

By Olivia Negrean

Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries William Shakespeare wrote 37 plays with a staggering 1,191 individual characters: 147 women and 1,044 men. This is one story about 6 of those women, from different parts of the world, and even different times. Little did Shakespeare know that, centuries later, his characters will come together, off the page and onto the stage once more. But this time just for dinner. Although it is never just dinner, is it?

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

Janet Suzman DBE

FEAST is written by **Olivia Negrean**, a Romanian actress and playwright.



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Maria Cristina Napolitano

Show Details

Six of Shakespeare's leading women have come together. Emilia brings the wine, Ophelia helps with a salad, Lady Macbeth works on the soup, Imogen tends to the barbecue, while Lady Anne and Isabella have both brought dessert. Each woman has her own story to tell, and her own view on the stories of her peers.

Eventually, 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 heen written?

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.

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 in London, York International Shakespeare Festival, Verona Shakespeare Festival (2023), and Craiova Shakespeare Festival (2024). FEAST has been translated into Polish (performed in Rzeszow Wanda Siemaszkowa Theatre) and Romanian.





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"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



Cast: Six women.

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.

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.

Produced by Parrabbola

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Parrabbola tells stories and makes plays. From
tiny rural communities to major international
festivals, we work with people within their own
localities using creativity to help them engage
with, learn about, and celebrate the places
where they live. We are founding directors of
the biennial York International Shakespeare
Festival, the only festival in the UK which is
focused on Shakespeare in an international
context and in other languages.

Written by Olivia Negrean

begin: begin

FEAST is the first play by Olivia Negrean, a London-based Romanian actress, playwright, and co-director of begin:begin Theatre Company. In 2021 she was selected to be part of School of HighTide — a professional development programme for early career playwrights. She is one of five Romanian actresses who founded 'Dra.ma — Acting for Life' — an association who brings drama and theatre workshops to Romanian children in UK and Romania.



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For more info on @Parrabbola, find us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, or <u>Instagram</u>

Or check out our websites: <u>beginbegin.co.uk</u> <u>parrabbola.co.uk</u>



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