

My individual performance, 'Charolais' explores life, loss, love, birth, violence, and comedy. 'Charolais', a one-woman show infused with absurd comedy and earnest emotion allows me to showcase my dramatic expertise. My intent of the piece is to show an emotionally charged, comedically entertaining portrayal of a female, working-class, Irish story. The One Woman Show dramatic form allows an unfiltered female voice to explore the personal and relatable issues of Siabhon.

The performance begins in blackout with the soundscape of a moo and cow call evoking the chaos involved with Siabhon and the Charolais. Her character is established through her pregnant physicality and her first line "I thought I hated that feckin' cow". The humble beginning is now comedically contrasted with the crude-mouth Siabhon. To establish her lower status in the barn, she tells her story whilst cleaning, establishing her subservient role to both Jimmy (her partner) and Maureen (Jimmy's mother). Her low status is further established when Maureen and Jimmy are directly introduced.

I embody Maureen's character to portray the verbal abuse that Siabhon endures to truly capture the psychological stress she imposes. The reveal of the cow's pregnancy allows the audience to see the dichotomy between Siabhon and her. The audience now sees the character's possible self-loathing. As the tension in my performance peaks, Siabhon's character journey reaches a turning point. She attempts to kill the cow as it begins to give birth. Siabhon realises that she has to become an 'adult' and help.

Through this journey, Siabhon experiences the extremes of life. She herself is pregnant, she witnesses a birth, and witnesses a traumatic death. This dark experience is subverted with Siabhon's reaction. The darkly comic secret enthusiasm Siabhon has when Maureen dies concludes her character journey. Siabhon encapsulates this unintentional revenge in her final line 'We will be fine just the three of us'. Charolais concludes satisfying the audience in Siabhon's comedically dark optimism.