

SUMMER/FALL 2006

Dear Diary,

This was something entirely different, just a day after 365 Days, 365 Plays. It was a cold but lovely place, New Hampshire, I've never been and never thought I would have a chance to go. I'd love to go back because it was gorgeous! I still won't ski or ride a big, scary horse, but I'd hike through the woods with a guide from the Franklin Pierce women's leadership organization any time. They laughed and joined in to our "Feminists Are Funny" show like no audience I have seen. They had amazing questions and lots of enthusiasm about making the world a safe and equal place for everyone. I signed my first banana and felt so proud, I almost pounded my chest. I refrained, mostly because that kinda hurts. The report was that this was the largest audience the Campus Activities Organization had ever drawn. Yea! Guerrillas! I didn't quite know what to expect from a group of kids who went to school way out in the woods, but I guess a beautiful, quiet place is always a good place to think great thoughts.

See ya later,
Ethel

Dear Diary:

12.05.06

Tonight Aphra, Ethel and I performed a new version of our show "Feminists Are Funny" for students at Franklin Pierce College, NH. It was a freezing New England evening, yet we received a warm and heart-felt greeting from all who welcomed us! The audience was packed with engaged and enthusiastic students and community members. We were told that it was the best crowd they have seen turn out for an event. Clearly this is a place where feminists- not to mention FUNNY feminists- are appreciated! Also it looks like we have a new Baboon Boy... Our sound guy, not mentioning any names, is definitely a Guerrilla-at-heart: with us all the way! Thanks Franklin Pierce for your hospitality. Keep rockin' out with your innovative selves! I can't wait to meet the future leaders you're teaching now!

Peace, love and solidarity,
Eva

North Carolina Diary:

We arrived in the quiet town, Cullawhee, home to West Carolina University on the eve of the congressional election. I couldn't believe the beautiful colonial alumni house we stayed in right on campus. We deemed in the official Guerrilla Girls On Tour sorority house, Rama Lamda Ding Dong, and christened it with Moose Tracks ice cream and late-night election parties.

Our poster making workshop the next day went really well; there were about 40 students there and they came up with great posters on all sorts of topics from animal rights to parking on campus.

My favorite part of the trip (besides the Moose Tracks ice cream) was the performance on Wednesday. There were well over 500 people there and they were a lively, rambunctious crowd. "Silence is Violence" went really well; nothing like some silly dance moves to "Girls" by the Beastie Boys to get the crowd pumped! The true messages: the history of women in theatre, feminism and date rape prevention among other things seemed to really come through and we had some wonderful discussions with students and teachers after the show. I think we even got a social activist group started up that very night, the Catamounts for Change... Grrrrr!

Later,
Anne Sexton

Dear Diary,

It's been a lot of fun working with GGOT. We worked so hard on our show, Feminists are Funny. On opening night, as we stood behind the curtain, waiting to start, all of our rehearsals seemed like a blur. All I knew was that it was time. I was nervous because my mom was in the audience, and she hadn't seen me in a show in, like, a year. I wanted to be really good. I got that feeling like I had to pee. I always get that feeling before I start a show, and I never really have to.

So, we went out, and it started. We weren't screwing up! Unlike in the dress rehearsal, things were going great. Everyone was remembering their lines! Anne didn't fall! I didn't have a coughing fit! Then, we got to the very end, the "Oh the Joys of Being a Woman Playwright!" section, and I couldn't remember a line that I had NEVER forgotten. "What's this all about?!", I was thinking to myself. But thankfully, Anne Sexton recognized my suffering, and made a gesture that helped me remember. The rest of the show went on perfectly, and my mother was very proud.

Lots o love,
Josephine Baker

Dear Diary,

The big day is here. Bringing the G.G. to NYC. It is a long day. We will end up doing the show nearly 3 times before we can go have some bananas. As with any new show we are tweaking it up to the last minute. Our first time seeing the slides on the big screen is funny and cool and moving. The sight of my "this is not an invitation to rape me" poster takes the wind out of me. As Gracie, I try to get all the laughs. The sight of my sobering "invitation" reminds me of the important message behind all the laughter.

I am excited and curious to see how New Yorkers will react to our message. Will they laugh? Or be too cool for school.

Dear Diary,

We finished the show. And the answer is: Yes the New Yorkers did laugh and have a great time. lots of verbal reactions and shout outs as well as laughter. A nice big crowd. The show is a work out. We had to keep the energy really high. A challenge. But I think we did it. It was a surprise to see where the big audience reactions were. As this was the premiere, what the audience was going to do was the big un-known. I think we handled it well. After the show 3 ladies came over and had us sign the posters. So, the resurrected Gracie Allen, felt right at home and welcome.

Talk to you later Diary
Love,
Gracie

Notes from Spain:

Dear Diary,

I arrived in the medieval city of El Escorial Spain on a beautiful day in early August. Josemi Lorenzo, the coordinator of the continuing education course in feminism, met me in the lobby of the residence where the conference was held. From the moment I arrived, I began to meet and talk with fascinating people from many cities, towns and universities in Spain. Feminism is a big topic in this country that is still very much in the 'recovery' and 'discovery' period after many years under Franco's regime.

I discussed the EU's influence on Spanish politics as well as the Catholic Church and it's influence on women, feminism and family. I also learned that in much of Europe, even those counties where it is legal, as in Spain, gay marriage is being used as a divisive technique to push the liberal, religious contingency farther to the right. Many issues that we think are 'American' problems are stretching across the ocean. They are looking to the US as a model. The global movement must include many women voices. This is only the beginning of a much larger and farther-reaching discussion that is sprouting around the world.