



# NEW CYCLE OF MYSTERY PLAYS

The Good Samaritan  
by Katie Hims

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Niall</b>                      | <b>Ben Crowe</b>                       |
| <b>Janine</b>                     | <b>Sarah Gordy</b>                     |
| <b>Ali</b>                        | <b>Lizzy Watts</b>                     |
| <b>Kofi</b>                       | <b>O-T Fagbenle</b>                    |
| <b>Driver</b>                     | <b>Paul Stonehouse</b>                 |
| <b>Louise /<br/>Station Annos</b> | <b>Stephanie Racine<br/>(post rec)</b> |

Directed by Jessica Dromgoole

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

**Readthrough/ Record:**

Tuesday 30 October 2012 1430-1900

**TX: Tuesday 18 December 2012 at 2245 in The Essay BBC Radio 3**  
**Sequence 1      Interior. Moving Tube Train. Central Line.**

**Music IN 00:00**

**GILES FRASER:** The mystery plays of the middle ages brought the stories of the bible out of the Church and into the market place. In this new series of commissions, radio 3 has invited some modern playwrights to do something similar- to set some well-known New Testament stories in a modern context and see if a new light can be shed of familiar narratives that many of us think we understand. For the problem is that over familiarity can stop one asking questions and thus set misunderstanding in stone. For example, people commonly misinterpret the parable of the Good Samaritan probably because "being a Good Samaritan" has come to be so common a description of helping out a stranger in need. But there is more to this most famous of parables. Because what's key is that the person doing the helping is not someone that Jews traditionally admired for their virtue-not a priest, for instance- but a despised political opponent. It's a bit like the homophobe being helped by the gay man or the racist thug being helped out by the Asian woman. The story is not just about being nice to strangers. It is a story about overcoming prejudice. In this version of the parable, set on the London Underground. Niall finds he has to confront his own preconceptions as he is offered assistance from someone really quite unexpected.

**Niall is sitting on the train. He calls Ali.**

|         |                             |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Ali   | What?                       |
| 2 Niall | Alright Ali, how you doing? |
| 3 Ali   | What you ringing me for?    |
| 4 Niall | I can ring you, can't I?    |
| 5 Ali   | I told you not to.          |

**Music Out      1:40**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 6 Niall | Yeh but you didn't mean it.  |
| 7 Ali   | What do you mean I didn't mean it? Course I meant it.<br>That's the problem with you Niall - you don't listen. |

8 Niall I do. I do listen.

9 Ali So why you calling me then?

10 Niall Cos you didn't mean it.

11 Ali I need – some time out.

12 Niall You can have time out. You can have all the time out you want.

13 Ali Not if you keep calling me I can't.

14 Niall Well how much time out do you need – exactly.

15 Ali I don't know.

16 Niall I think if you could give me a sort of ball park – number – number of – I don't know – hours – days. Sort of thing.

17 Ali Niall.

18 Niall What?

19 Ali I don't know. That's the whole point. I need to get my head together.

1 Niall Okay. Okay. That's fine. That's absolutely. That's understandable.

2 Ali Don't call me, I'll call you.

REC VOICE *The next station is Leytonstone*

3 Niall Like they say.

4 Ali What?

5 Niall That's a quote, isn't it. Don't call me, I'll call you. That's a quote from something.

6 Ali Is it?

7 Niall I don't know.

8 Ali Listen I've got to go. I've got a lot on my plate today. Don't call me, I'll call you.

9 Niall Okay. Okay. You call me.

**FX** **She has already hung up.**

10 Niall You call me. Yeh. Yeh great. Lovely. Smashing. Bye. Bye then. I love you too.

**FX** **The train stops**

11 Rec Voice: *This Is Leytonstone.*

**FX** **The doors open and close**

**Sequence 2** **As before**

**Janine gets on the train. She sits down next to Niall.**

**FX** **The train moves on**

1 Janine You've got a spider.  
 2 Niall What?  
 3 Janine You've got a spider crawling up your back.  
 4 Niall Really?  
 5 Janine Yeh.

**FX** **Niall tries to brush his own back**

6 Janine No, it's still there.  
 7 Niall Is it?  
 8 Janine I'll get it.  
 9 Niall No don't worry.

**FX** **Janine ignores him and brushes Niall's back**

10 Janine I got it. It's gone.  
 11 Niall Thanks.  
 12 Janine I've never seen a spider on a train before.  
 13 Niall Erm, no, no me neither.  
 14 Janine Probably it's a sign.

**Beat**

15 Janine Like magpies.

**Beat**

16 Janine I'm not afraid of spiders or heights or the dark.  
 1 Niall Oh well that's... that's good.

2 Janine What's your name?

3 Niall My name is Niall.

4 Janine Niall?

5 Niall Yeh.

6 Janine Like the river.

7 Niall Yeh. Er yeh. But it's not spelt like that.

8 Janine How's it spelt?

9 Niall N. I. A. L. L.

10 Janine I'm Janine.

Rec Voice *The next station is Leyton.*

12 Janine I'm going three stops.

13 Niall Oh right.

14 Janine Leyton. Stratford. Mile End.

15 Niall Good for you.

16 Janine My nan's meeting me.

17 Niall Good.

18 Janine She's proud of me.

19 Niall I'm sure she is.

20 Janine She's only got one leg.

21 Niall What?

22 Janine My nan. She's only got one leg.

23 Niall Oh. Okay.

**FX                    The train stops**

1 Rec Voice: *This is Leyton.*

**FX                    The doors open and close. The train moves on**

2 Janine This is Leyton.

**Beat**

3 Janine This is Leyton.

4 Niall Yeh it is yeh.

5 Janine Next stop is Stratford.

6 Niall Yep.

7 Janine Then it's Mile End. Are you getting off at Mile End?

8 Niall Erm. No.

9 Janine Where you going then?

11 Niall Oxford Circus.

12 Janine Oh Oxford Circus. Christmas shopping?

13 Niall Yeh.

14 Janine Leaving it a bit late.

15 Niall Erm yeh.

16 Janine I get all my Christmas presents online.

17 Niall Do you.

18 Janine Yeh I've got all my Christmas presents. Usually by the end of August.

19 Niall August.

20 Janine I like to be organised.

21 Niall Right.

22 Janine Not like you. Not last minute.

1 Niall Sorry – sorry. I've just got to make a phone call.

2 Janine Ok.

3 Niall Excuse me.

4 Janine You go ahead. Make your phone call. Phone a friend.

5 Niall Erm yeh thanks.

**Sequence 3                    As before (but onto a second mic)**

**Niall moves away. Calls Ali again.**

1 Ali                    What?

2 Niall                I'm sorry. I'm really sorry to phone.

3 Ali                    What do you want?

4 Niall                Listen. Listen.

5 Ali                    What?

6 Niall                There's this woman.

7 Ali                    What woman?

8 Niall                I dunno. She just started talking to me. She just started talking to me and I didn't know what to say. I think she's some sort of handicapped.

9 Ali                    Don't say that.

10 Niall               Say What?

11 Ali                   Handicapped.

12 Niall               Well what are you supposed to call them?

13 Ali                   Disabled. Probably. Is she in a wheelchair?

14 Niall               No – she's got legs and everything.

15 Ali                   Well some people in wheelchairs have legs Niall.

16 Niall               I know. I know they do. Don't make out like you know more about it than me.

17 Ali                   You sure she can't hear you?

18 Niall               I've just moved. I've just moved to the other end of the carriage. She can't hear me now. I've just moved.

19 Ali You know you've got a voice like a foghorn.

1 Niall I'm whispering. Can't you hear that I'm whispering?

2 Ali Your whisper is not particularly effective though is it Niall. I mean even when you're whispering you're like the town crier.

3 Niall I thought I was a foghorn.

4 Ali When you're talking normally you're a foghorn. When you're whispering you're a town crier.

5 Niall So long as we've got that straight.

6 Ali Is that the only one reason you're calling me? Cos you're afraid of the disabled woman?

7 Niall No – no – and I'm not afraid of the – of the disabled woman – actually. But no. What I wanted to say is that I'm sorry. I'm very very sorry for what I did.

8 Ali I know. I know you're sorry. You've said you're sorry. You've said it lots of times.

9 Niall I just want you to know that I mean it.

10 Ali I know you mean it.

11 Niall So you can forgive me then can't you? I mean if someone is really sorry about what they did – then they ought to be forgiven don't you think?

12 Ali Well that depends a bit on the nature of the crime, Niall.

13 Niall The crime.

14 Ali Yes.

15 Niall Well it wasn't a crime. What I did. It wasn't criminal.

16 Ali That was just a figure of speech.

17 Niall Oh. Oh. I see.

1 Ali Although technically. Technically, it is a crime actually.

2 Niall What?

3 Ali I mean I didn't think of it like that. But actually it was a crime. It is a crime. I mean there is a law against it.

4 Niall Don't say that.

5 Ali But it's true.

6 Niall But it wasn't like that was it.

7 Ali Wasn't like what?

8 Niall Ali.

9 Ali Don't call me Niall. I don't want you calling me.

10 Niall Ali. Alison.

11 Ali I mean it.

12 Niall We're going into a tunnel – in a sec – I'll call you when I get to –

13 Ali Don't call me.

14 Niall Just to finish the conversation.

15 Ali The conversation is finished.

16 Niall Just to finish the conversation.

17 Ali The conversation is over.

**FX** **The signal goes**

18 Niall Well it is now.

**Sequence 4**      **As before****FX**      **The Tube just judders. And stops****Niall sighs.**

1 Niall                    That's just great. That's just bloody marvellous.

2 Driver (Tannoy) *Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm afraid we're experiencing a slight technical hitch.*

3 Niall                    Did he just say that? Did he really just say that?

**Beat**

4 Niall                    Do you speak English?

5 Kofi                     Sorry?

6 Niall                    Oh you do.

7 Kofi                     Yeh. I do.

8 Niall                    You are English. Sorry. Sorry about that. I just thought for a second you was foreign.

9 Kofi                     No.

10 Niall                   Sorry.

11 Kofi                    It's alright.

12 Niall                   It was just cos you didn't reply straight away. It wasn't cos of anything else. I thought you couldn't understand me.

13 Kofi                    Yeh. No. I know.

14 Niall                   I just couldn't believe he said that thing about a technical hitch. I mean it's not very reassuring is it.

15 Kofi                    I suppose not.

16 Niall I mean it's very non-specific is what I mean. I mean it could be a brake light or it could be a jumper – a suicide – or it could be a terrorist attack.

1 Kofi Well hopefully it's not a terrorist attack.

2 Niall **(laughs nervously)** Exactly. Exactly.

3 Driver (Tannoy) *I'm afraid we're going to be held in this tunnel for fifteen or twenty minutes.*

4 Niall Fifteen or twenty minutes – he's having a laugh isn't he – fifteen or twenty minutes. I've got to be at Oxford Circus – bloody hell.

### Beat

5 Driver (Tannoy) *I'm very sorry about this ladies and gentlemen.*

6 Niall Oh well that's alright then.

7 Driver (Tannoy) *We will have the problem resolved as quickly as possible.*

8 Niall But what is the problem mate? What exactly is the problem? I mean a bit more information wouldn't go amiss would it? They think we're stupid. They think we're all like sheep. Sheep are very stupid. But we're not sheep are we? We're not animals. We're humans. The whole system's knackered anyway. Don't you think?

9 Kofi Sorry?

10 Niall The system – it's knackered.

11 Kofi You mean the tube?

12 Niall The tube – course. It's falling apart. Like the country.

13 Driver (Tannoy) *I'm very sorry about this ladies and gentlemen.*

14 Niall Why don't you piss off! Can you hear me! Can you hear me!

15 Kofi Christ.

16 Niall oh man. Where you going? Oy! Where you going?

**Kofi doesn't reply. Moves off.**

1 Niall Unbelievable.

**Sequence 5 As before**

**Janine comes down the carriage.**

- 1 Janine Are you alright Niall?
- 2 Niall I'm fine.
- 3 Janine What you shouting for?
- 4 Driver (Tannoy) *Ladies and Gentlemen – the tannoy cuts out - in a minute – the tannoy cuts out*
- 5 Niall Because the system is knackered.
- 6 Driver (Tannoy) *Ladies and Gentlemen – the tannoy cuts out again – I'm told it's no cause for concern.*
- 7 Niall Piss off!

**Niall starts breathing funny.**

- 8 Janine Niall?

**Niall doesn't answer.**

- 9 Janine Are you sure you're alright?
- 10 Niall I don't feel good. I don't feel right.

**Niall still breathing funny.**

- 11 Janine Shall I pull the emergency thingy?
- 12 Niall Yes.

**FX Janine pulls the cord**

**The tannoy responds with:**

- 13 Driver *Hello – hello – tannoy cuts out.*
- 14 Niall Tell him – I'm having a heart attack.
- 15 Janine Erm – erm excuse me can you hear me –

16 Driver *Hello.*

17 Janine - yeh erm there's a man having a heart attack.

1 Driver *Hello – hello –*

**Kofi calls from the other end of the carriage/ far enough away**

2 Kofi Is he alright?

**Niall breathing heavily.**

3 Driver *We'll – be – moment. Just -*

4 Niall I'm going to die in this tunnel cos of a knackered tannoy

5 Kofi What's the matter?

6 Niall Heart attack.

7 Janine It might not be.

8 Niall What?

9 Janine It might be something else.

10 Niall What are you – bloody doctor?

11 Janine No. I'm not a doctor.

12 Niall You surprise me.

13 Kofi What's wrong with him?

14 Janine Niall thinks he's having a heart attack but I think it might be anxiety.

15 Niall Anxiety?

16 Janine Like my nan gets.

**Kofi comes**

17 Kofi Do you two know each other?

18 Janine Yes.

19 Niall No. I mean we just met.

1 Janine Niall's going Christmas shopping in Oxford Circus. He's left it to the last minute. My name's Janine. What's your name?

2 Kofi Kofi.

3 Janine Kofi, that's a nice name.

4 Kofi Thanks.

5 Driver *Hello?*

6 Kofi Hello.

7 Driver *We'll be – can you –*

8 Kofi Hello?

9 Janine My nan. She can't breathe sometimes. But it's not her heart. It's anxiety. She can't breathe and she has to say things to herself. Like nothing bad is going to happen. Nothing bad is going to happen. Nothing bad is going to happen. And that helps her. That helps her breathe again.

10 Niall Oh right. I see.

11 Janine That's what you've got to do.

12 Niall Do what?

13 Kofi You've got to say it.

14 Niall Say what?

15 Kofi Nothing bad is going to happen.

16 Niall Erm.

17 Janine Go on.

19 Kofi Say it.

## Beat

1 Janine You're not saying it.

2 Niall I am. I am saying it.

3 Janine I can't hear you.

4 Kofi Me neither.

5 Niall In my head. I'm saying it in my head.

6 Janine You've got to say it out loud for it to work.

7 Niall Nothing bad is going to happen.

8 Janine But you say it over and over.

### **Niall sighs**

9 Niall But it's not true is it?

10 Kofi What's not true?

11 Niall Bad things happen all the time. So in actual fact... In actual fact bad things happen all the time.

12 Janine On the news.

13 Niall Yeh on the news. And that. All over the place. I mean how did your nan lose her leg. I mean how does that work – if your nan lost her leg-

14 Kofi Your nan lost her leg?

15 Janine Yeh.

16 Kofi How?

17 Janine Cancer –

18 Niall See – there's cancer – cancer is just one of the many, the millions of bad things and then she knows doesn't she – that bad things happen. So then how does it work then – for her if she knows that bad things happen.

19 Janine She's just a very positive person.

1 Niall A positive person who has panic attacks.

2 Janine Yeh.

3 Kofi The two things aren't mutually exclusive.

Janine: No, they're not.

4 Niall My wife's going to leave me. She's thinking about it.

7 Janine Oh.

8 Niall She's staying with her sister at the moment. Her sister Louise. The one who hates me.

9 Kofi But she hasn't decided yet? It's not final sort of thing.

10 Niall No.

11 Janine So maybe she'll come back.

12 Niall Maybe.

13 Kofi So you've got to hope for the best.

14 Niall I hit her.

15 Kofi What?

16 Niall On Tuesday I punched her in the face.

17 Kofi Jesus.

20 Janine That's terrible.

21 Kofi That is bad. That is very bad.

22 Niall I know.

23 Janine You shouldn't hit people.

24 Niall I know.

1 Janine You should say sorry.

2 Niall I have.

3 Kofi I think she *should* leave you.

4 Niall                   Don't say that.

5 Kofi                   But she should. I mean if you've hit her once you'll hit her again. Blokes like you they say sorry but they don't mean it. They say sorry but it's only til next time.

6 Niall                   I'm not like that. I'm different from that. I've never hit her before.

9 Janine                  You should say sorry. A bigger sorry. The biggest sorry you can say. That's what I think.

10 Kofi                   And then she should leave you.

**Niall is still struggling with his breath.**

11 Janine                We could all say it together.

12 Niall                   Say what?

13 Kofi                   Nothing bad is going to happen.

14 Janine                Yeh.

15 Niall                   Nothing bad is going to happen.

16 Janine                Nothing bad is going to happen.

17 Kofi                   Nothing bad is going to happen.

**(They say it all together 3x. Then they stop.)**

**Beat**

18 Janine                How you feeling?

**Niall laughs small embarrassed laugh**

1 Niall                   Better.

**Sequence 6      Exterior. Oxford Street.****FX                      Niall is walking.****FX                      He calls Louise. Her phone goes straight to voicemail.**

1 Louise      This is Louise here. I'm not at home right now but please leave me a message and I'll call you back.

Music in 15:30

Out16:15

2 Niall      Lou. Louise – it's Niall here – it's Niall. I'm sorry to bother you but I didn't want to ring Ali. Cos. Cos she doesn't want me to call her. So I'm calling you instead. I had this. I just had this really weird experience on the tube. In a tunnel. I thought I was dying but I wasn't. And. Anyway the thing is. Would. Could you pass on a message to Ali? Cos if she wants to leave me – if that's what she wants – if that's what she wants – . Whatever she wants to do I'll respect that. And I won't call her again. I promise. You tell her that from me. Please. Thanks. Thanks Louise. Happy Christmas. Tell Ali Happy Christmas too. Please. Thanks. Thanks.

Music in 16:20

Annos.

Out: 17:06

**END**