

## Radio Drama Festival Programme 2023

In association with  
CANTEBRURY FESTIVAL  
CANTEBRURY FESTIVAL  
CANTERBURY FESTIVAL

ALCS

INTERNATIONAL ARTS PARTNERSHIP  
LONDON \* LONDEN \* LONDRA \* LONDRES

Canterbury BID  
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

PodBean  
Hosting & Monetizing

**THE 2023**  
**UK INTERNATIONAL**  
**Audio Drama**  
**FESTIVAL**

**THE FLOOR OF HEAVEN**  
**27 - 31 March**

18 countries, 15 languages, 5 days of brilliant listening

Live listening Eastbridge Hospital,  
Canterbury, 23 High Street. And online.  
[www.Radiodramafestival.org.uk](http://www.Radiodramafestival.org.uk)

Radio Drama Festival @radiodramafest #UKRadioDramaFest

The UK International Audio Drama Festival 2023  
27-31 March 2023  
Eastbridge Hospital, High Street, Canterbury and online  
Programme  
[www.radiodramafestival.org.uk](http://www.radiodramafestival.org.uk)

## **Introduction**

### **The Floor of Heaven**

Welcome to the ninth edition of the UK International Audio Drama Festival. We have been delighted with the level of interest this year – over 100 submissions from across Europe and beyond. As you can imagine, shortlisting those has not been easy!

We are very pleased to welcome our joint chairs of the jury. Oana Grigorescu from Romania and Stefano Gianotti from Italy have both been long term supporters of this festival and we are very pleased to have their wisdom and judgement guiding our deliberations this year.

As ever, each evening's jury sessions are open to everyone and we hope you will join the jury to share your thoughts on the work you have heard. Once again, we will be awarding coveted pig trophies for best full length and best short form (under 7 minutes). We are very pleased that the Nigel and Alison Deacon have sponsored an award for a young producer under 30 for the second year. And after its all over, the audience get their say with the Audience award given following the result of a poll of listeners.

We have two additional events this year. On Tuesday evening, online, a panel of writers and producers will be talking about the different approaches to story telling through audio drama across the World – we would vey much welcome you to join in with your perspective. On Wednesday evening, at Waterstone's bookshop, Sue Teddern will be talking about her work as a writer for radio. Details on our website and at Eventbrite.

We must thank this year's sponsors. We are very grateful for the support of the Authors' Licensing and Collection Society; Canterbury BID and Podbean. Their help and support has made a huge difference.

Big Thank Yous to Eastbridge Hospital for the venue and to Nicholas, Alison, Nigel, Isobel, Stephanie, Pete, Rob, Katerina, Casey and Katerina who have helped make all this possible.

And finally, thank you to all of you for coming and taking part. It is a celebration of audio drama and it needs you to celebrate. And, of course, the party is on Friday night.

Melanie and Jonathan

## **Monday**

*All descriptions have been taken from material supplied by submitters.*

*Timings are approximate and include short breaks. The programme is subject to short notice amendment.*

*Scripts are available on the website. All bookings for online and special events via Eventbrite*

### **10am — Welcomes and introductions. Jury confirmation.**

### **10.30am — RTV Vojvodina (Serbia) Kuga's Vilayet (Serbian)**

Neda is a young mother, wife, graduate ethnologist and waitress. Due to the coronavirus epidemic, the pub in which Neda worked was closed and she is at home with her daughter, while her husband works for a small salary as an ambulance driver. Quarantine has activated her deepest fears and she wonders if she is a good mother, what she wants in life and whether her life has already failed. She tries to juggle the needs of the child, her personal ambitions and the world shrinking around her

In this radio drama, the voice of the youngest actress ever in the studio of RTV Vojvodina so far, Zara Hadžimurtezić, was recorded (3).

### **11.15am — Lawr y Grisïau (Wales) Ysbrydnos (Welsh)**

Originally premiering on BBC Radio Cymru on Halloween 2022, 'Ysbrydnos' ("Spirit Night") is a brand new Welsh language audio musical starring three of Wales's most celebrated performers: Olivier Award winner Rebecca Trehearn, West End star Luke McCall, and S4C's Aled Pedrick. Written and produced by award-winning songwriter Adam Wachter and TV writer/producer Gareth Owen, the show is a fast paced, funny, tuneful, and intense musical drama which explores contemporary themes including sexuality, addiction, and relationships. A modern reworking of 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow' by Washington Irving adapted from Wachter's own original musical 'Tarrytown', the show takes place in a sleepy Welsh village in the weeks leading up to Halloween and is framed by old Welsh folk superstitions about the traditional "Spirit Night" on October 31st.

### **12.30 — Seeds pitchcast (UK) Seeds Episode 4 (English)**

An ad plays in a strange language. When it ends, Alicia August tells us that she doesn't know where it came from, but she found it when she returned from Mary-Anne-Elizabeth Namane's house. Having discovered discrepancies in Mary-Anne-Elizabeth's story regarding the murder, Alicia travels through the forest to Samuel Frinka's clearing. On the way, she runs through her thoughts on the case so far, until she comes across a family of squirrels, trying to break some object. She arrives at Samuel Frinka's house to find him dead. Burned alive in a house fire. Militia surround the house, quenching the last few embers.

## LUNCH

### **2.00pm — Chimezie Benedict Ihekuna (Nigeria) A Taste of Poison (English)**

Ricardo feels short-changed whenever he's in business with his boss, Martinez, who does "business" at the LaGuardia Airport, with all the five major staffers, a part of his drug-cartel network. Having worked for his boss for over a decade, Ricardo sees the need to pay him back in his coin. Despite his faithfulness through the years, Martinez is fond of derogating his efforts and using the proceeds---that are due Ricardo---to his chains of girlfriends. Ricardo's complaints hold no waters as Martinez prioritizes his lovers over intricate business deals he has with Ricardo. However, Ricardo seeks on how his boss would, someday, have a taste of his poison---a reward for the wrongs he did to him. He figures out a plan. He discusses with his Doctor to create a "image" of himself and contracts a willing-to-die for -the -money street thug, Roberto, to do his bidding---the would-be Ricardo's impostor---delivering fake dollars, instead of the actual consignment as instructed by his boss. Roberto, or better known as "Ricardo", is aware of the whole plot. "Ricardo" is well-paid and is fully prepared for the task ahead. Ricardo, knowing the ropes of the cartel, explores the loophole and finds an escape route never to be seen again. Ricardo leaves the cartel with the hugest fortune, untraced! The success of the plan is to Ricardo's advantage but leaves "Ricardo" to his fate...

### **Stefano Gianotti (Italy) Animal Farm (N/A)**

Animal Farm is a series of 10 very short pieces, halfway between music and sound-art, micro-concept-album and divertissement. The basic idea is to analyse the voices of some domestic and wild animals and transform them into musical pieces, starting from their sound timbre and rhythm and associating them with musical instruments. The result is a series of small surreal songs, a bit abstract with an "animal" rhythm, ranging across various musical genres. Thus, a chicken coop with rooster and chickens becomes a blues for mouth harmonica, the barking of a dog is transformed into a limp waltz for accordion, the scream of a monkey is the song of a classical lieder. The original context of the sounds is moved to other areas, creating new contexts and meanings. The instruments used are: mouth organ, accordion, Indian organ, piano, metallophone, classical guitar, electric guitar, banjo, violin, double bass, all played by Stefano Giannotti.

### **2.15 — Resonar Studio (Spain) El Fabricante de Vemeers (Spanish)**

Hans Van Meegeren, a Dutch painter who during world war ii produced better Vermeers than the originals, was able to fool the entire art community and Herman Goering himself, and had to finally confess to his forgeries to save himself from the death penalty. This dramatic fiction is based on the impressive story of Hans van Meegeren in the 1930s and during the second world war, who managed to forge and sell six Vermeers and two Franz Hals for an estimated current sum of 100 million dollars. Does a painting cease to be beautiful when it is proven to be a forgery? One of the fake Vermeers was bought by Herman Goering, second in the hierarchy of the Third Reich. At the end of the Second World War van Meegeren was accused of being a traitor to the fatherland and had to confess to his forgeries in order to save his life. These confessions were an earthquake in the Dutch and world painting community, as his forgeries had been unanimously accepted, and one of them, Christ at Emmaus, was considered the best Vermeer of them all. This audiodrama, based on

real events, leads us to reflect on the concept of authenticity in art and the validity of the traditional concepts of truth and beauty.

### **3.10 — Gower Hall (UK)** **11th Hour Audio challenge (English)**

Gower Hall is a horror-farce set in 1920s Devon.

A dowager that died in mysterious circumstances. An ancient ceremony gone wrong. A headless horseman on the loose and a rogue pixie with a prophecy to fulfil. Charlotte's promotional plans for tourism in Gower have gotten decidedly out of hand, and the night has only got started.

Recorded and produced all in the month of October for the 2021 11th Hour Audio Challenge.

### **4.10 — DWS Audio - Darrick Wood School (UK)** **The Guy Who Called (English)**

The Guy Who Called, by Isabella Larena. When two police officers are called to a grisly crime scene, they're shocked by what they discover. But what is the connection between the dead man and that guy who called them? The twist to this short play is that the dead man is actually the same man who called his fellow officers to the crime scene!

#### **Eve-Marie Bouché (France)** **La Magie des Ondes (French)**

"I discovered that I had magical powers, the powers to transform the world's soundtrack, to make it a better place to live..."

### **4.20 — Radio Gilan (Iran)** **Innocent (Farsi)**

For years, the principles for producing classic radio dramas have been universally accepted. Principles such as the unity of time and space, as well as the limitations of characters and the unity of the subject. But it seems that in today's media world, new ways of narration can be achieved. The radio drama "Innocent" is an attempt to tell an ironic story in a way that is understandable to all listeners. A structure that is called magical realist literature. In the world of cinema, this structure may be called noir. The story of the radio show "Innocent" is a narrative of the mind of a man who acted in an unusual situation and is now trying to understand himself.

## **Arrangements for jury**

**Close**

## Tuesday

### 10am — Janacek Academy of Performing Arts (Czech Republic) Čtvero nočních dob (Czech)

The Radio drama *Four Nocturnes* reflects the worries of the contemporary world. In the night-time, people are often attacked by anxiety and nightmares. The drama consists of four chamber dramatic situations – apocalyptic visions. Each situation was written and directed by a first-year student of the follow-up master's degree programme *Radio and TV Scriptwriting and Dramaturgy*, Theatre Faculty of the Janacek Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, Czech Republic, under the supervision of their lecturer Eva Schulzová who is also the dramaturg of the work. The first part "Svatá" / "Saint" by Barbora Fukalová brings the listeners into a small town where something seemingly unbelievable is going on: the air raid sirens are wailing, fighters approaching but no one cares. When the bombing starts and the citizens realize that they were wrong, it's too late. In the second part "Bratislavské plantáže" / "Plantations of Edinburgh" by Natálie Janderová there's an inner dialogue between the ego (Me) and the alter ego (It). The (self-)destructive alter ego is putting crazy ideas into ego's head inclusive running on the rails while tram's coming. The third part "A Dream About the Future" by Eliška Kánská is set in an unreal place where aborted foetus come. A newcomer realises it's beautiful there but despite of it he's sad: The only thing he wants is to see the real world. The fourth part "Venku je krásně" / "It is beautiful outside" by Filip Gažo pictures an ordinary afternoon in a common family just a moment before a "tsunami of waste" buries them alive.

### 10.30am — Near FM Broadcasts (Ireland) Angry Bird (English)

A pensioner takes a stand against far-right politics and wins 'celebrity' status through her public protest. But will it reconcile her past mistakes or push those she loves even further away? *60mins. Comedy drama - set in Dublin, Éire.*

Eileen Nolan is a 75-year old 'force of nature' who has had enough. She sees the populist Far Right as not only peddling a dangerous ideology which goes against decent and kind values, but that it comes with discriminatory attitudes towards women, and being a survivor of domestic violence, she won't tolerate this either. What makes Eileen dangerous though is that she has nothing to lose. Eileen has an estranged daughter – Chloe – who desperately wants to reconnect with Eileen because she is trying to escape from her violent husband. However Eileen's courting of publicity has created a storm around her which means Chloe can't reach her incognito. In trying to bring Chloe back into her life, Eileen has pushed her even further away. How will she resolve needing to make her political point and get to see her daughter again?

### 11.45am — Soundplay (Denmark) Lyset (Danish)

THE LIGHT is written by two playwrights in 2 hours. 2 actors played the scenes along the way, at the same time as writing has been done. It is the concept of WRITE FASTER that has been used here. Subsequently, the play has been recorded and edited for sound. The original story, nor no lines, have been changed. THE LIGHT is the story of 2 men in a prison. They exchange

thoughts and dreams, but one has a mission – namely to get the other to talk over him. The figures have no names, but are called A and B. In a magical realism, stories are linked across space and time and stillness. It seems taken out of "Waiting for Godot", until something is revealed that will be of decisive importance to both of them.

**12.15pm — Biliety nėra**  
**Rezonansas (English, Ukrainian, Hebrew)**

The architectural conversion of the Vilnius Sports Palace raises not only questions about socio-cultural responsibility relating to the Jewish cemetery that has been there since the fifteenth century, but creative aspirations as well. The factography of the abandoned building is revealed through the eyes of a stranger who came here from the future.

**12.30pm — Nash Colundarlu (UK)**  
**D is for Dwelling (English)**

A technologically and metaphysically advanced house built to nurture relationships, when faced with its warring and estranged dwellers, saves their marriage by evicting them and setting fire to itself. A couple who once loved each other now finds themselves ensconced in a dwelling, living in separate quarters where they don't meet one another. The house, a force of its own, attempts to cater to the couple's needs. All appears to be well until the dwelling starts to malfunction: a small kitchen fire is doused, doors and entire sections are randomly locked into isolation, and the entertainment system delivers the wrong content to the wrong person. The dwelling seems to be conspiring. The dwelling is trying to evict its occupants. The lovers are forced to come together. Startled and emotional at the sight of each other, they escape the rowdy house hand in hand.

**LUNCH**

**2pm — Freya Miller (UK)**  
**Three Women (English)**

My entry for the UK Radio Drama Festival 2023 is an extract from the radio play Three Women by Sylvia Plath written in 1962, within the last year of her life. It is an incredibly deep and complex perspective on pregnancy, maternity and abortion, and a play I've always wanted to do. The radio play has three different women characters speaking in interwoven monologues: A Wife; a Secretary, and a Girl. My entry is one of these monologues. The music track is 'Melancholy' by Robert Bruce and it was recorded at Another Tongue in Soho, London.

**Mamuka Magularia (Georgia)**  
**Bowie in Siberia (N/A)**

50 Years ago, back in 1973, world's famous artist David Bowie returned from Japanese concert tour. Afraid to fly, he took the train from the far eastern former USSR city - Vladivostok to Berlin. Nobody knew out there who is Bowie, not because of His incognita, but because of iron curtain...

## **2.10pm — SWR, Southwest Radio (Germany)** **Tender buttons verknüpft (German, English)**

In their radio composition, Milliken/Wiesner transform contemporary music into an enthralling sound experience through poetry, while making the poetry shine musically. Where words must remain silent, music speaks – where the music remains silent, the word resounds. Gertrude Stein's multilayered (including the erotic) volume of poetry *Tender Buttons* is connected with poems by William Carlos Williams and e. e. cummings. The piece ponders on the complexity of objects and activities that seemingly give structure to our everyday lives. The montage “deconstructs” /intertwines the musical and textual material to uncover its magic beyond mere function. Using non-European instruments, the piece also tells of the complex discourses on the “simple things in life”. Renowned German actress Dagmar Manzel and jazz singer Michael Schiefel are joined by an international ensemble of soloists, including Brett Dean on the viola, Chinese sheng player Wu Wei and Aboriginal Australian William Barton on the didgeridoo.

## **3.05pm — Polish Radio Theatre (Poland)** **This Word (Polish)**

Displacements affected as part of the *Werwolf* plan were the most brutal actions of the German administration of the Zamość area aimed at complete “cleansing of the area” of Poles in order to colonise it with German and Ukrainian settlers. Overall, 30 to 60 thousand people were displaced from 171 villages. On 29 June 1943 the Mulawa brothers (Ryszard – aged 9, Henryk – 7, Marian – 5 and Stanisław – 3) were displaced together with their parents (Michalina and Andrzej). A few days later they were interned at the detention camp in Zwierzyniec. In August 1943 countess Róża and count Jan Zamoyski saved four hundred and sixty children from the camp. Later they were returned to their families or relatives. Marian and Stanisław Mulawa were among them.

At the action time of the radio drama, the sons are already twenty-something. They reminisce about their story, as they have done with their parents over the years, at holidays and during family meetings. This is happening in early 1970s, in the privacy of their own home. But the echo of their past experiences reverberates in the form of their child voices. Meanwhile countess Róża and count Jan Zamoyski spin their own story. Only the scenes of handing the children over to the Zamoyskis take us back to war time.

The play uses the texts and speeches from the Second World War period, delivered inter alia by Adolf Hitler, Heinrich Himmler and marshal Gerd Von Rundstedt. The texts have been stylised to mimic German religious songs and are performed by a male chorus.

## **3.45pm — The Alternative Stories and Fake Realities Podcast (Wales)** **The Gathering (English)**

An original Horror Audio Drama by Lewis Carter.

Sasha and Gemma Harrington have grown apart. Once inseparable as kids, they now say no more than a few words to each other at the occasional family gathering. That

is until their reclusive mother passes away. Sasha and Gemma return home to live under the same roof for the first time in a decade, after receiving a mysterious message. Forced to confront each other after years of isolation, the sisters soon begin to question the circumstances of their mother's death. As they battle with the lingering feeling that someone, or something desperately wanted them to come home.

#### **4.30pm —RTV Slovenia (Slovenia)** **Pod oblakom jezero (Slovene)**

Under Sky a Lake is a short dramatic text by a young playwright Evelin Bizjak who takes us on a coming-of-age journey together with the protagonist named Tju by way of a fragmentary lyrical form. Although Tju is the only character in the text, she has a company of multiple voices, from parents to lovers, passing-by strangers to people who leave traces in her present but narration is mostly driven by (anti) heroine's constant inner struggle. From the sounds of baby's first babble to wild teenage years, exhaustion, adulthood, Tju fights with herself, with decisions that carry unpredictable consequences, with the guilt fed by the need to, at least once in her life, feel she's enough, with the desire to finally silence the noises of merciless judgments in her head and figure out, "what to do with thousands of thoughts, cutting up her insides, incessantly." (Tiu) Under Sky, a Lake is a text about growing up, which is searching for a way to make peace with oneself, even if just for a moment, at the same time, it is a picture of a modern man whose mind is, on the one hand, completely scattered, and on the other, excessively focused on himself and on the search for his core.

## Wednesday

### **10am — Radio Romania (Romania) ANII 60 (Romanian)**

The Sixties is a story about the wreckage of the first generation of young people severed from the free world during the years of the communist regime consolidation in Romania. Born by the end of the second world war, they were 20 in the sixties, and in what is the present time for the story (and for listeners) they have turned into human wrecks, wasting away in a retirement home. The home, a miniature of the Romanian world, highlights distorted human relations, ludicrous hierarchies of power typical of a society where human life holds no value in itself. An ordinary day in the retirement home is deeply disturbed by a commonplace error, and the ensuing chaos brings to light the tragedy of lives confiscated by history. The values of two social systems, socialism and capitalism, are mirrored in the characters' existential failure. The choice for a binaural production is justified by the overlapping narrative planes, by the coexistence of past and present in the minds of the residents of retirement home.

The author of the short story The Sixties, Ema Stere was confirmed by the Romanian Writers' Union 2021 and Sofia Nădejdede Awards for Literature Written by Women 2020, awarded for the novel Marcel's Children. The novel, which won also the Polirom publishing house's debut prize, launched a playful writer who has succeeded in creating a lucid portrait of contemporary Romanian society, a veritable anthropological study of the nation. If Marcel's Children is the novel of social salvation through a group utopia, that of desperate power to start again, The Sixties reveals generational failure expressed in the banality of life without horizon.

### **10.25am — Gabriele Heller (UK) Homer's Lane (English)**

"Mostly it is loss, which teaches us about the worth of things." Arthur Schopenhauer

Homer's Lane is an 40 min audio play inspired by the life and work of Joseph Hedley, a respected quilter who lived in a small cottage on Homer's Lane in Northumberland. 'Joe the Quilter' was a typical representative of the rural cottage industry in the 1800. In his time he attained recognition for his quilting skills and his tasteful design patterns. His work appeared to be very popular, and some of his quilts were sent as far as America. In 1826 Joe was brutally murdered in his own cottage. His gruesome death led to a murder inquiry and finally all his belongings were sold at an auction at Homer's House. The audio play is based around a list of objects that were either mentioned in the crime investigation or had been sold at the auction three months after his death. These everyday objects form the core structure of the audio piece and are animated through text, sound and original music. Homer's Lane explores our past and modern understanding of labour, quality and time and how this has shaped our society and the way we live today. In a time where many things are used only once and production processes are often outsourced, we need to re-think the way we produce, value and use our everyday objects. The audio play reaches out to a wide audience of all ages and various backgrounds. It combines elements of true crime with themes of heritage, craftsmanship and life in rural communities.

**11.25am — Jessica Syposz (UK)**  
**The Buzzer (English)**

Leena can't stop listening. Her favourite radio station only transmits a single, eerie buzzing noise. The sound gets under her skin. It makes her feel safe, especially on lonely nights in her room while her menacing landlord prowls around the house. The more this vulnerable young woman listens to this radio station, the easier it is to forget the world around her, or to feel like it's even real at all. Very soon, Leena finds herself lost in visions of a life spent living inside the radio waves. A monologue which culminates in an unearthly radiophonic soundscape, 'The Buzzer' is a surreal journey into obsession and our desire to be part of something bigger than ourselves. Starring Radhika Aggarwal, with sound design and production by Paul Dodgson. The radio station Leena listens to is a fictionalised version of the real UBV-76 frequency or 'Buzzer,' a short-wave radio station that has been transmitting an unexplained buzzing from a remote location in Eastern Europe since 1983. Its origin and purpose has long been the focus of conjecture and conspiracy theories.

**12.30pm — Babelfish (Belgium)**  
**Area (French)**

From this appearance is born the desire to go back to the legend of the wild horses that populate Galicia. This journey can be listened in different orders. It is a twist of time where voices from the 16th century, telepathic visions of the future and rituals between humans and horses ricochet. Among them, we find the practice of farriery or the annual gathering Rapa das bestas during which humans meet wild horses. This audio drama is about the connection between humans and horses and more specifically about a traditional practice that began four centuries ago in Galicia. This heritage is called: Rapa das Bestas (The Shave of the Beasts). This ritual involves cutting the manes of the wild horses who live free at the mountains in a semi-feral state and that are performed in the curros (enclosed which retain the horses) held in various locations in Galicia (Spain).

**12.40pm — Sound Escape Theatre (Scotland)**  
**High Spirits (English)**

Elsa is at a conference. Speaking to her boyfriend, Stewart, on the phone, she tells him she will be coming home the following day on the island ferry. Elsa gets angry when Stewart asks her to perform at a folk festival because she refuses to perform in her wheelchair. On the ferry, Elsa meets Breagh who bumps into Elsa's wheelchair as she is waiting to be helped off the ferry. They learn that each has a love of music: Breagh is a singer and Elsa plays the clarsach (a small Scottish harp). Breagh is returning to the island where she was born but won't say why. Later, as Breagh is being interviewed by Stewart for a job in the visitor's centre at the island's whisky distillery, he recognises her from school and asks why she left the island years ago and never came back till now. She won't tell him but he gives her the job anyway. On her first day in the centre, Breagh hears a terrible moaning and crying sound, which distresses her very much. Stewart says it is just the sound of the wind but Breagh knows that mysterious voices mean something more. The song 'High Spirits' was composed and performed especially for this play. It's about being proud of who you are and going forward unafraid into your future.

**Jury Session**  
**Afternoon Free**

## Thursday

### **10am — Hoinart Portable Theatre Timisoara (Romania) Wake up Timi (Romanian)**

Wake Up, Timi! – a reference to the well-known beginning of the Romanian National Anthem (Wake up, Romanian), is a collage of the personal shared experiences of people with disabilities, mixed with press articles, stories about iconic places in Timișoara, poems by Nichita Stănescu and Eugen Ionescu, and a musical soundtrack comprising famous tunes from iconic Timișoara bands, such as Phoenix and Pro Musica, as well as original compositions, written and/or performed by our gang of ‘misfits’.

In short, this is a show about our home town, Timișoara, which has been awarded the title of European Capital of Culture this year, but perceived through the senses of its most vulnerable citizens: people with mild-to-strong disabilities. These people identify themselves with various monuments, statues or fountains and want their voices to be heard somehow. This audio-play is the end result of one-year worth of workshops and courses, which aimed to better integrate them into society and help them express themselves better.

It's not much, but we're proud of them anyway!

### **10.25am — First Ditch Collective (Canada) Through the Fairy Circle (English)**

Rich with sound inspired by the landscape of the Frontenac Islands, Through the Fairy Circle is an audio play about Denny, a young girl who lives on an island in an old farmhouse with her younger sister Sam and their father. Denny loves hearing her father read stories from his mother's old book of fairies, believing that the fairies that supposedly populate the island are the key to ending her family's string of bad luck. One day, she attempts to summon a fairy through a nearby fairy circle. When Denny meets the mysterious Femone, her wishes come true and he promises her good luck charms in exchange for her time.

### **10.35am — Radio Gilan (Iran) I am trash (Farsi)**

In the short radio drama "I am trash", the story of a life is told with the help of giving life to objects. In this short drama, an attempt has been made to review big concepts in a fantasy way.

### **— Radio Romania (Romania) Uvertură la Demoni (Romanian)**

Overture to Demons by Ilinca Stihi

The show opens with archive material from a series of public lectures by Charles Bukowski. We hear applause from the audience, the microphone is set up, then comes Bukowski's voice who jokes around with the audience. The microphone is touched again, and we hear the bells in the Kremlin, followed by a salute by Russian soldiers.

The background is the famous song Vechernyi Zvon, and the sound of a galloping troika, and the narrative is an inverse chronology with the most important events in the history of Russia: the installation of the Putin regime, the anti-Putin protests, the Dubrovka Theater terrorist attack, the resignation of President Gorbachev, the launch of the Perestroika, the death of Gagarin commemorated by the communist state, the installation of the Bolshevik regime. All this time, a voice announces a fall in temperature. It gets gradually colder as we go back in time.

### **— Studio Resonar (Spain) 5000 (Spanish)**

The term “España Vacía” or sometimes “España Vacía”, in English “Empty Spain”, refers to the areas of Spain that suffered massive emigrations during the so-called rural exodus of the 1950s and 1960s, which at the beginning of the 21st century cover 90 % of the Spanish territory. By antonomasia, it is understood that, since when the provinces were formed in 1833 they were homologous territories in terms of population, surface and development, all those provinces that elect 5 or less deputies in the elections to the Congress of Deputies are part of the emptied Spain.

In 2016, the journalist Sergio del Molino published a book entitled España vacía (Empty Spain), in which he analysed the situation of a large part of inland Spain. Based on this idea, subsequent analyses pointed out that this part of Spain was not only empty, but that successive policies of all stripes were emptying it, both of population and of actions to reverse this situation. The concept was thus born as a framework for protest against rural abandonment and its subordination to urban development, and was used as a slogan in the marches that took place in 2019 to make these areas more visible.

5000: an incisive journalist, an unscrupulous ex-politician and a law that changed the fate of millions of people. And a law that changed the fate of millions of people.

Based on a text by Chema López Juderías.

### **11am — Pure Fabrication (Ireland) Procedural (English)**

Two members of the Garda (Irish police force) walk through the carpark of a Garda station in the rain. One (JUNIOR) asks the other (GARDA) if they are under arrest. They reach the door of the Garda station, and once inside they find a room. Junior begins his confession about something that happened in an underground carpark. He discusses the reason he joined the police force, following reluctantly in his father’s footsteps. He talks about his interest in the Golden Generation, the results of a global clone program to repopulate a world in which no children were being born. He talks about the abuse that many of the clones suffered, particularly ones that were placed in institutions in Ireland. The Garda interviewer tells him this was before his time, so it’s nothing to do with him, and they discuss Garda corruption.

### **11.50am — Het Audio Theatre (Belgium) Buffalo Bitches (Dutch) Episode 3**

In the early 2000s, a very young radio student discovered the Buffalo Bitches, the female hooligan club of KAA Gent. Eva Moeraert made a moving mockumentary about Kimberley and Tiffany, the only two members of the club. The love for their soccer club is unbreakable and the two turn out to be friends for life.

Twenty years later, Eva goes looking for the two Bitches again. A search that takes her far beyond Ghent. Tiffany and Kimby haven't seen, spoken or hit each other in years. Both ladies are no longer friends and the Buffalo Bitches do not exist anymore. Actually, since 2010, when Kimberley fell in love with a hooligan from FC Utrecht. She now lives in the Netherlands and works hard to support her husband and children. Tiffany has always remained loyal to the club. She now works in the Albert Heijn supermarket in the stadium of Ghent and she is still trying to get the attention of their beloved player Gunther Schepens. In This series Eva is trying to organize a reunion of the Buffalo Bitches and smooth out the folds between the ladies. So that the Buffalo Bitches can shine again and cheer together.

Whether they succeed, you'll hear in this four-part podcast. In this third and fourth episode Eva tries to find out what exactly happened between Kimberley and Tiffany...

### **12.30pm — Khosouro Rasuli (Iran) Beheshte Zamin (Persian)**

“Heaven of The Earth” is a magic-real story of thousands of years of Shalizar (paddy fields of rice cultivation) in Iran. The occupation of most of the people in the northern regions of Iran is rice cultivation. Rice in Persian means something that is obtained through suffering. It is strange that this tedious work is done by women in our country. The hardworking women of northern Iran have, over the years, willingly or unwillingly, caused the emergence of countless stories, legends, lullabies and songs in Shalizar; so that today, in addition to the economic and social dimensions, Shalizar is the focus of cultural and artistic attention. Story of “Heaven of The Earth” is a monologue, narrated by a small green plant of rice in a surreal way but everything is real under the surface.

## **LUNCH**

### **2pm — HWMS Audio Theatre (USA) “A Bustle, A Corset, and the London Necropolis Express” (English)**

A woman gone missing and her colleagues trying to discover what has happened. The only clues are occasional telegrams which are long on text but short on information. Two things complicate their search. The city is in the grips of a smallpox pandemic, the grips of a smallpox pandemic – the first of the twentieth century and the last (one hopes) for that particular disease. The three women also have to keep a business running. They face the usual challenges of competition, tight prices and machines that threaten to take their jobs. They are oddsmakers – “actuaries” is the technical term. They calculate the odds of profit and loss, of sickness and health, of life in the city and of passage on the London Necropolis Express, the train to the distant cemeteries that London has opened.

### **3.10pm — Atelier de creation sonore Radiophonique (Belgium) les cailloux meurent aussi (French)**

This is the story of a chemist, Adélaïde, who works in a lab. One day, as she's about to start a chemical synthesis, she realizes she can hear certain atoms.

As she befriends two atoms of her bike, her curiosity grows : what are relationships between human beings and objects made of? What is it like to be an atom, to be extracted, exploited? What hierarchies underlie the kingdom of matter? This fiction is an intimate encounter with the atoms, disclosing their billion unheard tales. A slide into cosmic dampness. Into a world that is enlightening when we are close to it, dark when we destroy it.

### **4pm — RTV Slovenia (Slovenia) Ko Jokajo Lastovke (Slovene)**

The text of the short radio play is only a part of the drama text for the theatre, which was created as part of the international drama workshops in China in 2016, the theme of which was migration. The game focuses on a dialogue between a humanitarian volunteer from Canada and a South African territorial soldier who is guarding the Canadian as a prisoner. In their conversation, the author managed to reflect the absurdity of the relationship between the developed Western world, where capital is accumulated, and the poorest parts of the world, where local people take justice into their own hands when they are powerless against large corporations. Through his actions, the humanitarian tries to redeem himself for the controversial actions of his wealthy father, but his fate remains uncertain until the end. The author directed the entire play in Capetown and toured the world with it to great success and excellent reviews.

### **4.15pm — ARTE (France) La dernière nuit d'Anne Bonny (French)**

Claire Richard's new drama tells the life story of the renowned female pirate of the 18th century, Anne Bonny. As in her podcast *Les Chemins du désir*, produced by ARTE radio and published by Éditions Seuil, Claire Richard weaves together an epic and poetic tale of a female protagonist haunted by questions of destiny and liberty. Anne Bonny the pirate has fascinated audiences since the 18th century. A woman of ill repute according to Captain Johnson, whose *General History of Pyrates* was then the last word on the subject, she has become a powerful figure in the contemporary imagination. Claire Richard's radio drama *La Dernière Nuit d'Anne Bonny* (Anne Bonny's Last Night) explores the gap that can form between an historical figure and their contemporary representations, without ever forgetting to keep the heart racing and to tell a great story of love and freedom.

For this project, ARTE Radio has deployed the full breadth of its resources. The complete series runs for three hours. The cast includes nearly two dozen actors (including Catherine Hiegel, Alice Bélaïdi, Victoire du Bois and Robinson Stévenin). Spanning several weeks, the recording required a whole movie studio and all the talent of Foley artist Franck Tassel to capture the epic dimension indispensable to a pirate story.

**4.35pm — Springline Radio Players (UK)**  
**Artists Retreat (English)**

Writing partners HE and SHE have been sent to a retreat with instructions to get the script done. But a conflict arises when SHE insists on including a backstory for two minor characters and HE really wishes she'd just let it go. The question: how much information is the audience entitled to about the couple they are watching on the stage?

**— Gabriel Busaneli Silva (USA)**  
**All Hail Der Erbkönig (English)**

It is yet to say, which is more unyielding, love, grief, or faith? Owing to one or the other, Johan, a grieving father plunges into the Deep Forest to seek answers for the unnatural death of his son and discover its supernatural culprit, if he's even real. Inspired by the ballad "Der Erbkönig" by Franz Schubert and Johann Von Goethe.

**Jury Session**

## **Friday**

### **10am — David Zane Mairowitz/Westdeutscher rundfunk (France) Saturn Ein Alligator Klagt An (German/English)**

by Malgorzata Zerwe and David Zane Mairowitz

The star alligator at the Moscow Zoo has slithered off to Reptile Heaven after 84 years of love and misadventure on Planet Earth. His personal story takes in all the major events of the twentieth century and well into the first part of the 21st. He lived through lynchings in Mississippi, World War 2, the Cold War, Perestroika, and Putin. So the story goes. An alligator at the centre of modern history. With the ironic fate of sitting stuffed in Moscow's Darwin Museum in wartime 2022.

You can find this great animal adventure on reportage from sources as verifiable as the BBC, Der Spiegel, the Discovery Channel, hundreds of serious articles and documentaries about the amazing life and escape of this mythical alligator. So the story goes...

### **11am — Azad film school (Iran) 10 Second Drama (Persian)**

This story is based on reality.

The fate of geese that are destroyed for human consumption.

The story is about two geese that live in a goose farm. One of the geese is very curious and the other naive.

The curious goose always asked: where do they take their friends by truck? But naive goose (Federick) thinks they'll be freed someday in the northern forests

Up to one day a goose named Nelson is returned to the goose farm, and the curious goose asks Nelson what happened ... in its hidden layers , story deals with quantum physics

### **11.30am — Jo-Ann Challis (UK) Love for Menabilly (English)**

Daphne du Maurier invested money and love in Menabilly – an illustrious Cornish house that she could rent but never own. Why? Perhaps because a house can have a personality as vivid, as demanding and as human as its tenant. MENABILLY is a house with a past, but seemingly no future. Hidden away from prying eyes on a Cornish peninsula, it's been abandoned by its owners and left to rot. Mena is hurting and lonely, and embarrassed by its shabby appearance. But everything changes when a young woman finds the house and is instantly Entranced.

When Daphne has to fight to stay in the home she loves, Menabilly is an otherworldly source of strength and urges her on. When Daphne rails against Tommy's presence, Menabilly comforts her with memories of happier times – times that might one day return. But neither Menabilly nor Daphne can control the future, and eventually they must both face the next stage in their lives. The story is told from Menabilly's point of view. Mena is an engaging narrator, displaying vulnerability, compassion, egotism and jealousy as it witnesses the conflict of Daphne and Tommy's last years together.

## **12.30pm — Tempest Productions (UK) Apex (English)**

Written by Alex Dawes, read and sound-edited by Mark Lingwood, produced by Tempest Productions. Released on May 1, 2022

On the morning before a major race, a Formula 1 driver called George walks the course in readiness for a make-or-break performance. Just as he sets off, he's told that he's being dropped by the team and that this will be his last competitive drive. When the race begins, so does George's struggle for supremacy and survival. Jostling with his ruthless competitors, his focus drifts to his father – a champion driver in his day – and to his boyhood racing obsession. Lap after lap, bend after bend, tension builds as George struggles against his rivals on the track and his demons from the past. Everything builds to an explosive apex of a race and a career.

Our ultimate goal as an audio-maker is to bring something different and original to the listener. With Apex we wanted to get across a sense of the danger, adrenaline and physical risk of a race. In short, we wanted to make a lot of noise – crafted, choreographed noise.

## **LUNCH**

### **1.45pm — Georgian Public Broadcasting (Georgia) Stumar Maspindzeli (Georgian, Ingushian, Abkhazian, Osetian, Azerbaijan, Russian)**

The poem Stumar-Maspindzeli - Host and Guest by the great Georgian author Vazha Pshavela (1861-1915) is full of fierce conflicts. The poem reflects how wrong the enmity between nations is, what harm it does, how it eradicates humanity, breaks customs, turns people into a mob full of revenge and destroys individuality.

Unfortunately, the events described in the nineteenth century (poem written in 1893) are still relevant today. A clear example of this is the bloody conflict provoked by Russia in Abkhazia and Ossetia. The war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the border conflict between Ossetians and Ingush, and the invasion of Georgia by the Russian army in 2008, resulted in heavy casualties and the occupation of twenty percent of Georgian territory. These events were especially evident in the bloody war waged by Russia in Ukraine. Based on these stories, the propaganda for the creation of the „Enemy image“, and the stirring up of hatred between the opposing nations, we decided to implement the performance of this poem and to include in the whole composition the scenes performed in Abkhazian, Ingush, Ossetian, Azerbaijani and Russian languages. The texts were recorded online in Abkhazian and Ossetian, as the actors could not arrive due to the political situation. We would like to underscore the main idea of Vazha Pshavela's texts that whatever the ethnicity and faith, the most important things are human values, love and “thou shalt not kill”: “Many times men do not realize they commit a great sin”.

We, the creative team, believe we can make a small contribution to eliminating estrangement between opposing parties. A few words about theatre music. Since we wanted to show that the poem's main idea is still relevant today, we deliberately used well-known modern musical compositions alongside folk tunes.

**2.20pm — Cristina Marras (Italy)**  
**Tutto Il resto è attesa (Italian)**

“Tutto il resto è attesa” (everything else is just waiting) is about the experience of rally racing, specifically the intense focus and adrenaline that comes with the start of a special stage. The speaker, a navigator, describes the process of getting ready for the race, including putting on protective gear and preparing their notes. He also describes the intense focus and pressure of the start of the race, as well as the coordination and communication required between the driver and navigator. The speaker also touches on the importance of teamwork and the ability to overcome obstacles in rally racing, as well as the importance of patience and not rushing to win. It is an incredibly sound reach podcast, with original tape recorded live during a rally, offering an inside look at the intense and unique experience of rally racing.

**2.30pm — Rachel Austin (UK)**  
**Heavier on the Turf (English)**

It is 1967 - the year following the England men’s team World Cup victory. Over the pond, there had been the summer of love and, in Britain, the tides of social change are in full force. Set two years prior to the 1969 founding of the Women’s FA, we follow the Manchester Corinthians, a women’s team, on their hunt for European glory.

The club is founded by George, the father of a teenage girl, Maria, whose deafness has led to difficulty socialising. Maria plays on the wing, just like her Dad used to. The team is made up of a mismatch of Mancunian secretaries, stay at home Mums, primary school teachers and misfits. One thing unites them all – they love playing football. At the time, club contests are banned in the UK for women, so they have to venture further afield in order to partake in proper competitions, which are spearheaded and organised by George. This summer, they are off to Portugal.

A coming of age, on the road piece – ‘Heavier on the Turf’ follows the women on the ferry to success, and the historic win that they achieve when there.

**3.15pm — Close**

**Final Jury Session**

**Voting**

**Award Dinner**