

Winter 2008

May 16, 2008

Dear Diary,

When I learned that there was a fraternity house auctioning off their members in the basement of the very same building we would be performing in, I had half a mind to campaign to change our performance to bidding on fraternity brothers in our gorilla masks. Musical Comedy Feminist Gorillas bidding on undergraduate frat boys!

How Sotheby's would that be. Maybe a little too Sotheby's. Maybe not Sotheby's enough. But in the end, only God can make that decision. And that's why we elected that metaphysical being to represent us in eternity. Thank God (so to speak) the universe is a representative democracy; otherwise we'd be in trouble. Perhaps we are in trouble! (One can never be sure.) We'll leave that up to Hillary and Barak to sort out.

Anyways, the crowd was very live. They had a lot to say to us from the audience, which proved that they were listening attentively. We said in the beginning, "there's no fourth wall here." And they took us very seriously both to our surprise and advantage. It gets lonely on stage without the guffaws and comments from the audience, and there was a consistently encouraging low, enthusiastic rumble happening amongst the crowd.

For the record, we have nothing against campus security. We just like to acknowledge them in punch-lines.

Another half cup of butter,

Julia Child

May 17, 2008

Dear Diary...

Aphra, Joooooolia, and I went to Schenectady to perform at Union College. The performance was in the Student Union which is awesome because Student Unions are the coolest. A professor in the women's studies department, Lorraine Cox, was super cool and made us feel comfortable and at home on campus. She was so happy and excited that we had arrived and that made me happy and excited.

The performance was fabulous....it would have been damn near perfect but I completely blanked on two lines... at least I ended up being able to say them to the audience after a meaningful look and a prod from Aphra.

There was a super funny moment when I (as Dramaloon), started pretend kicking Julia (as Machoswine), and she goes, "Attack, Attack!" causing me to lose character completely and start laughing. I felt kinda bad that I lost character, but it was really funny.

Overall, it was a good experience, and I like going to colleges like Union....Union rocks!
Love and music,
Lisa "left-eye" Lopes

April 15, 2008
Dear Diary,

In anticipation of poem in a pocket day, I thought I'd try it this way...

We began our tour at the Avis center
Weaving through the streets of Manhattan westward
towards the Lincoln Tunnel and New Jersey.
Once on the open road we sped along
tolls did not slow us down, go EZ pass!
(That took me ages.)

When we arrived at U of Delaware we met Morgan, (activist extraordinaire....yeah), and Vince – (tech person extraordinaire). Ah, I love tech rehearsals....feeling out the space, the vibe, the acoustics. Going inch by inch through the piece, refreshing our memories of the blocking, the dances. Aphra taught Frances as Barak to bowl, slowly. Aphra taught Anne as Hillary to bowl, slowly. I, Edith, was unfortunately not in that bit, so sat off to the side not bowling, but taking it all in, observing. And then we met our Chauvinisto for the day - who learned everything so quickly. She will surely be an impressive chemical engineer/actress one day. We broke for tea and chocolate and fruit and veggies and cheese and crackers and a bit of sunshine. It was gorgeous out. And a bit of discount shopping.
(Aphra and sales.)

In the front row a gorilla there was-
I was so pleased to see it sitting there
The most fun was when we asked for local events
Anne had to cut them off there were so many
A very involved community they are -

Love, Edith

P.S. I should mention all the people with vaginas stood up to be counted at the end - my eyes were misty - Go Fighting Blue Hens!!!
Go!!!

April 18, 2001
Dearest Diary,

OK, Here we go! The University of Delaware seemed very similar to other state colleges I've been to in the past. Oh, seeing images of young minds not yet ready for the real world and adult pressures (bills, rent, taxes, pain in the ass 9 to 5 job, etc)! However, as soon as they graduate, it's time to pay their loans. Oh boy! In today's economy, anything is possible (like having your first child and still paying your loans even after you die). We're already doing that now with Social Security. We'll pay for it but never get any of it. Right now I am watching the debate between Obama and Hilary in Pennsylvania on my TELE. Both have interesting views, though I am trying to figure out who is more honest. I am tired of politicians saying one thing and doing another. I don't care if you raise taxes or Health Care. Just once, be honest with me. Don't tell me one thing and then turn around and do something else. If you are going to bring the troops home, then do it! If not, then you just got a free pass to jail for lying to me.

Back to The University of Delaware. We performed "Silence Is Violence" at their Multi-Purpose Performance Space. The audience was a mixed bag. It was a diverse crowd, people of different backgrounds, races and ages. And of course there were some typical fraternity jocks in the crowd, who left within 20 minutes of the show. Couldn't handle it fellas, huh?! We took some pictures with the students' organizers and talked a bit with them. They were happy with the turnout since our performance was the first of many sexual awareness events. UD arranged the event perfectly, and tech and crew were onsite and available when needed. I wish all events would be as easy

and painless as this event. But I am sure it will not be like that all the time.

When we finished our performance, we were ready to eat anything. I had some crab cakes and fries at the Deer Park Restaurant (the name is something like that). And no, I did not eat deer; I am not that type of gorilla. The crab cakes were good and tasty. They melted in my month, and though I had to unbuckle my belt, it was all worth it. I don't remember what Edith, Aphra, and Anne ate, since I was obviously occupied with my meal. When we were done with that, we were off to bed. "Life is beautiful when you have a day where you perform to a kick ass crowd, eat crab and sleep." So, guys, I am going to have to end it with that quote.

Talk to you later,
Frances Harper

April 10, 2008
Dear old book,

Julia Child and I hit the Penn State Altoona campus after a long drive from Manhattan. We had to rehearse in the chapel as the theatre was not ready for us at 3PM. As Julia and I were going through our "pro-choice blues" as nice couple wandered in and told us they were getting married in that very chapel in November. Mazel Tov! Now on to the show. Our tech crew at the theatre didn't seem to get our style of bleeding heart liberal themes and didn't respond in the usual theatre "we are family" way as we began the tech. It's like James Carver said of PA - there's Philly and there is Pittsburg and in between there is Alabama. It must have been that our tech crew came from that in between part of PA. But we plowed through and finished just in time to be let into the fabulously organized costume show/green room where Lee Ann had set up a fantastic back stage array of snacks. Julia and I were tempted to try on the ball gowns but realized if we went out on stage in them only the faculty designer, Laurencio Ruiz, would appreciate it. The students and community filled the house and we began our special two person version of "Feminists Are Funny" to guffaws, deep chuckles and some snickering in the back. We both took to the aisles for one new part of the show and demonstrated our "in your face" street theatre tactics" to a terrified and appreciative audience. Our Pro Choice section got the most asides from the crowd...half for and I guess half confused by the right to privacy. Also

our Hillary and Barak "bowling" contest pantomime was a big hit. In the end we loved our student volunteer, Paris aka Rosa Parks, who was the fastest learner of the feminist dance we ever saw. A great time was had talking to the audience after the show and the end of night our pow wow with Lee Ann and Meghan was even better. We were at State College about 5 years ago and I think we should return to the bigger campus very soon as "Alabama" aka PA sure needs us!

Kisses,
Aphra

March 27, 2008

Dear Diary...

Wednesday, March 26th, 2008 I joined Aphra and Julia on a tour to State University of New York at Geneseo.

When we arrived our point person from the Womyn's Action Coalition had to be at a dance rehearsal so we weren't sure what kind of turnout we would get for our performance of "Feminists Are Funny" but in the end it couldn't have had a better experience.

All of the students were open, warm, and welcoming...from the students helping us behind the scenes to the huge audience that gathered. Our performance was met with laughter, applause, and I got the feeling that most were very grateful that we came to their campus. And can I mention the best back stage snacks ever? Luna bars and coffee...my personal favorites. Julia went for the huge oranges and Aphra liked the snow peas and garlic dip.

We also lucked out with our location. Geneseo's Student Union seemed to be the happening place, and we performed in the Student Union ballroom whose doors opened literally across the hallway from the front doors of the union.

All in all... I had a fabulous time, and despite stuttering on a few of my lines, I think that I performed well, and I think that the students and the professors in the audience were happy that we finally made it to SUNY Geneseo! The new Obama and Hillary skit went over well and I even aced my Shirley Chisholm song....can't wait to return.

LOTS O LOVE,
Lisa "left-eye" Lopes

March 8, 2008
Dear Deezer,

Lowell was special. Not just because of Jack Kerouac and the Lowell girls, but because of our super-enthusiastic, and, dare I say, ambitious audience who went out of their academic way to scream and holler when it was appropriate. AND inappropriate, which qualifies as "appropriate," in our books. So, you do the math.

I, personally, enjoyed the hospitality of Julie, the acting chops of Nani, aka Beatrix Potter, and the soy lattes at Brew'd Awakening. Eva, at the last minute, came down with a nasty case of the ol' bronchitis, so Aphra and I happily carried her weight on the stage, but lil' Eva was missed. Her weight cannot be replaced. Not even with dumb-bells from the gym.

The downtown is gorgeous, and we took full advantage of the beauty by using our eyeballs to take it all in whenever we got the chance. But it's hard being a gorilla in the city. It ain't a jungle, and it ain't a zoo. What's a girl to do?

Cream and butter,
Julia Child

March 6, 2008
Dear Dairy:

We just left Central Connecticut State University. It is a rainy day but our spirits are light! Last night we performed 'Feminists are Funny' in a BEAUTIFUL theater for a fabulous audience. Our audience volunteer was the president of the college and he was fantastic and very funny! All of the students who worked on the show, including our 'Dramaloon' student actor, were incredibly helpful and professional :). This afternoon we presented a paper on Feminist Performance for a Feminist Luncheon on campus. A lively and informative discussion followed. We learned about hostilities that exist on campus and how

the student paper is both promoting and combating violence against women. Wherever we go, I learn SO MUCH about how much work there is left to do!

Until next time...

Truly yours,

Eva

.....
February 13, 2008

Dear Diary,

We're going to Vegas. I well know, no trip is without strife. But really, having your car to the airport cancelled, and then someone stealing your cab, and then your cab refusing to go to JFK all while standing in a foot of slush and more rain pouring down on you is a bit much. At least we got off the ground. We were afraid our flight would be cancelled. My immediate impression of the desert was it is very big with lots of space. The airport is so big I never thought we would get out of it. You then take a shuttle to the car rental 'mini mall' and you get in your car and take three right hand turns, and you are at your hotel. In the end, very convenient. Juawana and Christine greeted us, they were very nice and they were both wearing an assortment of Guerilla Girl On Tour pins which we were all coveting with our eyes. After freshening up, we went over to the UNLV campus. The workshop rocked. The participants had so many ideas that they were very passionate about. Each group worked well together and made stunning posters. They covered recycling, immigrant rights, gender identity, sex workers rights, body issues and genocide. All were articulate about their process and with their comments on others' work. Afterwards, Aphra drove us up and down the strip and then we went to 'Margaritaville' and ate. Bed.

xo Edith Evans

February 14, 2008

Dear Diary

The big day. 'Silence is Violence.' (Before meeting up, I strolled the strip. Pretty, tacky and a touching 9/11 memorial in front of New York, New York.) We started with a photo shoot. Guerilla Girls On

Tour in front of a fountain of giant plastic flamingos shooting water out of their mouths. Fun. But better than that a magic carpet ride through Vegas video filmed at the Luxor (soon to be renamed the Pyramid). Words cannot describe it - you'll have to see it. Then - speed through, tech - to help pass the time Anne had told us of a poet who's work is like this "just jeans, just jeans, do you have shirts? no just jeans." We discovered there are endless variations of that poem, all amusing and when we fell short, Frances was always ready with a Reno horror story which, I know I am jumping ahead, she also managed to work into the Q and A to cheers from the audience. Speaking of the audience, they were the best. They ate the bananas, listened, responded, participated - they really got into the spirit of it all. Afterwards we went to 'Champagne's' to hang out. An elderly gentleman there asked about the masks, and when we explained he thought they were cool. He then asked us if anyone had really nice tits or tricks or dicks while circling his nipples with his fingers. Did I mention we were in Vegas? But no matter, it was a terrific opportunity to talk one on one with people and get their ideas and interests and impressions of life thus far.

xo Edith Evans

February 15, 2008
Dear Diary,

Aphra and I went to a breakfast buffet, it's a very Vegas thing to do. Yum. We had the waiter with the most attitude in all of Vegas. We were delighted. Plane ride home - uneventful. Til next time -

xo Edith Evans

February 14, 2008
Dear Diary,

We arrived in Las Vegas yesterday. Las Vegas isn't what I expected at all. There are a lot of huge hotels and shows. The people here are really nice. A lot of people get married at the hotels' chapels. There are senior citizens gambling all over the place, which is weird. The hotel lobby is really dark, except for the slot machines, which are brightly lit. There are very few windows. I lost track of the time, which didn't help my jet lag.

We had tech rehearsal, and we performed "Silence is Violence" for the UNLV students today. They were a great crowd. The UNLV students were enthusiastic and energetic. They loved the show. We even got to talk to them at the reception. I enjoyed hearing what they had to say about how they contribute to feminism/activism work in their community. The UNLV students are a fun-loving group. It was a great experience.

The rest of the cast was so tired that we headed to bed at midnight. We were so exhausted from the flight, workshop, rehearsal and performance that we really didn't have time to be sinful in Sin City. Maybe it's a good thing we didn't go crazy; we might be "too much woman" for Las Vegas!

Love,
Frances Harper