



a play in one cooking

## 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 once more. But this time just for dinner. Although it is never just dinner, is it?

An international cast brings six of Shakespeare's most memorable women back off the page and onto the stage – this time, outside their well-known stories and circumstances.

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



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# Feast

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## Show Details



*Maria Cristina Napolitano*

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.

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?

This otherworldly opportunity provides a fantastic avenue for discussion and encourages the audience to think again about Shakespeare's women. Lovingly crafted by Romanian-born writer Olivia Negrean 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, which gets to be shared with the audience at the end.

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**

**Feast**

**Practical Details**

**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**

**@Parrabbola | [parrabbola.co.uk](http://parrabbola.co.uk)**

**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.**

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**Written by Olivia Negrean**

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**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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'If Shakespeare's characters are so very famously human, then what better fun than writing some of his women off the page and into a kitchen to watch them inter-act, and to wonder how they get on? Without their controlling men and with a feast to keep them busy they turn out to be endearing, original and fascinating. Unsurprisingly, these women turn out to be peace-makers. I so enjoyed watching Olivia Negrean's ideas unfurl, and I highly recommend this company play'.

Janet Suzman DBE



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For more information

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

Or check out our websites:

[beginbegin.co.uk](http://beginbegin.co.uk)

[parrabbola.co.uk](http://parrabbola.co.uk)

Now available  
for bookings!

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