

Jerusalem ITV - Easter

- CAST:** Newscaster + Mary Magdalene (a quiet, serious role)
 Professor IC NoFurther + 1st Roman guard
 Anne Announcer (full of bounce and energy)
 Roman Guards:
 1st Guard: needs to be a funnier, enthusiastic character, who accidentally 'spills the beans'
 2nd Guard: straight faced, not letting anything out of the bag -
- PROPS:** DESK, CHAIR, EARPIECE & CLIPBOARD FOR NEWSCASTER?
 TOY MICROPHONE
 TWO ROMAN HELMETS
 TWO SWORDS
 TWO BREASTPLATES
 ITN'S MUSIC
- SCENE:** INSIDE JERUSALEM'S ITN LUNCHTIME NEWSROOM AND OUTSIDE THE TOMB IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

CUE MUSIC

- Newscaster** Hello, this is Jerusalem's ITV lunchtime's news desk. My name is Roger McDonald. Right this minute we are receiving unconfirmed reports that the body of Jesus, who was crucified on Friday, is no longer in the tomb and, in fact, it appears to have disappeared!!!
- We are now going straight over to our outside reporter, Anne Announcer. Hello Anne are you receiving me?
- Anne** I am indeed. Hello everyone. I'm standing here in the garden outside the tomb where the body of Jesus was placed two days ago and I can, indeed, now confirm the reports are true. The body has disappeared. I'm just making my way over to speak to two of the guards who were amongst those responsible for guarding the tomb.
- Hello, there. Firstly, can I ask why you had to guard a dead body? This body, was dead, was it not?
- 1st Guard** Of course, he was dead! We Romans know how to execute people. He was more than dead, he was, well, dead dead.
- 2nd Guard** No Comment

1st Guard Yeh, no comment

Anne I am still confused as to why you were guarding this tomb?

1st Guard (behind the back of 2nd Guard) Well, there were rumours that this man's friends might try to take the body, so our boss said - you get down there, 'cause you're the best, and make sure that it doesn't happen

Anne So, is that what happened? They came to steal the body?

2nd Guard No Comment!

1st Guard Of course not! Look at these muscles, do you really think that a bunch of tax collectors and fishermen would take us on - We're the Romans!

2nd Guard (Nudge...) No Comment!

1st Guard Yeh no comment

Anne (Brain ticking over). Obviously, something happened here, the body's gone! So, if it was not his friends, what, or who moved the stone?

1st Guard Well... there was this angel... (nudge...).. shhhh

2nd Guard Shhhh, Don't tell 'em

Anne So, can you comment on the angel then?

1st Guard Well, this angel came and rolled the stone away

2nd Guard No comment!

Anne ... Ahh, an angel, a little angel? (1st guard waves arms to indicate size of angel) a big angel? A huge angel?

1st Guard No, a huge angel it came and rolled the stone away. A little angel, do you think we would run away from a little angel? It was a huge angel and we ran away.

Anne So you ran away!

1st Guard So would you if you had been here! - it was a huge angel!

2nd Guard No comment! That is all we are prepared to say.

1st Guard Clear of f. No comment! You t think you'll get me t o t alk. Huh! Thank you

Anne Ooooo! Anyway, over here we have Mary Magdalene who, I believe, was a great friend of Jesus. Can you tell us what this Jesus was like?

Mary He was wonderful, marvellous, and a great friend to a nobody like me and he really made me feel like a somebody!

Anne And you came down here to the garden this morning? Is that right?

Mary Well, we could not believe that they had crucified him, Him of all people! They did not even give us chance to bury him properly. So, this morning we just had to come down to the tomb.

Anne Why?

Mary We just wanted to be near Him one more time. We did not know how we were going to get past the guards. Anyway, when we got there, everything had changed! The guards had gone. The huge stone had been flung aside and the tomb was empty and we thought that the body of Jesus had been stolen!

Anne How did you feel?

Mary Absolutely devastated! We were all crying and didn't know what to do or think.

Anne I'm so sorry.

Mary No, you don't understand. That 's not t he end of t he story!

Anne (Looks confused...)

Mary No, you see, I was so upset I stayed behind in the garden crying for a while, then I saw somebody, I thought it was the gardener, and so I t hought I 'd go and ask him if he knew what t hey had done wit h t he body of my Lord? He just said one word" Mary", and I knew, I knew as soon as he said it, it was my Jesus. He is alive and I am so happy! I must go and tell the others... (Mary dashes off)

Anne Thank you Mary, certainly seems genuine to me. Now, err, back to the studio.

Newscaster Wow, thank you very much for that ground breaking news. So they are saying that Jesus is alive!

I have in the studio with me the Assistant Director of Prophetic Studies in the Temple, Professor I C Nofurther.

Professor Excuse me, that is not my name, it's Prof essor I C Furt her actually! Not I C Nofuther!

Newscaster I beg your pardon Professor. Well, Professor you've heard the news. What do you think of this?

Professor I have indeed heard the reports and it is ridiculous, ridiculous, absolutely ridiculous. Did you hear what that woman said?, she said he was alive. Ridiculous. One cannot believe what one person says, particularly a woman!

Newscaster I'm just getting a breaking news report through of another sighting!

Newscaster Ah, yes, yet another confirmation of a sighting, this time on the road to Emmaus! Yes, Jesus has been reported alive, again. Now Professor, what do you think?

Professor Ridiculous, absolut ely ridiculous. I t's mass hyst eria. They are all going mad

Newscaster Jesus reported alive again, what do you think?

Professor Ridiculous

Newscaster Will people remember this remarkable day in time to come?

Professor Remember this day in time to come? Of Course not! Don't be so ridiculous

Newscaster Only time will tell. Thank you. This is Jerusalem's ITV lunch time news reporting on a remarkable day!

CUE MUSIC

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