



## **ANAÏS NIN GOES TO HELL**

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2 Act Full-Length (6 Women; 1 to 2 Men)

Imagine an island in hell where Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, and Queen Victoria...wait for their men. What happens when women's lib icon Anaïs Nin arrives to turn their afterlife upside down? David Stallings' new comedy, Anaïs Nin Goes to Hell explores the question of whether Sartre was right and hell really is other people, or whether we carry around our potential for damnation or salvation within ourselves.

### **CHARACTER:**

**Joan of Arc**—Age: 20s. Prophet. She is a tiny woman in her twenties-thirties with the haircut of a boy. She is a loopy nut with paranoid schizophrenic tendencies.

### **JOAN**

I was filled by the power of God. He said, "Joan". He called my name. "Joan. This is God. I am going to enter you now". And so God entered me. And then God said, "Joan, you are going to fight the Sea Monster, but do not be afraid. For I shall be one with you." The sword in my hand was the sword of God and as I fought the Hydra I knew that God and I were fighting all of those who don't believe in him. I said, "God, I doubted you. You stranded me on this island and I doubted you. I expected to be in heaven with choirs of angels singing my rapturous praise instead of waiting for I know not what for. Alone with harlots, Jezebels, heretics, and British people." And then God said, "Joan, I forgive you for doubting me. I love you. And as a reward, I shall tell you why you are here. Why you lived. Why you died." And then God released my mind and I heard him speak directly into my mind. I am the Chosen One! I am to know the secret of life! I am to know the ultimate answer! I am to know our purpose! And then He told me. God in his wisdom chose me to know, a peasant, a nothing I. And now I shall share his secret with all of you! God said, "Joan, you lived and died all because...I said so." And now we know! Now you can believe! We suffered through life and the life after all because God said so! Isn't that beautiful?

The playwright, David Stallings, encourages the use of these monologues for audition and acting class purposes **ONLY**; Performing this material without the playwright's consent is copyright infringement.