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## Radio Scotland raises curtain on new season of radio plays

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When you find out your ex is moving your only son from Inverness to Canada, naturally the next step is to abscond in an ice-cream van and make a desperate dash to try to stop them. This the favoured approach of Frank, lead character in *Mind That Child*, from writer Vivienne Harvey - the first of BBC Radio Scotland's five newly commissioned radio dramas - airing on Monday 30 June at 1.30pm.

Iain Robertson plays Frank, last year's BAFTA Scotland winner 14-year-old Daniel Kerr plays his son Jamie, Kevin Lennon plays his deadbeat pal Duggy, ex-wife Lorna by Julie Austin, and also starring Kenny Blyth and Rosalind Sydney.

Aside from Frank's mercy mission at a maximum speed of 40mph (a comedy drama about how far a

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 These five fantastic radio plays from our talented drama team, who also make a wealth of content for Radio

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father will go to keep his son), Radio Scotland's radio plays span a range of subjects and human emotions, and will broadcast at intervals into the new year.

In *Going Spare*, written by Danny McCahon and due to transmit in the autumn, Rosie cares full-time for her disabled son, works part-time in a petrol station and just about manages to get by. With the death of her son she becomes an under-occupier, loses £14 a week in benefits, can't get any more work at the petrol station and begins a downward spiral. Faced with work as a stripper or running an unofficial knitting empire from her now spare room, she chooses the latter, but the benefits agency catches up with her.

Moyamensing writer Marty Ross has a track record of suspenseful radio drama ranging from previous serials *Catch My Breath* and *Ghost Zone* to the Scottish gothic of *The Darker Side Of The Border*. This latest offering is a surreal but moving black comedy due to air on Halloween about the true story of Edgar Allan Poe's struggle to hold dignity and sanity together when he was imprisoned overnight in Philadelphia's Moyamensing Prison for being drunk and disorderly.

*Dead Of Fenwick Moor* is also written by Marty Ross - this new psychological thriller airs in November and sees cosmopolitan Clare Tumelty return to her rural south-west Scotland origins following the murder of a loved brother. In her deeply insular home village there is a chance the likely murderer will escape justice and Clare's backwoods gangster ex-boyfriend offers to see the culprit "take a wee trip up the Fenwick". Clare soon finds herself embroiled in a murderous, vengeful and guilty situation.

The fifth of Radio Scotland's radio dramas is *The Disappointed*, which will broadcast in early 2015 and is written by Frances Poet. Teachers aren't supposed to have favourites but Head of Sixth Form Carol has a strong bond with seventeen-year-old Jack. When he narrowly misses out on the required grades for his chosen university path Carol is incensed that his preferred course is now only available in clearing to students from the rest of the UK, not Scotland. Jack is philosophical but Carol is disillusioned and unable to continue doing the job she loved.

Jeff Zycinski, Head of Radio Scotland, says: "These five fantastic radio plays from our talented radio drama team, who also make a wealth of content for Radio 4, are going to delight our audience. Our varied schedule on Radio Scotland with quality speech programming, such as drama and documentaries during the day, and a fantastic selection of music shows in the evening, gives our listeners a terrific choice."

**4, are going to delight our audience."**

**Jeff Zycinski,  
Head, Radio  
Scotland**

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