



Jemaine Clement returns to audio with “The Mysterious Secrets of Uncle Bertie’s Botanarium” podcast for Howl

March 16, 2016

LOS ANGELES – Actor, comedian and multi-instrumentalist Jemaine Clement, best known for his role in HBO’s hit series “Flight of the Conchords,” stars in a new scripted podcast series, “The Mysterious Secrets of Uncle Bertie’s Botanarium,” which launched today exclusively on Howl.

Clement — whose appearance marks his first return to audio since launching “Flight of the Conchords” as a radio series for BBC Radio 2 in 2004 — lends his voice as the podcast’s lead character, Lord Joseph Banks.

“Uncle Bertie’s will immerse you in an 18th-century alternate universe. I hope you’re okay with that,” said Clement. “It’s ridiculous and beautifully musical. I am the only man handsome enough to play Lord Banks in this audio play.”

A creative twist on history

Moving between the sublime and the ridiculous, “The Mysterious Secrets of Uncle Bertie’s Botanarium” is a fictional account of a sea voyage set in a parallel universe that references the historical expedition of British botanist Joseph Banks to New Zealand in the 1700s. On the perilous journey, Banks and his crew encounter treacherous butterflies, plant-worshipping religious zealots, boiling oceans, cannibalistic sausages and perhaps even Uncle Bertie himself.

“I grew up listening to and loving ‘The Goon Show,’ ‘The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy’ and other legendary BBC audio series, all of them sound-rich, character-driven and deeply compelling,” said Chris Bannon, chief content officer for Howl and Midroll Media. “It has been a career highlight to work with Jemaine and his team on a series I feel is every bit as good. I’m deeply proud of it and eager to hear what listeners say.”

The podcast was written and produced by a trio of New Zealand–based talent: writer and director Duncan Sarkies, musician James Milne (who records under the pseudonym Lawrence Arabia) and artist Stephen Templer. In addition to Clement, the cast includes an ensemble of artists from Wellington, New Zealand. The production features original music by Lawrence Arabia and audio design by Nic McGowan and Thomas Press.

Listen exclusively on Howl

“The Mysterious Secrets of Uncle Bertie’s Botanarium” is available exclusively on the Howl premium service, available for iOS, Android and at howl.fm. Howl is an audio curation and listening platform launched in 2015 by leading podcast network Midroll Media, a wholly owned subsidiary of The E.W. Scripps Company (NYSE: SSP). The podcast will be released weekly on Wednesdays in 12 episodes. A second season is already being planned.

The show joins Howl’s illustrious and growing roster of exclusive content. In fall 2015, Howl launched “Something Cool,” an audio documentary series that uncovered the stories of pop culture’s most

influential personalities. In February, multi-talented actress Issa Rae, known for her hit YouTube series “The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl,” launched “Fruit,” an audio drama that follows the story of a professional football player who also happens to be gay.

New subscribers are invited to try Howl using the promo code BERTIE when signing up at howl.fm.

About Midroll Media

[Midroll Media](#) is a leading podcast production company and advertising network that is changing the face of digital audio. It is the parent company of the Earwolf network and its top-ranked comedy podcasts; the Howl premium subscription service, available at howl.fm and via apps for iOS and Android; and the Midroll advertising network, representing over 200 of the world’s largest podcasts. With offices in Los Angeles and New York City, Midroll was founded in 2010 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of The E.W. Scripps Company (NYSE: SSP).

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