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# All female 'Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)' at the Hollywood Fringe

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Patty Jean Robinson, Anna Quirino Miranda, and Tracy Elliott  
*Adam Emperor Southard.*

Perhaps for the first time, Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield's "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" is being performed by an all female cast at this year's Hollywood Fringe Festival in Hollywood, California. Tracy Elliot, Anna Quirino Miranda, and Patti Jean Robinson of the Absolute Theatre take on the task of presenting Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies, dramas, and even the problem plays in ninety minutes with time to spare.

The show opens with an introduction by voice of reason Tracy Elliot, followed by a history of the bard by "preeminent" scholar Anna Quirino Miranda. Patty Jean Robinson is brought into the fray through a creative audience interaction as the internet and modern culture savvy by Falstaff Shakespearean illiterate of the group. These three actors present the 3000 pages of "Elizabethan" Shakespeare in a way that would make any audience today understand why Shakespeare is still played and stolen

from four hundred years after his death.

The entire production is both an overview of the Bard's work and a celebration of his eloquence and influence on modern culture. There are references to some of the most well known theatrical, literary, and film and television characters of present day, all of whom have been influenced or in some cases directly taken from the works of Shakespeare. The three even manage to make Shakespeare's most bloodiest play, Titus Adronicus, a humorous jib at modern reality television and remind the audience of Shark week with Othello.

The trio distill all 16 of Shakespeare's comedies in five minutes educating the audience on the comedic formula and standard characters found in all 16 Shakespeare plays and delivering the titles of all 16. As to the Dramas, they lend more time to the most well known and revived, "Romeo and Juliet," "The Scottish play," "Julius Caesar," Anthony and Cleopatra," all get their time. Even the Problem or bad plays are not left out. The History plays are delivered as the battles they represent.

Yet this performance has a serious side that educates the viewer to the political and intellectual influence of Shakespeare as well as the challenge the language still present to the modern actor. Issues of racial casting, an interesting topic considering in Shakespeare's day women would not be performing his work. Plus references are made to the current political state of the upcoming election day.

The crown jewel of Shakespeare's work, "Hamlet" is left as the icing on the cake and is delivered in as many ways by the Absolute Theater players as can be seen this year at the Fringe. There are about four different adaptations and interpretations of Hamlet being presented this year. The three players manage to both bring out comedy in this tragedy but also demonstrate why this play is so powerful to audiences today. The audience is reminded that Shakespeare is not just fun and games, but some of the most eloquent and powerful language ever written.

For information about tickets and the run of the show at the Fringe, see the [Hollywood Fringe's website](#). For information about the Absolute Theatre, see [their website](#).

## SUGGESTED LINKS

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