

GRAPA TEATRO

# THE LESSON

## SYNOPSIS

A bold and provocative solo clown performance exploring the contradictions of sexual education and its consequences.

Through absurd humour, dark comedy, and direct audience engagement, *The Lesson* follows a female clown navigating a surreal world where bodies are controlled, voices are silenced, and no one dares to talk about sex — but everyone should. Armed with only her wit, some bizarre props, and a fierce determination to be heard, she takes the audience on an irreverent journey into outdated attitudes towards sexuality, power, and education.

Why do we learn Pythagoras, but not consent?

Why are some questions too taboo for the classroom?

Why does this matter?

*The Lesson* offers no easy answers, but it dares to ask the questions — with a wink, a slapstick, and a lot of duct tape.





## ARTISTIC VISION

The Lesson was born from both personal and cultural urgency. This project was developed as part of my MA thesis at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, blending my background in physical theatre, music, and activism. I wanted to craft a performance that speaks beyond borders: confronting taboos, exposing societal absurdities, and reclaiming space for female voices in conversations too often silenced.

As a Spanish artist studying in London, I wanted to confront the contradictions and silences that shape the way we speak — or more often, don't speak — about sex, consent, and power in my home country. Spain, despite its progressive surface, still suffers from outdated attitudes towards sexual education, leaving generations uninformed, ashamed, and vulnerable.

Through clowning, absurdity, and dark humour, this piece creates a world where the female body becomes both the subject and object of scrutiny, ridicule, and resistance. Using non-verbal play, provocative imagery, and audience interaction, The Lesson invites spectators to reflect on how systems of education, media, pornography and patriarchy shape our understanding of sexuality and consent.





# REVIEWS

"Gracia Rios Calderon has a playful, charming presence; it takes guts to stand up in front of a live audience and deliver a performance that is both convincing and sincere, for this she deserves much credit"

-Everything Theatre

"Valiant and exciting offering"

-A younger Theatre

"There's a childishness to the performance that is greatly unsettling, but that never makes what is being discussed any less thought-provoking. Most importantly though, Rios' antics never feel reductive, nor as though they are making light of other people's suffering"

-The Wee Review



**A brilliantly crafted show, by a very talented performer, this piece continues to surprise and excite throughout. A masterful piece of work.**

WITHIN HER WORDS





# TECH RIDER

**Show Duration:**

- Approx. 45 minutes (no interval)

**Touring Company:**

- 1 Performer
- 1 Technician (optional – can work with venue technician)

**Stage Requirements:**

- Minimum stage area: 5m wide x 4m deep
- Flat, clean, and empty black box stage preferred
- Black backdrop or black curtain

**Get-In / Get-Out:**

- Get-In/ technical set up: 3 hours
- Technical rehearsal: 2 hours

Get-Out: 1 hour

**Venue to Provide:**

- Stage space as described
- Basic lighting rig and PA system
- 1 technician (lights & sound)
- Access to dressing room / toilet



# TECH RIDER

**Position notes:**

- Box 1 (Center Stage): Main performing space with key props.
- Box 2 (Downstage Right, audience's left): Clearly further right and closer to the audience than center.
- Box 3 (Upstage Left): Back corner storage.

**LIGHTING & SOUND (Summary):**

- Warm general wash
- Spotlight center
- Accent light right
- Blackouts as needed
- Basic PA for 5-7 sound cues Operation via QLab / technician





## CONTACT INFORMATION

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- GRACIA RIOS