

Readers Theatre for the Older Readers Shortlist 2006

- Presenter: Tonight we are so honoured to have the 6 characters from the 2006 CBD young adult short list
Let me introduce them as we get to know them
- Brian Caswell has written “Double Exposure” where we are introduced to twins, Chris and Cain. Tonight we have Cain
Hello Cain
- Cain: Hi
- Presenter: It was a pity your brother couldn’t join us tonight
- Cain: He was busy...busy with...busy with his photography tonight
- Presenter: Well thankyou for coming
Our next guest is from Barry Jonsberg’s book “It’s not all about you, Calma!” We have met Calma before in the book, “The whole business with Kiffo and the Pitbull.” So Calma, new hairdo, a complete shave for our radio audience, did you do it for the “Shave for a cure”?
- Calma: No I did it to make a poetic statement for the feministic cause.
- Presenter: Oh – sounds interesting perhaps we can follow that up a bit later.
Moving on – our next guest is James Moloney’s latest offering “Lost Property”, Josh
- Josh: Thank you for asking me. Could I take this opportunity to plug my band.....
- Presenter: (fast) No Josh , don’t want to reveal too much too soon
Our next guest is Tom, from J C Burke’s book, “The story of Tom Brennan”. Thank you for fitting us into your busy schedule
- Tom: Oh I’m not that busy, but it’s a pleasure to be here
- Presenter: I thought with the move, the new school, the new team and the court case you’d be a bit busy-
Oh but I am giving too much away, so let’s move on.
Our fifth guest is Charlie from Cath Crowley’s “Chasing Charlie Duskin.”
- Charlie: Do you really want me to be here?
- Presenter: Of Course we do – so now we are onto our last guest, Brian or Bri and he is from Bill Condon’s Book “No Worries.”
- Bri: I prefer Bri, thankyou
- Presenter: Thanks, so tonight we are going to let the characters tell you about themselves. Remember only a little bit so that you the audience are enticed to read each and every one of these titles on the shortlist this year. So first, let’s meet Cain
- Cain: You already have

Presenter No I mean so that the audience could get to know you better, so tell us something about yourself?

Cain Umm Well I work at a cinema, and I live at home and well that's all there is to me

Presenter Well no there is more, tell us a bit more about your brother

Cain Chris

Presenter Yes, Chris

Cain Well he is my twin and he is the talented one, he was identified as a prodigy at an early age, about 4 I remember being told

Josh A prodigy in what area

Cain He could draw, in fact the story is mainly about him getting his work together for an exhibition

Charlie Can you tell us something about his art

Cain Well I remember once I visited him in his studio, and I saw these great pieces of work. It was looking at the possibilities of individuals. On one side was a photo of an individual, like a drunk in the gutter, and on the other side the old man was transformed. He was no longer in the gutter, but comfortable room, dressed in a loose shirt and comfortable pants
Actually there was another photo of a young couple who were clearly in love and his painting on the right was the same couple but they have aged, with wrinkles but their eyes, their eyes remained the same, looking at each other with love.
The contrasts were shattering

Josh Sounds like you really admired your brother?

Tom Big brothers are there to be admired, that is until they blow it. Did your brother blow it?

Presenter Actually I'm going to step in here and save Cain from that question because the story in "Double Exposure" by Brian Caswell is all about appearances not being quite what they seemed....
So thank you Cain
But let's move onto Tom, you just mentioned that big brothers are meant to be admired – can you tell us a bit more?

Tom Well, I play, I played Rugby with my brother, Daniel, and he was great. But then he blew it?

Josh How did he blow it?

Tom He started drinking

Josh Yeah that can be a problem

Tom Yeah but not only did he start drinking, but after a party, not that it was a great party, he drove and had a very bad accident

Calma How bad?

Tom Two dead, and my cousin Fin a paraplegic

Charlie So what happened then?

Tom What do you think? Our lives were destroyed because of my brother's stupid action

Calma How could your life be destroyed, you weren't in the car, and he walked out alive?

Tom How little do you know?....
We had to move town, and had to move in with my Grandma, Mum wasn't coping and Daniel had to go to gaol, I had to go to a new school and make new friends and lose my old friends. It was hard!

Presenter I think you have simplified it a bit much – Tom is a rugby star, but he seems unaware of his ability, and yes the family were victims of Daniel's accident. The book "The Story of Tom Brennan" by JC Burke is the twelve month journey after the accident; a journey of growing up, of changing, of becoming the person you were meant to be away from the shadow of another.

Calma What about me?

Presenter It's not all about you, Calma!
Josh, you had a problem with a brother too

Josh I wouldn't call it a problem. Life was okay, until Michael rang

Presenter Why did Michael ring? Couldn't he just drop in?

Josh Michael ran away two years ago; Michael was drinking too – in fact he nearly killed himself from over drinking, but it wasn't the drinking, Michael just wanted to buck Dad's authority – and so he ran away

Charlie Two years that's a long time so at least he is calling you, you must know where he is

Josh No, we don't, and the phone calls are hell because he'll only speak to me

Calma Tell us what happens and then we can get onto me

Josh Thanks! – I had this job in "Lost Property" at City Rail and I found a photo with Michael and I thought I could go and get him and bring him back, and fix my family

Charlie Did it

Josh I found Michael, but it wasn't like I thought it would be but...

Presenter I can hear Josh's hesitation and I agree to go further would destroy the anticipation built up in the book. Read James Moloney's "Lost Property" and find out what Josh found in "Lost Property"

Calma Me now?

Presenter No I want to talk to Charlie first

Charlie Oh that's fine – do Calma now, she is so eager

Calma So my story....

Presenter (Interrupting) Calma, please remember It's not all about you!

Calma But this part is, and I've been patient
My story is about me and the Fridge, my best friend Vanessa and Jason my boyfriend

Presenter Who is the Fridge?

Calma My mum

Presenter That's a bit rude

Calma No, it's a joke Joyce! I never see my Mum because of her work and we communicate by leaving notes on the fridge, so I felt I had a better relationship with the fridge.

Charlie You should value your Mum

Calma I do, but honestly she is never there when I need her, she is always working and sometimes I want her when I want her

Charlie Consider yourself lucky, at least you have her sometimes

Calma You talk as if your mother is dead

Charlie She is!

Calma Ohh!
Well this is my story now –
I'm in year 11, and I found a boy I could lust over and so I got a job so I could work with him and get to know him. It worked and Jason and I became an item; he might call it just friendship but I'll call it based on its potential
Something is going on with Mum, she is missing work and not telling me why, but I'm working it out, and I'm sure it involves a man
And Vanessa is behaving strangely, and I've worked out that it has to do with her father, and I am sure he is not being very fatherly
Talking about fathers, mine has turned up like a bad penny and if he thinks I am going to forgive him so he can get back with Mum well he is in for a surprise

Presenter You seem so sure about what is going on in everyone's life

Calma I know exactly what's going on

Presenter Read "It's not all about you, Calma" by Barry Jonsberg and discover that things are not what they seem to be for Calma, and watch Calma cope with the shock of being wrong.

Calma Me wrong that'll be the day

Presenter Enough Calma. Bri you have been very quiet

Bri I'm really tired, just coping with the new job. I do the graveyard shift a the milk factory

Presenter Why that job?

Bri I'd had enough of school and decided to give it a miss, but Mum said that I had to have a job. SO I got this one.

Presenter Do you like it?

Bri It's a job

Presenter Tell us a bit more about your story?

Bri My story is pretty simple. I work, I sleep, I actually fall in love, though I not sure if she loves me, and I cope with my parents

Presenter Your parents?

Bri Yeah Dad in the shed and Mum in the house

Presenter What? Dad spends a lot of time in the shed?

Bri No he lives in the shed. Mum and Dad are divorced but dad could not afford to leave, so he moved into the shed. It's pretty good: lounge TV a fridge

Presenter Tell us about Mum?

Bri Mum is a bot temperamental, well maybe a bit more than a bit

Presenter Bri is a normal 17year old, except it slowly comes to the readers attention that his mother is more than temperamental, and her depression is diagnosed as being very serious. Read Bill Condon's book "No Worries", and discover how he copes with a difficult life

Our last character is Charlie, a very patient young lady. Tell us your story?

Charlie I went to a pool party and the worst thing happened. I dived into the water and my bikini top blasted off. Now normally I am invisible but I knew that without my top I would be a neon sign – I did all I could, carefully times my getting out of the pool and I succeeded, surprisingly, but....
my towel was missing and just then my worst enemy, Louise Spatula saw me and said, "Oh my god, Charlie your boobs are hanging out." You could imagine the effect of saying the word Boob in front of 17year old boys

Presenter Charlie, this is only one incident in your life

Charlie Yeah but it's me I'm a disaster. I've even lost my mum

Presenter Charlie's story is about gaining confidence, gaining friends and finding out who you really are.
Read "Discovering Charlie Duskin" by Cath Crowley

These characters are from the 2006 CBC Young Adult shortlist. Let me go through the list again

Cain from "Double Exposure" by Brian Caswell

Tom from "The story of Tom Brennan" by JC Burke

Josh from Lost Property by James Moloney

Calma from "It's not all about you, Calma" by Barry Jonsberg

Bri from "No Worries" by Bill Condon

Charlie from "Discovering Charlie Duskin" by Cath Crowley

So thank you and remember "Book Now"

By Margaret Redrup-May 2006