

THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL UK AUDIO Drama FESTIVAL



A CROW THAT FLIES IN THE HEAVEN'S SWEETEST AIR

24 - 28 March

32 countries, 32 languages, 5 days of brilliant listening

www.Radiodramafestival.org.uk



Full Programme: for live listening sessions

at The Community Studio Canterbury Cathedral CT1 2EH

Welcome!

A Crow that Flies in Heaven's Sweetest Air

We are delighted to welcome you to our eleventh edition of the festival, celebrating the best in audio drama from around the globe.

We are delighted to announce an exciting innovation for 2025. In the light of the volume of high quality submissions and the continuing constraints on time, we have introduced the "Worldwide Showcase" - additional dramas to hear online only - but which will be eligible for the Audience Award alongside the dramas heard in the live listening sessions.

We would like to say a special thank you for their continuing support to the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) who have been much valued friends of the festival since we moved to Canterbury. We would also like to express our appreciation to Canterbury BID for their support in promoting the festival. A huge thank you too to Alison and Nigel Deacon for The Young Producer's award and to our jury co-chairs this year Nigel Deacon and Helen Rowe.

As ever, the festival is made possible by a team. So thank you Pete, Chris, Krzysia. And Thank You - our often unseen team of online hosts who make sure that online listeners also enjoy a festival experience - Jenny, Peter, Casey, Madeleine, Malina, Imogen and Kateryna. They will be hosting from the UK, Ireland, Italy, France, Poland and Romania.

And finally to you – joining us in Canterbury or wherever you around the world. We are really looking forward to it.

Jonathan, Melanie, Isobel, Nicholas and Stephanie



All descriptions have been taken from material supplied by submitters. Some have been edited for length.

Timings are approximate and include short breaks. The programme is subject to short notice amendment. For technical or other reasons, we may have to adjust the programme or remove entries. The producers' decision on these matters is final.

Please note that days start and finish at different times.

Scripts are available on the website. All bookings for online and special events via Eventbrite.

Jury discussions take place each evening after a break – they will take place in the same space we have used for the listening sessions. Anyone who has heard any of the work during the day in person or online is welcome to join the discussion. The discussion will be in person and on zoom. The discussion last about an hour.

All audio files can be accessed at any time from their presentation at the festival to the close of the Audience Award via the website.

Monday

**9.30 Welcomes and introductions
Jury confirmation**

10.00 Pekka Savolainen, Finnish Broadcasting Company (Finland) Poliovuosi / That Polio Year (Finnish) 52:04

During the Covid lockdown, I struggled with a way to write about this phenomenon without talking about Covid. That's when that polio year, 1952, came rushing back into my consciousness as a dark marker of my childhood. The central terror in both cases is contagion, even more than the illness itself, a threat which the character of the mother uses to terrorise her boy. But in the mind of a nine-year old child, all of this rests in the realm of fantasy, which is more understandable. And so, he invents a friend he calls "Lungboy," an iron-lung polio victim with whom he shares the horrors (and the laughter) of the old pandemic. Yet the lasting melancholic effect of this experience on the 79-year-old man he has become haunts the framework of the play.

Written by David Zane Mairowitz

11:00 Sonya Gurwitt (USA) The Most Dramatic Season Yet (English) 18:00

Two summers ago, as I was trying to figure out how to move on after a devastating break up, I started recording dates that I went on. I was about to move to New York City, but had a few months left of living in a small town in rural New Hampshire—and I decided to spend my remaining time there throwing myself into something akin to reality TV dating show.

It's been over two years, but the experience changed the way I've thought about and approached dating ever since: It made dating fun, and helped me approach it with a more open mind—as a pursuit with endless opportunities and stories that could come out of them.

Through these intimate—and sometimes awkward—recordings of dates, this piece tells the story of the summer I turned my life into a reality dating show—and what's happened since. It explores what happens when you let the pursuit of stories overwhelm you, and shows what the modern world of dating is like as a millennial woman trying to date men.

This was created for a class during my final semester of a masters program at NYU's journalism school.

11:20 Short Break

11:40 Cristian Fierbinteanu (Belgium) Laika (Dutch / Russian) 19:54

Laika is an original audio drama about 1957, where loyal Soviet scientist Tatyana (Victoria Koblenko) speaks through the radio to Laika, the dog who has just been launched into orbit around the Earth in a rocket. While she tries to calm the dog, she fears that her days with her husband Yevgeny will also be numbered if Laika dies. Moreover, the dog's fate plants a seed of resistance against Khrushchev's regime. How is it that Laika has come to mean so much to her?

LAIKA is the third audiofilm by NOX. We seek to find hope in (almost) hopeless situations of the past.

12:00 Alexandru Maniu / HOINART, Portable Theater Timisoara (Romania) /Cher Stokholmes (Romanian) 12:14

A chance meeting between two old geezers in a Timisoara hypermarket around Christmas time reveals a dark, hidden past. The two recognize each other, but only one remembers. As they chitchat whilst waiting in line, a sudden musical trigger brings that memory to surface. It is a dark room. Many questions and many sleepless nights. It is all political, of course; such were the times. Was it better then? Is it better now? But the real question is: for whom? Tune in to find out.

12:15 Short Break

12:25 Cristina Marras (Italy) /Window of Contempt (English) 05:29

This story reflects my own regret over how I behaved during the lockdown. Stuck in my apartment, my only view of the outside world was through the window, where I watched my city become eerily empty. The silence was broken only by the sound of ambulances. Fear and paranoia took hold of everyone, and I remember how even a simple cough from a

neighbour filled me with suspicion. One moment still haunts me: I saw two teenagers kiss in the street, and instead of feeling joy at their connection, I was consumed by anger and judgment. I feared they were putting their families at risk. Now, I'm ashamed of how I reacted. I wish I had embraced their moment of love instead of giving in to fear. Looking back, I see how easily fear distorted my perception, making me forget what really matters—compassion and hope.

Cristina Marras (Italy)/ Beneath the Surface (English) 04:50

The piece opens with a chilling account of a recurring dream. The narrator describes a descent into darkness, guided by a mysterious red light that transforms into the words "On Air." This leads them to an underground recording studio, where they find themselves speaking into a microphone, unable to comprehend their own words. The frustration of this dream culminates in the narrator banging on the studio door, only to wake up.

The narration then transitions to reality, with the sound of a zipper closing, a helmet being put on, and a heavy metal door opening. The narrator's heavy breathing through the helmet is juxtaposed against the chaotic sounds of a city in distress. A radio broadcast issues urgent instructions to citizens, warning them to avoid the bomb shelter and stay indoors, wearing gas masks. This unsettling ending leaves the listener with a sense of impending doom and a lingering question about the connection between the dream and the unfolding reality.

Cristina Marras (Italy) / I am the First (English) 03:00

The stifling heat of the car mirrors the tension in the air as a family, trapped in a moment of transition, waits outside a university building. The narrator, on the cusp of receiving a university degree, feels the weight of family expectations and her own anxieties. The family, accustomed to the simplicity of their working-class lives, feels out of place in this academic setting, their discomfort amplified by the narrator's own trembling anticipation. The scene captures the clash between the familiar and the unknown, the pressure of achieving a first in the family, and the unspoken anxieties of a family navigating a new world.

12:40 Mamuka Magularia (Georgia) /The Day the Music Died (English) 07:00

What happened in February 3rd, 1959 in Iowa? And, why was it "The day the music died"? Many years later a fellow musician recalls that night.

All the voices were generated artificially as part of an experiment in modern-day technologies.

13:00 LUNCH

14:00 Benoit Bories (France) Ihr Weg / Traversées (German / French) 53:00

Three women - Joséphine, Louisa and Thérèse - performed forced labour in Berlin during the Nazi era. At first glance, they appeared to be very different, but they were forced to form a community of solidarity in order to give each other support and protection. Joséphine and

Louisa had signed up for labour service to avoid a long internment in France. One had been labelled a "woman of dissolute ways", the other was under general suspicion because of her Spanish nationality. Thérèse, on the other hand, wanted to escape the harsh living conditions on her family's farm. The three met on the journey to Berlin. In their interactions, they developed a kind of sisterly bond, which manifested itself in small gestures and attentions and helped them survive their time in Germany. There they also met Hilda from Berlin, with whom they entered into an ambivalent relationship characterised by occasional gestures of solidarity and mutual mistrust.

15:00 Josie Gallo / Peripheral Vision International PVI (Uganda) Together with Gloria, Episode 1 (English and Rukonjo) 23:54

PVI, in collaboration with Raising Voices, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Uganda Network on Law Ethics and HIV/AIDS, produced an innovative 33-episode radio drama series on intimate partner violence against women.

The radio drama is based on Raising Voices' SASA! Together methodology; a community mobilization approach to prevent violence against women by facilitating reflection and action around power, safety, and violence. The program is delivered through a network of community activists using a range of activities. The radio drama – 'Together with Gloria' – acts as a 'booster' to strengthen program reach and impact on preventing violence against women.e

'Together With Gloria' is an innovative 'show within a show' format that follows our protagonist, Gloria, as she starts a new talk show on her local radio station to discuss issues around gender-based violence. Gloria's show features guests such as SASA! Together community activists and local religious leaders, and guests calling in to tell their stories and voice their opinions. In addition to Gloria's show, the drama explores Gloria's personal life; her relationship, her family dynamic and pressures, and her workplace conflicts.

Short break

15.40 Timothea Armour (UK) / This is Moth Death (English); 25:51

This is Moth Death dramatises the ecology of post-industrial Leith and its old railway lines, now cycle paths, finding parallels between the nocturnal life of bats in liminal urban spaces and the music, nightlife and accompanying subcultures that occupy the same neighbourhoods; simultaneously thriving and constantly under threat from capital and redevelopment.

The audience are put in the position of a new bartender, being shown the ropes whilst eavesdropping on the conversation at a nearby table where a band is having a post-rehearsal pint. All of the band members are bats.

All of the bat calls heard during the piece were recorded along the Water of Leith, apart from Noctules, which were recorded in Duns in the Borders. All the pub recordings were made in Edinburgh and Leith.

16.10 Bill Fuller and Diane Quinn / Unseen Theatre (USA)/ A Romance in the Air (English) 22:21

Finally, the day they have waited for is here, and all that hard work and money has helped both FELICITY, a Victorian heiress, and her travel companion, HERBERT, a bicycle repairman, arrive on this early morning in the mid 1800's to pursue their mutual dream of reaching for the sky. As they begin their journey and feel themselves rise in this hand-crafted hydrogen balloon there is both a sense of exuberance and fears they must overcome.

Since they don't know each other well, they share parts of themselves that may never have surfaced under normal circumstances. But this moment is too perfect and frees them not to feel compelled to follow the usual society norms. As they float higher into the atmosphere, they appreciate the sights and sounds they encounter with new vigor, and give in to the joy of being explorers on a maiden adventure many wouldn't ever dare to take. They both feel fortunate to be able to have reached this height.

Suddenly all is not well in this paradise they find themselves in as there are unexpected circumstances that may dampen their spirits and shorten their journey. They realize the importance of following their dreams and the value of this experience and are so grateful to each other for making it possible, even if it may be short-lived.

16.40 Oana Cristea Grigorescu, Radio Romania (Romania)/ RĂZBOI / That WAR (Romanian) 2:44

A young soldier writes to his father about a dream encounter he had with... War. Displeased and overwhelmed by the killings and the massive destruction, War himself demands new rules. The production captures in the conciseness of text and sound the whole absurd tragedy of war, of destroyed lives, of innocent victims and has a deeply human, pacifist meaning.

Ali Gallo/ Shouting In The Evening International Theatre Company (UK)/The Winter Olympics (English) 5:09

To be an Olympic athlete takes dedication and hours of training. It's an 'ice' job, but someone's got to do it.

Close

The jury session will take place in the listening venue at about 5.30pm. Anyone who would like to contribute to the discussion is welcome - in person or online.

Tuesday

10 am Chuse Fernandez/ Resonar Producciones (Spain)/Voglio una donna / I need a woman (Spanish) 17:35

In the mid-1990s, some Russian clinic ships were performing surgeries for conditions like myopia or glaucoma. Their modus operandi involved anchoring in certain ports or international waters to carry out operations at half the price, which led ophthalmologists in the European Union to raise concerns about the health risks and lack of legal protection involved.

Voglio una Donna is a story of overcoming challenges and a cry for freedom.

This audiodrama is based on real situations in Spain.

10.20 Ulrike Haage (Germany)/Nichts ist, sagt der Weise / Nothing is, says the wise (German) 59:00

For the first time since her emigration to the USA in 1938, the poet Mascha Kaleko returns to Germany in 1956 for a lecture tour. She was warmly received. The author of the 'Lyrische Stenogrammheft' and her cheeky verses are fondly remembered. The Academy of Arts in Berlin (West) would love to award her the Fontane Prize, but when Kaleko learnt that the former SS-Standartenführer Holthusen was on the jury, she refused: 'I don't want to accept anything from this hand, either as an author or as a Jew.' The radio play focuses on the second half of her life. Embedded in a musical composition with grand piano, harmonium, celesta and vocals, poems, reports, letters and lesser-known notes from her estate tell of her confrontation with post-war Germany, her view of New York Jewry, her move to Israel, where she never quite felt at home, her fascination with Zen Buddhism and Jewish mysticism, but also of the difficult loss of her son - he died of cancer at the age of 31 - and her husband. She will never get over either.

'For me, my radio plays are musically illuminated railings of thought, through which I want to show extraordinary text material, clever imaginative thoughts by female artists, whom I also make allies of my own artistic world.' (Ulrike Haage)

short break

11.30 Samuel Robinson (UK)/ My Synthetic Thoughts (English) 13:31

My Synthetic Thoughts explores how the subconscious compels us to confront unresolved trauma, emotions, and self-doubt—experiences the waking mind often avoids. Medications designed to relieve depression, like Mirtazapine—infamous for eliciting highly detailed and vivid dreams—can have side effects that offer discomfort and opportunity in equal measure. The piece navigates a blurred line of significance between waking and dreaming, weighing external realities against one's inner experience.

This piece invites listeners to inhabit the protagonist's mind, creating an immersive and disorienting sonic journey. Inspired by the vivid, unsettling side effects of Mirtazapine, the piece blurs the lines between realities, asking listeners to question what makes an experience "real" and worthy of attention.

11.45 Zurab Kandelaki/ Georgian Radio Theatre and Sokhumi State Drama Theatre (Georgia)/ Mosasmeni Tamashi Makureblisatvis / "Hörspiel" for the Viewer (Georgian) 53:16

This radio play is about actors displaced from Abkhazia. For multiple reasons, they meet at the recording of a talk show, where they have to go through a casting and follow the instructions of the commission to perform various excerpts from the roles from the past. Before the casting begins, they recall the Sokhumi Theater with its unique atmosphere and recall their own stories, filled with sadness, humor, tragedy and optimism... This radio play was performed three times and recorded in the presence of an audience on the stage of the Sokhumi State Drama Theater, which has been operating in Tbilisi since the Russian occupation and was later edited in studio.

Short break

12.45 Margaret Evans/ Audio Portraits (USA)/ First Squeak to First Word 3:00

When this baby grows up, he'll be able to hear the sounds he made in his first hours, his first days, his first weeks and months. This AudioPortrait captures how this tiny human mastered his voice as it evolved during his first half year of life. Precious moments saved forever!

There is no transcript for this piece because it features the sounds and vocalizations that an infant made during his first six months of life. You could say that babies share their own universal language.

Khosro Rasouli/IRIB (Iran)/ BOT 13 (Persian) 6:20

In this dialogue, a patient awakens in a hospital, confused and disoriented, only to discover that they have been in a coma since November 2024, and it is now December 2044. The nurse explains that the world has changed drastically; most of Earth's population has perished due to storms, global warming, flooding and microplastics and they are now aboard a spaceship called Bot 13, heading to Mars. listen what is happening.....

Arash Baei (Iran)/ Refighe GHadimi / An Old Friend (Farsi) 2:35

The radio play portrays a scenario where a group of characters struggles to open a dusty, forgotten door amidst a polluted environment. Their dialogue reflects their challenges and personalities, including a humorous exchange featuring a knight and a bystander with a regional accent. As footsteps approach, the tension is broken by a librarian who reminisces about the neglected books in the library, affectionately referring to them as old friends. The play concludes with a call to action, urging listeners to revisit their libraries and reconnect with their "old friends."

The music enhances the reflective and nostalgic tone, with a final reminder of the enduring value of literature.

Katayon Aliabadi (Iran)/ Hasti(هستی) / Hasti (Persian) 5:25

This documentary narrates the story of a girl, whose choices were dictated by fate rather than her own.

The judgment is yours, However, you will regret your judgment.

She either had to witness her mother's deterioration or the destruction of her own life.

A life that has only one chance to be experienced.

13.00 LUNCH

14.00 Mikhail Rakov (Armenia)/ The End (Russian) 11:47

A group of scientists arrives on an inhabited planet. However, during the expedition they discover that there is nothing alive on the planet except empty buildings. Why did they leave it?

14.15 Divna Stojanov/ Radio Television of Vojvodina (Serbia)/Posle milion godina / A million years after (Serbian) 54:50

The tragicomedy A Million Years After was written by Dragutin Ilić in 1889. It is considered the first science-fiction drama in European literature about the end of humanity. Members of a new race of people, which Ilić calls the Spirit-world, will populate the Cosmos in a million years and will find the last two Homo Sapiens on Earth. Ilić is most interested in the perspective of man's emotional development, and he correctly concludes that man develops spiritually much more slowly than technologically.

Short Break

15.20 Irene Dani (Italy)/ The Tale of The Two Spoons (English) 14:35

A story of chance encounters, friendship and spoons. The Tale of the Two Spoons is a journey through the words of Christianne, an eccentric 76-year-old spoon collector, and at the same time a journey in search of a small piece of the past.

15.35 Oana Cristea Grigorescu, Radio Romania (Romania)/ Un cântec de sirenă / A mermaid's song (Romanian) 54:23

The short story A Mermaid's Song undergoes the process of a retrospective understanding of surveillance, abuse and manipulation mechanisms in an era where snitching on people was justified even by the whirlwind of a passionate and heart wrenching young love. Attila Vizauer's effort of adapting and directing follow the labyrinthlike trail of recovering the truth and the original score, by Tom Bânduș, conveys the oppressive feeling of anxiety quickly turning to terror on discovering the true identity of the former girlfriend, back from decades ago, through the voice over a telephone ringing in the dead of night. The winding trail of thoughts have one and only ultimate purpose, that is reclaiming the truth behind the voice of fake innocence and breaking free from the seduction of old temptations, which reveal their dangerous nature in time. Just like Ulysses, the hero ties himself up to the mast of lucidity to be able to resist the fictionalization of love. The pursuit and betrayal is the reality at the end of the journey into the past, but why would the voice of the Mermaid come to lure him again? Maybe to reveal the false freedom of a life lived in unbroken duplicity and surveillance.

16.45 Maya Reter/ Talefolk Productions (USA)/ "Do You Have a Moment?" (English) 2:00

Adam is tired of spam callers, but this time, one responds with a strangely familiar voice. We made this piece in 48 hours as part of Silver Sound's international Sonic Dash competition. We had an absolute blast making this in one hectic weekend of brainstorming, cold reads to friends over the phone, DIY studio construction, and a fantastic improvised maraca (a tupperware of lentils). Credits for "Do You Have a Moment?"

Kasper Ostrowski (Denmark)/ Gråzonen / The Grey Zone (Danish) 6:51

The Grey Zone is a short quirky story about a researcher working within the field of olfactorics (Sense of smell). He travels to Berlin to rid the Berlin wall of fear inducing cement smells. With the aid of a local herbalist he is working on a counter-smell, but ends up with a marvellous ether which can dissolve the cement all together. A discovery which immediately costs him dearly.

17.00 CLOSE

17.30 JURY

Wednesday

9.30 Namulya Giovanni Yona / DHAADHA'S FIREPLACE (Uganda)/ Lagertha Ep 1 (English) 14:04

As dark secrets unravel, Lagertha must navigate a twisted labyrinth of love, deception, and revenge, where trust is shattered and hearts are mercilessly betrayed.

9.45 Myriam Pruvot/ ACSR - Atelier de création sonore radiophonique (Belgium)/ Onda and Storia (French and English) 60:00

A child shares her vision of the world. From her story emerge songs and places where past, present and future intertwine. A polyphonic choir punctuates this epic, which narrates the adventures of an infanta crossing multiple landscapes, from a salt quarry to the ruins of a palace, from a nocturnal forest to Mediterranean reefs. Onda & Storia is both a documentary account of childhood, which does not evade violence, and a musical fiction: a modest opera.

short break

10.55 Jill Korn/ Sound Escape Theatre (UK)/The Glad Giver (English) 32:10

The Glad Giver is an original audio play about Julian of Norwich, medieval anchoress and mystic, who wrote the first book that we have in English. Julian is an old woman who has chosen confinement to an anchoress's cell adjoining St Julian's Church in Norwich. Three windows are built into her cell which has no door: one gives onto the street, one to the maid's quarters and one, a 'squint', into the church itself.

The action takes place in 1413 in Julian's cell. It is divided into six scenes which mirror the medieval hours of prayer. As the play opens it is 3am, the time of the day's first prayer. Julian's joints are painful, and as she struggles to rise, an owl hoots from a nearby tree. Julian talks to Jesus as a friend she has known for a long time and confides her doubts that her devotion has done any good in the world. As she prays, the owl screeches and hits her window to the outer world as it passes. She sees it as the devil whom she recognises from her visions; she believes it is tempting her into doubting her faith and she angrily orders it to leave her.

11.25 Mathias Guilbaud (France)/ Voies urbaines : Rue Mespoul / Urban paths: Mespoul street (N/A) 15:02

This piece represents my own relationship with this places, how i fell within its spaces, how I regain a form of control over them by allowing them to express themselves. Trying to trigger an imagination, playing with urban sounds and more specifically construction sounds, so that they can transgres from their origins.

No script, no speech

11.45 Naledi Chai/ Fly Machine Projects (South Africa)/ Love Sick Suite/Time of War (English, Tswana, Zulu) 9:20

The show is like a twilight zone calling radio dating show but it's a little bit more experimental in the sense that you have conversations that appear to be coming from different corners of different rooms or different spaces and places and time again playing with the idea of collagen um times and modality's through use of field recording's conversations of friends, pieces of music and improvisation and bringing those together to tell the sort of incoherent and incohesive story about love and the fight for love and fighting for love in a time and place where there's already so much war and whatever the dynamics of love are in these times

Short Break

12.05 Rex McGregor (New Zealand)/ Pseudo Human Resources (English) 4:41

In the future, customer service will be perfect. Perhaps too perfect.

David Alan Grier/ HWMS Audio Theatre (USA)/ Your results may vary (English) 6:59

The Entire Show is about two friends, one an army office(Celi) the other a professor(Alec), who meet on the battlefield of some regional war that involves the US. Both are running from a past. Both are trying to decide what is the foundation of their lifestyle. In this episode, the professor (Alec) has taken a room off the military base and is learning to live without the infrastructure of the military. She is planning a trip to the front lines to do research. In this episode, two things potentially get in her way. The first is an officer, an "old friend" of Celi helps prepare for the trip but appears to manipulate it as well. The second is a terrorist attack on the town

Masoumeh Shad (Iran)/ Mute / bi seda (بی صدا) (Persian) 6:51

Depression is a common yet serious disorder in today's world. It is a mood state characterized by lethargy and withdrawal from activities, disinterest, and lack of enthusiasm, which can affect a person's thoughts, behaviors, emotions, and overall well-being. The first step in treating depression and preventing severe depression is recognizing the symptoms of depression. This program will address the topic of depression.

Cory Choy (USA)/ Dimo Duck (English) 5:00

Sophie is the best dang babysitter in Hatfield, New York. Tonight seems like it's going to be a breeze. But there's something different about little Leo Brown...

12.30 Melania Vesalu/ Synchronesh Summer School (Romania)/ Prietena Mea Geniala / My Brilliant Friend (Romanian) 59:55

It is an adaptation of the novel My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante. It's about two girls in Naples in the 1950's and the different stages in their lives.

My inspiration was purely based on the first two novels of the My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante saga. I gathered my classmates and we recorded this in a studio.

1.30 Close

2pm Jury Session

AFTERNOON FREE

THURSDAY

10 am Alexa Lerner (Israel)/ Altalena - Two points of view (Hebrew) 21:03

Two of Israel's greatest leaders face off in a dramatic confrontation at sea during the height of the 1948 War.

As the fledgling State of Israel is under attack on all fronts, David Ben-Gurion, the nation's first Prime Minister, orders a cannon to fire on the arms ship 'Altalena'. Onboard stands the future Prime Minister and one of Israel's most prominent historical figures, Menachem Begin.

The 1948 "Altalena" affair remains etched in Israel's history as a defining moment for its society and state. Despite the decades that have passed, it continues to resurface in Israeli discourse, highlighting tensions between left and right wing, sovereignty and human life, and as a complex example of navigating internal crises and moral-political dilemmas.

For the first time, a historic collaboration between the Ben-Gurion Heritage Institute, the Menachem Begin Heritage Center, and the Israeli Army Radio produces a unified version of the affair's events, presenting both perspectives simultaneously. This multifaceted portrayal integrates dramatized scenes based on historical research, alongside commentary from academic and military experts.

The dramatized scenes were recorded at authentic locations using innovative technology.

10.25 Roxane Ca'Zorzi/ Atelier de création sonore radiophonique (acsr) (Belgium)/ J'ai tant rêvé de toi / I have dreamed of you so much (French) 51:03

Brussels 2024, Ondine writes to French poet Robert Desnos, whose words she feels have become ingrained in her. She addresses her letter to the radio programme where he used to analyse dreams, in 1938. In a world that frightens her, she turns to the poet for refuge. A century earlier, in Paris, Robert Desnos, in the company of the Surrealists, engages in hypnotic slumbers during which he utters poems and prophecies. Slowly times change, charged with anguish. The poet seems to sense the presence of an apparition, a voice from afar. An immortal narrator recounts this unlikely encounter.

I met Robert Desnos when I was a teenager, thanks to a book from a friend of my grandfather, a bookseller. His poetry fascinated me. As early as 1930, Desnos discovered radio, seeing it as "an instrument for dreaming and making people dream". But reality caught up with the dreamer. In occupied France, he joined the active resistance. In 1944, arrested by the Gestapo, he set off on a journey from which he never returned.

11.20 Short Break

11.30 Charles Michael Ssejjemba /SSEJ Films (Uganda)/ Mbeleju, the Fearless Hunter (English and Ugandan) 20:11

An exceptionally skilled young hunter finds himself at odds with his own people. Enduring both love and loss, his fate changes the course of their future.

Inspired by Mbeleju - The Folktale, one that was told me by my own Father.

11.50 Théo Jacob, Chloé Hiobi, Nadège Cazals and Ludo Mepa (France)/ Herriec qui voulait écrire (The Man who Wanted to Write) (French) 43:30

Toulouse, France, early summer.

It might have been a scorching hot day like any other.

But today a dog has been found dead.

And for Herriec, an anonymous civil servant, one shouldn't touch a dog..

Starting with a homeless man's love for his dog. Then the consideration of a cop for the homeless man. Ending with the seemingly impossible indulgence of an officer toward the literary fancies of his brigadier.

Their multiple voices collide, intertwine and immerse into each other in order to, perhaps, find their own echo in the turmoil of a world where procedures confine people and trivialise violence.

12.30 Erin B Mee/ This Is Not A Theatre Company (USA)/ A Little Drape of Heaven (English) 28:50

A precious and unique sari awaits the presence of a boy to pull them out of the closet and drape them on his slender shoulders. In the meantime, the sari shares secrets with any-one who cares to hold a fabric close to their heart. To listen to this piece: go to your closet, find a piece of clothing to hold close to your heart, and press play on the audio link.

1.00 pm Erin B Mee/ This Is Not A Theatre Company (USA) /Ripe Time (English) 00:56

At the end of a meal, an apple and a peach remain in the bowl uneaten. How do they feel?

Erin B Mee/ This Is Not A Theatre Company (USA) /Still Life with Bottle and Vase (English) 04:06

A bottle and vase in a still life painting talk to each other when no one is looking

Erin B Mee/ This Is Not A Theatre Company (USA) /What Your Government Is Doing To Combat Climate Change 2:02

What is your government doing to combat the climate crisis? (Nothing!)

1.15 pm LUNCH

2.15 Mamuka Magularia (Georgia)/ Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds (Georgian) 12:01

What is the most crucial thing in life? Where do we look for happiness, and how do we reach it? Could it lie in human genius? Is there anything more important? Here is the story of a person who lived in the shadow of others, told by herself. The voices were generated artificially as part of an experiment in modern-day technologies.

2.30 Gabriele Heller (England and Germany) /Utopia - More and More (English) 60:00

Utopia More and more is an audio piece that was inspired by a long term collaboration between the English free improvisers and jazz musicians John Garner, John Pope and Tobias Illingworth and German writer and theatre maker Gabriele Heller. They have been collaboration on a variety of performances, music projects and audio work were they experiment with new ways to combine an improvised musical score with written text and spoken word elements. They also work on a live presentation of this new audio work were recorded elements will be combined with a live music performance.

3.30 Short Break

3. 40 Straton Rushing (USA)/ Icaro, Texas (English) 60: 00

When rising rodeo star Chris Joseph loses everything, he must return to his hometown that has been decimated by the '86 oil bust, and figure out who tried to have him killed.

4.40 Short Break

4.45 Wederik De Backer/ Plantrekkers (Belgium)/ Een Papegaai / A Parrot (Dutch) 6:56

"I believe it was on the brink of war.
And my grandmother's brother, Cyriel, served as a missionary in Congo.
Upon his return, he brought along a parrot, which found a place in our living room and possessed remarkable conversational skills.
This parrot excelled at imitating three distinct things."

Steven Louis Arnold (UK)/Lump (English) 6:00

A seasoned detective battles to keep his mind on the job after learning he may have cancer.

The inspiration for this story came from my time in the police and witnessing my friend and mentor battle cancer.

Stefano Giannotti (Italy)/ C'ERA UNA VOLTA / Once Upon a Time (Italian) 7:00

ONCE UPON A TIME is a micro-opera built on an earlier work commissioned by the radio programme Wurfseitung on Deutschlandfunk Kultur in 2008.

It is a series of famous fairy tales which have been revisited and shifted from their usual context.

Thus Cinderella, once married, stops cleaning the stepsisters' house and starts washing the Prince's castle, the Fisherman prefers to eat the Golden Fish, the the Pied Piper leads the rats to a global war...

In this new version, the carrier language is Italian and some of the music has been changed, and above all, the fairy tales are presented seamlessly as a single story.

5.05 Finish**5.30 Jury Session**

FRIDAY

9.30 Piotr Skotnicki/ Goyki 3 Art inkubator, Radio Gdańsk (Poland)/ Głosy Szumiącego Potoku / The Voices of a Shimmering Stream (Polish, Russian, German) 55:00

Drama about Sopot residents in the turbulent times of 1933-1945 including author's family. The lives of German, Polish-German and Polish Jewish families interweave as the town, in its own unique way resulting from the mixture of cultures, diversity and nations it represents, experiences the birth of Nazism and then Communism including inclusion. The town itself and its residents form the core of this story of love, betrayal, inclusion, war, diversity, identity and the relentless steamroller of history.

Third part of a drama is a story about author's Polish-Jewish refugee family that was expelled from Vilnius by the Soviets and then came to Sopot as part of the expulsion of Germans after World War II. Author of this drama is also director and music composer.

Short break

10.35 Larry Groebe/ Project Audion (USA)/Philip Marlowe: "The Three Wise Guys"(English) 40:00

Project Audion recreates a lost episode of the classic detective drama "The Adventures of Philip Marlowe" with a holiday theme. We returned to our archives to unearth a Marlowe script which hasn't been performed or heard since December 19, 1948 -- "The Three Wise Guys." "The Adventures of Philip Marlowe" ran for three years on network radio, with noir-ish tales featuring author Raymond Chandler's detective. In this episode, it was the night before Christmas and (as Marlowe says) "a sweet girl was in trouble. But that didn't mean a thing to the second-story man, the four-flusher in spats, and the ex-Chicago cabbie -- until, one way or the other, they all got into the spirit of the thing..."

11.15 Cristian Fierbinteanu (Belgium)/ The Political Music Show (English and a little French) 27:15

The ultimate confrontation between politicians, experimental musicians, intellectuals and art critics, The Political Music Show is a sound work about the cultural, social and political relevance of art, an oblique ode to the beauty of contemporary culture. Even more, it is an experimental poem about all of us, built as a quirky late night show

11.45 short break

11.55 Kyla Brettle (Australia)/ Significant Roadside Area (English) 19:25

Stepping through a crack in the fabric of the universe, where the past and future collide, documentary maker Kyla Brettle unravels the history of a small patch of bush near her home in Barkers Creek. Guided by her children, an ecologist, a landcare volunteer and a First Nations Elder, Kyla explores the connections between people and place - and how the value we see in an environment becomes manifest in the physical world.

12.20 Darren Crew (UK)/ Serial Killer (English) 3:43

No-one has heard from Bob Sanderson for more than a year. And some suspect the worst.

But no body has been identified. No murder weapon found. How could he have just vanished without a trace? Inspired by AI's unstoppable, insidious advance, this courtroom drama holds up technology's double edged sword and asks; who can we trust when we can no longer trust our own senses?

J.D. Sutter/ Porchlight Family Media (USA)/ Lumi and the Daffodils (English) 5:38

Salus, The Wondersmith arrives in the mountain hamlet of Felgren on an autumn day when he was not expected. Why did he not wait until the springtime to come?

Mostafa Rafiee/ Guilan Dubbing (Iran)/ Avaze khamoosh (آواز خاموش) The Sound of Silence (Persian) 6:52

In the 21st century, it is hard to believe that the sound of women's voices is prohibited in a certain geography, but this is a reality.

Nahid Saadati (Iran)/A Forced Bloom (Persian) 7:00

A father forces his young daughter to marry an old man because of financial debts.

12.45 Jonty Leff (UK)/ Pappy Don and Dem Vincy Massive (English) 23:00

PAPPY Don and Dem Vincy Massive is a story of a woman (Mica) who meets a man Pappy Don whilst on holiday in St Vincent. She brings him back to High Wycombe, near London and they have a child Krystal. The UK is not what Pappy Don thought it to be and he and Mica argue a lot. He can't get papers to work. Whilst visiting Notting Hill Carnival the immigration police attempt to snatch him but the crowds stop the van from moving (Real audio is used from Glasgow, where it actually happened).

It is a story that touches on some of the issues around the Windrush scandal. It looks at the second generation of families who settled in the UK and now visit

St Vincent as tourists. The returners... Vincy people, who after moving to the UK rediscover their love for St Vincent and return home ... and the third generation, born in the UK who visit St Vincent to discover their roots.

13.10 Brenda Withers (USA)/ The Consonant Professional (English) 7;00

A manager of dubious qualifications takes a meeting with a superior subordinate.

Ali Gallo/ Shouting In The Evening International Theatre Company (UK)/ Haunted (English) 7:00

A ghost is for life, not just for Halloween

13.25 Setayesh Jafari (Iran) / موج قرم Red Waves (Persian) 18:00

The great role of radio in lives and different decades which can change lives

13.40 Finish

LUNCH

2.30 Public Jury Session

This will be followed by private jury sessions and voting

7pm PARTY and announcement of winners