

DANGEROUS LIAISONS

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By **Christopher Hampton**

From the novel *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* by **Choderlos de Laclos**

Directed by **Esther Jun**

GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Grade 11+

CONTENT ADVISORY

The play explores mature themes including issues of consent and sexual misconduct; power and manipulation; sex and sexuality. There are scenes of staged sexual violence and death.

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

SYNOPSIS

Two aristocrats in pre-Revolutionary France, bored of their own privilege and the decadence gilded to its shell, embark on a dangerous game of manipulation and seduction. The victim of their subterfuge is a beautiful young woman, Madame de Tourvel, whose virtue and piety will put the players to shame. A scandalously clever period drama, the play delivers a nasty bite, guaranteed to sting the conscience of its audiences.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Innovation and Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Global Citizenship and Sustainability

GRADES 11-12

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

POST-SECONDARY

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

THEMES

- The Anti-Hero
- Appearances and Reality
- Betrayal
- Competition and Rivalry
- Confidence and Insecurity
- Consent
- Desire and Seduction
- Deception, Manipulation and Control
- Gender and Navigating Power and the Patriarchy
- Ethics and Morality
- Love and Lust
- Public and Private “Performance”
- Reputation and Vanity
- Social Status and Class Hierarchies

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do the social structures and hierarchies (of class, gender, etc.) in which we live impact our individual choices?
- In what ways can competition drive us to be our best? Conversely, how might competition affect our integrity? Considering the impacts of competition on human beings, do you think it is ultimately a force for good or one for bad?
- Is it ever okay to deceive someone? Why or why not?

STUDY GUIDES

[View](#) all 2025 Shorts and Study Guides for selected 2025 plays along with those from previous seasons free of charge.



[Stratford Public Library's 2025 Season Reading Lists](#)

BOOKING INFORMATION: TICKETS, WORKSHOPS AND 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:

- Friday, September 5
- Thursday, September 25
- Friday, October 3
- Tuesday, October 7
- Friday, October 17

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

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