



University of
Sheffield

PERFORMANCE
VENUES

Dementia Friendly Performance Information Pack for How Could I Forget?

University of Sheffield Drama Studio

Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 2.30pm (Doors at 2pm)



Contact Box Office:



0114 222 9885



access-venues@sheffield.ac.uk

Address:

University of Sheffield Drama Studio, Shearwood Road, S10 2TD.

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Hello

Hello we are looking forward to welcoming you to Drama Studio for a dementia-friendly performance of 'How Could I Forget?' This pack has been designed to give you more information about the theatre and show before you arrive.

What is a Dementia-Friendly performance?

A Dementia-Friendly performance is tailored to the needs of people living with dementia.

This includes:



Signage directing you to the exit, toilet and refreshments.



Lights in the theatre will be kept on low and you are able to exit the space throughout the performance.



Sound levels will be reduced.



A quiet space to sit in the foyer.



Free tea, coffee and water.



Introduction to the cast and the story before the play begins.



Age UK Sheffield available for Dementia advice.

Getting to Drama Studio

Our address is:

University of Sheffield Drama Studio, Shearwood Road, S10 2TD.



By Road



Limited street parking is available on **Shearwood Road**. It is permit parking or maximum stay for 3 hours.



The nearest public car park is **Q-Park Durham Road, Broomhall, S10 2JA**

The car park is **3 minutes walk** from Drama Studio. It costs **£7.50** for 3 hours.



By Bus



The nearest bus stop is the **Clarkson Street** bus stop on **Glossop Road**.



By Train:



The nearest station is **Sheffield**.

The station is 320m from the Sheffield Interchange, where buses are available, or 160m from the Sheffield Station tram stop which connects to the **University of Sheffield** tram stop on the Blue Line.



By Tram:



The nearest tram stop is the **University of Sheffield** stop which is served by the **Blue Line from Halfway** and the **Yellow Line from Meadowhall**.

For more information about bus, train and tram times visit:

<https://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/>

Visual Story - Your Visit to Drama Studio



Drama Studio is in a converted chapel.
The main entrance is on **Glossop Road**.
The accessible entrance is on **Shearwood Road**.

Main Entrance



The main entrance has steps up to the doors.



There are two heavy doors that you have to open towards you at the top of the steps.

Accessible Entrance



The accessible (step-free) entrance is on **Shearwood Road**.



The accessible entrance has a ramp.

Foyer, Refreshments and Quiet Space



The main entrance leads directly into the foyer. The foyer is where you will have your tickets checked, can find the refreshments booth and will be a designated quiet space during the performance.



The refreshments booth is where you will find free tea, coffee and water. There will be other refreshments to buy before the show and during the interval.

Theatre



The theatre is where you will sit and watch the performance.



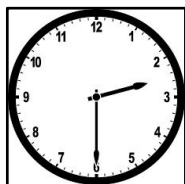
The designated accessible seats are in the front rows of the theatre.

Toilet



The accessible toilet is near the rear of the theatre and requires a radar key. There will be an usher there to give you the key. Female toilets are on the rear balcony stairs and male toilets are on the front balcony stairs.

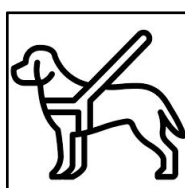
Useful Information



The show starts at **2.30pm** and runs for **2.5 hours**. **This includes 30 minutes for interval and 5 minutes introduction.**



The theatre has an **infrared hearing assistance system**.



Assistance dogs are allowed in the theatre.

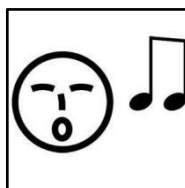
Show warnings



How Could I Forget? is about a **person living with dementia** and has themes of **loss**. The characters occasionally use **swear words**.



There will be some **flashing light sequences** in this performance but they will be **slowed down**. The **lights in the theatre** will be kept on **low** throughout the performance.



As the show is a **musical**, the characters often **sing** and **dance**. The music for the show has been **pre-recorded**. Some instruments such as **piano** and **guitar** are **played live** on stage.



Although we are adapting the music to a **quieter volume**, some of the songs will be **quite loud** when the full cast sing altogether.

The Story

Spoiler alert! Over the next few pages we will describe what is happening in each scene of the play. If you want to keep the story a surprise then turn to page 13. There are several moments where we travel back in time to experience Jack's memories. In the story below, this is highlighted in yellow.

Act 1 Scene 1

The show opens in the Sheffield bungalow of Jean McBride in June 2008. She has just returned from her husband Jack McBride's funeral. She is talking aloud to him about the service.

Act 1 Scene 2

The next scene travels back in time to September 2005. Jack McBride sings '**Murder in the Chip Shop**' on the piano in the bungalow. When he finishes playing, he sits in his favourite chair to complete the crossword. Jean McBride is making a roast dinner and waiting for her Grandson Billy McBride to arrive. Billy arrives and helps his Grandad Jack with the crossword. Jack asks Billy about university and whether he is 'courting' to which Billy replies that he is too busy with his studies. Before they eat their tea, Jack and Billy sing the song '**Silly Dinners**', encouraging Jean to join in despite her protestations.

Act 1 Scene 3

It is December 2005 and the McBrides have just finished eating their tea in their bungalow. Billy tries to complete the crossword with his Grandad but Jack is struggling to remember the words. Billy sees a photograph of Jack wearing a National Service uniform and asks him about his time in the British Army. A reversing sound effect indicates we are travelling back in time and we enter Jack's memory of his National Service in 1953. Roger Peters enters, warning Jack that Sergeant Mustard is entering the dormitory. Mustard shouts at Jack and Roger and makes them do press-ups. Once Mustard leaves, Roger asks Jack to play them a song. Jack sings '**As Long As the Russians Stayed at Home**'. At the end of the song Roger leaves and we return to 2005. As Billy goes to leave the bungalow, Jean expresses her concern that her husband

is forgetting things. She gives Billy a key to the bungalow to let himself in 'just in case.'

Act 1 Scene 4

It is September 2006 and Billy lets himself in to his grandparent's bungalow. He receives a phone call from Laura, a girl he fancies, and awkwardly talks to her about what she enjoys doing. When she hangs up the phone, Billy sings '**How do you do it?**' accompanying himself on the guitar. In the song, he compares his Grandad's confidence to his own awkwardness. Whilst he is singing, Jack and Jean return from the shops and see Billy playing guitar. Jack is noticeably quieter and withdrawn and Jean talks about his lapses in memory. Despite this, Jack can still play the piano. She gives Jack's watch to Billy, saying that he has no use for it anymore. Jean talks to Billy about how they first met and sings '**Time Goes By**' with Jack. At the end of the song, Jack wanders off stage and Jean is left singing alone. **A reversing sound effect indicates we are moving back in time to Jack's local pub in 1956.** Jack returns from the bathroom and Annie, the bar lady, asks him if he would like another drink in exchange for him playing a song on the piano. Jack agrees and begins playing '**Glasgow Kiss**'. Whilst Jack is dancing with Annie, his army friend Roger Peters enters and shouts at him for not meeting his sister Jean for a date. They sing Glasgow Kiss, threatening to fight each other. At the end of the song, a crash is heard and Jack aggressively holds Jean's wrist in 2006.

Act 1 Scene 5

It is May 2007 in the McBride's bungalow and the snooker is playing on the television. Billy is caring for Jack whilst Jean is having a shower. Jack talks to Billy but does not realise that it is his Grandson. He asks him what he does for work to which Billy replies with fictional answers including that he plays in a band. Jack asks him to play a song. Billy reluctantly agrees and sings '**Old Boy**' to Jack. At the end of the song, Billy promises Jack that he will perform his songs on stage. Jean enters the living room and talks to Billy about how she is struggling with caring for Jack as she is worried about him wandering off and hurting himself and others. Jean talks about moving Jack into respite and becomes upset. Billy follows Jean out of the room to console her. Alone in the room, Jack feels cold and tries to put on his cardigan for

warmth. When he struggles to put the cardigan on, he becomes frustrated and slams his hands on the piano. He sings '**Communicate**', expressing his difficulties with communicating to the people he loves. Billy enters the living room at the end of the song and tries to calm his Grandad. Jack sees the watch that Jean has given Billy on his wrist and is angry that his Grandson has stolen his watch. Despite trying to reassure his Grandad that he was given the watch, Jack threatens to hit Billy. Jean enters and stops Jack from hitting Billy. Billy leaves the room upset with Jean following him and Jack is left at the piano. Jack sings '**Lost for Words**' describing what it feels like to live with dementia as the living room transforms into the care home around him.

End of Act 1 - There is an interval for 30 minutes.

Act 2 Scene 1

The scene begins in September 2007. It is open mic night at the Fox and Duck. The compère stands on stage and announces Billy as the next act. Billy refuses to play as he is scared to perform.

Act 2 Scene 2

It is the day after the open mic and Billy and Jean are standing in the corridor outside the care home's living room. It is the first time Billy has visited Jack since he has moved into the care home and he is worried about what he will see. When they enter the living room, Jack is playing a lively song '**Skinny Malinky**' on the piano whilst his friend Maurice dances along next to him. At the end of the song, Jack recognises Jean but does not recognise Billy. When Jean tells him that it is his Grandson, Jack recalls Billy but remembers him as a baby. He sings '**Grandson, Grandson**' on the piano with Maurice whilst Billy stands by confused. At the end of the song, Jack sits down with Jean and Billy and becomes withdrawn. Billy expresses concern that the care home is run down. Jean says that Rebecca, one of the staff, is kind to Jack and good at her job. Jean suggests that Billy might like her. Rebecca enters and Billy awkwardly has a conversation with her. Jean observes a spark of attraction between them and jokingly says that she should buy a wedding hat. Billy and Jean leave the care home. Rebecca returns to the care home living room and dances with Maurice as a waltz is played on the radio.

Act 2 Scene 3

It is April 2008 and Jean is reading the newspaper to Jack whilst he is laid in bed in the care home. Billy is sat in the chair listening to Jean as she tells Jack that they are to demolish the flats that they lived in after they had wed. Jean reveals to Billy that their marriage wasn't always the easiest when they were younger. When Billy leaves the room, Jack begins to have a nightmare. A reversing sound effect indicates we are travelling back in time to Jack and Jean's flat in 1961. Jack is sat at the table finishing his dinner whilst Jean is trying to comfort their baby. Jean is frustrated that Jack hasn't mended the things she has asked him to and that he is going out to the club. When Jack angrily leaves the flat, Jean sings '**I Stay**' about the difficulties of being married to Jack. During the song, Jack returns to the flat to collect his jacket hearing Jean cry. The couple hug as they both realise they need to be patient with one another. As Jean returns Jack to the care home bed, Rebecca enters the bedroom indicating a return to 2008. Rebecca tells Jean that visiting hours have finished. Jean tells Rebecca that she should go on a date with Billy as 'life is too short'. Jean scribbles down Billy's number and gives it to Rebecca before leaving.

Act 2 Scene 4

It is May 2008 and Rebecca has gone for a drink in the Fox and Duck pub after work. She tells the Compère, who is working behind the bar, that she has Billy's number and she is unsure whether she should text him. The Compère encourages Rebecca to send a message to Billy. Unbeknown to her, Billy is preparing to play the open mic night in the same pub and is practicing his guitar chords. Rebecca begins singing '**Something Different Altogether**', considering what she should write in her text message with Billy singing the second verse considering what he should reply. Both of them continue singing, walking past each other in the pub without seeing each other. At the end of the song, they bump into each other. Billy is called up to stage to play at the open mic night.

Act 2 Scene 5

It is the day after the open mic and Billy is visiting his Grandad Jack in the care home. When he arrives, Jack is standing in the

living room swearing at his reflection in the mirror. Billy calms Jack and gently guides him to his seat. Billy tells Jack that he had the confidence to play the open mic night and that he has met someone he likes. Billy shows Jack a family photograph album which he has created. Jack recognises Jean on their wedding day and Billy as a baby in the album. Billy shows his Grandad a photograph of Jack, Jean and their children, Linda and Cathy at the seaside. A reversing sound effect indicates that we are travelling back in time to Bridlington Beach in 1967. Jack and Jean are eating fish and chips on the promenade watching their children play on the sand. Jack wishes Jean happy anniversary producing some beer cans to celebrate their 'tin' anniversary. Jack apologises for not being there for his wife and tells her he will do better. Jean gives Jack a watch for their anniversary. Jack gives Jean a key to the bungalow that he has bought for the family. Jean tells Jack that she is pregnant with their third child. As Jean leaves to buy ice cream for the family, we return to 2008. Rebecca enters to give Jack his pills. She ignores Billy whilst she does her job and then tells him to meet her at the pub for their first date. As she leaves, Jack becomes tired and Billy plays him **'Old Boy'** on the piano to sooth him. As he sings, Jack joins in, finding a renewed energy. At the end of the song, Jack leaves as a younger man, placing his hand on Billy's shoulder and saying goodbye.

Act 2 Scene 6

It is September 2015 in Jean's bungalow. She is getting ready for her Great Grandson's christening speaking aloud to Jack who has passed away. She receives a text message from Billy saying that he is going to be late as his son 'Jack' has been sick on his wife Rebecca. Billy enters singing **'Murder in the Chip Shop'** with his son Jack in a car seat. Billy tells Jean that he is going to calm his son outside for a while. Jean talks aloud to her husband Jack saying that she wishes he was here for the christening. She begins singing **'Jack's Song'**, describing the love she has for her husband and the impact he has had on their life. Billy and Rebecca enter the room with their son Jack and join in the chorus of Jack's song. Jack and Roger in their military uniforms join the rest of the cast on stage as they sing their final song. The performance ends with the full cast in a family picture.

Bow

Meet the Cast



Gerald Fletcher is playing **Jack McBride**.



Cathy Breeze is playing **Jean McBride**.



Jamie Wray is playing **Billy McBride**.



Holly Durkin is playing **Sergeant Mustard, Annie** and **Rebecca**.



Richard Galloway is playing **Roger Peters, Compère** and **Maurice**.



We hope that you have found this information pack useful ahead of your visit to Drama Studio to see **'How Could I Forget?'**

For more information about accessibility at Drama Studio visit:
<https://www.accessable.co.uk/university-of-sheffield/access-guides/drama-studio>

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