

## Maggie May

### Synopsis:

'They say we're like swans. Ruddy beautiful graceful things on the surface of a lake but underneath we're paddling like mad.'

Maggie and Gordon first met in 1971 and have been dancing to the sounds of Cliff Richard, Chairmen of the Board, and Jackson 5 ever since. Now in their sixties, and still very much in love, they've been finishing each other's songs all their marriage.

But now Maggie is feeling foggy and some days the songs are all she can remember. Her son and new girlfriend are coming to dinner and her best friend is asking questions. An extraordinary play about an ordinary Leeds family, balancing the challenges of daily life whilst living with dementia.

A heartfelt story of hope by award winning playwright Frances Poet, Maggie May is an inspiring new play with love, laughter and music.

Maggie May has been created in collaboration with many people living with different types of dementia and their ideas have been crucial in making this play.

### Character Breakdown

**Maggie** – 67 yrs Maggie is down to earth, brave, feisty, funny and quick witted. She has a great sense of humour and doesn't want to be treated differently. She is hard-nosed, has a Yorkshire 'brusqueness', is very witty and has loads of bottled up passion.

Maggie is intelligent but can be silly at times and, in her more lucid moments, hates herself when she sees how the disease has inflicted those around her.

**Gordon** – 66 yrs Recovering from a stroke, he is stoic, strong and dignified. He loves Maggie unconditionally, who will always be beautiful to him. He is patient and forgiving and is always quick to burst into song and dance with Maggie around the house! Gordon is full of warmth and humour, whilst being torn apart with Maggie's diagnosis, he is her rock.

**Michael** – 37 Sensitive, but genuinely struggles to comprehend his mother's diagnosis and is frightened for the future. He is unable to express his emotions accurately, constantly frustrated of not knowing what to do, or how to react. He is annoyed with himself for being unable to deal with this bombshell. He loves Claire but struggles to communicate with her but he eventually accepts her help into understanding Maggie's condition and finally comes to terms with it.

**Claire** – 28/29 Warm-hearted and quirky, she loves Michael and develops a deep connection with Maggie and Gordon. She comes to see Maggie as a mother figure and isn't fazed when referred to as Emily (Michael's ex-girlfriend). Claire ultimately becomes the glue that helps to keep this family together.

**Jo** – 60's / 70's Eccentric and can be a bit too direct, Jo is Maggie's long-time friend and ex co-worker. She can speak with some disdain, be haughty and blunt but she is also loyal to Maggie and remains a good friend to her throughout the play. She can be judgemental and acidic, maybe a bit too direct especially when telling jokes, but her heart is in the right place.

She tries to support Maggie as best she can, by continuing with life as it was before the diagnosis.