

# ZOOM, COMING OUT

By Marie-Jose Zuurbier & Tess Townsend

This play is sixth and final episode of the Zoom Plays for Lockdown.

MUSIC : Jazzy-frenchy [www.bensound.com](http://www.bensound.com)

The Watson Warble, © Christopher Camm

## CAST

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Alix the LX</b> | Theatre Manager of Watson Village Hall, a trusty Yorkshire lass |
| <b>Cheryl</b>      | Giles' critical wife, Chair of the Committee                    |
| <b>Candy</b>       | Pianist for interval entertainment                              |
| <b>Crispin</b>     | Playwright, "Bust"  |
| <b>Dr Ing</b>      | Tamsin's new boyfriend  |
| <b>Fatima</b>      | Anti-vaxer and Fundraiser                                       |
| <b>GG</b>          | Member of rival Theatre group                                   |
| <b>Giles</b>       | Gruff, trigger-happy military man, husband of Cheryl            |
| <b>John</b>        | Director, The Watson Amateur Theatre Society (TWATS)            |
| <b>Pascale</b>     | Ex-member of the Club   |
| <b>Patience</b>    | Fan and Patron of the Club                                      |
| <b>Serena</b>      | Very organised and finds non-compliance puzzling                |
| <b>Tamsin</b>      | Unemployed, vegan, gentle                                       |
| <b>Tristram</b>    | Joker in the pack   |
| <b>Vi</b>          | Alix's aunt   |

**A COVIDeo PRODUCTION for lockdown**

© Tess Townsend & Marie-José Zuurbier  
May 2021

## NOTES FOR STAGING / FILMING

Please join the Zoom call in gallery view, providing a landscape of images. If you are live streaming and the host clicks "Hide non video participants" everyone who has cameras off will be hidden from view.

This play stars the 8 original characters, plus cameo performances all the past members of the Zoom Plays for Lockdown. Actors should change the name appearing in their legend box to that of their character as below. Simply hover over the name then then click to change it.

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Alix     | Manager  |
| Cheryl   | Cheryl   |
| Candy    | Pianist  |
| Crispin  | Playwright   |
| Dr Ing   | Roger  |
| Fatima   | Fatima   |
| Giles    | Major Giles  |
| Geoff    | GG   |
| John     | Director   |
| Pascale  | Mme Pascale  |
| Patience | <a href="mailto:27847@spotlight.us">27847@spotlight.us</a> |
| Serena   | Serena   |
| Tristram | Kiss-Cakes   |
| Tamsin   | Tams   |
| Vi       | Alix's Aunt  |

The character name will then be seen across the frame when the actor is not "live" on screen and in the bottom left corner when they are. Camera cues are included in the script so the character becomes "live" when the camera is on. Placing the script onto the centre of the screen keeps the eyeline high and helps actors look directly into the camera as they speak.

To add a background, find a copyright free image and save it to Desktop.

On Zoom select the camera icon and click the upward arrow to its right.

Select Choose Virtual Background.

There will be a number of backgrounds plus a + sign top right.

Use this Add Image + to select the saved background.

Once imported the background will appear behind the actor.

Adjust lighting until both images are both clear.



Zoom isn't always great at backgrounds and they use up bandwidth. It is important for actors not to wear the colours similar to their background as this can cause breakthrough on screen. Lighting can also help differentiate the actor from the background. It's worth experimenting.

**SCENE 1**  
**FULL HOUSE**

**Cheryl, Giles, Tams, Tristram, Fatima, Serena, Cameras ON.**  
**They are getting ready for the opening performance of "Bust."**  
**They're in front of separate dressing room mirrors putting on hippy make up, wigs, scarves etc**

**Fatima plays Gilly, hippy wife of Cliff**  
**Tristram plays Cliff, hippy husband of Gilly**  
**Tamsin plays Shroom, their 15 year old lovechild daughter**  
**Giles plays Neville Brood, loose living freeloader**  
**Serena plays Sharon Marron, guest and relative of Flick**  
**Cheryl plays Flick Black, uninvited relative of Sharon**

Fatima        I'm still laughing about you winning "best dwarf" in the panto, Tris. *(hahaha)*

Giles         Yes, let's hope you do as well in "Bust."

Tristram      Well I'm ready for my hippy debut.

Serena        It's the first time I've had the chance to get the author to sign my script.  
*(touches her hair)*

Fatima        You're right, it'll be nice to meet Crispin in the flesh instead of on all those zooms.

Serena        Get him to sign yours too. *(touches her hair)*

Tristram      Gorgeous hair, Serena.

Serena        Thank you, Tristram. Hope it stays up for the whole performance.

Cheryl        I do find Crispin's "american hippy dialogue" tricky to learn though. Back in the day I received RP elocution.

Giles         Should have been electrocution!

Tamsin        *(painting a flower on her cheek, sings)* Daisy, daisy, give me your answer do.

Giles         You sound happy, Tamsin.

Tamsin        I am, Giles ... It's love you know ...*(giggles)*

Tristram      Are you, lov-ING it, Tamsin? *(titters)*

Tamsin        *(Giggles)*

Giles           *(Popping his bandana onto his head)* Ahh, it was all free love and sharing across the pond back then. Those Woodstock Days. Now, where's that prop spliff Alix made me? *(Picks up a large cone with chives hanging out the end to resemble a gigantic joint)*

### **John and Crispin, Camera ON**

All               *(wave)* Hi, Crispin. Hi, John.

John             Right everyone - Crispin's going to do a quick pep talk, so listen up.

All               *(look perky and interested)*

Crispin          Yes! Close your eyes ... take yourself to *(into American drawl)* Greenwich Village. The 70's. Love, peace and joy. Feel the atmosphere, dudes. You're at Cliff and Gilly's pad, getting into the groove.

All               Yeah! Man! Cool.

Crispin          So... break a leg!!

John             Yes, break a leg, everyone - Oh good, Candy's here ...

### **Candy in, Camera ON**

Candy           Hello everyone. *(Sits and gets her music out of her bag)* Hi. Are you nearly ready?

Fatima          God! I've got blue mascara all over my fingers again. Harumph.

Serena          *(Running through her line one more time ... nervously, in American Accent)* Here, use my stash. Roll a Cliff, spliff. Uh...No... Roll a spliff, Cliff. Duh!

Cheryl          If you don't know your lines by now, Serena, you'll just have to busk it.

Serena          I do know them, I'm just polishing, Cheryl.

Tristram        It's quite hard learning lines after all those virtual plays!

Fatima          Ugh! Anyone got a wet wipe?

Candy           I've got loads here, I'll pop them on the side. Is everyone ready to go? *(silence as everyone is heads down doing stuff)* Ok, well ... come on, vocal warm up time! Follow me ... *(as she leaves the screen, she sings to herself)* "This is the dawning of the age of aquarius ..."

### **Candy leaves for orchestra pit, Camera OFF.**

**Cheryl, Giles, Tams, Tristram, Fatima, Serena head to stage *(leaving empty screens)*  
Cameras stay on.**

**Alix is backstage preparing prompt corner (*theatre background*) Camera ON.  
John and Crispin are also backstage (*plain walls*), feeling very nervous.**

Alix Right - got me bits. Oh no - where's that macramé thingy? I am going to have to go looking again (*shouting towards stage*) We're on in 5 everyone.

John Can I help, Alix?

Crispin The spider plant isn't on stage, Alix. Goodness. Will we never be ready? Three minutes everyone.

Alix Leave the announcements to me, Crispin. You'll confuse the cast. (*shouting towards stage*) 3 minutes everyone. Beginners on stage. (*To Crispin*) You go out into the auditorium and find your seat. There's a luv.

Crispin I couldn't possibly. I need to be here, watching from the wings.

John You're making me nervous, Crispin. Go and hob nob ...

Crispin I can't eat biscuits now, John! My stomach is all butterflies.

John Look! Full house. It's so thrilling to know the locals are coming out, to see our show.

Crispin Good old Watson!

Alix Right everyone. Places please. John, Crispin take your seats. Lights to fade ...

**SFX Opening Music. The play begins.**  
**Blue script indicates on stage performance of "Bust".**

**"Bust" lines are delivered in American, heard from the wings.**  
**Alex, John and Crispin remain backstage.**  
**Others appear in their screens when they come off stage.**

Alix (*standing by with 2 drinks*)

Gilly (*Fatima*) (*OFF*) Get us another cocktail, Cliffybabe.

Cliff (*Tristram*) (*OFF*) It'll be our third, Gilly, but so what it's a full moon!

Alix (*hands over 2 drinks, then as scene plays on, Alix preps a Snowball*)

**SFX Chinking glasses**

Gilly (*Fatima*) (*OFF*) Cheers.

**SFX Doorbell**

Gilly (*Fatima*) (*OFF*) Shroom, get that.

Shroom (*Tams*) (*OFF*) (*moodily*) Alriiiightt, Mum. It's Sharon and some other chick.

Gilly (*Fatima*) (*OFF*) Cool! That'll be Flick.

Shroom (*Tams*) (*OFF*) (*laughing*) Huh, Flick the Chick, très drôle.

Crispin (whisper) Oh no! Who's that creeping around the audience?

John (whisper) Where? ... It's GG!!! Why's he using the emergency exit? Well, really!

Crispin (whisper) Who is he? Do you know him?

John (whisper) Yes, I certainly do. Thank God for your play Crispin! We would have been doing Hamilton!

Crispin Really? Unbelievable! (*Pause*)

**John and Crispin peer off screen as if watching through "the wings" together.**

Crispin Seems like it's going ok, though.

John It does. Fingers crossed.

Cliff (*Tristram*) (*OFF*) Am I the sole dude tonight, Gilly?

Gilly (*Fatima*) (*OFF*) No, Nevil's coming.

Cliff (*Tristram*) (*OFF*) Man, he's such a freeloader

Gilly (*Fatima*) (*OFF*) Take a chill pill. It'll be cool.

Shroom (*Tams*) (*OFF*) Here's Nevil. S'pose you want me to go get the quiche mom?

**Shroom arrives in the wings, clapping her hands.**

Tamsin How am I doing, John?

John Sshh, Shroom... Watching!

Cliff (*Tristram*) (*OFF*) What are you drinking, Flick?

Flick (*Cheryl*) (*OFF*) Hit me with a snowball. (*Laughter*)

Alix (*looking around*) Ohh 'eck, where's the advocaat?

Cliff (*Tristram*) (*OFF*) Snowball coming up.

Alix            Oh this'll have to do. *(hands over different drink)*

Cliff *(Tristram)* *(OFF)* You OK there, Nev?

Nevil *(Giles)*   *(OFF)* I'm digging the vibe, Cliff.

Sharon *(Serena)* *(OFF)* Roll a stash, spliff. Oh, no spliff, Cliff ... oh!

Crispin        Serena! Wrong line!

John           It's just a small hiccough.

Alix           *(indicating Shroom)* Stand by, Shroom.

Nevil *(Giles)*   *(OFF)* Hey, babes, any nibbles?

Shroom *(Tams)* *(heading for stage)* Cheese and pineapple?

Flick, Cliff    *(OFF)* Cool.

Nevil           *(OFF)* Come on, Sharon, they're yummy.

Sharon *(Serena)* *(OFF)* Coming! *(Whispering, as Serena)* Oh ... I can't erm ... my shoe's stuck, erm ... AGH!!

John           What are they doing, Crispin? Can you see anything?

Crispin        I think her foot's stuck.

Alix           Her heel's caught in the macramé rug. What about her exit?

Crispin        They'll just have to improvise.

Sharon *(Serena)* *(OFF)* *(brightly to cover the issue)* Perhaps you can bring me a nibble before I ummm **exit**, Shroom?

John           What are they doing now!?

Flick *(Cheryl)* *(OFF)* *(trying to help, jumps to the wrong cue)* So, ummm, Shroom - how did you get your far-out name?

Crispin        They are are completely off piste! The mushroom bit is in Scene 3!

Shroom *(Tams)* *(OFF)* Mom and Dad went to an Ashram in Arizona to drop magic mushrooms and here I am!

Crispin        *(Hand on his brow)* My beautiful play !!!

John           Only a few lines to go, Crispin. The audience don't know the script.

**SFX Phone rings.**

Nevil (*Giles*) (OFF) (*Answering*) Nevil here. Who is this? Charlie ?... oh, right on ... I dig it ...when? ... solid.

**SFX Puts phone down.**

Nevil (*Giles*) (OFF) Guys! (*in a panic*)

Gilly (*Fatima*) (OFF) Who was that, Nevil?

Nevil (*Giles*) (OFF) (*In a panic*) A tip off. The Fuzz. They'll be here in 5. Where's the stash? I'll hide it. Just stay cool everyone.

**SFX Banging on the door.**

**SFX Applause indicating curtain is down.**

**SFX Scene Break Music.**

**Cheryl, Giles, Tams, Tristram, Fatima come “off stage” and return to their Zoom screens. Serena is still stuck.**

Alix Right, the tabs are in. (*towards stage*) Serena, stop pulling at it. I've got WD40 here, I'll have you free in a jiffy.

Serena (OFF) I think my foot's swelling up. It's bulging out over my sandal strap.

Alix (*leaves*) I'm coming!

**Cast are changing as if into outfits for next scene.**

John Ok everyone, listen up. That wasn't ... perfect ...

All cast (*Muttering*)

John ... but overall you bluffed your way through the hiccoughs, papered over the odd few little cracks, and all in all ... we're doing fine. Good.

Tamsin John, What should we do about the mushroom conversation because we've already done it to fill Serena getting her foot stuck.

Serena I didn't do it on purpose! That rug was ...

Crispin (*interrupting*) You'll just have to play it as it was written, otherwise it'll throw everyone again. (*Sigh*). If you could just...maybe...focus?

Alix 5 minutes everyone. Beginners on stage.

**Alix, Camera OFF**

**Tristram, Giles, Cheryl, Serena, head to stage (*leaving empty screens*)  
Crispin, Candy, Tamsin, John, Fatima are backstage.**

**Candy, Camera ON**

Crispin        Well done Candy, you were great.

Candy         Thanks. I turned over three pages at once. Did the tune sound ok?

John          Well, to be honest there's a lot going on ...

Crispin        (exasperated) There sure is.

Candy         Ok. I'll see you at the end for The Watson Warble. (*Sings*) "The Watson  
Players are on stage." (*with jazz hands*).

Tamsin        This is all such a hoot, don't you think?

John          Let's make the second half really count. Break a leg!

Fatima        Thanks, Fairy King.

**SCENE 2**  
**IT'S A WRAP**

**Tristram, Fatima, Giles, Cheryl, GG, Alix, Tamsin, Serena, Camera ON**

**Ing, Vi, Patience, Pascale, join individually.**

**SFX Applause The play has finished and the cast are taking off their make up.**

Tristram      This bloomin' scarf. I can't believe I didn't fall brains over buttocks. It kept going in between my legs!

Fatima        I couldn't bear to watch. I thought you were going to end up in Row A.

Giles         Eh? *(laughs)*

Cheryl        All's well that ends well. We got there in the end.

Fatima        Was that you GG creeping in after the start ? Really put me off.

Tamsin        Why didn't you use the main entrance like a normal person?

GG            Oh I didn't bother buying a ticket - I am a member after all. I thought I'd just squeeze in.

Giles         Typical!

GG            The audience were enjoying it. You did that bit - getting stuck in the rug - really well, Serena.

Serena        It was ... well ... um ... *wasn't really ...*

Tristram      That bit wasn't in the script actually. Tamsin did really well to cover that.

Cheryl        She did indeed. I thought you were occupied elsewhere, GG. Weren't you auditioning for something big?

GG            I've got plenty of irons in the fire. I have actually been called for a huge *show in ...*

Alix          *(interrupts)* Oh look there's Auntie Vi at the stage door. What does she want?

**Vi, Camera ON (Stage door background)**

Vi            *(Looking at Alix)* Hello dear. I've brought some sandwiches and tea for you all. I know they asked for wine but I don't hold with that as you know, dear. Your Grandfather used to like a tippie and we all know where that led. So I thought that ...

Alix Thank you Auntie. You get back to the foyer and hand out those flyers I gave you, before the punters leave. Byeeeee.

Vi Byeeeee. Bye. Bye. Bubyee. Bye. Bye.

### **Vi leaves, Camera OFF**

Tamsin *(Sipping tea)* Oooooo a nice cuppa. Well done, Vi. Is there a biscuit or something?

Alix Oooh, I nearly forgot! We've had some video messages through from Pascale in France and Patience in New York. They were watching the live streaming. Eh, shall I put them on the screen for you all to see?

All Wow. Yes..great.

### **Pascale's full frame clip**

Pascale Ello. Ello. Eet iz so nice to see you all. Well Done. You were incroyable. I like ze 'ippeee zing. Before ze snail business my fahser was growing ze, how you call it ... em ... weed? et um ... he and my mozer were cool 'ippees. FELICITATIONS, mes amis. *(Blowing kisses)* Bisous bisous.

### **Pascale full frame ends**

Fatima She is always so happy and chatty. It's a shame she went back to France. Let's see what Patience has to say.

Alix Coming up. Here we go...

### **Patience full frame clip**

Patience Hello Watson Players! Kudos. Oh my! Those hippy costumes were ... out there. You all looked so happy to be back on stage. My money was well spent, the Village Hall looked swell. I've got a show in the pipeline. When it's done I'll send you the teasers. Love you all over! Hasta la vista.

### **Patience full frame ends**

GG Who's got Patience's email? Sounds like she hasn't cast her latest show yet ... I might crack the American market next.

Tristram The Americans can have you, GG - we won't stand in your way.

GG That's nice of you, Tris. I knew we'd be friends. I wonder where John is?

Giles John's already in the bar with Crispin, schmoozing.

GG Right. I'll head over there then

## GG leaves, Camera OFF

Tristram     *(calls after him)* Don't trip over your ego.

Fatima       Well done for getting Patience and Pascale on Alix.

Alix          It was all thanks to Zoom.

Tristram     It's so bonkers to think there was a time when we could only do things on Zoom.

Serena       Zoom was such a boon.

Giles         We couldn't have done the other plays without it.

Tamsin       I couldn't have talked to Granny in Montenegro.

Tristram     You'll be able to go there soon.

Fatima       *(Narky)* Don't forget your vaccine passport.

Cheryl       Without Zoom we wouldn't have managed to hold committee meetings.

Serena       I do enjoy being able to record them to the Cloud now. Saves all that minute taking.

Giles         Nice to smell the crowd again, though, eh?

Tristram     You've got a thing about smells since you had the vaccine. Remember Trigger's paws, Giles?

Cheryl       At least you don't get smells on Zoom.

Tamsin       *(re-painting a flower on her cheek, sings)* I think I'll keep my daisy.

Dr Ing       *(offering yellow flowers - stage door background?)* Is Tamsin here? Or should I say, Shroom?

Tamsin       Oh ...You can call me Shroom if you like. *(giggles)*

Dr Ing       I just wanted to tell you you were truly splendid.

Tamsin       *(sigh)* Oh, thank you.

Dr Ing       You were all ... uh, good, great. But especially you Shroomy...

Tamsin       Are those flowers for me? I love yellow ones.

Dr Ing       They are just what the Doctor ordered!

Tamsin      *(Wild giggle)* Oooo check me over any time, Doctor!

Dr Ing      The table's booked, don't be long!

Giles      Not coming to the bar then, Tamsin?

Tamsin      Better things to do Giles, *(giggle)* at last!!!! Com-ing, Roger.

**Tamsin leaves, Camera OFF**

Alix      Eh up, I've just heard from front of 'ouse that some secret benefactor has put £50 behind the bar, for the cast!

Fatima      We'd better get a move on then, before John and Crispin drink it all.

All      *(heading off to the Village Hall bar for a celebratory drink)* Right. Off we go. G and T, Logging off. Thanks, Zoom.

**All, Cameras OFF**

**TITLE : THE FINAL CURTAIN**

**MUSIC - THE WATSON WARBLE © Christopher Camm**

**CAST :**

Candy                                    *(sings)* So long, farewell, aufweidersehn, goodbye.

Alix                                        That's me done. I'm logging off. Over and out.

Dr Ing                                    *(Looking at diary)* Oh, genome committee meeting.

Giles                                      Come on Trigger - Walkies!

Mrs Montague-Smythe                Age is irrelevant, of course I can play Annie.

Serena                                    Anyone want some of these tins of baked beans?

Fatima (with Lemur)                  *(Lemur waves then Fats says)* Off to Save the Blue Tits.

Tristram                                 All tits need saving, Fats! Not just the sad ones.

John                                      Adieu, adieu.

Crispin                                 *(right up to the screen)* Back to the theatre.

GG                                        America - Here I come!

Tamsin                                 *(cleaning screen)* Need to do more sanitis-ing *(Giggles)*

**and also ...**

Fairy King                               All's well that ends well. *(accompanied by a guitar flourish)*

Vi   *(looking around)* Now where did I put those sandwiches?

Simon                                    *(holding certificate up to the screen)* We won Best Panto!!  
Must have been the dwarves.

Cheryl                                    Giles! ...Really. *(Pulls a face)*

The Voice                                Zoom, Plays for lockdown. The End.

**EDIT**                                     Chris Cathles (pic)

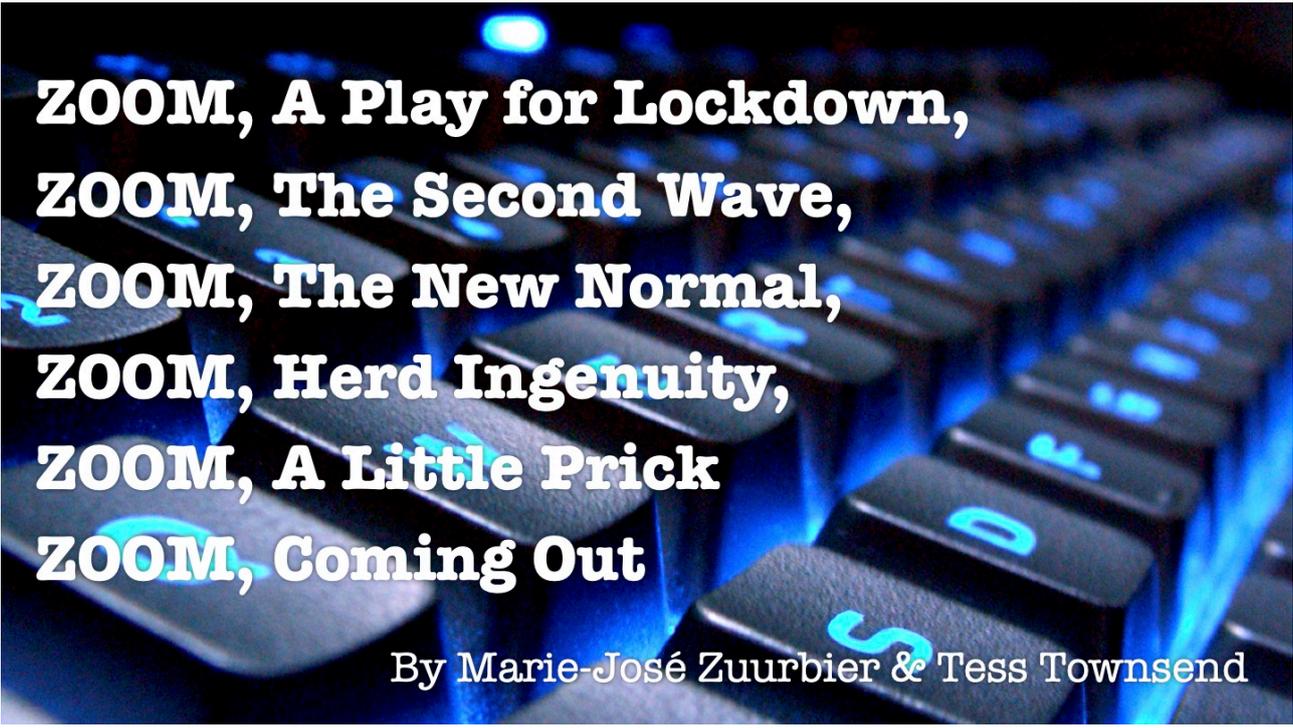
**NOISES OFF**                         Melody (pic)

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**ZOOM, A Play for Lockdown,  
ZOOM, The Second Wave,  
ZOOM, The New Normal,  
ZOOM, Herd Ingenuity,  
ZOOM, A Little Prick  
ZOOM, Coming Out**

By Marie-José Zuurbier & Tess Townsend