



Educational Outreach: *A Man's A Man*

Post-Reading Activities: Constructions of gender and sexuality in *A Man's A Man*

Objectives

- To understand and demonstrate the way gender leads to gain, maintenance, or loss of social power in *A Man's A Man*.
- To understand the relationship between sexuality and social power.

Guiding questions:

- What roles do males and females play in Brecht's play?
- How do sex and sexuality influence social power?

Materials

- Chart of male and female characters, characteristics, interactions, and performance aspects (attached to this document).

Activities

- Have students use the text to fill out the table to describe different male and female characters in the play. Students are welcome to include text excerpts that describe or represent characters.

	Personal characteristics	Responsibilities (to self, to other individuals, to society)	Interactions with other characters (male or female)	Costuming, body language, and other performance aspects
<i>Bloody Five</i>				
<i>Galy Gay</i>				
<i>Widow Begbick</i>				
<i>Mrs. Gay</i>				

- After discussing: Based on the answers students put in the table above, reflect on the following questions with a partner:
 - Do men and women have specific functions in the play? Do all men and all women have the same functions within their gender? How do you know? Is social function determined by biological gender?
 - How does Widow Begbick gain her social power? Is it the same way Bloody Five gains his? What role does sexuality play in her relationship with the other soldiers?
 - In scene 1, Galy Gay's wife sends him to the market for a fish, and in scene 3, Begbick attempts to persuade Galy Gay to sleep with her. Based on these

scenes, how do you think that masculinity and femininity constructed in this play? Do these behaviors change later in the play?

- What might this play look like if its title were *A Woman's A Woman*?
- Brecht includes the stereotypes of wife and prostitute, but are there stereotypes of each gender that are excluded? (Such as mother and sister? Can you think of stereotypes of men that are present/absent in the play?)

Further suggestions

- Ask students to pick a scene from the ones outlined in the reflection questions and have students reverse the gender roles.

Gender & Sexuality in Brecht's *A Man's A Man*

Fill in the table below with information you find in the text or remember from seeing the play

	Personal characteristics	Responsibilities (to self, to other individuals, to society)	Interactions with other characters (male or female)	Costuming, body language, and other performance aspects
<i>Bloody Five</i>				
<i>Galy Gay</i>				
<i>Widow Begbick</i>				
<i>Mrs. Gay</i>				