



# **A Menopausal Gentleman: The Solo Performances of Peggy Shaw (Triangulations: Lesbian/Gay/Queer Theater/Drama/Performance)**

*Peggy Shaw*

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"With classic butch finesse---that handsome combination of vulnerability and toughness---Peggy Shaw pieces together the challenges of growing up butch in the 1950s. Shaw is an engaging performer and inspired writer."

---*Gay Community News*

Obie-award-winning performer and writer Peggy Shaw has been playing her gender-bending performances on Off Broadway, regional, and international stages for three decades. Co-founder of the renowned troupe Split Britches, Shaw has gone on to create memorable solo performances that mix achingly honest introspection with campy humor, reflecting on everything from her Irish-American working-class roots to her aging butch body.

This collection of Shaw's solo performance scripts evokes a 54-year-old grandmother who looks like a 35-year-old man (in her classic *Menopausal Gentleman*); a mother's ambivalent ministrations to a daughter she treated like a son (in the raw *You're Just Like My Father*); Shaw's love for her biracial grandson, for whom she models masculinity (in the musically punctuated *To My Chagrin*); and a mapping of her body's long, bittersweet history (in the lyrical *Must: The Inside Story*, a collaboration with the UK's Clod Ensemble). The book also includes a selection of Shaw's other classic monologues and an extensive introduction by Jill Dolan, Professor of English and Theater and Dance at Princeton University and the blogger behind *The Feminist Spectator* website.

A volume in the series *Triangulations: Lesbian/Gay/Queer Theater/Drama/Performance*  
Cover photos by Eva Weiss (top) and Robin Holland/robinholland.com (bottom).

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