



OH JOYCE

by Dave Proctor

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# **'Oh Joyce'**

A Homage to Joyce Grenfell

With all-new material

By

Dave Proctor

# 'Oh Joyce'

*This is a solo show performed by a single middle-aged woman, in the style of the Late, great Joyce Grenfell*

*Joyce was a woman of many voices and characters and where appropriate I have included clips for guidance.*

*It may be worth viewing this clip to get into the persona and the range of characters that Joyce performed.*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0I9WGv\\_F56g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0I9WGv_F56g)

*In a number of her monologues the person she is speaking to remains unseen and unheard.*

*In this performance The actress should emulate this, where appropriate pausing, as if listening for an answer.*

*As guidance I have put two dashes (--) whenever this device should be used.*

*The performer should have her hair up and should be initially dressed formally in a full ball gown and long gloves.*

*A pearl necklace and earrings are preferable but optional.*

*A bare stage, except for a single upright chair (preferably a wing back leather Chesterfield) and props as appropriate.*

# 'Oh Joyce'

## Intro

**Announcer**            Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to this evening's performance of 'Oh Joyce', a homage to Joyce Grenfell.

Joyce Grenfell was the quintessentially English comedienne of the post war years. Thanks to her great comedy writing and her comedic timing, she was cast in such roles as the gym mistress Miss Gossage in *The Happiest Days of Your Life* and Ruby Gates in the St Trinian's films.

Many people fondly remember Joyce from her frequent appearances on the BBC's classical music quiz show, *Face the Music*, and of course, her television shows.

One of her best known and loved monologues was where she played a harassed nursery teacher with the catchphrase "George – don't do that".

This show is a homage to this very funny lady, but with new material as she is brought screaming into the present day.

We would ask that during the performance you do not use any photographic devices and no flash. This could distract the performance both for the artist and for other members of the audience.

Please also ensure that your mobile telephones are switched off or to silent mode.

So please sit back and enjoy 'Oh Joyce'.

*Curtain Opens*

*Music*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNm-lhQ\\_h08](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNm-lhQ_h08) 2.15 minutes

*Ethelbert Nevin: Water Scenes Op. 13 No. 4 - Narcissus 1891*

*Joyce comes on at 0.30 and is' la la' ing along to the music, failing to hit certain notes.*

*Guidance and ideas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7N9pAJRu2U>*

Joyce

I have always loved that tune.

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to this evening's show.

*(Pause and address an unknown member of the audience)*

George, please, don't do that.

You heard the announcement, he specifically said no mobile telephones.

--

I know, I know but look at the trouble you got into last time you illegally used the camera on your telephone.

--

So what did the Police actually charge you with?

--

And may I ask what punishment you received?

--

Oh I see! And does your probation officer know that you are still taking photographs on your telephone?

--

Okay George so please don't do that again!

## **All things bright and beautiful**

*The hymn dated 1848 (Choose a more up-tempo backing track).*

*Music starts*

*(Joyce should put on her Sunday best hat, and is holding her hymnbook - the words therefore can be read!)*

*Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTNyt6PxxvJU> to get the feel for this sketch. Joyce should indicate a different member of the imaginary congregation at the start of the relevant verses.*

*Her singing is always loud and slightly off-key.*

[Chorus]

All things bright and beautiful,

All creatures great and small,

All things wise and wonderful,

The Lord God made them all.

There's a pub that's called the Fountain,

Where our local vicar goes

You can tell that he's a drinker  
He's got a bright red nose.

[Chorus]

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
She sunbathes without her clothes on,  
You can see her naked bum.

[Chorus]

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

[Chorus]

Every time her front door opens,  
A different man goes in,

Then comes out so much later,  
Complete with massive grin.

[Chorus]

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

## The Interview

Suggested voice clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKoRtqnEits>

Oh, do come in Officer. Cup of tea?

--

You know, I thought Police Officers always drank tea.

Before we start am I in any trouble?

--

No, of course I didn't do anything wrong, not that I know of, but you never know and I just wondered in case I needed to phone Mister Allford-Fienes.

--

He's our family Solicitor, he acted for us when Grandpa passed away, such a nice man. He's very good at Wills you know!

--

Oh good, just a statement you say. Okay I've seen what to do. I will go and get the Family Bible, unless you have one with you?

--

I do not have to swear on a Bible? Not yet, anyway.

Okay please do go ahead.

--

Well there are four or five of us, we all used to work at Timothy Whites in Market Street, you know. The place that's now the Charity Shop, with the picture of the Queen in the window.

--

Yes, that's the one. Well we all used to work together, that was years ago. We still meet the last Friday of every month and go out for lunch. We take it in turns to book different restaurants, last month was my turn, we went to that lovely pub on the Clarkden Estate. We all had a lovely meal. Josie ordered fish.

I remember that she told us she was going vegetarian and that she was going to stop eating meat. She ordered fish that day! Her version of being a vegetarian.

Trout it was, and do you know it came with its head still on. How Gourmet is that?

She didn't like it, she blamed me. Said the fish had bones in it.

Mind you Josie is one for fads. Last year it was yoga, before that smoking cannabis, whoops. I suppose I better not tell you that, I don't want to be accused of being a stool-pigeon, do I? *(laughing)*

I am sure she's only becoming a vegetarian, because her friend Marianne is one. She follows everything she does.

Mind you, so much for her being a vegetarian, only last week, I saw her sitting in the window of The Nook Café bold as brass eating a pork pie and pickle.

Now I am sure that weren't vegetarian.

This month it was Josie's turn to book, there was to be just four of us. Her and me, then Anne and Julie. Lizzy couldn't make this month, she was getting her nails done for a do the next night and that was the only time they had.

Josie told us that this was the new 'hipster' place. Hipster? I thought that was how you wore your jeans.

Anyway we get there and we settled ourselves down on the table in the centre. You just grab a table, not like somewhere posh where you have to wait. I noticed Josie had put her coat on the chair next to her.

Then this bloke come up to us. The waiter like, well he could be the owner, I never asked. He's that tall bloke with short hair and the big beard and Josie told me that he was a real hipster. Personally, I thought he looked like an amateur dramatics version of a viking, but never mind, what do I know?

So, I looked at the menu and I must admit it was like reading a foreign language. So being of the conventional type, I asked for a Ham salad.

Well, I thought he was going to explode. His face went as red as his beard. He got all angry and then gave me a right telling off, saying that this was a vegan restaurant and that we were killing off the planet, because cows and pigs were farting all the time.

And all I asked for was a Ham Salad, it was what I fancied. Well, I thought, I know if I can't have a Ham salad, I would have Cheese.

But no, apparently these vegans don't eat cheese either. An animal product he said.

Okay, so how about an Egg salad?

Not on your nelly. No! Eggs come from chickens and we aren't allowed to eat them either.

Well he was getting really angry by then, so I said I would have whatever he recommended. Sorry I did - there were little balls of stuff, tasted alright, I suppose, but you were chewing every bite for ages, minutes. Like chewed up cardboard it was.

Then Lizzie asked for a milky coffee.

No! Milk is not vegan, so she was out of luck there.

Josie just had a vegetable wrap, to show her true vegetarian principles, as it were.

We had our meal. Now normally we have a chinwag after dinner, but the atmosphere was not very friendly and that waiter chap kept glaring at us. So we decided to go for a cup of tea up the road, where we could get milk with our tea.

Anyway we paid, quite a lot actually, and were just putting our coats on, when I saw it.

But, it was too late.

Josie, who you remember is now claiming to be a vegetarian, was only putting on her favourite fur coat!

Well the waiter was so angry. He went into a complete rage.

He took hold of Josie by the collar and literally threw her out of the restaurant. Her poor feet didn't touch the ground.

Outside he literally tore the coat off of her back and threw it in the bin.

Well poor old Josie was sat there in the gutter, crying her eyes out and all this brute did was shout that we were all murdering morons and not to come back into his café.

Then the Police come.

--

Yes, well, I was out with my John the next day and we saw the demonstration. We didn't realise it was about us. We didn't know.

I saw this sign 'Free the Vegan'.

I didn't know what it meant, I thought it was well I don't know really, then we saw Anne, you know who at the meal and she told me they were protesting because their vegan mate had been arrested.

Well I thought, Josie had paid a lot of money for that coat and we didn't know they were going to get all angry like that, and definitely had no idea they were going to attack the Police like that.

Anyway, you'll be pleased to know, Josie has decided that she don't want to be a vegetarian no more.

We are going to that new steak house next month, you know, the one near the bank.