

THE REGINA MONOLOGUES

BY REBECCA RUSSELL AND JENNY WAFER



Casting – September 2019

Directed by Anna Franklin



About the play

“Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived...”

Admired, vilified, de-humanised. Three Catherines, two Annes and a Jane. Six women with one thing in common – marriage to a man called Henry - have passed into historical legend. Of course, it couldn't happen these days...

Six modern women have also married one man. Their lives are both separate and intertwined as they tell their stories from a room in which they have all once lived. Their experiences – miscarriage, love affairs, betrayal, and a shared loathing of all things ginger – are portrayed with humour, pathos and a great deal of wine.

The plight of those sixteenth century women is personal, poignant and still relevant five hundred years on.

Rebecca Russell and Jenny Wafer's play was first performed in St Albans in 2004 and went on to enjoy sell-out runs in Edinburgh and Jermyn Street. Having played one of the original queens 15 years ago I'm super excited to revive a play I love in a new incarnation! The Regina Monologues is packed with opportunities for humour and pathos, and richly woven with 'in jokes' relating to the wives' real historic counterparts.

Cast

The play is a one acter, comprising six sets of six monologues. The wives are all onstage the whole time, they inhabit the same bedroom, but don't see each other.

The cast comprises 5 women and 1 man. In a departure from the original production I would like to cast a man to play Annie (Annie is a trans woman). I have a friend who has run a business helping trans women with clothes and make up so full assistance will be given in that regard.

(F) Cathy (Katherine of Aragon) Playing age 40s. Cathy is the loyal discarded wife. She falls in love with Henry aged 18 (following a brief marriage to his brother) and hopes to have lots of sons with him. She endures years of fertility treatment and affairs before eventually ending up exiled in a miserable flat after being cast aside for:

(F) Annie (Anne Boleyn) Playing age 20s/30s. Annie is the smug mistress. Supremely confident until she fails to deliver a son, she ends up faded and worn out with partying, she commits suicide after being cast aside for:

(F) Jane (Jane Seymour) Playing age 20s/30s. Jane is saccharine sweet (unless she's being denied drugs in labour). She starts off lovestruck, naïve and dreamy, becoming more and more vulnerable until she dies following the birth of Henry's only son. She is succeeded by:

(M) Anna (Anna of Cleves) Playing age 30s. Anna is a trans woman. Outwardly fabulous but with a core of vulnerability. She slightly misrepresents herself via online dating and Henry doesn't find out the truth until they're married. He divorces her but she gets enough alimony to keep her in chardonnay and wonderbras. She is succeeded by:

(F) Katie (Katherine Howard) Playing age 16. Katie is sometimes vulnerable and childlike, sometimes the assured teenager. Henry is a business associate of her father who abuses her and blackmails her father into letting him marry her. She spirals into misery and starts harming herself.

She is succeeded by:

(F) Katherine (Katherine Parr) Playing age 40s. Katherine is a professional widow, whose much older husbands all seem to tragically die, leaving her all their money. This part is already cast.

Auditions

Audition dates will be in mid/late September. More information will be provided upon expressions of interest being received.

Performances

26th - 28th March 2020 plus other dates in Spring 2020 to be confirmed – these will be based around cast availability.

About the Director – Anna Franklin

Anna has performed extensively from St Albans to Edinburgh, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Cornwall and the South Bank. Favourite roles include originating the role of Annie in *The Regina Monologues* (Tidemark Theatre Company), Claire in *The Maids* (Peppermint Muse), Sonya in *Uncle Vanya* (Company of Ten) and Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* (Moving Stories) and, for OVO, Boudicca in *Boudicca at Verulamium*, Mrs Betterton in *Playhouse Creatures*, Beatrice and Leonata in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Helena and Bottom in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, and Maria and Lady Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night* (all different productions – that's how old she is). Directing work includes OVO's annual *Food of Love at Christmas* and *Flanders and Swann Unplugged*. Radio work includes comedy podcast *4amCab*. Away from the stage Anna teaches music to babies and toddlers at the Maltings Theatre with RhythmTime.

Next steps

Expressions of interest to annamacleodfranklin@gmail.com.