

Learning by Ear – Political Participation
Radiodrama „Family Affairs – How to become a political player“
Episode 3: “Journey of a thousand miles...”

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CHARACTERS: Betty (female, 12), Eveline (female 19), Mapito (male 40), Ronnie (male 14), Member of parliament (male, 55), Voice (20), mixed crowd, girls (12-14)

Intro

- Narrator:** It is that time again, dear friends, time for Learning by Ear and our drama series “Family affairs - how to become a political player”. In the last episode, Ronnie is passed over as Captain and Eveline shares with her father her interest in becoming politically active. And in today’s programme I’m taking you all on a safari. Not to watch the African wildlife like the tourists do, but to observe Eveline on her political journey. So I hope your ears are close to the radio as I invite you to “A journey of a thousand miles” which begins at Mapito’s house...

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Scene one: Living Room

SFX: FLOOR BEING SWEEPED OR CLEANING SOUND

2. **MAPITO:** Eve! Eve! That’s enough, it’s only your former school mates and friends coming over, not the sanitation inspectors.
3. **EVELINE: (Catches breath)** I’ve got to lead by example. How will they trust that I can get our town cleaned up, if our own house looks like a pigsty?

SFX: KNOCKING ON DOOR

4. **MAPITO:** Oh-oh, here they come. Well, I’ll be inside reading the newspaper.
5. **EVELINE:** Come in, come in. Oh hi... hi! Hi... I didn’t expect to see such a crowd! Goodness me. Please sit anywhere you like.

5A. SMALL COMMOTION AS GUESTS FIND SEATS

6. **EVELINE:** Thank you all for responding to my email and text messages that I sent to each of you. I’m

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so glad that all of you came since it was at such short notice.

7. VOICE: Oh we couldn't miss this and your home looks, woowow!!

8. EVELINE: Thank you for the compliment. Now let's get started. I know that just like me most of you finished high school last year and are unemployed or in college, so don't worry, I'm not going to ask for any financial aid for my campaign, but what I do ask for is your time and energy as we carry out a clean-up of the city, a garbage collection and a car wash.

9. VOICE: I liked the idea the moment I read your e-mail. But Eve, or should I say Councillor Eve, Do you think it will work?

10. CROWD: **GIGGLES AND LAUGHTER**

11. EVELINE: Work only works for workers, my friend. And we are doing this to set an example for the young people who are idling their lives away, and also for the council who have failed in

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garbage-collection and in cleaning our public transport.

12. VOICE: Wow! Eve you are truly brave to be doing this. I always thought politics was just for the old.

13. CROWD: **LAUGHTER**

14. EVELINE: That’s why I decided to run for this seat, to show young people that it is possible to be part of the political leadership.

15. VOICE: So people, let’s get busy, let’s get busy! We have a town to clean-up!

16. NARRATOR: With one tiny step, Eveline and her friends have set off on a journey most young would only dream of. Little did they know, though, about what awaits them.

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Scene Two: At the Carwash

17. GIRLS SINGING THEIR SONG THROUGHOUT

SFX: SOUNDS OF PEOPLE BUSY WORKING ON STREETS

18. JOURNALIST: (Reporting) Good afternoon listeners, this is your local radio transmitting live. We are here watching an incredible number of young people washing cars, collecting garbage and cleaning the streets. All this has been organised by a young girl, Eveline Mapito, who is going to speak to us now. Eveline, could you tell our listeners what this is all about?

19. EVELINE: This society has given us young people so much. And I felt that it was high time I did something in return. I’ve organised this clean-up event with my friends so that we can involve the young people who are unemployed and also make our town clean. I’m also doing it to show the people that I want to serve them as Councillor.

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20. JOURNALIST: Eveline Mapito, only nineteen-years-old but with a big ambition. Ah, I see our Member of Parliament’s car is approaching...

SFX: CAR APPROACHING SLOWLY THEN STOPS

21. JOURNALIST: Sir... Sir, excuse me, one question.. You don’t have to get out of your car. Sir, what do you think of Eveline’s political ambitions, since she’s not in your party?

22. M. P.: What do I think? First, I think it’s her right to run in these elections as she’s nineteen. But I must say she stands no chance at all. Tell her not to waste her time or even the water I see everywhere. This is politics, and in politics only the big boys survive! (**Sarcastic laughter**)

23. JOURNALIST: But Sir, the clean-up she’s organised has been a big success. I’ve never seen so many young people working together for free before, like today.

24. M. P.: Listen, I was in politics long before that girl was born. I can assure you, she has no chance against the councillor of my party.

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25. JOURNALIST: That was our area Member of Parliament. And now back to studio.

26. RONNIE: Hello there Sir, you must be our MP. Well... eh... My name is Ronnie and we are doing a car-wash.

27. M. P.: Hold it right there boy, look at this car carefully. This is a Mercedes Benz, custom-made, with on-board GPS, imported straight from Europe. What makes you think I'll let you touch it, let alone wash it! (**Shouts**) Driver, let's get out of this place!

SFX: CAR SKIDS OFF IN A HURRY

28. NARRATOR: Well, the MP didn't want his car cleaned, but the citizens of Milimani really appreciated the help. They even contributed to Eveline's campaign fund even though Eveline didn't ask for it. Mapito's family are setting off for home.

Scene Three: Mapito and his family going home after car wash

SFX: STREET SOUNDS, WALKING STEPS

- 29. MAPITO:** (Laughter) Poor boy, what did the MP say to you?
- 30. RONNIE:** (Imitating MP) This is a Mercedes Benz, first class, with SMS... or something like that. I was too terrified to actually understand what he was saying. How can such people be our leaders?
- 31. EVELINE:** Power has corrupted them, wait until I become the Councillor. I want to make a difference.
- 32. BETTY:** This was so much fun, when can we do it again?
- 33. EVELINE:** I know you had fun, and it was so nice of your choir to support us with the singing. I really loved it. *We can* do it again but next time, we will clean our hospitals and clinics.
- 34. MAPITO:** Eve, I don't want you to think you can fix every problem in our society.

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35. EVELINE: I know I can't, Dad, but at least I can be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

36. RONNIE: So, how much did the people donate?

37. EVELINE: 500 Dollars in total!

38. RONNIE AND BETTY SHOUT WITH EXCITEMENT

39. MAPITO: So, where is the money?

40. EVELINE: I've already handed it over to a committee that we formed at the meeting this morning, and tomorrow it will be taken to the bank.

41. MAPITO: Good, because you know money is tempting. So, it's wise to save it and budget for everything you want to do with it.

42. EVELINE: Dad, can I ask you for one favour?

43. MAPITO: Sure, as long as you don't tell me to go and empty collect garbage bins

44. (All laugh)

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45. EVELINE: I would never ask you to do that. I'd like you to be my personal advisor, so that after I've discussed things with my committee, you can give me your opinion.

46. MAPITO: My opinion as a Father or as a campaign advisor?

47. EVELINE: Hmm, let's say both.

48. RONNIE: We are home at last. I'm going straight to bed. See you all tomorrow.

SFX: BUNCH OF KEYS REMOVED, OPENING PADLOCK

49. MAPITO: Oh, Ronnie, before you go to school tomorrow I want to talk to you.

END OF EPISODE THREE

Outro

50. Narrator: Tired but happy at having succeeded at her first challenge, Eveline went to bed. Come back to us next week as the story unfolds for all three members of Mapito's family. Find out how the MP reacts to Eveline's ambitious plan and experience how Ronnie feels the pain of

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failure whereas Betty succeeds again. To
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