

Shakespeare's Heroines Readers Theatre Script
 By Laura Weiss, Catholic University student in
 Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn's course, The Teaching of Theatre

<p>(Note Person 1 is to be played by a female class member. All other numbers are gender-neutral.)</p> <p>1 Introducing...</p> <p>All Shakespeare's heroines! [gesture]</p> <p>1 "To be or not to be...that is the question!"</p> <p>2 Isn't that one of Hamlet's lines?</p> <p>3 It certainly is.</p> <p>4 And isn't Hamlet supposed to be played by a <i>boy</i>? [All look at #1]</p> <p>1 Oh...right...how about this then? "Friends, Romans, countrymen...lend me your ear!" [gesture]</p> <p>5 Nope [sound effect]. Try again.</p> <p>6 That's still a boy's role!</p> <p>1 So why are there so many famous <i>boy</i> roles in Shakespeare? What about the girls?</p> <p>2 Some people think that Shakespeare didn't create as many female roles because of the rules in the theatre.</p> <p>3 All female roles were actually played by boys...</p> <p>All dressed up as girls!</p> <p>1 But there must be <i>some</i> famous heroines of Shakespeare, right?</p> <p>4 Of course there are!</p> <p>5 Ever heard of the famous Romeo? Well, he wouldn't have been very famous without his Juliet!</p> <p>1 I've heard of them...they're the ones with the balcony scene, right?</p> <p>All Right! (Balcony pose)</p> <p>6 Or how about Lady Macbeth? Who could forget her famous sleepwalking? (Sleepwalking pose)</p> <p>1 She has some pretty well-known</p>	<p>All</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>1</p> <p>All</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>1</p> <p>6</p> <p>1</p> <p>All</p> <p>1</p> <p>All</p>	<p>lines too, doesn't she?</p> <p>"Out damned spot, out I say!" [gesture]</p> <p>And don't forget Titania, Queen of the Fairies in "A Midsummer Night's Dream."</p> <p>And King Lear's trustful daughter, Cordelia.</p> <p>Shakespeare didn't create all of his heroines either.</p> <p>Some are even based on real live, historical figures.</p> <p>Like Cleopatra [gesture] [sound effect]</p> <p>Or Anne Boleyn [gesture] [sound effect]</p> <p>To confuse audiences even more, some of Shakespeare's heroines dressed as boys in their roles.</p> <p>Wait, wait, wait!...So they were boys pretending to be girls pretending to be boys?</p> <p>(pause) Yes! [gesture]</p> <p>Take for example Viola in "Twelfth Night." In the play, she pretends to be a boy in order to work as a page to the Duke.</p> <p>Or Rosalind in "As You Like It;" she pretends to be a boy while exiled in the woods.</p> <p>There really are a lot of heroines in Shakespeare's plays!</p> <p>And in today's theatre, these female roles can actually be played by girls!</p> <p>So I could be one?</p> <p>Yup! [gesture]</p> <p>Anyone can play one of...</p> <p>Shakespeare's heroines! [gesture]</p>
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