

Pontypool was directed by Gregory J. Sinclair as a radio drama for CBC Radio in 2009 and starred Stephen McHattie as Grant Mazzy, Lisa Houle as Sydney Briar, Georgina Reilly as Laurel Ann, Rick Roberts as Ken Loney, Hrant Alianak as Dr. Mendez, and Daniel Fathers as Nigel Healing.

The radio drama was adapted for the stage and first produced by Strawdog Theatre Company in Chicago, Illinois, from October 13 to November 4, 2012.

CHARACTERS

Grant Mazzy

Sydney Briar

Laurel Ann Drummond

Ken Loney

Dr. Mendez

Nigel Healing

Black.

We hear a radio tuning in.

GRANT MAZZY: *(on radio)* Welcome back, folks, and good morning from the snow-covered church on the street they call Drum. I've always been a fan of coincidences and when I spot them I make it a hobby of breaking them down, and I'll tell ya, when you look really closely at the fabric of our world, at the details that weave things together, some pretty strange material appears in the most common of events.

The radio signal fuzzes slightly and a few flakes of snow fall in the dark.

Take the bizarre case of Mrs. French's missing cat. You may even have seen the signs she posted all over town. The sad missing posters asking us all if we had seen poor, poor Honey. An all-too-common thing, really, but this case, as it turns out, has a few uncommon twists. Consider the fateful morning Ms. Colette Piscine swerves her car to miss a cat as she goes across a bridge and has to get fished, alive and shivering, out of the drink.

As the radio fuzz continues to come in and out, so the snow appears to fall, seemingly linked. Snow as sound and sight.

This bridge, you may know, is the pride of Caesarea and even has its own fancy name: Pont de Flaque. Now pay attention, folks, 'cause here we go: Colette sounds like *culotte*—panty in French—and *piscine* means pool. Pantypool. *Flaque* also means pool in French. So *Colette Piscine*—in French, Panty Pool—drives over the Pont De Flaque—the *pont de pool*, if you will—to avoid hitting Mrs. French's cat, that has been missing in Pontypool. I mean, it makes my head spin. What does it mean? What does it mean, I hear you ask? Really, it means I have a worn-out French-English dictionary, but it brings an interesting point, and I cite the late great Norman Mailer. God rest the great man. Mailer had an interesting theory he used to explain the strange coincidences in the aftermath of the JFK assassination, which, of course, fuelled conspiracy. In the wake of huge events, after them and before them, physical details spasm for a moment, sort of unlock, and when they come back into focus they suddenly coincide in a weird way. Street names and birthdates and middle names, all kinds of superfluous things appear related to each other.

The radio fuzz grows louder and a heavy blast of snow fills the blackness.

That means something's going to happen. Something big. Something is always about to happen. And that, friends, is another slice of "Isn't It Ironic?"

WOMAN'S VOICE: *(voice-over)* CLSY Beacon Radio! Your Beacon on the Region! You're listening to *Mazzy in the Morning* with your host Grant Mazzy.

GRANT MAZZY is behind a microphone inside a sound booth. On the other side of the booth's glass partition is the control area, where SYDNEY and LAUREL sit.

SYDNEY indicates to GRANT that he's live as the on-air light blinks red. GRANT takes a sip of his coffee, closes his eyes, then leans into the microphone.

GRANT MAZZY: Good morning, Pontypool. You're listening to 660 Radio. The Beacon. Down here in the Dungeon under the street they call Drum. I'm Grant Mazzy and I'll be bangin' the drum all mornin' for ya, and as always taking no prisoners. I got my coffee here and taking a look outside I'd say that's our story for today, folks. I had a strange experience on the drive here and I'm gonna get some advice from you people a little later. When do you call 911? Think about it. I should mention, our producer, the lovely and talented Ms. Sydney Briar is here. And Lucky Laurel Ann Drummond is our technical cowgirl today. And I should also mention—I didn't know this, maybe you did already but this is news to me—Laurel Ann did a tour of duty in Afghanistan not too, too long ago.

LAUREL ANN looks up beaming. SYDNEY rolls her eyes.

SYDNEY BRIAR: *(on air)* You're right, new guy; everybody does know. She was the Grand Master of last year's fall fair. Yesterday's news.