

LEAH BALMFORTH

BARBARA HORNE

# My Name is Beth

PRODUCED BY **INES SERRANO DE HARO PEREZ** | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **SEAN MONROE**  
EDITED BY **MAHESH RAGHAVAN** | SOUND DESIGN BY **MATT PART** | MUSIC BY **AMOGH INAMDAR**  
WRITTEN BY **ALICE CLARK** | DIRECTED BY **SAYEE GOGATE**

SCREEN  
ACADEMY  
SCOTLAND

Edinburgh Napier  
UNIVERSITY

## *Details*

### *Cast*

Beth	Leah Balmforth
Verity	Barbara Horne

### *Specifications*

Language	English
Runtime	12 mins 49 secs
Location	Scotland, UK
Color	Color
Aspect Ratio	2.39:1
Directed by	Sayee Gogate
Screenplay by	Alice Clark
Producer	Ines Serrano de Haro Perez
Cinematographer	Sean Monroe
Editor	Mahesh Raghavan



### *Logline*

A teenage girl in desperate need of a place to stay visits her estranged grandmother in the remote Scottish countryside.

### *Synopsis (Short)*

Beth, a teenage girl in desperate need of a place to stay visits her estranged grandmother in the remote Scottish countryside. To her surprise, Verity, her grandmother, mistakes Beth for a council worker.

Trauma and misunderstandings from the past are uncovered as Beth navigates the fickle relationship with her grandmother.

Beth learns a whole new side of her broken family and her own grandmother, laying a foundation for their bittersweet relationship.



### *Synopsis (Long)*

Beth, a 17 year old free spirit, pukes into a hedge in serene countryside. Despite sweat, spit, and pain in her chest, she trudges on in clothes not meant for hiking. Beth arrives at a run-down cottage which belongs to her grandmother VERITY, a 65 year old free spirit, who hacks away at a bare vegetable patch. To Beth's astonishment, Verity mistakes Beth for a council worker instead and lists the tasks she needs help with. When Verity drifts into her thoughts and then into the cottage, Beth follows her inside to find the place littered with old food and dirt. She confronts Verity again and this time, in stark contrast, Verity recognizes Beth as her granddaughter but makes it clear she's unwelcome, even when Beth protests that her mum has kicked her out.

Exhausted and desperate, Beth sneaks away into a room where she relents to a nap. Later, ready to apologize and earn herself the room she's helped herself to, Beth approaches Verity again but finds herself once again mistaken for a council worker. Bewildered with Verity's change of persona, Beth helps Verity dig and listens to the chatter that reveals Verity's loneliness. As the pair rest, Verity discovers Beth is pregnant and Beth begins to discover her mother's version of their family history differs to her grandmother's. But despite the uncertainty and shifting personas, Beth and Verity share a gruff outlook on the world and the confusing day turns into a night of fun which ends in tenderness.

In dawn light, Beth resolutely tries to settle into the house but every time she encounters Verity, she wonders who she will meet. Their paths skim until Verity confuses Beth for Beth's mother Susie. The truth comes out that Susie chose her partner, Beth's father, over Verity. Rather than Verity kicking Beth and her mum out, it was them that left her alone. Reeling from the truth of her family history and her grandmother's dementia, Beth confronts Verity once more only to be mistaken for the council worker again. Cheerfully cajoled by Verity to plant bulbs, Beth is left knowing she will be welcome when her grandmother forgets who she is, and unwelcome when remembered as her granddaughter.

## Director's Statement

As someone who grew up watching two-dimensional female characters being used as nothing more than plot tools, when it was my turn to make a film, I knew it had to be about the messy, complex, resilient, magnificent nature of female relationships.

The idea for 'My Name is Beth' came from the loss I felt after my own grandmother passed away and the realization that I had lost her in more ways than one. I didn't realize for a long time that I never knew my grandma as more than a grandmother, separate from the context of that relationship, just as the amazing individual she was.

When I approached Alice, our brilliant writer, with nothing more than a vague idea, the first thing we agreed upon was that we wanted to tell a story about these two dynamic women and give them the room to be imperfect, bring them off the pedestal, and let them just be them!

I worked with Ines, my Producer, and Alice for months, trying to find the essence of who these two women were. We went back and forth on draft after draft trying to find the right tone. We did in-depth research, talked to experts, and relied on our acquaintances' personal experiences with dementia to make sure we did our best to give justice to the issue in the short span of the film.

We scoured the Scottish countryside looking for a house that would encapsulate Verity's personality, signify who she was, standing strong even through her loneliness. We wanted Beth to enter her bubble and give them the space and isolation that they needed to shed the ties of the outside world and be their own, pure, unfiltered self.

Sean, the DOP, and I worked on finding the right look and style for the film. We went through references and ideas ranging from sketches to film stills to find the best possible way to portray the emotions through every frame. We used a mixture of smooth static shots and shaky handheld to signify the fickle nature of their relationship.

'My Name is Beth' is a product of months of hard work, navigating the challenges of working on a student budget through the disasters of cast members getting Covid to the equipment breaking down in the middle of the shoot.

I hope the film warms the viewers' hearts but also breaks them a little and maybe gives them that nudge to call their loved ones just to say 'Hi.'"



Cast



*Leah Balmforth  
as Beth*



*Barbara Horne  
as Verity*



## Crew

Directed by	Sayee Gogate
Screenplay by	Alice Clark
Producer	Ines Serrano de Haro Perez
Cinematographer	Sean Monroe
Editor	Mahesh Raghavan
Casting	Kerry Grainger
Production Assistant	Jamie Forrest
1st AC	Madhav Sreekumar
2nd AC	Angie Ymeraz
Production Design	Erin Moodie
Sound Recordist	Daniel Kreutzinger
Continuity	Mahesh Raghavan
Assitant Editor	Lea Gudelj
Sound Designer	Matt Part
Composer	Amogh Inamdar
Colorist	Sean Monroe

My Name is  
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