



The Go-Betweenies

Series 2

By Marcella Evaristi

After a critically acclaimed and hugely popular first series 'The Go-Betweenies' are back for a second series this summer starting **Friday, July 6th at 11:30am on BBC Radio 4...**

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

The Observer

"...It could be classed as Outnumbered for Radio but that would be doing a disservice to a nuanced comic take on life amongst the chattering classes..."

David Crawford, Radio Times



Mark Bonnar takes on the role of Joe and, alongside Sarah Alexander,

Phoebe Abbott and Finlay Christie, stars in 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 and, new to the series, Nicky Henson features as Mimi's estranged father William, and Juliet Cadzow as Joe's mother Sophia.

Written by award winning writer Marcella Evaristi, set in North London, and featuring two lead characters aged 15 and 11, 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 second 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 new rackety rental on the Holloway Road.

Who are The Go-Betweenies?

Fifteen year old Lucy (Phoebe Alexander) and eleven year old Tom (Finlay Christie). They are delighted to have their dad (on his third divorce) back living nearby --- he had unhappily turned into a Once a Fortnight Father, devoted but lived too far way to be part of the rhythm of their days . . .

Now their Mum's Designer Guild curtains are thicker than the walls in their Dad's crappy new flat. Lucy feels uncompensated for the hassle of moving house once a week. Tom has survived bullying in his last school and is overjoyed to have his dad properly back. Tom is also useful for carrying all of Lucy's clobber as she points out the fetish shops and tattoo parlours and other landmarks of their new half-week, Holloway Road, home.



The Parents Their mother Mimi (Sarah Alexander), a nervy ex-Beckett scholar turned successful children's writer, frets about the split lives now imposed on the kids. And it's hard including her workaholic new husband into her family set-up when he's constantly abroad . . . Still there's always Skype and she does review all the latest parenting advice . . .

But where Mimi has found herself it looks like Joe (Mark Bonnar) has mislaid himself again. This once shiny star of the New York art scene is floundering- reduced to depicting deceased Lurchers and Scientology heavens for his new

employers at Your Pets Painted in the Afterlife.com and a bit of painting and decorating with long-time friend Bobby whilst the fallout from his latest marital failure with a Parisian designer has turned as chilly as a French Smeg

She and Joe are determined like so many divorced parents that their marital failures will not getting the way of good parenting. But when did parenting become this complicated thing? And how do the kids negotiate the dynamics of their determinedly hands-on divorced mum and dad?

So To Sum Up...

Mimi is wondering if she should go back to her 'Yoga for Anxiety' classes, Tom is in a secret war on his mother's fictional characters, Lucy is trying to pawn her tuba ('I'm in a good state school it's work is done') and Joe is in recovery writing Gratitude Lists to keep up his spirits . . .

Lucy feels obliged to constantly remind everyone that her relationship with her best friend Katie has lasted longer than any of her parents' marriages.

If 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 London, is where the guilty doing their desperate best not to terrible statistics that prophecy their children. Such a waste after careful years of organic butternut and Mozart played to their tummies.



North divorced are believe those the worst for all those squash puree pregnant

Marilyn Imrie on Directing Series 2...

Marilyn Imrie has worked with with Marcella Evaristi from the outset of both their careers in Scotland ; she says

" I rank Marcella Evaristi as one of the most important writers to emerge from Scotland in the last thirty years; her deft way with dialogue and character and her skill in creating astonishingly accurate portraits of the way we live now make her a creatively demanding, challenging and exciting writer with whom to work. Directing the *Go-Betweenies* has also brought me the delight of working with two of the most talented young actors I have come across in my career; Finlay Christie and Phoebe Abbott are simply amazing in their focus wit and skill, and I look forward to watching them soar to stardom in what ever they chose to do."

Episode Outlines:

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

Episode One: The Break-Up

TX: Friday 6th July, 11:30am

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|---------------|-------|-------------------|
| Episode Cast: | Helen | Tracy-Ann Oberman |
| | Katy | Ophelia Davidson |

Mark Bonnar and Sarah Alexander star in the shared parenting comedy. Their son Tom is freaked out by his mother's fictional version of himself -- his face is recognisable on pink pencil cases --whilst daughter Lucy, the queen of deluded self-esteem, confidently prepares to audition for the part of Nancy in the a school production of **Oliver!** And she has done her research --- prostitute is Victorian for slag, isn't it?

Episode Two: Happy Father's Day

TX: Friday 12th July 11:30am

Episode Cast: William

Nicky Henson



Tom is deliriously happy when he discovers that his missing grandad is currently starring in a stool-softening advert. His mum has told him that he was a marvellous actor who suffered from Dramnesia but he is really an irresponsible thespian who never came home.

Meanwhile Joe is busy with his new job at Your Pets Painted in the Afterlife.com and still broke.

His daughter Lucy figures only affluent parents should get hand crafted crap like paper mache eggcups and Lego window boxes. Her tuba has served its purpose. She got into a state school where no one throws bricks at her head. So isn't it resourceful to make a visit to that Kentish Town pawn shop?

Episode Three: Zuckerberg's Chicken

TX: Friday 19th July 11:30am

Episode Cast: Jennifer
Freddie

Emily Bruni
Oli Dillon

Divorced father Joe keeps receiving misdirected post from the fetish shop across the road. But Mimi, his ex, has time on her hands and when she visits Joe she cannot keep her prying fingers from that intriguing package . . .

Meanwhile daughter Lucy has a plan to steal a chicken. Her new hero is Mark Zuckerberg who says that eating meat is not immoral if you capture your own dinner. Lucy always figured there must be an ethical way of eating that did not involve putting Quorn in her mouth. All she needs to do is convince her brother Tom that they are on a mission to say the chicken from the cruelty of the battery farm . . .

But what are all those handcuffs doing all over the floor of her dad's flat?



Episode 4: Under The Same Night Stars TX: Friday 25th July 11:30am

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|---------------|----------|-------------------|
| Episode Cast: | Jennifer | Emily Bruni |
| | Freddie | Oli Dillon |
| | Bobby | Stephen Critchlow |
| | Chris | Daniel Boyd |

Lucy is despairing about the future of the planet until she meets a cute boy with a moped. But Tom is in a huff with his family and inventing imaginary parents because he is not allowed to see his best friend Freddy. When Freddy runs away it's left to Lucy to save the day . . . Thank goodness her mum never uses that porcini filled writing shed.

Episode 5: Sex, Guns and Frida Kahlo TX: Friday 3rd August 11:30am

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|---------------|--------|---------------|
| Episode Cast: | Sophia | Juliet Cadzow |
|---------------|--------|---------------|

Mimi and Joe are in a state of conflicted liberal anguish because Lucy is growing up too fast. She wants a sexy Halloween costume to dazzle her boyfriend in, but Joe talks her into going to a party dressed as Frida Kahlo . . . Meanwhile Joe's wily mother sorts out her son's vindictive and most recent ex-wife, the radical rug designer.

Episode 6: The Next Story TX Fri 10th August 11:30am

| | | |
|---------------|-------|-------------------|
| Episode Cast: | Bobby | Stephen Critchlow |
| | Harry | Guy Paul |
| | Vicky | Doon Mackichan |



Tom and Lucy are furious they are not allowed a dog. Their parents say that when kids go between two households it's too complicated. But their mum and dad's love lives are even more tangled. After all, Tom has seen his parents kissing. So where does that leave their mum's new third husband, and the unstable pet shop owner their dad has been secretly dating?

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 writer whose work for stage, television and radio is characterised by its signature wit and warmth.

Her first television play ***Eve Set the Balls of Corruption Rolling*** (Pye Award Best Writer New to Television) set her off on a prolific career --- her stage plays include ***Commedia*** (Nominated Evening Standard Best New Play) ***Hard to Get*** and ***Wedding Belles and Green Grasses***.

She has written a musical ***Nightflights*** and numerous plays for both BBC Radio 3 and 4. Of her most recent self performed play ***This Time I Promise*** the Scotsman said it magically 'transformed new scientific insights into a powerful and beautiful metaphor.'

Marcella is currently writing a new work for the MA acting students at the Central School of Drama in London. Called ***Purgatorio*** this dazzling metaphysical comedy tells the story of three penitents from Dante's *Divine Comedy* who return to our present world to explore our modern redefinition of sin . . .

Joe- Mark Bonnar

...is originally from Scotland. His extensive work as an actor includes *Shetland* (BBC) - due for transmission later in the year, *Doctor Who* (BBC), *Psychoville* series 2 (BBC), *Phone Shop* (Channel 4) *Penkovsky* (BBC).

Theatre Credits include *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: *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 Strangers* (Sky); *Catherine Cookson's Tilly Trotter*; *Red Dwarf*; *Smith and Jones* (two series) and *Drop the Dead Donkey*. She is currently working on the BBC comedy '*Me and Mrs Jones*'.

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 GCSE year at school.

Tom- Finlay Christie

...recently played 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*, and since he was 7 has performed his own material as a standup, with the *Comedy Club for Kids* at various venues including the Soho Theatre Dean Street, The Comedy Store, The Newport Arts Theatre, The Playhouse, The London Soho Festival and The Edinburgh Fringe.

Full Production Credits

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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

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