

Companion Animals by Madeline George

University of Iowa - Gallery Production

Dramaturgical Packet

Curated by Melissa Trepa (as of Jan. 2019)

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THE PLAY

Playwright biography

Madeline George is an American playwright and author. Her plays, including, *The (Curious case of the) Watson intelligence*, *Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England*, *Precious Little*, and *the Zero hour*, have been produced at theaters around the country. Madeline George's plays *Hurricane Diane* and *The (Curious case of the) Watson Intelligence*, won Madeline George a spot as a Pulitzer Prize finalist and the outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award¹. She is also the recipient of a Whiting Award, the Princess Grace Playwriting Fellowship, and two MacDowell Fellowships, and holds commissions from the Sloan Foundation/Manhattan Theatre Club, the Big Ten Theatre Consortium, and the Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis. She was a founding member of the Obie-winning playwrights' collective 13P (Thirteen Playwrights, Inc.), and is a resident playwright at New Dramatists². Madeline George is currently the Mellon Playwright in Residence at Two River Theater in Red Bank, New Jersey³. She has been presenting her work for the Purdue theater for her piece, *Companion Animals* along other works, in addition *Companion Animals* was cold read as a Big Ten Play in January of 2018 at Ohio State University⁴. Madeleine's two novels are published by Viking Children's Books. Her first book, *Looks*, was one of Booklist's 2008 Top Ten First Novels for Youth, and a 2009 ALA Best Book for Young Adults. Her second book, *The Difference Between You and Me*, was a Kirkus Best Teen Book of 2012, a Junior Library Guild selection and an ALA Rainbow List selection⁵. The New York Theater Workshop is producing Madeline George's latest production of *Hurricane Dianne* this February 6, of 2019⁶.



Additional references for Madeline George: ¹ Madeline George's website [here](http://www.madeleinegeorge.com/about/) or at <http://www.madeleinegeorge.com/about/>

² Learn more about her works, *The (Curious case of the) Watson intelligence* [here](#), *Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England* [here](#), *Precious Little* [here](#), and *the Zero hour* [here](#)

³ More on her Biography and credentials [here](#) or <https://newdramatists.org/madeleine-george>

⁴ *Companion Animals*, see its past locations [here](#)

⁵ See her fiction and how to buy it [here](#)

⁶ See more about the New York Workshop and Madeline's recent production [here](#)

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Relevant Interviews with the Playwright

Interview with the *Playwrights Horizon's Mainstage Theater*⁸:

Madeline George expands on her motivations for her passions of writing and theater which are integrated into her work.

“...Some playwrights come from poetry and they get in through image and some come from acting and they get in through action or objective. I have a vivid memory of being in my acting class in college and being up there in the middle of an improv and feeling language just kind of volleying forth from me and my acting teacher standing at the back of the room as I was trying to improv the scene, shouting “Objective, Objective, OBJECTIVE!” [Laughter] I come at it from a delight in the surface topography of language as spoken by human beings. I think I can safely say that that is my entry point into plays. And I studied linguistics as an undergraduate, not theater, and I love listening to people talk.”

Interviews from *The Interval* on playwrighting⁹:

While discussing her focus of female characters and writing them, Madeline George expands on female characters and her draw to them in her work.

“...I feel like it’s always felt very natural and normal to me to write female characters who are deeply flawed, a total pain in the ass, charmingly verbose, violent, ethical, unethical. It never seemed to me to be an issue, but I don’t know. I feel like it has taken me a long time to get my career going, and every so often I’m like, “I wonder if I would [write more about men] ...” The last time I wrote a play I made a conscious decision because I was like, “I’m so tired of my plays making it so close and then not getting on stage.” So, I was like, “The next play that I write, I’m going to change the ratio. Instead of having it all girls with one boy I’m going to switch it up and have two to one man to women.” Sure enough, that is the play that got produced. I don’t necessarily think that’s the reason why, but it’s possible”

⁸ More about *Playwrights Horizon, The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence*, and George’s work find it [here](#)

⁹ Find the full interview and more on *Hurricane Diane* [here](#)

Find more about Madeline George’s residency, playwrighting, and work from Two River Theater [here](#)

Also see more video interviews of Madeline George, starting with an Interview about *Watson Intelligence* on YouTube. View it [here](#)

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Interviews from *The Interval* on playwrighting¹⁰ continued:

When asked to discuss her process of her writing and intentions, Madeline George had this to say.

“I think that there’s a lot about our lived experience that is reflected and refracted interestingly in that kind of causal narrative. Probably the most important parts of our lives. Certainly, the things that take place at fissures in our safety and in our sense of continuity like births, deaths, illnesses, massive political transformations, et cetera. Those things don’t have that linearity to them. For me, it’s been a very long, slow, arduous process to try to figure out, “What’s my relationship to that kind of plot?” Thinking about maybe poetry, particularly. I think poetry is closer to theatre than fiction. Also thinking about like, “Well what could argument structure teach us about how to set up a play? Or what could just simple patterning teach us?” I feel like when we see a play that functions in a non-linear or a non-causal way, but functions well, we often feel disarmed and moved by it because it speaks to the parts of our lives that don’t make much sense. Or the moments in our lives when all of our best laid plans were foiled. Since I came from writing and waves of feeling that didn’t really go any place in particular, I’ve been really trying to learn how to write a story. Then, hopefully, once I can get good at it, then I can inflect it back with those other kinds of parts.

While discussing her work, *Precious Little*, Madeline George discusses relationships with animals in her other play, which pertain to *Companion Animals* in this circumstance regarding connection and relationships. She describes characterization and the building of characters saying,

“she encounters this animal and over the course of developing a relationship with this animal she comes to understand that there is this entire valence of communication which has nothing whatsoever to do with words, and maybe it’s possible to have deep communication with another being outside of what has been her only bandwidth.”

¹⁰ Find the full interview and more on *Hurricane Diane* [here](#)

Find more about Madeline George’s residency, playwrighting, and work from Two River Theater [here](#)
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Our Gallery Production - The Big Ten Theater Consortium

The Big Ten Theatre Consortium has commissioned a series of plays by outstanding American female playwrights. Each play has featured at least six substantial age-appropriate roles for young women. The purpose of the initiative is to promote the writing and production of new works about women by professional and academic theatres around the country. It is also meant to draw attention to the need to produce and support such plays.

Each year the theatre departments and schools of the Big Ten have the first opportunity to present the newly commissioned play. After that year, the play is available for production anywhere. This year, for the 2018-2019 season, we're among the first to produce the newest play for the Consortium, *Companion Animals*, by Madeleine George (also author of *Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England*, which was part of our 2017-2018 season, spring, 2018).

As of August of 2017, five plays have been commissioned. *Good Kids* by Naomi Iizuka, *Baltimore* by Kirsten Greenidge, *Twilight Bowl* by Rebecca Gilman, *Companion Animals* by Madeleine George, and "*Title to be Announced*" by Jen Silverman.

The Big Ten Theatre Consortium is composed of the fourteen theatre departments and schools in the Big Ten Conference.

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Indiana University
- University of Iowa
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- Michigan State University
- University of Minnesota
- University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- Northwestern University
- The Ohio State University
- The Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- Rutgers University
- University of Wisconsin, Madison

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About the Play¹¹

Across a hundred years and three continents, three young women pursue a common goal: to save the dogs they love. In London in 1907, suffragist Lizzy is writing an incendiary pamphlet exposing the torture of a little brown dog on the vivisectionist's table at the London College of Medicine. On the outskirts of Moscow in 1957, Anya is concocting a plan to set free the scrappy strays she has rounded up to be cosmonauts in the top-secret Soviet space program. And in New York City in 2017, Kyrie is on a quest to be reunited with the service dog she trained--and lost--in prison. The powerful bond between humans and nonhuman animals becomes the fuel for liberation movements in this braided story about the interconnectedness of all beings.

Style

A highly transformative comedy

Production History

Madeline George is currently working with her production of *Hurricane Diane* at the New York Workshop, set to open February 6th of 2019. Madeline George is a current Playwright resident at Two River Theater and lives in New York. Madeline George has done readings of *Companion Animals* with Universities such as the University of Maryland and Ohio State University. In addition, she has done a project of the production of *Companion Animals* at Purdue University in the fall of the 2018 season.

The World of the Play

Where?

London, Moscow, New York and Philadelphia, and Starbucks. A set of real historical locations reference the created world of the play by the main characters. Scenes act as individual locations within the worlds of the characters but start to fade into each other as the scenes go along until the setting is morphed into an ambiguous constellation of all the settings by the end of the play.

When?

1907, 1957, and present day 2019

¹¹ Official Iowa Theater website and Play description and Big Ten Consortium information found [here](#)

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Play Timeline

Scene 1: p. 5-20

Present, East New York, 1907 London, 1957 Moscow in the outskirts of an alley, present day Starbucks, and present (nighttime) Sanctity House (halfway house), east New York.

Scene 2: p. 20-43

1957 Moscow Space Program Lab, 1907 London, present New York (Puppy Prisoners Program Office), flashback Valhalla Prison, present Sanctity House (halfway house), east New York, 1907 London, and 1957 Moscow Program Lab

Scene 3: p.43-63

Present Key Foods Meat Counter in New York, present day Starbucks, present Queens apartment building in New York, flashback Valhalla Prison training, present Sanctity House (halfway house) in New York.

Scene 4: p.63-84

1957 Moscow Kennel, present Sanctity House in East New York, 1957 Moscow Kennel, present Sanctity House in East New York, present outside of time, present on a bus to Philadelphia, present Starbucks, 1907 London, present Philadelphia, 1957 Moscow, present Philadelphia, present Starbucks, and present (Sue's house)

The “French Scene Chart”

Created by Nina Morrison and updated by Assistant Director, Sarah Hamilton, the scene number, page number, actor, character, place, time, and summary help to see the organization of the play as it is written. Our scene chart helps to organize the shifts in time with the characters since they vary. Please note the characters role and the significance of why and when setting and characters' change. As the script becomes familiar, these shifts will make more and more sense to the play. See the table image below for reference as well as the script.

Note the end of scene 4, when two characters played by the same actor are in multiple scenes indicated by the shaded box. We will find a resolution during rehearsals.

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Scene Num	Page Num	Actor	Character	Place/Time	Summary
1	5	Jenna	Brownie	present/not place	"Where is she?"
	5-11	Eileen, Olivia	Kyrie, Sister Terry	present/East NY	Kyrie moves into Sanctity House, mentions dog
	11-12	Olivia	Lizzy	1907/London	Practicing anti-vivisection speech
	11-12	Cristina	Anya	1957/Moscow outskirts alley	Searching for animals to experiment on
	12-15	Emma, Cristina	A, B	present/Starbucks	Marriage, if not marriage, break up, waiting to not be devastated
	15-20	Eileen, Melissa	Kyrie, Kim	present (night)/Sanctity House	Kim and Kyrie talk about Valhalla, Brownie, girlfriends
2	20-25	Emma, Cristina	Ada, Anya	1957/Moscow lab	Ada thinks she is too soft
	25-28	Olivia, Melissa	Lizzy, Leisa	1907/London	Lizzy still practicing, prepping for speech, Leisa wants to bring weapons
	29-34	Eileen, Emma	Kyrie, Ms. Schemp	present/Puppies for Prisoners Office	Kyrie trying to find Brownie, meets resistance
	34-36	Jenna	Kyrie, Sue, Brownie	flashback/Valhalla	Training Brownie with Sue
	36-39	Eileen, Cristina	Kyrie, Ms. Ramirez	present/Sanctity House	Kyrie meets w/ Ms. Ramirez to try to get approval to move into her own place
	39-41	Melissa, Olivia	Leisa, Kitty (British accent)	1907/London	Leisa goes to Kitty the alchemist for a weapon for the speech
	41-43	Cristina, Olivia	Luya, Katya (Russian accent)	1957/Moscow	Valerian
3	43-50	Emma, Eileen	Vernelle, Kyrie	present/Key Food Meat Counter	Vernelle interviews Kyrie, Vernelle has psychic communication with Brownie
	50-53	Emma, Cristina	A, B	present/Starbucks	Saving for a ring, "get in or get out"
	54-56	Eileen, Cristina	Kyrie, Patsy Scarfuto	present/Queens apartment building	Kyrie trying to rent from Patsy, shows pic of Brownie
	56-58	Jenna	Kyrie, Sue, Brownie	flashback/training at Valhalla	Kyrie learning to train Brownie
	58-63	Eileen, Olivia, Cristina	Kyrie, Sister Terry, Ms. Ramirez	present/Sanctity House	Kyrie trying to move out
4	63	Cristina	Anya	1957/Moscow Kennel	About to go into the kennel and sedate? euthanize?
	64-66	Eileen, Melissa	Kyrie, Kim	present/Sanctity House	Kyrie packing to go to Philadelphia secretly to get Brownie
	66	Cristina	Anya	1957/Moscow Kennel	Looking for little dog
	66	Eileen, Melissa	Kyrie, Kim	present/Sanctity House	Kyrie packing to go to Philadelphia secretly to get Brownie
	66	Jenna	Brownie	present/outside of time	Brownie sensing Kyrie
	67-75	Eileen, Olivia	Kyrie, Kat	present/bus to Philadelphia	Kat trying to convince Kyrie to come to demonstration to "empty the cages"
	75	Emma, Cristina	A, B	present/Starbucks	distance, can't hear A and B over the crowd
	75	Olivia	Lizzy (V.O.)	1907/London	We hear Lizzy giving her speech
	75-76	Eileen, Olivia	Kyrie, Kat	present/Philadelphia	They join the crowd of protestors
	76	Olivia, Emma	Lizzy, Ada	1957/Moscow	We hear Lizzy giving her speech then Ada picks it up replacing "sacrifice" with "valor" etc.
	78	Olivia, Emma, Olivia	Lizzy, Ada, Kat	present/Philadelphia	Kat joins at the end talking about the future
	79	Olivia, Emma, Olivia, Eileen	Lizzy, Ada, Kat, Kyrie	present/Philadelphia	Kat "mic checks" - speaks about individual freedom only being possible when all are free
	81-82	Emma, Cristina	A, B	present/Starbucks	Wondering if they should join protest, says it's none of their business
	82	All	All		detonation/ti/loff
	82-83	Eileen, Melissa	Kyrie, Sue	present/Sue's house	Kyrie walked to Sue's house
	84	Eileen, Melissa	Kyrie, Sue, Brownie	present/Sue's house	Kyrie and Brownie reunite

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Who¹³

Kyrie- Eileen Campbell

Kim -Melissa Caminneci

Brownie - Jenna Smithson

A and B -Emma Bibb and Cristina Ranslem

¹⁴Anya- Cristina Ranslem

Ada -: Emma Bibb

Leisa- Melissa Caminneci

Lizzy- Olivia Schneider

Sue - Christina Ranslem

Ms. Ramirez -Cristina Ranslem

Ms. Schemp -Emma Bibb

Vernelle - Emma Bibb

Sister Terry - Olivia Schneider

Patsy Scarfuto-Cristina Ranslem

Kitty/Katya/Kit- Olivia Schneider

Name origins and context of first named characters:

Anya -gracious/merciful

Ada- noble, happy

Lizzy – or Elizabeth, ‘my God is an oath’

Leisa -my god is a vow

Brownie -small, playful

Kim -regal hill, ruler

Kyrie- “the lord”

Sue -lily, or ‘God rescues’

Sister Terry – ruler of the people, harvester

Kitty- little cat

Katya – pure, unsullied

Kat – pure, virginal

Character Analysis

Consider the research points later presented in this packet as well as references to text in the play and expand on each character’s circumstances and what particular characters think about their own revolutions and their roles as women in their specific society and setting.

Please take a moment to determine who you are closest to, who your enemies or opposition is, and why. What is the objective your character is portraying, as well as the play as a whole? How do these varying storylines relate to one another?

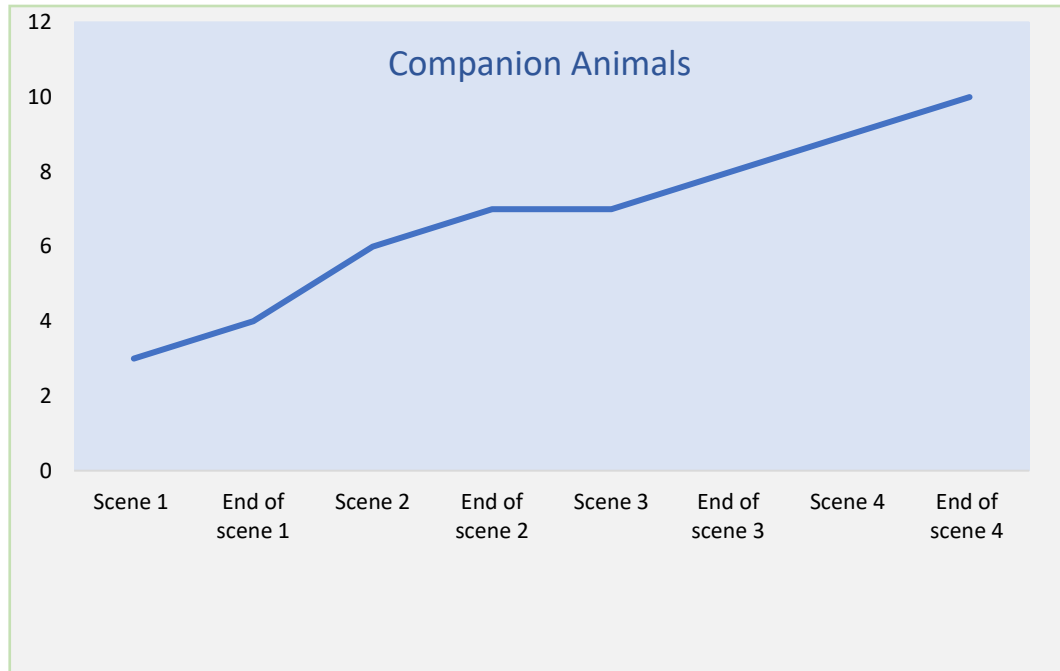
¹³ For more on the origins and context of first name characters start [here](#)

¹⁴ All characters are expected to study and learn accents for their roles. Ada/Anya-Russia 1957, Lizzy/Leisa-Working class London (1907), Kitty/Katya/Kat will also have a slight accent addressed by the directors, and the rest will use an “East New York” accent for their roles.

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Dramatic Structure



CONTEXTUAL DISCUSSION AND RESOURCES

Character activism¹⁵ and Demographic information:

London 1907

During 1907 many critical historic events shaped London in its time. These events directly relate to the movements and figures of the time that are referenced in this production. During 1907, for instance, an epidemic of meningitis in Glasgow, Edinburg, and Belfast caused great loss and illness. The Mud March occurred in this time period and was the first large procession organized by the National Union of Women's Suffrage societies in London currently taking place at the time. This movement was conducted through silent protest, similar to women's marches of today, for the rights of women. These sufferings and histories help to better understand the actions and experiences of characters such as Lizzy and Leisa to the context of this historic time. In addition to ailments and suffragist movements, this was also a time when the central criminal court opened and the Newgate prison was built by King Edward VII. These institutions set the tone for society and the struggles that were facing its citizens.

Politically in England during 1907, Britain, England, and Russia joined the spheres of influence with Asia. This alliance created relations between Britain and Russia so that Britain did not have to fear conflict of any Russian invasions into India which Britain had colonized by this time. However, the intention of this agreement primarily functioned to resolve imperial disputes as a European pact than just as a political move by Britain. Due to this alliance, the other triple

¹⁵ All researched material for these sections can be referenced [here](#) for further inspection.

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alliance forming at this same time with Germany, Italy, and Austria-hungry referred to as the central powers, now faced the triple entente of Britain, France, and Russia's alliance. These alliances all led up to the tensions that contributed to the start of WWI which would occur 7 years later.

In addition to increased political establishments on a global scale, Herbert Asquith also became the liberal prime minister in the U.K., since an illness forced Henry Campbell-Bannerman to resign. Asquith's cabinet changed and Reginald McKenna and Winston Churchill joined the ranks. These leaders then appointed the radical, David Lloyd George, as chancellor of the exchequer to join them as well. By 1908 the Olympic games also opened in White City in London, which was originally held in Rome, notifying the countries prestige at this time in history. Regarding power, the Common Wealth realm of leadership in Britain included Queen Elisabeth and her associated family. However, it should remain clear that the royal family remained a figure of royalty, and that the ruling of those who actually ran the country remained the job of the Prime Minister and associated staff. It is standard in this time, however, that the Common Wealth of Nations governs itself and makes its own policy decisions but retain its ties to the U. K.

Despite political power and prestige, in the early 1900s, London was facing nationwide suffrage movements, spearheaded by Emmeline Pankhurst and her Women's social and political union. The protests intensified, and the peak hit in 1912-1914, right around the start of WWI when the movement militarized. These movements and hierarchy accentuated the class variation amongst Londoners and English communities. The London College of Medicine was also running in this time as an influencing institution.

This College was the College of Medicine where medical students were trained, where the Brown Dog Affair occurred in 1903 (to be discussed more later), and where protests from suffragists occurred. Protests regarding the Brown Dog Affair lasted until 1910 when a trial awarded the Professor in question, who ignited the riots, the winner in his case against the suffragists and anti-vivisectionists. Hyde Park was one of the two major locations for two major suffragette rallies in 1908 and 1913 and where the riots of the Brown Dog and Vivisection debates occurred. At the time in London, alongside women's movements, these locations would be symbols of the struggles of London society that would shift the culture indefinitely. Struggles also reflected the poverty issue in London alongside the political rights of citizens.

It was very common for the poor to suffer from illness and starvation. One in five children in families per year died from hunger, illness, and colds. By 1909, the Poor Law Omission found that one third of East end's population was in extreme poverty. Such dichotomies created tension and conflict amongst civilians class groups as some struggled to survive while the elitists thrived. The rise of these class variations gave way to contrasting dialects in different areas of Britain. The more elitist, the more standard the language and the less use of dialects. To study forms of accents from various regions and classes, refer to the article [here](#). For specific London English practice, see this YouTube [video](#).

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Russia 1957

Named in Russia for the river that runs through it, Moskva began as a medieval city that developed into the Grand Duchy of Moscow. Which is later known as Moscow, ruled by the administrative region by its prince, the grand Duchy. This shift replaced Kiev as the most powerful territory in Russia. Moscow is the capital city today, but it wasn't from 1712 to 1918, when St. Petersburg acted as the capital of the Russian Empire. The Bolshevik Revolution prompted the capital's move back to Moscow, however, and today Moscow is one of the most thriving and most expensive cities in the world. Moscow's origins help to establish Russia as a powerful country as we understand it today, which helps to bridge the understanding of the origins of the space race and rise as a superpower.

Russia in 1957 had the 6th world festival of youth and students in July, and it was during this time that the Khrushchev political reforms commenced, also known as Khrushchev's thaw. This thaw resulted in changes in the Soviet Union and is also when repression and censorship in the Soviet Union relaxed. Political soviet prisoners were released from gulag labor camps and freedoms came about from policies for de-Stalinization and peaceful coexistence with other nations, occurring just after Stalin's death in '53. This is a period of irreversible change in Russia, with economic reforms, international trade, educational and cultural contacts and events and involvement in sports at international levels.

However, power struggles between pro-Khrushchev and Stalinists never stopped, and eventually it weakened the soviet communist party. After this time, Brezhnev reverted some of the thaw, but Russia shifted permanently despite this. In 1957, that Khrushchev becomes prime minister and the time and China fell out with the Soviet Union over Moscow's thaw policies amongst political aspirations. And it was during this time in 1957 that the-first ever artificial earth satellite, Sputnik, created by the Russians, orbits the earth. The space race amongst the powerful nations of the United States and Soviet Union of the time became critical to the Soviet Unions' political rise in power

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Space Race and Dogs¹⁶

The space race amongst the U.S. and Soviet Russia started when post WWII mentalities had the U.S. suspicious of the Soviet Union's intentions following the war. It all started when the Soviet Union shot down the U.S. spy plane, U-2, over soviet territory after the U.S. attempted to gain leverage with spy-to-spy contacts. There were fears within the United States that another attack was on its way to the U.S. post WWII and Pearl Harbor so spying went into full effect.

Eisenhower proposed an open-skies policy, whereby either nation could be allowed to fly aircraft over the other, but the S.U. rejected the proposal. However, during this time the U.S. began making a scientific satellite, and so did the S.U. Sputnik 1, was top a secret report by the scientific advisory committee to launch nonmilitary satellites and thus had the freedom of space to spy. Both tried to perfect the satellites in space where they could be safe from the hard monitor of earth. However, the S.U. was the first to send Sputnik 1 into orbit.

Sputnik 2 soon debuted the next year, when animals were more publicly introduced and the first animal was sent into orbit. In the Soviet Union, a dog named Laika, was the first to go into orbit, but was the first to also die upon reentry of the space craft. The U.S. began to catchup to the S.U. in their advancements following this debut, and Eisenhower announced the formation of NASA, a federal agency devoted to exploring space. Although the first animal to orbit the U.S. used in flights was a monkey called Albert in 1948, used in suborbital flights, the first animal to actually orbit was the terrier dog named Laika by the Soviets in 1957. While 1959 was the start of the process to reach the moon, which later led to success by the U.S. in 1969.

Yuri Gagarin was the first person ever to go into space as a Soviet pilot and cosmonaut in the Vostok spacecraft 1961 when completing orbit around earth. For the U.S., the first person to go to space was transported 23 days after Yuri, and his name was Alan B. Shepard. Meanwhile, John Glenn was the first American to actually orbit earth. In addition, the first female astronaut was Soviet cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova and the first person to reach the moon, was naturally, American astronaut, Neil Armstrong, in 1969.

During the course of the space race aside from many successful firsts by humans and superpowers alike, was the reality of death in the processes of these historic feats. Many dogs, more than a dozen, besides Laika died at the hands of the Soviet space program prior to Laika's successful orbit. There were several accounts of how she had actually died as well. First, a euthanasia drug was remotely injected. Second, a euthanasia drug was administered with food. Third, by the eighth day, she ran out of oxygen. In reality, due to a thermal conductivity miscalculation, Laika had suffocated just a few hours after the launch; this fact was only revealed in 2002.

Similarly, the U.S. sacrificed several apes and monkeys to test flight through the NASA program. However, after the dogs were sent into space and returned, some still survived and went on to live relatively normal lives. When the next Russian mutts launched into orbit—Belka and Strelka—landed safely and became beloved pop stars at a time when the USSR frowned on

¹⁶ For more facts about the dogs of space click [here](#) to read the article.

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celebrating individual achievements. Laika, Belka, Strelka, and other publicized dog cosmonauts symbolized the ultimate Soviet heroism, seen as simple creatures laying down their lives for their country and the advancement of science. Everything from stamps and postal covers to toys, children's books, cigarette packages, and candy tins featured these furry icons. Many other dogs were launched and used for propaganda during this time.

The flights with dogs were made to determine the effects of space on living organisms. No being had ever experienced such extremes—take-off and landing, zero-gravity. These were all being carefully tested and monitored by Soviet space-program scientists so they could determine whether space-flight was safe for humans. And the reason the USSR chose dogs over apes or cats was because they had a history of scientific experimentation. Stray dogs were selected from the streets surrounding the space program's research center, the Institute of Aviation Medicine, in Moscow. Strays were assumed to be much hardier than purebred dogs, as they had to fend for themselves on the city's streets. They were selected by weight and dimension: No heavier than 6 kilograms and no taller than 35 centimeters.

Present day New York, Philadelphia, and Starbucks

Check out these resources, tour the cities like a tourist, and learn about the history at these sites and sources: [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).



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Women's Rights Overview

Women's Social and Political Union¹⁷ (WSPU), was militant wing of the British women's suffrage movement and crucial to the women's rights movements most notably referenced in this play in London. The WSPU was founded in Manchester in 1903 by Emilee Pankhurst. Along with the more conservative National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), founded in 1897, the WSPU sought votes for women in a country that had expressly denied women suffrage in 1832. Although English women had been allowed to vote in local elections and act on school boards since the 1880s, full political equality eluded them. The WSPU was impatient with the moderate NUWSS and with the intransigence of both the Liberal and Conservative parties, for whom the suffrage issue was a political football. The WSPU also found itself at odds with the Labor party, although Labor maintained a high level of support for working-class women.

The WSPU was determined to hold the government responsible for granting the women's franchise and to blame the party in power for any delays. In 1905 the organization became aggressively militant following a Liberal Party meeting in which Emmeline's daughter



(Christabel Pankhurst (left) and mother Emmeline Pankhurst)

Christabel Pankhurst and factory worker Annie Kenney were arrested for heckling Sir Edward Grey. The movement attracted a lot of attention, most of it unfavorable, as its members staged huge marches and outdoor demonstrations, interrupted political meetings, chained themselves to the railings outside Parliament, and battled with the police. The public dubbed the WSPU suffragists "suffragettes." The moniker was immediately embraced by the WSPU, which named its journal *The Suffragette*.

In 1908, WSPU members began a campaign of property destruction aimed largely at the existing power structure and designed for maximum publicity. Their activities included pouring acid in mailboxes, breaking windows, defacing artwork in the National Gallery, and tearing up golf courses. One suffragette vandalized the prime minister's car.

In 1913, at the Epsom Derby suffragette Emily Davidson moved onto the racetrack in front of a racehorse owned by King George, paying with her life to make a statement about wealth and power. More than 1,000 suffragettes, including Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst, were imprisoned between 1908 and 1914. When arrested, many suffragettes drew additional public attention by staging hunger strikes, a tactic that prison officials countered by force-feeding them. In 1913 the British government passed the Prisoners' Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health Act,

¹⁷ Sources for women's movement can be found [here](#).

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which allowed prison officials to discharge the women when they were truly weak and then rearrests them as soon as they got their strength back. The act earned public opprobrium, quickly becoming known as the Cat and Mouse Act because it seemed, in its cruelty, to mimic the way a cat toys with a captured mouse.

In 1914 the WSPU ceased all agitation for women's suffrage and threw its support behind the British war effort in WW1. Emmeline Pankhurst became an ardent militarist, and her followers in the WSPU were among those who handed white feathers—symbols of cowardice—to young men not wearing military uniform. The WSPU slowly faded from public attention during the war and was finally dissolved in 1917. In 1918, ostensibly in recognition of women's war work, the British government granted suffrage to women over age 30. The full franchise was extended in 1928.

The WSPU was an inspiration to young members of the U.S. women's suffrage movement, especially Alice Paul, founder of the militant National Women's party. Paul had demonstrated and gone to jail with suffragettes in England between 1907 and 1910. She carried their lessons into picketing the White House in 1917, holding the party in power responsible for delays in granting suffrage, and in her own imprisonment and hunger striking

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Lizzy and Leisa

Lizzy Lind af Hageby and Leisa Schartau are also important key women of the suffrage movement, in reference to this play. Vivisection¹⁸ and the rights of women went hand in hand with these two monumental women. Emilie Augusta Louise "Lizzy" Lind af Hageby (September 20th 1878-December 26th, 1963) was a Swedish-British activist and human rights advocate who became a prominent anti-vivisection activist in England in the early 20th century. Lizzy was born to a distinguished Swedish family and Lind af Hageby and another Swedish activist Leisa Schartau enrolled at the London School of Medicine for Women in 1902 to advance their anti-vivisectionist education.



They became friends from their similarities and the two embarked on a revolutionary goal. The women attended vivisections at University College London and in 1903 published their diary, *The Shambles of Science: Extracts from the Diary of Two Students of Physiology*, which accused researchers of having vivisected a dog without adequate anesthesia. The ensuing scandal, known as the Brown Dog Affair, included a libel trial, damages for one of the researchers, and rioting in London by medical students. In 1906 they co-founded the Animal Defense and Anti-Vivisection Society later ran an animal sanctuary at Ferne House in Dorset with the Duchess of Hamilton. Lizzy became a British citizen in 1912 and spent the rest of her life writing and speaking about animal protection and the link between that and feminism alongside Leisa and other women of the age of the movement.

¹⁸ Pdf Edu link about Leisa and Lizzy [here](#) for reference.

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Dogs and the history of animal mistreatment

Vivisection was the practice of performing operations on live animals for the purpose of experimentation or scientific research, which would later lead to the uprising of the Brown Dog affair in London. Animal treatment, like the outcry of women's treatment of the time was being rigidly attacked against institutions and for good reason. A particular account of vivisection, referenced in the play, sets upon a revolting society against the practice of vivisection for the sake of compassion for animals. Political controversy about vivisection increased over time in England from 1903 until 1910, around the same time as the Brown Dog riots. The infiltration was therefore inevitable by Swedish feminists of the University of London medical lectures, who pitched battles between med students, and police protection for the statue of a dog.

A trial at the Royal Courts of Justice was sanctioned, and an establishment at the Royal commission was made to investigate the use of animal experiments. These uprisings were triggered by allegations that in 1903, William Bayliss, the head of the department of Physiology at University College of London, performed illegal vivisection before 60 med students, on a brown terrier dog. Professor Bayliss and supporters argued that the dog was adequately anaesthetized, and that hormone discovery justified the practice. However, activists argued the dog was conscious and struggling. Bayliss sued for his reputation over the incident for libel and won, and vivisectionists commissioned a bronze statue of the dog as a memorial, unveiled in 1906.

However, med students were angered by the provocative plaque- "men and women of England, how long shall these things be?" as it was said, and this led to the vandalism of the memorial and the requirement of 24-hour police guards against the anti-dog protesters. The statue was vandalized by protestors since it became a symbol in support of the med students' viewpoint of necessary vivisection for study. In 1907, 1000 med students marched through London waving effigies of the brown dog on sticks, clashing with suffragettes to protest for the cause. 400 police arrived, one of a set of series of battles known as the brown dog riots. In 1910, police officers removed the statue at night, and it was melted by a blacksmith and a new brown dog was made and put in Battersea park in 1985 which appears more pet like than the stoic original statue. Lead suffragist women of the incident were Lizzy Lind Hageby and Leisa Katherine Schartau, who were students in the London School of Medicine for Women, a vivisection-free college of the time.

Find more of the Brown Dog and Vivisection riots [here](#).

Prison and Legal Processes¹⁹

According to the Human Rights Watch report of the United States Prison, the prison system is overpopulated, and improperly operated for the people. According to the Report, the steep rise in the prison population, which in itself seriously affects prison conditions, has been accompanied

¹⁹ Prison pdf human rights watch report reference found [here](#).

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by a hardening attitude of the courts and the legislatures with respect to prisoners' rights and the rights of criminal defendants. The new anti-crime bill, approved by the U.S. Senate passed in a slightly different version by the House, contains provisions limiting federal court review of inmates' petitions; in addition, it doubles the penalties for several drug related felonies, as well as adding 51 crimes punishable by death. All of these developments are transpiring behind a thickening veil of ignorance, obfuscation and denial.

In United States prisons there is overcrowding, excessive arrests for minor crimes, mistreatment of prisoners' legal rights such as poor health maintenance, poor access to sanitary needs, clothing, and medications, abuse in the prisons, and excessive protocol in order to contact to the outside world or be punished for rule breaking. State institutions require uniforms, some women's facilities are allowed for private clothes on weekends, and makeup was permitted as well. For clothes, underwear is required to be washed and dried in cells. Food quality is poor although the quantity is sufficient and generally prisons' only carry non-perishable food items and soft drinks. Recreational activities are allowed but only when directed at given times of the day. Inmates have work opportunities, but often do hard labor for little or no reward.

Women inmates of institutions are the minority compared to men, however, this minority representation results in neglect in the system. For example, the federal prison system does not allow women who deliver a baby during their incarceration to keep it with them in prison for any period. Inmates' babies are usually delivered in an outside hospital and then placed with relatives or in foster care. Women are provided with even less job and educational opportunities in institutions. In Danbury, for example, in the plant making equipment for the Department of Defense, men perform various electronics jobs, while women do pack and shipping. Contact of all inmates requires that staff may read all received mail and be opened before receiving messages.

The American legal system does not permit prisoners to obtain redress for all of the human rights violations that they experience in prisons and jails. Constitutional protections are limited in scope, and the judicial system is often slow and ill-equipped to address the miserable conditions found in so many of the country's prisons and jails. Also, the courts' ability to secure compliance with their orders is limited, particularly when corrective action is required. Nonetheless, much has been accomplished through litigation in eliminating some of the worst human rights violations in U.S. prisons.

The following are suggestions made by the report of Human Rights Watch in references to the practices of all prisons across the United States. This is an indication of common practices and mistreatment seen today that need to end.

1. Maximum-maximum security facilities should be used only under supervision independent from correctional administration.

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2. The use of physical restraints as a disciplinary measure and any form of collective punishment, both prohibited under the U.N. Standard Minimum Rules, should end.
3. Denial of access to reading matter should never be used as a disciplinary measure.
4. All cells should have a table and a chair. In no case should the denial of these pieces of furniture be used as an additional disciplinary measure.
5. Denial of outdoors time as a disciplinary or supervisory measure should not be used. Each inmate should be allowed at least an hour of daily outdoors exercise, in compliance with the U.N. Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
6. In jails, classification and record-keeping must be improved, to avoid situations where non-violent offenders are housed with dangerous and predatory criminals.
7. Prisons and jails have a duty to protect inmates against violence from other inmates.
8. Steps should be taken to assure an opportunity to work for all inmates capable of working.
9. There is distress by the diminishing number of furloughs within the federal system, reflecting, according to wardens we interviewed, the policy of the Bureau. This is particularly troubling in the case of minimum-security institutions and with respect to female inmates. Because of the small number of institutions housing women, a large proportion of female prisoners in federal institutions serve their sentences far from home.
10. Prison officials should make every effort to confine inmates as close to their home as possible so as to facilitate the maintenance of family bonds.
11. All inmates should have access to phones. Given the distances relatives must travel to visit, telephones are often a necessity in maintaining bonds.
12. Prisons should encourage access to prisons for inmates' relatives or friends, as maintaining these bonds gives inmates a better chance of staying out of trouble upon their release. Measures such as those taken by the Bedford Hills institution in New York, in helping to provide transportation to the prison, should be promoted.
13. As a rule, all inmates should be permitted contact visits.
14. All types of institutions use guards of the opposite sex to supervise inmates. we are concerned about the violation of privacy when prisoners are regularly being seen naked or using the toilet by persons of the opposite sex, guards of the same sex should be used.
15. Outside observers should have access to prisons. Visits by outsiders are frequently helpful in preventing gross abuses.

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Puppy training in Prison

Of the activities in which prison inmates may partake in, such as exercise or other leisure activities like reading, there are puppy training programs all across the United States to fulfill the needs of the community and the enjoyment of the inmates. Such programs teach dogs to enhance a variety of skills, from being a house pet, to becoming sensory trained detecting bombs and explosives. Others are trained to help the disabled. In addition, some dogs help addicts stay clean, see the article [here](#). Various universities have programs like this to do extensive studies on how to train dogs to fulfill proper training needs. Dog breeds vary but most popular kinds include labs, retrievers, and shepherds. All programs benefit inmates and communities alike and remain successful in various prisons across the country today.

For puppy training in prison real life experiences and examples, see this New York [resource](#) on the process. See this New York Times article [here](#) on the programs.

GLOSSARY

Definitions²⁰ and key Terms for Reference

- 1. Rudimentary p. 4** - a state or condition, relating to knowledge, basic and fundamental principals
- 2. Convent p.5** - a local community or house of a religious order or congregation *especially*: an establishment of nuns
- 3. P.O. p.7** – a parole officer, or a law enforcement officer who supervises offenders who have been released from incarceration, and often, recommends sentencing in courts of law.
- 4. Midtown p.8** - another term for the city or literally the middle of town, slang.
- 5. HRA²¹ p.8** - Health Reimbursement Account, A health reimbursement account (HRA) is an employer-funded plan that reimburses employees for medical expenses not covered by company-sponsored insurance. Because the employer funds the plan, any distributions are considered tax deductible to the employer. Reimbursement dollars received by the employee are generally tax free. A health reimbursement account is also known as a "health reimbursement arrangement."
- 6. SEP²² p.8** - Simplified Employee Pension, A health reimbursement account (HRA) is an employer-funded plan that reimburses employees for medical expenses not covered by company-sponsored insurance. Because the employer funds the plan, any distributions are considered tax deductible to the employer. Reimbursement dollars received by the employee are generally tax free. A health reimbursement account is also known as a "health reimbursement arrangement."

²⁰ All definitions found on the OED (Oxford English Dictionary) or other dictionary/urban resources, see sources [here](#) and [here](#).

²¹ Source for HRA [here](#)

²² Source for SEP [here](#)

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7. EBT²³ p.8 - Earnings Before Tax or Electronic Benefit Transfer, or a system for issuing welfare payments electronically by means of payment card, or money given before deducting tax expenses

8. Physiologist p.11 - An expert in or student of physiology which is the branch of science that deals with the normal functioning of living organisms and their systems and organs. Also: the functional processes of an organism, organ, or system

9. Scalpels p.11 - a small straight thin-bladed knife used especially in surgery



10. Forceps p.11 - an instrument for grasping, holding firmly, or exerting traction upon objects especially for delicate operations (as by jewelers or surgeons)

11. Pincers p.11 - an instrument having two short handles and two grasping jaws working on a pivot and used for gripping thin

12. Hooks p.11 - a curved or bent device for catching, holding, or pulling

13. Vivisection p.11 - The action of cutting or dissecting some part of a living organism; *spec.* the action or practice of performing dissection, or other painful experiment, upon living animals as a method of physiological or pathological study. (anti-vivisection being opposing vivisection)

14. Ratnick, Scrappechka, Hobnail p.12 – enduring nonsense words for context of the scene

15. Brown terrier p.12 - a type of brown dog, any of various usually small energetic dogs originally used by hunters to dig for small game and engage the quarry underground or drive it out



16. Curare p.12 - a complex poison South American Indians used on arrow tips that causes muscle relaxation and paralysis, includes various substances of plant and animal origin, and typically contains an alkaloid extracted from one of two South American vines.

17. Valhalla²⁴ p. 16 - the name of a prison in New York, also means In Old Northern mythology, the hall of slain warriors assigned to those who have died in battle, in which they feast with the God Odin. It is where they go after a fight and is a palace roofed with shields, where warriors feast on the flesh until doomsday where they march alongside the God Odin who needs them in battle.

²³ Source for EBT [here](#)

²⁴ Mythology origins for Valhalla can be found [here](#)

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18. Suborbital p. 20 - a trajectory which passes from earth into space: that does not go right round the earth but partially; having or relating to such a trajectory.

19. Centrifuge p. 21 - A machine designed to rotate a thing or substance rapidly around a fixed axis; *spec.* such a machine used to separate the constituent parts of a suspension or mixture.

20. Cognition p.22 - the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses.

21. Technicians p.22 - A person qualified in the practical aspects of one of the sciences or mechanical arts; (in later use) *esp.* a person whose job is to carry out practical work in a laboratory or to give assistance with technical equipment

22. Canis Familiaris p.23 - translated from various origins of Latin, meaning “grey wolf” or “familiar dog”

23. homologous p.23 - *Biology.* Having the same relation to an original or fundamental type; corresponding in type of structure (but not necessarily in function); said of parts or organs in different animals or plants, or of different parts or organs in the same animal or plant

24. Homo sapiens p.23 - meaning, “human being” **or** The biological species that comprises modern man, including all humans alive today

25. Conduit p.23 - The channel or medium by which anything (e.g. knowledge, influence, wealth, etc.) is conveyed

26. Narcotic compound p.24 - *Medicine.* A drug which when swallowed, inhaled, or injected into the system induces drowsiness, stupor, or insensibility, according to its strength and the amount taken; *esp.* an opiate

27. Tilling p.24 – to strive, exert oneself, labor, work.

28. Ennobling p.24 - To impart nobility to (a person or thing). Formerly also, to attribute nobility to.

29. Immolated p. 24 - to offer sacrifice, or to sacrifice. To give up to destruction or severe suffering or loss.

30. Edifice p.24 - a building or structure, especially an imposing one

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31. Manometer p.25 - An instrument for measuring the pressure in a gas or liquid; *esp.* one consisting of a U-tube containing mercury or other liquid, a difference in the pressures acting on the two ends of the liquid column being indicated by a difference in the levels reached by the liquid in the two arms of the U-tube.



32. Martyr p.26 - In extended (esp. non-religious) contexts: a person who undergoes death or great suffering for a faith, belief, or cause, or (usually with *to*; also, with *of, for*) through devotion to some object or for religious faith as well.

33. Indignation p.26 - The action of counting or treating (a person or thing) as unworthy of regard or notice; disdain, contempt; contemptuous behavior or treatment.

34. Veritable p.26 - Genuine, real, true; not counterfeit, false, or spurious; correctly or properly so called.

35. Rebuke p.26 - An instance of this; a shame, a disgrace; (also) an insult.

36. Staunch p.26 - that which stops or allays, also a stopping to.

37. Satchel p.28 - A small bag; *esp.* a rectangular one made of leather or some other strong material, which is closed by a flap, usually has a shoulder strap, and is often used for carrying books or other items needed for school



38. Gunpowder horns p.28 – a flask for carrying gunpowder, especially one made of the horn of an ox or cow

39. Anatomy p.28 - The artificial separation of the different parts of a human body or animal (or more generally of any organized body), in order to discover their position, structure, and economy; dissection (vivisection)

40. Tyranny p.28 - The government of a tyrant or absolute ruler; the position or rule of a tyrant

41. Handler p.29 - a person who controls animals, holds or incites a dog or gamecock for a show or a trial

42. Incendiary device p. 39 - any firebomb, and any device designed or specially adapted to cause physical harm to persons or property by means of fire, and consisting of any incendiary substance or agency and a means to ignite it

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43. Postmasters p.39 - a person in charge of a post office

44. WSPU²⁵ p.39 - Women's social and political union

45. White Phosphorous p.40 - the chemical element of atomic number 15, a poisonous, combustible nonmetal which exists in two common allotropic forms, white phosphorus, a yellowish waxy solid which ignites spontaneously in air and glows in the dark, and red phosphorus, a less reactive form used in making matches.

46. Undeployed p.40 - not deployed, used, or needed

47. Valerian p.41 - a plant that typically bears clusters of small pink or white flowers. Native to Eurasia, several species have been introduced to North America. A drug obtained from the root of common valerian, used as a sedative and antispasmodic

48. Tincture p.41 - a trace of something or medicine, made by dissolving a drug in something else

49. Tepid tea p.41 - a lukewarm tea

50. Saint Varvara²⁶ p.41 - or St. Barbara of the 7th century, was an early Christian Greek saint and martyr, referred to as one of the fourteenth holy helpers although limited knowledge of her existence is known due to limited documentation. She was killed by her father for her religious devotion, but her father was killed by lightning as punishment by God, associating the saint with lightning, fire, and explosions.



51. The gift p.45 - A person who is regarded as particularly susceptible to supernatural or paranormal influence; a medium; a clairvoyant.

52. Caul p. 45 - the netted substructure of a wig, cap, or headdress.

53. Peripherally p.52 - relating to or situated on the edge or outlying portion of something, adverb of peripheral.

54. Section 8 p.54 - a housing choice vouchers program, or a federal government's primary program to provide housing for American's living in poverty.

55. Remanded p. 65 - to send back again to a place, to reassign, the act of reassigning or sending back.

56. Peace Officer p.66 - a civil officer appointed to preserve law and order, such as a sheriff or police officer.

²⁵ Sources on the WSPU and historical background found [here](#).

²⁶ St. Varvara general bio found [here](#).

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57. Inundated p.68 - to overspread with, to overflow, to flood. To have flooded.

58. Border sites p.68 - the location near the countries boarder where government officials protect and serve the border, the customs and boarder protection sector of security.

59. Resettlement²⁷ villages p.68 - a location often for refugees which assists refugees

after their arrival in the U.S., after final screenings by the U.S. government, the refugee works with agencies associated with the U.S. Department of State

60. Temporary processing centers²⁸ p.68 - a location for those attempting to immigrate to the U.S. to temporarily hold individuals who are in the process of being reviewed. It is designed to house unaccompanied minors and family units who are detained at port or entry stations.

61. Penitentiaries p. 68 - a prison for people convicted of serious crimes (also a priest in the roman catholic church)

62. Apparatus p.69 – a complex structure within an organization or system, the technical equipment or machinery needed for a particular purpose.

63. Carceral state p. 69 - of or belonging to a prison.

64. Due process p.71 - fair treatment through the normal judicial system, especially as a citizen's entitlement.

65. Anaesthetize p. 72 - administer an anesthetic to (a person or animal), especially so as to induce a loss of consciousness

66. Indignation p.75 - anger or annoyance provoked by what is perceived as unfair treatment.

67. Detonates p. 84 - explode or cause to explode

²⁷ Definition of resettlement found [here](#).

²⁸ Information about processing centers [here](#).

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ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INTEREST: Read, Watch, Listen

1. Read and check out [The Prose of Cabeza-Vanegas](#), *Tinfoil Astronaut*, also found [here](#), on *The Rumpus* or listen on sound cloud. (Read the full collection of essays on *Don't Come Back*, for more from this author). This essay references space and the dogs which were tested in Russia as well as themes on relationships and discovery.
2. Watch the Netflix show, *Orange is the New Black*, for female perspectives of oppression, prison, and social justice themes similar to our play.
3. Check the footnotes in this packet for sources, video interviews listed, books, and other materials for further research and reference.
4. Watch *13th* documentary of imprisonment and racial oppression originally on Netflix, see trailer [here](#).
5. Watch on Netflix these other prison documentaries (most on Netflix) include *The Return*, *The Farm: Life Inside Angola Prison*, and *Dogs on The Inside*, on themes of the reintegration challenges of prisoners, dog trainings in prison, and a look inside a Louisiana prison. See full list [here](#).
6. Also watch *Captured* documentary of American hostages in countries [here](#), to review imprisonment themes
7. Watch *100 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice* on Netflix, see preview summary [here](#), which tackles racial Native American and female oppressions against the government like the themes of other women in the play and their revolutions.

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WORDS FROM THE DRAMATURG

What excites me most about this material is the way in which it engages women at the forefront of the work being created. The Big Ten Theatre Consortium has worked hard to create a production where women artists and creatives are at the forefront of theater, and I am honored to be a part of an initiative that this Madeline George play establishes. I am thrilled to endorse and encourage this collaboration because I believe the greater this kind of work is embraced by the collective artists, the better the community will become in embracing such initiatives as well.

Madeline George guides us in this play with the opportunity to explore humanity at its core intentions and to look throughout time and history at what it means to be another living being's companion at whatever cost. Through the work of the production of *Companion Animals*, my focus will be on an examination of the play in its current state as well as possible future revisions, and to facilitate our team's absorption of the text in order to reflect what Madeline George has to say. The goal with this packet is to educate, inspire, and challenge our team to learn the play on both intimate and universal contexts and to incorporate all timelines, locations, and backgrounds. It is also my intent to help establish the unity of all living creatures both dog and human alike to one another that this play calls for us to do.

This packet is meant help determine what we define as worthy amongst how we treat others, as the play asks us to question. It investigates how we view others and ourselves, and how we take our identities and oppressions which imprison us and find a way to be free in order to activate and ignite something within all of us. There is an interrelated bond in all of us, all living beings, which not only unite us in this production but with one another beyond time and history. Madeline George quotes Donna Haraway in the script, saying, "Beings do not preexist their relatings...The world is a knot in motion". So, let us relate our knot into the motion of this work and the motion that lives within all of us to one another. What makes us companions and how do we become companions to one another, what does it mean to be alive and how does this impact make its presence known? This is what making theater is all about.

-Melissa Trepá