



**BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY OF WA**

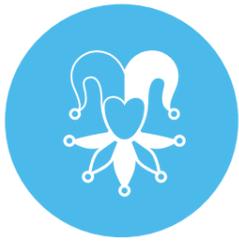
THAT SHAKESPEARE PLAY

**WHICH PLAY
WILL YOU
CHOOSE?
THAT IS THE
QUESTION.**

In celebration of Black Swan's 30th birthday, we are inviting you to tell us which of Shakespeare's plays you would like to see performed at the end of our 2021 season. The winning play will be performed at the Octagon Theatre, UWA from 20 Nov – 11 Dec 2021.



WHICH PLAY WILL YOU CHOOSE?



COMEDIES

All's Well That Ends Well - Not sure that it does. A "problem play" featuring some fairly problematic behavior.

As You Like It - Hilarious wrestling and cross dressing in the forest. Very funny and with the great female lead.

Comedy of Errors - Short. Funny. Same joke in various forms for 90 minutes "I thought that guy was that guy!".

Cymbeline - A romance full of disguise, revelations, poison and the lies we tell the ones we love.

Love's Labour's Lost - If you think men are compulsive liars with no self-control you are going to love this one.

A Midsummer Night's Dream - An almost perfect comedy, and a guy called Bottom gets turned into an ass.

Measure for Measure - Epic religious angst and nihilism - this is the Shakespeare Nick Cave would have written.

The Merchant of Venice - Jewish antagonist forced to convert to Christianity for the "happy ending". This play has not aged well.

The Merry Wives of Windsor - Falstaff, everyone's favourite cowardly alcoholic knight from the history plays gets his very comedy spin-off!

Much Ado about Nothing - Witty war of the sexes comedy set in a country manor house.

Pericles - A swashbuckling adventure. Shipwreck, heartbreak, and reunion.

The Taming of the Shrew - One of Shakespeare's very first "comedies" - A young woman is psychologically tortured until she stops having opinions.

The Tempest - Full of music, magic, and a triumph for native people. A stunning play to read, I have never seen it work on stage and would love to.

Twelfth Night - Features two identical twins of different genders. Brilliant. Drunken idiocy, yellow stockings, very funny.

The Two Gentlemen of Verona - Love, disguises, romantic serenades. And a real farting dog on stage.

The Winter's Tale - Complex relationship drama where public mistakes lead to learning and growth not crucifixion on social media.



HISTORIES

Henry IV, Part I - A new king is fighting in a raging civil war, while his son is at the pub. Perfect for anyone fond of shirking responsibility.

Henry IV, Part II - More boozing and civil war, and to claim the throne the Prince decides to go straight.

Henry VI, Part I - Feminist icon Joan of Arc leads the French Army against England. (basically Game of Thrones minus the dragons & gratuitous nudity).

Henry V - New to the job, the king uses his knack for the vernacular and makes some famous speeches while conquering France.

Henry VI, Part II - Working-class hero goes full Ned Kelly but gets killed.

Henry VI, Part III - It's a coup. It's a bloodbath. Everyone's favourite hunchback Richard tells us he can murder while he smiles.

Henry VIII - Shakespeare's original Globe Theatre was burned to the ground during this play, possibly by an audience member.

King John - John turns England over to the Pope. An uneven play redeemed by some beautiful meditations on grief.

Richard II - The king is dethroned, after a very long fight, leading him to some classic introspection about his hollow crown.

Richard III - Richard kills lots of people, with a smile on his face. However, at a crucial moment he is unable to exchange his kingdom for a horse and is defeated, ending the wars of the roses.



TRAGEDIES

Antony and Cleopatra - Rome and Egypt. Amidst a clash of cultures, two people sacrifice everything for love.

Coriolanus - The barbarians are at the gates of Rome and only one man can save the city. A muscular play about violence and the state.

Hamlet - The original Lion King, family ambition goes too far. Featuring the iconic Shakespeare skull, it has never been staged by Black Swan.

Julius Caesar - A tyrannical ruler who wants absolute power. Violence at the Capitol. This is very early-2021-topical.

King Lear - A pagan epic: ungrateful children, the wheel of fate, the storm within the mind.

Macbeth - Shakespeare's shortest, bloodiest, and most poetically dense tragedy. Floating daggers, women with beards and bloody hands that can't be cleaned.

Othello - A gripping, immensely stageable story about obsession, toxic male rage, and a handkerchief.

Romeo and Juliet - We all know this one. Has a balcony. Super romantic but also incredibly funny, and filthy.

Timon of Athens - The most COVID-19 of the plays. Timon gets sick of it all and goes to live in a cave.

Titus Andronicus - Early, brutal Shakespeare. If he were Tarantino this would be his Reservoir Dogs. Needs a budget for laundry and fake blood.

Troilus and Cressida - A sweeping epic of warzone-romance in the time of Trojan Horses.