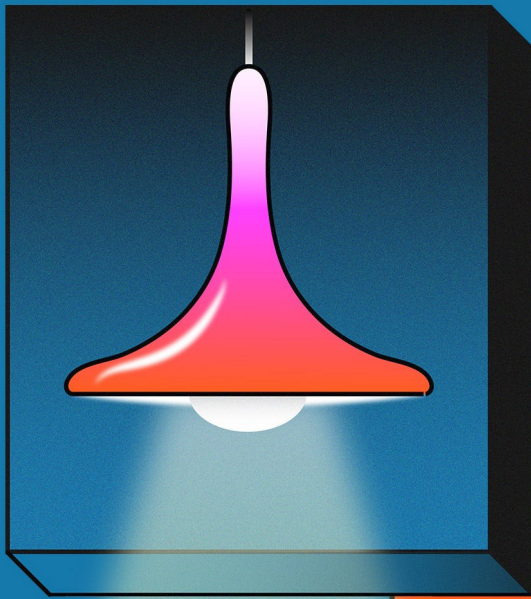


# WOBBLE



A comedy  
drama by

**BARBARA  
JANE  
MACKIE**

**6/8 x 50'  
episodes**



**BIBLE & STORYLINES**

8 x 45 minute Episodes

(1.)



***What do you do if have sexual problems in your relationship? You go see a Sex Counsellor. What do you do if you are that Counsellor and have sexual problems of your own? You panic!***

**6/8 x 45 minute Episodes**

**Comedy Drama Series set in Birmingham**

**Series devised and written by Barbara Jane Mackie**

**Episode One – 'Sexual Healing' 45 minute script available.**



### **SYDNEY (30) – SEX COUNSELLOR, 'CONNECT'**

The spoilt only child of her selfish parents, a doctor and failed alcoholic mother who ran off to Paris to find herself when Sydney was fifteen. Sydney, mixed-race and mixed up, Birmingham born, was brought up by **UNCLE GERRY** (now **GENNA**) a pre-operative trans-female who has now been missing for years. **UNCLE GERRY** stepped in to take charge when Sydney's parents stepped out but messed things up badly and when Sydney went to University, stepped out and disappeared.

A woman of many different parts, self-doubting under her extrovert shield, Sydney connects to all the pain her clients are feeling. Sydney cares. She really cares. And all that pain can get too much to carry. Sex is the one way Sydney can off-load all of that troubled emotion. The fact she is a sex addict is very slowly occurring to Sydney but she would rather joke it off and call herself 'polyamorous'.

At night, Sydney is a Stand Up Comedienne performing **'Women Talk Dirty'** in Birmingham's Glee Club.

**SYDNEY'S ARC** – To find out what she really wants from life, to nail her confused sexuality and to make peace with herself and grow up – but what hope of that? Sydney enjoys being the perennial angry teenager. It's her trademark and she's currently still unwilling to give that up.



### **ANDY (35) – SENIOR SEX THERAPIST AT 'CONNECT'**

**ANDY**, from Sheffield, lives in big house in Bohemian Moseley, with **INGA**, his calm and controlling wife, a Dutch Hypnotherapist. They met as students in Amsterdam and have never looked back. Two kids later they are very comfortable with each other.

**ANDY** has his world rocked when he had drunken one-off sex with **SYDNEY** – it shattered his calm self-belief and this family man is left reeling. A cliched mid-life crisis? Andy is disgusted with himself and is struggling to submerge his attraction for Sydney.

**INGA** (34) is now pregnant with their third child and has no reason to suspect that her husband is involved with **SYDNEY**. Andy is nervous about the extra pressure a third child will put on them, already feeling fault lines in his marriage. However, when there are pregnancy complications and the **BABY'S** future is put in jeopardy, Andy gets clear and comes through for Inga.

ANDY'S ARC – to find the balance between love and lust. Sex with Sydney is explosive but is it just because it is forbidden fruit? ANDY is a man in pain, struggling to find his centre.



### **MAEVE (39) – 'CONNECT'S' SENIOR THERAPIST and HEAD OF TEAM**



Cultured and sophisticated, proud of her Irish heritage, MAEVE lives in her luxury flat in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter in the city centre with her pooch OSCAR and her collection of fine whiskies. Maeve has an emerging drink problem. Lonely after the death of her beloved husband RORY, a University Lecturer from Dublin who died early from leukemia (Maeve's drinking started then), this buried grief is the reason why Maeve keeps all her emotions down – with the help of a bottle or two!

Maeve runs a tight ship at CONNECT, a fully qualified psycho-analyst, she loves fine wines, opera and travel but her repressive Catholic convent education has made Maeve ashamed of her sexual urges and they are emerging big time! Maeve has two sides, the self-disciplined buttoned side and the wild side that wants to emerge. Those feckin' nuns back in Dublin really did it for her!

Maeve is tentatively putting herself out there dating again, out into the city's wine bars and she's very rusty. Maeve is even considering having sex with ROBERT THE SEX ADDICT - a handsome new client and after ten years of sexual abstinence, Maeve is scared that her massive sexual needs that are overwhelming her will overwhelm any man who comes near.

MAEVE'S ARC – her struggle with her out-of-control drinking, her grief about Rory, her sexual drive and all the reasons that lie deep beneath that keep her in a dark and lonely place.

### **EUGENE (29) A COUNSELLOR at CONNECT**



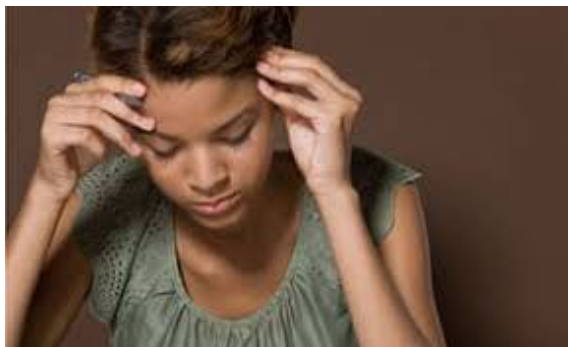
One of six children from an impoverished background in Handsworth, EUGENE, super smart and driven, has always been his mother's favourite, and always been a high achiever. Eugene runs a successful web business alongside his work as a Counsellor at CONNECT. EUGENE is keen to help people in his community and make a difference.

Professional, courteous, Eugene is in demand with the Clients who come in and out of CONNECT. Engaged to BECKA (26), a glamorous Londoner, EUGENE has started to notice how intriguing MICKI, CONNECT'S office manager is and is thrown off centre just before his wedding. The wedding plans that are being made by BECKA and JOYCE (50's), Becka's dominating mother they and are starting to make Eugene panic.

A child of a violent marriage Eugene, the oldest of the five kids, knows he must tackle his past before he decides on his wedding. With his father LESTER (50's) soon coming out of prison, Eugene knows he has his chance but is he brave enough to grab it?

EUGENE'S ARC - Eugene needs to reassure himself he is different from his abusive father that destroyed the childhood of Eugene and his siblings and a man who let them all down.

### **MICKI (27) Black - Admin Manager/Trainee Counsellor - 'CONNECT'**



Born in King's Heath, Birmingham, MICKI (27), university educated, super smart, travels back each night to live with her Mother, EUSTACE (50), a demanding Seventh Day Adventist, wheelchair bound with diabetes.

Micki's only sister, TRACY (30's) has moved away so it's been down to Micki to look after her mother, even though Micki has long wanted to break free and is stifled by her current life.

LEXI (29), a local builder, arrogant, bullish, is the oldest half-brother to Micki and Tracy and was the one who rocked Micki's world when he sexually abused her at fourteen. Those disturbing early sexual experiences has meant that sex fills Micki with high anxiety.

MICKI'S mother, EUSTACE, hosts a Bible reading group who meet every week and RITA, EUGENE'S MOTHER, attends this group. MICKI is now secretly funding her living expenses as she works vountarily at CONNECT but at nights works in a local brothel. Micki can handle this kind of sex – remote, abstract – it's the emotional side of love that she can't deal with.

MICKI'S ARC – to confront the sexual abuse she suffered at the hands of her step brother and to break free from her stifling religious background.

### **VERA (45) – Practice Manager, 'CONNECT', Trans Female.**



Long time happily trans female, a warm-hearted mother figure at CONNECT, VERA supports them all, bringing in cakes to cheer up the counsellors. Widowed, Vera has grown up children and grand children, enjoys Bingo, and a bit of gambling too - a lot of gambling if she is honest and VERA is seriously in debt. Her biggest sorrow is that none of her three grown up children ever visit since she transitioned. Vera is in pain but covers it up with a smile.



**GENNA/ UNCLE GERRY (34)** is passing as a woman and waiting for her sex change operation but has been told that she must wait longer and is in agony. GENNA / formerly Sydney's UNCLE GERRY, is the younger brother of **VANESSA** (50's), Sydney's selfish alcoholic mother who dumped Sydney on her younger brother when she off to Paris to find herself and Sydney's father left.

GENNA/UNCLE GERRY was young, single and party-loving and was reeling with the responsibility of being dumped with a teenage ward. Financially stable as a builder, Gerry couldn't control a mixed up and highly rebellious teenager being highly mixed up himself. When Sydney left for University, Uncle Gerry took a downward-spiral with pain-killers and cocaine becoming his addiction. He went bankrupt and disappeared, losing all touch with Sydney. Ten years ago.

When VERA takes pity on this handsome homeless pre-operative Transfemale from her Transexual Group she offers up her spare room. GENNA is trying to get off the pain killers, booze and cocaine but does become clean as Vera helps build her confidence. GENNA is the 'daughter' VERA feels is missing from her life as her own son and daughter rejected her when she transitioned.

When Vera suggests GENNA as trainee Office-Manager at CONNECT when MICKI is promoted up to Counsellor, SYDNEY'S past catches up with her.

ANDY and MICKI aren't so convinced about GENNA. There is something too charming, too needy about GENNA and why won't GENNA sign the DBS forms that are presented to her? MICKI smells a rat as SYDNEY goes into meltdown face to face with her traumatic past.

When GENNA, now starting to pass as a woman, eventually makes a move on EUGENE, a horrified MICKI digs her heels in. EUGENE is hers and hers alone - war is declared!

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### **Storylines: -**

Maeve lays it down hard to Sydney and Andy: if they don't drop the affair one of them must leave and she can't afford to drop Andy! They must button up! Sydney, horrified, nods as Andy sadly backs away ...

Inga, Andy's Yoga-teaching Swedish wife is pregnant, but there are complications. Andy's love deepens for Inga when they discover that she has cancer but she will bravely have the baby, rejecting chemo. This sends Sydney reeling as Andy withdraws from her. Inga needs him now!

Maeve counsels Robert, the sex addict and 'crosses the line' and has a passionate sex with him in her office. Mick knocks on the door: hypocritical or what? She's disgusted!

Micki agrees to have a drink with Eugene but he might not like what he hears about her she warns him! Eugene sticks in – he can handle it. He has broad shoulders.

Later, Eugene secretly follows Micki to her night job in a Brothel which is funding her Psychology degree. He reels back, horrified. A disappointed Micki feels nothing but contempt for Eugene's narrow mindedness. So much for 'broad shoulders?!'

Sydney gives her notice in to Maeve. It's too tough for her here with Andy working here. Maeve, aware she herself 'crossed the line' with Robert, urges Sydney to stay on and offers surprising support. Sydney presents a comedy show about 'extra marital' love. She's in deep, so deep! We see Andy, drink in hand, at the bar, staring hard at her and when he comes to her dressing room, they collapse into each others arms making passionate love.

Sydney's long lost 'Uncle Gerry', now Genna, a homeless pre-operative Transexual, turns up in Vera's Transexual group. When Vera takes in the handsome Genna, offering support for her drugs and alcohol problems, she finds Genna some voluntary work at 'Connect.' Sydney goes into meltdown as her painful past catches up with her!

Maeve struggles with her increasing alcoholism and when Genna, a former alcoholic, offers understanding and support, Sydney, horrified, realises that her dodgy, manipulative Uncle/Aunty is here to stay! When Maeve offers Genna a job on reception and moves in on the handsome Eugene, Micki decides to fight for Eugene. Eugene is hers and hers alone

Micki stands up to her older brother Lexi, who sexually abused her as a child. She approaches Eugene, let's take that date further, but Eugene has lost faith in Micki and is taken over by his wedding plans. Micki is devastated.

Sydney discovers she is pregnant – it can only be Andy's as all her other lovers were female?! Sydney books in for an abortion but when Inga, Andy's wife has a miscarriage, Andy, guilt ridden and grieving, urges Sydney to keep the baby – for herself at least?!

Sydney thinks hard: she's selfish, self-centered and adolescent: maybe a baby could sort all that out? She will be super mom and secret sex addict on the side! Sydney slowly brightens. When Vanessa, Sydney's shambolic, long-lost alcoholic mother turns up from Paris at Sydney's comedy show, hearing of Sydney's pregnancy and here to help, Sydney goes into meltdown!

All are gathered at Eugene's wedding to Becka, including Eugene's brutal father Lester, just out of prison, Eugene suddenly steps down from the altar, declaring his love for a Micki as he runs out. Micki, reeling, is overjoyed and overwhelmed.



**And the Clients come and go:**

**Julian**, a lawyer, who only gets sexually aroused when breaking the law.

**Kate and Eddie**, middle-class doctors, both 'stumpists', aroused by amputee's stumps – acrotomphiles and deeply ashamed of themselves.

**Peggy and Allan**, middle-aged swingers who can't stop swinging but desperately want to stay together.

**J.J.**, a successful Rapper with a rampant, unwanted porn addiction that's destroying all his relationships.

**Ali**, a transitioning teenager with his mother, who is highly opposed to his sex change.

**Arnold**, an old man who's in love with his dog and having a relationship with him!

The revolving door at 'Connect' just keeps 'em coming!

***Each episode will focus on Sydney and one other Counsellor with their clients with a third Counsellor coming up in the rear. There will be three sets of Clients a week.***

***Each episode starts with Micki, a trained Thai Chi Master, taking Thai Chi classes on the roof, as the Counsellors, in their work out gear, get very sweaty indeed as they hold their poses, alone and sometimes entwined in poses together – in an attempt to 'unwind.'***  
***The tension and the sexual tension between them is palpable!***

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**A Professional Sex Therapist/Advisor and a Trans-Female Psycho-Sexual Therapist and Counsellor provisionally on board in principle as Consultants**

**Michelle Bridgman**, ***Trans-Psycho Sexual Psychotherapist, Consultant and Speaker on Gender Identity. Michelle was Series Consultant on 'Silent Witness' and the TV drama 'Boy Meets Girl'. Michelle was also a Stand Up Comic. (www.michellebridgman.com)***

**Mollie Graneek** – ***Sex Therapist and Psychotherapist specialising in Relationship Therapy and a credited member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy.***

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***Barbara Jane Mackie devised long running dramas for BBC Birmingham Drama***