

“Woman’s Honor”

General Information

- Set in 1918
- Originally performed April 26th, 1918

Susan Glaspell

- Born 1876 Davenport, IA. Died 1948.
- Attended undergraduate and graduate college
 - Drake University, Des Moines, IA
- Relocation to Greenwich Village
- Married George “Jig” Cram Cook
 - Evidence of difficult marriage
 - Miscarriage/no children



Provincetown Players

- Founded 1916
- Sustain unknown American playwrights
- Strict regulations for accepting plays

The Times

- World War I
 - Amusement and the war effort
 - Armistice signed on November 11th, 1918
- Gender
 - Marriage was binding
 - Divorce reflected poorly on the women
 - Jobs for women were restricted
 - 19th Amendment ratified August 18th, 1920

How Did They Act?

- “True Woman” vs “New Woman”
 - True: domesticity, motherhood, submission, morality.
 - New: Clever, interesting, resourceful, self-determined.
 - Strong and comic



- Sitting
 - Women cross as ankle or knee
 - Men spread or cross at knee



Glossary

- Quaint (121): Attractively or agreeably unusual in character or appearance.
- Languishes (123): To live in an oppressive setting.
- Dogged (123): Two syllables. Ill-tempered and stubborn.
- Mufflers (130): Wrap or scarf worn around the neck or throat for warmth.
- Approbation (135): Action or feeling of being pleased or satisfied.
- Avarice (139): Greed
- Diffident (139): Shy, modest, self-deprecating.
- Dope out (141): Find out, discover.
- Sordid (142): Corrupt, foul, repulsive.
- Desecrating (142): Deprives of sacredness.
- Stenographer (143): Shorthand writer or typist.

References

- “19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women’s Right to Vote (1920).” *OurDocuments*. National History Day, The National Archives and Records Administration, and USA Freedom Corps. Web. 11 September 2016.
- Ben-Zvi Linda, editor. *Susan Glaspell: Essays on Her Theater and Fiction*. University of Michigan Press, 1995.
- . *Susan Glaspell: Her Life and Times*. Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Bryer, Jackson R., Travis Bogard, Edna Kenton, and Bernadette Smyth. “The Provincetown Players and The Playwrights’ Theatre.” *The Eugene O’Neill Review*, vol. 21, no. ½, 1997, pp. 4-160. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/29784595.
- Glaspell, Susan. “Woman’s Honor.” *McFarland & Company*, edited by Linda Ben-Zvi, J. Ellen Gainor, 2010.
- Glaspell, Susan. “Trifles.” *A Pocketful of Plays*, edited by David Madden, Thomson Wadsworth, 2006.
- Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. “Camp Sherman, Ohio’s WWI Soldier Factory.” *National Park Service*, 18 July 2017, www.nps.gov/articles/camp-sherman-ohio.htm.
- Kennedy, Jeff. “Experiment on Macdougall Street: The Provincetown Players’ 1918-1919 Season.” *The Eugene O’Neill Review*, vol. 32, 2010, pp. 86-123. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/29784901.
- Onion, Rebecca. “Vintage Infographics: Where Women Worked in 1920.” *Slate*, 11 March 2013, www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2013/03/11/women_workers
- Oxford University Press. *Oxford English Dictionary*. 2017, <http://www.oed.com/>
- Matthews, Rachel Leigh. “Women’s Roles in 1912.” *A Look Thru Time*, 1 June 2013, www.alookthruetime.com/womens-roles-in-1912/
- Noe, Marcia. *Susan Glaspell Voice from the Heartland*. Western Illinois University, 1983.
- Wayne State University. “Women, War Workers, Automobile, Detroit, 1917-1918.” *Wayne State University*, 25 July 2014, reuther.wayne.edu/node/12181