

## WINTER 2006

Dear Diary,

It was May and rainy when Eva, Kate and I took off for Dayton, Ohio and our tour to Wright State University. At our poster workshop we were greeted by 30 laughing and energetic students from all backgrounds. They quickly got their funny feminist caps on and started in on creating some great posters about gay marriage, racism and choice. They were our most ambitious group all year and we were impressed with the chutzpah they showed with it being so close to the end of the semester. We confided to our host from the Women's Center, Amber, that we hadn't seen such active activists in a while. At our technical rehearsal we met Sarah aka Edmonia Lewis who joined us by playing Chauvinisto in our play within a play. Sarah performed the part in full drag – a first for a GGOT volunteer. She was fantastic! The performance of Feminists are Funny went without a hitch as we had an enthusiastic and very vocal crowd who helped us drown out the one heckler in the bunch. When you ask for audience participation you must expect that someone will take it too far. But even a heckler can be handled as Eva showed us by graciously talking him down off his pedestal. All in all a great end to our 2005/06 tour. Thanks Wright State for having some of the funniest and most joyous feminists we have met to date. See you on the road and look for news of our 2006/07 tour listing soon.

Love,  
Aphra  
May 19, 2006

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Hey Diary

It was a pleasant Thursday when Emily Pauline Johnson and I took off for Erie, PA. We had to fly to Cleveland and change planes to a very small prop and then on to Erie. As we flew in over the lake I had the feeling it was going to be a great tour. We arrived and were greeted by our host, Andy, who had made sure that all was in order for our performance. We soon met the students from Women Today, who also helped organize the event. During our tech we realized that our tech Baboon Boy, John AKA Earthquake was a find. We asked him to join our band of gorillas and go on tour with us but he chose to stay at Penn State and finish his degree in physics instead...the nerve! The performance went without a hitch as Emily and I went through &#x201C;Silence Is Violence&#x201D; to a supportive and attentive crowd. Our new visual images -- This is not an invitation to rape me - went over extremely well. The students who joined us in our finale – Maniska and Dante- were fantastic.great over actors and dancers! We left Erie with a pang in our hearts & can't wait to return!

Love,  
Aphra Behn  
April 20, 2006

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Dear Diary,

It's good luck to perform with a virgin Guerilla Girl On Tour, said Aphra as we awaited our flight to Louisville, Kentucky. I was thrilled to be embarking on my first tour and Louisville did not disappoint. On our very first night in town, we were invited to an outdoor meal at the lovingly restored home of our host Gregory and his wife Brenda.

I Love Louisville! The weather is warm and so are the people. They were all so enthusiastic and bright. There was never a lack of good conversation. We sat and talked and listened to Mamma –Ya, the local African-American elder, storyteller and activist tell her stories until the full moon rose and put the stars to shame.

And, yet another elder, Gregory's mom Marjorie, was in attendance at almost all of our events with her wisdom and joy.

The students were vocal and had strong opinions that resulted in an engaging and thoughtful poster workshop, and many of them were in attendance at the performance Thursday evening.

We sold out the house and those who were in attendance laughed out loud and had plenty to say. I was nervous and excited for the performance. Eva and Aphra were helpful and very generous performers. The show was a hit!

Before we left on Friday, Gregory was a kind and willing tour-guide, taking us to walk along the riverbed so that we could collect ancient fossils. I admit I brought a little bit of Louisville home with me. I sometimes forget how old the planet really is and how it's seen all manner of animals before we started stomping around on it.

As we awaited our plane back to the big city, I felt glad to have brought some Virgin Guerilla Girl On Tour luck to the tour. Here's to being the new girl.

Signing off, [Ethel Waters](#)  
April 14, 2006

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Dear Old Diary,

Well we went to Texas and it was cold. We went to Iowa and there was a blizzard. We went to Florida and it rained. Here in LA there is so much rain it's flooding out highways and damaging homes! This spring we just can't seem to get the weather right. What we can do right is join in with hundreds of other students and adults at USC in raising our voices to Take Back The Night!. After meeting with old pals at a sexual assaults awareness organization we left for USC armed with posters, buttons and information about Denim Day in LA on April 19. Denim Day in LA is a rape prevention education campaign that raises community awareness about the impacts of sexual violence. [www.denimdayinla.org](http://www.denimdayinla.org). LA has a lot going on with regards to education and prevention of sexual violence and ace student Joelle Emerson organized an awesome and very well attended Take Back The Night rally and march. Emily Pauline Johnson and I performed Silence Is Violence to a packed crowd who had gathered under the make shift tent near Tommy Trojan. It was great to see so many male faces in the crowd. After the show we joined forces with the women organizers at USC and marched across campus shouting Hey! Hey! Ho! Ho! Patriarchy has got to go! The moving speeches at the closing speakout were inspiring. It is devastating to find so many women out there who have been effected by date/acquaintance rape (including many members of GGOT). But we will fight on and break the silence. Only by speaking out will violence against women end. Silence is Violence! Violence must end! For more GGOT TBTN chants go to our CHANTS page.

[Aphra](#)  
April 5, 2006

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Hey Diary,

It was so amazing to be in Greensboro, NC, the birthplace of the civil rights movement. On February 1, 1960 four African American freshmen from North Carolina A&T sat at the whites only counter at the downtown Woolworths. These men, called the Greensboro Four, returned the next day with more students and by February 6 hundreds of students were protesting the Woolworths and neighboring Five and Dimes that also had similar discrimination practices. The movement then spread and two months later 54 cities in nine states were also having lunch counter sit-ins in the North and South. About 6 months later Woolworths changed their policy and became an integrated lunch counter.

This reminds me that not all demonstrations need to be big. It is our small actions that often receive the most attention and respect. I believe that people are not involved in their community and government because they are overwhelmed by the sheer quantity of problems and injustices in this world. It is not one person's job to change the world, but a mass of people starting at different points and working to a common goal of equality that can make change happen. If you want to help, find one organization that you feel you can support, and support them. Whether you are manning information tables, stuffing envelopes or making financial contributions, it is these small tasks that can begin a tidal wave of change. Perhaps you can begin by not purchasing tickets from theaters that do not produce plays by women or artists of color. If you are looking for a group to help I suggest Guerilla Girls On Tour or the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, located in Greensboro, NC. They are trying to build a Museum at the site of the Woolworths where the civil rights movement began. For more information log onto their website [www.sitinmovement.org](http://www.sitinmovement.org).

Peace out,  
[Coco Chanel](#)  
March 30, 2006

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Dearest Diary,

Greensboro is the birthplace of the civil rights movement and Coco and I were glad to be able to tour to this historic town as a part of the UNC Greensboro's conference on activism and art called Creative Action: Gender and the Arts. The entire event was organized by Carole and the fabulous staff of the Women's Studies Department. We led two workshops, one on poster making and one on street theatre. Our theatre workshop was attended by several local high school students who created some awesome bits of almost spontaneous performance. Just before we went on for our performance of Feminists Are Funny there was a campus wide black out! Coco quickly put on her thinking cap and went on stage with a flashlight to entertain the sold out crowd with jokes and songs from her youth. After about 40 minutes the lights came back on and we entertained, shocked and educated the crowd. The highlight was when our audience volunteer (who took the name of Johann Sebastian Bach) played an awesome guitar to our new protest song Tom Delay. Johann had brought his own gorilla mask and it brought down the house! We departed Greensboro with our activist spirit renewed and charged! Thank you Greensboro.

Love,  
[Aphra Behn](#)

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Dear Diary,

Today we visited MOCA, Miami's Museum of Contemporary Art. We did a mini performance and led a workshop for a group of young women who participate in a program called Women on the Rise!. Women on the Rise! Is an outreach program for at-risk teenage girls in Miami-Dade County. We had a wonderful time presenting our work and we all were inspired by the images and posters created by the girls during the workshop. The theme of our workshop was centered around our Oh, the joys of being a woman playwright poster. The girl's work reflected topics including: empowerment through speaking your mind, childbirth and being a good mom, developing trust, and overcoming peer-pressure. Some girls explored some of the challenges they face including: being a young parent, single parent-hood, body image, and insecurity. I was so impressed by the team work and maturity that these girls exhibited as they worked to create collaborative visual works that reflected their experiences. I am thankful for spaces like MOCA that embrace the people and the needs of the community with love compassion and creativity!

Until next time, [Eva](#)  
March 28, 2006

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Hey Diary,

I have to admit, I was a little nervous going into the workshop at MOCA. I didn't know what to expect from "at risk" high school girls. I was very pleasantly surprised. The girls were great - really friendly and approachable and enthusiastic about the poster workshop. And so honest - there was a group of teen moms who did a poster about how to be a good teen mom with surprisingly graphic illustrations and language. The performance at FIU that night was also fantastic. They LOVED us! The audience was really responsive and got involved in what we did. The instant applause after "all women should have access to safe and legal abortions" was amazing.

Sincerely,  
[Kate Drain Lawson](#)  
March 28, 2006

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Dear Diary,

We performed at Norwalk Community College for the Fairfield County Women's Center to a curious, but mostly silent crowd, minus the vocally supportive and snickering pool of faculty members. A handful of folks walked out when our slideshow image of George W. Bush and the Pope getting married popped up onto the screen. I think they were overcome with emotion at the sight of two men overcoming the adversity that had been a barrier to their demonstrating love publicly. I know I was. We had a fabulous actress, Amber, assist us at the end of the show, lending her fabulousity and keen performance skills to our commedia del arte script. When our big dance finale music didn't come through the speakers, Amber was the flashiest adlibbing dancer of all of us.

Cathy Milton of the FCWC gave us scrumptious sandwiches before the show, and in turn I gave her a signed copy of one of my many French cooking recipe books. Until we meet again you blue state you!

Love,  
Julia Child  
March 1, 2006

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**(NOTE: The following diary entry was entered by Fanny Brice's baby son who went with his baboon boy dad, James Baldwin, mom Fanny and Aphra Behn to Luther College. Three baby Guerrilla Girls On Tour were born in 2004/05 – in addition to little Arthur Miller Alice Childress now has a baby girl and Hallie Flanagan a baby boy. We welcome the new members!)**

Dear Diary,

As a recently liberated womb-man, I was eager to accompany my parents on their recent voyage to the middle of this great country, specifically Iowa. "Iowa? In winter?" my infantile colleagues exclaimed. "Yes, Iowa in winter," I responded, unable to reveal my true identity as on-the-go, pre-toddler activist.

The flight to Minneapolis was uneventful, and I actually forgot to cry or cause any kind of disturbance on the plane, so focused was I on the dilemmas facing women and so called "minorities" in the theater world and beyond. As a 3 ½ month old, blue-eyed white male, I have already observed my privilege in action. For instance, my stroller was the FIRST thing waiting at the exit of the plane when we arrived in Minnesota. Needless to say, I had a lot on my mind.

Once in Decorah, Iowa, I quickly drew up a game plan which I summarily submitted to Aphra and Fanny: go to Luther College, rally the troops and educate young women about self-defense and boundary-setting. They took to my plan like a baby to his mother's... well, they liked it. Off went Aphra and Fanny to the campus while I stayed at the hotel with my dad, James Baldwin. I cried and screamed a lot - my parents say it's acid reflux - but I really was just sickened by the thought of all the violence towards women that occurs every day in this country and around the world, not only physically but emotionally and intellectually. Abuse and violence towards women for millions of men is sometimes reduced to a mere joke. Dad and I talked about this a bit while he changed my diaper. When Fanny came back from her workshop, I calmed down, because I knew she had done all she could to foster a mentality of empowerment and enlightenment that can help transform the future of these women's lives. Also, she fed me.

Day 2 was exciting. A performance at night! All day I went over my lines in my head, almost forgetting that I still can't stand, flip over, or even crawl. What's the deal with these shoddy motor skills? Well, there was a room off to the side of the theatre where Aphra and Fanny were going to perform. Dad tried to get me to go to sleep before the tech, but I felt my help was needed. I worked closely with the sound and light crew from the comfortable confines of my Baby Bjorn, and feel I arranged for a pretty tight show. I also gave my mom a few acting pointers, for which she was grateful.

By the time the show started, I was back in the darkened room off to the side - the life of a minor (we have the fewest rights of all!) - and all I could hear was the roar of the crowd as the GGOT theme song blared at precisely the volume I had presciently preset. (I do adore alliteration). What an audience! Those Luther College Norse - bedecked in Blue and White - sure know how to party! I was so proud to have been part of the GGOT team, in my own small way, as I listened to chortles, guffaws, and peals of uproarious laughter scattered like firecrackers throughout the night. I shifted with glee in my stroller, and continued to drool. What a success!

The next day we all traveled home, and I reminisced sweetly about my days in Iowa - yes, in winter - knowing that wherever GGOT goes, they leave swells of voices demanding equality, bananas hoisted high in their palms!

And now it's time for my nap.

Sincerely,  
Arthur Miller  
March 17, 2006

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Hey diary,

Our first annual Guerrilla Girls On Tour GIRL GALa was a success!!! I was very unsure going into the whole thing about how many people would be there, and would they be the type of people we were aiming for; but I was so pleasantly surprised. It was exhilarating to see so many intelligent, vibrant, and talented theatre women all in one room hoping to collaborate with each other. To hear about all of the current projects and companies really made me feel like we were making an impact on NYC theatre. Being that I have taken the name of a celebrated theatre manager and actress, I sometimes wished that I could have been part of the networking scene myself. But it was rewarding to help facilitate others in their search for collaborators and a guerrilla theatre community. It was such an exciting and inspiring night that I didn't care that my mask kept breaking and falling off!

Sincerely,  
[Laura Keene](#)  
February 23, 2006

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Dearest diary,

With our cowboy hats in hand we arrived at Houston's Hobby airport in time to saddle up and head down to the Blaffer Gallery where we met the fabulous women of the U of H gallery and were interviewed by the local NPR station. Yes, the people of Texas are warm and welcoming and we soon felt right at home (the hats helped a lot). Our afternoon activist workshop was attended by professors, college students and a bunch of local high school students involved in a great Blaffer program called Young Artist Apprenticeship Program or YAAP. We created a lot of monkey business with everyone present as Julia Child led us through several opening gorilla theatre games. (My personal favorite is pass the sound). The visual images created after two and a half hours of collaborative work were amazing and we are sure are now smartly displayed all over campus. After a fantastic meal at the on campus Hilton Hotel restaurant we hit the hay. The next day was full of more interviews and our technical rehearsal and performance. When the performance sold out the quick thinking gals at Blaffer hooked up live video feed and set chairs in the courtyard. There were over 300 in attendance and while Julia and I weren't sure how our show would be received in the red state of Texas we only had to step on stage to feel the Texas love! All of the special bits we wrote just for the Texas tour of Feminists Are Funny were received with hoots and appropriate Texan cheers. Houston gave us a fantastic and extremely vocal audience (love that!) Thanks Texas, U of H, Tom Delay for some great humorous fodder and for all at Blaffer and Women's Studies for inviting us to close out the US tour of the exhibit Girls Night Out! Cross Houston off the sexist city. Look out Dallas! We can't wait to return.

Lots of love,  
[Aphra Behn](#)  
February 10, 2006