

EMOTIONAL CREATURE

THE SECRET LIFE OF GIRLS
AROUND THE WORLD

BY EVE ENSLER



DRAMATISTS
PLAY SERVICE
INC.

EMOTIONAL CREATURE
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EMOTIONAL CREATURE
was originally produced by
Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley, CA
(Tony Taccone, Artistic Director; Susan Medak, Managing Director).

SPECIAL NOTE ON CD

A CD of the original music composed by Charl-Johan Lingenfelder is available through the Play Service for \$35.00, plus shipping and handling. The nonprofessional fee for the use of this music is \$15.00 per performance. If this music is used, the following acknowledgment must appear on the title page in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the Play:

Music by Charl-Johan Lingenfelder

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The workshops and commercial productions were made possible by the following:

For the developmental productions in Johannesburg, South Africa and Paris, France: Carole Black, Jodie Evans, Lela Goren, Chandra Jessee, Jacquelyn Mayfield, Pat Mitchell, Carol Polakoff, Amy Rao, Marie-Cecile Renauld, Jayne Sherman, Michele Steckler, Jennifer Buffett and The Novo Foundation.

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EMOTIONAL CREATURE

I wrote the play *Emotional Creature* because I believe in you. I believe in your authenticity, your uniqueness, your intensity, your wildness. I love the way you dye your hair purple, or hike up your short skirt, or blare your music while you lip-sync every single memorized lyric. I love your restlessness and your hunger. You are one of our greatest natural resources. You possess a necessary agency and energy that if unleashed could transform, inspire, and heal the world. Through *Emotional Creature* it is my hope that you will discover, embrace and celebrate your own inner Emotional Creature.

Girls are agents of change in the world. Your passion is unrivaled — present and urgent. Your spirit to love, question, speak, defy and rebel is limitless. *Emotional Creature* is meant to be a vehicle to empower girls and inspire activism. Through the global movement V-Day, and our V-Girls program, young girls are able to blend art and activism to bring about long lasting impact in many communities around the world. V-Day activists have changed the dialogue about violence against women and girls, and it is our goal through the V-Girls program to engage young women in our “empowerment philanthropy” model, igniting your activism.

Through the rants, poetry, questions, and facts in the play hopefully you will come to know the universality of girls everywhere: your resiliency, your wildness, your pain, your fears, your secrets, and your triumphs. And you will not then have to wait a lifetime as I did, to be born into your fully authentic revolutionary emotional selves.

With V-Love,
Eve Ensler

If you would like to perform the play as part of the V-Day/V-Girls movement, please contact vgirls@vday.org. We will provide you with the V-Girls Action Guide that includes service-learning curriculum ideas. We'd be thrilled to have you with us.

ABOUT V-GIRLS

Eve Ensler's *Emotional Creature* is a vehicle to empower girls and inspire their activism. V-Girls is a global network of girl activists and advocates. In the same way *The Vagina Monologues* built a movement on college campuses and in communities, young girls will be able to participate in V-Day's empowerment philanthropy model, igniting their activism through V-Girls.

V-Girls is rooted in youth-driven activism. A V-Girls Action Guide provides service-learning curriculum for middle and high school youth based on issues covered in *Emotional Creature*, with an emphasis on activism. Organizers can start a V-Girls club or incorporate V-Girls resources into an existing youth program. For more information go to www.v-girls.org or contact us at vgirls@vday.org

EMOTIONAL CREATURE was workshopped in Johannesburg, South Africa at The Market Theatre (Cecile Lipworth, Susan Celia Swan, Gina Shmukler, Executive Producers). It was directed by Jo Bonney; the music was by Charl-Johan Lingenfelder; the set design was by Myung Hee Cho; the lighting design and projections were by Denis Hutchinson; and the art director was Catherine Daymond. The cast was as follows:

Charmian Bonnet
Molly Houlahan
Antoinette Kayembe
Samukelisiwe Khumalo
Ratanang Mogotsi
Tanyaradzwa Tawengwa
Karabo Tshikube

EMOTIONAL CREATURE's second workshop was in Paris, France at Ciné 13 (Cecile Lipworth, Susan Celia Swan, Marie-Cecile Renauld, Marie-Astrid Perimony and Alexia Perimony, Executive Producers). It was directed by Jo Bonney; the music was by Charl-Johan Lingenfelder; the set design was by Myung Hee Cho; and the lighting design was by Idalio Guerreiro. The cast was as follows:

Neve Faulkner
Sophie Lor
Mégane Mandin
Gaëlle Marie
Karabo Tshikube
Eno Williams-Uffort

EMOTIONAL CREATURE was originally produced at Berkeley Repertory Theatre in Berkeley, California (Tony Taccone, Artistic Director; Susan Medak, Managing Director). It was directed by Jo Bonney; the music was by Charl-Johan Lingenfelder; the choreography was by Luam; the scenic and costume design were by Myung Hee Cho; the lighting design was by Lap Chi Chu; the sound design was by Jake Rodriguez; the projection design was by Shawn Sagady; the associate director was Pasha Rudnick; and the stage manager was Michael Suenkel. The cast was as follows:

Ashley Bryant
Molly Carden
Emily S. Grosland
Joaquina Kalukango
Sade Namei
Olivia Oguma

EMOTIONAL CREATURE opened Off-Broadway on November 12, 2012 at the Romulus Linney Courtyard Theatre at the Pershing Square Signature Center (Carole Black and Pat Mitchell, Executive Producers; Tony Montenieri, Associate Producer). It was directed by Jo Bonney; the music was by Charl-Johan Lingenfelder; the choreography was by Luam; the scenic and costume design were by Myung Hee Cho; the lighting design was by Lap Chi Chu; the sound design was by Jake Rodriguez; the projection design was by Shawn Sagady; the associate director was Pasha Rudnick; the stage manager was Linda Marvel; and the general managers were Snug Harbor Productions, Steven Chaikelson/Kendra Bator. The cast was as follows:

Ashley Bryant
Molly Carden
Emily S. Grosland
Joaquina Kalukango
Sade Namei
Olivia Oguma
Courtney Thomas
Kaliswa Brewster and Leanne Cabrera (understudies)

PRODUCTION NOTES

The play itself is to be performed by 6 girls only, between the ages of 14 and 25. The cast should be diverse in all respects. If you are doing this with music and dance, it is recommended that you expand your cast to include as many girls who can sing and dance to play the Emotional Creature chorus. You may also want to have girls who are musicians play live in the theater.

There is a beautiful, upbeat and contemporary musical score written by Charl-Johan Lingenfelder which accompanied the original production. It can be used to enliven the play. The backing track and sheet music can be obtained from Dramatists Play Service. This is the only score which may be used for the show. Incidental and transitional music can be added, but no words can be sung and no songs can be added other than this original score.

When the girls play characters from different countries, you may want to find a way to identify this, using visual or spoken text.

EMOTIONAL CREATURE

Sound click; a video screen can be used with a huge picture of Girl 1 in iPhone light, alone onstage.

GIRL 1. Oh God, ugly, yuck. Hi. (*Click, new image of Girl 1. To audience:*) Too strong. Rashida says I have to look a little lost. Boys like that. Look too sure, they don't know what to do. (*Click, new image.*) I look so stupid. "Lost" on me looks like "stupid." (*Click, new image. She looks hot, confident, fabulous.*) Wow. I look kinda good. Really good. Yes. Maybe no. Maybe too good. Rashida will say I'm showing off. She says it makes girls hate you. My parents think I am up here studying for my Honors Chemistry exam. They would be scary horrified to know I have spent the last two hours taking over 300 photos of myself for my Facebook profile shot. (*Click, another image.*) 20 seconds, Rashida says, that's all you've got. Then they move on. (*Click.*) OOOh, angry. Rashida says we can't look angry. Won't get invited places. To be honest, sometimes Rashida really pisses me off. (*Click, really angry picture. Blackout. Girls begin to appear from all directions, the stage and the audience. They speak to each other and the audience.*) Options. Would you rather be strong and successful or pretty and adored?

GIRL 2. Would you rather lose your arm or be fat?

GIRL 3. Why do we always have to play this?

GIRL 4. Would you rather be with someone who hits you or never get asked out?

GIRL 5. How 'bout I ask someone out?

GIRL 1. Really? Would you?

GIRL 6. I would.

GIRL 2. I would too.

GIRL 4. Hell to the no.

GIRL 5. Would you rather find a picture of yourself naked on the internet or discover a brain tumor?

GIRL 3. This is a stupid game.
GIRL 1. Just answer.
GIRL 6. They're stupid questions.
GIRL 1. Would you rather be date-raped by a stranger or a friend?
GIRL 6. That's awful.
GIRL 4. It's real.
GIRL 2. My turn, my turn! Would you rather get pregnant accidentally or get dumped?
GIRL 1/GIRL 4. Usually they happen at the same time. Jinx!
GIRL 5. Would you rather be called a slut or a dyke?
GIRL 3. Dyke.
GIRL 4. Save your mother or your father?
GIRL 2. Both!
GIRL 1. You have to pick one.
GIRL 2. I'd rather die.
GIRL 1. Would you rather get HPV or give HPV?
ALL. Ew!
GIRL 5. Would you rather ask your boyfriend to put on a condom or give him a blow job?
GIRL 6. I don't want to play this.
GIRL 5. Would you rather catch your boyfriend sleeping with your best friend or your sister? Would you rather have a three-way, or —
GIRL 1. OK, OK. (*Cutting her off.*) Would you rather lose the salmon or the polar bears?
GIRL 5. Bummer. I love them both.
GIRL 4. Would you rather work in a dirty factory for a dollar a day or sell your body for more?
GIRL 6. Kill yourself with sleeping pills or jump off a bridge?
GIRL 2. Live in Syria or Fukushima?
GIRL 3. Be a slave or a terrorist?
GIRL 1. Pay your health insurance or your college tuition?
GIRL 6. Be Catholic or gay?
GIRL 5. Wear a burqa your whole life or have your clitoris cut?
GIRL 2. Be the exploiter or the exploited?
GIRL 3. Be buried alive or freeze to death?
GIRL 5. Die in a tsunami or an earthquake?
GIRL 4. Get killed in a high-school shooting or get left with your cat in a flood? (*The energy becomes more confrontational and directed at audience.*)

GIRL 1.

You tell me how to believe in life when the world is suicidal

GIRL 2.

How to dream when I'm scared to go to sleep

GIRL 3.

How to be private when you keep googling me

GIRL 5.

How to believe in the future when they're sunbathing in Iceland

GIRL 4.

How to be president when you have to be a liar

GIRL 6.

How to believe in love when my mother hates my father

GIRL 1.

How not to be a bitch when you're supposed to win

GIRL 4.

How to love my body, when thou shalt be thin ...

ALL.

Thou shalt be thin ...

CHORUS.

I want to touch you in real time

Not only find you on YouTube, YouTube

Want to walk next to you in the mountains

Not just poke you on Facebook, Facebook

Give me one thing, give me one thing,

That I can believe in that isn't a brand name.

Give me that thing, give me one thing

You tell me how to be a girl today.

(Simultaneously:)

GIRL 2. How do I dream when I'm scared to go to sleep?

GIRL 6. How do I believe in love when my mother hates my father?

GIRL 1. How do I not be a bitch when I'm supposed to win?

GIRL 4. How do I love my body when I'm supposed to be thin?

GIRL 5. How do I have a baby when there's a billion trillion people?

GIRL 3. How do I surrender when even sex can kill you?

(Dance break.)

GIRL 6. How to feel good about having anything when most people have nothing?

GIRL 3. Yeah, how to let go and surrender when even sex can kill you

GIRL 4. How we're going to save the planet without a modern miracle

CHORUS.

*I want to touch you in real time
Not only find you on YouTube, YouTube
I want to walk next to you in the mountains
Not just poke you on Facebook, Facebook
Give me one thing, give me one thing,
That I can believe in that isn't a brand name.
Give me that thing, give me one thing
You tell me how to be a girl today.*

(This song/poem gradually transforms into a schoolyard rhyme game with clapping and movement with all the girls.)

*I'm a hut
In a hut*

*I sold my soul for a piece of paper
So what?*

*I'm crazy
I'm movin'
Now stop*

(As they are playing, Girl 3 gradually becomes isolated from the group, trying to keep up with the clapping and game, but progressively alienated until she is in her own separated light.)

*Move forever forever
Move forever forever
Now stop*

(Girl 3 is playing a girl from the U.S.A., speaking to audience and referring to in-circle of girls onstage, who blow fake kisses and whisper about her throughout.)

GIRL 3. There's Julie.

"Hi. Hi." Kiss kiss.

She hates my guts. She does. Uh huh. Look at her cruising my tragic boots. I wish my feet were bombs. Blow up now. Boom! I bought the brown leather riding boots like you said. Even though I'm allergic to horses.

EMOTIONAL CREATURE

by Eve Ensler

6W (flexible casting)

Performed by an ensemble of young women, EMOTIONAL CREATURE is made up of original monologues — and irresistible songs — about and for girls. Placing their stories squarely center stage, it gives full expression to their secret voices and innermost thoughts, highlighting the diversity and commonality of the issues they face. EMOTIONAL CREATURE is a call, a reckoning, an education, an act of empowerment for girls, and an illumination for parents and for us all.

“A joyous, girl-powered production.”

—The New York Times

“Absolutely magnetic.”

—Entertainment Weekly

“Infectious ... with an evangelical zeal at times more befitting a revival meeting than a play ... [EMOTIONAL CREATURE] is a collage of monologues, chat sessions — about body image, dieting, sex, abortion — and lively dance breaks ... Some of the monologues are deeply unsettling and performed with dynamic emotional resonance.”

—San Francisco Chronicle

“Dazzling ... The show exemplifies the spirit and heart of Ensler’s bestselling book I am an Emotional Creature: The Secret Life of Girls Around the World, shedding light on the joys and challenges as well as the violence faced by girls across the globe ... EMOTIONAL CREATURE is a theatrically lit match that will light a fire in your heart and has the potential to spark a girl revolution ... It’s empowering for women and teen girls but it is potentially a wakeup call for men and teen boys.”

—BroadwayWorld.com

Also by Eve Ensler

THE GOOD BODY

NECESSARY TARGETS

THE TREATMENT

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

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