



**“Radio void of pictures but powered by the human imagination can venture into the limitless.”**

Polly Garcie,  
Project Manager

### **Act I**

RADiCAL is a new project in development. Project Manager, Polly Garcie, is a professional actor. Her credits include being nominated 'best actress' for the Newport Film Festival, 2012 with 'Jackals'. Polly has voiced animated cartoons and been involved in BBC North Wales Radio creating both drama and comedy. Living in the South of France she realised that the area was full of English ex-pats but sparse of English-speaking theatre so helped to set up a radio company that supported both languages, performing and creating plays for bi-lingual ears. She has always had a big imagination and a colourful way of thinking, so radio theatre was an excellent way to channel some of that creativity. When she re-located to Halifax Polly contacted Phoenix Radio and became a presenter. Since her arrival we have been discussing the possibility of developing Radio drama. Over the years there have been short term projects using radio drama but the time is now right for us to move forward with a new dynamic team and to launch our own Drama Department.

Our Unique Selling Point is that, although there are many Drama groups, none have access to radio drama in this area.

Rama will be a multi-faceted project that will support community-based activities as well as being a springboard for aspiring actors, writers, directors and sound engineers.



## Act II

Opportunities for young writers/start of careers writers to create plays who maybe wouldn't get the chance elsewhere

Young actors could create a showreel to support their application to Drama Schools

Community element and how radio drama is accessible to help funding

Intergenerational activity – older peoples' stories can be written and performed by young script writers and actors.

Could work with people with mental health issues or care leavers.

St. Augustine's Centre collaboration - working with refugees.



## Act III

We aim to create a bank of anthology pieces so that we have stand-alone pieces to broadcast on radio. Some of the planned activities include:

- **What If?** - Stories about Halifax history with a twist.

What if Percy Shaw came out of the pub and there was no fog?

What if baseball continued at The Shay after 1938 because the war didn't happen?

What if Krumlin Festival of 1970 wasn't a wash out?

What if the Piece Hall wasn't saved from demolition by the one vote in the 70's?

What if the Halifax Zoo had stayed open after World War I?

Dramas work on coincidences happening within a certain time frame

You walk down the street and turn left where you meet the person of your dreams. What if you turned right? Different story altogether

- **Port Manteau** - a fictional place where you, the travellers, find yourselves. How you arrive there is entirely up to you. You can walk, catch a bus, drive or hitch hike. How you get there may be part of the story you create. The Port

has the usual 'attractions'. Bed & Breakfast, Hotels, Bars and cafes, an old cinema, a church and many, many inhabitants each with a story to tell. It is up to you, in your group, to meet one of these people and to connect him or her to someone chosen by your other groups. Ideally there will be four groups in your class, each with a character and a story that can be a romantic story, a horror story or a crime / mystery story. The only thing is, they must somehow connect. On completing your section a link should be made to one of the other stories. Which of the three stories links first is also up to you. Once the whole story is finished it can then be developed as a radio play with sound effects and incidental music added, ready for broadcasting on Phoenix FM. The word portmanteau comes from the English portmanteau luggage (a piece of luggage with two compartments), itself derived from the French porter (to carry) and manteau (coat). A portmanteau word is a combination of two (or more) words and their definitions, into one new word. A portmanteau word fuses both the sounds and the meanings of its components, for example **smog**, which blends **smoke** and **fog** or **motel**, from **motor** and **hotel**.

- **Graveyard Shift** - Classic Ghost stories by Edgar Allan Poe, Ambrose Bierce M.R. James and H.M. Wakefield amongst other Masters of the medium share new stories by local writers giving late night radio a chill.
- **Local stories/Legends** –John The Baptist's Head, The Cragg Vale Coiners, The Halifax Slasher, Old Leathery Coit, The Running Man.
- **Book of Darkness and Light** – Something similar done by the Square Chapel.
- **Halifax Fairy Tales** - children write stories for radio which we then create. Collaboration with schools or other local drama clubs.

*All material will also be podcast.*



## Act III

### Mentoring scheme

Young people can:

- develop script writing techniques and acting with professional mentors
- be shown how to record and edit their stories
- increase their communication skills by being interviewed about themselves and their stories to assist in their confidence building.

It will help young people to develop stories as radio plays with sound effects and incidental music added. Completed stories will be broadcast on Phoenix FM. As well as encouraging creative writing there will be opportunities for technical development, creating original music and acting. This element will encourage young people to be more self-assured, self-analytical and confident to progress their ambitions, through creating their own music and then to give them a place for it to be heard through our FM and online broadcasts. To this end, we would engage groups of up to 6 young people at a time in radio drama workshops, to increase personal and social development by engaging them in activities at a full-time radio station, linking ICT and English via Drama and Music Technology. The learning will take place at Phoenix Radio's studios based at Dean Clough, Halifax. Through the use of audio software, computer packages and radio equipment young people can create radio dramas.

The project will allow young people the opportunity to work in the medium of radio and to develop skills that may be transferable to other areas of training and social outlets.

It will give training to young people who may want to pursue a career in performing arts and who aren't familiar with radio equipment.

It is an ideal forum to look at positive directions by speaking to young people, and hearing their stories can inspire others. It can also lead to a form of resolution for some. We will encourage young people, whose early development may have had childhood disruption but who have shown resilience and chosen to stand up and turn their experiences into a positive - to reflect on their journey and give other young people a stronger attitude to life and to have their voices inspire others to speak out and be themselves. This will motivate them to participate in activities that will change as they progress in their own time and in their own unique way through life. We will encourage young people to explore different ways in which to communicate their feelings, resolve their problems, to not be worried about speaking out about themselves and be proud of themselves as individuals.



## Act IV

### Activities include :-

- enhance young people's chances of accessing training, education, accreditation and (later on) employment
- encourage young people to become confident enough to represent themselves
- increase their skills-base by offering a unique experience.
- create stories as a therapeutic way of releasing some of their feelings, that can be based on their own experience
- create a fictional piece that takes them away from their own life experiences and gives them a different form of release
- create a platform where young peoples' voices can be heard
- strengthen the resilience of young people attending our project, with the aim of giving them the confidence to return to school to complete their education and to then move forward
- signpost young people towards other services
- encourage young people to be more self-assured, self-analytical and confident to move forward to achieve their ambitions
- motivate them to participate in other activities that will help their health and wellbeing
- act as exemplar for young person-led flexible learning

**“Radio theatre dictates the script but not the scenery...”**

**Polly Garcie**

