

About the show and Content Warnings

Village Idiot is a new play by Samson Hawkins. The story is set in a countryside village called Syresham in Northamptonshire. The village is going to be demolished by HS2 (high-speed rail). The story focuses on two families: the Mahoneys and the Honeybones.

There are two different performance styles in the show:

- Some scenes are performed in a more 'real-life' format (ignoring the audience)
- Some scenes are performed in a cabaret or variety format (talking to the audience)

The show contains outrageous comedy and will potentially shock and offend some people.

The show contains:

- Very strong language
 - Repeated use of the 'c-word' and 'f-word'
- Racist language
 - Use of the word 'pikeys' and 'oriental'
- Homophobic, transphobic, biphobic language
 - 'poof', 'bender', 'lady boy', 'soft lad'
- Fatphobia
- Sexist language
- Sexual references about anal and oral sex

The show also contains:

- Loud noises
- Atmospheric sounds
- Flashing lights
- Smoking herbal cigarettes
- A fake gun and gunshot (not fired on stage)

The show does not aim to condone the opinions expressed but aims to expose them for what they are (generally fear or ignorance) and acknowledges that these terms are used in real life and that people have different experiences and opinions. The show will hopefully challenge you and it may well make you reconsider your comfortable view of the world.

Age Guidance

We advise that the show is suitable for those aged 14 and above.

Runtime

The first act is approximately 1 hour 20 minutes

The second act is approximately 50 minutes

There will be a 20-minute interval (a break) in between the acts.

Filming and photography

Filming and photography are not permitted during the show.

Latecomers

If you arrive after the show has started, a member of the Front of House team will show you into the auditorium.

Relaxed Environment Performance

All performances of Village Idiot will be in a Relaxed Environment. This may be useful for audience members:

- With an Autistic Spectrum Condition
- Sensory or communication disorder
- Learning disability
- Anyone who benefits from a relaxed environment

For Relaxed Environment performances:

- The content of the show is not changed
- Movement in and out of the auditorium is allowed
- Less emphasis on being quiet
- There is a chill-out space available

Captions

All performances of Village Idiot will be captioned. This means you can read what the actors are saying throughout the show by watching the caption units displayed either at the sides of the stage or above the stage.



About the Characters

Barbara Honeybone

Barbara is Peter's and Harry's grandmother. She raised both her grandchildren and loves them very much. She is very strong willed and is willing to fight for what she believes in. Barbara doesn't want her house to be knocked down by HS2.



Peter Honeybone

Peter is Barbara's oldest grandson, Harry's brother and Liam's best friend. He moved away from the village and thinks a lot of the ways people live in the village are wrong. Peter is trying to make a success of his career, but feels insecure that no one takes him seriously. Peter works for HS2 and wants the railway to happen.



Harry Honeybone

Harry is Barbara's youngest grandson, Peter's brother and Debbie's boyfriend. Harry likes things to be done a certain way and can become overwhelmed if things change. He is very much in love with Debbie. Harry doesn't want HS2 as it would stop him and Debbie being together.



Kevin Mahoney

Kevin is Liam's and Debbie's dad. He runs a fencing contractors, and owns a house, both of which are being bought by HS2. Kevin is a very forceful, and that can scare some people, but he is very loving to his daughter. Kevin is okay with HS2 as it is giving him the money to move to Thailand.

**Liam Honeybone**

Liam is Kevin's son, Peter's best friend and Debbie's brother. Liam is sad that most of his old friends have left the village. Liam is laid back and doesn't want to take things so seriously. He doesn't want HS2 as he will have to leave Syresham and move to Banbury.

**Debbie Honeybone**

Debbie is Kevin's daughter, Liam's sister and Harry's girlfriend. She is outspoken, passionate and will fight for what she believes in. She is very much in love with Harry. Debbie does not want HS2 as it would stop her from being with Harry.



What happens? Scene-by-scene breakdown

Please note that this contains spoilers.

Prologue – the opening



Music plays as the show begins.

Debbie Mahoney appears on stage

Harry Honeybone walks on

They explain what we are about to watch

They explain the captioning and the relaxed environment

Debbie calls to her father, Kevin about a meat raffle

Everyone exits.

Act 1 Scene 1



This scene is set in the Honeybone's living room.

This scene is performed as 'real life'.

Barbara is unpacking boxes.

Loud, blaring music is playing.

Peter enters and turns off the music.

They talk about how Barbara needs to leave the house because it is being demolished.

Barbara is angry and doesn't want to leave.

Harry gets frustrated and has a meltdown (don't worry, the actor is okay)



Village Hall variety scene – The Award Show



A voiceover introduces Harry as the host of the Syresham Village Awards at the annual village fair.

This scene is performed in cabaret style.

Harry presents three awards including the winner of The Syresham Scarecrow of the Year.

Harry and Barbara win for their giant scarecrow of Queen Elizabeth II, which is lowered from the ceiling.

Harry gives an emotional tribute to the departed monarch, including a song.

Harry asks about the meat raffle.

Kevin crosses the stage with his gun and a shot and thud are heard offstage. Nothing is actually harmed by this.



Act 1 Scene 2



This scene is set in a field.

This scene is performed as 'real-life'.

Kevin and Liam are talking about moving to Thailand.

Peter arrives and they talk about fencing and HS2.

Kevin leaves. Liam and Peter talk about their friendship

The scene ends with Liam and Peter kissing.

Barbara has been watching.

Village Hall variety scene – The Rap



Please note – this scene includes loud music, flashing lights, violent language and high-energy dancing and the actors are wearing masks and balaclavas.

This scene is performed in cabaret style.

Liam performs a drill rap.

Liam checks in with Kevin about the meat raffle.



Act 1 Scene 3



This scene is set in a park.

This scene is performed as 'real-life'.

Debbie and Harry talk about their relationship and not wanted to be separated.

They decide to lie to their families and get married.

Barbara has been watching them.

Village Hall variety scene – Drag Show



This scene is performed in a cabaret style.

There is a loud horn and a voice over.

Peter is dressed in drag and performs Cher's song 'If I could Turn Back Time'.

A glitter canon is fired.

Peter asks Kevin whether he's ready for the meat raffle. Kevin is not ready yet.



Act 1 Scene 4



This scene is performed as 'real-life'.
Kevin and Debbie are at home playing a video game.
They talk about moving to Thailand.
Debbie tells Kevin she isn't moving to Thailand.
Debbie leaves and Barbara enters.
Kevin and Barbara argue.
Barbara reveals that Debbie is actually going to run away with Harry.
Kevin is angry and runs off after Debbie.



Village Hall variety scene – Not Syresham



This scene is performed in a cabaret style.
Barbara sings a song about not wanting to leave.
The curtain comes down for the interval.

END OF ACT 1 – there will be a 20-minute break.

Act 2 Scene 1



This scene is performed as 'real-life'.

Harry, Debbie, Peter and Liam are sitting in the beer garden of a pub.

Kevin bursts in and grabs Harry.

They calm Kevin down as Harry explains his love for Debbie.

Kevin is happy about Debbie and Harry.

Barbara tries to cause more arguments and is angry that no-one will save the village.

She disappears.



Village Hall variety Scene – The Magic Show

Please note – this scene contains mild jeopardy. The tricks performed are perfectly safe and no-one is harmed. Please do not recreate any of the tricks performed. The scene contains loud noises.

The next scene is performed in a cabaret style.

Kevin comes on and plays the guitar.

Debbie performs three tricks:

- Setting an amp on fire
- A nail in a bag trick where Kevin slams his hand on some bags
- A guillotine trick where Kevin gets his head 'cut-off' (not really)



Act 2 Scene 2

This scene is performed as 'real life'.

Liam and Peter are by a little river.

Liam and Peter talk about their relationship and end up fighting.

Barbara stops the fight.

They all talk about saving the village and chain themselves to the trees.

Peter is angry and says they need to leave.

The others create a plan to save the village due to protecting endangered animals in the forest.

The scene ends with Barbara falling out of the tree and dying.

There is a flash of light, pulsing sounds and a blackout (where the lights turn out completely).



Act 2 Scene 3 – The Revolution

Please note - this scene contains loud sounds, atmospheric noises and flashing white and red lights. The scene builds and builds to a climax.

This scene is a mix of cabaret style and real life.

The cast are dressed as animals. They dance with high energy and sharp movements throughout the scene to some loud heavy metal music.

They move towards the front of the stage.

The animals characters represent the fight to save the village and the power of nature.



Act 2 Scene 4

This scene is performed as real life.

Debbie and Harry are married.

They talk about how Barbara has saved the village.



The Bow

The actors bow

Kevin runs a meat raffle.

The end.