

**If You're Glad I'll be Frank** by Tom STOPPARD

(edition left in the photocopier)

Received its first production on the BBC Third Programme on 8 February 1966.

**Dramatis personae**

**Frank** is a young man. He is bus driver.

**Gladys** is a young woman who doesn't like her job. She is the voice of the speaking clock. She wanted to be a nun but she didn't believe enough.

**Myrtle Trelawney** is the secretary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord and sometimes is the receptionist in the building where the office of the speaking clock is.

**1<sup>st</sup> Porter**, called Tommy, very politely, kind and obliging porter.

**Mr. Mortimer** is a secretary in the House of Commons.

**Mr Courtenay-Smith** is a MP

**Sir John** could be another MP.

**Lord Coot** is the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord of the Post office. He directs the telephone services. He is very proud of his job and the way it does it.

**Beryl Bligh** is the new secretary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord

**Operator** is completely helpless girl. She seems an automatic phone.

**Ivy** is Frank's job partner. She is always ready to cover Frank's bus services.

**2<sup>nd</sup> porter** is not very politely and good humoured.

**Plot**

The main characters are Gladys and Frank. There was a time when they were a couple and he is still in love with her. She works giving her voice to a speaking clock. He is a bus driver. She feels trapped on her job and her mind keeps going away in her own thoughts. Frank knows that she is unhappy and tries to liberate her. He wants to come back with her. He wants to talk to her boss but it's difficult to contact with him. He tried many times but it was impossible.

**Time**

The story of the play begins in the morning and finishes in the afternoon. We know during the whole play in what time we are.

**Literary resources**

Time is a constant reference. Many onomatopoeias like Pip pip pip, tick tock, check chek, chick chock.

The title itself is a polysemy, Glad is the abbreviation of Gladdys but also means happiness, Frank is the name of the man and also means frank, forthright, clear.

**Personal opinion**

I think the author has represented very well the way we live nowadays, the urgency, the speed in which everybody live, rushing from one place to another. The feeling of having no time. There is not enough time for everything. It has been a funny way of reflecting it.