

Quiet Tears of Roses





A NOTE FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Roses have always been my favorite flower. A popular choice, they are grown and picked en masse to be shoved into picturesque bouquets until their last breath. They're the flower of all flowers, existing no longer as themselves but within the symbolism and expectations we have placed upon them. It's almost like they know this, and through our constant prodding and placing they've quietly constructed an armored shell. Their delicate, beautiful, and soft petals are what we expect to cradle in our hand, until we grasp their stems and bleed mercilessly.

The rose has always reminded me of myself - bearing the expectations placed upon my own feminine flesh to conceal the inner suffering unique to our own. A suffering not understood by those who conceptualized our institutions, and therefore not legitimized by those who finally built them. A suffering we bear in silence, and a suffering we conceal beneath the layer of thorns that uphold the soft petals expected from us. If we really took a second to see the rose for what it is, not what we expect it to be, we might finally notice the *Quiet Tears of Roses*.



CAST AND CREW



Project Leads
London and Paris Lack

Choreography
London Lack

Visual Art
Paris Lack

Music Composition/Sound Design
Gabriel Brown

Costume Design
Ariel Barley

Lighting Design
Grant Gilker

Stage Management/Props
Laura Soares

Dancers

Laura Baker, Audrey Friloux, Katie Jones,
Cassidy Perry, & Katherine Templeton





BACKGROUND

Nearly every woman in our cast and crew, as well as all of our interviewees, lives with one or more of these disorders.

Due to lack of research and medical knowledge, most women displaying symptoms rarely receive a proper diagnosis or any treatment at all.

There are no cures, and those lucky enough to receive treatment are only able to “manage” symptoms through lifelong medication.

ENDOMETRIOSIS

A condition in which uterine tissue grows outside of the uterus. Affects all surrounding organs including the ovaries, fallopian tubes, and pelvic lining.

It can be extremely painful and cause organs to fuse together. The tissue never leaves a woman's body, and when spreading to the ovaries it can also cause endometrioma and eventually endometrial cancer.

Symptoms Include:

Overwhelming Pelvic Pain, Extremely Painful Periods, Excessive Bleeding, Excessive Bloating, Ovarian Cysts (endometriomas), Infertility, and Even Cancer

“It feels like rotting from the inside out”

PREMENSTRUAL DYSPHORIC DISORDER (PMDD)

A hormonal reproductive disability that causes severe hormonal imbalances beginning during the luteal phase and lasting upwards of the first few days of menstruation.

Impedes functionality so severely it is classified as a disability.

Symptoms Include:

Monthly Depression, Severe Mood Swings, Angry Outbursts, Crying Spells Numbness, & Panic/Anxiety Attacks

POLYCYSTIC OVARIAN SYNDROME (PCOS)

A condition caused by elevated testosterone levels that leads to impediments within ovarian and uterine functionality

Also often causes other health problems including insulin resistance, a heightened risk of type 2 diabetes, and an increased risk of endometrial cancer.

Symptoms Include:

Extremely Irregular Periods, Severe Ovarian Pain, Ovarian Cysts, Unpredictable Weight Fluctuation, Infertility, & Excessive Hair Growth

ART AND WOMEN'S BODIES

It's no secret that women have been living with these disorders for centuries. It's just taken that long to legitimize them.

First, the Greeks believed in "Wandering Womb Syndrome" - the idea that the uterus traveled around the body causing illness, pain, and madness in women.

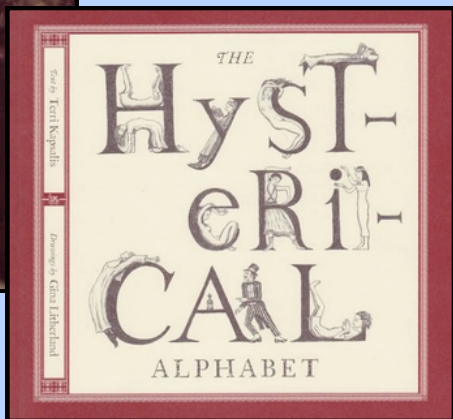
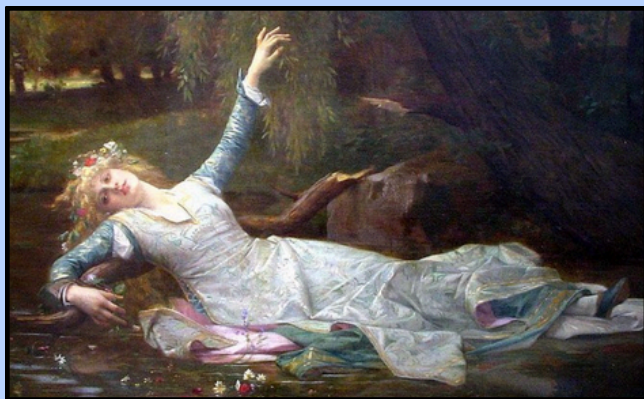
Later, "Hysteria" became the catch-all diagnosis for any and all feminine ailments. It encapsulated everything from Schizophrenia to a heart attack.

Today, we recognize hundreds of disorders affecting women that fell under this umbrella. These include PMDD, PCOS, and Endometriosis.

Similarly, many of the deep emotions historical female artists expressed fell under the umbrella of "Hysteria;" making their work ridiculed and labelled as nothing more than the manifestations of a madwoman.

Because of this, many famous depictions of Hysteria were actually done by men.

We took several of these male works and mixed them with modern works done by women to create the choreographic foundation of this piece - all while adding our own art to this lineage.



QUIET TEARS OF ROSES

I WANNA BE LOVED BY YOU

CASSIDY PERRY

COLLECTIVE LONELINESS

AND A PUBLIC SUFFERING

AUDREY FRILOUX, CASSIDY PERRY,
KATHERINE TEMPLETON

ROTTING ALIVE

AUDREY FRILOUX



WEIGHTED BLANKET

KATIE JONES

ANGER

PARIS LACK

SUFFOCATION

LAURA BAKER, AUDREY FRILLOUX, KATIE JONES,
CASSIDY PERRY, KATHERINE TEMPLETON

MODERN SNAKE OIL

AUDREY FRILLOUX, KATIE JONES, CASSIDY
PERRY, KATHERINE TEMPLETON

APATHY

LAURA BAKER, AUDREY FRILLOUX, KATIE JONES,
CASSIDY PERRY, KATHERINE TEMPLETON

*INTERNAL AWARENESS OF OUTER
PERCEPTIONS*

LAURA BAKER, KATIE JONES

THE ROSE

CASSIDY PERRY



HELP US
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE



Throughout the three performances, we are collecting funds to make a donation to Planned Parenthood - so that the power of art can touch not only the people lucky enough to experience it, but also those who didn't. Donating is in no way required as a viewer of the work, but we hope to have inspired you to help us make a tangible difference in the effort to provide affordable and accessible diagnosis, management, and treatment of female reproductive disorders.

Hundreds of thousands of women suffer with these debilitating disorders every day, yet only a fraction receive any kind of medical or psychological support.

Despite being watered down as nothing more than an "abortion clinic" within our increasingly polarizing political sphere, Planned Parenthood actually offers many incredible services to young women to help address the very issues our work discusses. They not only work to increase reproductive education and awareness among women, but they also provide medical services to help diagnose and treat any kind of reproductive disorder a woman might have - including PMDD, PCOS, and Endometriosis. Regardless of where you stand on abortion, the importance of providing women with basic medical services to address reproductive disorders is undeniable, and we hope you will help us to continue making it happen.