

THE HOURS TURN TO NOTHING

Cast of Characters

Voice of the News - Kallie
Midwife 1 - Leah
Midwife 2 - Morgan
Midwife 3 - Morgan
Midwife 4 - Georgia (Stage IIa only) & Katelyn (Stage III only)
Midwife 5 - Natasha (Stage IIa only) & Katelyn (Stage III only)
Midwife 6 - Jordyn
Nurse 1 - Katelyn
Nurse 2 - Raquel
Nurse 3 - Katelyn
Nurse 4 - Julia
Nurse 5 - ALTO2A
Nurse 6 - Shila
Nurse 7 - Gabrielle
Survivor 1 - Rowan
Survivor 2 - Caitlin
Survivor 3 & 7 - Gabrielle
Survivor 4 - Caitlin
Survivor 5 - Shila
Survivor 6 - Rowan
Survivor 8 - Julia
Survivor 9 - Jordyn
Survivor 10 - Georgia
Survivor 11 - Natasha

Script Colour Key:

Red	Blocking
Orange	Tech (Erin/Matt)
Green	Music (Christina)
Purple	Movement (Claire)
Black	Dialogue (Christina/Claire)

STAGE I – (THE SHOW / EARLY LABOUR)

SOUND CUE 1 : SHIP'S BELL ON D

MUSIC: WINTER SKY BY JUDY COLLINS, ARR. SARAH DACEY (3 MINS, D MINOR)



Leah begins upstage centre and moves downstage during her solo.

Sopranos standing clumped SR in the window frames, Altos SL.

Measures 17 - 25 - Slow drift out of the window frames into the main space, filling in the space behind the soloist in a mixed scattered formation with shorter people near the front. You will need to take turns stepping through the window frames.

Measure 26 & 27 - Move into a tighter clump

Measure 28 - Raise arms to connect with the people on either side.

Measure 31 - 44 - Clump and Individual movement (see [video](#))

M 45 - 53 Two soloists drift to the front. Everyone else move to two straight lines up the centre of the stage behind the soloists.

M 54 - 56 Starting at the front, move into two diagonal lines with the soloists still at the front.

SOUNDSCAPE 1:

SOUND CUE 2: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

CUE Telegraph noises - Walk to empty spaces, keep the energy and the urgency up. Heavy breathing while walking.

1 FINGER Wind noises - Over the end of the telegraph, and into the silence. Slow down the walking pace until you come to a complete stop. Wind noises fade out at the same time.

2 FINGERS Begin walking again

3 FINGERS Breath in - Suspension in walking

4 FINGERS Breath out - Move to bandages positions

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

5 FINGERS Bandage Action ([video](#))

Morse Code - Freeze in place and remain frozen for Kallie's line

SOUND CUE 2A: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: December 6, 1917. Halifax in Ruins. Twenty thousand destitute. At least two thousand dead. Bodies buried in rubble. Those without shelter wander the streets.

Midwife 1 - Leah: The hours turn to nothing as bodies move in and out of Camp Hill.

Midwife 2 - Morgan: We comfort those around us.

Nurse 1 - Katelyn: We feed those who survive.

Nurse 2 - Raquel: We cover the faces of the dead.

SOUND CUE 2B: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: Over one thousand injured waiting for aid. There are less than three hundred beds.

Midwife 1 - Leah: There's no time to stop to see what's coming, or to count how many are dead.

Nurses Group A - Raquel, Katelyn: We carry on.

All: We find a way.

Nurses Group B - Raquel, Katelyn: We do what we can.

SOUND CUE 2C: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: Half-ton anchors sail out of the harbor. Freight cars blow off their tracks.

Midwife 1 - Leah: The pregnant women come clutching their bellies, sent into labour by the force of the blast. There's nothing I can do to turn it back.

Many voices overlapping (starts with a single voice, then additional voices begin to chime in, then will fade and taper off to a single voice again.) :

Please help! Mama—. My baby's coming!

Over here—.

My baby's coming! **Georgia :** Come quick! It's time.

MUSIC: PSALM 69 (JENNY TRITES)

Please note, all singers except Kallie are Midwives and Nurses in this song.

Soloists enter as they sing

On Gabrielle's solo line (measure 1), Survivors turn over your right shoulder to face forward.

M 5 - 15 - When you sing, begin walking slowly to three loose clumps close to the front of the stage (Sop 2 stage right, Sop 1s centre, Altos stage left) Take your time!

M 16-17 - Draw together in a tight clump

M 18-20 - Look up at the balcony

M 21-24 - Sop 2s and Altos quickly spread out to the sides, Sop 1s quickly float backwards into diamond formation, Sop 2s and Altos fill in the centre - like waves.

M 25-40 - Sop 1s glide forward, Altos and Sop 2s part to make way as the Sop 1s come through.

M 41- M 55

- M 41 - 42 Sop 1s spread out a bit (diamond shatters)
- M 43 - 44 Sop 2s & Altos step forward, Sop 1s step backward
- M 45 - 48 Sop 1s move to Stage Right while Sop 2s and Altos move into the centre
- M 49 - 51 Sop 2s and Altos move toward Stage Left and back while Sop 1s move forward
- M 52 - 53 Move to two line formation
- M 55 - Front row kneel

HELPERS

Caitlin

Kallie

Leah

Georgia

Natasha

Julia

Morgan

Shila

Rowan

Gabrielle

Katelyn

Raquel

Jordyn

ALTO2A

AUDIENCE

M 71 - Back row lean forward to offer hands to help the front row up. Front row should not put their hands up until the back row's hands are in place.

M 84 - Right hand comes up into a first at your heart, like grasping a necklace

M 88 - Break the two line formation and move to mixed scattered. A sudden dropping of the hand breaking and away from formation simultaneously.

STAGE IIA (PUSH)

SOUND CUE 4: SHIP'S BELL ON D

SOUND CUE 5A: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

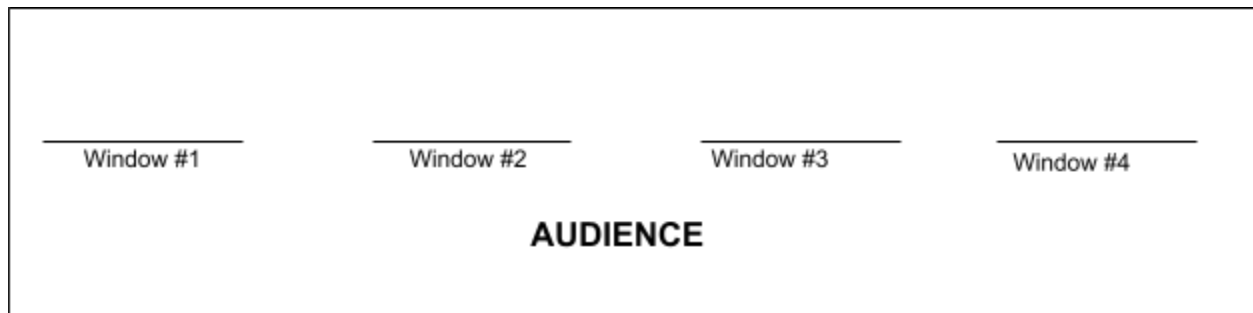
Over the Morse Code and Kallie's text, the windows will be moved to a horizontal line across the centre of the stage. **Window movers - Pink Spike :**

ALTO2A & Jordyn move the downstage left window into the #4 position (from stage right to stage left)

Caitlin & Shila move the downstage right window into the #1 position (from stage right to stage left)

Morgan & Raquel move the upstage left window into the #3 position (from stage right to stage left)

Georgia & Natasha move the upstage right window into the #2 position (from stage right to stage left)



Voice of the News - Kallie: December 6, ten a.m. Relief trains rush to Halifax from nearby points. Doctors, firemen, nurses and midwives bring food, clothing and medical supplies.

Midwife 1 - Leah: I pack my bag.

Nurse 3 - Katelyn: I want to help.

Midwife 3 - Morgan: I kiss my husband goodbye.

SOUND CUE 5B: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: Nurses, midwives, farmers' daughters.

Sopranos: We wait at every town along the line.

SOUND CUE 5C: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: Truro, Falmouth, Windsor, Aldershot.

Nurse 4 - Julia: I want to help.

Midwife 4 - Georgia: I pack my bag.

Nurse 5 - ALTO2A: I kiss my children goodbye.

SOUND CUE 5D: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: Amherst, Stellarton, Moncton, St. John.

Altos: We come from every town along the line.

Midwife 1 - Leah: They send the pregnant women to me. There's nothing I can do to turn it back.

SOUNDSCAPE 2:

People behind the windows will form into groups of two or three - two on either side helping the third person in the middle to walk around behind the windows.

Raquel & Natasha

Shila & Rowan

Gabrielle & Nikki & Jordyn

1 FINGER - Alto B Entrance (2 bars) On the first breath, the women who are in labour should have a physical movement, then the helpers move to them.

2 FINGERS - Alto A Entrance (4 bars = 2 sequences)

3 FINGERS - Sop 2B Entrance (4 bars = 2 sequences)

4 FINGERS - Sop 2A Entrance (2 bars of quarter notes, 2 bars of eighth notes)

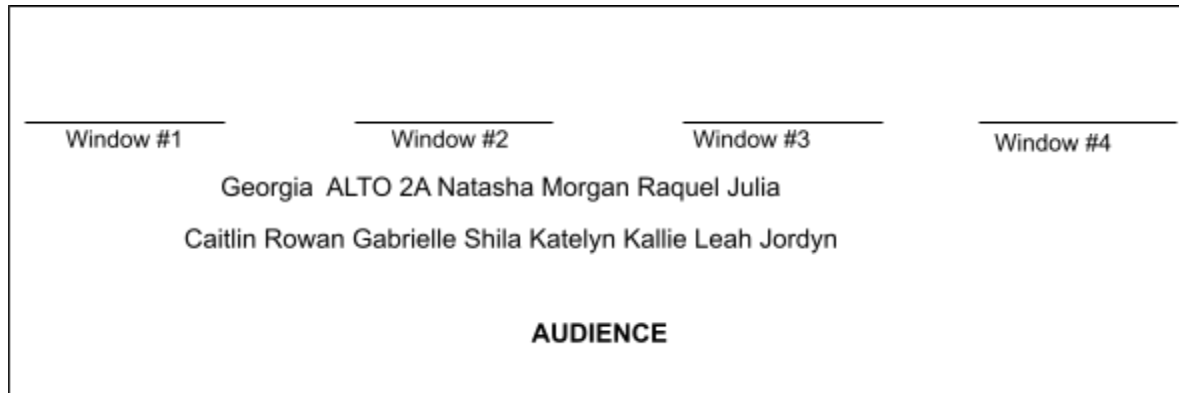
5 POINT AT SHILA - She does the solo whistle sounds

6 CHRISTINA'S CUE - All Sops on train whistle. Dissolve the groups. Move quickly to your V'la l'bon vent positions over the rest of the whistles.

MUSIC: V'LA L'BON VENT, ARR. ALLISON GIRVAN (F# MINOR)

Quartet downstage centre, Natasha and *** behind Shila and Katelyn.

M 1-34 (both repeats and letter A) Standing in two lines on either side of the quartet, in front of the windows, in the following order :



Chorus : Look sideways at the quartet when they sing, look at one another and interact when you sing the echos and the V'la l'bon vent sections (listening to the news, then sharing the news)

M 35-36 Move. Quartet will relocate to be furthest stage right. The Sop 1, Sop 2, Alto 1, Alto 2. Still in two lines. Imagine you are moving down a narrow train aisle, go in a straight line as much as possible.

Letter C - All three repeats

1st time : Alto 2s step forward, turn to face stage right and walk as far stage right as possible. Everyone else turn and walk towards stage left two spaces.

2nd time : Alto 1s step forward, turn to face stage right and walk as far stage right as possible. Everyone else turn and walk towards stage left two spaces.

3rd time : Sop 2s step forward, turn to face stage right and walk as far stage right as possible. Everyone else turn and walk towards stage left two spaces.

[Moving to new lines and then the three repeats](#)

M 58 - Turn your whole body toward the quartet.

Letter D - Drift sideways in two lines behind the windows, then turn to face front again. Quartet move to a straight line across the centre of the stage.

[Letter E](#) - Walk forward, stepping on the second beat of every bar. Begin with right foot. Seven steps in total - the seventh step is feet together. Maintain the two lines, and come up behind the quartet. Quartet step in place.

SOUND CUE 6A: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

During the Morse Code, move to positions as shown in the photo below. Remain in these positions until Soundscape 3.



Voice of the News - Kallie: Half of Richmond continues to burn. All trains brought to a halt outside the city limits. Debris litters the tracks.

Midwife 1 - Leah: Grey clouds hang low to the ground. Bits of tar-paper float in the sky.

Midwife 5 - Natasha: An endless stretch of blackened homes and ruined lives.

Nurse 6 - Shila: We walk.

Midwife 6 - Jordyn: We carry on.

Nurse 7 - Gabrielle: We find a way.

Sopranos: We come from every town along the line.

SOUND CUE 6B: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: Over one thousand injured. Less than three hundred beds.

Midwife 1 - Leah: There's bleeding to staunch, bones to set, wounds to stitch, babies to catch.

SOUND CUE 6C: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: nurses, midwives, farmers' daughters.

Alto 1s: Bleeding to staunch, bones to set, wounds to stitch, babies to catch.

Midwife 1 - Leah: There's no way to turn it back.

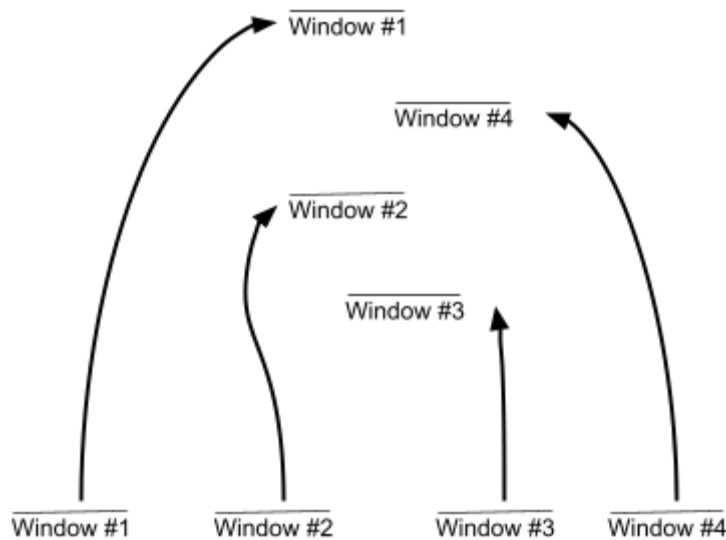
All: We carry on. We find a way.

SOUNDSCAPE 3:

Sopranos join one of the Alto patterns for the duration of the costume change etc.

All sounds should continue until after ALTO2A and Georgia do the train whistle and then watch Christina for the cutoff.

- Survivors move toward the back of the stage to remove costume pieces.
- **Window movers take windows to the centre of the stage (Orange Spikes)**
 - Raquel & ALTO2A move window #1
 - Katelyn & Kallie move window #2
 - Morgan & Leah move window #3
 - Julia & Shila move window #4



- Gabrielle, Georgia, Natasha need to move behind the line of windows after removing their costume piece. Raquel will move to be near the front.
- Everyone else in a mixed scattered formation with Soprano 1,2 & 3 on Stage Right, Altos on Stage Left on either side of the windows, angled in towards the windows at about 45°

STAGE IIB (CROWNING)

Three Nurses and two Midwives stand over many survivors.

SOUND CUE 7: SHIP'S BELL ON F

MUSIC: PACEM BY DON MACDONALD (F-MINOR; 4 MINS)

M 1 - 26 Remain in opening positions. Natasha, Gabrielle & Georgia will begin moving through the windows one at a time starting at measure 8. Everyone else watch them.

2 Before B - Move to your positions for letter B

Letter B - Sectional movement

[Soprano Movement](#)

[Alto Movement](#)

Letter C - If you are seated at the end of B, stand up at the beginning of C - [Video of this section](#)

M 50 - 60 All walk forward

M 61 - 65 (this is the same movement as in Winter Sky, but slower because of the pace of the music) Each movement needs to last a full two beats, so that it looks connected and smooth

- Raise left elbow
- Raise left hand
- Grab left elbow with right hand
- Cross arms
- Arms down
- Look right
- Left hand to right cheek
- Right hand grab left forearm and turn face back to centre
- Hands down

M 66 - 72 Split into two groups on either side of the stage (this is mainly for Sop 3s) Then drift backward in a fairly close clump.

M 73 - 80 Move toward the centre of the stage and then come through the doors as you move forward. If you are on the outside edges, you might not go through a door, but should weave among one another. This should feel like when a wave flows forward. You can move fairly quickly to be ready to move to Letter D positions.

2 Before D - Move to positions for Letter D

Letter D - Same as Letter B (if you are sitting, stand up)

Letter E

M 102 - 104 Move into mixed scattered on the sides, turned slightly towards the windows

M 105 - 122 Morgan, Katelyn, Raquel move through the windows while everyone else is in mixed scattered on either side watching.

123 - End Turn to face the front

SOUND CUE 8: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: December 7, 1917. Halifax in shock. Survivors recall the tragedy that has plunged the city in grief.

Survivor 1 - Rowan: The fire comes.

Survivor 2 - Caitlin: A deafening roar.

Soprano 1s: Pink arms, pink legs, pink sky

Survivor 3 - Gabrielle: Windows shatter.

Survivor 4 - Caitlin: I run barefoot. Glass cuts the soles of my feet.

Soprano 1s: Pink legs, pink sky, pink houses.

Survivor 5 - Shila: My daughter is wearing a pretty pink dress. I made it myself. She's only two.

Soprano 1s: Pink arms, pink houses, pink sky.

Survivor 6 - Rowan: The floor gives way beneath me.

Survivor 7 - Gabrielle: I run barefoot. I see bodies in the street.

Survivor 8 - Julia: I hang on to what little comfort I can find.

Soprano 1s: Pink arms, pink legs, pink houses, pink sky.

Nurse 2 - Raquel: We cover the faces of the dead.

Nurse 1 - Katelyn: We feed those who survive.

Midwife 2 - Morgan: We find a way.

Nurse 2 - Raquel: We carry on.

Midwife 1 - Leah: The hours turn to nothing as the bodies move in and out of Camp Hill.

Survivor 9 - Jordyn: My baby's coming! **BEGIN MOVING IN THE SPACE**

Survivor 10 - Georgia: Come quick, it's time! **FREEZE IN PLACE**

Midwife 1 - Leah: One birth is sadness and hope all at once. **RESUME WALKING & MOVE WINDOWS**

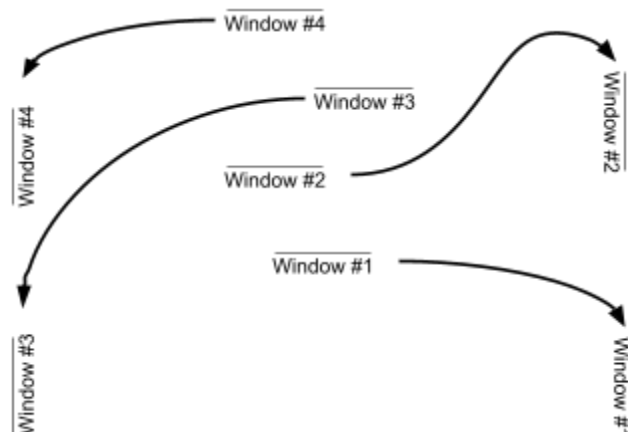
Window movers : (yellow spikes)

Raquel & Gabrielle - Window 1 - to downstage left

Raquel & Gabrielle - Window 2 - to upstage left

Katelyn & Rowan - Window 3 - to downstage right

Katelyn & Rowan - Window 4 - to upstage right



All non-survivors: Wounds to stitch, babies to catch.

A few Survivors - Shila, Caitlin: Pink arms, pink legs, pink houses, pink sky.

Survivor 11 - Natasha: Please help! My baby's coming!

Midwife 1 - Leah: It's time.

Midwives 1, 2, 3 (Leah, Raquel, Morgan): Push, push, push...push, push, push...push, push, push...

SOUNDSCAPE 4:

On the “Push push push” - everyone else move to mixed scattered (for the Explosion Movement Score) across the stage. Remain in character, but your character is not necessarily in the same location or place in time as you just were.

CHRISTINA WILL POINT ACROSS THE STAGE and that is when you begin doing your thing quietly and growing in volume. Keep going even when the train whistle begins.

- Gasping & whimpering - Brianna, Katelyn & Rhian
- “Hello” “Help” “Anyone” - Morgan & Jordyn
- Lord’s Prayer - Natasha
- Hail Mary - Leah
- Psalm 23 - Raquel
- “James?” - Gabrielle
- “Mary?” - Georgia
- Moaning - Emma & Julia
- Shuddering breathing - Mackenzie & Talisa

POINT AT SHILA - Train whistle

POINT AT SOP 1s - Do one rep of the train whistle, then another that rises to your highest pitch and ends in a scream (no falling off the pitch)

MOVEMENT SCORE: Explosion

SILENCE

STAGE III (AFTERBIRTH/RETURN TO LIFE)

A mixture of Midwives, Nurses, and Survivors are on the stage.

SOUND CUE 9: SHIP'S BELL ON D

MUSIC: CRONAN ARRANGED BY STEPHEN SMITH* (3:00, D MINOR)

M 1 - 8 Remain standing in mixed scattered positions after the Explosion. You will do 2 or 3 individual, small, subtle, slow “waking up” movements during these measures. Eyes remain up and out toward the audience. Hands should be by your sides by the end of measure 8

M 9 - 16 Drift into a tight clump in the middle of the stage

M 17 - 30 Undulating circle movement around center point. Remember to move very slowly and try not to drift too far backwards.

M 31 - 32 Hold in position

M 33 - 36 Clump moves forward together, moving up and down and connecting physically with each other (like in the circling movement earlier)

M 37 - END Break apart suddenly on the downbeat of 37, then slowly spread out to mixed scattered positions for the rest of the piece.

SOUNDSCAPE 5:

Remain in place, the lights will dim.

A moment of silence, then gradually build the soundscape.

Altos : women speaking over the fence, gradually recovering from the trauma

Sopranos : school children

When “pattycake” begins, the altos will fade out their talking

CUE 9.5 - SCHOOL BELL

Nurse 1 - Katelyn: We carry on.

Midwife 2 - Morgan: We find a way.

Midwife 1 - Leah: The hours turn to nothing.

Midwife 3 - Morgan: A pink healthy child.

MUSIC: EVEN WHEN HE IS SILENT BY KIM ANDRÉ ARNESEN (4:30 A MINOR ... C MAJOR)

M 1 - 4 Look up toward the balcony

M 5 - 11 Look straight out toward the audience

M 12 - 19 Look up toward the balcony

M 20 - Look straight out toward the audience when the sopranos start to sing

M 22 - 36 Each time you have the words “I believe in love” (not when you have the partial line “I believe”) you will do the following action. The action is fairly swift :

Action & [Video of Claire M 22-29](#) : Bring right hand up to your chest, then straight out from your body, (“I believe in...”) then back into your chest and close your fist (“...love”), then down to your side. (last beat of “love”)

[M 30 - 36 Alto Action](#) (because it is fairly quick)

M 35 - 36 Sopranos keep your hand closed at your chest for the repeats of “in love”

M 37 - On the triplet, quick flick open of right hand so that it is palm facing toward your right shoulder. Keep it fairly rigid until the left hand starts to move.

M 40 - On “even” start bringing left hand up to be in a similar position, then slowly bring hands together at your chest on M 44

M 46 - 47 On “believe” hands spring apart and then drift down to your sides

M 48 - 55 Stand and sing

M 56 - 57 Drift together starting on “believe” to a loose clump, look at one another as you move

M 58 - End Stand and sing

SOUNDSCAPE 6:

1. Everyone makes rushing wind sounds. Spread the clump out slightly and move backwards (**unless you are a window mover**)
2. Julia, Jordyn will do whistling sounds.
3. As the whistling begins, the wind sounds should become more intense (pre-blizzard).
4. Fade out the wind sounds quickly when the Morse code begins

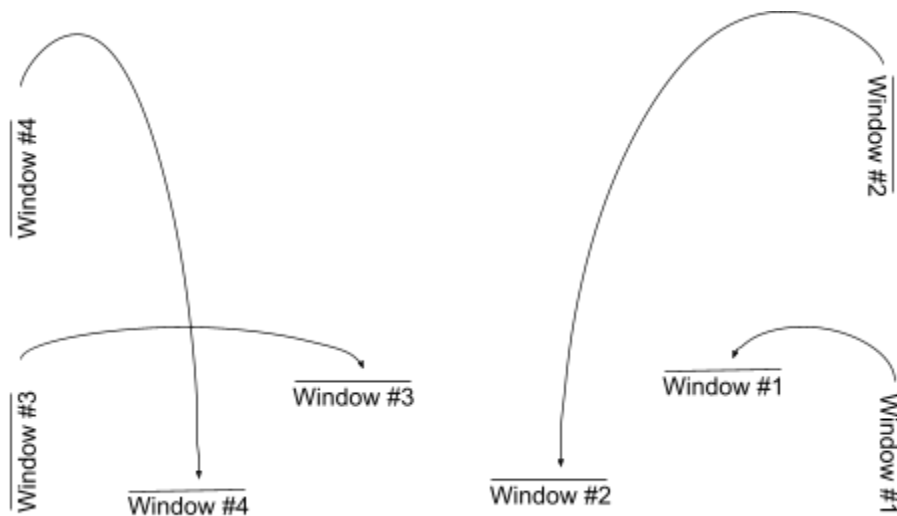
- Window movers : Yellow Spikes

Natasha & Julia - Window #1

Jordyn & Gabrielle - Window #2

Georgia & Caitlin - Window #3

Shila & Raquel - Window #4



- Kallie, Leah & Morgan move into the window frames (Morgan stage right, then Leah, then Kallie - the stage left window will be empty)

SOUND CUE 10A: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: December 7, 1917. Fierce winter storm buries ruins in snowdrifts. Search for survivors continues.

Midwife 1 - Leah: Missing. Would the soldier who rescued a baby from an unconscious woman's arms on Longard Road return the child to its parents, at number nine Longard Road.

Midwife 2 - Morgan: Found. Ash-pan baby rescued. Two-year-old girl discovered in smoldering debris twenty-six hours after explosion. Alive but nameless.

SOUND CUE 10B: MORSE CODE/TELEGRAPH

Voice of the News - Kallie: Sympathy and aid pour in from all quarters at home and abroad. Halifax will rise from the ashes.

Nurse 2 - Raquel: We carry on.

Midwife 4 - Katelyn: We find a way.

Nurse 2 - Raquel: Sadness and hope.

Midwife 5 - Katelyn: A pink, healthy child.

All: We pray for the dead. We comfort those around us.

Survivor 1 - Rowan: We carry on.

Survivor 2 - Caitlin: We find a way.

Midwife 1 - Leah: The hours turn to nothing.

Nurse 1 - Katelyn: Then comes the snow.

MUSIC: SNOW (STEPHEN CHATMAN)

Verse 1 - Create Portrait formation - this does not need to be in a perfectly straight line, it's best if it is a little staggered for the arm movements later



Verse 2 - People in the front, kneel as you are able, starting with Rowan and moving very slowly down the line

Verse 3 - Remain in your positions. As secret as yon buried stream plod - Winter sky movement

- **As** Raise left elbow
- **Se-** Raise left hand
- **-cret** Grab left elbow with right hand
- **As** Cross arms
- **Yon** Arms down
- **Bur-** Look right
- **-ied** Left hand to right cheek
- **Stream** Right hand grab left forearm and turn face back to centre
- **Plod** Hands down by “dream”

Lights will fade to darkness. People who are standing will help those kneeling to stand again for the curtain call.

SOUND CUE 11: SHIP'S BELL ON D ^b

Presentation by Ami / Q&A

MUSIC: KYRIE (STEPHAN CARLSON)

End.