

ENTERTAINMENT | PERFORMANCE

# Site-specific We Players goes classical with 'Roman'

By **Lily Janiak**

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The cast of We Players' "Roman Women."

Lauren Matley / We Players

We Players have asked audiences to hike to the tops of Angel Island, Strawberry Hill in Golden Gate Park and Kennedy Grove in El Sobrante. They've taken us aboard a 19th century schooner as it sailed the San Francisco Bay. They've led us to Petaluma Adobe, Villa Montalvo, Alcatraz and Fort Point.

With its latest, the site-specific company heads to the Palace of Fine Arts, but emphatically not to the venue's theater. They're staging "Roman Women" at the outdoor rotunda.

The all-female ensemble created the show, which uses movement, dance and live music to flesh out the female characters of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar."

It will mark the company's first of two riffs on Shakespeare's play this year. Beginning in August, "Caesar Maximus" will use circus and opera to set the tragedy in the Gilded Age.

— *Lily Janiak*

**"Roman Women":** 6:30 p.m. Friday–Sunday, May 4–6. Through May 28. \$30–\$60. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St., S.F. [www.weplayers.org](http://www.weplayers.org)

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By **Lily Janiak**



Lily Janiak joined the San Francisco Chronicle as theater critic in May 2016. Previously, her writing appeared in Theatre Bay Area, American Theatre, SF Weekly, the Village Voice and HowlRound. She holds a BA in theater studies from Yale and an MA in drama from San Francisco State.

She can be reached at [ljaniak@sfchronicle.com](mailto:ljaniak@sfchronicle.com).

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