



MAGGIE

THE NEW MUSICAL

PLOT SYNOPSIS

This synopsis contains spoiler alerts!

SETTING: Scotland, 1950s-1970s

ACT 1

On a Friday night, the women of Lanark, Scotland wait outside the local pub for their husbands to hand over their earnings from the coal mines. The women are not allowed to enter the pub. Among them is Maggie, a pregnant, formerly Catholic woman who is married to Jimmy, a Protestant miner who dreams of being a musician. One Friday night, Jimmy is the victim of an accident in the mine and doesn't return.

14 years pass with Maggie's friends Betty, Jean, and Sadie by her side helping to raise her three sons. The oldest, Shug, reluctantly works in the mines, but like his father, dreams of being a musician; Tommy, an enthusiastic football player has aspirations to play in the big leagues; and Wee Jimmy, a smart, studious and shy teenager plans to go to college for engineering.

With economic challenges and political tensions on the rise, many Scottish people are emigrating from Scotland to other parts of the world, particularly Canada. Jimmy's flamboyant brother Charles visits on Wee Jimmy's birthday to convince Maggie to escape with him to London. She politely declines, remaining dedicated to her life in Scotland. Meanwhile, Tam, Jean's abusive husband, convinces Shug to attend an organizing meeting of Protestants who fear the influx of Catholics in their community. Soon after, a riot breaks out and Tommy stops Shug from participating by reminding him of his dreams to write music and move away.

During the Hogmanay celebration on New Year's Eve, Shug is attacked by a group of Catholic boys. While trying to defend Shug, Tommy accidentally kills one of them—leading to his arrest and imprisonment. For the first time in twenty years, Maggie goes to confession, praying for strength to keep her family together and safe.

ACT 2

Years pass. Women are finally allowed into the pub and Uncle Charles is finally about to depart for London. Wee Jimmy, who isn't so wee any more, introduces Maggie to Teresa, a Catholic girl—which upsets Shug. Maggie visits Tommy, who has become a different person during his time behind bars. Unable to tolerate Scotland any longer, Shug announces he is leaving Scotland. Maggie wishes him well, despite her deep sadness, and gives him Jimmy's old guitar as a parting gift.

While washing their laundry at the Steamie, the women cheer up Maggie as they fantasize about being queen for a day. When she returns home, Wee Jimmy asks to marry Teresa. Maggie agrees and the two are wed in a very informal ceremony due to their opposing religious denominations. Soon after the wedding, Wee Jimmy is offered an engineering job in Canada. He invites Maggie to move with them, but she again refuses to leave her home. Wee Jimmy and Theresa go, and Maggie is left without the family she fought to keep together. Her friends remind her that she is not alone and of the strength she possesses.

Some time goes by and Tommy is freed from jail. Upon his release, he coaches football to local kids. Wee Jimmy and Teresa visit Scotland with their baby girl, Margaret, who Maggie remarks has their father's eyes.