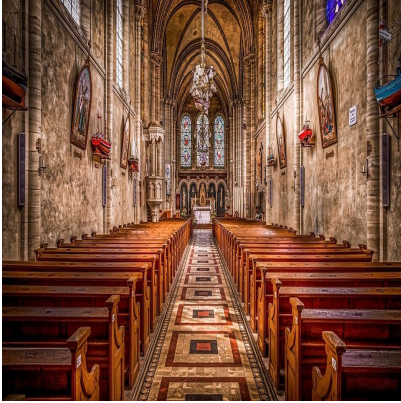




Top Scores #13: Isobel Waller-Bridge & Fleabag

Description



Phoebe Waller-Bridge's *Fleabag* is one of **British television's** most beloved comedy-dramas. Winning critical acclaim and the public's hearts, the show is quick-witted, brutally honest, and heartfelt. **Phoebe Waller-Bridge** writes and plays the female lead, enthralling audiences with her **emotional and sexual honesty**.

In a story of love and loss, we see **Fleabag** grieve over the death of her best friend, fall in love with a Priest, and, perhaps most notably, develop an affectionate bond with her sister, who is played by **Sian Clifford**.

Yet this heart-warming tale of **sisterhood** goes far beyond the fictional plot. *Fleabag*'s soundtrack was composed by **Phoebe**'s real life older sister, **Isobel Waller-Bridge**. This level of familial and emotional understanding is responsible for an electrifying musical narrative that shocks us, outrages us, and draws us in.

In conversation with the *Radio Times* **Isobel Waller-Bridge** claims that her favourite part of the scoring process is matching 'the personality of the music' with 'the personality of the character'. A deep understanding of **Fleabag**'s character was necessary to develop her soundtrack. **The Waller-Bridge sisters** knew her sound had to be unapologetic and badass, as well as relatable and likeable.

Isobel Waller-Bridge perfectly captures the essence of **Fleabag** in the series' title song, a rebellious, and somewhat sassy heavy metal track. 'Even though she does cruel things and she's mean, we've got to like her.' The theme is outspoken, bold and instantly shocking, just like **Fleabag**.

Now it's the second series: enter sexy Priest.

When talking to *Indiewire* **Isobel Waller-Bridge** claimed that they needed something more than conventional score for the second series' soundtrack. So, they arrived at choral music: 'we thought how about we try something that is vocal and comes from a sacred place.' By using a boys' choir she created a sense of naivety which gives **Fleabag**'s character space to evolve. It also reinforced the season's religious motif, as **Fleabag** falls hopelessly in love with a Priest.

The series reaches its climax in Episode 5 when we hear a track performed by an adult male choir. In a moment of drama and passion **Fleabag** and the Priest kiss and decide to have sex. Their relationship matures and so does the score.

Isobel Waller-Bridge soundtracks this exhilarating and thrilling moment with the track 'Kyrie', which translates from Greek as 'Our Lord Have Mercy'. She hides cheeky messages and sexual references in the vocals, confessing to *Indiewire* 'there are the occasional words that could be interpreted as filthy words. I think maybe once, maybe twice, we've got one of the female body parts.'

Her score is dangerous and outrageous, creating a badass soundtrack for a bold, cheeky and lovable **Fleabag**. She composes a musical narrative that is full of wit and imagination.

Fleabag is a sort of 'love letter' to **Isobel** says **Phoebe**; their real life relationship inspired the scenes between fictional **Fleabag** and Claire.

It is “the dreamiest collaboration” says **Isobel**, “I honestly can’t tell you how much fun it is to work with your best mate.” Their intimate relationship and united vision for **Fleabag** gives the show an electric and gripping musical narrative.

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