



Visual Story for MORAG, YOU'RE A LONG TIME DEID

All performances are relaxed / extra live

Contact the local venue for a visual story for the building.

This visual story was created using a template that draws from a collaboration between the PuSh Festival, Intrepid theatre and members of the community and we are happy to share it.



About MORAG, YOU'RE A LONG TIME DEID

Schedule/Important times:

Because this is live theatre, these times are not exact.

- The performance is about 1 hour and 15 minutes long.
- There is no intermission.
- If people keep clapping there might be an encore (an extra song) which means the show may be a few minutes longer.

What to expect:

- The lights will become brighter and dimmer.
- It may be a bit dark sometimes, but never all dark.
- You will always have enough light to see your whole body.
- It is ok to move
- It is ok to make noise
- It is ok to react
- It is ok to have a snack or a drink
- It is ok to use your electronic devices (on silent)
- It is not ok to take pictures or make calls



Chill-Out Zone

- If you want to leave the theatre at any time, ask the ushers to point you to the direction of the lobby and exits.
- You can go back into the theatre any time.



What the room looks like



- This is what the room looks like.
- There are seats around the stage and a piano, a loop stand cupboard with costumes in it and two microphones with stands on the stage.



The Performer: Claire Love Wilson

This is **Claire Love Wilson (she/her, they/them)**

She plays the Sam, the main character in the show. She also plays Morag, Jess, the doctor and “the Queen of Heaven”.



Sam imagines what her grandmother Morag was like. Sam puts on a white collar with black polkadots and pretends to be her grandmother.

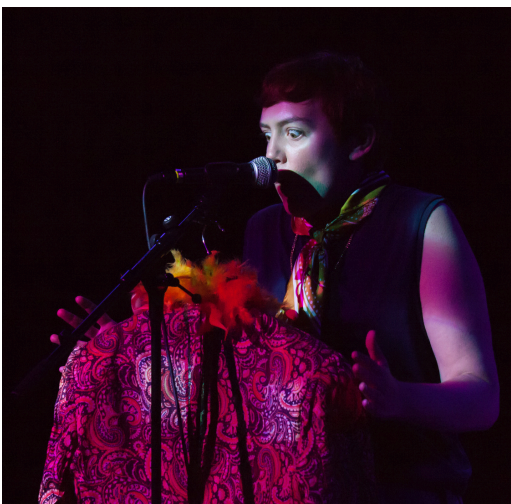


Sam also imagines what her grandmother’s friend Jess or Jessica was like, when she does that, she puts on the black tuxedo jacket or she pretends the jacket is Jessica.



Later, Sam meets someone she calls “the Queen of Heaven”. The jacket from before is now turned inside out and we see the bright colours. Like with Jess, the jacket inside out is the Queen of Heaven.

Sometimes the performer has it on to become her and other times Sam dances with the jacket, talks to it, and hugs it.



The Performer: Sally Zori

Sally Zori (they/them) is the musical director.

In the show. Sally sings, plays the piano, percussion, the shruti box and uses the loop pedals.

They also help move the piano sometimes.

Sometimes Sally moves microphones. Sally plays the grandfather and the cèilidh caller.



When they play the grandfather, Sally wears a cap and green cardigan.

Grandfather also plays the shruti box.

When they play the cèilidh caller they put on a green tartan vest and ask people to join them to dance on the stage. You can use your own discernment around if you want to participate or not.



In the second part they also put on a lab coat.

They look into the piano like a doctor, pulling at the strings.

People at the Technician Table / Tech Booth

At the back of the room there is a table with the people who control the lights and sounds and make sure everything happens at the right time.



Heather

(she/her)

Stage Manager

Heather is the stage manager. She makes sure everything happens at the right moment, and controls all lights in the room.

She turns them all on and off from her computer.

Who to talk to if you need help

- If you need anything, you can go and ask Heather or the front of house team and they will help you.
- If you want to ask a question before you come to the show or need someone to help you when you come; you can contact the local venue.



The Story

This is what the show is about, the story.

The story is about Sam and about her grandmother Morag who was born in Scotland and moved to Canada with her husband a long time ago.

Morag died over 50 years ago and Sam's family doesn't talk about her.

The show starts when Sam gets a piano sent to her by a woman in Scotland, Jess, with a weird letter. Turns out the weird words in the letter are all sentences from old Scottish ballads.

Sam tries to imagine what her grandmother, Morag, was like and what Jess was like. Sam imagines maybe they were in love.

Sam also sings and talks about old Scottish songs or ballads. Sam wonders if Morag also played these songs on this piano. Sam wonders if her grandmother also disagreed with what some of the songs are about.

Sam goes to a ceilidh, where they sing Scottish ballads and dance.

Sam talks about some of the Scottish songs, Sam doesn't like the song about the chicken so she makes up new words for the song.

Sam tries to talk to her grandfather about Morag, who was his wife. But he doesn't want to talk about Morag.

Sam meets someone new when she goes out to a club and falls in love with that person.

Sam's grandfather gets sick, Sam visits him in the hospital and after her visit he dies. Sam finds out more about her grandmother when she finds her grandmother's medical records and diary. Sam speaks at her grandfather's funeral.

If you want to know what will happen with a lot more details and pictures, go to the part called **Everything That Happens**.



Things that Might be Intense in the Story

These are some things that are in the show that might be intense for some folks.

If you want to know more, we explain it more on the next pages.

- Death
- Suicide
- Mental health problems
- Psychiatric evaluation and treatment in the 1950's
- Electroconvulsive Therapy
- Queerness
- Homophobia / Queerphobia
- Gender normativity
- Falling in love passionately
- Kissing & affection
- Audience participation (This means the people watching the show will be invited to do things. **But you only do it if you want, you never have to participate. It is ok to say no.**)
- Conflict about our heritage and the values that come with it
- Use of Scottish Accents



More About The Things that Might be Intense in the Story

Death

The show is about someone wanting to understand their grandmother, Morag, who died over 50 years ago. During the show, Sam's grandfather also dies. We don't see him die but we see him when he is very sick and can't talk anymore. Like you see in this picture. At the end of the show Sam speaks to us as if she is at his funeral.



Suicide

In the beginning we don't know, but as the show goes on we realise that Morag probably committed suicide.

Mental health problems

When we first hear about Morag, we realize she was probably depressed. But in the second half of the show we find out she was diagnosed with manic depression and treated at a hospital.

Gender normativity

Sam loves exploring the Scottish ballads because they are a connection to her heritage and her grandmother who also loved them. However, there is a lot of gender normativity in the Scottish ballads. When she imagines her grandmother with Jess, they talk about some of these songs and re-write them so the woman goes to battle or seduces another woman. The song we hear during the cèilidh dance is also very gender normative (see next part about queerness & homophobia). During the cèilidh dancing, the cèilidh caller also uses very gender normative language like: Lads find a lassie , lassies find a lad.

More About The Things that Might be Intense in the Story

Psychiatric evaluation and treatment in the 1960's & Electroconvulsive Therapy

In the second half, Sam finds her grandmother Morag's medical records from the 1970's, including her psychiatric evaluation and treatment. What they say can be hard to hear. They talk about how she suffers from "mild sexual deviation" and how the orientation of her sexual fantasies is unclear. The records show they prescribed 6 sessions of electroconvulsive therapy (or electric shock therapy) and how she responded to them. At the end they recommend 6 more sessions if her symptoms return. When Sam finds these records she has a hard time reading them and asks people in the audience to help her by reading a page for her. Sam also finds Morag's diary and in between parts from the medicals records we hear Morag talk about her experiences.

Falling in love passionately

Jess goes out to a club and meets someone she calls the queen of heaven. The queen of heaven is represented by a tuxedo jacket turned inside out showing the bright lining and a sequenced trim. Jess dances and flirts with this person and wakes up next to them the next morning.

Kissing & affection

When Sam imagines Morag and Jess there is a lot of flirting and teasing but in her fantasies she stops just shy of them kissing. Sam and the queen of heaven also dance, flirt and tease. They are not as hesitant as how Sam imagines Morag and Jess. The intensity of this depends a lot on your imagination because the performer only plays one role at a time and often uses a jacket to represent the second person.

More About The Things that Might be Intense in the Story

Queerness / Homophobia / Queerphobia

Sam is queer and as she explores her grandmother Morag's past she suspects her grandmother was also queer. She imagines Jess being Morag's lover.

The most clear homophobia is in the song at the cèilidh dance. While we are all dancing and learning the steps to the song most of us are not listening to the lyrics but some of us might notice the chorus: "Oh my, whit a how-do-you-do
For I didna ken if it wis a hen or a cock-a-doodle-doo!"

Right after the dancing Sam asks us if we heard those lyrics. During another scene that follows she talks about the song and explains that it is a song about a chicken; the farmer can't figure out if it is a hen or a rooster, he goes on about how "weird" the bird is and how he called the vet who couldn't figure it out either and in the end decides to make it into soup. Sam re-writes the lyrics to celebrate this special chicken.

Another form of queerphobia is how the psychiatric report talks about Morag's sexuality. This will be read out loud: *Mild Sexual Deviation: admits to entertaining sexual fantasies extraneous to spouse. Orientation/nature of fantasies described as "not always clear"*

- **Audience participation:** People in the audience will be asked to clap, get up and dance or read things - It is ok to say no.
- **Conflict about our heritage and the values that come with it.**
- **Use of Scottish Accent.**

More About The Things that Might be Intense in the Story

Audience Participation

Everyone will be invited to dance during the cèilidh dancing, you are welcome to join or stay at your seat. Sam will sometimes encourage people to clap along.

There will be times when Sam comes to someone in the audience and talks to them, or asks them to do something:

- When she is re-writing the lyrics to the chicken song, she asks some audience members to share their ideas out loud.
- When she is going to the club she approaches a couple of people gesturing for them to get up and hop to the music with her
- When Sam finds her grandmother's medical records she asks if someone can help her read, she will pick a couple of people and ask them to read from the paper, if they are far away from the middle she will ask them to get up and come to the microphone.

Conflict about our heritage and the values that come with it

Sam wants to connect with her heritage, with her roots, through music, through the Scottish ballads her grandmother once sang. But she finds that those ballads are full of gender normative language and homophobia. She struggles with being able to connect with her heritage while confronting the parts she does not agree with.

Use of Scottish Accent

Claire, the main performer, will talk with a Scottish accent when she is imagining what her Grandmother Morag and Jess were like.



Sound

There is lots of music and singing and there also are soundscapes.

There will be live music with instruments and singing and they also use loop pedals a lot. That means they record a sound or singing or talking and then play it over and over and adding other sounds. So you will see someone say something and then later hear it again but now it is a recording and you don't see them say it again. This means a lot of rhythmic layered sound.

Because the sound in this show is complicated, it might happen that there is a moment of feedback where there is a screechy high noise. Normally it doesn't but it is possible.

The music sometimes becomes loud, but it gets loud slowly.

They sometimes use microphones, but that is to make sure everyone can hear everywhere, not to make it loud.

There are some moments that are suddenly loud and might surprise you:

- When someone closes the piano lid, even if they do it slowly, it makes a loud “snap” noise that can be startling, that happens 2 times
- After Sam talks to her grandfather and he tells Sam reminds him of Morag, Sam runs to the piano, she grabs the microphone on her way and yells “Mooraaag” into the piano
- After Sam talks about her tongue being swollen and trapped in her mouth like her teeth are a cage, a beat starts playing suddenly.

On the next page we tell you more about when it will get loud.



Louder moments in the show

These are the moments that are loud:

- When Sam goes to the ceilidh she plays the chicken ballad with the ceilidh caller
- After collecting the images Sam sings a song called “Cracks”
- Sam sings a new version of the chicken ballad
- When Sam goes dancing at the club, it starts softly and becomes louder
- At the very end Sam sings a song called “Lesbian Bar”
- After the applause they might play an extra song



If you are bringing your own ear protection or headphones, look out for Sally at the loop station or at the piano.

Whenever they start to play the instruments, it might start getting louder, so this is a good moment to put your headphones on.

Lights

It will get lighter and darker but there will always be enough light to see your body. The colour of the lights will change sometimes.

There will be no strobe lights.

The light changes all the time, the colours change, the brightness changes.

Those changes are not sudden, they won't surprise you.

On the next pages we will show pictures of the most intense lights:

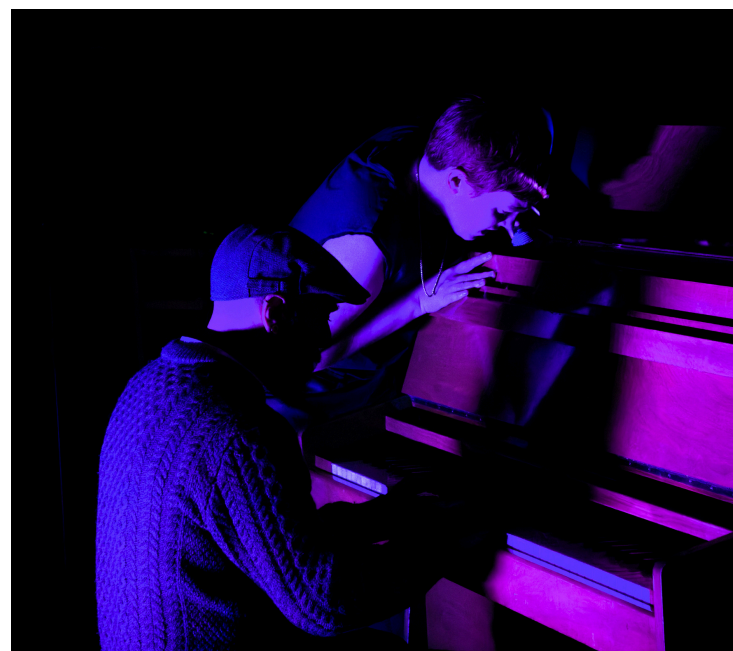
- There are lots of moments with a lot of coloured light
- The club scene has the most intense lights
- Sometimes they use spotlights and everything else is darker
- Sometimes there are pattern light effects from a projector on stage

Coloured Lights

Most of the time the lights are not coloured. But there are also a lot of moments where the whole room becomes one colour. Usually it is just one colour, like you see in the picture.

Only in the club there are lots of different lights.

There is a page just about that.



Light in the Club Scene

This is the time where there will be different colours moving around.

The spotlights keep changing colour and a disco ball pattern will move around.



Lights: Spotlights

Sometimes it will feel a little darker when there is a spotlight on one person or two people.



Audience Participation

There are a couple of moments where the people who came to see the show become part of the show. **You never have to participate.**

It is always ok to say no or just stay in your chair.



- Everyone will be invited to dance in the ceilidh dance



- Sam will ask if people can help her read a medical document

Audience Participation



- At the end everyone is invited to dance to the encore song.



Audience Reactions

Laughter

There are some jokes and people usually laugh.

Cheering & clapping

Sometimes people cheer or clap along.

Crying

Sometimes people who watch the show have big emotions that make them cry a little.

Dancing

There are some moments of facilitated dancing in the show, so people might get up to join the dance. Feel invited to do so as well or stay seated if you are more comfortable.

Reading

There is a moment in the show where Sam asks the audience for help to read a medical report. It is ok to say no if you do not want to read.

At the end of the show people will clap.

That is a way to say thank you to the people who made the show and to say you like the show. If people like the show a lot they also stand up.

It's ok to cover your ears if that is too loud.

There are other ways to thank the performers instead of clapping, like waving your hands in the air.



Everything that happens

SPOILER ALERT :

This part tells you everything that happens in the show.

Sam records a soundscape of the piano and then tells us about the piano she received. Then, she goes to the microphone to read the letter that Jess sent to Sam with the piano. It is full of strange old Scottish sentences. We start hearing some of the sentences Sam read before, and as she hears them again she understands them better. Sam figures out they are all from old Scottish ballad. The parts of the letter and Sam singing them become a soundscape. Sam starts to sing the ballad and crosses the room with the polka dot collar representing Morag.



Sam wonders who Jessica is and how she ended up with her grandmother's piano. Sam imagines how Jess and Morag played the piano together by putting on a polka dot collar to pretend to be Morag and hanging the tuxedo jacket next to her. This way they can play the piano together while Sam imagines them flirting. We find out that Morag will move to Canada with her husband and will leave the piano with Jess. At the end of the scene they sing together and Sam addresses the audience expressing that she doesn't know anything.

Everything that happens

Sam decides to find out more and goes up to the microphone to call her grandfather. Sam stands on one end of the room at a microphone and her grandfather (played by Sally) stands at the other end at a microphone. This scene is done with looping. First we only hear Sam's questions, then we hear that again grandfather answers. Then we hear all of that with questions and answers again and we hear how grandfather is feeling upset because we hear his breathing and we also hear the voice of a doctor asking him questions about his wife's mental health.



After they talk on the phone, grandfather picks up his Shruti box and starts singing an old Scottish ballad about a knight that was killed. Sam starts singing with him.

Everything that happens

Sam imagines a date between Morag and Jess in a pub.

This is done with the loop pedal again.

First Sam puts on the collar to pretend to be Morag and we only hear her talk.

It is a bit weird because we only hear one side of the conversation.

Then Sam puts on the black tuxedo jacket and we hear what she said before but now she talks in between as Jess.



Morag says she doesn't like the words of one of the ballads.

Jess is telling Morag to change the parts of the songs she doesn't like. Then Jess starts asking very intimate questions.

The conversation suddenly ends when Jess asks: "What is a place on your body that tingles whenever I touch you?"

Afterwards Sam wonders whether it is weird to imagine her grandmother's love life.

Everything that happens

Sam visits her grandfather who likes to teach Sam bird calls. She asks him about Morag, who was his wife, a couple of times but he ignores the questions.

Then, a bit later, he looks at Sam and tells her that Morag committed suicide and that Sam sometimes reminds him of Morag.



Sam realizes that her grandmother committed suicide and that is why no one talks about her. Sam runs to the piano, grabs the microphone on her way screams into the piano: “Moooooraaaag”. All the lights become blue. The microphone records the echo in the piano and the sound is made into a soundscape.



Over the soundscape Sally plays piano and sings the Ballad *Twa Corbies* about two crows eating a dead knight. Sam distributes old photos with one person scratched out across the stage and sings with Sally in Harmony and they move the piano which plays some notes by itself.

Everything that happens

Sam goes to the Canadian Scottish Heritage Centre for a cèilidh dance event.

The cèilidh caller (dance leader) invites everyone in the audience to get up and learn a dance.

It is ok if you don't want to.

He teaches everyone the dance step by step while Sam is accompanying him on the piano.

At the end the cèilidh caller asks everyone to sit down again and talks about the lyrics of the song that make fun of queer people.



A forest soundscape with bird calls appears and Sam puts on Morag's polka dot collar and pretends the tuxedo jacket is Jess.

Sam imagines the last time Morag saw Jess. Morag talks about a Magpie ditty and an old ballad, but what she really is saying to Jess is that she needs to leave to Canada.

Jess tells her that she likes her despite the gender trouble but that she can't follow her to Canada.

After that, Sam understands Morag better.

Everything that happens

Sam picks up the pictures on the floor and tries to remember what she knows about Morag's death and funeral.

She is piecing together the little her father told her and realises that she is also starting to forget. She gets angry at her dad and drops the pictures again from the piano.

To stay calm Sam records a rhythm on the loop pedal.

She starts to sing a song called Cracks. It is about Sam's experience with Morag's silenced story. Sally plays and sings along with the song and the piano has a rhythmic solo in it.



Sam talks about how uncomfortable it was to hear the lyrics to the chicken ballad from the cèilidh Dance because they make fun of queer people.

Sam decides to change the lyrics and asks the audience for suggestions. She makes up a new version that she sings very proudly. Here she sings: "From my throat the sound it had took."

Sally accompanies her on the piano.

While they are playing the song.

Sam goes up to

Sally and inspects them as they put on a sequin Lined hat and imitate a chicken call.



Everything that happens

She also pulls a feather boa out of the loop station and dances with it.



The lights get dark and purple and pink. Sam is going dancing and talks about how hard it is to keep words inside and it feels like her tongue is growing. We start hearing a beat and while Sam is talking more and more music is added. Sam says she is going to a club.



The lights start changing colours and there is a projection of a discoball moving around. Sam goes to a club to go dancing. The music gets a bit louder here. Sam feels awkward.



Everything that happens

Then she meets someone and she calls them “the queen of heaven”. There is no real person but a red and orange jacket that is hanging in the center on the string with the microphone. Sam dances with the jacket. Sam falls in love.



After the dancing stops Sam ends up on the ground with the jacket.

Sam wakes up in the morning next to the jacket, the queen of heaven.

Sam goes to see her grandfather at the hospital. He is lying on top of the piano with an oxygen mask. We can hear him breathing. She gives him a little paper bird. She tells him about his garden, says a Scottish rhyme he taught her and speaks to him about how she understands Morag now. Granddad wants to talk but he can't. Sam sings him her new version of the Thomas the Rhymer Ballad.



Everything that happens

Sam tells us that her grandfather died after she left and that she looked through his attic to find Morag's diaries and a medical report.

She opens the piano, takes off the front of it and puts it down in the middle of the room.

Inside the piano are papers, it is the medical report.



Sam starts reading the medical report but it is too hard for her to read.

So she asks if people can help her read.

Different people help her read.

If you want to read, you can help her read too.

What people read is that Morag was diagnosed with manic depression and that they gave her electroconvulsive therapy.

In between the reading, we hear the voice of Morag, it is what is in her diaries.

She tells us what it was like to get electroshock therapy, how it made her forgetful and lost and how lonely she sometimes felt. How Jess helped her but her husband didn't understand her.

Everything that happens

While this is happening, Sally puts on a lab coat and inspect the insides of the piano, exploring the inner sounds of the instruments.

The scene finishes, when Sam closes the piano again.



The colourful “queen of heaven” jacket on the floor starts to speak to Sam.

The queen of heaven cheers Sam up.

Sam is nervous about the funeral speech for her grandfather.

She gives Sam encouragement to sing.

Sam turns the jacket around again and puts it on as the black tuxedo jacket.

She talks to us as if we are the people at her grandfather’s funeral.

She talks about her grandfather, how he taught her to make bird sounds. She does some bird noises. Sam also talks about Morag.

Sam sings the “Twa Corbies” Ballad in her own cheerful tune at the end of her speech and after she taps along on the piano, the piano starts tapping by itself.



Everything that happens

After the speech is done she tells us about that she was thinking about having sex with the queen of heaven.

She takes off the the jacket and starts singing the sexy “Lesbian Bar” song.

Sally accompanies her on the shakers as the background track advances.

Sam dances, goes up on the piano and is excited and happy. The lights flash a bit again in pink.



After that song the show is over.

Everyone claps and Claire (who played Sam) and Sally bow.

If there is a lot of applause they will play an encore.

That means the play an extra song.

Claire will ask everyone to come up and dance if they want to.

Sally also joins and plays the shakers.



**Maybe you will like the play, and
maybe not, that is ok.**

**After seeing this show many people
feel happy.**

**But sometimes some of the things in
the show make people a bit sad.**

It is ok if you do.

It is ok if you don't.

