



## Hang Out Our Banners

The UK International Audio Drama Festival 2022

21 – 25 March 2022

Eastbridge Hospital, High Street, Canterbury and online

Programme

## Introduction

The last time we produced a programme in person, we were celebrating our 5<sup>th</sup> festival and our first time in Canterbury. We had just gone paperless and access to the festival online was entirely by listening to individual pieces via the website.

This year we mark the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival: we have had two years when we have been unable to hold the festival in person. In 2020, the festival was one of the first casualties of lockdown and we simply had to let it go. We could do little more than put all the work up online in the hope that people around the world might enjoy it from their homes. In 2021, we were more prepared and arranged an online festival with collective listening and interactive creative sessions. Audience members from thousands of miles away loved joining us and we created a new relationship that we are determined to keep.

So now we are back, with the best of both worlds. Our in person festival will enjoy the intimacy of the Eastbridge Hospital, a building offering friendship and sanctuary since 1190. Online, we are holding real time listening sessions. How wonderful that these will be co-hosted from Dnipro in Ukraine alongside the Isle of Wight and London – a team which is itself a tribute to the power of audio drama. We hope we may be able to bring participants from the real world and the online world together for the jury sessions.

Over the last two years we have learnt how strong audio drama is; how powerfully it speaks to individuals cut off from other art forms and sometimes from one another; how relevant it can be in a troubled world. The record number of submissions we received this year is testimony to that.

We are thrilled that this year brings a new award. Nigel and Alison Deacon, long term supporters of the festival have most generously sponsored this for the best work produced by a young producer. We are also deeply grateful for another year of support from the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society and for renewed support from Arts Council England.

We are also delighted to welcome Florent Barat and Sebastien Schmitz as co-chairs of the jury – the first time the role has been shared. Previous winners in the festival, they bring a wealth of experience, strong insights and a sense of fun which we all benefit from.

Could we add a special thank you to the Eastbridge Hospital and to many individuals who have supported us in so many roles to make the festival happen. This includes you as audience so integral to the shared experience; whether coming in person or online and making this a joyful celebration of internationalism.

Jonathan Banatvala

Artistic Director

## 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*

10 am Welcomes and introductions. Jury selection.

10.30 Janacek Academy of Performing Art (Czech Republic)

“The Life Under the Microscope” (Czech)

**The Life under the Microscope** is a sensational play with some elements of fictive broadcast reportage. The worldwide significant viral expert An Rejd Codiv, who is trying to make a mark also in the top politics, is invited into the fictive broadcast show. The part of the show is a report with the brother of Mr. Codiv, the opposition candidate gets the word out as well as a few people from the audience, who call to the studio. The true nature of Mr. Covid and his true intentions, which suspiciously often correspond with the impacts of the covid pandemic are being revealed during the show.

10.55 Xenthia Pattburg (Netherlands)

“Shadows” (English)

Anna has a happy home with her husband David and her 10-year-old daughter Lola. One Sunday morning their perfect idyll is disrupted by a call from Russia, which informs Anna of her estranged mother’s sudden and unexpected death. Accompanied by David, Anna must travel to Saint Petersburg to clear out and sell her mother’s flat. In the course of her interaction with her mother’s things as well as emotional engagement with her relationships, Anna finds it more and more difficult to distinguish between her own and her mother’s memories and emotions, gradually losing the allegedly firm grounds of her identity. This condition intensifies after David has to leave her alone and travel back home due to his work commitments. Anna discovers her strong attraction to Victor, her mother’s old friend and heart-broken suitor. Together they find themselves caught up in an undefined and somewhat eerie space between past and present, reality and delusion, which neither of them is eager to correct.

12.05 Documental Theatre (UK)

“Three Chords and The Truth” (English)

Mel's daughter is in rehab. She teaches herself the electric guitar as she cares for her grandchildren. But how do you write a soft rock anthem to do justice the feelings inside?

From the Props season of work about characters living isolated lives to support loved ones long before Covid 19. Supported by the Audio Content fund.

12.30 Laetitia Salsano (Belgium)

“Au secours, Mon Grand Frère S'est Transformé !” (French)

One morning, 8-year-old Lucien discovers a huge "stinky hairy monster" instead of his big brother, Aldebert. This monster just growls and sleeps. How to get in touch with him, find out where Aldebert has gone and above all find it ?

A family suspense, funny and surreal where, thanks to humor, a little boy manages to reconnect with his big brother transformed into hairy monster who stinks.

A play for children

## LUNCH

2pm DWS Audio (UK)

“Keep Your Friends Close” (English)

*“You know that phrase ‘keep your friends close – and your enemies closer...’”*

Wanting to be part of the in-crowd, lonely Year Nine pupil Beth has made friends with twins, Dolly and Darcy, who she secretly dislikes. But being part of their crowd comes at a personal cost – and Beth frequently find herself doing the twins' homework for them. But that's part of the deal she reckons. She's also hanging on to another secret – she lives in a very posh house. And the twins can *never* find out.

2.20 HRT Croatian Radio Television (Croatia)

“Down by Law” (Croatian)

Downs syndrome is a condition or a syndrome, not a disease. Down syndrome was named after the English physician John Langdon Down, who characterized the condition in which a person has an extra chromosome, the chromosome 21.

Today, it is estimated that there are approximately 1.6 million children with Down syndrome worldwide. It is profoundly important that we do everything possible to help them lead as independent and fulfilling lives as possible.

“Down, by Law” is an audio drama about a blond-haired and blue-eyed little fighter Boris, written by his mother Mila, dedicated to his grandmother Mirjana. And to all who love deeply, joyfully, unreservedly those described by law as people with Down syndrome. This is an audio love letter addressed to all who feel different from the norm, an audio-dramatic embrace of all fragile people who are sensitive to the sharing of emotional support on which we all, but all, without distinction, depend.

- 3.00 DWS Audio (UK)  
“Refugee”, “Snowball”, “Red Skydive”. (English) Shorts
- 3.20 Greg Arundell (UK)  
“Pete – A Petrol Station Love Story” (English) Shorts
- 3.30 Radio TV Suisse (Switzerland)  
“Les Bisons Ravis” (3 Episodes) (French)

Boris Vian comes back in 2020, in an unfamiliar Paris. Disoriented, he meets, in the place that used to be his apartment, a young woman, Ursula, who is both strong and rebellious. She helps him navigate in this world he doesn't recognize, and sometimes straighten him out. With Ursula by his side, Vian finds again and renews his imagination and freedom.

Boris Vian is greatly shocked to reappear in a 21<sup>st</sup> century Paris. And the incredulity of those who meet him is quite big as well. In this new era, Ursula takes him with her and her group of female friends, who are about 30 years old. Boris doesn't understand this era. Next to this gang, which members are both rebellious and in the making, he finds some clues. In exchange, he will give them a treasure: beyond ingenuity, freedom

- 4.15 Close and break
- 5.30 Jury Session at the Pilgrim's Hotel (subject to confirmation)

The Pilgrim's Hotel, The Friars Canterbury (opposite the Marlowe Theatre)





## Tuesday

10 am           Czech Radio (Czech Republic)  
                  “A Study of Aphasia” (Czech/German)

In **A Study of Aphasia**, the protagonist is a singer who loses her voice during an opera performance. Listeners then witness this new world our singer enters in the course of a single night at the hospital. A nurse who is having a difficult night shift tries to make her utter at least a single word using various means. The singer relentlessly refuses. Maybe somewhere deep inside she is looking for a new form of communication...

In his book *Children’s Speech and Aphasia* (1918), Emil Fröschels - an Austrian linguist and the founder of speech therapy — describes the relationship between the development of speech in children, speech impediments, and psychology. Inspired by Fröschels’ book and a scene from Ingmar Bergman’s film *Persona* — in which an actress loses her voice — composer Michal Rataj and director/author Katharina Schmitt explore the themes of language, speech and voice. The question “Who speaks?” is as important for them as the question “Who does not speak?” and “Who is not heard?”

10.45           Icebox Radio (USA)  
                  “Sweep” (English)

When an expectant father travels to his grandmother’s house to settle their affairs before turning off her life support, he discovers a horrible family secret, and meets the consequences of that secret in the form of a hostile ghost.

11.30           Resonar (Spain)  
                  “Trase I Espejo”

A young woman of moderate means is on holiday in an incredible hotel complex. You cant imagine that its part of something different from a high end resort because it’s the last stadium in a state of the art project

11.45           Nicholas Rochette (Canada)  
                  “La Ruee vers L’Autre” in four parts (French)

When you reach the other side, shout your name. Shout it loudly so I may hear you! That way, I’ll know you made it.

One boy leaves, flees his country, with only a teapot in hand. Another girl crosses the sea to conquer her dream. A woman arrives on new ground, where she must rediscover herself. Finally, a man stays, forced to adapt to a new foreign setting.

Four destinies that each recall migration, escape, hardship, freedom, and encounters that frighten at first, but ultimately allow for deeper knowledge and understanding of oneself.

The Human Rush was first a storytelling show from Mafane. The audioplay was coproduced with Planète Rebelle, a publisher who made a book from the show. For the audio, the stories from the show were entirely rewritten by Mafane. We worked on the possibilities of audio storytelling today, going from an audio play with actors to telling with the voice only. The sounddesign was not created to make heard what takes place in the story, but to symbolize the socio-political issues of these stories.

#### 12.45 Christina Marras (Italy) “The Smell of Naphtha” (English)

This piece is about the power of a smell to take me suddenly to a different time, to my childhood: the smell of naphtha inside an abandoned mine. It all starts with me and my namesake friend, also Cristina Marras, deciding to take a four-day- hike along the Mining trail of St Barbara, a 500 Ks itinerary across the Sulcis mining area of Sardinia, gruelling isolated goat trails swept by the ubiquitous mistral wind, but also breath-taking glimpses of views and beaches with water so crystalline that they make you think of stained-glass windows in churches. Before being able to start our hike, we must receive the Pilgrims’ credentials that will grant us welcome and hospitality in the various destinations along the journey.

We then venture into mining land, surrounded by chunks of mountains and mounds of stone debris piled up, leftovers of a great future that never was and my father had been part of that sad future. Along the hike, we stop to visit the abandoned mine of Monteponi and its renovated Pozzo Sella, now a museum and information centre. As soon as I step in, I am overwhelmed by the smell of naphtha that reminds me of late nights when my Dad came back home from work with his overall smelling of naphtha, and I remember how he used to tell me stories and what an amazing childhood I had, and I think of the photos that show him at work, climbing on a dangerously high scaffolding or posing with his coworkers, kneeling on the ground, at the front of a dozen or so of other workers, dusty, so much dust that I can smell it across the half a century that divides me from the time when the photo was taken.

The four-day-hike becomes a journey of the memory, rendered in this podcast with attention to a detailed soundscape, mixed with field sound recorded by me during the hike, starting with the singing voices of the cloistered nuns.

### 1.30 LUNCH

#### 2.30 SudWest Funk (Germany) “The Cat Inside” (German/English)

Amongst the first entries in William S. Burroughs's *The Cat Inside* you'll find the following lines: „I don't think anyone could write a completely honest autobiography. I

am sure no one could bear to read it: My past was an evil river." And so, instead of writing an autobiography, Burroughs wrote a book about cats.

And he puts a signpost in the middle of his book: „This cat book is an allegory, in which the writer's past life is presented to him in a cat charade. Not that the cats are puppets. Far from it. They are living, breathing creatures, and when any other being is contacted, it is sad: because you see the limitations, the pain and fear and the final death. That is what contact means."

*The Cat Inside* was first published in 1986 in a limited edition of 133 copies with illustrations by Brion Gysin. „Amongst Burroughs's work, this book is a rather unique text. As the author reveals a more vulnerable and poetic side of himself in it, which is rather seldom to find in any of his other writings. By blending voices, language, sounds, songs, words and music we want to open a door - and open it wide-to find access to and eventually enter that particular space, that Burroughs would call: The Cat Inside'."

### 3.30 Benjamin Peel (UK) “The Student Who Knows” (English)

Keira and Jake are both University students who find themselves sat next to each other on a National Express coach travelling to another city with a university. They strike up a conversation after Keira complains that what Jake is listening to on his headphones is too loud. Both have their quirks and through talking to each other find that they more in common than at first they supposed. They both are finding hard to maintain long distance relationships and both were bullied to some degree and find themselves able to start again at University. So the coach journey becomes a metaphor for them both as they come to a realisation about their lives and what they want.

### 4.00 Polish Radio Theatre (Poland) “Let me Tell You” (Polish)

“I have three children: Zosia is 18, Hela is 16, Franek is 13... and then there’s one more. Unplanned. Unexpected. And completely unwanted. Her name’s Elżbieta but she’s more of a little Ela now. She takes very wobbly steps and wears a diaper. She’s also 74 and my mother”. This is how Marta Rebzda’s very personal, original audiofiction drama under the title of “Let me tell you” starts. This is one family’s history of forgetting but it also describes the attempts to save this history from oblivion. The author presents the subsequent stages of her mother’s Alzheimer’s: she speaks about her growing inability to find herself in time and space, to recognise faces or understand situations. About the progressing atrophy of whole areas of the brain. About the increasingly blurry awareness of one’s own self. When her mother can’t remember how she met her husband, the author decides to record and tell her mother what her own life story is. Hoping that this recording will get her mother back to herself, even if only for a moment... Even if only while this story lasts. “Let me tell you” – she says to her mother.

4.45 Czech Radio (Czech Republic)

“Hitchhiker Mystery”; “Hitchhiker Thriller”; “Hitchhiker War Drama”  
(Czech)

Shorts

5.10 Care and Feeding of Werewolves (USA)

Missing Werewolf Report (English) Short

5.20 Close and Break

6.00 Jury Session, Pilgrim’s Hotel

**Special Evening event (6.30, online)**

An online discussion with Award winning audio drama director Ken Bentley and Shannon Martin of Podbean talking about how to reach your audience with your podcast audio drama.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/x/you-and-your-audience-an-evening-with-ken-bentley-and-podbean-tickets-293064623177>

## Wednesday

10 am          Quirky Voices (UK)

### “Rosa Krantz and Gilda Stern aren’t Dead” (English)

This audio drama begins at the very end of Hamlet. Rosa Krantz and Gilda Stern, bit-players in the story, emerge from backstage to clear up the blood and bodies around them.

Two women who have lost their identity behind the scenes, unsure even who is who, or whether they even exist any more, step from behind the curtains... and with a lot of playful chatter, encourage each other to take charge of their lives... and move to a new level.

Rosa and Gilda are described in the script as female-presenting, and this was an all-female production, cast and production team, produced for International Women’s Day 2021.

10.30          Radio Romania (Romania)  
“Solaris” (Romanian)

How much of the reality we perceive is just a projection of the human mind? What would happen if the visible world was a reflection of our brains in distorted mirrors, and we were condemned to endlessly relive the same tragedies, as in an updated version of Dante’s Inferno. *Solaris*, the widely (and best) known novel by Polish writer

Stanisław Lem, retains its visionary quality 60 years after its first issue (1961), in the audio rereading proposed by Ilinca Stihi – stage director and author of the drama script - to mark the Stanisław Lem Centennial. The novel has occasioned and provoked celebrated pictures, plays or pop-rock songs and music albums and continues to offer manifold possibilities of interpretation. The sound space is revalidated as an accomplished environment for imagining the „solarian” universe, envisaged in our production as a manifestation of matter organized according to mechanisms which are not accessible to the Cartesian cognition of the world. In the radio drama script the novel’s main narrative line turns into a cover-up for meditating on the limits of the human mind and its powers of understanding and on the state of aggregation of its phantasms. Corroborated with the psychic pressure generated by the pandemic crisis, the tragic denouement to the story of Harey-Kelvin as a couple is incorporated into the confined mental space where the characters are captives (for good).

11.45          Le Collectif Wow (Belgium)  
“Dans Le Bouse et L’Acier ou La Colere du Cerf”(French)

Peter is a construction worker, in his early thirties, living in the south of France He has worked on construction sites 6 days a week for 15 years. He and Louise have been married for 2 years and have 2 young children. On Sundays, his only day off, he spends the day trying to build a peaceful and secure home for his family. It's the early 80s and Peter's life is about to change dramatically. At work, he will come up against the ever more liberal management strategies of his boss. At home, he is becoming increasingly jealous and possessive of his wife, who is growing bored with her monotonous life and dreams of adventure and new horizons. Of Mud and Steel - Beware the angry deer, tells the story of an imploding man and his exploding life.

12.20 SWR (Stefano Gianotti) (Germany/Italy)  
“Mondi Possibili “(German/English)

A space voyage that began inside a toilet bowl leads an astronaut to stroll around the solar system and beyond, discovering a universe populated everywhere by armed revolutions, wild and domestic animals, bizarre characters: a digital hostess, Galileo and Aristotle, a phantom Houston, a philosophic interpreter who speculates on a new, quasi-scientific theory – the Cosmic Toilet – according to which, if everything is relative, everything is really relative.

Structured like a comic strip in the form of a Baroque opera, MONDI POSSIBILI represents a further evolution of the previous radio dramas (Hörspiele) AMORE MIO – Love Songs und anderer Kram (SWR-2012) and HIN UND ZÜRUCK (SWR 2017), where the meaning of musical and text elements is shifted on parallel levels to create new perspectives and visions.

In **MONDI POSSIBILI** an improbable Baroque ensemble made up of Theremin, harpsichord, viola da gamba and jazz drums accompanies and gives shape to the psychedelic, eccentric, hilarious trip of an astronaut who quotes original speeches from the different Apollo missions by heart. A trip that is a voyage through mathematics, pseudo-scientific theories, cosmological doctrines, but above all, a surreal and entertaining vision of globalization.

1.30 Break

Jury Session

Afternoon free to explore Canterbury



Or visit the lovely Eastbridge Hospital garden.

## Thursday

10 am            RadioArt (Sweden)  
                    "Dr Faustus Lights the Lights" (English)

In Gertrude Stein's Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights? Faust does not have much left of the unwavering will to live and know, found in Goethe's hero. Here, the title role is not a transgressor, but at most a tired revealer, fed up precisely by his own transparency. As for the enlightened man, only the light bulb inventor remains, in single combat with the dark Mephisto. And in the artificial light of this lamp, the name of man flares up, radiating illusion and hubris. Electricity spreads throughout the world, not as God's creative ray of light but as the hallucinatory power of modernity, embodied in the advertisement of light. Stein lets a woman take the stage to challenge Dr. Faust. She is hardly a figure of reconciliation, on the contrary, a kind of confusing figure in cheerful alliance with the Evil One. Gertrude Stein leaves her four-headed, she is Margareta and Ida, Helena and Annabel, with names and identities taken from both ancient fairy tales and her own writing. Behind the scenery lurks the old ideas of an original matriarchy, characterized by an early wisdom that was then annihilated by the patriarchy of civilization. But Gertrude Stein's women are not the angels of antiquity sent to restore old times, but rather a gang of contemporary disruptors of prevailing orders - and not even their identity seems to be certain, possible to establish or maintain: "Would it do as well if my name was not Marguerite Ida and Helen Annabel and it is not well that I could tell what there is to tell". And if they stop to address someone, it's the Evil One himself - the snake itself, he who is called Mr. Viper, named and addressed by them with the words: "You are as you are not".

10.40            IRIB (Iran)  
                    "Artist" (Persian)

Artist is a radio drama in praise of radio. For this purpose, new ways are used for the narrative. We tried to achieve a narrative based on magical realism by moving past the limits of classical radio drama rules. A drama in honor of radio.

11.10            Dean Drinkel (UK)  
                    "The Tale Eaters" (English)

But what exactly is The Tale Eaters about? Good question – on the surface it is a ghost story about three souls (Professor Simpson, Mrs Collier and Alexander Lawther, Esq) trapped on the same wheel of destiny so to speak. The characters are born, they die and are then born again.

Though the story appears set in the present day, that's not true for all these people. Are they related, sure, but not perhaps in the way we comprehend that idea. These souls constantly are born/die and are re-incarnated but don't always come back within the same parameters.

The Tale Eaters is also a story about alchemy (take in the importance of some of the animal imagery, as an example). The worm / snake Ouroboros is crucial here too, this mouth-to-tail mysterious creature runs throughout the individual plotlines. More interpretations which can be debated: there is a car crash involving all three characters, they are killed and trapped in limbo or they're residents in an asylum and / or it's just one character's mind fractaling like a kaleidoscope and that's even before we discuss the suggestion of time-travel...with a nod to Jim Reeves, "Welcome to my world!"

## 11.45 Chelmsford Community Radio (UK) "Untitled Pantomime" (English)

Chelmsford Community Radio started producing pantomimes three years ago and they take centre stage during the seasonal dual broadcast period with Hospital Radio Chelmsford. The first pantomime (2019) was "Aladdin" and the second one (2020) Camelot. Michelle Durant and Jared Bates take turns with writing and editing scripts – Michelle then looks after the recording and production work to assemble all the pieces.

In a move to get away from Traditional Panto Titles, this storyline started off with a look at the Brothers Grimm tale of 12 Dancing Princesses – the idea that all these princesses could be kept in an enchanted castle and only allowed out at night. What could be done with this? How to make it fit with Chelmsford as with previous pantos in that there was a need to make it local but also try using a landmark not used before.

In the middle of Chelmsford stands a mothballed courthouse building – owned by the County Council. Shire Hall boasts an impressive history going back centuries and its location is also linked to witch trials. It has tunnels which led to the local Police Station but these have since been bricked up. Some have said that Shire Hall looks like the City Hall in Back to The Future and in a nod to this, at some point a Delorian car was placed out the front as part of an event.

Community Connections with the local historian (Alan) and finding out a bit about the building in the past established that it has cells in the basement and some majestically decorated rooms above. It seemed a perfect setting that some princesses might be kept in our story. Mixing real life with fantasy. Princesses very hard to come by these days so perhaps token princesses – pulling a fairytale panto princess out of a touring production of Cinderella... Past Radio Panto princess Jasmine (played by a much loved local Drag Queen) A NASA Scientist (with local ties) in Academic dress, A minister in work clothing, A bride in wedding dress, A Deputy Mayor...

It is hoped that the Judges of the International Radio Drama Festival understand the concept for an ultra local audience with this piece and enjoy the work which was put into it.

## 1.0 This Little Rock (UK)

### “Two by Two” (English)

Two elephants with outrageous French accents bicker about how to cross an unexpected ocean. Is this story all it seems? Where have the other elephants gone? And why won't they stop arguing about it?

As we humans find ourselves the potential victims of a sixth mass extinction event of our own causing, *Two by Two* finds misery, silliness and beauty in stories about the coming end of the world

## 1.15 LUNCH

## 2.15 Swiss Radio and TV (Switzerland)

### “The Mechanical Turk “(German)

Small-time entrepreneur Kevin Knecht dreams of being one of the top dogs – the new Steve Jobs, at least. However, he still has a long way to go. Right now, he is running a deadbeat hotline for astrology and sex, where the salaries are not the only thing that's abysmal. When his two employees, Ella and Emma, demand a pay raise and an indoor fountain, he decides he's really had enough.

His new coach advises him to sell the company and move to Silicon Valley. By the way, Kevin is the new coach's first client. In his old life, the coach used to work as a voice actor dubbing movies, and he dreams of being one of the top dogs.

At the same time, Ella is trying to save the company. She pays people on the Amazon platform “Mechanical Turk” to call the hotline pretending to be customers. Also, she is trying to dissuade Kevin from his emigration plans, as he is not only her boss, but her partner as well. In vain.

In Silicon Valley, Kevin digs through the garbage dumpsters of the big tech companies for discarded ideas. Back home, Ella is looking for a new partner. Thanks to her web-enabled sofa “Twosome”, she finds Franz. Franz is a coach and has just bought a deadbeat hotline for astrology and sex. Everything seems perfect. Until, suddenly, Kevin returns.

The Mechanical Turk was a life-size chess robot, invented in 1770. The kicker: a human was hidden inside the robot. Nowadays, Amazon's “Mechanical Turk” website facilitates crowd working, with enterprises offering work for low pay that machines are as yet unable to do.

2.50 James O’Neill (UK)  
“The Scarlet Cross “(English)

1665.

The Great Plague has reached Cambridge. Man of learning Francis Mortymer describes the blight and it’s tightening grip. Sitting alone, in a stifling chamber with the plague closing around him, his thoughts circling smaller and smaller and darker and darker. And the regular visits of his haunting, spectral doctor. An atmospheric account of dread and fear.

And death.

Performed by Anton Lesser.

3.15 Bremen Zwei (Germany)  
“Do you like Emily Dickinson?” (German)

Emily Dickinson (1830 – 1886) is one of the greatest poets in American literary history – but she had to wait until the fifties of the twentieth century before her almost 1800 poems could be published. During her lifetime, only seven poems were published by her. Her themes: nature, love, death, the metaphysical homelessness of modern man, the transcendence of time, immortality. This radio play delves into the world of her poems and her (literary) letters to celebrate the beauty, originality and modernity, the peculiarity of her poetry. Radio play by Kai Grehn based on letters and poems by Emily Dickinson, with: Birgit Minichmayr and Christopher Nell, composition: CocoRosie. A production by Radio Bremen and Deutschlandfunk 2021

- 4.20 Benjamin Peel (UK)  
“Breakdown” (English) short
- 4.25 Catalina Florina Forescu (Romania)  
“In her head, in her kitchen” (Romanian) short
- 4.30 Georgian Public Radio (Georgia)  
“Do We Need Shakespeare or Not?” (Georgian) short
- 4.45 Laura Romero (Spain)  
“Masa” (Spanish) Short
- 5.00 Portable Theatre Timisoara (Romania)  
“The Dictator’s Portrait” (Romanian) Short
- 5.15 Close and break

Jury Session

### **Special Evening Session**

#### **A Time Traveller’s Guide To Donbass**

We are delighted to be hosting a live performance of Anastasiia Kosodii's "A Time Traveller's Guide to Donbass" **online** on Thursday evening at 7.30. The play will be performed in Ukrainian with access to an English script by performers based in Ukraine and Warsaw.

This poetic play examines the recent history of Donbass from the perspective of a visitor in the 2030s, seeking to understand the conflict.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../a-time-travellers-guide...>

## Friday

10 am Ryan Walker Edwards (UK)

“Safari” (English)

A witty meditation on racial gatekeeping and cultural identity

10.20 Arte Radio (France)

“Tu Seras un homme papa” (French)

"You'll be a Daddy Man" is a true story. The story is set around the incubator of Roman, born prematurely, over 13 days. Gaël Leibrang plunges us into the diary of a father who fights to find his way. The story is told in fragments through the allegory of sport. A way for the author, a former sports journalist, to tear us away from the disembodied reality of the hospital and face his fears amidst this inconceivable fight that represents the loss of the child. We don't leave unscathed from this testimony, but more alive than ever.

11.10 Georgia Public Radio (Georgia)

“Me, Granny, Ilko and Illarion” (Georgian)

The radio play is based on famous Georgian writer Nodar Dumbadze’s novel "I, Granny, Iliko and Illarion".

Zuriko is exhausted of the Soviet repressions and grows up with his grandmother, in the village of Guria, one of the region of Georgia.

Iliko and Illarion are their neighbors, their relationship goes beyond a simple neighborhood and is full of humor, warmth and kindness.

Olga - Grandmother is a symbol of family strength. She is expression of a woman's wisdom.

Zuriko is cute and funny.

There are numerous theatrical performances and movie based on this novel. So we also decided to stage excerpts from this novel for this New Year.

We have used Georgian folk songs and music in this radio play, which are performed by the actors themselves.

We think that during this Covid pandemic period, this radio play will show full of humor and bring joy and optimism to the listener.

11.50 RTV Vojvodina (Serbia)

“Survival for Fourth Graders” (Serbian)

Steva is a great boy. He is the best student in class, he plays the piano, trains aikido, but also plays football and games with his friends, mostly with Sale, his best friend from class. In the game that they play the most, the two of them are heroes in a world in which they survive using various skills and knowledge. As they create and discover the new world, they fight against various enemies and collect points for the decisive battle with a dragon. Along the way, they are having crazy fun! Steva is almost a hero in both worlds. He is independent and responsible, and near the end of his fourth grade, all he has to learn is how to know when it's

time to go to bed. But Steva is not happy. Games are constantly on his mind and he finds it difficult to cope with the restrictions that his parents place on him. That's why everything else is starting to bother him. He becomes nervous, deconcentrated and unmotivated and this leads him to a series of awkward situations that ruin his world. Under pressure, he looks for a way out and decides to enter the unexplored virtual world of games. Threatening with their friendship, he forces Sale to steal VR (virtual reality) goggles from his uncle. Steva goes deep into the game and every trace of him gets lost. Dad, with the help of Sale's advice and the programming knowledge of his school friend Babo, a famous gamer, enters the game after him to rescue him. Dad appears as one of the enemies and after a series of failures, he manages to prove to his son who he is. At the crucial moment, dad sacrifices himself to save his son in the game, hoping this will bring him back to the real world

1pm **LUNCH**

2pm MA Scene Nationale (France)

“La Nuit Peut Tomber a Tout Moment” (French)

The mountains. The Robert lakes, three small lakes offering peace and quiet. Jean-Jean waits for members of the public to arrive to hold his hand. With him is Pedro, his personal assistant. Gioni is in the mountains practising numbers while Gregoir recalls a slipknot. Three characters that talk to themselves in their little derelict disco. Inevitably, they are drawn to each other like galaxies dancing together. The story of shared solitude in a modern world that is too loud and too fast. Based on the stage show, “Zoo, an elegy to imperfection” written, directed and performed by Jean Le Peltier.

3pm Sound Play/Christian Eiming (Denmark)

“Onsdag” (Danish)

Short

SRF Swiss Radio (Switzerland)

“Vicious Dishes” (German)

Short

Radio Romania (Romania)

“Avec Mes Amis” (French)

3.30 Close and Break

4.30 Jury Discussion

5.30 Jury closed discussion and voting

7.30 (approx.) Awards ceremony

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