



Home Front II

Episode 5

5th December 1914 - Joe Macknade

By Sarah Daniels

Cast

Joe	Lloyd Thomas
Alice	Claire-Louise Cordwell
Bill	Ben Crowe
Humphrey	Matthew Tennyson
Mervyn	Tom Whitelock
Mickey	Ben Pettengell
Solly	Stephen Critchlow

Directed by JESSICA DROMGOOLE

PLEASE BRING HARD-SOLED SHOES TO THE STUDIO

TX Date: 5th December 2014

SCENE 1 INT. MACKNADE HOUSE. 10.00.AM.

**BILL IS HUNGRY, IRRITATED, AND SPOILING
FOR A FIGHT. HE IS READING ALOUD FROM THE
PAPER. THE ATMOSPHERE IS TENSE.**

BILL: Listen to this.

ALICE: Where did you get that?

BILL: Found it. Captain Billings says that ‘the idea that this
is the greatest war the world has ever seen, and the
most serious climax in our very existence, has not yet
dawned on ninety per cent of young men’

JOE: That’s not fair, I keep trying to join up but they keep
rejecting me.

BILL: I heard down the pub that there’s lady ambulance
drivers out there.. (LAUGHS) Whatever next? There
you go, Joe – there’s a job for you – you big girl’s
blouse. They might consider you for that.

ALICE: Bill.

BILL: What? If they’ll accept bints they’re bound to take a
toothless wonder like him.

ALICE: Please, just leave him alone.

JOE: It’s alright Mum. (TO BILL) Maybe what it means is
that they are turning down ninety per cent of men.

BILL: Course it doesn’t, you dozy pipe. But it does say
Billings told the reporter all this over a high tea at The
Grand, if you please. So there must be a pretty penny
in it if you’re a captain.

MICKEY: The paper would have paid for that.

1 BILL: Who asked you, you know-all-know-nothing.
2 MICKEY: Just saying.
3 BILL: Got any more smokes, you thieving toe-rag.
4 MICKEY: Na, you smoked them all yesterday.
5 BILL: Why don't you go out and see if you can get us some
6 more?
7 ALICE: He hasn't even had his breakfast yet.
8 BILL: That because there aint no breakfast to be had, you
9 dim-witted bint.
10 MICKEY: I'm going. (HE GOES)
11 BILL: And hurry up. (THEN, FROM THE PAPER) Oh listen
12 to this, you could not make this up. They're starting-
13 up something called a Bantam regiment. (STARTS
14 LAUGHING) You know what a bantam is? Yeah, I'm
15 talking to you - toothless boy.
16 JOE: A sort of cock?
17 BILL: A very small one. Oh look at this, they're now taking
18 men so short they belong in circuses. But my
19 scrawny, son who's more chicken than cock still can't
20 get himself signed up.
21 JOE: If I was chicken I wouldn't want to sign up, would I?
22 BILL: You think it'll make you a hero but first sign of the Hun
23 you'll be on your knees crying for your stupid mother.
24 JOE: Will you shut up with calling her stupid?
25 ALICE: Forget it Joe, I've had much worse.
26 BILL: Or what? Or what you toothless chicken?

1 **FX: BILL CHAIR SCRAPES BACK AS HE STANDS TO**
2 **SQUARE UP TO JOE**

3 Come on Mr big shot bantamweight show us what
4 you got.

5 JOE: We're not supposed to be fighting our own family.
6 We're supposed to be fighting the Hun.

7 BILL: (SNEERS, MIMICS) We're supposed to be fighting
8 the Hun. You, my son, you couldn't land a punch on a
9 cream bun, never mind the Hun, ha ha.

10 **JOE PUNCHES BILL IN THE FACE**

11 ALICE: Joe! No!

12 BILL: Little runt. Let me show you how it's done. (STARTS
13 PUNCHING JOE WHO TRIES TO DEFEND
14 HIMSELF)

15 ALICE: Leave him be Bill. Please.

16 BILL: (PUNCTUATING EACH WORD WITH A PUNCH)
17 Keep out of it.

18 ALICE: (TRYING TO PULL BILL OFF) Stop it. Get off him.

19 BILL: (TURN TO ALICE) Stay out of it.

20 ALICE: Leave the child alone

21 BILL He's not a child, is he? According to him, he's a man.

22 ALICE But Jimmy wasn't, was he?

23 BILL Shut it.

24 JOE Mum! No!

25 ALICE Didn't stop you breaking his arm.

1 (BILL PUNCHES ALICE IN THE FACE, NOSE
2 BREAKS SHE FALLS BACK)
3 JOE: Mum? Mum? Are you alright?
4 BILL: She asked for that.
5 JOE: Where are you going?
6 BILL: Out. And don't even think of going snivelling to that
7 money-grabbing quack while I'm gone.
8 **FX BILL GOES SLAMMING THE DOOR BEHIND HIM**
9 JOE: Mum?
10 ALICE: (BARELY ABLE TO SPEAK) I'm alright.
11 JOE: Your nose looks funny.
12 ALICE: Don't talk Joe. There's too much blood coming out
13 your mouth.
14 JOE: Sorry.
15 ALICE: You should know by now that if we don't shut up we
16 always come off worst.
17 JOE: Your nose don't even look in the right place any more.
18 ALICE: Why don't you go and get some ice for me?
19 JOE: I'll be as quick as I can.
20 **JOE GOES.**
21

1 **SCENE 2. EXT HARBOUR. 10.30. AM.**

2 **MERVYN IS AT THE HARBOUR, PACKING FISH**

3 **FOR SALE WHEN JOE COMES UP.**

4 JOE: Couldn't spare us some of that ice? Could yer?

5 MERVYN: Si-si-sit down. (SCOOPING UP SOME ICE) I'll pu-pu-

6 put it on for you.

7 JOE: Oh it's not for me Merv. It's for Mum. She's much

8 worse than me.

9 **MICKEY RUNS UP.**

10 MICKEY: What's happened?

11 JOE: I think he broke Mum's nose.

12 MICKEY: You left him there with her on her own?

13 JOE: No, he went out. She wanted ice for her face.

14 MERVYN: Here I'll put so-so-some in a cloth for, for, for you but

15 you'll have to get home qu-qu-qu, so-so-so it doesn't

16 melt.

17 **FX: MERVYN COLLECTING HANDFULS OF ICE.**

18 MICKEY: Give it to me. I can run faster. Also Joe you should

19 maybe put some in your mouth to stop the blood.

20 MERVYN: (GIVING MICKEY THE ICE) Here, here you are,

21 Mickey.

22 MICKEY: Ta (TAKES THE ICE) See you later.

23 MERVYN: Let me get, get, you so-so-so-some, Joe.

24 JOE: Ta, Merv. You taking the boat out today?

25 MERVYN: We, we, were, were going to trawl for mines but

26 weather's to-to-too bad. St-st-st-storm brewing. Why?

1 JOE: Just wondered.

2 MERVYN: (GIVES JOE ICE) Here.

3 JOE: (PUTS IT IN HIS MOUTH BUT SPITS IT OUT) Ahh!

4 Sorry, it hurts too much. Thanks though.

5 MERVYN: Here, take this cloth. Wi-wi-wipe your chops. You got

6 bl-bl-blood, blood, all over.

7 JOE: Thanks. (THEN) Oh, smells of fish.

8 MERVYN: Sor, sorry

9 JOE: Thanks, thanks, Merv. See you later.

10 MERVYN: Where are you off, now?

11 JOE: See if I can sign up.

12 MERVYN: Again?

13 JOE: It said in the paper today that they'll take anyone now.

14 MERVYN: Good lu-lul-luck then.

15 **JOE GOES**

16

SCENE 3. EXT. TOWN HALL. 12.05 PM

**HUMPHREY AND JOE COME OUT OF THE TOWN
HALL TOGETHER**

HUMPHREY: How's it going over there?

JOE: Where?

HUMPHREY: France.

JOE: How should I know?

HUMPHREY: You look like you're back on leave.

JOE: Chance would be a fine thing. I've been trying to enlist
- turned down - again.

HUMPHREY: Grimes, Humphrey Grimes

JOE: Joe. Joe Macknade.

HUMPHREY: Please to meet you Joe-Joe. I was turned down too.

JOE: Really?

HUMPHREY: I was expecting a commission, but it turns out my
school wasn't even on the list.

JOE: They didn't even ask the name of my school.

HUMPHREY: Mine was established in 1567 by Queen Elisabeth
herself.

JOE: I think mine was the Poor Board.

HUMPHREY: It looks as if mother will have to pay a joining fee.

JOE: You can pay to join?

HUMPHREY: For the better regiments, not for a commission. Poor
mama will be heartbroken. She was sure my school
would be top of the list.

1 JOE: I never really went to school so I don't think that's
2 what's holding me back. I think it's my teeth.

3 HUMPHREY: If you don't mind me saying you don't look like you
4 have many left.

5 JOE: I don't.

6 HUMPHREY: I think they need their heads testing, turning you
7 down. I wouldn't want to go twelve rounds with you.

8 JOE: If only me old man thought that an' all.

9 MICKEY: (COMING UP TO HIM) Alright Joe!

10 HUMPHREY: I better make a move. It looks as though the heavens
11 are about to open and I've forgotten my umbrella.
12 Good day to you.

13 JOE: Yes, good day to you too.

14 MICKEY: Good day. Who was that toff?

15 JOE: Said his name was Grimes, Humphrey Grimes.
16 Seems they turned him down too.

17 MICKEY: They turned you down again?

18 JOE: Shut up. I feel like throwing myself off the pier as it is.

19 MICKEY: What did they turn him down for?

20 JOE: His school not being on a list or something. But he
21 seemed to think you could pay to get yourself in. Fat
22 chance of that for me.

23 MICKEY: If you had the money is that what you'd do with it.

24 JOE: Course. I want to join up more than anything.

25 MICKEY: Come with me but keep your mouth shut.

26 **THEY GO.**

27

1 **SCENE 4. INT. PAWNBROKERS. 1.00. PM.**

2 **FX: SHOP BELL.**

3 SOLLY: Good afternoon lads.

4 MICKEY: (VERY POLITE) Good day to you, Mr Solly.

5 SOLLY: What can I do for you?

6 MICKEY: Dad's broke our Mum's nose.

7 SOLLY: Oh I am so sorry, so very sorry to hear that. And Joe,

8 you don't look too clever either.

9 JOE: No.

10 MICKEY: And she sent us up here to pawn the last most

11 precious family heirloom.

12 **MICKEY REACHES DEEP INTO A POCKET AND**

13 **PULLS OUT HILARY'S POCKET WATCH**

14 MICKEY So we can pay for a doctor.

15 JOE: For her.

16 SOLLY: (EXAMINING IT) Very nice piece, boys. Where did

17 you say it was from?

18 MICKEY: Mum's great, great, great grandfather. It was his

19 pocket watch.

20 SOLLY: And it's in remarkably good condition for something

21 that old.

22 MICKEY: How much are you going to give us for it?

23 SOLLY: You've not got much to say for yourself, Joe.

24 MICKEY: He can't talk proper on account of what Dad did to

25 him. Open your mouth and show Mr Solly, Joe.

26 **JOE OPENS HIS MOUTH**

1 SOLLY: Holy Moses. That is a mess.
2 MICKEY: So what's it worth the watch?
3 SOLLY: I think it's worth quite a considerable sum.
4 MICKEY: That's what I like to hear.
5 SOLLY: But it's such a good piece, I'm going to have to get it
6 valued.
7 MICKEY: How long will that take?
8 SOLLY: A day or two.
9 MICKEY: So we should come in again on Monday?
10 SOLLY: It might take a week.
11 MICKEY: You better give me a receipt for it then.
12 SOLLY: Of course, Master Macknade, we shall do these
13 things properly. Let me get my book.
14 **FX:** **SOLLY STARTS TO WRITE A RECEIPT WITH A**
15 **QUILL PEN.**
16

5. EXT. STREET. CONTINUOUS.

**JOE AND MICKEY WALK AWAY FROM THE
SHOP.**

JOE: Blimey, Mickey. Where did you get that watch?

MICKEY: I found it.

JOE: What, really?

MICKEY: Really truly hope to die.

JOE: Don't say that.

MICKEY: Well, finders keepers?

JOE: How much do you think it's worth?

MICKEY: What comes after a hundred?

JOE: 101?

MICKEY: No, lots after.

JOE: A thousand?

MICKEY: I reckon it's worth that.

JOE: I could buy my own battalion for that.

MICKEY: You're not getting it all.

JOE: I know, I know. I won't want it all! (THEN) I don't
think. I wonder how much it costs to get in the
army?

MICKEY: I thought the army was supposed to pay you.
Not the other way around.

JOE: Me too, but that Grimes must know what he's
talking about. His parents paid for him to go to a
good school.

MICKEY: S'pose.

1 JOE: Them with money can do anything they like.

2 MICKEY: Don't stop them getting killed.

3 JOE No, Esme said they brought that Freddie

4 Graham back in a box last week.

5 MICKEY: Yes, because they had the money to do it.

6 JOE: That's true. If I get shot out there, I'll rot out

7 there.

8 MICKEY: Maybe Solly will give us enough money to get

9 you into the army AND bring your body back.

10 JOE: (PLEASED) Really?

11 MICKEY: I reckon we can pretty much get what we want

12 when we get that sort of cash.

13 JOE: Except get rid of Dad. He'll still be there.

14 MICKEY: Don't tell him nothing, right.

15 JOE: Course not!

16

1 **SCENE 6. INT. MACKNADE'S. 3.30. PM.**

2 **JOE AND MICKEY COME IN. ALICE IS SITTING AT**

3 **THE TABLE.**

4 JOE: (WHISPERS) Is he back yet?

5 ALICE: No, not been back all day, thank God.

6 JOE: You look terrible.

7 ALICE: It's worse than it looks.

8 JOE: (UPSET) Oh mum.

9 ALICE: I'm joking, Joe.

10 JOE: How can you?

11 ALICE: It's no use dwelling on how terrible everything is. Just

12 makes it worse. Anyhow, how did you get on?

13 JOE: Refused again.

14 ALICE: I'm sorry, son.

15 JOE: I can't understand it. I don't have hardly any teeth left

16 now for them to worry about.

17 ALICE: Oh Joe, don't.

18 JOE: No use dwelling on it. Just makes it worse, eh?

19 **MICKEY COMES IN.**

20 MICKEY: Is he back?

21 ALICE: Not yet.

22 JOE: Did you get him any smokes?

23 MICKEY: Three.

24 ALICE: Well done. That should see him through till bed time.

25 JOE: Then it all starts again tomorrow.

1 MICKEY: You stink!

2 JOE: Must be the ice.

3 MICKEY The whole place stinks

4 JOE Don't go on about it, Mickey

5 ALICE He's right. It stinks to high Heaven. Your father's

6 turned this house into a living Hell. No wonder Jimmy

7 doesn't want to come home.

8 JOE Oh mum, 'course he would have, if he could.

9 ALICE Would he? Really? You can't wait to go, can you?

10 JOE To fight for my country.

11 ALICE I just wish we could all sign up, and leave your father

12 here to stew in his own juice

13 JOE: When I saw Mervyn down at the harbour he said they

14 weren't going out tonight cos of the storm brewing.

15 MICKEY: So?

16 ALICE: Yes, what's that got to do with the price of fish?

17 JOE: There was others, other boats though that were

18 preparing to go out.

19 MICKEY: What are you talking about?

20 JOE: I'm talking about using the money to bribe someone to take our

21 Dad out on a boat in a storm and push him overboard.

22 ALICE: (HORRIFIED) Joe! You can't even think like that, let

23 alone say it out loud. We'd all be hung.

24 JOE: We'd be free. And we'd bribe them to say it was an accident.

25 ALICE: Who? Bribe who? And with what?

1 MICKEY: Better off if Dad joined the army then mum would get
2 an allowance for him. We'd get sod all if he drowned.

3 JOE: We get sod all from him now except misery, morning,
4 noon and night.

5 ALICE: Nice dream, son but he'll never sign up not in a million
6 years.

7 MICKEY: How much is the allowance?

8 JOE: How should I know? I never get past the medical but it must be
9 more than Mum gets now which is bruises and broken bones.

10 ALICE: And what did you mean when you said we could use
11 the money... what money?

12 MICKEY: Nothing. Just if we had money, weren't it Joe?

13 JOE: Yee, yes, like you say Mum, it was just a daydream.

14 MICKEY: That's all we can afford to do.

15 **FX BILL KNOCKS ON THE WINDOW**

16 JOE: It's him.

17 ALICE: Whatever he says, whatever he does, keep shtum.

18 BILL: (OFF) I hope you got me some smokes, boy.

19 MICKEY: (CALLS) Yeah Dad - two.

20 JOE: I thought you said it was three.

21 MICKEY: I'm keeping one back till the morning. Can't have it all
22 starting up again, can we?

23 JOE: You aren't as green as you cabbage looking.

24 MICKEY: You gotta think things through, look ahead, Joe.

25 JOE: Yes, I am. Thanks to you this time next week I could be in the army.

26