



Women's Rights Study Guide

Interactive Plays

Kitty's unique interactive plays weave history, literature, manners, customs, dance and music into theatrical presentations where audience members - both teachers and students - portray the key characters and historical figures of the times. Great sensitivity is used when involving participants, as some folks would prefer to simply sit back and watch the antics of their comrades.

In order to set good examples of theatre etiquette, it is respectfully requested that teachers attend programs without papers or homework in hand.

Women's Rights

Nashville, TN (1920) The show focuses not only on the various ways women had been oppressed during the 19th and early 20th centuries but also on the men who came to their aid. The program opens with the Tennessee legislature voting on whether or not to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. The story then shifts to the beginning of the women's movement at the 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention in London, England. Leading suffragists are then introduced. After the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848 is depicted, Susan B. Anthony arrives and her contribution to the movement is celebrated. As the 19th century waned, the social and economic climate changed dramatically for women. The exploitation of women in the workplace is then re-enacted. Women did gain some freedoms throughout their 72-year struggle. This is demonstrated by a free-spirited dance in a dance hall. The program concludes with the announcement of the legislative voting results.



Siga Schoennwolf

Miss Schoennwolf is a fictitious working class woman, living in New York City. She emigrated from Lithuania years ago. After witnessing first-hand the exploitation of women, she joined the fight for women's suffrage in spite of all the difficulties.



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Performance Objectives

Create a supportive environment whereby students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by

- Sharing the challenges and frustrations women endured in order to obtain their rights, particularly with little power to execute changes
- Demonstrating the various ways key men supported women's rights

Pre-Show Preparation

Familiarize students with 19th century events e.g. slavery, the abolitionists & the passage of the 14th Amendment giving all men the right to vote

Discuss the myriad of rights denied to women e.g. the right to attend college, own property, keep children in cases of divorce, keep wages, address the public, testify in a court of law, etc.

Discuss with students the Industrial Revolution underway at the turn of the century and the numerous new opportunities available to women to leave the home and work in factories (sweatshops), bakeries, schools, etc.

Post-Show Activities

Discuss with students the ways our modern life differs from their great-grandmothers. What freedoms and rights do we take for granted?

Have each student choose a powerful woman living between 1820 and 1920. Assign a report be made on how this historic woman pursued her dreams despite the obstacles.

The Artist

Having developed her unique style of interactive theatre since 1987, Kitty combines her passion for history with her love of theatre to create 16 different high-energy shows.

Ms. Jones brings 4000 years of history and literature to life in programs ranging from *The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt* to *Women's Rights*. Since 1996, she has written, choreographed, produced and performed her own original material for Kit's Interactive Theatre. Kitty Jones has appeared on TV, Film and the stages of New York.

