

In Honor of Women's Equality Day  
WCH's Women's Studies presents

BETTE YEAGER

in her original play

WOMEN GO TO OF HEART

Saturday, August 20, 2000

7:30 p.m.

WCH's Chan Auditorium (Administrative Science Building)

General Admission: \$12


Friends of Women's Studies: \$10.

Pre-Show Lecture at 6:30 p.m.


Reception immediately following show

student

Premiere Performance, August 26, 2000  
The University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Chan Auditorium



# WOMEN GREAT OF HEART



**Hallie Farmer and Pattie Ruffner Jacobs**

An original play by Bette Yeager

Starring **Bette Yeager**

Directed by Ron Harris

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

The 80th anniversary of the ratification of the  
19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

*"The right of citizens of the United States  
to vote shall not be denied or abridged by  
the United States or by any State on account  
of sex...."*

A production of the UAH Women's Studies Program  
and the American Association of University Women  
of Huntsville

## Women Great of Heart: Hallie Farmer and Pattie Ruffner Jacobs

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|--|--|
| Actor/Playwright .....                   | Bette Yeager   |
| Director .....                           | Ron Harris   |
| New York Director/Theatrical Coach ..... | Elizabeth Perry  |
| Lighting and Sound Design .....          | Doug Bennett   |
| Sound Engineer .....                     | Gus Roberts  |
| Costume and Set Design .....             | Ron Harris   |
| Costume Construction .....               | Allison Berger   |
| Bette Yeager's Assistant .....           | Anna Sue Courtney  |
| Historical Consultants .....             | Lynne Rieff, Marlene Rikard,<br>Carolyn Hinshaw Edwards, and Hollinger Barnard   |
| Script Consultants .....                 | Ron Harris, Randy Hall,<br>Elizabeth Perry, Patricia Sammon                      |
| Humanities Advisor .....                 | Lynne Rieff  |
| Graphic Artist .....                     | Karen Rouse  |
| Project Director .....                   | Rose Norman  |
| Lobby Displays .....                     | Anna Sue Courtney  |
| Video Documentary .....                  | Bob Crump  |
| Reception Catering .....                 | Wild Rose Café   |
| "Sisters We" .....                       | Susan Clark, Carol Crosslin, Jill Fletcher,<br>Angela Lucas, and Janet Underwood |

**Setting:** The play opens in Columbiana, Alabama in 1954 with Professor Hallie Farmer, and shifts to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1915 for Pattie Ruffner Jacobs.

### Historical Notes:

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibited the states from denying the right to vote based on sex. Nevertheless, Alabama and many other states maintained voting requirements, such as the poll tax and literacy tests, that prevented women and minorities from voting until long after 1920. Alabama finally ratified the 19th Amendment in 1954, 34 years after it had taken effect. In 1964, the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibited states from denying the right to vote based on failure to pay poll taxes or any other tax. Alabama began allowing women to serve on juries in 1966. The Alabama Constitution of 1901 remains in effect today, with 665 amendments; 46 more proposed amendments are on the November 2000 ballot.

Research, writing, and production of this play were made possible in part by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama Humanities Foundation, and the UAH Humanities Center, Alabama Representative Sue Schmitz, and by donations and matching funds from the benefactors listed on the enclosed sheet.



## Acknowledgments

**Historical Research:** In addition to the historical consultants who have worked on this play, Bette Yeager thanks the Department of Archives and Manuscripts, Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham, Alabama, for access to the Pattie Ruffner Jacobs Papers, and the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama, for access to the Hallie Farmer Papers. Thanks also go to Pattie Ruffner Jacobs' grandson, John Hillhouse, and his wife Virginia Hillhouse, and to the colleagues and students of Hallie Farmer, especially Dr. Ethel Rasmussen. Interviews with these people greatly assisted in bringing to life these *Women Great of Heart*.

**Theatrical Support.** In addition to the theatrical consultants for the play, Bette Yeager has been assisted by many other theatre people. Tom McClellan, teacher of a playwrighting workshop, and fellow classmates Rusty Bynum and Jean Greenwood, were audience members and helpful critics for the earliest drafts of *Women Great of Heart*. They joined Jane Kilbride, Beth Thames, Bob Baker, Randy Hall, Carolyn Edwards, Lynne Rieff, Rose Norman, Bob Crump, and Anna Sue Courtney at a workshop performance two weeks before the premiere. Ms. Yeager would like to express her special thanks to Elizabeth Perry, Broadway actor/playwright, who mentored her through the dramatization process and who directed the first staged reading of *Women Great of Heart* for The American Renaissance Theatre Company (ARTC) in New York City. Ms. Perry is the co-founder of ARTC, a developmental and producing group of theatre artists which has been producing new works for twenty-six years.

**Production Support:** Beth Twente and Twente Productions, Decatur.; Bob Baker, Renaissance Theatre at Lincoln Center (Huntsville), Alan Davis, and Karen Lynn Parker.

**Photographs** of Hallie Farmer and Pattie Ruffner Jacobs are courtesy of the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame, Judson College, Marion, Alabama.

## Benefactors

Writing and production of *Women Great of Heart* would not have been possible without the aid of grants and financial donations from the following people and organizations.

### Grants

Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA)  
Alabama Humanities Foundation  
UAH Humanities Center  
The Honorable Sue Schmitz, Alabama House of Representatives

### Matching Funds for the ASCA Grant

Mevatec  
Uwohali  
Women's Economic Development Council  
Madison County Women's Political Caucus  
UAH Women's Studies Program

### Additional Donations

The Honorable Jeff Enfinger, Alabama Senate  
The Honorable Jim Haney, Alabama House of Representatives  
American Business Women's Association (Ala-Hunt chapter)  
John Hendricks Fund at UAH  
Ruth Hindman Foundation  
Signature Gallery  
Precision Graphics Associates  
UAH Office of Governmental Relations

## Thanks to

Several people not on our consulting budget or planning committee generously donated their time and expertise to this project. We owe special thanks to **Annie Harris**, UAH Women's Studies Staff Assistant, for handling contracts, budgets, and innumerable details, working overtime, and keeping us afloat in many deep and muddy waters.

**Cassandra Marshall**, Communication Arts Student Assistant, for designing the tickets.

**Sandy Hardiman** for creating the display about the 1901 Constitution.

**Student Volunteers** Teresa Cross, Elizabeth Hankins, Rebecca Krefting, Susanna Leberman, and Rachel Orton for assisting on the day of the performance.

Thanks again to **Shaver's Bookstore** and **Wild Rose Café** for selling tickets.



## Sisters We

"Sisters We" is an innovative women's *a cappella* quartet. Accomplished musicians all, this quartet has a unique style and sound created by the combination of their individual talents. These women have performed individually, as members of larger musical groups, and their quartet has been performing in the Huntsville area since June of this year. "Sisters We" enjoys a wide range of musical styles, and plans to add to their repertoire for future performances.

### Suffrage Songs (pre-show)

These three selections are taken from Gerri Gribi's women's music webpage <http://www.creativefolk.com/folk.html>, and from *Give the Ballot to the Mothers: Songs of the Suffragists* by Francie Wolff (1998). This songbook uses many traditional melodies with words created to support and embrace the suffrage cause.

Oh Dear, What Can the Matter Be?      Words by L. May Wheeler

Columbia's Daughters      Words by Harriet H. Robinson  
Music: Hold the Fort

Yellow Ribbon      Words by Marie Le Baron  
Music: Wearing of the Green

### Other Feminist Songs (during reception)

Sit Down Sisters      A Traditional Spiritual

Mothers of Our Country      Words and music by Janet Underwood  
Accompanist, Carol Crosslin

A song of remembrance for the women of America's past and their fight for freedom.

Sisters We      Words and music by Janet Underwood  
A celebration of the unity of women.

## Columbia's Daughters

Words by Harriet H. Robinson

Music: Hold the Fort

Hark: the sound of myriad voices

Rising in their might!

'Tis the daughters of Columbia

Pleading for the right.

Chorus:

Raise the flag and plant the standard

Wave the signal still;

Brothers, we must share your freedom

Help us and we will.

Great Republic, to thy watchword

Wouldst thou faithful be,

All beneath thy starry banner

Must alike be free.

(repeat chorus)

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## The Yellow Ribbon

Words by Marie Le Baron

Music: Wearing of the Green

Oh, we wear a yellow ribbon upon our woman's breast,

We are prouder of its sunny hue than of a royal crest;

'Twas God's own primal color, born of purity and light,

We wear it now for liberty, for justice and for Right.

'Tis just a hundred years ago our mothers and our sires

Lit up for all the world to see, the flame of freedom's fires;

Through bloodshed and through hardship they labored in the fight;

Today we women labor still for Liberty and Right.

(Update verse and chorus by F. Wolff, 1997):

We have been through wars and poverty, pollution and the bomb;

Our nation needs our women to be dutiful and calm;

We remember our foremothers, Carrie Catt and Susan B.,

As we cast our votes for tolerance, for peace and liberty.

We still wear that yellow ribbon upon our woman's breast,

We are prouder of its sunny hue than of its royal crest;

'Twas God's own primal color, born of purity and light,

We wear it now for justice, equal pay, and equal rights.



### **Pattie Ruffner Jacobs (1875-1939)**

Early in the 20th century, the energetic president of the Alabama Equal Suffrage Association, Pattie Ruffner Jacobs, traversed the state encouraging support for woman suffrage. In 1915, she and her colleagues organized 53 suffrage leagues across the state and collected over 10,000 signatures on the suffrage petition they presented to the Legislature. Convinced that democracy did not exist as long as women were excluded from the ballot box, she argued eloquently in the state and the nation.



### **Hallie Farmer (1881-1960)**

During the 1930s, 40s and 50s, Hallie Farmer, a history and political science professor at Alabama College for Women (now the University of Montevallo), took up the suffrage mantle as she encouraged women to stop "pussy-footing around" and take a more active part in government. She lobbied for prison reform, a repeal of the poll tax, the establishment of a merit system, and a re-write of the Constitution of 1901. The late Senator John Sparkman called Hallie Farmer "one of the most active and able persons we ever had in Alabama."

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### **A Note from the Playwright**

In the spring of 1999, I got a call from Rose Norman. Would I be interested in doing a little something to help celebrate Women's Equality Day that August? Having had great fun working with Rose and the UAH Women's Studies Program before, I quickly said yes. It ought to be easy to pull something together in a few months. As a teacher I had the summer free to play around with ideas. Rather quickly, however, our notions about the "little something" began to grow. Grants were written, consultants were hired, committees were formed, artists were approached – a year passed. Many times last winter, when I was drowning in research and wondering where the play was, I would hear from Patricia Sanfmon or Elizabeth Perry or Lynne Rieff, saying just the right words to lift my spirits. And support came for Rose's end of the work, too. Time after time, she would need a little more financial support for some part of the project and, almost miraculously, it would come. We began to shake our heads in wonder, and laugh. Now, a year later, we're premiering *Women Great of Heart*, celebrating the lives of Hallie Farmer and Pattie Ruffner Jacobs. But we are also celebrating the lives and work of the galaxy of women and men who supported this project with their time, money, ideas, and words of encouragement. We have all come to believe that Hallie Farmer and Pattie Ruffner Jacobs are women whose story needs to be told. We hope you'll agree.

*Bette Yeager, July 2000*



## **PLANNING COMMITTEE: Women's Equality Day 2000**

Committee Chair: Dr. Rose Norman, English Dept. and Women's Studies, UAH  
Hollinger Barnard, historical consultant, Birmingham, AL  
Debbie Beupri, Director of Education, EarlyWorks museum, Huntsville, AL  
Dr. Waymon Burke, History & Political Science Department, Calhoun Community College, and the Center for the Study of Southern Political Culture  
Dr. Sandra Carpenter, Psychology Dept., and Director of Women's Studies, UAH  
Natalie Darnell, UAH student  
Carolyn Edwards, historical consultant, Huntsville, AL  
Barbara Lucero, Federation of Republican Women  
Sandy Hardiman, UAH Women's Studies student  
Mary Holdsambeck, Huntsville AAUW  
Cindy Hughey, UAH Women's Studies student  
Dr. Lillian Joyce, Art & Art History Department, UAH  
Elaine Lynch, Mad. Co. Board of Registrars & Democratic Women of Alabama  
Dr. Andrie Reeves, Political Science Department, UAH  
Toni Reynolds, Community Volunteer, Activist  
Dr. Lynne Rieff, History and Political Science, University of North Alabama  
Dr. Marlene Rikard, History Department, Samford University  
Dr. Carol Roach, Huntsville AAUW  
Barbara Sikorski, Federation of Republican Women  
Layla Skinner, UAH Women's Studies student  
Pam Smith, Grissom High School English Dept. and Huntsville AAUW  
Dr. Sherri Smith, Communication Arts Department, UAH  
Dr. Suzanne Thurman, History Department, UAH  
Hope Walls, UAH Women's Studies student  
Mary Beth Walker, Office of the President, UAH  
Nancy Worley, Huntsville AAUW

## **Become a Friend of Women's Studies!**

Women's Studies at UAH is an academic program focusing on the contributions, perspectives, and experiences of women in all areas of human endeavor. Women and men may earn a minor that develops a multidisciplinary understanding of our world. Friends of Women's Studies (FWS) is the community outreach arm of this academic program. The goals of FWS include supporting community involvement in Women's Studies events, sponsoring cultural activities and events that honor and empower women, supporting women scholars, artists, and performers, and fostering discussion of issues affecting women's lives. For further information or to join, call the UAH Women's Studies program, 256/824-6210.

**Future performances** of *Women Great of Heart* are scheduled for the Performance Center in the Guillot University Center, University of North Alabama, on Thursday, September 21, and the Hoover Library Theatre (Birmingham), on Saturday and Sunday, November 11-12. For information on bookings, call 256/723-2432.

The producers wish to thank **Precision Graphics Associates**,  
3303 Governors Dr., Huntsville, AL, for donating printing of this program.