

Testing Times

Act One

September 2nd 2020.

Narrator: Some of this stuff really did happen. Most of it. But some of it didn't. Any resemblance to any characters living or dead is entirely unintentional and portrayals should be viewed with a tongue, firmly placed inside the cheek. Be careful not to touch the lips, the teeth and especially not the tongue or the gums. If you have a lively tongue, like me, just say Aaaaaahhhhhhhh.

10am. A car Park. Somewhere in a coastal city of England.

Backdrop.

Newspaper cuttings of headlines of the previous weeks

An Aerial shot of a Car Park. A Screen shot is taken.(Initially this will be an empty car park, but this will gradually fill episodic week by week, until completely full with cars. The screenshot is used as a print out and this is passed to another hand which pauses briefly, then passes on to another hand, to be ticked with a big green marker pen/ sticker with a GREATYY thumb up! sticker and filed..

Aerial shot shows a carpark. In the middle is a red circle. Humans in masks mill semi randomly around in a circle, with hands outstretched. In the very middle is a red circle (around the as yet unseen table) resembling the covid virus under a microscope. (Busby Berkley/ BBC Style)

The camera pans down as the red circle disappears and approx 30 people, move into a line, each at least 2M distance from the next.

This camera drops down further to show the set; a table and occupied two chairs, which are at opposite ends of the table (socially distanced) and one empty chair in the middle. One is Blonde haired (Madge) , the other is bald, Stevo.

A few people talk but not much is being said. Everyone looks mystified as to why this is happening, but getting on with it. The table calls forth another victim.

Stevo: (calls to line) OK Next Person please,

(Paulo Approaches the desk)

Paulo: Ello mate, this is the line for Crucifiction right? (Hands him his Driving Licence

Stevo: Yep, Just down on your left Sir, follow the crowds

(They Laugh)

Stevo: Alright? Take a seat, sanitise your hands and put your mask on please.

Paulo: Yup...getting a bit too used to this now. The New Normal, i suppose.

Steve: Yeahhh... My name's Steve I'm the Site Lead, or one of them, the young lady here is Lizabet, she's a supervisor, as is Gavin (Looking around) Oh he's somewhere, you'll meet him later I Imagine, at some point oh, and Madge, the blonde lady in the black, is the other site lead. Do you have your passport or driving licence?

Paulo: Yah, hier ist mein Papieren.

Stevo: Thank You,

Paulo: You're Welcome... Damn.

Stevo: Achtung! Englander!!!

(they laugh Stevo processes application)

Paulo : So, this is the line for Greatie Corona Testers Yes? Just thought I'd check.

Stevo: Yep, just not the beer version unfortunately!

Paulo: So I take it we don't start today?

Stevo: No, bit of a fuckup unfortunately. As you can see, there's no site yet. It was supposed to be here, in this car park, but it's not level enough.

Paulo: Bit of a cock up on the catering front then, Sah!

Stevo: (laughs) Indeed. No-one saluting that flagpole today, I'm afraid.

A very powerful motorbike Honda cBR 10000 Powerblade, growls around the corner, slowly and purposefully comes to a stop at the space nearest the end of the line. Everyone's attention is drawn to the biker in leathers. The biker dismounts removes his gloves and helmet and underneath is the biggest smile on the biggest man here. Big Rick.

Big Rick: (To everyone) Alright?

(Various Alright mate's come back- Lizabet, a small but fierce woman walks along the line)

Big Rick: Is this the sign on for the Greatie job then? The Corona testing operative thing?

Northern Barry: Hope so, I've been here, twenty minutes. An I bet we don't get paid for it.

Big Rick: (Laughs) S'right.

Lizabet: (as she approaches) OK Everyone, we've just had a phone call from head office and they reckon the site will be built tomorrow, so we should be able to start the day after, OK?

(Hands go up)

Training will be provided, so don't worry, there's lots of safety rules and also there's how to show people how to do the test itself, so don't worry, we'll show you all that in your training, oK?

(Hands go up) Any questions? (She looks at Big Rick)

Big Rick: Yes, thanks, do we still get paid for today and tomorrow, if we don't work it?

Lizabet: Ah, well, i'm not really sure, lovely, but I should imagine so, but I don't really know.

Madge: Yes, Hi Everyone, my name's Madge and I'm one of your site Leads here and I will call the head office and find out for you if you are to be paid for today. Just wait for a phone call from either stevo or myself this evening or tomorrow and that will give you all the information you need, OK?

Lizabet: That's right.

Big Rick: So do you think we will be paid?

Madge: Well, it's hard to say, probably not for today, but I don't really honestly know, until I ask, then I will let you know, OK?

Big Rick: OK love. Keep me posted, yeah?

Madge: Yes, of course, as soon as I know, I'll let you know, OK? great.

Lizabet: Yeah, I'll make sure you know, OK lovely.

Big Rick: Yeah, that's great sweetheart.

(A Big and fancy mitsubishi PHEV enters the car park, lights blazing Chiili peppers Californication music blaring, out of the window hangs an arm covered in a leather jacket, the sleeve of which reveals an expensive watch, accidentally, on purpose, the car arks smoothly, then drives to the opposite space, then reverses bad to where it was, the driver gets out, a small man in a red baseball cap, expensive casual clothes and a massive smile)

Dandy: alright, ya wankers!

Everyone laughs. Madge patrols the line

Dandy: Is this the queue to get Covid then?

Northern Barry: hope not, I've been here twenty minutes and I bet we wont get paid for that either!

Big Rick: You might if your luck runs out.

Madge: Don't forget to sanitise everyone! Keep at least 1.5 M apart at all times.

Big Rick : Shouldn't that be 2Metres? Or is it 1 Metre now?

Northern Barry: Well that desk and chair's not 1M apart, for a start!

Big Rick: I'll get my tape measure. No I won't it's in the truck.

Dandy: That's okay, I'll use my huge knob. Its right here, very handy.

Northern Barry: We need Metres not millimetres.

Dandy: Jesus speaking of which, I need a jimmy

Northern Barry: A what?

Dandy: A Jimmy! Jesus A Jimmy! I shake my head, I really do. Kids today! Christ! You know
Syphon the python, point Percival at the porcelain! A Jimmy!

(Big Rick is laughing)

(To Madge) 'Scuse me love, Is there anywhere, one might go to relieve oneself?

Madge: (pretends not to have heard) Hmm? Sorry? Did you say something?

Dandy: Yes, Is there anywhere around here that has a toilet facility, at which I could take a Jimmy Riddle?

Northern Barry: Oh I see! A Jimmy Riddle! Piddle Ha Yeah I remember that now.

Big Rick is still laughing.

Madge: (disdainful looks) Oh, Er...Yes, Probably in the University building, I should think.

Dandy: Lovely, thank you, desperate. Almost squirting out here.

(He walks quickly off)

Sc 2. In the trees of the University Car Park.

Dandy looks around, is visibly in pain and is holding himself, walks further into the trees, looks around again. From behind we see him take out his dangler and begin to relieve himself on a tree

Dandy: Aaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhh lovelyyyyy, Sorry everyone, Im in pain Im in pain Im in pain”

(A tarpaulin moves by his feet and he has urinated on it)

Deano: Oi! What the genuine Fuck!

Dandy Sorry Mate! Im really sorry, I didn't see you there! Shit! That was good camo!

(Dandy is laughing)

Deano: There's piss all over my tarp , man what's the matter with you?

(Deano starts laughing)

Dandy, well what the fuck are you doing out here?

Deano: Sleeping, I'm homeless, yeah. Well, not really homeless, I could live with my mum, but she drives me mental.

Dandy: So you don't, right?

Deano: Thats right.

Dandy: I'll lick that up for ya if you like. (Pointing to the urine dripping from his tarp being held up)

Deano (laughs), you're fuckin' nuts

Dandy: As a fruitcake chap. As nutty as a a fruity fruit cake in a shop made of walnuts
. Says the one sleeping in the grounds of a university.

Deano: So, if you don't mind me asking, why are you here?

Dandy: Signing up for a job, in the car park.

Deano: In the car park?

Dandy: Yup. Covid testers. I blame Brexit. And the Chinese obviously

Deano: Obviously, Whats the money like?

Dandy: S'okay. ten fifty an hour. 13 hours a day, 4 on 4 off.

Deano: That's alright.

Dandy: That's why I'm here!

Deano: Do you reckon i could give it a go? Need the cash. Got Bubby on the way.

Dandy: Probably mate, They couldn't get laid in a brothel this lot. Bet you any money if you walk up there told em you was rung up and told to get down here with your driving licence or passport, they'd sign you up. Bet ya.

Deano: You reckon, seriously?

Dandy: Give it a go matey, no harm in trying. Aint gonna kill ya. And what dont kill ya...

Deano: Gives you PTSD

Dandy: Zackly! Trudat Brother!

Deano packs up his stuff into a backpack, Dandy starts to leave

Deano: Ere where you going? you're my moral support! Give me a hand with your piss and this.

Dandy: Shit, what have i signed up for now Sarge?

(Wiping his hands on some leaves)

The two walk together hand in hand, skipping back to the line,

Sc 3. The Car Park

The line is now much longer and Dandy has to retake his place in the line later. This time with Deano.

Madge joins them

Stevo: Next!

Madge: Ok now?

Dandy: Yes thanks, found an accommodating tree.

Deano: And pissed all over me!

(Everyone laughs, except Madge)

Dandy: That's what you get for freedom camping. Anyway my piss tastes gorgeous. Pineapples and Fish, Just like an Hawaiian pizza. You love it really.

Deano: (laughing) I do, I really do. At least so far anyway.

Dandy: Surf's up mate!

Deano: No. not again and no tarp for protection this time. Noooooooooooooo!

Dandy: Like Kevin Costner in Waterworld. In a world where water is everywhere. Only one man and his precious friend Tarpy can survive the tsunami from above and go on to make a race of super Tarpy Babies, able to float from birth.

Zee: (From behind Deano) With gills. Aquaman. God that was a shit film.

Deano: Totally. And then avoiding being caught by the Nirvana fisherman, And their dollar dollar bill bait.

Dandy: Yes mate. careful of those razor sharp hooks, Biddie baby!

Lee: (From behind them, laughing) You're Sick!

Dandy: Why, thank you Kind sir, The vernacular of the street! I am how you say, down with the sickness!

Lee: Aha! You like your metal, yes?

Dandy & Deano (totally together in sync): Yes, mate!

(All three laugh) (silence)

Dandy: Ahhhhh.....So.....

(Silence)

Lee; What?

Deano; He just called you an arse hole. Bit rude.

Dandy: No. I didn't.

Lee: Yeah you did.

DEano's lips press together in a wide grin as if to say you've done it now.

Camera swoops to Zee.

Zee is a very very large man, at least 6' Looks about 28, He is actually 23. Dressed totally in black flight jacket and trousers paramilitary but with a few more pounds added, with a jet black beard

and a completely bald head, he looks tough. He looks serious, then breaks into a wide grin. His eyes light up as he begins to chortle.

Stevo: Next!

Dandy: Alright sweetheart, calm your pantaloons. Come here and I'll give you a cuddle.

(He goes to embrace Zee, they stop, realising the situation of social distancing.)

Dandy: Arrrggghhhh! Social bloody distancing, Rubbish for a pervert like me. Never get to grips with anyone at the moment. People use it as an excuse. My wife for example

Deano: And your mum. To me I mean.

Marge: Errr, Two metres please.

Stevo: And don't forget to sanitise your hands afterwards.

Dandy: My mum died last year, thank god she didn't have to see this shit.

Deano: Yeah my mum hates car parks. Reverse parkings the problem I think. no spatial awareness.

Dandy: No, I meant this Covid shit.

Deano: Yeah, of course, sorry.

Dandy: did you Kill her? No, then dont be sorry, unless thy name is Dee mentia or Al zheimer's? Or unless you're a carer that didn't do their job properly, then you have nothing to fear from me my friend.

Deano: You haven't seen her parking.

Stevo: Next.

Dandy: No, she lost her licence. She got 9 points... from the same camera... on the same day.

(They all break into roars of laughter)

Deano: (Laughs then stops) How did you know? Do you know my mum?

Dandy: No, my mum. Are you saying... Wow, that's weird.

Deano: Just a bit.

Zee: Creepy, how do you know his mum?

Stevo: Ok Next person please.

(Whilst they have been talking the line has disappeared and there is now a 10M gap between Dandy and the table.)

Madge: Would you like to step forwards, Sir?

Dandy: Certainly, Ma'am! Actually could i do it from here?

Stevo: Only if you're stretch Armstrong.

Madge: We have to see your proof of Identity. In person.

Dandy: And scan it for your records?

Madge: yes, but we will do that when we have a scanner. When we have an office.

Dandy: OK... so do we have to fill out any forms?

Madge: Yes, but you can do that at home and bring it in tomorrow.

Dandy: Right. could we not have had them emailed? And brought ID in with it tomorrow or whenever?

Madge: Probably.

Dandy: So why are we here?

Madge: To sign up.

Stevo: Next!

(Dandy approaches the table and sits down)

Lizabet: Hi, could you sanitise your hands please

Dandy: Hi yes of course, Sorry to keep you waiting, she likes a chat doesn't she?

(lizabet laughs)

Stevo: Huh? Oh Yeah, she loves a chat. Life and soul that one. Driving licence?

(They both laugh)

Dandy: (Hands Stevo his licence) I take it she used to wear a white hat and work on the rubber wall ward?

Stevo: That's it, I knew there was someone she resembled. Time for your medication now, Chief.

Dandy: Always helps, a sense of humour.

Stevo: And madness obviously (Hands him back his licence, with a form))

Dandy: Obviously. So what happens now then?

Stevo: Read that, fill that in at home and bring it back tomorrow, wait for a phone call or text tonight, alright?

Dandy: All good, we all done?

Stevo: you are, I still have them to do. (Indicates line of about 10 people)

Dandy: Well, good luck with that.

Stevo: Yeah thanks, Sanitise your hands please.

Dandy: (Sanitising) Smooth as a baby's butt.

(Dandy gets up to leave) Oh speaking of which, the next bloke has a baby on the way. nice bloke.

Stevo: Oh right. nice. See you then. Next please!

Dandy (Walking away, to Deano) : Your turn brother. (Gives him a wink)

Deano: Later Alligator (Bumps elbows)

Marge: Sorry, Two metres please.

Dandy: S'okay I've sanitised my elbows!

End of Act One

Act Two Scene 1

September 3rd 2020

Wantsum Airport Covid Test Drive through site.

Operating since March 2020.

Bright Sunny Day.

Backdrop shows video of Defunct Airport. Now used for local air traffic, helicopters etc only. Also used for lorry operation, during Smoke stack for the main motorway traffic for the ports at Roverton and Cockestone and for diversion to the ports at Sheepgate.

lights up to reveal Tent Interior, Approx 3 people and 6 uniformed management dotted 2 metres apart. Throughout there are occasional tables and chairs and throughout this scene there is a general hubbub with occasional background laughter, some loud some quiet. comments and questions, but everyone is there to show or be shown how to do their new job. Respect is always shown, a little banter is had. Some are very keen to impress, but keep it on the down low. Others are less bothered and are only there for the honour and the money.

Aron is at the front and is an ex army Sergeant. Well used to commanding an audience of rowdies.

Aron: Traffic is directed from each station to station starting at the front gate, drivers are directed through cones to their testing station where they test themselves in their car. At no point should you be exposed to a customer with Covid and people are instructed using these whiteboards or even by their mobile if they want. It's very clever. Modern Technology eh? The new site, you're working in at the uNiversity, which is being built today and why you are here, rather than there, is a walk through site, which means that people will be guided into a test bay and you will supervise them doing the test. WE are all human and this virus thing can get anyone, especially us oldies

Chorus of speak for yourself, alright grandad, not past it yet, plenty of life in you yet Aron. etc)

Aron: OK. Two points. The first is that all this pPE and sanitising is there for a reason. 2M

Distancing there for a reason. Why? (Looks at a tall bloke in the front)

Joseph: Bad breath?

(A roar of laughter- especially Aron)

Aron: No, although it does help with that, cant see you pulling anything, anyway, mask or no.

Joseph: 'Specially not with the pubs closed. I miss my pub

(Mumbles of approval from around the tent)

Aron: Yes I think we can all agree on that one. OK, All this PPE and sanitising and distancing is there because I dont want to catch it and I definitely dont want to take it home to my wife and kids. I dont want you to catch it and I dont want the customer, who could well have covid, giving it to us. If you get it, I get it. Simple. When you work in a close environment, illness spreads like wildfire, unless you nip it in the bud, so, if you are feeling unwell or have symptoms, for everyone's sake, stay at home. Isolate.

Joseph: No sick pay though?

Aron: No. So what's the answer?

Joseph: Don't get ill.

Aron: That's it, Dont get ill. And if you do, dont give it to me. (Looking around)

Aron: Eer 'scuse me young man, ((His gaze has rested on a young man in a woolly hat, even though it is warm in the tent- Noel)

(puts up 2 fingers then turns them around so they aren't swearing, he has done this on purpose to entertain)

Noel: Aye! (puts up his hand as if he has a gun and shoots gently- No one laughs, except an embarrassed titter.)

ARON: Two metres, If anyone does that to you whilst you're here, they're JUST trying to warn and help you, so don't take offence and start crying like a little biddy baby alright?

(THE CROWD LAUGH)

Aron: OK So. Last thing before we show you around and how to do the tests and also how to make up the test kits. You on that Lizabet?(Looks around) Lizabet? (Sees her in the far corner of the tent) Oh there you are are you OK to show them how to make up the test kits? Yes? Ok, can't really hear you but that seems fine.

OK One last thing remember our customers are probably feeling fragile if they have the symptoms and they haven't come for fun. They are probably a bit scared, some will be very scared.

Especially the children, alright. Treat them like they're your Granny OK? Everyone.

Righto, to the test! We will split you up into three groups of 5 each. OK how is this gonna work? Numbers wise, OK, So... Right, yeah, Half will stay here, while the other half will be shown stuff by Marge, Stevo and Myself, OK? Stevo, you do stations outside OK? Marge, you do...PPE OK, and that leaves me with the dreaded test itself oK? And we'll do a Round Robin, the repeat it with the other groups okay?

Stevo and marge indicate approval and begin to choose 5 people, those 5 people stand and start to make their way out following their leader. Inside are left 15 people.

Sam: Fancy a game,? (indicating the chess board.)

Dandy: Hmmm has it been sanitised?, Yeah, go on. I'm not all that, but it'll pass the time I suppose.

(They start setting up the board and play throughout.)

Dandy: Didn't realise it was going to be all sitting around, I like to be doing stuff or I get a bit antsy. Know what I mean?

Sam: (Yawns,) Yes, but still the money's OK. I'm training to be a teacher this year, so I'll need it when I go to Uni.

Dandy: Oh God , don't yawn, you'll set me off! ... I used to be a teacher. Primary. What creatures and subject are you planning to teach?

Sam: Secondary Maths.

Dandy: Interesting ... I like Maths. So logical. Mind you I like English too. Noooo! You took my queen, getting me while I'm distracted eh? I see your ploy!

Sam (Laughing quietly) Not quick enough though it seems! If you dont mind me asking, why did you stop teaching?

Dandy: Hmm, its a good question. Loved the kids, loved the parents, loved the teachers and even the work. It was the unnecessary repeated work, the meetings to schedule a meeting, that really got me down, I think. Last summer, even before covid, I looked out of the classroom window and thought, this aint no dress rehearsal, i need to do other things with my life. I'm 53 now. I know. I know. And shut up.

(Both laughing)

Dandy: You know my daughter said something to me a few years ago and since then Ive decided its the way forward. My mum had died of Dementia and I was feeling very down with just about everything, feeling let down generally I think, but then my daughter said this simple thing which entirely changed my outlook. And do you know what that pearl of wisdom

was? Do what makes you feel happy Dad! And since then I have mostly and have been mostly. Its a habit and it works.

There you go , thats my old man bit for today. Enjoy Mwah Mwah!

Zee: Hiya! How's it going? All good? who's winning?

Dandy: He is, how's you?

Sam: Dunno 'bout that? Maybe...

Zee: Shattered. my stupid car, broke down on the way home from work last night. 2 Bloody hours I was waiting for the breakdown.

Sam: What was the problem? I was in the Royal Engineers, so I know a bit.

Markus (A Polish man leans over from next table): I am good with cars and engines, what is problem?

Dandy: Yeah, what happened?

Zee: Flat tyre.

(They all burst out laughing)

Zee: Well, burst tyre really, just exploded like a bomb! So loud. Shit myself!

Dandy: Yum, what a picture now burning into my brain

(They all are now crying)

Zee: my heart was thumping. I had to wait ten minutes before i phoned the garage.

Dandy: And you had to clean yourself up.

Polly (a very pretty tall young blonde): And you had no toilet roll so you had to do it all with the scraping of your fingernails along your arse crack!... Licking it off as you go. Like KFC!

(Dandy retches and nearly vomits) (Zee vomits a little at the sight of this) Both are still laughing

(They are all crying with laughter)

They all slowly recover with a group synchro Ahhhhhhh which sets them off laughing again.

Aron re-enters. Followed by his group, Then Stevo and his group followed by Marge, Lizabet and Gavin. Everyone now takes a seat or stands

Aron: OK Two Metres everyone, Feel free to sanitise (He does and most people do)

Aron: OK, so now we are going to change over, and that doesn't mean your shoes and dresses, lads and lasses. No, now we are going to change groups. So those of you who haven't been with one of us to see everything, please find a leader in a group of five, those of you who have already done it, please feel free to take a seat. Don't forget to sanitise your hands everyone, OK. Lovely.

Everyone moves towards Stevo and away from Marge, but those seeing they will be in the margin, move quickly towards Aron. Marge is left with one person, a woman named Gloreen, a phillipino lady of about 20-35 years of age?

Gloreen (to Marge): Aaah Hello, this should be fun, quick anyway

Marge: Yes. OK Is there anyone who would like to see it again. Any part. The test? No. OK. Right OK, so Gloreen is it?

Gloreen: Yes we have worked together before at Wantsum. Before you became a supervisor, remember?

Marge: Oh,,, Yes. Yes, I remember. How are you? You're married , right?

Gloreen: Yes, to my husband. Of course (she laughs) Are you married?

Marge: (Pretending she is busy watching something) Hmm? Me?? Married? No. Never had the time really. Always too busy. You know how it is. Well, no. I mean I was married haha, thats why I have two lovely children. Wouldn't have them otherwise haha. Oh well.... trails off. Yes, anyway, do you have any?

Gloreen: Kids? No. Not yet. Perhaps one day soon though. When we can afford it. They're sooo expensive aren't they? Hmmm? I do love them though. I like their little shoes. All the colours and the sparkles they have nowadays. The wheels are amazing aren't they! Oh they are so sweet!

Marge: Yes, sweet, shame they last about two minutes though, then they need a new pair.

Gloreen: Yes, true. oh well.

Marge: Yes...oK , let's go. just you and me.

Aron: Right everyone, let's go.

Act 2 Scene 2

Exterior: Car Park

Dandy, Zee, Sam Polly and Markus follow Stevo out to a station at the front gate (D Stage Left) where they say hi from afar, waving whilst they stand in a half circle, they then move on to the next station are shown test kits (USR , then to where the testing area for cars is, always following cones and directions from yellow jackets as if they were testing customers themselves. Whiteboard use,

they stage up at backdrop video (CS). The site is very empty today so there are no tests to show. They then head back to the marquee tent.

Act 2 Scene 3 Marquee Interior

Stevo: OK, thanks everyone, please sanitise, that's great and come to the front table and i'll show you the test kit in more details. If anyone wants to have a look that's great, come on over, but make sure you distance please, OK, that's great

(All the group move to the front, one by one taking seat or standing 2m apart.

Dandy: Looking forward to this bit.

Sam: Thinks he's a doctor.

Dandy: Nurse!

Polly: Hello, sir, what appears to be the problem? Anything a talented nurse can help you with?
(She licks her lips and raises an eyebrow. Every male is instantly erect and there is an audible sigh) (She laughs)

Dandy: Oh my god, there is no blood left in my face. That is naughty. You, my lovely, are very naughty.

Polly: Aha, that's right. Bad to the bone.(Nods and smiles)

Dandy: We shall speak more on this later.

Polly: Hmm see what pops up!

Dandy: hay-zeus!

Stevo: OK everyone, this is the test kit and the first thing to tell them is to lay it out so they can see everything. First, look for the tissue. There's no tissue. No... its in the bag. Ok then they blow their nose to remove any excess mucus. That's snot to you and me. Ok that goes into the bag which is now to be used as a rubbish bag and thrown into the yellow bio bin, sane you getting up and down, just do it once at the end, using the pedal so you dont have to touch the lid, OK?

(A murmur of approval)

Any questions, so far?

OK, let's move on, so, next you take out the swab in the clear plastic bag and the vial which has the fluid inside. Ok, got it? Right now put the vial on the desk. Right, now turn over the swab so that you can see the printed side. Right Ok, now see at one end, there's a n arrow, right? Right well that's the end we have to open, okay, the non swab end that looks like a lollipop stick. OK great peel apart the paper and plastic. Ok well if you can't keep trying. No, well in that case either poke the stick end through the paper, not the plastic and pull it through. No, dont try it through the plastic, it won't work. Got it? Great? No, dont touch the swab end, that's contaminated now.Can't use it. No. Throw it away. Throw it in that bio Bin. The yellow one. Use the pedal. No, use the pedal. The pedal, yep.

OK here's a new swab. now, that's it. Poke it through, that's it.

OK everybody on the same page? Great oK so using the mirror and you dont have to do this, just know what has to be done. So don't feel you have to do this now. Right now anyway. So the swab has to wipe around both sides of the tonsils for at least 10 seconds. Got it?

(Immediately we hear retching as people put swabs into their throats)

OK well don't feel like you have to. I suppose some people enjoy the experience. Not for me though. No thanks.

Dandy: Oh my God. This is disgusting! (Retches)

Zee (Retches then stops, then just as he is settled, Vomits)

Polly: (Dipping the swab in and out with ease) Can't see the problem, myself!

They all laugh and retch and vomit as tears fall down their cheeks, just inflaming the situation further.

Stevo is laughing but manages to hold on to the situation

Stevo: OK Everyone, now if you're finished enjoying yourself, ask the customer if they need recovery time

Dandy: Ambulance, more like, that is just vile

Stevo: OK when you're ready guide the swab into one of your nostrils. If you have a piercing, use the other one.

Polly raises her hand

Stevo: Yes, i can see you have two, guess what? you will have to take one out if you can, but, if there's any blood on the swab it won't be tested. It has been contaminated, so, it's up to you,

Polly: So any blood and it's no good for the Lab?

Dandy: Asked the dog food salesman.

Polly: Eh?

Steve: Nope no good. Two metres remember guys.

Aron: Oh please remember everyone keep your social distance.

Zee: Ah I get it. Dog food? Lab? Awful! Just awful!

Dandy: Comedy Gold!

Steve: Tin, at best.

Sam: Aluminium

Zee: Brass

Polly: Comedy Shite!

(Everyone laughs)

Stevo: Oh dear, we're at this stage so early on. we're doomed!

Dandy: Doomed Capt'n Mainwairing, Doomed!

(Stevo and Zee laugh- Stevo gives him a look as if to say how do you know dads army???)

Zee: I love it. Saturday Night BBC. Classic! No that Ive seen it for ages, been working at a newsagents zero hours, so I had to close and open.

Dandy: Alright Arkwrigght?

Zee: No, Im not Granville, it's that nurse gladys across the way...I'll get her you mark my words.

Dandy: Youll need a ladder. mind you if you're that horny, you could probably pole vault up there.

Stevo: How old are you guys? Actually I should know that! I am your supervisor, after all. Anyway, we diverge. After that grossness, the same end of the same swab has to go to the top of your nostril.

Sam: Nice!

Stevo: Yup, guide it carefully to the back, make contact then gently wiggle it around, that's for ten to fifteen seconds, okay?

Sam: Now?

Stevo: The labs are waiting, especially for your test, so yes, now please.

(The group proceed to undo the swab with difficulty, then put swabs into noses, followed by a sneeze or two and intermittent calls of oh this is gross, vile, disgusting, though the group are laughing they know this part is serious and are concentrating so they dont look stupid in front of each other.)

Stevo: I'll get some tissues, the last group used them up and didn't replace. Bit naughty.

Gavin, pass a couple of boxes, actually this is the last group on the table isn't it? Just a box of tissues please.

Dandy: (as Michael Jackson). Pass me a tissue Tito

Polly: Hee-hee

Zee: You're so ignorant!

(Choruses of so ignorant travel around the tent and a little laughter is heard.

Stevo: OK When you're finished enjoying yourselves, take the swab out of your nose and without touching the end on anything, take the vial out of the bag and undo the cap.

Sam: What happens if you touch it on anything?

Stevo: Wasted test. It's contaminated. Did you?

Sam: No, just wondering what happens.

Stevo: Into the yellow bio bin. If the customer does that, and they will, then they have to redo the test.

Polly: Shit! Sorry.

Stevo (Laughing) Dont worry about it, we're not testing these anyway so go ahead.

Dandy: They're not going off to the lab? Aaah that's sad. I wanted my DNA to be collected for Ancestry purposes.

Zee: Your ancestor was a porpoise?

Dandy: (As a porpoise): Yes, a King of porpoises. God that hurts your throat!

Stevo: Yeah, that reminds me, you will probably get blisters on your throat from wearing the mask all day, but it shouldn't last long.

Aron: OK ONE MINUTE EVERYONE.

Stevo: OK, right quickly and without too much talking, take the lid off break the swab in half on the crack line, replace the lid, drop it in the bag with the absorbent pad, smooth out the air, then roll it up and put it into the blue bio bag, that just pulls apart at the top, then push it in past the silver seal, dont take off that silver seal, it's REALLY sticky. then once its well clear pad out air and peel off the silver sticky strip, OK? Go for it!

(While Aron talks they hurriedly pack up their test kits)

Aron: OK EVERYONE! Come back to me, so I don't have to shout.(Coughs) Young man.

(Sticks two fingers up, everyone laughs, except Noel,

Noel: yeah, yeah, yeah

(then mutters something inaudible to everyone except the person sitting next to him, who laughs but is slightly shocked and looks uncomfortable immediately)

Aron: OK, so Everyone seen and done everything? yes? Come on people, it's like sitting in a morgue. throw me a bone as the American's say

(Only Dandy and Zee laugh as an outburst but very quietly, they look at each other, laughing. They hold up their test kits to each other and both are very fat and full of air)

Stevo: Yep all done, Aron. (He looks behind him to his group, sees the test kits being held up.)
Well mostly. God!

Lizabet Marge and Gareth call from somewhere in the corners of the tent.

Lizabet: Yep all gone through.

Gareth: Yep all done. We're all done, yes, guys?

N. Barry: Well I haven't done the test yet. I mean i don't need to, I haven't got Covid or nowt.
Whatever, I'm not bothered, i'm just saying, like.

Big Rick: Just don't cough near me mate, or we'll both be gonna's.

Polly: Better than Gonorrhoea!

Aron: Lovvely! Right OK then on that note, we shall all go home and wait for a phone call or text.
Stevo and Marge have got your numbers, Yes? Well if they haven't make sure they have, then they'll call this evening, r text and you will either be on shift A which starts tomorrow or on Shift B which starts on, when, well 4 days after that, so whenever that is. So, basically wait for the call
OK. Or Text. Phew that was harder than it should have been.
Right Good day then, sod off home.

(They all lead out, one at a time in single file)

AND DONT FORGET TO SANITISE. KEEPING 2 METRES APART PEOPLE. BE CAREFUL OUT THERE. SEE YOU TOMORROW. EVEN YOU.

MAKE SURE YOU WATCH OUT FOR THAT CALL.

Dandy: OR TEXT!

Dandy: Right see you tomorrow everyone, Maybe.

(Shouts of See you tomorrow, Laters etc)

