

# Samara MacLaren

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Samara MacLaren is a writer and actor. She was part of the BBC's 2018 Drama Room Scheme and was selected as one of the BBC's Scottish Voices for 2019. Her debut play, *Ailsa Benson is Missing* premiered at the 2018 Edinburgh Festival and was shortlisted for the Scottish Theatre Awards and a Filipa Braganca Award.

## Reviews – *Ailsa Benson is Missing* Edinburgh Fringe 2018

*"Beautifully wrought... a character study with real bite, meditating on the male gaze"*  
★★★★ *The List*

*"Directed with a strong understanding of the nature of innocence by Marilyn Imrie, MacLaren's script explores that age of passion and angst with real understanding."*  
★★★★ *The Stage*

*"Carefully plotted and sensitively written... a well crafted piece of theatre"* ★★★★★ *The Scotsman*

*"Striking just the right balance of humour and sincerity, this debut play will surely not be MacLaren's last."* ★★★★★ *The Skinny*

*"A strikingly insightful piece... it sweeps the audience along on a journey through love, loss, misunderstanding and purpose. A wonderful debut and an absolutely essential play to see this Fringe."* ★★★★★ *The British Theatre Guide*

Her other writing work includes; *Father and Son*, a ten-part detective series for BBC Learning; a short film script *Adulthood*, which was shortlisted and commissioned in 2017 as part of *The Break* for BBC Three; and *Bun*, a short play which was performed by Stellar Quines as part of an event for 2017 International Day of the Girl.