

THE TRY-ON ROOM

A Contemporary Play About Women, Community, and Transformation

SYNOPSIS

A variety of women meet regularly at the Try-On Room of a fancy department store, and, like group therapy, they share intimate and complex details of their lives, giving advice and solace to each other that the outside world has denied them.

All the action of the play takes place in the Try-On Room—a dressing room, a changing room—where vulnerability becomes strength, where strangers become sisters, and where the act of trying on clothes becomes a metaphor for trying on new identities, new possibilities, and new ways of being in the world.

The Try-On Room is more than a physical space—it is a sanctuary. Here, in the mirrors and the soft lighting, women of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances find a place to be seen, heard, and accepted. It is a space where the masks come off, where stories are shared, and where the transformative power of community is realized.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Setting

The play is set entirely in the Try-On Room of a luxury department store. The space is intimate, well-lit, and filled with mirrors. It is a place of transformation, reflection, and community.

Time Period

Contemporary

Running Time

Approximately 90 minutes (without intermission)

Casting Structure

The play features a unique ensemble structure in which three actresses portray all ten characters. This innovative approach creates a dynamic theatrical experience where the audience witnesses the fluidity of identity and the interconnectedness of these women's stories.

Ensemble Group 1: Camille, Betty, Vanessa (one actress) **Ensemble Group 2:** June, Leland, Margo (one actress) **Ensemble Group 3:** Debra, Samantha, Ann (one actress)

Themes

- Women's voices and stories
- Community and belonging
- Vulnerability and strength
- Identity and transformation
- Acceptance and authenticity
- The power of being truly seen and heard

Staging Requirements

- A realistic or stylized dressing room set
- Multiple mirrors (full-length and handheld)
- Dressing room furniture (benches, hooks, clothing racks)
- Flexible lighting to create intimacy and focus
- Sound design to support transitions between characters

Technical Considerations

- Minimal set changes between scenes
 - Quick character transitions requiring costume/wig changes
 - Lighting should support the intimate, reflective atmosphere
 - Optional: Subtle sound design to underscore emotional moments
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CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

DEBRA

Age: Fifty years old **Role:** Supervisor of the Try-On Room; married to Samantha **Traits:** Lesbian; compassionate; a natural leader **Description:** The heart of the Try-On Room, Debra creates a safe space for all who enter. Her leadership is quiet but powerful, grounded in decades of understanding human vulnerability. She is the anchor of the ensemble, the one who listens, who remembers, and who holds space for others' stories.

SAMANTHA

Age: Fifty years old **Role:** Married to Debra **Traits:** Lesbian; warm; supportive **Description:** Samantha's partnership with Debra anchors the play. Together, they model what it means to build a life of authenticity and love. She brings warmth and humor to the Try-On Room, balancing Debra's more serious demeanor.

ANN

Age: Homeless woman **Traits:** Resilient; observant; dignified **Description:** Ann's presence in the Try-On Room speaks to the resilience of those society often overlooks. She finds dignity and community in this sacred space. Her story reminds us that homelessness does not define a person's worth or wisdom.

CAMILLE

Age: Fifty-five years old **Traits:** Activist; passionate; articulate **Description:** A woman of conviction and passion, Camille brings her fierce advocacy into the dressing room, challenging and inspiring those around her. She speaks truth to power and encourages others to do the same.

BETTY

Age: Sixty years old **Traits:** Breast cancer survivor; resilient; wise **Description:** Betty's resilience and grace shine through her journey of survival. She offers wisdom born from facing life's deepest challenges. Her presence in the Try-On Room is a testament to the power of survival and the importance of community during difficult times.

VANESSA

Age: Fifty years old **Traits:** Heavy-set woman; intelligent; self-aware **Description:** Vanessa navigates a world that often judges by appearance. In the Try-On Room, she finds acceptance and discovers her own strength. Her story explores body image, self-worth, and the liberation that comes with being truly accepted.

JUNE

Age: Forty-five years old **Role:** Fortune teller; Leland's sister **Traits:** Intuitive; mystical; protective **Description:** June's mystical nature and deep intuition make her a guide for others. Her bond with her sister Leland is central to the play's heart. She represents the spiritual and emotional wisdom that comes from lived experience and deep observation.

LELAND

Age: Twenty-five years old **Role:** Transgender woman; June's sister **Traits:** Authentic; courageous; searching **Description:** Leland's journey of self-discovery and authenticity resonates throughout the play. Her relationship with June explores love, acceptance, and family. She represents the younger generation's courage in living authentically.

MARGO

Age: Thirty years old **Role:** Sex worker **Traits:** Intelligent; pragmatic; compassionate
Description: Margo brings a perspective often silenced in society. Her presence in the Try-On Room challenges assumptions and opens hearts. She demonstrates that dignity and worth are not determined by profession or circumstance.

HELEN

Age: Thirty-five years old **Traits:** Addict; struggling; hopeful **Description:** Helen's struggle and vulnerability remind us that recovery and redemption are always possible. Her story is one of hope amid hardship. She represents the ongoing journey toward healing and the importance of community support.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

The Try-On Room is available for theatrical productions worldwide. The play has been designed to be flexible in its staging requirements, making it accessible to theaters of various sizes and resources.

LICENSING & PRODUCTION RIGHTS

For inquiries about licensing, production rights, or more information about the play, please contact:

Email: gordon_blitz@yahoo.com

Theaters interested in producing The Try-On Room should provide:

- Theater name and location
- Proposed production dates
- Theater size and capacity
- Director and creative team information
- Proposed casting approach

ABOUT THE PLAY

The Try-On Room celebrates the power of women's voices, the importance of community, and the transformative potential of being truly seen and heard. Through the intimate setting of a department store dressing room, the play explores themes of identity, vulnerability, acceptance, and authenticity.

The innovative casting structure—three actresses playing ten characters—creates a unique theatrical experience that emphasizes the interconnectedness of women's stories and the fluidity of identity. This approach challenges traditional ensemble casting and invites audiences to engage with the play on a deeper, more reflective level.

The play is suitable for community theaters, regional theaters, university theater programs, and professional productions. It offers opportunities for meaningful exploration of women's experiences and the power of community to transform lives.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Try-On Room Email: gordon_blitz@yahoo.com

For press inquiries, licensing questions, or production information, please reach out to the contact information above.

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