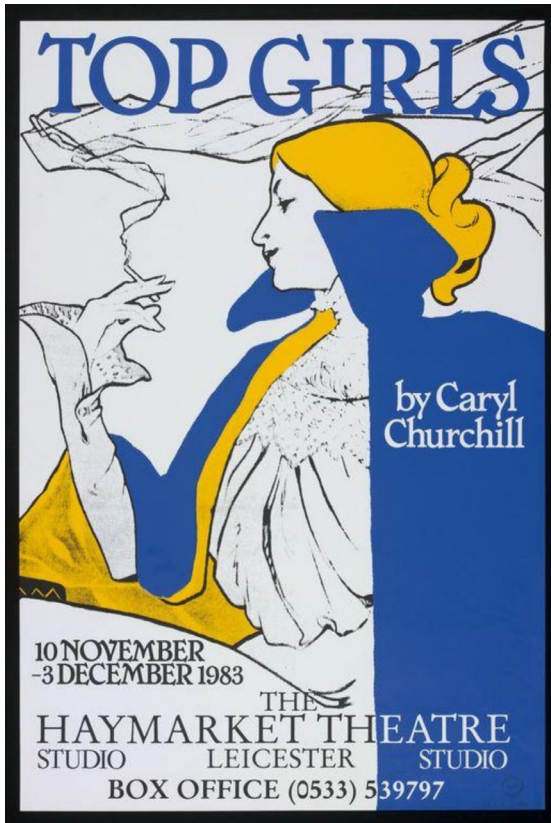


ENGL 471 "Contemporary Women Playwrights: Claiming the Stage"

Spring 2022

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This course studies plays by women--Canadian, American, English, Irish—from the end of the 20th century to the present. Aphra Behn paved the way in the Restoration, innovators such as Lady Gregory, Gertrude Stein, and Sophie Treadwell made their mark in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but not until our current era have women playwrights claimed a place on stage in significant numbers. What do these women playwrights, now winning productions and audiences, bring to contemporary theatre? What issues and concerns, what experiences, what modes of expression? These are some of the key questions we will explore. Since the 70s women in these nations gained reproductive choice; new feminisms emerged; new concepts of genders, sexualities, and identities gained ground. The playwrights we will study map the shifting terrain of women's lives; they address global political, ecological, and ethical questions of our era in unexpected ways. The course readings range from established to emerging

playwrights and include Indigenous, minority, and marginalized voices.

Prospective Text List:

Marie Clements, *Burning Vision*

Lynn Nottage, *Sweat*

Cherrie Moraga, *The Hungry Woman*

Suzan-Lori Parks, *The Red-Letter Plays*

Danai Gurira, *Eclipsed*

Lisa Kron, *Well*

Caryl Churchill, *Vinegar Tom, Top Girls, Escaped Alone*

Marina Carr, *By the Bog of Cats*

debbie tucker green, *Trade*

Hannah Moscovitch, *This Is War*

Prospective Assignments:

Reading quizzes (1 per play)

Three short essays (800 words each)

One final exam (essay plus short answer)