

# PROGRAMMANUS

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PRODUCENT: PAMELA TAIVASSALO WIKHOLM  
PROJEKTLEDARE: TOVE JONSTOIJ  
BESTÄLLNINGNUMMER: 103772/RA8

## RADIO POPREEL

### Game of Thrones, George R.R. Martin and Northern Ireland

**Music:** “The Rains of Castamere”, by Sigur Rós

**Pamela:**

George R.R. Martin, Winterfell and “Game of Thrones”.  
I’m Pamela, and this is “Radio Popreel”.

Winter is coming.

**Pamela:**

“The Rains of Castamere”, by Sigur Rós, from “Game of Thrones”, season 4.

**Pamela:**

You have probably heard about “Game of Thrones”, or seen it on TV. A fantasy-escapist epic, a **rollercoaster** ride that thrills with the dark themes and incredible plot lines.

**rollercoaster**  
*berg-och dalbana*

**Ned Kelly:**

It’s...it’s a fantastic series, you know? It’s a great story, interesting characters and for us, because we live in an area where it was filmed, it makes it just a little bit more interesting as well. Castle Ward here and there’s Ballintoy Harbour up on the north coast and a few other places. So, we feel like we can sort of own it a little tiny bit.

**Joel Kelly:**

I watched all the TV shows when they came out. I just...I couldn’t get enough of it. I thought it was fantastic. I was always waiting for next week’s episode to see what happened. I thought it was brilliant.

**Pamela:**

Ned Kelly and his son, Joel, live in Northern Ireland.

**Joel:**

Sometimes we see, whenever they’re filming, you see little signs on roads, like attached to the road sign or the lamp post or something that says, “GOT”, which is *Game of Thrones*, and it points to, like, different **locations** that they’re filming at. But apart from that, they keep it quite secret, so tourists don’t flood the area and ruin the filming.

**location**  
*plats, här:  
inspelningsplats*



**Ned:**

You know, for people who...who live in the province it's great, because there's an economic upside, and it just puts...puts Northern Ireland on the map.

**Pamela:**

A big part of "Game of Thrones" is filmed in Northern Ireland. And now, "Game of Thrones" fans travel to Northern Ireland to visit the sets. "That's very good for the tourist industry," says Blue Badge Guide Billy Scott.

**Billy Scott:**

Here we are in Titanic Quarter, Belfast. Yes, we made the ship. Hollywood made the movie. Now, we make our own movies. That's Titanic Studios behind me, here. That's where *Game of Thrones* is filmed.

*Game of Thrones* is another new aspect of tourism here in Northern Ireland. We get a lot of people coming in to visit the locations where *Game of Thrones* is filmed.

**Pamela:**

Billy took us to Winterfell, or Castle Ward, as it's called.

**William Kells:**

This is Winterfell. This is where the pilot happened in 2007. And then in 2010, *Game of Thrones* took off in a serious way.

**Pamela:**

William Kells is dressed as Jon Snow, and he gives the "Game of Thrones" tourists a lesson in archery.

**William:**

We at Clearsky Adventure Centre decided it would be a good idea to ensure that we would keep the...the whole style of Winterfell **ongoing** and to make sure the memory of Winterfell was kept going as well.

We were able to get costumes, and we were able to get some **archery kit** back up the same as it was on the original set. Then we went ahead and decided to allow the public to come along and enjoy what the actors and everybody watched in...in the series *Game of Thrones*.

**William:**

Just line yourself up. What you see here, guys, on the right-hand side of you, okay, is where the original film crew would have been. Bran was standing about here, hitting everything but the target. You know, Ned looks down and goes, "What were you lot like when you were 10 years old? Keep practicing, Bran. Go on."

**ongoing**

*pågående, här: att man håller Winterfell levande/att man låter stilen och miljön leva vidare*

**archery kit**

*utrustning för bågskytte*



Okay? So, at that stage Arya shoots from roughly about the tent there, hits the center of the target, and of course there's **sibling rivalry**, he runs after her and then it goes on to the next scene. So, where you are now is the exact location of where that was being taken place.

So, this is what you're going to be doing next. So, let me quickly demonstrate to show you what to do. Bend like that. Hold it off to your side, like this. You're going to lift, so as the arrow from the bucket, and you're going to just throw it over the top onto it.

There's a little arrow rest here, and it's got two different colored feathers on it. Okay, the black **raven's** wing, the one that brought all the messages, sits on top all the time; two brown hen feathers are on the bottom. The reason for that, is when the arrow comes off, it will glide nice and gently over the flat, okay?

So, two above that, stays here. So, do you know the finger you pick your nose with? That one goes in **the corner of your smile**, here. All right? The other two on your **chin**. You don't need your thumb. So, from there... This is your bow arm, hold it out straight and then you draw. So, you draw to the corner of your smile, like this. Raise your elbow high.

So, from there, pull back into the corner of your smile, **raise** your elbow, open up your right eye, look down through the pointy end of the arrow. You know they always talked about the "pointy end" of the sword? Well, it's the pointy end of the arrow as well, here, okay? Towards that there, towards your target where you want to shoot at. Close your left eye for sharper focus, keep that elbow up, and then, basically draw away.

**Pamela:**

Silvia Pititto is from Italy, but she lives in England.

**Silvia Pititto:**

This is a birthday surprise for me and I'm very excited to be here. A lot. And I'm really enjoying it at the minute. This is a great experience, as I'm a huge fan of *Game of Thrones*, and I've been a fan since series one. Being here today just feels as if I'm part of the *Game of Thrones* world, actually. It's fantastic.

I liked Jon Snow as a character, with his **stupidity**, at times, but he's very brave. I've been always fascinated by history. I love learning about it, or going, visiting different places and cities. I always love going sightseeing and learning about the history and culture of the place, but I'm not really into history as such, into studying history, but I love learning about it. Yeah.

**sibling rivalry**  
*syskonrivalitet*

**raven**  
*corp*

**the corner of your smile**  
*mungipan*  
**chin**  
*haka*

**raise**  
*höja*

**stupidity**  
*dumhet*



**Pamela:**

Reuben Razavio traveled from Kent, England, to see the sets of “Game of Thrones” in real life.

**Rubin Razavio:**

It’s really good. We’ve just been round and about, seeing all the spots from *Game of Thrones* and not just a couple of them. Yeah, this is really good. I’ve not really done much archery before, and it’s...yeah, it’s been really good, and...

I can notice a couple of... I’ve noticed a tower behind, up there, and... Yeah, I watched it a lot at home. I’ve seen all the episodes. And then to be here where they are, it’s just exciting, yeah.

I like *Game of Thrones* a lot because it’s...it’s really intense, and it’s **unpredictable**. You never know what’s going to happen.

**unpredictable**  
*oförutsägbar*

**Ruairí McErlean:**

I’m not going to lie. I’m...I wasn’t a massive fan of *Game of Thrones*. I didn’t read any of the books. I heard about it being filmed, of course. I live here locally, so we’ve seen the signs saying “GOT” at the side of the road.

And I... It took me about two months. I was scratching my head, saying, “What does ‘GOT’ mean?” I didn’t know! And I’m not going to lie. I didn’t have a clue what “GOT” meant, until I actually met Sean Bean, and I was like, Game-Of-Thrones. That’s it.

**Pamela:**

Ruairí McErlean works at Castle Ward, or Winterfell, and he lives close by.

**Ruairí:**

What makes it so...what makes it so special to us, is that I’ve grown up around it. Like, as I said, I didn’t know anything about the show in 2011. **I didn’t have a clue** what “GOT” stood for in 2011, when they started filming here. But now that I’ve actually been a part of it, and I’ve met Sean Bean, and I’ve had a pint of Guinness with Sean Bean at the bar in Strangford, there in Strangford Loch in County Down, it just...it just seems like only a natural thing that it has been developed, and every time I turn on the television I watch it, I’m like, “I know that place. I work there. I stood there. I go for walks there. I walk my dogs there!”

**I didn’t have a clue**  
*jag hade ingen aning*

So, it’s...it’s that connection of actually growing up here and having it in your backyard, which actually is the main reason why I do love it, and do fall in love with it.

**Pamela:**

What do you think a good story should have?

**Ned Kelly:**

A good story? Well, I think a good story's got to have some, even though it's fantastic, and a bit you know, unreal, it's got to have something in it that everyone can relate to. So, a good story's got to have characters that you can identify with a little bit. So, there's characters in *Game of Thrones*. We all want to be somebody, you know?

I might want to be Ned Stark or somebody might want to be Jon Snow, or one of the female characters might want to be Daenerys or somebody like that. But it's also got to have some things in it which happen in real life. You know, we don't often have, you know, wars and...and...and...and armies parked in our, you know, front garden.

But there's still the battles of, you know, inter-family difficulties or people getting ill or people running out of money. And those are the things which happen in a good story, which are in real life as well. So, maybe those sorts of things, I suppose. Makes a great story line.

**Pamela:**

William Kells:

**William:**

This is a story about family. It's a story, so it's about the **integrity** and **honesty** of families, the **deception** and **depravity** of families. It is a story basically where one is trying to get the upper hand all the time. But if you are an enemy, you're truly an enemy.

If you look more deeply into the series itself, and if you read the books, I think that's maybe the starting point for a lot of people. If they read the books, they'll find it is a story of morality, of ethics and of family, specifically.

**Music:** "Game of Thrones Title Theme", by Ramin Djawadi

**Pamela:**

This is the "Game of Thrones" theme song.

"Game of Thrones" is based on the series of books "A Song of Ice and Fire", by George R.R. Martin. George R.R. Martin met the fans at Loncon 3 in London.

**integrity**  
*integritet*  
**honesty**  
*ärlighet*  
**deception**  
*svek, lögn*  
**depravity**  
*demoralisering,*  
*fördärv*



**George R.R. Martin:**

Well, I...I like to play with history. I love history and I freely steal from it whenever I can. Scottish history, English history, French history... It's all full of amazing stuff, that you can't possibly make up, but I don't want to just **replicate** it. So, of course I have to twist it and turn it and stand it on its head, and make it do tricks for me.

What I...what I also love about history is it gives me a great **defense** when people say my books are too dark and too depressing. My books are happy and cheerful compared to the real history. Read...read the real history about what happened in the Middle Ages. And...and...you'll say, "My God, what...what a little happy Disney fairytale George is telling."

In America, we're sort of taught that this is our history, too. I mean, our... When in... We go to school and they...they teach us Rome and Greece and you know, eventually you get up to England, and when they start talking about the Middle Ages, it's very much from an English point of view. And, you know, Jamestown, you know, the Pilgrims, all of that we get the...the colonization of America. And besides, **knights** and castles are cool.

A lot of books may have a lot of death in them. They may be war stories, or...or stories about dark historical periods or **dystopias** about the future. But you can tell, like in the first chapter, who the hero is and who the heroine is, and...and they're, like, safe.

I don't like anyone to be safe. I like to cross people up. I don't want anyone to get too comfortable, saying, "Oh, well, nothing is going to happen to Indiana Jones, because, after all, the movie is called *Indiana Jones*."

I was recently at a film festival in Switzerland, where they asked me to present three films that had influence on me. And one of the three that I presented was Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*, which, I look back and it had an **enormous influence** on...on me for just this very reason. You know, I was quite young when *Psycho* came out, but it...it...it had **tremendous** influence on the whole nation, because it shocked them so much.

Janet Leigh was the star of that movie; she was the most **recognizable** name in that movie. The movie begins and you're...you're following her for 20 minutes into the movie as she steals some money, and then she escapes, and she goes on the road and you think it's going to be like a heist movie about Janet Leigh. And suddenly she's in the shower getting stabbed, repeatedly! And the impact of that was so huge, partly because it **violated** the **cloak** of **authorial invincibility**. The details *do* matter.

**replicate**  
*kopiera*

**defense**  
*försvar*

**knights**  
*riddare*

**dystopias**  
*dystopier*

**enormous**  
*enorm*  
**influence**  
*inflytande*  
**tremendous**  
*oerhörd*  
**recognizable**  
*igenkännbar*

**violated**  
*bröt mot, kränkte, skändade*  
**cloak**  
*täckmantel*  
**authorial-**  
*författar-*  
**invincibility**  
*osårbarhet*



**Pamela:**

George's favorite films are "Psycho", "Casablanca" and "Forbidden Planet".

**George:**

You know, you...you find that the audience is full of people who are expert on all sorts of things. And if you get any detail wrong, you're going to get an email about it from some annoying **git**, who's unfortunately usually right about it.

"The place you said has the best wine wouldn't be a very good place to grow wine in", or stuff like that. You get letters like that, you get letters about your **geology**, you get letters about your **botany**. And, "Oh no, that kind of tree wouldn't grow in this kind of climate."

I do try to **absorb** the lessons and keep them in mind going forward. I'm in some ways, since I'm writing a secondary world fantasy, Westeros is modeled on the Middle Ages, but it's not the Middle Ages, so I have a **partial** defense there.

And some of...some of the changes I made quite **deliberately**, you know, as Tolkien did. You know, he has...he has Sam and...and...and Frodo eating "**taters**", and of course there were no "taters" in Medieval England. But the Shire isn't Medieval England, even though it feels a lot like it. So, he can have "taters" and I have corn on the same principal, and pumpkins and...

Back when I was in college, and a few first few years out of college, I played a lot of chess. In fact, ran **chess tournaments**. And when I **encountered** chess games in...in fiction, like nine out of ten times they get it wrong.

And it...it takes me right out of the book, you know? And I have a particular expertise about chess, particularly tournament chess, and the way it's played. And...and most writers are kind of researching that, they do a very  **cursory** job, they're not **imbued** with the world. And it's...it's a little off and it takes me out.

But the truth is, when you're writing a...a big book, you...you have to be an expert on everything, and very few of us are an expert on everything. We...sometimes we just make assumptions. We...we think we know something but we don't actually know it. We know some common **misconception** about it.

**git**  
*klantskalle*

**geology**  
*geologi*  
**botany**  
*botanik*

**absorb**  
*absorbera*  
**partial**  
*partiell, del-*

**deliberately**  
*med flit*  
**tater**  
*slang för potatis*

**chess tournaments**  
*schackturneringar*  
**encountered**  
*träffade på*

**cursory**  
*yttlig, hastig*  
**imbued**  
*genomsyrade*

**misconception**  
*missuppfattning*



**Pamela:**

It is said that authors can be **roughly** split into “architects”, also known as “plotters”, and “gardeners”. The architects plan everything in advance. But the gardeners just dig a hole and plant the seed and see what comes up.

**George:**

Gardeners and architects, as I say. And I’m...I’m much more a gardener, as Tolkien was. You know...you know the broad strokes of the story but **essentially** you’re just planting a seed and...and hopefully the characters will take you where you want to go.

It’s...it’s a great **compliment**. I mean, I love Tolkien. *Lord of the Rings* I re-read every few years. It’s...it’s the **seminal** work that’s created all the modern fantasy. So...being compared to him is...is a...a great compliment. The only thing that troubles me about it is some...some other people take it too seriously and you know, and write these angry **diatribes**.

“Martin is not Tolkien. He’s completely different.” Well, no one ever said I was the same as Tolkien. I am completely different from Tolkien. We’re all influenced by the thing we’ve read before. In some ways, we’re replying to it, you know? Ernest Hemingway always talked about “wrestling with Tolstoy”. I don’t...I don’t want to wrestle with Tolstoy or Hemingway. But, you know, **bantering** with Tolkien, sure.

I’m a very strong **proponent** of the “show, don’t tell” philosophy as a writer. I...I...I don’t want to summarize a scene, I want to drop you in the middle of the action. And that... To do that well, it **requires sensory** detail.

Sensory detail’s what separates showing from telling. Sensory detail will put you there. If...if my character’s at a feast, I want you know what kind of food is being served, and...and smell the food and taste the food. And I try to evoke that as much as possible.

And that’s true of...of all my scenes, of battle scenes, of sex scenes, of, you know, visuals of...of what people are wearing or...or...or what a sunset looks like. All of that. I try to evoke it as powerfully as possible, so you’ll...you’ll see it and you’ll smell it and you’ll feel it. All of that requires detail and requires description, which some readers don’t like.

**roughly**  
*i grova drag*

**essentially**  
*i grund och botten*

**compliment**  
*komplimang*  
**seminal**  
*nyskapande, originell*  
**diatribes**  
*häftig kritik*

**bantering**  
*retas med*

**proponent**  
*förespråkare*  
**require**  
*kräva*  
**sensory**  
*sinnlig, som kan uppfattas med hjälp av något av våra fem sinnen*





I mean, I...I do have critics who say there's too much **gratuitous** clothing description, too much gratuitous food description, too much gratuitous heraldry. And, of course, gratuitous sex. Sex is the thing that always gets hit with "gratuitous" most often, which really translates into "more sex than I wanted", when they say it's gratuitous.

But I don't think any of it is gratuitous. I think it's all necessary for the kind of **immersion** that I'm...that I'm seeking as a...as a writer, and that I want as a reader, when I read works by other people.

**Music:** "The King's arrival" from Game of Thrones

**Pamela:**

For more on "Radio Popreel" and "Popreel" on TV, visit UR.se. Niclas Jensen, Carl Nilsson and myself, Pamela Taivassalo Wikholm, produced the program.

You've been listening to "Radio Popreel".

**gratuitous**  
*omotiverad*

**immersion**  
*här: språkbud*