

12. Wrecking Resources Jane Darke 2015

Play Script Extracts

From Three Plays by Nick Darke

THE BODY by Nick Darke

Archie Gross walks with a shrimp net in his hand, wellington boots on his feet. Mrs May and Alice walk towards him.

Archie: *(To himself)* Aw, There's a muddy puddle loomin up ahead in the spreading shape a Mrs May. She'm a hole in my shrimp net, she'm a kink in my hook.

Alice: Mornin Mr Gross.

Archie: Mornin Alice. Hear the larks?

Alice: Lovely.

Archie: Mornin Mrs May.

Mrs May: Mornin.

Archie: You'm lookin bright as a bottle Mrs May.

Mrs May: A full one I hope.

Archie: As always my dear. Fulla summin useful.

Mrs May: You'm being complementary this morning.
Summin up?

Archie: You'm right in your assumption.

Alice: Ooh what?

Archie: I'm about to engage in battle Alice.

Mrs May: What with, prawn?

Archie: No ma'am.

Alice: Crab?

Archie: No dear.

Mrs May: What thun stick a seaweed?

Archie: A lobster.

Alice: Oh Yes? Where too? Wine cove?

Archie: Nope.

Alice: Pepper cove?

Archie: No.

Alice: Fox cove?

Archie: No.

Alice: Rubble cove?

Archie: Tis the pool in Rubble cove.

E'm in the pool, an I'm on the rock an every day for the past three days I bin down there, an e've come out his hole an gived me a wave.

Now thun mister lobster. How are e today sir?

I'm fit as a pigeon, so be on your guard today sir.

I tickled'n wi' me hook, an e've returned to his hole. But todays goin be the day, when he end up in the pot! I got up today and the larks was singing, sky was bluer'n a fordson major tractor, sea was clear as a bottle, an I said to meself today sir, that there mister lobster an me sir is goin to get on first name terms.

Alice: Awww. Tis ghastly cruel you.

Archie: E'm wiley, but I'm wilier. I got the beat of e.

Alice: Got summin up your sleeve Mr Gross?

Mrs May: E got arm up his sleeve nuthin else. Arm wun't do e any good, you'll need four a they for to git the beat of e.

Archie: I got more'n arm up my sleeve.

Mrs May: Elbow?

Archie: I got more'n elbow.

Alice: What e got thun?

Archie: Ah!



Iron Bridge Padstow

KNOCK OUT THE PIN by Nick Darke



Old Newquay lifeboat slip way



William Cantrell Ashley was the New Quay lifeboat from 1907 to 1948, and was the last sailing lifeboat in the RNLI.

The first lifeboat station in Newquay was built in 1864. The first lifeboat, rowed by 12 oars, was Forester. At this time, Newquay was becoming important as both a fishing port and a centre for boat building. By 1848 shipbuilding had become a major industry in Newquay and in this year it is recorded that there were 10 vessels on the stocks at one time that required the skills of some three hundred workmen.

Extract from the play **Knock out the Pin** by Nick Darke

Characters – Billen, Cam, Betsy, William, Tom Delbridge, Foot, James Gill, Harry Thomas, Kepplefoot, a group of onlookers.

BILLEN swings his seven-pound sledgehammer high above his head. CAM DOCKING deftly sticks his hand up and holds BILLEN'S arm vertical, poised over the pin.

CAM This ere's Billen the blacksmith.

BETSY Me mother's sister's usband.

CAM When his hammer hits the pin, the lifeboat descends-

WILLIAM *(interrupting, melodramatic)* Down down down the slip towards the boiling deep-

CAM Thank you William you can shuttup now.

BETSY There was hundreds gathered on the cliff top.

WILLIAM Thousands!

BETSY All Newquay!

WILLIAM And half St. Columb Minor!

CAM I was ere first.

The cliff top fills with ONLOOKERS

WILLIAM *(dramatic)* The wind was blowin harder
Than it ever did before,
Driving the Atlantic
Onto Newquay's western shore.

CAM It was strikin up against the cliff!

WILLIAM And the wind was that strong!

BETSY Strong!

CAM Strong enough-

ALL To land water on the balconies of the Delcutia Hotel!

They ALL gaze in awe at the Delcutia Hotel, off.

WILLIAM & BETSY (*chanting*) The casualty is drifting
Without a rudder in the sea!
She's broadsides to the weather,
And listing heavily!
All Newquay gathered on the cliff
To see the lifeboat launch-

TOM DELBRIDGE and some of the CREW stand on the cliff, braced against the wind.

DELBRIDGE I can't take er out in this!

FOOT You refused Mr. Delbridge?

CAM He's refused! The Coxswain's refusing to launch!

ALL Why!

DELBRIDGE (*appealing to AUDIENCE*) I couldn't bear the loss of the crew on my conscience.

CAM The wind was dead in on the slip.

JAMES GILL I've took er out in worse than this!

DELBRIDGE She'll never make headway!

JAMES GILL Choose our time-

DELBRIDGE We'd be lucky to ship the oars in that sea!

JAMES GILL Then launch under canvas.

DELBRIDGE That a capsize er before we hit the water!

JAMES GILL Not if e's reefed-

DELBRIDGE We should wait for the tide to turn cus the wind might drop.

JAMES GILL Some hope!

HARRY THOMAS Mr. Delbridge is sempty year old Captain Foot. He could never have stood what they went through.

DELBRIDGE Under these conditions, I will not launch that boat!

JAMES GILL Then I shall take er!

CAM *(to AUDIENCE, indicating JAMES GILL)* This ere is Jamesey Gill and he know as much about the lifeboat and the weather and that as any man alive cus he was coxswain before Tom Delbridge.

BETSY And e's married to my aunt's sister-in-law.

KEPPELE FOOT So you stepped down Mr. Delbridge.

DELBRIDGE I did sir. And I dun't regret it.

HARRY THOMAS Gentlemen!

CAM *(to AUDIENCE, indicating HARRY)* Harry Thomas, the Honorary Secretary of Newquay Lifeboat, addressed the crew.

HARRY THOMAS I release you from your regular duties as lifeboatmen!

CAM Twas brave'n solemn.

HARRY THOMAS You are released from service!

WILLIAM He spoke deliberate like our schoolmaster.

CAM There was disaster in the air!

HARRY THOMAS From now on it is to be a volunteer crew! Whether you go or not is entirely your own decision.

EXTRACT TWO FROM 'KNOCK OUT THE PIN'

Characters – Busybody, Billen, Cam, Betsy, William, Pappin, Trebilcock, James Gill, R. Woodward, RJ Clemens, Jane, a group of onlookers.

This is the moment when the pin is knocked out and the lifeboat capsized

BUSYBODY Big one comin!

JAMES GILL Now!!

CAM Billen upped with his hammer and out goes the pin!

*BILLEN swings his hammer and knocks out the pin with a bang.
A great cheer from the ONLOOKERS as the lifeboat slides down the slipway.*

BETSY A great cheer went up from all Newquay!

WILLIAM They've launched!

PAPPIN *(in boat)* We wun't weather the Dane rock!

JAMES GILL More canvas! More canvas!

TREBILCOCK She's liftin!

The cheers stop

JAMES GILL Ship the starboard oars!

CAM Sails are up! 'e's gatherin way!

BETSY She's shipped a sea!

WILLIAM She's on er beam ends!

CAM E's capsized!

The cheers turn to screams (it's not advisable to encourage the AUDIENCE to scream. It might be hard to stop them)

R WOODWARD *(in the boat)* We were nearly gone then!

BETSY I can see er keel!

CAM E's upside down!

WILLIAM There's men in the water!

RJ CLEMENS They're gonna drown! My God they're gonna drown!

JANE John! John!

NEVER SAY RABBIT IN A BOAT

by

NICK DARKE

The beach. COLIN enters with HELLYAR on his back. Piggy back. They come on stage and he puts HELLYAR DOWN.

HELLYAR

Right. Crossed the Nile.

COLIN

Gyaw.

HELLYAR

Thanks Cohn, get your socks wet see. Wi' these boots. Wi'the river full like 'is.

COLIN

You'm some weight Hellyar.

HELLYAR

Ten stone boy. Dead weight.

COLIN

Gyaw.

HELLYAR

Ten stone. Dead weight, ab'm wavered for forty year, then there's me boots an 'at on top a that, an a gallon a beer.

COLIN looks, HELLYAR pats his stomach.

In ere. (*COLIN straightens up.*) Ab'm strained your back ave e boy?

COLIN

No.

HELLYAR

Too damn soft, thass your trouble.

COLIN

Coulda come on the road.

HELLYAR

I dearly love a wander on the beach boy, when I bin up the pub.
Nice little wander on the beach, 'fore I git ome, scratch round
th'igh tide mark, see whass under the seaweed...

COLIN

Sand hoppers.

HELLYAR

See if there's any contraband washed up.

COLIN

Never find nothin ere.

HELLYAR

Not these days boy, used to, used be able come down this beach
an pick up anything, food, clothes, wood for furniture, self-
sufficient this beach was, one time.

COLIN

The ole wreckers.

HELLYAR

Pearls, picked up pearls one time.

COLIN

Diamonds.,.

HELLYAR

Not diamonds boy, pearls, out the oysters, ad oysters out ere
one time, oyster beds, diamonds come out the earth !

COLIN

Used ta get precious stones off ere one time though..

HELLYAR

Aw yeah, agate an that, but pearls was the commonest, used to
dive for em..

COLIN

Did e?

HELLYAR

I didn', I used to pick em up off the beach! Wait f'rem to wash in, didn' bother to dive f'rem, I didn.

COLIN

Nice bit a wood ere.

HELLYAR

Ez you, that ll light the fire. (PICKS IT UP)

COLIN (*LOOKING OFF*)

Big rock fall down St.Merryn Long Cove...

HELLYAR

Gyat, twadn all that big, few boulders that was all, gone an declared the place a damn danger area..

COLIN

Any one under'n?

HELLYAR

Coulda bin boy, I remember when St. Merryn Long Cove was 'alf the size tis now, bin rockfalls there reg'lar, bigger ones'n that...

COLIN

Yeah, 's'changed a lot since I knawed it...

HELLYAR

Boy I remember when there was rabbits on this ere beach, an choughs on the cliff.