

Paradise In Portobello

A very short play

INT. A squat in Ladbroke Grove -- DAY

(Jimmy and Donna both lie on their backs with their eyes closed..On the blood-stained carpet of a tumbledown squat, littered with drug paraphernalia.)

(Scott has a dirty bandage on his leg - from his knee to his groin - as he holds a crutch in one hand and attempts to straddle Jimmy ...and SLAPS his face.)

SCOTT

Jimmy! Jimmy boy!! Wake up!

(Scott lays his ear on Jimmy's chest.. And stares wildly around the room.)

SCOTT (Continued)

Sweet fucking Mary mother of God.

(He slaps Jimmy's face again.)

(Donna opens her eyes.)

DONNA

What...

(She focuses on Jimmy.)

DONNA (Continued)

What did you do?

SCOTT

I didnae dae nothing! He wanted a hit.

(Donna sits up in disbelief.)

DONNA

But he doesn't fucking use!

(Donna LEAPS UP, grabs a mobile phone and starts puching numbers madly...)

DONNA (Continued)

(To Phone)

Yes - Ambulance - thanks.

(With her free hand, Donna grabs Jimmy's hand and yanks the ring off his finger)

DONNA (Continued)

I bought him that.

(To Phone)

Hello, what? ..sixty seven Ladbroke Grove, heroin overdose -
yes..

(She looks at Jimmy)

I don't think so.

**(Donna plunders Jimmy's pockets
for his money and mobile phone.)**

SCOTT

Whit are you doing?

DONNA

(Pocketing the cash)

No use to him now.

(She finds a wrap of heroin)

DONNA (Continued)

Bingo!

**(...As there is a LOUD BANGING on
the front door.)**

(Scott and Donna freeze.)

DONNA (Continued)

That was quick.

SCOTT

Sssssh.

POLICEMAN 1# (O.S.)

SCOTT O'LEARY, THIS IS THE POLICE!

DONNA

Oh my god, I never called them honest!

**(She crawls around the floor
gathering up syringes, tin foil
and other paraphernalia.)**

DONNA (Continued)

Don't answer the door.

SCOTT

I'm reet glad ye mentioned that hen, 'coz thit wis mae plan
exactly.

DONNA

This isn't funny.

SCOTT

You dunnae say....WHIT IF HE'S FUCKING DEAD?

DONNA

Shhhh...

POLICEMAN 1# (O.S.)

(Shouting through the door)

THE HOSPITAL HAVE REPORTED YOU A MISSING PERSON SCOTT -
THEY WANT YOU BACK!

DONNA

Shit. You really should get back.

SCOTT

So ye can take over mae gaff?

DONNA

Yeah it is a bit of a palace innit.

SCOTT

I'm going nowhere.

DONNA

But your leg is desperate, you don't wanna lose it do ya?

SCOTT

Thit's why I'm nay going back.

DONNA

You know if you don't get it looked at, most likely it'll
just drop off by itself.

SCOTT

Charming.

DONNA

I mean it. I don't wanna wake up one morning and find your
fucking leg in the kitchen.

SCOTT

Would that be before or after they've arrested me fae
murder?

EXT. A squat in Ladbroke Grove -- DAY

**(TWO POLICEMEN stand on the
doorstep.)**

POLICEMAN 1#

He probably thinks it's a drugs bust.

POLICEMAN 2#

Well seeing as we're here.

(They smile.)

INT. A squat in Ladbroke Grove -- DAY

(Scott, on crutches, stares at Jimmy.)

SCOTT

Sweet fucking Jesus.

(Donna paces the floor.)

DONNA

Fuck fuck fuck fuck fuck...

SCOTT

It was his gear. How am aye to know he disnae use?

DONNA

What do we do?

SCOTT

Suicide?

(Donna stops pacing.)

DONNA

Maybe you should get your arse out there before the ambulance arrives?

SCOTT

An' whit the fuck about HIM?

POLICEMAN 1# (O.S.)

YOU'RE NOT DOING YOURSELF ANY FAVOURS HERE SCOTT!

(Donna paces again.)

DONNA

O.K. Got it. ..I'll come with you, yeah?

(She paces a bit more)

DONNA (Continued)

..And then we leave the door on the latch so that the paramedics can find him.

(She stops pacing.)

DONNA (Continued)

'Coz they'll be here any minute.

SCOTT

Are ye mad?!

(Pause)

*(Donna SHOUTS OUT to the
Policemen.)*

DONNA
HE'S COMING RIGHT NOW OFFICER!

SCOTT
(To Donna)
Whit are you doing?!

DONNA
Let's go hoppalong.

***(Donna drags Scott towards the
door with some difficulty.)***

DONNA (Continued)
Christ I'm telling ya, I 'aint ever gonna use in my leg.

SCOTT
(Reaching back towards Jimmy)
But you cannae just leave him, you'se his world. He found
that place in detox feh yeh and then when ye get through
that, you're both legging it to Spain, it's greet. ...I ken
you loved him hen.

DONNA
I'm just like you Scott.

SCOTT
Meaning whit?

DONNA
That I 'aint ever gonna use in my leg.

SCOTT
Aye, an' thit's wha' I used ta say before I ran outta
veins.

DONNA
Precisely.

***(They reach the front door and
exit.)***

DONNA (O.S.) (Continued)
Hello boys, nice day for it! I present one wounded
soldier...

***(And the door SLAMS OPEN again -
as the policemen charge into the
flat.)***

(...Followed by Donna running behind)

DONNA (Continued)

We 'aint no drugs!

(...And Scott hop-hopping on crutches.)

SCOTT

YOU CANNAE JUS' BARGE IN HERE!

POLICEMAN 1#

(Seeing Jimmy)

Oh dear dear, not another wounded soldier?

DONNA

(Feigning shock)

No! Jimmy! God, my sweetheart! ..What have you done?

(Donna collapses - wailing - on top of Jimmy.)

POLICEMAN 1#

'Aint that sweet.

SCOTT

He wis all reet when we left him, reet enough.

(Two Paramedics rush in with a stretcher)

POLICEMAN 1#

(Indicating the paramedics - and shouting)

SO WHAT HAVE WE GOT HERE THEN, PSYCHIC PARAMEDICS?

(The paramedics lift Jimmy onto the stretcher.)

DONNA

Phew. Well then. Guess I better be off.

POLICEMAN 1#

Oh you're cute.

DONNA

I haven't done anything!

POLICEMAN 1#

Still living like this Donna, I thought you'd turned a new leaf?

(Donna glares)

POLICEMAN 1# (Continued)

You're not back on the gear again...

POLICEMAN 2#

(cutting in)

Surely?

(Policeman 1 gives Policeman 2 a funny look)

(Policeman 2 shrugs)

DONNA

'Cause not, I did detox didn't I?

POLICEMAN 1#

Oh yes my sweetie but how many times?

DONNA

I'm clean I'm telling ya!

POLICEMAN 2#

Won't mind us searching you then.

(Policeman 2# slaps handcuffs onto Donna.)

POLICEMAN 2# (Continued)

At the station.

DONNA

But I've really gotta get..

(She watches as the paramedics take Jimmy out on a stretcher)

POLICEMAN 1#

And what about your friend there - what did you call him?

DONNA

Jimmy.

POLICEMAN 1#

Jimmy. Boyfriend is he?

DONNA

Well, you know,
(pause)
Sort of.

POLICEMAN 1#

Not all of the time?

POLICEMAN 2#

Just when it suits you, eh?

POLICEMAN 1#

You a bit of a goer Donna?

(Policeman 2# drags Donna to the door.)

POLICEMAN 2#

Guess it helps feed the habit.

DONNA

You SCUM!

POLICEMAN 1#

Insulting a Police Officer? That won't look good in court.

SCOTT

Aye, take it easy doll.

POLICEMAN 2#

Ah that's touching.

POLICEMAN 1#

(To Scott)

Like her do ya?

(Policeman 1# slaps handcuffs onto Scott and helps him towards the door.)

SCOTT

Cuffs?

POLICEMAN 1#

(winks)

Just keeping you safe in the hospital.

(Policeman 2# exits the door with Donna)

DONNA

(Shouting back)

Scott I'll visit ya I promise - I'll even bring you a parrot!

SCOTT

Whit?

DONNA (O.S.)
TO GO WITH THE WOODEN LEG!

SCOTT
Ha-ha.

**(Policeman 1# exits the door with
Scott)**

(The stage is empty.)

DONNA (O.S.)
You know Scott I really am gonna get off this shit. I've
had enough now.

SCOTT (O.S.)
Me 'an all baby-doll.

DONNA (O.S.)
And once I'm through with detox, I'm heading somewhere hot.

SCOTT (O.S.)
Spain disnae sound tha' bad.

DONNA (O.S.)
Yeah.

CURTAIN