

Any Other Dublin - Episode 1 - 'Bernie in the Community'

By

Gareth Stack

Cast of Characters

<u>Gordo</u> :	Bernie
<u>????</u> :	Narrator
<u>Alicja</u> :	Wiola
<u>Dylan</u> :	Frank
<u>Saul</u> :	Arnold
<u>Leah</u> :	Laura
<u>Dylan</u> :	Ted
<u>Gareth</u> :	Presenter (TV)
<u>Leah</u> :	Julie
<u>Dylan</u> :	Stephen

ANY OTHER DUBLIN - EPISODE 1 - 'BERNIE IN THE COMMUNITY'

1 - Community Garden

1 SOUND: DIGGING IN THE EARTH OUTSIDE

2 ATMOS: COUNTRY, BIRDS, WIND ETC

3 BERNIE

You see de ting that most people don't understand...
De ting most people can't get their teeth into... Is
what we need to do to get us out of this mess. De
grit needed. De entrepreneurship.

2 - Narrator

4 NARRATOR

(ENGLISH ACCENT) You're listening to the voice of
Bernard Noonan, 43, of Killinarden, county Dublin.
Like many native Irish, Bernard found easy success in
the gold rush of the Celtic boom. Today, however,
Bernard, and many like him, find themselves
scrambling in the dirt. Where once these new gods
panned for glittering nuggets in the streams of the
housing market, today they flip chicken fillets in
the kitchens of franchise restaurants. Where long ago
the pop of champagne flutes echoed in the Dublin
night, today cider bottles whistle like mustard gas
in the trenches of a bitter recession. This morning,
faced with an uncertain future, Bernard is digging.

3 - Community Garden

5 SOUND: DIGGING THROUGH EARTH WITH TROWEL, BERNIE DIGS AS
HE TALKS TURNING BACK AND FORTH TO MIC

6 BERNIE

Take des shoots here. See, dey need weeding, tending
and taking care of. Dey need seeds... Seed capital if
ya like. With de right investments, de right...
fertilizer, they'll become juicy vegetables, that the
whole community can eh... Can... Can eat or whar
ever.

4 - Narrator

7 NARRATOR

Bernard is a keen gardener, and a member of the urban
organic gardening collective, Fás Suas.

(CONTINUED)

5 - Community Garden

8 BERNIE

Now over here, dis is where we cultivate de onions. Onions are hard en bih'her, difficult to do anything wit, ya know. I like to think of dem as de long-term unemployed of the garden. Just sitting der, useless, lazy, rottin' in the ground, draining de soil of de last drop a goodness. But des, now des are de carrots... Carrots are different, dey see further than the other vegetables.

9 SOUND: BUBBLING, ROCKS MOVING, DIGGING

10 BERNIE

What have we got here... Alright, Frankie, Arno. Doin' a bit a planting, lads is eh?

11 FRANK

Uh huh.

12 ARNOLD

What does it look like?

13 BERNIE

Well, don't let me stop you.

14 FRANK

Why would we let you stop us?

15 SOUND: AQUAPONICS BUBBLING

16 BERNIE

Haha, great sense a humour. Des lads are fantastic, you can see here... Dey've rigged up an aquaponics setup which has des plants over here... Fed by the waste of des little fishies over in the tank der. De interesting part is dat you can sell both the vegetables and the fish, so potentially it's a double money maker.

17 FRANK

We're not selling the produce man, this is a collective.

18 BERNIE

No, a course not, Frank, a course not. I was just talking hypothetical.

19 ARNOLD

We're volunteers dude. This is a community project, nobody's trying to make any money.

20 BERNIE

And what a community, am I right, lads? All for one and one for one.

(CONTINUED)

21 FRANK

Pretty sure that's not how it goes.

22 BERNIE

No? Ah well, we didn't all get to go to college did we Mr Trinery hahaha!

23 SOUND: BUBBLES CUT OFF

24 ARNOLD

You're eh... You're stepping on the filtration hose man.

25 BERNIE

(PAUSE) Well, good stuff, carry on.

26 SOUND: BUBBLES CONTINUE

6 - Office

27 SOUND: OFFICE, PRINTERS, SCANNERS

28 LAURA

Bernie has so much enthusiasm. He's always coming up with great ideas and things, you know. Lots of little innovative suggestions. (PAUSE) But I think there might be a bit of conflict there with some of the younger members of the group... And eh, with some of the older ones. And em, the ones... The ones his age, too.

29 TED

I think part of the problem is that most of us are here because we want to be here... Em, we believe in the organic movement, and eh, we want a better world for our kids and to save the whales and ban nuclear power and ah... I think Bernie's the only eh, the only one actually here on parole.

7 - Narrator

30 NARRATOR

After his business went bust in 2009, Bernard served a short sentence in Portmarnock prison for an unrelated offense. One of the conditions of his release... Twenty hours a week community service at fás suas.

8 - Community Garden

31 BERNIE (ON MIC)

Eh was a tough time in me life, you know? Ders few things a man values more than his pride... An his house an his car, (PAUSE) an his marriage. But I tink, I tink over all, I couldn't say dat I'm not a better person after me time inside. And they were very fair to me in der, especially considering de nature of de offense. Look, can you cut dat bit out? I'd prefer we focused on me gardening.

32 SOUND: GARDEN NOISES, BERNIE WALKING

33 BERNIE

Dis spot ed be perfect for de farmers market. And we'd have plenty a parking up der by de gate. Dat's if we converted the pumpkin patch. Not exactly a cash crop yer pumpkins... Well, maybe once a year. Get a fright if you try to sell them the rest of the time! Am I right? Am I right? (WALKS OVER TO NEW SPACE)

Now over der... This is where I'd put de camp site. Premium eco-tourism, organic holiers, tink about eh. Ye come, ye bring de family, yet get yer hands dirty, buy your organic fru'. Kidlers get to learn about renewable (PAUSE) bits and bobs. Mammy and daddy can sign up for a course on eh... I don't know, cooking without additives. It's de holiday a de future.

34 FRANK

Eh, excuse me dude. Did you get the recycling out?

35 BERNIE

Yeah, got that done alright, Frank. Thanks for reminding me.

36 FRANK

Then em, can I get you to you unload the new pottery from the van?

37 BERNIE

Absolutely, Frank, get to it in two licks of lambs tail, good lad. Keep it up.

38 SOUND: FRANK WALKING AWAY

39 BERNIE

(PAUSE)

(LOUD WHISPER)

'Course that'd be just the start. Ders franchise potential. Stick de staff in t-shirts... Like the geek squad, but for yer garden... Send 'em out in little vans, biofuelled au naturale. Let me tell you, ders buckets of money in renewable sustainable yoke-e-me-bobs. Just imagine eh, farmers markets the size of Tescos. Organic school dinners, solar powered discos-

(CONTINUED)

40 LAURA

Eh Bernie, Bernie, em, sorry to interrupt. It's just that eh... Someone's made a mess in the bathroom. If you could just-

41 BERNIE

Ah! Right oh, right away. Tell us, is eh bad?

42 LAURA

Well, it's not good.

43 BERNIE

Level four emergency so! I'll get me marigold gloves on hahaha.

44 LAURA

Right.

9 - NARRATOR

45 NARRATOR

Back at home Bernard lives a modest life with his partner and former personal assistant Wiola.

10 - Kitchen

46 SOUND: UNPACKING SHOPPING, KITCHEN NOISES

47 WIOLA

Have you pick up the bin bags and kittie food, Bernie?

48 SOUND: BERNIE LOOKS THROUGH BAG

49 BERNIE

Le me look... One sec, der. Ah sugar, I got de bags love, but I tink I forgoh yer kih'hey's dindins.

50 WIOLA

What is Bridget Jones supposed to eat, you tell me? Maybe something from the garden? Maybe some organic pears do you think?

51 BERNIE

It's no problem love, I can go back down after dinner and...

52 WIOLA

Oh no no Bernie, you just leave it. Rest the feet. I only work all day already. I go down no problem, pronto let me get coat.

53 BERNIE

Ah no pet, let me-

54 WIOLA
I don't dream of it.

55 SOUND: COAT BEING PUT ON

56 BERNIE
Right, would ye like me to start de din-

57 SOUND: DOOR BANGS SHUT

58 BERNIE
Right-e-oh.

11 - NARRATOR

59 NARRATOR
Bernard and Viola's relationship, like those of many couples in the new Ireland, has been defined by economic circumstances.

12 - Dinner

60 WIOLA (ON MIC)
When I meet Bernie of course he was with the wife. He was very successful at the time, of course, with the business and so on, and we have a lot of fun doing the work together. But when the marriage ending things they became a lot too serious, I think. Now all he does is 'garden this, garden that'.

61 SOUND: EATING, CUTLERY

62 BERNIE
...and then I told the lads, if yer gonna make a vertical trellis, you've got to leave a bit a space for light between the racks. I mean come on!

63 WIOLA
Oh yes, very good.

64 BERNIE
Barry's convinced he can just shove in layer after layer of eggplant and he'll see good returns. But dats not how you bake the cake, if you know what I mean.

65 WIOLA
Could you pass the TV flicker, please?

66 BERNIE
Sure love. He'll see, his yields just won't hold up wid ou-

67 SOUND: TV FLICKS ON

13 - TV SHOW

- 68 PRESENTER:
-the judges have been rough on Julie, but now's her chance to shine with a routine she's been practicing all week.
- 69 BERNIE
I mean he'll regret it if he doesn't-
- 70 SOUND: TV VOLUME IS RAISED
- 71 JULIE
I'm dead excited, I'm hoping to really impress Simon and just blow his socks off and really really just have a good time.
- 72 BERNIE
...put the effort into-
- 73 WIOLA
Quiet, I have not seen this one.
- 74 BERNIE
I was just going to say-
- 75 WIOLA
Sush!
- 76 SOUND: TV CONTINUES ON IN THE BACKGROUND - JULIE SINGS A POP SONG ACAPELLO

14 - Visitors

- 77 BERNIE (ON MIC)
I tink for Wiola, tings have been harder dan she woulda liked. I tink she woulda expected a certain standard of livin dat maybe I was able to give Ciara. Dat maybe I can't so much... come up with today, you know. I'd like to be able to give her all the tings... She deserves. But ders other realities... It's not all possible right this minute. I know dat if we stick it out though, you know, dere'll be a new tomorrow, and den anudder... (PAUSE) Tomorrow, the day after dat.
- 78 SOUND: BATH RUNNING IN NEXT ROOM
- 79 BERNIE
OK, time for beddy byes, Wioli-bubs. Will I warm your jammies on the radiator, love?
- 80 WIOLA
Not tonight, baby, tonight I am with Stephen, remember?

(CONTINUED)

- 81 BERNIE
A course yeah, sorry, a course. I must a forgot.
- 82 SOUND: DOORBELL
- 83 WIOLA
That is I have no doubt him now, will you go get it, sweetie?
- 84 BERNIE
Sure... Sure, pet.
- 85 SOUND: DOOR OPENING, FOOTSTEPS, HANDSHAKE
- 86 STEPHEN
(AUSTRALIAN) Alright, Bernie mate, how you getting on? The wife in? Course she is, eh. Viola!
- 87 BERNIE
Not too bad, Stephen... Tanks for em... Tanks for ask-
- 88 WIOLA
Hey, sexy!
- 89 STEPHEN
Hey you.
- 90 BERNIE
Righ, I'll just-
- 91 WIOLA
God, you're so sweating Stephen, were you racing?
- 92 STEPHEN:
Ah yeah, fair dues, all the way here, babe.
- 93 WIOLA & STEPHEN
(LAUGH)
- 94 BERNIE
I'll just eh... Set meself up on de camp bed will I?
- 95 STEPHEN
No joke though, I'm absolutely reeking, give it a sniff. Mind if I hop in the shower mate?
- 96 WIOLA
No shower for you! I have make the bath.
- 97 STEPHEN
Nice one, babe.
- 98 BERNIE
Well, I'll jus... I'll jus' head off so.

99 STEPHEN

Eh Bernie, you heading already? Stay up for a drink mate!

100 SOUND: BATH RUNNING, WIOLA AND STEPHEN MOVE TOWARDS IT

101 BERNIE

Ah no, I mean, I'd love to, but I've a lot of writing to do you know and eh-

102 WIOLA (FROM NEXT ROOM)

Coming baby?

103 BERNIE

Whats tha- Oh... She's she's call you I tink...

104 STEPHEN

Good man Bernie, see you in the morning eh? Coming babe!

105 BERNIE

Righ oh, Ste-

106 SOUND: DOOR CLOSING, SPLASHING, LAUGHTER

107 BERNIE (ON MIC)

Well, I suppose initially eh was Wiola's idea alright'. But I tink, it's probably somethin' we both needed, ya know. Stephen's a good fella, very... fit. I'm wouldn't be so gone on Peter, he's a bit of an odd ball now. I mean, I think he was born that way, but it might have been an accident... Eh, Warrens's got a great sense of humor. I haven't met the new fella yet, Charlie... something. That'd be when I'm away at the gardening.

15 - NARRATOR

108 NARRATOR

Bernard makes use of his time alone to explore his other hobby, writing gritty contemporary crime fiction.

16 - Writing

109 SOUND: TYPING ON OLD KEYBOARD, IN THE BACKGROUND, VERY SOFT LAUGHTER, SPLASHES

110 BERNIE

(TALKING TO HIMSELF)

'McLucan Blues blew a soot gray smoke ring into the Dublin skyline. Dirty old town, he though, quotin' the Pogues song a the same name. De city seemed to hang der like... Like... Like a man convicted a murder in a country that still had the death penalty.'

111 SOUND: STOPS TYPING

(CONTINUED)

112 BERNIE

No, no. Em, 'Like words dat once spoken can't be taken back'. No... Ah... 'Hang there like...

113 SOUND: TYPING

114 BERNIE

'Like foul washing on a line, each building a skid marked pair of once white y-fronts.'

That's the stuff...

'Dirty old town, he thought again. It was the only lyric he could remember from the song. Twenty years of hard drinking will do that to ye. (PAUSE) Eh makes your memory worse.'

17 - NARRATOR

115 NARRATOR

It's Friday and Bernard has decided to present his long-awaited plan for the community garden to the other volunteers at Fas Suas.

18 - FAS SUAS MEETING

116 SOUND: MICROPHONE FEEDBACK, ACTORS SIT IN CREAKY CHAIRS

117 BERNIE (AMPLIFIED)

And so, in conclusion... Turning to me last slide. I tink we can all agree dat we can make a real go a turning this place into one of de top five permaculture businesses in Northern Tallaght. Don't all jump in, I'm sure everybody has a tonne of questions.

118 ARNOLD

I'm sorry, who are you again? Ted, who is this fella?

119 FRANK

Can we move on guys, I'm pretty sure I found some blackleg on the new potatoes.

120 BERNIE

If I can just explain the-

121 ARNOLD

I'm sorry... Whatever your name is, you've had your say, you've had your say alright? Get off the podium.

122 BERNIE

If you'd just take a look at the figures I've provided-

123 LAURA

Now, Bernie, perhaps it's best to leave it there. Everybody's pretty keen to get to the pub, so-

(CONTINUED)

- 124 BERNIE
Hang on now, just a sec. I've been working here-
- 125 ARNOLD
Right, I'm heading, see ya's in the Cobblestone yeah?
- 126 FRANK
Fine, fine, we'll talk potatoes on Monday. You're grabbing the first round!
- 127 ARNOLD
I am in my eye!
- 128 TED
Can we try the Bull & Castle tonight? I really want to catch the end of the rugby.
- 129 SOUND: COATS BEING PUT ON, GENERAL MOVEMENT, CHAIRS
SCRAPING
- 130 LAURA
God no, that place is awful.
- 131 FRANK
Has anyone seen my wallet, I was sure I left it in my-
- 132 BERNIE
-Excuse me, can all a yaz please sit down and shut up!
- 133 SOUND: SILENCE, COUGH, LONE CHAIR SQUEEK
- 134 BERNIE
I've bin working here, week in, week out, for the past six months. I've cleaned yer rubbish, washed yer dishes, helped wit yer accounts-
- 135 LAURA
Sorry... Sorry to interrupt. Em, you didn't actually help with the accounts, Bernie. That was Frank.
- 136 FRANK
Yeah, I'm pretty sure I did that.
- 137 BERNIE
Well I went to Reeds and picked up a new lined notebook for ya, didn't I? Look, dat's not the bleedin' point alrigh'. I've broke my back working for dis place.
- 138 TED
Take it easy there Bernie. Have a carrot juice.

139 BERNIE

An all you people care about is yer bloody allotments. Not one of yes can see the potential in this place. Just imagine, kids from all over Ireland, visitin' on school trips. Families renting der own little spot. Mammys and Daddys who live in flats, teaching their kids wha' ehs like to grow tings. Low cost organic food. Can you imagin' eh? Can't one a ya show an ounce of vision?

(SHOUTING)

Yer all just a bunch of work-dodging, dole-scrounging, hippy scumbags!

140 LAURA

That was uncalled for, Bernie.

141 TED

Laura's right. There's no need for that now.

142 FRANK

Go home man. You're making a fool of yourself.

143 BERNIE

But... yas don't understand...

144 ARNOLD

Feck off to the flats, ya creepy sap.

145 BERNIE

Come here, you little Deefer-

146 SOUND: KNOCKED OVER CHAIR, SCUFFLE

147 ARNOLD

Get him off me, get him off me!

148 LAURA

Bernie, leave him alone for God's sake.

149 BERNIE

I will knock your teeth down yer troat, ya yuppie plonker.

150 TED

Somebody call the guards. For heavens sake. We need to stop this now.

151 BERNIE

You... Will.. Remember my... name!

152 SOUND: SCUFFLE

153 MUSIC: SAD REFRAIN

19 - NARRATOR

154 NARRATOR

Two weeks have passed, and Bernard is relaxing at home while he waits for the parole board to decide whether he will have to return to Portmarnock prison.

20 - Back Home

155 BERNIE

Eh hasn' been an easy time. But I'd say I've learned a loh. We bot' have, isn' dat righ', love?

156 WIOLA

Uh huh. We learn so much now that Bernie is home every day. I learn how I like walks.

157 BERNIE

It's dat sense of humor that made me fall in love with 'er. No, I tink... In all fairness... Eh's been good for our relationship overall, we've gotten even closer than we were already, you know.

158 WIOLA

So close I need restraining order.

159 BERNIE

Ha ha ha. Isn't she some-en? De important ting is dat I know... I know that (STARTS TO BREAK DOWN)...

160 WIOLA

Bernie, leave it out.

161 BERNIE

No, love... I want to say this. I know dat whar-ever happens, you'll be strong. You'll be der, and dat dis is de one ting in me life da' makes sense.

162 WIOLA

Oh God, Bernie.

163 BERNIE

You don't need to say anything, love, I just had to tell ye da'.

164 WIOLA

Uh Huh.

165 BERNIE

(PAUSE) Well, you could say somethin...

166 SOUND: DOOR BELL

167 BERNIE

Will I... (SNIFF)

(CONTINUED)

- 168 WIOLA
Don't worry about that, he is for me.
- 169 SOUND: DOOR OPENING
- 170 FRANK
Eh, Viola is it?
- 171 WIOLA
Hello big fellow, you must be Frank. Goodness you're taller even than on Finding Friend. Stay right there, I get my coat.
- 172 FRANK
Well.
- 173 BERNIE
We meet again.
- 174 FRANK
How's things eh Bernie? Are you OK? You look like you've been crying.
- 175 BERNIE
No. *SNIFF* (PAUSE) How's your friend with the mouth?
- 176 FRANK
Arnold? Yeah, he's good yeah, his arm is nearly out of the cast.
- 177 BERNIE
Good stuff, glad to hear eh.
- 178 FRANK
Doing eh... Doing any... gardening?
- 179 BERNIE
I don't like to think about eh des days, to be honest. To many bad memories.
- 180 FRANK
I'm... I'm-
- 181 WIOLA
Found it! See you later, honey, don't be up waiting.
- 182 BERNIE
Oh eh, no. Well have a good-
- 183 SOUND: DOOR CLOSING, LAUGHTER
- 184 BERNIE
Well, now...
- 185 SOUND: SITS DOWN, TYPEWRITER STARTS

186 BERNIE

COUGH 'McLucan Blues had everything in Yanksville, USA. Big car, big ditty wife, double D, with a tight arse, who screamed louder than him at de big game, two beau-e-ful daugh-ers who loved him like a fadder, an a future as brigh as...'

187 SOUND: STOPS TYPING

188 BERNIE

'As brigh as the child of Stephen Hawkin an Madeleine Albright', no... Too intellectual... 'As brigh as the sunlight reflectin off a patch of garden still weh from the dew...' Nah... Too sippy...

189 SOUND: TYPING

190 BERNIE

'As brigh as the sun in the eyes of a prisoner jus released from the MAZE prison where dey held de quoh unquoh terrorists. But he'd thrown eh all away for a chance to bih de Celtic tiger. And den, de tiger bit him back'

(END)