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Semerciyan



Witches Can't Be Burned by Silva Semerciyan

If you keep on doing the same thing, over and over again, you'll keep on getting the same results, time and time again. St. Paul's have won the schools Playfest competition, three years in a row, by selecting recognised classics from the canon and producing them at an exceptionally high level, it's a tried and trusted formula. With straight A's student and drama freak, Anuka cast as Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, the school seem to be well on course for another triumph, which would be a record. What could possibly go wrong? However, as rehearsals gain momentum, Anuka has an epiphany. An experience resulting in her asking searching questions surrounding the text, the depiction and perception of female characters, the meaning of loyalty, and the values and traditions underpinning the very foundations of the school. Thus, the scene is set for a confrontation of epic proportions as Anuka seeks to break with tradition, before tradition breaks her and all young women like her and reality begins to take on the ominous hue of Miller's fictionalized Salem.

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Bruntwood Prize and an Offie Award for best new play. Her other plays include *Another Man's Son* (winner of the William Saroyan Prize); *A Quest for Arthur* (National Theatre's Lets Play Series); *The Light Burns Blue* (Tonic Theatre's Platform Series); *Under a Cardboard Sea*, *The Window*, and *The Tinderbox* (Bristol Old Vic Theatre); *Flashes* (Young Vic Theatre); and *Gather Ye Rosebuds* (Winner, Best New Play, Brighton Fringe Festival). Her first radio play, *Varanasi*, was shortlisted for a BBC audio drama award. She holds an MPhil in Playwriting from The University of Birmingham.

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