

"Private Times" by Kevin Fegan
Email: kevfegan@gmail.com

Website: www.kevinfegan.co.uk

"PRIVATE TIMES"

by Kevin Fegan

First commissioned and performed by The Library Theatre Manchester 1990

Later performed by prisoners and staff at H.M.Prison Grendon 1999

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CHARACTERS

PRISONERS

John Grendon - Scottish. Doing a Life Sentence for killing his wife.

Alan Parkhurst - Armed Robber. Co-owner of "Conscorp Ltd", the new owners of the prison.

David Strangeways - Parkhurst's cousin. Armed robber and co-owner of "Conscorp". David has discovered drama as a prisoner and is evangelical about drama's power for reform.

Simon Lartin - drug-smuggler.

Peter Ashwell - recidivist thief.

Paul Green - thief. Parkhurst's "companion" in prison.

PRISON STAFF

Governor - secretly appointed by Parkhurst and Strangeways to run the prison for them.

Senior Officer Risley - in charge of "A" Wing and Prison Officers Association representative. Could be played by male or female.

Officer Wormwood - "A" Wing detail. Could be played by male or female.

Diane Holloway - Drama Teacher.

VISITORS

Mrs Ashwell - Peter's long-suffering wife.

ACT 1 SCENE 1

"THE WITCHES" ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO
BUY SHARES IN BRITISH PRISONS. THUNDERSTORM.

1ST WITCH Fair is foul and foul is fair,
Don't miss out on your prison shares.

2ND&3RD WITCH Double, double, toil and trouble,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.
Privatise gas and privatise water,
Here's your chance to privatise manslaughter,
Robbery, drugs, murder and rape,
£5 down is all it takes
To get in on the act, make it pay
To keep the bastards locked away.

ALL Fair is foul and foul is fair,
Don't miss out on your prison shares.

1ST WITCH Where hast thou been, sister?

2ND WITCH Why, stretching hospital waiting lists.

3RD WITCH Testing water meters.

1ST WITCH Ah, selling off our national assets.
Well done, I commend your pains
To allow everyone a share in the gains.

3RD WITCH When shall we three meet again?

1ST WITCH When Windsor Prison changes its sign but not its name,
When two men sit down with a third
To find a con in the phrase "doing your own bird".

2ND WITCH A drum, a drum!
The new Governor doth come.

ALL Fair is foul and foul is fair,
Don't miss out on your prison shares.

SCENE 2

H.M.PRISON WINDSOR. "A" WING OFFICE. A NEW THATCHERITE SIGN HAS BEEN ERECTED WITH THE ABBREVIATED PRIVATE COMPANY'S NAME BELOW: "H.M.PRISON WINDSOR - CONSCORP". SENIOR OFFICER RISLEY IS PACING THE ROOM. OFFICER WORMWOOD HAS HIS FEET UP AND IS READING A NEWSPAPER. HE THROWS HIS PAPER ONTO A DISCARDED PILE OF PAPERS AND MAGAZINES.

WORMWOOD Is there nothing else to fucking read?

RISLEY You only look at the pictures.

WORMWOOD I've got a vivid imagination.

RISLEY What you doin' working here then?

WORMWOOD Shit, I'm bored.

Sit down, will you? He'll be introducing himself to the rest of the sodding prison before he comes onto the wings.

RISLEY I don't want him down my wing.

WORMWOOD They like to keep you waiting. He must think we've nowt better to do than sit around here all day on our fannies.

RISLEY I saw him pull up in his flash company car this morning.

WORMWOOD Oh aye, are we all getting company cars now then?

RISLEY They say he used to work in fast-foods.

WORMWOOD He'll find plenty of meatballs in here.

RISLEY We'll soon send him packing if he tries any of these new-fangled marketing ideas in here.

WORMWOOD It's your fucking fault we've got this new legislation.

RISLEY My fault! This prison was one of the last to give in to this government. If it wasn't for the Prison Officers' Association -

WORMWOOD Of course, I blame Education, that's where the rot set in.

RISLEY You're right: civilian teachers in prison was definitely the first mistake.

WORMWOOD Before you knew it, we'd got civvies running the canteen -

RISLEY The library.

WORMWOOD The gym.

RISLEY The hospital.

WORMWOOD The stores.

RISLEY Direct works.

WORMWOOD Admin.

RISLEY And now the bloody Governor's a civvy.

WORMWOOD And us.

RISLEY Not me. I'm no bloody civvy. The Home Office might have sold out on us, but I'm still loyal to the Crown.

WORMWOOD Who gives a shit, as long as we can earn more.

RISLEY In the short-term maybe, but long-term we've lost our negotiating power.

WORMWOOD They can bollocks, as long as we don't have to work longer shifts.

RISLEY There'll be redundancies, you wait and see.

WORMWOOD I'm not fucking bothered, me, as long as I don't lose my job.

RISLEY As long as your brain hangs between your legs.

WORMWOOD (JANGLING HIS KEYS) We've still got the keys, remember.

ENTER NEW GOVERNOR. WORMWOOD AND RISLEY JUMP TO ATTENTION.

RISLEY Good morning, sir.

WORMWOOD Sir.

GOVERNOR Good morning, gentlemen.

RISLEY Risley, sir, Senior Officer in charge of "A" Wing. And Prison Officers Association representative at Windsor Prison, Governor.

WORMWOOD Officer Wormwood, sir, "A" Wing detail.

GOVERNOR Where are the men?

RISLEY AND WORMWOOD LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

RISLEY They're banged up, sir.

GOVERNOR Is that standard practice, Risley?

RISLEY With it being an unusual day, sir.

WORMWOOD A "special occasion", sir.

RISLEY Given the uncertainty of today's events; it being your first day and the new regime, sir, I thought, for the sake of the inmates -

GOVERNOR This is not a royal visit, I do work here. And if I am to determine what changes need to be made, I must see the prison operating normally. However, I will take this opportunity to say a few words about the new regime. The new owners of Windsor Prison, "Consolidated Corporation" (or "Conscorp") believe in consultation management. I want the discipline staff to think of me, not as your employer, but as your manager. You are part of my team. I am more of an enabler, who can bring out the best in you and keep us top of the league. You will not find me sat in the office all day, I like to be out and about keeping body and brain exercised. I entered a half-marathon a few years ago and it changed my life, I can tell you. (TAPPING WORMWOOD'S GUT) I like all my staff to be fit. So, if you want to join me for a run any lunchtime, that is probably the best time to approach me with any problems you might have. I have arranged for a fitness test - free of charge - for all staff. I would like everyone to attend. Now, if you would unlock the men, I will address "A" Wing prisoners together.

GOVERNOR MOVES DOWN STAGE, FACING THE AUDIENCE.

WORMWOOD The king is dead. Long live the fucking queen!

RISLEY We'll see about that.

ENTER JOHN GRENDON WITH A BIG BLUE MUG OF TEA, FOLLOWED BY PETER ASHWELL WITH A FLASK. GRENDON REFUSES THE OFFER OF A BREW FROM ASHWELL.

GRENDON I wish they wouldne keep disturbing us. I prefer to be banged up all day, to messing us about. They think because we're behind the door, we've got nothing better to do.

ASHWELL That's right. (AFTER-THOUGHT) What else do we have to do?

GRENDON Loads of things; I'm that busy, there's not enough hours in the day.

ASHWELL That's right. (AFTER-THOUGHT) Doing what?

GRENDON For a start, I'm writing this paper on "Prison Illnesses".

ASHWELL That's right.

GRENDON I was just in the middle of a Radio 4 programme about a new disease they've discovered. You know when you're asleep and you're dreaming about walking along the edge of the pavement and suddenly your leg slips off the curb? Well, that's a disease, apparently.

ASHWELL Is that right?

GRENDON I suffer from that.

ASHWELL You suffer from everything.

GRENDON Is it any wonder in here? I've got every right to be an
hypochondriac.

ENTER SIMON LARTIN AND DAVID STRANGWAYS.

LARTIN But what kind of Governor ever asks to meet the cons for a
chat?

THE PRISONERS ACKNOWLEDGE EACH OTHER.

ASHWELL Got any smokes, Simon?

LARTIN NODS NO.

ASHWELL Got any smokes, David?

STRANGWAYS Do me a favour.

GRENDON They change the governors but the regime never changes.

STRANGWAYS I wouldn't be too sure of that, this time.

LARTIN We've never had private prisons before.

STRANGWAYS More civilians in the prison has been a good thing, hasn't it?

ASHWELL But we've never had civvy screws before.

GRENDON They're still in uniform, aren't they?

LARTIN Has there been a fall in the crime rate, I ask, with all these so-
called changes? Have they stopped sending non-violent
offenders to prison?

GRENDON Like you, you mean?

LARTIN I don't think prison is the right place for people like me, but -

STRANGWAYS It cured your addiction.

LARTIN And my criminal tendencies, I have to admit; but I didn't need a
ten year stretch for that.

GRENDON Some of us would welcome a ten.

LARTIN I don't see the need to keep a person in prison once they've
changed.

ASHWELL Punishment? Revenge?

STRANGWAYS They want you to show remorse.

GRENDON Remorse? For that bitch?

ASHWELL Don't start him off again about his missus.

LARTIN Of course, they're not going to let the prison population fall - not as long as we're keeping the screws and the old bill in work - privatisation or not.

STRANGWAYS They shouldn't have sentences without release dates.

GRENDON Perhaps when you're the new Governor, eh?

GOVERNOR Morning, men. I am the new Governor. As I am sure you are all aware, Windsor Prison is no longer in the hands of the Home Office. It is now run by a very reputable private company with an outstanding record for investing wisely in secure industries.

LARTIN RAISES HIS HAND.

There is no need for you to concern yourselves with who the new owners are. Rest assured, whatever your fears, I am sure it will be nothing like you expected. The Prison Service's statement of purpose will continue to be displayed in all prisons.

ENTER ALAN PARKHURST SMOKING A ROLL-UP.

PARHURST (QUOTING) "Her Majesty's Prison Service serves the public by keeping in custody those committed by the courts. Our duty is to look after them with humanity and to help them lead law-abiding and useful lives in custody and after release."

GOVERNOR I can assure you the Consolidated Corporation is, above all, concerned with the welfare of its prisoners.

ASHWELL Give us a smoke, Alan?

PARKHURST BLOWS SMOKE IN HIS FACE. ENTER PAUL GREEN. HE ACKNOWLEDGES EVERYONE EXCEPT GRENDON.

GREEN (TO PARKHURST) Give us a "rollie".

PARKHURST PASSES HIM HIS TIN. ASHWELL LOOKS ON, DISGRUNTLED.

GRENDON (TO ASHWELL) He blanked me.

ASHWELL Don't be daft.

GRENDON He did. He deliberately blanked me. What's he up to?

ASHWELL Don't be so paranoid.

GRENDON I'd better go and check my cell.

EXIT GRENDON.

GREEN So what's this new fucking chief got to tell us then?

GOVERNOR The Board of Visitors system has been abolished so that the prison is wholly responsible for its internal discipline problems.

ASHWELL (TO GREEN) Your wages are being cut, Paul.

GREEN Who gives a shit as long as I've got private cash.

ASHWELL And you'll have to work longer hours.

GREEN They can bollocks, I'm unemployed.

ASHWELL And you'll have fewer visits.

GREEN I'm not fucking bothered, I'm out next year.

STRANGEWAYS He's banned Radio 1.

LARTIN Good for him.

GREEN He can't do that! How am I supposed to do my fucking bird without music?

GOVERNOR There will be an end to unemployment in the new regime. All prisoners will be required to work, except for those in full-time education. I hope you will cooperate with us to improve the efficiency of the prison for us all.

GOVERNOR MOVES UPSTAGE TO TALK TO RISLEY AND WORMWOOD.
PARKHURST AND STRANGEWAYS APPROACH THE GOVERNOR.

GOVERNOR State your last three, gentlemen?

PARKHURST 789 Parkhurst.

GOVERNOR 789 Parkhurst, "Governor".

PAARKHURST 789 Parkhurst, "Governor".

STRANGEWAYS 790 Strangeways, Governor.

GOVERNOR Thank you, gentlemen; I am not an unreasonable man if I am accorded a little respect.

(TO WORMWOOD) If you could escort prisoners Parkhurst and Strangeways to my office immediately.

(TO RISLEY) I assume it's about time for the prisoners to collect their dinner from the canteen?

RISLEY Sir, I assume the inmates are to be banged-up as usual to eat their dinner?

GOVERNOR Routine as usual until you hear otherwise, Risley.

WORMWOOD (ESCORTING PARKHURST AND STRANGEWAYS) Been upsetting the new Governor on his first day, have we? You are a pair of fucking villains.

EXIT WORMWOOD, PARKHURST, STRANGWAYS AND GOVERNOR.
GRENDON RE-ENTERS.

GRENDON (TO ASHWELL) I told you, he's up to something. Look what I found.

GRENDON PRODUCES A PRISON-ISSUE SOCK.

ASHWELL It's a sock.

GRENDON A spare sock. In my cell.

ASHWELL So?

GRENDON So it wasn't there this morning. He planted it.

ASHWELL Who?

GRENDON Green. The one who blanked me earlier.

ASHWELL John, why would he want to plant a sock in your cell?

GRENDON That's what I want to know.

ASHWELL You're not going to get done for having a spare sock in your cell.

GRENDON So you say. I've seen cons done for having extra socks. It might just be a sock to you, but to the screws it could be -

ASHWELL An offensive weapon?

GRENDON Exactly. Slip a battery in there and you've got a pretty lethal kosh.

ASHWELL Look, you probably mislaid it when you were changing your kit.

GRENDON How do you explain it suddenly appearing like that?

ASHWELL Maybe it's an alien from another planet. (OFFERING HIS FLASK) Here, have some more deisel.

SCENE 3

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. GOVERNOR IS AT HIS DESK.
THERE ARE TWO EXTRA CHAIRS. A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

GOVERNOR Enter.

ENTER WORMWOOD, LEADING PARKHURST AND STRANGWAYS. THEY
REMAIN STANDING.

WORMWOOD Prisoners 789 Parkhurst and 790 Strangeways to see you, sir.

GOVERNOR Thank you, Officer Wormwood; that will be all.

WORMWOOD Are you sure you wouldn't like me to wait outside, sir?

GOVERNOR Positive. This could take a while.

WORMWOOD In that case, I'll return to "A" Wing, sir.

EXIT WORMWOOD.

GOVERNOR (CHECKING A FILE) 789 Parkhurst and 790 Strangeways -
cousins, I believe?

STRANGWAYS Correct.

PARKHURST I don't believe this.

GOVERNOR Currently serving twenty year sentences for your part in an
elaborate gold bullion robbery worth £3 million?

STRANGWAYS Correct.

PARKHURST David?

GOVERNOR None of the gold recovered.

PARKHURST Correct.

GOVERNOR Served ten years already; expected to serve between thirteen
and fourteen years with remission, but without parole.

STRANGWAYS Correct.

GOVERNOR (CLOSING THE FILE) I also have here my letter of appointment
from the Consolidated Corporation, witnessed by the owners of
that corporation: a Mr Alan Parkhurst and Mr David
Strangeways; which, correct me if I am wrong, makes you two
the -

PARKHURST New owners of the prison.

STRANGWAYS Correct.

PARKHURST So what the hell do you think you're playing at, showing us up in front of the screws?

GOVERNOR You wouldn't want the officers to suspect our little secret, now would you?

(RISING TO SHAKE THEIR HANDS) Good afternoon, Mr Parkhurst, sir; Mr Strangeways, sir. Pleased to make your acquaintance. Cigar?

STRANGEWAYS ACCEPTS. PARKHURST TAKES A CIGAR FROM HIS OWN POCKET. GOVERNOR LIGHTS THEIR CIGARS.

Congratulations on a very enterprising move, gentlemen.

PARKHURST Yeah, we thought so too.

STRANGEWAYS I thought of the name, do you like it? "Con"-solidated Corporation - "Conscorp".

GOVERNOR Very good. I must say how much I am looking forward to working for you.

PARKHURST So you should be, the money we're paying you.

GOVERNOR Quite. Something of a challenge too, I like to think.

STRANGEWAYS We presume no one else knows, apart from our solicitors?

GOVERNOR You will find me the soul of discretion.

PARKHURST Let's keep it that way, shall we?

GOVERNOR The subtle art of business is to conceal the intrigue.

STRANGEWAYS Very good.

PARKHURST Let's get down to some subtle business, shall we?

GOVERNOR The first thing we must sort out, if this prison is to be competitive, is the intake for this year - before the other prisons snap up all the "bargains", as it were.

STRANGEWAYS He makes it sound like a summer sale - "Huge Reductions on Armed Robbers".

PARKHURST "Warehouse full of Burglars - everything must go."

GOVERNOR I have here a list of convicted men in our care, of those awaiting allocation and a further list of long-term and Life Sentence prisoners awaiting transfer.

PARKHURST Is he telling us about prison?

GOVERNOR You can only consider those sentenced to eighteen months or more; I have marked them with an asterisk.

PARKHURST Give it here, let's have a look. (READING) Only one armed robber? A dying breed, David, that's us. It's all kiting checks and computer frauds. Eighteen months shop-breaking - he'll do; steady income, can't afford to turn away our bread and butter cons, can we? Three-and-a-half years G.B.H.

STRANGEWAYS Do we really want any more aggro-merchants?

PARKHURST Course we do.

STRANGEWAYS I prefer long-termers, myself - a better class of con. Once they've done a bit of time, that is.

PARKHURST Not necessarily a better class of criminal, though. I mean, look here.

SPOTLIGHT ON GRENDON.

Lifer: killed his wife. First offence. Bloody domestic Lifers, they're not proper criminals, are they? Not like this one.

SPOTLIGHT ON GREEN.

Approved School, Borstal, Prison. A time-served apprenticeship, you see. And four years for robbing furniture from show-homes. A lot to learn but displaying initiative. Only 21, he's a good investment.

STRANGEWAYS Another one fancies himself as a gangster.

SPOTLIGHT ON ASHWELL.

PARKHURST Recidivist thief - criminal for life, he'll do.

SPOTLIGHT ON LARTIN.

STRANGEWAYS Conspiracy to smuggle heroin - ten years.

PARKHURST Smackheads, they're a bloody pain.

STRANGEWAYS And who supplies most of the gear for this nick?

PARKHURST That's different, it's business.

STRANGEWAYS It's a free transfer, look; he's already done three years.

PARKHURST Anyway, I don't touch the stuff. Go on then, we'd best have him.

STRANGEWAYS Football hooligan?

PARKHURST No, spoiling the game.

STRANGEWAYS Mugger?

PARKHURST If anyone ever hurt my old lady -

STRANGWAYS Look at this one.

PARKHURST Bloody hell, what a cv. He's done time for fifteen of the last eighteen years. Might as well been a Lifer.

STRANGWAYS Not what you'd call one of your more successful cons.

PARKHURST Fuck me: twenty-eight different nicks in fifteen years? He's a bloody nonce, he must be. And they give us twenty? He should be hung. I'm definitely not having any nonces in my nick.

STRANGWAYS This prison's full of sex offenders.

PARKHURST Well, it's going to stop now I'm in charge.

GOVERNOR I'm afraid, it's not that simple. The Home Office -

PARKHURST Fuck the Home Office, I don't see why I have to share with them low-life.

STRANGWAYS You hypocrite.

PARKHURST What was that? What you sayin'?

STRANGWAYS Nothing.

PARKHURST No, come on, let's hear it.

STRANGWAYS It doesn't matter.

PARKHURST No, no; hypocrite, you said.

STRANGWAYS That's right, you are. All this bollocks about nonces. It didn't stop you bugging young remands at Waketree, did it?

PARKHURST Hey! You shut that fucker! I was goin' through a particularly bad patch, that doesn't make me a nonce.

STRANGWAYS Paul Green? Bit of a favourite of yours?

PARKHURST I'll have you.

GOVERNOR Gentlemen, please. The decision is out of our hands. The Home Office determines the category of this prison and the nature of the offenders we can contain. In actual fact, sex offenders bring in more income from the state, presumably because no prison really wants them.

PARKHURST All right, all right. So long as they're making us good money.

GOVERNOR We don't have to decide everything today. I will arrange for you both to work as my Orderlies.

PARKHURST I'm not being nobody's bloody Orderly.

GOVERNOR I thought that way we could meet regularly without arousing suspicion.

PARKHURST No.

STRANGEWAYS You won't have to do anything, Alan.

GOVERNOR I'm sorry, but you will. You must be seen to do your job, as I must be seen to do mine.

STRANGEWAYS He's right. We need each other to make this business work.

GOVERNOR You have employed me to manage this prison.

PARKHURST You manage it, I run it - (CORRECTING HIMSELF BEFORE STRANGEWAYS DOES) "we" run it.

GOVERNOR Take a copy of the new regime and let me know if it is agreeable to you. I have divided up the areas of responsibility between us. Just one thing before you go. Will you be wanting to escape?

PARKHURST Escape? What for?

GOVERNOR Well, I thought -

STRANGEWAYS And have the old bill after us for the rest of our natural?

PARKHURST Or get another twenty on top. We've only a couple of years with remission.

STRANGEWAYS It's knowing we can leave when we want that makes the rest of our stay easier.

KNOCK AT THE DOOR AND WORMWOOD ENTERS.

GOVERNOR Thank you, officer. If you could escort the men back to the wing.
THEY EXIT.

WORMWOOD Get a good bollocking, did we?

PARKHURST Tell him, will you, David, before I lose patience.

STRANGEWAYS Actually, we start work as the Governor's "redbands" tomorrow.

WORMWOOD Well, you've missed your fuckin' dinner, anyroad.

EXIT. THE WITCHES RETURN.

1ST WITCH And so two men sat down with a third
And found the con in "doing your own bird".

2ND WITCH A cousin whose ways are very strange
Will let the bird out of its cage.

"Private Times" by Kevin Fegan

Email: kevfegan@gmail.com

Website: www.kevinfegan.co.uk

3RD WITCH

Lesser than your cousin and greater,

Not so happy yet much happier,

Thou shalt get kings though thou be none,

Champion of one who goes by the name of "Grendon".

EXIT.

SCENE 4

"A" WING. PARKHURST AND STRANGWAYS ARE IN ADJACENT CELLS. THEY COMMUNICATE OUT OF THE WINDOW AT ONE END OF THEIR CELLS. THE WINDOWS ARE TILTED OPEN, THE BARS ARE FIXED. PARKHURST IS SMOKING A JOINT.THEY ARE CONSIDERING THE GOVERNOR'S HANDOUT ON THE NEW REGIME.

PARKHURST Bloody hell. £1000 a week, it says here, to keep one lousy con in this nick. We can't afford that, there'll have to be some cutbacks.

STRANGWAYS 75% of the overall prison costs are labour. That's where we need to rationalise. There's too many screws doing too little for too much.

PARKHURST I'm not so sure, you know. We have to keep a tight grip.

STRANGWAYS You're talking like the Home Office already.

PARKHURST Some of these headcases in here, if they see less screws they'll think they can get away with all sorts.

STRANGWAYS What? Like escape, you mean?

PARKHURST It's not good for the reputation of the prison.

STRANGWAYS Anybody with half-a-mind to, could escape from this kindergarden, you know that.

PARKHURST All I'm saying is that we have to maintain control.

STRANGWAYS Control? Can you hear yourself?

PARKHURST There has to be strict rules if we're going to make any money out of this?

STRANGWAYS You've been inside too long, Alan.

PARKHURST I hope you're not suggesting I'm institutionalised?

STRANGWAYS It's not the screws that keep the lid on a prison; you, of all people, ought to know that?

PARKHURST The last thing we need are discipline problems.

STRANGWAYS Is this the same man, I ask myself, as did fifty-six days down the chokey for twatting a screw at Waketree?

PARKHURST No, it's not. This is the man who's got a business to run.

STRANGWAYS I think you'll find I'm in charge of discipline.

PARKHURST What d'you mean?

STRANGWAYS The Governor's new regime, haven't you read it yet? I'm responsible for all Inmate Services, including Discipline and the Segregation Unit. You're responsible for Operations.

PARKHURST What's that?

STRANGWAYS Read it yourself.

PARKHURST Read it out for me, will you, I'm busy.

STRANGWAYS Security, Staffing, the Gate and Visits.

PARKHURST What else you got?

STRANGWAYS Labour Control - sorting out which con does what job. And I'm responsible for Legal and Hospital provisions and Probation.

PARKHURST And Discipline?

STRANGWAYS Yeah.

PARKHURST What's he in charge of?

GOVERNOR Communications, Staff Training and Finances.

PARKHURST I hope he remembers whose money it is.

STRANGWAYS He seems a good company man, loyal, you know? Can you smell draw?

PARKHURST Money, that's all people are loyal to.

STRANGWAYS Somebody's having a crafty blow along this spur - is it you?

PARKHURST Told you, I never touch the stuff.

STRANGWAYS Have you got any?

PARKHURST Not until the next visit.

STRANGWAYS Bloody marvellous, I own half the soddin' prison and I still can't get a smoke when I want it.

PARKHURST Black market forces. You never know who's controlling the economy.

SCENE 5

THE GYM.

GOVERNOR Have we come to any conclusions, gentlemen, regarding the new regime? Operations?

PARKHURST Current manning levels are to be maintained. Prison officers are to be given more fences and more keys.

GOVERNOR Inmate Services? Any changes?

STRANGEWAYS Wages: £5 a week.

PARKHURST £5 a week! That's 100% increase. You'll flood the market with money, inflation will go through the roof. All black market prices will have to go up.

STRANGEWAYS Training courses in Business Studies, Catering, Motor Vehicle Maintenance, Computer Studies -

PARKHURST How much are we paying them?

STRANGEWAYS Same pay: £5 a week. With no unemployment in the prison, everyone will be on the same pay.

PARKHURST Who's going to pay for all this?

STRANGEWAYS And full-time education from Literacy through to Open University.

PARKHURST Bloody hell!

STRANGEWAYS Oh, and Drama.

PARKHURST What?!

STRANGEWAYS We're employing a Drama Worker.

PARKHURST Are we? First I've heard about it. Why?

STRANGEWAYS To encourage the arts in prison.

PARKHURST The cons can do this sort of thing in their own time.

STRANGEWAYS We should be encouraging the men to express themselves.

PARKHURST Why?

STRANGEWAYS Because it gives them a chance to find out who they really are.

PARKHURST They're bloody criminals, that's who they are!

STRANGEWAYS People can change.

PARKHURST It's for nancies.

STRANGEWAYS If it wasn't for the arts, I'd still be communicating with a sawn-off shotgun.

GOVERNOR We could use this sort of thing for Public Relations, I suppose. Pantomimes for the families, that sort of thing.

PARKHURST Do we get any government subsidy for this?

GOVERNOR I am afraid not.

PARKHURST You can't have it.

STRANGEWAYS Listen, either we employ a Drama Worker or I resign.

PARKHURST Have it your own way. But only £3 a week for cons who take it up, not a penny more. And if you get no takers within a week, we scrap it. (TO GOVERNOR) What you introducing? Ballet?

GOVERNOR Staff Training. First, I want all staff members to take a fitness test.

ENTER WORMWOOD AND RISLEY IN GYM KIT. GOVERNOR WHEELS ON A FITNESS MACHINE.

Could I have a volunteer?

(GRABBING WORMWOOD) Thank you.

(STRAPPING WORMWOOD TO THE MACHINE) This is a diagnostic multi-gym. Think of it as crypton-tuning for the body.

By diagnosing height...

height...

pulling power of the arms...

pushing power of the arms...

pulling power of the legs...

pushing power of the legs...

stomach muscles...

lifting power of the arms...

lifting power of the legs...

groin...

flexibility...

and breathing...

WORMWOOD COLLAPSES, EXHAUSTED.

The machine prints out a scientifically calculated programme of work and diet required to bring you up to the satisfactory level of fitness.

Now that the body is fine-tunes, we must exercise the brain. I am setting up a series of Staff Awareness days. The title of the first session is "Inmates Are People Too". Risley, can you tell me three major differences between staff and inmates' social and ideological worlds?

RISLEY They drink "deisel" and we drink tea. They crap behind half a toilet door and we -

GOVERNOR One: a basic conflict exists between staff and inmates with stereotypes attributed to each group by members of the other group.

ASHWELL They think we're thick.

WORMWOOD They think we're thick.

GRENDON They think everything we do has an ulterior motive.

RISLEY They think everything we do has an ulterior motive.

GOVERNOR Two: the inmate society is governed by a code which inmates are pressured into accepting. The officer society is governed by a code which officers are pressured into accepting.

GRENDON Do your own time.

RISLEY Do your own job.

ASHWELL Do not assist screws in their work.

WORMWOOD Do not get too friendly with inmates.

GRENDON Stay loyal to one another.

RISLEY Always cover for other officers.

ASHWELL Do not inform on other cons.

WORMWOOD Do not report a fellow officer.

GRENDON Every man has his price.

RISLEY Every man has his price.

ASHWELL Screws are corrupt.

WORMWOOD Inmates are devious.

GRENDON Nobody will give you a break.

RISLEY Nobody will give you a break.

ASHWELL Do not give anyone a break.

WORMWOOD Do not give anyone a break.

GRENDON Trust no one.

RISLEY Trust no one.

GOVERNOR Three: staff and inmates alienate themselves by maintaining a minimum of communication.

GRENDON I want to apply to make a telephone call.

RISLEY I'm not in now until Wednesday, can you come back later?

ASHWELL You can never get a straight answer from a screw. They won't say "yes" because they're frightening of giving permission. They won't say "no" because they think that's the way to avoid confrontation.

WORMWOOD They'll only talk to you when they want something. They won't be seen chatting with you in front of other inmates.

GOVERNOR Define the term "dehumanisation".

RISLEY Name?

GRENDON Grendon.

RISLEY Number?

GRENDON 123456.

RISLEY Sentence?

GRENDON Indefinite.

WORMWOOD They call us "screws".

ASHWELL They call us "inmates" instead of cons and refer to our cells as "rooms".

GOVERNOR Define the term "institutionalisation".

GRENDON IS WAITING BY A DOOR HE ASSUMES TO BE LOCKED.

RISLEY What you waiting for?

GRENDON Keys.

RISLEY Door's already open.

GRNEDON I never thought of trying it.

THE PRISONERS RETURN TO THEIR CELLS.

GOVERNOR Successful communication means controlling inmates without being authoritative.

GOVERNOR JOGS AROUND THE GYM. RISLEY JOGS AFTER HIM.
WORMWOOD EXITS, JOGGING. RISLEY CATCHES UP WITH THE GOVERNOR.
THEY JOG ON THE SPOT TOGETHER.

RISLEY Sir, I hope you don't mind me joining you this lunchtime?

GOVERNOR Best time to catch me with a problem, Risley.

RISLEY Only some of the officers are confused about these Staff Awareness sessions. They don't know if they're supposed to be jailors or counsellors, sir.

GOVERNOR I see.

RISLEY I hope you won't take this personally, sir. As P.O.A. rep, I'm obliged to relay the disquiet of the officers to you, sir.

GOVERNOR Tell the officers we shall have them some more keys made up, will you?

GOVERNOR JOGS AWAY. RISLEY IS LEFT SPEECHLESS AND BREATHLESS.

RISLEY CATCHES UP WITH THE GOVERNOR AGAIN.

RISLEY Sir, about beards?

GOVERNOR Did your father never tell you?

RISLEY Some of the inmates are growing beards without permission, sir.

GOVERNOR Yes, I believe so.

RISLEY Is it wise, sir?

GOVERNOR I have never liked them myself.

RISLEY They could be used in an escape attempt, sir. I mean, as a disguise, sir.

GOVERNOR Would it help if we had another fence?

GOVERNOR JOGS AWAY.

RISLEY (CALLING) Sir, about the new Visits Procedure?

SCENE 6

VISITS ROOM.

RISLEY Visits - two o'clock. 234567 Ashwell. 345678 Green in the Special Visits Room.

ENTER MRS ASHWELL WHO SITS AT A TABLE, WAITING FOR HER HUSBAND. ON HIS WAY TO VISITS, GREEN IS STOPPED BY GRENDON.

GRENDON Where are your socks?

GREEN What's up? Nobody visit you any more?

GRENDON Why aren't you wearing socks?

GREEN Slip us a few quid and you can have a go with my tart.

GRENDON I want to know what you've done with your socks?

GREEN (PUSHING PAST) Get outta my face, you spacer!

GREEN APPROACHES RISLEY AND HANDS HIM A £20 NOTE.

Is she in there?

RISLEY What the fuck's this?

GREEN And I don't want you bastards looking, or I'll have my money back.

GREEN PASSES THROUGH INTO A BACK ROOM. RISLEY IS CONFUSED. ASHWELL ENTERS AND SITS WITH HIS WIFE.

ASHWELL Got a fag?

MRS ASHWELL You might say "hello" first.

SHE PULLS OUT A PACKET FROM HER BAG. ASHWELL CHECKS NO ONE IS LOOKING AND TAKES THE PACKET FROM HER. HE TAKES A CIGARETTE AND HANDS HIS WIFE ONE.

Thanks very much. It's not easy for either, you know?

ASHWELL Light?

SHE LIGHTS THEIR CIGARETTES. HE RELAXES.

MRS ASHWELL Jenny's all right.

ASHWELL Good.

MRS ASHWELL She's with your mum.

ASHWELL That's nice.

MRS ASHWELL She would have come today, only we can't afford two train fares.

GOVERNOR APPROACHES RISLEY AND TAKES THE £20 NOTE FROM HIS HAND.

GOVERNOR Special visits - new procedure.

RISLEY You know what they'll be doing in there?

GOVERNOR Private rooms - if the visit is personal business.

GOVERNOR EXITS.

MRS ASHWELL They laid on a bus for visitors from the station. That's very good of them, isn't it?

ASHWELL Did you get my letter?

MRS ASHWELL I didn't think you were allowed to write those things?

ASHWELL Did you bring any?

MRS ASHWELL I couldn't get much.

ASHWELL You haven't been smoking it all, have you?

MRS ASHWELL I have not.

ASHWELL Only I know you like a crafty blow yourself.

MRS ASHWELL Wish I could afford it; costs me too much keeping you.

ASHWELL I'll be out soon; I'll get you money.

MRS ASHWELL You're going to have to stay out, if we're going to pay off our debts. See if you can last a bit longer this time; you were no sooner out than they'd pulled you again last time.

ASHWELL Too well known 'round there, you see. We're going to have to move area.

MRS ASHWELL I'm not moving again. You can go and do your work elsewhere.

RISLEY CALLS TIME.

ASHWELL Do you miss me?

MRS ASHWELL Course I do, even if I can't stand having you 'round the house.

ASHWELL Kiss me before you go.

SHE LEANS OVER.

ASHWELL Not yet. Slip the draw into your mouth and pass it over when we kiss.

MRS ASHWELL I might have known.

ASHWELL Come on, quick.

SHE OBLIGES. THEY KISS AND GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

MRS ASHWELL Don't forget to write.

ASHWELL (WITH A MOUTHFUL OF DRAW) Send me some money.

EXIT MRS ASHWELL. ASHWELL IS FRISKED BY RISLEY AS HE LEAVES THE VISITS ROOM.

RISLEY Open your mouth, Ashwell.

HE OBLIGES BUT KEEPS HIS TONGUE DOWN.

Lift up your tongue.

ASHWELL SWALLOWS IT.

RISLEY Right, solitary for you, Ashwell, until you've had a good shit. I hope it was wrapped in cling-film, Ashwell, for your sake.

RISLEY LEADS HIM AWAY. GREEN RE-EMERGES, ADJUSTING HIS CROTCH, GRENDON IS WAITING FOR HIM.

GRENDON Listen, I'm a Lifer, remember; I want you to bear that in mind.

GREEN You twat me, grandad, and you're never getting out. I could knock you out and get, what? Fine? Loss of remission? A few months on top? Now heel or else -

GRENDON (GRABBING HIM) You tell me, where are your socks?

THEY FIGHT. ALARM SOUNDS.

SCENE 7

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. ELSEWHERE, GRENDON, ASHWELL AND GREEN ARE LOCKED UP.

GOVERNOR The question is: what are we going to do with them?

PARKHURST We have to make an example of them.

GOVERNOR I quite agree.

STRANGEWAYS What are the options open to us?

GOVERNOR Well, you could fine them.

PARKHURST Makes good financial sense to me.

GOVERNOR Or loss of remission.

PARKHURST They can get that back again.

GOVERNOR Withdrawal of privileges.

PARKHURST Never works.

GOVERNOR Solitary confinement?

PARKHURST Electric shock treatment.

GOVERNOR Strip cell?

PARKHURST "Liquid Kosh".

GOVERNOR How do you feel about selected beatings?

STRANGEWAYS Now hold on a minute.

PARKHURST Give them a good kicking.

STRANGEWAYS And did that ever stop you?

PARKHURST You learn to get over a good hiding.

STRANGEWAYS Exactly.

GOVERNOR It does seem, on reflection, an irrational punishment for someone who was assaulted, as appears to be the case with Grendon?

PARKHURST He's an headcase, he brings it on himself.

GOVERNOR The punishment must fit the nature of the crime.

STRANGEWAYS Tell that to the judges.

PARKHURST We need to think what would cons most dislike as a punishment?

"Private Times" by Kevin Fegan

Email: kevfegan@gmail.com

Website: www.kevinfegan.co.uk

STRANGEWAYS What if all three were sentenced for a set period of time to work with the new Drama Worker?

GOVERNOR David is in charge of Discipline.

PARKHURST Brilliant! Drama - what could be worse? They'll hate it!

STRANGEWAYS SMILES TO HIMSELF.

GOVERNOR I am pleased to see you both agree for once.

SCENE 8

DRAMA CLASS. LARTIN, GREEN, GRENDON AND ASHWELL ARE WAITING FOR THE NEW DRAMA WORKER. GRENDON'S WRIST IS BANDAGED UP TO HIS ELBOW. ASHWELL IS DRINKING TEA FROM HIS FLASK. ELSEWHERE, GOVERNOR IS IN HIS OFFICE.

GRENDON (TO ASHWELL) What's he doin' here?

LARTIN I volunteered.

GREEN We'd be better off down the block than this excuse for a punishment.

GRENDON I think this is some kind of Special Unit; but I canne figure out why they've selected me?

LARTIN It's a drama class, that's all.

ASHWELL What d'you think we'll have to do?

GRENDON Maybe we represent different types of villains?

GREEN We should get some prison skirt in on it.

ASHWELL (DRINKING) Best thing this new regime has done for us - real tea.

GRENDON Aye, but what's in it, Peter?

ASHWELL Paranoia, John. (TAKING GRENDON'S BANDAGED ARM) Don't let it get to you behind the door.

GRENDON Where's Strangeways?

GREEN I supposed he was supposed to be something of a "face"?

GRENDON I heard, he was in on this.

GREEN Only reason I agreed to take part, is because I've heard this drama tart is a bit-of-all-right.

ENTER STRANGEWAYS WITH DIANE HOLLOWAY. THEY OVERHEAR GREEN'S LAST COMMENT.

STRANGEWAYS There aren't many female staff in this nick, I'm afraid. Your senses tend to work overtime when a woman is present. It'll wear away soon, don't worry.

HOLLOWAY I hope not. A heightening of the senses is a perfect warm-up for a drama session. Have any of you done any drama before?

NO RESPONSE.

Apart from David?

ASHWELL (POINTING AT LARTIN) He has.
LARTIN Only pantomimes, things like that.
GREEN I do a good warm-up, miss.
HOLLOWAY David tells me, he would like to have a go at "Macbeth". Any objections?

NO RESPONSE. STRANGWAYS GIVES OUT COPIES OF THE PLAY, WATCHING OUT FOR GREEN WITH HOLLOWAY.

GREEN Are you married, miss?
HOLLOWAY Macbeth was married.
GREEN Are you, though?
HOLLOWAY Separated, actually.
GREEN Your old man give you the elbow, did he?
HOLLOWAY I left him, if you must know.
GREEN Why's that, then?
HOLLOWAY He asked too many questions.

HOLLOWAY TAKES OUT HER CIGARETTES.

ASHWELL (READING HIS COPY OF THE PLAY) Hey, mine's not in English.

GREEN HELPS HIMSELF TO ONE OF HOLLOWAY'S CIGARETTES.

STRANGWAYS (PULLING GREEN) Oi! Let's not take advantage, shall we?
HOLLOWAY (TAKING BACK HER CIGARETTE) "Drama tart", wasn't it?
GREEN What's your name?
STRANGWAYS (TO THE GROUP) This is Diane Holloway.
GRENDON Why "Macbeth"?
HOLLOWAY (NOTICING HIS BANDAGED WRIST) Have you had an accident?

GRENDON TURNS AWAY.

ASHWELL What's it about?
HOLLOWAY The usual: robbery, sex and murder.
LARTIN That'll suit this lot.
GRENDON Hark at the Good Thief on the cross.

HOLLOWAY It's about a 12th century Scottish General, Macbeth, who kills the king and seizes power until his enemies unite to kill him.

ASHWELL An everyday story of Windsor Prison.

GRENDON Did he ever do any bird, this Shakespeare?

HOLLOWAY He is beguiled by prophecies of power from the Witches and he is teased by his wife about his macho self-image.

GRENDON Sounds bollocks to me.

HOLLOWAY Turn to page 12 in your book - Act 1 Scene 3, the bit where the two Scottish Generals, Macbeth and Banquo, meet the Witches on the heath.

ASHWELL We can't do this, who's going to play the Witches?

GREEN She'll have to play all the women's parts.

HOLLOWAY Why?

GRENDON You don't expect us to play women, do you?

HOLLOWAY (QUOTING) "You should be women
And yet you beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so."

STRANGWAYS There you are, you see, perfect casting as Witches.

HOLLOWAY The Witches' prophecy has planted the idea in Macbeth's head of him becoming king and this is his reaction -

GRENDON I've gotta get out o' here.

HOLLOWAY Would anyone like to have a go at reading Macbeth's lines?
Paul?

GREEN Fuck that.

STRANGWAYS Oi! Language.

GREEN Says who?

STRANGWAYS I'm warning you.

GREEN Oh yeah, are you going to hit me with your book?

STRANGWAYS You'd better step down, son; you're on the wrong level. There's no Alan here to watch your back.

GREEN (TO HOLLOWAY) Hey, no offence intended.

HOLLOWAY None taken, I can assure you.

STRANGWAYS (TO HOLLOWAY) Sorry.

HOLLOWAY Was there really any need for that?

STRANGWAYS I hate myself for "fronting" it like that; but some of these young lads bite at your ankles.

HOLLOWAY Let's carry on, shall we? John, how about you?

GRENDON I canne do it.

HOLLOWAY Just a few lines?

GRENDON No, I said.

HOLLOWAY Simon?

GRENDON Send me back to Dispersal, I canne cope with this.

LARTIN I'll have a go.

HOLLOWAY Thank you, Simon. David, will you read Banquo? Simon, from "Present fears..."

LARTIN (AS MACBETH) "Present fears
Are less than horrible imaginings.
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
Shakes so my single state of man
That function is smother'd in surmise
And nothing is but what is not."

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

RISLEY After all, this is an adult prison, sir, and not a borstal. The officers believe the inmates should be treated like men.

GOVERNOR I am sure drama can be very manly, at times. It involves a lot of, er, set building, for example, and -

RISLEY Men dressing up as women, sir. It could lead to increased homosexual activity.

GOVERNOR I really don't think we need worry about -

RISLEY Is it a punishment, sir, or a reward?

GOVERNOR Reward?

RISLEY The drama teacher is rather attractive, sir; many of the officers have remarked -

GOVERNOR Yes, yes, I get your drift. The prisoners taking part are on less money.

RISLEY We want an assurance that there will be no kissing or physical contact involved, sir - with either sex.

DRAMA CLASS.

HOLLOWAY (AS LADY MACBETH)

"Come, you spirits

That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,

And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full

Of direst cruelty. Make thick my blood.

Stop up th' access and passage to remorse,

That no compunctious visitings of nature

Shake my fell purpose nor keep peace between

Th' effect and it. Come to my woman's breasts,

And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers."

THE MEN ARE IMPRESSED.

STRANGWAYS Thank you.

HOLLOWAY What do you suppose she is saying in that speech?

GREEN She wants the devil to fuck her.

OUTSIDE THE DRAMA CLASS RISLEY AND WORMWOOD ARE SNOOPING.
WORMWOOD IS IN HIS GYM KIT.

RISLEY Running for promotion, Wormwood?

WORMWOOD I'll murder him and his Staff Fitness programme.

RISLEY trouble with this nick is no one knows who's in charge?

WORMWOOD Give us a fag, will you, I'm gasping?

RISLEY GIVES HIM A CIGARETTE.

RISLEY It's certainly not us any more.

WORMWOOD Bring back the bar of soap and the wet towel, the mattress and the big stick so the bruises don't show.

RISLEY I'm not convinced it's the Governor we should be trying to please.

WORMWOOD I hope I'm not knacker myself every day for nothing?

RISLEY It's something to do with this drama.

WORMWOOD Extra work for us, that's what she is.

RISLEY Someone's got a hold over him.

WORMWOOD She's too familiar with the inmates.

RISLEY If something was to go wrong with their little drama, we might force the real power-base to show itself.

WORMWOOD And she's an extra security risk.

RISLEY It's time we took a more active interest in this play.

DRAMA CLASS.

LARTIN I hope David isn't directing again today.

GREEN He likes to think he's in charge.

LARTIN Diane's much better at it.

GREEN I bet she is.

STRANGWAYS Simon, will you carry on reading Macbeth? And Diane, will you carry on with Lady Macbeth?

GRENDON I'll have a go at that Lady Macbeth character.

STRANGWAYS Really? Good man, John. Diane?

HOLLOWAY Of course.

STRANGWAYS Okay, John, take it from "Was the hope drunk..."

GRENDON (IN A WOMAN'S VOICE AND READING EACH LINE AS IF IT WAS END-STOPPED)

"Was the hope drunk.

Wherein you dress'd yourself? Hath it slept since.

And wakes it now to look so green and pale."

GREEN AND ASHWELL TRY NOT TO LAUGH.

STRANGWAYS Put a sock in it, you two. That's a good attempt, John. I'd like you to try it again, only this time don't stop at the end of each line -

GRENDON I thought it was poetry.

STRANGWAYS It is in verse, but follow the punctuation and the meaning will become clear. And in your own voice.

GRENDON No, I need to practice my female voice.

STRANGWAYS Pick up from "Art thou afeared..."

GRENDON "Art thou afeard

To be the same in thine own act and valour

As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that

Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,

And living a coward in thine own esteem,

letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would'..."

STRANGWAYS AND HOLLOWAY ARE IMPRESSED.

ELSEWHERE IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

PARKHURST It's bound to fail.

GOVERNOR I must say, it is not exactly a recipe for success: a murderer, a drug-smuggler, a recidivist thief, an apprentice gangster and a woman -

PARKHURST And a soft cousin. Still, it keeps him out of the way.

GOVERNOR I think you should know the officers are increasingly unsettled. Risley came to warn me about this drama business.

PARKHURST What did he want?

GOVERNOR I found it very difficult to justify as a worthwhile activity and impossible to justify as a punishment. perhaps we should adjust our position slightly to appease the officers, you understand?

PARKHURST What do you suggest?

GOVERNOR We should not give inmates on disciplinary charges the right to choose drama instead of the Segregation Unit. It is wrong in principle to allow inmates a say in the nature of their punishment.

PARKHURST Agreed. Ill sort it out with David. Otherwise, how are we doing with the profits?

GOVERNOR It is difficult to tell until we have filed our annual accounts.

PARKHURST There's a rumour that one of the big "Category B" prisons is looking to move into the "Category C" market.

GOVERNOR Would you consider selling?

PARKHURST We'll have to see. Oh, and not a word about this to David, understand?

DRAMA CLASS.

ASHWELL What are you up to, John?

GRENDON What if I was to dress up as a woman?

ASHWELL You'd have to Rule 43 pretty damn quick or else transfer.

GRENDON Or escape.

ASHWELL Escape? What for?

GRENDON Peter, this is a prison.

ASHWELL It's not so bad here as prisons go.

GRENDON It's no' like a proper prison; they've gone psychiatric and no' told us.

ASHWELL But you're a Lifer?

GRENDON So I canne get a worse sentence, can I?

ASHWELL You'll never get out if they have you down for trying to escape.

GRENDON They won't tell me when or if I'm getting out, so what's the difference?

ASHWELL There's more to passing yourself off as a woman than wearing a dress. I mean look at you - you're ugly.

GRENDON I can practise - with this play.

HOLLOWAY Peter, would you like to join in this week?

ASHWELL I'm helping John learn his lines.

HOLLOWAY Paul, can we tempt you?

GREEN You can tempt me anytime, miss.

STRANGWAYS We'll carry on from where we left off. John, Simon...

LARTIN (AS MACBETH) "Prithee, peace;
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none."

GRENDON (AS LADY MACBETH) "What beast was't then
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;
And to be more than what you were, you would

Be so much more the man..."

GRENDON STOPS SHORT, MID-WAY THROUGH THE SPEECH.

HOLLOWAY Is anything the matter?

GRENDON (SPACING) She used to say...

HOLLOWAY Who?

GRENDON (QUOTING HIS WIFE) "Call yourself a man!"

ASHWELL (TO HOLLOWAY) His missus.

GRENDON You bitch!

HOLLOWAY Does she not visit you anymore?

ASHWELL He murdered his wife.

GRENDON GRABS HOLLOWAY AS IF SHE WAS HIS WIFE.

GRENDON I'll show you who's a man!

STRANGWAYS RUSHES TO HER AID, AS DO LARTIN AND GREEN. SHE IS SCARED BUT NOT HURT. ASHWELL CHECKS FOR OFFICERS.

STRANGWAYS That's enough, John.

LARTIN (TO HOLLOWAY) Are you all right?

HOLLOWAY (SHOCKED) Yes, I think so.

GRENDON I'm sorry, it wasn't you; I didn't mean to hurt you.

ASHWELL Coast is clear, no one heard.

STRANGWAYS Peter, make Diane a brew.

GRENDON I need to finish this act.

ASHWELL Leave it, John.

GRENDON Please.

HOLLOWAY RETURNS GRENDON'S SCRIPT.

LARTIN (TO STRANGWAYS) I hope you know what you're doing?

GRENDON (AS MACBETH) "Bring forth men-children only,
For thy undaunted mettle should compose
Nothing but males..."

LARTIN Hey, I'm Macbeth, they're my lines.

"Private Times" by Kevin Fegan

Email: kevfegan@gmail.com

Website: www.kevinfegan.co.uk

STRANGEWAYS Leave him be.

GRENDON (AS MACBETH) "I am settled and bend up
Each corporal agent to this terrible feat.
Away and mock the time with fairest show,
False face must hide what the false heart doth know."

INTERVAL.

ACT 2 SCENE 1

"A" WING. NIGHT. CELLS ARE LOCKED. THERE IS A TAPPING ON PIPES OF PRISONERS COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER. ASHWELL, WEARING A PRISON OFFICER'S HAT, REHEARSES HIS OWN VERSION OF THE PORTER'S SPEECH FROM "MACBETH".

ASHWELL Here's a knocking indeed! If man were porter of hell-gate, he should have old turning the key. knock, knock, knock! Who's there i' th' name of Beelzebub?

OUTSIDE PARKHURST'S CELL DOOR.

Here is a man who is out when he is in. A man who can have what he wants yet can have nothing. A man who would buy and sell what is not his and still have nothing.

GREEN SLIPS QUIETLY INTO PARKHURST'S CELL AND INTO HIS BED.

Faith, here's an equivocator of sleep: one who lies yet does not lie; one who provokes and unprovokes until the cock calls. Here is indeed a knocking within.

OUTSIDE STRANGEWAY'S CELL DOOR.

Knock, knock, knock! Who's there, i' th' other devil's name? Faith, here's a man who would swap a gun for a pen to blow out his brains. A man who sees wild flowers where there are weeds. A man who wears a fierce mask to conceal his gentle face.

OUTSIDE GRENDON'S CELL DOOR.

Knock, knock, knock! Who's there? Faith, here's a man who is a woman. A man who killed his wife and would replace her with himself. A man who would climb over walls but cannot escape himself.

Knock, knock, knock, never at quiet! This place is too cold for hell. I'll devil-porter it no further. Anon, anon, I pray you remember the porter.

EXIT.

ACT 2 SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP ON THE VISITS ROOM, WHERE MRS. ASHWELL IS WAITING. SHE HAS A BAG WITH HER. ASHWELL REMOVES HIS PRISON OFFICER'S HAT AND PROCEEDS TO SIT OPPOSITE HER. ELSEWHERE, GREEN, GRENDON AND STRANGWAYS GATHER FOR THEIR DRAMA SESSION. RISLEY LURKS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. PARKHURST IS WITH THE GOVERNOR IN HIS OFFICE.

MRS ASHWELL I had to buy all new stuff, you know?

ASHWELL Why couldn't you bring one of your old sets?

MRS ASHWELL Peter, women do not use second-hand underwear.

ASHWELL You didn't forget the stockings and suspenders, did you?

MRS ASHWELL One bra - white; knickers - large; tights - flesh-coloured; and one shoulder-length wig - brown. What did you say you wanted all this gear for?

ASHWELL I told you, it's for the pantomime.

MRS ASHWELL In Summer? I hope you're not turning a bit funny?

ASHWELL No, I am not.

MRS ASHWELL Well, I don't know what you get up to in there, with all those men? There must be some reason why you keep going back?

ASHWELL Did you remember the make-up?

MRS ASHWELL It's all there.

ASHWELL Good. Now nip to the loo with the bag.

MRS ASHWELL What for?

ASHWELL Don't ask, just do it; I'll follow you in a minute.

SHE GOES TO THE LOO WITH HER BAG. HE CHECKS THAT NO ONE IS LOOKING AND FOLLOWS.

DRAMA CLASS. HOLLOWAY ENTERS, FOLLOWED BY GRENDON WHO IS COPYING HER WALK. SHE TURNS ON HIM.

HOLLOWAY What are you doing?

GRENDON Sorry, I was just... admiring your walk.

HOLLOWAY Taking the piss, more like.

GRENDON No, really. I wanted to ask you about this Lady Macbeth character. Don't you think I should play it more like a woman?

HOLLOWAY If you like.

GRENDON I was wondering, could you get me some ladies shoes and, erm, a handbag?

HOLLOWAY Somehow, I can't see Lady Macbeth in high heels and a crocodile bag.

GRENDON Don't laugh at me.

HOLLOWAY I'm sorry. To get a feel for the part, is that what you mean?

GRENDON Yes. I need accessories, just to -

HOLLOWAY Honestly, John, you don't need any of those things; if you feel it, it will look right.

GRENDON It's preparation work; no' for the actual performance.

HOLLOWAY I'll go and take a look in the costumes box, see what I can find.

GRENDON That would be a great help.

EXIT HOLLOWAY.

VISITS ROOM. AHSWELL RETURNS FROM THE LOO, WEARING THE UNDERWEAR. MRS ASHWELL FOLLOWS AND THEY SIT TOGETHER.

ASHWELL How can you wear this stuff?

MRS ASHWELL You wouldn't do this for a pantomime, what's going on?

ASHWELL All right. One of the guys is going over the wall.

MRS ASHWELL As a woman? They'll see right up his dress.

ASHWELL And you're going to help him.

MRS ASHWELL I am not.

ASHWELL Don't worry, you won't be in any danger.

MRS ASHWELL I hope you're not thinking of doing a runner?

ASHWELL Don't be daft. It's John Grendon. (HANDING HER A LETTER) I've written everything down for you. Just turn up, as and when, wearing what I've told you.

MRS ASHWELL What's in it for me?

ASHWELL (LEAVING) You'll find John is a very generous man; but I don't want him stopping at our house, do you hear?

MRS ASHWELL (CALLING) Don't forget to write.

ASHWELL (CALLING) Send me some money.

ASHWELL RETURNS TO THE DRAMA CLASS.

GRENDON Did you get everything?

ASHWELL I'm wearing most of it. Here's a photo of the missus.

HOLLOWAY RETURNS AND HANDS GRENDON SOME ACCESSORIES,
INCLUDING A HANDBAG AND SHOES.

HOLLOWAY Ready, David.

RISLEY IS SPYING ON THE CLASS. AS THE REHEARSAL CONTINUES, GREEN
SNUGGLES UP TO HOLLOWAY. THEY ARE REHEARSING THE LADY
MACDUFF AND SON SCENE.

GREEN (AS SON) "Was my father a traitor, mother?"

HOLLOWAY (LADY MACDUFF) "Aye, that he was."

GREEN (SON) "What is a traitor?"

HOLLOWAY (LADY MACDUFF) "Why, one that swears and lies."

GREEN (SON) "And be all traitors that do so?"

HOLLOWAY (LADY MACDUFF) "Every one that does so is a traitor, and
must be hang'd."

GREEN (SON) "And must they all be hang'd that swear and lie?"

HOLLOWAY (LADY MACDUFF) Every one.

GREEN (SON) "Who must hang them?"

RISLEY CLOSSES IN, UNSEEN.

HOLLOWAY (LADY MACDUFF) "Why, the honest men."

GREEN (SON) "Then the liars and swearers are fools; for there are liars
and swearers enow to beat the honest men and hang them up."

HOLLOWAY (LADY MACDUFF) "Now, God help thee, poor monkey! But how
wilt thou do for a father?"

GREEN (SON) "If he were dead you would weep for him; if you would
not, it were a good sign that i should quickly have a new father."

LADY MACDUFF PUTS A COMFORTING ARM AROUND HER SON AND KISSES
THE TOP OF HIS HEAD.

HOLLOWAY (LADY MACDUFF) "Poor prattler, how thou talk'st!"

RISLEY WITNESSES THE KISS AND SHOOTS OFF TO SEE THE GOVERNOR.
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

GOVERNOR I have the figures you asked for. Have you reached a decision
about selling the prison?

PARKHURST Don't worry, you'll be the first to know.

RISLEY BARGES IN, EXCITEDLY.

RISLEY Governor, I've just seen prisoner Green and the Drama Teacher with their arms around one another, kissing, sir; in the drama class, sir. (NOTICING PARKHURST) Oh, sorry, sir; if I've interrupted anything, I didn't realise -

GOVERNOR Do not come into my office again, Risley, without knocking first; is that clear?

RISLEY Yes, sir, sorry sir; but with it being an emergency.

GOVERNOR I hardly think one dramatic kiss constitutes an emergency, officer. Nevertheless, if what you say is true, there has been a serious breach of Good Order and Discipline. That will be all, 789 Parkhurst.

PARKHURST RETURNS TO HIS CELL.

RISLEY Shouldn't Parkhurst have an escort, sir.

GOVERNOR He has, Risley - us.

THEY EXIT. MEANWHILE HOLLOWAY AND GREEN CONTINUE THE SCENE. GRENDON IS WEARING THE FEMALE ACCESSORIES AND PRACTISING A FEMININE WALK. ASHWELL, AS MESSENGER, WARNS LADY MACDUFF AND HER SON. AS THE SPEAK PROGRESSES, ASHWELL BECOMES AWARE OF RISLEY AND THE GOVERNOR OBSERVING.

ASHWELL (AS MESSENGER)

"Bless you, fair dame! I am not to you known,

Though in your state of honour I am perfect.

I doubt some danger does approach you nearly.

If you will take a homely man's advice,

Be not found here; hence with your little ones.

Heaven preserve you! I dare abide no longer."

EXIT ASHWELL. GOVERNOR AND RISLEY WITNESS HOLLOWAY, GREEN AND GRENDON IN SOMEWHAT COMPROMISING POSITIONS.

GOVERNOR (TO HOLLOWAY) What's going on?

STRANGWAYS We're rehearsing scenes from "Macbeth".

RISLEY Sir, I distinctly saw Green and the Drama Teacher kissing, sir.

HOLLOWAY My name is Diane Holloway and what you saw was Lady Macduff affectionately comfort her young Son and place a gentle kiss on the top of his head.

RISLEY Ah! You admit you kissed him.

HOLLOWAY (AS LADY MACDUFF) " I remember now
I am in this earthly world, where to do harm
Is often laudable, to do good sometime
Accounted dangerous folly."

STRANGEWAYS Officer Risle, remember when you were a child and you used to pretend to be a cowboy or a secret agent? Well, that's called drama and that's what happened here this afternoon - pretending, all right?

RISLEY (POINTING AT GRENDON) And him, what's he pretending?

GOVERNOR He hardly looks like a character from "Macbeth"?

HOLLOWAY I can explain.

GOVERNOR This is not the proper time or place. Would you please close the drama class for the rest of the afternoon, while we try and sort out this mess?

(TO RISLEY) If you could escort the men back to their cells.

STRANGEWAYS There's no need for all this fuss.

GOVERNOR I am the Governor of this prison.

THEY EXCHANGE LOOKS. GRENDON, ASHWELL AND STRANGEWAYS RETURN TO THEIR CELLS. HOLLOWAY AND GOVERNOR EXIT. AS GREEN PASSES PARKHURST'S CELL, PARKHURST CLOSES THE DOOR SO AS NOT TO LET HIM IN.

ACT 2 SCENE 3

VISITS ROOM. RISLEY IS ON DUTY. WORMWOOD IS ON THE GATE. GRENDON AND ASHWELL ARE IN ADJOINING TOILET CUBICLES. GRENDON IS TRYING ON MAKE-UP. THEY ARE TALKING TO THEMSELVES, NOT TO EACH OTHER. THE CUBICLES HAVE THE STANDARD HALF-DOOR SO THE AUDIENCE CAN SEE ONLY THEIR HEADS AND FEET.

GRENDON Right, I've gotta think female. Think female. Let's run through the plan again...

THEY REHEARSE THE ESCAPE.

ASHWELL My missus turns up with a Visitor's Order from John. She's wearing a brown wig and passing herself off as Mrs Grendon, John's wife.

GRENDON (QUOTING) "The Thane of Fife had a wife: where is she now?"

ENTER MRS ASHWELL IN DISGUISE AS JOHN'S WIFE. SHE GIVES HER NAME TO WORMWOOD AND SITS AT A TABLE. GRENDON LEAVES THE TOILET AND SITS WITH HER.

ASHWELL John arrives for his visit and sits with his wife for a while.

MRS ASHWELL GOES TO THE EMPTY TOILET TO CHANGE OUT OF HER DISGUISE.

ASHWELL Mrs Grendon disappears into the loo, stashes the disguise and emerges as Mrs Ashwell. I come in and sit with my missus, as usual. John makes as if he's returning to the Wing, but slips into the ladies to change into Mrs Grendon.

GRENDON RETURNS TO THE TOILET TO CHANGE INTO THE DISGUISE. HE IS SUDDENLY AWARE OF BEING DRESSED AS THE WIFE HE MURDERED.

GRENDON (AS LADY MACBETH) "One, two; why then 'tis time to do 't.
Hell is murky. What need we fear
Who knows it, when none can call
Our pow'r to account?
Will these hands ne'er be clean?
Here's the smell of the blood still.
All the perfumes of Arabia will not
Sweeten this little hand."

RISLEY CALLS TIME ON THE VISITS.

There's a knocking at the gate.

Come, come, come, come, give me your hand.

What's done cannot be undone."

ASHWELL When visits are over, he slips out of the loo and past the gate, disguised as his own wife.

ASHWELL KISSES HIS WIFE GOODBYE. GRENDON EMERGES FROM THE TOILET AND QUEUES BEHIND MRS ASHWELL. MRS ASHWELL GIVES HER NAME TO WORMWOOD AT THE GATE AND, RECOGNISING HER, HE WAVES HER THROUGH. GRENDON GIVES HIS NAME AS MRS GRENDON. WORMWOOD LOOKS AT HER, THEN WAVES HER THROUGH. HE WATCHES HER WALK AWAY, THEN SUDDENLY REALISES, SHOUTING:

WORMWOOD Oi! Grendon killed his fucking wife!

WORMWOOD DRAWS HIS TRUNCHEON AND STRIKES GRENDON TO THE GROUND. ALARM SOUNDS. RISLEY JOINS HIM AND THEY DRAG GRENDON AWAY, BEATING HIM.

ACT 2 SCENE 4

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. GRENDON IS IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.
GOVERNOR HAS CALLED FOR A MEETING WITH PARKHURST AND
STRANGWAYS.

GOVERNOR You do realise he was using the drama group as a cover for
planning his escape? Which very nearly succeeded, were it not
for the diligence of my officers.

PARKHURST Whose officers?

STRANGWAYS That's rubbish.

GOVERNOR Is it?

PARKHURST It was a security officer at the gate caught him - one of my men.

GOVERNOR First the kissing incident, now this. The drama cannot be
allowed to continue.

STRANGWAYS Trying to escape was stupid, I agree; but the man has been
driven into paranoia by the system.

GOVERNOR The effect of someone escaping from Windsor would have
devastating consequences on the market value of this prison.

PARKHURST We can't have that, especially not at the moment.

STRANGWAYS Look, his head's going. Alan, you know what I'm talking about?

GOVERNOR I am aware of the stress that prison can have on the human
psyche.

STRANGWAYS Really? Done a long stretch, have you? Listen, absurd as it may
seem, working on this play is helping Grendon come to terms
with his crime. That's got to be worth something.

GOVERNOR The drama will have to stop - Grendon is in solitary, Green has
been transferred -

STRANGWAYS You've ghosted Green? Who gave permission for that?

GOVERNOR It was for his own good. Rumours about the incident with
Holloway could make life very difficult for him here.

STRANGWAYS You clumsy idiot, what's that going to look like on his file?

PARKHURST I gave permission for Green's transfer.

STRANGWAYS Oh, I get it.

PARKHURST he was putting himself about too much.

STRANGWAYS Taking too many crumbs from the table, was he?

PARKHURST This isn't helping us sort out what to do with Grendon.

GOVERNOR I recommend a period of solitary, followed by a transfer to a more secure institution.

PARKHURST I agree.

STRANGEWAYS A three-year knock-back on a Life Sentence - he'll never get out?

PARKHURST What's so special about this guy, he's a loser?

STRANGEWAYS I recommend we encourage him to continue with the play and to perform it in front of the whole prison.

PARKHURST We have to punish him, David.

STRANGEWAYS Performing will scare the shit out of him. He has to live with the audience after the show.

GOVERNOR It won't work.

PARKHURST I'm sorry, David, but this play's more trouble than it's worth.

STRANGEWAYS Either you support the play or this place will go up.

PARKHURST Don't threaten me, David.

STRANGEWAYS I'm going to see this play through and I'll do whatever it takes -

PARKHURST Including sabotaging our business?

STRANGEWAYS I don't want to do that.

PARKHURST I want you to resign as Head of Inmate Services.

STRANGEWAYS Only on condition the play goes ahead?

PARKHURST Holloway will have to go.

STRANGEWAYS I'll have to do it without her.

EXIT STRANGEWAYS.

GOVERNOR The officers will not like it.

IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, GRENDON IS READING "MACBETH".

GRENDON (AS MACBETH) "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
To the last syllable of recorded time,
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more; it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing."

ENTER RISLEY AND WORMWOOD TO ESCORT HIM TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, WHERE HOLLOWAY IS WAITING WITH THE GOVERNOR.

RISLEY Prisoner 456 Grendon, sir, for adjudication.

GOVERNOR Thank you, Risley.

RISLEY Name and last three to the Governor?

GRENDON 456 Grendon.

GOVERNOR Nature of the offence?

WORMWOOD On Wednesday last, at approximately 3.30pm, at the end of visits, Grendon was apprehended by myself, attempting to escape, disguised as a female visitor.

GRENDON He battered me - I could have been a woman.

WORMWOOD Minimum force was used, sir; but only when I had identified the prisoner and his intentions and only as a last resort, sir.

GRENDON They battered me all the way to the block.

RISLEY Control and restraint was necessary, sir, when I came to Officer Wormwood's assistance.

GOVERNOR A professional response to a difficult situation.

(TO GRENDON) Who were your accomplices?

NO RESPONSE.

We know that Ashwell helped you, you might as well admit it.

NO RESPONSE.

Did the Drama Teacher assist you in any way with your escape?

GRENDON No, Governor.

GOVERNOR Nevertheless, she did provide you with women's clothes and accessories?

HOLLOWAY Sir, I can explain.

GOVERNOR All in good time, Holloway.

GRENDON Only in relation to the part of Lady Macbeth I've been rehearsing.

GOVERNOR But it was never your intention to perform this role on stage?

GRENDON No, Governor.

GOVERNOR You were using it simply to rehearse your escape?

GRENDON Yes, Governor. The Drama Teacher had no idea of my real intention.

GOVERNOR Tell me, do you like the play?

GRENDON I hated it at first.

GOVERNOR But you like it now?

NO RESPONSE.

 So you would not mind performing it?

GRENDON I don't enjoy making a fool of myself in public, Governor.

GOVERNOR You do not regard dressing up as a woman in as making a fool of yourself?

GRENDON Shows I canne act very well, Governor?

GOVERNOR But you would like to? Act, I mean?

GRENDON No.

GOVERNOR Why not?

GRENDON I've no' got the bottle for it.

GOVERNOR I think you need more practise.

GRENDON No thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR Do you have anything else to say before sentence is passed?

NO RESPONSE.

RISLEY Answer the Governor.

GRENDON No, Governor.

GOVERNOR Very well. It is my considered opinion that the most appropriate punishment, in this case only, is that you be forced to perform in the Drama Group's production of "Macbeth", in front of the entire prison population, inmates and staff; and I hope you make a complete idiot of yourself.

RISLEY But, sir -

GOVERNOR Take him away, officer.

RISLEY Sir, I need to speak to you -

GOVERNOR Not now, Risley. Escort Grendon back to his cell while I have a little chat with Diane Holloway.

WORMWOOD AND RISLEY ESCORT GRENDON AWAY.

RISLEY We need a vote of "No Confidence" in the Governor.

WORMWOOD We should bang-up the bastards, that would soon put a stop to their fucking theatrics.

RISLEY Are you proposing that?

WORMWOOD Well -

RISLEY Good. I'll second it. I'll put it to the officers.

WORMWOOD Hang on, I didn't intend to be the one who -

EXIT RISLEY.

WORMWOOD Oh, shit!

HOLLOWAY EMERGES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE WHERE STRANGEWAYS IS WAITING.

STRANGEWAYS I'm sorry, Diane. I'll make sure you are properly compensated.

HOLLOWAY And how will you do that, David?

NO RESPONSE.

You know what this play means for the men, don't you?

STRANGEWAYS I've been there, where Grendon is.

HOLLOWAY I knew it. You don't need me, David. You can do this play yourselves.

STRANGEWAYS Thanks, Diane, for believing in us.

HOLLOWAY Don't worry, your secret's safe with me.

EXIT HOLLOWAY.

ACT 2 SCENE 5

DRAMA CLASS. WORMWOOD IS ON DUTY IN THE ROOM. GRENDON IS ON HIS OWN, READING HIS SCRIPT.

GRENDON (MACBETH) "Thou castles topple on their warders' heads."

LARTIN You know we've lost Paul Green?

STRANGEWAYS And Diane's been sacked.

LARTIN That's it then, if we've lost our Lady Macbeth.

STRANGEWAYS The bastards aren't going to do us that easily.

LARTIN (NODDING TOWARDS WORMWOOD) And what about him?

STRANGEWAYS Treat him like a ghost.

GRENDON (LADY MACBETH) "To beguile the time,
Look like the time."

STRANGEWAYS John and Peter are still with us.

LARTIN I don't understand why they haven't just scrapped the play?

ASHWELL I'm beginning to think John's right about this experiment business.

LARTIN We're being used as a political football. Someone in this nick wants this play to go ahead. It's definitely not the screws; yet I can't believe it's the Governor neither.

GRENDON (MACBETH) "To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself."

ASHWELL My missus is scared; she thinks the Old Bill will be 'round to arrest her.

STRANGEWAYS Tell her not to worry, the Old Bill haven't even been informed.

ASHWELL How do you know?

STRANGEWAYS I'm still the Governor's redband. Take it from me, the prison is keeping quiet on this one. They can do without the bad press at the moment.

GRENDON (MACBETH) "Let every man be master of his time."

STRANGEWAYS John? You've tackled Lady Macbeth before, how about it?

GRENDON Macbeth is the murderer, I think I'm better qualified to play him.

STRANGEWAYS Simon?

LARTIN Oh.

STRANGEWAYS You can play Lady Macbeth, Simon, if anyone can?

LARTIN I suppose so.

STRANGEWAYS Good man. Right, let's crack on, shall we?

ASHWELL Do we have to?

STRANGEWAYS (QUOTING THE PLAY) "The labour we delight in physics pain."

GRENDON Macbeth: Act 2 Scene 3.

STRANGEWAYS I'm impressed, John.

Act 3 Scene 1: Macbeth has invited Banquo to supper, but hires a couple of murderers to kill him - that's you Peter and Simon doubling up.

GRENDON They canne be murderers.

ASHWELL Hey, if you could play a woman, I can play a murderer.

(AS 1ST MURDERER) "We are men, my liege."

GRENDON (MACBETH) "Aye, in the catalogue ye go for men,
As hounds, and greyhounds, mongrels and spaniels,
Demi-wolves, all clept by the name of dogs -"

LARTIN (2ND MURDERER) "I am one my liege -"

GRENDON Hang on, why have you cut the rest of my speech?

STRANGEWAY We haven't got time to do the whole play.

GRENDON So who decides which bits to leave out?

STRANGEWAYS I do.

ASHWELL Why?

STRANGEWAYS Because I'm the Director.

LARTIN And those in charge never tell you everything, do they?

GRENDON But this bit's relevant, isn't it?

(MACBETH) "Now, if you have a station in the file,
Not i' th' worst rank of manhood, say't."

STRANGEWAYS What d'you mean?

GRENDON Well, that's a murderer, isn't it? "The worst rank of manhood".

STRANGEWAYS Yes, he's referring to these two.

ASHWELL Charming.

GRENDON But Macbeth is also a murderer, isn't he?

STRANGEWAYS Yes.

GRENDON (AWARE THAT HE TOO IS A MURDERER) So the irony is, he's talking about himself.

STRANGEWAYS Congratulations, John, there's something in it for all of us. Okay, let's keep that bit in. Simon?

LARTIN (2ND MURDERER) "I am one, my liege,
Whom the vile blows and buffets of the world
Hath so incens'd that I am reckless what
I do to spite the world."

ASHWELL (1ST MURDERER) And I another,
So weary with disasters, tugg'd with fortune,
That I would set my life on any chance,
To mend it or be rid on't."

STRANGEWAYS Great, you all make mighty fine villains.

LARTIN Is that a compliment?

STRANGEWAYS Banquo is duly murdered -

GRENDON Why?

STRANGEWAYS I suppose because Banquo suspects Macbeth of killing the king.

GRENDON What about Banquo's son? Why kill him?

STRANGEWAYS Macbeth is worried about the Witches' prophecy that Baquo's heirs would all be kings and not Macbeth's - but Banquo's son escapes.

GRENDON Macbeth is paranoid about losing his crown, isn't he?

STRANGEWAYS Let's play it, shall we, and see how it reads? At supper, the Ghost of Banquo is sat in Macbeth's place. Let's just take the exchanges between Lady Macbeth and Macbeth.

STRANGEWAYS SHOWS LARTIN AND GRENDON WHERE TO START.

LARTIN (LADY MACBETH) "Pray you, keep seat.
The fit is momentary; upon a thought

He will again be well. If much you note him
You shall offend him and extend his passion.
Feed, and regard him not - are you a man?

GRENDON (MACBETH) "Ay, and a bold one that dare look on that
Which might appal the devil."

LARTIN (LADY MACBETH) "Shame itself!
Why do you make such faces? When all's done,
You look but on a stool."

ENTER GHOST OF MRS. GRENDON.

GRENDON (MACBETH) "Prithee see there.
Behold! Look! Lo! How say you?"

EXIT GHOST.

LARTIN (LADY MACBETH) "What, quite unmann'd in folly?"

GRENDON (MACBETH) "If I stand here, I saw *her*."

LARTIN (LADY MACBETH) "Fie, for shame!"

STRANGWAYS (REALISING WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR JOHN) Go on, John,
see it through.

GRENDON (MACBETH) "Murders have been perform'd
Too terrible for the ear. The time has been
That when the brains were out the man would die,
And there an end; but now they rise again,
With twenty mortal murders on their crowns,
And push us from our stools. This is more strange
Than such a murder is."

RE-ENTER GHOST OF MRS. GRENDON.

Avaunt, and quit my sight. Let the earth hide thee.
Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold;
Thou hast no speculation in those eyes
Which thou dost glare with!"

- LARTIN (LADY MACBETH) "Think of this, good peers
But as a thing of custom. 'Tis no other;
Only it spoils the pleasure of the time."
- GRENDON (MACBETH) "What man dare, I dare.
Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,
The armed rhinoceros, or th' Hyrcan tiger;
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves
Shall never tremble. Or be alive again,
And dare me to the desert with thy sword;
If trembling I inhabit, then protest me
The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow!
Unreal mock'ry, hence!"
- EXIT GHOST.

Why, so; being gone,
I am a man again."

(TO STRANGEWAYS) He's a psychopath.
- STRANGEWAYS Not really, he just thinks real men have to be strong and
ruthless.
- GRENDON (QUOTING) "Blood will have blood." I mean, when he has
Macduff's entire family killed, there's no need for it, is there?
- STRANGEWAYS Yet he does display remorse in that last scene, when confronted
by the ghost.
- GRENDON That's no' remorse; it's fear. Macduff is the only one who shows
remorse.
- STRANGEWAYS (AS ROSS) Your castle is surpris'd; your wife and babes
Savagely slaughter'd."
- GRENDON (MACDUFF) "My children too?"
- STRANGEWAYS (ROSS) "Wife, children, servants, all
That could be found."
- GRENDON (MACDUFF) "My wife kill'd too?"
- STRANGEWAYS (ROSS) "I have said."

GRENDON (TO STRANGEWAYS) My kids are in Care.

STRANGEWAYS I know.

GRENDON I killed my wife.

STRANGEWAYS I know that too.

GRENDON (MACDUFF) "All my pretty ones?

Did you say all?

What, all my pretty chickens and their dam

At one fell swoop?"

STRANGEWAYS (MALCOLM) "Dispute it like a man."

GRENDON (MACDUFF) "I shall do so;

But I must also feel it as a man."

ACT 2 SCENE 6

THE MORNING OF THE DAY OF THE PERFORMANCE.

WORMWOOD Look, I'm not happy about this being seen as my doing.

RISLEY You have the full backing of the Prison Officers Association. The officers are in a very angry mood - they've voted for a lockdown on "A" Wing.

WORMWOOD What about the rest of the prison?

RISLEY Those inmates involved in the play are all on "A" Wing; it was felt that a localised lockdown would be more effective. The officers are right behind you.

WORMWOOD I'm not so sure -

RISLEY The inmates are returning from exercise, don't give them a chance to suss what we're doing.

STRANGWAYS AND PARKHURST RETURN TO THEIR CELLS. RISLEY LOCKS THEM ELECTRONICALLY.

PARKHURST Oi! What the fuck's going on?

STRANGWAYS Alan? Did you know about this?

PARKHURST Did I bollocks! Somebody'll swing for this.

PARKHURST KEEPS HIS FINGER ON THE BUZZER.

Oi! Flathead! I want to see the Governor.

RISLEY So do we. Now get your finger off the buzzer or I'll chop the fucker off!

PARKHURST You'd better check your Life Insurance is up-to-date.

STRANGWAYS What's all this about?

WORMWOOD We thought you might welcome a bit of time to learn your lines.

SOUND OF PRISONERS BANGING THEIR CELL DOORS.

(TO RISLEY) They'll riot, you know, first chance they get.

RISLEY Good. They'll have to call in the MUFTI to beat the shit out of them, the Governor will get bollocked, there'll be a clampdown and that's an end to their little theatricals.

WORMWOOD What do we do now?

RISLEY Sit and scratch our arses until the Governor is prepared to negotiate.

WORMWOOD Yeah, that's right; now he's got to listen to us.

GOVERNOR ARRIVES.

GOVERNOR What the hell is going on?

RISLEY You're out of breath, sir; have you been jogging?

GOVERNOR I'm afraid your sarcasm is wasted on me. I would like to inspect the cells, officer.

RISLEY I'm afraid that's not possible at present, sir, on account of how the inmates are banged-up.

GOVERNOR What is the meaning of this?

RISLEY Well, it's like this, sir: the men feel very strongly about this drama business. Officer Wormwood has proposed that, in the interests of Good Order and Discipline, the inmates should be given some time to consider the folly of continuing with this play.

WORMWOOD Erm -

RISLEY Feelings are running high, sir, about the lack of discipline in the prison. There are principles at stake. Wormwood and the men don't think that the British public want prisoners to enjoy their time in prison. It's not much of a deterrent, is it, sir, if inmates are rewarded for trying to escape?

GOVERNOR It is not a reward, Risley, it is rehabilitation.

RISLEY Ah, rehabilitation, I wondered when we'd get around to that. Tell the victims of crime about rehabilitation, sir; let's hear what they have to say about it.

GOVERNOR What do you want?

RISLEY It's not what I want, sir; it's what Officer Wormwood wants.

WORMWOOD Not just me.

RISLEY We want an end to this drama. An assurance that the play will not go ahead.

GOVERNOR I want to talk to the prisoners first.

RISLEY Oh yeah, any particular prisoners, sir?

GOVERNOR What do you mean by that?

RISLEY 789 Parkhurst and 790 Strangeways, perhaps? Only, you do seem to have grown very fond of your Orderlies.

GOVERNOR Nonsense. I simply want to gauge the mood of the men. We do not want a riot on our hands, do we, officer?

RISLEY What do you think, Wormwood, about a Governor who has to consult his Orderlies before he can make a decision?

GOVERNOR My concerns are for the whole prison.

RISLEY Well, in the interests of the whole prison, we cannot allow you to speak to the inmates until you have agreed to our demand.

GOVERNOR Very well, you leave me with no choice. You have my word the performance of this play will be postponed indefinitely.

RISLEY Tell the officers, will you, Wormwood, that the Governor has finally come to his senses.

EXIT WORMWOOD. RISLEY LEADS THE GOVERNOR TO PARKHURST'S CELL AND UNLOCKS THE DOOR. GOVERNOR CLOSSES THE DOOR SO RISLEY CAN'T HEAR. RISLEY GOES TO UNLOCK STRANGWAYS' CELL DOOR.

PARKHURST What do these bastards think they're doing?

GOVERNOR Please! Keep your voice down.

PARKHURST I don't take kindly to being banged-up in my own prison without my say-so..

GOVERNOR I am sorry. I am very sorry.

PARKHURST I pay you to work for me, remember?

GOVERNOR If you could just listen a moment?

RISLEY UNLOCKS STRANGWAYS' DOOR.

STRANGWAYS Finally. Has all this shit got anything to do with the play, Risley?

RISLEY Put it this way: the only playing you'll be doing from now on, is playing with yourself.

STRANGWAYS PUSHES PAST HIM AND INTO PARKHURST'S CELL. GOVERNOR CLOSSES THE DOOR ON RISLEY.

STRANGWAYS Well?

PARKHURST (TO GOVERNOR) Could you leave us alone for a while?

RISLEY POKES HIS HEAD AROUND THE DOOR.

RISLEY Everything all right in there, Governor?

GOVERNOR Yes, thank you, officer. I have finished here now, if you could be so kind...

GOVERNOR LEAVES WITH RISLEY.

PARKHURST Calm down. I need time to think.

STRANGEWAYS There's nothing to think about. You guaranteed the play -

PARKHURST I know. And it will. But it's not that easy. The Governor had to promise the screws he would axe the play to get us unlocked.

STRANGEWAYS Get a new Governor.

PARKHURST It's a delicate situation.

STRANGEWAYS The men will back me after this latest bang-up.

PARKHURST I know; but I'm thinking of the effect it might have on the business, especially at the moment.

STRANGEWAYS What are you up to?

PARKHURST I want to buy you out.

STRANGEWAYS So you can have your own way; no thanks.

PARKHURST That's not the reason. The company has received a very generous take-over bid.

STRANGEWAYS Why didn't you tell me about this before?

PARKHURST Because you're so caught up with your bloody play! Besides, I'm telling you now, aren't I?

STRANGEWAYS I don't want us to sell.

PARKHURST Our response has to be united or it will undermine the value of the company.

STRANGEWAYS You mean, you're selling?

PARKHURST I haven't decided yet; but I am the major shareholder.

STRANGEWAYS Oh, I get it.

PARKHURST You'll get a better price if I buy you out, than you will if this new company does.

STRANGEWAYS I'm not selling.

PARKHURST You're a fool, you'll ruin yourself.

STRANGEWAYS It was never really about the money for me.

PARKHURST You don't seriously think that giving some of these headcases a pair of tights and a cloak is going to stop them thieving and battling?

STRANGEWAYS Alan, I'm not the same guy as when we got sent down.

PARKHURST Don't you remember how it used to be? The lifestyle? The respect? We were dedicated to our trade. We couldn't sleep at

night unless we'd done a job. Remember the buzz we used to feel when we were robbing a van or a post office?

STRANGEWAYS That's how I feel now about theatre.

PARKHURST Oh dear, David; what has happened to you? I'll get it sorted for the rest of your cast to be unlocked. But I can't guarantee you'll have an audience.

STRANGEWAYS We'll perform to nobody if we have to.

PARKHURST There's still time to change your mind.

ACT 2 SCENE 7

THE CAST ARE PREPARING TO GO ON STAGE, EXCEPT FOR LARTIN WHO IS IN HIS CELL WITH HIS DOOR OPEN. SOUND OF A PROTEST IN THE DISTANCE.

ASHWELL I feel sick.

GRENDON I feel stupid.

STRANGWAYS It turns to adrenalin once you're out there.

ASHWELL That Governor's not as stupid as he looks when he gives this out as a punishment. It's easier being up in front of the judge than this lot.

STRANGWAYS Where's Simon?

ASHWELL He's not on punishment, is he? He doesn't have to be here.

GRENDON What were you saying about no audience? Here comes Birnham Wood.

THE OFFICERS HAVE TAKEN THEIR PROTEST TO THE ROOF, PARADING BANNERS SUCH AS: "P.O.A. - PISS OFF ACTORS"/ "RETRIBUTION NOT REHABILITATION"/ "MORE KEYS, MORE FENCES, MORE PAY"/ "BRING BACK THE MATTRESS"/ "GOVERNOR OUT!" MEANWHILE STRANGWAYS, GRENDON AND ASHWELL HAVE FOUND LARTIN IN HIS CELL.

STRANGWAYS Simon, we're ready.

LARTIN I'm not doing it.

STRANGWAYS You've not bottled out on us, have you?

LARTIN I'm not leaving this cell.

STRANGWAYS We can't give in now.

LARTIN Something's not right.

GRENDON You can read Macbeth if you want?

LARTIN John, Peter, where is everyone?

ASHWELL They're on lock-down.

LARTIN So why aren't we?

ASHWELL We're on punishment.

LARTIN David isn't; I'm not. Look at my door - wide open.

ASHWELL You're both in the play, we couldn't do it without you.

LARTIN You'll have to do it without me.

STRANGEWAYS Simon, the screws are on the roof, trying to stop the play. You're helping them by -

LARTIN I'm staying behind the door.

AT THE ROOF-TOP PROTEST, THE GOVERNOR APPEARS. THE OFFICERS DIRECT THEIR ABUSE AT HIM - "WHAT DO WE WANT? GOVERNOR OUT!" GOVERNOR CALLS UP TO THE OFFICERS.

GOVERNOR This action can only reflect badly on yourselves and your organisation.

RISLEY We're up here because every other protest we've made has been ignored.

GOVERNOR What can you possibly hope to achieve?

RISLEY We aim to bring to the attention of the public exactly what is going on in British prisons today.

GOVERNOR You are supposed to be professionals.

RISLEY Then treat us like professionals. We have to do things the ordinary man in the street would refuse to do.

GOVERNOR If you come down, we can talk. I promise you there will be no reprisals.

WORMWOOD We've heard your promises before.

STRANGEWAYS, GRENDON AND ASHWELL RETURN TO THE STAGE.

ASHWELL I'm not sure about this, David.

STRANGEWAYS Not you as well?

ASHWELL I'm scared.

STRANGEWAYS We all are. Don't worry, they can't reach us down here.

AHSWELL I don't mean now, I mean afterwards.

STRANGEWAYS You can't let the bastards intimidate you.

ASHWELL David, I couldn't face a long stretch. I'm a five-year maximum man. If there's a riot, we'll carry the can for it.

STRANGEWAYS It won't backfire on us, I promise.

ASHWELL If I stay behind my door, I'll get a week down the block at most.

STRANGEWAYS John? Are you behind the door too? You've got the most to lose as a Lifer.

GRENDON So I've probably got the most to gain as well.

STRANGEWAYS (CALLING UP TO THE OFFICERS ON THE ROOF) Wankers!
Call that a roof-top protest? A modern, single-storey flat roof. It's embarrassing.

ASHWELL (LEAVING) I'm sorry, it's my way of surviving.

STRANGEWAYS Down to me and you, John?

GRENDON Aye, let's get on that stage.

STRANGEWAYS The final scene, between Macbeth and Macduff?

GRENDON AGREES. THEY PREPARE TO GO ON STAGE.

PARKHURST JOINS THE GOVERNOR.

GOVERNOR I knew this would happen; I knew it. I warned you - that damn stubborn cousin of yours.

PARKHURST Have the media got hold of it?

GOVERNOR You cannot keep a roof-top protest quiet for long.

PARKHURST Get them down! They'll withdraw their offer if this gets out.

GOVERNOR What offer?

PARKHURST I'm selling my shares in the company.

GOVERNOR We never discussed this? Does that mean I am out of a job?

PARKHURST Do you want to resign or should I sack you?

GOVERNOR After the loyalty I have shown this company?

PARKHURST Let's face it, the officers have effectively demonstrated a vote of "No Confidence" in their Governor.

GOVERNOR I have a good mind to inform the press myself of what is going on here.

PARKHURST You wouldn't want to do that. I expect all my employees to sign my "Unofficial Secrets Act". I don't like to think you would go revealing anything you shouldn't or it wouldn't be just your redundancy I'd chop off. Do you get my drift?

GOVERNOR Yes, very clear.

PARKHURST Now get out there and tell that screw, Risley, I want to see him. I don't care how you do it, just get him down here.

ON STAGE. ROAR OF OFFICERS IN BACKGROUND.

GRENDON (MACBETH) "Why should I play the Roman fool and die
On mine own sword? Whiles I see lives, the gashes

Do better upon them."

GOVERNOR APPROACHES RISLEY.

GOVERNOR (CALLING) Risley! The company has instructed me to tell you that they are prepared to negotiate with you directly.

RISLEY The men are staying up here.

GOVERNOR Very well.

RISLEY And I'm allowed to return?

GOVERNOR Yes.

RISLEY How do I know I can trust you?

GOVERNOR Who can you trust in a place like this?

RISLEY CHECKS WITH WORMWOOD.

RISLEY Okay, I'm coming down.

RISLEY CLIMBS DOWN AND THE GOVERNOR ESCORTS HIM TO HIS OFFICE, WHERE PARKHURST IS WAITING. RISLEY IS CONFUSED AND LOOKS AROUND AND SEES THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS GONE. THE PENNY DROPS.

So you're the - ?

PARKHURST Consolidated Corporation, yes.

RISLEY You crafty bastard. And Strangeways?

PARKHURST Yes.

RISLEY All this time, the Governor? I knew something must be going on between you two. I though you and him were...you know?

PARKHURST What do the officers want?

RISLEY To stop that bloody play.

PARKHURST Too late for that now.

RISLEY Yes.

PARKHURST So what might appease them?

RISLEY They want rid of the Governor. They blame him for everything that's been going wrong.

PARKHURST Done. Who do you want to replace him?

RISLEY I don't know. I always thought I would make a good Governor.

PARKHURST Would the officers end their protest, if you were made Governor?

RISLEY I could persuade them.
PARKHURST You would have to sign my Unofficial Secrets Act?
RISLEY I wouldn't dream of telling anyone.
PARKHURST Good, that's settled. Now go and put an end to this stupidity, before the sensation-seekers from the press descend on us.

RISLEY RETURNS TO THE ROOF. MEANWHILE ON STAGE.

STRANGEWAYS (MACDUFF) "Turn, hell-hound, turn."

WORMWOOD IS CAUGHT UP WITH THE DRAMA, SHOUTING "KILL HIM, MACDUFF!"

GRENDON (MACBETH) "Of all men else I have avoided thee.
But get back; my soul is too much charg'd
With blood of thine already."

STRANGEWAYS (MACDUFF) "I have no words -
My voice is in my sword: thou bloodier villain
Than terms can give thee out."

MACDUFF AND MACBETH SWORD-FIGHT. RISLEY REPORTS BACK TO THE OFFICERS. SUDDENLY GRENDON STOPS.

STRANGEWAYS John, you're not trying.

GRENDON I don't trust myself.

STRANGEWAYS You have to go for it or one of us will get hurt.

GRENDON (MACBETH) "I bear a charmed life, which must not yield
To one of woman born."

STRANGEWAYS (MACDUFF) "Despair thy charm;
And let the angel whom thou still hast serv'd
Tell thee Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripp'd."

GRENDON (MACBETH) "Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,
For it hath cow'd my better part of man.
I'll not fight with thee."

STRANGEWAYS (MACDUFF) "Then yield, coward,

And live to be the show and gaze o' th' time."

GRENDON CORPSES AGAIN.

STRANGEWAYS Fight, John. Damn you, see it through.

GRENDON (MACBETH) "I will not yield,
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet
And to be baited with the rabble's curse.
Though Birnham Wood be come to Dunsinane,
And thou oppos'd, being of no woman born,
Yet I will try the last. Before my body
I throw my warlike shield. Lay on, Macduff;
And damn'd be him that first cries 'Hold, enough!' "

AS THEY EXIT FIGHTING, THERE ARE CRIES OF VICTORY FROM THE OFFICERS. RE-ENTER STRANGEWAYS, AS MACDUFF, WITH MACBETH'S HEAD. GRENDON STANDS TO ONE SIDE.

STRANGEWAYS (MACDUFF) "Hail, King! for so thou art. Behold where stands
Th' usurper's cursed head. The time is free..."

CHEERS FROM THE OFFICERS AS THE PLAY ENDS. STRANGEWAYS JOINS GRENDON.

The time is free, John, the time is free...

STRANGEWAYS AND GRENDON EMBRACE.