiv**

46 Minutes

Radio Romania

Romanian

Broadcast June 2017

Explosive by Elise Wilk is a play written specifically for the 5th edition Contest for the direction and scenography projects for young artists, organised by Marin Sorescu National Theater from Craiova City, where the play had its first absolute premiere in 2016. Elise Wilk is a contemporary author known for her plays dedicated to the young audience.

In this particular play *Explosiv*, we encounter the nowadays high school context where characters are explored through their relationships: mother-son, students-professor, students-students. The play refers through its characters' names and their relationships to the antique theatre, the myth of the Bacchantes. This way we are witnessing the teenager's subjective perspective upon world and themselves in relation to this surrounding universe: adaptation problems, the lack of communication inside their families, the pressure of the educational system for high performances, overall the fragility wherewith teenagers are facing the challenges of a new grown self.

12.15

Kommt ein Pferd in die Bar

54 minutes

RUNDFUNK BERLIN-BRANDENBURG

David Grossman/ Jean -Claude Kuner

German

Broadcast August 2017

A comedy night in the Israeli coastal village of Netanya. The washed-up stand-up comedian Dovaleh Greenstein is performing. Tonight is his birthday and it may turn out to be his last performance. The audience is expecting an entertaining evening full of jokes, but as Dovaleh loses control of the show it becomes a reckoning with his past and his psyche. Instead of delivering a stand-up set, he ends up talking about his family history - the story of an unhappy, lonely child, the son of two Holocaust survivors - and his trauma: at the age of fourteen, he's brusquely fetched from a youth camp to attend a funeral. Nobody tells him who has died, and none of his camp comrades seem to care about him.

One of Dovaleh's erstwhile childhood friends, now a retired judge, is in the audience - a so-called friend who repudiated Dovaleh and left him in the lurch in this critical situation. The two haven't seen each other again since that moment, yet Dovaleh invited the judge to have him assess his performance. Another unexpected audience member is a woman, very small in stature, who lived next door to Dovaleh in his youth. Dovaleh repeatedly interrupts his act to talk directly to the two of them.

The audience starts growing restless with Dovaleh's 'comedy' and their protests become increasingly difficult to ignore. He does try to win them back with some dirty jokes, but becomes hopelessly entangled in his own story and the performance finds no end. The audience eventually begins leaving the club, by bits and then droves, until, very late into the night, the only people left are Dovaleh and the judge.

lunch

14.15

Anxiety

9 minutes

Christian Eiming Denmark

Danish

Broadcast Jan 2016

A story told first-hand by 4 men, who share the same train every morning. They live in the same neighbourhood and share the same life qualities.

The 4 men discover a strange man one morning - he is sitting on one of their seats.

Anxiety grows, precautions are taken and the ending is not to be believed.

Based on a short story by Leif Panduro in 1962, the stage play was conceived. This is a radio adaptation.

14.30

Gratitude

6 minutes

Christian Eiming Denmark

Danish

Broadcast December 2017

A personal account of a very special, everyday dinner appointment between a son and his father.

14.45

The Traveler

12 minutes

Ice Box Radio Theater

Jeffrey Adams

English

Broadcast December 2017

"The Traveler" is an experimental piece which explores the concept of time travel through the mental projections of a grieving man. Our un-named protagonist tells the story first-person beginning with a recollection from his childhood of a fascination with rainbow-colored skims of oil on dirty puddles of water. These rainbows put him in the mind of man's limited, though yet to be explored, ability to control his fate through science. The protagonist then reveals his reason for these musings. His wife recently

died due to medical malpractice and he seeks a way to travel back in time and prevent this from happening. His plan is to return to the last place he and his wife were happy (a roadside hotel) and concentrate on the very atoms in the air. He believes that with sufficient concentration, he can cause the electrons in the atoms to rotate in the opposite direction and at different rates of speed. In this way, he hopes to manipulate time and space.

15.00 **Einfach nur Erfolg**
57 minutes

Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg/Kulturradio
Felicia Zeller/Oliver Sturm

German

Broadcast March 2017

If you want to be successful in the arts market you must be able to sell yourself. But if you enter the market you will soon be in danger of being crushed by the constant pressure to be successful. So what you need to do is sell yourself by not selling yourself. Felicia Zeller has devised a success school where you can practise your bad habits and cultivate your ineptitude and then sell both in such a way that you end up being seen as a star. A play, acted and adapted as a radio play by the students of drama and sound engineering of the Universität der Künste (Berlin) shortly before making the transition into working life.

16.00 **The B Word**
45 minutes

BBC Drama
Alistair McGowan/ Emma Harding

English

Broadcast June 2017

To complement a new Radio 4 production of *Pygmalion* (Classic Serial) starring Alistair McGowan as Higgins, an original play from Alistair McGowan telling the scandalous story of the first production of George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* on April 11th 1914, in which the word 'bloody' was used for the first time on stage.

The 'B' word is spoken by Eliza Doolittle (aged 19) - played by the hugely-popular and strikingly beautiful, Mrs Patrick Campbell (aged 49) for whom Shaw, who is directing,

had written the play. Shaw is also trying passably hard not to fall in love with her.

Mrs Pat disappears in the last week of rehearsals. When she returns, only a couple of days before opening night, she reveals that she and Cornwallis West have married. Even as the curtain is about to go up, Tree implores Mrs Pat not to use 'the 'b' word', aware of the growing press furore about the impending use of 'this appalling word', which he believes will shame and opprobrium on all connected with 'this vulgar play'. When the B word is finally delivered in the now-famous tea scene, the audience laughter (after an initial collective intake of breath) lasts for a timed one minute and 15 seconds. The flurry of letters to newspapers lasted a lot longer. It was the Twitterstorm of its day.

"The B Word" tells the story of a national sensation and charts all the expectations and frustrations of three huge theatrical figures colliding in the most talked about play of the time, a play still loved by audiences today.

17.30 - Jury. Anyone who has heard today's plays is welcome to join this discussion which takes
18.30 place in the **Four Fathoms Pub**, High Street.

Thursday 22 March

9.30 **Tango**
17 minutes

Czech Radio

Czech

Broadcast March 2017

A melancholy drama that takes the listeners onto a ferry boat travelling between Finland and Sweden where Finnish passengers dance tango. Finnish tango is unique and ferry dancing is also a typical thing. A man and a woman meet by accident onboard the ferry. They spend the evening, night and morning together and then their paths diverge again. The intimate play also touches upon the topic of migration. The author and director Dmitri Plax was commissioned by Czech Radio to write it and then recorded it in Prague with Czech actors Tereza Dočkalová and Jan Meduna. According to Dmitri Plax, most information is found in what remains unsaid.

10.00 **The Man with the Hammer**
45 minutes

BBC Drama
David Hunter

English

Broadcast July 2017

The Man With The Hammer: a mythical figure in the world of cycling said to hide by the side of the road, waiting to strike the passing cyclist hard on the back of the neck, immediately bringing about a state of total exhaustion that is profound in its agony

Sixteen-year-old Jodie is assaulted by a stranger on the walk home from college but refuses to tell her dad Tony exactly what happened. Fearing a repeat of the incident, she stops going into college until Tony, desperate to help, buys her a road bike for the commute. The bike ignites an intense passion for cycling in Jodie, and soon she is spending all her time on the road or reading about bikes. She develops a particular obsession with a young Irish cyclist called Noah - a model professional and outspoken anti-doping campaigner whose tough upbringing has equipped him well for the masochistic existence of the professional circuit. Her feelings for Noah coalesce into a volatile mixture of respect, lust and hero-worship.

Jodie's love of Noah leaves Tony, for so long his daughter's hero, with a feeling of inadequacy that spawns an obsession of its own - a new fitness orientated wristwatch called a Pip-Pip that dictates a fascistically detailed diet and exercise plan to its user. Tony becomes less present / pro-active as a parent, preferring life as a passive slave to the Pip-Pip, and he and Jodie drift apart.

When Noah returns a positive dope test, Jodie's world falls apart and Tony must try to be her hero once more. He must be brave and talk to her about the stuff that matters - why we tell the lies we tell, what happened to mum, what really happened on the way home from college? The play ends with all three pedalling away from their demons, towards some inner peace, in search of The Man with the Hammer.

10.45 **Ophelia's Harp**
4 minutes

Sverr Gudjonsson, Iceland

Icelandic

The work is based on the drowning of Ophelia. Working with my voice sculptures, throat singing and overtones, as well as reciting the poem by Shakespeare in the Icelandic translation by Helgi Hafdánarson. The broken harp is a symbol for Ophelia's broken heart. Ophelia's songs are performed by the actress, Arnbjörg Hlíf.

10.50 **2 x 1 minute stories (You need to have that alone; Now Daddy is turning off the light)**
2 minutes

Christian Eiming, Independent, Denmark

Danish

Broadcast 2016

You need to do this alone: One basement, one woman, one man - and excitement to come.

Now daddy is turning off the light: Between life and death, everything is mixed into a kaleidoscoping vision.

11.00

What about spoons

50 minutes

Public Media Institution RTV Volvodnia
Slobodan Gvorcin

Serbian

Broadcast December 2017

The story of this radio drama is quite simple: a boy runs away from home and meets a hobo who becomes his „instructor for young Indians“. The only person who has noticed that boy is missing is his younger brother, who is also a young Indian and a family's breadwinner.

Their father is too occupied with his art and mother is hard core business woman. Their grandfather is a student and moonwalker, while their neighbour, fathers first love, is driven by passion.

His younger brother launches investigation together with his godfather fireman, who once almost saved his life. The police finds a young Indian „Corn Fox“ close to the garbage facility, half naked and covered by someone else's blood. They bring him home safe, but now it's up to child protective service officer to find out if this odd family is suitable for his recovery.

This unusual family found its way out of the labyrinth, because the boy called „Tea Bag“ solved the mystery of the missing cutlery and trophy scalp.

Although this radio drama is played by children actors also, it aims at all conscious, unconscious and future parents.

12.00 **John Haute Fidelite**
50 minutes

Seb Dincenaire, Belgium
French

Broadcast May 2017

A Shakespearean tragedy for the world of Google and Facebook, narrated by a phantom artificial intelligence.

The old CEO of Poodle - a well-known multinational artificial intelligence company - is on his death bed. He communicates his last wishes to High-Fidelity John, his organisation's flagship product, a cloud-based intelligent assistant, reputed to know your desires better than you know them yourself. But after old father Poodle's death, the palace echoes with strange voices. The corridors wail with the feedback from unfulfilled desires. A crime is being hatched. A tragedy for the digital age is about to begin.

1.15 - 145 **Jury (Pettman House or other venue to be confirmed)**. Anyone who has heard today's plays is welcome to join us.

Free afternoon

Friday 22 March

10.00 **Slave Escaping the chains of freedom (ep 11)**

Spreeboy publishing, UK

English

Broadcast October 2017

It's 18th Century New York and the slave trade continues amidst an historical political upheaval. Hezekiah Thomas, born the son of a white General and his black enslaved mother, suddenly finds himself a free man. But what is freedom without money? Through a concoction of chance and opportunities, Hezekiah is faced with the decision to go against all of his convictions and become an owner of slaves. A stage play that later become a novel, Jacqueline Malcolm's masterful storytelling not only addresses the ageless discussion of the motives behind the reported black slave owners of the period; but we are also taken on a journey into our own hearts and desires - how far will we go to survive How far will we go for a profit?

10.30 **Eine Woche Voltersamstage**

53 minutes

South West Radio (Germany)

German

Broadcast November 2017

"On Sunday the sun had been shining. On Monday, his friend, Mr Mon, had come to see him, bringing him a bunch of poppies. On Tuesday - and that was nothing out of the ordinary - Mr Pocketbeer had had to go to work. And Wednesday having been the middle of the week hadn't made him think twice either. But when on Thursday during a horrendous thunderstorm there had been some horrendous thunder, and when on Friday he had gotten the day off, he had said to himself...". In Ulla Illerhaus's radio adaptation of Paul Maar's children's book it is the narrator who begins telling the story of The Sams and Mr Pocketbeer. Mr Pocketbeer is a man, very much afraid of his landlady, his boss, and, quite frankly, of all people who nag and shout - until, one Saturday, he encounters a peculiar being: a Sams. The Sams has striking red hair and blue dots on the face, and immediately moves in with Mr Pocketbeer. The Sams is greedy, fearless, and cheeky. To start with, something Mr Pocketbeer is rather embarrassed of. But the longer the Sams stays the more Mr Pocketbeer grows to like it.

11.30

Happiness

5 minutes

Celtic Circle

Rosie Craig

English

Broadcast December 2017

What is the form, colour or shape of happiness? What does it feel like? Is its nature unknown? Kathleen Scott, wife of Capt Scott of the Antarctic, has created it in herself and lived with it. Her life reveals the value of happiness.

11.40

Chow for the Koi

6 minutes

Nick Cox, UK

English

Chow for the Koi is an edgy, psychological audio drama in eight episodes made by Pleasant Planet, with a cast of 12. Dialogue was recorded in Price Studios, Battersea, London

As the Autumn nights draw in, Jay is convinced elderly neighbour Don is listening to his every move.

His one solace is Fi, his chirpy 6 year old daughter. At bedtime Jay reads to Fi Oscar Wilde's The Happy Prince.

Then, while horsing around, Jay accidentally knocks her tooth out.

12.00

Almanak

36 minutes

Wederik de Backer, Belgium

Flemish

For more than a hundred years, De Meibloem ('The Mayflower') was a special place for the inhabitants of the Brugse Poort, a working class neighbourhood in the city of Ghent, Belgium. De Meibloem was not only a socialist party hall, but also a youth club and even a cinema. In short: the hall was a space for entertainment for the poor youth of the Brugse

Poort . Even when De Meibloem fell into decline, the place remained meaningful to the inhabitants. The one recalled how he met his great love on the first floor of the Cinema Rio ; the other could not recall anything after a drunk night at the socialist youth club T - Club . De Meibloem is a space with a long tradition and many tales to tell. Last year, De Meibloem reopened as a social and cultural centre, where a new generation of inhabitants of the Brugse Poort could spend their time. To hold on to the old anecdotes in this new project, radio maker Wederik De Backer explored the neighbourhood and the archives. He talked to anyone who spent a part of his life there, and anyone who had special memories about the place. Using these anecdotes, he created 'Almanak', an audio play about De Meiboem , and its role in the lives of the inhabitants of the Bruges Poort.

13.00

Antigonik

45minutes

Angela Shackel, Canada

English

Broadcast November 2017

Antigonick is an experimental translation of Sophocles' Antigone by the Canadian poet Anne Carson.

Just before the play begins, Antigone's two brothers have killed each other and one was fighting for the state and one was fighting against the state. The king, Kreon, makes a new law that you can't bury a traitor of the state and this sets up the tension of the play because it's necessary for Antigone to bury her brother according to the gods and the laws of her house, and if she doesn't bury her brother her life and her family's life would be in danger.

Antigonick is much more than just a direct translation of Sophocles' Antigone, or what still remains of Sophocles' Antigone. Although Carson pays very close attention to the original Greek, In Antigonick, she also creates a strange new world. She somehow takes the original Sophoclean play, along with its reception history from Hegel to Beckett to Butler and compresses thousands of years of performance, adaptation and critique down into a few dozen pages.

13.45 **The Cunning Little Vixen (3 minutes)**

The Blessed Age (2 minutes)

Who is the greatest (3 minutes)

Czech Radio

Broadcast March - November 2017

The short drama *The Story of the Cunning Little Vixen* offers a humorous version of how the music composer Leoš Janáček found the theme for his famous opera *The Cunning Little Vixen*. The original text is in dialect which was very characteristic of Janáček's language. The short form is part of the Minute Plays project of Czech Radio.

What exactly is the blessed age? Is it the age in which we are fully expectant of things to come and yet blissfully ignorant, or the one by which we have gained considerable knowledge? The short form of a telling title *The Blessed Age* by the dramaturge Daniela Fischerová centres around this paradox, and is part of the Minute Plays project of Czech Radio.

Would you dare to say who the greatest Russian playwright was? When Gogol, Turgenev and Ostrovsky meet in heaven and get engaged in a passionate debate, each of them is persuaded about his crucial role. But - isn't the truth a bit different? The text by Lucie Němečková is to introduce an entire series of anecdotic short forms on Russian classics written for the Minute Plays project of Czech Radio.

14.00 **Break**

15.00 – 15.45 Jury Discussion (**Pettman House** or other venue to be confirmed). Anyone who has heard today's plays is welcome to join us

16.00 **Jury voting (in camera; jury only)**

20.00 **Awards**

Saturday 24 March

14.00 Community showcase; Beach Creative, Beach Street

A programme of Audio Drama work created as part of the festival from members of the local community.

All welcome