



*From us to you: 19 stories from leading playwrights for
people across the UK to record*

LONG DISTANCE CALL

By Eoin McAndrew

Cast size: 2

This play is suitable for: Two Person

STEP 1: REHEARSE

- Make sure you have enough people for each part or maybe you could play multiple parts.
- Try to learn all your character's lines, if possible.
- If you're looking for some guidance, check out our [How To... videos](#). We've brought together a bunch of the best actors and directors to give you their tips and advice on how to make the best film you can.

STEP 2: RECORD

- Use a phone to film your performance or record directly on your Zoom or video chat platform.
- Record your performance in well-lit spaces so we can see you clearly but avoid standing right in front of a window on sunny day, and remember to keep private items out of view.
- Try to cut out all background noise by closing windows and doors.

STEP 3: UPLOAD

- We would love to see your performance. To upload your recording to us, click [here](#).
- Please **do not share** your recording on YouTube or other similar platforms. This is so we can keep all the recordings in the same place and to respect and honour our writers' copyright and publication permissions.
- We will be creating a film of each script from the videos submitted.
- We want this to be something everyone can take part in so please do get in touch if you have any access requirements or if there is anything else we might be able to help with.
- If you are having difficulty uploading your recording, please get in touch with us via email: admin@theatre-centre.co.uk or phone: 020 7729 3066.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

- Recommend to a friend by inviting those you know to rehearse, record and upload their own performance.
- Encourage others by using [#ImagiNation19](#) on your social platforms. State what play you have performed but remember to not share your recording publicly.
- Thank you for being part of ImagiNation.

With this piece, I wanted to look at feelings of helplessness and the desire to make loved ones laugh during difficult times.

I have used - / - to indicate where the next line of dialogue interrupts the one before, and - () - to suggest that a line is an aside, or at a tangent to the conversation.

However punctuation and stage directions are all suggestions, rather than instructions.

* * *

Evening.

A and B are calling each other via FaceTime on their phones.

A is wearing scrubs and is exhausted.

B: How was it today?

A: -

Um.

Tough.

It was a bit tough today.

B: Yeah?

A: -

Sorry I don't really want to...

B: That's okay.

A: You know?

B: Of course.

A: Sorry, I'm / being so -

B: No you're not. You're grand.

-

No 'sorries'.

A: -

What did you do today?

B: Me?

Oh god. Today I...

(shrugs)

Showered.

A: Well that's good.

B: And I drank two litres of water.

And I.

Uh.

-

Yeah. That's it I guess.

They both smile, a bit weakly.

B: -

And I had an affair.

A: What?

B: I had an affair.

A laughs.

A: With who?

B: With my dentist.

A: Oh really?

B: Yes I had a brief yet passionate love affair with my dentist. But I ended it cause he said he was gonna leave his wife for me, but you *know* he was never gonna leave his wife for me.

A: I'm so sorry.

B: Thank you.

So to get over it, I ran a marathon.

Well, half marathon.

A: Still.

B: I know right? I was like to them 'my immune system is fucked, I shouldn't be running marathons, I should be quarantined in my shitty flat'.

A: Was it for a good cause at least?

B: Yes. It was to raise money. Foooor.

(What was it to raise money for again?)

A: (I think it was for baby elephants.)

B: Exactly, it was to raise money for baby elephants. Cause they need money.

To buy things?

A: You're a hero.

B: And then.

Well then I wanted to do something a bit more cultured so I went on an archeological dig and I found the secret *third* book of the bible.

A: Oh wow.

B: Yeah and it's got some pretty controversial shit in there.

Oh and then I saw a police horse from the window of my flat!!!

B zooms in really close to their face, like whispering a secret.

B: (that one *actually* happened)

And then Barack Obama came over for dinner, but turns out he's a terrible houseguest and now he won't leave.

And / then

A: Hey.

B: I went to Mars on / the Mars shuttle

A: Hey hey hey.

B: Yeah?

A: -

You don't need to cheer me up.

I'm okay.

B: -

I know.

Just wish I was there with you. Obviously.

-

Today I just woke up. Read the news. Had a bit of a cry. Missed you. Made food and then here we are.

A: That's not very funny.

B: No.

They smile.

A: -

I don't believe that for one second. What did you *actually* do today?

B: *Ugh Fine.*
Today I made a time machine out of cereal boxes. Are you happy now??

A: Can I see it?

B: No, it's private.

A: It's a private time machine.

B: Right. And then.
I went back to Ancient Pompeii.

A: Oh no.

B: But not during the volcano. Just like a regular day, so it was fine. And then -

A: I'm just gonna lie down and maybe close my eyes for a bit.

B: Okay.

A: But keep talking to me.

A lies down on their sofa.

A: Go on. I'm listening.

B: Okay.
So *and then* I went to the deepest, greenest jungles of Peru and I went exploring.
And then I went and I swam in the ocean, with all the friendly tropical fish.
And then I lay on the beach, on the white sand, and I dried off in the sun.

A smiles.

B: And then I...
And then.
And then.

ImagiNation is a co-production between Theatre Centre and Theatre503

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