

HEDDA GABLER

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By **Henrik Ibsen**

A new version by **Patrick Marber**

From a literal translation by **Karin** and **Ann Bamborough**

Directed by **Molly Atkinson**

GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Grade 11+

CONTENT ADVISORY

This play deals with mature themes including patriarchal oppression, sex and sexuality, alcohol abuse and suicide.

[Please see the show page for a detailed audience advisory.](#)

SYNOPSIS

The honeymoon is barely over and the mercurial Hedda Gabler is already bored with her husband and the respectable life he represents. When new people with old ties to the couple arrive on the scene, she seizes the chance to challenge what society would have her accept as “happiness,” instead asserting her powerful will and wreaking havoc on everyone in her reach. Henrik Ibsen’s masterwork shocked late-19th-century audiences with its complex portrait of female identity and independence.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES:

- Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Metacognition, Self-Awareness

GRADE 11-12

- The Arts
- Canadian and World Studies
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Technological Education

POST-SECONDARY

- Suitable for courses in disciplines such as Arts, Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Drama, English, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, History, Human Rights, Music, Social Development Studies, Teacher Education and Theatre

THEMES

- Authorship and Collaboration
- Family Relationships
- Feminism
- Friendship and Betrayal
- Gender and Identity
- Guilt and Judgment
- The Idealization of Women
- Illusion and Reality
- Individual vs. Society
- Inheritance
- Isolation and Secrecy
- Liberation, Power and Oppression
- Jealousy
- Morality and Hypocrisy
- Patriarchal Structures and Oppression
- Revenge
- Sex, Love and Intimacy
- Social Status and Power

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Hedda Gabler* was first performed in 1891 in Europe. In your opinion, how have Western understandings of gender changed between now and then? What changes still need to occur to achieve gender equity?
- *Hedda Gabler* is often described as a feminist text. In your opinion, what would a play require in order for it to be categorized this way? Do you think this play fits the bill? Why or why not?
- What does it feel like to be independent? Is it important for someone to retain their independence when in a relationship? Explain your thinking.
- What does jealousy feel like? Is jealousy natural? Explain your position.

STUDY GUIDES

Study Guides for selected 2024 productions are available free of charge online:

stratfordfestival.ca/StudyGuides

Email educate@stratfordfestival.ca for access to past study guides.

BOOKING INFORMATION: STUDENT MATINÉES, WORKSHOPS & CHATS

STUDENT MATINÉES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinée performances for this show are at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, April 25
- Tuesday, April 30
- Friday, May 3
- Tuesday, May 7
- Thursday, May 9
- Wednesday, May 15
- Thursday, May 23
- Thursday, June 13
- Thursday, September 5
- Friday, September 13
- Wednesday, September 18
- Thursday, September 26

WORKSHOPS & CHATS

Workshops and Chats (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600 or by emailing educate@stratfordfestival.ca.

Pre-Show Workshops customized to your students' needs and interests are available from 10–11 a.m. or 11 a.m.–noon before selected matinées.

\$10 per student

stratfordfestival.ca/Workshops

Half-Hour Post-Show Chats with cast and creative team members are available after selected matinées.

\$3 per student

stratfordfestival.ca/Chats

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PROUD SEASON PARTNER



The 2024 season is generously supported by Ophelia Lazaridis.

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