

# **Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh– a school play – suitable for video**

*le Art Ó Súilleabháin*

(Please feel free to alter as you wish to adapt this for your class)

The original was filmed in the school in Carnacon, in Moorehall and in Moorehall forest.

## **At the TV Studio**

Presenter 1 : Good evening my name is Martina Musgrave presenter for the evening.

It is two hours after sunset so we are not too sure of the real date.

It is the tenth year of the reign of Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh

Here on my left is my co-presenter of the evening Noreen Parker  
(Presenter 2)

Presenter 2 Good evening viewers, this evening we have an incredible scandalous story for you.

This story has all the ingredients of a great novel, mystery, intrigue, romance, scandal in the palace and a happy ending.

This story has been brewing now for over ten years, ever since our beloved Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh became a High King.

Presenter 1 Yes, viewers ten years ago today, right here on this programme we reported a strange disappearance of the local barber by then name of Seán McScissors Murphy. Seán had been to the palace on the Saturday before to cut the kings hair for the crowning ceremony on the following day. On Monday when he had not returned home, his mother reported him missing.

Ballyglass Police Force were assigned to the case, Detective Garda Bobby Fingerman was the detective who was in charge of the case. Later we will be visiting the barracks for a comment with Detective Fingerman.

Presenter 2 Yes, news that the ten year old mystery has been solved. Palace officials have declined to comment on the situation but have promised us a full statement later in this bulletin. For the past ten years in and around Oíche Shamhna barbers have been known to disappear from the vicinity of the palace. Official sources from the Palace have always insisted that these barbers were abducted by the fairies outside the palace sometime during Oíche Shamhna.

However today an unofficial source close to the King has informed us that a major scandal surrounds the king and the leading Palace officials. It has been uncovered that the King is not perfect. A senior palace official is accused of concealing the fact that nine barbers were jailed over a period of time to keep the secret, but word is out our High King is not perfect.

Presenter 1 And now we go immediately to the barracks in Ballyglass to speak to Detective Bobby Thingyme who is in charge of the case. Our reporter on the scene is Tony the Diggertrenchcoat. "Tony can you fill us in on what has been happening at the scene?"

### Ballyglass Barracks

Reporter (Tony) Yes, Martina we are here in the rain outside Ballyglass Barracks. It is now official. I was actually at the palace on the feast of Oíche Shamhna when the revelation was made. Viewers, your King Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has **horses' ears**. Imagine horse ears, he is not perfect. For a short while he was the laughing stock of the palace. Later that night a further story broke.

And now your intrepid reporter is here to talk to Detective Thingyme.

"Bobby, what's the second story?"

Detective Yes, Tony a ten year old mystery was solved last night when nine missing barbers turned up in the palace. They are all in good physical condition, but all have long hair and beards. I questioned these people today and each of them had been held prisoner in the palace dungeon. I have been investigating their disappearance from the vicinity of the palace for the past ten years.

But until the revelations last night during the féasta I've not been able to uncover one rib of evidence. It is now known that the King and a senior Palace Official had the barbers jailed in the castle so as to keep the King's ears a secret.

Reporter Will there be criminal charges brought against the King and the officials involved?

Detective That is a little uncertain yet but it will depend on the nine barbers involved. There may be an out of court settlement where the Palace may offer compensation to the barbers involved and if this is the case we will hear no more about the affair.

Yes you heard it first on **Network Carnacon** and now this is Tony the DiggerTrenchCoat handing you back to the studio.

### **At the TV Studio**

Presenter 1                      Thank you Tony. Yes the story seems to be coming together very well but to clarify the events for you the viewers, we have a re-construction of all the events leading up to the last nights revelations.

The story begins on October 1<sup>st</sup> this year when the King ordered that he needed a barber to give him his annual hair cut in time for the feast Oíche Shamhna. Our reconstruction begins in the Palace on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **At the Palace**

King                                      Oh what a miserable wet day, I need something to cheer me up, Servants!

Servant 1                              Yes your majesty.

King                                      My hair is getting long again and it will soon be time for the féasta at Oíche Shamhna and I will have to look my best. That new lady in the Palace Mary Foley will be here and I want to impress her further. Fine me a barber.

Servant 1                              Yes, your Majesty. Come out here you  
(To servant 2). Go and find a barber for the King.

Servant 2                              But sir there are no barbers left in the kingdom as far as I know, unless they are working on the black market under cover. There are certainly no taxes coming from barbers.

Servant 1                              We're not the tax officers for barbers and we may have one or two come forward anyway. Go and find a barber for the King.

### **3 Days later back at the Palace**

Barber                                      I will agree to cut the Kings hair, but I will need protection when I leave the Palace. I do not want the fairies to catch me like they caught the other barbers.

Servant 2                              That can be arranged. You can have an escort of ten soldiers to bring you home the night you cut the King's hair.





Barber (The King takes off his crown to reveal his horses ears). Ha hahaha Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears, Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears, Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears, Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears.

King Enough, not a word of this to a living soul or you'll never see your mother again.

Barber (Barber cuts the Kings hair). I'm finished your Majesty I hope everything is ok?

King Remember not a word to a living soul, you can go now.

### **Back In the Woods**

#### **In the Widow's cottage**

Widow Well, what's the story son, you can tell your mother.

Barber I have sworn to tell no one and that is an oath that I will keep

(Some time later as the son is walking in the woods)

Oh no what am I going to do, this secret is killing me, if I don't tell someone soon, I'll get no peace or ease.

Oh no what am I to do? I must tell this terrible secret to someone or I'll surely doubt my youth. I know. I'll go and ask the wise old woman.

#### **Wise Old Woman's House**

Wise Old Woman Yes.

Barber Wise old woman I have a terrible problem. I have a secret that I'm not allowed to tell anyone, what am I to do?

Wise Old Woman Your problem is a difficult one for a young man. You must go down to the woods and tell your secret to one of the trees there. This will ease your mind and you will still have kept your oath.

Barber Thank you very much.

### **In the Woods**

Barber Ah that one will do just fine.(The barber tells a tree). Labhraigh ó Loinsigh has horse's ears.

Trees (A whispering comes from the trees). Labhraigh ó Loinsigh has horse's ears, and Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears.

### **Some days later at the Palace**

King Great, only seven more days to the féasta Oíche Shamhna.  
Musician play me a happy tune, I feel great and I'm looking forward to the féasta.

(Musician plays but makes a mess of the tune – the instrument is poor)

Musician that is horrible, go and find yourself a new instrument. There are some fine oak trees in the forest and you have my permission to choose the finest one from which to make a new instrument.

### **Back in the Woods**

Forrester 1 Right sir, will this one do you? (Choosing a tree to chop down from which to make a new instrument).

Musician No, No

Forrester 2 Will this one do you?

Musician No, don't like it.  
Ah but that one will do grand. (pointing to another tree). I will make the new flute from that

### **At the Palace**

King You're all welcome to the Féasta Oíche Shamhna.  
Tonight you will feast with happiness at the King's table.  
Musician play us a tune on your new instrument to start the festivities.

Musician Yes your Majesty.

Music from Flute Tune come out but also the words – Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears; Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears, Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears, Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears, Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears,

Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears, and Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh has horse's ears.

- King (King turns to the barber at the table). You have betrayed me.
- Barber No your Majesty, I only told the trees. I swear I only told the trees.
- King Then you may all know the truth.  
It's a secret no longer. You may all know the truth.  
I am not perfect.
- Crowd Yes you are not perfect. But Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh is our only King
- King Perhaps now I can choose a Queen, I will be afraid of my secret no longer.  
Next week I will announce my choice for Queen, some of you may already suspect who it is.
- Stewart (Aside to one of the servants). That's a badly kept secret. It can only be Mary Foley.
- King Stewart, release the barbers from the dungeon. They have been there now for long enough. Guards you can go with him.
- Prisoner 1 (Prisoners are released and come to the great hall for the Féasta). For nine years now I have been kept in the dungeons and to make matters worse even with the eight of us, none of us were allowed a scissors, we all need a haircut.
- Barber Well I'll do the job for ye!
- King On with the féasta, musician more music.

### **Back at the Studio.**

- Presenter 1 And so viewers you got the whole story revealed first on Network Carnacon. In the afternoon we went to the market place to ask the man at the market, what he thought of the whole affair.  
So over to our outside broadcaster with our reporter Gary the Gossip.
- Gary (at the market place). Yes, this evening at the Market we asked a number of people what they thought?  
Good evening sir, what do you think of this latest scandal in the Palace?
- Farmer About the ears? Means nothing to me, does it? Will I get more porridge tomorrow because of it? Means nothing really to the man on the street.
- Gary And you Sir, what do you think?

Gentleman                    It will probably mean more taxes. Those barbers in the dungeons will look for compensation from Palace officials. It can only mean one thing, a rise in my tax bill, a royal nuisance that's what I think it is.

Gary                             Well that's what the people at the Market think, now it's back to the studio.

Reporter 2                    Thank you, Gary. Now a look at what tomorrow's papers have to say about the scandal. It's made the headlines in all the papers but one.  
First we have a look at the **Moore hall Bulletin**, "Donkey's Ears or Horse's Ears, that's the question. So we still have a King?  
Next we have a look at the **Castlecarrá Post**, "Stablemen look for pay rise, because of their new status."  
The Parke Press the "King is made the Laughing Bloodstock of the Palace".  
And I see the widow's son has opened a scissors shop.  
Next the **Carnacon Times** "Something Horsey about our King"

Reporter 1                    And now before we say good night, over to Nancy Knowles for a comment from High Society, Nancy.

Nancy                            Yes, Martina I am here outside the exclusive shop of Main Street where all the high society shops are. I will be talking to a number of customers.  
Excuse me madam, what do you think of the scandal in the Palace?

High Society Lady            Oh, I think it's great. Just think now (Clown Laugh) Larry will be able to marry.  
It's no great secret that he'll be asking Mary Foley to be his queen. Just think of the wedding and there'll surely be lots of feasts at the Palace.

Nancy                            And you Madam, what do you think of the scandal at the Palace?

High Society Lady 2        Great, it's bound to start a new rage in the Fashion World. Brill, and we are one of the first to see the potential of this for industry and Tourism.  
I am opening a shop at High Street tomorrow morning, selling artificial ears.  
Look, it's bound to be a huge success.  
Long live Labhraigh Ó Loinsigh.