



'Secrets and Lattes' by Hilary Lyon - Publicity synopsis and background

Edinburgh's newest coffee shop opens for business this spring on BBC Radio 4 as Hilary Lyon's brand new six part comedy narrative series 'Secrets and Lattes' starring Julie Graham, Hilary Lyon, Simon Greenall and Pearl Appleby hits the airwaves at 11:30am on Monday 7th April.

'Secrets and Lattes' sees erstwhile free spirit Trisha (played by Julie Graham) return to her native city of Edinburgh after years of living in London. Trisha, a generally relaxed and positive art teacher is coping with not only unexpectedly losing her job, but also trying to repair her bruised heart. Nonetheless, she arrives at Edinburgh's Waverley Station enthusiastic and eager for the next chapter of her life to begin.



Trish's solvent big sister Clare (played by Hilary Lyon) is a non-practising qualified accountant, has been married for years, has 2 spoiled teenage children and has probably spent far too much time on the school PTA. Clare struggles with a tendency towards suburban snobbery and an obsessive need to control but happily facilitates the opening of 'Cafe Culture' in leafy Bruntsfield, which marks the beginning of a whole new era for both sisters.

Throw in temperamental opera-loving Polish chef, Krzysztof (Simon Greenall) and a strangely forward teenage customer/helper, Lizzie (Pearl Appleby) and you have the perfect recipe for volatile relationship tension, a lot of laughs and a few secrets for good measure. Who keeps phoning Trisha? What's really going on in Clare's perfect family? What is Krzysztof's past and what on earth is going on with Lizzie and her acquisitive habit?

Set against the backdrop of a nation currently caught up in its own identity debate, Trisha, Clare, Krzysztof and Lizzie are all at a crossroads one way and another. Who are they really, what are they doing with their lives and what happens if 'Cafe Culture' collapses?

Life in the cafe is never dull....there's always an everyday crisis or, at times, epic drama going on (merited or otherwise.....Krzysztof is never one for not making a meal out of everything, besides just the cooking ingredients). Sibling tensions are never too far from the fore and relationships are tested all round as our cafe team cope with life's unexpected events and its inevitable trail of issues. Love, heartbreak, parenthood: identity, status and secrecy all feature in our quartet's lives starring alongside, obviously, a helluva lot of coffee and a load of laughter too.....

Background to the series

Following on from the success of her long-running R4 series 'Baggage', Hilary Lyon was keen to write something else again based in Edinburgh, particularly as she has now moved back to the capital city of Scotland herself after over 20 years of living in the capital city of England.

Hilary was particularly interested in looking at identity and status, particularly as Scotland itself is so engaged in the debate over these very issues right now.

Ultimately our relationships with ourselves and each other are the very essence of being alive and it was fun to set the series in the microcosmic world of a cafe and to look at the disparate group of folk's lives there. Also, basing the story around 2 very different sisters (and all the attendant complexity of siblinghood) and having their worlds collide again after a long time apart seemed a good recipe for both frustration and fun, catharsis and a good carry-on.....

Hilary has always been fascinated by how people communicate; what they tell each other and what they choose to keep secret, perhaps even to themselves. How insightful are we about our own behaviour and experiences, really, never mind anybody else's?

Anyway.....all that aside, it's fun and interesting to have a bunch of vibrant women (and a slightly unreconstructed, but well-meaning man) talk and muse over lots of 'stuff' and, against all the odds, still manage to find some humour in the absurdity of it all and just 'get on with it' anyway.....



Hilary Lyon

Hilary has been an actor for more years than she is prepared to admit to, working in many productions (both classical and contemporary) all over the country; from The Royal National Theatre on the South Bank to a disused army barracks on Shetland. She has also worked extensively in TV, but started writing at home a few years back while bringing up her 2 sons. She wrote and starred in 24 episodes of the BBC R4 comedy narrative series 'Baggage' alongside Phyllis Logan, Adie Allen and Peter Capaldi and loved the challenge and possibility that radio presents in terms of both writing and production. She is delighted to have been commissioned to write and star in her new series 'Secrets and Lattes' for BBC R4.

Series Cast:

Trisha	Julie Graham
Clare	Hilary Lyon
Krzysztof	Simon Greenall
Lizzie	Pearl Appleby

Episodes

Episode 1 In the Beginning... TX 11:30am Monday 7th April

Hilary Lyon's new series sees erstwhile free spirit Trisha (played by Julie Graham) return to her native city of Edinburgh after years of living in London. Trisha, a generally relaxed and positive art teacher is coping with not only unexpectedly losing her job, but also trying to repair her bruised heart. Nonetheless, she arrives at Waverley Station enthusiastic and eager for the next chapter of her life to begin. Trisha's solvent big sister Clare (played by Hilary Lyon) is a non-practising qualified accountant, has been married for years, has 2 spoiled teenage children and has probably spent too much time on the school PTA. Clare struggles with a tendency towards suburban snobbery and an obsessive need to control but happily facilitates the opening of 'Cafe Culture' in leafy Bruntsfield, which marks the beginning of a whole new era for both sisters.

Throw in temperamental opera-loving Polish chef, Krzysztof (Simon Greenall) and a strangely forward teenage customer, Lizzie (Pearl Appleby) and you have the perfect recipe for volatile relationship tension, a lot of laughs and a few secrets for good measure. Who keeps phoning Trisha? What's really going on in Clare's perfect family? What is Krzysztof's past and what on earth is it with Lizzie and her acquisitive habit?



Set against the backdrop of a nation caught up in its own identity debate, Trisha, Clare, Krzysztof and Lizzie are all at a crossroads one way and another. Who are they really, what are they doing with their lives and.....more importantly, will they actually get through their first day's business in the cafe?

Other cast: Young Mum - Nikki Grier, PC - Simon Greenall

Episode 2 Growing Pains TX 11:30am Monday 14th April

Episode 2 of Hilary Lyon's new Edinburgh-based series sees business booming in 'Cafe Culture', the leafy Bruntsfield coffee shop that Trisha (played by Julie Graham) has opened with her solvent sensible sister, Clare. Clare (Hilary Lyon) obsessively plans a special themed Valentine's Night celebration in the cafe and rises to the commercial romance challenge. Trisha can't imagine anything more ghastly: she's not a fan of Valentine's nonsense at the best of times but throw in her recent complicated relationship break-up in London and it really turns her off.

The sisters are delighted that business is booming, but what should they do about the staffing issue? They definitely need more help, but can Trisha persuade Clare and temperamental Polish chef, Krzysztof, (Simon Greenall) that kleptomaniac teenager, Lizzie, (Pearl Appleby) is actually the right person for the job?

Valentine's day duly arrives. Unexpected revelations abound, unconventional marriage proposals are made and unwanted flowers are delivered. All in all, it's not a very loved-up affair...

Other cast: Delivery Guy - Moray Hunter

Episode 3 Spring Awakening TX 11:30am Monday 21stth April

It's Spring in episode 3 of Hilary Lyon's new Edinburgh-based series and everything is blossoming..... apart from sisters Trisha and Clare's new business, unfortunately. 'Cafe Culture' is way too quiet for comfort and it's time to be financially inventive. Temperamental, opera-loving, Polish chef, Krzysztof, (Simon Greenall) suggests that they hold an Eastern European music evening and its full steam ahead.....apart from the fact that he, mysteriously, keeps nipping off.....

Arty younger sister, Trisha, (Julie Graham) has recently returned to her native city after years of living in London and also loves to nip off out, but not mysteriously.....she's just healthily jogging round the Meadows. However, one morning, she bumps into a friendly American (Guy Paul) making far too many offers for her liking and she finds it hard to be friendly back. Fretting that Clare has plans to bail out and sell the cafe to the highest bidder, Trisha is all set for a barney with her. Indeed, sensible big sister Clare (Hilary Lyon) is harbouring a few secrets on several fronts whilst Lizzie (Pearl Appleby) continues to battle with her shoplifting habit, but comes up trumps, however, when she's unexpectedly left holding the fort on the big night.



There are identity issues and heart traumas of the major variety all round but can an unexpected, yet welcome, proposal save the day.....

Other Cast: Blake - Guy Paul, Nurse - Nikki Grier



Episode 4 Heart Failures TX 11:30am Monday 28th April

It's the Edinburgh festival in episode 4 of Hilary Lyon's new BBC Radio 4 comedy narrative series, 'Secrets and Lattes' and its drama and fireworks all round. Business is booming in the Edinburgh cafe that erstwhile free spirit Trisha (played by Julie Graham) has recently opened with her sensible solvent older sister, Clare, (Hilary Lyon) but, sadly, things seem to be unravelling for everybody else on the personal front. Trisha finds herself not only propping up her sister as she becomes increasingly distraught about her husband's behaviour, but she also ends up providing refuge for teenage waitress Lizzie (Pearl Appleby) who, despite her buoyant facade, is definitely in need of some tlc.

Thankfully, temperamental opera-loving Polish chef, Krzysztof (played by Simon Greenall) is back on top form again and it appears that, even for the broken-hearted, eating birthday cake and drinking fizz on the top of a hill *can* actually be good for you.....

Episode 5 A Paler Shade of White TX 11:30am Monday 5th May

In episode 5, the penultimate part of Hilary Lyon's new comedy narrative series ' Secrets and Lattes', for BBC Radio 4, normally laid-back Trisha, (Julie Graham) is wrong-footed when she comes face to face with a very unexpected visitor whilst Clare (played by Hilary Lyon) drives herself (and everybody else for that matter) mad with her obsessive decorating, induced by her increasing anxiety about her husband's uncharacteristic

behaviour. It would appear that even though their new Edinburgh cafe business is growing, one sister's life is definitely unravelling while the others may be starting to knit together again, so long as she can keep her head.....

Meanwhile temperamental opera-loving Polish chef, Krzysztof (Simon Goodall) doesn't know whether he is coming or going with Trisha and is being driven to distraction (and drink) whilst whacky teenage waitress, Lizzie (Pearl Appleby) is unusually subdued and secretive after a rubbish night out. Is the 'Cafe Culture' makeover really going to make a difference or are they all just, in their own ways, painting over the literal and metaphorical cracks?

Other cast: Struan- Duncan Duff, Richard- Roger May, Minty- Marilyn Imrie

Episode 6 Oh God, it's Christmas... TX 11:30am Monday 12th May

It's December in episode 6, the final part of Hilary Lyon's new comedy narrative series for BBC R4, and Trisha (played by Julie Graham) has high expectations of the imminent festive season in Edinburgh, as she is spending her first Christmas back in her native city with a particularly special person. She is also uncharacteristically enthusiastic about all things festive at work in 'Cafe Culture', the Bruntsfield coffee shop she runs with her usually sensible big sister Clare (played by Hilary Lyon).



However, everybody else in the Cafe Culture team seems to be dreading it all and there's little evidence of seasonal goodwill around. Clare would happily cancel the whole thing and is fearful of a stressful scenario at home with her troubled husband and monosyllabic teenage children and, for the first time ever, can't summon up the enthusiasm for hanging up even a few tasteful baubles.

Temperamental, opera-loving polish chef, Krzysztof (Simon Goodall) is having his own major traumas and reservations about everything in his life and although he plans on holding a traditional feast with friends, a major falling-out with Trisha makes this increasingly unlikely. The fourth member of the cafe team, teenage waitress Lizzie (played by Pearl Appleby) is avoiding addressing some complicated family stuff in her past and is pretending to be an ostrich when it comes to Christmas.

Can the team overcome their sturm und drang, survive Christmas and make Cafe Culture a continuing success?

Other Cast: Richard - Roger May

Production Team

Producers	Moray Hunter and Gordon Kennedy
Director	Marilyn Imrie
Writer	Hilary Lyon
Studio Engineer/Editor	Alisdair MacGregor
Studio Manager	Alison McKenzie/Fiona MacAlpine
Broadcast Assistant	Sarah Tombling
Studio	Motivation Sound Studios