

The Lunch Punch Power Hour in Conference Room 4 **by Caitríona Daly**

Audio Described Introduction for performances in the Peacock at the Abbey Theatre up to the 6th September 2025

Welcome to this audio description introduction to **The Lunch Punch Power Hour in Conference Room 4**. This play is directed by **Raymond Keane**, with Set Design by **Ronán Duffy**, Costume Design by **Saileóg O'Halloran**, Lighting Design by **Dara Hoban**, and the Composer and Sound Designer is **Jenny O'Malley**.

The performance runs for approximately one hour and thirty minutes without interval.

ABOUT THE PLAY

"The most bizarre and entertaining meeting you've ever eavesdropped on"

In the Irish offices of a corporate firm, three employees use their lunch hour to determine how best to spend their company's annual Corporate Social Responsibility budget.

Behind a locked door and out of sight of management, the task escalates into an increasingly outlandish and hilarious debate, revealing secret passions and uncomfortable truths.

In this bizarre, humorous and insightful new play, **Caitríona Daly** explores power structures, escapism and resistance.

ABOUT THE SET

The set is a naturalistic interpretation of a bland beige boardroom with a large mahogany wood conference table set in the middle with three grey padded leather chairs. In the centre of the table is a conference speakerphone.

On the back wall are four long oblong frosted windows. A white electrical flycatcher that looks a bit like a tennis racket sits in its holder on the wall, between the windows to our left. There is a long shelf under the windows where three small brown teddy bears in white t-shirts emblazoned with a blue Gresham motif sit. Beside them white mugs in a neat row with the same motif, and bottles of sparkling ballyogan water and glass tumblers. A nespresso machine nearby. There are a couple of lockers underneath the shelves.

Set into the wall to our right is the door to the hallway, it's made out of mahogany wood and see through glass. Slatted blinds cover the glass, sometimes open, sometimes shut for privacy. The air conditioning control is on the wall to the right of the door. The floor is carpeted in beige. Outside the boardroom is HR Lady Susans paces.

In the dim light, as patrons enter The Peacock auditorium, Jess the receptionist sits alone at the head of the table nearest the door. Resting her feet up on the table she eats with one hand from a green plastic tupperware container, absorbed in a thick academic book.

The lighting in this show is naturalistic when in the blandness of the 'real' world but, when the imagination of the characters is expressed the white neon tube lighting that frames the doorway brightens, the lighting in the room becomes purple or pink or sometimes a cold blue.

ABOUT THE CAST AND COSTUMES

So **The Receptionist Formerly Known as Jess** played by **Emma Dargan-Reid** is the first we meet. She is a woman in her late twenties/early thirties wearing black wide legged trousers with a cream shirt unbuttoned to reveal a black top underneath. On her feet she wears brown boots. Her red hair is fashioned in a short bob a little

overgrown and sensibly brushed away from her face. Her voice is a little deeper than Clodagh's. Jess wears headphones listening to music on her iphone.

Clodagh played by **Caoimhe O'Malley** relieves Jess of her solitude when she enters the room rolling her large briefcase, turfing the receptionist out. She is well groomed, her silky chocolate brown hair smartly pinned up, she wears an expensive blue two piece trouser suit with a cream silk sleeveless top underneath. On her feet she wears skin coloured heeled court shoes.

When Clodagh is left alone she paces around her domain, takes the fly swat down from the wall and mimes playing tennis, bouncing a ball, fighting invisible assailants using the swat as a sword. Clodagh's accent is a high pitched Dublin 4.

Daniel played by **Fionn Foley** scurries in next wheeling his briefcase with one hand, holding a piping hot bowl of food in the other, carrying a spoon in his mouth. He sits at the the left side of the desk. Daniel wears brown leather brogues, navy blue narrow legged trousers with a brown belt, and a navy blue jumper, perhaps from Dunnes. The collar of his shirt peeping out of the top.

And that's how it all begins. But first they'll have their lunch during which the dreaded **HR Lady Susan** played by **Helen Norton** appears, dressed in an indigo blue smock dress with pink leggings, trainers and suit jacket. She wears fashionable thick rimmed glasses and an oversized red plastic link necklace, with bangle style bracelets to match.

They all wear their Gresham ID hanging around their necks or belts.

When Susan hurries off Clodagh and Daniel rush around run looking for someone to make a quorum, Clodagh leads Jess into the meeting by swiping her book forcing her to follow.

Herself and Daniel explain to Jess what the meeting is about, Daniel knocking on the door to 'touch wood' before the two colleagues reveal to Jess what's in their briefcases by emptying the contents onto the table. In Clodaghs case there are white flower paperclips and a white scarf, 3 martini glasses, a cardboard 'game board', agendas, papers/pens, a

purple feather boa, a green scarf. In Daniels case a blonde Dolly Parton wig, three water guns a purple sequined blouse with puff sleeves, a purple flowery wig, a gold sequined dress, a hypothermia blanket.

The board game is circular, with three symbols upon it. A gun, a martini glass and a wrestling mask. They use a sparkling ballyogan bottle of water to spin the bottle see which symbol it lands on. At the opening of the game Clodagh and Daniel exchange office desk calendars before shaking hands. They turn away from each other returning to their corners of the room. The two proceed to play dress up. Daniel in the purple puffed sleeved blouse over his jumper and the blonde wig, Clodagh with the purple feather boa, silver chain necklace and sunglasses, after she releases her silky hair from it's pins.

Jess watching on bemused until Clodagh and Daniel dress her up in a long gold strapless cocktail dress with a purple clowns wig.

At some point Daniel will put on techno music, dancing as the others look on. At this point Susan who has been locked out by Clodagh turns the boardroom light off, Clodagh turns the light back on. Susan turns the air conditioning on full blast with her remote control, Clodagh turns it down from the wall control box. The mayhem continues in the boardroom.

Sometimes we see Susan glaring at them through the glass doorway until the slats are pulled tightly shut.

The second outfit Daniel wears is a combat print poncho and bicycle helmet. Clodagh wearing a blue woolly hat pulled over her face with holes cut out for her eyes and a bullet belt full of pens not bullets. They grab water pistols. Now Jess wears a red baseball cap and a thick black moustache, becoming the computer game character Mario for awhile, pa ding! Light turns a cold blue.

Later still Daniel turns a cluster of water bottles taped together into a bomb, he puts an empty cardboard box onto his head as a makeshift helmet. An alarm goes off, Jess opens the door to Susan standing there and promptly shuts it in her face.

Sometimes the table becomes a stage, Jess addresses the audience standing upon it.

A foghorn goes off, Jess becomes a commentator for a wrestling match the table becoming the wrestling ring, Daniel and Clodagh the competitors.

Susan manages in the end to open the door wielding an electric screwdriver which she chases the three comrades round the table with.

In the end, Jess puts music on her iplayer and initiates a bit of a dance where all, including Susan join in.

That concludes the audio description introduction to **The Lunch Punch Hour in Conference Room 4**, prepared by **Mo Harte**. Audio description and accessible performances nationwide are supported by Arts & Disability Ireland and The Arts Council. For updates about audio described and captioned performances, text **ACCESSARTS** to **51444** or head to **www.adiarts.ie** for more information.

Thank you. Go raibh maith agaibh.