

THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE



VISUAL GUIDE

Presented in partnership with The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh and in association with Pitlochry Festival Theatre.

SYNOPSIS

The play follows five girls as they attend Marcia Blaine School for Girls from ages 11 to 15. They are very taken by their glamorous and witty teacher, Miss Jean Brodie who believes she is in her prime.

Four of the girls are chosen by Miss Brodie to be part of her set. She teaches the girls about art and politics and demands complete loyalty from them.

The show is set in an amphitheatre which represents the school and locations such as Miss Brodie's flat and a convent.

The story takes place over the course of a number of years so characters age throughout the play but are played by the same actors.

CONTENT GUIDANCE

This play is recommended for those aged 14+ as it contains scenes of a sexual nature and partial nudity.

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie explores themes of coercion, bullying, consent and the misuse of authority including a scene of sexual assault where a teacher kisses a pupil. There is also partial nudity during a scene change.

The show also contains themes of:

Sexual Abuse

Coercion

Bullying

Fascism

Racism

Radicalisation

The show has a runtime of approximately 3 hours including an interval. The show also features projection and lighting effects throughout.

Act 1 = 1hr 35 mins

Interval = 20 mins

Act 2 = 1hr 5 mins

CAST



Maureen Beattie plays the headmistress Miss Mackay.



Liberty Black plays the innocent student Mary who is part of Miss Brodie's set.



Dyfan Dwyfor plays Teddy Lloyd, the art teacher. He is attracted to Miss Brodie.



Brian Ferguson plays Gordon Lowther, the music teacher. He is in love with Miss Brodie.



Sophie Fortune plays student Joyce Emily Hammond, she is not part of Miss Brodie's set but wants to be part of it.

Sophie also plays a waitress at the end of the play.



Tallulah Grieve plays the brainy student Monica who is part of Miss Brodie's set.



Shreya Khaund Marshall plays student Jenny who is part of Miss Brodie's set. She has the ambition of becoming an actress.



Bobby Rainsbury plays the student Sandy who is part of Miss Brodie's set. Sandy wants to become a great writer and is Miss Brodie's favourite girl.



Gayle Rankin plays Jean Brodie, a Junior School teacher. Miss Brodie is passionate about politics and art. She encourages her girls to be passionate about these subjects too.

THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE:

SCENE BREAKDOWN

ACT 1

SCENE 1



1947, Monica, Jenny and Sandy discuss Sandy's newly published psychology book.

The three women reminisce about their time with their teacher Miss Brodie, who has since passed away.

Monica and Jenny ask Sandy whether she betrayed Miss Brodie.

SCENE 2



We go back to 1931, Marcia Blaine School for Girls.

It is the first day of term, headmistress Miss Mackay introduces 2 new girls, Sandy Stranger and Joyce Emily Hammond to the school. She tells them that expectations are high for them to succeed at school and pass their exams.



They meet their new teacher, Miss Brodie, there is tension between Miss Brodie and Miss Mackay.

Mr Lowther, music master, enters the classroom asking to speak to Miss Brodie. Miss Mackay leaves.

SCENE 3

Miss Brodie tells the girls she does not like people to raise their hands. She also tells them that she does not believe her job is to drill information into them but rather help them to achieve their full potential.

Mr Lowther changes his music lesson to Thursday and Miss Mackay returns.

Miss Mackay chastises the girls for not having their maths books out and has them recite the shillings to pence table. She leaves.

Miss Brodie tells them to close their maths books and informs them that she does not want them to worry about the final exam in May. She says she does not mind if they study themselves, to scrape a pass and forget the information the next day.

Miss Brodie asks if the girls want to hear about her Italian holiday. She tells them about Mussolini (fascist leader of Italy) and Giotto (a medieval Italian painter) – both of whom she adores.

Miss Brodie says she does not want to instil fear and believes the girls to be heroines.





SCENE 4

Joyce Emily and Sandy discuss Miss Brodie, Joyce Emily adores her but Sandy is suspicious.

Sandy reveals she writes stories in her notebook, Joyce Emily tells her to write about Miss Brodie, Sandy is reluctant.

The pair discuss how Mr Lowther gazed longingly at Miss Brodie, Sandy believes he is in love with her.

SCENE 5



Mr Lowther stands awkwardly with art teacher, Mr Lloyd, they are both waiting for Miss Brodie.

Mr Lloyd offers condolences as Mr Lowther's mother died over the summer. Mr Lowther now owns a large house where he lives alone.

Mr Lowther offers to walk Miss Brodie to her tram. She reveals that Mr Lloyd has previously offered to paint a portrait of her, but she declined. Mr Lloyd says he would still like to make her his muse.



Miss Brodie congratulates Mr Lloyd on the birth of his new baby and says that she does not approve of the Catholic Church. Mr Lloyd leaves.

Mr Lowther asks her to join his church choir but Miss Brodie refuses as the church is too far away from her flat and she would not return until midnight. Mr Lowther offers to drive her home but Miss Brodie refuses as it's improper for a single woman to be seen on her own with a man at that time of night. She says Miss Mackay would sack her for doing that.

SCENE 6



Sandy reveals she has found a letter from Miss Brodie in the corridor, in which Miss Brodie rejects Mr Lowther's marriage proposal.

Mary, Monica, and Jenny enter and demand to see the letter. Sandy refuses to show them but Joyce Emily excitedly informs them of the contents.

Sandy reveals that she wrote the letter as a joke, Jenny steals the letter and Sandy begs her not to tell Miss Brodie.

Monica, Mary, and Jenny leave. Sandy says she was going to tell Joyce Emily that it was a joke. Joyce Emily forgives her and the pair agree to play with each other on Saturday.

SCENE 7



The girls are with Mr Lowther in a singing lesson. Miss Brodie enters and tells Mary to guard the door in case Miss Mackay is prowling.

Miss Brodie says she will not be a class distraction and then tells everyone to look at Jenny as she is beautiful in the light. Miss Brodie then asks to hear the girls singing.

Miss Brodie asks who wrote the song as she does not believe that a Scottish sheep farmer would become so emotional over their sheep.

Miss Brodie quizzes them on the lyrics by asking what a 'sweet lot' is. Jenny asks if a sweet lot is a burden and Sandy says she believes it to be a circumstance. Miss Brodie is delighted with Sandy's answer and instructs the girls to write the answer down.





Mary spots Miss Mackay in the corridor, Miss Brodie tells the girls that Mackay keeps a poster of a politician on her wall who's slogan is 'Safety First'. Miss Brodie disagrees with this as she believes that goodness, truth, and beauty come above all else. She leaves.

SCENE 8

Sandy and Jenny discuss the letter Sandy wrote. Jenny says she should have shown it to Miss Brodie but didn't because it makes her laugh.

They discuss whether Miss Brodie and Mr Lowther have ever had sex. Sandy does not think they have. The pair discuss where Miss Brodie and Mr Lowther might have sex in future. The girls decide to write a story about them.

Jenny asks Sandy what her favourite book is, Sandy likes *Wuthering Heights*.

Jenny leaves and Joyce Emily enters. Joyce Emily asks what Jenny wanted.



SCENE 9

The girls are in Miss Brodie's classroom playacting animals/gladiators in battle. Miss Brodie talks about the Colosseum and a nasally American tourist. She asks Mary what nasally means, Mary does not know so Sandy answers.

Miss Brodie tells the girls that if they are ever unsure of an answer then they should ask the girl next to them. Sandy is confused as they can't do that during the final exam. Miss Brodie reiterates that she expects the girls to try hard and scrape a pass.

Jenny asks if Miss Brodie ever went to Italy with Hugh who was Miss Brodie's fiancée. Miss Brodie says she did not. The class discuss Hugh, who came from Ayrshire and was poor. He died during the Great War one week before the Armistice.





The girls all cry for Hugh. Miss Mackay enters and is horrified with what she sees. She demands to know what has happened. Sandy explains they were discussing the Armistice. Mackay tells Miss Brodie that she will see her in her office at quarter past four. Miss Mackay leaves.

Miss Brodie says she isn't intimidated by her as she is a descendant of William Brodie, a man who made cabinets and gibbets (gallows). He was also a thief and ironically died by hanging on a gibbet which he himself had made.

SCENE 10



Miss Mackay tells Miss Brodie to stop telling her class stories, Miss Brodie says the class learns more willingly through stories. Miss Mackay reminds Miss Brodie that her class routinely comes last on the final year exam and she wants that to change or else Miss Brodie is at risk of being fired from her job.

Miss Brodie leaves and meets Mr Lowther who says that if Miss Brodie wants to join his choir then he will collect her in a taxi and deliver her home in a taxi afterwards.

Mr Lowther promises that he will support Miss Brodie when she needs him. She tells him she will consider attending his choir.

SCENE 11



Sandy has been dropped off very early before school starts. Sandy asks Miss Brodie what Miss Mackay wanted from her and is worried that Miss Brodie is leaving. Miss Brodie reassures her that she intends to stay at Marcia Blaine.

Miss Brodie asks if Sandy has considered becoming a writer, which she has. Sandy tells her that when the other teachers pass Miss Brodie it sounds like they say "Good scorning" rather than "Good morning", Miss Brodie finds this funny.



Sandy is worried because her mother said she has piggy eyes and stares too much, Miss Brodie reassures her that she does not and rather she has searching unwavering eyes. Sandy feels validated by Miss Brodie.

SCENE 12

Miss Brodie is in a classroom after-school with Jenny, Monica, and Mary. Miss Brodie passes out amaretti biscuits. Sandy enters and has an amaretti.



Mr Lloyd appears behind Sandy and she is informed that Lloyd comes in secret to teach the girls about art.

Mary tells Miss Brodie that she should sit for Mr Lloyd but Miss Brodie insists that Mr Lloyd cannot paint her as he will be busy caring for his new baby.

Mr Lloyd unveils a picture of The Birth of Venus and suggests that it could also be seen as the Virgin Mary.



The girls giggle when Mr Lloyd uses the words “erotic” and “sexuality”. Miss Brodie is angry with their behaviour and shouts at Mary and makes her stand at the back of the class

Mr Lloyd tells them to go to the Uffizi Gallery in Florence at least once in their life. Miss Brodie talks about how much she admires Mussolini and the girls rattle off facts about him.

Miss Brodie makes Sandy promise that she will not tell her other classmates about these meetings.

SCENE 13



Jenny and Sandy have written a story where Hugh is still alive, they read the story to Mary and Monica. The girls discuss whether Miss Brodie and Hugh ever had sex.

Joyce Emily appears and tells Sandy she waited for her but Sandy didn't show up. Joyce Emily presents Sandy with the book *Treasure Island* but Sandy has already read it. Joyce Emily is upset and asks Sandy if she can buy her something else, Sandy says no and they quarrel.

Joyce Emily kicks the book as the other girls leave and tells them she knows what they do on Wednesday afternoons with Mr Lloyd and Miss Brodie. Sandy tells her she must not tell anyone about it.

Miss Mackay enters to see Joyce Emily upset, she picks up the book from the ground and gives it to Joyce Emily.



SCENE 14

The girls are with Miss Brodie in her flat. Jenny is trying on a diamond ring. They are all drinking sherry and dancing.

Miss Brodie believes Jenny will become an actress, Monica a diplomat, Mary will choose a field which does not require intelligence, and Sandy will become a writer.

As they dance, Miss Brodie and the girls bring onstage a large statue of a veiled Vestal virgin and place it on the steps.

Jenny asks if the ring is a real diamond, it is, and it once belonged to Miss Brodie's grandmother and she was going to wear when she married Hugh.

The girls ask if she will ever marry and she explains that she would never give up her teaching vocation which she would have to do if she married. This was the expectation of society at the time the piece is set in.



SCENE 15



Miss Mackay stops Sandy in the corridor to ask how she is getting on in Miss Brodie's class. Miss Mackay asks if Sandy has become one of Miss Brodie's favourites. Miss Mackay says that culture does not compensate for hard knowledge.

SCENE 16

Sandy and Monica teach the other girls in their class the facts they will need to pass their end of year exam, such as their times tables.

SCENE 17



Mr Lloyd is in his art room when Miss Brodie comes in to return some materials. He congratulates her on all her girls passing the exam.

Miss Brodie flirts with Mr Lloyd by sitting on the floor with her legs apart in a sexually suggestive manner. They discuss their summer holiday plans. Mr Lloyd climbs on top of Miss Brodie passionately and kisses her neck. Before the moment can go any further, Monica enters and makes a noise. Miss Brodie pushes Mr Lloyd off her and runs out of the room.



SCENE 18

Monica has told Jenny, Sandy and Mary that she has seen Miss Brodie and Mr Lloyd kissing but they don't believe her. Monica is angry at Sandy for not believing her and they re-enact the event, Sandy still doesn't believe her.

SCENE 19

The students attend the Qualifying Exam Ceremony. They each cross the stage to be congratulated by Miss Mackay. The Brodie set huddle to congratulate each other, Joyce Emily watches them and walks away when Sandy sees her.



SCENE 20

Mr Lowther brings Miss Brodie a bottle of sherry as an end-of-term gift. They discuss what they will do with their Summer holidays and Mr Lowther tells Miss Brodie he is thinking of selling his house in Crammond, but Miss Brodie persuades him not to. They discuss Miss Brodie visiting Mr Lowther at his house over the Summer when they are interrupted by Sandy.

Brodie tells Sandy she is the only one she trusts. Brodie reveals she told Mr Lloyd she could not have a romantic relationship with him and they open a bottle of sherry.

ACT 2

SCENE 1

1933, Monica, Mary, Jenny, and Sandy are in senior school. They discuss their chemistry teacher Miss Lockhart, whom they like. They also discuss how Joyce Emily has been misbehaving by flicking paper pellets at Mr Lowther.

Monica states she isn't sure she wants to go and see Miss Brodie. It is revealed that she has been made a prefect.

Miss Brodie appears and Jenny tells her the drama society will be performing *As You Like It*, Miss Brodie tells her to audition for Rosalind, the lead. The drama teacher had previously told Jenny to audition for Phoebe, the shepherdess which is a much smaller part.

Monica tells Miss Brodie she can't go out with the Set today because she has studying and prefect duties.

Miss Brodie tells the others that she has been unsure of Monica's loyalty for a while now.



SCENE 3



Miss Brodie and the girls are in the Meadows, Jenny is practicing sitting for Mr Lloyd. Miss Brodie tells her that she must not fidget and that the room will be stiflingly quiet.

Miss Brodie asks about Monica and Mary tells her that Monica has been swimming, playing netball, and volunteering. Miss Brodie tells the girls that Monica has team-spirit but that team-spirit is unnecessary as women such as Florence Nightingale and Cleopatra did not have team-spirit.

Miss Brodie gives them a rota of which weekend they will go with her to visit Mr Lowther in Crammond.



Jenny and Mary leave. Miss Brodie tells Sandy that she has become her closest confidante. Miss Brodie sees Joyce Emily loitering and asks her to speak. Sandy leaves.

Joyce Emily asks Miss Brodie about her opinion of Franco the Spanish military general and politician as her brother Tom does not approve of him. Miss Brodie does not give her opinion of Franco but says that Italians and Spaniards are very different people.



SCENE 4

Sandy and Jenny discuss Jenny's first sitting with Mr Lloyd and how he asked lots of questions about Miss Brodie. Jenny is very excited for her next sitting and leaves.

Miss Mackay enters and tells Sandy that another teacher saw her on Chambers Street with Miss Brodie and Jenny. Miss Mackay is surprised that Sandy is still loyal to Miss Brodie.



Sandy tells her that Miss Brodie says there is nothing she cannot achieve and that she wants to be a writer. Miss Mackay says it will be very hard for her to achieve this, but Sandy says knowing Miss Brodie believes in her is enough. Miss Mackay believes this dream is unrealistic.

SCENE 5

In Cramond, Miss Brodie and Mr Lowther try and learn the tango while Sandy and Jenny clear up.



Mr Lowther needs a break between courses but Miss Brodie tries to convince him to eat more cake being convinced he doesn't get fed well enough by his housekeeper.

Miss Brodie asks the girls how Jenny's sitting went. They describe how Mr Lloyd took ages to start and became frustrated by the noise of the playground.

Mr Lowther finishes his cake but is ignored by Miss Brodie who tells him he can play a song once he is finished. Miss Brodie suggests Mr Lloyd paint Jenny after school.

The girls leave and Miss Brodie says she will follow them presently. Mr Lowther goes upstairs and says she will follow him up presently.



SCENE 6

Jenny and Sandy are in the art room. Jenny is practising lines for her audition.

The girls debate whether they should look at the portrait, Sandy begins to lift the cover when Mr Lloyd walks in, he tells them they cannot see the portrait until he says they can.

He asks when Jenny's audition is and how often they go to visit Cramond with Miss Brodie. He declares sarcastically that Miss Brodie's arrangement with Mr Lowther is very civilised.

Mr Lloyd becomes frustrated while he is painting, Sandy teases him for the noises he is making which makes him angry. Mr Lloyd shouts at Sandy and throws his paintbrush aggressively.

SCENE 7

Jenny and Sandy tell Miss Brodie about their previous sitting with Mr Lloyd. Miss Brodie is pleased that he believes he will soon be finished the painting.

Miss Brodie asks where Mary is, the girls tell her she is playing netball with Monica.

They discuss another popular teacher called Miss Lockhart, the Senior School Chemistry teacher, who leads netball practice. Miss Brodie says she doesn't know much about Miss Lockhart.

Miss Brodie tells Sandy and Jenny that they are now her confidantes and all of her ambitions are fixed on Sandy and Jenny.



SCENE 8

Joyce Emily tells Miss Brodie that her brother, Tom, ran away to Spain to fight against Franco. Joyce Emily says her brother is like Hugh.

Miss Brodie tells her that she possesses great insight. Joyce Emily asks her what she should do and Miss Brodie says she must sit-tight and pray.



SCENE 9

Sandy, Jenny and Mr Lloyd are in the art room. Jenny is devastated as she didn't get the role of Rosalind in the school play. She doesn't want to sit for Mr Lloyd and is worried that Miss Brodie will no longer like her.



Jenny goes to leave but Sandy calls her back and asks Mr Lloyd to show them the portrait. He protests as it isn't finished. Eventually he relents and he shows it to them.

The girls are confused as it doesn't look much like Jenny. Jenny storms off and Sandy tells Mr Lloyd that his portrait looks like Miss Brodie. Mr Lloyd accuses Sandy of being jealous, he throws the canvas to the floor and insults her. He suddenly and forcibly kisses Sandy and throws her to the ground as Joyce Emily enters. Sandy backs away and wipes her mouth, Mr Lloyd insults her again and Sandy screams at Mr Lloyd.

SCENE 10

Sandy is sitting next to Miss Brodie in Cramond. Mr Lowther sits alone.



Miss Brodie asks Sandy about Jenny's reaction to the portrait. Mr Lowther complains that they pay no attention to him while he waits for his dinner.

Mr Lowther informs Miss Brodie that the school position of Senior Deputy Head has become vacant and he intends to apply.

Mr Lowther tries to give Sandy money to get her to leave but Miss Brodie catches him. Mr Lowther does not want his relationship with Miss Brodie to remain a secret and tells her he wants to live with her. Miss Brodie tells Sandy to wait outside.



Mr Lowther shows Brodie his mother's ring and proposes to her. Miss Brodie does not accept his proposal.

Miss Brodie and Sandy leave. Miss Brodie apologises to Sandy for witnessing the conversation. Miss Brodie tells Sandy that she wants Jenny to become Mr Lloyd's lover.

SCENE 11



Miss Mackay tells Miss Brodie that a nightdress was found in Mr Lowther's home that he said belongs to her. Miss Mackay urges Miss Brodie to marry Mr Lowther. Miss Brodie insists that Miss Mackay will not marry her off.

The conversation becomes heated and Miss Mackay shouts that she cannot have members of staff conducting affairs and she will have to draw up a resignation letter but Miss Brodie says she will refuse to sign it.

SCENE 12

Miss Brodie is disappointed that Mr Lowther will no longer take her class for music she believes it to be Miss Mackay's doing but Mr Lowther confirms it is his.

Miss Brodie is upset and asks Mr Lowther if they cannot "put it to one side" implying that Mr Lowther is punishing her girls because Miss Brodie refused his marriage proposal. Mr Lowther is cold towards her.



SCENE 13



Joyce Emily tells Miss Brodie that her brother was caught in an attack.

Miss Brodie asks Joyce Emily to imagine if Joyce Emily had gone to Spain with her brother. Joyce Emily says her brother would tell her it wasn't safe for her. Miss Brodie says this is because he wants the glory all for himself and asks why women always have to be onlookers. Joyce Emily repeats this question. Miss Brodie tells Joyce Emily that she is a heroine like "Joan of Arc."



SCENE 14

The teachers and students gather at school. Mr Lowther reveals that Joyce Emily has died. The girls are shocked. Mr Lloyd tells the girls that she died on a train to Spain which was attacked.

Miss Brodie tells the girls that Joyce Emily went to fight for Franco. Sandy is shocked as Joyce Emily's brother was opposed to Franco. Sandy is suspicious and asks Miss Brodie if she told Joyce Emily to fight. Miss Brodie tells Sandy that Joyce Emily made her own decision and is an inspiration.



Miss Brodie congratulates Mr Lowther on his marriage to Miss Lockhart, she is surprised that Miss Lockhart will continue teaching after marriage. We see the girls imagining Joyce Emily being killed, Joyce Emily falls to the ground.

ACT 3

During the scene change, there is brief nudity as Miss Brodie's costume is removed by the girls before they then re-dress her. Miss Brodie rotates as the girls stand around her and so we do not see her clearly as this takes place.



SCENE 1

Sandy and Miss Brodie meet in a hotel lounge 1939. This is the first time they have met in nine years.

Miss Brodie knows all about Sandy's academic achievements as Monica visits and keeps her informed.

Miss Brodie wonders which of the girls betrayed her to Miss Mackay.



Sandy tells her she was visiting Marcia Blaine as they invited her to give a talk about her psychology book. She has brought a copy for Miss Brodie.

Miss Brodie asks about the teaching staff and Sandy reveals she had a short affair with Mr Lloyd.

They discuss how Mary died in a fire and Sandy suggests that Joyce Emily might have betrayed Miss Brodie before remembering she was betrayed after Joyce Emily's death.

Miss Brodie says she cannot be held responsible for Joyce Emily's death but Sandy insists she can. Miss Brodie says that Sandy's academic achievements are achievements they made together, but Sandy disputes this.

Miss Brodie realises that it was Sandy who betrayed her. Sandy feels guilty and Miss Brodie reiterates that Sandy became a great success only because Miss Brodie saw it in her.

Sandy goes to leave for the final time and Miss Brodie tells her she is dying because of Sandy's betrayal. Sandy disputes this by saying that Miss Brodie is in fact dying of cancer. Miss Brodie offers to forgive Sandy but Sandy does not need or want her forgiveness.



SCENE 2



A waitress enters with tea for Miss Brodie. Miss Brodie asks if Sandy left a message for her but she has not.

Miss Brodie repeats herself by telling the waitress that she is a descendant of William Brodie, a man who made cabinets and gibbets.

Miss Brodie asks the time, it is 13:17. Miss Brodie tells the waitress that if she was still teaching she would be in her classroom getting ready for afternoon classes.



Miss Brodie asks the waitress to read out the title of Sandy's book which she does. The waitress then tells Miss Brodie that inside the book is a dedication which reads "For J".