

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

by

AJ DEHANY

29 Plays Later 2016, Day 17: write a play that is shorter than a millisecond or longer than a millennia.

ajdehany@gmail.com

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

(ANCILLARY PARTS CAN BE DOUBLED)

SIMON DAY: Deep-sea diver. Steadfast 43-year old in training for an extended expedition to establish a scientific base at the bottom of the Mariana Trench. Secretly has what he thinks is a slight neurological disorder that makes him see pelagic fish.

AUBREY WYKEHAM: Hard-bitten explorer and mountain climber, three quarters of the way up the north face of K2 without oxygen. His altitude means he will be the first to see it all coming. Tends to complain a lot.

FLT LT SERGEY PROKOFIEV: Pilot lost in the Bermuda Triangle, circling around as his fuel runs out but unable to find any signs of land or sea in any direction. Tight-lipped Caucasian who tends to work too hard.

PRESIDENT ROBERT DIALL: Republican 47th President of the United States of America. About to enter impeachment proceedings following several security breaches and 'oversights' that he cannot prove were not sanctioned from his office, and the revelation that he lied to the nation about the Brink Project.

KIRK DUGGIT: Member of the Counter Terrorist Unit working with the FBI in Washington DC, who suspects there is about to be a major cyberterrorism attack that could "compromise the entire internet". Rarely sees his wife and has trouble sleeping. Male.

GENERAL BIRKBANK: PRESIDENT DIALL'S CHIEF OF STAFF. BELLIGERENT 53-YEAR OLD WHO HAS GAINED CONTROL OF THE NUCLEAR DEFENSE CODES FOLLOWING AN INCIDENT WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS FOUND IN A CRASHED PRIUS HAVING CONSUMED A BOTTLE OF HARD LICQOR WITH A JUNIOR INTERN, POSSIBLY HOMOSEXUAL.

JEM: English UK Uncut activist who has organised a facebook group exposing the depraved shenanigans of lower-level members of the British royal family. Tends to borrow other people's clothes and not give them back.

SHELLEY BAST: Home-maker. A plucky 47-year old who has raised three children to her alcoholic husband Terry, who is currently missing. Tends to have trouble saying no.

BILL TORBY: Cornish Fisherman, 61 years old with a damaged eye, who has noticed that the cod stocks have been exhibiting strange shoal behaviour and an impaired taste of late.

DR SARA DASCHSBY: Marine biologist, 36 years old, is charting extraordinary accelerated development in fish-stocks off the South West Coast of England. Is on the verge of a big discovery about strange radioactive pollutants and can't find a boyfriend.

PROFESSOR FRANZ SCHMIDT: Theoretical physicist at MIT, 67, involved in the Brink Project. Inventor of a new kind of fusion reaction bomb that the US Military have earmarked for testing against his express wishes. Brilliant but constantly embattled and has trouble sleeping.

MRS IDA BIRKBANK: Wife of the US Chief of Staff, with an acerbic tongue and an even harder line on national defense than her husband and who has almost convinced him of his inadequacy as a figure on the world stages. Slightly sentimental about cats.

SIA DURUTTI: Conceptual artist. An anxious 29-year old who aims in her work to express the digimodern vernacular by indiscriminated formal innovation and who is sexually involved with designer Harrow Berne, who she doesn't know has just hanged himself in his Manhattan flat on 23 September.

TONY SLATTERY: The eponymous television comedian and media personality. On the verge of his great comeback but battling twin demons of bipolar disorder and alcohol addiction.

CAPTAIN AHAB: Fictional sailor who while intertextually invoked notices a plane flying above him in the Bermuda Triangle but is unable to attract the attention of the pilot, whom he notices is about to fly directly into a large Dreadnought class warship that is scuttled seventy feet above the surface of the water.

NICE DAVE: Office Manager at Easley's Supplies and Wholesale, Main Office. Father of a severely disabled child Debs. Tends to work too hard and may or may not be female.

FELICE PABLO: Bolivian cartel head and father of six. Personal friend to President Dially and Lippy Downes, he is worried because he is brokering a major deal to increase distribution to the Pacific islands and suspects he's used up his nine-lives, so to speak.

EMPEROR CICERO: Night-club owner and raconteur, 46-year old former children's entertainer whose interest in the performing arts is now largely restricted to booking and arranging payment for light entertainment acts for his establishment in West Croydon.

JACKIE CLEGG: Nurse at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital in Welwyn Garden City who found herself pulled out a long-standing depressive spiral by her experience with a severely disabled child called Debs.

OFFICER J PITREDDY: Police officer serving on the Lower West Side of Manhattan, who thinks he might have discovered a cover-up operation stretching across the whole of the senior management of the law enforcement services, and perhaps even higher.

GOVERNOR SCENECTEDY: 49-year old Governor of Arkansas who has been receiving payouts from Big Pharma in exchange from lobbying but is at risk of losing their backing or being exposed following his outspoken public endorsement of the MGL so-called 'Super Drug'.

DENISE CHANNING: Scenectedy's personal secretary, 23 year-old bombshell with a degree in politics and a secret life as anonymous whistle-blogger Miss Tarnation who first broke the story about Teddy Bunting.

GEORGE MOUNTBANK, EARL OF WESSEX: Low-level member of the British royal family who keeps several different residences across West London as well as other properties in the South West of England. Enjoys recreational drugs and is considered flamboyant.

CHAD BENNING: Hacker who coded the 'Richard III' trojan horse that broke the IRS Timesharing System on September 23. The 19-year old is only ever seen in silhouette because is two-dimensional. Addicted to cheese strings.

AJ DEHANY: Hack for the Daily. Friends with imaginary UK Uncut Activist Jem and Chad Benning. Might have uncovered a major scoop, but suspects he's either imagining it or that his liberal friends are secret Tories. Has trouble stopping.

LIPPY DOWNES: Society junkie and sometime lover of designer Harrow Berne, the 35 year old transsexual is prone to mixing up her hormone treatments and her anti-depressives sometimes resulting in strange growth spurts that make her sad.

NIALL RODNEY: Political poet and activist. Indeterminate age. Following his most recent book I AM AMERIKA he is on a GCHQ watch-list. The police are about to bring him in for questioning following his having met Iranian dissident poet Jiarri several times in public places. Drinks too much and is often rude.

MICHAEL OAKMAN: President of South Africa, who has called together an emergency meeting of the Upper House to discuss what measures to take to respond to the escalating racially-based rioting that has locked down Pretoria for the last 24 hours.

DIRK SONGKIRK: NSA employee in PRISM, collects information sent by foreigners via US-based online services, he is ethically questioning the means of motivations of his line of work and considering following in the footsteps of Edward Snowden.

TEDDY BUNTING: Disgraced former variety entertainer with ties to low-level members of the British royal family and interests in 'tech'. Has bad dreams, like really bad ones.

BARRY BETTS: Publican. An ebullient 51-year old, he secretly helps out his regulars by undercharging them and

sending them small amounts of money and other gifts while he can because he suspects he won't be able to get another loan to keep the pub going and will have to close.

EMILE ZOLA: Deceased French novelist and soi-disant social historian. Tends to be a bit forgetful and cry a lot. Works too hard.

SATOSHI NAKAMOTO: Inventor of bitcoin and creator of its original reference implementation. Existence not proven as to whether he is an individual or group. It is Satoshi's intervention that leads to the so-called 'Freeze-thaw' of the New York Stock Exchange on September 23.

CARRIE ERNEST: Freelance fashion columnist, the sassy 22-year old plans to quit haute couture and publish expansive philosophical novels of an absurdist bent. It is her column on September 23 that inadvertently breaks up Italian Vogue editor Kyra Tutto's marriage.

ALFIE JENK: Property developer. A resourceful 36-year old from Surrey he is putting together a proposal to construct luxury residences on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

GIACOMO TUTTO: Writer and semiologist, 69 years old. Currently having an affair with a fashion school student a third his age, and tends to be slightly forgetful.

NICOLA SMART: Postgraduate student studying fashion, the 23-year old while researching her thesis on reclaimed oil undergarments, might have discovered something about designer Harrow Berne.

TOBY: Three-year old Border Collie, with a keen nose, a sharp eye, and a superb pelt, and who has discovered the body of a man at the bottom of a fire-ridge in the woods at Mustardpit Fell on September 23.

PENNY BIRKBANK: Low-level member of the British Royal family and columnist.

JACOB TUNDRA: 11-year old boy currently held in a hostage situation in Pretoria who thinks he might have spotted a means of escape by crawling under one

of the ventilation suites in the bank if he can encourage the other hostages to create a suitable distraction so that the freedom fighters don't notice.

- CHEESE FRIEND: English Mature Cheddar, known for his bite, texture, affinity with crackers and wine. Has trouble sleeping and tends to be slightly forgetful.
- TINA RICE: Pentagon intern, a bubbly 23-year old who is already slightly dispirited. Has been leaking information to Kirk Duggit and is involved in a 'sexual' relationship with one of General Birkbank's admin team, whom she only texts when she's wasted. Tends to get wasted on account of being slightly dispirited.
- OPAL DEWITT: Academic and civil rights activist currently being questioned by the CIA for her involvement in bringing Iranian dissident poet Jiarri into the country on an illegal visa. Has a penchant for colorful clothes and still more colorful language.
- PRIME MINISTER YANN DEGOEK: Eponymous Prime Minister of Belgium with several high-profile lovers in EU governance bodies that he is using to exert leverage secretly on behalf of a Flemish Unification movement of which his brother is a cell leader. Wears spectacles that are the wrong prescription.
- MAI LAI: Chinese industrialist residing in Hong Kong who has made a deal with US President Diall to construct power stations all along the Eastern Seaboard and personally financed a solar plant off the South West coast of England. Tends to drink too much and spend all night at karaoke bars.
- IL PADRE: Elderly Bolivian cartel godfather, currently in a coma which Felice Pablo had nothing to do with but hopes he doesn't come out of.
- ALAIN ROBBE-GRILLET: Inventor of the nouveau nouveau romain, and still dead. Still French.
- CHAIM MENKEL: The last person who saw Teddy Bunting alive.

TY ILLING: American football quarterback and occasional bit part actor. The face of the 'Redskins Kids' initiative, which is rumoured to be a front for money laundering. Has slight brain damage and a vocal slur, and wonders how secure he will be in retirement. Early adopter of the MGL so-called 'Super Drug'.

BUNNY FIELDINGS: Washed-up jazz singer with a dream, 47. Is about to take a job singing in a certain private members club in the financial district of London, UK, in the hope that she can earn the cash to pay for plastic surgery that she hopes will rejuvenate her ailing musical career and pay for her elderly mother's medical bills.

CHIEF INSPECTOR IAIN ROSEBANK: Detective in Special Branch, working on a tough case involving low-level members of the British royal family. He is certain he is about to be shut down, and every night smuggles home copies of the documentation he has been gathering, but he doesn't know if he'll use it if the worst does come to the worst. Has a slight limp in one leg.

TERR-E: Amateur hacker who by accident and design is the first person to realize the terrible truth about the Brink Project. Never had a girlfriend, trouble masturbating.

ACT 1

SCENE 1

THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH FILLS
THE SEA, REPRESENTED ON STAGE BY
PLASTIC BAGS STRETCHING ACROSS THE
FULL LENGTH OF THE MISE EN SCENE.

STAGE RIGHT AN ACCURSED WHALE IS
BEACHED UPSIDE DOWN ACROSS THE EDGE OF
THE STALLS. SUSPENDED FROM THE FLIES
ARE THICK BLACK CLOUDS MADE OF
HARVESTED HUMAN HAIR AND SYRINGES THAT
ARE BLOCKING OUT THE LIGHT FROM THE
SUN (YELLOW GEL LAMP REAR OF STAGE)

A FLASH OF LIGHT SOFTLY RIPPLES ON THE
FACE OF THE POISONED WATERS AS THE
MUSHROOM CLOUD EXPANDS AND SETS OFF A
CHAIN REACTION INSTANTANEOUSLY
DESTROYING ALL THINGS

CURTAIN