



JUSTICE

GENDER

FREEDOM

PREJUDICE

TOMORROW'S

GREAT PAGEANT

TOMORROW'S GREAT PAGEANT

TOMORROW'S GREAT PAGEANT

A FIRST DRAFT



Outline: Emma Frankland

Edited by: PWT / Ray Filar / Claudia Jefferies & Emily Ross

Co-Written with:

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Zoë Frost / Elizabeth Howard / Jace / Claudia Jefferies / Erin Liu / Jack Lowerson / Lydia
Magalios / Michelle O'Higgins / Sophie Paul / Emily Ross / Harry Whittaker / Rae Leaver



Including text from A Pageant of Great Women (1909)

Written by Cicely Hamilton



All images: Andy Willsher



This script is free to print, distribute and perform by anyone.

We actively encourage its development.

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Tomorrow's Great Pageant is the result of a 3 month participatory project initiated by Post Workers Theatre and made possible with the support of Bedford Creative Arts, The Place Theatre and The Arts Council England.

Between February and April 2019 the iconic Suffrage play, A Pageant of Great Women, was re-imagined and re-scripted for a 21st Century non-binary context.

The original play, written by the dramatist and actor Ciceley Hamilton in 1909, was a popular allegorical work of political agitation, which featured the embodiment of 'Justice', 'Woman' and 'Prejudice'. The play served, in part, to recover knowledge of great women of the past, with a cast of forty five historic women, and to promote a feminist perspective on emancipation.

Over one hundred years later the struggle for gender equality continues and by revisiting the structure and values of A Pageant of Great Women, the project offers a new platform for collective understanding, awareness and celebration.

A launch symposium brought together a panel of guest writers, critics, performers and community activists to publicly discuss and consider a new cast of iconic great people who can begin to represent the values and ideals of a diverse 21st Century LGBTQ+ community. Workshop sessions with participants from Bedford and beyond then developed active methods to generate characters, dialogue and arguments that focused on gender and freedom today.

The script was first shared on 6th April 2019 at The Place Theatre as a performance reading.

TOMORROW'S GREAT PAGEANT

Performed 05.04.2019 at The Place Theatre Bedford

Stage Technician: Dave Deans



JUSTICE/LIBERATION Ray Filar

PREJUDICE Claudia Jefferies

WOMAN/GENDER Emily Ross

COMPANY:

All other characters

Annie Bacon • Marguerite Bliard • Lauren Coutts • Zoë Frost
Elizabeth Howard • Erin Liu • Jack Lowerson • Lydia Magalios
Michelle O'Higgins • Sophie Paul • Harry Whittaker

GREAT WOMEN OF 1909

Zenobia

Boudica

Joan Of Arc

Agnes Of Dunbar

Catherine The Great

Sappho

Caroline Herschell

Florence Nightingale

Elizabeth Fry

Saint Teresa

Vittoria Colonna

Rani Of Jhansi

GREAT WOMEN OF 2019

Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw

Grace Lee Boggs

Greta Thunberg

Marsha P. Johnson

Claude Cahun

Emma Sulkowicz

Nina Simone

Simone De Beauvoir

Irena Sendler

Marion Hall Aka Lady Saw

Malala Yousafzai

Eni Aluko

Munroe Bergdorf

GREAT PEOPLE AT THE NO HOPE DESK

The Stateless Woman

Freedom Of Speech

The Serco Cell Phone

The Gender Neutral Toilet

The Agitational Protest Flag

Doctor Sarah

The Algorithm

Two Hands Holding

The Border Wall

The Tube Seat

Juki Ddl-5550

The Lead Protester



ZENOBIA

ELIZABETH

SAINT TERESA

BOUDICA

MERINE TH

TOMORROW'S GREAT PAGEANT

Projected on a screen are a list of all characters and cast members.

As the audience arrive, the company (except JUSTICE and PREJUDICE) greet them and they are invited to consider the name of a female or non-binary identified person that they feel is inspirational to them.*

The company help the audience members to unpack notions of 'Greatness' and 'Excellence'. These names are written down and given to WOMAN, who puts them in a big Golden box.

CYCLE 1: 'Then'...

A projection displays:

A COURTROOM - 1907. BEFORE THE VOTE.

The stage is laid out with chairs representing the format of a 19th Century courtroom. There is power imbalance and all is configured to lay power at the feet of JUSTICE who enters as a bewigged, impressive creature with a huge ego - total self confidence. They wear an extravagant blindfold (or sunglasses) to signify their blindness (impartiality), but from time to time they conspicuously peek from beneath it.

Behind the prosecution stand is PREJUDICE: also self assured, confident, and single-sighted. She is used to setting the agenda and not being questioned. This is going to be a hard lesson for her.

Behind the defendant stand is WOMAN. In this cycle, her intentions really are good. She is all power and righteous and idealistic (but with really great ideals).

THE COMPANY Sit in seats with their backs to audience as if watching the court proceedings.

JUSTICE

Why dost thou cling to me? What dost thou ask?

WOMAN

I cling to Justice and I cry for freedom!

COMPANY

[Turn to face audience - shouts]

Freedom!

JUSTICE

Is it not thine already?

WOMAN

No and no!

JUSTICE

Art thou not worthy freedom?

WOMAN

Yea and yea!

PREJUDICE

Goddess, she speaks but stammering foolishness, not knowing what she asks.

WOMAN

I know and long!

PREJUDICE

Freedom is born of wisdom, springs from wisdom. And when was woman wise? Has she not ever looked childlike up to man? Has she not ever put the outward show before the inward grace? Give her her freedom, she will strive to rule. Her brain will reel beneath the sense of power. She will grow dizzy, grasp at what she knows not! 'Tis man's to reign, 'tis woman's to obey. Force is the last and ultimate judge for freedom: 'tis man Who laps his body in mail, who takes the sword, the sword that must decide! Woman shrinks from it, fears the white glint of it and cowers away. Justice! She weeps for that she is not fit to have! She is a very child in the ways of the world, A thing protected, covered from its roughness.

WOMAN

Have I not felt its roughness, suffered and wept?

JUSTICE

It seems you have, but can you answer these claims?

PREJUDICE

Goddess, she cannot! She is unworthy. In her narrow life.

WOMAN

Oh, What you have done to make it hard for me to dream, to write, to rule, to learn, to fight! Who held the body as all, the spirit as naught. From you who saw us only as a sex! Oh, think you well! And wonder at the line before you! Of those who show that their learning had put many a man to shame! Their leadership had put many a man to shame! And their strength had put many a man to shame!

COMPANY

[Turn to face audience - shouts]

Many a man to shame!

The COMPANY now take it in turns to stand and approach JUSTICE at the front of the courtroom. They reach the podium, and turn and speak directly to the audience, before standing in a place of honour each side of the stands. A musical fanfare plays.

GREAT WOMEN IN TURN:

ZENOBIA

I am Zenobia and I present Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw: A pioneer in critical race theory who has been pivotal in highlighting how interlocking systems of power impact those who are most marginalized in society!

BOUDICA

I am Boudica and I present Emma Sulkowicz: A non-binary performance artist and anti-rape activist!



JOAN OF ARC

I am Joan of Arc and I present Claude Cahun: A 'neuter' artist, writer and photographer who worked against the rise of fascism in 1930s Germany!

AGNES OF DUNBAR

I am Agnes of Dunbar and I present Nina Simone: Whose jazz, blues and folk singer-songwriting provided the soundtrack to the civil rights movement!

CATHERINE THE GREAT

I am Catherine the Great and I present Eni Aluko: A prominent voice around gender equality in sports today!

SAPPHO

I am Sappho and I present Marion Hall A.K.A Lady Saw: A Jamaican dancehall star who promoted gender equality in the aggressively male-dominated dancehall industry - becoming a voice of resistance and strength!

CAROLINE HERSCHELL

I am Caroline Herschell and I present Munroe Bergdorf: A model and social activist pioneering previously diminished conversations around transphobia and transgender rights!

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

I am Florence Nightingale and I present Simone De Beauvoir: The eminent writer, political activist and intellectual theorist!

ELIZABETH FRY

I am Elizabeth Fry and I present Malala Yousafzai: A survivor, an unbreakable force for change who is fighting to give girls what poverty, war and discrimination have tried to take away!



ST TERESA

I am St Teresa and I present Irena Sendler: A social worker and member of the resistance during the Nazi occupation who was able to save 2,500 children from the ghettos of Warsaw!

VITTORIA COLONNA

I am Vittoria Colonna and I present Grace Lee Boggs: A feminist writer and activist who directed her energy toward supporting the Civil Rights and Black Power Movement through the 50s and 60s in the US!

ANGELICA KAUFFMANN

I am Angelica Kauffmann and I present Greta Thunberg: A 16 year-old schoolgirl from Sweden, who started a global strike for climate change!

RANI OF JANSI

I am Rani of Jhansi and I present Marsha 'Pay it no mind' Johnson: The trans activist and pioneer whose impact at the Stonewall riots had for so long been whitewashed, and who co-founded one of the first organisations to protect transgender youth!

There falls a silence: no more of the COMPANY are left.

JUSTICE

There falls a silence.

WOMAN

Goddess, he is dumb!

JUSTICE

Dost thou not speak?

WOMAN

Yea, I have silenced him: O give me judgment, give it!

JUSTICE

I give thee judgment, and I judge thee worthy to attain thy freedom:

COMPANY

[Shouts]

Freedom!

JUSTICE

But 'tis thou alone. Canst show that thou art worthy to retain it. O Woman with thy feet on an untried path, Woman with thine eyes on the dawn of the world, thou hast very much to learn.

WOMAN

Goddess, he slinks away !

PREJUDICE slinks away behind the stands. Before she leaves, she looks to JUSTICE, who peeks from their blindfold and gives a small nod. Acknowledging their dependence on each other: their complicity.

JUSTICE

Is it e'en so? - that prejudice is silenced? Championed? Defeated? Go forth to achieve with tears; and bear within thy heart this word of mine. That soul alone is free, who sees around it never a soul enslaved. Go forth: the world is thine... Oh, use it well! Thou hast an equal, not a master, now.

JUSTICE is hushed and looks directly at audience.

JUSTICE

I think not...

[TRANSITION]

The COMPANY and WOMAN celebrate their victory. Music plays, all dance and celebrate with joy.

ZENOBIA

[Shouts]

'Tis good to be alive when morning dawns!

COMPANY

[Shouting / Chanting]

'Tis good to be alive when morning dawns!

WOMAN celebrates with COMPANY in a wild and wonderful way, confetti rains down. Before the music ends, however, she steps off, following the route taken by JUSTICE - and PREJUDICE.

The COMPANY re-arranges the seats/furniture for...

WOMAN celebrates with COMPANY in a bold and wonderful way.



CYCLE 2: Post-suffrage vote

A projection displays:

THE SAME COURTROOM DECADES AFTER THE VOTE - PREJUDICE IS BACK

During the celebrations, the company restructure the space to represent a more contemporary courtroom space - but this one is extremely unbalanced. Biased. Instead of the typical Judges seat, PREJUDICE, WOMAN and JUSTICE now all sit behind the 'NO HOPE DESK'.

The power lies with JUSTICE, who is flattered by this, and begins to lose themselves in the role of the all-powerful, wise and infallible: MAN. There is a commonality between JUSTICE and PREJUDICE here - and indeed between the pair and WOMAN. They're all in this together.

THE STATELESS WOMAN and FREEDOM OF SPEECH sit closest to the audience, and the rest of the COMPANY have formed a queue before the Court and are heard chatting whilst waiting to be called forward to lodge their complaints.

DOCTOR SARAH

Wow, what a queue. Like waiting for a blood test.

THE STATELESS WOMAN

Yeah. I'll be waiting longer than you lot to lodge my complaint - I can't even enter the courtroom.

DOCTOR SARAH

Why's that?

THE STATELESS WOMAN

Well they took my passport and my citizenship away and stripped me of my right to belong to any state - they've revoked my very existence.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

I know how you feel, my protests have long been ignored! Good luck.

JUKI DDL-5550

How dare they? The right to question should be a right for all!

WOMAN enters. It's like the entrance of Theresa May to 'Dancing Queen', except she thinks she's a Kardashian, wearing a power blazer; heels; sunglasses; holding a disposable coffee cup. She thoroughly expects applause, and raises her hands for it - she thinks the party from earlier is still going on. It isn't. It's a wasteland.

WOMAN

Do you know, I actually think I think better in high heels.

WOMAN laughs. She is not funny. She is wearing a t-shirt that reads: 'This is what a Feminist Looks Like'. She is very pleased with it.

JUKI DDL-5550

Hey! That's my T-Shirt, give it back!

WOMAN looks down on the slogan printed on her t-shirt with pride

WOMAN:

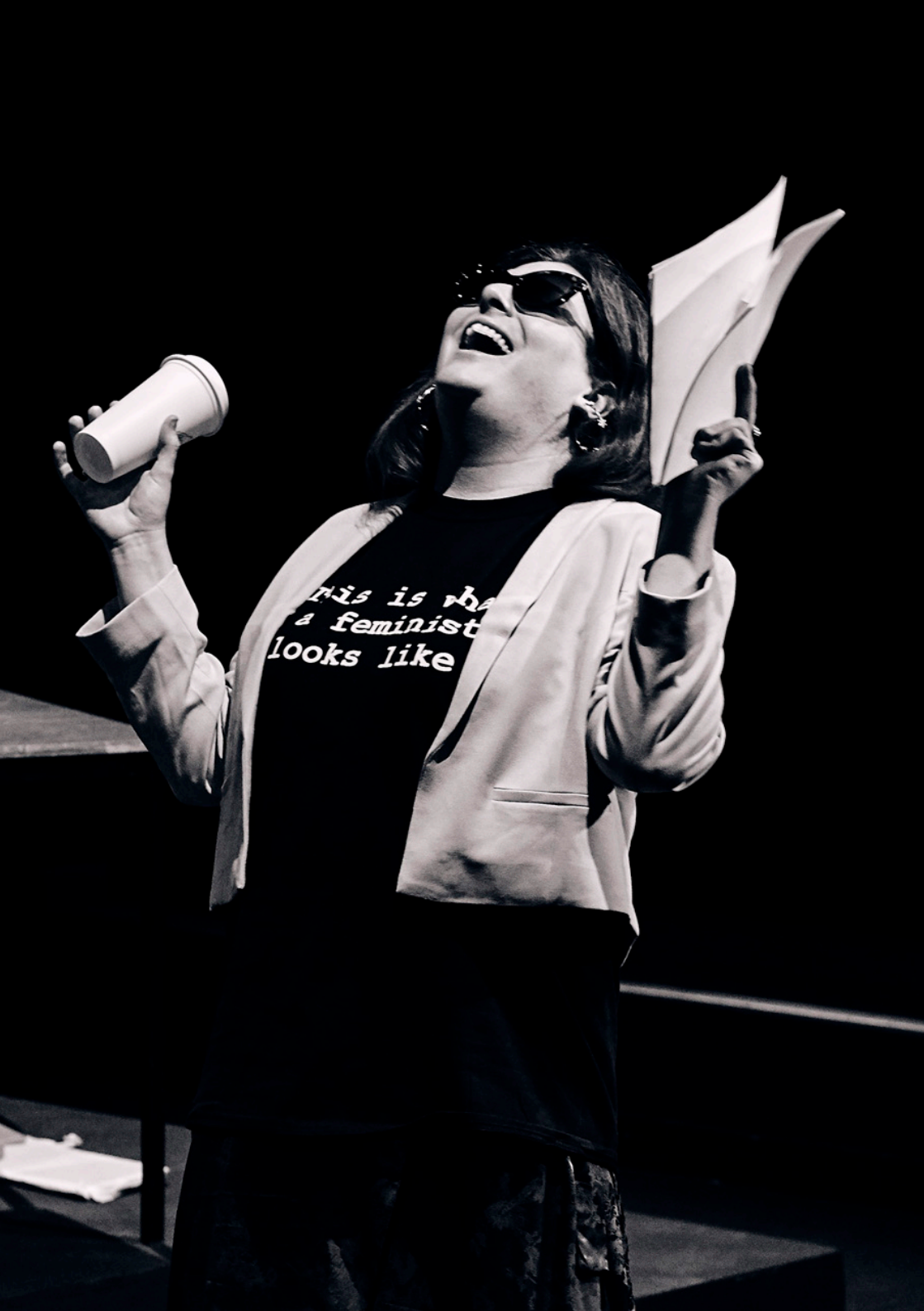
What?! Oh, here you go

WOMAN hands JUKI DDL-5550 her coffee cup. It's empty.

JUKI DDL-5550

[Under Their Breath]

Privileged bitch.



WOMAN

Privileged?! Moi?! Pri-vi-legged?! I've gained this privilege through my own hard work, I've made space here for myself, on my own terms. The very fact you can be here at all is testament to me. You should be grateful.

She gives a little chuckle (worthy of Dolores Umbridge) and takes the coffee cup back. During the following, she puts the t-shirt on, then joins JUSTICE and PREJUDICE at the desk.

JUSTICE

And so, and so order! Order! Very good. Now, we have decreed and given permission for our friend to take her rightful place, we shall turn our impartial and elegant head towards other matters. We shall hear other complaints as it please the court: and by 'please the court', I mean 'as it shall please ME', aha! A very pleasing thought indeed, to be pleased, Ahhhh to be pleased. Aha! Now, do you see how wise we are? Do you see how great I am? How wise, and great, and impartial? Wise and great and impartial and -

[Peaks beneath blindfold.]

Oh, are you all still there? Good good, so where was I - oh yes, daaarling PREJUDICE, do go on...

PREJUDICE

Ok, let's get this snowflake blizzard started. Who thinks they've got a real problem? Do you just think you should just have it all handed to you on a plate? Do you think we've got nothing better to do than sit around wiping your bottoms? Come on then, step up to the podium, and tell us all about your 'traumas'. So, JUSTICE, shall we give these scroungers their fifteen minutes?



JUSTICE

[Echoing, finishing his sentences]

...Their fifteen minutes. Yes, we will see you now, in the spirit of our objective judgement, our infallible wisdom...

PREJUDICE

...Infallible wisdom, yes. Might I say what a wonderful gown you have on today...

JUSTICE

Oh stop it, dear Prejudice... you've seen this gown before I'm sure...

PREJUDICE

Ah, of course, that summer... How could I forget..?

JUSTICE and PREJUDICE compliment each other for a while.

WOMAN

[Interjecting, clapping her hands together]

Chaps! There is quite a crowd out there! A queue right up to the door.

[An afterthought]

Seems like I've created quite a stir.

JUSTICE

Quite a stir...

WOMAN

Frankly, I don't think they've got their arguments together like I had.

PREJUDICE

[Sneering]

Nah -

WOMAN

But, through my commitment, and hard work, and fortitude, and stability - here I am. Up here, with you two fine fellows.

PREJUDICE

Fine fellows!

WOMAN

How will our society cope, with such disruption? But, we must hear them out. Let us hope they meet with my Feminist principles...

JUSTICE

Principles, mm? Well, I think you'll find it's quite clear that I determine the principles of this court!

WOMAN

Quite right! I am so glad you both woke up to the prospect of a Woman in this court. Representation! It doesn't make sense to duplicate efforts when there's just so much we can do together!

PREJUDICE

There is!

WOMAN

We can put ourselves at the service of ordinary, working people, and coupled with your great intellect, (that is, your) wisdom, and your fair righteous judgement, JUSTICE, and You, PREJUDICE, your... You. We can help nurture a society that can solve its own problems.

Each character is called to the desk. They state their complaint and are then dealt with by the trio (who are kind of all awful now). Justice dismisses each character with a 'Denied!' and a bang of the gavel. Each character returns to the queue and vents their rising anger at their treatment.

WOMAN

[Beckons]

Up, up-up up!

PREJUDICE

State your name, and your complaint against Justice.

SERCO CELL PHONE

I am a Serco Cell Phone - I am complaining about state racism within the Injustice system! I am given to female Detainees at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. I have no camera or recording facility to capture the abuse the women receive at the hands of the system I am part of, but I have listened to thousands of conversations of women who have described their treatment - they are rendered invisible, powerless and without hope for basic human rights. This cannot be just!

[A Pause]

JUSTICE

Certainly an egregious claim to bring against a reputable, upstanding company. I've done some fabulous business with them in the past.

PREJUDICE

Well this is just whining drivel...

[Turns to stare at JUSTICE]

We could do some even better business...

WOMAN

When immigration is too high, as it is, when the pace of change is too fast - it is impossible to build a cohesive society.....



[To Justice - hushed]

The aim here is to create a really ... hostile environment for those potential illegalities surrounding migration?

JUSTICE

Ahh, now all people have a place. There's a place for everyone. But this country can't take them all. And if you break the law, you will be dealt with. Denied! Next!

THE SERCO CELL PHONE walks back to the queue shaking their head. The COMPANY are visibly distressed, murmuring discontent: 'Wake up! - We need protection not prisons - Shut it down' etc.

PREJUDICE

[Barely looking up from desk]

What's your name then? - I suppose you have a complaint too?

GENDER NEUTRAL TOILET

I am a gender neutral toilet - why aren't all toilets like me? If toilets were all gender-neutral then ingrained prejudices would be eradicated and they would be safer for all trans-people! Let's make things safer!

JUSTICE

I think there is a certain, how should I say it, elegance in tradition. Don't you agree my daaarling WOMAN? A girl like you should never have to relieve yourself in such an undignified manner.

WOMAN

Quite right JUSTICE! Gender neutral toilet: How can you guarantee that you won't leave the door open for abuses of your uses?

PREJUDICE

[Cutting off the above]

Pah! Look, at the end of the day, I believe - as any right-thinking person should - that regardless of what they call themselves, men shouldn't be in women's toilets, and vice versa!

JUSTICE

This diminishes the integrity of our court. Deined! Next!

GENDER NEUTRAL TOILET walks back to the queue shaking their head. The COMPANY are riled again, murmuring: 'We've all got gender neutral toilets at home! - Who's protecting who here?' etc.

PREJUDICE

[Big sigh]

State your name, and your petty concern.

AGITATIONAL PROTEST BANNER

I am the Agitational Protest Banner, that demands support and respect for all marginalized bodies, genders, races, and ethnicities! I demand that the majority do not just advocate my ideals but truly act on them -

JUSTICE

[Cutting off the above]

My dear fellow, I can't say I understood a word of what you just said...

WOMAN

[Though it appears the below is innocent, there is a menacing way that WOMAN speaks here]

We can only change attitudes by working together. We

will do our bit - but, I want you to do your bit, too. Go on, speak out, stand up for what you believe in!

[She turns and whispers to Prejudice]

It's so much easier to pretend I support all this 'activism'. It makes me look compassionate.

PREJUDICE

Oh for god's sake, there's a reason that majority views are held by the majority: because they're right!

JUSTICE

Very well said. Denied!

THE AGITATIONAL PROTEST BANNER walks back to the queue shaking their head. The COMPANY again murmur in discontent. 'Unbelievable!' 'That Woman makes me sick' 'We have to work for all.'

PREJUDICE

Next! Who are you and how would you like to waste our time?

DOCTOR SARAH

I'm Doctor Sarah - working with the NHS. I'm lodging a complaint about medical care for trans folk under the label of 'gender reassignment'. Procedures are unaffordable, waiting times too long and clinics are underfunded. And those who can wait or pay are still pathologized by the system, their identities constantly on trial. I can't imagine what that's like.

PREJUDICE

Look, I'm sorry, but if people want to muck around with the bodies they were born with, I don't see why honest taxpayers who rely on the NHS for crucial treatment should have to foot the bill!! And do you honestly expect us to care about this emotional distress, or whatever you call it?!



WOMAN nods her head in agreement.

JUSTICE

[Cutting across Prejudice, who has been pulling focus]

Thank you so much. I will pass approval! And approval is Denied!

DOCTOR SARAH

[Walks back to the queue shaking her head]

What hope is there for Justice? These patients just want to be treated with respect!

The COMPANY agree: tension building further.

PREJUDICE

[Sighs]

What's your name, and your complaint?

ALGORITHM

I am an algorithm. I'm here to complain about myself! I make my decisions, which are really just your decisions based on the same prejudiced data-sets perpetuated by centuries of oppression. You all think I am so neutral, so pure, but you don't know what I am capable of. No one sees how dangerous I am, my code just a mirror of your historical bias, and now I work for you!

[Points at PREJUDICE]

Tell me, tell me how can I ever be truly neutral?

WOMAN

But you make my life so much easier. Why should I question you? We need you, algorithm.

PREJUDICE

I've worked so hard on all that data that you keep for me, I mean, can you actually imagine me deleting you? I rely on you! You're my back-up!

JUSTICE

It's all a bit technical my dear Algo-whatever... Perhaps my clever little Prejudice could help me understand... Anyway, let me put it this way: Denied!!!!

ALGORITHM walks back to the queue shaking their head. The COMPANY are really quite discontent now: 'This is too much!' 'Where is the Justice!' 'What can the future hold?!' etc.

PREJUDICE

State your name and your complaint.

TWO HANDS HOLDING

We are Two Hands Holding. We are...

JUSTICE

[Cutting off the above]

Denied!

PREJUDICE

[Fast paced - already beckoning the next complaint]

I don't know why we should listen to those sweaty palms - those limp wrists! Next!

The COMPANY are shocked further: things are getting beyond a joke. People aren't even being listened to now.

THE BORDER WALL

I am The Border Wall. I am lodging a complaint against....

JUSTICE

[Cutting off the above]

Denied!

PREJUDICE

Next!

TUBE SEAT

I am a Tube Seat. I strive to provide respite for every bum I meet.....

JUSTICE

[Cutting off the above]

Denied!

PREJUDICE

Your carriages are the best of the best! Crammed and volatile space for me to roam! Denied! Get out!

THE TUBE SEAT

[Walks back to queue shaking their head]

I might just be one Tube seat, but there are more like me, and we will bring you to your manspreading knees.

The COMPANY continue to murmur, much more aggressively now. JUKI DDL-5550 is about to try and make history.

PREJUDICE

Name? Complaint?

JUKI DDL-5550

I am JUKI DDL-5550, the sewing machine that was used to make that t-shirt!

Gestures to WOMAN'S 'This is what a feminist t-shirt looks like'

WOMAN

Oh, you again.

JUKI DDL-5550

I toil hour after hour, day after day. I am tired, in need of servicing, love and repair, some care, but care you do not! Not for the women who labour over me, working seventeen hour shifts to make your fashion statements. Bent over, tired and exhausted, I feel their pain - a

foot trembling with exhaustion on my pedal, tears and sweat...

COMPANY

[Begin to tap feet impatiently on the floor in unison]

What do you have to say for yourself, Woman? How can you be so blind, so unkind! Just look who you are sitting next to!

WOMAN

I'm not blind! These women are perfectly entitled to work for a living and follow their dreams, I mean this is a win-win situation. Women have their autonomy, and I have this t-shirt. The only one complaining... is you! And you're just an inanimate object!

PREJUDICE

That t-shirt looks great on you, such a sexy statement!

JUSTICE

I don't think anyone's choice to wear any form of message is a matter for the Law - Denied!

JUKI DDL-5550

[Loses it with WOMAN]

That message is worthless if you can't see the wider picture here!!!

THE ALGORITHM

We can't let Prejudice go on like this! They're corrupting everything! We have to be heard!

THE SERCO CELL PHONE

Lets not queue or complain any longer, the women of Yarl's Wood are still suffering. 'Nobody forgotten, nothing forgiven!'

JUKI DDL-5550

Justice can't be reserved for the elite any more! Let's rise up and cry for freedom - Freedom - Freedom!

COMPANY

[Chanting]

Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!

TRANSITION:

There is a mass protest. The stage is taken by force, the courtroom is dismantled and the protesters chant and make demands whilst carrying placards. The sound of Protest plays in background with no discernable voices. The COMPANY continues to chant.

JUKI DDL-5550

What do we cry for?

THE LEAD PROTESTER

Freedom from cis-heteronormativity!

COMPANY

Freedom!

JUKI DDL-5550

What do we cry for?

THE STATELESS WOMAN

Freedom to move through public Space without being hyper-vigilant!

COMPANY

Freedom!

JUKI DDL-5550

What do we cry for?

THE HUMAN HAND

Freedom to be unremarkable!



FREEDOM FROM THE WORD NORMAL

TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

FREEDOM TO STOP BEING SCARED
FREEDOM FROM PRE-SUMPTIONS AND PRESSURES TO PERFORM THEM

FREEDOM FROM HETERO-NORMATIVITY

FREEDOM FROM THE PATRIARCHAL FAMILY STRUCTURE

FREEDOM TO BE UNREMARKABLE
FREEDOM FROM VALUE AS MEASURED BY SOCIETY

THE STATE

THE SERVIC

UDI-5550

FREEDOM TO M... THROUGH PUBL... SPACE WITHOUT... BEING HYPER-

THE PROTESTER

THE BORDER

THE TUBE SEIN



COMPANY

Freedom!

JUKI DDL-5550

What do we cry for?

THE AGITATIONAL PROTEST BANNER

Freedom to be angry and for that anger to be taken seriously!

COMPANY

Freedom!

JUKI DDL-5550

What do we cry for?

GENDER NEUTRAL TOILET

Freedom to make my own definitions!

COMPANY

Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!

As the Protesters voices rise in volume creating a mass of movement and sound, we realise that we have transitioned once more, into...

CYCLE 3: Our Voices

JUSTICE

What on earth?!

THE LEAD PROTESTER

We demand to be heard! You have grown old and your powers are weak. You are no longer impartial! Your system is not set up to be equal.

JUSTICE

I demand that this courtroom be cleared! I demand order! I demand to be listened to! Off with their heads! I demand order!

[Justice removes their wig and speaks as Ray, gesturing to the protest]

Oh, who am I kidding?! I love all this! I was getting far too caught up in the power of the role, I forgot for a moment who I am.

PREJUDICE

Pah, who are you?

RAY

I am the future, and I am here to change you.

COMPANY

Hurrah!!!

PREJUDICE

[Laughs until they collapse]

Don't you remember me? Don't you remember how much fun we had?! Come on, let's dance!

WOMAN

[To Ray]

Don't I have some say in all this? What are you?

RAY

I'm Ray.

WOMAN

But - should I be frightened of you? Should I respect you? Should I love you?

RAY

You could try getting to know me. You've played the victim for too long. Look at all the privilege you have gained.

WOMAN

[Annoyed]

But I am Woman!

RAY

No, you aren't just woman. You're White woman. Wealthy woman. Able-bodied woman. Cis woman. Healthy woman.

WOMAN is horrified at this realisation. She gasps. This is like the Wicked Witch of the West being drenched in a bucket of water. She can't escape her fate.

WOMAN

But... But... Being strong and stable... I was perfect! The... The fields of wheat...! Nooo! What a world!

RAY

You made space for yourself, but not for others.

WOMAN is down. The COMPANY celebrate.

COMPANY

Hurrah!!!

WOMAN

[Getting up as EMILY; the COMPANY draw back]

Well thank God you brought that up, I've been waiting for someone to notice. Who am I kidding, I am woman. I loved her in that first scene: there felt like there was this real clarity to it all. But now... Please, I really don't want to play a T.E.R.F!

[To the audience]

That's a Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist, and they aren't really feminists at all!

PREJUDICE

[Crying out]

For shame! For shame! Look at you using your power to abuse a woman, that's just like you lot - you snowflakes, you're always looking for a problem! Never celebrating where we are, or worrying about the dangers. Stop attacking woman! TERFS?! Stop telling us what we are!

EMILY

[Silencing Prejudice]

Shh! I've had just about enough of you. I will be known and I will be seen.

COMPANY

Hurrah!!!



EMILY enters an almost trance-like state.

EMILY

But not as woman. Because.....
I am GENDER. People come to me, though are usually forced to me to help them understand themselves. I'd like it if you'd come when you are ready. Humans though, are always in such a rush! Make your own way, tread your own pace. Don't let others push you into my arms. Come to me softly - calmly. When you're ready. There's no pressure, except that which you impose on me. I mean very little. You can call me masculine. You can call me feminine. You can call me in between the binaries. Part of them. Empty of them. Beyond them. You can call me a great number of things, in fact but I don't really have much foundation. No description has any real ground because if you try to describe me in any other way there's not much there. You could say that I am gruff. You could call me camp. Intoxicating, strange, wonderful, unexpected, exhilarating. But I'm just an expression of you experiencing yourself. Multi-faceted. Spectra. Mixed. Rich. Understanding. Shining. Empty. Defiant. Remorseful. Kind. Cruel. Meaningful. Meaningless. A contradictory conversation.

[To the audience]

So. Who are you? Describe your gender without reference to masculine. To Feminine. To body. To sex. What do you believe? Why? Put yourself at ease by just believing yourself, and knowing yourself. Extend your hands to love. I believe in you, you don't have to believe in me, but please treat me carefully. As I can be dangerous, too, when people use me to justify their own abhorrent ends. I become a prison. A detention centre. Prejudice seeks to chain me. And I can hurt you. I can kill you. Justice can free me. But even she can be corrupted. Be still with me. Alone. Without anyone else. With everyone. And you can be free.

PREJUDICE

Treachery! throwing women under the bus in favour of GENDER. I shall tweet about this! I'm on Mumsnet. I will block your pride parade, I'll sour the Sunday supplements, I'll be there to insinuate my way into your gym changing room, your school P.T.A. I'm going to teach people prejudices they didn't even know they had! Oh-ho, we are going to debate this for years!

RAY

Oh do pipe down! You know,

[They try out the word]

GENDER, if we are renaming ourselves, I think I would like a rebrand, too. JUSTICE has a bit of a 'prison industrial complex' tone to it these days. My intentions were always good, but the mode has been corrupted and abused. I think I shall be...

[Thinks for a moment]

LIBERATION! How's that?

GENDER

Much better.

LIBERATION

Now, shall we all make some sense of this?

Together, as a group, the company begin to shape a more Liberated space with care and communication. Cups of tea are brought on, as well as gluten free/vegan biscuits [hot tip for vegans: bourbons]. There is a meeting of cast and audience.

Meanwhile, PREJUDICE is getting increasingly wound up. A projection displays:



A LIBERATED SPACE - SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE.

PREJUDICE

Rebrand? New names?! I don't need a new name, I'm good as ever I have been!

[Shouts]

Pre-Ju-Dice! As old as time. Older. And will live forever. And can still reach far. All I need is a quiet corner, an ear. And I can reach thousands. In fact, now that we all have taken off our costumes, how do you even tell us apart? I can sit and listen. And poison.

PREJUDICE takes off their costume and sits with the circle, on their phone.

A projection displays footage of Prejudice signing up to a new Twitter account which fades to black.

LIBERATION

Thank you all for coming.

GENDER

Now, are you sitting comfortably? Where would you like to begin?

Together, the company break into the gold box for real and begin to share the stories of the audience's Great People. [At this point, a real conversation begins and the boundaries of performance begin to fall away.]

THE END

OR

THE BEGINNING OF A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUDIENCE

TOMORROW'S GREAT PAGEANT IS COLLECTING
GREAT WOMAN / NON BINARY PEOPLE

How do you define greatness?
Who would you like to be included? remembered? celebrated?

Name MY HOUSEMATE

Short description
FOR HAVING THE BRAVERY TO COME OUT
AS NON BINARY/ & DEAL WITH CONSTANTLY
TRANS
BEING MISGENDERED. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

TOMORROW'S GREAT PAGEANT IS COLLECTING
GREAT WOMAN / NON BINARY PEOPLE

How do you define greatness?
Who would you like to be included? remembered? celebrated?

Name MAYA ARPUTHAM

Short description
SENIOR CROWN PROSECUTOR,
first transgender lawyer at
the Crown Prosecution Service



The slip below can be reproduced for audience members to fill out before any future performances of Tomorrow's Great Pageant.



**TOMORROW'S GREAT PAGEANT IS COLLECTING
GREAT WOMAN / NON BINARY PEOPLE**

How do you define greatness?

Who would you like to be included? remembered? celebrated?

Name _____

Short description



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