



a play in one cooking

by Olivia Negrean

William Shakespeare wrote 37 plays with over 1,100 individual characters, 147 of which are women.

This is 1 story about 6 of those women, from different parts of the world, different time periods, different social backgrounds, and different stories. They've been brought together to prepare and eat dinner together.

Although it is never just dinner, is it?





Critical Responses

“It becomes more than a show about Shakespeare.”

“It is a show about how people relate to their own mistakes, about the temptation to change what was and about the courage to accept that painful experiences contribute to defining our identity.” - Florentine Streche (Targoviste, 2026)

“...endearing, original and fascinating... I so enjoyed watching Olivia Negrean's ideas unfurl, and I highly recommend this company play.”

- Janet Suzman DBE (Verona, 2023)



“The strongest element of the performance is the text itself, which weaves intelligent intertextual references from Shakespeare’s works and critical texts that analyze or describe these female characters. The women respond to these interpretations, often penned by male scholars, with wit and insight.”



“The message is feminist, nuanced, and profound...a revelatory performance, opening a much-needed dialogue...about civil rights, equal opportunities, and social representation. It is an intellectual and theatrical feast that should extend far beyond the stage.”
- Mihai Ene (2024, Craiova)

Feast

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Show Details



Maria Cristina Napolitano

Dinner is cooking: Emilia brought wine, Ophelia organises a salad, Lady Macbeth tends the soup, Imogen sees to the barbecue, while Lady Anne and Isabella have both brought dessert. Each woman has her own story to tell, and her own opinion on the stories of her peers.

As the meal comes together, it becomes clear these iconic characters have been brought together for a reason: to decide whether to change their stories and thereby change the future of womankind, or stay within the confines of what's been written?

"A show about Shakespeare's women and, at the same time, about us, those who watch them, judge them, love them, read them and let them return to the stage over and over again." - Florentine Streche

Lovingly crafted with a mixture of Shakespeare's own text, production reviews, and observations about the various plays, FEAST is a poetic and heart-warming production.

It even includes a meal, prepared live onstage by the performers, and shared with the audience after the show.

FEAST premiered at the International Shakespeare Festival in Gdansk, Poland in 2017, and has since been performed at Voila! European Theatre Festival, Romanian Cultural Institute - London, York International Shakespeare Festival, Verona Shakespeare Festival, Craiova Shakespeare Festival, Theatre City Festival - Budva, Moldova Shakespeare Festival, and BABEL Festival - Târgoviște.

begin: begin



Simon Buia

another
Parrabbola
project

“An honest description of the true complexity that lies behind female relationships. In a meeting of six different characters from Shakespeare, they stirred all the emotions like ingredients in a pot, in a magical atmosphere...”

-Katarzyna Wisniewska : The Shakespeare Daily

Feast

Practical Details

Cast: Six actors.

Preferably performed inside, although can be adapted for an outdoor space.

We provide: stove, cooking tools, and food (although local support is appreciated in sourcing from local farmers and establishments.)

We will need: three tables, six chairs, an electrical connection in three places on stage, and a food preparation area nearby with running water. A floor map of the performance space is available upon request.

The show is performed in English. We can provide the full text, including relevant Shakespeare referencing for translation to be done on location. English and Romanian subtitles in Powerpoint for live captioning are available.

The whole experience of the show is around 90 minutes - leaving time at the end for audience mingling and eating.

This show travels with six actresses, a stage manager and director. All props and costume elements fit into three big suitcases. It can fly, although we are keen to explore sustainable/slow touring methods alongside Parrabbola's ecological commitment.

Budget to be negotiated depending on arrangement.



Written by Olivia Negrean

FEAST is the debut play by Olivia Negrean, a Romanian actor, playwright and theatre-maker based in London. She has performed at various London theatres, collaborating with new and contemporary writing companies, as well as Shakespeare productions. As a writer, she has contributed to art magazine, Garageland, and was an inaugural jury member of the Craiova Shakespeare Festival New Playwright competition. She is co-founder of begin:begin Theatre Company, trained in ensemble/physical theatre and with The Actors Class in London.

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Andre Grososiu

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For more info on @Parrabbola, find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#)

Or check out our websites: beginbegin.co.uk
parrabbola.co.uk



Now available
for bookings!

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