



Suzy Homemaker

A TRIPLE BILL OF WOMEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY

A dance performance by Erica Mulkern, portraying three women from different eras in history, trapped in roles they didn't ask for.

This event contains adult themes including miscarriage, domestic violence, distress & burlesque performance.

Age Restriction: 16+

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Let's meet the characters!

Susannah, an Edwardian socialite in 1903.

A young lady entering "society" for the first time, she is promenaded in front of suitors - but as an educated woman, she realises she's just being sold like cattle, and dreams of more. She discovers a flyer for a Suffragette march intended for her maid, and, intrigued by it, she attends. Trouble follows and Susannah is married off to a suitor against her wishes.



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Susannah Trivia!

- Susannah is 16 when we meet her.
- She never returns to the Suffragette movement from fear of being arrested again. She does however donate secretly to the organisation.
- Her favourite colour is gold.
- She hates having her hair tied up.
- Her maid Evangeline is her closest friend, although she knows her mother would frown upon this.
- Susannah's favourite genre of books is murder mystery!



- She goes on to have a happy marriage and 1 child, a girl she named Clementine, but nicknamed 'Missy'.
- If Susannah existed in this day and age, she would love to be a stylist to the stars. She enjoys dressing up other people, but much prefers to stay out of the spotlight herself.

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Let's meet the characters!

Ms. S

*A Burlesque performer from the late
20's/early 30's*

Ms S works in a sleazy club but
takes pride in her work and the
independence it provides.

However, with political turmoil and
rowdy clientele around her, she
questions who she is performing for:
her independence or the male gaze?

Ultimately, she chooses to leave her
performing career behind.



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Ms. S Trivia!

- Ms. S is 24 when we meet her.
- Her stage name came from a nickname her mother gave her as a child, 'Missy'...
- She has a good relationship with her parents, but wanted to be more independent. If you look closely, you can see a photo of her mother on her vanity desk.
- Her favourite colour is white.
- She feels very protective of the other performers in the club, especially Betsy Blue who is quite new to the scene.
- She loves to move to slow jazz numbers and get lost in the music.
- Sadly, she never returns to a performing career after she leaves. Instead, she opts for a quiet countryside life, going by her true name, Clementine.
- If Ms. S existed in this day and age, she would love to be in a musical! She has a lovely singing voice and certainly knows how to perform.



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Let's meet the characters!

Suzy, a 1950's housewife.

Suzy is quite strange, but looks like the “perfect wife” to the outside world. She is neat, prim, and makes an excellent Victoria sponge, but with a madness to her that you can't help but both be disturbed by and pity.



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Suzy Trivia!

- Suzy is ? when we meet her.
- She is our only American character.
- She visited England on her honeymoon and happened to see Susannah's stately home that has since been managed by the National Trust as Susannah and her husband only use it during Winter months.
- Her favourite colour is red.
- She has ? amount of children.
- She has been married for ? amount of years.
- Suzy is ~~unhappily~~ HAPPILY married.
- Her favourite food to make is her famous red playdough pie. What is the flavour you might ask? Red of course!
- Suzy doesn't like how nosy her neighbours are.
- If Suzy existed in this day and age, ~~she would want to be an author.~~ NOTHING WOULD BE DIFFERENT, SHE IS HAPPY JUST THE WAY SHE IS.



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The journey of Suzy Homemaker through the years. Click the video below to find out more!



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History behind the characters, Susannah, 1903 Britain

Susannah is a Suffragette. The Suffragettes were part of the 'Votes for Women' campaign that had long fought for the right for women to vote in the UK. They used art, debate, propaganda, and attack on property including window smashing and arson to fight for female suffrage. Suffrage means the right to vote in parliamentary and general elections.

The founders of the Suffragette movement were:

Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel, Sylvia and Adela Pankhurst. They founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1903.

The WSPU aimed to 'wake up the nation' to the cause of women's suffrage through 'Deeds Not Words'. This was the beginning of the Suffragette movement as we know it.

The Edwardian era was a time when 'respectable' women would not remove their gloves in public, a time when women were expected to be subservient, meek, and live their lives almost entirely in the domestic sphere. In Edwardian Britain, the ideal place of women was in the home.

Trivia: the 3 colours (purple for loyalty and dignity, white for purity, and green for hope) were not a part of the Suffragette movement until around 1908. Hence why Susannah's sash is cream with black writing.

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History behind the characters, Ms. S, 1929 Britain

The experiences during the War influenced British society, particularly women. During the war, many women had been employed in the factories, giving them a wage and therefore a certain degree of independence. Women over 30 had been given the vote in 1918, and by 1928 this had been extended to all women over the age of 21.

Women felt more confident and empowered, and this new independence was reflected in the new fashions. Hair was shorter, dresses were shorter, and women started to smoke, drink, and drive motorcars. The attractive, reckless, independent 'flapper' appeared on the scene, shocking society with her wild behaviour. This was an exciting time for women, they no longer went from a family home to their marriage home; they were able to get their own apartments and have much more independence.

Trivia: *Bandoline* was the 'hairspray' of the 1920's. If you look closely, you'll see a bottle of it on Ms. S's desk!

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History behind the characters, Suzy, 1950's America

In the 1950s, women felt tremendous societal pressure to focus their aspirations on a wedding ring. The U.S. marriage rate was at an all-time high and couples were tying the knot, on average, younger than ever before. Getting married right out of high school or while in college was considered the norm. A common stereotype was that women went to college to get a "Mrs." (pronounced M.R.S.) degree, meaning a husband. Although women had other aspirations in life, the dominant theme promoted in the culture and media at the time was that a husband was far more important for a young woman than a college degree. Despite the fact that employment rates also rose for women during this period, the media tended to focus on a woman's role in the home. If a woman wasn't engaged or married by her early twenties, she was in danger of becoming an "old maid."

Trivia: We believe Suzy could have been a direct product of the Hays Code (a code which women like Ms. S could easily have been the cause of. Yet another way to control women in society).

The Motion Picture Production Code was a set of industry guidelines for the self-censorship of content that was applied to most motion pictures released by major studios in the United States from 1934 to 1968. Some of the prohibitions include: nudity, suggestive dances, discussions of sexual perversity and lustful kissing.

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History behind the Suzy Homemaker Toys!

Suzy Homemaker was a line of miniature functional toy household appliances produced by Topper Toys and launched in 1966. Topper Toys created a line of accessory toys to be bought separately, which included items such as a small working oven, a vacuum cleaner, and several other items in addition to a Suzy Homemaker doll introduced later.

The doll and toys typified the American suburban housewife and her regular chores, representing a domestic ideal to girls in an era when most women were still homemakers after marriage.

The accessory line by Topper Toys consisted of toy appliances that functioned using batteries or electrical plugs for power. The accessories included: a Budget Blender, Deluxe Grill, Dishwasher-Sink, Hair Dryer, High Speed Mixer, Ice Cream Maker, Super Oven and Washing Machine to name a few.

Suzy Homemaker products were marketed to girls ages 4 to 12. The Suzy Homemaker doll became the second-most popular doll in the United States after the Barbie doll.

"Suzy Homemaker" eventually became an insult directed at women judged as excessively domestic. It was used in this context by feminists initially, to imply that a woman was reactionary and overly conservative in her habits. In this sense, the "Suzy Homemaker" term meant any woman who embodied conventional social expectations without questioning them.

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History behind the Suzy Homemaker Toys!



Suzy Homemaker is a square!

She doesn't wear lace boots. She wears shoes. She also wears a wig.

She gets more fun out of being a cook than a book. She'll make kind's kindergarten or her eggs on her Suzy Homemaker® Super Oven... or even cook a whole dinner for the family.

And with her Suzy Homemaker High Speed Mixer she can whip up a chocolate cake faster in minutes.

And bake it right in her Suzy Homemaker Sassy Oven. Cut comes a delicious cake big enough for the whole family to enjoy... or even eat, who's big enough to ask for seconds. That she gets it all off with the cream machine made on her 3 Speed Blender.

She has her own Suzy Homemaker Vanity complete with accessories.

And she's right at your side to help when you need her... and with the Suzy Homemaker Super Sweeper, Washer-Cleaner, Iron and Sizing Board, and Dressmaker-Girl, you can be a big help. And aren't you glad.

Yes, your Suzy Homemaker is a square. And aren't you glad.

Click Americana.com



I baked this cake in my new oven.

I baked this cake in my new Suzy Homemaker oven.

Who is Suzy Homemaker???

She's every little girl who wants to be just like her mother! That's why all the Suzy Homemaker appliances look and work just like yours! They're big and beautiful—and work like real! The Suzy Homemaker Oven bakes cakes big enough to serve six! Top burners nearly heat! And it's completely safer! Oven door automatically locks when in use and won't open until oven cools. The exclusive new **Tipper Safety Plug** prevents against electrical shock.

The same kind of quality and care that goes into the Suzy Homemaker Oven (A) is in all Suzy Homemaker appliances. The Washer-Cleaner (B) really washes clothes with agitator action, jet spray and even spins dry! The Vacuum Cleaner (C) actually vacuums up dirt, comes complete with attachments. The Iron (D)—with ironing board has a jet spray sprinker and it really heats! Completely safe with a red warning light and safety plug.

Never before could your little girl learn homemaker skills with appliances so big, so safe, so real! Every Little Girl Wants Suzy Homemaker™ Appliances!

Click Americana.com

Suzy Homemaker as seen on TV
The more you learn, the prettier she gets!

Doll 977 Beauty salon 877 Hair boutique 689

22 in.




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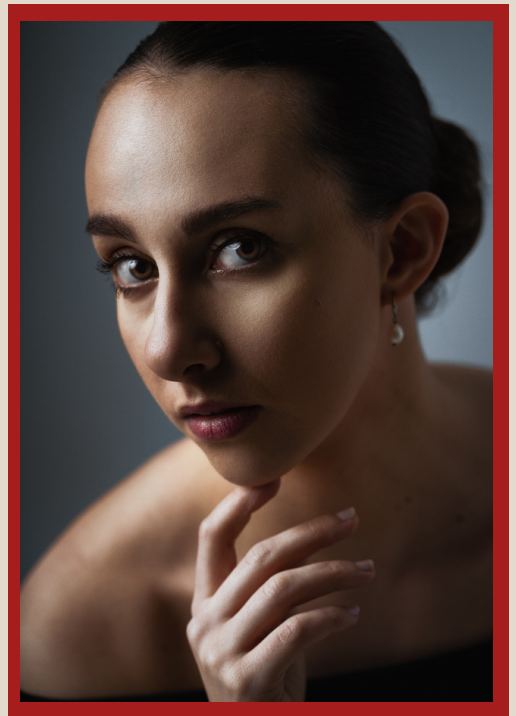
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Meet the Team!

Erica Mulkern: Creator and Performer of Suzy Homemaker

Erica Mulkern MA is a professional dancer, teacher, choreographer and mentor based in West Yorkshire, UK. She trained at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance where she received a First Class Hons Degree and the Carolyn Woolridge Prize for highest performance marks. She also gained a Distinction in an MA in Contemporary Dance. Prior to this she completed the Foundation Course at NSCD with a Distinction.

During her time as a professional dancer she has worked with Opera North, Black Box Dance Company in Denmark, Jana Bitterová, Mercurial Dance, The Hexagon Collective, Constella OperaBallet, Tina Tarpgaard, Jason Mabana, Marie Brolin-Tani, Steph Giles, Dionysia Bouzioti, Joseph Reay-Reid, Northern Dance, Lila Naruse, Jacob Stage, Melody Putu and Gerry Turvey to name a few.



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Meet the Team! Callum Holt: Producer

Callum Holt is an independent Producer based in Leeds but working across the UK. He supports a number of independent artists including Mobius Dance, Excessive Human Collective and, Various Creations, and has produced festivals and scratch nights for organisations such as Yorkshire Dance and Leeds City Council (Leeds Light Night). He also runs artist development programmes, most notably his What Next Workshops which aim to give early career artists the basic knowledge and skills they need to kickstart a freelance career in the arts.

The work he does varies greatly, but is underpinned by:

- Supporting artists in establishing themselves and growing their careers
- Advising on and supporting projects that involve making innovative live performance, in particular dance, live art, and musical theatre
- Supporting projects that are socially engaged



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Meet the Team!

Jen Auger: Mentor and Dramaturg

Jen is an independent Bradford-based theatre-maker and director with a specialism in creating socially engaged work and work with vulnerable and marginalised groups. Jen trained professionally at East 15 Acting school and has been creating, directing and performing ever since, at venues such as Soho Theatre, The Albany London and The West Yorkshire Playhouse and festivals including Latitude, Audio Farm and Kilowatt Festival in Italy. Jen has directed new writing at the New Wimbledon Studio and The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where one of her directed plays was nominated for an NSDF Award. Jen's background is also in working with trauma, supporting young people in the care system and coordinating strategies for health and wellbeing.



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Stefania Pinato: Movement and Rehearsal Director

Stefania is an Italian/Brazilian dance artist, performer, rehearsal and movement director. She trained at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance graduating with First Class honours in 2015.

Since then, she has worked with Michael Keegan-Dolan (Tea & Damsa), Gary Clarke Company, Léa Tirabasso, Public Acts (National Theatre), Rebecca Evans (Pell Ensemble), Anton Lachky, Valentina Golfieri, Jamaal Burkmar (Extended Play), Douglas Thorpe (mad dogs dance theatre), Susanne Thomas, Jaz Woodcock-Stewart (Antler Theatre) and Wayne McGregor (ABBA Voyage).

With her collaborator, Amarnah Osajivbe-Amuludun, they are currently in the creation phase for WOMB PARTY, a dance theatre piece about abortion and reproductive justice.



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Meet the Team!

Lu Herbert: Set Designer

Lu Herbert is a Set and Costume designer based in Yorkshire, working in Leeds, London and across the UK.

Lu is a graduate from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's BA Production Arts and Design Degree (specialising in Set and Costume design), and Guildhall School of Music and Drama's MA Collaborative Theatre Production and Design.

Lu is excited by exploration, play and development for new works of theatre and loves experimenting with colour palettes, texture and bringing new stories to the stage. Sustainability and accessibility are some of Lu's most valued elements of the theatrical process.



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Meet the Team!

Alice Gilmour: Sound Designer and Composer

Alice started in the recording industry in 1995 editing classical CDs in London after studying music at King's College. She has been working as a voiceover artist since 2003 and specialises in e-learning long-form narration, particularly for the software, medical and finance industries. She has been editing and post-producing audio since 1995.

Additionally, Alice is an experienced audio describer of operas, musicals, pantomime and children's shows and has most recently audio described for Opera North, for the artist Emily Speed for her exhibition at Tate Liverpool, and for Cast, Doncaster for their pantomime, Aladdin. Some of her clients include: WWF, Vodafone, Tiffany & Co, Nokia, London Underground, Sainsbury's and NHS.



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Meet the Team!

Amelia Sierevogel: Costume Designer

Amelia graduated from the University of Huddersfield in 2018, with a First in BA (Hons) Costume with Textiles. Having taken a placement year and then working as a freelance costume maker/designer since graduating, Amelia has worked within ballet, opera and pantomimes amongst other theatre productions.

She is currently a full time costume maker at James MacIver Costumes and thoroughly enjoys her role within the company. She still designs and makes costumes on a private basis. She specifically designs for dance and takes inspiration from historical costuming. Tutus are amongst her favourite things to make as she loves adding the finishing details and creating a costume that complements a dancer's form and movement.



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Meet the Team!

Josephine Sillars: Marketing Manager

Chris Hanlon: Production Manager and Lighting Designer

Josephine Sillars is a Marketing professional with a background in music & live performance. She regularly supports artists & organisations with developing their audience engagement strategies, identifying their existing & potential audiences, planning & delivering marketing campaigns involving both print & social media, & working with photographers, filmmakers, & copywriters to get the required marketing assets. Her clients have included Yorkshire Dance (NPO), Leeds Dance Partnership, Rachel Clarke Dance Company, & Rachel Dean amongst many others.

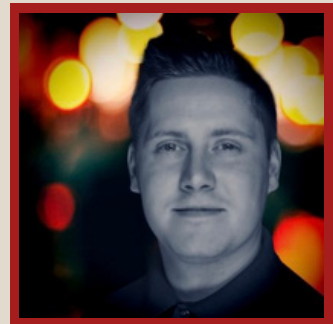
Instagram: @josephinesillars



Chris is an experienced Production Manager, Lighting Designer and Actor based in Yorkshire, His work has taken him all around the world.

Some of his performance credits include: Kinky Boots, Our House, The Wizard of Oz and Rock the West End to list some.

Instagram: @chproductions23



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Meet the Team!

Isabel Baquero and Jenny Skinner: Movement Specialists

Isabel trained at the London Studio Centre. She has worked as a dancer and assistant choreographer in several productions for the BBC, including *Wives and Daughters*, *Madam Bovary* and *Daniel Deronda*, and has performed in various films, notably *Shakespeare in Love*, *I Capture the Castle* and *Pride and Prejudice*, in which she was also appointed Assistant Choreographer.

Her choreography credits include flamenco dance in *Strictly Dance Fever* in both 2005 and 2006, *Barber of Seville* for Garsington Opera, *Carmen* at Longborough Opera, *La Rondine* at the Royal Opera House and Movement Director of *The House of Bernarda de Alba* at the Theatre Clwyd.

Jenny is a freelance performance artist and academic based in Leeds, she creates work which uses neo-burlesque techniques to address and explore issues around mental illness, gender identity and sexual violence. Her research is focused on agency and vulnerability for women performers creating live art work around the explicit body.

Jenny's work has been featured at Open Source Arts, The Red Room, PEAK Festival, F*ckclub, CLAY and Seven Arts. She currently works as a part time lecturer for Leeds Beckett University.



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Meet the Team!

Harriet Bradbury- Historical Consultant

Harriet Rogers- Wig Maker

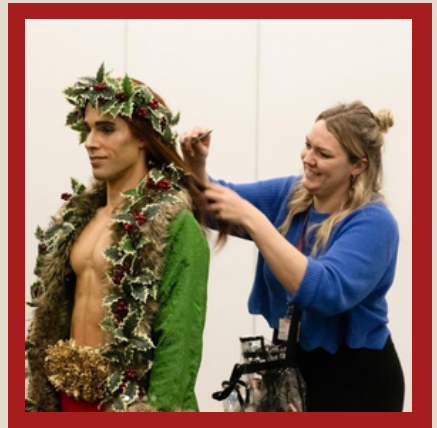
Harriet studied both medieval History and Classical Studies in A level and continued on to study for her BA honours degree in History at Huddersfield University. Whilst studying at university she covered everything from medieval history right up to the Thatcher era, covering Anglo-Saxon society, crime and punishment development, the suffragette movement and spending a considerable amount of time studying gender and sexuality through history.

Instagram: @harriet.bradbury.737



Harriet is the Wig and Makeup Manager at Northern Ballet. She takes on wig commissions outside of her very busy job when she has the chance!

Instagram: @hatmakeuppro



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Meet the Team!

Katie Smith- Wig Assistant and Dresser

Elly Welford- Photographer

Katie recently graduated from the University of Bolton with a degree in Special Makeup Effects for Film and TV, with a focus in wigs. Her time at university allowed her to develop skills in wig knotting, styling and applications.

Instagram: @katie_the_wigsmith



Elly is a freelance photographer based in the city of Leeds. She trained at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, where she graduated in 2019 and later served as an apprentice with Motionhouse Dance company. As a dance photographer, she believes in the transformative power of photos to boost dancers' confidence.

Instagram: @ellywelphotography



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Meet the Team!

Dan Mallaghan, Phoebe Smith and Hope Shooter:
Voiceover Artists

Dan has been working as a freelance theatre maker for over 20 years now, as a writer, director and performer, and has a particular passion for multi-art form theatre, often collaborating with musicians, animators, performers, filmmakers and puppeteers to create his work. Up until 2021 Dan co-ran 154 Collective alongside the visual artist Fabric Lenny. Instagram: @dan_mallaghan



Phoebe graduated from Leeds Beckett University with a BA (Hons) in Dance. She has since gone on to work in various projects including Cashy C's the Musical, Bradfordian and Dream Job- Yard Act. Instagram: @feebssmith_

Hope is a freelance writer based in York. In 2020 she graduated from the University of York with a degree in Theatre where she specialised in Playwriting.



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A Personal Message from Erica Mulkern

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me on this journey. Whether that is sitting in the audience right now, sharing a post, telling a friend, encouraging me etc. None of this would be possible without you.

It was a big risk, to leave steady dance company work and start my own production. I can't even begin to tell you the amount of blood, sweat and tears that has gone into this production coming to life. But I wouldn't change it for the world. Thank you for allowing me to pour my heart out onstage, and pay homage to all of the brilliant women before us that walked, so we could run. We still have a long way to go, but together, anything is possible.

Erica Mulkern