



**BRAVE SPIRITS THEATRE
ARCHIVE**

PRESS PACKET

What, Lamb! What, Ladybird!

2011

Director: Victoria Reinsel

Conceived and Performed by: Charlene V. Smith

Artistic Director: Charlene V. Smith

Resident Dramaturg: Claire Kimball

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Scripts in Word document format and scene charts in Excel are available for open source use and adaptation. You are also welcome to consult BST's script edits and doubling tracks for research or production. This page and other identifying markers should not be removed from PDF files.

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About What, Lamb! What, Ladybird!

As I am nearing thirty, my chances to play Juliet are coming to an end. This is frustrating, as I want to show the world what I think about the character and why I love her, through performance. The solution was to create my own piece about Juliet, and the Capital Fringe Festival is the perfect venue for such an experiment. As the piece formed, the key question was why, exactly, do I love Juliet so much? Beyond just being a great role for an actress, what does she mean to me? The form of this piece changed at least three times during its development, the final time when I discovered that I am not alone -- obsessing over Juliet has had a rich history. No doubt through this initial production I will find more ways to adjust this piece, more ways for it to grow. Thank you for being a part of that process.

Charlene V. Smith THEATRE: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Silvia, Lucetta, Outlaw) at Brave Spirits Theatre; *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice), *The Comedy of Errors* (Emilia, Assistant Director), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania, Hippolyta) at the Shakespeare Factory; *Macbeth* (Witch 1, Porter) at Push/Pull Theatre Company/Capital Fringe Festival; *Measure for Measure* (Isabella), *Julius Caesar* (Portia), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Don John), *The Spanish Tragedy* (Director) at Rude Mechanicals; *Picnic* (Millie) at Spotlighters Theatre; *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Helen) at Silver Spring Stage; World Premieres of John Morogello's *Jack the Ticket Ripper* (Julie) at Georgetown Theatre Company/Capital Fringe Festival and *A Thing For Redheads* (Jessie) at Calliope Arts/Capital Fringe Festival; *A Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Assistant Director) at Virginia Shakespeare Festival. TRAINING: London Dramatic Academy; BA in Theatre and English from the College of William and Mary, Phi Beta Kappa; M.Litt Candidate in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin College. www.charlenevsmith.com.

People Mentioned in *What, Lamb! What, Ladybird!*

Helena Faucit (1817-1898) English actress, daughter of actors John Saville Faucit and Harriet Elizabeth Saville. Made her debut as Juliet in 1833.

Niahm Cusack (1959-) Irish actress, sister of actress Sinead Cusack. Played Juliet opposite Sean Bean for the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1986.

Jess Dorynne (??) English actress, playwright, and anonymous author of *The True Ophelia* (1913).

Madeline Leigh-Noel Elliot (??) English critic, author of *Shakespeare's Garden of Girls* (1885).

David Tennant (1971-) Scottish actor who played Romeo for the Royal Shakespeare Company in 2000. Best known as the tenth incarnation of the Doctor in *Doctor Who*.

Marie M. McKenney (1848-?) Author of *Studies of Shakespeare's Women*, 1908.

Constance O'Brien (18??-19??) English critic who wrote a long-running series of articles on Shakespeare for the English periodical *The Monthly Packet*.

Anna Jameson (1794-1860) English writer, author of *Characteristics of Women*, 1832.

Fanny Kemble (1809-1893) English actress and writer, daughter of actor Charles Kemble, and niece of actress Sarah Siddons. Made her debut as Juliet at Covent Garden in 1829.

Eleanor Duse (1858-1924) Italian actress, who first played Juliet at the age of 14.

Bernard Grebanier (1903-1977) American drama historian and critic, most notable for his studies on the works of William Shakespeare.

Elmer Stoll (1874-1959) American professor and critic, best known for his essays on Shakespeare.

Louis Lewes (1834-1894) German drama historian and critic. Author of *The Women of Shakespeare* (1894).

Henrietta Lee Palmer (1834-?) American writer, contributor to the *New York Tribune* and author of *The Shakespeare Sisterhood* (1867).