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@lantis

a science fiction radio play series

EPISODE 5 – The Year of the Long Tail

After the events of 'A Dark World', Mary meets Princess Matilda – a very sick young girl – and is forced to diagnose and treat her by the leader of the Rattus Sapiens. Meanwhile, Jules must come to terms with the death of a co-worker and encounters his intellectual match. Can Dorothy, Lug and their newly thawed friend James free themselves from imprisonment by an army of furry mammals and rescue their colleagues? Will science help them with their rat problem before they become lab rats themselves?

CAST

Dorothy – Nicola Brescianini
Jules – Murray Jackson
Mary – Tegan Mulvany
Harry – Max Rankin
Lug/Announcer – Nic Doig
IRIS/The Leader – Xarna Rappold

Dr Johnson/Sgt Don – Stuart
Hayward
Dr Roland Templeton – Jeff
Watkins
James – Dean Lovatt
Dr Ettinger – Jason Dohle
Guard 1/Graham – John King
Guard 2 – Luke Gratton
Kenneth – Kate Willoughby
Bugsy – Chris Buckle

CREW

Writer/Director – Stephen B Platt
Set – John King (assisted by
Harrison Mitchell, James Jury & Ella
Ewart)
Lighting – Zenna Newman-Santos
Sound/AV – Sabrina Wyatt
Foley – Andrew David
Foley Assistant – Cassie Power
Extra Sound – Stephen B. Platt
Sound Recordist – Bradley Clarke
Sound Levels – Evie MacPherson
Stage Manager – Sarah Courtis
Asst. Stage Manager – Mia Winter
FOH Manager – James Norton
Costumes – Róisín Keiley
Concept Artist – Loz De Cruz
Original Theme Tune – Rob Woods

SO WHAT IS @LANTIS?

Set in the Future, *@lantis* is an underwater city populated by scientists who are experts in their field. It's also the title of this series! Written as part of the PhD research of Stephen B. Platt. Want to help out his research? Make sure you fill out an anonymous audience survey after the show. You can find them in the Nexus Foyer or at the link [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON...CAST



Name: James Bedford

Played by: Dean Lovatt

Occupation: Lifeguard

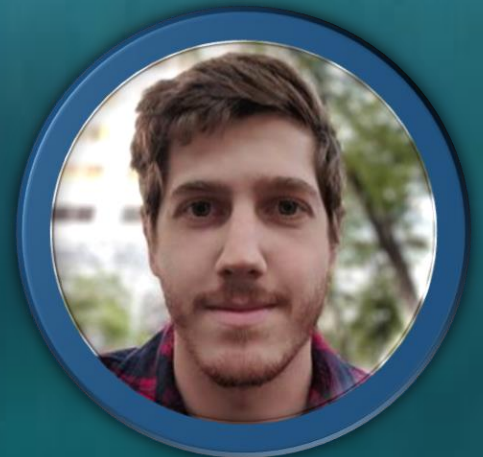
So Who Is He?: James Bedford first came to the stage in Thought Jar's first ever sci-fi play "Thaw" in 2015. One of a group of individuals who underwent cryonic preservation to wait for advances in science to fix their various ailments, James' story ended when he went back into cryonic preservation...or did it?

Strengths & Weaknesses: James is always the first to volunteer to help out – unless it looks like helping is going to inconvenience him. Prone to putting his foot in his mouth, his heart is in the right place but he's just having a really tough time right now okay?

SPOTLIGHT ON...CREW

Name: Bradley Clarke

Role: Our amazing sound engineer is responsible not only for making sure that the live microphone set up is working, he also monitors levels throughout the show (with help from our sound levels assistant Evie MacPherson) AND does the editing of the audio files for online release. Phew!



FUN FACTS FROM THE WRITERS ROOM...

- "Long Tail" is actually the Manx word for Rat – used on the Isle of Man because to say the word "rat" is considered unlucky.
- The event which caused the supposed cataclysm in "Thaw" occurred in the year 2044 which just so happens to be...the year of the Rat in Chinese Astrology!
- All of the rat characters are named for famous fictional rats or their authors. (Think Charlotte's Web and The Wind in the Willows).

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Greetings all!

Welcome to *'The Year of the Long Tail'*, the fifth episode of *'@lantis: a Science Fiction Radio Play Series'*. Set in a futuristic underwater city populated by scientists and academics, *'@lantis'* is a key part of my PhD research into Science-Fiction and Live Performance being undertaken here at Murdoch University. You can provide feedback on your experience with *@lantis* by completing an audience survey available in the Nexus Foyer or via our website www.atlantistradioplay.com

This week's episode follows on from the events of Episode Four *'A Dark World'* and sees the Ponderlust team in all sorts of trouble. Harry is dead, Mary and Jules are being held hostage by the vicious *Rattus Sapiens*, whilst Dorothy, Lug, and their newly thawed out friend James are prisoners of war under the care of The Resistance, a collection of intelligent rodents who are opposing the Rats. Can the surviving team members avoid the horrors of war and vivisection to rescue the *@lantis* biologists and themselves?

'The Year of the Long Tail' presents a different challenge to the *@lantis* cast and crew from all of the other episodes, telling the second part of a story one week on from the first. Originally, *'A Dark World'* & *'The Year of the Long Tail'* were one script, intended to be staged as one episode. However, the nature of the multi-layered story and the anticipated 2+ hour runtime meant that it made more sense to split the story and stage it as a two-parter. Science Fiction is full of multi-part stories; from film trilogies such as *Star Wars* and *The Matrix*, to episodic television shows like *Doctor Who* – particularly 'Classic Era' *Who* which saw one continuing story told over four to six weekly episodes. It has been very interesting both as a director and as part of my PhD research to see what challenges there are in telling multi-part stories in the theatre.

Another reason I have enjoyed writing and staging *'The Year of the Long Tail'* is because of its connection to the first play I wrote and directed, *'Thaw'*. I originally never intended to write any sequel materials for *'Thaw'*, but when the Cryonics story element became an important part of *'The Year of the Long Tail'*, I knew I had a few established characters I could utilise. Bringing back the character of James Bedford for *'A Dark World'* was a lot of fun to write and the fact we were able to cast the original actor who first portrayed him (Dean Lovatt) was an added bonus. It was a lovely moment for me to be sat in the theatre watching *'A Dark World'* last week and hearing the surprised reactions of those audience members who had seen *'Thaw'* realising that there was a connection between that production and this one. I look forward to hearing more reactions this week, as a few more elements from *'Thaw'* pop up.

With my thanks,
Stephen B. Platt, Writer/Director of *@lantis*