

# SIX



THE MUSICAL



**TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE**

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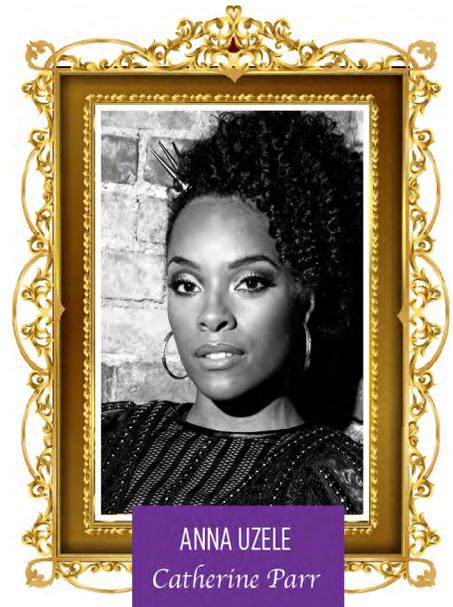
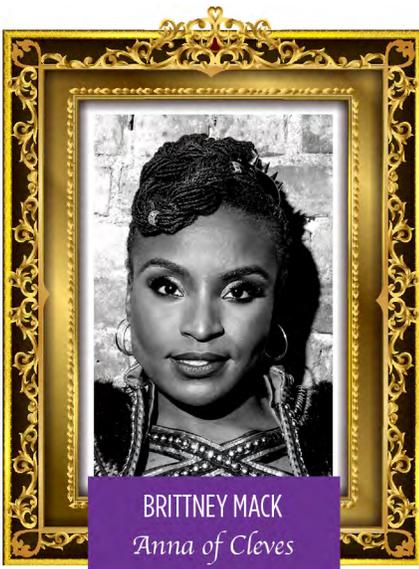
# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## From Tudor Queens to Pop Princesses...

the SIX wives of Henry VIII take the mic to remix five hundred years of historical heartbreak into an exuberant celebration of 21st century girl power! This new original musical is the global sensation that everyone is losing their head over. Inside this Resource Guide, you'll find materials on the development and context of SIX, including insights from creators Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, a timeline and background information on the Tudor family, profiles on each of the six wives of Henry VIII, and activities to support reflection and action after you see the show. All of the information in the guide has been written and organized for anyone hoping to learn more about the world of SIX.

Enjoy the show!

## SIX ORIGINAL BROADWAY CAST



# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## SIX CREATIVE

Written by  
Toby Marlow & Lucy Moss

Directed by  
Lucy Moss & Jamie Armitage

Choreography by  
Carrie-Anne Ingrouille

Scenic Design  
Emma Bailey

Costume Design  
Gabriella Slade

Lighting Design  
Tim Deiling

Sound Design  
Paul Gatehouse

Orchestrations  
Tom Curran

Music Supervision  
Joe Beighton

Music Supervision (U.S.)  
Roberta Duchak

Music Direction  
Julia Schade

Music Coordination  
Kristy Norter



All Original Broadway Cast Photos by Joan Marcus



## LISTEN UP, LET ME TELL YOU A STORY

Unlike in the United States where Queens and Kings only exist in books and movies, in other parts of the world there is living royalty who have responsibilities and power and a huge role in culture. Are there American equivalents of royalty? If so, who are they? Who do we study in history class in school? Who is deemed the “most important” to learn about in history? What people’s stories are you interested in learning more about?

### THE ROYALEST OF FACTS



Monarchy is the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom.



In a monarchy, a Queen or King is Head of State. The British Monarchy is known as a constitutional monarchy. This means that, while The Sovereign (Queen or King) is Head of State, the ability to make and pass legislation resides with an elected Parliament.



Although The Sovereign no longer has a political or executive role, she or he continues to play an important part in the life of the nation. In all these roles, The Sovereign is supported by members of their immediate family.



The Monarchy has existed for centuries but has had to evolve and modernize with time.

Did you know that there is still royalty in the UK?

Do you know who the current Queen of England is? What do you know about her?



## SO HOW DOES THIS CONNECT TO SIX?

SIX is a British musical with book, music, and lyrics by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss. The musical is a modern retelling of the lives of the six wives of Henry VIII presented as a pop concert, as the Queens take turns singing and telling their stories to see who suffered the most due to Henry and should, therefore, become the group’s lead singer. Henry VIII was King from April 22, 1509 until his death in 1547, but the musical takes inspiration from modern day.



## A TOTALLY TUDOR TIMELINE

The following timeline tracks the six wives of King Henry VIII and his marriages. As you read through, what do you notice? What questions does it bring up for you?

1501

Catherine of Aragon marries Arthur Tudor (Henry's older brother). Anne Boleyn is born.

1502

Arthur Tudor dies.



1522

Anne Boleyn moves into Henry's court.

1509

Henry VII dies and Henry VIII is crowned king. Catherine of Aragon and Henry are married.

1516

Mary (later Queen Mary I) is born to Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon.

1525

Henry VIII blamed Catherine for "not giving him a son" and as a result, he was determined to end his marriage and find a new wife who could give him what he wanted. Catherine refused to agree to divorce and Pope Clement VII denied Henry's requests to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

1533

**January:**  
Anne Boleyn and Henry are married.



1527

Jane Seymour moves into Henry VIII's court.

**May:**  
Henry finally broke with Rome in 1533 and declared himself the head of a new church, the Church of England. Henry and Catherine of Aragon's marriage is finally annulled. Five days later, Henry and Anne's marriage is declared valid.

1535

**January:**  
Catherine of Aragon dies.



1537

Edward (later King Edward VI) is born to Henry and Jane Seymour. Jane dies soon after from complications related to childbirth.

**September:**  
Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth I) is born to Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.

**May:**  
Anne Boleyn is beheaded on charges of incest, witchcraft, adultery and conspiracy against the King (the first English Queen to be publicly executed); Jane Seymour and Henry are married.



1547

Henry dies and Edward is crowned King Edward VI, at the age of nine.



1543

**February:**  
Catherine Parr becomes a part of the Tudor household.

**July:** Catherine Parr and Henry are married.

1542

**February:**  
Katherine Howard is beheaded.



1540

**January:**  
Anna of Cleves and Henry are married; Katherine Howard moves into Henry's court.

**July:**  
Anna of Cleves and Henry are divorced; Katherine Howard and Henry are married.

### Even more context

Henry's driving desire for a male heir led him to divorce two wives and have two wives beheaded: it led to religious revolution and the creation of the Church of England, the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the Reformation. The decisions that Henry made during his reign were to shape modern Britain.

All three of Henry VIII's legitimate children – Mary, Elizabeth and Edward – became Queens or Kings of England. They played an important role in both British history and the history of the royal palaces. However, none of them had children themselves, and on Elizabeth's death, the Tudor dynasty ended.



## LIFE IN THE 1500S - HOW DOES IT COMPARE?

The Queens were alive in the 1500s (a little over 500 years ago) and were considered royalty. Royalty only made up around 15% of the population - what was life like for the other 85% of the population?

### POPULATION

In 1500, the population of England was about 3 million (in 2022 the population will be over 56 million)! Due to yearly outbreaks of plague and sickness, the population stayed at about this number.

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

If you did manage to avoid sickness and plague, the average life expectancy was 50 years old.

### HYGIENE

Bathing was a rarity, even for the rich. It was said that a peasant could expect to be fully bathed just twice in their life; once, when they were born, and when they had died! Face and hand washing were more common, but knowledge of hygiene was non-existent. No one knew that germs could be spread by dirty hands!

### CHILDHOOD

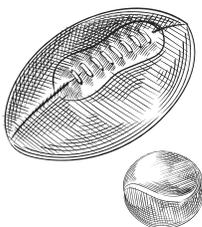
Most children would not attend school and very many would have died before they were six months old as disease would have been very common. As soon as possible, children joined their parents working on the land. They could not do any major physical work but they could clear stones off the land and they could be used to chase birds away during the time when seeds were sown.

### HOUSING

Peasants lived in housing called "cruck houses". They had a wooden frame that was plastered with a mixture of mud, straw and manure.

### ENTERTAINMENT

Football, hockey and handball were popular sports. Annual fairs were held in the city where outdoor entertainers, mummers, minstrels and puppeteers performed. Professional gamblers, minstrels and players could be found in the taverns.

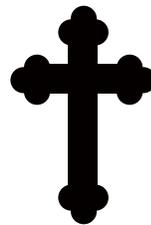


### TRAVEL

Travel was not easy because most of the roads were dirt tracks which only remained visible and free from growth because of frequent use. Travel was most hazardous in the winter months when rain or snow could obliterate the dirt tracks. Villages were few and far between and signposts a rarity.

### EDUCATION

Education was extremely limited and only available to the wealthy. Lessons started at sunrise and often did not finish until sunset. Pupils that did not complete their studies to the teacher's satisfaction were punished, usually by being whipped.



### RELIGION

It was law that everyone attend church on Sundays and Holy days unless they obtained special dispensation. It was forbidden to eat meat, butter or cheese on Fridays, Saturdays, during Lent, during Advent or on the eve of Holy days.

### PUNISHMENTS

Most people tried to obey the law since punishments for breaking laws were harsh. If they were found guilty of treason they would be hung, drawn and quartered. Women of any class could expect to be burned at the stake if found guilty of either treason or the murder of their husbands.

### HISTORICAL FIGURES

Shakespeare was born in 1564 and wrote a play about Henry VIII in 1613 (66 years after Henry VIII's death).





# KEY TERMS

Here are some key terms that you may hear in the lyrics of the show.

Before going to see SIX, familiarize yourself with this vocabulary to gain a better understanding of the world of the show.

## TUDOR

The House of Tudor was an English royal house of Welsh origin. Tudor monarchs ruled the Kingdom of England and its realms from 1485 until 1603, with five monarchs in that period: Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I.

## POPE

The head of the Roman Catholic Church. Religion was considered one of the most important features of modern European life, so the Pope was incredibly powerful.

## VATICAN

The authority and government of the Pope.

## LADIES-IN-WAITING

A female personal assistant at a Court, attending on a royal woman or a high-ranking noblewoman.

## CORONATION

The act of placement or bestowal of a crown upon a monarch’s head. The term also refers not only to the physical crowning but to the whole ceremony wherein the act of crowning occurs.

## BEHEADED

A mode of executing capital punishment by which the head is severed from the body. Considered an “honourable” form of death.

## HANS HOLBEIN

Hans Holbein the Younger was a German painter and printmaker who worked in a Northern Renaissance style, and is considered one of the greatest portraitists of the 16th century.





# MEET THE CREATORS OF SIX



Photo: Bruce Glikas

### **SIX was created by two friends.**

“Lucy and I were at Cambridge together. We ended up working on a lot of the same shows—she directed and I acted. We talked about writing a musical together some day. In 2017 the Cambridge University Musical Theatre Society asked for applications to take an original musical to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, so I applied. When I got the gig I asked Lucy to write it with me. I said, “I have an idea for a pop concert musical with the six wives of Henry VIII. Do you want to write it with me?” – Toby Marlow, Co-Creator

### **The Queens are influenced by three things: the historical Queens, pop icons, and the performers playing them.**

“SIX is told by the wives of Henry VIII—but as a girl group performing a pop concert for an audience. They’re sick and tired of everyone arguing over who’s the most important wife, and the Queens decide to hold a competition between them: whoever had the worst time in her marriage to Henry VIII will be crowned the leading lady of the girl group! The pop concert consists of each Queen singing a solo in order to stake a claim for the spotlight—but, without wanting to give too much away, not everything goes according to plan...”

“So much of the show is shaped by the individual six Queens performing onstage—and what each brings to her role and to the group dynamic. Even though each Queen had a palette of pop stars who inspired their character, the actual interpretation of them is super malleable. The performers have really made these roles their own—even taking inspiration from artists who weren’t around when we were first writing SIX. We have been so excited to see all these incredible performers’ versions of the Queens.” –Lucy Moss, Co-Director & Co-Creator

### **What makes SIX so special?**

“Toby and Lucy are telling a story that has to do with their history. Their friendship leaps off the pages. You can see and smell and taste the collaboration when you’re reading the score and the script.”

–Brittney Mack (Anna of Cleves)

**On the following pages, learn more about the influences for each Queen and reflect on these questions:**

- After learning more about the making of SIX and facts about each Queen - what do you expect to see? What do you hope to see?
- Do you have a friend that you like to make things with? What do you like to create? What is special about your relationship?
- If you were to write a pop song about a person in history, who would it be? Who would be your Queenspiration?

“My name’s Catherine of Aragon

Was married 24 years, I’m a paragon

Of royalty, my loyalty is to the Vatican

So if you try to dump me you won’t try that again...”

# Catherine of Aragon



Photo: Joann Marcus

**Birth and death:**

December 15, 1485 – January 7, 1536

**Place of birth:** Palace of Alcalá de Henares, near Madrid, Spain

**Education:** Embroidery, dancing, history, poetry, religion, law, Latin, French. Not English.

**Marriage 1:** to Arthur (Henry’s older brother) November 14, 1501 (aged 15)

**Marriage 2:** to Henry June 11, 1509 (aged 23)

**Children:** Mary, born February 18, 1516 (later Queen Mary I); 3 stillborn children; 2 died as babies; further miscarriages

**Interests:** Religion, sewing, dancing, a bit more religion

**Cause of death:** Probably a type of cancer

**Remembered for:** Her refusal to accept that her marriage was invalid; her faith; her dramatic speech to Henry at the court to judge the annulment of their marriage

**Did you know?** Catherine was Regent (whilst Henry fought in France in 1513) during the Battle of Flodden; when James IV of Scotland was killed in the battle she wanted to send his body to Henry as a present...

**Queenspiration:** Beyoncé and Shakira

Performed by: **Adrianna Hicks**

INSTA: @missadriannahicks

**School:** The University of Oklahoma’s Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre

- 1. What is your favorite part of the show to perform and why?** I really love performing the musical number “SIX” in the show. I think I enjoy it so much because it paints such a beautiful picture of multifaceted women uniting together, showing the audience, and the world, just how powerful we are.
- 2. How do you connect to your character/pop star icon?** I find that I connect to Catherine of Aragon by letting the fire of her story aid me in my expressions on stage, that I normally wouldn’t do on a day-to-day basis. And that has been so FUN because I love connecting to my more outspoken, fiery side through representing her story!
- 3. Anything else you would like students to know about you?** I absolutely love what I get to do every night and I hope to inspire someone else to follow their dreams, too.



“I’m that Boleyn girl, and I’m up next

See, I broke England from the Church, yeah I’m that sexy

Why did I lose my head?

Well my sleeves may be green, but my lipstick’s red...”



# Anne • Boleyn •

**Birth and death:** Probably 1501 – May 19, 1536

**Place of birth:** Blickling Hall, Norfolk, England

**Education:** In the Netherlands and also France; reformation thinking and debate, French

**Marriage:** January 25, 1533 (aged 31)

**Children:** Elizabeth, born September 7, 1533 (later Queen Elizabeth I), at least two miscarriages

**Interests:** Fashion, dancing, flirtation, collecting evangelical works

**Queen Links:** Lady-in-waiting to Catherine of Aragon

**Cause of death:** Executed on Tower Green, London

**Remembered for:** Headlessness; bringing about the break with the Pope; having a sixth fingernail

**Did you know?** Anne was fluent in French and would have acted as a translator during the visit of Emperor Charles V to court in 1522...

**Queenspiration:** Lily Allen and Avril Lavigne



Photo: Joan Marcus

Performed by: **Andrea Macasaet**  
INSTA: @andrea.cesyl

**School:** Canadian College of Performing Arts

**1. What is your favorite part of the show to perform and why?** I love dancing to “No Way.” The choreography is so much fun.

**2. How do you connect to your character/pop star icon?** One of the ways I connect with my character is through her love of fashion. Anne Boleyn definitely had style. Fashion is something I really enjoy.

**3. Anything else you would like students to know about you?** I sang “Stone Cold” by Demi Lovato & “Love On Top” by Beyonce when I auditioned for SIX.

“Jane Seymour, the only one he truly loved

When my son was newly born

I died, but I’m not what I seem

Or am I? Stick around, and you’ll suddenly see more...”

# Jane Seymour



**Birth and death:** 1507 or 1508 – October 24, 1537

**Place of birth:** Wulf Hall, Wiltshire, England

**Education:** Very conventional; running a household, needlework

**Marriage:** 30 May 1536 (aged 28 or 29)

**Children:** Edward, born 12 October 1537 (later King Edward VI)

**Interests:** Religious faith, obedience

**Queen Links:** Lady-in-waiting to Anne Boleyn

**Cause of death:** Hemorrhage after birth of Prince Edward

**Remembered for:** Being the “only one he truly loved”; having two troublesome brothers who fought over the regency of the young Prince after King Henry’s death

**Did you know?** While Anne Boleyn was still alive, Henry sent Jane a gift of money, which she refused, apparently saying there “was no treasure in this world that she valued so much as her honor”...

**Queenspiration:** Adele and Sia



Photo: Jean Marcus

Performed by: **Abby Mueller**  
INSTA: @abcmuell

**School:** Indiana University

- 1. What is your favorite part of the show to perform and why?** I love doing “Ex-Wives” because the opening is so epic and it really sets the stage for what’s to come!
- 2. How do you connect to your character/pop star icon?** I’ve really been enjoying rocking some long Adele-style nails, it helps me tap into that pop star vibe.
- 3. Anything else you would like students to know about you?** Thanks for supporting live art!



“Ich bin Anna of Cleves, Ja  
When he saw my portrait, he was like ‘Ja!’  
But I didn’t look as good as I did in my pic  
Funny how we all discuss that, but never Henry’s little pr-...”

# Anna of Cleves

**Also known as:** Anne of Cleves (the Anglicisation of her name)  
She is referred to as Anna here to distinguish between the two Annes & to honor the name she would have called herself in her own language.

**Birth and death:** 1515 – July 16, 1557

**Place of birth:** Schloss Berg, near Solingen, Germany

**Education:** Minimal, raised to become a minor Duchess; only spoke German

**Marriage:** January 6, 1540 (aged 24)

**Children:** None

**Queen Links:** Anna visited Katherine Howard once she became queen and bowed down to her.

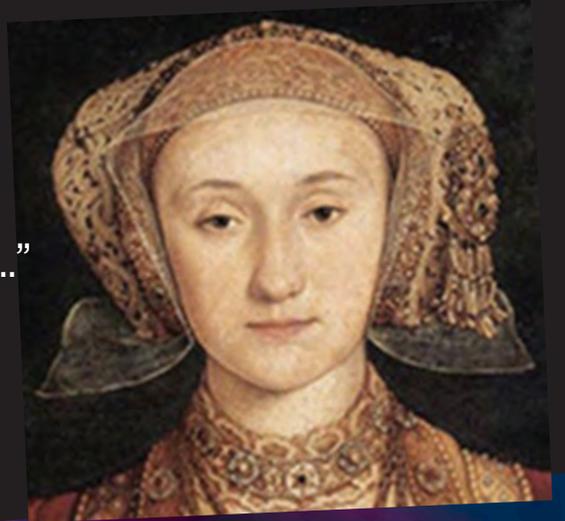
**Cause of death:** Probably cancer

**Interests:** Staying alive

**Remembered for:** Being chosen from her portrait and then rejected when Henry met her.

**Did you know?** When Henry first met Anna of Cleves he disguised himself, possibly imagining some sort of romantic reaction. When he kissed her, she is said to have turned away coldly at this hideous stranger molesting her; according to a witness, Lord Russell, he ‘never saw His Highness so marvelously astonished’...

**Queenspiration:** Nicki Minaj and Rihanna



Performed by: **Brittney Mack**  
INSTA: @BrittMack8

**School:** American Musical and Dramatic Academy

**1. What is your favorite part of the show to perform and why?** Dancing “No Way.” I have always wanted to be a backup dancer and “No Way” gives me that satisfaction. Dream fulfilled.

**2. How do you connect to your character/pop star icon?**  
So many ways. Mostly by swagger. Cleves has to be able to come to you naturally and honestly or she doesn’t work. Her dynamic in the show is not party girl. It’s self love and self truth, which is very different from “living your truth.” Her truth is in the script. That’s it. Nothing more or less. Tell her story and do her justice. She is not a joke or a throwaway Queen. She is the ONLY Queen that truly finds love and forgiveness for Henry, thus is able to celebrate her life in “Get Down.”

“Prick up your ears,  
I’m the Katherine who lost her head  
For my promiscuity outside of wed  
Lock up your husbands, lock up your sons  
K-Howard is here, and the fun’s begun...”



# Katherine Howard

**Birth and death:**

Probably 1523 – February 13, 1542

**Place of birth:** Norfolk House, Lambeth, London

**Education:** Brought up in Sussex as part of a large group of aristocratic young girls

**Marriage:** July 28, 1540 (aged 17)

**Children:** None

**Queens Links:** Lady-in-waiting to Anna of Cleves; cousin to Anne Boleyn.

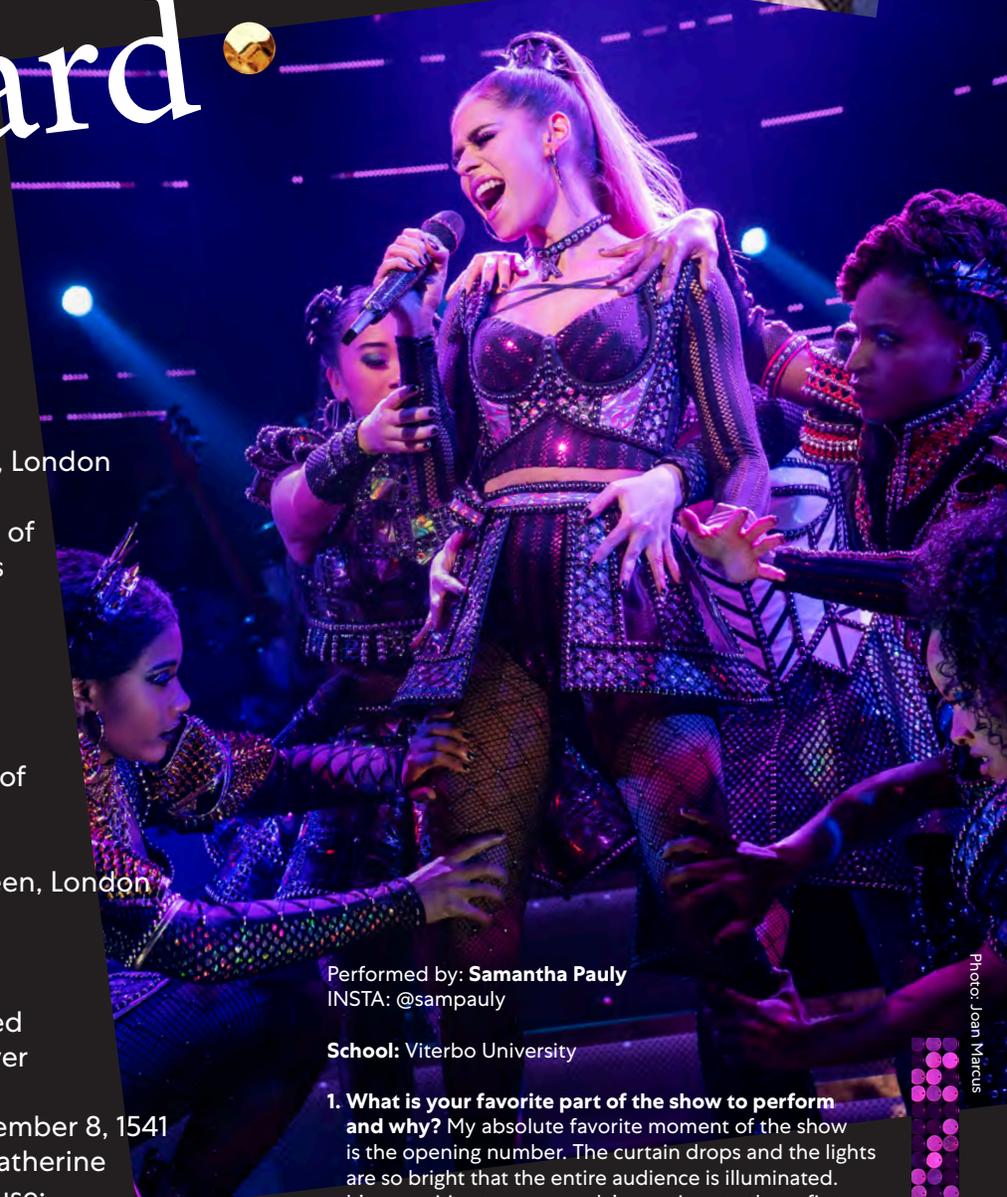
**Cause of death:** Executed on Tower Green, London

**Interests:** Religious faith, obedience

**Remembered for:** Being completely used (and abused) by those with more power

**Did you know?** From her arrest on November 8, 1541 to her execution three months later, Katherine stayed under house arrest at Syon House; in late January 1542, an Act was passed in parliament that made it treason for a woman to become the king’s wife without “plain declaration before of her unchaste life,” meaning Henry could have her killed...

**Queenspiration:** Ariana Grande and Britney Spears



Performed by: **Samantha Pauly**  
INSTA: @sampauly

**School:** Viterbo University

**1. What is your favorite part of the show to perform and why?** My absolute favorite moment of the show is the opening number. The curtain drops and the lights are so bright that the entire audience is illuminated. It’s so exciting to see people’s reactions to those first few moments.

**2. How do you connect to your character/pop star icon?** Interacting with the audience certainly helps. Their energy makes me feel like a pop star. I channel my inner Ariana Grande by singing in more of a pop style. I modify vowels, I don’t sing in a clean music theatre style, and I let a little air come through in my voice.

Photo: Joan Marcus

“Five down, I’m the final wife  
I saw him to the end of his life  
I’m the survivor - Catherine Parr  
And I bet you wanna know how I got this far...”

# Catherine Parr



Photo: Joan Marcus

**Birth and death:**  
Probably 1512 – September 5, 1548

**Place of birth:** Blackfriars, London

**Education:**  
Traditional ‘female’ accomplishments;  
French, Italian, Latin

**Marriage:**  
1. to Sir Edward Burgh, a courtier 1529-1533  
2. to John Neville, Lord Latimer 1534-1543  
3. to Henry VIII, July 12, 1543  
4. to Thomas Seymour May 1547 in secret

**Children:** A daughter (to Thomas Seymour)  
who died as a baby

**Queen Links:** Her mother was lady-in-waiting to  
Catherine of Aragon; friendly with her daughter  
Princess Mary

**Cause of death:** Childbirth

**Interests:** Writing books; encouraging education;  
Reformation

**Remembered for:** Surviving

**Did you know?** Catherine was the first woman  
in England to publish books under her own name  
and in English.

**Queenspiration:** Alicia Keys and Emeli Sandé

Performed by: **Anna Uzele** (Insta: @ms.uzele)

**School:** Texas State University

**1. What is your favorite part of the show to perform and why?** “Ex-Wives”. For me, there’s nothing more crucial than an opening number. Performing SIX is a constant energy exchange between actor and audience - and the first number is the launching pad for that relationship. I spend “Ex-Wives” paying close attention to the vibe of the room. Are the jokes landing for this group? Do they know every lyric by heart, or is this the first time they’re experiencing SIX? What age group am I performing for? Are the innuendos making them cackle or uncomfortable? What musicians are onstage with me tonight, and how does their unique style influence how I sing? Depending on the temperature outside and the number of seats filled, the acoustics of the room could be vastly different, as well as the mix coming through my inner ears. It’s a boatload of information, but I find it fascinating to calibrate and create the one-of-a-kind show each audience deserves!

**2. How do you connect to your character/pop star icon?**  
I connect to Parr through moments of stillness. Pretending to be a pop star every night comes with its own dose of imposter syndrome, and the moment you start doubting yourself, you start acting differently - less queenly. You start striving for the audience’s approval, throwing nonspecific energy every which way, and suddenly the lyrics of “I Don’t Need Your Love” stop ringing true. So I breathe. I unclench my jaw, drop my shoulders, and WILL myself to believe that I am enough. Because without that innate knowledge, Catherine Parr doesn’t work.

**3. Anything else you would like students to know about you?** I love kids! I spent the pandemic tutoring 3rd graders, and I think they’re some of the most brilliant and honest people on this planet.



# SIX ON BROADWAY – AUTHORS’ NOTES

Um. As if we just wrote that title - “SIX on Broadway.” ON. BROADWAY?!?! Help.

It’s actually WILD thinking back to “how it all began” and really, there are a whole load of potential origin stories for this show.

There’s one wherein the concept of “the six wives as pop stars” suddenly came to Toby in a vision in the back of a poetry class at our uni. He frantically scribbled down the idea, along with the phrase “need Lucy,” and the rest is...history ;) Then there’s another version that goes further back to an evening spent drinking wine, despairing over the gender disparity in meaty theatrical parts, and joking about writing a musical called “Live and Let Dido.” And then there’s another that goes even further back still to the formation of our friendship: when we went out on the town together and discovered that we are both aggressively enthusiastic dancers.

But the origin story that hopefully gives the best sense of where this piece has come from actually took place much later than these, during our first proper writing session together in January 2017. We already knew we had a slot at the Edinburgh Fringe to fill with an original show, thanks to the musical theatre society at our university. We also had the basic concept of “the six wives of Henry VIII, but - like - a pop group.” And we had some other criteria outlining the kind of show we wanted to write: e.g. it had to have an experimental form, it had to be full of pop bangers. We had very little else.

So in that initial meeting, we did two things. We first spent an inordinate amount of time thinking up increasingly obscure potential titles for the show - the first of which was “SIX.” But we also decided to write a kind of manifesto of what we were trying to achieve - a ‘six point plan’ (hehe) that we hoped could act as a guidepost to check ourselves against during the writing process.

We definitely fell short of our aims in some ways. For instance, it’s still up for debate whether or not the show actually passes the Bechdel test (oops). And in other ways, this manifesto feels like a relic of our own individual journeys discovering the discourse surrounding gender - a snapshot of a very specific moment in our lives in early 2017. Indeed, if we were to write this kind of document now, we’re sure the outcome would be considerably different. Nonetheless, this plan was essential in shaping our writing process and hopefully goes some way to explaining why the show exists in the way it does.

## It reads as follows...



Photo: Jenny Anderson



# SIX'S 'SIX-POINT PLAN'

(WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO)

- I. We want to provide a different perspective on the six Queens separate from their status as wives
- II. We will give female historical figures a voice to tell their own experiences - experiences that have, in the past, predominantly been told by men
- III. We aim to show that even 500 years later, there are still parallels to be found in the female experience
- IV. We will show that women can tell stories together that are interesting, engaging, clever, and funny - stories told by women do not have to be about or include men in order to be entertaining
- V. We plan to use the pop concert genre to enable this fun, silly, comic, and powerful story to be told exclusively by women - but not just "for" women - and in order to facilitate our third aim
- VI. All of the above needs to be done whilst above all acknowledging the silliness and campiness of its own genre and being self-aware of its own message; it should never be earnest or too sincere



Photo: Joan Marcus



# REFLECTIONS ON THE SHOW

Now that you have seen the show, have your students consider the questions below.

**Which SIX Queen:**

- Did you connect most with and why?
- Has the life story that would make the best movie?
- Would you actually like to know?

After they individually reflect, open up the discussion to the larger class.

**“WE ARE GONNA HELP YOU FIGURE OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL WHICH OF US IS THE QUEEN OF THE CASTLE...”**

Next, split the class into six small groups and assign each group a Queen. Each group will compare and contrast between society’s expectations of a happy life today compared to what would be considered a happy life for a woman in the early sixteenth century.

**“THE ONE YOU’VE BEEN WAITING FOR  
THE MYSTERY  
THE ONE WHO CHANGED HISTORY...”**



## HISTO-REMIX

Toby and Lucy wanted to write a show about the six wives of Henry VIII. In this activity using a similar process to how SIX was written, students will create their own version of a musical inspired by a historical figure(s).

### SUGGESTED STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

Reading | Integration of Knowledge and Ideas  
R.PK-12.7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Speaking and Listening | Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas  
SL.PK-12.5. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Connections | Concepts of Style, Stylistic Influence, and Stylistic Change  
ARTS.C.08.09. Identify the stylistic features of a given work and explain how they relate to aesthetic tradition and historical or cultural contexts.

**STEP 1** As a class read (or watch on Instagram) Toby and Lucy’s writing tips:

- 1. Write the kind of thing that you would want to see and not what you think what someone else would like. Chances are if you like what you are writing, someone else will as well.
- 2. Just write something. It’s so much easier to edit something terrible into something amazing than it is to write something fantastic right off the bat.
- 3. If you’re having trouble writing or are experiencing writer’s block - call a friend who’s a writer and bounce some ideas off them. There is nothing more inspiring than finding a collaborator that you really gel with.

**So pick up a pen and WRITE!** (To watch the video - check out the @sixbroadway Instagram feed)

**STEP 2** Individually, in pairs or small groups, decide on a person from history that you would like to learn more about. This could be someone that you learned about in school, have read, or heard about in conversations.

**STEP 3** RESEARCH! Do as much research as you can on this person. Be a detective - you are gathering information to help inspire you!

**STEP 4** Decide on form. Toby and Lucy were inspired by pop music and wrote a pop concert musical. What kind of music do you like to listen to? What kind of TV shows do you watch? What form inspires you? Hip Hop? TikTok? Horror? Podcast?

**STEP 5** Once you have decided on a form, think about the elements and successful people within that form. What qualities do they have? What qualities can you replicate in your piece?

**STEP 6** Start writing! If you feel stuck, refer back to Toby and Lucy’s writing tips. Don’t feel like you have to stay historically accurate. Remember...

### “SWITCHING UP THE FLOW AS WE ADD THE PREFIX”



# WRITING YOUR OWN NARRATIVE

What different types of power are shown by the SIX Queens? What power did they have in their lifetimes over people’s actual opinions, or their lives? What power can they be given as historical figures?

NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS  
TH:Cn10.1.II. Choose and interpret a drama/theatre work to reflect or question personal beliefs.

## **STEP 1**

Explain to your class the concept of taking control of your own narrative.

## **STEP 2**

Share the below prompts with your class and invite them to answer the questions.

What makes you special and different?

What is your superpower?

What kind of music makes you dance?

What qualities do you want to be known for?

What mark have you left on the world, so far?

What do you want to be known for?

## **STEP 3**

Once students have answered the questions, share them out as a class.



# INSPIRED TO LEARN MORE?

Resources excerpted from the A.R.T. SIX Toolkit

## TO READ

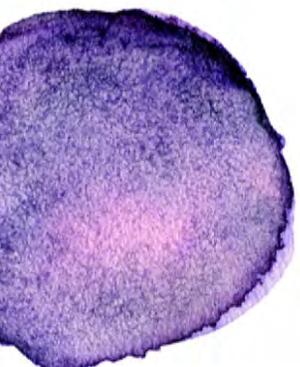
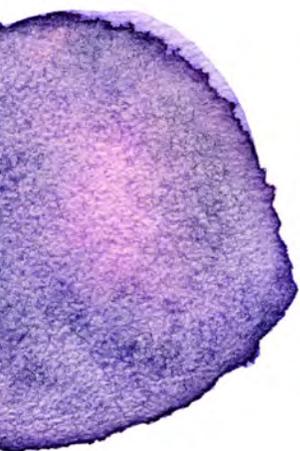
- *The Wives of Henry VIII* by Antonia Fraser - A narrative that deconstructs the stereotypes the six have been known as for centuries.
- *Divorced Beheaded Survived: A Feminist Reinterpretation of the Wives of Henry VIII* by Karen Lindsey - The stories of the six wives through a feminist lens. Another great insight to how the wives might've felt.
- *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* by Gladys Malvern - A historical narrative view of the lives of the six wives. It brings to light what their inner thoughts may have been.
- *Women and Tudor Tragedy: Feminizing Counsel and Representing Gender* by Allyna E. Ward - An academic look at gender in the Tudor era. It gives greater context of the society of the wives as a whole.

## TO LISTEN

- A recorded lecture/discussion about the six wives and the filming of the mini-series *Six Wives* with Lucy Worsley.
- A short podcast for children and their parents retelling the story of Henry VIII and his six wives in a narrative fashion.

## TO WATCH

- *Secrets of the Six Wives / Six Wives with Lucy Worsley* - A biographical mini-series with historical re-enactments from PBS.
- *The Ascent of Woman* - A four-part documentary series that highlights the importance of women in society over the course of 10,000 years.



## **16th Century Timeline of British History**

<https://intriguing-history.com/time-and-place-2/16th-century-1500-1599/>

## **Moynihan, Caitlin. (2021, October 4). Broadway.com, “SIX Star Brittney Mack Reveals the Secret Sauce of the Popular Musical”**

<https://www.broadway.com/buzz/201367/six-star-brittney-mack-reveals-the-secret-sauce-of-the-popular-musical/>

## **English Heritage, “Kings & Queens”**

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/kids/kids-rule-guide-to-kings-and-queens/interview-with-henry-viii-at-eltham-palace/>

## **Historic UK, “Henry VIII”**

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Henry-VIII/>

## **History Learning Site, “The Lifestyle of Medieval Peasants”**

<https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/medieval-england/the-lifestyle-of-medieval-peasants/>

## **“The Role of the Monarchy”**

<https://www.royal.uk/role-monarchy>

## **Foreman, Amanda. (2014, September). Smithsonian Magazine, “The Heartbreaking History of Divorce”**

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/heartbreaking-history-of-divorce-180949439/>

## **Wheeler, Heather. (2020, September 23). “What was England like in 1500?”**

<https://www.tudornation.com/what-was-england-like-in-1500/>



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### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

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