



**BRAVE SPIRITS THEATRE  
ARCHIVE**

DRAMATURGY: PHYSICIAN'S CLOSET  
*The Changeling*  
2018

**Director:** Charlene V. Smith  
**Dramaturg:** Claire Kimball

**Artistic Director:** Charlene V. Smith  
**Resident Dramaturg:** Claire Kimball

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### The Changeling – “physician’s closet”

While it’s possible that the physician’s “closet” that Beatrice mentions in 4.1 refers to a locked recess or built in wardrobe space separate from the main room, early modern staging restrictions (and the fact that Alsemero has only just begun to live in Vermandero’s castle) increase the likelihood that the “closet” refers to a small cabinet, like those of an apothecary or cabinet of curiosities:

**b. A place (whether in the form of a cupboard or of a room) where valuables are securely kept; (in later use more usually) a repository of curiosities (in later use esp. as closet of curiosities), often intended for display. Cf. cabinet n. 4, 5a. Now *rare* and *hist.* (OED)**

A large, moveable wardrobe or a small cabinet on top of a table would suitably lock and conceal various potions. The manuscript that Beatrice finds could fit within a wardrobe or cupboard drawer -- if Alsemero uses a small tabletop cabinet, Beatrice would have to find the pages alongside.



(Above: large generic cabinet of curiosities example and a 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian portable cabinet)

ADDITIONAL IMAGES



German cabinet from the 17<sup>th</sup> century



German medicine cabinet from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century



Travelling medicine chest from the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century



Medicinal cabinet designed to look like a book, auctioned in 2008. Circa 1682.



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*Beatrice joana & Alfonso*

*Alfemero Beatrice Joana & her Father*

*Piracquo and Beatrice joana*

*Beatrice joana and Deflores*

*Deflores murders Piracquo*

*Flores and Beatrice joana Alfemero pistols Thomas Piracquo Alfemero is beheaded. 34*

# The Triumph of God's Revenge against the Crying and Execrable Sin of Murther;

## HISTORY IV.

Beatrice-Joana, to marry Alfemero, causeth De Flores to murder Alfonso Piracquo, who was a Suter to her. Alfemero marries her, and finding De Flores and her in adultery, kills them both. Thomaso Piracquo challengeth Alfemero for his Brothers death. Alfemero kills him treacherously in the field, and is beheaded for the same, and his body thrown into the Sea. At his Execution he confesseth, that, his Wife and De Flores murdered Alfonso Piracquo: their bodies are taken up out of their graves, then burnt, and their ashes thrown into the air.