

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE FLOOD IN THE NIGHT-TIME REHEARSAL SCRIPT

Act I: Murder by arsenic

Act II: D. Lounge

Act III: Infectious disease

Conclusion: Mosquito – we're all to blame

*As the audience is settling, a body is wheeled in on a trolley and put into The Lab behind a screen
(stage left)*

MRS TIDEMILL: Lize

EAR WITNESS: SMASHfestUK volunteer

DR D LOUNGE: SMASHfestUK volunteer

MRS MOSQUITO: Esther

INTRODUCTION

(Esther/Lindsay) – At SMASHfestUK we're developing events all the time and this is one of our new ones. We combine science with the arts to create original work to bring

CHARACTERS:

JUDGE JUSTICE: Dr Martin Khechera, Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Science & Public Engagement Fellow, Wolverhampton University

FORENSIC SCIENTIST: Jon Wright, Senior Lecturer Forensic Scientist, University of Derby

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST: Chelci Squires Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths to our audiences. This is a world premiere BUT it is very much a work in progress. Please bear with us and give us your feedback at the end.

SMASHfestUK audience – welcome to the Curious Case of the Flood in the Night-time ...

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE FLOOD IN THE NIGHT-TIME

JUDGE

Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to SMASHfestUK's coroners court. My name is Judge Dr Martin Khechera and we are here today to find out what happened to this man.

AV CUE1: Picture 1 Old Benji with hat

These recent floods have been an absolute nightmare for us. We are SWAMPED with cases: people drowning in high tides, getting dragged under storm surges, being eaten by tropical insects and drinking contaminated flood water... as well as the usual old age, disease, and crime. Plus there's been a real rise in Pirate-related deaths. It can be extremely tough to work out how they died. However, in this man's case, it seems pretty cut and dried to me but let's see what the evidence tells us.

JUDGE

AV CUE2: Picture 2 Old Benji on the boat – dissolve into

AV CUE3 the wide shot of the Henry 8th on Deptford Creek.

AV CUE4: Dissolves into interior of Henry 8th.

Let me introduce you to Mr Douglas Way (**points to the screen**). On the evening of Sunday 21st January at 10.34p.m Douglas's body was found on his boat – the Henry 8th – in Deptford Creek.

AV CUE5: MUSIC FOR TABLEAUX, sound of camera flashes, lights for camera flashes. LK to source blue light for 999.

JUDGE

Douglas's body was discovered by Mrs Tidemill and her dog Beyonce.

AV CUE: 6 and 7 SFX Audio and slide of Mrs Tidemill on the mobile phone

999 call with Mrs Tidemill

What's your emergency?

(Dog barking)

It's Douglas! He's not moving... The doors been bust wide open. Looks like he's had a blow to the head... I think he's thrown up on himself and there's blood all over the shop, especially around his mouth. His boat is a total mess, that's not like him... he's usually such a tidy bloke...

OPERATOR

Does it look like he's taken/ingested anything? Is there anything lying around the body?

MRS TIDEMILL

Yes there's loads of weird, old bottles all over the place and masses of midges. There's a weird high pitched hum and a candlestick is sticking out of his head covered in blood... And... it really, really stinks.

JUDGE

Now, I hope you were listening because there are some vital clues in there. You're going to need them as we go on because you, *all of you*, are my jury. And together, with scientists and witnesses, we're going to work out what happened to poor Douglas.

Jury – do you need to hear it again?

AV CUE 8 Tape plays again.

These are the pictures the forensics team took when they arrived on the scene.

AV CUE 9: Outline/floorplan with body and arrows to blood, vomit, bottles

AV CUE 10 WS crime scene

AV CUE 11 CU Blood on floor

AV CUE 12: Vomit

AV CUE: 13 Candlestick

AV CUE 14: Funny bottles

AV CUE 15: 10 dissolving Photos of Douglas alive – this could be a film with music.

JUDGE

Now, let's focus on Douglas.

AV CUE 16: 10 dissolving Photos of Douglas alive – this could be a film with music.

JUDGE

Douglas was a survivalist, meaning he was very good at staying alive.

He was born and bred in Deptford and served in the army for decades. He didn't adjust well to civilian life and, by all accounts, was a bit of a loner ... which is why he choose to live on a boat, alone. **(he speeds up)** He drank at the Birds Nest pub. He liked experimental R&B. He had a weakness for kebabs. He loved his mum. He was 63.

SO how did our tough guy Douglas get from this...

He points to Douglas's photo on screen

...to this?

Crime scene photos appear on screen

AV CUE 17: Outline/floorplan with body and arrows to blood, vomit, bottles

AV CUE 18 WS crime scene

AV CUE 19 CU Blood on floor

AV CUE 20: Vomit

AV CUE: 19 Candlestick

AV CUE 20: Funny bottles

You have a card under your seat. Based on what you can see here, do you think he died from natural causes, or do you think this was something more suspicious – like murder?

Hold up the red side if you think Douglas was murdered and hold up the white side if you think it was something else... like drowning, natural causes etc etc etc Go on, take a wild guess ...

(he assesses the cards).

So, at this point, about **80%** of you think it was murder, and the rest think it was natural causes.

To find out what actually happened we need evidence – the most important thing in this trial.

This is what I have discovered from my file. It all started at 9pm on 21st January. Deptford Creek was particularly quiet that evening, covered in a layer of fog. We have a witness statement from that evening...

ASSET: 1 Introduce witness statement– AUDIENCE ENVELOPE 1

AUDIENCE ENVELOPE (NEIGHBOUR) NB nominate volunteer to do this

I live on a boat on Deptford Creek. I was at home listening to the weather forecast at 9pm when I heard loud bangs and shouting coming from Douglas's boat. It sounded like a fight. I heard Douglas shout 'Mrs Tidemill!...Mrs Tidemill' – that's his friend with the dog. Then there was a huge bang and it all stopped. About an hour or so later, Mrs Tidemill's dog wouldn't stop barking. She started screaming then the cops came...

JUDGE

Jury – process this as you will. That's all I have in my file but, clearly, it isn't enough.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

(steps on stage)

What you need is a forensic scientist.

JUDGE

Mr Wright: renowned forensic scientist. Great timing. Could you explain to our lovely audience what you do?

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Forensic scientists make a record of the evidence then take the body back to the lab for further investigation.

(points back to the crime image on the screen)

Hands up if you can see something on the screen that could be used as evidence? What looks suspicious?

AV CUE 21 – WS of body on boat

AUDIENCE ANSWERS

Footprints, blood, body, vomit, broken door

JUDGE

That's a good point, what about the door??

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Brilliant spot, the door was very, very interesting. At the crime scene, we scanned the whole boat starting with the door and there were signs of a forced entry. The hinges were loose and the lock was broken from the outside.

JUDGE

So someone broke in ... a murderer perhaps???

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Possibly. We also found a footprint on the door.

AV CUE 22 – FOOTPRINT ON DOOR

JUDGE

A footprint? Interesting. The games a foot then eh!

(he rubs his chin and winks at the audience)

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Yes, very, because the footprints on the door belonged to the shoes found on Douglas Way's feet.

AV CUE 23 – CU SHOES ON VICTIM

JUDGE

Wait a moment, so you're saying Mr Way was wearing matching shoes to the person who broke into his boat?

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

No your Honour...Mr Way broke into his own boat

JUDGE

Why on earth would he do that?

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

The keys to the boat were found further down the river bank, about 10 metres from the boat, your Honour

AV CUE 24 – KEYS ON RIVER BANK AT DEPTFORD CREEK

JUDGE

So Mr Way broke into his own boat. Did he lose his keys on the bank?

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

That's what the evidence has shown...

JUDGE

Interesting, very interesting. He must have got confused and dropped them.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Results also show that Mrs Tidemill's footprints were found around the crime scene and her DNA was all over the candlestick. I swabbed the whole of Douglas' boat for DNA – and sent the samples off to my assistants.

AV CUE 25 CANDLESTICK GLOWING UNDER UV LIGHT

JUDGE

Mrs Tidemill, the woman who called in the crime? I smell a SUSPECT!!!!!! Mrs Tidemill, I summon you to the stand.

Mrs Tidemill enters the stage from the back of the room where she has been sitting, amongst the audience.

JUDGE

Where were you at 10:14 p.m Sunday 21st January 2018? AND can I remind you perjury is a crime punishable by imprisonment!

MRS TIDEMILL

I was taking Beyonce for a walk. My dog. We do it at the same time every evening. Same route, like clockwork. Have done since she was a pup. We like night-time walkies because I have trouble sleeping. They're not sweet dreams, more beautiful nightmares. (*wink!*)

AV CUE 26 BEYONCE PICTURE

JUDGE

Mrs Tidemill, what is the nature of your relationship with Douglas Way?

MRS TIDEMILL

Just friends. I only ever wanted to be friends with him.

JUDGE

Excuse me Mrs Tidemill, only ever wanted to be? Can you elaborate on that please?

MRS TIDEMILL

Well Douglas moved to Deptford Creek after the Gulf War, he was a recluse, you know, kept himself to himself, quiet fellow. He really loved Beyonce and Beyonce loved him. That's what got us talking I suppose, but we really bonded over R n B. We used to have eel pies and tea and tunes together a lot. I liked to keep him company. He was alone on that boat most of the time...

JUDGE

Right, yes. Carry on...

MRS TIDEMILL

I have always been fond of Douglas, that much is true. But my heart has always belonged to my Adam. My husband Adam Tidemill. Passed away in 2002. Since then it's just been me, myself and I... oh and Beyonce

JUDGE

I see. Did something happen between yourself and Mr Way?

MRS TIDEMILL

Well, I... I... or rather he... He came to see me at my house the night he died. It was so strange, he never comes over to my house. He told me he was crazy in love with me and wanted to put a ring on it. He wanted me to become Mrs Way, Mrs Tideway.

JUDGE

And how did you respond?

MRS TIDEMILL

I was in shock, I had no idea he felt like that. But he smelt so bad and looked even worse....
There was no way I could have said yes.

JUDGE

I see, you rejected Mr Way's proposal?

MRS TIDEMILL

Yes.

JUDGE

But later in the evening, what were your movements? According to an ear witness account, you were with Mr Way at the scene of the crime at the time the incident happened?

MRS TIDEMILL

Oh no, I was at home

JUDGE

Why, after such an upsetting evening with him already, did you go over to see him?

MRS TIDEMILL

I walk past the boat for walkies so I thought I'd check on him, see if he was back from the pub, make sure he was okay, you know, not too hurt, embarrassed like...that we were still friends.

JUDGE

I put it to you that while you were on the boat, he tried to kiss you. And you, repulsed by his stinking breath, had to fight him off.

Mrs Tidemill

No! He was decent ... there was no monkey business.

JUDGE

(on a roll now)

Then you whacked him around the head with the candlestick whilst fending off his advances?
Just because he was *crazy in love* with you?

MRS TIDEMILL

Of course i wouldn't do that to a dear, close friend.

(*cries furiously*)

FORENSIC SCIENTIST (jumps in)

Mrs Tidemill – *if i may*, Judge – we have found your DNA all over the candlestick found embedded in Mr Way's head?

AV CUE 27 GLOWING CANDLESTICK

How do you explain this?

MRS TIDEMILL
(Looks blank)

JUDGE
Yes! Mrs Tidemill – can you answer this?

MRS TIDEMILL
I don't know. Not sure I have any of that any idea how it got on that stick. ?
(*sobbing*)

JUDGE
Spare us your denials Mrs Tidemill – your fingerprints were found all over Douglas' candlestick.

DEMO 1

JUDGE shines UV LIGHT SHINES ON CANDLESTICK AND MRS TIDEMILL – REVEALS GLOW of DNA

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Not her fingerprints, her DNA. Let's double check this – maybe we can prove secondary transfer (that's the transfer of evidence from one person to another). There's residue everywhere – every contact leaves a trace... How many of you shook hands with Mrs Tidemill on the way in?

Audiences hands up

So quite a lot of you. Keep your hands up. Let's look under UV light. Any of her DNA on you ?

ASSET 2: UV LIGHTS UP – AUDIENCE HANDS GLOW WITH UV GERM POWDER

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

That's secondary transfer. Mrs Tidemill touched the candlestick and left her DNA on it, which also happened when she shook your hands. So she could have shaken hands with Douglas and he could have transferred her DNA to the candlestick.

JUDGE
But how come no one else's DNA was found on the boat?

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

???? explanation of how no one else's DNA was found on the boat / or could shrug – he's a recluse – possible script line "Yeah, you've already said he's a recluse which holds water I think"

JUDGE

Let's get back on track. Mrs Tidemill, *(*rolls eyes*)* why don't you tell us your version ?

MRS TIDEMILL

Beyonce was in hysterics! Barking, mad. I noticed the doors were open which was strange because it was freezing. Douglas is normally back from the Birds Nest at this time, after his session with D Lounge.. I thought he must have been broken into! And then i saw poor Douglas on the floor... **starts sobbing/cries uncontrollably**

JUDGE

But Mrs Tidemill, our witness asserts they heard you with Mr Way, when the incident happened.

MRS TIDEMILL

I wasn't, I didn't leave the house until it was time for walkies at 10 o'clock. I called my sister straight after Douglas left.

JUDGE

You were on the phone?

MRS TIDEMILL

Yes. I was telling her about what had just happened, we chatted until Beyonce started singing about walkies and then we went out ... and then I found.... Him *(*sobs again*)* I can still smell that stench. It's worse than his farts when he was alive... *(more sobbing)*

JUDGE

(disappointed)

Actually we do have recorded phone evidence, from the police, that you were indeed using the phone at the time.

AV CUE 28: PICTURE OF TELEPHONE BILL WITH ONE LINE HIGHLIGHTED

(hands her tissue)

Okay, okay, thank you for your account. I'm sorry Mrs Tidemill, but as you know we can't leave any stone unturned. We'll get you back to the stand for further questioning if needed. Thank you.

Mrs Tidemill exits right

JUDGE

No, to the left. To the LEFT.

AV CUE 29: Beyonce: To the Left

(he sings/dances it if the audience don't get it. Mrs Tidemill goes off the opposite way)

Now audience, a quick survey of where you are headed. Red for murder, White for accidental death or natural causes .. interesting eg 70% red .. *not looking good for Mrs T! (or however is goes)*

ACT 2

JUDGE

Now that stench? Do you know what she's talking about?

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

There was a smell coming from his mouth. I've captured some of it here from all the excess saliva

(holds up forensic vial to audience.)

JUDGE

Delicious!

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

I know what I think it smells like, but in forensic science we always seek a second opinion. Is there a volunteer in the audience who would like to come up and smell this?

DEMO 2 – forensic science explains the wafting in science terms e.g. gas molecules

AUDIENCE VOLUNTEER

Garlic!

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

YES, garlic, exactly!

Wafts garlic smell amongst front row.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

We did find kebab, bread, pickles and traces of garlic in his stomach but there is no way that they could have caused such a stench...

lifts up cloth covering body, and chucks garlic bread into the air

JUDGE

So what could have caused it? Can we see anything else that could help us solve this curious case? Hands up if you can help me...

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Vomit!

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Yes. The excessive vomit did come from Douglas Way. I love dealing with vomit. It can tell you an awful lot. And judging by the amount that was on the boat Mr Way might have been very, very sick...

Vomiting can be caused by a number of different things. It can be a one-time event linked to something that doesn't settle right in the stomach, or from too much alcohol, and we know Douglas liked a drink (or twenty), but recurrent vomiting may be caused by an illness.

JUDGE

A lot of sick you say, hmm. I wonder what it could have been?

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Not only was there food in Mr Way's vomit, there was also a lot of blood.

JUDGE

A lot of blood you say hmm. Well, there was quite a lot of blood all over.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

There was a massive pool of blood around Douglas Way's body and little splats all over the scene. I took samples and studied them in my lab.

AV CUE 35

****twinkly music****

Lights up on the body in the 'lab' stage left. He describes body & examinations, with accompanying slides.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

All the blood at the scene belonged to Douglas Way. The blood found on his head and the candlestick came from the wound on the left side of his skull. However it was not the blow to his head that took his life. He in fact received the injury *after* he'd already died.

AV CUE 36 : Outline/floorplan with body and arrows to blood, vomit, bottles

AV CUE 37 WS crime scene

AV CUE 38 CU Blood on floor

AV CUE 39 Vomit

AV CUE: 40 Candlestick

AV CUE 41: Funny bottles

JUDGE

DUN DUN DUN

AV CUE: 42 DUN DUN DUN

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

(holds up evidence)

The splats of blood contained traces of saliva, meaning that they came from his mouth.

AV CUE 43: *twinkly music*

So, coughing up blood? Blood in his vomit. A strong odor....I'm starting to think Douglas Way was poisoned.

JUDGE

DUN DUN DUN

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Yes.

JUDGE

POISONED?!?! How on earth did that happen? Jury – yes you lot, can you see anything near the body that might give us a clue?

AV CUE 44: the funny looking bottles.

AUDIENCE

Bottles!

JUDGE

Excellent – might this have something to do with these strange, old bottles of liquid Mr Wright?

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Yes! The bottles! – the Crime Scene team provided me with unlabelled bottles of insecticide ...

(holds up insecticide-shaped bottle up to the audience)

...that they wanted our team to investigate.

DEMO 3

*Recruits volunteer to do simple colour change liquid experiment, confirming arsenic .
Uses indicator in a bottle – turns RED – Jon sorting with his chemist – water into wine
practical. Child on stage – lab coat and goggles – show colour change in a large bottle.*

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Arsenic, your honour, arsenic was present in Mr Way's insecticide which had been sprayed all over the boat.

JUDGE

Arsenic??? The poison? The one murderers use ????

MIGHT NEED EXPLANATION OF ARSENIC HERE –

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Yes. PLUS the biopsy showed extreme yellowing of the liver.
Blood around the mouth, eyes, and nose, vomiting, the stenching garlic smell **lifts up cloth covering body, and chucks garlic bread into the air again** and a yellow liver: these are all

common signs of arsenic poisoning. And, when I tested Mr Way's blood in the lab, I found traces of arsenic.

JUDGE

DUN DUN ...

(the forensic scientist glares at him and he stops mid way)

AV CUE 45: Symptoms all come together visually on 1 slide

JUDGE

Thank you Mr Wright. What do you lot reckon?

He points to jury.

Did he accidentally poison himself with insecticide? Or did Mrs Tidemill murder poor old Douglas? Show your placards!

Audience vote

JUDGE

So we have X% for poisoned himself, X% for murder.

The vote isn't unanimous. We need more witnesses. For this, I call Dr D Lounge. Dr D Lounge? You've been friends with Douglas for 20 years! Stand up and read your statement!

Asset 2 'Audience member's' envelope 2

Dr D. LOUNGE.

A few weeks before the night Douglas died, he'd been acting a bit strange. He kept on going on, and on and on, about these silly flies. Then a few days before, down the pub, he was complaining of a headache and feeling tired. He was also off his food. I bumped into him on Deptford High Street the day before he died, he looked very weak but said he was feeling a bit better. Then on Sunday I was waiting for him for about an hour, he didn't show up. He owed me a pint from the other week but I thought he was probably just still ill.

JUDGE

How much is a pint?

MRS TIDEMILL(shouts out) OR SMASHfestUK volunteer

“ £3.50 down the Birds Nest”.

JUDGE

Ok doesn't seem like a strong enough motive for murder to me. Thank you Dr D Lounge – you have been an invaluable witness.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

One thing doesn't add up though. The liver biopsy also shows that he was hemorrhaging. Hemorrhaging is when you start to lose A LOT of blood in a short amount of time, and this isn't a symptom of arsenic poisoning. It occurred inside the body (internal bleeding) and outside the body. It made our team wonder...

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST

(pops up from the audience)

Excuse me. I'm here to report on SMASHfestUK for the Science pages of the South London News Shopper... I think I could help you out.

JUDGE

(raises his eyebrows, skeptical)

Really?

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST

Research Scientist Chelci Squires. Nice to meet you.

JUDGE

Go on then. Up you come.

She moves to centre stage

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST

I'm an **entomologist**, I study insects and bugs that transmit diseases, and from Dr D Lounge's account, it sounds like Douglas was showing symptoms of one of the infectious diseases i study...

JUDGE

Aha! The plot thickens ...

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST

It's a mosquito borne disease called yellow fever, and during a flood, cases of yellow fever rocket. It's easily mistaken as arsenic poisoning as yellow fever have VERY similar early symptoms.

AV CUE 46 JUDGE DUNN DUNN DUNNNNN

JUDGE
DUNN DUNN DUNNNNN

(the other two scientists raise their eyebrows)

FORENSIC SCIENTIST
Actually you do have a point...

JUDGE
Yellow Fever? You don't get yellow fever in Deptford?!?

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST
Yellow fever usually presents mild flu like symptoms and as we heard from Dr D Lounge, Douglas was complaining of tiredness, headaches and loss of appetite. The fact that he appeared to be recovering last week indicates to me that he was in the period of intoxication where symptoms briefly improve, followed swiftly by severe symptoms such as vomiting, confusion and haemorrhaging.

AV CUE 47 – can we make a cut down from this film to accompany Celci?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFgT_Uthu0A

FORENSIC SCIENTIST
Sounds like Mr Way was experiencing yellow fever. How could he have got it?

INFECTIOUS DISEASES SCIENTIST
Mosquitos love a flood – standing water is a perfect breeding ground for them so there numbers go up and up – and mozzy's carry the yellow fever virus.

AV CUE

JUDGE
Were mosquitoes found around his boat?

MRS TIDEMILL

(Pipes up from the audience)

There were loads of buzzing midgy flies all the time. Douglas hated them.

JUDGE

And didn't you mention a high pitched whine ??

MRS TIDEMILL

(nodding)

I did. Drove Beyonce crazy right now.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

We found loads, around his room, below and above deck, the main cabin etc...

JUDGE

Why wasn't this mentioned before?

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

We investigated this first and looked extensively for evidence of bites, but there were none. And trust me, we looked at every... single.....little inch of Mr Way's body. The cause of death, whether by murder or accident, pointed most clearly to arsenic poisoning.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST

The thing is – not everyone has an inflammatory reaction to a mosquito bite, – it depends on your genes. So in some cases people can be bitten extensively with no characteristic red bite but one thing puzzles me. Yellow fever gets its name because it causes something called jaundice, – yellowing of the skin. Surely someone would have noticed?

MRS TIDEMILL

(pipes up again)

I thought he was a bit off colour but the lighting on his barge and at the Birds Nest is on the dim side ... and he rarely emerged in daylight. Plus I see him everyday – you don't notice when it happens bit by bit.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST

Finally, we can confirm jaundice as one of the last things to turn yellow would be **inspects body** the whites of his eyes.

(more garlic bread comes flying out)

They're very, very yellow.

(removes squishy yellow eyeball)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST

All evidence points towards Yellow fever..

Looks in file back at the crime scene. The photo of the boat on the screen zooms in until we see a small mozy habitat

AV CUE: 48 – take WS crime scene and do “zoom in”, “zoom in” “zoom in” until it pixellates, then “zoom in” once more to reveal a mosquito (Esther in Mosquito outfit)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST

As I said mosquito bites don't always leave marks on the humans they have fed on and as you can see from this photo, Mr Way had been living next to this young (and very large) mosquito family.

JUDGE

Well, who are we supposed to call up to the stand.????

(rolls eyes)

Does anyone know any mosquitos? Seen any hanging about? Maybe they'd know what happened to Mr Way...

AV CUE 49 Mosquito noise – Humming/buzzing sound starts

MRS TIDEMILL

There it is. The WHINE!

ENTER A HUMAN SIZED MOSQUITO

MOZZY MUM

Hello, I'm Marsha. I've never been in a courtroom before. You humans and your strange, dry buildings...

JUDGE

Don't be rude, buildings in Deptford are masterpieces. Do you know Mr Way?

MOZZY MUM

I do, did.

JUDGE

What was your relationship with him?

MOZZY MUM

Douglas seemed like a nice man to begin with, he never used to bother us. Then when I got preggerz (- this is my 572nd) he started spraying these digusting sprays to kill us off. It's not our fault he's so tasty.

JUDGE

Tasty? You were eating Douglas Way?!?!?!?

MOZZY MUM

The British birds - blue tits, robins - taste disgusting. Not a meal i'd enjoy. Mr Way on the other hand ... All that carbon dioxide, scrumptious appeal of body odour and don't get me started on his other bodily secretions...he was...divine.

JUDGE

So you were biting Douglas Way and sucking his blood for food!

MOZZY MUM

Erm... mmm...

JUDGE

Tell me the truth, mosquito!

MOZZY MUM

I bite humans, it's in my nature!

JUDGE

How could you?

MOZZY MUM

I only bite when I'm pregnant... And besides - I needed some of that lovely protein in his blood - we mummy mosquitoes can't get pregnant without it.

JUDGE

This does not look good for you.

Let's imagine this is how it went ...

One morning, Deptford resident Douglas Way wakes up feeling great and full of energy. **Then a few days after Marsha Mozzie's tucked into his blood**, he wakes up drenched in sweat, his head throbbing and his body aching all over. He spends the next 5 days on his boat, tossing and turning due to high fever.. He appears to recover for a bit but quickly suffers confusion, dizziness, tremors, vomiting and severe muscle weakness. The Yellow fever virus causes him to haemorrhage till he faints, falls and hits his head on candlestick which lodges in his head.

OR Desperate after Mrs Tidemill rejects his romantic offer, he lunges, lips pouting, at the lady in question who, in defence of her modesty, whacks him over the head with that same candlestick.

Now, time for your final vote. Yellow fever from a mosquito or murder by Mrs Tidemill.

Audience vote – judge looks

It was Marsha Mosquito, on the barge, with her infected proboscis!

(he points at the Mozzie)

You are going down for the murder of Douglas Way.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SCIENTIST

Your honour, wait! Can we condemn a mosquito for being a mosquito? She was pregnant – living her life. Just doing her thing. We should condemn humanity for changing conditions around the world. We caused the storm surges and the flood. Climate change and rising river levels are OUR fault. Global warming is raising temperatures and bringing animals and diseases that used to be found in hotter climates to Deptford. We've started killing ourselves.

JUDGE

You're right! It's all us!

It's the humans fault. Our fault.

You're ALL going down! Actually .. that's a bit tough on the kids. You can get out of jail free IF you promise to take care of the earth: and remember the 3 Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle. JURY

DISMISSED

Lights down

EDITS

LAST LINE: Or as Beyonce would say “ ,,,,,”

Beyonce – you and me could make it rain now

there was extreme yellowing of the liver. The liver biopsy shows that he was hemorrhaging. Hemorrhaging is when you start to lose a lot of blood in a short amount of time. This can happen inside the body (internal bleeding) or outside the body

If after DDLounge’s statement we could have another interjecting statement from someone saying they saw him a week ago and he was making a recovery. This would greatly support progression to late stage YF.

With regards to a test we can do on stage, we can possibly show our arm-on-cage test to display how we test if insect repellents really work (or maybe a video of it). This could emphasise that there are repellents that do work and that people should shop for a good one! (We’re happy to advise on our stand).

- in the window stage right, lights up on the window in which you see the ‘crime’ scene – legs, scientist, evidence exhibits signs of ‘murder’.

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

We observed that arsenic-based insecticides were used on his boat, we assumed to protect the boat from rotting.

MRS TIDEMILL

(Pipes up from the audience)

He’s been stocking the arsenic insecticides from the old military – old banned stuff! I know him!