

26/07/23 Lewis Teckkam

Working Title: MIND FULL

Open Format

## LIST OF CHARACTERS

The characters are performed by 4 different actors

Conscience - Central character – wheelchair user male gender – youngish adult

Memory - any gender any adult age

Imagination - any gender any adult age

Intrusive Thoughts - any gender any adult age

Chorus Multiple voices of all the actors – repeating and overlapping

### ACT I

#### SCENE 1

An internal monologue (written as 4 parts of the psyche), could either have projected filmed imagery to illustrate or (if being performed by Borders Youth Theatre) vignettes performed by various actors, as mime, dance or movement, with main actors' voice overs.

|            |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CONSCIENCE | How do you know what is reality and what is not?                                                                                                                       |
| MEMORY     | I'm watching 'The Herbs' and Mr Onion is talking to me. He's being very aggressive – asking me maths questions.                                                        |
| CHORUS     | (FADES IN AND OVERLAPS WITH MEMORYORY SPEAKING IN A 'MR ONION' VOICE ASKING QUESTIONS. CHORUS GETS LOUDER) What do? How many? What do? How many? How many? (FADES OUT) |
| MEMORY     | (IN 'MR ONION' VOICE) If you had five carrots and three potatoes how many vegetables would that be? Come on. Come on you know the answer. I'm waiting.                 |
| CHORUS     | Come on, come on, come on. I'm waiting. I'm waiting. I'm waiting                                                                                                       |

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| IMAGINATION        | I am a Time Lord connecting with and experiencing other people's feelings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | I am receiving thoughts from the dead. Horrible thoughts, scary people. I am receiving thoughts from Churchill and Gandhi; Hitler and Alastair Crowley; Charles Dodgson and John Ruskin. I am receiving thoughts from Myra Hindley and Ian Brady.                                                              |
| CHORUS             | (OVERLAPS WITH INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS VOICES OF OTHER ACTORS FADE IN AND OUT REPEATING)<br>Murderers. Murderers. Murderers. Murderers.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | Like he was jealous of children because he didn't feel alive or happy really and he feels they were experiencing so much more joy and excitement than he was. He felt like Myra understood this and that is why they are meant to be together. They want to kill children. He hated them and he hated himself. |
| CHORUS             | (OVERLAPS WITH INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS. FADES IN AND OUT REPEATING) Murderer. Paedophile. Murderer. Paedophile.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| IMAGINATION        | I am Peter Pan – never growing up and able to fly. I am the ancient god Pan – existing in some way for an undefined period of time.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| CONSCIENCE         | How do you know what is reality and what is not?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Scene 2

An internal debate between the 4 characters. Conscience in the centre.

|             |                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MEMORY      | What's going on?                                                                                                                                      |
| IMAGINATION | What do you mean?                                                                                                                                     |
| MEMORY      | Why are we all here?                                                                                                                                  |
| CONSCIENCE  | That's a bit existentialist                                                                                                                           |
| MEMORY      | Why are we ALL here - at the same time?                                                                                                               |
| IMAGINATION | We are all always here at the same time.                                                                                                              |
| CONSCIENCE  | But us? (pause) (others continue babbling in bg* BG babbling words still to be written) You're all speaking at the same time. Shut up! I can't think. |

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| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | This is you thinking                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| CHORUS             | We are all you thinking                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| CONSCIENCE         | (speaks directly to audience) This happens from time to time. The voices in my head multiply and take over like the mops in the Sorcerer's Apprentice. (others continue babbling in BG) You're crowding me with a thousand thoughts. Stop it! |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | Counting still not your strong point then. I'm pretty sure there's not even a hundred thoughts in your head let alone a thousand at any one time.                                                                                             |
| IMAGINATION        | Thoughts are refracted like light reflecting off a crystal into a thousand dancing stars                                                                                                                                                      |
| CONSCIENCE         | Or a thousand shards of broken glass.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| CHORUS             | Floating. Dancing, Piercing, Stabbing. (pause) Annoying, disturbing, confusing. Frightening.                                                                                                                                                  |
| CONSCIENCE         | Going round and round always coming back to the same point like an Escher drawing. It's not real.                                                                                                                                             |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | What's not real?                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| IMAGINATION        | Imagination is real.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| MEMORY             | Memory is real.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | What about intrusive thoughts?                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| CHORUS             | They are real. Conjured from your imagination. Sparked by a memory. Fuelled by the words of the outside world.                                                                                                                                |
| CONSCIENCE         | Stirred by a need to make sense of it all.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | All what?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| CONSCIENCE         | All everything.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| IMAGINATION        | Now that really is existentialist.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| MEMORY             | Subjective assessment versus objective worth                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| CONSCIENCE         | (direct to audience?) I got a bit lost in the philosophy higher classes.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | Poncy crap.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| IMAGINATION        | The pursuit of self-discovery.                                                                                                                                         |
| CONSCIENCE         | What is the meaning of life? Not life in general but my life.<br>What is the point of me?                                                                              |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | Does anyone have a point?                                                                                                                                              |
| IMAGINATION        | The thing about life is everyone has so many opportunities and chances – to do all kinds of different things – and explore what they could do and where they could go. |
| MEMORY             | Theoretically everyone has so many choices.                                                                                                                            |
| CONSCIENCE         | But in reality... once you know you're alive...                                                                                                                        |
| MEMORY             | Cogito, ergo sum.                                                                                                                                                      |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | The most important thing you can think of is staying that way.                                                                                                         |
| CHORUS             | Staying Alive, Staying Alive, Staying Alive.                                                                                                                           |
| IMAGINATION        | Not just staying alive, but being comfortable being alive.                                                                                                             |
| CONSCIENCE         | Being happy?                                                                                                                                                           |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | First world problems. Not everyone has the luxury of a cornucopia of choices.                                                                                          |
| MEMORY             | Some people don't even have the choice between eating or starving.                                                                                                     |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | Some people have to survive floods, famine, wild fires and war. A rising tide of disasters.                                                                            |
| IMAGINATION        | No time for wondering if their life is meaningful – or has potential.                                                                                                  |
| CONSCIENCE         | You are straying off the point!                                                                                                                                        |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | What is the point of you?                                                                                                                                              |
| IMAGINATION        | What is your full potential?                                                                                                                                           |
| MEMORY             | Is your life meaningful?                                                                                                                                               |
| CONSCIENCE         | Who gets to decide?                                                                                                                                                    |
| MEMORY             | Surely, it's up to each individual to evaluate their own worth.                                                                                                        |

|                    |                                                                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CONSCIENCE         | Their own self-worth.                                                              |
| CHORUS             | Worth saving                                                                       |
|                    | Worth helping                                                                      |
|                    | Worth supporting                                                                   |
|                    | Worth knowing                                                                      |
|                    | Worth paying for                                                                   |
|                    | Worth hearing                                                                      |
|                    | Worth seeing                                                                       |
|                    | Worth remembering                                                                  |
|                    | Worth caring about.                                                                |
| CONSCIENCE         | So worth is... how much it is worth to you.                                        |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | What will I get out of it?                                                         |
| MEMORY             | What's in it for me?                                                               |
| CONSCIENCE         | What am I worth?                                                                   |
| IMAGINATION        | To yourself? To other people? To society?                                          |
| CONSCIENCE         | What kind of life can I expect to have?                                            |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | And expect other people to pay for?                                                |
| IMAGINATION        | What kind of life do you deserve?                                                  |
| CONSCIENCE         | What kind of life do I deserve? Will I get what I deserve? Will it be what I want? |
| IMAGINATION        | Will it be what you need?                                                          |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | Or what other people think you should have?                                        |
| MEMORY             | What other people say you need.                                                    |
| CONSCIENCE         | And deserve.                                                                       |
| CHORUS             | Deserve to live                                                                    |
|                    | Deserve to be listened to                                                          |

Deserve to have things to look forward to

Deserve to be happy

Deserve to have choices

Deserve the freedom to choose.

CONSCIENCE Who decides what I deserve?

INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS You can't decide yourself – you're not able.

MEMORY Other people always decide what choices you deserve to have.

CONSCIENCE What choices do you really have when you need other people's help to do everything except think. And listen, and watch and learn and keep thinking.

INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS Other people will always choose for you.

MEMORY How you spend your money.

INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS It's not your money it's benefits money. Taxpayers' money.

MEMORY Charity. How you spend their money.

INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS Hand-outs. With strings attached.

CONSCIENCE There are always gatekeepers who will decide...

IMAGINATION How you spend your time.

MEMORY Where you should go.

INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS Who you should spend time with.

CONSCIENCE How do other people decide what I should be doing?

INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS You can do what the hell you like and go where the hell you want...

MEMORY As long as they're not paying for it. The helpful officials who police your world like to feel in control of the money.

CONSCIENCE They need to control everything.

CHORUS What you think

What you say

What you believe

What you dream

What you fear

What you want

What you imagine

### SCENE 3

Internal monologue performed by 4 characters

|                    |                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IMAGINATION        | I am Peter Pan and I'm never growing up, but I can't fly except in my imagination.                                                              |
| CONSCIENCE         | I've travelled to many imaginary lands and seen lots of amazing things.                                                                         |
| MEMORY             | My imagination can conjure a multiverse to explore.                                                                                             |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | Scary places with scary people.                                                                                                                 |
| IMAGINATION        | Terrifying places and terrifying people.                                                                                                        |
| MEMORY             | Exciting places and extraordinary people and creatures.                                                                                         |
| CONSCIENCE         | Can you imagine places and things with no experience or reference?                                                                              |
| MEMORY             | I'm following the White Rabbit.                                                                                                                 |
| INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS | Lots of people follow that particular Rabbit.                                                                                                   |
| IMAGINATION        | I am the Caterpillar trapped in a perpetual cocoon, never metamorphosing into a butterfly.                                                      |
| MEMORY             | I'm a small bird winging my way to a distant mysterious island - surrounded by seagulls; swooping and swarming, trying to stop me from landing. |
| CONSCIENCE         | Never to reach the destination.                                                                                                                 |

