The Ballad of Eighteen Women

working title

tech script

Fourth Draft

Post-recording / Pre-editing

Created Collaboratively by Collective Encounters, 2021

Cast

Chorus 1	[redacted]
Chorus 2	Alma Brown
Chorus 3	Anna Reid
Chorus 4	Jo Mary Watson
Chorus 5	June Hudson
Chorus 6	Mary O'Sullivan
News reader 1	Margaret Mariette
News reader 2	Lois Woolley
Man	Keith Barber
Protestors	Cast
Echo seller	tbc

Prologue

SFX *The sound of a radio quickly tuning through a variety of stations until it comes in on Anya mid-flow*

Lynda int

Anya …the 9th of October 2020. My name is Anya and I am interviewing Lynda. We're both interviewing at home through a site called SquadCast. We are taking part in Women in Action, stories of hope, resilience and resistance, a Merseyside focused art and heritage project led by Collective Encounters, in partnership with the National Museums Liverpool and funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project is gathering women's memories of resilience activism and community organization in Merseyside in the late 20th and early 21st century.

The radio tuning returns and she fades out. Silence.

C 1-6 The Ballad of Eighteen Women.

SFX *A seagull cries. It fades out under the following.*

26:58 Anne I couldn't understand, they're all saying…'it's always been done that way'. And I said, well just because it's always been done that way doesn't mean to say it's right!

A brief pause.

SFX *A single note or chord drawn from the Anthem Song. It is held underneath the Chorus - perhaps the chord shifts with each quatrain – the notes/chords will naturally lead us into the Anthem Song.*

C1-6 Hello,
C1 and welcome to our play.
C2 We hope you'll be inspired.
C3 A radio ballad's what we'll share,
a glimpse of women's lives.

C1 The women, bound by nothing but
the city they call home.
C2 Each fascinating, full of hope,
but randomly were chose.
C4 Each woman weaves her unique thread;
a tapestry of change;
C5 a net that holds the city safe,
C6 can move a mountain range.
C4 Each woman treads her unique path,
C5 Sometimes, it seems, alone,
C6 But there is friendship in this work
C4,5,6 Togetherness in hope.
C3 So stay a while and bask in hope
C2 of matriarchal rule
C1 with eighteen women of action
C1-6 the pride of Liverpool.

The Anthem Song intro: Ba ba de ba…

C1-3 18 women
C4-6 Stories to tell
C1-3 18 women
C4-6 Like so many others
C1-3 18 women
C4-6 From a rich well
C1-3 18 women
C1-6 Taking their place in the world
United in the sisterhood
Ahhhhhh
United change the world for good

C1-6 Thanks to women
for taking a stand
Let's cheer for those who give all they can

Hats off to them

Helping to change our world

Thanks to women for all that they do

Let's cheer for all the tireless and true

Hats off to them

Fighting to change our world

Stronger Together

C1-3 We can hear you

C4-6 Lend us your voice

C1-3 We can see you

C4-6 Bright as day you're shining

C1-3 We will join you

C4-6 In our own way

C1-3 We stand with you

C1-6 Taking our place in the world

United in the sisterhood

Ahhhhhh

United change the world for good

C1-6 Thanks to women

for taking a stand

Let's cheer for those who give all they can

Hats off to them

Helping to change our world

Thanks to women

for all that they do

Let's cheer for all the tireless and true

Hats off to them

Fighting to change our world

Outro with ba ba de bas.

Act One: In the beginning….

C1-3 Act One.

C1 In the beginning.

A pause

1:06 Maddy Ok, um, well, I'm a one parent, family. Um. During the 80s, there was a really bad explosion of heroin on Liverpool.

SFX *The final bell of the Liver clock chimes then holds underneath the News Reader (like the 6 O'clock chimes under the headlines)*

News Reader 1 Heroin sweeps through Liverpool as the city reaches new heights of addiction in a shocking national epidemic.

1:06 Unfortunately, my son got involved with that when he was only 16. And so there was a lot of problems for me. Um, and there was no no help or support anywhere to be found, um, in Liverpool, I um, at some point, looked around for help and went to a support group. But it was quite a distance from where I lived, so. Um when my son did get through, you know, the hard part of his addiction, I decided I wanted to give something back. So I formed Sanctuary Family Support with three other parents.

25:20 Felicity I mean it was the mid-sixties and there was all sorts of stuff going on about Black rights in America, about the rights of Catholics in the north of Ireland, about Vietnam war, things like that so there were lots of things that would make you think.

SFX *The wave of protest swells briefly under Felicity*

3:59 Maddy I decided then that I wanted to set Sanctuary up in the south end of Liverpool, because that's where there was no support for black people in that area.

31:53 Lynda …if you don't fight for these things, you don't get.

10:24 Maddy So going back to those first years, when I set Sanctuary up, I had to do all the work myself. …

… And it was hard work it really was but look where it's got us now. It was worthwhile. It was really worth it…

……we've got two family support workers now. And I've got a counsellor and I've got an admin worker. I'm a qualified counsellor myself by the way.

2:35 Clara I've got a lot of interests for world politics, anti-racism, justice and equality. I'm also very concerned about climate change and so from an early age I was aware of all those issues and trying to do my bit in the world to try and make it a better place.

8:33 Lois I have more questions than answers around what to do…

4:42 Jo I want to learn more about this and I wanna talk about this and change it.

June I went there to get some counselling and I ended up staying there, volunteering…

SFX *A brief musical refrain from the Anthem theme briefly breaks between voices*

2:44 Jo Becoming a parent I think was a massive step for me towards engaging more with feminism and diversity, intersectionality and stuff.

21:20 Anne …I always got told I asked too many questions.

2:59 Lois So from quite an early age I think I had an awareness that there was this thing called Feminism and that we kind of need it.

30:41 Olivia I was involved in some activism, like maybe a bit of environmental activism or anti-war things and I think I had this drive in me to make things a bit different or just like a bit better for people.

SFX *Underneath Olivia the wave of protest returns*

20:13 Margaret I met up with some other people, they had a Labour Party building. I used to go over there to just to the meetings that were going on, they only lasted about an hour. Then I was roped in again. So with the pram and the baby I found myself posting leaflets through the door, all handwritten.

4:03 Anna When I was working there, for Oxfam, I certainly became, as I say more socially aware. And became more aware of the way that some people live in the world and there are people who are trying to improve those situations.

7:14 Zi Lan So maybe in a way that's when it started, my work with the community, so we have been starting doing volunteer work and helping people in the community.

Imogen I think that's kind of a big part of it is leading to a community of people that are interested in making and fixing and maintaining, coming together and sharing their own knowledge as well with others.

55:22
52:55

Libby …any place you'd find a group of women we'd put ourselves…

…we did our best we did everything we could think of to actually open up a dialogue with women, and it was always, you know, what did you think you'd be when you were a child, what was your ambition then?

Chantelle I left school with not many qualifications because my biological mum had died when I was 14, which kind of messed up my GCSEs. I then went to work for the council as a part-time what you call a nursery assistant…

…But being the clever person I am, I got some qualifications, climbed the little ladder in the council and became a nursery nurse and then I became a family support worker and then I became a family link worker…

… I'd always wanted to be a police officer, but I didn't really see myself in the police because you don't really see many black police officers. But while I was doing work as a family link worker, I came across a few black police officers who I worked with and they inspired me to join the police force.

25:36 Felicity I just decided. Yeah, you know. There was an election on and it said at the bottom of one of the leaflets, come and knock on this door if you want to help, so I went and knocked on that door.

SFX *A brief musical refrain from the Anthem theme briefly breaks between voices*

Zi Lan I think my activist, I cannot say that word, activist start is last year, during the pandemic.

SFX *The final bell of the Liver clock chimes then holds underneath the News Reader*

News Reader 2 Since the start of the Covid pandemic there has been a three hundred percent increase in hate crimes against the UK's East and South-East Asian communities.

Zi Lan I think it's because as from January or February 2020 when this sign of the Coronavirus started, the Chinese people were targeted.

Chantelle The police is one of the Holy Grails of structural racism. So while I worked in the council I had quite a lovely experience…

… felt quite embraced as a black person.

… so I'd unlearned a lot of the behaviours that I learnt as a child…

… I was quite confident as a black person when I walked into the police, but quite quickly I realized that that was not something that was accepted in the police. You had to act in a certain way. It was quite clear that the police still had a lot of overt and covert racism. They didn't really want to be challenged on it. …

… But being quite young I was like, "Maybe they don't know. I'll tell them about it."

4:16 Felicity Standing up for what you thought was right and standing up for ordinary people was automatic

SFX *Underneath Felicity the wave of protest again*

Zi Lan By February, we were getting young children from the Orchestra was telling us they had been spat at. They were calling names in school, as young as from six, seven. Some of them don't even know what's happening.

Chantelle So I told them about their racism and while they made a lot of noise, and some people who possibly had the right intentions tried to do something, a lot of people protected those who were identified as being racist and nothing was done. I became sort of a pariah within the police force …

… I think quite a lot of people think I left the police in this awful place where I was under a shroud of blinking sort of conspiracy and awfulness. But I left the police, actually, in quite a good place.

24:54 Maddy I can't help it, that's the way I'm made, I'm always there to help somebody, I don't like to see people getting treated unfairly, you know I don't like that.

26:59 Alma If I see somebody who needs help I'll help them. Whether I know them or I don't know them.

Chantelle And the time when I knew for certain that I'd made the right decision was when I seen the murder of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer.

SFX *A moment*

39:07 Zi Lan So that's how I become, I mean I'm not, I didn't ask for it, I didn't want to be activist, I didn't…

SFX *A brief musical refrain from the Anthem theme briefly breaks between voices*

C1 By fury fuel'd, or pain, or love,

C2 Their starting points diverse,

C3 They fight against injustice and

In action they converge

C2 Are you yourself reflected here?

C3 Are there familiar themes?

C1 Are you in fact an activist?

C3 Or waiting in the wings?

Act Two: The Action

C4-6 Act Two.

C6 The Action.

SFX *Musical intro to song of lists*

C4-6 Women join us

C1-3 Women join us

C4-6 Raise your voices

C1-3 Raise your voices

C4-6 Help make a fairer world

C1-3 Help make a fairer world

C4-6 We can together

C1-3 We can together

C1 Anti racist

C4 Pro education

C5 Environmental Activism

C6 Women's safety and

C3 rights for carers

C1 Liberation

C2 Welfare reforming

C4-6 Women join us

C1-3 Women join us

C4-6 Diverse voices

C1-3 Diverse voices

C4-6 Help make a fairer world

C1-3 Help make a fairer world

C4-6 We can together

C1-3 We can together

Percussion outro.

SFX *The wave of protest grows out of the percussion, then fades out under the following*

Anne I was in London when they... We were marching against the poll tax, it was a lovely day.

SFX *The final bell of the Liver clock chimes then holds underneath the News Reader*

News Reader 1 A peaceful anti-poll tax demonstration erupted in violent clashes between police and some of seventy thousand protesters, leading to what the authorities called the 'most serious riots London has seen in over a century'.

Anne We went on coaches, it was a lovely day. There was children, mothers, fathers, children. And it was all nice, it was really good. Good day, we were all happy, marching, singing. But as we were going through, we noticed in the sides and everything, the police. Mounted police, and they were all ready to...

Chantelle After George Floyd I was shielding at home….

…the collective trauma that the black community felt, an example of how it manifested for me was that I couldn't eat or sleep and I was just reliving my own trauma within the police, my own trauma as a black child.

Anne But we were all behaving and everything. But, I think they just wanted trouble, because all of a sudden...

…The marshals, a marshal came and said.

Man Get back, get back to the bridge, get back to the coaches. There's trouble. Get back, quick.

SFX *Protest and contextual sounds underneath Man – as though he's in the moment*

Anne And so, we all had to go. Oh, it was terrible. There was chaos. They were fighting and everything, we were on the coach. It was terrible, but it was the police, the government or someone that caused it all, because everyone was having a lovely time.

Chantelle And I was also projecting what could happen to my children because I have two beautiful black boys who could very much come into contact with a police officer who decides not to judge them based on who they are or how lawful they're being, but the fact that they're black and they probably might commit an offense and could kill them just because they fancy it.

SFX *A brief refrain from the Song of Lists briefly breaks between voices*

4:26 Anna I suppose I became more aware politically as well as socially, I joined the Labour Party in 1981 I think it was and been a member ever since.

Chantelle So I felt quite powerless and angry and upset and frustrated and terrified and fearful and every horrible emotion. And quite often when you feel in a place of disempowerment and when you feel that you are fearful, you fight back in any way that you can.

Anne Well, the first proper action was, I'm a member of the Labour Party. So I was in the women's section. And there was plenty of action there…

Chantelle So I used the resources I had at home and I set up a social media platform to sort of educate people on BLM…

… My posts were quite popular and quite a lot of people were copying and pasting and using the stuff that I'd written to help basically provide a counter narrative to the racism that is spewed online so often.

SFX *The final bell of the Liver clock chimes then holds underneath the News Reader*

News Reader 2 With thousands of chapters world-wide, Black Lives Matter is a global movement to dismantle racism and has a strong, active Merseyside chapter.

5:33 Anna So I've been on demonstrations, marches against nuclear weapons, marching for CND, and against apartheid, marching for the anti-apartheid movement, picketed the South African embassy in London, been on quite a few, campaign against the arms trade as well, are marches that I've been on.

SFX *Underneath Anna the wave of protest again*

41:40 Margaret You see people were starving in the miners strike, they couldn't get any money and so I was collecting for, you know, to get this kind of help…

…when a woman came up to me and spat in my face!

SFX *A short pause*

Clara And in 2001, just two months before to move to Liverpool, I took part into a global protest in Genoa, Italy, against the G8 and all the decisions that were made on the world scene. That was quite a almost a traumatic event really, because there was a lot of police violence, a lot of tear gas. It was the first time I found myself in such a situation. And one of the protestor got killed at the time.

Chantelle … But once the lockdown restrictions were easing off we did several protests and

we've been up and down the country. We've basically just been flying the flag of anti-racism ever since...

SFX *A brief refrain from the Song of Lists briefly breaks between voices*

6:51 Felicity I was like the organising secretary of the Labour Party so I helped organise elections, I helped organise canvassing, I helped organise getting the leaflets out. And then I was Councillor for Speke.

Anne Late '89 we decided that we should try to get more women on, so we wanted more women to stand. I was talked into standing. So I thought, okay. I probably won't be picked anyway.

15:16 Lois I worry a lot with commercialism and the mainstream media and how subtle and toxic these gender messages we're all getting all the time are, on what's possible for each of us as individuals and collectively.

SFX *The sound of a dock horn sounds, then holds underneath the news.*

News Reader 1 The Liverpool Dockers Dispute, one of the first campaigns to use the internet to spread word, has now seen two years of action.

Doreen The dock company locked the gates and then sent men on motorbikes round with their P45s and dismissal notices.

They sacked every one of them, the whole workforce. There was a meeting and they were going to have a rally in town. I'd been ringing the radio. People were saying stuff on the Roger Phillips Show and I'd ring and put them right on stuff that was happening and what was going on on the docks and all this sort of thing…

… So, went down to St. George's Hall on the Saturday to the rally

SFX *Underneath Doreen the wave of protest again*

Clara So I set off to recruit more people in the union and recruit more women in particular, to become union reps. Because when I became a union rep, I was the only woman on the branch committee.

Doreen Kevin said

Man We're talking about forming a women's group.

Doreen That stuck fear in your heart because you thought, "A women's group? The women

have never been involved in disputes on the docks."

Zi Lan 2011, when the budget cuts go further. I think, Liverpool, in lots of cities, the Youth Service disappeared. But Liverpool tried really hard to keep the Youth Service going…

…And all the staff in the Pagoda Community Center were redundant, even the cleaners.

Doreen So, we became the Women of the Waterfront, which it was abbreviated to WOW. So, everyone called us the WOWs.

Zi Lan …So we talked to the council and said, can the Pagoda Art continue using the center and we volunteer to manage it, all the social welfare part side, like the community side, in order for us to stay in the center…

13:41 Maddy And we we have such a mixed load of people come into Sanctuary. We have a lot of family members who are suffering like I did many years ago.

14:31 I think we are the only service in Liverpool that deals with family support for substance misuse. Um other agencies did have it but the funding stopped.

Doreen The women used to meet every Wednesday night and the children would be there, so we had to politicize our children, so they understood everything that was happening and going on…

… And then meanwhile, people were ... They had no income. They were living off their savings….

Doreen … So, we did a little course, a welfare rights course, because some things you could go to prison for then. If you didn't pay your rates, that was prisonable, so all this sort of thing. And where to apply, how to apply, help people fill in forms.

Zi Lan Still now, we're still doing it voluntarily. We don't get any funding on that side of work. But we just felt …

… we want to continue to provide the service for the community.

Doreen Then, while all this is going on, women are on the picket lines every day, they're still doing delegations…

… All of this you're dealing with as well as the normality of life, all the things that are going on in your own life.

June And myself, I done a lot of volunteer work for the housing association called Home Group. And they trained me in scrutiny, and they trained me as an assessor. So, I assess all over the country..

… all different kinds of services, from mental health, domestic violence, post-

traumatic stress…

2:21 Alma I've been involved in Liverpool Cares…

3:17 I do quite a few voluntary work, I do volunteering work for the blind in Bradby Fields, and I do voluntary work in St George's Hall, The Town Hall, Liverpool Town Hall and Liverpool Cruise Terminal.

June I'm also on the board of a family support group of people with alcohol or drug issues, and I went there to get some counselling and I ended up staying there, volunteering. And everywhere I go, I was always offered a job. "Why don't you come and stay here?"

SFX *Percussion intro to the Song of Lists starts to rise underneath June's last speech*

C4-6 Women join us
C1-3 Women join us
C4-6 Raise your voices
C1-3 Raise your voices
C4-6 Help make a fairer world
C1-3 Help make a fairer world
C4-6 We can together
C1-3 We can together

C5 Marching, writing
C6 Caring, crying
C4 Out campaigning
C1 Advocating
C2 In researching
C3 Voting, joining
C1 Volunteering
C5 Collaborating…

C4-6 Women join us
C1-3 Women join us
C4-6 Diverse voices

C1-3 Diverse voices

C4-6 Help make a fairer world

C1-3 Help make a fairer world

C4-6 We can together

C1-3 We can together

57:47 Doreen We became involved with Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, the anarchists, Reclaim the Streets. The rallies were unbelievable.

46:44 Libby Women's Health…what we and they were wanting to do was set up the discussion around women's health.

21:00 Anna I've been vegetarian for a long time and I'm very involved, very concerned about animal welfare and the food we eat…

45:15 Jo I follow quite a lot of feminist activists on Instagram

June Every Tuesday, I'm with a group of women who are raising their grandchildren because their mom and dad's dead with drugs or drink, or they're doing long-term sentences. So, the ladies, we help them get their benefits.

24:28 Libby Also with the Rotunda…

We worked with Liverpool Community College and the Adult Learning Service and the WEA all of these put money into the Rotunda which meant we could provide what we called free, flexible, accessible education.

Anne …Poverty, I was chair of the Communities Against Poverty. And we went to, worked with the MPs, met with them in London.

6:57 Maddy We were going to London every year with our grandchildren with us. We were in Parliament, we sat them down on the floor. We argued with the politicians and we protested.

22:02 Margaret And I got caught up again with marches and going places. We used to do in the Labour Party a lot of by-elections.

Tracey In autumn of 2011, there was a movement that started called Occupy New York. And I was amazed. They'd occupied Zuccotti Park in Manhattan, and it was against, really, the bankers and the way that there was all the bailouts of banks. It was when there was the global crash, and people, they were just sick of the system really.

SFX *The final bell of the Liver clock chimes then holds underneath the News Reader*

News More than two thousand three hundred camps have been established in cities

Reader 2 around the world as the Occupy Movement spreads. Its message simple: inequality is wrong, Capitalism has failed us.

Tracey I remember I wrote in the social centre in Liverpool, Next To Nowhere, I remember writing out slips of paper, "Check out Occupy New York on Twitter, on Facebook." And I was giving them out to people, because nothing was really happening here. And then one day…

News In Liverpool, The Wellington Monument…

Reader 2

Tracey "The Wellington Monument by St. George's Hall, it's been occupied. There's all tents there." So I went straight there, and it was amazing.

SFX *A single note or chord drawn from the Song of Lists. It is held underneath the Chorus - perhaps the chord shifts with each quatrain*

C4 Let's pause a moment, time for thought

C5 Imagine how we'd live
If women led the government

C6 And humane laws exist.

C4 With women such as these in charge
Equality would thrive

C5 Integrity, commitment and hard work
Would be their guide.

C6 The power in these women's acts

C5 Their awe-inspiring ways

C6 Don't underestimate them now

C4 What could stand in their way?

Act Three: Resilience

SFX *The almost overwhelmingly loud sound of a large metal clanging shut. The clang echoes under the following.*

C1-3 Act Three.

C1 Resilience.

C2 Gates clang shut to keep us trapped

C1 We won't be trampled down

C3 Don't fence us in or lock us out

C2 We won't be tied and bound

C1 We'll face the barriers you erect

C2 Our heads held high and strong

C3 Resilient through each painful blow

C1 We *will* see justice done.

SFX *The sound of a starting whistle.*

Chantelle I grew up in Halewood, which is on the outskirts of Merseyside in Knowsley. I grew up in a foster home with my foster siblings and my foster mom. Halewood is a working-class area. Made some really good friends in Halewood, but it's not the best place to grow up when you're black because it's an area which is about 99% white, so it's quite tough growing up in an area like Halewood and you have to learn resilience quite quickly.

June My story is I grew up, I was in and out of care a small bit, and then grew up in a separated family, and then a stepfather, and then other children. And then I was chased out of home early, when I was 15.

Chantelle Primary school was, there was lot of subtle and covert racism. …

…Even from walking to school I was subject to overt racism, being called the N-word from some kids who decided to make my life hell quite early on. And then, picking friends and having people maybe cover their hands up so they didn't have to hold

your hand as if your black skin was a bit of a contaminant, so that was always tough.

June Ended up with a good job, and I ended up having a child when I was 19, a son. Got married, bought a house at 19, got a mortgage and all that. And then that never really worked. I think I only got married because I felt I ought to because of the times. You really got married when you got pregnant.

Chantelle So I'd do things like my birth name, I changed my birth name which was a very racially charged name that you wouldn't be used to hearing in England or in Liverpool, and so I changed it to my nan's name, which was an Irish name, Kerrigan. I straightened my hair at quite a young age, not with hair straighteners but with chemicals called relaxing.

June And then I met someone else a couple of years later. …

…And he ended up beating me and controlling me, really, for 10 years. And I couldn't see my way out of it. And he was good to the children, but the minute they weren't there I had a lot of violence issues and control issues.

Chantelle So I'd learn new racist words from other people because I didn't know all the racist words. All the white kids taught me racist words…

…But that never, ever leaves you as a black person. No matter who calls you that word, that will take you back to that first time that you ever heard that word because it hurt you on like a cellular level.

SFX *A beat of silence.*

Anne So yes, I was picked to stand. My husband didn't want me, he was going mad. My brother, who lived nearby, no. They were saying,

Man Oh no, no you don't want to be doing that.

Anne My husband said,

Man Oh no

Anne it's this, that and the other. And then they were saying,

Man …it's only... You'll be embarrassed!

24:11 Margaret They were very much under the thumb if you like of men, and men said, if he was your husband..

Man Do this and you do that!

22:41 Margaret All the time I kept thinking, why are women treated like this and somehow I couldn't get my head around it, you know!

SFX *Underneath Margaret the wave of protest returns*

37:50 Clara As a woman it's especially difficult. Trade Union movement is still dominated by men, and often older men.

Man Ey girl!

38:28 Anne That was the thing at the time, you know, with women,

Man Why should women be doing that? You shouldn't be doing that!

Anne you know.

24:50 Margaret I still I still go to meetings today where the men sit in the front and hold forth. Your hand could be waving forever. I stand up and say will somebody, please, listen to me?

Anne And then, we ended up fighting with the Labour Party as well, then. And they got rid of the... They stopped us, because I think

Man You were too mouthy.

Anne They stopped the Women's section.

35:41 Libby We were openly competing with each other for the crumbs…

…I do feel that people in community organisations are set against each other when it comes to funding rather than trying to pull people together…

1:04:11 Doreen So you meet these people and they tell you their stories and because of you own suffering …

…you take it on board, you become, your own empathy is heightened so you take on their suffering as well as your own and its emotionally, its draining, but you can't help it it happens, you can't protect yourself, you're laid bare.

35:08 Clara I think also like years of austerity and desperation and seeing so many people suffering, sometimes it just breaks your heart, so I was really struggling and I thought what am I gonna do in all this?

10:28 Anne I was disheartened, we were all disheartened, it was terrible.

SFX *A note/chord/flourish/phrase drawn from the Anthem Song*

Anne So anyway, I worked hard. In the cold, freezing, in the rain. And then, when the weather started getting nice, sunburned and hot. But yeah, sore feet and everything. It was May 1990, by then. And I was elected councillor for Tuebrook. I couldn't believe it.

12:10 Olivia I think the greatest achievement I've got out of any of this activism is the female friendships that I've made…

And just kind of building a world around women and non-binary people and queer people like we're working towards, like safer spaces for ourselves, not just safer spaces like but more happier spaces, more productive spaces, more creative spaces..

June And I won a couple of awards. You know like at the end of the Oscars and you have the lifetime awards, special awards? I won one of them

Chantelle My mom was very about building us up and building our self-confidence and self-esteem…

… And so, that's why a lot of times throughout my life I've been able to keep my head held up high because it's always my mom's voice, "Just keep your head up high and keep your dignity even if they don't show you dignity, you show them yours."

5:53 Felicity When I was on the council in the 1980s, like, we built 6,000 houses, we demolished 6,000 slums and we renovated about another 6,000 houses, so, we built the big Everton Park, put all the sports centres round the place, put the big Athletics track in that's produced loads of Olympic athletes from Liverpool, so that yea, that I consider an er, and people fought for it and they saw that what they fought for they got.

6:23 Alma What I've achieved, I'm very proud of what I've done over the years, like doing the volunteering and you know. I got the Volunteer of the Year 2015, and I'm very proud of that.

Tracey I made a film to save the Flat Iron green space, which is at Park Lane. That was with Extinction Rebellion…

…We put a tightrope there, so we had tightrope walkers. We had a banner making table, people making placards. We had the most gorgeous food I've ever seen in a buffet on a table there. Absolutely amazing food. And we had a eco clothes swap, so people brought clothes along. We had Bluetooth speakers, we had music, and we had live music, people with guitars.

49:17 Libby We started the Women's Health Information and Support Centre…

I'm happy to say that Whisc is alive and kicking on Bold Street all these years later.

1:26:43 Anne Along the way I've met some wonderful people, and ended up in so many different places…loads of battles.

Lynda But I know more that I've survived for a reason, perhaps to tell my story to pass on to someone else, to stop them possibly committing suicide because they can't cope

any more.

26:00 Libby You had to be there year after year after year. You couldn't just be one of those projects that came and went. You had to keep going so that when people were ready or needed education that we were there.

0:24:15 Maddy But yeah, do you know what people come in here really unhappy and they go out laughing. They go out smiling. They go out a different person.

Doreen Looking back and you think to myself, "I've stood there and made a speech in exactly the same space, place, where Tom Mann stood in the 1911 transport strike." And he spoke from St. George's Hall and here, all those years on, were the dockers speaking from the same spot, making similar points.

SFX *The sounds from The Anthem Song grow under the following:*

C1 Vast oceans of experience
C2 Have taught resilience
C3 Now words of wisdom will be shared
C1 To boost your brilliance.
C3 Do take some time to think and breathe
C2 Take time to meditate
C1 Don't take your life for granted, do
C3 Take time to celebrate.
C4 5 6 Remember how to just say no!
C4 You can't do everything
C5 Spend time with friends, make time for fun,
C6 Relax and do your thing.
C5 Keep taking on new challenges
C4 And keep on keeping on
C6 It's worth it, you've so much to give
C1-6 The battle can be won.

SFX *Musical intro to the chorus of The Anthem Song*
C1-6 Thanks to women
for taking a stand

Let’s cheer for those who give all they can

Hat’s off to them

Helping to change our world

Thanks to women for all that they do

Let’s cheer for all the tireless and true

Hat’s off to them

Fighting to change our world

Repeat to fade out.

Epilogue

SFX *A beat of silence.*

C4-6 The Epilogue.

SFX *Below the following voices the Anthem music beats, waits and supports until it grows into the song at the end of the sequence. Similarly the protest wave pulses through.*

Tracey I think that any type of activism is useful and important, whether you're a physical presence on a march or a demonstration, or whether you are on your laptop or your phone.

Chantelle It made me realize that the online fight is just as significant, if not probably more significant than the in real life fight because a lot of racist discourse and a lot of ideologies about racism are spread quite quickly over social media.

55:17 Libby Adult Education as I saw it and as I was involved in was incredibly precious and should always be seen as precious. People should always have a second, third, fourth go at it.

Chantelle So it's important that we arm people with the kind of words, the resources, the knowledge, even the memes to fight that narrative on social media because that narrative goes into people's brains and it affects how they behave in the real world.

36:14 Olivia If I feel like something exists for me then there’s a good chance it exists for other people and then there’s a really good chance that if we all like talk about it and acknowledge it and work on it together then it’s just got loads more traction to be challenged.

09:13 Felicity You don't do it on your own. You've got to be part of a community, you've got to be prepared to work hard and build, you know, make people who think that they can't do something realise that they can.

SFX *The roar of the protest reaches its peak, then dies away, the music stronger now…*

C5 Despite the barriers they faced,
The challenges and pain,

C6 Between them they have helped to make

The world a better place.

C4 A massive impact they have had
On people's daily lives.

C5 They're stars in their communities
And long may their stars rise.

C6 But if you're not sure what to do
To activate your wings

C4 We have some starting points for you

C1-6 The following ten things:

C1 One,

C2 join a group that shares your views

C1 Two,

C3 register to vote.

C1 Three,

C4 join a union,

C1 four,

C5 support the activists you know.

C1 Five,

C6 take continuous action to
dismantle racism

C1 Six,

C3 give a nice warm welcome to
newcomers to our town.

C1 Sev'n,

C4 help your neighbours, volunteer;

C1 Eight,

C5 find the issues out
That impact your community
And help to sort them out.

C1 Nine,

C2 speak out, speak up, speak loud, speak when
injustice you should see

C1 And ten,

C6 remember that we have
to dream how it could be.

SFX *The Anthem Song intro*

C1-3 18 women

C4-6 Stories to tell

C1-3 18 women

C4-6 Like so many others

C1-3 18 women

C4-6 From a rich well

C1-3 18 women

C1-6 Taking their place in the world
United in the sisterhood
Ahhhhhh
United change the world for good

SFX *Music continues underneath the following:*

C1 And now we'll bid you fond farewell

C2 We're thrilled you lent your ear

C3 We hope you've found some food for thought
And inspiration here.

C4 Keep singing, dancing, raise your voice

C5 Together we'll persist

C6 The women found in Liverpool
Have courage to resist!

C2 If you'd like more may we suggest
You follow through the links

C3 Full interview recordings will
Astound and make you think.

C4 The time is now the fight is on

C5 The urgency is cruel

C6 Ring up,

C4 log on,

C5 find out,

C6 start now

C1-6 Remaking Liverpool.

Music rises again

C1-6 Thanks to women

for taking a stand

Let's cheer for those who give all they can

Hats off to them

Helping to change our world

Thanks to women for all that they do

Let's cheer for all the tireless and true

Hats off to them

Fighting to change our world

Stronger Together

C1-3 We can hear you

C4-6 Lend us your voice

C1-3 We can see you

C4-6 Bright as day you're shining

C1-3 We will join you

C4-6 In our own way

C1-3 We stand with you

C1-6 Taking our place in the world

United in the sisterhood

Ahhhhhh

United change the world for good

C1-6 Thanks to women

for taking a stand

Let's cheer for those who give all they can

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Thanks to women

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Fighting to change our world

SFX *Music fades away. A moment of silence then a caller newspaper vendor shouts 'Echo', which fades away under*

1:04 Maddy I'll probably go on campaigning for the rest of my days.

SFX *Radio tuning sound then out.*

END