

The following document is the script we used while rehearsing our performance – the highlighted bits are originally from me, the other ones were created by the other people in the group and I just modified them and put them in the document. I think we can consider it as a part of the process documentation. You can also find all my internet sources here in the footnotes (and at the end of the document) and explanations why I used them.

Ve skupině + role (besides narrator – everyone has that role): Bětka (*the artist, music in the background*) Anička H. (*the wife in scene one, soon to be wife in the beginning?*), Marie (*soon to be husband, the husband in scene one, the student of the elementary school*), Sofie (*student of the grammar school, Ralph in the scene with the composer, lord of Feri's soon to be wife*), Honza (*student of the monastic school, Ralph's friend, Dominic lord of Feri*)
scénář:

The introduction (before the play begins)

B: Hello! We're more than pleased to present to you our group work, but before we start with the play, let us introduce our project a little bit.

M: We've prepared and rehearsed a few different scenes (short scenarios), trying to capture the differences between men and women in medieval times, and show you something about the gender roles back then in general. You can look forward to seeing a *presentation play*.

S: We tried to make this play as accurate to the medieval times as possible, so we went to different sources¹ and searched for some more information about that period. Although we also wanted to use a little bit of creativity.

A: We hope to entertain you with our short presentation and maybe even make some of you laugh :)

H: So without further ado, enjoy the play!

Krátké scény

Scene 1 – just a little bit from the history

A girl in a white dress (or at least something white on her or her head) – Sofi (or someone else) walks on stage followed by her soon to be husband – one of the taller girls – Anička + me playing wedding music in the background)

H commenting on it, S and A leave, Sofie gets ready to appear on the stage as the narrator): Women in medieval times got married way earlier than today. It was usually around the age of 14 or 15 (but often even earlier!). The couple didn't know each other until they got married and as the time went by, the women were supposed to cook, take care of the children and the house, while their husbands were working. *While H starts to say this, the married couple appears on stage, the wife with a pot / broom...*

A: Good evening, my husband! Where have you been? The dinner is getting cold...

M: Where **have I** been?! That is none of your business! I am the man who works hard every single day! And what about you? You can't even make us a proper dinner.

A: You know that we don't have much, (darling). We can't afford better food.

¹ You can find all the sources here in the footnotes or in the end of this document below

M: Are you trying to accuse me of not working hard enough? There's no doubt you use all my money on your stuff anyway!

A: I am truly sorry that I don't have your trust.

M: How could I ever trust you, when you promised me a son and only gave me our silly daughter?!

A: Please, calm down, husband. She just fell asleep.

M: I don't care about her! Everything is your fault! If you only did at least something for me! You won't even give me the child I wanted.

A: *cries*

M: Keep your mouth shut now! You have no reason to cry at all, while I, on the other hand, have to work. The whole day, everyday. And the only thing you are capable of doing is making us this inedible creation that you call food!

A: It is not my fault that you are angry so often!

M: I wanted an obedient wife², ended up with you? I see your tricks, you silly woman! *slaps her*

M walks of stage

H: Luckily, it didn't always work like that. Sometimes there was a coexistence between the married couple.

M walks on stage again

A: Good evening, my husband!

M: Good afternoon, my wife!

A: How was your day?

M: It was... exhausting... I am so tired, I worked the whole day and then my director told me he wouldn't give me the money that he promised. I am so sorry, my dear, that I can't treat you the way a wife like you is supposed to be treated. You deserve so much more than this miserable life with me.

A: I am sorry to hear that. But do not be afraid, my husband! We are going to figure out a way to get through this situation together! Perhaps I could sell my best dress...³

M: Thank you, my lovely wife, you – again – saved us. I adore and love you so much.

A: I love you too, my husband

they leave the stage

H: There were many ways to capture marital life. Let's think about this situation in the Clerk's Tale – *gives the mask to Sofie*.

² Here we used the topic from the Clerk's tale – a husband who wants an obedient wife – nevertheless the whole dialog is about some topics that were analysed in the tale as well.

³ we chose a dress that would be expensive in the medieval times – we talked about the colors in one of the lessons too, but this is another source where we read about them:

<https://www.brighthubeducation.com/history-homework-help/106277-types-of-clothing-worn-during-the-middle-ages/#priestly-clothing>

and we watched this video just as a matter of interest:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ibj7GsfsCpl&ab_channel=CrowsEyeProductionsCrowsEyeProductionsOv%C4%9B%C5%99eno

The couple in this scene wasn't rich (see above), however, we thought that the wife still had a good dress for unique occasions + a nice color would also stand out in the play and (hopefully) create an interesting effect.

S: The author here (Geoffrey Chaucer) writes about a king (in the original version about a marquise) who wanted a wife. The thing that he cared about the most, was her obedience. And Griselda really was obedient. In fact, the only thing she asked for, when they took her daughter away, was to bury her properly.

Scene 2

A: We've recently noticed this one case about one of the ex-members in the Czech parliament⁴, and we thought about how it would look, if this case happened in medieval times:

S: *working*

H: „Greetings you beautiful woman!“ My name is Dominic the lord of Feri. I have decided that you are going to marry me!⁵

S: „Of course my lord!“

H: „I will take you to my manor in Feri, where you will give me the son I want.“

S: *Nodds*

S: *Alone in her room, praying:*

„My dear lord! What have I done? Why are you punishing me like this?! Yes, I know he is rich and powerful, but he is so ugly and old! He disgusts me!“

H: „What are you doing my future wife? The pope the Top the 09 is ready to wed us!“

S: „NO! Leave me alone! I do not want to marry you! I'd rather die than marry you!“

H: „As you wish!!“

The next day

H *to the people*: „We are here today to execute this dangerous witch!“

The people: „Kill that witch! Kill that witch!“

H *to the people*: „As you wish!“

H *to S*: „You will burn in hell!“

H: *kills S with a fake sword*

Scene 3

M (*has the mask on*): In art, there were actually quite a few women working alongside men! Sometimes, they could even be a part of artisan guilds. The bad thing is that there's very little

⁴ * (he resigned this year's may) – we read about this in the news – here are a few references: <https://video.aktualne.cz/dvtv/kopriva-ve-spolecnosti-to-vre-feri-by-l-vzor-tresty-za-znasil/r~6598dc46c96911eb9106ac1f6b220ee8/>

<https://denikn.cz/643713/ziskala-jsem-odvahu-promluvit-dalsi-zeny-hovori-o-traumatizujicich-zazitcich-s-dominikem-ferim/>

<https://zpravy.aktualne.cz/domaci/dominik-feri-celi-obvineni-ze-sexualniho-obtezovani/r~dd3bd3fcbd6611eb9caf1f6b220ee8/>

⁵ This bit is based on the topics from the Clerk's tale, but also from the Bath's tale. We can read about a man just randomly telling a girl he doesn't know, that she is going to marry him in the Clerk's tale – we used that in this scene. It also shows some things from the Bath's tale – a man (the knight) forcing a woman (Lucretia) to be with him. These two things are quite closely related in my opinion.

extant information about women artists from this period, which may have been caused by the fact that women were often considered as not too important people compared to men.

*While Marie talks about this, Bětka and Sofie (in a hat so that she looks like a man) appear on the stage*⁶

B (to S): Look, I composed something!

starts to play a piece of music, while S is very disinterestedly looking somewhere on the other side of the room, not paying attention. B continues to play, but H (not on the stage) makes a distant summon "Ralph, come here" and S (Ralph) leaves the stage as if nothing was happening.

B after she finishes the piece: So, what do you think? ... notices he already left, leaves too S comes on the stage again, this time with H, they are talking. B appears next (in a hat – like a man)

B (a low voice): Look, I composed something!

plays the same piece of music on the violin

H (very surprised): Wow, that was incredibly pleasant to my ears!

S: I am very much looking forward to seeing you play at the royal courtyard!

they all leave happily

M: Of course there were also other things than if you are a man or a woman, that had an impact on the lives of people, such as the social statuses⁷. *gives the mask to Bětka*

Sofie walks on stage with a quill and a piece of paper, writing something, stands next to Anička / Bětka

B: And how was it with education again? Not everyone could afford to learn how to read or write. It was usually a rich family that was able to send their son to school. There were three types of schools⁸ in the medieval times: the grammar school (*Sofie is already on stage representing that one*), the monastic school, where they were trained for the church (*H comes on stage – clothes like a frier*) and the elementary sing – school (*M comes on stage, pretending to sing*). This type of school was attached to a church and they were learning latin hymns and songs in there.

they all leave

The end

everyone walks on the stage

⁶ <https://www.nypl.org/blog/2013/06/27/woman-composers-middle-ages-present>
<https://www.bl.uk/the-middle-ages/articles/women-in-medieval-society>

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zm4mn39/revision/7>
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/social-status-and-community>
<https://graziatripodi.wordpress.com/the-social-classes-in-the-medieval-age/>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLxv8gcvH78&ab_channel=AnimationandCartoonVideosAnimationandCartoonVideos

⁸ <https://www.medievalchronicles.com/medieval-life/medieval-schools/>

B: We showed you just a little bit of the differences between men and women in the medieval times. This topic is definitely very, very absorbing to talk about and also a little sad, when you realize how much it mattered, if you were male or female and how much money you had. But thanks to that we could make an interesting presentation on this subject, which we really enjoyed creating, so we hope that you enjoyed watching it as well!

*everyone makes a (low) bow next to each other, hopefully someone claps.
the end.*

other sources: Youtube: Crash course (I think this is quite a useful channel and it helps me understand some things in other subjects as well, such as chemistry etc, so I checked these videos out) 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNCw2MOfnLQ>

2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QV7CanyzhZg&list=PLM2mw-Hklus7DIDmScvIuPn3WAUoom1ET&index=1&ab_channel=CrashCourseCrashCourseOv%C4%9B%C5%99eno

The Infographics Show (I watched this video kind of just for fun, but it did have some interesting stuff in it, too)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEfPkQDC-Ug&ab_channel=TheInfographicsShowTheInfographicsShowOv%C4%9B%C5%99eno

NBC News Learn: (This was one of the first videos I found about women in the medieval times and I enjoyed the concept quite a lot)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YJImBcg-So&ab_channel=NBCNewsLearnNBCNewsLearnOv%C4%9B%C5%99eno