

## Content warnings

- Strong language/swearing.
- Contains distressing or potentially triggering themes; the play focuses on themes of grief, loss, death, and sexual abuse of a child.
- While abuse is referenced, specific acts are not discussed nor described.

## Expanded content warning

As noted above, there are a number of themes in Catafalque which may cause distress or discomfort. These expanded notes are provided for the purpose of ensuring that those who have experienced rape or sexual assault, child abuse, ongoing trauma and/or grief are able to assess whether or not they want to see the show, and – if so – be prepared for what they see on stage.

This show contains references and allusions to child molestation, ongoing trauma, grief, and death. Complex family dynamics in the wake of abuse are discussed. While abuse is referenced, specific acts are not discussed nor described.

Specifically, our protagonist Fern is a funeral celebrant who is confronted by her own past when asked to perform the funeral celebration of a man who we – and Fern – come to suspect is a paedophile. Fern herself was molested by her uncle as a child. As the play unfolds, Fern decides that she will reveal to her family what happened to her.

Around two thirds of the way through the play, Fern goes back in her memory to the family BBQ where the abuse by her Uncle Robert first started. The sound design features the audio of a child playing outside which is followed by a single line spoken by a male voice (representing Uncle Robert). This is the only time a male voice is heard in the play.

At the very end of the play we see the protagonist Fern lay their 10 year old self to rest – this is seen on stage as a young girl. Fern will be represented by a puppet that is designed to look life-like.

There is a coffin present on stage throughout the play.

Please see below for support and resources.

## Support and resources

### **Rethink Mental Illness**

You might want urgent help for your mental health. This page can help you find organisations that can provide the right support.

Website: <https://www.rethink.org/aboutus/what-we-do/advice-and-information-service/get-help-now/>

### **Anxiety Support**

Anxiety UK was formed in 1970, by Katharine and Harold Fisher as a result of Katharine's experience of agoraphobia and her desire to develop support for others similarly affected.

Website: <https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk>

### **Rape Crisis (Scotland)**

Rape Crisis Scotland is Scotland's leading organisation working to transform attitudes, improve responses and ultimately to end rape and sexual violence in all its forms. The Rape Crisis Scotland helpline is open from 5pm until midnight every night on the following number. Text, email and web chat support is also available.

Website: <https://rapecrisisscotland.org.uk>

Resources for survivors, and those supporting loved ones: <https://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk/resources/>

Helpline: 08088 010302

### **Rape Crisis (England and Wales)**

Rape Crisis England & Wales is the feminist charity working to end child sexual abuse, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment and all other forms of sexual violence.

Website: <https://rapecrisis.org.uk>

24/7 Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Line, open 24 hours a day, all year: 0808 500 2222

### **Survivors UK (for men, boys, and non-binary folks affected by sexual violence)**

They support male and non-binary survivors of sexual violence, providing counselling, practical help and community on their healing journey.

Website: <https://www.survivorsuk.org>

Chat via SMS text (or visit their website to chat online): 020 3322 1860

### **Trauma Counselling Line Scotland**

Trauma Counselling Line Scotland (TCLS) provides confidential telephone counselling to any adult who was abused in childhood. The contact details are:

Tel: 08088 020 406 (freephone) (Monday to Wednesday 2.00pm to 6.00pm, Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm). You can leave a message at all other times.

Email: [contactus@health-in-mind.org.uk](mailto:contactus@health-in-mind.org.uk)

Website: [www.health-in-mind.org.uk](http://www.health-in-mind.org.uk)

### **Upstream: survivors of child sexual assault**

Website: <https://www.theupstreamproject.org.uk/know/survivors>

Tel: 0808 1000 900

Email: [scotland@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:scotland@stopitnow.org.uk)

### **NAPAC (the National Association for People Abused in Childhood)**

NAPAC offers support to adult survivors of all types of childhood abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect.

Support line: 0808 801 0331

Website: <https://napac.org.uk/>

### **Samaritans UK**

If you need someone to talk to, they listen. They won't judge or tell you what to do.

Website: <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritan/>

Call: 116 123

Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) (response time may take several days)

You can also write a letter or speak to a samaritan face-to-face.

### **Wellbeing Scotland**

Wellbeing Scotland is a voluntary organisation with services across Scotland, providing a range of holistic services for individuals (both children and adults) and families whose life experiences have impacted negatively on their wellbeing. These include therapeutic services specialising in abuse and trauma work.

Helpline: 0800 121 6027 (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 11.00am)

Office tel: 01324 630 100

Email: [info@wellbeingscotland.org](mailto:info@wellbeingscotland.org)

Website: [www.wellbeingscotland.org](http://www.wellbeingscotland.org)

### **Victim Support**

Need help after crime? You can get in touch anytime for independent, free, and confidential advice.

Website: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk>

Support line: 08 08 16 89 111

### **Victim Support Scotland**

Victim Support Scotland provides support and information services to victims and witnesses of crime in Scotland.

Tel: 0131 668 4486

Scottish Helpline: 0800 160 1985 (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm)

UK Supportline: 0808 168 9111 (Weeknights 8pm to 8am; Weekends Saturday 5pm)

to Monday 8am)

Email: [info@victimsupportsco.org.uk](mailto:info@victimsupportsco.org.uk)

Website: [victimsupport.scot](http://victimsupport.scot)

### **Cruse Bereavement Support**

They help people through one of the most painful times in life – with bereavement support, information and campaigning.

Website: <https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-support/>

Helpline: their volunteers are trained in all types of bereavement and can help you make sense of how you're feeling right now: 0808 808 1677

### **Support and wellbeing for those experiencing loss**

Find free support for your grief.

Website: <https://www.ataloss.org>

They have an amazing list of resources here that are wide ranging: <https://www.ataloss.org/Pages/FAQs/Category/organisations-that-can-help?Take=72>