

The Patient Gloria **by Gina Moxley**

Audio Description Programme Notes **for the performance in the Project Arts Centre** **Thursday 4th May 2023, at 7.30pm**

Welcome to the audio description introduction to **The Patient Gloria**, by Gina Moxley.

Presented by Pan Pan and Gina Moxley, this production is directed by John McIliduff. The choreographer is Liv O'Donoghue. Set Design is by Andrew Clancy, with Lighting Design by Sinéad Wallace and Costume Design by Sarah Bacon. Sound Design is by Adam Welsh and the Audiovisual Design is by Conan McIvor.

The performance runs for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes without interval.

ABOUT THE PLAY

In California 1964, a nine year old girl, Pammy, asks "Mommy, did you ever go to bed with anyone besides Daddy?" The child's mother, Gloria, recently divorced and uncomfortable with her sexual desire, lies. "No, honey." Gloria later wrote in her diary "What was I supposed to say? Of course dear, everyone does? Oh shit."

This exchange became central to the 1965 films **Three Approaches to Psychotherapy** or **The Gloria Films**. The project was the idea of psychotherapist Dr. Everett Shostrum, who directed and produced, enlisting three eminent psychotherapists to work with a thirty year old, chain-smoking, loquacious divorcee named Gloria.

His avowed intention was to show the films to college psychology students to give them an insight into what's usually a private process but he subsequently released the films in cinemas and on TV, betraying the privacy of the patient, Gloria.

A punky mash up of re-enactment, actual footage and lived experience, **The Patient Gloria** is a gloriously ballsy meditation on therapy, misogyny and female desire. And it grabs psychotherapy where it really hurts.

ABOUT THE SET

The set reproduces the setting used for the original films in the 60s, presenting us with a psychotherapist's office with mid-century furniture. The stage is at floor-level, so that the audience is looking down from their seats into the playing space. The entire back wall is covered with a full-height purple curtain onto which images and text are projected, including scenes from the Gloria Films.

On the far left side, towards the front of the stage, is a small desk and chair, with a plain wooden top, and steel bar frame. A waste basket is on the floor next to it. A microphone on a stand about 20 centimetres high sits in the centre of the desk, with a tall glass filled with what looks like apple juice next to it. Also on the desk is a glass ashtray, pack of Winston cigarettes and a pink lighter.

Further back on the stage, and closer to the centre, is a black leather three-seater couch, with a teak sideboard next to it. Another tall glass sits on the sideboard, this one filled with water, alongside another glass ashtray, a shiny red apple, a box of tissues, a small, potted cactus plant, and a pair of horn-rimmed glasses. Just right of centre, and turned so that it faces the couch, there is an armchair with bentwood oak frame and black leather upholstery.

In the back right corner is an electric bass guitar with a duck-egg blue and white body, sitting on a guitar stand next to an amplifier. On the floor is a guitar pedal which, when stepped on, starts to play pre-recorded music tracks to accompany the performer playing the bass.

At the front, also on the far right, is a full-height microphone stand, with another pedal and mixboard on the floor, providing a greater range of music and effects when triggered by the musician.

Dotted here and there around the space are a variety of potted indoor plants, mostly palms. The floor is a mosaic of office carpet tiles in pale orange and light mousey brown wool.

ABOUT THE CAST AND COSTUMES

Gina Moxley is an older woman, short and slim, with silver-white hair cut short, and neatly styled with a side parting and slight quiff at the front. She has high cheekbones and sparkling eyes, and is quick to smile wryly. She wears a business suit in taupe – a kind of pale grey-brown colour – with a white shirt, and a tie with diagonal bands of grey, dark green and a lurid pale yellow. Gina also wears heeled ankle boots in yellowish green metallic leather.

During the performance, Gina speaks as herself, and also as the three psychotherapists who featured in the Gloria Films, popping on a pair of horn-rimmed glasses when she changes character. As **Dr. Carl Rogers**, she stoops her back, and slumps her shoulders a little. As **Dr. Fritz Perls**, she pulls the waistband of her suit trousers up high, and walks about with her pelvis jutting forward, speaking with a heavy Yiddish accent. Lastly, as **Dr. Albert Ellis**, she has a confident swagger, sitting in the armchair with her legs splayed wide. At the beginning of the evening, Gina has left the jacket of her suit hanging on the back of the armchair.

Liv O'Donoghue is a tall, slim woman in her thirties, with dark brown hair to her jawline, pinned in a bump over her forehead. She plays the patient **Gloria** throughout the evening, speaking with a hint of an American accent. Gloria wears a sleeveless dress in baby pink, with an A-line skirt to just below the knee, and a thin white leather belt around her trim waist. She wears white open-toe leather sandals with a low heel, and carries a matching white leather handbag.

Our third performer is a musician – **Jane Deasy** – who is also in her thirties and has thick, dark brown hair cut short. Jane is of medium height, and slim. She wears a black dress with a very short skirt which accentuates her long legs. The dress is covered in black, gold and pink sequins, and has long sleeves. Jane also wears chunky earrings, and a pair of plain white sneakers. She is often standing at the microphone on our right, or sitting on the amplifier at the back, her legs crossed, and the bass guitar perching on her knees.

Later, during the performance, these three performers are joined by young women from Dublin, dressed in modern clothing, and aged in their twenties, perhaps some in their late teens. They are **Lara Coady, Sheree Dillon, Sarah Joan Kelly, Amy Scollard,** and **Anna Winifred.**

That concludes the audio description introduction for **The Patient Gloria.** It was prepared by Bríd Ní Ghruagáin, who will also provide audio description for the performance. A Touch Tour will also be held, gathering Front of House at 6.30pm, before this described performance. Audio description at the Project Arts Centre is provided by Arts & Disability Ireland with support from The Arts Council.

For updates about audio described and captioned performances, text **ACCESSARTS** to **51444** or head to **www.adiarts.ie** for more information.

Thank you. Go raibh maith agaibh.