

# **/Farewell Welfare**

A cabaret of chopping and cutting

Written by Abi Horsfield

For Collective Encounters' Transitions Project

Based on scenes and characters created by the Core Group and  
across the five hubs

**Characters: -**

**Ushers**

**MC**

**Company Dancers**

**Arthur chance**

**Daisy and Dave**

**Homeless Philosopher**

**The Oxymoron that is George Osborne's conscience**

**George Osborne**

**The Welfare State**

**The puppeteers, Joan, Michel and Anya**

**Ivan Deville**

**Cunty**

**Bulindon Boys**

**Spin Doctors**

**Craig the musician**

**The band**

**Tinkerbelle and Joan**

**The folk singer**

**The frustrated voice of the poor hardworking mum**

**The voice of the young adult**

***The Cabaret Company double up and play multiple characters, while the people who come out of the audience play single characters.***

***As the audience arrive they are greeted by ushers, in character who show them to their seats at tables, on each table there is a vase/pot with flags in, these flags say Farewell Welfare on one side and on the other there is a list of three or four things people can do to counter austerity. All the music being played as people come in is about money and welfare. When people are settled***

***The lights come up with a snap onto a small stage with a black and white backdrop, the MC enters and the show begins***

**MC:** - Ladies, Gentleman and you, welcome, welcome to Farewell Welfare a Cabaret of chopping and cutting, which celebrates austerity and this wonderful governments aim to put the fare back into welfare and work back into the working class. It is so nice to see you all.

What we have for you today is a feast of entertainment, a smorgasbord of acts, all garnished with modicum of talent, sprinkled with a little glitz, glamour and song.

I am Euphemia Paris your compare for todays show, I know most of you will recognise me from appearing on Britain's Got Talent and singing at the Conservative Party Conference last year. My role is to get you warmed up and to keep the show running smoothly.

As with all cabarets you the audience aren't passive. I will expect you to join

to keep the show running smoothly.

As with all cabarets you the audience aren't passive, I will expect you to join in, to sing along, clap along and make merry whenever asked, as our great leader says, "We are all in this together"

With this in mind I am going to kick the show off with a song to set the tone, the chorus is catchy so please sing along.

Chorus

It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell,  
Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
Now all the scroungers can all go to hell

Verse one

It 's farewell to welfare and hello to greed  
Profit before people's what this country needs  
We will give to the rich what we take from the poor  
This ain't nothing new 'cause it's happened before

***(During the second chorus the company dancers entre singing with big smiles, waving "Farewell Welfare" Flags they march and perform a marching routine, they stay still with their smiles during the verses and them move on each chorus)***

Chorus

It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell,  
Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
Now all the scroungers can all go to hell

Verse two

We'll sanction the homeless the ill and infirm  
And just to be fare, you can all have your turn  
Our denial of quotas rings loud and true  
As all the advisors are there to help you

Chorus

It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell,  
Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
Now all the scroungers can all go to hell

Verse three

If you are disabled you won't be left out  
We know equal rights is what you talk about  
So on our first day we'll cut access to work  
You think that you're equal ha don't be a jerk!

Chorus

It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell,  
Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
Now all the scroungers can all go to hell

Verse four

Our election campaign it boasted a cut  
Of £12 billion to get out of the rut  
The non-working people must pay for their sins  
As the destruction of welfare begins

Chorus

As the destruction of welfare begins

Chorus

It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell,  
Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
Now all the scroungers can all live in hell

***(During the reprise of the chorus the company dancers exit leaving the compare alone on the stage)***

It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell,  
Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
Now all the scroungers can all live in hell

Thank you,

Now you are nice and warm, are you ready for the first act? Well one of you is, are you ready for our first act Ladies and Gentlemen, good then it gives me enormous pleasure to introduce, the one and only Arthur Chance

***Arthur enters wearing a coat which has 'Ology's and Prosthetics written in pockets on the inside***

**Arthur Chance:** - Lovely Jubly thank you Euphemia ladies and Gentlemen, as you now know, I 'm Arthur, Arthur Chance and I have been asked by my dear friends Cammy and George to do a bit of selling for them on the quiet, so I thought I would come along today to see if I had any takers.

Right then, here goes what I have been entrusted to do today is to self off the National Health Service

Now wait till you see what offers I have for you today, I don't want any pushing or shoving, let's be civilized about this Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now I have a nice little line in prosthetics, which won't cost you an arm or a leg,

And today we have an offer on the 'ology's buy any two and I'll throw in geriatrics for free,

***(As an aside)*** I been trying to get rid of these bloody old people since 2013, they are bloody costing us a fortune, they're living too bloody long that's the problem

Now where was I, yeah, lovely jubly the ology's,

I've got Cardiology if you have the heart for it, dermatology, hematology or Gastrology, if you've got the nose for it. Gastroenterology, oncology, neurology or osteology, pharmacology, radiology, toxicology, immunology, epidemiology and last but by no mean least one for the ladies Gynecology

If none of these appeal I could do you a deal on GP out of hours services, walk- in centers or for those thrill seekers among you the Ambulance service

All these deals are for one day only, I need to sell today, come on ladies and gentlemen don't tell me you're not tempted you could buy a whole hospital including A & E there's always a profit to be made there, shaving bits off the cleaning, the catering or the medical staff,

Come to think of it, if I sell all these off today, I will be able to afford to go

cleaning, the catering or the medical staff,

Come to think of it, if I sell all these off today, I will be able to afford to go private,

Lovely Jubly, lovely jubly, any takers, see you later

***Arthur exits and the MC comes back on***

**MC:** - Well, I'm tempted, very tempted, these would be great assets to add to our stocks and shares, they could be as good as the Royal Mail don't you think. Anyway that was the lovely Arthur Change and I am sure you will agree if we had more entrepreneurial people like that in the world, it would be a better place, what I say to the misguided cynic is privatisation is the way forward if you want efficiency and good service you only have to look at the railway since it was privatised so much better than when it British Rail.

Next ladies and Gentlemen we have a new act, never before on any stage anywhere, newbie to the cabaret scene, it gives me great pleasure to introduce Daisy and David

***Grange hill theme tune comes on two School children come on, and roll out a black and white hopscotch game and they start playing.***

**Child one:** - I'm not going on the school trip cause my mum can't afford it

**Child two:** - Well I'm not going on the school trip cause my mum can't afford it either

**Child one:** - Well I don't ask for things for me as I have to put my families' needs before mine

**Child two:** -

Well I don't ask for things for me, as I have to put my families' needs before mine

**And** I have shoes that are all broken up and full of holes and people laugh at me at school.

**Child one:** -

Well I don't ask for things for me, as I have to put my families' needs before mine,

I have shoes that are all broken up and full of holes and people laugh at me at school

**And** we leave the heating off in the winter and use blankets and jumpers to keep warm.

**Child two:** - Well I don't ask for things for me as I have to put my families' needs before mine,

I have shoes that are all broken up and full of holes and people laugh at me at school,

We leave the heating off in the winter and use blankets and jumpers to keep warm

**And** my mum works evenings and weekends so we can eat.

**Child one:** - Well I don't ask for things for me as I have to put my families' needs before mine,

I have shoes that are all broken up and full of holes and people laugh at me at school,

We leave the heating off in the winter and use blankets and jumpers to keep warm,

My mum works evenings and weekends so we can eat

**And** she lives off sandwiches so we can have the food we need to help us grow.

My mum works evenings and weekends so we can eat  
**And** she lives off sandwiches so we can have the food we need to help us grow.

**Child two:** - Well I don't ask for things for me as I have to put my families' needs before mine,  
I have shoes that are all broken up and full of holes and people laugh at me at school,  
We leave the heating off in the winter and use blankets and jumpers to keep warm,  
My mum works evenings and weekends so we can eat,  
She lives off sandwiches so we can have the food we need to help us grow  
**and** she cries at night 'cause we have black mold and damp in the bedrooms and it effects my asthma

**Child one:** - Well I don't ask for things for me as I have to put my families' needs before mine,  
I have shoes that are all broken up and full of holes and people laugh at me at school,  
We leave the heating off in the winter and use blankets and jumpers to keep warm,  
My mum works evenings and weekends so we can eat, she lives off sandwiches so we can have the food we need to help us grow,  
She cries at night 'cause we have black mold and damp in the bedrooms and it effects my asthma  
**And** she has to wash all our clothes in the bath cause the washing machine broke at Christmas and we can't afford another one.

**Child two:** - Well I don't ask for things for me, as I have to put my families' needs before mine,  
I have shoes that are all broken up and full of holes and people laugh at me at school,  
We leave the heating off in the winter and use blankets and jumpers to keep warm,  
My mum works evenings and weekends so we can eat, she lives off sandwiches so we can have the food we need to help us grow,  
She cries at night 'cause we have black mold and damp in the bedrooms and it effects my asthma,  
She has to wash all our clothes in the bath cause the washing machine broke at Christmas and we can't afford another one.  
But at least I am not going to be a child poverty statistic anymore,

**Child one:** - Yeah, I am not going to be a child poverty statistic anymore either.

Come 'ed lets go and pick the chewy out the bins

**Grange Hill Theme tune da da da da the actors, roll up the hop scotch and leave the space**

**MC:** - You see ladies and gentlemen when Mr Cameron said his government and I quote would "Act on relative poverty" he meant it, as those adorable children just demonstrated child poverty statistics are falling and with Ian Duncan Smiths new way of measuring, they are set to get smaller and smaller. Watch out Unicef we will no longer be ranked 25<sup>th</sup> out of 41 in the developed nations child poverty table. The only way is up.

**Homeless Philosopher:** - *(heckling from the audience)* This is rubbish, stop taking the piss out of poor people

**MC:** - *(To the Homeless Philosopher)* Do you mind, some people have come to be entertained, if you don't like it, there is the door! *(To the audience)* Sorry about that some people just shouldn't be allowed out!

MC: *(To the homeless / homeless)* Do you mind, some people have come to be entertained, if you don't like it, there is the door! **(To the audience)** Sorry about that some people just shouldn't be allowed out!

What we have next is surreal, exhilarating and dangerous, I will give it no more introduction than that...

***Entre George Osborne, (An actor with a George Osborne half mask) in a cloak, he sweeps across the audience and in a manic manner with his tongue out saying ahhhhhhh***

***He then takes a chair and sets it, then another and sets it, he puts a plank of wood resting on the chairs and gets a planted member of the audience and lays them down on a plank, he then gets a sheet that says WELFARE STATE and covers the audience member with this so just their head is showing.***

**George Osborne's Conscience: - (Comes in like a character from Men in Black, with a suit and sun glasses)**

Now, now Mr Osborne with all your trickery  
How now, your care not with all your wizardry  
Your conscience is not of that of the people  
Your weak of no tact, your terribly feeble  
It would be a lesson and I would put this to you  
To listen to the man who has nothing and whoes life is through  
You'll pay the price as heavy as rain  
If you fuck the people again and again  
The red box of tricks you hold in salute  
Will kill our poor you Toff nosed suit  
I'll leave you with a warning thought  
That if you listen not justice will be sought

***Then with a demonic laugh George produces a toy chain saw and starts hacking the welfare state. The person playing the welfare state screams and eventually dies, while he is doing this the MC gets excited and gives small cries of "Go George" and "Yes"***

***Osborne laughs and runs off. Osborne's conscience comes on with a mop and starts cleaning the stage***

**Osborne's conscience:** - I'm on a minimum wage, zero hours contract you know

***The actors carrying the cardboard houses come on to cover up the cleaning***

**MC:** - Well that was a scene ladies and Gentlemen, George does get a little carried away sometimes. I think we should move swiftly along, Next we have a little story, a modern day twist of a traditional tale ladies and gentlemen, the Three Little Friends

***Three large flat panels decorated as the houses are brought on as is a chair the narrator sits on the chair with a big book and starts the tale,***

***Narrator:*** - Are you sitting comfortably, then I will begin, the story of the three little friends.

Once upon a time in a town not far from here there were three expectant mums who met by accident at pregnancy yoga class, they became friends and with in 30 days of each there gave birth to three bonny babies, two girls and a boy. The mums stayed in touch and the three babies became toddles and the best of friends...

This is a tale of these three little friends...

The best

This is a tale of these three little friends...

The boy

### ***Michael's face appears***

**Michael:** - Michael never wanted for anything, his parents were rich and well connected, he was schooled at Eaton, went onto Oxford and was a member Bullingdon club along side David Cameron and George Osborne, and he grew into a business man later a politician becoming an MP for his local constituency in 2010. With his wealth he built a house of stone, with a moat and a duck house, which some claim was paid for with MPs expenses.

**Narrator:** - The eldest girl

### ***Joan's face appears***

**Joan:** - Joan did well at school and went onto train in computers, she got a good job, married, had a daughter and got a mortgage and bought a timber house with a small garden. In 2013 the company she worked for closed and she was made redundant, after trying for many jobs she was offered the post as an administrator in a small firm, she has a zero hours contract and so now her family get by on what they both earn and with working family tax credit to help them along. She now struggles to keep up with her mortgage payments.

**Narrator:** - The youngest of the three

### ***Anya's face appears***

**Anya:** - Anya was really bright and was heading for great things, despite going to the local failing comp she passed the Cambridge entrance exam and was set to go, when her mum got diagnosed with MS. She gave up her dreams and stayed local to support her mum, she got a job in a local school as a teaching assistant, which she loved. But twelve years ago she had to give it up to become mums full time 24/7 career. She lives with her mum in a rundown privately rented house made of straw and they both live off mums' benefits.

### ***All three look at the narrator***

**Narrator:** - You may think I am making this all up or be wondering where I get these tales or how I know this information, I am the collector of stories, the weaver of yarns and what I tell you is the truth, or somewhere near it.

Now where was I, oh yes over the years these friendships had drifted, all three had gone their separate ways, lost touch so to speak. They all lived with fond memories of their seaside adventures, playing in each other's paddling pools and midnight feasts at holiday sleepovers. Christmas cards were sent and birthdays remembered but they hadn't seen each other for ages until now when everything was set to change, as they were about to face by the Big Bad Budget Wolf.

### ***The characters all disappear***

July 2015 and the summer budget had just been announced and the big bad budget wolf drifted into town it's first stop is the rented accommodation made of straw...

### ***Wolf appears***

#### ***Wolf: - sound of door bell or Knocking***

Scrounging family, scrounging family let me come in,  
I've got some news to tell you that's probably grim.

DLA is going and PIP will begin

Then we'll see which of you will sink and not swim

I've got some news to tell you that's probably grim.  
DLA is going and PIP will begin  
Then we'll see which of you will sink and not swim

**Narrator:** - So he huffed and he puffed and blew their lives away, the house fell into rack and ruin and their landlord decided not to rent to people on benefits and so they had to move, with nowhere to go, Anya turned to her life long friend Joan and she agreed to them sleeping on her sofa.

***The straw house is pushed down***

But the budget wolf did not stop there. Next he turned to the timber house

***Wolf: - sound of door bell or knocking***

Poor hard working family, poor hard working family let me come in  
Your working tax credit is now in the bin  
Your chance of survival is now looking slim  
You need to work harder to bring more money in

**Narrator:** - So he huffed and he puffed and with no job security there were weeks where they couldn't pay the mortgage and the occupants in despair went to their friends Michael's house and knocked on the door

***The timber house is pushed down***

***Anya and Joan: - sound of Knocking***

Politician, politician let us come in  
Leaving us like this is surely a sin  
We cannot survive our family grows thin  
How in the hell did you ever win?

**Narrator:** - And they knocked and the knocked and they knocked and they knocked and they knocked and the knocked and then they finally gave in.

***As the characters are walking away the budget wolf laden with presents goes to the mansion howls once and is admitted***

***The houses are cleared from the space, while the MC talks***

**MC:** - Well ladies and gentlemen what a great story, I do so love a moral tale, and the moral of this story is, **(to the audience)** any suggestions, don't be shy, shout them out

**Homeless Philosopher:** - To shit on your mates when they hit hard times?

**MC:** - You really don't get it do you Stupid, the moral of this story is, learn to stand on your own two feet, and this is what David, George and the rest of the government is trying to get us all to do, stop expecting hand outs and go out with dignity and get jobs so you can support you family.

To help you understand this up next we have one of my favorite performers of all time and a close personal friend Miss Charlotte Ursula Natasha Taylor, known affectionately to her friends as Cunty.

**Cunty:** - Well hello there today I am here to celebrate Georgies summer budget with a song

Hit it (Offenbach Can, can music comes on)  
Don't expect the government to pay your rent and cosset you  
You had better get a job to keep your children in their comforts  
The people who elected us they like our thinking through and through  
£12 billion from welfare was the first thing that we said we'd do



The people who elected us they like our thinking through and through  
£12 billion from welfare was the first thing that we said we'd do

We're not joking we will cut your benefits  
We're not joking wave bye bye to tax credits  
We're not joking we'll help the rich but not the poor  
We're not joking you were better off before  
Oh yes oh yes oh yes

No no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't  
expect to feed your family  
No no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't  
you bloody can't

No no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't  
expect to go to Uni  
No no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't  
you bloody can't

Little Tommy want's his mum to stay home and help him grow  
So his mummy plans to take some time out from her job at the tesco  
You may understand her feelings and think this is really fare  
But she has no savings or a house to sell or partner or decency or any other  
thing to do but scrounge off the state

No no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't be  
a stay at home mummy  
No no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't  
you bloody can't

No no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't  
expect to feed your family  
No no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't can't no you bloody can't  
you bloody can't

We'll help the rich but won't help you we'll help the rich but won't help you

We'll help our friends that's what we do  
We'll help our selves what can you do?

Nothing, nothing!

**MC:** - Wow what can I say, that was amazballs, It's such a shame you didn't  
make it through to the second round of X Factor, you were robbed. And give it  
up now for her band of Bulingdon Brothers dancers and one more time for  
Cunty

Now ladies and gentleman in light of our celebration about George's budget  
we as a Cabaret have been entrusted with the honorable task of announcing  
this years winner of the DWPs Sanction cup, this is the cup, which is awarded  
each year to the advisor who has sanctioned the most claimants and in doing  
so have saved the hard working tax payer the most money.

Drumroll please Craig

In third place we have Esther Brian from Tower Hamlets with a brilliant 5,789  
sanctions saving the tax payer an estimates £2'381'675 well done Esther  
**(Plant in the audience gives a wave)**

In second place we have David Smithe from Manchester with a whopping  
6,093 sanctions saving the tax payer an estimated £2'960'225 way to go  
David **(Plant in the audience gives a wave)**

6,093 sanctions saving the tax payer an estimated £2'960'225 way to go  
David (***Plant in the audience gives a wave***)

And now the moment we have all been waiting for the winner of this years  
Sanction cup is, wait for it... Ivan Deville from Liverpool with a record breaking  
7,520 sanctions saving the tax payer an estimated £4'315'875

Come up Ivan and take the stage, I am sure like me the audience would love  
you to tell us how you achieved this record come on Ivan speech, speech  
(***Ivan gets up from the audience and takes a speech of his pocket***)

**Ivan:** - I had a feeling I was going to win, I'm Ivan Deville, and I am glad I won,  
I love to sanction, I revel in it, I love nothing more than to see the stinking  
scroungers pay for their lazy, work shy attitudes.

Bare with me as I have a lot to say first, I used to think my job was about  
helping people then in January 2014 I saw Benefits Street on Channel 4 and I  
saw what these animals live like and then I made it my mission to stop them,  
to make them get off their lazy butts and look for work,

I know every trick in the book to trip people up so I can sanction them I  
change times of interviews, post letters late, double book appointments and  
phone at times when I know they won't answer

A good one is when the sanctioned come in, I act all sympathetic and get  
them to sign a JSA1 (ils), which will reopen their clam, what I don't tell them is  
that by signing, it puts another two weeks on their sanction, genius

Last I want to tell you of one of my triumphs there is this hippy guy who comes  
in, you know the type scruffy, unwashed, dreadlocks says he is desperate to  
work so I got him a job doing night shift at the abattoir, he turned it down  
saying he was a life long vegetarian, so he got a three month sanction, then  
when he came back to sign on I got him an interview as a forklift truck driver,  
he refused to go 'cause he didn't have a license, which earned him a six  
month sanction and then I got him with a change of time to meet his work  
coach and he got the jackpot 156 weeks sanction. Saved the tax payers a  
bloody fortune

There are all these goodie, goodie advisors who think sanctioning is immoral,  
and they loose out on their bonus. Idiots!

Let me warn you I'll be back next year and I am aiming to hit 8000, so I'm  
telling you, if you are sitting here watching this when you should be out there  
looking for a job, I will get you.

(***takes the cup***)

Thank you for this I would have preferred a bonus mind

(***He leaves the stage kissing the cup and waving as if he is a real hero***)

**MC:** - Ivan Deville ladies and gentlemen an inspiration to us all,

**Homeless Philosopher:** - Enough, that 's it, stop now, look at you all making  
light welfare reform and celebrating sanctions. This is my life you are trying to  
get the audience to laugh at.

**MC:** - I have had enough of this who do you think you are?

**Homeless Philosopher:** - I am homeless one of the estimated 2,700 people  
who sleep rough on any given night in the UK, one of the 112, 000 people in  
England who approached their council last year for homeless assistance,  
which I will have you know is up 26% since the welfare reform act in 2012,  
one of the 100, 000 homeless people who fell off the electoral register and  
had no voice in the last election

which I will have you know is up 26% since the welfare reform act in 2012, one of the 100, 000 homeless people who fell off the electoral register and had no voice in the last election

Many of you will look down on me, some will just walk past and a few of you will stop or smile.

Give me my few minutes to have my say, to let you know what I think.

**MC:** - Oh boy, there is always one loony lefty audience member who thinks they can do a better job than the professionals, what do you think compatriots, shall I give this waste of space some airtime? I mean what could this low life scum possible have to say that we might want to hear?

**Homeless Philosopher:** - Scared to hear some home truths?

**MC:** - Listen you, if you promise to sit down quietly and behave I might and I mean might let you have a little turn at having your say later, but only if we have time and you promise I will never have to look at you again.

**Homeless Philosopher:** - Why are you talking to me like this? (The MC cuts him off)

**MC:** - Shut it

Sorry about that rude interruption. Now ladies and gentlemen I hope you are still having fun as next we have a rare treat, all the way from the House of Commons we have one of the unsung heroes of politics, one of the most influential men in the country, a doctor of spin, Mathew Callsome

**Spin doctor:** - Prime Ministers Questions, he needs something positive that points the finger back to the last Labour Governments" mismanagement and steers people away from the summer budget and our pay rise, and tax credits here goes...

In our times now, that are flourishing, due to the my brilliant foresight as your magnificent Prime Minister, we shall endeavor to put the Great back into Great Britain, blah blah blah...

Though our changes may have seemed difficult in these uncertain times of recovery due to the burdens of the last Labour government, we were forced to implement austerity policies that are now proving to benefit positive working members of society up and down the country...

### ***Music Starts***

What 'appened to de spin  
What 'appened to de spin

Look at de state you got us in  
Look at de state you got us in

People in de food bank  
People in de food bank  
Sanctioned, sanctioned

What 'appened to de spin  
What 'appened to de spin

Stop your whining, never had it so good  
Stop your whining, never had it so good

This government so misunderstood

This government so misunderstood

What 'appened to de spin

What 'appened to de spin

Look at de state you got us in

Look at de state you got us in

Austerity, Austerity

That's our claim, that's our claim

You have no one else to blame

You have no one else to blame

Zero hours contracts

No tax credits, no fall back

Bedroom tax on the dole

Breaking up families as a whole

What 'appened to de spin

What 'appened to de spin

Look at de state you got us in

***During the song there is a spinning plate routine at the end the Spin Doctor leaves the stage still spinning plates as he is exiting the Homeless Philosopher jump up and walks onto the stage the MC who is playing the clarinet runs from the band and they meet in the middle of the stage***

**MC:** - Please will you leave the stage now, security!!!

**Homeless Philosopher:** - I am not leaving till I have had my say. You are going to listen to me, to get some balance in this show of yours,

**Audience plant 1:** - Let him talk

**Audience plant 2:** - We want him, we want him, we want him ***(trying to get the audience chanting to)***

**MC:** - I am not exercising a democracy, this is my show, I say who has a voice, I will not be pressured by you or the audience, leave my stage now.

**Homeless Philosopher:** - I am not leaving till I have had my say, what are you so scared of? If you think that what this government is doing is the right thing and austerity is working you should have no fear of an alternate point of view.

**MC:** - Kindly leave my stage now! Security, Craig!!!!

**Craig:** - I for one would love to hear what he has to say, come on Euphemia give him a chance

**MC:** - How dare you side with him, final warning!!

**Craig:** - Fine, Ladies and gentlemen would you like to hear this man,

**Plants in the Audience:** - Yes, let him speak etc.

**MC:** - ***(getting more and more angry and out of control)*** No way am I going to let this man speak, it is my show, I say who comes on this stage

MC: (getting more and more angry and out of control) No way am I going to let this man speak, it is my show, I say who comes on this stage

**Craig:** - Sit down Euphemia you are now making a show of yourself

**MC:** - how dare you

**Audience plants:** - sit, sit, sit

**MC:** - On your head be it ladies and gentlemen it gives me no pleasure to introduce this man

**Homeless philosopher:** - Thank you, hey Craig please will you accompany me with a twang and Mr Clarinet could you give me a heart beat.

**(This is a performance poem with a rhythm not a speech)**

You can hear my anger full of bile for welfare reform,  
I want to shout and stamp and spit  
What the headlines don't tell you is, what it means for the little people, the  
little insignificant people  
The no voiced, invisible people  
The people, who could be mugged, raped, killed and no one would notice  
That's me the insignificant, as I am homeless

Homeless 30% more likely to have my JSA sanctioned than you the housed.  
Pushed into debt, food poverty, survival crime as I am homeless

Do you not understand sanctions make it worse; they don't magically make  
me go out and get the job that no one will give me, as I am homeless

Our homeless numbers are growing and will keep growing as the number of  
landlords prepared to rent to people on benefits is decreasing.

Three years ago it was nearly half but latest polls show it is now down to 22%  
of them that will rent to us the under class, and universal credit has not even  
kicked in yet.

And you in parliament with you subsidised second homes want to sell off what  
little social housing remains or charge bedroom tax for spare rooms and make  
the struggling poor, poorer and poorer and poorer. Like me as I am homeless

Changing the system doesn't solve the problems.

You want to bring in Universal Credit, a system where one person from each  
household will be paid monthly into their bank account, all managed on line.  
Leaving abusive partners controlling all the purse strings.  
Economical punishment if someone in your house doesn't fulfill that terms of  
their 'claimant commitment',  
And yes you can and will be sanctioned.

Have you ever tried getting a bank account while homeless?  
And for your information Wi Fi doesn't stretch to the skip I sleep in behind the  
Royal.

And food banks, you talk of food banks as if they are part of the welfare  
system,  
They are not.  
They are the charity of the poor, helping the poorer,

You should be ashamed! You kick us to cover up for the mess the bankers got  
us in.  
As the fat cats grow fatter you lie and cheat and line your friends pockets,

Leave enough to have had enough and just leave a little for us, who will not be

As the fat cats grow fatter you lie and cheat and line your friends pockets,

I say enough, I have had enough, and yet I am a little voice, who will speak with me? Who will shout with me? Who will make a noise before it is too late and we sink back to a world of street urchins and workhouses filled with the lonely, the ill, the disabled, the addict, the man and women fallen on hard times, begging for scraps from the big business banker who get richer and richer and richer.

My time is now up and I have had my say

**MC:** - Well that's put a dampener on things, it's all well and good playing the hard done by poor lost soul, but we all know that to be homeless you must be and abusive, junkie, ex con so no sympathy from me.

Now I don't know about you ladies and gentlemen, but after that I need a bit of cheering up, how about a little reprise of the lovely song I sang at the beginning, if you have a piece of paper, wave it like a flag, feel free to dance, clap and sing along as, when Craig's ready! Come on, come on!!!!

Chorus

It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell,  
Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
It's Farewell welfare, welfare farewell  
Now all the scroungers can all go to hell

Verse four

Our election campaign it boasted a cut  
Of £12 billion to get out of the rut  
The non-working people must pay for their sins  
As the destruction of welfare begins

***None of the cast joins in and the song falters and falls flat, out of the audience come two voices singing***

**Tinkerbelle and Joan:** -

We've got the blues,  
Trying to survive blues,  
All the cuts are bad news,  
You try living in our shoes  
It times you heard our views  
Before we blow a fuse

***The MC tried desperately to get control back***

**MC:** - Oh no there's more of them, ladies do you mind sitting down nice a quietly now so we can get on with the show

**Tinkerbelle:** -

Listen lady don't you patronise me...

***(MC sits down meekly)***

See this chair that I am sitting in, it's part of me like a second skin,  
Cuts to my care make me sick, Shut up and listen I will be quick

**Homeless Philosopher (assuming the roll of the MC runs off the stage drawing the audiences attention to the performers):** - come on audience give it up for our next act...

**Tinkerbelle and michelle:** - Tinkerbelle and Joan

**Homeless Philosopher:** Tinkerbelle and Joan

**Tinkerbelle and michelle:** - Tinkerbelle and Joan

**Homeless Philosopher:** - Tinkerbelle and Joan

**Tinkerbelle (To band):** - Hit it with some background tunes please

**MC:** - If you play Craig, you're fired

***Craig starts to play...***

**MC:** - You're fired...

I get 45 minutes of care a day,  
To be showered, dressed and then on my way  
If I have an early appointment or something to do  
I struggle myself but I can't put on my own shoes  
I used to pay £32 for this level of care you see  
But it has now gone up to £53 and 80p

**Tinkerbelle and Joan:** -

We want empathy not false sympathy  
We want rights and dignity not peoples charity  
Where is the love?  
We want equal opportunity,  
To be embraced in our community  
Open your eyes, heart, mind, as this is me!

**Joan:** -

Poverty deniers, poor people need to survive  
It's not just food that keeps us alive  
Family Carers are forced into part time work  
As PIP changes their rates, it's all bizerk  
We thought that you having had a child with a disability  
Cameron you'd have more sense of this reality

**Tinkerbelle and Joan:** -

We want empathy not false sympathy  
We want rights and dignity not peoples charity  
Where is the love?  
We want equal opportunity,  
To be embraced in our community  
Open your eyes, heart, mind as this is me!

**Tinkerbelle**

Cuts in Benefits and changing the system  
Makes my brain like spaghetti Junction  
Conflicting advice and contrary news  
Only serves to make me feel scared and confused  
It impacts my life, hear my ranting and raving  
Your money saving doesn't create a safe Haven

**Tinkerbelle and Joan:** -

We want empathy not false sympathy  
We want rights and dignity not peoples charity  
Where is the love?  
We want equal opportunity,  
To be embraced in our community  
Open your eyes, heart, mind as this is me!

Where is the love, where is the love, where is the love

**Homeless Philosopher:** - That was beautiful, I feel it's time to stand up and tell people what welfare reform really means for the likes of us, I invite you ladies and gentlemen to get up to have your say, you can shout it, sing it, do

**Homeless Philosopher:** - That was beautiful, I feel it's time to stand up and tell people what welfare reform really means for the likes of us, I invite you ladies and gentlemen to get up to have your say, you can shout it, sing it, do what you will, let's turn this round and make it our show about what really matters

**MC:** - This is a disaster, you're turning my show into some hippy, pow wow, you have made your point, sit down now like a good boy and we will get on with some real entertainment.

**Homeless Philosopher:** - No you sit down and listen, you might learn something, it is about time your lot knew what your policies are doing to real people

**MC:** - We know, we just don't care

**Homeless Philosopher:** - That just about sums it up doesn't it, they know what they are doing and how it is affecting the hard working poor, the struggling poor, the unemployed poor and they just don't care! With that in mind anyone else out there who wants to say something get up and have your say, please don't be shy.

**The frustrated voice of the poor hardworking mum:** - I write a bit of poetry this is one I wrote about tax credit

**Homeless Philosopher:** - Great up you get

**The frustrated voice of the poor hardworking mum:** -

Tax Credit – love 'em  
They get my son and me out and about  
Food Yum  
The pictures... 'cos it's dear  
And now I can afford to take him there  
Now I hear they are being striped from us  
WHAT?

Now we are gonna be sat in the house,  
Quiet as a mouse,  
Nowhere to go  
Nowhere to flow  
No money in pocket  
Gonna put my finger in a socket

George Osborne  
What have you done  
You're stripping the poor...  
No help to get off the floor  
We work hard each day for minimum pay  
Just have a heart... hear us out and make our day

To Luke my son  
I'm sorry but in a short while the treats are gonna have to stop  
Tax credits are getting the chop  
Coats and quilts on in the house to keep out the cold  
I hear you coughing because of the damp and the mold

It ain't cos I'm lazy, I work hard all day long  
This world is not fair don't get me wrong

Lets all stand up for our rights and find a collective voice  
Through petitions, rallies and peaceful protest  
Let's bombard the media... get our voices heard



Lets all stand up for our rights and find a collective voice  
Through petitions, rallies and peaceful protest  
Let's bombard the media... get our voices heard  
Tax credit is a lifeline

**Homeless Philosopher:** - I am loving this real people telling us how it is for them,

**Folk Singer:** - I have a song, *(To the band)* it's in the key of \_ if you what to join in

How did they get elected?  
Society's become infected  
Divided and complacent  
And we fall

Ever seen an MP  
Stacking supermarket shelves  
Like a ballerina  
In size twelves

**Chorus:**

We need a commonwealth for all  
No monopoly board  
With a top hat and a terrier  
And pockets getting emptier  
A commonwealth for all  
Not different schools  
Don't humiliate me  
Or take me for a fool

Jobs for all that's our call  
If we don't rise then we will fall  
The big bad wolf  
Is blowing down the door

Mental health or rich man's wealth?  
They've stolen all our dreams by stealth  
The rich get rich  
By robbing from the poor

**Chorus**

To make the cash flow  
We're gonna have a disco  
Raving at the Palace  
Till the dawn

And in the morning  
When her Majesty's still yawning  
Her furniture is out there  
On the lawn

**Chorus**

We need a commonwealth for all x 2

***During the song, cast members and audience plants start singing the chorus,***

**Homeless Philosopher:** - Wow, common wealth, I like the sound of that, no more rich that have it all while the poor scramble around trying to get the crumbs from their table, come on we want more, shout out what you feel.

**Homeless Philosopher:** - Wow, common wealth, I like the sound of that, no more rich that have it all while the poor scramble around trying to get the crumbs from their table, come on we want more, shout out what you feel. Let's show these toffs, they aren't the only ones with talent

### ***The young adult stands***

**The voice of the young adult:** -

Fucking hostels, I'm not gonna lie

It's hard

It kept me safe for six months

But cuts to benefit will make it harder

Waiting for a social housing house,

One bedroom – can't move to a private rented as you won't pay

No chance of getting a job in here

I have done three apprenticeships

Each time they dump me when it's done and get another apprentice in

What hope do you in government give me for my future

Where are the jobs – where is the training

I can't afford to study and I have no one to help

Bet your kids have more hope than I

**Homeless Philosopher:** - More, more,

**Craig:** - Me and the band been working on a couple of numbers that are far more in keeping with what we think than what Euphemia and her cronies think, we only work for her 'cause we can't afford not to, and she gives cash in hand to avoid paying employers tax contribution, oh and pays well below minimum wages.

**MC:** - Lies all lies

**Homeless Philosopher, Craig, all other cast members except Cunty:** -  
Shut it

**MC:** - AHHHHHHHHH

**Craig:** - 2, 3, 4,

**Singers:** -

It's nuts, It's madness

It's nuts, It's madness.

It's Britain in Sadness.

Why do we need the right to buy?

Skyscrapers in the sky

What a housing farce,

Shove the shard up your arse

Corporation tax far to bent,

Got no money for my rent

All the money is to be spent,

On the refurb of parliament

It's nuts, It's madness

It's nuts, It's madness.

It's Britain in Sadness.

Doesn't matter if you can't talk

Doesn't matter if you can't walk,

They prey on you like a hawk,

ATOS, you make me baulk

How can we manage,

How can we manage,  
Without Nigel Farage.  
Don't know how to pronounce his name,  
Hang your head in fucking shame.

It's nuts, It's madness  
It's nuts, It's madness.  
It's Britain in Sadness.

It's a struggle as it is,  
People are in crisis,  
They take our human rights,  
David Cameron, gives me the frights.

How many bedrooms in the palace?  
Bedroom tax, the poison chalice.  
You're lower than your corgi's balls.

It's nuts, It's madness  
It's nuts, It's madness.  
It's Britain in Sadness.

It's nuts, It's madness  
It's nuts, It's madness.  
It's Britain in crisis.

***During the song, the voices of the people in the audience come onto the stage, and join in with the song***

**Homeless Philosopher: -**

Thank you folks, you have been watching Farewell Welfare a Cabaret of chopping and cutting, letting you know what we really think about welfare reform and how it affects us, and the people we know and love. If you like us feel angry about the government's austerity measures and attacks on the poorest and most vulnerable in society please leave here with the motivation and energy to speak out and say enough, on the back of your flags there are some pointers as to campaigns and organisations you might want to look at in more depth and get involved with. No action is too small, signing a petition, talking to a friend, smiling at a man or woman fallen on hard times and sleeping rough, is the beginnings of change. We are going to end the show with a song, it's the cast's favorite and we invite you to sing, dance and clap along. Come up all in the show, all the actors including you Abi who played Ephimia, right are you ready Craig and the band hit it

**The Whole Cast: -**

I've got no money I've got no time  
I've got no job it's a bleeding crime  
I get on the phone to the job centre plus  
All they give me is a load of fuss

**Chorus:**

What's your NI Number?  
Your mother's maiden name?  
What d'ya have for breakfast?  
Time and time again  
1,000 questions  
All the bloody same  
All the bloody same

At Downing Street they're living it up

All the bloody same  
At Downing Street they're living it up  
All of it paid for by another bloody cut  
Feeding their faces with truffles and champagne  
Celebrating the austerity campaign

**Chorus:**

What's your NI Number?  
Your mother's maiden name?  
The GNP of Sweden?  
The capital of Spain?  
What d'ya have for breakfast?  
Time and time again  
1,000 questions  
All the bloody same  
All the bloody same

Where's me money gone was it a mirage?  
I'm going call Dave and reverse the charge  
It's been two days since I had something to eat  
I put in a call to Downing Street  
I said where's my dough did you move it offshore?  
Did you give it to your mates cos they don't need anymore

**Chorus:**

What's your NI Number?  
Your mother's maiden name?  
Your inside leg?  
The nature of your fame?  
The GNP of Sweden?  
The capital of Spain?  
What d'ya have for breakfast?  
Time and time again  
1,000 questions  
All the bloody same  
All the bloody same