



Shakespeare's Women

The Performance

*'Come, you spirits, That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,
And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full, Of direst cruelty. Make thick my blood...'*

Lady Macbeth howls to the spirits of the underworld to make thick her blood & steel her soul 'gainst murder.

She is one of the many lively dames brought to life in this 55 minute, two-woman play. A perfect introduction for years 7 & 8 and great fun for 9 & 10.

Some of the women dramatised include:

- Titania Queen of the Fairies – under the spell of a love potion she seduces a donkey to her bower!
- Cleopatra torments a poor messenger who brings her news she does not like! Antony's marriage to someone else. Talk about shooting the messenger.
- Lady Macbeth invokes the spirits & seduces her husband to murder. The original power couple.
- Helena won't let Demetrius go – literally! She grabs his legs and he drags her through the forest attempting to escape: 'I'll run from thee and hide me in the brakes, and leave thee to the mercy of wild beasts.' Tut tut Demetrius that's no way to speak to a young woman in love.
- Ophelia, unable to comprehend Hamlet's violence toward her; slowly loses her mind. Swaddled in rosemary & thyme she sinks to a watery grave.

'When down her weedy trophies and herself Fell in the weeping brook. Her clothes spread wide; And, mermaid-like, awhile they bore her up.'

SUITABILITY

Years 7 - 12

DURATION

55 minutes + 15 minute Q&A

COST PER STUDENT

\$7.70 (\$7 + .70c GST)

MINIMUM PER SESSION

\$770 (\$700+ \$70 GST)
if less than 100 students

NOTES

Teacher Notes provided