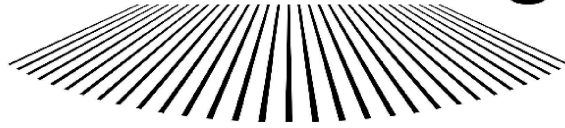


The Western Stage



Content Advisory

The Western Stage has a commitment to presenting diverse material that is entertaining and sometimes challenging. Content and themes may not be appropriate for all, as sensitivities vary by individuals. While TWS does not determine suitability, we offer the following inventory of content that some may consider adult in nature and of stage effects that may be of concern for patron health. Please keep in mind, that the words listed, taken out of context, may seem more offensive than they would in the context of the play.

Emilia

By Morgan Lloyd Malcom

Synopsis: Emilia Lanier née Bassano (1569 - 1645) was one of the first English female poets to be published. This all-but-erased historical figure is the subject of Morgan Lloyd Malcolm's Olivier award-winning play, which was first commissioned for Shakespeare's Globe with an all-female cast before heading to London's West End. The little we know of Emilia Bassano Lanier is that she is the rumored "Dark Lady" in Shakespeare's sonnets, mistress of Lord Chamberlain, a mother, teacher who founded a school for women, and radical feminist with North African ancestry. Living at a time when women had such limited opportunities, Emilia Lanier is therefore a fascinating subject for this speculative history, representing the stories of women everywhere whose narratives have been written out of history.

Special Effects: TBA – please check back as technical elements are determined and finalized.

Language:

- Emilia is called a whore
- Woman is called a "miserable cow"
- "for godsake"
- "piss off"
- "shit"
- "it was going up my bum."
- "these old, shitty rags"
- "sod off" = British equivalent of "Scram you shit."
- "He wiped his arse with her poem?"
- "if it's crap"
- "manure flippin' everywhere" = British for "manure effing everywhere"
- "Is it that time of the month?"

- “rich bitch”
- “posh bitch”
- “nasty little bitches”
- “you filthy bitch”
- “you filthy Danish bitch”
- “I turn tricks and the bastard doesn’t pay me so I got to beat ‘em til he does and then I put the coin somewhere my husband ain’t gonna find it.” “Up her...” “Yeh, mate.”
- “O fucksake!”
- “You really fucked it”

Drugs/Alcohol:

- Characters might drink

Violence:

- Mention is made of the classic character Philomela being raped and having her tongue cut out
- Multiple accusations of witchcraft and threats to have a woman burned alive
- Mention of a prostitute beating a john to make him pay
- General threat of male violence against women

Other triggers:

- Women play men having affairs with women
- Sexual affairs are represented onstage
- Pregnancy outside the bounds of marriage is depicted (briefly)
- Birth is depicted onstage (to some degree)
- Abortion is hinted at as ordinary at court, though it does not take place in this instance
- A woman hoiks up her skirt and adjusts her underwear to alleviate a wedgy
- Emilia is undressed and washed and redressed onstage
- Awkward kiss between gay husband played by a woman and wife
- Hints of lesbian love in Emilia’s poetry