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Spring 2021

Department of Theatre and Dance  
Performances

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4-2021

## Top Girls

Department of Theatre and Dance

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Coordinator of Acting **Heather Benton**

Production Manager **Peter J. Davis**

Production Associate **Cyndi Kumor**

Production Office Assistant **Dalton Gorden**

Scenic Supervisor **Erhard Rom**

Technical Director **Benjamin Merrick**

Assistant Technical Director **Daniel Graham**

Props Supervisor **Alison Merrick**

Costume Supervisor **Debra Otte**

Costume Shop Supervisor **Judith Evans**

Assistant Costume Shop Supervisor **Jeanette Aultz**

Drapers **Siobhan Nestor, Amanda**

**Phillips-Balingit, Katie Pippin**

Hair and Makeup Mentor **Courtney Smith**

Lighting Supervisor **Cecilia Durbin**

Production Master Electrician **Christopher**

# ***Top Girls***



# Thielking

Studio Master Electrician **Michelle Tobias**

Sound Supervisor **Megan Culley**

Sound Associate **Kevin Johnson**

Finley Studio Electrician **Winnie Ng Zhen**

Stage Management Supervisor **Mysti Stay**

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President  
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts

Department of Theatre and Dance  
Randy Mugleston, Chair

# Top Girls

A play by **Caryl Churchill**

Director: **Susan Kerner**  
Scenic Designer: **Camyron Chauffe**  
Costume Designer: **Grace Wilson**  
Lighting Designer: **Emily Gocon**  
Sound Designer: **Maggie Spector-Williams**  
Hair & Makeup Designer: **Kriszta Hajek**  
Production Stage Manager: **Miranda Sage Rhode**  
Assistant Director: **Lili Salt, Ilana Schimmel, Julia Ciesielski, Sofia Pastena**  
Technical Director: **Ben Merrick**  
Assistant Technical Director: **Daniel Graham**  
Asst. Costume Designer: **Kate Repp**  
Asst. Lighting Designer: **Lauren Bonavitacola**  
Master Electrician: **Anthony Borsellino**  
Asst. Master Electrician: **Sam Bloch, Axiom Cutler**  
Props Master: **Becca Sauer**

Filmed April and May 2021  
Captured at The Kasser Theatre



## Run Time: 2 hours and 30 minutes

### Scene Breakdown:

Act I Scene 1 – Top Girls Employment Agency  
Act I Scene 2 – Restaurant  
Act I Scene 3 – Joyce’s Backyard  
Act II Scene 1 – Top Girls Employment Agency  
Act II Scene 2 – Joyce’s Kitchen

### Cast of Characters:

Marlene.....**Haley Amann**  
Jeanine.....**Nell Fossa**  
Waitress/Kit.....**Tatiana**  
**Dominguez**  
Isabella Bird/Louise.....**Connie Curme**  
Lady Nijo.....**Madeline**  
**Gambon**  
Pope Joan/Nell.....**Andrew Linden**  
Patient Griselda/Mrs. Kidd.....**Nayale Quimis**  
Angie.....**Jess Pace**  
Joyce/Shona.....**Diana**  
**Maldonado**  
Understudy.....**Sofia Pastena**  
Understudy.....**Julia**  
**Ciesielski**  
Win.....**Talia Wynzel**  
Dull Gret.....**Alexis Key**

Assistant Props Master: **Frank Scarnaty Jr.**

Light Board Op: **Ryan Randazzo**

Wardrobe Head: **Sadie Bevando**

Asst. Stage Manager: **Drew Belen, Catherine Cooper**

Crew: **Julia Ciesielski, Sofia Pastena**

### **Time and Place:**

1980'S England

*Frank* and marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award-winning play with a production in 2016 at The Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park, NYC and Jersey City Theatre Center. She is currently developing *My Brother's Gift*, an interactive virtual piece about a collection of paintings created by Heinz Geiringer while in hiding in Amsterdam 1942-1944. She works with A STAGE OF THEIR OWN, a play development project for NJ women playwrights. Ms. Kerner has led international programs for Montclair State University in China, Korea, Austria, Italy, Greece, and England. Recent "international" work includes a virtual London theatre mini course for The National Theater Institute at the O'Neill Theater Center. Ms. Kerner holds an undergraduate degree from Connecticut College, graduate degrees from Columbia University and Boston University, was a Fulbright Scholar in India, and is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.

### **Bios:**

**Susan Kerner (Director)** has directed in New York, London and Cambridge (England), Shanghai, and at theatres and universities throughout the United States including Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre (MI), George Street Playhouse, Luna Stage, University of Kansas, Rutgers University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. The Star Ledger recognized Ms. Kerner's Luna Stage production of *The Old Settler* in NJ's Top Ten of 2010. Her recent productions at Montclair State University include *The Wolves*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Mad Forest*, *Punk Rock*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Clybourne Park*, *The Big Meal*, *Equus*, *Arcadia*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. As Resident Director at George Street Playhouse, Ms. Kerner directed a wide range of classics and new plays. She commissioned and directed the world premiere of *And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne*

**Nayale Quimis (Patient Griselda/Mrs. Kidd)** is a senior in Montclair State University's BFA Acting Class of 2021. A NJ/NY based actor, her past credits include Nemasani in *Anon(ymous)*, Aunt Eleggua in *In the Red and Brown Water*, and most recently, Hovstad in a Zoom production adaptation of *An Enemy of the People*. Nayale is very happy to perform in person for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. Nayale is also currently preparing for the 2021 Senior Showcase at MSU. She is looking forward to sharing the stage with the cast in this production and creating theatre with her classmates one last time before graduating this spring 2021.

**Sofia Pastena (Understudy)** is currently a freshman at Montclair State working toward her BFA in Acting! She is so excited to be a part of her first MSU Production! Sofia is so thankful for being able to experience the process and to have made so many friends along the way! Amazing job to the entire cast and crew!

**Julia Ciesielski (Understudy)** is currently a freshman BFA Acting major at Montclair State University and is beyond excited to participate in this production. She is extremely grateful to have had this amazing experience with the phenomenal cast, creative team, and director! She would like to thank everyone for such a wonderful learning experience.

**Tatiana Dominguez (Waitress/Kit)** is currently a freshman BFA Acting Major at Montclair State! She is beyond excited to be returning to the stage playing the role of Kit alongside her brilliant cast! The dedicated director, crew and cast have made her experience unforgettable!

**Diana Maldonado (Joyce/Shona)** is a sophomore Acting major. Her previous credits at MSU include Ismene in *How to Mourn the Dead* and Greta in *Springtime (F.A.S.T.)*. Diana is excited to be in this production and improve her British dialect enough that it can be on her resume.

**Maggie Spector-Williams (Sound Designer)** is a senior studying Audio/Sound Design in the School of Communication and Media. She has been involved in theatre since age 8 and this is her first sound design credit. Recent experience includes assistant music directing *A Year With Frog and Toad* and interning for Paper Mill Playhouse's Summer Conservatory. This summer Maggie will be interning at Spencer Community Theatre in Spencer, Iowa. Special thanks to her family for their constant support and to Megan Culley for truly taking a chance on her with this show. Maggie's work is dedicated to Jillian Baluyot.

**Grace Elizabeth Wilson (Costume Designer)** is a junior in the Theater Production and Design program at Montclair. Her previous designs at Montclair include *An Enemy of the People*, directed by Tommy Schrider, and the dance piece *They Might Be Giants*, choreographed by Christian Von Howard. She would like to thank all the drapers, stitchers, assistants, and mentors who helped bring the women of *Top Girls* to life.

**Miranda Sage Rhode (Stage Manager)** is a junior in the Theater Design, Technology, and Management program at MSU. Her previous credits include *Fall Dance* (PSM), *Raise the Curtain III* (SM), *Urinetown: The Musical* (ASM), and *Orlando* (ASM). Miranda would like to thank the cast and designers for making this an unforgettable experience! This summer, Miranda will be working as an ASM at Scranton Shakespeare Festival in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

**Nell Fossa (Jeanie):** Nell Fossa is a Senior BFA Acting Major here at MSU. She is so excited to be a part of *Top Girls*, as it is her last production before senior showcase and graduation in May. Nell is thankful to the production team, crew, faculty, and friends working on this production. Break all the legs!

**Haley Amann (Marlene)** is a sophomore in the BFA Acting program. Previous MSU credits include Billing in *Enemy of the People*, *Grey Lady* (New Works Initiative), *Jesus Hopped the A Train* (F.A.S.T.), and *Intoxicated Love* (F.A.S.T.). Haley is extremely grateful to finally be sharing the stage again with her fellow cast members.

**Alexis Key** is a BFA Acting junior and 'Top Girls' is her sixth production at Montclair State University. Her past credits include Nia in 'In the Red and Brown Water', Mattie in 'Wedding Band', and Othello/Grimsditch in 'Orlando'. Alexis hopes you enjoy the show!

**Talia Wynzel** (she/her/hers) is a junior BFA Acting Major here at Montclair State University. She was last seen as Calista in "Anon(ymous)" here at Montclair. She is so grateful to be back working on another show and to be part of such a strong and hard-working cast. She has loved the process of putting together "Top Girls" and it has taught her a lot about owning her power as a woman. She would like to thank the cast, director Susan Kerner, dialect coach Sara Koestner, and the entire production team of Top Girls for all of their hard work and support throughout the rehearsal process. Working with such amazing people has definitely made her feel like a top girl. :)

**Andrew Linden** is a Sophomore Acting BFA Major from South Jersey. He is excited to be performing in his first Montclair State University Production, and would like to thank Susan Kerner for giving him a opportunity to explore in the feminist world that this play lives in. He would also like to thank all of the lovely lady cast mates for welcoming him into this typically all female cast. @theandrewlinden