



NHS South of Tyne and Wear



## **A Shot at Life**

The following script was written by members of South Hylton Youth group (SHY), supported by members of the staff team of Education Business Connections (EBC) and thanks to funding support from Tyne and Wear Teaching Primary Care Trust's Safe, Sensible, Social Small grants scheme.

The play was performed in front of an invited audience by members of SHY in South Hylton Tansy Centre.

The play tells the story of Chantelle, a young woman who is facing a crisis in her life because of her excessive Drinking. She has two options to choose....

We hope you will find the script useful, either to use as it is written or to inspire other groups to carry out a similar activity.

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<http://www.ebcltd.org.uk/SafeSensibleSocialProject.html>

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# **A SHOT AT LIFE**

## **SCENE 1 – DOCTOR’S SURGERY (9.30am)**

### **NARRATOR**

Present day. This is Chantelle at the Doctor’s surgery, She is about to get some news that could change her life.

*The Doctor and Chantelle are sitting at the doctor’s desk. Chantelle is Already obviously intoxicated and her speech is very slurred.*

### **DOCTOR**

I have your results back from the lab... Chantelle... the test has come back positive. You’re three weeks pregnant

*(shocked)*

### **CHANTELLE**

How can that be, like? Your test must be wrong. Your gonna have to do it again. I haven’t even had sex! You must be wrong. I want a second opinion.

### **DOCTOR**

BUT the test results show that also there were potentially harmful amounts of alcohol in your system.

*(defensively)*

### **CHANTELLE**

What are you trying to say, like? Are you trying to say I have an alcohol problem..... because I don’t.

### **DOCTOR**

How many units would you say are you consuming on a daily basis?

### **CHANTELLE**

I only had 1 or 2 the night before the tests were taken.

### **DOCTOR**

According to the results it’s been much more than 1 or 2. Do you realise that drinking excessive amounts of alcohol on a daily basis can seriously harm your unborn child? As a young woman you should be only having 2-3 units of alcohol a day on a regular basis. Are you exceeding this amount because I can already smell drink on you and its only 9:30 in the morning?

**(angrily)**

**CHANTELLE**

I haven't been drinking today. There must be something wrong with your sense of smell, like.

*The Doctor just looks at Chantelle in a disbelieving manner.*

*Freeze frame Show Story from 2 years earlier.*

## **END OF SCENE 1**

## **SCENE 2 – CHANTELLE'S BEDOCTORROOM**

**NARRATOR**

Two years earlier. The two 16 year olds Chantelle and Laura are getting ready in Chantelle's room. They are going to have a night on the town for the first time.

*Chantelle and Laura are in Chantelle's bedroom getting ready to go out for the night, her Mam is in another room and is unaware of their plans.*

**LAURA**

Chantelle? Are you sure these fake ID's will work?

**CHANTELLE**

Why aye man! Course they will, anyways don't worry about that we have to concentrate on getting out of here first.

**MAM**

**(Shouting upstairs)** Chantelle, do you two want a pizza putting in?

**CHANTELLE**

No thanks Mam it's alright. We're just finishing our homework and about to go to bed soon, thanks anyways.

*Freeze frame – Chantelle and Laura are dressed up and walking into town*

**NARRATOR**

Laura and Chantelle sneaking down the fire escape, to the park where they bump into a local gang member.

**LAURA**

OMG!!! ... There's Tyrishar... come on let's got the long way round I don't want any trouble, and I have heard she is a right trouble maker.

**CHANTELLE**

Nor man it'll be fine. She's canny cool.

**LAURA**

No..oo. She's a pure nut case and has a really bad reputation.

**CHANTELLE**

It'll be fine man, stop being a woos she'll think we are losers.

*(Chantelle drags Laura onward)*

*(Tyrishar is sitting on a park bench downing a bottle of booze and surrounded by empty cans of lager)*

*Laura looks at Tyrishar which starts trouble*

**TYRISHAR**

*(Jumping up from the park bench)* Who you lookin' at?!!

**LAURA**

*(scared and toungue tied)* Ermmm ... Nothin' ermmmmm.

**TYRISHAR**

Well? Spit it out... Come on! You got a problem with your speech, like?

*Laura averts eyes and then Chantelle buts in*

**CHANTELLE**

Chill out! She wasn't looking at you, like.

**TYRISHAR**

Who are you two then?

**CHANTELLE**

I'm Chantelle Leek.

**TYRISHAR**

**(Sarcastically)** OK!... where you's' going DOCTORessed like that?

**CHANTELLE**

Town.... Know any good clubs?

**TYRISHAR**

Aye the Mickey Mouse Club, ya's look about 12!

**CHANTELLE**

Erm... we're 18!

*Laura nudges Chantelle*

**LAURA**

**(whispers)** What ya doing like?

**CHANTELLE**

**(whispers)** Shhhh.... Act cool man.

**TYRISHAR**

Well ya's might as well come with me. I am on my way to a club to meet a friend. You will never get in without me with ya.

**End of Scene 2**

### **SCENE 3 – OUTSIDE LOCAL NIGHTCLUB**

*(The three girls are approaching a club and there is a bouncer standing outside)*

**LAURA**

*(Quietly to Chantelle)* Where are we going now? You sure we can get in? Why don't we just turn around and go back to yours?

**CHANTELLE**

*(Quietly)* Sshhh.. man, sshhh!

**TYRISHAR**

What's she moaning about now?!

**CHANTELLE**

Nothing, I mean nowt.

*(Arrives at gate, bouncer standing at door)*

**BOUNCER**

Alright Tyrishar! Go straight in.

*(Bouncer signals to Chantelle to enter the club, but stops Laura)*

**BOUNCER**

Where's your ID?

*(Laura hands the bouncer her fake ID. Bouncer looks at it)*

That's a fake. No entry.

**CHANTELLE**

Sorry, I'll phone you later!

**TYRISHAR**

Come on, let's go. Just leave her. *(Shouting to Laura)* You can find your own way home right?

**LAURA**

So you just gonna leave me here like?

*(Chantelle and Tyrishar enter the club, arm in arm. Laura walks off home, alone).*

### **End of Scene 3**

## **SCENE 4 – INSIDE NIGHTCLUB**

*(Tyrishar, Chantelle and Kenzo, Tyrishar's friend, dancing in club getting more rowdy and continually bumping into the bouncer)*

**NARRATOR**

4:15am: Chantelle, Tyrishar and Kenzo are ejected from the club for being drunk and disorderly.

**TYRISHAR**

*(Mouthing off to the bouncer)* Who do you think you're shoving? Get your grubby hands off me, like, do you know who I am?

*(The group stagger off drunkenly into the night)*

### **End of Scene 4**

## **Scene 5 – THE LIVING ROOM OF CHANTELLE'S HOME**

**NARRATOR**

The next day.

*(Chantelle's Mam is sitting in the living room having a cup of tea when her phone rings)*

**MAM**

Hello. Hospital? Chantelle... she cant have been...she was here with her friend all night. The little cow must have crept out when I was watching me soaps. Is she ok, like? Ohh... she has been discharged. Ok. Thank you for informing me nurse.  
*(Angrily)* I will have a few words with her when she comes home, like.

***A few moments later the front door opens and Chantelle enters looking a bit worse for wear)***

**MAM**

***(Angrily)*** Where the hell have you been?

**CHANTELLE**

Ohhh... leave it out, man. I have got a banging head.

**MAM**

I thought you were supposed to be doing your homework last night. And how the hell did you get out?

***(Chantelle ignores her Mam and begins staggering upstairs to her room)***

**MAM**

I have just had the A&E on the phone telling me that the ambulance men found you laying on a park bench completely out of ya head, so they took you back to the hospital.

***(Chantelle still ignoring her Mam – heads straight for her room)***

***(A few moments later Laura knocks on Chantelle's house door and is greeted by Chantelle's Mam)***

**MAM**

I am not too happy with you, like? I know that you and Chantelle both snuck out of the house last night.

**LAURA**

Is Chantelle up yet?

**MAM**

Yeah she is in her room. She has just got home. I got a call from the A&E telling me that they found her laying on a bench completely out of her head. Where were you, like?

**LAURA**

***(walking past Chantelle's Mam)*** I went home.

***(Laura storms hastily upstairs, straight into Chantelle's room and kicks the bed where Chantelle is lying)***

**CHANTELLE**

What's the matter with you like?

**LAURA**

Sometimes you can be really horrible you know. You just left me standing there.

**CHANTELLE**

Quit being such a baby, it's your fault that the bouncer wouldn't let you in. You didn't put enough slap on.

**LAURA**

You still could have come home with me instead of ditching me for that nut case Tyrishar.

***(Laura storms out in a huff. Mam comes in)***

**MAM**

What was all that about?

**CHANTELLE**

Ohh... don't you start. I ain't in the mood to be got at.

**MAM**

***(in disgust)*** You're just like your dad! Oh, look at the state of you!

**CHANTELLE**

I'm nothing like him. Leave me alone, I can handle my drink.

**MAM**

Well obviously not.

**End of Scene 5**

## SCENE 6 – IN THE NIGHTCLUB

NARRATOR

Three months later.

*(Kenzo and Chantelle dancing in club)*

*(Chantelle and Kenzo are getting flirty and are all over each other, they are all obviously drunk)*

*(Tyrishar is sitting with another friend and is getting really jealous)*

*(Tyrishar looks on in jealousy at them dancing together)*

TYRISHAR

*(butting into Chantelle and Kenzo's dancing)*

You've got college tomorrow haven't you?

What time you going home?

CHANTELLE

Nah, this is more fun! *(She grabs Kenzo back and continues dancing with him)*

TYRISHAR

*(Grabs Kenzo away from Chantelle)*

What are you doing with her? You're supposed to be with me?

What are you doing with her? You're supposed to be with me?

KENZO

Why not! She's gagging for it man!

TYRISHAR

You're supposed to be with me! I don't believe you, like. I'm going. *(storms out of the club)*

End of Scene 6

## SCENE 7 – CHANTELLE'S BEDROOM

NARRATOR

Three months later.

*(Chantelle, desperate to try and get some money, phones Laura)*

**CHANTELLE**

Hi Laura, It's Chantelle. I know I haven't spoken to you in a while, but I was wondering if you could lend me some money? It's my Mam's birthday and I don't get my EMA until next week.

**LAURA**

Why should I lend you some money? You are only going to spend it on booze!

**CHANTELLE**

Come on Laura, you are supposed to be my friend. I would lend you money if you needed it.

**LAURA**

Oh, ok. So I am your friend when you need something, but you can ditch me whenever you feel like it.

**CHANTELLE**

I never ditched you.

**LAURA**

I ain't lending you any more money. You already owe me loads and still haven't paid me back. That money was supposed to be for my college books

**CHANTELLE**

Fine! Some friend you are *(hangs up phone in a huff)*

**CHANTELLE**

*(To herself)* What can I sell?

*(Chantelle rummages around her room to find valuables to sell)*

**End of Scene 7**

## **SCENE 8 – THE HOME OF CHANTELLE’S GRANDMOTHER**

**NARRATOR**

One month later.

*(Chantelle is sitting, with her nana, in her nana’s living room watching telly)*

**CHANTELLE**

Nana have you got my pocket money?

**NANA**

Aye, my purse is in the other room. Get yourself a fiver.

*(Chantelle empties the purse and puts it all in her back pocket. She pulls out a spare fiver and shows it to her nana to make it seem like that’s all she took)*

**CHANTELLE**

Got it nana thanks a lot!

*(Chantelle sits down innocently)*

**CHANTELLE**

Can I make you a cuppa?

**NANA**

No no, I don’t fancy one yet. I will make myself one later

**CHANTELLE**

Ok nana, I have got to go now. I will speak to you later.

**NANA**

Ok dear, see you later.

**CHANTELLE**

Bye

**(Chantelle leaves her nana’s home).**

**End of Scene 8**

## **SCENE 9 – THE LIVING ROOM AT CHANTELLE’S HOME**

*(Chantelle’s mam is sitting watching telly when her phone rings)*

**MAM**

Hello. What? My Chantelle would never take £50 off you Mam! She wouldn’t Mam of course she wouldn’t! Are you sure you didn’t spend it and have forgotten? Alright, Mam. I will speak to you later. *Bye. (Puts down the phone)*

**MAM**

*(to herself)* No, there’s no way that Chantelle would steal from her nana, would she? *(pause)*

She has been drinking a lot and coming home at all kinds of hours of the morning in a terrible state. *(short pause)*

Is that where that £20 went missing out of my purse the other day *(pause)* and the gold chain and earrings that my Mam gave me? *(pause)* and all of her stuff has started going missing.

She can’t be selling it to get money to buy booze, can she? *(Pause)*

*(Chantelle’s mam picks up the yellow pages and frantically starts flicking through the pages, she finds what she is looking for and picks up the phone and starts dialling)*

**MAM**

*(On the phone)* Hello, is this NECA? I am worried about my daughter. I think my daughter has a drink problem. I think she needs help.

*Freeze Frame*

**End of Scene 9**

## SCENE 10 – ON A BENCH IN THE STREET

NARRATOR

Nine months later.

*(Chantelle and Kenzo drinking sambuca on the street, they are very drunk and there is an atmosphere. There are empty cans and bottles all around them)*

*(Tyrishar walks past smartly dressed and looking well)*

CHANTELLE

*(Spots Tyrishar)* Oh my God! It's Tyrishar. Want to join us for a drink mate?

TYRISHAR

Oh my God, Chantelle? You look rough.

CHANTELLE

You look great. Where have you been? I haven't seen you in ages?

TYRISHAR

I am on my way to work. I haven't had a drink since that night in the club. I can't believe that you two are still together. I go to AA meetings now and they have been very helpful. Here is the number for my AA counsellor *(hands Chantelle the number for her AA counsellor)*

You should give them a call. They can help you. I have to get going. I am late for work. *(walks off)*

TYRISHAR

*(To herself)* Oh my God. That so easily could have been me!

CHANTELLE

*(Turns to Kenzo)* What do you think? Should we give them a call?

KENZO

What do we need to call them for? *(snatching the number out of Chantelle's hand and tearing it up)*

CHANTELLE

Maybe they can help us.

**KENZO**

We don't need anyone's help. We are fine the way we are. *(Pause while he takes the last sip of his can... realising there's no more booze, he then turns to Chantelle)*

We need more booze. Where's your money?

**CHANTELLE**

I spent the last of the money on these *(indicating to the booze scattered around)*

**KENZO**

*(Angrily)* What do you mean that's the last of your money? I thought you sold your phone for £100?

**CHANTELLE**

*(hesitantly)* I only managed to get £40 for it.

**KENZO**

*(Still angry and getting even more angry)* What about your Mam? Can't you get any off of her?

**CHANTELLE**

My Mam kicked me out of the house remember? I have been living with me dad. I told you this ages ago.

**KENZO**

*(Enraged)* Don't get cheeky with me. Remember what happened to you last time you started to get cheeky with me.

*(Chantelle is starting to get scared and upset)*

**KENZO**

What about your dad? Can't you get any money off of him?

**CHANTELLE**

He doesn't have any money? He used it all to buy his DOCTORinks this morning.

**KENZO**

*(Raising his voice)* So what now huh?..... Where the hell are we going to get money from now? You stupid cow. I told you to get £100 for your phone. You're an idiot. You can never do anything right can you?

*Kenzo storms off leaving Chantelle in tears and extremely upset)*

## **End of Scene 10**

### **SCENE 11 – THE DOCTOR’S SURGERY**

*The Doctor and Chantelle are sitting at the doctors desk. Chantelle is already obviously intoxicated and her speech is very slurred.*

#### **NARRATOR**

Back to the present day

#### **DOCTOR**

Chantelle, is there anything you might want to talk about. If there is a problem, I can help. There is plenty of help out there – if you want it but I can only help you if you are willing to help yourself.

#### **CHANTELLE**

I already told you. I don't have a drink problem.

#### **DOCTOR**

At least think of your baby. Do you know what it could do to your unborn child if you continue to drink dangerous amounts of alcohol on a regular basis?

#### **CHANTELLE**

No. What could happen, like?

#### **DOCTOR**

You could either lose your child through miscarriage or there is a very high risk that your child could be born with FAD.

#### **CHANTELLE**

What's that, like?

#### **DOCTOR**

FAD is Foetal Alcohol Disorder. Even if your baby survives the pregnancy it could mean that your child could be born with many problems.

*(Pause while Chantelle looks shocked and upset)*

**DOCTOR**

Chantelle .... I am here if you need help but I can only help if you chose to help yourself and your unborn child.

What do you want to do?

**(Freeze Frame)**

**End of Scene 11**

**SCENE 12 – CAFÉ**

***(Chantelle stands up and walks to the café scene where her two friends, Laura and Tyrishar, greet her and sit down. They look happy and healthy)***

**NARRATOR**

Chantelle now has two choices..... choice 1.....

Chantelle is free from alcohol. She has rekindled her friendship with Laura and her family. She has also made a new friendship with Tyrishar who both attend AA meetings on a regular basis

**End of Scene 12**

**SCENE 13 – A GRAVEYARD**

***(Shot of a headstone, Chantelle is there looking on at her friends weeping at her grave and laying flowers. The grieving friends and family then leave. Chantelle takes a long look at her grave stone)***

**NARRATOR**

....Or choice 2 ... she drinks herself into an early grave.

This is the resting place of Chantelle Tia Maria Salt and her child Sambuca Verooka Salt.

Chantelle continued to ignore advice and help from her friends and family and continued to drink heavily. She tragically lost her child five days after giving birth. Chantelle died shortly after.

**SCENE 14 – THE AUDIENCE DECIDES**

*Chantelle walks away from the grave and faces the audience*

**CHANTELLE**

*(To the audience)* What should I do?

**End of scene 14**

**The END**