



Bank Holiday treat on Radio Ulster

A beautifully atmospheric listen on 92-95 FM or online at bbc.co.uk/radioulster

Meadows and A Night On the Meadow

Written and read by Polly Devlin

Producer Anne Simpson

26th August 2007 1602-1700

“I am again standing in a meadow like the meadows of my childhood, a field of such beauty and rarity that people fall silent when they enter on it, jolted into ecstasy and melancholy, overcome first by its prodigality and then aware with sadness, as I was when I first happened on it, of what we have lost; aware, too, that few children of today will ever even begin to know what England and Ireland once looked like.”

Polly Devlin on Cannwood Meadow from the introduction to her book, A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF AN ENGLISH MEADOW

COMING UP NEXT TIME...

New 2 part drama for BBC 7 from **Annie McCartney; David Park's *The Truth Commissioner*** in ten parts for Radio 4's Book At Bedtime; **Moonmen** from **James McAleavey** for Radio 3's The Wire; **Cupid Strikes...** five new readings for Valentine's Week; two new Afternoon Play dramas, **Slightly Larger Than West Virginia** from **Hugh Costello** and **Next of Kin** from **Pearse Elliott** and a new **Drama on 3** for Radio 3 from **Pat McCabe**.

To all BALDI fans!!!!

a **NEW 4 part series of BALDI**, starring **David Threlfall** as Baldi, written by **Barry Devlin, Andrew Martin, John Murphy and James McAleavey**.



David Threlfall



Owen Roe



Tina Kellegher

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BBC
RADIO ULSTER

Autumn
September, October, November, December

2007



PURE RADIO DRAMA FROM BBC NORTHERN IRELAND



BBC Northern Ireland

bbc.co.uk/ni/drama



For more details, behind the scenes photos and a chance to tell us what you think, log on to bbc.co.uk/ni/drama where you can now view this leaflet online.

Visit our website regularly for updates on what you might be missing!

www.bbc.co.uk/ni/drama

AUGUST

Another Chance to hear...

Mind's Eye

By **Gerry Casey, Gemma McMullan**
and **John Murphy**

Original Drama 27th -31st August at
1800 and repeated at midnight in 5 parts
on BBC 7

Producer: **Eoin O'Callaghan**

When Psychotherapists, Lorcan and Aoife Molloy are called in to help a series of unusually distressed patients, they discover that the problems they are facing are not just psychological disorders – but show evidence of inexplicable paranormal activity. As this father and daughter team hold wildly opposing views on matters spiritual, their partnership seems set for some stormy weather.

Starring **Dermot Crowley** as Lorcan
and **Cathy Belton** as Aoife with



Cathy Belton



Margaret D'Arcy



Dermot Crowley

Margaret D'Arcy, Stella McCusker,
Miche Doherty, Gerard Murphy, Niall
Cusack, Laura Hughes, Sean Campion,
Aine McCartney, Eamon Owens,
John Hewitt and Mark Lambert.

SEPTEMBER

New...

The House on The Borderland

By **William Hope Hodgson**

Reader **Jim Norton**

Producer **Lawrence Jackson**



Jim Norton

Abridged reading 4th-7th
September 2007 at 1830
and repeated at half past
midnight in 4 parts on
BBC 7

William Hope Hodgson's
fantasy novella, published
in 1908, is now seen as a classic of
Edwardian science-fiction in the
imaginative tradition of Edgar Allan Poe
and H.G.Wells. It has been cited as an
influence by writers from H.P.Lovecraft
to Terry Pratchett and Alan Moore. Its



many admirers recognise it as an eerie, surreal, one-off classic of the genre.

'The House on the Borderland' tells the story of two friends camping near the ruins of an old house in a remote spot in the west of Ireland, who find a manuscript describing the terrifying experiences of the last owner of the house of the title. He narrates how he is besieged by swine-like creatures from a giant pit in the grounds of the house which apparently leads to another dimension; then undergoes an out-of-body experience encompassing a rapid fast-forward through the heat death of the universe; until he faces the final onslaught of the swine-creatures from the abyss.

According to Terry Pratchett, after reading 'The House on the Borderland': 'I wore my terror like a medal. My contemporaries watched 'Torchy the Battery Boy' in his sparkler-powered rocket ship, but that was kids' stuff to me, who had flown on the cinder of the Earth over the interstellar gulf. Other children hid behind sofas from 'Quatermass and the Pit'. I had grown up. I knew there were no sofas, anywhere.'

Writer

Author **William Hope Hodgson** (1877-1918) was born in Essex and spent eight years as a merchant seaman before writing four novels of the fantastic: 'The House on the Borderland', 'The Boats of the Glen Carrig', 'The Ghost Pirates' and 'The Night Land'. He fought at Ypres and was killed by a shell at the very end of the First World War. Hodgson is regarded in status as second only to those masters of the supernatural genre at his time of writing, Algernon Blackwood and Arthur Machen.

Jim Norton is one of the most versatile and highly respected actors of his generation. He began his career working in theatre and film with Lindsay Anderson and Sam Peckinpah, but recently he has become best known for his performances in the plays of Conor McPherson, including 'The Weir', 'Port Authority' and 'The Seafarer', for which he received the 2007 Olivier Award for Best Performance in a Supporting Role. His definitive audio-book recordings include Joyce's 'Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man', 'Ulysses' and 'Finnegan's Wake'.



Another Chance to hear ...

Hallows End

by Bill Murphy

Original 30 minute Drama, on Friday, 7th September 2007 at 9.00 am and repeated at 8.00 pm & 1.00 am on BBC 7

Producer Lawrence Jackson

An atmospheric thriller. Well-to-do property developer Dermot McPhail decides to pour all his hard earned wealth into a run down old manor house called Raithkin Hall, known to the locals as **Hallows End**. His wife Clodagh is less than thrilled to be snatched from her equally hard won social life in Dublin to settle on the rugged west coast of Ireland. Dermot's financial advisor, Patrick becomes more concerned by the day when the renovation costs threaten to bring ruin and disaster.



Bill Murphy

Bill Murphy from Cork has written three series of the highly successful **Woman's Hour** thriller featuring DI Sue Manson of the Missing Persons Unit. He has also written for the hugely popular

Afternoon Play series *Baldi* as well as *Vostok*, a 30-minute drama for BBC7. Bill was the first winner of BBC Northern Ireland's Tony Doyle Television Writers Bursary in 2001. As a novelist he has published two thrillers, *Tin Kickers* and *Fractions of Zero*.

The cast: Gerry O'Brien as Dermot, **Ann Marie Horan** as Clodagh, **Darragh Kelly** as Patrick, **Helen Norton** as Aoife and **Simon Delaney** as Martin.

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New...

A Short History of Longing

by Shelagh Stephenson

Woman's Hour

24th-28th September 2007 at 10.45 am and repeated at 7.45 pm in 5 parts on Radio 4



Shelagh Stephenson

Producer Eoin O'Callaghan

'Delicate beauty, size 8. Emotionally connected, captivating artist, passionate writer with irreverent comeback wit, sense of spontaneity and easy sophistication. Katherine Hepburn type only more comfy.



Interested in social issues, folk art, long walks, cosy evenings, philosophy, museums, photography, music, world travel. Spiritual but not religious.

Looks forward to sharing Paris, Bhutan, Sag Harbour, Almodovar movies, and homemade Provencal fish soup with passionate, educated, financially secure, accomplished male, 50+.'

The personal ads in everything from the TLS, The New York Review of Books to the Whitley Bay Guardian reveal a thousand lonely lives. Whether dressed up as quirky self-deprecation or outrageous self-promotion, they hint at hopes unfulfilled and lives unlived. And at the heart of this is an irresistible comedy about the thing no one can ever admit to; being lonely.

This is the stuff of **Shelagh Stephenson's** five part series, *A Short History of Longing*. Shelagh is the winner of Sony and Writers' Guild Awards for her play *Five Kinds of Silence*, and a Giles Cooper award for *Darling Peidi*. Her stage play, *The Memory of Water*, won the Olivier Award for best West End Comedy and became a feature film. Recent radio includes *Life is a Dream, Through a Glass Darkly, Couples, Nemesis* and *Wasted*.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Another Chance to hear ...

Ancient Sorceries



Philip Madoc

by **Algernon Blackwood**

Reader **Philip Madoc**

Unabridged reading *The Seventh Dimension*

30th September, 7th, 14th & 21st October 2007 at

6.30 pm in 4 parts & repeated at half past midnight on BBC 7

Producer Lawrence Jackson

Mousy, suburban Englishman Arthur Vezin decides to break his train journey through France by spending the night at a sleepy town, where slowly all the inhabitants take on the aspect and behaviour of cats. Furthermore, Vezin feels ancient forces stirring deep within him, as if he has been to the same town long, long ago, and feels a dreadful kinship not only with the scary figure of the female innkeeper, but also with her beautiful, wild daughter. External forces and repressed emotions climax in a night of wild abandonment from which Vezin only just escapes, if arguably at all.



OCTOBER

New...

Like Listening to Springsteen

By Harriet O'Carroll

Afternoon Play

Monday, 22nd October 2007 at 2.15 pm on Radio 4

Producer Eoin O'Callaghan

Caro's last day of carefree happiness was at a Bruce Springsteen concert at Slane castle in Ireland. Heavily pregnant, but fit and well, Caro was surprised when her waters broke. She was rushed to the hospital, but little Mimi's birth was complicated. Caro learned a new word - Anoxia - or the deprivation of oxygen to the brain. Caro and Mimi's lives would never be the same again.



Cathy Belton and Sarah Dillon

Caro hangs onto the memory of that summer day in Slane, before Mimi's birth and before her husband, a golfing pro, left her, in spirit if not in body. She recalls each incident on her road to Calvary with her child with absolute precision; a strangely coherent rage against the injustice and impossibility of her situation. Her bravery is measured in her clarity of thought. Her unself-pitying ability to honestly regard her child and her predicament is the means by which she survives. The saying of the unbearable, and seemingly unsayable, enables her to carry on.

Harriet O'Carroll has worked extensively for TV but she is still comparatively new to Radio. She has written for RTE TV both for FAIR CITY and GLENROE, for about eight years. Also MONARCH OF THE GLEN, BBC I. She wrote a six-part adaptation of Stella Tillyard's biography, ARISTOCRATS for TV, BBC I and broadcast in 1999. She wrote the treatment for "The Clinic" a series produced by Parallel Films and broadcast by RTE TV. For THEATRE: ISLAND THEATRE COMPANY, LIMERICK performed her play BOTTLE OF SMOKE in



November 1998. Her play, LIKE LISTENING TO SPRINGSTEEN, won the Eamon Keane Listowel Writer's week award in 2004.

Cathy Belton is Caro, **Sarah Dillon** is Mimi, **Stella McCusker** is Elise and **Miche Doherty** is Steve.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

The Silver Fox

by Somerville & Ross

dramatised for radio by
Christopher Fitz-Simon

Classic Serial in 2 parts, 28th
October & 4th November 2007 at
3.00 pm and repeated 3rd & 10th
November at 9.00 pm on Radio 4

Producer Eoin O'Callaghan

A slightly darker and more politically astute work than their more celebrated, *Experiences of an Irish RM*, *The Silver Fox* nevertheless takes time to enjoy a run in the country, with suitably preposterous sons and daughters of the Empire's ruling class.

Captain Hugh French, newly married and recently returned from India, has reopened French's Court, his ancestral

pile in West Cork; but a restless wife, Lady Susan, and even more restless tenantry, hint at troubled times ahead. Following a fall whilst playing polo, Captain French faces something approaching a crisis of confidence. His nerve deserts him and when *The Hunt* proves incapable of catching an elusive Silver Fox, questions are asked about our Master of Foxhounds' strength of character. As French himself knows, weakness is something his class of gentry find insupportable - whether in India or in marginally less remote corners of the Empire such as West Cork. A price will have to be paid.

The *Silver Fox* stars: **John Dougall** as Captain Hugh French, **Gillian Kearney** as Lady Susan French, **Nicholas Boulton** as Wilfred Glascott and **Cathy Belton** as Slaney Morris.



Cast of *The Silver Fox*



NOVEMBER

New...

The Woman From The North

By Bernard MacLavery

Afternoon Play

Thursday, 1st November 2007 at
2.15 pm on Radio 4

Producer Heather Larmour

A beautiful study of a life in twilight years which will touch a nerve with everyone with elderly relatives.

“To point out the excellence of MacLavery’s writing is almost to do it a disservice. His prose is invisible, free of tricks, as though it was your own thoughts. His characters are revealed whole through every scrap of dialogue.”
Observer 2006.



Bernard MacLavery

Bernard MacLavery needs little introduction. His novels *Grace Notes*, *Cal*, *Lamb*, *Anatomy School* have earned him huge recognition in modern literature. (Both *Cal* and *Lamb* became major feature films for which he

wrote the screenplays. *Grace Notes* was awarded the 1997 Saltire Society Scottish Book of the Year Award and shortlisted for many other major awards, including the Booker Prize and the Whitbread Novel Award.

In 2003 he wrote and directed a short film, *Bye-Child*, after a poem by Seamus Heaney, which was nominated for a BAFTA (Best Short Film Award) and won a BAFTA Scotland (Best First Director Award). His books of short stories include *Secrets & Other Stories* (1977); *A Time to Dance & Other Stories* (1982); *The Great Profundo & Other Stories* (1987); *Walking the Dog & Other Stories* (1994), and most recently, *Matters of Life & Death* (2006).





DECEMBER

New...

Ashenden, Gentleman Spy



Alex Jennings

by **Somerset Maugham**

Abridger **Neville Teller**

Reader **Alex Jennings**

Abridged reading

Mon-Fri, 3rd-7th December 2007 at 9.30 am in 5 parts & repeated at 8.30 pm & 1.30 am on BBC 7

Producer Eoin O'Callaghan

Somerset Maugham: British novelist, playwright, short-story writer, highest paid author in the world in the 1930s. Despite his popularity, Maugham did not gain serious recognition. Born in Paris, of Irish ancestry, Somerset Maugham was to lead a fascinating life and would become famous for his mastery of short evocative stories that were often set in the more obscure and remote areas of the British Empire.

Neville Teller has been contributing to BBC radio for over 50 years. He has well over 250 abridgements for radio

readings to his credit, some 50 radio dramatisations (6 reissued as audiobooks in the BBC Radio Collection), and over 150 audiobook abridgements for a variety of publishers including BBC Audiobooks, CSA Word, Heavy Entertainment, Hodder Headline, Macmillan, Penguin and Random House.

1. "R"

How Ashenden is recruited into the Secret Service by "R", its head, on a "non-attributable" basis (ie he's on his own) - and how, in Geneva on his first assignment, he outwits one of the spies in Britain's pay who tries to blackmail him.

2. Miss King

Ashenden, evading the suspicious Swiss police, has a strange encounter with the bizarre Miss King. On her death bed, dying from a stroke, she desperately tries, but fails, to pass on to him something she wants him to know. How vital was the message?



3. Giulia Lazzari

Ashenden sets out to entrap a traitor, the Indian Chandra Lal, and shamelessly uses an Italian dancer, Giulia Lazzari, with whom Chandra has fallen in love, and who Ashenden forces to act as a decoy. The episode, set in Switzerland, ends with Chandra committing suicide and beating British justice.

4. The Traitor

This story, again set in Switzerland, tells how Ashenden unearths a plot by the Germans to infiltrate an Englishman, Caypor, into England as a spy - and how he manages to turn the tables on the enemy.

5. Mr Harrington's Washing

Moscow at the moment of the Bolshevik revolution. On the train from Valdivostok Ashenden is closeted with a prissy American called Harrington, and when they reach Moscow Ashenden meets up with a former love of his, Anastasia. The clash of temperaments between Harrington and Anastasia finally ends with Harrington being shot because he wouldn't leave Russia without his washing.

New ...

The Further Adventures of Dr Syn



Rufus Sewell

by **Russell Thorndike**

**Abridged by
Doreen Estell**

Abridged reading in
10 parts

Mon- Fri 17th-21st December & 24th-28th December 2007 at 9.30 am & repeated at 8.30 pm & 1.30 am on BBC 7

Reader Rufus Sewell

Producer Lawrence Jackson

Doctor Syn returns! More swashbuckling 18th Century adventures, this time featuring pirates, smuggling, highwaymen, duels, dastardly spies and the French Revolution, all brilliantly read by Rufus Sewell. 'The Further Adventures of Doctor Syn' is based on the third and sixth in the seven-novel sequence by Russell Thorndike, 'The Further Adventures of Doctor Syn' (publ. 1936) and 'The Shadow of Doctor Syn' (publ. 1944). These chronicle the ongoing battles of the, now middle-aged but still swashbuckling, Kent-born Christopher



Syn - Doctor of Divinity, vicar, ace duellist, retired pirate captain and smuggler. 'The Further Adventures of Doctor Syn' is a barnstorming, romantic treat for long winter nights.

Kent, the late 18th Century. Doctor Syn continues in his dual role as parson to the community of Dymchurch, and the Scarecrow, leader of the band of smugglers known as the Night-riders. In these nefarious activities he is aided as ever by Mipps his sexton and Jimmie Bone the highwayman. The first four episodes of this series see Syn take on the army, the navy, the local aristocracy, a Bow Street Runner, the Press-gang and even a French Privateer in the Channel, and best them all. While traitors to the Scarecrow's cause have sentence passed on them known as 'Smugglers' Justice'.

In episodes 5-10 we see Syn face a mortal enemy in London's debonair Bully Foulkes, find unexpected allies in the eighty-year old Agatha Gordon and sweet young Cicely Cobtree, and cross the Channel in a daring escapade to bargain with Citizen Robespierre at the height of the French Revolution. After a climactic duel in the heart of a November storm, Syn is able to welcome a new member to

the pirate brotherhood. But will he at long last be lucky in love?

Russell Thorndike (1885-1972) is less well-known than his sister, the actress Dame Sybil Thorndike, but his Doctor Syn novels hold a special place in the affection of lovers of atmospheric, swashbuckling storytelling everywhere. His novels have been filmed with actors as diverse as George Arliss, Peter Cushing and Patrick McGoohan in the role of Syn, and the Kent village of Dymchurch holds an official 'Day of Syn' every other year, to commemorate a home-grown literary folk hero.

Rufus Sewell's acclaimed performances include, for television, 'The Taming of the Shrew', 'Charles II' and 'Middlemarch', the films 'Amazing Grace', 'The Illusionist' 'Paris Je T'Aime', 'A Knight's Tale' and 'Cold Comfort Farm', and leads on stage in 'Arcadia', 'Macbeth' and 'Luther'. His most recent theatre performance was in Tom Stoppard's 'Rock'n'Roll' for which he won Olivier, Critics' Circle and Evening Standard Awards for Best Actor. 'Rock'n'Roll' transfers to Broadway in Autumn 2007.