

# The Moonflask will light up your day

**M**ICK HAS just done a stretch in prison but wants to go straight for the sake of his young son Jamie. With employment opportunities thin on the ground he finds himself joining Job Club as a way to get back in work, where the clichéd, patronising mantras include: "There is no such word as can't".

The Job Club is a motley crew: Ned, the aged thespian, remembers the good old days of rep theatre and is a dab hand at magic tricks but has not had a role for a while.

Then there is out-of-condition footballer Chris, struggling artist Ally and unemployed taxi driver John. There are also the latecomers to the

## RADIO

By Jane Clinton



Club: Raj whose business went under and Ethel, a widow.

Ethel laments her house clearance after her husband died as she received £800 but unwittingly let go a precious and very valuable 18th-century antique, which turns out to be a moonflask, or priceless Ming vase. She had been using it as a doorstep for years.

When members of the Job Club

jokingly suggest they should steal it back for her, the dare rapidly turns from idle banter to a serious plan.

Each Job Club member easily finds their unique skills to make up the crack art heist team: transforming into the art faker, the getaway driver, the sprinter, the bogus journalist and the conjurer. Thus begins this humorous and engaging afternoon play, **The Moonflask**, (Radio 4, Saturday).

Suddenly the clichéd statements spewed out by those running the Job Club seem particularly apposite. With each challenge the members of the team find that they really can overcome anything.

Each one of them has a particular

skill and now they are able to use it. While it may not be the best message to give out, it would seem crime is certainly paying dividends for these souls who believed they were on the scrap heap.

Their newfound confidence from doing what they are good at does more for their self-belief than any Job Club.

Pacey and gently comic, The Moonflask, written by talented playwright, Paul Sellar, will keep you guessing right up until the very end.

Has Mick really gone straight? Is the Job Club really full of life's has-beens? It is a fast-moving play of bluffs and double bluffs, smoke and mirrors where nothing is quite how it seems.