

"Vagina:" know it, use it, and love it

LAURA MILOT | STAFF WRITER

I have a vagina. Or, maybe that scares you. Would you prefer "twat"? Or, how about "cooter"? Perhaps those are too obvious; I have a "hooaaa," a "snatch," a "slit." Sorry, did those offend you as well? Well, I have a "pussy" or maybe you prefer derogatory words? I have a "cunt," a "fanny," a "naff."

Why do we have so many variations on a word that rhymes with Carolina and China? And out of all the words listed, vagina is seen as being the most vulgar word of them all. Why is it that the word vagina is dirty?

Eleven years ago, Eve Ensler wrote the episodic play "The Vagina Monologues," which is a world-renowned off-Broadway play, winning numerous awards including the Obie award and has starred celebrities such as Jane Fonda, Teri Hatcher and Oprah Winfrey.

It celebrates women, raises awareness about female abuse, domestic abuse and rape — all things that happen to hundreds of women daily, and yet it uses the word vagina.

Oh no!

Recently in Atlantic, Fla., at the Atlantic Theater, the production studio changed the name of "The Vagina Monologues" to "The Hooaaa Monologues" after a woman became upset because her younger niece had to see the word vagina on the theater marquee.

If you are a woman, you have a vagina. There is nothing wrong with having one and using the word vagina, its

proper name, is in no way vulgar, distasteful or gross. I feel that by using the word vagina with younger children it creates more mature, comfortable and respectable adults for the future.

I honestly do not understand why we can say, in our society, that a man has a penis and yet when we say a woman has a vagina, everyone cringes!

My schoolteacher would say, "Oh no, sweetie, you can't say vagina." And she would whisper, "It's the crotch region." As if by using the word "crotch," she made it less vulgar.

Even in famous TV shows such as

"Grey's Anatomy," scriptwriters were told not to use the word vagina anymore.

It became the "vajayjay." Whom are they trying to protect? Women know they have a vagina, and men know women have a vagina. Get over your juvenile sniggering and come to terms with the word.

So again, why is it that our society acts juvenile when the word "vagina" is tossed around? Obviously, the word does not come up in conversation very often; otherwise, I would not be a bit concerned.

However, when the word does roll off the tongue, sometimes it hits you like a thousand bricks. People get uptight, "You mean the 'vajayjay'?" It is not as if the word "vajayjay" implies a soda can; it is the vagina, obviously. Some people get uncomfortable with the word and have to have little pet names to get through the awkward conversation.

Now this is not always the case. Sometimes people are mature and can use the word vagina without sniggering or even busting a smirk. However, some people cannot help but giggle or even get defensive. "Don't call my vagina a vagina!"

The vagina is not bad. It gives life, engages in sexual activity, and is a by-product of reproduction.

Maybe it is because it starts with a "v" or because when one says vagina there is no beating around the bush, it means that area between your thighs that is the vagina.

I do not see anything wrong with nicknaming your vagina; maybe you are kinky. But when someone says vagina, and you get all uncomfortable with the word, I do see a problem. It means that you are immature and that you have little respect for the female anatomy.

Get over yourself. It is a vagina, not a "hooaaa." Stop being so damned conservative and come to terms with the fact that someone at some point named that region the vagina. It is what it is. Know it, love it, use it, but do not abuse its name.



MANAGERS OF THE ATLANTIC, FLA. THEATRE CHANGED THEIR MARQUEE BACK AFTER WRITER AND PRODUCER EVE ENSLER (ABOVE) AND ORGANIZERS DEMANDED THAT THE PLAY'S ORIGINAL TITLE, "THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES," BE USED.

VDAY.ORG

Anna Nicole Smith dies; child inherits dignity

KEVIN SMITH | STAFF WRITER

Just when you thought marrying a 90-year-old man couldn't put her in the public eye anymore, Anna Nicole Smith has managed to pull off her most controversial publicity stunt yet — death!

Smith was found dead in a Hard Rock hotel room two weeks ago. Her autopsy was inconclusive, but her past suggests that her death had something to do with being a drugged-up, gold-digging bimbo. Smith left behind six potential fathers as well as an incongruous family history for her surviving baby daughter.

Yeah, it's somewhat sad, blah blah blah, but let's take a look at the bright side: Anna Nicole Smith is an inspiration for lowlifes everywhere. Hear me out. This woman has simply packed more uselessness into her 39 years on Earth than even the most unaccomplished senior citizens, and she still can steal the front page away for doing something that every living thing does at some point. Simply amazing!

When Smith died, I didn't even know why she was famous. Over the years I have heard her name in headlines and in late-night monologue jokes. I started to do research and came to learn that she is famous for the following reasons: being a Playboy playmate, getting a boob job, starving a baby to make it look

sexy, marrying a 90-year-old, being overweight, losing weight with a fad product, having a reality TV show and, finally, dying.

In short, Smith was an embarrassment to humanity, and she topped it off by dying the way anyone of her caliber would want to die — with Slim-Fast and Methadone in her refrigerator. However, she still gets all this attention. Remember Gerald Ford? I didn't think so.

"So how does someone like this become so famous?" you ask. For an-



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SUPERMODEL ANNA NICOLE SMITH DIED IN JANUARY.

swers, I went to none other than Assistant Professor of English and Director of writing Cynthia Neerman.

"Part of why I think people continue to be fascinated by her and pay attention to her antics is because it's like watching a train wreck," said Neerman. "There's a combination for me — shock and embarrassment and horror — that I can't seem to take my eyes off of."

I agree with Cynthia mostly, but a train wreck implies that a train was at some point

going somewhere and doing something. I would argue that Anna Nicole Smith is more like a train that just doesn't work and spontaneously combusts on occasion.

This train would sit on the tracks not doing anything but blocking every important train and distracting everyone. Even though this train is completely useless, its sporadic, explosive episodes would serve to fascinate people perpetually. Smith did the same thing by stealing the headlines with her uselessness. Oh, the humanity!

Smith has even captured the heart of senior Noah Foreman.

"There are few things in this life that have gotten me through hard times that were not Anna Nicole Smith," said Foreman. "When I break it down I think about the formative moments in my life: my bar mitzvah, the first time I found a \$20 bill on the ground, and when Anna Nicole Smith died, because I thought it was hilarious. What is she doing dying? It's a publicity stunt. Everyone knows that. 'I want to be on TV some more so I'll die.' OK, thanks, Anna."

Anna Nicole Smith has ended her career at the top of her game with a message: if you want to be big-time, you've got to mess up big-time. So don't despair the next time you screw up or get an "F" in a class. That "F" stands for fame.