

STEM THE TIDE  
NARRATIVE LEAD VARIETY SHOW

MC (POETRY TAKEAWAY)  
Nate Adams  
RCUK TALENT SHOW winners  
Coco Malone  
Simon Watt  
Taru Arts Drumming  
Sheila Kanani  
Poetry Takeway (3 people?)

Variety Show - STEM the Tide

MC: Hello Deptford - how are you? My name's I've always lived around here and today we're going to talk about the River Thames - we're going to do a bit of poetry and a bit of of music

[POETRY TAKEAWAY PERFORMANCE]

ANNOUNCER: *Attention Deptford! Attention Deptford. The Environment Agency and the Met Office have issued the following Flood Warning:*

*At 0900 hours today the water level of the River Thames was rising rapidly due to a storm surge. A peak tide is predicted which will overwhelm the Thames Barrier and could cause widespread flooding. All residents are advised to seek higher ground. Further rainfall may cause levels to rise again.*

MC:

Alright Deptford! What about this flood then eh? Are you worried? I wasn't worried until I started talking to those folks out in the garden and they're all thinking about heading to Mars!

What do you reckon? Are we going to end up under water?

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ANNOUNCER: *Attention Deptford! Attention Deptford. The Environment Agency and the Met Office have issued the following Flood Warning:*

*At 1100 hours today the water level of the River Thames is still rising rapidly due to a storm surge and a spring tide.*

*All residents are advised to seek higher ground. Further rainfall may cause levels to rise again.*

*RCUK WINNERS PERFORMANCE - FLOOD WARNING*

MC:

A spring tide? What is that? Something something - its actually the moon that causes tides. But why?

Luckily - we've got our very own Saturn Sheila from the Royal Astronomical Society to explain.

*SHEILA ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY PERFORMANCE:*

Sheila gets wet - volunteers dress in Martian suits

MC:

OK where's Matt Damon when you need him eh? Who's seen the Martian? So the martian, starring matt damon

MC:

OK so living in Mars is all very well. But why would we have to do that? What is wrong with our amazing little blue dot right here?

(some riff on the blue dot, 3dr rock from the sun, the Goldilocks zone - not too hot, not too cold, could we do a play on "hunt the thimble"?)

MC:

for all its problem - the Earth is a bit of a miracle really - and that means we, we are all miracles too. And sometimes we need to remember that. Here is Coco:

**COCO MALONE PERFORMANCE**

MC: We've figured out that a storm surge is coming. The thames barrier - you all know about the thames barrier right? Looks like a row of really butch tents?

The Thames Barrier was dreamed up a long time ago after the terrible floods of 1953. That was the first time we realised that we could be in trouble.

[insert pathe AND 1953 INSERT film]

You see - London didn't always look like this. In fact, Deptford is located on something we call a flood plain. And you know what that is right? Its basically a flat piece of land that floods if the tides get too high. In the olden days, Deptford would have been under water most of the time, but when London started being built up - they wanted to use the land that was all a bit boggy and marshy, so they drained it, and built big walls on the Thames to keep the river in a narrow channel. The problem with a narrow channel is...well water is a funny kind of thing...in fact - here's Dr Nate to explain a bit more about how, if you try to contain water, you could be doomed to being drenched!

**DR NATE ADAMS PERFORMANCE AND WATER DEMONSTRATION:**

demo of how taking a wide expanse of water into a narrower channel makes water deeper.

Water is Amazing!

MC:

So thanks Dr Nate - now I think we understand a little more about how the water works, and Sheila's explained how the tides work, but I still don't quite understand why we're going to have a flood NOW. Oh hang on, here's the voice of doom again...

*ANNOUNCER: Attention Deptford! Attention Deptford. The Environment Agency and the Met Office have issued the following Flood Warning:*

*At 1500 hours today the water level of the River Thames is still rising rapidly. This is an emergency situation. Residents of SE8 are advised to evacuate immediately to avoid risk of injury, drowning and death.*

MC:

*Ooh-er, that all sounds a bit serious - I'm beginning to get a bit worried now. So - here are the facts.*

*AV: The idea of building the Thames Barrier was born after the floods of 1953. After many years in planning the barrier became operational for the first time in THE 1980S. Since then it has been closed 180 times in order to hold back flood waters that might threaten the rest of London with flooding. However, there's a problem - during that time, global warming*

has been progressively melting our polar ice caps, and that is slowly raising our sea levels. 30 years ago we thought that THAT BARRIER would be enough. Now - we're not sure.

And there's another problem. We keep on building - and when we build we put concrete and tarmac and hard surfaces over lovely absorbent ground. Then when it rains there is nowhere for the rain to go. Trees are like sponges - they can soak it up, but cut down the trees and cover the ground with tarmac, the water just runs until it finds a place to go!

MC:

So what could happen if this flood hits? I'll tell you one thing... the Thames is home to a whole bunch of creatures who are going to be a bit closer to you than you might have wanted. But there's one person who really understands these animals - and the less pretty the better - it's Simon Watt from the Ugly Underwater Animals Society!

**SIMON WATT: PERFORMANCE UGLY UNDERWATER ANIMALS**

MC

OK, thanks Simon. Uh-oh it's the Thames Barrier guy again...

ANNOUNCER:

Thames getting higher, emergency emergency evacuate.

MC

Right I'm actually beginning to feel like I ought to dig out my wellies at least now - so basically we've got ugly animals coming right up my estuary and I'm not even sure the Thames Barrier can save me anymore! What do you think we should do? Sometimes, when things look impossible, you need music to ground you

COCO MALONE PERFORMS:

**[song about resilience]**

MC:

*We've just heard the last update from Thames Barrier Alan -  
the surge is on its way, we don't know if the barrier will  
hold.*

*We need to alert everyone but how?*

*[drumming begins offstage]*

*DRUMS! One of our earliest ways to communicate over distances  
- when shouting wasn't enough and mobile phones hadn't been  
invented.*

*[Taru drumming PERFORMANCE - drums and procession]*

*We know if it does, then the one thing we all need to do is  
make sure this can't happen again - resist building on  
grassland, reduce global warming by using your car less,  
anything you can do really.*

*MC*

*OK that's it - its time for the final update from the Thames  
Barrier!*

*COCO:: end of the world song*

*ANNOUNCER: The flood is coming - the barrier has mostly held -  
we think Deptford is safe but the surge will reach you in  
10,9,8,7,6...*

*AV BARRIER LIFTING*

*FOG SURGE CRASH AV*

*AND WE'RE SAFE!!!*

*POETRY TAKEAWAY - ends*

*COCO: Celebration of life*

*[end]*