

# ICON

The background of the entire page is a photograph showing the silhouettes of two people against a bright, golden sunset sky. On the left, a woman stands with her back to the camera, her right arm extended and pointing towards the horizon. On the right, a man wearing a cap stands with his back to the camera, looking in the same direction as the woman. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong glow and casting long shadows.

## Sheppey Shadows

**Programme**

**SHEERNESS-ON-SEA**  
JUNE 2022

**“I have never  
been so  
excited!”**

**Young Artist,  
Queenborough School and Nursery**

## Note from Icon Theatre

by Sarah Chiswell-Hornett  
Head of Programme - Theatre31

This ambitious project has been wonderful to watch unfold. Week by week *Sheppey Shadows* has given a platform to the voices of young artists as they discovered and reimagined local stories and their Isle of Sheppey. It has been a unique opportunity for young people to co-create with award-winning playwright, Fin Kennedy of Applied Stories. Guided by Fin, young people from Minster-In-Sheppey Primary, Queenborough School and Nursery and our own Theatre31 Youth Theatre (Sheppey) have been introduced to the world of audio drama. They've learnt how to create plot, characters and dialogue in fun and collaborative ways. Teachers have also joined the workshops, and the skills shared in theatre-making and storytelling can be used time and again in the classroom and beyond.

At the heart of everything Icon Theatre does, is communities and professional artists collaborating as equal partners. This project has been a true co-creation and a brilliant example of how theatre can authentically champion the voice of young people. So thank you Fin, thank you teachers, a huge thank you to the Let's Create Jubilee Fund and Kent Community Foundation that have made this project possible, and most of all thank you to the brilliant young people who have imagined this mighty play. I am so proud of everything that has been achieved and that ultimately a team of young artists, collaborating with the super talented Fin Kennedy and professional theatre-makers, have beautifully crafted their own world inspired by their hometown.

**"It has been amazing to see the confidence  
grow each week in the children."**

**Teacher, Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School**

**"It was very different, and I loved  
EVERY moment"**

**Theatre31 Youth Theatre Member**

## Note from Applied Stories by Fin Kennedy

*Sheppey Shadows* was one of the first projects undertaken as my new company, Applied Stories, which is still in its first year.

Although I am an experienced playwright, that's an analogue art form these days! Applied Stories is a digital production company specialising in place-based audio drama, with an emphasis on community co-creation and social impact. This is something I'd always done in my theatre work, and wanted to expand into audio, not least because unlike theatre, audio is so much more portable, and affordable. Plus, as you'll see, the imaginative possibilities are unlimited!

I'd done similar things to *Sheppey Shadows* in the past, but never all in one project. I'd been piecing together the elements for something like this in my mind for some time. So when Sarah and I first spoke on the phone about it, I had some idea of how it would work. Nevertheless, she was brave to take a punt on the idea, which is an entirely new and untested format. It was also the first time I'd worked in primary schools (after many years in secondary schools).

I'm glad to say Sarah's gamble paid off! Not least because she was such a supportive collaborator herself, skilfully looking over my session plans and offering notes, while co-facilitating alongside me with all her years of experience. It's true to say I couldn't have done it without her, and indeed the wider Icon team at the Theatre31 youth theatre, and the wonderful teachers who welcomed us so warmly into their schools.

The play we have ended up with is truly one of a kind! Stitched together from many fragments from our imaginative sessions, all the characters and events in *Sheppey Shadows* were created by young people local to the island. All I did was give their ideas shape, and a professional polish. All but two of the voices you'll hear are of these young people, the two being some professional actors we brought in for the adult parts, who performed with real joy alongside our young cast, in a makeshift recording booth made of tables and duvets (seriously). Our brilliant director Ellie took it all in her stride, drawing lovely performances from everyone, and even contributing a duvet.

So thank you to Icon Theatre, and to Sheppey, for being the testing ground for a whole new type of creative project, and for trusting me to be able to deliver it! I hope there will be more where this came from... keep an eye on [appliedstories.co.uk](http://appliedstories.co.uk)

Finally, one other reason I love audio drama is that it lives on. The sound file we are sharing with you today will stay online for anyone to listen to for free, for you to recommend to friends and relatives, and for listening parties like today's and also in future, particularly in our schools.

I hope it captures a fun snapshot of Sheppey, and the brilliant imaginations of its young people. Long may they continue.



# Sheppey Shadows

**A new community audio drama**  
by Fin Kennedy

Co-created with Queenborough School and Nursery, Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School and Icon Theatre's Theatre31 Youth Theatre (Sheppey).

**DETECTIVE CLARSSON / OLD MAN / BOBBY / ALBERT PICKLE**  
**AGENT PEELY / MARJORIE / ALEXA**  
**GERALD**  
**JIMMY**  
**VANESSA**  
**TIFFANY**  
**MIDKU**  
**TIANA**  
**ALFIE**  
**LO**  
**LA**

**Daniel Copeland**  
**Phoebe Ladenburg**  
**Steve Wickenden**  
**Remi Kennedy**  
**Gracie Doddimeade**  
**Demi-Leigh Collier-Kettle**  
**George Price**  
**Nataliya Cummings-Armstrong**  
**Roman Lock**  
**Violet Caddell**  
**Summer Oosthuizen**

**Director**  
**Sound design and production**

**Ellie Jones**  
**Fin Kennedy**

*Sheppey Shadows* was an Applied Stories project, commissioned by Icon Theatre.

Co-created with Queenborough School and Nursery, Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School and Icon Theatre's Theatre31 Youth Theatre (Sheppey).

Funded by the Let's Create Jubilee Fund, made possible thanks to National Lottery players and administered by UK Community Foundations on behalf of the Arts Council.

Theatre31 is funded by Arts Council England in partnership with Medway Council, Kent County Council & ROH Bridge, with support from the Medway and Sheppey LCEPs (Local Cultural Education Partnerships).

## Synopsis

It was an ordinary week on the usually sleepy Isle of Sheppey... until the shadows appeared.

These mysterious jet-black apparitions swooped low across the marshes, menacing towns, frightening children, stalling cars and causing the disappearance of at least one local resident. The local police and coastguard are mystified. Time for the Sheppey Sheriffs to investigate!

Led by local private eye Detective Clarsson, the Sheppey Sheriffs are a secret order of protectors of this ancient Isle. To the untrained eye they look like ordinary children. But each of them is bestowed with a unique skill, acquired from a magic potion brewed by the mysterious Jimmy, a 4-year-old enigma with his own lab.

The Sheppey Sheriffs fan out to conduct their enquiries... Little do they know, their investigation will lead them to uncover an ancient secret, and a grave danger.

## **Scene 1**

*JIMMY speaks to us as a voiceover.*

JIMMY                    This is a story about shadows  
But not just any shadows  
This is a story about monster shadows  
Huge ones  
Like jet black sheets  
Which swooped down across a small island off Kent  
A mysterious marsh called the Isle of Sheppey  
Blanketing the place in darkness.  
But here's the strangest part,  
Even though the air cooled  
And the sky went black,  
There was nothing there...  
Nothing and no-one was casting them.

When car engines stopped  
And windows smashed  
The people on the island got scared.  
They knew something had to be done.

That's where I come in  
I'm Jimmy  
And even though I'm only four  
I can do magic.  
I make potions  
In my secret lab  
Magic potions  
Potions which can give ordinary children  
Special powers.

These are the Sheppey Sheriffs  
A secret order of guardians  
Protectors of this island  
And my own private guinea pigs  
For my experiments.

This is a story  
About how the Sheppey Sheriffs  
Solved the mystery  
Of the Sheppey Shadows.

Listen carefully...  
Because this could happen to YOU.

## **Scene 2**

*A radio news report, BBC style.*

REPORTER 1            The usually sleepy Isle of Sheppey in Kent was plunged into crisis this week after a series of sightings of mysterious large shadows across the island.

The shadows, which appeared to take a variety of shifting shapes, caused widespread traffic chaos as they passed across the island last Tuesday. Cars on the Sheppey Crossing A249 reported windows blown out and radio malfunctions coinciding with the sightings.

Most strange of all, none of the shadows appeared to be cast by any object, despite moving at speed and at times appearing to chase people.

In the days since, residents of Sheerness reported several further sightings, with the shadows appearing to cluster just off the coast in the Thames Estuary.

Local police and coastguard were at a loss to explain the sightings and what had caused the apparitions, suggesting a freak local weather phenomenon could be to blame.

The Met Office were unavailable for comment.

*The report fades into the background as it plays on the radio in DETECTIVE CLARSSON'S office.*

ANCHOR                Thanks Samira. And now it's time for the weather, with Rusty McCluskey.

RUSTY                    Thanks Fernando. It's a dark day across the Island today as the infestation of shadows continues to block the sunlight we'd normally be seeing around this time of year. Areas around Sheerness, across to Warden and down to Harty in the south will be several degrees cooler than expected for the time of year, as the unexplained shadow phenomenon continues to prevent the start of spring...

*The news report fades into the background.*

### **Scene 3**

*DETECTIVE CLARSSON and AGENT PEELY are in their office in Queenborough, listening to the end of the radio news report about the shadows.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Agent Healy!

AGENT PEELY Yes sir, Detective Clarsson, sir!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON This shadow infestation has gone on long enough. People are going spare! And as usual, the police aren't any use. Only this morning this big black cloud hovered over my car. The engine wouldn't start until it had left. Though that's probably just as well given that I can't drive. But it made my mum late for work.

AGENT PEELY Sorry to hear that, sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Have you had any trouble with these shadows?

AGENT PEELY No sir, bananas aren't affected by shadows.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Oh for goodness sake How many times? You are not a banana.

AGENT PEELY Yes sir, I am sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON No you're not.

AGENT PEELY A talking one - Agent Peely.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON No you're not, you're a 13-year old girl called Barbara, Barbara Healy.

AGENT PEELY It's Banana Peely.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Barbara.

AGENT PEELY Banana.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Healy.

AGENT PEELY Peely.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Agent Peely - is a character from a game. Look I'll show you.

AGENT PEELY Appearances can be deceptive. Look at you.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON That's just the effect of Jimmy's potion.

AGENT PEELY You look like a grown man!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Yes, but you saw me before, I was eight years old.

AGENT PEELY And now you're not.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I am on the inside. I just look like this.

AGENT PEELY Yes, and I look like a banana.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON No you don't.

AGENT PEELY Are you hungry?

DETECTIVE CLARSSON What? No.

AGENT PEELY Because I'd make a delicious, healthy snack.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Stop trying to get me to eat you.

AGENT PEELY But that's the only reason I'm here.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON You're here to help me crack this case.

AGENT PEELY Don't leave me too long. I'll go brown in a few days.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Look - here's a picture of the real Agent Peely.

AGENT PEELY He looks nothing like me.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Exactly.

AGENT PEELY He's a talking banana. I'm a real one.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Oh for the love of... I'm going to get Jimmy. Jimmy!

*CLARSSON opens a door to a science lab, where JIMMY is working on his potions, which bubble away in the background.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Jimmy.

JIMMY Yes, sir?

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Step out of the lab for a moment would you.

JIMMY Certainly sir.

*JIMMY comes through.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON You know how much we all admire your work. Despite your tender age you're a scientific genius.

JIMMY Thank you, sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Sheppey is lucky to have you. Without your potions the Sheppey Sheriffs would be utterly defenceless.

JIMMY That's very kind, sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON And I'd still be a kid.

AGENT PEELY You'd have to go to school.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I would. And then where would Sheppey be? Its top sleuth would be gone, with no-one to solve its mysteries.

JIMMY Am I getting a raise, sir?

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I'm afraid not.

JIMMY Because I've run out of sweets back there.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I'm sorry Jimmy, but there's a problem with Agent Peely - Healy.

JIMMY What's wrong with her?

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Ever since she had her potion -

AGENT PEELY You turned me into a banana.

JIMMY You don't look like a banana.

AGENT PEELY Try peeling me.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON You see? She used to be my best sleuth. Now she's convinced she's a piece of fruit. All she does is sit on top of that bowl all day.

AGENT PEELY I don't understand why it doesn't fit.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Because you're not a banana!

AGENT PEELY Try putting me in a smoothie.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Jimmy, can anything be done? It's your only potion which has backfired like this. All the Sheriffs have got their powers, but Healy here has gone bananas.

AGENT PEELY Peely.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Stop it.

JIMMY Leave it with me, sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Good boy. Here's some Smarties.

JIMMY Ooh yummy.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Now back to work.

JIMMY Yes, sir.

*JIMMY goes.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Now then. We need the Sheppey Sheriffs. This shadows business calls for an emergency meeting! Peely - Healy! - sound the Sheriff siren.

AGENT PEELY Bananas can't use sirens, sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Why not?

AGENT PEELY No arms.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON *(sighs)* Do I have to do everything myself?

*CLARSSON sounds the Sheriff siren, which echoes across the island.*



#### Scene 4

##### **SHEPPEY SHERIFFS emergency meeting.**

Back in CLARSSON's office, all the Sheriffs are there: VANESSA, TIFFANY, MIDKU, TIANA, ALFIE, and LOLA (LO and LA).

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Sheppey Sheriffs atten-tion!

AGENT PEELY Sheppey Sheriffs roll call!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Thank you Agent Healy.

AGENT PEELY Peely.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Ignore her.

AGENT PEELY Vanessa? Our resident mind reader.

VANESSA All present and correct Agent Peely.

AGENT PEELY Tiffany? The island's biggest frog-spawner.

TIFFANY Here, Agent Peely.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Can everyone stop calling her that?

AGENT PEELY Midku? Our robotics expert.

MIDKU Present!

*MIDKU flexes his bionic arm.*

AGENT PEELY How's the arm?

MIDKU Brand new! It's bionic.

AGENT PEELY Telekinesis Tiana?

TIANA Present!

*An object flies across the room and smashes.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON No telekinesis in the office please.

TIANA Sorry, sir.

AGENT PEELY Alfie? Our skills thief.

ALFIE I don't steal them, I absorb them.

AGENT PEELY Are you here?

ALFIE Yes.

AGENT PEELY And finally Lola?

LO Present!

LA I'm not.

LO Yes you are, we're attached.

LA I'd rather not be.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON If you could keep the bickering to a minimum please. This is a place of work.

LO She started it.

LA She did.

LO She did.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Right! You all know why you're here. Our beautiful island is under siege! Or that's what it feels like. These shadows are everywhere, driving cars off the roads, frightening children and menacing shoppers. Something must be done. I need YOU to fan out across the island and conduct an investigation. There are lots of strange people living here. One of them must know what's going on. These shadows are thickening. Soon there'll be no daylight on Sheppey at all! Then what?

AGENT PEELY We could hold a fireworks display?

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Don't be ridiculous Peely. Eternal darkness will take more than a few catherine wheels to get rid of. Sheppey Sheriffs! You have 24 hours to crack this case.

Questions?  
 AGENT PEELY Would anyone like a banana?  
 DETECTIVE CLARSSON Shut up, Peely. Healy!  
 AGENT PEELY Yessss.

**Scene 5**

**VANESSA and the OLD MAN.**

VANESSA *(voiceover)* I knew exactly who to go and see.  
 For a while, I'd been taking food to this strange old man.  
 He lives all alone in a hut, way out on Elmley marshes.  
  
 Out there, the ground is so squelchy you can hardly walk on it.  
 But I'm small and light, so I don't sink in.  
 It's a mystery why the old man doesn't.  
  
 No-one knows why he built his hut here.  
 Maybe to get away from everyone?

*The squelchy sound of VANESSA walking across the marshes.*

I first heard about him in the local paper.  
 He used to be a headteacher called Martin.  
  
 He retired, and started writing a book  
 It was about the history of Sheppey  
 He called it Shadow Island - which has got to be a clue.  
  
 Even stranger, he never finished it  
 Because one day, he went missing!  
 His wife was in the paper  
 She seemed really sad.  
 The police went out looking for him  
 But he couldn't be found.  
  
 Then one day  
 Me and my friends were playing on the marshes,  
 And we found this old hut.  
  
 It used to be a hide for bird watchers.  
 But the roof fell in and it started to rot

So no-one goes there anymore.  
  
 I don't know how he can live there.  
 It must be so cold and lonely.  
 We recognised him from his picture in the paper.  
  
 But he didn't seem like Martin any more  
 His eyes had misted over  
 And he never says a word.  
  
 My name's Vanessa  
 And I asked Jimmy for a mind-reading potion  
 Which is lucky  
 Because it's the only way to talk to the strange old man on the marshes.  
  
 Mum had made some shepherd's pie that day  
 So I took him some.  
 I called out to him  
 Using my telepathy.

*The following dialogue sounds echoey, like it is telepathic between them.  
 OLD MAN's thoughts can be heard, like muttering.*

OLD MAN *(muttering)* Marjorie, Marjorie  
 Darling wife  
  
 VANESSA Hello?  
  
 OLD MAN Don't stop looking  
 I'll be back...  
  
 VANESSA Is anyone home?  
  
 OLD MAN They were testing, testing  
 I had to get away.  
  
 VANESSA It's me, Nessie.  
  
 OLD MAN Go away, I'm thinking.  
  
 VANESSA Yes, something about your wife?  
  
 OLD MAN Stop reading thoughts!  
 Don't like it.  
  
 VANESSA I brought you some food.

OLD MAN What is it?

VANESSA Shepherd's pie.

OLD MAN Come inside.

VANESSA *(voiceover)* We went into his hut. It was damp and drippy.

OLD MAN Sit.

VANESSA *(voiceover)* He started eating his shepherd's pie, noisily.  
He kept dropping bits.  
It was like he didn't know how to eat.

*(to OLD MAN)* How can you live here? Don't you get cold?

OLD MAN Daylight's all I need, daylight

VANESSA You can't eat daylight.

OLD MAN Powers me up.

VANESSA You're tucking into that food.

OLD MAN Half human  
Need to keep the body alive  
Nuisance, nuisance.

VANESSA *(voiceover)* As usual, he wasn't making much sense.  
I decided to see what he knew about the shadows.  
*(to OLD MAN)* How's the book going?

OLD MAN Not finished, not finished.  
Shadows must be free.

VANESSA Why was your book called Shadow Island?

OLD MAN Dark Yetis...  
My friends! My friends!

VANESSA What's a Dark Yeti?

OLD MAN Under the water, in the lab.  
The screaming, the screaming  
Get out, get out!

VANESSA It's ok calm down!

OLD MAN *(mutter)* Shadow island, prison island

VANESSA I'm sorry I didn't mean to upset you.

OLD MAN Coming to get them  
Coming to free them.

VANESSA Is that what the shadows are? Dark Yetis?

OLD MAN Invisible ships  
Coming, coming

VANESSA To rescue the Dark Yetis?

OLD MAN Time is close  
Time is near.

VANESSA Look, I've been bringing you food for a while now.  
I'd say I've been keeping you alive.  
Don't you trust me?  
Please, I need you to tell me what's going on.

OLD MAN Tell you, tell you?  
Show you, show you

VANESSA Show me what?

OLD MAN What's inside.

VANESSA How do you mean?

OLD MAN 6pm  
Sunset, sunset

VANESSA It's almost six now  
What happens then?

OLD MAN Shadows come.

*Distantly, a church bell strikes 6pm.*

VANESSA So... should I wait?

*The sound of HAROLD shedding his human body.*

VANESSA (voiceover) I looked out of the narrow hut window  
The sun was just dipping below the horizon.  
I look back at Martin, and gasped.

VANESSA gasps.

VANESSA (voiceover) He was slumped over  
Like a discarded costume  
Something was coming out of his mouth  
Like a dark twisting cloud  
It floated up to form a shape  
Legs, body, head, arms  
A Dark Yeti  
Oh my god, a Dark Yeti!

DARK YETI We are many  
I escaped  
And borrowed this human.  
Help me free the others  
And I shall return him!

## **Scene 6**

### **TIFFANY and BOBBY.**

TIFFANY (voiceover) Meanwhile, I went to see someone else.  
Bobby Miles is famous on Sheppey  
He's a comedian - one of the old style ones with doves  
and a banjo.  
The weird thing is, he's been going since the 1920s  
People's great-grandparents remember him  
He's been around a long time  
But Bobby himself has never aged.  
He still looks about 40.

TIFFANY is hammering on BOBBY's front door.

TIFFANY Bobby? Bobby Miles?

BOBBY opens the door.

BOBBY Who are you?

TIFFANY My name's Tiffany. I need to speak to you.

BOBBY About what?

TIFFANY Is it true you're over 100 years old?

BOBBY What? No-one knows that. Get inside.

TIFFANY goes into BOBBY's house. It is full of caged birds.

TIFFANY Wow. Why do you have all these birds?

BOBBY Part of my act innit.  
I make 'em pop out of hats and what have you.

TIFFANY Do they talk?

BOBBY All the time. Does my head in. What did you say your name was?

TIFFANY Tiffany. I'm part of the Sheppey Sheriffs.

BOBBY The what?

TIFFANY Protectors of this island.

BOBBY Sheppey don't need protecting.

TIFFANY What about the shadows?

BOBBY Well, yeah, apart from that. Not much we can do though is there?

TIFFANY Why not?

BOBBY Never mind.

TIFFANY You know something.

BOBBY I know lots of things.

TIFFANY About the shadows.

BOBBY Can't talk about that.

TIFFANY Why not?

BOBBY I've said enough.

TIFFANY Do you know what's causing them?

BOBBY No.

TIFFANY Yes you do.

BOBBY All I can say is they're not a new thing. Every now and then, they come.

TIFFANY Come from where?

BOBBY Shouldn't you be in school?

TIFFANY I can turn people into frogs.

BOBBY Haha, that's funny. You should be a comedian like me.

TIFFANY I'm serious.

BOBBY Go on then.

TIFFANY Don't make me.

BOBBY Why not? Can't do it?

TIFFANY No, because it really, really hurts.  
Imagine - all your bones being crunched down to the size of a frog.  
Your skin going slimy  
Your blood going cold  
And all you want to eat is flies.

BOBBY Sounds hilarious. You should work it up into a routine, you could do a warm-up for one of my shows.

TIFFANY I'll turn you into one if you don't tell me what you know about the shadows.

BOBBY Believe me, you're better off not knowing.

TIFFANY Why?

BOBBY For your own safety.

TIFFANY Don't you worry about me.

BOBBY I won't. Look after number one, that's my motto.

TIFFANY Right, you've left me with no choice.

BOBBY This I have to see.

TIFFANY Tadpole's tails and marshy fog  
Scent of slime and whiff of bog  
Turn this man into a frog!

*BOBBY turns into a frog.*

BOBBY Ribbit! Ribbit! Argh! This is agony!

TIFFANY Told you.

BOBBY Turn me back!

TIFFANY Will you tell me what you know?

BOBBY Ribbit!

TIFFANY Some of your birds look like they want to eat you.

BOBBY I promise! Anything!

TIFFANY Hair of beard and rubbish jokes  
Armpit sweat and whiff of smoke  
Turn this frog back to a bloke!

*BOBBY turns back into BOBBY. He writhes around in pain.*

BOBBY Argh, that was horrible!

TIFFANY I did warn you. Now tell me everything or I'll do it again.

BOBBY It's the shipwreck.

TIFFANY What shipwreck?

BOBBY The SS Montgomery.

TIFFANY I've heard of that...

BOBBY It's from World War Two.  
They say it sank in the estuary just off Sheerness.  
They say it was full of bombs so can't be moved.

TIFFANY That's what I heard.

BOBBY Don't believe it. That's a story to keep people away.

TIFFANY Why?

BOBBY Because those of us who've been around for long enough, we know the truth.

TIFFANY Which is...?

BOBBY You mustn't tell anyone.

TIFFANY Cross my heart and hope to die.

BOBBY For years there's been rumours.

TIFFANY Like what?

BOBBY It ain't a shipwreck.

TIFFANY What is it then?

BOBBY I remember the night it crashed into the sea.

TIFFANY What crashed into the sea?

BOBBY The spaceship.

TIFFANY Oh my god.

BOBBY The government said it was just a comet, but I saw it come down. Never seen anything like it. Huge, round, jet black. Like it was made from a raincloud. With these dark shapes on board. Strange, twisting shapes. The Navy cordoned it all off. They couldn't raise it, cos everyone would've seen. So they built their lab around it.

TIFFANY Their lab?

BOBBY An underwater facility, so the scientists could do their work. Unpack its secrets. And as for the creatures on board... well. Let's just say I wouldn't like to be one.

TIFFANY So... are the shadows coming out of the wreck?

BOBBY No. It's a secure facility. Nothing comes or goes.

TIFFANY So....

BOBBY So the shadows, are coming from beyond. To rescue their own kind. Be careful Tiffany. Be very, very careful.

### **Scene 7**

#### **MIDKU and GERALD.**

*MIDKU has gone to see GERALD at lunchtime in the school staff room.*

MIDKU I went to see my teacher, Mr Hero. Hero is a strange surname, so he prefers to be called by his first name, Gerald. But it's interesting because Gerald is actually a part-time superhero As well as a teacher Which is a lot to fit in if you think about it. He's quite open about it in school. Talks about his super-heroing days and all the people he rescued. Once, he had to fight a giant cat which was menacing a whole town! Anyway, he says he doesn't really do it much anymore because he's too busy. He keeps his old superhero powers in a cardboard box under his desk in the school staff room. I'm Midku, and my potion made me a robot specialist And I had an idea which could help get to the bottom of this whole shadows thing. But I'd need the ability to fly... So I went to see Mr Hero in the staff room at lunch time one day.

*MIDKU and GERALD stand in the doorway of the school staff room.*

GERALD Midku, what can I do for you?

MIDKU Mr Hero, sir

GERALD Please, call me Gerald.

MIDKU Er, ok.

GERALD Just not Gerry.

MIDKU Alright.

GERALD Makes me sound like a mouse.

MIDKU Erm, you know you once told us you're a part-time superhero? In Science that day.

GERALD Weeeell, I'm more 'retired' than 'part-time', these days to be honest.

MIDKU But is it true you've still got all your powers?

GERALD Yeah, somewhere I think, haven't used them for ages. Probably gathering dust somewhere.

MIDKU Under your desk?

GERALD Yeah I think so, that's right, so long as the cleaner hasn't thrown them out over half term.

MIDKU Right, cos you know I'm part of the Sheppey Sheriffs now?

GERALD That's right, I saw that in the Old Boys' newsletter - congratulations!

MIDKU Thanks.

GERALD I loved my time in the Sheppey Sheriffs, best days of my life. Did I ever tell you we once had to fight a giant cat?

MIDKU Yeah you did

GERALD Claws like razor blades

MIDKU Anyway, sir, is it alright if I borrow the ability to fly?

GERALD Oh yes, why's that?

MIDKU Detective Clarsson has asked us to look into this whole shadows thing.

GERALD Clarsson! I remember when he was born. He's doing very well for himself. How is Barbara getting on?

MIDKU Not good, Jimmy's potion made her think she's a banana.

GERALD That hasn't worn off yet? Damn. Can't anything be done?

MIDKU I think Jimmy's working on it. So anyway, can I borrow it?

GERALD Borrow what?

MIDKU The ability to fly.

GERALD What for, exactly?

MIDKU *(voiceover)* So I had to come clean and tell Gerald my plan. I'm convinced there must be a technical explanation for the shadows. I have a hunch that they could be caused by a technology far beyond our own. But to confirm that, I need to see one from above. A bionic arm is no good. I need the ability to fly. Gerald took me out to the playground to teach me how to use it.

*GERALD and MIDKU are outdoors.*

GERALD So, have you read the instructions?

MIDKU Yes, sir.

GERALD Good lad. Sign here.

MIDKU What's this?

GERALD Just a formality. Good that's perfect, now just focus your mind on directing that energy and...

*With a whoosh MIDKU flies off the ground and into the air.*

MIDKU Wooaahh!!!

GERALD That's it! Steady!

MIDKU How do I steer?!

GERALD With your mind!

MIDKU *(voiceover)* And that was how I got above a shadow and saw what I saw. Oh. My. Gosh. Turns out I was right.

Whatever is casting them is only invisible from underneath  
Like a stealth shield on a hi-tech alien craft  
And seen from up there  
Shimmering in the sun  
That's exactly what they are  
Hundreds and hundreds  
And all of them  
Circling Sheppey!

### **Scene 8**

#### **MARJORIE and TIANA.**

TIANA (voiceover) I'm Tiana, and my power is telekinesis  
Which I asked Jimmy for especially  
Because I've always wanted to be able to move things  
just by thinking about it.  
You see, I'm quite a lazy person  
So if the TV remote control is over the other side of the  
room  
And I'm on the sofa  
I really can't be bothered to go and get it  
So I'll be stuck there  
Watching Bargain Hunt  
For hours on end  
Until my brother or someone walks in and rescues me.

TIANA's BROTHER T, what are you doing?

TIANA Oh thank God. I'm stuck. Can you chuck me the remote?

TIANA (voiceover) But now  
With telekinesis  
I can make the remote fly across the room and into my  
hand!  
In fact, even better  
I recently discovered I can change the channel just by  
thinking about it!  
And sometimes, if I think really really hard  
I can find lost things too  
Which is pretty handy.  
  
I'm working on trying to move bigger things  
I'm practising on the family car  
Dad's a mechanic

So it would be super useful to move all the cars in his  
garage around really quickly.  
But unfortunately I dropped our car and all the  
windows smashed

*The sound of this -*

TIANA'S DAD Tiaaanaaaaaaaa!!!

TIANA So he isn't too keen on that idea.  
I wasn't sure who to go and ask about the shadows  
Then I remembered this old lady I'd seen on the  
seafront a few times  
Just wandering around  
Clutching something  
She looked like she was looking for something  
Or someone  
So I thought I'd start with her.

*On Sheerness beach.*

TIANA Hello

MARJORIE Hello, my dear

TIANA My name's Tiana.

MARJORIE What a lovely name.

TIANA Thank you. What's yours?

MARJORIE Marjorie.

TIANA Marjorie. Are you looking for something?

MARJORIE Yes, how can you tell?

TIANA I've seen you lots of times  
Wandering up and down.  
You seemed a bit unsteady on your feet on the  
pebbles

MARJORIE I'm 84

TIANA You should be careful.  
You don't look where you're going.

MARJORIE It's my husband's watch.



I lost it on here  
 Years ago now  
 It means a lot to me.  
 I keep coming back to look for it.  
 It's all of his I have left.

TIANA I'm sorry for your loss.

MARJORIE Oh, he isn't dead.  
 He went missing.  
 I'm certain he's still alive.

TIANA How do you know?

MARJORIE Just a feeling.  
 When you've spent your life with someone  
 You develop a bond.

TIANA I might be able to help you...

MARJORIE Oh?

TIANA Yeah, I'm good at finding things.

MARJORIE Well if you can lend a hand, you're very welcome.  
 You take that stretch and I'll carry on here.

TIANA Oh I won't need to walk anywhere at all.  
 What does it look like?

MARJORIE Silver, with gold spots.

TIANA *(voiceover)* And then, I started to concentrate  
 Closed my eyes  
 And scanned the beach with my mind.  
 I turned over pebbles  
 Lifted rocks  
 And looked under the sand.  
 My telekinesis like a metal detector.  
 Then I spotted it  
 Something glinting just under the waves  
 Silver, with gold spots.

TIANA *(calls out)* I think I've found it!

MARJORIE Oh, good girl!

TIANA It was easy to lift out of the foam and into Marjorie's hands.

MARJORIE How can I ever repay you?

TIANA Oh you don't have to.  
 I'm just glad you've got it back.

MARJORIE Well, look at that. It's stopped at 6pm, the exact time he went missing.

TIANA What happened to him? If you don't mind me asking.

MARJORIE It was sunset in October, just before the clocks went back.  
 We were out for a walk right here  
 Along Sheerness Beach  
 We both always loved the long shadows at that time of day.  
 I first felt it as a cold feeling across my back  
 Then a darkening  
 As a huge black shadow reared up behind us  
 It was darker than a shadow from the sun  
 The darkest black you've ever seen.  
 Not just black  
 But a vacuum  
 Sucking in light  
 Sucking in everything around it.

When I looked up, Martin had gone.  
 That thing - whatever it was - had taken him.

TIANA How awful. I'm so sorry.

MARJORIE He was a headteacher, you know.  
 All the children loved him.

TIANA I hope he turns up, Marjorie.

MARJORIE I hope so too.

TIANA And so pondering that mysterious clue  
 I went back to school  
 Looking forward to the next Sheppey Sheriffs meeting.

## Scene 9

### ALFIE and ALBERT PICKLE.

ALFIE I'm Alfie, and I can absorb the abilities and feelings of others. It's a weird skill to have. I asked Jimmy for a potion to give me all the skills in the world but it turns out I have to find someone with them first!

On the plus side, they only have to show me once and then I get it. Unfortunately, I also absorb everything they're feeling too. So if someone's having a bad day, then I do too!

After Detective Clarsson asked us to look into the shadows, I knew I needed to learn to walk the tightrope. All the Sheriffs had noticed That the shadows seem to be gathering around the SS Montgomery The old shipwreck out in the estuary.

I knew that if only I was able to get close enough to it, I'd be able to feel what was going on down there, Which might give us a clue. At low tide, the masts of the ship stick up out of the water. I thought if I can get a cable around them I can tightrope walk out there To take a closer look.

So I went to see an old friend of my grandad's Retired tightrope walker Albert Pickle.

*ALFIE and ALBERT are in the park.*

ALBERT And how are you young Alfie?

ALFIE Fine thank you sir.

ALBERT Please, call me Albert.

ALFIE Alright.

ALBERT And how is your old grandad?

ALFIE Good thanks.

ALBERT Haven't seen him for ages.

ALFIE He sends his regards.

ALBERT Send mine back. We used to have such fun in the circus. He was a fire-eater, you know.

ALFIE I know.

ALBERT He didn't only eat it, he'd spit it right back out again in a huge flaming jet! Like a dragon, he was.

ALFIE Yeah, he still lights barbecues like that in the summer.

ALBERT Glad to hear it.

ALFIE Had to call the fire brigade a few times.

ALBERT That sounds like Mack. He burned down several big tops in our day. You're wise to stick to tightrope walking. Here, chuck the end of this around that tree.

*ALBERT throws ALFIE a rope.*

ALFIE This one here?

ALBERT That's it, nice and tight. There we are. Now then. It's only a foot off the ground, but it makes no difference if it's one foot or a hundred. The trick is not to look down.

ALFIE Right.

ALBERT Hop up onto it then.

ALFIE Woah! It's wobbly.

ALBERT Course it is. Use your arms to balance. That's it. Now, feet nice and straight, one in front of the other. Easy!

ALFIE Agh!

*ALFIE falls off.*

ALFIE It's harder than it looks.

ALBERT It's really hard. I had to train for five years.

ALFIE That's almost as old as me!  
Why don't you show me?

ALBERT Ooh it's been years.

ALFIE Please?

ALBERT Not sure my arthritis could cope.

ALFIE It's the best way for me to learn.

ALBERT Practice makes perfect.

ALFIE Not for me. I just need to see it once.

ALBERT I like a bit of confidence.

ALFIE Go on then.

ALBERT You're your grandfather's grandson alright.  
He was a pushy so-and-so and all.

ALFIE I'm sure it'll come flooding back.

ALBERT Hmm, if this is the death of me, I hope you'll look after  
Mrs Pickle.

ALFIE Deal.

ALBERT Right you are.

*ALBERT hops onto the rope.*

ALBERT Ooh this brings back memories...  
So, arms out, back nice and straight, feet in a line like  
arrows.  
Don't look down!  
And one, two, three, four, five - and we're across!

ALFIE Amazing!

*ALBERT hops down.*

ALBERT Ooh my bunions didn't like that.

ALFIE My turn.

*ALFIE hops onto the wire.*

ALBERT I'll take your hand.

ALFIE No need. One, two, three, four, five -

ALBERT My goodness me.

ALFIE And across!

ALBERT Boy's a prodigy. How did you do that? I only showed  
you once.

ALFIE Just my special gift.

ALBERT Keep practising.

ALFIE No need.

ALBERT Please. Before you go out over the sea. If you fell in  
your grandad'd kill me!

ALFIE Thanks Albert!

ALBERT Where you going?

ALFIE I have an island to save!

ALBERT *(mutters)* Tchuh. Kids today.

ALFIE *(voiceover)* And that was how I found myself  
Balancing above the waves  
One windy October afternoon  
Wondering if this really was such a good idea after all.

*The sound of waves under ALFIE as he walks on a tightrope above them.*

ALFIE Don't look down  
Don't look down!

*(voiceover)* Once I was directly above the wreck  
I closed my eyes  
And concentrated.

I could sense something  
Beings  
Dark beings  
Held captive  
They were sad  
In pain  
Crying out  
I felt their despair  
Something was going on down there  
This was no normal shipwreck!

LO Decided to go and see  
LA Who we always go and see  
LO Our lovely mum  
LA Alexa.  
LO Hey mum  
ALEXA Lola. How was school, sweetie?  
LO Good.  
LA Rubbish. We had maths.  
LO I love maths.  
LA I hate it.  
ALEXA Well you're just in time to help me with our next patient, this is Rex. Say hello Rex.  
*REX barks.*  
ALEXA Lo love, I wonder if you could have a chat with him, see what's wrong?  
LO Sure.  
LA Ugh.  
ALEXA Seems to be something to do with his leg.  
LO Right, just a sec.  
LO *(voiceover)* Talking to animals takes a bit of concentration.  
It's not like talking to a human.  
You have to tune in to their language.  
It's different with every animal.  
With cats it's all whiny and high pitched.  
With dogs it's all deep and gruff.  
And don't get me started on pigs.  
In fact, I never wanna set foot in a farm again.  
LA Why do you always get her to do this?

### **Scene 10**

#### **LOLA, ALEXA and REX.**

LO I -  
LA We -  
LO Well, we are one person  
LA With two heads  
LO But technically one girl  
LA Objection!  
LO With two heads  
LA Anyway -  
LO Anyway, Lola, that's me -  
LA Us  
LO I'm Lo, you're La  
LA So there's two of us  
LO No just one, Lo-La.  
LA Anyway -  
LO Anyway, Lo-La, that's me  
LA And me, hi

ALEXA It's useful. This is a vets

LA I'm useful too.

ALEXA I know sweetie.

LA She'll start barking in my ear in a sec.

*LO starts barking at REX.  
REX barks back.*

LA Such a racket.

ALEXA What's he saying?

LO He got clipped by a car.  
It sounds like a fracture.

ALEXA Poor thing.

LA Great, can we go now?

LO Hang on

*(voiceover)* Talking to Rex had given me an idea.  
Sometimes dogs can see things we can't.  
I decided to ask him about the shadows.

*LO barks again.  
REX barks back.*

LO Oh. My. Days.

LA What?

ALEXA Ooh love. You look like you've seen a ghost.

LO You'll never believe what he just told me.

### **Scene 11**

*Back in DETECTIVE CLARSSON's office, he is with AGENT PEELY.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON It's 6pm!

AGENT PEELY Yes sir

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Nearly sunset.

AGENT PEELY I know sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Where the hell are they all?

AGENT PEELY I don't know Detective Clarsson sir, but maybe they'll be hungry when they get here.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Children are always hungry.

AGENT PEELY I brought some flour.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON What?

AGENT PEELY And cinnamon.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Why?

AGENT PEELY To make banana bread.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Peely -

AGENT PEELY Out of myself.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I have spent all day in this office, listening to your banana related nonsense.

AGENT PEELY You should have a slice.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON No thanks.

AGENT PEELY It's great with a cup of tea.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I just hope Jimmy can work his magic. Or I might have to mash you myself.

AGENT PEELY I would love that!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON No you wouldn't.

AGENT PEELY But hurry up. I think I've started going slimy.

*There is a huge crash as the window smashes and MIDKU and ALFIE land on the floor.*

MIDKU Sorry!

ALFIE Sorry sir!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Midku! Alfie! What on earth is going on?

AGENT PEELY They came through the window!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I can see that.

MIDKU Sorry about the mess.

AGENT PEELY They could've opened it first.

ALFIE Do you have a dustpan and brush?

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Why didn't you use the door?

MIDKU Because I've learned how to fly!

ALFIE Me too!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Not very well.

MIDKU It's harder than it looks.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON What about you Alfie?

ALFIE I learned from Midku. He only had to show me once.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON You're a menace.

MIDKU We'll keep practising.

AGENT PEELY Has anyone got low blood sugar? Bananas can really help -

ALL Shut up Peely.

*The door opens and VANESSA, TIFFANY, TIANA and LOLA (LO and LA) enter.*

VANESSA Hi sir!

TIFFANY Hi

TIANA Hi

LO Hi

LA I'm the one that says hi.

LO We can both say it.

LO and LA Hi!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON You're late, all of you.

ALL Sorry sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I just hope you've got something for me.

ALL Definitely!

VANESSA I went to see this Old Man on the marshes. He turned into a shadow right in front of me!

MIDKU Wow!

ALFIE Cool!

VANESSA He used to be a teacher called Martin. Until a shadow took over his body. He called them Dark Yetis.

LO 'Dark Yetis'? Is that a kind of animal?

LA I don't think so.

LO Maybe I can talk to it...

VANESSA He said there were more. Being held hostage somewhere, underwater.

TIANA That's weird. I met an old lady called Marjorie who was looking for her husband. She said he'd been taken by a shadow. I helped her find his watch. It had stopped at 6pm, the time he went missing.

VANESSA It's nearly 6pm now.

TIFFANY Oh my God, I met Bobby, you know the immortal comedian? I had to turn him into a frog. But then he told me all about this shipwreck, which wasn't really a shipwreck. He said it had some kind of aliens on board.

He said to be careful.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON This is starting to make sense.

MIDKU With my new flying power, I flew above a shadow, and guess what?

ALL What?

MIDKU The shadows are only invisible from underneath  
Like a cloaking device.  
Seen from above, they're spaceships!

ALL Woah!

LO That's exactly what Rex told us!

LA Told *you*.

LO Whatever.

VANESSA Who's Rex?

LO A dog who our mum was looking after.

ALFIE What did he say?

LO He said - they're shadow people. They come from another dimension.

TIANA How does a dog know that?

LA Dogs can see things we can't.

MIDKU I thought that was just smells.

AGENT PEELY Do dogs like bananas?

ALL Shut up Peely.

ALFIE Well I learned tightrope walking from Albert Pickle  
Then I actually walked out on a high wire, right over the wreck!

LO What did you see?

ALFIE It's more about what I felt.  
There's living things down there.

They're hurting, and they're trapped.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON So what are we going to do about any of this, Sheriffs?

VANESSA You're the boss.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I'm only 8 years old remember.

ALL Oh yeah.

TIFFANY It sounds like we should head out there.

ALL Yeah.

TIFFANY Take a look for ourselves.

LA But what can we do?  
The whole shipwreck -

LO Secret lab

LA Whatever it is - it's completely underwater.

MIDKU Then we'll have to lift it up.

ALFIE How?

VANESSA Oh yeah, great idea.

AGENT PEELY Bananas make you strong.

TIANA I could use my telekinesis.

ALL Oh yeah!

TIANA I could lift it up just by thinking about it.

VANESSA Hang on, I thought you could only move small things.

TIANA I've been practising.

LA Yeah on your Dad's car, which you dropped. This is a whole boat.

LO Lab.

LA Whatever. The point is, it's massive.

ALFIE I can help!

MIDKU How?

ALFIE I can absorb anyone else's abilities.  
Tiana only has to show me once  
Then there'll be two of us with telekinesis.

TIFFANY But is that enough? Shipwrecks are huge.

MIDKU Now that I can fly, I can help lift it up!

LO But it's full of bombs.

TIFFANY That's just a story to keep everyone away.

LA But do we know that for sure?

LO Yeah, because if we're wrong, and it's true -

DETECTIVE CLARSSON We could blow this whole island to kingdom  
come.

ALFIE It's a tough one.

AGENT PEELY Would anyone like a fruit snack while we think about  
it?

ALL Shut up Peely.

AGENT PEELY It could be your last.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Sheppey Sheriffs!  
To the coast!  
To the SS Montgomery!  
It's time to save this island from eternal darkness!

ALL Yayyy!!!

*They all run out of the office.  
When they're gone, a door to a bubbling science lab creaks open.*

JIMMY *(voiceover)* After they'd gone  
I came out of my lab.  
The whole plan was going perfectly.

**Scene 12**

*On Sheerness beach. The SHEPPEY SHERIFFS are gathered.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON There it is. The SS Montgomery.

LO What are those poles?

LA Those are its masts, sticking up out of the water.

ALFIE Antenna, more like.

VANESSA Either way, it looks creepy. Like a ghost ship.

TIFFANY Are you sure about this, Tiana?

TIANA It's the best plan we've got.

MIDKU Look! The shadows are swooping in, circling the  
wreck.

LO I'm scared.

LA Me too.

ALFIE Don't be.  
We're the Sheppey Sheriffs.  
Danger is what we do.

LA But there might be bombs.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON That's a myth.

LA But we don't know that.

VANESSA I'm scanning it now.  
There's no sign of explosives.  
But there are these weird, twisting shapes...

LO I can sense that too.  
They're kind of whispering.  
Like they know we're close.

MIDKU I'm going to fly out there, see if I can grab a mast.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Be careful!

*MIDKU flies off.*



ALFIE I'll join you in a minute, Mids!  
But first, Tiana I need you to show me telekinesis.

TIANA It's easy. Pick up a pebble.  
*They pick one up.*

TIANA Now just think really hard about lifting it up.

ALFIE I am. It's not working.

TIANA Watch me.  
*TIANA's pebble flies through the air.*

ALFIE Woah! It flew right up.

TIANA Just concentrate.  
*ALFIE's pebble flies through the air.*

ALFIE That's it!

LO But those are just pebbles.

LA Yeah, out there is a 7,000 ton ship.

LO Are you sure you can do this?

LA Even with two of you?

ALFIE I hope so.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Sheriffs, there's only one way to find out.

VANESSA Hang on, Lola's right. If we're wrong about this -

TIANA Yeah, we - or rather, I - could blow up the whole of Medway!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I know, Sheriff. But sometimes you have to destroy something to save it.

LA That doesn't sound good.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I heard it in a war film.

LO I want my mum.

LA Me too.

AGENT PEELY Would a banana help?

LO and LA Not really.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Right then Sheriffs, are we ready for this?

ALFIE As ready as we'll ever be.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON So here's the plan. Alfie you can now fly *and* do telekinesis, right?

ALFIE Yes sir, Detective Clarsson sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON You fly up and join Midku. If the two of you pull from above, I'll stay with Tiana on the shore.

ALFIE Yes, sir!

*ALFIE flies off with a whoosh.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Tiffany, your frog turning ability is finally useful.

TIFFANY Great. How?

DETECTIVE CLARSSON By turning yourself into one, of course. That way, you can swim out to the wreck and keep an eye on it from underwater.

TIFFANY But turning into a frog really hurts.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON No one said super-heroing was easy, Sheriff. Do it for your comrades. Do it for those poor, trapped shadows. But most of all, do it for Sheppey.

TIFFANY Yes, sir, Detective Clarsson, sir!

*With a squelch and a ribbit, TIFFANY turns into a frog and plops into the waves.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Good girl. I just hope she knows how to turn herself back again. Vanessa and Lola, our mentalists.

LO That doesn't sound very nice.

VANESSA Yeah.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON It's a compliment.  
Use your incredible minds to monitor the shadows  
as the wreck comes out of the water.

LO and VANESSA Yes sir!

LA Only she has powers, I don't.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON You can keep watch, Sheriff.  
We don't want anyone seeing what we're about to do.

LA It's going to be hard to miss.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON That's a risk we have to take.  
Just sound the alarm if anyone comes.

LA Yes sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Is everyone ready?

ALL Yes sir, Detective Clarsson sir!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Midku and Alfie, can you hear me up there?

MIDKU and ALFIE *(distant)* Yes sir, Detective Clarsson, sir!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON It's time to send these shadows back from  
wherever they came. Let's raise that wreck!

AGENT PEELY *(voiceover)* There didn't seem to be much call for a  
piece of soft fruit.  
So I watched from the shore.  
It was the most dangerous mission the Sheppey  
Sheriffs had ever undertaken - raising a 7,000 tonne  
warship from the sea floor.  
I just hoped they were right about the bombs.  
I didn't want to end my days splatted across Sheerness  
beach.  
What a tragic waste of a ripe banana, in the prime of  
her life.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Pull! Pull!

ALL We are!

TIANA It's moving! I can feel it!

VANESSA Me too!

LO I've got visuals from Tiffany under the water!  
It looks like ...squid ink, twisting around.

AGENT PEELY *(voiceover)* I watched as our team of young heroes  
worked together.  
Tiana on the beach buckled over with the effort of  
moving something so vast.  
Vanessa and Lo, with eyes closed, concentrating as  
hard as they could on monitoring the creatures within.  
La keeping watch, her little neck twisted almost 180  
degrees from her sister.  
Midku and Alfie flying high above were little more than  
specks in the sky,  
But I could see the way they dived and swooped as  
they put everything they had into raising that giant  
hulk.  
My little yellow heart swelled with pride.  
These were the Isle of Sheppey's finest sons and  
daughters.  
I just wished they ate more bananas.

*(To the Sheriffs)* It's coming! Keep going!

*The Sheriffs make effortful sounds.*

*(voiceover)* Then suddenly, the ocean surface parted,  
Cleaved in two, as a colossal black shape seemed to  
split the whole estuary in half  
Releasing a howling gale!  
What emerged was like nothing any of us had ever  
seen.

Imagine a black hole in the sky  
So dark it was more than just black  
It was like the opposite of light  
A void sucking everything in -  
The light  
The waves  
The clouds  
Even time itself.

This was no shipwreck  
But a craft beyond anything in our universe.

A shadow ship, encased in scaffolding  
Which crumbled back into the sea.  
Our pathetic attempts to understand whatever this  
thing was  
Fell away with it.  
They were right!  
The Sheppey Sheriffs were right!  
Wooahoo! Bananas all round!

TIANA What now?!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I don't know! I didn't think this far ahead!

TIANA Why not?!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON I'm only eight!

TIANA I can't hold it for much longer!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Hang on! I'm going to call my mum!

TIANA What? No, don't do that!

AGENT PEELY *(voiceover)* But just as Clarsson got his phone out  
An immense beam of anti-light shot out of the craft  
and into the sky  
A twisting tornado writhing with shadows  
Long, and dark and curved.  
Like a banana, if you leave it in the bowl for too long.

TIANA Something's happening!

VANESSA It's the shadows!  
I can hear them!  
They're being released!  
They sound... happy.

TIANA I'm going to let go!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Nooooo!

AGENT PEELY But it didn't matter.  
The tornado seemed to be shrivelling the black hole  
shadow ship,  
Hurtling skyward  
Like a flock of deranged starlings  
Parting the clouds  
And heading on up

Back to wherever they came.

LA Someone's coming!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Uh-oh.

LA An old couple, coming along the sea wall.  
They're getting closer.

TIANA *(exhausted)* It's ok...  
The black hole's disappearing....  
They're all flying up into space....  
The shadows have ...almost gone...  
We can stop....

*TIANA groans and collapses onto the beach.*

VANESSA Tiana, are you ok?

TIANA Yeah...just...my head hurts.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON You did good.  
You may just have saved this island.

LA What should we do about the old couple?

VANESSA That looks like Martin. Let me go and talk to him.

*VANESSA walks over to them.*

VANESSA Martin!

MARTIN Hello.

MARJORIE Who's this?

VANESSA It's me, Nessie.

MARTIN Who?

VANESSA Vanessa.

MARTIN Oh. Nice to meet you. This is my wife Marjorie.

MARJORIE Hello my dear.

MARTIN How do you know my name?

VANESSA You don't remember?

MARTIN Remember what?

VANESSA I brought you food. Out on the marshes. You lived in a hut.

MARJORIE Does she mean your garden shed, Marty?

MARTIN Ooh, I don't think so. What do you mean young lady?

VANESSA Never mind. I'm just glad you're back to normal.

MARJORIE We're just out for an evening stroll. We always enjoy the long shadows up here at this time of day, don't we?

MARTIN Oh yes. So striking. Makes one look almost... not human.

*TIANA walks up the beach.*

VANESSA You ok?

TIANA I think so. Pounding headache, but hopefully that'll pass.

VANESSA This is my friend Tiana.

MARTIN Hello Tiana

MARJORIE Lovely to meet you.

TIANA That's a nice watch you have there, sir.

MARTIN Why, thank you.

TIANA Cool design. Silver with gold spots.

MARTIN It was a gift.

MARJORIE From me.

TIANA What time is it?

MARTIN Just after six.

VANESSA Time for us to get back.

### **Scene 13**

*DETECTIVE CLARSSON's office.*

AGENT PEELY *(voiceover)* Back at base, Jimmy had something for me.

JIMMY Drink this.

AGENT PEELY What is it?

JIMMY A potion.

AGENT PEELY To do what?

JIMMY Just drink it.

*PEELY drinks and gags.*

AGENT PEELY Yuck, it's disgusting!  
*(She spits.)*  
What's in it?

JIMMY Onions.

AGENT PEELY Onions? Eurgh. Why?

JIMMY Because onions are the opposite of bananas. You should feel better any second - Barbara.

AGENT PEELY I can feel my arms  
I can feel my legs  
I can feel my brain  
I can feel my head!

JIMMY Shall we make some banana bread?

*Cut to:*

*Later in the office.*

*CLARSSON, PEELY and all the SHERIFFS are there, drinking and chatting and eating from plates.*

*CLARSSON tings on a glass and the chat stops.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Sheriffs, you did well today.  
The mystery of the Sheppey Shadows was maybe

our toughest case yet.  
 You all put yourselves in the firing line today  
 And went above and beyond.  
 I'm just sorry that one of our number, paid the  
 ultimate price.

TIFFANY Ribbit.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Sadly, it looks like Tiffany will remain a frog  
 forever.  
 But my god you'll be the most pampered frog on  
 Sheppey, with as many flies as you can eat!

TIFFANY Ribbit.

*Everyone cheers.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON At the end of these missions  
 It always makes me sad  
 That we can't share more widely news of your  
 incredible work.  
 Obviously that's for reasons of national security.  
 But know this -  
 Sheppey sleeps safe with you looking out for it.  
 They'll never know how close they came today  
 But if this island's residents knew what I know  
 They'd welcome you with street parties  
 Like the heroes you are.

BARBARA Hip hip!

ALL Hooray!

BARBARA Hip hip!

ALL Hooray!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON And now please enjoy all the tea and cakes.  
 And remember no telekinesis in the office please.

*The chatter resumes.*

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Lovely banana bread, Peely.

BARBARA It's Healy, actually, sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Oh?

BARBARA Barbara.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Well would you look at that.  
 Good old Jimmy. Welcome back, Barbs.

BARBARA Thanks sir.

DETECTIVE CLARSSON We've missed you.  
 Oh, a word of advice.  
 Maybe lay off the video games a bit?  
 You know the ones I mean.  
 They can get into your head.

BARBARA Yes sir, Detective Clarsson, sir!

DETECTIVE CLARSSON Good girl.

*Fade out chatter.*

*Fade in a buzzing fly.*

JIMMY *(voiceover)* I love it when a plan comes together.  
 You see, there's more to me than meets the eye.  
 Half boy  
 Half shadow  
 They left me behind  
 But that's ok  
 I like it here  
 And Sheppey needs a touch of shadow  
 Just a touch  
 To keep it safe.

TIFFANY Ribbit.

JIMMY Ssh Tiffany, it's ok.  
 Have another fly.

*Music.*

## Queenborough School and Nursery Team

### Young Artists

Hattie, Danny, Hollie, Aoife, Louis, Louie, Lottie, Gracie, Poppy, Dylan, Arisa, Skye, Frankie, Lacey, Tajus, Wesley, Katie, Harley, Nancy-Lee, Logan, Dougie, Harry, Olivia, George, Lily-Rose, Jayden, Lily, Amber, Layla & Lillyanna

### Drama Coach & Wellbeing Support Mentor

Steve Wickenden

### Class Teacher

Hannah Mumford

### Teaching Assistant

Susan Stone

## Minster-in-Sheppey Primary Team

### Young Artists

Eddie, Dilara, Lexie, Roxanne, Daniel, Jessica, Maisie, Violet, Erynn, Ella, Lewis, Jaxon, Roman, Oliver, Sophia, Hollie, Olivia, Cailey, Denitsa, Zachary, Isabella, Summer, Talia, Lilli-Mae, Maisy, Kourtney, Millie, Graycie, Hudson & Amelia

### Class Teacher

Lindsay Bruce

### Teaching Assistants

Jo Morgan, Eliza Aspinal, Megan Cruickshanks & Keely Coetzer

## Freelance Team

### Director

Ellie Jones

### Actor

Phoebe Ladenburg

### Actor

Daniel Copeland

### Film-maker

Josh Barnes

## Theatre31 Youth Theatre (Sheppey) Team

### Youth Theatre Members

Wyatt, Demi-Leigh, Brooke, Mollie, Lucy, Veronica, Nataliya, Will, Peyton-Jai, Emily, Fraya, Fifi & Eli

### Youth Theatre Facilitator

Molly Young

### Youth Theatre Assistant

Darcey Kidd

## For Applied Stories

### Playwright and Producer

Fin Kennedy

## For Icon Theatre

### Artistic Director and CEO

Nancy Hirst

### Executive Director

Dan King

### Head of Programme - Theatre31 (maternity leave)

Jemma Robinson

### Head of Programme - Theatre31 (maternity cover)

Sarah Chiswell-Hornett

### Project Co-ordinator

Naomi Rosser

### Marketing Officer

Olivia Toulmin

### Administration & Production Assistant

George Simmonds



# CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

## Fin Kennedy

### Playwright & Producer

Fin is an award-winning playwright and former Artistic Director of touring theatre company Tamasha. Fin's first play *Protection* was produced at Soho Theatre in 2003, where he was also Pearson writer-in-residence. His second play *How To Disappear Completely and Never Be Found* won the 38th Arts Council John Whiting Award and has been produced around the world. Fin writes regularly for teenagers and has two published volumes of plays, *The Urban Girl's Guide To Camping* and *The Domino Effect* and other plays, developed through a long-term residency in an East London school. For Tamasha, Fin dramaturged and produced the national tours of *My Name Is...* by Sudha Bhuchar (2014), *Blood* by Emteaz Hussain (2015), the award-winning *Made In India* by Satinder Chohan (Belgrade Coventry, 2017), *Approaching Empty* by Ishy Din (Kiln Theatre/Live Theatre Newcastle 2019). Fin is creator or co-creator of various innovative Tamasha community and digital projects including *Taxi Tales* (ARC Stockton, BBC 2), *Hear Me Now* (Rich Mix/Ovalhouse/RADA), *Leila & Justice, Inc.* (Barbican Box 2018), interactive smartphone adventure *We Are Shadows: Brick Lane* with Coney (2019), a package of remote workshop resources for schools about internet safety, *The Power of Persuasion* (Bloomsbury's Drama Online, 2021) and new podcast series *Out Of The Woods: New Plays from the Balkans* (2021). Fin has written eight Afternoon Plays for BBC Radio 4 including returning series *The Good Listener*, set inside Government spy agency GCHQ, and *On Kosovo Field*, a collaboration with musician PJ Harvey. Fin's new venture, Applied Stories, uses site-specific audio drama in education and community settings, to foster positive social change.

[appliedstories.co.uk](http://appliedstories.co.uk)

## Ellie Jones

### Director

Ellie is a freelance theatre director who likes to make impossible things possible: think *The Erpingham Camp* performed in and amongst the public on Brighton Pier with the audience cast as campers and culminating in them commandeering the fairground rides and throwing an actor into the sea!

She has directed many traditional shows too. National tours of *Art, God of Carnage* and *The Elephant Man. Macbeth* at the Royal Shakespeare Company. *Invincible* at the Orange Tree Theatre and in the West End. Ellie also directed the world premiere of Fin Kennedy's award-winning play *How to Disappear Completely and Never be Found* at Sheffield and they have been regular collaborators ever since.

She regularly works with British Youth Music Theatre writing and directing new musicals with young casts from around the UK.

*Sheppey Shadows* brings together all of Ellie's favourite things - a co-created script by Fin, professional actors able to multi-role parts (and do lots of different voices) and young artists full of joy, laughter and unique ways of looking at the world.

# ACTORS

## Violet Caddell

### Lo

Violet is ten years old and is a student at Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School. She is a gymnast, enjoys reading and hanging out with her friends. Violet has enjoyed participating in the drama activity and has learnt lots from it.

## Demi-Leigh Collier-Kettle

### Tiffany

Demi is 14 years old and is part of Theatre31. She likes to act, draw, and write in her free time. Demi also has one black cat called Magic. She loves attending youth theatre because it helps her learn about the art of acting and also lets her be very expressive with who she is. Demi had so much fun as a voice artist for *Sheppey Shadows*, and hopes you enjoy listening as much as she did recording.

## Daniel Copeland

### Detective Clarsson / Old Man / Bobby / Albert Pickle

Daniel was born in Kent, went to drama club in Bromley (just about Kent), and worked with Ramsgate's Channel Theatre Company, way back in the 1990's.

Over the years he has worked in theatres all over the country, most recently he toured in Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses*. TV credits include appearing with Ricky Gervais in *Afterlife*, as a farmer in *Worzel Gummidge* with MacKenzie Crook and with Rose Matafeo in her comedy *Starstruck*. Daniel really enjoyed working on *Sheppey Shadows* and was very impressed with everyone's writing and acting!

## Nataliya Cummings-Armstrong

### Tiana

Nataliya is 12 years old and has just started secondary school. Nataliya's favourite film is *Encanto* and her favourite song is *We Don't Talk About Bruno*. Nataliya does not like spiders. Nataliya is looking forward to seeing the show.

## Gracie Doddimeade

### Vanessa

Gracie is nine years old and is a pupil at Queenborough School and Nursery. She loves caring for her two hamsters, Chase and Marshall. Gracie also likes telling jokes and making people laugh. Gracie really enjoyed meeting different people and making new friends while working on the *Sheppey Shadows* project.

## Remi Kennedy

Jimmy

Remi is four years old and attends Fleetville Primary School. He loves Super Mario, eating his own weight in fruit, and practising his lightsaber skills in Virtual Reality. *Sheppey Shadows* is his acting debut.

## Phoebe Ladenburg

Agent Peely / Marjorie / Alexa

Phoebe is a director and actor. She is a visiting lecturer at Central School of Speech and Drama where she is on the audition panel for the Masters in Acting. Phoebe has worked as a performance coach at Bloomberg LP, voice coaching and directing television anchors, as well as working with Bloomberg leadership teams and at the Chartered Financial Analytics Institute on communication via storytelling.

Directing and development credits include *The Journey* (Pleasance Theatre), *Bacon* (Arcola Theatre and NBC Universal), *Brother Don't Preach* (Theatre503), and *Rapport* (VAULTS).

Acting screen credits include *Surrender* (Oskar Brockbank), *American Monsters* (Discovery +), *Baby Shower* (Turtle Canyon), and *White River* (Palencia Film Festival).

## Roman Lock

Alfie

Roman is ten years old and is a pupil at Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School. Roman has a dog, he enjoys reading and going to kick boxing club. Roman really enjoyed participating in the audio drama and is excited and looking forward to listening to it.

## Summer Oosthuizen

La

Summer is ten years old and is a pupil at Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School. She has a dog called Stanley, who is very cute. Summer is a gymnast and she also likes hanging out with her friends. When Summer was given this opportunity to participate in the drama activity she was very excited!

## George Price

Midku

George is nine years old and is a pupil at Queenborough School and Nursery. He is very active and loves football, especially watching Manchester United play. George has had so much fun working on the creation of *Sheppey Shadows* and hopes you enjoy the audio play!

## Steve Wickenden

Gerald

Steve has spent the past 12 years dividing his time between working in education and professional theatre. Steve worked across the UK as a freelance workshop facilitator before taking on his current post at Queenborough School and Nursery five years ago. Steve spent four years as the resident pantomime dame at the Grand Opera House in York and continues to perform as lead singer of the vintage rock & roll band The Bandits. Steve is currently developing his interest in creative therapies through training as a specialist counsellor for children and young people.

“It was amazing!  
Can we do it  
again?”

Young Artist,  
Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School





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