

WE ARE THEATRE

(Excerpt)

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WE ARE THEATRE

Intro – *The Power of the Push* by Aphra Behn

ACT I

- 1) *Share the Page* by Velina Hasu Houston
- 2) *Cunt* by Elizabeth Hess www.elizabethhess.net
- 3) *Good Ol'Guys* (SONG) by Sheilah Rae/Vince Peterson
- 4) *The Portal* by Paula Cizmar www.paulacizmar.com
- 5) *Do You Have Children?* by Thelma Virata de Castro tvdecastro@sbcglobal.net
- 6) *Little Black Actress* by Dominique Fishback
- 7) *The Proposal* by Irina Merkina irinamerkina@yandex.ru
- 8) *Sexism In Theatre* by Lynne S. Brandon Lsbrandon@igc.org
- 9) *Meeting Mr. Resistance* by Laura Shamas beth.blickers@abramsartistny.com.
- 10) *Bridge to Baraka* (Excerpt) by Yvette X (aka Heyliger)
- 11) *SHE* By Caridad Svich
- 12) *A Rejection In Full* by Mila Golubov
- 13) *No Place Like Home* (Excerpt) by Brooke Berman www.brookeberman.net
- 14) *Who's The Man?* by Mary Steelsmith

ACT II

- 15) *Volume Control* by Tiffany Antone (www.TiffanyAntone.com)
- 16) *A Quick Story* by Penny Jackson
- 17) *Chopping Cabbage* by Sophia Romma
- 18) *Shit Gets Wrecked* by Brighde Mullins
- 19) *Musings, or Kick Ass, Your Choice* by Marianne McDonald
- 20) *Not Published / Not Produced* by Honor Molloy

- 21) *Are You Ready?* by Andrea Lepcio
- 22) *Sportswriter, A True Story* by Kathleen Warnock
- 23) *I am Estonia* by Jyl Lynn Felman www.jyllynnfelman.com
- 24) *The Feminist Assassin* by Lauren Ferebee
- 25) *PSA* by Sarah M. Duncan
- 26) *How to Make Art an Action* by Shay Youngblood www.shayyoungblood.com
- 27) *Why Can't We Do That In The Theatre?* by Theresa Rebeck
- 28) *Oh! The Joys of Being a Woman Playwright* by Guerrilla Girls On Tour

25) PSA by Sarah M. Duncan

This is a public service announcement
 This is an official pronouncement
 This is no angry denouncement
 of male artists or their writing
 but a passionate renouncement
 of the current industry practice we're fighting

this is a call to arms and candle lighting
 wrong righting
 no cheek turning, I'm talking burning
 igniting the sparklers banging the drums pounding a resounding alarm
 this is peaceful this is vibrant nonviolent
 we will do, no, harm
 but sister artists of mine--
 we will take the farm

I'm talking the glass green room ceiling
 and the cracks in it
 I'm talking poetic justice
 and waxing it
 I'm talking Sometime Sometown Somewhere
 at a new play reading and I'm one of only three women there
 is that happenstance, a mere coincidence?
 that the room is so demographically off balance?

I don't think that's true
 and yet, what do I do?
 I keep my mouth clenched closed
 head bowed low, my inner coward
 telling me to let, it, go
 that it'd be too rude
 to tell the playwright dude
 in the room that it's uncouth
 to make a rape joke
 and use the C word too
 for no other purpose than to be "provocative" or "lewd"
 because, I get it, I'm a writer, far be it from me to intrude
 I know your language choices are
 up, to, you
 and your characters and what your story needs to ring true--
 Enough platitude! Latitude!
 I've as much a right to be offended
 as he's got a right to be crude
 and THIS is a crucial attitude

But don't I get that he's just being funny?
Don't take everything so damn personally, honey

You know, I'd laugh but I spent all my fake guffaws
at the OTHER new last "comedy" I saw
about a woman reduced to her physical flaws
and it was about as funny as a knee scraped raw

I'm not laughing, I'm not amused
I refuse to be lenient
when the expense is our abuse

WE MUST shake this artistic oppression
cloaked in critical discretion
pitting woman against woman in hyper competitive aggression
caused by a manufactured belief
that there are less of us
just a small mess of us
in the creative industry—well that's news to me
because I'm looking out at a lot of my same biology
at a lot of artists who are women full of ready energy
the real American Theatre—bonafide,
is this very one you're sitting inside—
We are Theatre—unified.
Proclaimed. Documented. Verified
glad we got that
clarified

26) How to Make Art an Action by Shay Youngblood

Spot light on a pair of female hands. Behind a scrim a woman's shadow is writing with a feather quill pen. There is an accumulation of stacks of pages around her. The woman types on a typewriter and creates several more stacks of pages. The woman types on a word processor, etc. One stack, then, two stacks, then three and four stacks appear. Her writing instruments change to show time passing of time over the centuries. The woman comes from behind the screen rolling a wheelbarrow filled with building materials. She constructs the façade of a building using the stacks of paper, gluing them to a wooden or transparent façade. Other women pass by and begin to help build the structure and put it together. Some women add a little and leave. When the structure is finished. All of the women remove their coveralls or add a few elements to dress up their simple costumes and enter the open doors of the "theatre". Soon cheering is heard, the sounds of Brava, Well done, etc
End Scene

27) OH! THE JOYS OF BEING A WOMAN PLAYWRIGHT by GGOT

GORILLAQUIN

My name is Gorillaquin and I am an activist. I am on my way to meet the bane of my existence. Machoswine, The artistic director of the all white male theatre, a theatre that does not produce plays by women! But who is this coming here in such a fluster?

(Enter Dramaloon)

GORILLAQUIN

Why its Mistress Dramaloon, why this rush?

DRAMALOON

Good Gorillaquin, I am off to meet Machoswine who has agreed to produce my play!

GORILLAQUIN

Whatever do you mean?

DRAMALOON

I am on my way to him now so as to show him my script – The powerful woman who mentored other women and the many women that succeeded because of her!.

GORILLAQUIN

But you are a woman and he never produces women!

DRAMALOON

Correction: Not only am I a woman, I am also a woman of color! Ha Cha CHA !!!!!

GORILLAQUIN

This I have to see for myself. May I join you. Let's go!

(They EXIT as Machoswine enters)

MACHOSWINE

I am Machoswine and I am undone. There I was selecting a season of all white male plays when a single ticket buyer asked me why I don't produce plays by women. She threatened to turn in her tickets and tell her friends to do the same. It comes to a fine state of affairs when one cannot run one's business the way they always have. But I'll fool them all. I have promised to produce a play by the female playwright Dramaloon. That should satisfy the audience. And I'll make sure that it is the worst production they've ever seen. That will keep them from asking for more plays by women! Where is my assistant CHAUVINISTO?

CHAUVINISTO

Yes your artistic directorship. Isn't it a lovely day? It is the sort of day that is made for change. Or for offering a helping hand to a population that has been discriminated against for so long.

MACHOSWINE

Cut the crap. Whatta you think this is, Free Pussy Riot? I'm not really for women as playwrights, I'm just under pressure. Arrange for Dramaloon to receive the worst production this theatre has ever done.

CHAUVINISTO

Check!

(A KNOCK. CHAUVINISTO OPENS DOOR)

CHAUVINISTO

Come in!!! Come in!!! Come in!!!

DRAMALOON

I am here to deliver my play: The powerful woman who mentored other women and the many women that succeeded because of her!

MACHOSWINE

Let me see that.

DRAMALOON

Here you go. Have the artists who will be working on it been selected?

MACHOSWINE

Why this play has an all female cast!!!

DRAMALOON

And I'd like a woman to direct it.

MACHOSWINE AND CHAUVINISTO

Ha ha ha ha ha!

(MACHO. and CHAUV. EXIT. GORILLAQUIN enters)

GORILLAQUIN

Dramaloon, I must speak to you. I have done five minutes of research and I have found that that Machoswine has traditionally only produced plays by white men. This can only mean one thing.

DRAMALOON

Oh no! Can it be true!? I've been tokenized!

DRAMALOON AND GORILLAQUIN

Cha Ching!

GORILLAQUIN

I have also found out that he plans on giving your play the worst production ever! But fear not. I have a plan...

DRAMALOON

I demand that you allow me to take part in your plan. This sexist must be made an example for sexist artistic directors everywhere.

GORILLAQUIN

And they are, everywhere, everywhere, everywhere....

DRAMALOON

Well said. What must I do?

GORILLAQUIN

All very simple really. We will disguise you as a white, male playwright. You must then approach Machoswine and get him to agree to produce your play. Now the play shall be The powerful woman who mentored other women and the many women that succeeded because of her! but we'll call it something else. Now think!

DRAMALOON

How about Gloria Steinam elected president!

GORILLAQUIN

No, no no! Think like a man!

DRAMALOON

Think like a man...think like a man... What about...Testicular Monologues?

GORILLAQUIN

Yuk! No. Come on...think harder!

DRAMALOON

I've got it! I've got it! The Importance of Being Anti-Feminist!

GORILLAQUIN

Perfect! With this we shall publicly expose Machoswine for what he really is.

(Machoswine enters)

GORILLAQUIN

Here comes Machoswine, go get dressed.

MACHOSWINE

What are you doing around here Gorillaquin? Defacing my bathrooms with your protest stickers? Get your hairy buttocks out of here.

GORILLAQUIN

Gladly. But I'll be back to protest your discriminatory practices as soon as I can download some more stickers from www.guerrillagirlsontour.com!

MACHOSWINE

I hate that site!

(GORILLAQUIN exits. CHAUVINISTO enters with phone)

CHAUVINISTO

RING! RING! RING! (Answering) Hello! All white male theatre! Yes, we are doing a play by a woman but don't bother coming unless you like turkey! Get it! Ha, ha, ha, ha!

MACHOSWINE

Who was that?

CHAUVINISTO

Some woman.

MACHOSWINE AND CHAUVINISTO

Ewwww!!! I have news...there is a new playwright waiting for you in your office.

MACHOSWINE

Male?

CHAUVINISTO

Check.

MACHOSWINE

White?

CHAUVINISTO

Check!

MACHOSWINE

Male and white?!

CHAUVINISTO
Double Check!!!

MACHOSWINE
I'll see him immediately.

(CHAUVINISTO OPENS DOOR. Enter DRAMALOON disguised as MANLYMUCH)

CHAUVINISTO
Come in! Come in! Come in!

MANLYMUCH
My name is Manlymuch and I have a play for you.

MACHOSWINE
I'll take it.

MANLYMUCH
But you haven't even read it.

MACHOSWINE
Who needs to read it? I can see that it's just the kind of play I like to produce.

MANLYMUCH
Really, how interesting. When will it be produced?

MACHOSWINE
I plan on mounting it tomorrow.

MANLYMUCH
But I thought that was when you were opening that play written by a woman.

MACHOSWINE
Me produce a play by a woman? (Laughs) Never! CHAUVINISTO get me the press!

(CHAUVINISTO OPENS DOOR. GORILLAQUIN enters disguised as press)

CHAUVINISTO
Come in! Come in! Come in!

GORILLAQUIN
Sexist Pig Press here! What's your statement?

MACHOSWINE

We are sad to have to announce that we will not be producing the play by the female playwright Dramaloon this year.

GORILLAQUIN

Why is that?

MACHOSWINE

She has withdrawn it.

DRAMALOON

(Revealing herself) I have not!

MACHOSWINE & CHAUVINISTO

Dramaloon!

DRAMALOON

You lied to me. You were never going to give my play the production it should have.

MACHOSWINE

That's because women can't write plays. Plays can only be written by white men!

GORILLAQUIN

Can I quote you on that?

MACHOSWINE

I've said it before and I'll say it again....women can't write!

DRAMALOON

Yes, put that in the newspapers where the women of the world can see it.

MACHOSWINE

I'm not afraid of women.

GORILLAQUIN

Well you should be! (Reveals)

MACHOSWINE & CHAUVINISTO

Gorillaquin!

GORILLAQUIN

Yes it is I, Gorillaquin! 65% of all the theatre tickets purchased are purchased by women!

MACHOSWINE

What! Please. I beg you on my knees. Don't print what I just said.

GORILLAQUIN

OK. On one condition...you produce only plays by women for the next ninety nine years!

MACHOSWINE

But how am I to find that many plays?

DRAMALOON

You can start with mine. The powerful woman who mentored other women and the women who succeeded because of her!

GORILLAQUIN

And there are plenty more women playwrights with wonderful plays out there. (points to audience) Isn't that right ladies? I said, do we have any female playwrights in the house?

MACHOSWINE

I was afraid of that.

GORILLAQUIN

You shall no longer keep the art form from evolving with your sexist practices. Without the vision of women and artists of color the theatre is a play without a second act.

DRAMALOON

Let the second act begin!!!!!!

GORILLAQUIN

Let the second act begin!

MACHOSWINE

Let the second act begin!

CHAUVINISTO

Let the second act begin!

ALL

Ladies and Gentlemen, Guerrilla Girls On Tour proudly ends our speakout, WE ARE THEATRE, the way we end all of our shows...with a traditional feminist dance!

ALL DANCE

BLACKOUT

END OF SHOW

The Story of WE ARE THEATRE

Since 2001 Guerrilla Girls On Tour! have staged an annual protest around the time of the TONY awards to highlight sexism in theatre. We used the TONY awards as our platform because we wanted to talk about the fact that women aren't nominated for Tony's because they aren't hired on Broadway - the highest paying area of theatre. (The largest number of women working in theatre in the NYC area is off, off, off, off Broadway). And besides, the Tony Award is named after a woman of the theatre, Antoinette Perry, for goddess sake, so women should work on Broadway and be nominated for Tony's. But alas, even in seasons where there are 4 plays by women produced on Broadway (2011/12) no women were nominated for a best play Tony. Since 2001 we've done marches and sticker campaigns and angry ads and funny fax blitzes but this year we decided that since it was only 8 years to 2020 we should think bigger. WE ARE THEATRE was hatched after months of meetings at a mid-town Starbucks where we brazenly occupied the tables and chairs without purchasing a single Chai Latte. The members of the WE ARE THEATRE executive committee wrote to women playwrights we knew and didn't know and asked them to write us a short play, song, skit or spoken word piece about sexism in theatre. The 27 plays included here represent every play we received.

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