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Many thanks to all of the above for their generous support.

Patrons donate £10 per annum (£15 for joint patronage), get priority booking for tickets and a £1 discount (£2 for joint patronage) on their first ticket order per production.

If you would like to become a patron please send your payment to:

Martin Smith, 18 Langley Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 7LH

(Cheques made payable to Studio 61)

Patrons' Evening 2016

Following the successful premier of this event earlier this year, we will be **making it an annual occurrence with another Patron's Evening in 2016**. As before, it will be a complimentary night of entertainment exclusively available to our patrons. Read your next newsletter for further details.



Studio 61 presents

THE WHITE DEVIL

By John Webster

Wednesday 18th to Sunday 22nd November 2015



Director's Notes

It has been many years since I first saw "The White Devil" and I still, to this day, remember my feelings of excitement, shock and more than a little confusion. Not as well known as Shakespeare it can be difficult to get your head around. Nevertheless, it is with great pleasure I present my vision of arguably the greatest Jacobean revenge tragedy of them all.

With mercenary servants, corrupt priests, adulterers and murderers, and almost everyone out for their own ends, there is little to recommend any of them to heaven. We can be happy in the knowledge that people do get their just deserts!

It has been a pleasure to direct this talented cast who have met every challenge of this very difficult play with enthusiasm, inventiveness and fun. It has been a ball! I hope you all enjoy watching as much as I have enjoyed producing it.

Suzanne



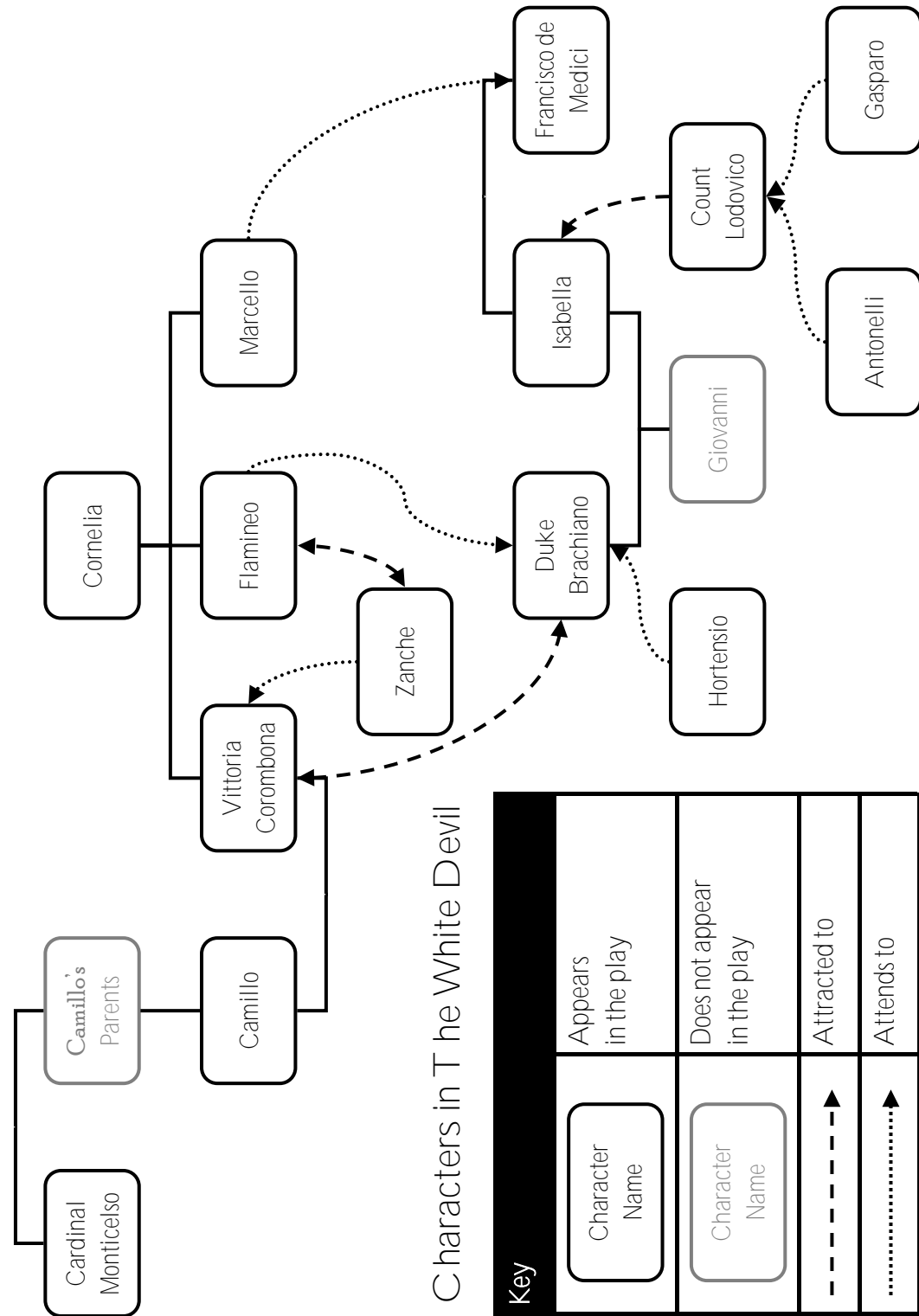
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Flamineo

The manipulative, violent and misogynistic brother of Vittoria and Marcello. Everything he does is designed to improve his lot in life including using his own sister to improve the family fortune. He is eventually spurned by Brachiano and Vittoria and out manoeuvred by the powerful Francisco.



Cardinal Monticelso

A Cardinal, later elected as Pope, Uncle to Camillo, enemy to Brachiano and obsessed with Vittoria and her sexual attractions. Monticelso is determined to punish Brachiano for his affair with Vittoria. As the Bible prohibits private revenge, by his own mouth he condemns himself as a corrupt, scheming cleric.

Vittoria Corombona

Married to Camillo, nephew to Monticelso, she is in love with Brachiano and encouraged by her brother, Flamineo, into an affair. Strong and confident, she battles to survive in a world surrounded by powerful men.



Count Lodovico

In love with Isabella. Banished from Rome for previous misdemeanours and knowing that Vittoria may have arranged his reprieve he jumps at the chance for revenge when he learns **of her apparent hand in Isabella's death.**



The Duke of Brachiano

A powerful and rich Duke, he is married to the virtuous Isabella. Encouraged into an affair with the beautiful Vittoria by her brother, Flamineo, he apparently falls in love but soon shows his true colours as a vicious and violent man who is both unforgiving and unforgivable.



Francisco de Medici

The Duke of Florence and Isabella's rich and powerful brother. He is allied to Monticelso. While outwardly noble and virtuous he is the perfect Machiavellian. Disguised as a Moor he plots the destruction of Brachiano and Vittoria.

Studio 61 presents

THE WHITE DEVIL

by John Webster

Cast

Monticelso, *a Cardinal* Kevin Porter

Francisco de Medici, *the Duke of Florence* Mike Smith

The Duke of Brachiano, *husband of Isabella* Ian Hartley

Count Lodovico, *in love with Isabella* Peter Carrington-Porter

Camillo, *husband of Vittoria,
cousin to Monticelso* Andy Alsop

Antonelli, *friend of Lodovico* Mike Davenport

Gasparo, *friend of Lodovico* David Bickley

Hortensio, *of Brachiano's household* Ken Towlson

Flamineo, *secretary to Brachiano,
brother to Vittoria* Steph Haynes

Marcello, *his younger brother,
of Francisco's household* Casper Drake

Isabella, *wife of Bracciano, sister to Francisco* Jane Fosbrook

Vittoria Corombona, *a Venetian lady,
wife of Camillo* Sarah Carter

Cornelia, *mother to Vittoria,
Marcello and Flamineo* Patricia Boyd

Zanche, *servant to Vittoria,
in love with Flamineo* Sue Hay

Doctor Julio, *friend of Flamineo* Ann Bickley

Servant Suzanne Smith

Production Team

Director Suzanne Smith

Stage Manager Maggie Smith

Properties Anna Wright

Costume Suzanne Smith

Lighting and Sound Martin Smith

Lighting and Sound Assistant Peter Terry-Short

Poster Photography Mental Images

Video Filming and Editing Wolverhampton Film Makers

Front of House Rita Dudek
Joan Worrall
Ian Howarth

Car Park Ben Dudek



The running time will be approximately 170 minutes,
including the interval.

Refreshments will be available in the foyer during the interval.

Please ensure that all mobile phones are turned off during the
performance.

In the event of an emergency the front of house staff will guide you
to the emergency exits.



Camillo

Married, unhappily, to Vittoria he is persuaded by Monticelso and Francisco to leave for sea while they plot the downfall of Brachiano. Unfortunately Flamineo has other ideas.



Marcello

A soldier and the virtuous brother of Vittoria and Flamineo. The pride of his mother he is out of his depth, surrounded by violence and corruption at every turn.



Gasparo

A henchman to Lodovico, he is violent and ruthless in his loyalty to Lodovico.



Isabella

Wife to Brachiano and brother to Francisco she has powerful friends in the Cardinal Monticelso. Knowing **of her husband's affair with Vittoria she tries valiantly** to save both her marriage and reputation.



Antonelli

A henchman to Lodovico who laughs at misfortune at the side-lines of court.

Lawyer

A lawyer at the arraignment of Vittoria Corombona.



Cornelia

The long suffering mother of Vittoria, Flamineo and Marcello, she struggles to deal with the immorality of **her eldest children and her fear for Marcello's well-being** in a violent and selfish world.



Conjurer

Employed as a magic man by Brachiano.

Hortensio

Virtuous courtier to Brachiano.



Zanche

A moor, and the servant of Vittoria, she is having an affair with Flamineo and hopes to profit by this relationship. When it becomes apparent she will not she quickly turns her attentions on a newcomer, a moor like herself.



Doctor Julio

Employed by Brachiano to arrange murders and such.

Matron

A matron of the House of Convertites.

The Real Vittoria Accoramboni

Like many revenge tragedies, *The White Devil* is based on a historical affair. It was a popular story in its day, an equivalent to a contemporary tabloid affair, and so Webster might have expected his audience to have at least a passing familiarity with it.

The story begins in 1580, when Paolo Giordano, Duke of Bracciano, the husband of Isabella de' Medici, met and fell in love with Vittoria Accoramboni, who was married to the poor nephew of Cardinal Montalto. Although Vittoria refused his advances, Giordano had her husband killed at Monte Cavallo through the help of her brother, Marcello. He then killed his own wife, and convinced Vittoria to marry him.

The victims were powerful people, and their relatives soon rioted. Vittoria was placed in a nunnery, from which Giordano soon sprung her. They married and, banished from Rome, held court in Padua for two months until Giordano died from poison. Vittoria refused to give up her inheritance, and a small army of men stormed into her house and shot her brother. Lodovico Orsini, a relation of her late husband and a notorious murderer of thirty-four men, stabbed her while she was at prayer. He soon surrendered to an avenging army, however, and admitted that he performed the murder at the request of great men. He was privately strangled to death, while his accomplices were pulled apart by hot tongs, killed with a hammer, and quartered.

Unlike in the play, the real Vittoria seems to be conventionally moral, and not the headstrong temptress the men accuse her of being. Additionally, Webster took great liberties with the character of Flamineo, making him the instigator of action and not one recruited by the duke. By rearranging the two brothers, Webster creates a biting and bitter commentary on both **the futility of class mobility and the corrupt power of "great men."**

Become a Member of Studio 61

Whether you want to tread the boards or help backstage, we're always looking for new members to join us at Studio 61. We rehearse on Monday and Friday evenings at The Victory Hall, Lower Penn. You can call our development officer Peter Carrington-Porter on 01902 892393 or email us at mail@studio61.org.uk for more information.

Join us for our next production...

Bombshells by Joanna Murray-Smith

25th - 28th February 2016 at The Victory Hall

Six monologues exposing six women balancing their inner and outer lives with humour and often desperate cunning.

ENACT 2016: 17th - 19th June

Earlier this year, Newhampton Arts Centre launched a new arts festival called ENACT. Jane Fosbrook directed a production of "But Yesterday" by Jimmie Chinn which we performed as part of this launch. We shall be participating in this event again next year - keep your eyes on our website or newsletter for more details.



Neil - Studio Co-ordinator
07858 054723
neil@mentalspaces.org
www.mentalspaces.org
Newhampton Arts Centre
Dunkley Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 4AN