



The Go-Betweenies

Series 3

By Marcella Evaristi

The *Go-Betweenies* are back. After the critically acclaimed and hugely popular first two series, the Miller family return this autumn starting **Friday 18th October at 11:30am on BBC Radio 4**

"...razor sharp dialogue, disarming charm and excellent cast..."

Radio Times

"... an entertaining view of a contemporary family..."

The Observer



Mark Bonnar and Sarah Alexander return along with Phoebe Abbott and Finlay Christie, to star as the multi-married, multi-divorced Miller family with 6 hilarious new episodes featuring a host of fantastic guest stars. Tracey-Ann Oberman returns as the manipulative gossip journalist Helen, Stephen Critchlow as Joe's lifelong chum Bobby, Daniel Boyd as Lucy's long suffering boyfriend Chris and Emili Bruni as Yoga Pugilates Guru Jennifer, the Harley riding, mother of Tom's best friend Freddie. New to this series; Charlotte Richie stars as Joe's girlfriend Tuberose who works in 'Latex

Couture of Holloway', Valerie Cutko as New Yorker Ruby who is Mimi's agent, Dave Lamb as vet Leon and David Troughton as Mr Thompson.

Written by award winning writer Marcella Evaristi, set in North London, and featuring two lead characters aged 15 and 13, the production team that produced four hugely successful series of the critically acclaimed Radio 4 comedy drama 'Baggage', return to the 11:30am slot with a third series of this innovative show.

The Go-Betweenies.... looks at contemporary family life through the prism of two north London siblings who shlep with varying degrees of enthusiasm between their divorced parents' homes --- Mum's comfy Highgate house and Dad's rackety rental on the Holloway Road.

Who are The Go-Betweenies?

Fifteen year old Lucy (Phoebe Abbott) and thirteen year old Tom (Finlay Christie). By now the teenagers are used to go-betweening between their parents contrasting households (Dad's pokey rental on the Holloway road and Mum's classy Highgate residence) but their mother's third divorce has dramatically shifted the balance of their set-up. Joe and Mimi are still

committed to hands on divorced parenting but the break-up has left their mother manically changing her life. Mimi fancies branching into teenage fiction and using the minutiae of her children's lives as copy. Tom hated being the inspiration for cutesy little Georgie but he discovers there are worse things than having your face on a pink onesie in Primark. Tom is smart in a way that doesn't help and when he



is dumped he tries to use quantum theory to get his girlfriend back. He also reads Freud to explain why he has erotic dreams about another girl. It's very confusing having a subconscious that leaks. And when a boy is feeling fragile it doesn't help that your mother intends to get your dog neutered. Poor Milton the puppy is so named because it's Philip Roth's middle name. Getting him fixed is like castrating Portnoy. . .

Meanwhile Lucy's sturdy self-esteem is shaken when her boyfriend Chris (Daniel Boyd) rehearses a play with an ex-girlfriend. Lucy tells him never to trust anyone over eight years old that wears a cloak, but she can see the way things are going ---

life is shifting in uncontrollable ways for her --- and her escape to a life drawing class is ruined when she sees the life model . . .

Her adored dad had no right to go naked even if he is broke. Does he think he's Lena Dunham?

And then there's her existential crisis -- Lucy's world view is shattered when she realises she is mortal and the certainties of astrology no longer help. It's tough being fifteen and discovering you are finite.

Lucy's self-belief never wobbles for long though and she is convinced she can win the Springtime Fashionista competition --- if only her mother will let her wear a latex dress . . . After all fetishism has gone mainstream hasn't it?

The Parents



Joe (Mark Bonnar) is trying to keep the half-week swop of children going but Mimi blames him for her marriage break up. She wants a new regime of 'minimum contact' but it's not really practical . . . there's puppy training classes and this pair's co-dependence to negotiate . . .

Once the shiny star of the New York art scene Joe is still reduced to depicting deceased lurchers in the arms of the angel Gabriel and Catholic parrots being welcomed into paradise by President Kennedy for his employers at Your Pets Painted in the Afterlife Dot Com. But his personal life has been transformed by a hip twenty four year old fashion student called Tuberose who works part time at Latex Couture of Holloway. It's his turn to have a romance and he's desperate to give their affair some private time before telling everyone. But while privacy might be an option for a Once-A-Fortnight Dad, it turns out to be impossible with this lot, especially when Lucy steals a packet of thongs.

Mimi (Sarah Alexander) starts the series in post-divorce meltdown - she's started writing *The Gobetweenies* featuring her lightly disguised children, she's going to freeze her eggs and she's got a bad break up haircut. Divorced life is scary and she begins to think that now she and Joe are both single they might revisit their first passion. After all, he's become all toned and affectionate. When she finds out about Joe's cute hipster girlfriend she goes to Tuberose's workplace and ends up humiliated, with a broken arm and drowning in Joe's brownie points. He has to cancel

a holiday with his girl and stay home to help with the kids. The ideal of civilised co-parenting flounders when you cannot floss, type or fasten your bra and your mean ex-husband is being self-righteous.

But when the pair stop sniping and start watching movies at Mimi's place deep into the night the long divorced pair begin to move dangerously closer together.

It's Wednesday It Must Be Holloway

In Go-Betweenie Land...

...that over-analysing, arty part of North London -- you have to watch what you say watch what you say in the school playground or you will end up as columnists' fodder.

...Careless talk pays journalists' mortgages.

...where the children of the divorced are constantly losing the keys to the other place and the key cutters make a fortune from the adultery fallout.

...where on Christmas day you can spot the kids waddling through the streets full of their second turkey dinner like kindergarten fois gras

Yes, the Go-Betweenie land of North London, is where the guilty divorced are doing their desperate best not to believe those terrible statistics that prophecy the worst for their children. Such a waste after all those careful years of organic butternut squash puree and Mozart played to their pregnant tummies.



Marilyn Imrie ,who has directed The Go-Betweenies since its debut three years ago says:

"For me, one of the great delights of directing the series is the way we've heard the two kids morph from loveable pre-teens to full blown shambolic adolescents with all their daft, funny, and often heart-breaking teen preoccupations with Clearasil, peer

pressure and wet dreams . Directing Phoebe Abbott and Finlay Christie (who play Lucy and Tom) in the series over the last three years has been a blast; they are such talented young actors who work like crazy in studio to capture both the comedy and the pathos of the stories. They have wonderful timing and the fact they both really get their characters Tom and Lucy, and care about them a lot, comes across in their performances. The thrust of the third series is summed up for me by Lucy's great line to brother Tom " first your voice breaks, then your heart", as we hear both of them tackle the anguish of first love and observe with wry bemusement their parents' absurd and touching romantic shenanigans."

Episode Outlines:

Series Cast:	Mimi	Sarah Alexander
	Joe	Mark Bonnar
	Lucy	Phoebe Abbott
	Tom	Finlay Christie

Episode One: One Dog Two Houses TX: Friday 18th October, 11:30am

Episode Cast:	Ruby	Valerie Cutko
	Mr Thompson	David Troughton



This week the *Go-Betweening* arrangement comes under strain; newly divorced Mimi is blaming Joe for the failure of her third marriage. But it's hard to establish a regime of minimum contact with her children's father when the new dog has to attend puppy classes. And no one can decide on his name . . .

Mimi has decided to branch into teenage fiction but when the kids discover they are being used as copy they mutiny. She's calling it **The Gobetweenies** and it's all about urban puberty.

Mimi's agent Ruby (Valerie Cutko) disapproves. She tells Lucy and Tom about Philip Roth and his warnings about the fall out of writing about your own family. But when Tom starts reading **Portnoy**, he gets wonderfully inspired.

Episode Two: No More Heroes

TX: Friday 25th October, 11:30am

Episode Cast:	Jennifer	Emily Bruni
	Freddie	Harry Nowell
	Tuberose	Charlotte Richie

This week Mimi is having a hard time. She's freshly divorced and scared of her eggs going stale so she's decided to freeze them. But she didn'trealise she had to give herself hormone injections. What's the divorced etiquette of asking an ex-husband to inject your torso? And how come *she's* not the favourite parent? Could be because she was a complete failure trying to convince the mother of Tom's best friend, that skateboarding was safe. Jennifer (Emily Bruni) - the pilates teacher in question -- switches the subject to Mimi's egg-freezing and suggest visualisations. Mimi has tried visualisations but she always imagine the worst.

Joe is flailing too and very broke. When Lucy sees him posing at her life drawing class she bolts. Does he think he can do a Lena Dunham and go naked at his age? She switches her allegiance to Mimi and gives her a make Over that turns her into Ernie from Sesame Street's Ernie and Bert.

Meanwhile Tom is still proud of dad. Joe talked Jennifer into letting Freddy skateboard. But his mum makes him wear so much protective gear he and Tom look like Team Pathetic. Now the pair of them get pelted with KFC cartons and cans.

Maybe mum can help. If she can recover from the smell of the vegan dog food Jennifer has given her. That puppy is doing terrible ethical farts . . .

Episode Three: Star Wars

TX: Friday 1st November 11:30am

Episode Cast:	Leon	Dave Lamb
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Lucy is driving rational science-loving Tom crazy with her passion for astrology in this week's episode of Marcella Evaristi's north London divorced parenting comedy. She tries to convince him by swishing her magnificent Leo hair at him. (Tom then asks her about all the baldy men born in August.) With her brother mercilessly mocking her gullibility Lucy decides to read Tom's book, 'Exploring the Night Sky'.

When she discovers that starlight comes from extinct stars she has an existential crisis made worse by a recent visit to a ghoulish exhibition about grave robbers and dissectionists. Now she knows the awful truth --- the sky is haunted and worse, she herself is actually mortal. She is a skeleton in a fat suit! It is very hard being fifteen and finite.

Tom's head is also full of the Burke and Hair type crimes he learned about at the exhibition. And when he overhears a late night conversation between his dad and his old school friend he begins to harbor terrifying suspicions. The old friend, Leon, played by Dave Lamb, is a vet and Joe makes a meagre living working for Your Pets Painted in the Afterlife. Com. Tom is convinced that his dad's old school friend is putting down healthy animals so that Joe can profit from doing their afterlife portraits. Sweeny Dad the Demon Painter!

When Lucy finds out that Tom's rationality and science swottery has led him to insane conclusions she exacts her own sweet revenge.

Episode 4: Private Lives

TX: Friday 8th November 11:30am

Episode Cast:	Tuberose	Charlotte Richie
	Freddie	Harry Nowell
	Helen	Tracy-Ann Oberman
	Katy	Jenna Cook

This week's episode explores the impossibility of retaining your privacy when you lead a go-betweening life.

Joe had wanted to keep his new affair secret. His new girlfriend is twenty four and he now wishes he hadn't called Mimi's most recent ex-husband the Decrepit from Conneticut. Mimi is being badgered about bringing a plus one to a wedding. She's in a state of post-divorce fragility and begins to wonder if Joe still secretly longs for her. After all he brought her lilacs on their wedding anniversary . . .

Meanwhile Tom, already burdened by having to pretend he doesn't know about Tuberose (Charlotte Richie), his dad's hot new girlfriend, dreams confusingly and guiltily about the wrong girl. Not his girlfriend Poppy, but Lucy's fifteen year old best friend Katy (Jenna Cook). He's been talking in his sleep. How do you cope with a leaking subconscious?

Katy and Tom both have mothers who fictionalize them --- Katy's insanely self-involved mum Helen, played by Tracy-Ann Oberman has a column called 'Letters to My Post Pubescent Daughter' - in which she wrote about Katy's first period -- and Tom's

face can be found on a pink onesie in Primark. Tom's passion is unrequited but the two become allies against their parents' psychic invasion . . .

Meanwhile having discovered that Tuberose works at **Latex Couture of Holloway**, Mimi is talked into checking her out . . .

Episode 5: TX: Friday 15th November 11:30am

Episode Cast: Bobby Stephen Critchlow

This week Joe has had to cancel a holiday with his girlfriend and it's Mimi's fault. So Mimi gets no back up when she wants to get the dog fixed and stop Lucy wearing latex.

Their friend Bobby (Stephen Critchlow) is fed up listening to them squabble because he has a real problem -- his son Stevie is stonewalling him. Bobby even offers to help out so Joe can go to Barcelona to be with Tuberose, but Joe is enjoying the moral high ground, and loves seeing Mimi up to her neck in his brownie points.

Mimi broke her arm when she went to check out Tuberose at **Latex Couture of Holloway** and now she can't type, floss or fasten her bra. Lucy is trying to soft soap her mum so she is allowed to wear the latex dress for the school Springtime Fashionista contest.

Science-loving Tom hates superstition but he is so undone by Poppy's coldness that he decides to start saying *Good Morning Mr Magpie* and he even steals Lucy's lucky mascot. And it turns out that Mr Hanky, the Southpark Christmas Poo, saves the day. The anguish of the Millers has been healed by a cloth turd. Milton the dog keeps his maltesers and Lucy wins the fashion competition --- her thank-you speech is a pure Paltrow ofgratitude.

Episode 6: Time Is Not A Constant TX Fri 22nd November 11:30am

Episode Cast: Chris

Daniel Boyd



In this week's episode Tom's girlfriend Poppy has left him for Stevie, once a friendless snotball but now fit and much-fancied. But Tom is channeling Einstein to get his girl back -- because Albert proved that linear time is a delusion and that everything that happens is still happening. And if that's true Tom has no reason to move on.

So Tom is keeping early morning vigil outside Poppy's house holding up placards relating to quantum theory. His parents are worried. Is their son a little genius with a post-Newtonian grasp on the nature of time or a nutjob?

Joe's girlfriend is swanning around Europe with her fierce eyebrows and Student Railcard and Joe and Mimi are settling into late night movie-watching together as they work out what to do about Tom. On different days Tom pretends to be different ages to escape the tyranny of time. (It's all part of his quantum theory girlfriend retrieval strategy.) Like Lucy's boyfriend Chris (Daniel Boyd) says, Tom is not clever in a any way that helps. Meanwhile Chris is causing Lucy problems. He says he empathizes with Tom because he knows the trauma of a broken heart. He tells her he once wrote heartbroken love songs to his ex-girlfriend Erica. The very same Erica that is currently rehearsing Titania to his Bottom. Lucy feels romantically demoted and asks her mother what she should do? Mimi advises doing nothing but Lucy figures Tom did nothing about Poppy's roving eye and now her brother is riding on his mind rocket to quantum town.

Meanwhile Joe and Mimi are playing their own dangerous time games. Because Joe is round at Mimi's all the time (she broke her arm whilst disastrously sleuthing his girlfriend) and watching those favourite movies together, they begin to revisit the past themselves. But reliving old times can lead to complicated new complications . . .

The Team

Director- Marilyn Imrie

..is one of the UK's hardest working and most successful Radio Directors. Most recently she directed the runaway R4 comedy success starring Brian Cox Felix Dexter and Laura Solon: The Bob Servant Emails by Neil Forsyth. For BBC Radio Scotland, Sybil Law the sitcom by Charlie Dore starring Una Maclean, and Radio 4 treasures The Stanley Baxter Playhouse, with the great man himself, and the Rumpole series starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Timothy West .

Writer: Marcella Evaristi

...is an award winning Scots Italian writer of wit and style, with an unerring flair for comedy and clever wry insights into the often ludicrous, sometimes absurd nature of twenty first century relationships. Previous award winning productions include; *Dorothy and the Bitch*, Edinburgh, *Scotia's Darlings*, Edinburgh, *Sugar and Spite* (revue with Liz Lochhead, Edinburgh, *Mouthpieces* (revue) Crawford Arts Centre, St Andrews; Lyceum Studio Theatre, Edinburgh, *Hard to Get*, 1980, Edinburgh, Edinburgh; BBC Radio; BBC television, *Commedia*, Crucible Theatre Sheffield; Lyric Studio Hammersmith, London (Nominated Evening Standard Award for Best Newcomer), *Eve Set the Balls of Corruption Rolling*, BBC Television (Winner of Pye Award, Best Writer New to Television). *Wedding Belles and Green Grasses*, Traverse Theatre , BBC Radio, *Checking Out*, Lyric Studio Hammersmith, *The Works* (self-performed) , Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh; BBC Radio 3, *Terrestrial Extras* , Tron Theatre, Glasgow, Visiting Company(self-performed) 1988, Tron Theatre, Glasgow, *The Hat*, BBC Radio, *The Offski Variations* (self-performed), Tron Theatre, Glasgow, *The Theory and Practice of Rings*, BBC Radio, *Troilus and Cressida and Da-di-da-di-da*, BBC Radio 3: *Nightflights* (a musical) , Dundee Repertory Theatre, *This Time I Promise* (self-performed), Oran Mor Theatre, Glasgow. Her new one woman play is called *Mountains* --- a companion piece to *This Time I Promise*. Marcella Evaristi has been writer-in-residence at the Universities of St Andrews, Glasgow and Strathclyde universities, and held a Fellowship in Creative Writing from Sheffield University. As an undergraduate she won the BBC Student Poetry competition. As a journalist, Marcella has been a radio critic and features writer for the Herald newspaper, and is a regular contributor to the Art Newspaper.

Joe- Mark Bonnar

...is originally from Scotland. His extensive work as an actor includes Line of Duty 2 (BBC) Case Histories (BBC) both due for transmission later in the year, Shetland (BBC), Doctor Who (BBC), Psychoville series 2 (BBC), Phone Shop (Channel 4) Penkovsky (BBC) and the feature film Camera Trap.

Theatre Credits include *The Duchess of Malfi* (Old Vic), *The Cherry Orchard* (National Theatre), *Novecento* (Donmar at the Trafalgar Studios), *Dido Queen of Carthage* (National Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Donmar in the West End), *Philistines* (National Theatre), *Mammals* (The Bush) and *Twelfth Night* (Manchester Royal Exchange).

Mimi- Sarah Alexander

... is perhaps best known to television audiences for playing Susan Walker for four seasons on the hit show *Coupling*. She has also starred in such award-winning series as *The Worst Week of my Life*, *Armstrong & Miller*, *Smack the Pony*, and *Green Wing*.

Her film credits include: Matthew Vaughn's *Stardust*, Amy Heckerling's *I Could Never Be Your Woman*, *Going Off Big Time*; *The New Adventures of Pinocchio*; *Juliet in Romeo and Juliet* (Michael Bogdanov); *Princess and Sea View Nights*.

Other television credits include: *Me & Mrs Jones* (BBC), *The Jury* (ITV1), *All The Small Things* (BBC), *Mutual Friends* (BBC), *Dr Terrible's House of Horrible: Voodoo Feet of Death*; *People Like Us*; *Midsomer Murders*; *The Eleven O'Clock Show* (Channel 4); *The Strangerers* (Sky); Catherine Cookson's *Tilly Trotter*; *Red Dwarf*; *Smith and Jones* (two series) and *Drop the Dead Donkey*. She is currently working on the forthcoming series of the BBC's *Jonathan Creek*.

Lucy- Phoebe Abbott

...cut her comedy teeth with 'The School of Comedy' comedy improv. group. Since then she has taken part in many school productions and featured in a dream sequence sketch in 'Shooting Stars' on BBC 2. Other than starring in *The Go-Betweenies* she is hard at work about to embark on her A2 'A' level year at school.

Tom- Finlay Christie

... recently played The Orphan in *Mr Bridger's Orphan* for BBC Radio 4 and Victor in the main cast of the BBC2 comedy series *Bleak Old Shop of Stuff*, with Robert Webb and Katherine Parkinson playing his parents and Stephen Fry playing the evil baddy. He is the voice of Yojojo in the longstanding BBC animated series *Waybuloo*. Finlay also writes and performs his material as a Standup. He has done this since he was 7 and most recently he completed successful runs at *The Udderbelly* at The Edinburgh Fringe and London Southbank as part of the hugely successful *Comedy Club for Kids*.

Full Production Credits

Production Company	Absolutely Productions Ltd
Studio Facilities	Motivation Sound Studios
Director	Marilyn Imrie
Writer	Marcella Evaristi
Engineer and Editor	Alisdair McGregor
Broadcast Managers	Sarah Tombling Lucy Barter
Studio Managers	Alison MacKenzie Jon Culver
Photographer	Richard Bailey
Producer	Gordon Kennedy
Executive Producer	Chris Pye
Commissioning Editor BBC	Caroline Raphael

ALL PRODUCTION STILLS CREDIT- Richard Bailey

For more information contact: Gordon Kennedy 07768374889
gordon.kennedy@absolutely-uk.com