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**Cross-Dressing and Identity in Timberlake Wertenbaker's *New Anatomies***

Timberlake Wertenbaker (1951- ) rewrites Isabelle Eberhardt (1877-1904), a real historical woman who travels to Africa and stays in North African desert by cross-dressing, in *New Anatomies* (1981), discussing how clothes set up a person's identity. Problematizing the issue of cross-dressing, the playwright points out two opposite functions of cross-dressing: to subvert and to submit to patriarchal values. The paper is going to investigate why Isabelle is regarded as a weird woman at the turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century, what the differences between her cross-dressing in the desert and cities and other women's cross-dressing are, and how she transgresses social norms by cross-dressing to establish her gender, cultural, religious and national identities. Based on this discussion, the paper emphasizes that through rewriting history and retelling her-story, women who disappear in history do not vanish.