

# Top Girls



By Caryl Churchill  
Directed by Claire Marieb

SARAH  
LAWRENCE  
COLLEGE THEATRE

## -TOP GIRLS-

### CAST:

Marlene  
Joyce/Mrs. Kidd/Waitress  
Isabella Bird/Shona  
Pope Joan/Nell  
Kit/Jeanine  
Lady Nijo/Louise  
Patient Griselda/Win  
Angie/Dull Gret

KASEY BRITT  
GILL HARTLEY  
KATE KENWORTHY  
KAIA PARNELL  
CLARISSA CAMPO  
JADE BARNETT-IRONS  
HALLIE RIDDICK  
GABRIELLA PIZZO

### PRODUCTION TEAM:

Director  
Stage Manager  
Assistant Director  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Costume Designer  
Assistant Costume Designers  
  
Sound Designer/Latin Consultant  
Set Designer  
Assistant Set Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Light Board  
Sound Board Operator  
Backstage Crew

CLAIRE MARIEB  
SARAH BROWNSTEIN  
KAREN LOEWY  
FIONA MILLER  
JOANNA EISENBERG  
ALLY THOMAS  
MARGARET CAMPBELL  
KELLIE WILLIAMS  
IZZY DEVEAUX  
MAXIMILLIAN HOWARD  
KATIE BARTZ  
MARA EDELSTEIN  
JULIANNA MARKHAM-ADKISON  
ALLEGRA DUBUS-BRANDOLINI  
LEA PERRY

### CONTENT WARNINGS:

Violence, blood, mentions of sexual assault, mentions of eating disorders, domestic violence and mentions of abortion.

*Top Girls* is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company. Original New York Production by The New York Shakespeare Festival Produced by Joseph Papp.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

If I'm being honest, this play challenges me. We spent a lot of time during rehearsal discussing what we love about this play and what frustrates us. I think it is evident that this play was written 40 years ago. Our understanding of the world and each other has grown a lot since then. The way we receive this play is not the way the audience would have received it in London in 1982, nor should it be. But at times this 40 year gap is not so clear, as I find myself having some of these same discussions and fighting these same fights. My ultimate hope in doing this play is that there is an evident conversation between us, here, now and these women throughout history, including Caryl Churchill. I enjoy thinking of this play as a catalyst for discussion, debate, and protest. I yearn for justice for the women in this play and to honor them in telling their stories honestly, to see them as people and not just the drivers of this play. There is a palpable passion in Caryl Churchill's writing and I hope you will feel that same passion in this room. Thank you so much for being here and enjoy the show!

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## SPECIAL THANKS:

Caden Manson, Robert Lyons, Neelam Vaswani, Stephen Tyler Davis, Bri Weintraub, Robert Gould, Susan Sears, Sayuri Oyama, Fiona Wilson, Gillian Adler, The Ember Collective, and Stuart Spencer's Dramaturgy class for their contributions to the production:  
Jade Barnett-Irons, Amanda Cooper, Joanna Eisenberg, Rebecca Geminn,  
Anne Karyna Bakan, Kevin Bergen

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## THE SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE THEATRE PROGRAM

Program Director: Caden Manson  
Director of Graduate Theatre: Dan Hurlin  
Theatre Outreach Director: Allen Lang  
Administrator: Dave McRee  
Creative Director: Robert Lyons  
Producer/Director of Production: Neelam Vaswani  
Technical Supervisor: Rob Gould  
Production Manager/Lighting Supervisor: Bri Weintraub  
Associate Producer: Susan Sears  
Assistant Production Manager: Stephen Tyler Davis  
Administrative Assistant: Peggy McGrath

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## Top GIRLS:

11.21 & 22 @ 7p.m. • 11.23 @ 3p.m., 2019  
Frances Ann Cannon Theatre

# Glossary: Words that will help you climb to the Top.

**Aces** - excellent or outstanding.

**Ballbreaker** - a dominating or threatening woman who destroys a man's self-confidence.

**Basic** - basic salary is the amount paid to an employee before any extras are added or taken off, such as reductions because of salary sacrifice schemes or an increase due to overtime or a bonus.

**Blanquette of Veau** - veal stew cooked so that neither the meat or butter get browned in the process.

**Bleeping** - paging or calling an internal office number.

**Boccaccio** - Giovanni Boccaccio was an Italian writer who lived from 1313 to 1375 (14th century). Writing in mostly Tuscan vernacular and Latin, Boccaccio wrote a number of notable works, including *The Decameron* and *On Famous Women*. Boccaccio began work on *The Decameron* around 1343. It is probable that the structures of many of the tales date from earlier in his career, but the choice of a hundred tales and the frame-story *lieta brigata* of three men and seven women dates from this time. The work was largely complete by 1352.

**Bonkers** - mad, crazy.

**Brace** - to put or plant firmly.

**Brilliant** - great!; when something is exciting or wonderful, particularly when something is good news.

**Brueghel** - Pieter Bruegel the Elder was a 16th century Dutch painter. Known for his landscapes and peasant scenes, he was a pioneer in making both types of subject the focus in large paintings. All of his famous paintings come from the period of a little more than a decade before his early death, when he was probably in his early forties, and at the height of his powers.

**Bugger** - a foolish or worthless person or thing - a despicable person; (Britain law) someone who commits buggery - a sodomite; a situation that causes dismay; a dam, anything at all, someone who is very fond of something.

**Carbuncles** - Boils are bacterial infections that form under your skin at a hair follicle. A carbuncle is a cluster of boils that have multiple pus "heads." They're tender and painful, and cause a severe infection which could leave a scar. A carbuncle is also called a staph skin infection.

**Cheeky** - rude.

**Clever** - smart

**Cleverclogs** - somebody who is rather too clever; a smart aleck; sometimes used as an epithet; a person who is clever in a way that is annoying.

**Closing** - to conclude a negotiation; to sell a product.

**Commission** - money earned as a bonus through a sale of goods.

**Concern** - countable noun: you can refer to a company or business as a concern, usually when you are describing what type of company or business it is.

**Concorde** - is a British-French turbojet-powered supersonic passenger airliner that was operated from 1976 until 2003. It had a maximum speed over twice the speed of sound at Mach 2.04 (1,354 mph or 2,180 km/h at cruise altitude), with seating for 92 to 128 passengers. First flown in 1969, Concorde entered service in 1976 and continued flying for the next 27 years. It is one of only two supersonic transports to have been operated commercially.

**Cross** - angry

**CSE and Os and As** - Certificate of Secondary Education was a subject specific qualification certificate, awarded in both academic and vocational fields in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland between 1965 and 1987. General Certificate of Education (GCE) Ordinary level, also called the O-levels, was a subject-based academic qualification. O-levels were predominantly exam-based and subject specific. They were replaced with a new system in 1988. Advanced Level or A-level of the GCE is a subject-based qualification that places the recipient on a more college-oriented track. At least one was needed to leave secondary education with a diploma.

**Cuddle** - hug.

**Dismal** - depressing; dreary.

**Erysipelas** - an infection typically with a skin rash, usually on the legs and toes, face, arms, and fingers. It is an infection of the upper dermis and superficial lymphatics, usually caused by beta-hemolytic group A Streptococcus bacteria on scratches or otherwise infected areas. Erysipelas is more superficial than cellulitis, and is typically more raised and demarcated. Cellulitis is a bacterial infection of the deeper layers of your skin. It is usually caused by group A Streptococcus, the same bacterium that leads to strep throat. But it may also be due to Staphylococcus aureus, such as MRSA, and other types of bacteria.

**Fancy** - to be attracted to someone; something very nice.

**Frascati** - dry white wine from Frascati, Italy. A preferred wine of Ancient Rome and Renaissance Popes, made from 5 grapes. Between \$10 and \$15 per bottle in 2019 prices.

**Git** - unpleasant, silly, incompetent, annoying, senile, elderly or childish person.

**Glossier** - more superficially attractive; plausible.

**Gout** - a type of arthritis that causes intense pain, swelling, and stiffness in a joint, most comely in the big toe. Attacks can come on quickly and keep returning over time, slowly harming tissues in the region of inflammation, and can be extremely painful. Hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and obesity are risk factors for gout. It is the most common form of inflammatory arthritis in men, and although it is more likely to affect men, women become more susceptible to it after menopause.

**Heresy** - belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious doctrine; from the Greek for choice.

**High Flyer** - an ambitiously competitive person with high aspirations.

**Holiday** - vacation.

**Hoppit** - go ahead and go.

**I Might Do** - maybe I will.

**John Conteh** - British professional boxer from 1971 to 1980, held multiple light-heavyweight championships. Born in Liverpool.

**Knackered** - tired, exhausted.

**Laird** - an owner of a large Scottish estate.

**Laker** - Laker Airways was a wholly private, British independent airline. It became the second long-haul, low-cost, "no frills" airline in 1977, operating low-fare scheduled services between London Gatwick Airport and New York City's John F. Kennedy Airport. Its last flight was on February 5, 1982, the day it went bankrupt.

**Lapwings** - type of bird noted for its slow, irregular flapping speed while in flight and a shrill, wailing cry.

**Liege** - adjective: concerned with or relating to the relationship between a feudal superior and a vassal. Noun: a feudal superior or sovereign.

**Mahayana Sutras** - Buddhist scriptures that various traditions of Mahayana Buddhism accept as canonical. They are preserved in about one hundred extant Chinese, Tibetan, and Sanskrit manuscripts. Mahayana Buddhists typically consider the Mahayana sutras to have been taught by Gautama Buddha, committed to memory and recited by his disciples, in particular Ananda, which were viewed as a substitute for the actual speech of the Buddha following his death. This claim is based on oral tradition rather than on historical evidence.

**Mainspring** - something that plays a principal part in motivating or maintaining a movement, process, or activity.

**Monetarism** - a belief that the total amount of money in an economy is the primary indicator of economic growth (and that money at the top will "trickle down").

**On the Hop** - off-guard, at an inopportune time.

**Ovaltine** - a flavoring powder for milk, usually chocolate malt, made by Associated British Foods in London.

**Packer** - bagger of groceries.

**Pet** - a term of endearment specific to the North East of England; term of endearment from French *petit*, meaning small.

**Petrarch** - was an Italian scholar and poet during the early Italian Renaissance who was one of the earliest humanists. Petrarch was a prolific letter writer and counted Boccaccio among his notable friends to whom he wrote often. On April 8, 1341, he became the second poet laureate since antiquity and was crowned by Roman Senatori Giordano Orsini and Orso dell'Anguillara on the holy grounds of Rome's Capitol. He is most known for his translation of Cicero's letters and because the model for the modern Italian language was later based on his works.

**Prince, Marquis** - A prince is a male ruler (ranked below a king, grand prince, and grand duke) or member of a monarch's or former monarch's family. A marquess (French: marquis) is a nobleman of hereditary rank, (ranked below Prince, Duke and Sovereign Prince).

**Reds** - Communists.

**Repentance** - the action of repenting; sincere regret or remorse. Repent - feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin.

**Rubbish** - garbage.

**Sandwich Isles** - former name for the Hawaiian Islands.

**Simple** - not smart.

**Slag** - slut, promiscuous woman, used exclusively to refer to sexual acts, rather than behavior or dress. Low level in terms of harshness of insult.

**Stoned to Death** - having rocks thrown at you until one causes a fatal blunt force trauma. Women are and have been more likely to be stoned to death. The majority of those sentenced to death by stoning are women. Discrimination against women in other aspects of their lives also leaves them more susceptible to conviction for adultery, the most common crime in which stoning is the punishment. While prescribed in the Old Testament, the practice was greatly circumscribed in the Talmud and the New Testament. Jesus didn't like stoning. According to Josephus, James, the brother of Jesus, was stoned to death by Ananus ben Ananus. "Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again." John 8:2-11 "So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple." John 8:59

**Ta, ever so** - thanks, anyway.

**Teetotaler** - a person who abstains from alcohol completely. The teetotalism movement was first started in Preston, England, in the early 19th century.

**Tesco** - a large British grocery store chain.

**Thick** - stupid.