



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

THE PILLOW WHISPERERS

By Matilda Ibini

Cast size: 3 - 5

This play is suitable for: One Person, Group

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.

Brief intro

I wrote this piece as I was inspired by the news of a popular online retailer selling out of microphones in correlation with the lockdown. Which got me thinking about how innately creative we all are and how quickly we wanted to be able to reach out to one another at a time when we are being forced to isolate. I also wanted this piece to be funny because it takes a lot of hours, training, and learning to become a good radio DJ/host and PJ and Silky are very much at the beginning of their journey. PJ and Silky can be played by anyone and the listeners that call in although written as two women and one man, I'm more than happy for this piece to be picked up by anyone and made your own. (For example you could turn Uncle Simpson into Auntie Marge or Cousin Lisa, come up with your own gemstone family: Sapphire, Emerald and little Bruneau Jasper, maybe a different relative of Silky calls instead). - Matilda Ibini

The Pillow Whisperers
by Matilda Ibini

PJ and SILKY are broadcasting live from their bedrooms on their internet radio show. LISTENER 1, LISTENER 2 and LISTENER 3 can choose to appear on screen or just as a voice.

- PJ: And that was today's Queen of Quarantine, Keyshia Cole with her timeless banger-
- SILKY: -and one of my personal favourites '*I Should Have Cheated*'. People please listen to what the Queen is saying, you should always cheat first before your partner gets a chance to, preventing them from becoming a Cheetah, preying on you just so they can devour your heart and shit it out before a pandemic.
- PJ: Right. Grab a pillow and get comfortable, you're in safe hands with your bestie PJ-
- SILKY: -but your real fave Silky Slim cos you're tuned into-
- PJ/SILKY: -The Pillow Whisperers.
- PJ: We just want to take some time to reflect and share some of the little joys we're all holding onto in this lockdown. Maybe you haven't worn a bra in over a month.
- SILKY: Free the gal-dem 'arie' and 'ola'.
- PJ: Maybe you've had time to take up a new hobby.
- SILKY: Why not try some nude yoga, write your autobiography as a manga, dabble in some occult crochet or maybe just catch up on some lost sleep whilst listening to us of course.
- PJ: Either way we want you to tell us who or what is keeping you going. We and all our listeners want to '*Show You Some Love*'. Looks like we've already got some callers.
- SILKY: Hello, caller it's your fave Silky Slim.
- LISTENER 1: Hey PJ and Silky, long time listener, first time caller.
- PJ: What's your name babes and where are you calling from?
- LISTENER 1: Shhhh... go away. Sorry, I'm Ruby from Rich - ford.
- SILKY: Where's that? Don't think I've heard of it.

PJ: Is that in the UK?

LISTENER 1: Yeah... it's between like-like Chelmsford and Castleford.

PJ: Rah... Guess our voices are reaching far and wide after all.

SILKY: And who do you want us to show some love to Ruby?

LISTENER 1: I wanna show some love to my big, strong, rock... my man Obsidian and-and our little one Jade. She's turning two next... tomorrow. Love my little gems to bits.

SILKY: Aww that's beautiful man. Happy birthday Jade.

PJ: Yeah, bless Jade, your twos are like the best year of your life, not quite three but also not a newbie. You get what I mean?

SILKY: Give them a big hug from us Ruby, our listeners are showing you a lot of love on Twitter. Looks like we have another caller.

PJ: New number who dis?

LISTENER 2: Hello-hello-hello.

SILKY: What's your name and where are you calling from?

LISTENER 2: They call me Uncle Simpson, keeping it locked and loaded in Springfield, near Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire-England-GB. Not really listened to this kind of music before but I'm enjoying what you folks are putting down.

SILKY: Thanks for tuning in all the way from the shire of Buckingham Uncle Simps, who do you want us to show some love to?

LISTENER 2: I want to show some love to myself.

PJ: You hear that listeners, we all need a bit of that lately, especially you Silky.

SILKY: I've always loved me PJ. Some would say even a little too often. We're all showing you lots of love Uncle Simps.

LISTENER 2: Thank you. It's been hard for me during these dark times, so I just want to quickly plug my new business, *Bunker Supplies*. A kind of cash and carry for essentials and PPE, we're selling loo roll at 5p per square, organically sourced masks, homemade hand sanitizer-

SILKY: -ok, thanks Uncle Simps. Your hoarding hustle is, admirable.

PJ: -DM us and we'll pass your business deets onto our listeners. In times of crisis we have to support the Alan Sugars of our communities.

SILKY: And even the Alan Sweeteners.

PJ: Why don't we have one more listener before we get to '*Silky's Smooth Tips for Surviving the Apocalypse*'?

SILKY: Caller, what's your name and who do you want to show some love to?

LISTENER 3: (*Forced RP accent*) I don't usually dabble in digital radio but I stumbled upon you two and I am absolutely enamoured by your vivacious chit chat.

PJ: Mrs Knowles? Is that you?

LISTENER 3: (*Forced RP accent*) Oh no, you must be mistaken, I am not her. Though she does sound rather delightfully beautiful in an unassuming way whose intelligence and generosity is so frequently taken advantage of.

SILKY: Mum, I can recognise your posh telephone voice anywhere.

LISTENER 3: (*Pause*) I'll have you know I could act Judi Dench off the stage in my sleep before you were conceived.

SILKY: Mum! Can we keep conception chat to a minimum, as in zero.

MUM: Sorry dear, we were just trying to help.

PJ: We? Hold on... Simpson, Springfield.

MUM: Mr Donovan at number 12 but I think his business is real though.

PJ: Ruby, Obsidian, Jade?

MUM: You remember Aunt Gaby's daughter Hannah. I told you she goes to the same stage school as that handsome fella from Star Wars. She's only fourteen you know.

SILKY: Damn man.

MUM: What did you just say to me?

PJ: It wasn't to you Mrs Knowles.

MUM: Since you want to be ungracious about it, I guess I'll tell the others to stand down then.

SILKY: I'll call you later mum...

PJ: Hey wonderful listeners, before we get to '*Silky's Smooth Tips for Surviving the Apocalypse*', we're just going to get you into the mood, so here's Jazmine Sullivan's '*In Love With Another Man*' and we'll be right back.

SILKY: ...

PJ: She was only trying to help.

SILKY: Help? Even our twelve twitter followers didn't want to call in. We're definitely not going to get more listeners to tune in now with all those fake followers.

PJ: We're not doing this for followers.

SILKY: Then what are we doing this for? We can't be the Pillow Whisperers, if there isn't anyone to whisper to.

PJ: This is meant to be fun. Fun for us. Something positive we could do together... When you upload anything to the internet, it doesn't... it can't...

SILKY: It can't what?

PJ: It gets to live forever and I guess when we bought these mics, I was thinking a part of us could live forever. Memories fade, they have to, to make space for the new ones... And if anything happens to you or me. Here's where we can always be found. The real us. Whispering to each other... .. Silky... Silky you still there? Silky?

SILKY: ...Yeah. I'm still here... We all are. I think I just needed to be reminded of the good times, the little joys, the laughs cos it's so easy to forget. We can't let our listeners down because we don't know who could be listening.

PJ: Exactly. I can keep reminding you, if you promise you'll keep reminding me.

SILKY: Deal... and together we'll remind our listeners.

PJ: Grab a pillow and get comfortable with your bestie PJ-

SILKY: -but your real fave Silky Slim cos you're tuned into-

ImagiNation is a co-production between Theatre Centre and Theatre503

The Pillow Whisperers © 2020 Matilda Ibini

ImagiNation pack © 2020 Theatre Centre



@TCLive / @theatre503 / #ImagiNation19

T: 020 7729 3066



@theatrecentre / @theatre503

E: admin@theatre-centre.co.uk



@TheatreCentreUK / @theatre503



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

