



Mask and Bauble Dramatic Society Female Playwrights

The following is a non-exhaustive list of plays written by and about women, to be used as a starting point. We encourage applicants not only to look over the list, but to explore the many anthologies in Lau and to make use of TPST professors, particularly Maya Roth, who has dedicated much of her career to elevating the work of female playwrights.

Female Playwrights/Notable Works (*full scripts available via Lau)

- Pre 1900
 - Aphra Behn: *The Rover** (1677 & 1681), *The Lucky Chance** (1686), and others
Recommended by Lynskey and Maya
 - Susanna Centlivre*: *The Busy Body* (1709), *The Wonder: A Woman Keeps a Secret* (1714), *Love's Contrivance* (1703) **Recommended by Maya**
 - Elizabeth Inchbald*: *I'll Tell You What* (1785), *Such Things Are* (1787)
 - Hannah Cowley*: *The Belle's Strategem* (1780), *Who's The Dupe* (1779)
 - Joanna Baillie: *De Monfort* (1789)
 - At least 60 female playwrights were writing professionally from 1660-1800. A more complete list can be found [here](#).
- 1900-1930
 - Susan Glaspell*: *Trifles* (1916; one act), *Inheritors* (1921), *The Verge* (1921), *Alison's House* (1930, Pulitzer Prize winner) **Recommended by Maya**
 - Rachel Crothers: *A Man's World** (1909), *He and She** (1911), *Nice People* (1921), *The Importance of Being a Woman* (1923), and others
 - *Rachel** (1916) by Angelina Weld Grimke **Recommended by Maya**
 - *Miss Lulu Bett** (1920) by Zona Gale **Recommended by Maya**
 - *Machinal** (1928) by Sophie Treadwell
- 1931-1960
 - *The Old Maid** (1934) by Zoe Akins
 - *The Women* (1937) by Clare Booth Luce
 - Lillian Hellman: *The Children's Hour** (1934), *The Little Foxes** (1939), *Watch on the Rhine** (1941), *Toys in the Attic** (1960), and others
 - Rachel Crothers: *Susan and God** (1937), *As Husbands Go** (1931)
 - *Men Should Weep* (1947) by Ena Lamont Stewart
 - Fay Kanin: *Goodbye, My Fancy** (1948), *His and Hers*, and others **Recommended by Lynskey**
 - *In the Summer House** (1951) by Jane Bowles
 - *The Chalk Gardens** (1955) by Enid Bagnold
 - *A Raisin in the Sun** (1959) by Lorraine Hansberry **Recommended by Maya**
- Contemporary
 - Adrienne Kennedy *Funnyhouse of a Negro* (1964) and others **Recommended by Maya**
 - Maria Irene Fornes *Promenade* (1965) and many others **Recommended by Maya**
 - Megan Terry *Viet Rock* (1966) and others **Recommended by Maya**
 - Griselda Gambaro *The Camp* (1971) and others **Recommended by Maya**



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- Ntozake Shange *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf** (1975) and others **Recommended by Natsu**
- Pam Gems *Piaf* (1978) and others **Recommended by Maya**
- *Top Girls* (1982) and other works by Caryl Churchill
- Marina Carr: *The Mai** (1997), *Ariel* (2002), and others
- Lynn Nottage: *Ruined** (2008), *Intimate Apparel** (2003), and others **Recommended by Maya**
- *Mishuganismo* and *No One as Nasty* by Susan Nussbaum
- *Dead Calling* and *From Shadows to Light* by Ka Vang
- Anne Garcia Romero*
- Suzan Lori-Parks *Topdog/Underdog** (2001) and others **Recommended by Natsu**
- Paula Vogel *How I Learned to Drive** (1997) and others **Recommended by Natsu**
- Naomi Iizuka *Good Kids* (2014) and others **Recommended by Natsu**
- Julia Cho *99 Histories* (2002) and others **Recommended by Natsu**
- Annie Baker *The Flick** (2014) and others **Recommended by Natsu**
- Young Jean Lee *Straight White Men* (2014) **Recommended by Natsu**
- Naomi Wallace *One Flea Spare** (1995) and others **Recommended by Natsu**
- Sheila Callaghan *Fever/Dream* and others (2009) **Recommended by Natsu**
- Claire Chafee *Why We Have a Body* and others **Recommended by Maya**
- Timberlake Wertenbaker, many plays and adaptations of classics, **Recommended by Maya**
- Constance Congdon *Boarders, Casanova, Facing Forward, Lips, Losing Father's Body* and others **Recommended by Maya**
- Caridad Svich, plays and adaptations **Recommended by Maya**
- Stine Johanson *Juliet Speaks* and *Boat* **Recommended by Maya**
- Mary Nagle, Miranda Hall, Laura Brienza (Georgetown alumni) **Recommended by Maya**

Other Plays with Good Roles/Representation for Women

- *Blythe Spirit*: Noel Coward; 5 female, 1 male
- *Suddenly Last Summer*: Tennessee Williams; 5 female, 2 male
- *August: Osage County*; Tracy Letts; 7 female, 1 male
- *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Edward Albee; 2 female, 1 male
- *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Brian Friel; 5 female, 3 male
- *Doubt*, John Patrick Shanley; 3 female, 1 male
- *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Federico Garcia Lorca (translated by Caridad Svich); 16 female
- *Three Tall Women*: Edward Albee; 3 female, 1 male
- All-female productions of Shakespeare (*Julius Caesar*, *Henry IV*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Titus Andronicus*, etc.) have become increasingly popular. Clearly there's room to explore gender bending in many classic works!



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Useful Lists

List **recommended by Natsu**. The Kilroys: the list 2015 includes the results of the second annual industry survey of excellent new plays by female and trans* playwrights.

<http://thekilroys.org/list-2015/>

<http://thekilroys.org/2015-honorable-mentions/>

<http://thekilroys.org/list-2014/>

The First 100 Years Project: A project to restage works of female playwrights who wrote professionally during the 17th and 18th centuries. Includes bios, complete works, selected readings for 5 women, and a list of 55 others.

<http://www.juggernaut-theatre.org/first-100-years-the-professional-female-playwright/>

List **recommended by Maya**- an organization dedicated to promoting plays written by women, includes a library of plays from 1000 to 1959.

<http://www.historymattersbacktothefuture.com/>

List **recommended by Maya** "Jane Chambers, a feminist playwriting contest (mostly national) that I oversee for Women and Theatre Program and ATHE. I do curatorial notes each year on our top honorees so you could get a good preview of works by female playwrights, many of whom are lesbian, of color, trans, and differently abled. Notice the archival notes of winners of the past decade, year by year, with highlights of up to ten plays singled out annually, some unpublished and available."

<http://www.womenandtheatreprogram.com/jane-chambers.html>

List recommended by Natsu

<http://www.americantheatre.org/2015/09/21/the-other-canon-10-centuries-of-plays-by-women/>

- Hrotsvitha (c. 930–c. 1002) *Dulcinius* (late 10th century) *Paphnutius* (late 10th century), later adapted to Thais
- Abbess Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179) *Ordo Virtutum* (c.1151)
- Elizabeth Cary (1585–1639) *Tragedy of Mariam* (1602–1604, published 1613)
- Margaret Cavendish (1661–1717) *Bell in Campo* (1662) *Convent of Pleasure* (1668)
- Aphra Behn (1640–1689) *The Rover, Parts One & Two* (1677 and 1681) *The Lucky Chance* (1686)
- Mary Pix (1666–1709) *The Spanish Wives* (1696)
- Hannah Cowley (1743–1809) *The Belle's Strategem* (1780)
- Elizabeth Inchbald (1753–1821) *I'll Tell You What* (1785)
- Frances Burney (1776–1828) *The Witlings* (1789)
- Joanna Baillie (1762–1851) *De Monfort* (1798)
- Anna Cora Mowatt Ritchie (1819–1870) *Fashion* (1845)
- Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896) *The Christian Slave* (1855)
- Edith Wharton (1862–1937) *House of Mirth*, adapted from Wharton's novel by Wharton and Clyde Fitch (1906) NOTE: In 1998, the Mint's Jonathan Bank did an excellent adaptation, published in [Worthy but Neglected: Plays of the Mint Theater Company](#).
- Elizabeth Robins (1862–1952) *Votes for Women* (1907)



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- Cicely Hamilton (1872–1952) *Diana of Dobson's* (1908) *How the Vote Was Won: A Play in One Act* (1910), cowritten with Christopher St. John
- Rachel Crothers (1878–1958) *A Man's World* (1909) *A Little Journey* (1919) NOTE: Though *A Little Journey* was nominated for the Pulitzer in 1918, it was quite forgotten until Jackson Gay directed a splendid production of this strange, almost expressionist play at the Mint in 2011.
- Lady Augusta Gregory (1852–1932) *Grania* (1912)
- Githa Sowerby (1876–1970) *Rutherford and Son* (1912)
- Susan Glaspell (1876–1948) *Trifles* (1916) *The Inheritors* (1921) *The Verge* (1921)
- Angelina Weld Grimke (1880–1958) *Rachel* (1916)
- Zona Gale (1874–1938) *Miss Lulu Bett* (1920)
- Georgia Douglas Johnson (1880–1966) *A Sunday Morning in the South* (1925) *Blue Blood* (1926) *Safe* (1929)
- Mae West (1893–1980) *Sex* (1926) NOTE: In 1999, Elyse Singer directed a delightful production of the play for Hourglass Theater.
- Maurine Dallas Watkins (1896–1969) *Chicago* (1926) *So Help Me God* (1929)
- Edna Ferber (1885–1968), with George S. Kaufman *The Royal Family* (1927) *Dinner at Eight* (1932)
- Eulalie Spence (1894–1981) *Undertow* (1927)
- Sophie Treadwell (1885–1970) *Machinal* (1928) NOTE: The [Roundabout](#) produced the play two seasons ago, and it's slated for [Echo Theatre](#) in Dallas next year.
- Marita Bonner (1899–1971) *The Purple Flower* (1928)
- May Miller (1899–1995) *Stragglers in the Dust* (1930)
- Hallie Flanagan (1889–1969) *Can You Hear Their Voices?* (1931)
- Dawn Powell (1896–1965) *Walking Down Broadway* (1931)
- Lillian Hellman (1905–1984) *The Children's Hour* (1934) *The Little Foxes* (1939)
- Teresa Deevy (1894–1963) *Katie Roche* (1936) NOTE: New York's Mint Theater revived three of Deevy's works in the past five years, including *Katie Roche*, *Wife to James Whelan*, and *Temporal Powers*.
- Gertrude Stein (1874–1946) *Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters* (1943) *Mother of Us All* (1947)
- Rose Franken (1895–1988) *Soldier's Wife* (1945)
- Daphne de Maurier (1907–1989) *The Years Between* (1946)
- Martha Gellhorn (1908–1998) and Virginia Cowles (1912–1983) *Love Goes to Press* (1946)
- Carson McCullers (1917–1967) *Member of the Wedding* (1950)
- Alice Childress (1920–1967) *Trouble in Mind* (1955) *Wedding Band* (1962)
- Shelagh Delaney (1939–) *A Taste of Honey* (1958)
- Lorraine Hansberry (1930–1965) *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959) *Les Blancs* (written before her death in 1965, first produced in 1970)
- Adrienne Kennedy (1931–) *Funnyhouse of the Negro* (1964)
- María Irene Fornés (1930–) *Fefu and her Friends* (1977) *Abingdon Square* (1987) *And What of the Night?* (1999)