

Lee Simpson from improbable came in for a day to work with us on the show. He gave us a technique to shake things up. Sometimes we talk too much and this can get in the way of the story. We call this 'talking jags'. Lee suggested sometimes we come on - ask for a special spot light in a gesture to the lighting box and do a silent scene. In *The Unseen* what was the meaning of the old man on a porch with a gun?, in *The Stone Man* who was the increasingly desperate hallucinating Sherpa in Nepal? *The Riding Weekend's* patriarch sat crying in his study - what was his dark secret? Pablo is running terrified in *The Paranoid Man*, Hector sits nervously in his hut in *Mud* (see our Classical book) and in *The Forgotten One* an alien is full of longing. I loved the silent characters because they bring lots of possibilities and often later on those characters ended up having an important role in the story.

Alex Murchioch, Artistic Director, Cartoon de Salvo

The Unseen

The Stone Man

The Riding Weekend

The Forgotten One



## Hard Hearted Hannah: Silent Characters

Cartoon de Salvo

Hard Hearted Hannah:  
Silent Characters

Moffat insists that Jean-Claude be wheeled in, and subjects him to further memory tests. Jean-Claude's memory is jogged by pictures of a race horse. He is able to remember its name: Fancy Dan. Then he faints with the effort of it all. Evelyn and her butler McLean welcome Timothy to Fortescue Manor. Timothy and Evelyn talk. Evelyn asks whether Timothy is still sore about the fact that their relationship didn't work out. There is a certain tension between them. Evelyn asks Timothy if he can speak to her father, Major Fortescue. He's been behaving strangely, cooped up in the upstairs study with his albums. Gordon and his family arrive in a whirlwind of irritable energy. Jean-Claude has written a song to express how he feels about Sandra - and has summoned an entertaining three-piece band to play it for him. [You Sexy Thing] He vows that, when he is a whole man again, he will deliver on his amorous advances towards Sandra.

not explain his relationship with the Major - for now.

The guests are assembled, and the dinner table is set for the welcome meal to the riding weekend. The whole company gather around the dinner table: Evelyn and the Major; Timothy; Gordon, Annabel, Tabitha and Emmanuel; and Jean-Claude. McLean busies himself, as do several other members of the staff. Evelyn welcomes everybody. Jean-Claude stands and explains himself. He grew up as a Frenchman, until recently his mother told him that his real father was an English aristocrat and major in the army during WWII. Jean-Claude's mother contacted and confronted the Major with this, 3 years ago, since when Fortescue has fretted over how to respond. Now he has decided that Jean-Claude should be heir to Fortescue Manor. And the Frenchman has arrived to claim his inheritance. Evelyn is stunned and flounces out. A pall is cast over the party.

Timothy and Evelyn discuss this. She will not countenance losing the house. She is furious. Timothy tells her that, if she ends up penniless and without an inheritance, there is still plenty he can offer her. [Diamond Ring] But Evelyn is determined to activate a fiendish plan: Jean-Claude is to ride Stirrup at the horse-race the following day. Stirrup is notoriously violent with strange riders. Evelyn hopes Jean-Claude will be thrown, hurt - or killed? If Timothy comes in on the plan, she promises he will one day be Lord Fortescue.

A fanfare. The morning of the race, and Evelyn grooms Fancy Dan. The Major can't find his heart pills. He ransacks his room, to no avail. Timothy shows Jean-Claude his steed, Stirrup - whom the Frenchman is convinced he can ride well. Evelyn declares that Timothy on Fancy Dan shall race her new half-brother Jean-Claude, on Stirrup. Jean-Claude prepares his horse, thanking McLean for the saddle - a tradition in France known as 'the merci seat' - and mounts. He tells the Major how proud he is to be part of the family.

Major Fortescue is again in his study. Timothy enters and asks him what's wrong. They discuss the failure of Timothy's relationship with Evelyn, which the Major apparently vetoed. The Major lashes out, says the manor is drowning in moral turpitude. He alludes to an incident with a French woman 3 years ago, which Timothy wants more information about. Timothy spots the Major's pills for heart disease, which the Major tries to play down. Evelyn summons them downstairs for dinner.

Evelyn and Timothy discuss the latter's chat with the Major, and Timothy announces that her father is an ill man. She gets sentimental about Fortescue Manor, saying that, even if daddy dies, at least she'll have this splendid family inheritance. The doorbell rings. A Frenchman, Jean-Claude Parquin, tells them that he has been invited to the riding weekend by the Major. Evelyn admits him. Jean-Claude will

## Cartoon de Salvo

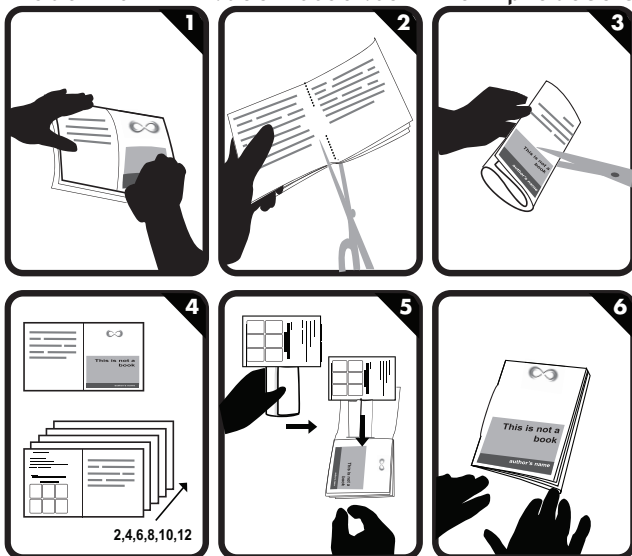
### Hard Hearted Hannah: Silent Characters

#### Cartoon de Salvo

Cartoon de Salvo (Neil Haigh, Brian Logan & Alex Murdoch) improvised each of these stories in front of a live audience, over 2008-09, in this book Brian Logan retold the tales & Alex

2011-03-22

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2,4,6,8,10,12

3  
We see an old man on a rocking chair, handling a big gun.  
her.  
hears her, smells her, sometimes feels her - but never sees  
drunk, and Reg tells Bob that he still hears Mary's voice -  
Later that night, Reg and Bob arrive at Reg's house, a bit  
eyes her lasciviously.  
Cindy sits alone in Travis's bar, looking glamorous while Travis  
since Mary died.  
and Reg says that he's bearing up - but it's been difficult  
come. Bob has been out of town. Bob asks how Reg is doing,  
Reg has invited Bob bowling. He is grateful to Bob for having

An unnamed old man in a rocking chair  
Mary, Reg's dead wife  
Cindy, a 'two-bit hooker'  
Travis, a bartender  
Bob, his friend  
Reg Simpson, a bereaved husband

#### Characters

Brian starts, with Neil, in an American bowling alley

*Song: Weary Blues*

Northern Stage, Sat 16 Feb, 2008

### The Unseen

Hard Hearted Hannah and Other Stories is created by  
Cartoon de Salvo.

Co-commissioned by Farnham Maltings and the Lyric,  
Hammersmith

Performers - Neil Haigh, Brian Logan and Alex Murdoch

Design - Rebecca Hurst

Musical Direction - Paul Kissaun

Production Management - Naomi Pirie

Cartoon de Salvo are of the few companies in the UK working  
with whole story, rather than sketch-based improvisation  
formats. Read more about the artistic process on their blogs  
at [www.theatrevoice.com](http://www.theatrevoice.com) and visit [www.cartoondesalvo.com](http://www.cartoondesalvo.com)

The Salvo's are produced by Ed Collier, who can be contacted  
on [ed@cartoondesalvo.com](mailto:ed@cartoondesalvo.com)

*You leave in awe of the human imagination and feeling like  
you've been to the best party in town. Magic*

The Daily Telegraph, Top Ten Comedy Shows 2008

*Like Tales of the Unexpected on Acid*

Audience member, Icklesham, Kent



Bob visits Cindy, and we realise that they have been sleeping together, behind Bob's wife's back. Bob asks Cindy to look after Reg.

Cindy visits Reg and tries to comfort him the only way she knows how - but Reg is becoming increasingly haunted by visitations from Mary and isn't interested in Cindy.

The old man in the rocking chair plants a rose.

Reg begs Bob for help - what does Mary want? Why is she haunting him? Who killed her? Bob was there when Mary died, but her killer was never found. All that was left at the crime scene was a rocking chair, a gun and a single rose.

We flash back in time: Mary and Bob are in the car together and they are having an affair. Mary gets petrol and calls Reg. Bob leaves her for a moment, and when he is gone, the old man appears. He is the father of Bob's wife and he is seeking vengeance for his daughter's betrayal. He shoots Mary.

Cindy is spilling the beans to Reg about Bob's philandering. Then she begins to tell him about another woman Bob once loved...

At the bowling alley, Reg demands to know if Bob and Mary had an affair. They go back to Reg's house and Reg reluctantly pulls a gun on Bob. It's the only way, he thinks, to stop the voices. But now Mary speaks again, and both Reg and Bob can hear her. 'Come to bed,' she says. Reg goes upstairs. Bob throws the gun out of the window.



is running low on fuel. They undertake a forced landing, aiming for an abandoned railyard on America's eastern seaboard. Dave, Phil, Yuri and Crayon buckle up and burst through the stratosphere towards Earth's surface.

Jesse has heard an enormous crashing sound from outside his boxcar. He is edgy. He tells Jennifer to stay back as he checks outside the train carriage.

Phil leaves the space shuttle to alert the authorities. He tells Crayon to stay put, blinking in wonder at the planet Earth.

Jesse sees Crayon, and recoils in horror. Crayon tries to communicate with him. Jesse plies him full of bullets. Crayon twists to the ground and dies. Dave emerges from the shuttle to witness the carnage. Jessica sees Jesse, gun in hand. Jessica and her father reunite. Phil cradles the dead Crayon in his arms. They accuse Jesse. Jesse says he thought Crayon was 'a monster.' He tosses his gun on the ground in regret and leaves. The astronauts and Jessica look sadly at Crayon's body - broken symbol of interstellar peace. Phil remarks of Jesse that those kind of men always run. [New Delhi Freight Train]

simulate stopping the passage of time, thereby confusing the time-ignorant aliens. They will then commandeer the craft. The aliens approach, and Phil and Dave freeze. The aliens inspect their petrified shapes in confusion...

Beverley and Jennifer are in their car, and notice Jesse by the roadside. Beverley stops and winds down the window. She apologises for being rude the other day. Jesse invites Jennifer on a date, to come visit him in the boxcar of the freight train on which he recently rode into town. After he goes, Beverley agonises. She doesn't want to be like Dave's mother, who drove him into a dangerous life by being over-protective. But nor is she happy to let Jennifer fraternise with men like Jesse.

Dave and Phil have succeeded in bamboozling the aliens. Now they dash to the console of the alien vessel, and attempt to pilot it to safety. (Yuri can pilot the international Pace home himself...) But the two astronauts are apprehended at the controls by the leader of the aliens. He has researched their mission, and approves of its peaceful symbolism. He now offers to ferry the astronauts safely home, with the aliens' blessing, as a symbol of interstellar harmony. Crayon asks if he alone can escort Dave and Phil back to their shuttle. At the moment of parting, Dave invites Crayon to come with them back to Earth.

Jessica is with Jesse in his boxcar. They talk. Jesse asks Jennifer if she ever knew anyone who killed a man. Jesse says he can't help himself. He has an itchy trigger-finger and he sometimes gets himself into trouble. Reckons he'll stay in town until he gets himself in trouble again - and maybe Jennifer might like to be his girl until he does. Jesse hears the voice of the man he killed down south, telling him maybe it's time to stop running. He and Jennifer kiss.

Dave is at the controls of the shuttle, and realises the craft

Himalayas. The third trekker, a jaunty Geordie called Geoff, joins them. He is an amateur participant on the trip, and is wary of the danger and of Nelson's poor condition.

Sherpa Ninesing, the latest in a long line of sherpas, discusses the imminent arrival of the English party with his apprentice. He will lead the expedition - but reluctantly, because the mountain in question is haunted by an ancient curse, which claimed - among others - Ninesing's own father, Eighting.

The struggling mountaineer shoots a snow leopard.

The three mountaineers arrive in Nepal. They hit the hotel bar. Geoff and Jennings discuss Nelson. Geoff has googled him, and reports that he is known as 'the Stone Man,' because he is impervious to danger in his dogged pursuit of the mountain peaks.

Nelson is Ninesing discuss the trip, and Ninesing issues his warnings.

Part-way up the mountain, the expedition pitches tent for the night. In the distance, they can see the peak on which Ninesing's father perished.

The struggling mountaineer is out of food and lost on the mountainside. As his hopes fade, we hear No One Knows I'm Gone. He withdraws his gun and considers shooting himself. Ninesing wakes from a troubled sleep: he has been dreaming of his father's final moments, lost in the snows.

Jennings is drunk and gibbering. Geoff slaps sense into him; Jennings punches him back. Geoff tells Jennings to shape up; Nelson is not as strong as he once was and will need their help.

Ninesing elaborates on the curse that cling to the mountain, and tells Nelson of his many forbears - Eighting, Sevensing,

## The Stone Man

Melmerby Village Hall, Saturday 15 March, 2008

*Songs: No One Knows I'm Gone & The Mercy Seat*

Brian starts, as a doctor examining his patient

### Characters

Nelson, a mountaineer

His doctor

Jennings, his fellow mountaineer

Geoff, their companion

Sherpa Ninesing

Ninesing's father

The Sherpa's apprentice

A British bar-wench

A Nepalese barman

The doctor concludes his examination of Nelson. Nelson is pronounced OK, but the doctor warns him that his mountaineering days really ought to be over - and perhaps he should cancel his forthcoming trip. Nelson already has a pronounced limp.

We see a mountaineer struggling on a wind- and snow-swept mountainside.

Nelson and his posh, bibulous companion, Jennings spread a map over their pub table, and plot their route up the



An astronaut is at the controls of his craft. He radios to his colleague Phil, who comes to the bridge. Dave asks how many days till they make it back to Earth. One hundred, says Phil. With their Russian colleague Yuri, they are on the return leg of the space mission International Peace, a trip to the stars to symbolise global harmony.

An alien covers alone, waiting plangently.

Dave's wife Beverley and daughter Jennifer are glued to the TV for news of the space mission. A patriotic message from Dave is beamed to America, in which he singles out his wife and child with loving words. After the broadcast, Beverley and Jennifer discuss a trip to the pizza parlour.

Dave is at the shuttle controls when he sees something drifting towards the craft. Another vessel, resembling a large white billiard ball. He summons Phil. They hear a wailing coming from the object. As per protocol, Phil tries to send Morse code. They detect radiation. Dave proposes trying to reach the unidentified object.

Characters

Dave Mason, an American astronaut  
 Phil, an English astronaut  
 Yuri, a Russian astronaut  
 Crayon & Inky, aliens  
 The leader of the aliens  
 Beverley, Dave's wife  
 Jennifer, Dave's daughter  
 Jesse, a drifter

The alien wails plaintively. [No One Knows I'm Gone]

Dave spacewalks over to the unidentified object, tethered to the International Peace by rope. He maintains radio contact with Phil. He finds an entry hatch to the billiard ball, and enters. Inside, he loses contact with Phil. He meets the wailing alien and tries to communicate with it. Unknown to Dave, a second alien is approaching him from behind. Dave is scared - but the second alien touches its hand to Dave's head, and absorbs from him the means to communicate in English. You have strayed to close to our invisible planet, they say. You now know too much, they say. And so you must never be allowed to leave.

Phil radios to Earth to tell them contact has been lost with Dave. High Command on Earth instructs him to forget Dave. The International Peace mission must return on time and as planned, or its cause will be made to seem a laughing stock. After the call, Phil decides to flout his beloved protocol, and attempt to rescue Dave. He puts a grudging Yuri in charge of the shuttle, and puts on his spacesuit.

Back on Earth, a stranger named Jesse interrupts Jennifer as she sits guzzling in the pizza parlour. He thinks she's cute. He is mysterious about himself, but tells her he's come up from down south. Jennifer is taken with the grizzled ramblin' man. But then her mother Beverley appears and shoos the stranger away.

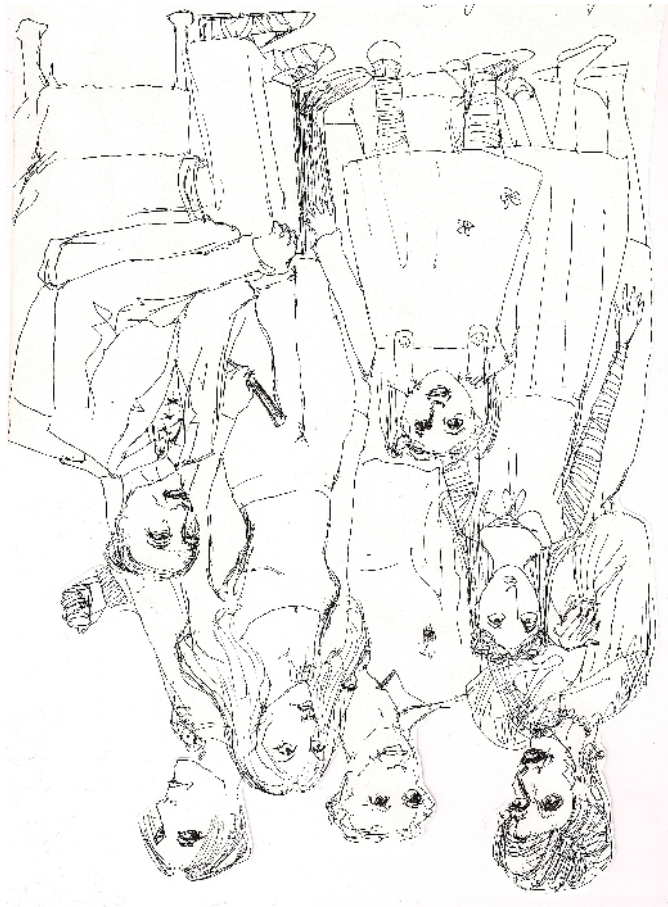
Dave has been probed and inspected by the aliens. He asks for some time to recover - but they seem quizzical. The concept of time is, ahem, alien to them. Left alone, Dave remembers the words of his mother: stay safe, don't take risks. She had discouraged him from an interstellar career. [Mama Told Me Not to Come] Suddenly Dave receives radio contact from Phil. Phil steals aboard the aliens' vessel, and is reunited with Dave. They devise a scheme in which they will



Fivesing (but not Sixsing - he was fine) - who died on their expeditions.

The struggling mountaineer hears ghostly voices on the mountainside. 'Why have you come here?' Hungry, fatigued and tormented by fear, he blows his brains out. Ninesing wakes up sharply and in shock. It is the day of the final ascent. Precariously, the quartet inch their way around a snowy outcrop. Nelson leads the way, towards a cave in the mountainside. Behind him, Jennings stumbles and falls to his death.

Nelson enters the cave. 'Why are you here?' whisper the satanic voices. Geoff enters behind him. They are in a cathedral of ice. Ninesing enters and tells them Jennings is dead. He sees the ghost of his father. Nelson has deceived them about the expedition. He has come here for this - an ice cathedral created by an ancient Stone Age civilization of which he may be the final descendant. Only by fulfilling the prophecy laid down by his ancestors can he, the Stone Man, relieve the mountain of its curse. Ninesing produces a venerable book, and recites the ritual which Nelson must undertake. It culminates with Nelson sitting in a chair of ice, 'the mercy seat', where he must remain for ever, to be incorporated into the frozen palace. Nelson bids farewell to the Sherpa, to Geoff - and to life. Released from the curse, Ninesing can now dare to dream of great achievements by his promising young sherpa son, Tensing.



The two racers race. They vault three jumps, neck-in-neck, but Jean-Claude is losing control of Stirrup. As they reach the scramble down the cliff-face that marks the end of the track, Jean-Claude is pitched headlong down the precipice. He falls, and crashes to the earth below.

Sandra wheels Jean-Claude back to the top of the cliff. They are on the Fortescue estate. Jean-Claude's memory swims back to him. But why is the house empty? Where are his family? Sandra fills in the details. Evelyn and Timothy were accused of murdering the Major by removing his heart pills. McLean is believed to have told the police about the crime. Perhaps Timothy wished to secure their inheritance. Evelyn fled to the Far East. Timothy was committed to a psychiatric institution, where he died, calling for Evelyn, believing himself on death row. Dr Moffat appears, and gives Jean-Claude a melodica.

[The Mercy Seat] Timothy goes mad in a psychiatric institution.

Jean-Claude rises from his wheelchair. With his memory, his strength has returned. He edges towards Sandra, telling her that he is now more than half a man... Three quarters of a man... A whole man. It is time to fulfil his promise. They embrace.

## The Forgotten One

Lyric Hammersmith, Tue 20 May, 2008

*Songs: No One Knows I'm Gone, Mama Told Me Not to Come & New Delhi Freight Train*

Brian starts, as an astronaut on board his shuttle

11  
Moffat of inadequate treatment of the mysterious patient. Dr  
he showed Jean-Claude on the slide. Sandra accuses Dr  
Sandra demands to know of Dr Moffat which country house  
rage, he casts it away from him.  
The old man continues leafing through his album. In a fit of  
weekend trip to Fortescue Manor.  
gets his spoilt little brats together and embarks on the  
His wife Annabel is waiting in the car, impatiently, as Gordon  
on the weekend in question.  
own mare, Stirrup, and vows to show Evelyn a thing or two  
forthcoming riding weekend. Elsewhere, Timothy rides his  
whispers to him that he will be the prize horse at the  
Evelyn Fortescue is grooming her new steed, Fancy Dan. She  
to find out which country house it was.  
of a country house - jogged a distant memory. He asks Sandra  
Jean-Claude says one of the images Dr Moffat showed him -  
Sandra reminds him. Their relationship is a bit flirtatious.  
Claude's arrival. There had been some sort of accident,  
convalescent home. They discuss the circumstances of Jean-  
Sandra is walking Jean-Claude in the grounds of the  
using a spyglass to peer at something in its pages.  
An old man sits in his dingy study leafing through an album,  
Fortescue Manor.  
Timothy again at the forthcoming riding weekend at  
the squash game. Gordon leaves the court, promising to see  
Gordon's loud little daughter, Tabitha, appears and sabotages  
life: Gordon's joyless family life; Timothy's singleness.  
Timothy and Gordon start playing squash. They chat about  
attends.  
tests, shows him slides. Jean-Claude's nurse, Sandra,  
wheelchair. Dr Moffat runs him through some simple memory  
arrived at this hospital, and why he is weak and in a

## The Riding Weekend

Bishop Greaves Theatre, Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln,  
Wed 23 April, 2008

*Songs: You Sexy Thing, Diamond Ring & The Mercy Seat*

Brian starts, as an amnesiac Frenchman in a wheelchair

### Characters

Jean-Claude Parquin, an amnesiac

Dr Moffat, his doctor

Sandra, his nurse

Timothy Talbot, a squash player

Gordon, his opponent

Evelyn Fortescue, an heiress

Major Philip Fortescue, an aristocrat

McLean, their butler

Annabel, Gordon's wife

Tabitha & Emmanuel, Gordon's children

Staff at Fortescue Manor

Fancy Dan & Stirrup, horses

A French man sits in his wheelchair, struggling to remember.  
He calls his doctor, to say that he felt a fleeting flash of  
memory. But he still has no clear idea of who he is, how he