



The Cervical Monologues

An engaging collection of monologues exploring life, love, sex and the screening process

Availability

Currently available for one-off bookings and short tours, please contact us for more information.

Introduction

The Cervical Monologues is an engaging and accessible theatre production that explores life, love, sex & sexuality, as well as demystifying the cervical screening process, through the sharing of stories of real people. Researched with a range of women and health professionals, the play encompasses an entertaining mix of characters and opinions. Combining original music and visuals with strong performances, Women & Theatre have done for the Cervix what Eve Ensler did for the Vagina!

The piece promotes cervical health but, as with all W&T productions, takes a holistic look at the whole woman, touching on:

- love & sexuality
- relationships with others and ourselves
- body image
- birth and motherhood
- our lives!

The Cervical Monologues is one of our most popular plays, devised and proving effective for:

- health professionals' training
- health promotion in the community
- an entertaining and thought provoking piece of theatre

The play stands alone as a powerful theatre event but can also be accompanied by a facilitated post-show [post-show discussion](#), allowing audiences to engage with the issues raised and receive more information.

Project Background

The Cervical Monologues was originally developed with funding from the Women's Nationwide Cancer Control Campaign to raise awareness around cervical cancer. W&T decided to do our own version of the famous Vagina Monologues, and developed the script through in-depth research with a wide range of people including women with diverse cultural backgrounds and opinions, GPs, practice nurses, CIU staff, lab staff and Boots Walk-in staff. The **Cervical Monologues** premiered with a gala at the Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome in 2005.

In a few short years **The Cervical Monologues** has been all over the country and performed to all kinds of people, including:

- The RCN Annual Conference three years in a row
- The first Irish Cervical Screening Programme National Conference 2007
- London Quality Assurance Reference Centre (NHS Cancer Screening Services) Annual Conference two years in a row
- BSCCP (BRITISH Society of Colposcopy & Cervical Pathology) National Conference 2006
- Schools including Swanshurst & St Paul's, Birmingham
- The Courtyard Theatre, Hereford
- GP Training, Surrey
- International Women's Day 2007 at The Hub, Birmingham

The play involves minimum set and little technical requirements, making it a very adaptable piece that can be performed in a range of spaces from a traditional theatre space to a community room to one end of a classroom.

Writer's/Director's note

The Cervical Monologues is a wonderful piece to be involved with – both as a performer and director. The relationship with the audience is key and its about really wanting to communicate with people; wanting to share the rich experiences and stories that make up the monologues. So the style is quite direct, open and true!

What never ceases to amaze me is just how many different people love these monologues, these 'stories' have the power to connect with so many people and that's the joy of them!

Terina Talbot, W&T Associate Director

Outcomes

The Cervical Monologues is one of our most popular plays and is a hit with audiences, bookers and press... just take a look at what people have said about this funny and enlightening production!

Press

The Cervical Monologues, featuring some of the more intimate medical experiences of Birmingham women, was funny and wise and delighted a full house at The Library Theatre.

Terry Grimley, Arts Editor, Birmingham Post, September 2005

Audiences

It was very honest. I am glad it retained all the emotion. That made it very magical.

Everybody should see it!

Superb! Women & Theatre go from strength to strength.

It was fabulous and heartbreaking at times.

It was extremely informative and reflected women's dilemmas/success/experience. Well done for telling it how it is!

Health Professionals

Health professionals got a lot out of it, realising about women at the other end of the speculum.

"Thank you so much for your very thought provoking performance... It is good to be reminded that there is a 'woman' behind all the investigations with her own conceptions, myths, ideas, feelings and knowledge.

Your performance will have touched every one of us to think about this just a little more and will have helped us care for our women just a little better!"

I will remember the positive and negative experiences that 'real life' women have had and how that information should be shared with practitioners to inform future practice.

It certainly hit home as a health professional.

Guidelines for Bookers

What Are Suitable Venues?

This performance has a wide-ranging target audience. Although designed specifically for women it remains relevant to both sexes, of all ages, across all cultures.

Performance detail

- The performance itself lasts 1 hour and we facilitate a post show discussion which provides an opportunity for audience members to ask questions and share information. Ideally bookers should allocate an hour and a half minimum for performance and discussion.
- We will need access to the venue and space 1 hour before the performance to set up and 30 minutes afterwards to clear away (ie. a total of 2.5 hours at the venue).
- Audience sizes are flexible. We advise any reasonable number of people as long as they can clearly see the action. Please advise us if you expect more than 50 people as this can effect the way we lead the after-show discussion.

Technical Requirements

- For our performance space we need a room big enough for a minimum playing area of 12ft x 12ft x 12ft plus the seating area.

- Ensure that all fire exits are clear when accommodating the above measurements.
- A ground floor room is preferable.
- The room must have a power source.
- We will bring our own sound equipment and someone to operate it.
- We need to unload as close as possible to the performance space and then park our van. Please let us know where we can park and whether there is a height restriction on the car park. If we need a parking permit please arrange this for us.

How much does it cost?

Please contact Women & Theatre with your requirements, including the number of performances, for a quotation.

**For more information or to make a booking please contact:
The Friends Institute. 220 Moseley Road. Birmingham. B12 0DG
Tel: 0121 440 4203. Fax: 0121 446 4280 Email: info@womenandtheatre.co.uk**