

BIG STAR

cast:

BIG STAR, a male in his mid to late 30s; wears baseball cap; a comedian/rock-star/actor/philanthropist

MORAG, a tv interviewer in her late 20s

props:

two chairs, facing audience and separated by a coffee table with jugs of water and glasses

.....

LIGHTS. MORAG SITS IN INTERVIEWER'S CHAIR.

SOUND: DRUM-ROLL. THEN CRASHING MUSIC.

BIG STAR BURSTS IN, JUMPS ABOUT DOING MANIC DANCE ROUTINES, EXAGGERATED AIR- GUITAR STUFF, ETC., POGOS ROUND STAGE IN DOUBLE TIME, WAVING AND HUGE GRINS TO MORAG AND THE AUDIENCE.

BIG STAR: Hullo there people! Hullo there people! It's me! It's me! (COMES TO A STOP AND DELIVERS LIKE A TYPICAL STAND-UP COMEDIAN) Just arrived in from Winsuhh. Aye, ye wouldnay have noticed eh! Me with the good accent and aw that! Us Winsuhh punters, you can tell us a mile away: we might look the part but see when we open our mouth...! Scruff, pure scruff!

But it's no our fault it's no our fault! Sure it's no? [SLOWS, CONFIDES TO AUDIENCE] Sure we cannay help it? Sure it's they balmy northern breezes, eh, them coming down frae high Possilt, sure it's them makes us talk like this? [PAUSE FOR AFFECT] ! High Possil! Ha ha ha. It damages the vocal CHords! [LAUGHS] Chords!

I had a mate once, he was bammy - a bammy bastirt! [LAUGHS, GLANCES TO MORAG] Can ye no say bammy? I thought it was past 9 o'clock... [CHUCKLES]

MORAG Incurrigible

BIG STAR: TO AUDIENCE] What's she like at all! Incurrigibidibl. Where's my tongue – as the bishop said to the actress, ha ha

MORAG: PRETENDED OUTRAGE

BIG STAR; POINTS AT HER] Mind yer authority figure dear

MORAG: APPLAUDS] On with the story

BIG STAR: Right ye are Morag. So, anyway, I meets this big polis at the airport, this big polis - or is it a bobby? Know what I mean, the south shores of Engalanda, as they say in Majolica. Ha ha ha. So I met this big bobby at the airport down in Winsuhh, naw missis I didnay say jobby – big sister is watching you. [WINKS TO MORAG] So the big polis gives it like: Heh you there, Cyril, come here you a minute, a wee word in your ear.

Cyril? Know what I mean, what's that all about? But he's staring hard at me so over I goes. I don't like guys staring hard at me, especially if he's wearing a uniform - gies the wrong impression! [WINKS AT AUDIENCE] So ower I goes. Heh you I says, my name's no Cyril. Ha ha ha. It's... Ha ha ha... what's my name, my name's no Cyril – [WINDING UP AUDIENCE] Cyril, ye kidding missis! (WINKS TO MORAG, JERKING THUMB AT AUDIENCE MEMBER) I'm Jimmy! Jimmmyy!

MORAG AS CHORUS BUT PRONOUNCES JIMMY AS 'JAMIE'] Jamie

BIG STAR FROWNS AT HER VAGUELY, THEN CONTINUES TO AUDIENCE] What's my name? Eh punk. Ha ha ha ha. Big Clint eh! Naw but I says it to the polis. My name is Jimmy, I says, that's my name - so if ye waant me thingmy, ring me - know what I mean! Ha ha, the auld Glesgi patter. Naw but so I says to the polis, Listen bud, if you want me to talk to me ye say my name, Heh Jimmy! That's what ye say, nayn of that Cyril stuff. Heh Jimmy, then I'll come running, to see ye again. [WINKS TO MORAG] Catch the ref Morag...! [FROWNS TO AUDIENCE] Well I wouldnay exactly be running, I don't run for naybody. But I will come, if ye ask politely. In my own good time but aye, okay, if ye ask me nicely, I definitely will come, as the bishop says to the... Oops! [TO MORAG]

MORAG IS GESTICULATING TO THE WINGS ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE AND DID NOT HEAR. NOW SHE ACKNOWLEDGES BIG STAR, AND POLITELY] Did you say something there Jamie?

BIG STAR PAUSE, FROWNS] Naw naw, I was just eh talking. [SNIFFS] Actually I was being kind of reeskay there, sorry dear. Ha ha ha. [SHAKES HEAD TO AUDIENCE, THEN HE LOOKS ABOUT – HE IS LOOKING FOR A NON-EXISTENT TELEVISION CAMERA] Naw but the big polis, that story I was telling.

MORAG POLITELY] Oh, the joke

BIG STAR FROWNS

MORAG BRIGHTLY] Sorree

BIG STAR Naw but he didnay know what I was talking about! That big polis, He forgot what I was saying, the point of everything, it was all lost on him

MORAG CHUCKLES] The point of the joke!

BIG STAR What? [LOOKS TO AUDIENCE, JERKS THUMB IN HER DIRECTION] Know what I mean! Where was I – oh aye, Cyril and the polis. After he calls me the name. I'll damn Cyril ye I says – well I didnay swear - I'll Cyril you, I says. Beg pardon he says. Only joking I says. The polis just looks at me, so I didnay push it, know what I mean, the polis, ye dont push a polis. I dont anyway, no from where I come from - the polis are like rotweiler dugs. See the stories I could tell ye about them. Naybody's business! Salt of the earth but salt of the earth, Seriously but, I'm cool with the cops, I've got a lot of time for cops. I didnay use to when I was skint but see since I like hit the big time! Now I've got a few quid [GLANCING TO MORAG] Know what I mean Morag - ye change yer tune. I'll be honest, ye meet cops everywhere! Airport lounges, countryside retreats and homes of the wealthy, highstreets banks, political meetings and demonstrations - yer old MI5 English bobby. Or is it boabby! Boabby! Ha ha ha. Sauchiehall Street and all that, Yous Glesgi punters, I know what yous like to laugh at! I do. Up here in auld Glesgi toon. Yez are all just a bunch of besoms. That's how we like laughing at yez! Dont take it the wrang way. [ADOPTS POSH UPPER CLASS ACCENT] it is simply that when we meet with you ordinary persons, we enjoy a good laugh at you. [EARNESTLY, IN ORDINARY CCENT] But yous like to laugh at yourselves too, ye've got that reputation. Me too. What's life without a laugh! [TO MORAG] Eh?

MORAG VIGOROUS NOD AND APPLAUDS]: Well said Jamie

BIG STAR TO MORAG] If ye cannay laugh at life Morag, know what I mean. People have their principles and that's one of mine. I like to think so.[POINTS TO AUDIENCE, LOOKS FOR CAMERAS AGAIN. POINTS AGAIN TO AUDIENCE] So do they. Why? Because they are a big hearted people. From the outside hard as nails [GROWLS] hard as nails. Hard as frigging nails, tough as auld boots. [GRINS]Just like Indian fakirs with they beds of nails, know what I'm saying, anybody can walk over the top of ye! [LAUGHS and SLAPS HANDS] Boom boom right enough. [TO MORAG, INDICATES AUDIENCE] They know what I'm talking about!

MORAG: UNEASY GRIN] Uh...

BIG STAR WINKS TO MORAG] Dont worry about it [TO AUDIENCE] Sure yez all like to

laugh at yerself [HE APPLAUDS AUDIENCE] That's how ye deserve a round of applause. Eh Morag, a wee bit of applause is in order for yer ordinary punter and punteress

MORAG: Well said Jamie [APPLAUDS]

BIG STAR: Nice to be nice Morag. They like to laugh at themselves and so do we, we like to laugh at them too. Ha ha ha. [TO AUDIENCE] But yous dont mind cause yous are big hearted, big hearted, yous Glesgi fowks, or is it Fesgi gowks! [LAUGHS] heh I just invented that yin! Fesgi gowks! Heh can I copyright that! By the way Morag... I'm being serious here. See since I started the Stand Up comedy routines, honestly, I want to copyright the whole of Glasgow, at least the way folk talk, their language, know what I mean, the entire Glasgow language. [SERIOUSLY] It is true, because ye feel like it is yer own, as if it belongs to ye. No kidding. Whenever I come back to Glasgow I'm like how come they are all talking my language! Ower in the States naybody uses it then I come back here and everybody's at it, everybody. I can be cool about some stuff but no everything Know what I mean Morag we're talking yer living, that's my living they're talking

MORAG Yes!

BIG STAR How do they get away with it! So I mean ye've got to copyright it. And then charge them for using it because that is only fair, if it is business

MORAG AMAZED, INTRIGUED]

BIG STAR That's got ye going

MORAG It's a most fascinating idea

BIG STAR I know. Everytime somebody talks they have to pay ye a dividend. It is just fair but so they'll be cool with it, them out there in reality land. [WAVES TO CAMERAS AGAIN, SQUINTS FOR THEM] Even if it is only a one pence, know what I mean

MORAG WRINKLES NOSE] One pence...

BIG STAR It soon mounts up

MORAG THOUGHTFULLY] It could even be two pence

BIG STAR Nay flies on you hen! But ye're right, and people wouldnt mind paying it

MORAG I would, I would hate to pay it

BIG STAR Oh yeh Morag yeh but we're no talking you here we're talking punters, ordinary punters, they dont mind coughing up, a wee bit here and a wee bit there. [TO AUDIENCE] One thing about yous - aye, and I mean it! - yez have all got hearts of gold, hearts of gold. A heart is a wondrous object and yous have all got one. And us in the business, me and like Morag here, we know yez have it, so if we have a wee laugh at ye now and again ye know we dont mean it. And ye know how? [TO MORAG] Eh Morag? Do you know how?

MORAG Me? [EMBARASSED] Oh ah

BIG STAR Take a guess

MORAG Eh...Eh...eh...ah

BIG STAR EXASPERATED. WINKS AT AUDIENCE AND JERKS THUMB IN HER DIRECTION] Know what I mean!

MORAG Oh Jamie I was never good at this sort of thing [SHIVERS]

BIG STAR It's just a straight question

MORAG SHIVERS AGAIN] Oh I know, I just... [SHIVERS]

BIG STAR WAITS PATIENTLY, IRONIC LOOK TO AUDIENCE] Morag I'm just saying because we have got hearts of gold too!

MORAG Excuse me?

BIG STAR Because we've got like hearts of gold as well. It is not just them, yer punter and punteresses that have them, we've got them too.

MORAG SURPRISED] Yes!

BIG STAR So that is why that eh, that eh, if eh.... [SCRATCHES HIS HEAD] What was I talking about?

MORAG Eh... [TRYING TO REMEMBER]

BIG STAR Well if you cannay remember what chance have I!

MORAG GIGGLES

BIG STAR Talk about nincompoops! That's me. But I was always one. I dont forget my background.

MORAG You had a difficult upbringing Jamie?

BIG STAR I certainly did, and I dont forget it, it was the other side of the tracks. If people ask what school I went to – know what I mean, ask me, ask me Morag

MORAG HESITANT

BIG STAR No Morag, just ask me

MORAG LOOKS TO THE WINGS

BIG STAR Dont be so feart hen, it is just an ordinary question. Ask me what school I went to

MORAG LOOKS FROM WINGS BACK TO BIG STAR] What school did you go to?

BIG STAR ADOPTS NORTHERN IRISH ACCENT] Would that be an ecumenical question? [LAUGHS]

MORAG HORRIFIED

BIG STAR POINTING FINGER AT AUDIENCE, STILL LAUGHING, THEN CUTS SUDDENLY) Yous Glesgi punters! True but, yous are all big hearted. The likes of us in the business, me and Morag here, we dont hold you in contempt. Dont think that for one minute. Of course we poke fun at you but that is showbiz, it is the nature of the game. We poke fun at everybody: jews, homosexuals, gypsies, muslims, blacks, browns, terrorists, yellows, invalids, lefties, greens, reds, purples we do not discriminate, anybody that doesn't have access to the best legal minds in the business. [TO MORAG] People have said that to me Morag, Oh ye never attack the rich and powerful

MORAG Do you not?

BIG STAR WINKS] Ye kidding

MORAG THINKS FOR A MINUTE]

BIG STAR But I do get condemned.

MORAG How rotten

BIG STAR Mainly it's jealousy

MORAG Yes Jamie me too

BIG STAR What?

MORAG SURPRISED] Yes

BIG STAR People are jealous of you?

MORAG Yes

BIG STAR How come!

MORAG Oh I dont know.

BIG STAR Is it to do with talent?

MORAG Oh no

BIG STAR Because I mean some folk say that – no about you but other ones, oh she is a talentless bitch, if she hadnay went to the right school and knew the right people and the same for her maw and da, her like parents, then she couldnay have got a job anywhere, It is just terrible what people say.

MORAG They are gripers. Gripers just gripe. I hate gripers

BIG STAR Me too

MORAG It is just so not fair. Because there is no recompence either Jamie, if one wants to

take matters further.

BIG STAR Exactimon, Morag, we're talking cash money here, if I was to attack the wealthy in my stand-up routines, know what I mean, what is going to happen? I'm no sure. And neither's my lawyers. So they say to me, Heh Jimmy, don't attack them, they might attack ye back! Then if they take ye to court and it is all suing and damages this and damages that! [GNAWS FINGERNAILS, AND TO AUDIENCE] Unfair advantage. That is what ye get in the big outside world.

MORAG It is just very very not fair, it is so so not fair

BIG STAR Aye but Morag, listen, if we did not have our critics we would not have wur fans and that is what they all are [POINTS TO AUDIENCE, AND SQUINTS, LOOKING FOR THE CAMERAS].

MORAG Well said

BIG STAR And they are worldwide into the bargain. [TO AUDIENCE] Yez are, ye might no know it, that is the amazing thing about yez, out there in reality land. [SERIOUSLY TO MORAG] Audiences are like worldwide, it is awesome.

MORAG NODS

BIG STAR PAUSE] By the way Morag where's the cameras, between me and you, I've no seen one

MORAG Cameras arent allowed in the theatre, no mobiles, laptops, nothing

BIG STAR JOVIAL] Heh who does the gags around here!

MORAG CHUCKLES

BIG STAR SHRUGS, LOOKS UP THE WAY] I just cannay see any! Where are they? Know what I mean, the telly cameras?

MORAG The telly cameras... Television cameras... [BAFFLED, GLANCES TO THE WINGS, SHAKES HEAD IN RESPONSE TO SOMEBODY OFFSTAGE]

BIG STAR Eh?

MORAG FORCED LAUGHTER

BIG STAR GRINS, LOOKS ABOUT AGAIN

MORAG Oh Jamie, I wanted to ask you, you are such an international star now. Does it not faze you that here in Scotland people are so so very very proud of you, very very very proud

BIG STAR Naw at all, it's a two-way thing, because I'm very proud of them, Scotland is a great wee place.

MORAG Oh yes but come on, come on, it must faze you a little

BIG STAR Well, no really I mean I've worked hard all my life

MORAG But to have made it across international borders!

BIG STAR Aye but what you have to remember Morag, my fans are the wide world over, that is the difference. Let's face it you are a home town girl but see me, not only am I here but I'm there, I'm here and I'm there. Take if I go down to London, but it could be anywhere, Paris or Melbourne Australia, if I like go there, people stop me in the street, I'm talking ordinary regular persons, punterrios

MORAG You mean the public?

BIG STAR Correcto

MORAG But Jamie that is precisely what I am saying: you have made it into the International arena and that is what makes you the star that you are. That is what gives us such immense pride here in your own home town of Scotland. Not only once but twice. You were a rock star, fully fledged rock star, and now you have moved into Stand-Up

BIG STAR NODS] I'm doing a bit of singing too

MORAG Of course you are, sorreee. But the point I'm making Jamie, you are storming the entire world!

BIG STAR Thank you Morag.

MORAG Oh but you are.

BIG STAR Ye're very gracious

MORAG But let me ask you an awkward question, have you finished with rock music for good?

BIG Star Oh no. No. I'll always be a rock star like that's my real bag and I'll never ever be disloyal to true rock concepts. I was aye a rebel, even as a boy, rock music was my true home. But time doesnt standstill Morag. Ye have to go where the fans take ye. Plus yer agent and yer manager, and yer record label and all that, ye get yer career advisors, know what I mean, us in the business. And then if ye are like a rock rebel man ye just have to take it, ye take yer advice and ye just like whatever, move into politics and they charity gig things or else stay away or whatever [SHRUGS] But I'm cool with all that. Life is a tricky gig Morag, ye put in yer shift and then what happens? [SHIVERS] Nobody knows

MORAG ALSO SHIVERS

BIG STAR Then if people dont want yer songs and ye give them like gags instead, and then if they laugh so that's you. That was it with me, One minute I was doing a rock gig, the next it was a Stand Up routine at the Haymarket Club, then a guest spot on the Troy Kettle show on KDCR television. [LOOKS TO MORAG TO SEE THE EFFECT THIS HAS ON HER]

MORAH FERVENT NODDING OF THE HEAD

BIG STAR OUT THE SIDE OF THE MOUTH] The Troy Kettle show, know what I mean...

MORAG VAGUE NOD

BIG STAR And Troy liked the act. He telt me after as well, Oh I liked yer act he says.

MORAG That was so nice

BIG STAR Yeh, yeh. So that was me, and I just want to do the gags the same as actual music. *Life Is An Insane Bowl of Cherries*. That was my first ever gag, it came from a song I wrote

MORAG I am so so envious of creative people and you are so very very creative

BIG STAR SHRUGS

MORAG Oh but you are

BIG STAR MODEST GLANCE TO THE AUDIENCE, THEN SQUINTS FOR CAMERAS] Thanks Morag. The thing is about writing jokes, or gags, as us in the business call it, like if ye write an awesome gag. Oh I wrote an awesome gag the other night. Ye dont say Oh I wrote a good joke

MORAG Oh!

BIG STAR I just write them down and practise saying them

MORAG JOKING] In the mirror?

BIG STAR PAUSE. FROWNS, BAFFLED] Where else?

MORAG Goodness!

BIG STAR ADOPTS MAE WEST VOICE] Goodness had nothing to do with it! [WINKS AT HER] Aye but seriously dear, if ye cannay laugh at yer own gags who else is going to?

MORAG THOUGHTFULLY] Yes...

BIG STAR I could always laugh at my own gags, even as a boy.

MORAG It must be an advantage?

BIG STAR Sure. Ye just learn it. I learned how to write songs and now I've switched to jokes – gags I should say – and I am cool with that because just like the audience man if that is what they want then that is what they get, we are just really servants to our fans. Their wishes are our desires. So just like whatever, know what I mean Morag, that is what I am, a servant to the people. [SHRUGS] So then if they like treat ye like one... [PAUSE. SLOW STARE AT THE AUDIENCE, THEN GLARES] Cheeky bastirts, that is what I dont like, who the blooming hell do they think they are, treating ye like a servant!

MORAG CLEARS THROAT, WORRIED GLANCE TO WINGS

BIG STAR Sorry pet, the old watershed cut-off point. [SQUINTS FOR CAMERAS] So aye, I

just go and write a gag about ordinary experiences and just like life, know what I mean, so if it is about airport security cops or else like whatever, air stewards and stewardesses, pilots, the Balmoral highland games – I can write about anything! I don't care. Culture is a broad church, or chapel. The ordinary man-in-the-street, bag handlers and cab drivers, I meet them all. Caddies, ghillies and rickshaw drivers. That's one thing about discrimination for us, us in the business, we couldna give a [PAUSE] - give two hoots. [WINKS AT MORAG]

MORAG; KNOWING SMILE

BIG STAR: I nearly said the eff word there, can ye say eff word? or is it the letter that comes after e word

MORAG BRIGHTLY] Sorree!

BIG STAR Naw but what I'm saying Morag, if somebody's good enough to pour ye a drink, check in yer luggage or drive yer taxi, ye urnay going to turn round and like eh, know what I mean? You're the same Morag, you are exactly the same. [EARNESTLY TO AUDIENCE] She is ladies and gentlemen. Dont think she isnt because she is.

MORAG PUZZLED LOOK TO BIG STAR

BIG STAR She might no seem like one of us but deep down she is. The thing about Morag, she isnay uppity, and what's the one thing we all share here in bonny Scotland -we urnay uppity

MORAG MOST PUZZLED

BIG STAR DOES NOT NOTICE] She's just a wee Scotch lassie.

MORAG FROWNING AT HIM, THEN GAZES AT THE AUDIENCE, A BIT DISCONCERTED

BIG STAR So don't discriminate! If ye want to discriminate anybody then don't discriminate Morag here because Morag is one of us. [GESTURES AT HER WITH BOTH HANDS NOW IN THE PISTOL STYLE] Naw but ye are hen. [STRUTS ABOUT] Look at me maw, king of the heap. [SQUINTING FOR CAMERAS] Okay now, where was I?

MORAG AMUSED SIGH] In the airport

BIG STAR WINKS] Nay wonder you're sitting in that chair hen!

MORAG APPEALS TO AUDIENCE] Is nothing sacred?

BIG STAR You better believe it. No when I'm about. But seriously folks, do you ever notice how so many funny gags take place at the airport? It can be going to the airport, at the security controls, on the plane, up in the sky – the mile high club missus know what I'm talking about. [CALLS] Oh steward, would ye throw a blanket over me I just want a quick [ROLLS EYES SUGGESTIVELY] doze.

Gags about airports and airoplanes. Did you ever notice that? It's just cause us in the business, if ye are in the business. I mean I don't want to show off or nothing but we do have to travel a lot [GLANCES AT MORAG] Sure we do?

MORAG PREENS] I suppose we do rather

BIG STAR TO AUDIENCE] And it's damn hard work I can tell you

MORAG CONFIDES TO AUDIENCE] It's true, I find it so so tiring

BIG STAR But it's the nature of the gig, so who's griping, no me anyway, ye have your gig and ye do it. Mind you ye usually get paid cash money for doing it. Unlike tonight! [CHEEKY LOOK TO MORAG]

MORAG AMUSED] Incurrigible!

BIG STAR There she goes again! [WINKS] Seriously but a wee spot of charity never hurt naybody, no if it's for the like Corporation, the auld Beeb. Where's my red nose. [SQUINTS FOR THE CAMERAS]

MORAG BAFFLED, THEN CHUCKLES

BIG STAR But I'm being honest, one doesnt mind dropping the poor a couple of bob now and again eh. Even better if it is something we can all join in. I believe in that. Teamwork. So when I heard about the Scottish Parliament's appeal for that All-Party United Front campaign, all just the whole of Scotland hen know what I mean, if yer hometown asks ye ye have to come Morag, that extension gig?

MORAG Oh for the Oath of Allegiance?

BIG STAR Oath of Ell eee genz. Exactimon. We want it for all walks of life here in bonny Scotland, no just the Scottish Parliament, we want everybody to swear the Oath of Allegiance, the weans in school and whatever, we are all there to serve Morag and we shouldnay forget it and the same applies to our children and children's children so that's how we want to sign up, for the sake of wur descendants, if we're lucky enough to have any, so that when they get born they dont have to worry, they're already sworn in, know what I mean, they'll no have to worry about exclusions and all that kind of stuff, if they want to serve the Royals they can just go and do it, they dont have to like worry about it, no if it's like an Oath and they've sworn to do it.

MORAG It is a splendid project, quite super really

BIG STAR Aye but I wouldnay take it too far, know what I mean that one the Labour Party's trying to get started for the Restumuration of the Royal Houses of Europe – splutter splutter splutter, split split restuhmuration, spit spit spit

MORAG It is rather a mouthful

BIG STAR I beg yer pardon Morag. But it's one of these causes, ye urni quite sure. Ye hear it and ye go, What's that all about, Restoration of the Royal Houses of Europe. Restoration, know what I mean, restoration, are they talking baldy heids! [TAKES OFF HIS BASEBALL CAP] Restoration, that's what I always think it means. Nobody knows, till then ye think Royal Houses of Europe, that must be like the old Monarchy or something, who doesnay like the Monarchy, everybody, so ye just like go, aye, count me in. That is if ye get asked to do the gig

MORAG HUFFY] Hm

BIG STAR Not everybody gets asked

MORAG POUTS

BIG STAR See it was just I met this dude jogging down Santa Monica beach - who shall remain anonymous [ARCHLY] him and his dug! And he asks if I was doing it. If I was doing it! And I hadnay even heard about it!

MORAG What a shocker!

BIG STAR Oh everybody is doing it, he says, and I mean everybody. Oh does that include yer frigging dug I says! [PAUSE] Sorry Morag. Naw but know what I mean? [OFFENDED] They've no asked me. I says it to Mister Jog. Oh you've no been asked, he says, is that so, he says, maybe yer invite's in the post. And off he goes. [GLANCES AT MORAG] Jogging basirt. Ye know who I'm talking about, Santa Monica...

MORAG LOOKS TO WINGS, WORRIED

BIG STAR Naybody even asked me!

MORAG Oh but they didnt ask me either!

BIG STAR Aye but Morag you arent a like rock star

MORAG HUFFY

BIG STAR Sorry, but ye urnay

MORAG [POUTS]

BIG STAR Ye're just a like presenter

MORAG I could have compared the damn thing. Oh but I dont care anyway. I just dont care. These benefit charity events are just so –

BIG STAR Uncool?

MORAG [SHIVERS]

BIG STAR Uncool...

MORAG Uncool [SHIVERS

BIG STAR You like that word eh!

MORAG [SHIVERS] Oh yes

BIG STAR At least this one isnt for starving children in the backs of beyond

MORAG Oh God, I hate starving children

BIG STAR Absolutely. [SHUDDERS] Wee wizened faces. Gies ye the frigging creeps!

Pardon the french. I cannay think of anything worse

MORAG Neither can I. [LOOKS TO AUDIENCE] It makes one weep. In this day and age!

BIG STAR To me it is the worst.

MORAG I cannot think of anything worse. [SHUDDERS]

BIG STAR GRINS] Or worser! [FROWNS AT AUDIENCE] All skin and bone too, I blame the parents, how come they don't feed them up? When we were wee we got feeded up. Fed up I should say. My maw done it. A big bowel of auld Scotch broth, a couple of hambones and a dash of flank mutton. That isnay hard to find? Flank mutton. Just ask at yer local butcher, they have it there, stacks of it all hanging up and just waiting. In my day and age yer maw done that.

MORAG Oh but you're talking parental responsibility now Jamie. That is so not fashionable

BIG STAR I don't care if it isnay like fashionable, no if it's the truth. There's the truth and there's the fashion. [POINTING LEFT THEN RIGHT] One's over there and one's over there

MORAG That is so so very true

BIG STAR It's the old Scottish thing, if a cause is dear to yer heart then it is dear to yer heart. If ye're forrit ye're no agin it,

MORAG Oh I know that one.

BIG STAR My grannie swore by it. It was a politics thing. She was a politics kind of woman, God rest her

MORAG She's passed away?

BIG STAR She has Morag, aye, my maw's maw..

MORAG What a shame

BIG STAR Och I'm cool with it now.

MORAG SHAKES HEAD SADLY] Your maawwww [HAS DIFFICULTY
PRONOUNCING THE WORD

BIG STAR IRONIC PATIENCE] Maw Morag maw [RAISES EYEBROWS TO
AUDIENCE]. we're talking mammies here. No my actual maw, she hasnae passed away. No
yet anyway! I better phone hame eh! Ha ha ha.

MORAG LAUGHS

BIG STAR Know what I mean pet, everything's politics. Even Him up there. [POINTS TO
CEILING] Politics politics politics, ye get sick of it. That's how us in the business, we're like so
supportive of this Oath of Allegiance campaign, it's an All-Party United Front thing for God and
the Royal Family, ye cannae get much closer. And it hasnt got nothing to do with poilitic.

MORAG APPLAUDS] Bravo

BIG STAR Some things have got nothing to do with politics, no if it is like religion or
whatever, yer monarchy and yer Scottish people, if it's for all eternity and it's done on behalf of
us and all wur children, and wur children's children, yer weans' weans. What we're saying is us
we should be allowed to do it ourself, We don't want the politicians doing it for us, The Scottish
people should be allowed to walk into that Hollywood house and demonstrate their own eternal
loyalty. I mean if it isnae too much to ask. So fingers crossed the powers-that-be will grant us
our desire – and know something Morag?

MORAG DISTRACTED BY SOMETHING IN THE WINGS

BIG STAR Eh Morag?

MORAG DISTRACTED] What's that?

BIG STAR What word sounds like loyalty?

MORAG PAUSE] Royalty?

BIG STAR WINKS] Correcto. So fingers crossed.

MORAG Oh yes Jamie, fingers crossed. [GLANCES TO THE WINGS, NODS TO PEOPLE THERE]

BIG STAR UNCERTAIN GLANCE TO WINGS] Sure thing. You, me and everybody, all as one, united here we go. What is politics for? is it for anything? Why did the chicken cross the road! Ha ha ha. [BUT HE IS UNCOMFORTABLE , HESITATES, LOOKING TO THE WINGS, AS IF SOMEONE IS SIGNALLING TO HIM] Who me?

MORAG SIGNALLING TO HIM

BIG STAR WHISPERS TO HER] Me?

MORAG URGENT SIGNAL]

BIG STAR LOOKS FROM MORAG TO WINGS, BAFFLED What's everybody signalling about? Am I finished already?

MORAG WHISPERS] You have to sing!

BIG STAR Oh for God sake aye! Imagine forgetting that. (SMILES TO MORAG,

SEARCHING POCKETS) Wait a minute, I have forgot it [ANOTHER SEARCH OF HIS POCKETS] Aw for christ sake I must have left it in the taxi, my music Morag

MORAG PATRONISING] Oh dont worry, I'm sure the band will pick it up

BIG STAR SARCASTIC] Ha ha. [CALLS TO THE BAND] Nothing against you boys and nay disrespect intended. [PAUSE, THEN GLARES BEHIND, AS HE GETS INTO POSITION TO BEGIN SINGING]

MORAG POINTS TO HER WRISTWATCH

BIG STAR HUFFY] I'm no singing with them making all these faces at me, sarcastic bastards.

MORAG Oh they're only having a laugh

BIG STAR No at me they're no. They dont even know what I'm going to sing! That's how pretentious they are. It would be a different story if I was Frank Sinatra.

MORAG He's their hero

BIG STAR I know, Mister Cool, it is the same wide world over [NOW HE BENDS TO BEHIND A CHAIR WHERE THERE IS A BOX. GLANCES AT MORAG] How would it be if I was Sinatra!

MORAG CHUCKLES

BIG STAR Naw, how would I be? Straight question. Dead as a dodo! Straight answer. Ha ha. [GIVES MORAG A WINK AND FLINGS HER THE BASEBALL CAP, HUMS THE STRIPPER' TUNE AND FLINGS HER HIS JACKET]

Do do do,

dih do do do,
do do do,
dih do do do

[TURNING HIS BACK TO THE AUDIENCE, BENDS TO BOX, STILL HUMMING TUNE AND WIGGLING BUM, HE PULLS ON A BOW-TIE, THEN A DINNER JACKET, FACES THE AUDIENCE AND GIVES A SWAGGER OF THE SHOULDERS, THEN RETURNS INTO THE BOX, AND DONS THE *PEICE DE RESISTANCE*, A FRANK SINATRA WIG. NOW HE TURNS TO BAND AND SHOUTS AT THEM] Who's laughing now ya cheeky bastirts? Eh, I'll come ower there and ram that frigging clarinet - [TO MORAG] Sorry pet [WINKS TO AUDIENCE] Old Blue Eyes lives! [STRUTS TO THE AUDIENCE, WAGGLING THE SHOULDERS] And I've only one thing to say to that so-called band... [LAUNCHES INTO SONG]

Now this could only happen
to a guy like me
and only happen, in a town like this
and may I say to each and every one of you
before I blow each one of you a kiss, this, is
my kind of town auld Glasgow is

BIG STAR WILL SING THIS SONG RIGHT TO THE END, WORDS ALTERED OR WHATEVER.

MORAG LEADS THE APPLAUSE FROM HER SEAT AT THE TABLE, CALLS] Bravo
bravo

BIG STAR BRINGS THE APPLAUSE TO A CLOSE IN AN ASSURED MANNER; SPEAKS IN MID-ATLANTIC ENGLISH)] Thank you ladies and gentlemen, you are so very gracioust. I want now to sing another of your all time favourites, one that I've taken from my brand new album entitled *Life is an Insane Bowl of Cherries* which I hope you'll appreciate very very much and perhaps go out and purchase. Nothing gives us in the business more pleasure than

knowing that you the ordinary people will go out and pay a few pounds for our albums, it's a great privilege indeed and makes us just so so humble, so very very very humble. Okay now...
[PREPARES TO SING, CLICKS THUMBS ETC. THEN NOTICES MORAG

MORAG BECKONS HIM TO COME OVER TO THE TABLE AND CHAIR.

BIG STAR MISUNDERSTANDS, GIVES HER A WAVE] Thank you, very generous.
[ONCE AGAIN PREPARES TO SING.

MORAG RISES FROM HER CHAIR, COMES TOWARDS HIM, STILL APPLAUDING,
KEEPS ON TOWARDS HIM

BIG STAR IRONIC LOOK TO AUDIENCE, INDICATES MORAG] Uno momento ladles
and jellypoos, it's our very own Morag! Big hand for Morag! [APPLAUDS BRIEFLY,
WINKS TO AUDIENCE] It looks like a duet

MORAG But that was just so super! [TO AUDIENCE] Wasnt he wonderful! [APPLAUDS
AGAIN]

BIG STAR ASIDE] I haven't done the second song yet,

MORAG ASIDE] No need

BIG STAR Ye sure? What will I tell a gag?

MORAG Och no

BIG STAR How no?

MORAG GIVES HIM A BRAVE SMILE, KISSES MID AIR] Muhhh!

BIG STAR GIVES HER A LOUD SMACK OF A KISS ON THE CHEEK] Muhhh!

MORAG USHERS HIM TO THE CHAIR. AS HE SITS SHE TURNS TO AUDIENCE TO LEAD APPLAUSE] Wasnt that just so so wonderful!

BIG STAR TAKES THE APPLAUSE, BOWS, AND ASIDE] I think they like me! (TURNS BACK TO AUDIENCE) Thank you peepell.

BIG STAR CONFIDENTLY] Was that okay then?

MORAG You were simply marvellous

BIG STAR Thanks.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP, SLOWLY

MORAG: WITH GLASSES ON, READING HER NOTES.

BIG STAR WEARS HIS ORDINARY JACKET, BASEBALL CAP ETC., PICKING AT HIS FINGERNAILS, DOING EXERCISE MOVEMENTS WITH HIS SHOULDERS AND HIS JAWS

VOICE OFF CALLS] Lights!!

BIG STAR SNAPS TO ATTENTION, ENTERS RELAXED REBEL POSTURE

MORAG GESTURES FRANTICALLY TO HIM

BIG STAR Oh aye [JUMPS FROM CHAIR, STRIDES OFFSTAGE

MORAG TAKES OFF SPECS., CALLS TO WINGS] Sorreee! [SMILES TO
AUDIENCE] Earlier we heard a track from his latest album, a heartening mixture of raunchy
ballads and splendid one-line jokes.

BIG STAR FROM OFFSTAGE, CALLS] Gags Morag gags, ye dont call it jokes

MORAG TO AUDIENCE] Now meet him again, on this flying visit home to see his
[REREADS HER PROMPT CARD] ain fowk [SQUINTS AND REPEATS IT] *ain fowks*.
Mister Jamiee Riddle!!!

THE BAND INTRODUCTION.

MORAG APPLAUDS

BIG STAR: JUMPS OUT FROM THE WINGS AND POGOS ONTO STAGE, POGOS
ROUND THE TABLE FURIOUSLY STRUMMING AN AIR GUITAR. HE POGOS
ROUNDBOUT MORAG WHO IS NERVOUS BUT ATTEMPTS TO BE JOLLY. HE STOPS
AND PECKS HER ON THE CHEEK

BIG STAR Muh muh muh

MORAGE: RUBS CHEEK) Super super super

BIG STAR Morag! [HAND EXTENDED TO SHAKE

THEY SHAKE HANDS

MORAG So kind of you to join us once again!

BIG STAR Yeh, just arrived in from Winsuhh, Winsuhh, yeh, in through the Glasgow terminal.

MORAG HOLDS UP HAND] Don't go through that again!

BIG STAR Boom boom! [GESTURES AT HER WITH BOTH HANDS, IN THE PISTOL STYLE] Nay flies on you hen!

MORAG BECKONS HIM TO SIT.

BIG STAR SITS, MAKES A MEAL OF IT, SPLAYING HIS LEGS, CROSSING AND RE-CROSSING

MORAG CHUCKLES

BIG STAR I never know where to put them, banes of my existence

MORAG Ha ha

BIG STAR The auld banes and bones

MORAG Oh. [BAFFLED]

BIG STAR That's a Scotch pun Morag, it's off the new album

MORAG Oh. Sorreee! But in reality Jamie, you've recently returned from the backs of beyond

BIG STAR That's right pet, Brazil

MORAG Brazil!

BIG STAR Yeh

MORAG Doing a benefit gig for the rainforests?

BIG STAR Indeed we were, Global warming had a lot to do with it [RELISHING THE SOUND] Global warming...

MORAG Oh!

BIG STAR It's a kind of up-to-date thing

MORAG And now en route to where?

BIG STAR SNIFFS, SHRUGS, HUGE SMUG SMILE] Oh you want me to say it?

MORAG Yes!

BIG STAR SHRUGS, EXAGGERATED DEPREICATION] We're on route to the Annual Shindig

MORAG: TO AUDIENCE) When Jamie refers to Annual Shindig I bet none of you know what he's referring to!

BIG STAR SMUGLY] The Winsuhh great park Royal Command.

MORAG TO AUDIENCE] Isn't he just wonderful! Oh Jamie you must be so proud

BIG STAR: Well ye dont like to boast.

MORAG Oh that is so sweet

BIG STAR SHRUGS TO AUDIENCE] Winsuhh Kessil and aw that, we're all like supposed to be impressed! But yous know me and yous urnay fooled. I'm the same guy as ever I was.

MORAG: Dare I say it Jimmy but certain members of the Royal Family are hugely super fans of yours

BIG STAR: Ye could say that aye, but I'd prefer if ye didnay. (GUFFAWS) Seriously but, us in the business, we think it's best not to mention certain parties by name (WINKS) A suitable nom de plume, know? The one we use among ourselves, with all due respect, we call them Our Foremost Family of Landed Multibillionaires.

MORAG: Super

BIG STAR: WINKS) So just drop the Royal stuff eh? Ye dont like to be seen namedropping, no among yer ain fowk. (TO AUDIENCE) Yous know what I'm talking about sure ye dae! (POINTS AT MORAG FOR AUDIENCE'S BENEFIT) Who's yer friend eh! Seriously but folks, ever notice when you're getting interviewed on a chat show how your so-called host or hostess enjoys asking ye a trip questions? Know what I mean! I hate trip questions. [TO MORAG] A true story, right, there I am on the Troy Kettle whatsit

MORAG BAFFLED

BIG STAR PAUSE] Do ye no get it here? The Troy Kettle thing? It's a major talkshow, I'm talking Stateside -

MORAG: LOUD WHISPER TO AUDIENCE] When Jamie says Stateside he means America!

BIG STAR: The old U.S OF A. You're embarassing me now because deep down I've never left this place as far as my like heart is concerned, and that includes my soul. (TO AUDIENCE) My soul is in my heart. I'm a heart and soul kind of dude. But no matter how far I travel no matter how far I roam, yous are still my ain fowk, and I would cross the wide seas o'er to get to yous all, dont worry about that, I'm speaking about aw yous oot there in reality land! [WAVING TO NONEXISTENT CAMERAS. MAKES FACE TO MORAG, AND WHISPERS] I cannay see they cameras anywhere!

MORAG Really? [BAFFLED]

BIG STAR TO AUDIENCE] I would but! The wide seas o'er. .Just to get to auld Glesgi toon!

MORAG Bravo

BIG STAR But Glasgow's cool nowadays anyway Morag

MORAG SHIVERS] Yes!

BIG STAR And I've walked about it myself, so never let it be said.

MORAG But now that you're here, now that you've made the trip home

BIG STAR Sure Morag, like I was saying in the green room at the break there, it just happenes to coincide with two things: 1) the release of my new album

MORAG BRIGHTLY] *Life is an Insane Bowl of Cherries?*

BIG STAR That's right, and number 2 [WINKS) it just happens to coincide, nudge nudge, etcetera etcetera, it just happens to coincide with a like social gathering given by a nom-de-

plume pair of like landed newly-weds (TAPS HIS NOSE) a nom-de-plume pair of landed newly-weds, know what I'm saying

MORAG: ASTONISHED DELIGHT) You've been invited to that?

BIG STAR: WINKS AT HER

MORAG: Oooohhh!

BIG STAR: WINKS TO AUDIENCE) A certain Family of Landed Multibillionaires, you know the deal, the wee princes, great boys so they are, they have this pad in like uptown Manhattan, upper westside if ye must know. Oh great boys, great boys. So sincere. I mean they are real rebels.

MORAG: I so so totally agree with you!

BIG STAR: And it's no a cheap shot to say so. [STERNLY) I dont care what anybody says. In fact I'll fight the bastards

MORAG: Oh me too!

BIG STAR: ANGRY GLARE AT AUDIENCE THEN AT MORAG) Real rebels, the princes, and not only that, they are ideal persons, nayn of your jumped down upstarts, or jumped up downstarts, know what I mean, frae under the auld sterrcase Morag a lot of them nooadays - I have to confess it right here on your programme

MORAG PUZZLED

BIG STAR WINKS AT HER, SQUINTS FOR THE CAMERAS] Some of the celebrities you have on here, I've seen them, I'll confess to you right now

MORAG: SHIVERS]

BIG STAR Honest to God Morag [WAGGING HIS FINGER] I will, I will confess it, and I will name names

MORAG SHIVERS] I so love confessions. [SHIVERS]

BIG STAR: HOLDS RIGHT HAND UP] And I'm gony make my ain oath too, so you better believe it. It is to the Man up there, that almighty Dude in the sky, I swear, if He is watching [TO CEILING, KEEPS RIGHT HAND UP] I swear I have never seen, so help me, as I so take my oath, right here on this very programme, I swear by all that is so just holy

MORAG Goodness [CHECKS HER NOTES]

BIG STAR GAZING AT CEILING] And I will say this [RIGHT HAND UP] So help me, what is wrong with people having money? And right hand up, as sure as if a bolt of lighting is to strike away my mortal coil. What is so wrong with riches!

MORAG AMAZEMENT] Nothing at all

BIG STAR Exactimon. But people do think that Morag, ye could swear an oath till ye were blue in the face and they would still think it, that's gripers for ye

MORAG: Yes and not only griper.s We get emails to that effect, there are people in the world of theatre who are firmly convinced it is wrong and nasty

BIG STAR: Absalootely Morag, couldnay have said it better myself, as you is my witness. [REVERENTLY TO THE CEILING] And you as well Sir if you are looking down... [NOW POINTS AT AUDIENCE] And so's them out there Morag, they're my witness tae, the people, cause they know me and I know them. It's the exact same as God because so does He, He knows me

MORAG STARING AT HIM

BIG STAR He knows you tae!

MORAG: ASTONISHED] Me?

BIG STAR: Of course. He knows us all, every last one of us, inside and outside

MORAG: ASTONISHED] Goodness

BIG STAR: He's the Man. They know that, them out there in reality land (TO AUDIENCE)
Eh, sure yous dae? Eh, with yer wee Sunday papers and yer wee thingwy in Edinburgh, yer
Parliament, you know what side yer totti scone's buttered. Eh no? That right! [WAVES TO
AUDIENCE, THEN TO MORAG] See. They know me, and they trust me, even if they don't
like what they hear they know it isnay me, because they know who I am, even if I don't know
myself. And let's face it we don't always know. We are but imperfect beings remember, we are
not of the one true power, only Him up there, yer Man, the Big Dude in the sky, if He gives ye
the faith, and He like gives it to me, He gives it to all of us, it doesnay matter, starving children
or crowned heads of Europe. And that is what we fight for: Justice, justice for one, justice for all.
Justice is cool Morag ye've heard the auld saying.

MORAG: SHIVERS] Oh Jamie I'm so in complete agreement. We cannot split justice. If we
have it for one we have it for all. Even the gripers and the lefty whingers

BIG STAR I hate them, lefty whingers

MORAG SIGHS] Yes but Jamie they are out there

BIG STAR MENACING STARE AT AUDIENCE

MORAG GLANCES AT NOTES] Some argue that these personal affiliations to the Royals put you at odds with [READS PROMPT CARD] your *eye an fowowk* [FROWNS TO WINGS AND REPEATS] *eye an fowowk?*

VOICE OFF CALLS Ain fowk

MORAG CALLS] Sorreee

BIG STAR: You aye get stuck at that one Morag. [HUFFY] Just like with Jimmy, my name's no Jamie

MORAG Pardon?

BIG STAR My name's Jimmy Morag, no Jamie, Jimmy. Can ye say it? Jimmy, Jimmy Jimmy Jimmy, say it!

MORAG J j j jamie

BIG STAR Jimmy

MORAG Jjjamie.

BIG STAR EXASPERATED

MORAG Oh God I've never been able to say it properly, never

BIG STAR Naybody at the BBC can ever say the frigging name.

MORAG CHUCKLES] Oh but this isnt the BBC

BIG STAR Is it no? I thought it was [LOOKS FOR CAMERAS] Doesnay matter anyway, it's

all didgie nowadays.

MORAG BEMUSED CHUCKLE

BIG STAR TO AUDIENCE] Funny that with the upper classes but eh! The auld bourgeswee and aw that, ye never hear a Jimmy, it's always a Jamie, Jamie this and Jamie that. What is Jimmy uncool or something? [TO MORAG] is that it?

MORAG SHIVERS

BIG STAR Eh? Is Jimmy no cool?

MORAG Oooohhh.

BIG STAR Eh?

MORAG EXCITED] Oh no, Jamie is so so very cool

BIG STAR I didnay say Jamie I said Jimmy.

MORAG Sorreee

BIG STAR BAFFLED. GESTURES AT HER TO AUDIENCE] Listen to the lassie! Right on Morag. So okay, we were talking about my ayn fowk. Naw I'll be serious about it, I kid you not, I'm fine with my ayn fowk. People say they're all socialists here and so because of that, somebody like the wee princes and aw that, or whatever, new found Christians, if it is yer affiliations or even whoever, if it is whoever, well ye know, who cares what anybody like says [GLANCES AT MORAG]

MORAG HESITANT NOD

BIG STAR If it is the Good Book, if that is what we're talking about. I'm cool with that. I've got to say that. And anyway, everybody's a socialist nowadays. Rock star or no rock star, chefs and cooks, teevee presenters, cartoon characters like yersel

MORAG SLIGHTLY PEEVED] I'm not a cartoon character

BIG STAR Oh I know ye're no. [TO AUDIENCE] But do them out there? Sometimes ye wonder. But even if ye are, it doesnay matter, not one iota. No just in this country either. If ye ask me people are socialists the whole world over. Now take the Brazilian rainforests

MORAG: PUZZLED SMILE) They are socialist?

BIG STAR: Pardon? I'm talking about like politics Morag.

MORAG: Oh, sorree

BIG STAR: Rainforests are just like piles of trees, granted they are mankind's saviour

MORAG SERIOUSLY] Of course

BIG STAR What I'm saying, all these lunatic fringes that criticise the fabulous rich, they're just jealous! (TO AUDIENCE) Sure the lunatic fringe is just jealous? (TO MORAG) They know the score, yer regular punter. When ye make a few quid there's ey folk wanting to take it off ye.

MORAG: Oh yes, indeed

BIG STAR: You know the ones I'm talking about

MORAG: Those who dont have money?

BIG STAR: Pardon? [PUZZLED] I'm talking about how come I moved to foreign pastures

Morag, that's what I'm like talking about, me and the band, before I chucked the rock and roll, when we were doing good business. That frigging taxman – excuse the french – he started like ripping us off. Know what I mean, that is not cool. I know what is cool and what is not cool. And that is not cool. People try to tell ye, politicians and aw that, oh tax is cool. I meet them all the time. The Winsuhhh great park gig, they'll all be there. That is what they say to ye, Oh you're a musico and I'm a politico but let me tell ye tax is cool. [FROWNS] I don't think tax is cool at all

MORAG: SHIVERS

BIG STAR PAUSES TO LOOK AT HER

MORAG SHIVERS, PUTS HER HAND TO HER MOUTH, CHUCKLES.

BIG STAR SMILES] Tell me

MORAG DARINGLY] Oh Jamie, you know what is really cool?

BIG STAR SMILES] What?

MORAG SHIVERS] The very word itself [TO THE AUDIENCE] I was never cool, never, not as a child and not as a girl, never, never never. It can be so so very difficult to be cool if you are female and so so so ever more difficult if your parents are wealthy. Until then I said it

BIG STAR BAFFLED

MORAG I just said the word. Cool. Cool. [SHIVERS]

BIG STAR STILL BAFFLED] Right...right...

MORAG Oh cool, cool. If one says it, then you are it. So then I was cool. Oh Jamie it is just like so cool to be talking with you this evening

BIG STAR Thanks hen, but I've got to say it, and dont take this the wrong way

MORAG PETTED LIP] Oh what?

BIG STAR Naw dont worry it is just eh ye know like cool? Like the most cool word? It isnay cool [CHUCKLES] It is uncool, the most cool word in the whole whole dictionary is uncool, uncool is just awesome, just so totally awesome.

MORAG PAUSE] Yes...!

BIG STAR Anyway pet I'm talking about tax money. Ye have to laugh at people. Oh, they say, it's politics. Oh naw it isnay, that is what I say, it is money, it is my money and it is your money, and if it is my money then lea it alane

MORAG I completely agree with you. Public coffers. Even the phrase

BIG STAR I know, coffers. Ye think of coffins. Public coffins. Put the public in the coffins, no the money, especially if it is mine. Oh naw, California here I come.

MORAG I so agree. It such a beastly way to treat people, If they want to make big changes surely they can get some money of their own, I see them around the rehearsal spaces and on the outside pavement. I said as much to mummy and to Charlie, the director here. Surely if they want to make big changes in society, and I am in favour of that, we all are, surely there are other sources? Mummy reminded me about dad, he said the world was full of money and she believed him and do you know - so do I, Dad never lied.

BIG STAR Neither did mine [ANGRILY] And I'll kill anybody that says different. Excuse me Morag family matters get to me. I've got family. Right here in Glasgow.

MORAG I loved my father and I miss him dreadfully

BIG STAR Aw I'm sorry to hear it

MORAG He passed away

BIG STAR Aw dear pet that's terrible. [APPLAUDS HER BRIEFLY. THEN TO AUDIENCE] A big hand for Morag's dad! [APPLAUDS]

MORAG Thank you

BIG STAR Mind you but Big Changes in society, I'm in favour of that tae. We all are, us in the business. (TO AUDIENCE) Sure that's how we vote? We all want Big Changes! that's how we follow in our father's footsteps, cause he fought and died, he fought and died so we could get it, and his daddy before him, and the one before that as well, they all fought and died, all our daddies, the wide world over, so we could get the vote, well now we've got it and if ye're like Morag and her dad, know what I mean, it is just so not fair. And it is all how we've landed, and if we're gentry we're gentry. It's all down to yer daddy. And yer mammys, nay sexism here!

MORAG APPLAUDS] Bravo!

BIG STAR POINTS TO AUDIENCE) Yer regular punter. know what I mean Morag, that's wur audience

MORAG: SURPRISED] You're right. It is.

BIG STAR: BENIGN SMILE] Listen but I thought this was a like chat show, all this serious stuff, know what I mean, it's beginning to sound like Panabloodyrama! (GUFFAWS) Can I say bloody by the way!

MORAG: Ha ha! (SQUINTS AT HER NOTES FOR GUIDANCE)

BIG STAR Ye see pet - do you mind me calling ye pet?

MORAG: TOUCHES HER HAIR AND NECKLINE] Oh please

BIG STAR: Thanks oh so. But the people here in Glesgi, they're no wanting to hear about politics, they're wanting a sing song, a good night out, a bit of this and a bit of that, a wee laugh. That's how the likes of my new album, *Life is an Insane Bowl of Cherries*, it will do well here, we're confident of that. The thing is ye see I want to please the punters, that's how I jined the rock band in the first place.

MORAG Yes

BIG STAR That's what it's all about, pleasing the punters. If ye cannay please the punters ye're as well chucking it aw the gether. (TO AUDIENCE) Int that right? an auld fashioned sing-song, yez urni wanting to hear about stupit auld politics. (TO MORAG, IMMEDIATELY SERIOUS) Though mind you pet there was a history of the Red Clydeside in Scotland. I'm the first to admit that. Ye see it's historical, it's all out of the past, which I know for a fact because of my auld granda .

MORAG Graandaaa

BIG STAR Granda Morag aye, he like was an old dude when he was alive and so was his father before him and then his too and it was history, everything, every last thing. That is what some folk forget, history is history, and I'm cool with that.

MORAG: I'm rather keen on history

BIG STAR: Me too, [NODS EMPHTAICALLY].

MORAG GLANCES AT HIM

BIG STAR SPREADS HIS LEGS AND FOLD HIS ARMS] Want me to expand?

MORAG: I beg your pardon?

BIG STAR: Naw sorry, what I mean...

MORAG: LAUGHS] Ooohhh [SHE HAS CAUGHT HIM OUT, SHE POINTS AT HIM AND ROCKS ON HER SEAT, ALMOST HYSTERICALLY] Oohhhh

BIG STAR STARES AT HER, BECOMING UNCOMFORTABLE

MORAG POINTING AT HIM AND LAUGHING] Expand! Expand!

BIG STAR FROWNS AT AUDIENCE, THEN PUTS A HAND TO HIS FOREHEAD AND PEERS DOWN AT HIS CROTCH, CLEARS HIS THROAT, CLOSES HIS LEGS

MORAG HAND TO MOUTH, STILL CHUCKLING] Sorreee

BIG STAR Don't you be so naughty! Naughty naughty naughty, catching out yer uncle Jimmy like that, you need a skelpit botty my girl! (GUFFAWS AT AUDIENCE) Sure Morag needs a skelpit botty! Why don't we all fling a sannie at her!!!

MORAG COWERS, BUT AMUSED] Oh please don't

BIG STAR Naw but that was it about being a kid in Glasga, we were aye getting skelpit botties

MORAG: Really?

BIG STAR: Aye

MORAG Skelpit botties. [SHIVERS] Oohhh. [NOW SERIOUSLY, AND CHUCKLES] It sounds like a restaurant off Byres Road

BIG STAR Heh you, I do the gags around here!

MORAG LAUGHS]

BIG STAR TO THE WINGS, NOT LAUGHING] She's a whizz this yin!

MORAG Sorree.

BIG STAR NODS] Naw but seriously, when I was a wee boy, we aye ran about in sannies

MORAG DUTIFULLY] Sannies?

BIG STAR Ye don't know what sannies are! [TO AUDIENCE] What's she like at all! The old sannies and all that. It was rerr fun Morag. Wasn't it ladies and gentlemen? Especially when you were awa at the ferr having a rerr terr. We all had rerr wee like terrs when I was a boy. My parents were so poor and my house was so clatty the mice came in bilersuits, that's till we ett them, the bilersuits I mean!

MORAG Ho ho

BIG STAR That gag's aff the new album by the way

MORAG: It's a splendid one-liner.

BIG STAR Thanks. The thing is but we were all like cool with poverty

MORAG That is so so super

BIG STAR And we *were* poor

MORAG Oh Jamie you were, you were poor, your father did die young and your mother did go out to work

BIG STAR She still does, she's got a wee cleaning job; constant nightshift in a bleach factory. She still uses the auld mouthwash and spit routine

MORAG: Goodness!

BIG STAR: Worked her gums to the bone for me. She's out there the now, watching. [SQUINTS ROUNDABOUT FOR THE CAMERAS, WAVES] Hiya maw, here I am, somewhere

MORAG: INCREDULOUS] She's in the audience?

BIG STAR: Ye kidding! She's at hame watching the telly. Where's the camera? [SQUINTS, WAVES] Alright maw, here I am with all the rich people! Ye still on short-time? (TO MORAG) Unfortunately they're on short time the now at the factory. She cannay abide it. She likes the long hours. Ma maw's a worker, same as myself. We're all workers where I come frae. My maw is one, I'm one and so is everybody else. If ye ask me most people are hard workers, I'm talking the wide world over. That's how yer ain folk appreciate yer fame and fortune cause I mean let's be honest, they're all part of it. It's as much theirs as it is ours. If it wasnay for them where would we be? That's a question I've often mulled over. It's the people here who have made us what we are, it's all thanks like to them, know what I'm saying Morag, they are not just a part of it, they are one hunner percent, I'm talking about here and now in this very place, this very place

MORAG: SHIVERS] Oh yes

BIG STAR: I mean if all them out there were someplace else then what place would I be in, and if I was there then what about the rest of us in the business for example your good self, I'm

talking about you Morag, a gracious lady like yourself, would you be with me, or would you be against me?

MORAG FROWNS]

BIG STAR SMILES] Would you be against me?

MORAG GLANCES AT HER NOTES, THEN OFFSTAGE

BIG STAR: Haud yer horses Morag I dont mean against me in the literal sense I'm talking metaphorically, the same when I'm talking about my cash money by the way, it's all metaphorical and in a manner of speaking so to say, when I mentioned how it was as much theirs as it is mine, my fame and all that, my eh fortune, my cash fortune... I dont mean that eh.. I mean... [CHUCKLES] I dont mean they fucking eh...(GLARES AT AUDIENCE)... know what I'm talking about! It's my dough. And I've worked for it. And I've paid my dues. I've paid them all, aw at the same time, so dont worry about that. We aw have; us in the business, we've aw paid our dues.

MORAG: We certainly have, and worked jolly hard

BIG STAR: It's like everything else. I meet people wherever I go, wee rickshaw drivers, everybody, they're aw hard workers, every one of them, and I know them, dont think I dont because I do and I'm talking out there in reality land and I'm cool with it

MORAG SHIVERS

BIG STAR I mean the wide world over, all just like people, I'm cool with that and all their names, cause they've all got different ones

MORAG Oh Jamie, could you say them all?

BIG STAR Afraid not pet, no like the whole population, it takes too long, there's just too many of them. And folk like their privacy, ye have to remember that. Just like living off their interest, if it's yer cash fortune, it's yer ayn prerogative, if that's what ye want to do, or else if it's yer vote, yer grandpa fought and died for it so ye go and do it and dont blab about it, just how ye damn well please. Democracy hen, that's the nature of the beast. So when you say politics, I say it too. I mean if ye want to see like Big Changes in society, I'm cool with that, if that's like yer bag then like that's your bag, and ye work damn hard for it.

MORAG FERVENTLY] Yes

BIG STAR We can all do it. And if we do we can all succeed. If we dae the same. But only if.

MORAG FERVENTLY] Yes

BIG STAR If you've got the will and you dont mind the graft then you too can knock it off. Ye might become a multibillionaire and get yer fame and fortune. Who knows, the Lord acts in mysterious ways. That's what I tell my mammy! [SQUINTS TO FIND CAMERAS] Eh mammy, if ye work hard, I says it to ye, you'll reap a veritable whirlpool. One of these days. (WINKS] A veritable whirlpool [NOW TO AUDIENCE) Sure the Lord acts in mysterious ways?

MORAG He certainly does

BIG STAR: They know that.

MORAG: LOOKS TO THE AUDIENCE, UNCERTAINLY]

BIG STAR They do

MORAG Do they really?

BIG STAR: Take my word for it pet,

MORAG Dad always said it was the super thing about this country, if you work like billy-o you get the rewards, if you dont get the rewards then you simply arent working like billy-o! It's as plain as the nose on your face.

BIG STAR: I couldnay put it better myself. We're all people - I'm talking like hearts and souls here - rock singers and like film stars, Amazon Indians, TV presenters, lavvy cleaners, tramps and monarchs. If ye prick us we bleed. Just because some folk are skint and me and you arent Morag, it doesnt mean we dont bleed, I mean ye dont start coveting yer neighbour's ox. You dont and I don't. Let the guy keep his ox, I dont care. A lousy ox, who needs it. But it doesnt mean we dont bleed, we all bleed. Is that right?

MORAG GLANCES ROUNDABOUT, NERVOUSLY

BIG STAR: Eh? If ye prick us. If ye prick us we bleed, me and you Morag, if they prick us, them out there, the faceless ones, them with their stanley knives and aw that, their staves and brickbats, the ones that are all jealous, if they prick us we bleed. That right?

MORAG: Yes... (NERVOUSLY)

BIG STAR: I'm talking metaphorically by the way.

MORAG: Yes

BIG STAR: Cause I prefer things metaphorical.

MORAG: Me too! Ohhh, me too! [VIGOROUSLY) I would prefer it if everything was metaphorical, everything in the entire world, people and animals and everything oohhh fishes and birds and mammals and serpents and octopuses and ooohhh trailing seaweed and snakes and spiders, if they were all metaphorical. I dont like literal things! Ooohh! (SHUDDERS) Ever since I was a tiny tot of a girl. I so hate ooohhh touching things, real things, ghastly real and

literal things, in the material world, ooohhhh,!

BIG STAR: Exactimon Morag, ye ever looked under a boulder? I'm talking about jungles and deserts! Even in Brazil! It's frigging horrendous. Creepy crawly stuff, wee wizened things? Ye go out there to do yer bit for the benefit. But see when ye get there! In the name of God!

MORAG: SHUDDERS, THE CHUCKLES, THEN SHIVERS) Ooh Jamie I have to confess, it is just so so – ohhh, I simply have to confess

BIG STAR What?

MORAG CHUCKLES, THEN SERIOUSLY] Oh I know you'll laugh at me

BIG STAR Naw I'll know

MORAG SITS UP STRAIGHT, ANNOUNCES] I once swept a kitchen floor!

BIG STAR ASTONISHED

MORAG It was just the most ghastly moment of my entire life. All nooks and crannies. I had to do it behind the skirting boards. Skirting boards. Oh do behind the skirting boards! That was what they said, and I did do. [SHUDDERS]

BIG STAR Behind the skirting boards

MORAG SHIVERS] Oh yes, I just closed my eyes and swiped with the broom and then I looked, and it was so so very hideous, it was all just scaly and so so evil and all simply dark and ghastly! I was a student at the time, it was Rag Week, and oh my God! [SIGHS] If only they had told me. Oh I'll never forgive them for that. Sally and Kirsty, they were the very devil for practical jokes [STRESSES 'DEVIL']

BIG STAR STARES AT HER

MORAG SHIVERS AND SMILES] The very devil

BIG STAR GLANCES SIDEWAYS, NERVOUSLY

MORAG NOTICES HIS CONCERN, SHE ALSO GLANCES ROUNDABOUT

BIG STAR WHISPERS] I wouldnay even say the name

MORAG WIDE-EYED

BIG STAR I'll tell ye something Morag, between you and me, I think there is a network of evil, just like people say, and it's all around, not just abroad in foreign parts or in these ghetto places [WHISPERS] Ssh, it is just all around, They talk about terrorists. Well to me it's a network of evil and I would never say some of these word, I wouldnay, I just wouldnay say it; things them devils. Because what if ye call one into existence?

MORAG Ooohh!

BIG STAR I once saw a movie and that was what happened, a wee boy went about and if he made up a creature and said it out loud suddenly it sprang down from the sky

MORAG From heaven?

BIG STAR Well no from heaven Morag because it was like a force for evil

MORAG: SUDDENLY] Oh you're right you're right,

BIG STAR That to me was a great movie, because ye just dont know, ye dont, ye dont ever know, ye are just like... [SHIVERS. STARING ROUNDABOUT] Even in this very studio

MORAG SHIVERS, FINGERS HER NECKLACE, ABOUT TO COMMENT...

BIG STAR Sshh

MORAG WIDE-EYED, STILL FINGERING HER NECKLACE, GLANCES AT HIM] Oh Jamie, I think the same as you, I always have done. And my cousins too, with whom I'm still very close. [SHUDDERS, WIDE-EYED] We used to see them when we twisted round on the back seat of daddy's car, dark shapeless beings, formless creatures

BIG STAR AGHAST

MORAG We were on our way to school and oohhh Grimes the Chauffeur would see us squirming and give us a sound verbal thrashing for it but still we persisted and we used to see them and ooooohhh it was so terribly ghastly and so so not super and and real and and oohh beyond even physical decay and slime and ants and these oohh beastly things without a name, slinking along in their greatcoats and bonnets.

BIG STAR NONPLUSSED

MORAG It makes such complete sense what you say. There are far too many unbelievers out there....they are so creepy, so so creepy and alien and all oohh mysterious, just so so mysterious...and eerie (HORRIFIED GAZE AT AUDIENCE) Dark dark, impenetrable forces. I think Beelzebub has a hand in it, he's the antichrist you know, he makes it all satanic and so so horrible and just not super at all, impenetrable people who are literally just there, people who are just literally there [SHUDDERS]

BIG STAR: I know

MORAG There is so much ghastly mischief in the world.

BIG STAR Ye're dead right Morag.

MORAG FERVENTLY] Oh Jamie

BIG STAR Take South American jungles or these desert things in Africa where there's famine, blights and locusts and all kinds of warmings going on, even the word, warmings, it's scary, know what I mean Morag, the actual word? Warmings... You want to look over yer shoulder when somebody says it. Then the global warmings, the global warmings, it is just like a movie ye see on a Friday night, evil creatures coming out the slime and ye've forgot to lock yer door, the global warmings, here they come, marching slowly [SHUDDERS] a veritable multitude of them, these...these...beings [SHUDDERS AND GAZES OUT AT THE AUDIENCE]

MORAG ALSO SHUDDERS] Beings who are dark and impenetrable, mysterious forces. Oooh... Yes yes, and these awful wondrous acts of God, torrential rains and thunder and forked lightning and huge waves crashing

BIG STAR Aw that tsunami stuff Morag, tornado blasts all spiralling into the sky [WHISPERS, AWESTRUCK] and what I want to know is like where does it all go?

MORAG Oooh yes, one sees it spiralling ever so upwards, upwards and upwards, trees and cows and motor cars and...and I think of...I think of [PAUSE, RAPTUROUSLY

BIG STAR GAZES AT HER

MORAG Dorothy oh heavens it is so so Dorothy

BIG STAR BAFFLED

MORAG In the Wizard of Oz [GAZES AT HIM

BIG STAR GRAVELY] It lies beyond our human ken. Ye see it when ye're up in the air flying ower it to a gig or like for a benefit thing or whatever.

MORAG: Yes yes, It's the existence of evil, dad always said so, if it wasnt for that then the world wouldnt be in this mire of economic misery.

BIG STAR: That's how I crossed the line Morag. Mind I said it in the green room?

MORAG Oh yes yes, I do

BIG STAR We're aw doing it, us in the business - no just in the business but right across the entire cosmos, we're aw turning-the-other-cheek and hoping everybody else'll do the same, if we turn the other cheek then so will they. It's a what-ye-call it, a like pure morality thing. It takes all yer will and commitment but ye do it, it's all fingers to the grindstone. And what I say is this, if us in the business can do it then so can everybody else. I dont think that's too much to ask, if we turn the other cheek so can they, we're talking throughout the world, pastures new and pastures old

MORAG Oh Jamie

BIG STAR I see them, when we're out jogging.

MORAG In Santa Moica?

BIG STAR Aye

MORAG Oh I wish I could go there.

BIG STAR Well ye could, there's cheap flights from Gatwick. [LAUGHS] And ye can bypass Victoria - a chopper frae Winsuhh great park lands ye right in the Executive Suite departure lounge.

MORAG: Oh that's marvellous [EXTREME HOPE] Oh but Jamie will people ever listen!

BIG STAR: Of course they will. They're listening already! [CUPS HAND TO EAR] Sshhh.

MORAG: CUPS HAND TO EAR

BIG STAR: Can ye hear it?

MORAG REVERENTIAL] Yes

BIG STAR People will cross that line. And see when they do? The world will be that much safer. I'm talking about getting your wealth and hanging onto it. That's how we're organising that new series of gigs following on from the Oath of Allegiance, Concerts for the Cosmos. No just Bob but Robbie and David, they're into it as well. We're trying to unite everybody into the Christian ethic, Muslims, Sikhs and what have ye, Amazon Indians and Hindus, Jews and Catholics, Buddhas, Japanese Shintos, Protestants, you name it.

MORAG: PAUSE] Communists?

BIG STAR Well why not, the whole world could be communists for all I care

MORAG: Ooooooh!

BIG STAR Know what I mean?

MORAG Oh Jamie

BIG STAR I dont care who it is, if it is yer clientele. If you're a Christian you're talking the whole world, that's yer true clientele. Ye dont scare us. And everybody's doing it Morag, I'm talking the you-know-whos, a certain Family of Landed Multibillionaires. They're aw gony get

involved, the wee princes, plus all the politicians, the labours, the Tories and the Scottish ones, the howsyerfathers, everybody, they'll aw be there. I mean how cool is that? So I hope yous here at the auld Beeb are gony join us. It's a hands across the waters carry on.

MORAG: But this isn't the Beeb Jamie

BIG STAR LAUGHS] Well bring yer red nose anyway!

MORAG: Ooooooh! (TO AUDIENCE) Isn't he a super person!!! (SHE APPLAUDS. THEN HER GAZE DROPS TO HER NOTES, SHE READS HER NOTES FOR A MOMENT, SWITCHES POSITION ON CHAIR TO FACE AWAY FROM BIG STAR) Now in tomorrow evening's show the stage here will be transformed into a mega kitchen for a look at a wonderful new recipe book that has taken the World of Letters by storm. They are rather splendid recipes, besides being marvellously nutritious and fat-free. They have to do with nuts and vegetables and green salad and oohohh so very very many exciting things from the wonderful world of the green house. The author will be here in this very studio theatre to discuss it.

BIG STAR CLEARS THROAT] Eh eh Morag

MORAG Oh sorree. [AND TO AUDIENCE] But before we do, as a last treat, Jamie has offered to sing us another song from his enthralling new album, a super mixture of raunchy ballads and splendid one-line jokes.

BIG STAR Thanks Morag

LIGHTS DOWN

BIG STAR What happened to the Lights?

MORAG Sorreee

BIG STAR Is that that frigging band again, sarcastic bastards

LIGHTS UP

MORAG IS CAUGHT MAKING AN EXIT. PAUSES, GUILTILY

BIG STAR STARES AT HER

MORAG Oh I was so not leaving

BIG STAR STARING

MORAG Really, I was so so not leaving

VOICES OFF, CHATTERING TOGETHER, SOMEBODY STARTS WHISTLING. THEN
THE SOUND OF CHAIRS GETTING SHIFTED ABOUT.

BIG STAR GLANCES AT AUDIENCE

LIGHTS

END