



NEW CYCLE OF MYSTERY PLAYS

LAZARUS

by Winsome Pinnock

Christine	Noma Dumezweni
Larry	Robert Blythe
Mary	Stephanie Racine
Martha	Sarah Thom
Anderson	Patrick Brennan

Directed by Jessica Dromgoole

PLEASE BRING HARD-SOLED SHOES TO THE STUDIO
PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN YOUR CONTRACTS

Readthrough/ Record:

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Music in 00:00**GILES FRASER:**

Perhaps the most important thing I do as a priest is to bury the dead. Of all the services I conduct, it's the opening words of the funeral service that has the greatest emotional impact. "I am the resurrection and I am the life, says the Lord" It's a phrase taken from John's Gospel in the section that immediately precedes the extraordinary story of Jesus bringing the 4 day dead Lazarus back to life. "He who believes in me, though he may die, yet shall he live" Jesus explains. In this new series of commissions, Radio 3 has invited modern playwrights to set some well-known New Testament stories in a modern context and see if a new light can be shed on familiar narratives that many of us think we understand. In this version of the Lazarus story, the recovering Larry gives up on conventional science and puts his faith in a curious healer.

SCENE 1 INT. CENTRE FOR HEALING & EMOTIONAL ENLIGHTENMENT

Music out 1:14 Music in 1:16 Out 1:20

1 CHRISTINE: Breathe in. And out again. Feel the healing light of the breath bathing every cell in your body, disinfecting the diseased cells. Feel the energy surging through you. And relax... Take one last look around your secret sanctuary - whenever you feel a crisis coming on this is the place that you can retreat to for healing and sustenance. Now, close the door behind you and step out into the beautiful garden, feel the sunshine on your back as you walk across the lawn. And at the count of 6 open your eyes. 1...2..3..4..5...6 - Wide awake! Wide awake.

2 LARRY: (SIGHS) Aaah. I could have lain there forever.

3 CHRISTINE: How do you feel?

4 LARRY: Like a new man. You're a miracle worker.

5 CHRISTINE: Hardly. It's your body. I'm just a guide. And what we talked about last time? Have you given that any more thought?

6 LARRY: I've thought about nothing else all week.

7 CHRISTINE: And?

8 LARRY: It's a big step.

9 CHRISTINE: You know as well as I do that drugs only manage the body's symptoms. They can't cure you. In fact, they cause even more problems themselves. And the medical profession has the cheek to call these crises "side effects".

10 LARRY: The thought of not taking anything scares me half to death.

4 CHRISTINE: If you need a pill, I can give you one. Open your hand...

5 LARRY: I can't. Look at them, all knotted and gnarled.

6 CHRISTINE: Let me help you.

LARRY GROANS WITH PAIN.

7 CHRISTINE: There. Take that. Do you need a glass of water?

8 LARRY: But there's nothing there.

9 CHRISTINE: There are vast areas of the brain whose function is still a mystery to the scientists. I too believed in science until I learnt how to tap into the power of those uncharted regions, and look what happened to me - I was completely healed. If it worked for me it can work for you. Do you trust me?

10 LARRY: Yes, of course I do.

11 CHRISTINE: Do you trust yourself?

12 LARRY: I... I don't know.

13 CHRISTINE: You may not believe in yourself, but I believe in you. I was cured and the same thing can happen to you. Look at your hand, Larry. Can you see it? A pill that glows like a tiny star?

14 LARRY: Yes, I can see it now.

1 CHRISTINE: That little pill has a hundred times more healing power than all the medication that your doctor is encouraging you to contaminate yourself with.

2 LARRY: And I can be healed just like you were?

3 CHRISTINE: Yes, Larry, yes. Do you believe me?

4 LARRY: I....I'm not sure.

5 CHRISTINE: The power is within you. You don't need the doctors and their lies. You can heal yourself. Say it, Larry.

8 LARRY: Yes. I don't need the doctors and their lies. I can heal myself. The power is within me.

CHRISTINE: Yes.

SCENE 2 INT. DOCTOR ANDERSON'S SURGERY. DAY.

- 1 ANDERSON: Breathe in.... And out.... Perfect...Your system seems to be responding quite remarkably to the new medication. How are you sleeping?
- 2 LARRY: Like a baby. Why do you ask?
- 3 ANDERSON: Insomnia can be one of the side effects of this particular drug.
- 4 LARRY: I know. That's why I'm not taking it anymore.
- 5 ANDERSON: So we'll increase the dose to 50mg. What was that you said?
- 6 LARRY I haven't popped a single pill in three weeks.
- 7 ANDERSON Very funny, Larry.
- 8 LARRY I'm not joking, Bob.
- 9 ANDERSON But that's insane. Do you want to experience another crisis?
- 10 LARRY You said yourself that I'm a picture of health. I haven't felt so well in years. Christine says that I...
- 11 ANDERSON Christine Matthews?
- 12 LARRY You know her?
- 13 ANDERSON You're the third patient this month who's thrown away their medication. She's a very dangerous woman.
- 14 LARRY Her method works, Bob. Look at me!.
- 15 ANDERSON: Larry, I strongly advise you to continue with your medical treatment - to do otherwise is to run the risk of a very serious relapse. Another crisis could kill you.

3 LARRY: I'm not going to argue with you. I've always listened to your advice because I trust you, but now you must trust that I understand my own body. I'm not going to take those pills anymore and that's the end of it.

Piano Music in 5:52

SCENE 3 LARRY'S HOUSE. DAY.

LARRY LISTENS TO HIS DAUGHTER MARTHA PLAYING THE PIANO

1 LARRY: Beautiful. Just beautiful. This was one of your mother's favourite pieces. Now, Martha, keep your nerve in the run up to the crescendo. Good. Well done.

FX MARTHA MAKES A MISTAKE. SHE BASHES THE
KEYBOARD IN FRUSTRATION, CREATING A
DISCORDANT SOUND.

Piano Out 6:18

2 MARTHA: I'll never be as good as Mary.

3 LARRY: Nonsense. You're the talented one. But you lack confidence. And you don't practice.

4 MARTHA: I would if I was any good.

5 LARRY: Music is energy and passion. Life. I know you've got it inside you.

FX SOUND OF THE FRONT DOOR.

6 LARRY: I wish she wouldn't bang the door like that.

7 MARTHA: Probably got some bee in her bonnet. Again.

8 MARY COMES IN.

9 MARY: What's this Bob Anderson says about you refusing to take your medication?

10 LARRY: He has no right to discuss my private medical issues with you.

- 11 MARY: Is it true?
- 12 LARRY: I don't need it any more.
- 1 MARTHA: Daddy.
- 2 MARY: Are you having some kind of breakdown?
- 3 LARRY: I have never felt better.

FX LARRY STARTS TO PLAY A VERY COMPLEX PIECE ON
THE PIANO

Piano Music in 7:00

- 4 MARTHA: You're playing again? He's playing, Mary!
- 5 MARY: Stop it. Look at you. You look exhausted.
- 6 LARRY: How would you look if you'd jogged for 3 miles? Yes, I went off early this morning. And when I came back I practised this sonata for two hours. I've got more energy than a man half my age.
- 7 MARY: Jogging in the snow? Are you mad? You'll bring on another crisis.
- 8 LARRY: Do I look as though I'm having a crisis? I could run for 3 more miles, ten more.

Piano Out 7:27

- 9 MARTHA: He's getting better, Mary. You saw what his hands were like before. He could barely walk.
- 10 MARY: Father, take your medication and then it'll be time for your rest. You need to conserve your strength.
- 11 LARRY: What for? Just so that you can mother me?

- 12 MARY: This is the thanks I get for taking care of you.
- 13 LARRY: You have been a wonderful carer. But I don't need to be looked after any more. You can both get on with your own lives.
- 14 MARY: That quack's put you up to this.
- 1 LARRY: Her name is Christine.
- 2 MARY: I thought you would have more sense than to be taken in by someone like that.
- MARTHA Mary's right, Dad.
- MARY And how much have you paid her for this miracle cure?
- 9 LARRY: Christine has given me back my life and for that I'd give her everything I own. Not that she'd take it. I trust her and I'm going to continue with her treatment, so you'd both better get used to it.
- .

SCENE 4 EXT THE COUNTRYSIDE**FX LARRY AND CHRISTINE RUNNING**

- 1 LARRY: Come on, slow coach.
- 2 CHRISTINE: (PANTING) I can't keep up with you.
- 3 LARRY: I'm supposed to be the one with the disease.
- 4 CHRISTINE: Not anymore. You've been cured. You're free.
- 5 LARRY: This is the spot. Look at that view.
- 6 CHRISTINE: Wow. Wow. It's spectacular. I spend my life talking about the power of nature, but I'm always too busy to enjoy it myself. Thank you for bringing me here.
- 7 LARRY: Me and Angela used to bring Mary and Martha here when they were very small, but I think they've forgotten all about it. Now it's my secret healing sanctuary. I only show this to special people.
- 8 CHRISTINE: I'm honoured.
- 9 LARRY: I'm the one who's honoured. I'm in the presence of a genius.
- 10 CHRISTINE: I wouldn't go that far.
- 11 LARRY: Did you see how fast I ran up that hill? I couldn't have done that if it hadn't been for you.
- 12 CHRISTINE: It's not me though, is it?
- 13 LARRY: I know, I know, but I'd never have discovered my own power if it hadn't been for you. Here, I wanted to give you this, to say thank you.
- 14 CHRISTINE: What is it?

1 LARRY Open it and see.

FX CHRISTINE OPENS THE PRESENT

2 LARRY Happy Christmas.

3 CHRISTINE It's so beautiful.

4 LARRY Angela used to wear it.

5 CHRISTINE I can't take this. Give it to one of your daughters.

6 LARRY They'd say it was old fashioned. Please accept it. It would mean the world to me. Here, let me pin it on for you.

HE PINS ON THE BROOCH.

7 CHRISTINE That's very kind, thank you.

8 LARRY I know that I'm a little older than you. Well, quite a lot older, but I think I'm...

9 CHRISTINE: Don't, Larry.

10 LARRY: There's a reason I've got so much energy these days. Just being around you makes me feel 10 years younger.

11 CHRISTINE: No. The power is within you.

12 LARRY: I'm in love...

13 CHRISTINE No, Larry.

14 LARRY ... and I think you feel the same way, don't you? You said I was special.

15 CHRISTINE: Love is the most powerful of emotions. It's crucial to the healing process. And I do love you, of course I do, but not in that way.

16 LARRY: I won't let our love get in the way of your work, I promise.

1 CHRISTINE: I've got a calling and because of that I can't do the things that other women do. Don't you see?

2 LARRY: I could make you happy.

3 CHRISTINE: No! You've spoilt everything now.

4 LARRY: Don't go. Christine. I love you. I love you.

FX SOUND OF CHRISTINE'S FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY.

5 LARRY: (SCREAMS) Christine! .

SCENE 5 INT. MARY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE. DAY.**LARRY IS SCREAMING****MARY ENTERS**

- 1 MARY: Martha! What's wrong? What happened?
- 2 MARTHA: He came home, saying he was feeling tired, so I put him to bed in here and the next thing I know he started to cry out in pain.
- 3 MARY: He's having a crisis. Call him an ambulance.
- 4 MARTHA: He's forbidden it.
- 5 MARY: Forbidden it? Are you mad? He's in no fit state to make such a decision.
- 6 MARTHA: But he has made a decision, hasn't he?
- 7 MARY: He's dying, can't you see?
- 8 LARRY: Go away, both of you. Leave me in peace. Christine!
- 9 MARTHA: We should call her. He must have her number here somewhere.
- 10 MARY: We're going to get you help, dad. (TO MARTHA) Call Bob Anderson. I'll get him some water.

FX MARY POURS WATER

- 11 LARRY: No! Oh, my head, my back. Help me, Christine. Please help me.
- 12 MARTHA: There must be a card in his wallet.
- 13 MARY: Here, drink this. You're dehydrating.

FX WE HEAR LARRY CHOKING AS HE GULPS WATER.

MARTHA: Here it is I'll call the centre.

FX MARTHA DIALS THE NUMBER

LARRY CRIES OUT

2 MARY: Give me that phone. I'm calling Bob Anderson.

3 MARTHA: No, Mary. He wants Christine (KEEPING THE PHONE OUT OF MARY'S REACH, SPEAKS QUICKLY) I need to speak to Christine Matthews. It's an emergency. It's Lazarus Greene. He's having a crisis... Oh... Oh I see... Please try to get hold of her. She must come as soon as she can...

FX MARTHA PUTS DOWN THE PHONE

4 MARTHA: She's at some sort of Healing Arts Conference, but they're going to try to track her down for us.

5 MARY: I've had enough of this.

6 MARTHA: We can't go against his wishes.

7 MARY: Give me that phone.

THE SISTERS SWAP PLACES

8 MARTHA: Oh, daddy. It's going to be all right. You're going to be fine.

FX MARY DIALS. WE CAN BARELY HEAR THE PERSON ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE.

9 MARY: I need to speak to Dr Anderson. It's an emergency.

SCENE 6 INT. CONFERENCE HALL. DAY.**CHRISTINE IS ADDRESSING THE CONFERENCE**

1 CHRISTINE: Does anyone here believe that I can turn this glass of tap water into a glass of wine? Or that I can feed the lot of you with just these two bagels and this tin of pilchards?

FX LIFTS FOOD AND PUTS IT DOWN, TO LAUGHTER

... Thought not. After all I'm not a magician. What we do at the centre is purely scientific, a new kind of science. This picture (SHE PROGRESSES A POWERPOINT) shows a diseased cell before the sufferer sought help at our centre. You can see the areas of contamination here and here. And now this slide (**FX: SHE PROGRESSES THE POWERPOINT**) shows the cell from the same man after he was taught the art of self-treatment. There are still areas of contamination, but you can see that they are considerably reduced. All without the use of medication....

FX AUDIENCE RESPONSE

I just had a call from this man's family. Apparently he's undergoing a crisis as we speak, but do I need to rush to his bedside with a beacon flashing on my car roof? Of course not because I have faith that he can use the energy generated by the crisis to heal himself. After all, a crisis is a natural phenomenon, not the calamity that the old science seems to think it is. A crisis is the first stage of regeneration.

SCENE 7 **INT. THE FAMILY HOME. DAY.**

MARTHA: No, no.

1 ANDERSON: I'm sorry, but there was nothing I could do for him.

3 MARY: Are you sure? Can you check just one more time?

4 ANDERSON: I'm afraid he's dead, Mary.

5 MARTHA: But he seemed so full of life these past weeks.

6 MARY: I knew something like this would happen. We should have forced him to take his medication.

7 MARTHA: The choice was his and his alone. (BEAT) It's just the two of us now, Mary.

8 ANDERSON: You know that you can always rely on me, don't you?

9 MARTHA: Thank you, Bob.

10 ANDERSON: It's the least I can do.

FX **A KNOCK ON THE DOOR**

11 ANDERSON: That must be the ambulance.

12 MARY: I'll get it.

WE FOLLOW MARY OUT TO...

SCENE 8 INT. FAMILY HOUSE. DOORSTEP. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)**FX MARY OPENS THE FRONT DOOR**

- 1 MARY: What do you want?
- 2 CHRISTINE: I've come to see Larry.
- 3 MARY: Well, you can't. He's dead.
- 4 CHRISTINE: He can't be.
- 5 MARY: So much for the power within, eh?
- 6 CHRISTINE: I'm sorry.
- 7 MARY: I'll bet you are. You can't use him to fool your followers
any more, can you?
- BEAT
- Sorry.
- 8 CHRISTINE: Your father was a very special man...He meant a great deal
to me. Can I see him? Just once more. Please.
- BEAT
- 9 MARY Sure. Sorry. He's in the Music Room. There, on the right.
We're in the kitchen.

WE FOLLOW CHRISTINE INTO THE MUSIC ROOM

SCENE 9 MUSIC ROOM. EVENING.

1 CHRISTINE: Larry, I know that you can hear me. It's not time for you to go yet. There's too much work to be done. And I can't do it without you. You said you loved me. If that's true then reach deep inside your mind, harness all that love and passion for life and make your way back to me.

CUT TO:

SCENE 10 **INT. FAMILY HOME. KITCHEN. DAY.**

- 1 MARTHA: What's she doing in there?
- 2 MARY: God knows. She wanted to be alone with him.
- 3 MARTHA: They were great friends, Mary. She made him very happy during those last months.
- 4 ANDERSON: You're right. Even I couldn't prescribe a medication which could do that.

FX **CHRISTINE CLOSING THE MUSIC ROOM DOOR.**

- 5 MARTHA: Shush! She's coming.

FX **CHRISTINE OPENS THE KITCHEN DOOR**

- 6 CHRISTINE: Thank you for letting me have some time with him. You will let me know if there's anything that I can do for you, won't you?
- 7 MARTHA Of course we will.
- 8 MARY We'll be in touch with you about the funeral arrangements.
- 9 CHRISTINE Thank you.

FX **WE HEAR A SONATA BEING PLAYED ON THE PIANO**

Music in 17:10

- 10 MARTHA: What's that?
- 11 MARY: Who's playing the piano?

THEY ALL RUSH THROUGH TO THE MUSIC ROOM

- 12 ANDERSON It can't be.

Out 17:15

1 LARRY: Is this some kind of surprise party? What are you all doing here?

2 CHRISTINE: Larry.

3 ANDERSON: But that's impossible...

4 LARRY: Oh crikey, I'm naked. Sorry. I'll go and get my dressing gown.

MARY Here. (hands him a cover)

5 ANDERSON: Am I dreaming or can you all see what I'm seeing?

8 LARRY: I was in this place of pitch blackness, and I was all alone. But then I heard a voice, faint to begin with like the first notes of a sonata played on a piano in the distance. The sound was so sweet that I had to follow it as it got louder. And as I pursued it the darkness gave way to dazzling white light and the rhythm gained momentum, pulsing through me like the sound of my own heartbeat.

BEAT

Mary?

MARY: But you're, you were, he was.

9 CHRISTINE: He's come back. You've come back Larry.

Annos.

Music in 18:35

Music out: 19:05

END