



This document contains the playscript for *Rising* by Dr Helena Enright.

*Rising* is an original piece of verbatim theatre, commissioned and funded by Dublin Youth Theatre.

**Anyone wishing to perform *Rising* must request written permission from Dublin Youth Theatre.**

**Dublin Youth Theatre**  
**18 Montague Lane, Dublin 2**  
**Phone: 01 874 3687 / 085 850 0856**  
**Email: [info@dublinyouththeatre.com](mailto:info@dublinyouththeatre.com)**

Please scroll down to view the script in full.

## OPENING

### *From the stillness*

I believe in change  
I believe in love  
I believe in goodness in humanity  
I believe in equal rights for men and women and everything in between  
I kind of just... don't believe in much other than... I'm here I don't know the reasons for me being here but I'm gonna do what I can with... the time that I am here  
I believe in.. we all have the right to live and to to have somewhere warm safe to live.  
I believe in God  
I believe that ehh you know that people's understanding of history emm is of immense importance  
I believe in an afterlife.  
I believe in enjoying myself  
I believe in (PAUSE) in being as truthful and honest  
I believe in honesty  
Myself.  
I believe in a United Ireland.  
I believe in justice, I believe in peace.  
I do believe there is no God,  
I believe very passionately in a women's right to choose.  
I believe in decency  
i believe that the most important thing is to do your very best  
I believe in people being real  
I believe we're all the same and we all share the same universe  
I believe in love.  
I believe..in...everyone is entitled to equal rights, equal opportunities and complete and utter freedom of speech,  
I believe in..people being nice to one another,  
I believe in a fair go for everyone  
I.. believe in hardwork and determination  
I believe in freedom of speech, and freedom of opinion  
I believe in fate maybe?  
I believe that in this life, we're on a journey towards really our place in the next life  
I believe in the world around us  
I believe in Human Rights  
I believe in honesty and fair play.  
I just think people can believe whatever they want.

## Talkin' bout a Revolution Underscore

LIAM DE ROISTE: The desire to record impressions, ideas, opinions, to note facts and situations in this remarkable year has at least taken shape in this beginning. It is some five years since I ceased keeping a diary. Many a time and oft have I thought of taking up writing again. Laziness at one time: stress of work at another time prevented me. Sometimes a sense of – is it humility? Yes I imagine, recording is writing one's thoughts and ideas develop as individuality is one that at times tends to vanity. Yet I found the practice good in the past. There is this about it too, it gives a chance of reasoning with oneself at times and of trying to understand oneself. I find it my misfortune perhaps a common one, to be generally misunderstood. Perhaps I also misunderstand myself and the practice of writing down ideas and impressions helps to clear away the misunderstandings with oneself somewhat.

## IN THE BEGINNING...

*Movement UNA: Maria, Séan & Ava trickle in and out for the speech. Hand on Heart/eyes/ears.*

UNA: I rememb...oh god...I think it's probably,  
I remember my parents...  
we wouldn't really have discussed politics  
or anything like that.  
But I do remember having this kind of realisation  
that when I was about nine or ten  
in a class in school and there were,  
there was some,  
it was obviously like a history lesson  
or something or whatever  
and they were talking about Northern Ireland  
and I was being really confused  
because up until that point I thought  
that it was...am...like Catholics,  
for want of a better term,  
oppressing Protestants so I didn't,  
like I didn't aah know and then I was just like 'What?'

Am and so that's probably,  
in terms of like politically thinking of, you know,  
and then having to start actually thinking  
about the country and what the history was.  
So yeah so maybe it was eight or nine,  
like around then am and then I guess  
I would've am, I guess been interested in...  
you know, I remember watching am,  
maybe it was States of Fear,  
that documentary or the kind of the...  
hearing about Mandela and stuff like that.  
The first Iraq War and those kind of things.  
So I guess like a lot of Irish people,  
so it's a lot of people my generation, you know,  
like Nelson Mandela was, like,  
a really big thing.

***Movement JOSHUA: Eoin come in with paintbrush/fall/boat. Ava & Aoife trickle in.  
Aoife & Ava leave before Eoin.***

JOSHUA: As long as I can remember,  
I think...9/11 I think, when I was a child.  
I just started paying attention to what was going on.  
I've always had an interest in current affairs.  
Aaam...I don't know, it would've been on the TV,  
it's just something I got into.  
The more I got older, the more I paid attention to it.  
I was just very aware what was going on.  
I joined the British Army at 17.  
I just wanted to get involved,  
get engaged with the world,  
be a part of everything that was happening.  
I just wanted to go out and see the world.  
It didn't really matter to me in what way.  
But at least I'd be able to participate,  
even if it was on a very low level,  
I'd be a part of it whereas...  
it was like a really easy passport out...  
to be a part of the world, you know,  
be a part of history,  
be a part of politics,

get to witness things,  
have a front seat,  
that was my main ambition.

**Movement SHONA: 4 people in with prison cell movement. 2 more trickle in.**

SHONA:           Actually em,  
I think about this a lot lately  
because em my parents when I was ten  
brought me to em...  
it was Christmas time,  
and the Guildford Four had just been released from prison  
and my parents brought me to...  
there was a ca...there was a candlelit vigil...a peace vigil,  
and the Guildford Four were there  
and they spoke to the crowd and  
they talked about em being released  
and part of what they had gone through and also  
that it was important that there was pressure  
put on the authorities  
to release the Birmingham Six.  
And it was the first time that I had ever heard of any,  
of any of this matter and  
I remember asking my parents what it was  
and they obviously were simplifying it by saying  
that people were in prison for something they didn't do.  
And I really couldn't comprehend it  
and em I became quite obsessed...  
asking my parents all about it.  
And so we talked about it and  
then I became really obsessed I...  
writing an essay in Irish and  
I remember it was in school,  
in fourth class,  
I remember and eh,  
the teacher said  
you can write whatever you want  
and mine was  
'Who Bombed Birmingham?'.

**Stage Clears**

LYNN: I tink a lot of people don't attach a  
lot of stuff they're doin to politics.  
So its only when you look reflectively back  
you realise 'oh well all those decisions  
or dose tings I got involved in are politics  
bu'...comin' I suppose...  
my family wasn't very political,  
am you know so...yeah...  
we didn't have dat terminology.

**Movement GRACE: Punch/play dance movement. Everyone out of sync.**

GRACE: Emm... I was in a loh (lot) of school plays,  
emm... I went to an all Irish speaking school  
and we used to do the myths like the... Celtic Myths.  
So I remember playing Queen Medb...  
and there was like a...  
we had like a Charlie's Angels...motif,  
tha'...tha' will kinda put it in time for yis.  
Emm, so I think that was, I was -  
I would have been a shepherd and stuff  
in... the Nativity as well,  
sure we all were (*laughs*).  
Obviously wanted to be Mary  
but always a shepherd.  
That was disappointin'.

**Movement BEN: Chair & head. Four people in a line.**

BEN: When I was growing up...  
my parents, kind of,  
there was a core value in our house so... a very...  
Emm, a household where just the meaning of life,  
the universe and everything was discussed...  
around the dinner table on just a daily basis.  
But the one thing that was kind of the core value was,  
never stop asking - why?  
Ehh...you know never...assume... that...  
you already have all the answers,  
or that you don't have something to learn from people

or that...you know, just keep asking - why?  
I love arguing and like actually having that...  
not an argument to win  
but an argument to find the truth  
you know like-like-like,  
two...two views:  
thesis and antithesis coming together  
and hopefully bringing out a synthesis, you know?  
Emm... and I've always felt like a good argument  
between people who respect each other  
is one of the greatest ways of finding the truth.

**Movement UNA: Weighing up movement. Out of sync. No lines.**

UNA: My Uncle, who emigrated to America in the 80s,  
would've been very, was like a...  
gradually learned that he was a complete Marxist.  
And I remember, I used to always go down  
to my Granny's house in the summer.  
And so when I was eleven or twelve  
I'd be taking his books and they were all just, like you know,  
Marxist stuff and there was one book,  
Lenin's manifesto - *What is to be done?*  
It's kind of a lot about, like, inequality and all  
but all in a Russian context which is just like...  
but really contemporary things when you think about it.  
What is there in common between Economism and Terrorism?;  
Am Trade Unionist Politics;  
Political Agitation and Its Restriction by the Economists.

***Don't you know they're talkin' bout a revolution, It sounds like a whisper x 2***

**Movement during Liam's speech: Crossing the stage from either side.**

***People have the Power underscore***

LIAM DE ROISTE: I often wonder whether there has been an actual, objective change  
of affairs, or of general ideas in Ireland during the past decade that  
makes things seem different to me from what they did three, four,  
five years ago. Or, is it a change of ideas within myself, the  
inevitable change from boyhood to youth, from youth to manhood? I

presume both are working. I am changing and things around me change.

## POLITICAL AWAKENING

**Movement BEN: Crossing stage/box ticking.**

BEN:                    So-so... I emm... I... kinda became political having, going from literally zero entrance in politics, I kinda became a political junkie around the 2007/2008, emm... period. God, I was about thirteen, emm... and... it was a combination of tha... that Irish General Election at the time ehh which I really followed very very closely.... and then the 2008 election in America ehh... Yeah so I followed those and, you know, stayed up and watched all three debates and... five o'clock in the morning or whatever.

**Movement LYNN: Crossing stage/box ticking. End up facing the audience to sing, only stop walking right before end of Lynn's speech. LYNN takes place after walking across the stage in movement section.**

LYNN:                    Now my teacher that I had in junior infants, am, I bumped into her a few months back at an event and she told me that when I was four, she brought me, my Mam and my brudder to a big education protest in town, you know. And it wouldn't have been normal for us to get involved in protests and stuff. So I, I wonder was there a... a seed planted possibly at that stage, because I would've became involved in protests am and demonstration then...em...on and off then right up until the present time, I suppose.

***First verse of People have the Power***

*I was dreaming in my dreaming  
of an aspect bright and fair*



*and my sleeping it was broken  
but my dream it lingered near  
in the form of shining valleys  
where the pure air recognized  
and my senses newly opened  
I awakened to the cry*

**Movement WILL: Placards being made across the stage. Goth makeup downstage left.**

WILL ST LEGER: Emm, so I got involved with activism  
when I was about fifteen/sixteen...  
ehh with a group called Earth Watch in Clonmel  
when I was growing up.  
Emm... I got involved because...  
During the eighties, ehh... particularly and as, and I think,  
when particularly...when you're at school, you're so ehh...  
When you're younger....Idealism,  
and the the power to change the,  
the power to change the world  
seems a lot more in your hands...  
emm and that's a good thing.  
Maybe as you get older...you see that the actual...  
the the powers, or the opposition that you're facing,  
are a lot bigger and a lot wider than you think.  
But it's good to have that act...  
that Idealism at the start.

And I guess... ehh during the eighties...  
you had things like ehh...  
starting with the bombing of the  
*Rainbow Warrior* in New Zealand...  
You had Chernobyl, ehh...  
you had emm lots of different...  
environmental...disasters in the eighties and...  
Sellafield was also also a threat.  
But also as well, you have to remember, in 1982...  
Reagan and...Russia...that was going on at the time.  
There was a great...deal of fear...  
especially as a young person.

And do you know one of the weirdest things about it?  
I mean the whole world coming to an end and...  
from a nuclear war, scared me.  
But I also...dying a virgin...kind of...  
scared me a little bit more, too...  
I never thought I was going to have sex.

## WE'RE NOT APATE'IC

*And the people have the power  
To redeem the work of fools  
From the meek the graces shower  
It's decreed the people rule  
People have the power  
People have the power  
People have the power  
People have the power*

### **Movement: Continuing placards/makeup.**

GRACE: My friend, is a councilor now for North Inner City.  
He did a speech at de McGill summer school  
which was about, about young people and  
apaty and everytin.  
And de title was  
'We're not apa...waaar,  
We're Not Apate'ic,  
We Just Don't Like You!  
which I taught was really int'restin,  
'coz if you look at de marriage equality referendum...  
It's not like suddenly dere was like,  
oh everyone sprinkled fairy dust on all de young people  
and dey woke and were like,  
'oh let's be int'rested'.  
Dey were int'rested in dat,  
you know what I mean  
and it did matter to dem.  
Whereas, like, maybe de de de other stuff  
that's been happening before wasn't.

But I also feel like...  
I feel like I've been on marches me whole life,  
you know like, people I know like...  
I've never felt like the people I was hangin' around wiht,  
where just sittin around doin nuh'in like!  
And I've never like,  
tru all de years of bein invoved in DYT,  
which is a cross section of Dublin young people,  
I've never met a group of DYT'ers that I felt, like,  
were sittin around doin nuh'in.  
I tink it's a popular myth  
that young people are apathetic.  
Em I don't...it's not sometin I would've encountered.  
I tink, maybe in de sense dat dey don't care...  
Dey don't know who's de leader of Fianna Fail or  
dey don't know who's the Secretary for Transport  
or sometin like.  
But dat doesn't mean you're apathetic to society,  
d'ya know what I mean like?

Dere used to be when I was younger,  
I don't know if there still is -  
I sound really old saying tha' -  
dere used to be, you know,  
a lot of people used to hang around and  
eh outside Central Bank and be Goths like,  
and dat's not apate'ic like, d'ya know what I mean?  
Like, that's, that's completely de opposite of apate'ic like.  
Like it takes a lot of energy tih like,  
to get up out of bed and make yourself look  
completely different to everybody else  
and go around and stand around showin' everyone,  
this is wha' I 'm doin' like,  
d'ya know wha' I mean?

**Movement: Still making placards. Goths join them in making.**

SHONA: I think that we get interested in things  
like Trump because we have  
a very strong relationship with the United States

plus he's you know a...an oafish, boorish character  
that people like to be interested in...  
because he's tabloid fodder as well.  
And then so every now and again  
people get interested in a big attack in Brussels and Paris  
and they engage and then they disengage.  
So we're not...I think that we don't invest enough  
in foreign affairs reportage,  
the state broadcaster or others.  
The narrative always has to be,  
'How does it affect Ireland?'  
And I understand that people have priorities but still,  
I mean, I think that there's very little  
about the greater impact on the European Union as a union,  
as a in terms of the far right in the EU,  
about how important it is to have a  
strong European Union for Ireland.  
As well as you know,  
World Peace as as sort of a global institution,  
and none of that matters a lot of the time in the narrative  
and that is a bit disappointing.

### **PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER- "Vengeful aspects"**

Vengeful aspects became suspect  
and bending low as if to hear  
and the armies ceased advancing  
because the people had their ear

in the form of shining valleys  
where the pure air recognized  
and my senses newly opened  
I awakened to the cry

People have the power x 4

### **People on the ground making placards**

GRACE: I think in these kind of...  
I dunno like...like you could go...  
Ok, so originally it was whatever...the...

we were colonised oppressed by the Bri'ish,  
we goh rid of them to a certain extent.  
Don't forgeh they still have the six counties,  
they're... righ' gone.  
Then we brough' in the Church righ, ok?  
They'll be the oppressors now,  
and then only recently,  
in our lifetime have we shook off the...  
Church as the oppressor and  
then what's takin' its place?  
So... that...  
they're the questions we have to be askin' tih...  
geh to the root of what's goin' on with tha' kinda apathy.  
'Coz tha' comes from oppression, d'ya know wha' I mean?  
But I think the reason why...  
'coz I think it's-it's-it's across the boards,  
noh jus' young people, it's like Irish people,  
d'ya know what I mean?  
And I think the big thing now is...  
what replaced the Church as the oppressors in our lives was ehh...  
Money. Banks. Capitalism.

Say look at the housin' crisis.  
How many TD's are landlords or have...a...  
relationships with landlords like?  
So, that's like a blatant like...  
you can see tha' connection there like, d'you know?  
So it's like, 'hold on to what you have,  
don't leh ih go' even if...ih means tha'  
like thousands a kids are gonna sleep in hotels every night  
or even if a teacher be...  
sleepin' in their car with their kids.  
We have to 'hold on to wha' we have',  
and that's... tha's a direct result of...  
comin' trew hundreds of years of oppression  
like, you know?

To dream, to rule, to wrestle the earth from fools  
But it's decreed the people rule  
But it's decreed the people rule

Listen, I believe everythin' we dream / People have the power  
Can come to pass through our union / People have the power  
We can turn the world around / People have the power  
We can turn the earth's revolution / People have the power

People have the power x 4

**Come forward for the chorus People Have The Power. Scatter back when Liam comes forward.**

LIAM DE ROISTE: For, amidst all the time of comparative peace of the last hundred years and amidst all the preachings of peace and amidst all the dreams of the peacemakers and the prophecies of the false prophets who wished to think of universal peace when the big powers that were could enjoy without disturbance what they had plundered, there was no doubt whatsoever that a big struggle was inevitable. Many, many false theories have been blown sky high within the past months: many more are in the course of being blown sky high. This essential truth should now be apparent to every false prophet and every 'mar dhea' thinker and theorist - that men are to-day as they ever were, that nations are distinct entities not merely numbers of men, that race and blood relationship of races are greater factors than economic relations or commercial ties.

## DOING SOMETHING

**Each person ends up with a banner corresponding to their speech. Holding them ready to protest. Trickle into protest image.**

**Start music for Fight The Power.**

LYNN: If you break protest up from being mass protest on the streets to just individual protests...  
I mean I was always engagin' in individual protest of most things that I felt were unfair to me.  
So, am, I would actively disengage in systems in school,  
in conversation and I would...  
So I was always...whether it would be a one man protest or ehm...  
And so I have memories of of fightin' back against, am, structures and systems and am...

Bein' allowed play football with the boys at yard time.  
So I would have protested and actively engaged in makin' sure  
that was changed so I could get what I felt I should be gettin'  
which was the time to play football with the boys a...at yard time.  
So there was always points that I seemed to be...  
I never really am accepted status quo.

**Fight the power! Let me hear you say: fight the power! X 2**

I would've engaged with different protests  
around girls wearing school trousers  
during the winter in school and that passed.  
I would've been involved in putting up fights  
against only male altar boys and then em,  
and den I became an altar girl...  
Yeah yeah, not for long!  
Am, it was only the principle really!  
And then em,  
I remember engaging in a real ad hoc protest by us as kids  
on on the ring road of Killenard for ramps  
because our friend...  
I was with my friend when she was hit by a bus  
and she died on the road and em...  
there was a load of us there  
and she was really well liked.  
So we, we, we spent a day there not allowing traffic past  
and making them sign petitions and that kind of thing  
and then submitted it to the county council  
and things like that so there was...  
It was always usually if it was  
somethin' I cared about.  
If it was removed from meself a little bit,  
I, I probably didn't connect to act on it.  
If something affected me,  
I became active very quick.

**"Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!"**

PERSON 1: I, I, I seem to protest quite often,  
if it came to it I would protest over,  
especially here in Ireland at the moment,

all these charities where people are just  
feathering their own nests.  
I think that's immoral,  
I really do, and people are out on the streets collecting  
and you see all these people,  
actually squandering the money,  
and eh, at the moment as they say,  
there's about three different charities  
where this is going on and people are just fed up with it,  
and I would protest against that sort of thing.

**“Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!”**

PERSON 2: Uhm... yeah I've been moved to protest about...  
umm... gender equality umm...  
I've been moved to protest about  
all of the queer rights thank you very much...  
Ahmm I... 've protested informally with ahm  
many fights and many... curses at  
archbishop whatshisface with my dad.  
I've had formal protests in terms of uhh  
the march for marriage things like that ahm...  
I view Pride as a form of protest  
although it is very commercial at this point...  
Ahm I've been moved to protest  
because things matter and...  
sometimes you need to...  
make a show of yourself to prove that...  
Ahm for me to protest,  
the most important thing ahm is  
something that I have done and  
something that I continue to is uhm...  
to protest for my right to be myself.

**“Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!”**

PERSON 3: Ehh yeah, so possibly the two ehh,  
well I suppose there's kind of two  
things in recent times,  
both very connected to each other.  
One of course, the first is the ehh



what was une'thically framed  
as the household charge  
which became the property tax.  
You know, a tax on ehh people's need  
to actually live somewhere,  
which is absolutely disgusting.  
But if a capitalist state is going to  
make money out of people  
they'll find all sorts of ways of doing that.  
The second thing that I was  
very much protesting against,  
the water charges emm and you know...  
taxing people for the basics of life in a country  
where it never stops raining and...

**"Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!"**

**3/ 4 people start building the barricade. Needs to be places to sit/stand in it. Some people remain with placards.**

PERSON 4: Oh yea...the injustice of the privatisation of Irish water.  
I think it was fantastic that the whole country  
got involved in the protest considering  
it clearly states in previous legislation  
that water charges are covered in other areas  
like VAT and motor tax.  
So in my opinion,  
it should have never been allowed  
for the Irish public to be charged for a service  
that we already pay for in the first place

**"Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!"**

PERSON 5: I almost started protesting water charge protesters  
coz they're fucking idiots.  
Really wanted to protest  
water charge protesters because..  
They're just wrong!  
And like, they just, we need to pay for water  
aand yeah it's a tax but fuck them it's like (*sighs*).  
Really annoyed at water charge protesters,

and like just in general,  
the people before profit people,  
they just fucking,  
I wanna protest them.  
If there's any politicians I would protest...  
its those fucking idiots.

**“Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!”**

PERSON 7: Oh my God..I just..  
I don't even know where to begin.  
I am quite politically versed  
and I most certainly don't,  
keep my opinions to myself..em..you know,  
even things recently with Brexit and that's just..  
Ugh it just, it's a disappointing thing to have happened  
and I let out a big sigh of  
disappointment and dissatisfaction  
for the people of Britain  
who actually voted to leave  
because it's just pig headed..and..  
it's just, it's so typical that the English would just be like  
“No we're better than everybody else in Europe,  
we don't need anyone so we're just gonna like..get out.”  
It's just..it's typical..them.  
And I'm not trying to badmouth the Brits, I'm not.  
But it's in their nature,  
they are the Americans of Europe.  
I'm sorry if I've offended anybody  
but (*PERSON 8 goes to take mike*) that's my opinion..

**“Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!”**

**Prepare and put up tent. Start removing barricade.  
A couple of chairs to stay around the tent.**

PERSON 8: I used to do the...emm...the...protest at the...  
at the Faslane peace camp in Scotland?  
Eh yeah, I went to a protest against eh...  
nuclear submarines at Faslane, in Scotland.  
Ehh, we...well that one was just

like a normal protest.  
We just went to the peace camp  
which is like this eh.. it's like it's...  
it's really nice, it's like this little em...  
place where a bunch of people, kind of hippies,  
people who are ag...against the...  
against the submarines  
just just sort of hang out all the time  
It's been quite successful actually,  
they've like got all these people in kayaks  
yeah yeah they've got people in kayaks,  
rowing out to the submarines.  
And there was eh...all these crazy stories like...  
there was a girl,  
there was a girl there for a while  
who was in a wheelchair,  
and what she would do is,  
she would like,  
she would em...ehh...  
she would like fling herself  
out of her wheelchair  
and then like... crawl... em... eh... a...  
across the fence and of course,  
they were just really confused  
and they were like,  
'What the fuck do we do?  
Like how do we just let her...'?

**“Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!”**

PERSON 7: I mean all the English people  
I've met are nice, they're lovely.  
But...a lot of them have a mindset  
that they are above everyone else  
and they can just do what they want,  
not feel any consequences.  
And so yes I have been very moved  
or protested or whatever your question was  
I've forgotten now...about...

**“Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!”**

PERSON 9: Yeah, de Dunnes Strikes was...  
when ye look back on old paper cuttings,  
ye see big rallies and thing...  
And and..de celebrities didn't jump on board either  
'till de 'till t-t 'till de end- near de end.  
And it was a lonely fight...  
And dey were, dey were eh...  
five ordinary people who just refused...  
South African eh fruit being sold..  
and people not being allowed on...  
it was a lonely fight.  
Just five ordinary...  
Dey came on board near de end...  
de celebrities.  
But for de most of de two year,  
dey were outside de shop eh...on their own.  
Dere was people passin' dem by...  
Dere was eh grocery eh eh...  
stock was being handed in over deir heads,  
business was as usual.  
Eh..Ben Dunne was givin' Charlie Haughey  
a...half a million here and a half a million dere...  
and eh..nobody gave a damn about dem....

**“Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!”**

PERSON 10: Yes, I protest about the, emm...  
animal rights, the rights in China,  
the meat in those poor dogs.  
I think it's a disgrace  
and I would protest  
again and again and again  
until people would do something about it.  
I also would protest for women's rights,  
being beaten up by menn.  
Domestic violence.  
I would protest against paedophiles  
and scumbags that won't leave children alone.  
Yeah, I would protest about all those things.  
I would be very strong on those.

**“Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!”**

**Michael’s speech to be spoken from his position in the band.**

PERSON 11        Every day there's a more  
                         terrible thing to protest against.  
                         Israel; Syria; Animal abuse;  
                         The Eighth amendment.  
                         Kids getting bullied by teachers;  
                         Innocent people being killed by police  
                         every day in America...  
                         And there's so much more  
                         we haven't touched on yet.  
                         The slave labour that makes our clothes and products;  
                         The farmers that are paid nothing for our food  
                         while corporations take our money;  
                         Elderly people being abused in nursing homes;  
                         Sex and drug trafficking supported by  
                         petty drug purchases that we make.  
                         Like it literally never fucking ends  
                         and it's hopeless there's only 20 of us.  
                         The whole world should be protesting,  
                         should be angry and yet it's just a few of us,  
                         fuck it's depressing...

**“Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!”**

**WE ONLY WANT THE EARTH**

Some men, faint-hearted, ever seek  
Our programme to retouch,  
And will insist, whene'er they speak  
That we demand too much.  
'Tis passing strange, yet I declare  
Such statements give me mirth,  
For our demands most moderate are,  
We only want the earth.

**“Fight the power. Let me hear you say: fight the power!”**

"Be moderate," the trimmers cry,  
Who dread the tyrants' thunder.  
"You ask too much and people By  
From you aghast in wonder."  
'Tis passing strange, for I declare  
Such statements give me mirth,  
For our demands most moderate are,  
We only want the earth.

**Pandemonium, anger. Clearing stage & throwing things. Sean to shut them up.**

## ARTIVISM

YEATS: I thought you had got tired of this. You have disgraced yourselves again.  
Is this to be an ever-recurring celebration of the arrival of Irish genius?  
Once more you have rocked the cradle of genius. This news will go from  
country to country. You have once more rocked the cradle of a  
Reputation.

**Clear the stage for "post-show talk".**

GRACE: I dunno wha' I think abou'  
the idea of a national...thea're.  
I haven't seen one around the world  
tha' I think...  
this is wha' it should be!  
I have had moments,  
like the time with Panti where we were -  
we were all in the audience  
when she came to do tha' speech -  
where I have felt tha'  
this is somethin' tha' ih could be like, you know?  
it's a really hard thing tih...  
it's a really hard thing tih do because it's like...  
the perspectives of...  
four million people or whatever,  
d'you know wha' I mean...  
that you're tryna reflect?

PHILLY: That is the beauty of it,

it's like what is the connection?  
You can really have... ehh...  
have that moment and I suppose that...  
for that to happen on the national stage is like...  
what really Panti was talking about was society...  
emm... and (pause)  
and rather than the idea of  
What are we as a Nation? or whatever,  
What are we as a people?  
What is 'we' when 'we' come together,  
when we group together.  
Emm, and that...  
all of that was very...exciting.  
Emm... and kind of really good programming  
by the Abbey, you know?  
They chose their moment really well.

GRACE: I've got a lot to say abou'  
wha' happened with the  
Abbey... before 1916.  
Where, I don't think, like... tih me...  
before the O'Casey kind of...era,  
it was just another elitist...organisation  
and I think that the... elitism...  
that they've suffered like  
and the O'Casey style...  
Let's be a real poli'ical haven of like  
discussion and dissent  
has always been apposin' poles  
in what's goin' on there.  
The...the, the kind of the...  
the yayst...the yayst? (*laughs*) -  
the Yeats/O'Casey kind of paradigm,  
has been a big...  
I'd be more leanin' towards  
the O'Casey side of things...you know?  
I've no intrest in Yeats like.  
Emm...so same as I've no intrest really  
in Shakespeare like.  
So...like I mean, I love Eastenders like.  
Like I want things to be abou' the current,

what's happenin' righ' now.  
That's wha'...that's wha' gets me goin' like, you know?

PHILLY: If suddenly our...all of our theatre was political  
I'd be like...our playhouses would be empty  
because...we are,  
I think as a society,  
as an Irish society,  
we're really apathetic about politics  
and I think that...emm...  
Something about the way  
we like to tell stories and share stories is about emm...  
Ih...eh are often full of heart  
because it's about... escaping in one way,  
but also telling stories about ourselves,  
in order to understand ourselves.  
I think that is the tradition...of...  
of how we interact,  
and sometimes...  
I think the kind of the political stuff,  
emm...currently in our theatre doesn't always.  
So, I...eh I think we like to work  
through metaphor a lot rather than, ehh (*response to sound of music*)

## A NEW WAVE

### **tableau of feminist poses**

#### *REBEL GIRL*

*That girl thinks she's the queen of the neighborhood  
She's got the hottest trike in town  
That girl, she holds her head up so high  
I think I wanna be her best friend, yeah*

*Rebel girl, rebel girl  
Rebel girl you are the queen of my world  
Rebel girl, rebel girl  
I think I wanna take you home  
I wanna try on your clothes, uh*



***Underscore of Rebel Girl continues under the speech.***

LIAN BELL: It's been really exciting just to feel the energy coming off people who are in their late teens early twenties, people who are in college or are involved in theatre as young actors and so on, you know? And I love the fact that they're possibly stepping out of college into a world where they already know a little bit the lay of the land. Whereas I think for most of my generation because we just didn't talk about feminism and it wasn't that interesting and we kind of felt like it was done and I don't think I, I definitely couldn't have put my finger on what sexism was other than the most obvious forms of it. So from, for years it looked like it just wasn't really on my radar and you know we were bundling along happily going 'This is grand, this is grand'. And then slowly as time goes on you go, 'Hang on a second, there's something really off here!' and it takes time to work that out. Whereas these people who are in there 18, 19, 20s, sort of get it a lot more, partly because people talk about it a lot more.

I've been so excited by, like at least three young men, that I've come across that are in their 19, 20s who all very specifically call themselves feminists and probably would've before *Waking the Feminists* and that people understand that feminism is just about equality and it's not just like about burning the bra. And it's not like turning around and saying "You, you're wrong!"

And it's not all the  
women versus the men either like you know...it's...  
But I suppose that's the,  
that's what ah the sort of air  
of the description of feminism  
that we grow up with is,  
this thing -  
"oh it's all the women giving out about all the men" -  
and unless you counter that then...

*When she walks, the revolution's coming  
In her hips, there's revolution  
When she talks, I hear the revolution  
In her kiss, I taste the revolution*

*Rebel girl, rebel girl  
Rebel girl you are the queen of my world  
Rebel girl, rebel girl  
I know I wanna take you home  
I wanna try on your clothes*

UNA:                   What's really exciting now  
is that we are in this new wave of feminism.  
There's no getting away from feeling  
like you are in the middle,  
the middle of something and it's some...  
It's a wave that, I think,  
it's really interesting  
and that I really respond to,  
because it is typified by DIY,  
grassroots activism,  
by fragmented campaigns,  
by people taking one little bit  
and working away on that.

One thing that the centenary has succeeded in doing,  
is actually bringing women's stories to the fore.  
And so whatever people's concerns about it,  
whatever...that is a success.  
Am but like, I think, I, I, I am increasingly resentful  
about women's position in Irish society.

And I think that I'm also really resentful,  
not being presented with more  
female role models and artists and writers and stuff,  
like as a child,  
because I feel like you end up  
spending your entire life having to catch up  
and discover these people  
who should have been presented to you  
or available to you.  
And I think Gloria Steinem said something  
really interesting recently  
where she said am that you know...  
As women and men go out  
into the world in academia,  
women grow increasingly  
depressed and stressed out  
the further they go on.  
Coz what they are actually studying is  
women's absence from history  
and that's a really chilling thing.  
But I think that, you know,  
certainly when I was in College,  
people didn't really talk about feminism  
and stuff like that and now every single day,  
you open a paper or magazine,  
you look on twitter or whatever.  
There's stuff about it,  
so that is a revolution that is happening.

*That girl thinks she's the queen of the neighborhood  
I got news for you, she is!  
They say she's a slut, but I know  
She is my best friend, yeah  
Rebel girl, rebel girl  
Rebel girl you are the queen of my world  
Rebel girl, rebel girl  
I know I wanna take you home  
I wanna try on your clothes*

**Group together around COUNTESS M.**

COUNTESS M: “I take it as a great compliment that so many of you, the rising young women of Ireland, who are distinguishing yourselves every day and coming more and more to the front, should give me this opportunity. We older people look to you with great hopes and a great confidence that in your gradual emancipation you are bringing fresh ideas, fresh energies and above all a great genius for sacrifice into the life of the nation.

Lately things seem to be changing...so now again a strong tide of liberty seems to be coming towards us, swelling and growing and carrying before it all the outposts that hold women enslaved and bearing them triumphantly into the life of the nation to which they belong.

Tommy Moore, the popular poet of his day and also many days later, has set Ireland a very low idea of woman to worship. To him, woman is merely sex and an excuse for a drink. Not a companion or a friend, but a beautiful houri holding dominion by her careful manipulation of her sex and her good looks...The better ideal for women who, whether they like it or not, are living in a work-a-day world, would be – If you want to walk round Ireland, or any other country, dress suitably in short skirts and strong boots, leave your jewels and gold wands in the bank, and buy a revolver. Don't trust to your 'feminine charm' and your capacity for getting on the soft side of men, but take up your responsibilities and be prepared to go your own way depending for safety on your own courage, your own truth and your own common sense, and not on the problematic chivalry of the men you may meet on the way...

### **Beyoncé Formation Dance**

Arm yourselves with weapons to fight your nation's cause. Arm your souls with noble and free ideas. Arm your minds with the histories and memories of your country and her martyrs, her language and a knowledge of her arts, and her industries... “

A consciousness of their own dignity and worth should be encouraged in women. They should be urged to get away from wrong ideals and false standards of womanhood, to escape from their domestic ruts, their feminine pens...We have got to get rid of

the last vestige of the Harem before woman is free as our dream of  
the future would have her....

**Countess M. out front.**

*Love you like a sister always  
Soul sister, rebel girl  
Come and be my best friend  
Will you, rebel girl?  
I really like you  
I really want to  
Be your best friend  
Be my rebel girl*

***Straight into Instrumental for Bad Reputation***

## **AMENDMENT**

***Move to get the abortion placards - both sides off stage  
Nine girls leave to get small wheelie suitcases SR  
Once the women have passed then the protesters move into place  
Una moves forward to microphone***

UNA:                   And am part of that revolution  
                          is repealing the 8th amendment and  
                          giving women autonomy in Ireland.  
                          There's no doubt about it,  
                          like that is the natural conclusion.  
                          And I also have this weird conflict about, like,  
                          obviously female activists in Ireland now,  
                          are very much standing on the shoulders of giants,  
                          you know like, particularly the second wave feminists  
                          in the seventies in Ireland, up until 1983 obviously  
                          when the 8th amendment came in.  
                          But I also have this weird frustration  
                          that I feel like my mother's generation  
                          completely failed us.  
                          Like they just completely didn't do enough and that's...  
                          I feel really angry about that as well...like...  
                          Now I know it's a different context  
                          but they just fuckin went along with everything, like,

and I know like loads of women fought really hard  
against the referendum in 1983 but not enough...

**Ensemble in line with placards (pro-choice side).**

*I don't give a damn 'bout my reputation  
You're living in the past, it's a new generation  
A girl can do what she wants to do and that's what I'm gonna do  
An' I don't give a damn 'bout my bad reputation*

*Oh no no no no no no no, not me me me me me me me  
(Person 1 moves on this line to take mike).*

PERSON 1:        Oh my god! (*sighs*) Abortion...should be legal,  
                      women should have the right to choose  
                      what happens to their own bodies.  
                      I am so...fu...just.  
                      Women are not vessels,  
                      We should not be made to force...  
                      We should not be forced to carry a child...  
                      that, we don't wanna carry.  
                      Be it because the doctor says  
                      they're gonna die when their born  
                      and you don't want to go through that traumatic thing,  
                      like have it for nine months and stuff,  
                      be it because it was rape, incest or just because  
                      you're just not able to have a child  
                      and you couldn't give it a good life  
                      and you couldn't go through adoption.  
                      Like we just shouldn't, it's stupid.  
                      And I'm not saying that...everyone,  
                      everyone should get an abortion.  
                      I just think woman should have the choice,  
                      because most woman would probably carry the child  
                      even if they knew it was going to die or,  
                      just to have their kids, you know?  
                      But like, you should have the choice.

**What we do we want? Repeal the 8th. When do we want it? Now!**

GRACE:            Yeah...I dunno like think abou' twenty years ago,

like my sister was sayin' the other day like, you know?  
She was...like, she was marchin'...  
about abortion in 1983, d'you know?  
It's hard tih...it's hard tih know.  
I think, there's some things that will always be...divisive,  
how we use the body, like as...humans,  
is always gonna be divisive in different ways  
and maybe for totally different reasons, like you know?  
But...I dunno...yeah, I dunno!  
It's hard tih...It's hard tih...pre-empt  
what it is gonna be like in...  
it's hard tih... talk about the future,  
in that way.

**What we do we want? Repeal the 8th. When do we want it? Now!**

PERSON 2: I believe very passionately  
in a women's right to choose.  
And when I say that,  
I mean in all aspects of her life.  
So my job is as an antenatal teacher,  
so I, I'm involved in the education of women  
and their partners when they are expecting babies.  
And I love birth and  
I'm passionate about birth, completely.  
But what's even much more important,  
is a women's right to make decisions  
about her own body  
whether that be to continue a pregnancy,  
how she gives birth,  
where she gives birth or  
whether she does it at all.  
And whether I like it or don't like her choices  
that's none of my business.

**What we do we want? Repeal the 8th. When do we want it? Now!**

PERSON 3: Emmm pro choice doesn't mean  
pro abortion or pro death! (*laughs*).  
Yeah I find it an issue of like,  
bodily autonomy and not an issue of like,

you know, murder or anything.  
I think, I think like the person  
who's already alive, like a woman,  
is more important than like some 'thing'  
that will eventually grow into a life.  
I don't think like a foetus  
should get priority over a woman,  
you know that's, pretty much...

*I don't give a damn 'bout my reputation  
You're living in the past, it's a new generation  
A girl can do what she wants to do and that's what I'm gonna do  
An' I don't give a damn 'bout my bad reputation*

*Oh no no no no no no no,  
not me me me me me me me x 2,*

"Love them both" mouthing in the group

PERSON 4: I am currently involved  
in the pro life campaign,  
emm, you know, I've, you know,  
attended various meetings.  
And that issue is just a huge issue for me, you know?  
I cannot you know the...the...the slo...  
it's very hard to put it into words  
when you feel so kind of emotional and upset about it  
and you know the...they have...  
you know there's a slogan you know  
"love them both",  
both the mother and the baby  
emm and you know, just recently you know,  
somebody shared a story with me,  
it was like a friend of her sisters.  
There was a problem with the baby...  
It wasn't fatal but there was some difficulty with the baby  
and you they were emm, you know,  
they had just finally come to the decision to travel  
to have the baby aborted and I...I...I just,  
I just was so upset and shocked at that you know,  
coz you see the thing is, many things they...



Nothing, you know, life is life...nothin'...  
Things are not black and white, you know?  
There are so many grey areas...

*Oh no no no no no no no*

Ben: What it boils down to for me is like,  
it's the right to life.  
So, so from my part of the table, I'm saying is:  
This is something that is so important  
that we have to do everything,  
we have to do as much to support as possible.  
We have to reform colleges if they need...for parents,  
we have to create a social safety net  
that makes sure that no one with a child  
is going to be poor.  
Em. We have to create massive improvement  
in Ireland's perinatal hospital services.  
We have to do just everything but take a life.

*Oh no no no no no no no*

PERSON 5: I just think you know that where there's life  
ther...there's hope and I just it...just it...  
just you know...  
It's not I...I do, I do feel you know, kind of you know,  
ripping a baby from a mother's womb is murder.  
I...I I'm sorry and...I...and...I,  
I don't mean that in,  
like I do,  
I understand people you know I,  
I don't in any way make judgements  
about people who kind of feel driven to that.  
I mean my heart goes out to them,  
actually, to be quite honest.  
Because I think that like, in many cases, people's...  
you know, women panic, you know,  
when they get news or, you know,  
they get very stressed.  
Maybe they don't have support  
and they rush into a decision

that you know can often...times... emm...  
wound them irreversibly actually ...

*Oh no no no no no no no*

BEN: Like for me, it wouldn't be a religious issue,  
Emm...it's more or less like well...  
we obviously all have something in common  
that gives us Human Rights.  
The only answer that I've been able to come up with  
that...that makes sense,  
that doesn't exclude some people,  
who you really wouldn't want to exclude.  
So you say is it, is it, emm...intellectual ability?  
You know, do you want...?  
Do Down's Syndrome people not have a right to life?  
Is it emm...is it consciousness you know?  
Do coma patients not have a right to life?  
The only thing I have been able to come up with  
that makes sense is humanness.  
You know, are you a human being?  
Emm...and then I think once you say...that,  
that's it, that's the basis for human rights,  
then you're into a situation of...what is...  
and wha...what level...wha...what level of  
and for what are you willing to kill someone?  
Emm...and for me that would just be never.

*I don't give a damn 'bout my reputation  
You're living in the past, it's a new generation  
A girl can do what she wants to do and that's what I'm gonna do  
An' I don't give a damn 'bout my bad reputation*

Suzy: Pity that all of those who are so concerned  
about the disabled unborn  
don't do anything for the disabled born.  
If there was more done  
for people with disabilities, who are born,  
then there would be less abortions.  
Because people would not see it as a negative.  
That's one issue.

The second issue is that abortion  
is around the woman's right  
to make a decision about her body.  
If that means she doesn't want  
to have a baby, then that's it.  
That's where it has to be left there.  
And em, you know, it really,  
for those of us who are women  
and who have a disability,  
all of this concern and wheeling out of  
disabled people onto platforms  
during protests - which is happening -  
who don't have the capacity to consent  
of their involvement in said protest.  
But decisions are being made and you know,  
and keep talking about the numbers who are going,  
you know to have abortions or because you...  
If we had far more concern  
for the lives of people with disabilities  
then those issues wouldn't be considered.

*I don't give a damn 'bout my bad reputation*  
*Oh no no no no no no no, not me me me me me me me x 2*  
*Not me me me me me me me*  
*Not me me me me me me me*  
*Not me*

## IN THE NAME OF MY COUNTRY

***Stage Clears***

***Sean, Anna & Maria cover ears movement.***

PADRAIG P:       *(whispered)* When I was a child of ten I went down on my bare  
knees by my bedside one night and promised God that I should  
devote my life to an effort to free my country. I have kept that  
promise. As a boy and as a man I have worked for Irish freedom,  
first among all earthly things. I have helped to organise, to arm, to  
train and to discipline my fellow countrymen to the sole end that,  
when the time came they might fight for Irish freedom. We have  
kept faith with the past, and handed on a tradition to the future.

There are in every generation those who shrink from the ultimate sacrifice, But there are in every generation those who make it with joy and laughter, and these are the salt of the generations, the heroes who stand midway between God and men.

We must accustom ourselves to the thought of arms, to the use of arms. We may make mistakes in the beginning and shoot the wrong people, but bloodshed is a cleansing and a sanctifying thing, and a nation which regards it as the final horror has lost its manhood. There are many things more horrible than bloodshed; and slavery is one of them. (1913 - *the coming revolution*)

“O wise men riddle me this, What if the dream come true?  
What if the dream come true? and if millions unborn shall dwell  
In the house that I shaped in my heart, the noble house of my  
thought?  
Lord, I have staked my soul, I have staked the lives of my kin  
On the truth of thy dreadful word.  
Do not remember my failures But remember this my faith.’

***Start Rise Instrumental under Una***  
***Punch-punch, knees.***

UNA: I think like a lot of people,  
and I myself am totally guilty of it,  
who are patriotic and you know,  
I would see myself as a Republican  
and you know I’m very – I speak Irish,  
I’m very interested in Irish culture and Irish music.  
But I am also aware that I am  
conveniently ignoring the Catholicism  
that drove those people  
because it’s just not convenient  
for my own narrative.  
Am, so, I have no time for religion at all.  
Like I understand the...  
Like I absolutely understand  
the importance of religious freedom,  
and that should be fought for.  
But in terms of am...

am I think that in terms of  
young men and young women  
being radicalised now in terms of Islam,  
is nothing to do with religion.  
It's medieval psychopaths.  
And I think like, if you look at that,  
in tandem with the refugee crisis, it's kind of where...  
I was talking to a journalist, the other week,  
and she's back and forth all the time  
on the Turkey/Syria border.  
And she was saying  
we're getting their teachers and their doctors  
and they are getting our psychopaths, you know,  
and I think that's very true of...  
If anybody, am, needs to be concerned  
about refugees or immigrants coming in,  
it's Syria...from all the Europeans  
going over there  
being batshit crazy like.

***Ensemble trickling in to grenade movement to be ready to sing.  
Ella dancing.***

So I think that I dunno,  
it's such a wild time.  
Like it does feel apocalyptic...  
super dystopian anyway,  
what's going on with ISIS.

## EXTREMISM

*I could be wrong I could be right  
I could be wrong*

*I could be wrong I could be right  
I could be black I could be white  
I could be right I could be wrong  
I could be white I could be black  
Your time has come your second skin  
The cost so high the gain so low*

*Walk through the valley*  
*The written word is a lie*  
*May the road rise with you x 4*

SHONA: Well I think that yeah, for sure,  
any of the people that I would have spoken to  
would have said that, they they...assumed  
that being a martyr was something that would happen...  
that's something that they would enjoy happening  
and that it was...that it would be a salvation...  
it would be...make it worthwhile that they would die.

There's two different types.  
And if you talk to people  
who are members of Al-Qaeda, for example,  
the former mujahideen people,  
who have a specific vision about  
what it is to engage in *jihad*,  
it means that martyrdom is almost the object...  
You know, the salvation of fellow muslims  
and also, you know, a better life for muslims  
and then you have a greater place in heaven.  
But there are other people,  
the Free Syrian army,  
people who are...democratic,  
people who are...quite secular,  
Muslims but secular Muslims,  
who want eh freedoms,  
who want to be able to eh...  
go to university and go...  
and live in a democratic society  
for them and their families  
and they don't want to die.  
So it's two separate things.

*I could be wrong I could be right*  
*I could be wrong*  
*I could be wrong I could be right*  
*I could be black I could be white*  
*I could be right I could be wrong*  
*I could be black I could be white*

*They put a hot wire to my head  
'cause of the thing I did and said  
And made these feelings go away  
Model citizen in every way*

*May the road rise with you x 4*

AL-QADRI            A few years ago, radical Muslim groups would have had no interest in Ireland, but now I see they have an interest. I am seeing organisations that have their own offices in England and I am seeing them opening branches here and trying to get a hold in the Irish Muslim community. Radicalisation does not require extremists to live in Ireland, as much grooming and recruitment is done via websites, as happened with the 30 or so Irish Muslims who have gone to Syria. If we don't have preventative measures to make us immune from radicalisation, then we will end up like Muslim communities in Europe and the UK which have a significant problem with extremism.

*May the road rise with you x 4*

UNA:                And I wonder even up,  
even into the modern IRA of the seventies,  
I'd even be reluctant to class that as terrorism.  
Because, I dunno, I just...  
certainly now with the so called real IRA  
and all that kind of stuff, they're just comp...  
drug dealers and thugs like...so...  
And I feel the same about  
young Muslims being radicalised.  
It's, they're radicalised into something  
that is absolutely no relation to you know, actual freedom,  
and also, to day to day living of Muslims, you know?

*May the road rise with you x 4*

SHONA: For the greater good of Ireland.  
I mean there was certainly blood sacrifice,  
there was a blood sacrifice involved  
but it wasn't at the expense of innocent civilians.  
I know that some of the revolutionaries were Catholic.  
There's nothing in Catholic Dogma  
that talks about blood sacrifice in anyway  
whereas, am,  
the groups like Al-Qeada or the Islamic State,  
they use, ah you know,  
13th century scholars to support what they're doing  
and they use a warped interpretation  
of what those scholars are saying  
to justify the killing of fellow Muslims,  
as well as Westerners...  
That is not relevant in the 1916 cause.  
They didn't use religion as a form, as a, as a,  
in a way of saying they were doing God's duty.  
They just were Catholic and did believe in a Higher place  
but they didn't say God told us to do this.  
They were doing this of their own volition  
based on the occupation of a foreign enemy.

*Anger is an Energy x 8*

***Ensemble move into bird sequence/paintbrush & rowing. Grenade/bomb movement, but mainly the former. Ensemble starting to lie down halfway through speech.***

JOSHUA: Am I was in the army and a friend  
showed me a video on the internet, he found.  
I think it was liveleaks.com and then ah...  
yeah he showed me this video.  
Ah it was one of their earlier videos.  
Back then they were just still called  
Islamic State in Iraq,  
they hadn't moved into Syria yet.  
And then...yeah what struck me about it was,  
how the you know, the production values,  
how well done it was.  
It was strange and I just assumed



that it was just a new direction  
that all this Jihad propaganda  
was kinda goin' you know,  
modern technology,  
easily available editing software and all that.

It was on an emotional level you know?  
The videos I'd seen had shocked me  
and horrified me so much...  
I felt angry, that was the emotion that I felt,  
and that was my way of doin' something about it...  
going over so it felt right.  
There was no kind of fear of  
what was happening to me you know,  
whether I'd make it through it,  
whether I'd be killed,  
whether I...I didn't know what...  
Obviously I couldn't predict anything that was...  
that's what drove me,  
that's what motivated me,  
those emotions what I felt and em  
I suppose some people obvio...I dunno...  
It wasn't like a scene of destiny or anything like that,  
it was just that was it,  
there was nothing else in the world  
that I could see myself doing.  
That was it.  
I was doin' it and  
that was the end of it.  
It wasn't just the...  
It was the reports I was reading about  
the Yazidi girls, as young as 9,  
being sold into sex slavery, you know?  
The am, you know, that was complete genocide  
and the Christian...the plight of everybody.  
I felt really strongly about it.  
In my mind what I was doing was  
just going over to fight for their existence,  
that was it.  
It wasn't fighting for their political dream  
or their ideology

or whatever they wanted to achieve.  
It was just so they could exist and that was,  
that was it on a very base level.  
And I spent 9 months...in Syria...  
fighting with people from everywhere;  
China, America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand,  
everywhere in Europe, Italy, France, Spain, Brazil,  
yeah they were from everywhere.  
Some...it was varied you know...  
am you had  
anarchists, communists, socialists, anarcho-socialists,  
you had ah...even had far right, you know,  
people that were members of the far right parties,  
with swastika tattoos on them, you know?  
Neo-nazi kind of symbols tattooed on them.  
Emm...you had former soldiers,  
you had criminals...  
you had people coming out there  
for humanitarian reasons like myself  
who were just motivated by the plight  
and that was the main experience for me.

Then I was arrested.  
That was just somethin'  
that happened at the end  
and it was a bit shitty because...  
you know, it was...at that...at that stage  
I was just sick and tired of everything.  
We got put into cages: sixty men in each cage.  
Basically we were bein' held for ransom  
by a political party.

***Music ends for moment of silence.***

***Ensemble begin to "wake up" and listen to JOSHUA.***

I could easily get involved in activism  
here, but I don't want to. That's just my side of it.

***Transition into beginning of Redemption Song - Amy strums acoustic guitar***

I mean this is, the way I see it.  
The media just looks for a narrative  
to offer people, rather than go and...

the whole world is chaotic.  
The war in Syria is even more chaotic.  
Rather than actually explain anything,  
they look for an easy narrative.  
So that someone like me going over  
and joining the war to fight ISIS...  
it's an individual, it's a character,  
it's a person that you can sell that character  
to the people to pay for.  
And that's what they look for.  
A hero isn't black and white,  
right and wrong.

## THE WAY FORWARD

***Sing first verse & chorus of redemption song before GRACE.***

*Old pirates, yes, they rob I;  
Sold I to the merchant ships,  
Minutes after they took I  
From the bottomless pit.  
But my hand was made strong  
By the 'and of the Almighty.  
We move forward in this generation  
Triumphantly.  
Won't you help to sing  
These songs of freedom? (people who are standing start to stand)  
'Cause all I ever have:  
Redemption songs;  
Redemption songs.*

***Build up of movement during GRACE: beginning motifs, including feminist movements. Some on ground, some standing up. One by one.***

GRACE:            I think the kind of...  
                      the work that I'm makin' now  
                      and that a lot of people are makin'  
                      is more kind of... activism and art at the same time.  
                      I always wanted to be kind of  
                      doin' something that was about change,  
                      and then when I joined DYT

I got really interested in art and then...  
I kinda learnt that yih could,  
do both at the same time,  
by makin' work that was about change.

I think...the theatre can do that  
in a way that other things can't because...  
It's one of the few art forms where...  
you can have like...  
lots of things can be true at the same time...  
Whereas, in...other forms they can't, you know?  
So I think... that's very effective.  
Emm... and that's what it's...  
'coz that's the...where you're gonna get nearer to the truth,  
if you're able to take on board lots of different beliefs  
and...make them all...have a party,  
but also interrogate them all at the same time.

WILL ST LEGER: I, I have always... always believed  
that in most cases that non-violence,  
that the numbers of people using  
nonviolent direct action, can bring about,  
can bring about a...huge amount of change.  
You saw around the...world...the Arab Spring...  
There was lots of...ehh...countries.  
Tunisia who were one of the first in the Arab Spring  
and a couple of others, as well,  
who managed to bring about  
democratic change - people power -  
with little loss of life.  
I mean there had been some...  
and then you see the flip side of it,  
where where people are...  
disempowered to do that  
and and other people can get in the way,  
like Syria, you know?  
A...and I actually think as well, looking back on it,  
If you look back now and you ask yourself down the line,  
the people in Iraq during the Arab Spring...  
If Saddam was still there...  
If there was an Arab Spring in Iraq rather than the war,

would they have overthrown Saddam?  
It's quite possible they could have yeah.

***Box ticking movement builds up, to have everyone doing it near the end of LYNN's speech. Everyone getting faster.***

LYNN: I tink it...would be  
one a the greatest forms of activism,  
if there was just a huge mass participation  
in in actually votin',  
and I don't even care who yih vote for.  
So for me it's no', you know,  
"vote left-wing, vo'e Socialism, vo'e this, vote dat",  
Because...once as...as...as a cohort of people,  
you're...a votin' base.  
Policy will shift, so they don't lose...tha' votin' base,  
so that they can keep those happy,  
so they can keep tha'...the workin' class happy.  
I bel...I believe...I believe in the...  
I believe we can change things by...  
with our vo'e like and...em...  
I sponsored a bill recently,  
to lower the...votin' age to sixteen  
in local elections and European elections.  
So I tink the local elections  
is really....really significant because...  
Emm...I tink once...  
If you manage to get people  
engaged at sixteen, you know?  
Young people are idealistic, you know?  
And if you spend time...  
talkin' to them abou'...  
votin' an'...  
like that's all it took with me.

***Stop movement.***

*Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery;  
None but ourselves can free our minds.  
Have no fear for atomic energy,  
'Cause none of them can stop the time.*

*How long shall they kill our prophets,  
While we stand aside and look?  
Some say it's just a part of it:  
We've got to fulfill the book.  
Won't you help to sing  
These songs of freedom?  
'Cause all I ever have:  
Redemption songs;  
Redemption songs x 5*

LIAM DE ROISTE: To-night is a glorious night too, pleasanter than last night, a bright moon, an eerie fog o'er the valley, white, slow-moving clouds forming very distinct, fantastic shapes. A night for dreams and thoughts were one abroad. A night of calm, of quiet, of peace. "On such a night as this Troilus methinks did mount the Trojan wall And sighed his soul towards Grecian hills where Cressid lay that night....."  
Lines from the immortal William, or from some immortal, come naturally to one "on such a night as this."  
I often think of them immortals on such a night as this singing  
"We are the music makers and the dreamers of dreams  
Wandering by lone sea breakers or sitting by desolate streams  
World losers and world forsakers on whom the pale moon gleams  
Yet - we are the movers and shakers of the world forever it seems."

### ***Instrumental intro to Talking Bout A Revolution starts***

I have wound the lines into many things I have written and spoken. They seem so true to me so charged with meaning, expressing a great truth, I cannot forbear using them as the answer in my soul to the ignorantly worldly-wise who think this world is built on money alone and supported by all that money stands for. I never tire of emphasizing to myself that there are two natures in man and this fact - for fact it is - seems to me to explain everything men say, or do: men individually or men in groups or nations, states, or empires. The spiritual is unquestionably the greater, the better, the higher, the more glorious, the eternal: its development should be the chief desire of every soul. But, while men are men not bodied spirits, the material too; the body; needs some attention and development.

## TALKING 'BOUT A REVOLUTION

*Don't you know  
They're talkin' 'bout a revolution  
It sounds like a whisper  
Don't you know  
They're talkin' about a revolution  
It sounds like a whisper*

*While they're standing in the welfare lines  
Crying at the doorsteps of those armies of salvation  
Wasting time in the unemployment lines  
Sitting around waiting for a promotion*

*Don't you know  
Talkin' 'bout a revolution  
It sounds like a whisper  
Poor people gonna rise up  
And get their share  
Poor people gonna rise up  
And take what's theirs  
Don't you know  
You better run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run  
Oh I said you better  
Run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run  
'Cause finally the tables are starting to turn  
Talkin' bout a revolution, hold on  
Yes, finally the tables are starting to turn  
Talkin' bout a revolution, hold on*

*Talkin' 'bout a revolution, hold on x ?*

THE END