

# 2016-2017 Content Advisory for Educators.

What follows is a *detailed* list of items that have been found offensive by some in the past. If you have concerns about content, feel free to look over this page. As you do so, please keep in mind that the words listed, taken out of context, may seem more offensive than they would in the context of the play. **The text that is struck through indicates text that is omitted from our Student Matinee performances."**

**Please Note:** Orlando Shakespeare Theater allows children age five and older into our Signature Series performances. For our Children's Series performances, children two years of age and younger are welcome to sit on laps for the entirety of the performance. Children three and older must have a ticket.

*The content listed below has been created before the show opens, so we are unable to list every objectionable moment that may occur during the performance.*

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## ***West Side Story***

**SYNOPSIS:** Idealistic young lovers Maria and Tony find themselves caught between rival street gangs, the Jets and the Sharks. Their struggle to survive in a world of hate, violence, and prejudice is one of the most beautiful, heart-wrenching, and relevant musical dramas of our time.

**LANGUAGE:** Racially charged dialogue and mild sexual language. A few remarks referring to prostitutes, junkies, and cross dressers are in the song "Officer Krupke". Most profanity is racial such as "white boy", "spic", "Polack", etc. Mild swear words appear like "damn" and "hell".

**SMOKING AND DRINKING:** Smoking and drinking of alcohol. In "Officer Krupke" a singer mentions marijuana.

**SEXUAL REFERENCES:** Some suggestive dance moves (lifting of skirts, pelvic thrusting, etc.) and physicality that is true to the story and characters. A character says, "How's the action on your mother's mattress, Action?" Tony is seen sleeping in bed with Maria (he is shirtless, she is in a nightgown), but it's implied that they had sex. There is some kissing.

**VIOLENCE:** There are knife and gun fights in which characters die. There is an attempted sexual assault of one female character.

**FOR WHICH AUDIENCES:** *West Side Story* is about gang violence and racial tension. It is most appropriate for high school audiences and adults.

**RATING:** If it were a movie, *West Side Story* would be rated "PG-13." Children under 5 will not be admitted to the theater.

## **Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**

**NOTE:** *Strike thrus seen below reference text and actions that have been cut from the script for student matinees and will NOT APPEAR in student matinee productions.*

SYNOPSIS: Dr. Henry Jekyll creates a potion to unleash his inner bestial nature, transforming him into the brutish but Edward Hyde. Hyde lives the high life while Jekyll's mundane career continues -- until Hyde's passions begin to turn up a body count.

VERSION: This is the play version by Jeffrey Hatcher, not the musical. It is more violent and sexual than the novella.

LANGUAGE: Mild swear words include: "hell, ~~whore, bastard, breasts, sex, vaginal, pornographer,~~ slaughter, " See Sexual References and Violence below.

SMOKING AND DRINKING: The characters drink brandy and opium. Opium dens are mentioned. There is mention of, "A priest in a South Seas hut who, with one draw on a pipe of yellow smoke, left this reality for another plane, serene and at peace."

SEXUAL REFERENCES: ~~A character is referred to as, the pornographer of death...~~ Rape is discussed.

VIOLENCE: There are numerous mentions of blood. Blood may be seen. A murdered woman and child are mentioned. A ~~prostitute~~ killed by a dog is mentioned. Multiple mentions of dissection, including of a child. A character says, "cudgel is brought down on a head. We know what happens to the blood vessels and the interior organs when a blade is shoved through the viscera!" Cadavers are seen. The audience may glimpse yellow skin, blood and viscera. There are also bottles, jars, medical instruments and other dissection paraphernalia. ~~A doctor at an autopsy says, "Her breasts, however, remain exemplary. Her sex is swollen, as one might suspect even without observation. But observe it we shall. For that, more than the brain, is the true heart of the feminine soul. In this creature's case - the case of a diseased and depraved streetwalker - the engorged nature of her vaginal canal divined its own end and signed her death warrant."~~ Rape is mentioned. ~~A dead woman is called "a whore."~~ There is mention of a "freshly slaughtered pig." A male character threatens a female with a blade to the throat. ~~A character is described as, "He used chloroform to render her still but not unconscious. Then he applied acid to her face, her torso, most of her body. Her back he left untouched until the end. (Hyde 3 unsheathes his blade and mimes what is next described.) He used a blade to carve on it two words: "Wrong One.""~~ A dead prostitute is described as, "all chopped up and rearranged throughout the house, one limb to a room."

FOR WHICH AUDIENCE?: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is a story about drug abuse, multiple personality disorder, rape and murder. There is a debate between good and evil versus the nature of man. It includes mature language and adult themes. It is most appropriate for high school audiences and adults.

RATING: If it were a movie, the student matinees of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* would be rated "PG13." *Please note that general performances are rated "R."*

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### **Every Christmas Story Ever Told**

NOTE: Strike thrus seen below reference text and actions that have been cut from the script for student

*matinees and will NOT APPEAR in student matinee productions.*

**SYNOPSIS:** Three actors send up everything from Dickens to Dr. Seuss in 90-minutes of high octane jollity and frivolity.

**LANGUAGE:** *Mild language removed for student matinees.* There are comical descriptions of happens to children in other cultures if they behave badly at Christmas time. "A character asks, "What the hell's the deal with fruitcake?" A character refers to someone as a "~~cheap-ass...~~"

**SMOKING AND DRINKING:** No Smoking, some references to drinking. A character sings "A hundred bottle of eggnog on the wall..." Elves sing, "~~We are santa's elves, men in pointy shoes. Don't get paid and can't get laid, drown our nights in booze.~~" There is a joke about Santa drinking too much eggnog.

**SEXUAL REFERENCES:** In a Dating Game sketch, a character refers to a contestant with, "hopes of becoming a ~~cross-gendered~~ exotic dancer." ~~Characters question Santa's sexual orientation, as they discuss "adorable men in tights..." Two male actors kiss passionately. In a parody song, actors sing, "Mommy's kissing Santa Claus, what a HO HO HO HO HO HO."~~

**VIOLENCE:** Threatened violence, but nothing that should overly frighten even small children.

**FOR WHICH AUDIENCE?:** There is a lengthy discussion of whether Santa Claus exists, but it is decided eventually that he does. The play is a parody of popular secular holiday stories, told by three male actors. The actors occasionally dress as females to portray female characters in this stories. *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* is suitable for all audiences, including children ages 10 and up.

**PARENTAL NOTE:** There is a lengthy discussion of whether Santa Claus exists, but it is decided eventually that he does.

**RATING:** If it were a movie, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* would be rated "PG."

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### **The Great Gatsby**

**SYNOPSIS:** When Young Nick Carraway is befriended by his mysterious neighbor Jay Gatsby, he is drawn into his glitzy world of lavish parties and secret speakeasies. But as Gatsby's elusive past is uncovered and his intentions revealed, Nick finds himself a pawn in a love triangle so scandalous, it threatens to destroy all those around him.

**LANGUAGE:** Mild profanities, such as "Son of a Bitch" and "Bastard."

**SMOKING AND DRINKING:** Smoking. Characters drink alcohol and get intoxicated.

**SEX:** Characters interact in a sexual way and flaunt their sexuality through bawdy gestures.

**VIOLENCE:** The play includes domestic violence, gunfire and car crashes.

**FOR WHICH AUDIENCE?:** The play contains extramarital relationships which turn violent. The play may be best suited for teens and adults who are able to handle the themes of class and gender status inherent in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel.

**RATING:** If it were a movie, *The Great Gatsby* would be rated "PG-13."

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### **Love's Labour's Lost**

**SYNOPSIS:** Self-denial is in fashion at the court of Navarre where a young King and three of his courtiers solemnly forswear all pleasures in favor of serious study. But the Princess of France and her all-too-lovely entourage have other ideas. The men soon find that love's labor complicates and conquers all things in Shakespeare's boisterous romantic comedy about love and marriage.

**LANGUAGE:** Elizabethan curse words.

**SMOKING AND DRINKING:** There is brief reference to drugs

**SEX:** Contains sexual innuendo and bawdy poetry. *Sexual gestures used by clowns will be reduced for student matinees.*

**VIOLENCE:** Very mild. A sword fight is threatened but does not take place.

**FOR WHICH AUDIENCE:** *Love's Labour's Lost* is a light romantic comedy, but the play may be best suited for teens and adults who are able to handle the suggestiveness inherent in Shakespeare's sometimes bawdy language.

**RATING:** If it were a movie, *Love's Labour's Lost* would be rated "PG-13."

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### **Antony and Cleopatra**

**SYNOPSIS:** The victors of Rome's civil war have divided the Empire amongst themselves and Marc Antony has traveled to exotic Egypt to take up rule over his corner of the globe. There he encounters Egypt's mysterious monarch, the irresistibly entrancing Cleopatra. Their impassioned affair ultimately pits their two countries against each other and will change the face of the ancient world forever.

**LANGUAGE:** Elizabethan curse words.

**SMOKING AND DRINKING:** Drugs are mentioned.

**SEX:** There are sexually suggestive scenes. No nudity.

**VIOLENCE:** There is stage violence and death using swords, including several suicides.

**FOR WHICH AUDIENCE:** *Antony and Cleopatra* is a political drama fueled by intimate relationships. There are battle scenes. The play is best suited for ages 13 and up.

**RATING:** If it were a movie, *Antony and Cleopatra* would be rated "PG-13."