

From the producers of "Faces of America"

the
Portraits of
COURAGE
SERIES

AMERICAN WOMEN

Her Story



They changed their worlds and changed our lives.

Celebrate Women's History Month with this live theatrical presentation that ties in relevant issues for women of today by enacting the lives and experiences of women of the past.

Available for tour to your campus or workplace!

PORTRAITS OF COURAGE: American Women Having It All focuses on relevant topics women are dealing with today through the perspective of women who were at the forefront of change within these issues. By revisiting the lives of historical women, present generations can celebrate the accomplishments of those who paved the way, and glean inspiration to start their own path. From trailblazers to pacifists, these women made a conscious decision to improve their lives and the lives of those around them.

By using the strength of theatre as a means for social change, this live presentation speaks directly to the audience with two female actors, enhanced by video segments that act as an adhesive to the subject matter. Entertaining, enlightening and educational, this is the most unique way to explore and discuss current issues and historical events which will no doubt spark the audience into lively discussions.

Helen Keller - Anne Sullivan may have worked miracles for the young Helen, but Helen the adult went on to move mountains as a political activist and co-founder of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Considered a radical in the 20th century, she was a confirmed Socialist who worked towards reform for the blind, condoned birth control, and wrote in support of controversial mystics and spirituality.

Sylvia Rivera - An excellent way to learn what defines a woman is to study the life of Sylvia. Born male and abandoned at three years old, she began living on the streets at age eleven in a community of drag queens. Battling substance abuse and depression, Sylvia has been called the Rosa Parks of the modern transgender movement. But her work wasn't isolated to transgender issues. She also addressed questions of poverty and discrimination faced by people of color. Named in her honor, the Sylvia Rivera Law Project serves transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming people of New York City.

Mary Church Terrell - Elected class poet at Oberlin College in the 1880's amidst a primarily white male population, "Mollie" was the first African-American woman to earn a college degree. She later became the first black woman to be appointed to the Board of Education, and due to her activism with the likes of Frederick Douglass, was the president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

Sarah Winnemucca - Sarah was inducted to the Nevada Writers' Hall of Fame in 1993, but while living in the mid 1800's, faced criticism from both the Euro-American and Native American worlds. Belonging to the Paiute tribe in western Nevada, Sarah was educated in Carson City, became a school teacher and eventually a translator for the US Army: a position that meant she was not required to live on a reservation. Her observations inspired her to become a public speaker on the plight of her people, delivering nearly three hundred lectures on the east coast.

Margaret Sanger - Raised by a devout Catholic, Margaret's work as a nurse led her to meet women killing themselves with self-induced abortions. Indicted for obscenity, she penned the newsletter "The Woman Rebel," in which she coined the term "birth control." Margaret opened the first birth control clinic in the US, founded the American Birth Control League and worked internationally to promote her core belief that each woman is the absolute mistress of her own body.

Body Image - No female (and recently male) can escape the obsession with body image in today's world. Plagued by magazine images digitally manipulated to falsify perfection, anorexia, bulimia and addiction to plastic surgery have been borne. This character, created from interviews, is every young American woman facing the social pressures of being beautiful.

LOGISTICS

The crew consists of 3 people: 2 Performers and 1 Production Manager. They travel by air or by car depending on your location and schedule.

The Production Manager will take care of all your technical needs and can deal directly with your venue's Technical Director.

After the show, the Performers will facilitate a post-show discussion upon your discretion. The Performers will also be available for photos after the show as there is no photography or video during the performance.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

"Portraits" is a dramatic presentation and is ideally performed in theatres. However, with the adaptability of the set and the flexibility of our crew, it can be performed virtually anywhere. Below is a guideline of technical needs, which our Production Manager can easily reconfigure to your specific venue capabilities.

- Set-up time of two (2) hours or more prior to curtain
- Quick Change Area immediately adjacent to performance space
- Projector with hook-ups and ample length cords for laptop
- Sound System connected to projector
- Projection Screen or Backdrop for projection
- 2 Wireless Lavalier Microphones
- Music Stand

- Audio/Visual Technician
- Sound Board Operator
- Lighting Board Operator

Basic lighting plot available prior to arrival

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is "Portraits of Courage"?

A: "Portraits" is a 65 minute live theatrical presentation with a cast of two performers. Six historical female characters portrayed: Helen Keller, Alice Paul, Mary Walker, Eleanor Roosevelt, Sylvia Rivera - a transgender activist who founded the Gay Liberation Front, Gay Activist Alliance, and Street Transvestite Action Rev, Margaret Sanger, and Dorothy Day. The show is self-contained and travels across the country with costumes, props, video presentation, and lighting design. A production manager travels with the performers to take care of the technical needs.

Q: Are the stories true?

A: The show is written from historical facts. The characters and experiences portrayed are all true.

Q: Does it have to be performed in a theatre?

A: The ideal venue for the show would be a theatre. However, the show is often presented in multi-purpose rooms, lecture halls, auditoriums, hotel ballrooms, etc. The production manager will work with you to create the right atmosphere in whatever space is available to you.

Q: Is it appropriate for children?

A: "Portraits" is based on fact and contains some issues of violence in American history. The most appropriate age would be high school and above.

Q: What if I can't meet the technical needs in the tech pack?

A: The tech pack is written with the ideal venue of a full scale theatre, but we are extremely flexible and will work with the demands/limitations of your chosen space. If you have specific concerns, please call us at the number below. Our motto is "We'll make it work!"

Q: Who can book the show?

A: Our shows are available to any group from colleges to corporate to community events. Government agencies as well as high school districts have selected our shows to celebrate cultural awareness or for diversity training. The show is also great for conferences and can fulfill the diversity requirement.

Q: Can we videotape the performance? What about photographs?

A: Unfortunately, there can be no videotaping of the show. We do not recommend photography during the show as it is very distracting to both the audience and the performers. However, if it must be done, there can be no flash use and the photographer must stay on the sidelines and not directly in front of the stage. The best time to take photos is after the show when the performers can pose specific shots. Permission granted to photographers allows for Will & Company's promotional use of any and all photographs related to the show.

Q: Is the script available for purchase?

A: Not currently, but we hope to have the script with a study guide available soon.

Q: How do I book the show?

A: Call us at the number below or email our office.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: We traditionally work on a sliding scale with special pricing for colleges and non-profits. Please call the number below or email to receive a quote.