

Performing Women's History: Time-traveling with Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*

Panelists: Lise Bryn, Mia Connolly, Mariah Kennedy; Leigh Kilgus, Jen Lin, Sophia Morrow, Katie Rodgers.

The cast of the Theatre Arts production of Caryl Churchill's iconic serio-comedy *Top Girls* performs scenes (in costume) and shares discoveries from their creative journey. Characters include: Marlene, just promoted to Managing Director of the Top Girls Employment agency; the 10th century Pope Joan; the Victorian Traveler Isabella Bird; the 13th century courtesan turned Buddhist nun, Lady Nijo; Marlene's socialist working-class sister, Joyce; Marlene's "niece" (daughter) Angie who is being raised by Joyce; and some confused job applicants. The actors will explore questions: Can you have it all--a career and a family? How far have women really come (through history)? Has the glass ceiling disappeared? -What role can theatre play in social change?