

Study Guide For Teachers

Anne Pasquale *in* *Liberty Belles*

presented by

Young Audiences

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Inspired by her grandmother's tales, Anne Pasquale has created a program based on the stories of female immigrants from many cultures. She uses these stories, as well as songs accompanied by a professional guitarist, to explore this nation's cultural diversity and common heritage. Through story, song and characterizations the audience journeys to Ellis Island to encounter Europeans, hears the ancestral tale of Harriet Tubman, and experiences the lively Mexican culture of the Southwestern immigrants. Children emerge with a new-found appreciation for the courageous women who made so many of us Americans.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Women in the United States have traditionally had more freedom than their counterparts in other areas of the world such as Europe and Asia. This is a direct result of women being an integral part of creating a new nation, settling an untamed wilderness, and fervently working for such causes as anti-slavery, child labor laws and women's suffrage.

Discuss how today's women's lives are different from those living one hundred and two hundred years ago.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

Take some time to familiarize your students with the following historical figures:

Emma Lazarus- The young Russian woman who wrote the "New Colossus," the poem which lies at the base of the Statue of Liberty and begins "Give me your tired, your poor..."

Harriet Tubman- The very brave African-American woman who escaped to freedom from a Maryland plantation in 1849 and, one year later, assumed the position of conductor on the Underground Railroad (a series of paths and hiding places, run by white and African-American abolitionists, which led slaves out of the South across to freedom in the North.) Despite the \$40,000 reward slave owners offered for her capture. Miss Tubman was often referred to as "General Tubman" and "Moses" because of her daring rescues. She led some 300 slaves, including her own parents, to freedom.

LEARNING GOALS

- To bring the story of American immigration to life
- To highlight the courage of women as a vital part of that immigration experience
- To encourage cultural acceptance and awareness

Grades: k-9, 250 Audience Limit

AFTER THE PROGRAM

1. Pose the question: How many of you have ever moved from another state, country, or neighborhood? List difficulties and benefits of the transition. Compare your experience with the slaves' or immigrants' experience.
2. Pose the question: How many students are American-born citizens? If some are not, have those from a foreign land describe their first impressions and/or expectations of American life.
3. Read students the text of Emma Lazarus' poem that appear at the base of the Statue of Liberty. Ask students to discuss why this poem has proved meaningful for so many immigrants to America.
4. To illustrate how very difficult life might have been for the first Americans, ask one student to communicate with another English-speaking student using only gibberish.

RESOURCES

Hartmann, Edward G. American Immigration. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Lerner Publications Co., 1979.

McGovern, Ann. Wanted Dead or Alive: The True Story of Harriet Tubman. New York: 1965.

Morrison, Joan, and Zabusky, Charlotte Fox. American Mosaic. Pittsburg: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1980.

Patterson, Lillie. Meet Miss Liberty. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1962.

Ronstadt, Edward F. Borderman Memoirs of Federico Jose Maria Ronstadt. New Mexico: The University of New Mexico Press, 1993.

Shapiro, Mary J. Ellis Island. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1991.

Sterling, Dorothy. The Story of Harriet Tubman Freedom Train. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1954.

DEFINITIONS, PEOPLE, AND PLACES

Ellis Island- The site of a former naval arsenal that became an immigrant reception center, located at the southernmost tip of Manhattan.

Immigrant- A person who migrates or moves from another country and sets up permanent residence.

Liberty- Freedom from control, interference, obligation, and/or restriction.

Statue of Liberty- A gift from France dedicated in 1886, this famous lady stands 151 feet and 1 inch high in Manhattan's harbor and lights the way for countless Americans.

Luisa Espinel- The daughter of the Mexican immigrant Federico Ronstadt, who migrated from Sonora in 1885 to learn the trade of a carriage maker and also formed the locally famous Club Filarmonico. Aunt to the famous pop singer Linda Ronstadt, this woman was yet another Ronstadt superstar. Having studied in Spain and Mexico, she made a career of singing the songs, dancing the folkloric dances and telling the stories of her Spanish heritage. Later in life she would publish Canciones de Mi Padre (Songs of My Father) and this family treasure would later be handed down and re-released by her niece, Linda.

Theresa Vanelli- An Italian immigrant whose father was an innkeeper and whose mother died when Theresa was only three years old. She journeyed to America in 1902 and wed a Mr. Angelo Sauro in 1903. Her marriage was pre-arranged- she had known Angelo for only three days before being married to him for 75 years. She was a devout Catholic, a fine storyteller, and a wonderful grandmother. Anne Pasquale is her granddaughter.

Clara Mott- A fictional Quaker character drawn from the lives of various Quaker woman such as Prudence Crandell, Laura M. Towne, and Sarah F. Smiley, who devoted their lives to the education of African-Americans during a time prior to and during the Civil War, when strict laws were in place that would imprison or cause harm to anyone who did so.

ARTIST INFORMATION

Actress and writer Anne Pasquale has been performing and writing for children's audiences for over a decade. She is a founding member of the Patchiddy Players Children's Theatre. A member of The Actor's Studio, Anne has appeared in numerous Off-Broadway productions such as "Fallen Angels," "Life at the Bottom" and "Challenge Her." Paul O'Keefe's stage credits include Godspell, Groundhog and Job. He has shared the stage with such well-known names as Patty Duke, Barbara Cook. The Drifters and The Shirelles.