

Top Girls Caryl Churchill Play Script

Two exhilarating and teasingly entertaining one-act plays from one of the UK's leading playwrights. Heart's Desire sees a family awaiting their daughter's return from Australia, though in a series of alternative scenarios, the play collapses as it keeps veering off in unexpected and ridiculous directions. Blue Kettle tells the story of conman Derek and the five women he misleads into believing he is their biological son. Try as he might, Derek's plans are scuppered as the play is invaded by a virus. In Caryl Churchill's ever-inventive style, the two plays in Blue Heart pull apart language and structure in a way that is theatrically remarkable and fast paced, in a stirring yet truthful exploration of family and relationships. This edition was published alongside the first major revival of Blue Heart, nearly twenty years after its Royal Court premiere, in a co-production by the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, and Tobacco Factory Theatres, Bristol, in 2016. Linda Fitzsimmons examines the development of Churchill's powerful style from her earliest work to the major plays.

Caryl Churchill's Light Shining in Buckinghamshire, set during the English Civil War, tells the story of the men and women who went into battle for the soul of England.

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Passionate, moving and provocative, it speaks of the revolution we never had and the legacy it left behind. In the aftermath of the Civil War, England stands at a crossroads. Food shortages, economic instability, and a corrupt political system threaten to plunge the country into darkness and despair. The Parliament men who fought against the tyranny of the King now argue for stability and compromise, but the people are hungry for change. For a brief moment, a group of rebels, preachers, soldiers and dissenters dare to imagine an age of hope, a new Jerusalem in which freedom will be restored to the land. Premiered at the Royal Court Theatre, London, in 1976, the play was revived at the National Theatre in 1996 and again in 2015, in a production directed by Lyndsey Turner.

Traps

The Saga of the People of Laxardal and Bolli

Bollason's Tale

A Casebook

Escaped Alone

First published in 1984. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

A play which looks at the political costs of women rising to the top. This volume is published in the Student Edition series

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and as well as the text of the play there is a chronology of the playwright's life and work, an introduction giving the theatrical and social content of the play and questions for study.

Caryl Churchill is widely considered to be one of the most innovative playwrights to have emerged in post-war British theatre. Identified as a socialist feminist writer, she is one of the few British women playwrights to have been incorporated into the dramatic canon. Top Girls is one of Churchill's most well known and often studied works, using an all female cast to critique bourgeois feminism during the Thatcher era.

A Drama

60 Years of Modern Plays

Caryl Churchill

Softcops; Top Girls; Fen; Serious Money

Top Girls

Marlene hosts a dinner party in a London restaurant to celebrate her promotion to managing director of 'Top Girls' employment agency. Her guests are five women from the past: Isabella Bird (1831- 1904) - the adventurous traveller; Lady Nijo (b1258) - the mediaeval courtesan who became a Buddhist nun and travelled on foot through Japan; Dull Gret, who as Dulle Griet in a Bruegel painting, led a crowd of women on a charge through hell; Pope Joan - the transvestite early female pope and last but not least Patient Griselda, an obedient wife out of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. As the evening continues we are involved with the

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stories of all five women and the impending crisis in Marlene's own life. A classic of contemporary theatre, Churchill's play is seen as a landmark for a new generation of playwrights. It was premiered by the Royal Court in 1982. "Top Girls has a combination of directness and complexity which keeps you both emotionally and intellectually alert. You can smell life, and at the same time feel locked in an argument with an agile and passionate mind." (John Peter, Sunday Times)

‘ What lies beneath the apparent simplicity of Kunene and the King is a lot of moral, political and existential depth. This is testimony to the brilliance of John Kani. ’ – EUSEBIUS MCKAISER South Africa, 2019. Twenty-five years since the first post-apartheid democratic elections. Jack Morris is a celebrated classical actor who has just been given a career-defining role and a life-changing diagnosis. Lunga Kunene is a retired senior male nurse from Soweto now working for private patients. Besides their age, they appear not to have much in common. But a shared passion for Shakespeare soon ignites a ‘ rich, raw and shattering head-to-head ’ (The Times) as the duet from contrasting walks of life unpack the racial, political and social complexities of modern South Africa. Kunene and the King is a vital play that combines the magnificence of classic Shakespearean comedy, tragedy and history to reflect on a new yet deeply wounded society.

"I'm walking down the street and there's a door in the fence open and inside there are three women I've seen before." Three old friends and a neighbour. A summer of afternoons in the back yard. Tea and catastrophe. Escaped Alone premiered at the Royal Court Theatre, London, in 2016, in a production directed by James MacDonald.

Byrthrite

The main themes of Caryl Churchill's "Top Girls"

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Top Girls; Hysteria; Blasted; Shopping & F***ing; The Beauty Queen of Leenane

Love and Information

Cloud Nine

In Traps, a set of characters meet themselves and their pasts to create "plenty of sinewy lines and joyous juxtapositions" (Plays and Players); Vinegar Tom "is set in the world of seventeenth-century witchcraft, but it speaks, through its striking images and its plethora of ironic contradictions, of and to this century..." (Tribune); Light Shining in Buckinghamshire is set during the Civil War and "unflinchingly shows the intolerance that was the obverse side of the demand for common justice. Deftly, it sketches in the kind of social conditions.. that led to hunger for revolution...The play has an austere eloquence that precisely matches its subject." (The Guardian) Cloud Nine sheds light on some of the British Empire's repressed dark side and is "a marvelous play - sometimes scurrilous, always observed with wicked accuracy, and ultimately, surprisingly, rather moving. It plunges straight to the heart of the endless convolutions of sexual mores...and does so with acrobatic wit." (Guardian) Owners:"I was in an old woman's flat when a young man offering her money to move came round, that was one of the starting points of the play" (Caryl Churchill). The plays in this volume represent the best of Churchill's writing up to and including her emergence onto the international theatre scene with Cloud Nine.

In a broken world, two girls meet an extraordinary creature. The Skriker is a shapeshifter and death portent. She can be an old woman, a child, a young

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man. She is a faerie come from the Underworld to pursue and entrap them, through time and space, through this world and her own. The Skriker was originally produced at the National Theatre, London, in 1994. It was revived at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, in 2015, as part of the Manchester International Festival, starring Maxine Peake, directed by Sarah Frankcom and featuring specially commissioned music by Nico Muhly and Antony of Antony and the Johnsons. The Skriker is also available in the volume Caryl Churchill Plays: Three.

Top Girls Bloomsbury Publishing
Fen

Insights Into the Play, the Playwright and the Production [of] Top Girls by Caryl Churchill ; Directed by Tamilla Woodard

*Owners; Traps; Vinegar Tom; Light Shining in Buckinghamshire; Cloud Nine
Serious Money*

Light Shining in Buckinghamshire

Marlene thinks the eighties are going to be stupendous. Her sister Joyce has her doubts. Her daughter Angie is just frightened. Since its premiere in 1982, *Top Girls* has become a seminal play of the modern theatre. Set during a period of British politics dominated by the presence of the newly elected Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Churchill's play prompts us to question our notions of women's success and solidarity. Its sharp look at the society and politics of the 1980s is combined with a timeless examination of women's choices and restrictions regarding career and family. This new Student Edition features an introduction by Sophie Bush, Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, UK prepared with the contemporary student in mind. METHUEN DRAMA

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STUDENT EDITIONS are expertly annotated texts of a wide range of plays from the modern and classic repertoires. A well as the complete text of the play itself, this volume contains:

- A chronology of the play and the playwright's life and work
- an introductory discussion of the social, political, cultural and economic context in which the play was originally conceived and created
- a succinct overview of the creation processes followed and subsequent performance history of the piece
- an analysis of, and commentary on, some of the major themes and specific issues addressed by the text
- a bibliography of suggested primary and secondary materials for further study.

"This timely drama resulted from a trip to Romania.

Developed with students from London's Central School of Drama, this is an incisive portrait of society in turmoil that focuses on two families to reveal what life is like under a totalitarian regime and what results when the regime collapses. The play's brief scenes are almost cinematic in their presentation of events as seen by ordinary people trying to live in peace." -- Publisher's description

The play opens with an anachronistic dinner party hosted by Marlene, the newly-promoted manager of the Top Girls employment agency. Her guests are five women from the past: a transvestite Pope, a courtesan-cum-nun, a tireless adventurer, an obedient wife from Chaucer and the leader of a charge into hell from a Bruegel painting. The feminist themes introduced by this cacophonous scene echo throughout the more contemporary action of the play, as Churchill uses the setting of the `Top Girls' agency to allow a glimpse into the lives of several very different working women.

A Play

Churchill Plays: 1

The Lighting Design for a Production of Caryl Churchill's Play

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Top Girls

Vinegar Tom

Caryl Churchill's "Top Girls" - feminism vs. culture

The action of the saga takes place at the end of the tenth century, at about the time Scandinavia was converting from worship of Norse gods to Christianity. A masterpiece of medieval literature, the story focuses on two families — that of Hoskuld, a prominent farmer with several sons, and that of Gudrun, the most beautiful woman ever born in Iceland.

"A breathless, exhilarating crash course in the low morality of high finance" (Independent) *Serious Money* is perhaps Caryl Churchill's most notorious play. A satirical study of the effects of the Big Bang, it premiered at the Royal Court in 1987 and transferred to the West End. Since then, it has prompted city financiers the world over to applaud and decry its presentation of their lives. British Telecom refused to provide telephones for the Wyndham's production, writing to say that "This is a production with which no public company would wish to be associated". *Softcops* renders the philosophy of Foucault as a music-hall turn and Victorian freakshow "theatre and history combine to give such intelligent fun" (TLS); *Top Girls* brings five great and less-than-great women from history together for a dinner party and "has a combination of directness and complexity which keeps you both emotionally and intellectually alert" (Sunday Times); *Fen* scrutinises the lives of the low-paid women potato pickers of the fens (in Eastern England) and "the playwright pins

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down her poetic subject matter in dialogue of impressive vigour and economy" (Financial Times) while Serious Money is a satirical study of the effects of the Big Bang - "Pure genius...the first play about the city to capture the authentic atmosphere of the place." (Daily Telegraph)

A Study Guide for Caryl Churchill's "Top Girls"

Churchill Plays: 2

Blue Heart

File On Churchill

Political Resistance in the Plays of Caryl Churchill

The play examines gender and power relationships through the lens of 17th-century witchcraft trials in England.

A two act play for seven women.

I believe in the individual. Look at me. Set in the early Thatcher years, Top Girls is a seminal play of the modern theatre, revealing a world of women's experience at a pivotal moment in British history. Told by an eclectic group of historical and modern characters in a continuous conversation across ages and generations it was described by The Guardian as 'the best British play ever from a woman dramatist'. The play opens with an anachronistic dinner party hosted by Marlene, the newly-promoted manager of the 'Top Girls' employment agency. Her guests are five women from the past: a female Pope, a courtesan-cum-nun, a tireless adventurer, an obedient wife from Chaucer and the leader of a charge into hell from a Bruegel painting. The feminist themes introduced by this cacophonous scene echo throughout the more contemporary action of the play, as Churchill uses the setting of the 'Top Girls' agency to allow a glimpse into the lives of several very different working women. The

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play presents complex questions about a feminism which mimics aggressive, oppressive behaviour, and success which can only be achieved by abandoning family ties to force a way to the top. Top Girls premiered in 1982 at the Royal Court Theatre, London. Methuen Drama's iconic Modern Plays series began in 1959 with the publication of Shelagh Delaney's *A Taste of Honey* and has grown over six decades to now include more than 1000 plays by some of the best writers from around the world. This new special edition hardback of *Top Girls* was published to celebrate 60 years of Methuen Drama's Modern Plays in 2019, chosen by a public vote.

Plays Four

Modern Drama: Plays of the '80s and '90s

With an Introduction on Reading a Play

Caryl Churchill Plays: Five

Words on Plays

An anthology bringing together some of the most important and controversial plays from the last twenty years.

An early play by one of our leading dramatists, written before her breakthrough successes with *Cloud Nine* and *Top Girls*.

Although now celebrated as a world-leading playwright, Caryl Churchill has received little attention for her socialism, which has been frequently overlooked in favour of emphasising gendered identities and postmodernist themes. Churchill's *Socialism* examines eight of Churchill's plays with reference to socialist theories and political movements. This well-researched and dynamic new book reframes Churchill's work, positioning her plays within socialist discourses, and

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producing persuasive political readings of her drama that reflect much more of the political challenge that the plays pose. It additionally explores her uneasy relationship with postmodernism, which presents itself particularly in Churchill's later plays. The book contains a very helpful chapter on socialist contexts, which outlines some of the key events, debates, and movements during the late 1960s up until the early 2000s. This chapter also offers an incisive critique of the easy acceptance by some socialists of a postmodernist rejection of grand narratives and political agency. An in depth examination of the rarely explored interconnections of utopianism and theatre, forms another chapter, where all eight of Churchill's plays, *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*, *Vinegar Tom*, *Top Girls*, *Fen*, *Serious Money*, *Mad Forest*, *The Skriker*, and *Far Away*, are introduced. The plays are then discussed in pairs in a further four chapters with reference to communist historiography, the class/gender intersection, the end-of-history thesis, ecocritical challenges and postmodernism.

The Skriker

Churchill's Socialism

Cloud 9

A Play from Romania

Far Away

In this collection of plays from one of our finest dramatists, Caryl Churchill demonstrates her remarkable ability to find new forms to express profound truths about the world we live in. Complete with a new introduction by the author, this volume

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contains: Seven Jewish Children (Royal Court Theatre, London, 2009): a short play about seven families wondering how to protect their children, written at the time of the bombing of Gaza by Israel in 2008-9. Love and Information (Royal Court, 2012): a fast-moving kaleidoscope in which more than a hundred characters try to make sense of what they know. Ding Dong the Wicked (Royal Court, 2012): two families on opposite sides of a war, locked in identical hatred. Here We Go (National Theatre, 2015): a play about dying and being dead. Escaped Alone (Royal Court, 2016): three old friends and an unexpected neighbour have tea in a sunny back yard, and face catastrophes. Pigs and Dogs (Royal Court, 2016): a look at how colonialism crushed the fluidity of sexuality in Africa and brought a new intolerance, as shown in the Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2014. Also included are three previously unpublished short plays, each written in response to political events: War and Peace Gaza Piece (2014), Tickets are Now On Sale (2015) and Beautiful Eyes (2017). 'The wit, invention and structural ingenuity of Churchill's work are remarkable... she never does anything twice' Telegraph 'What is extraordinary about Churchill is her capacity as a dramatist to go on reinventing the wheel' Guardian

Seminar paper from the year 2013 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1,7, Humboldt-University of Berlin (Institut für Anglistik & Amerikanistik), course: Caryl Churchill: From „Top Girls “ to „Serious Money “ , language: English, abstract: The first part of the work answers different

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questions about English Literature in general. It regards in detail some fundamental aspects of Geoffrey Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales", the first collected editions of Shakespear's works, the central theme of Milton's "Paradise Lost", as well as it comments the thesis of "all good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings". Furthermore the first part includes questions about the interpretation of Jane Austen's "Emma", the narrative structure of George Eliot's "Middlemarch" and other important works of English Literature. The second part contents the analysis of the play "Top Girls" and its main themes of travelling, motherhood and the loss of children. This play was first performed at the Royal Court Theatre in London in 1982 and was written during the time when Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister. It is a study of career-driven women like her who succeeds in the men ' s world only by adopting their achievements.

"Caryl Churchill is a dramatist who must surely be amongst the best half-dozen now writing? a playwright of genuine audacity and assurance, able to use her considerable wit and intelligence in ways at once unusual, resonant and dramatically riveting."?Benedict Nightingale From Love and Information: SEX What sex evolved to do is get information from two sets of genes so you get offspring that's not identical to you.

Otherwise you just keep getting the same thing over and over again like hydra or starfish. So sex essentially is information. You dont think that while we're doing it do you? It doesn't hurt to know it. Information and also love. If you're lucky. In this fast-moving kaleidoscope,

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more than one hundred characters try to make sense of what they know. Declared "the greatest living English playwright" by Tony Kushner, Caryl Churchill will premiere this latest work at London's Royal Court in fall 2012. Caryl Churchill is one of the most influential playwrights of our time. She is the author of more than twenty plays, including *Seven Jewish Children*, *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You*, *Top Girls*, *This is a Chair*, *Far Away*, *A Number*, *Cloud Nine*, and *Serious Money*.

Mad Forest

Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*

Production Promptbook for Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*
Softcops

Kunene and the King

Written over a period of ten years and evincing an extraordinary range of topics and techniques, this fourth volume of Caryl Churchill's collected plays confirms her standing as a playwright who is 'amongst the best half-dozen now writing' (The Times). The first three were all premiered in 1997. After the music-theatre piece, Hotel, came three plays which, as Churchill herself says in her valuable introduction, all came from a similar mindset: they explore ways in which theatre can be undermined from within. This is a Chair is not about what it says it's about; and the double bill that makes up Blue Heart consists of a play that never finishes and a play that's got a virus. Far Away (premiered in 2000) signals a move towards a powerfully unsettling combination of disconnectedness and passionate engagement with big issues: A Number (2002) starts with a man discovering

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he's been cloned, and Drunk Enough to Say I Love You? (2006) looks at the world's hate-filled love affair with America. The volume also includes Churchill's version of Strindberg's A Dream Play, made for the National Theatre in 2005.

Seminar paper from the year 2010 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 1,7, University of Münster (Englisches Seminar), course: From Page to Stage, language: English, abstract: Caryl Churchill's play Top Girls, particularly its first act, centers on various women from history, fiction, art and mythology who gather in a restaurant to celebrate the promotion of Marlene, the protagonist of the play. Above all, this dinner scene is marked by a lack of understanding between the characters and the inability of each one to change into the others' perspective. The juxtaposition of the figures finally ends up in a collapse of the conversation and a monologisation of their dialogues. This lack of understanding is based on the different cultural backgrounds of each character. Everyone is part of a different society that is based on different norms and values which eliminates the possibility of a change of the character's perspective. The question, my term paper is based on, is how far feminist criticism is valid regarding the tension between culture and feminism. In this respect, it is necessary to examine the cultural backgrounds and the respective existence of a feminist's movement in the cultures of the characters. A valid

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feministic judgement on the characters can only be given when they are analysed in the light of their culture and afterwards opposed to each other. Therefore, the literature I took into account focuses on historical information of the characters' cultures, especially women's cultural history. Furthermore, I analysed literature on Caryl Churchill as well as women dramatists in Britain and the feministic movement. I examined how far each woman of the dinner scene can be valuated as a feminist or as having a feministic attitude and often, this feministic attitude is not a general characteristic but rather a characteristic which is connected to a certain domain of their culture. Hence, I extracted three areas in which this tension between the characters' cultures and their feministic attitude are surfaced: their relation to men, their family and domestic life and their working life. Yet, instead of examining each character in each category, I concentrated on those characters that stood out in their behaviour and opposed them to each other.

A Study Guide for Caryl Churchill's "Top Girls," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Drama For Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Drama For Students for all of your research needs.