

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE PRESENTS

Changing *the face of* Medicine

An original theatrical production that celebrates the lives and achievements of America's women physicians.



AN ORIGINAL PLAY BY
JERRY JAMES

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY
THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL THEATRE

LISTER HILL CENTER AUDITORIUM

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Changing *the face of* Medicine

An original theatrical production that celebrates the lives and achievements
of America's women physicians.

Produced by the NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

in conjunction with the exhibition

Changing the face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians

Welcome to the National Library of Medicine and *Changing the Face of Medicine:*

Celebrating America's Women Physicians. As Chief of the History of Medicine Division and as a historian of medicine, I have long been interested in the historical struggles of women to gain entrance to scientific and medical careers, to obtain well-deserved recognition for their work, and most especially, to make a difference in the lives of their patients, the quality of life of their neighborhoods, and the health of the population at large. It is a great pleasure for me to see this splendid exhibition and the play it has inspired, also with the title, *Changing the Face of Medicine.*

I'd like to thank our very talented exhibition staff, most especially Patricia Tuohy, Head of the Exhibition Program, Manon Parry, the Associate Curator for the exhibition, and Kevin Schlesier, the Exhibition Program Coordinator. Each did an outstanding job, aided by the many National Library of Medicine staff members who have contributed to making the exhibition such a success. Our gratitude also to Dr. Ellen More, our Visiting Curator, the author of *Restoring the Balance: Women Physicians and the Practice of Medicine, 1850–1995* (1999), who guided the conceptual development of the exhibition and was generous in sharing her scholarly expertise; to our very distinguished Advisory Group members who nominated the women whose lives we here celebrate; and to Dr. Marion Hunt, who initially suggested that we create an exhibition about the history of women physicians and did much of the initial research to lay the foundations for this project. As always, our Director, Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg, took a very lively interest in the entire project and was insistently eager to see it done well.

This play, and the exhibition, honors the lives and contributions of America's women physicians. We celebrate the lives of these women, and the men and other women who helped them along the way.

We hope you will enjoy *Changing the Face of Medicine*, our theatrical production.

Elizabeth Fee, Ph.D.
Chief, History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine

THE Cast

Maya *Demetria Joyce Bailey*

Tom *Ethan Cadoff*

Julia *Elizabeth Michaels*

Susan *Hannah Tsapatoris*

Producing Director *Pamela Madger Sommerfield*

Assistant Director *Kim Hanley*

Technical Director *Michael Allan Buckley*

Playwright *Jerry James*

Sign language interpreter will be provided

Synopsis

Changing the Face of Medicine, an original theatrical production, draws on some of the remarkable stories of women physicians included in an exhibition of the same name at the National Library of Medicine.

With only the bare minimum of props or costume, the play can be performed anywhere, yet the experiences portrayed are vividly recreated for audiences of all ages. Based on real events, and often told in their own words, the struggles and achievements of women in medicine over the last one hundred and fifty years come to life on the stage. Will their determination inspire you to break down a barrier, fight for your rights and for the rights of others, or travel the world to help those in need?

Setting Their Sights

The play opens over one hundred and fifty years ago, when young women had to fight even to be allowed to attend medical school. Traditional ideas about their roles as wives and mothers were used to exclude women from education and professional careers. Elizabeth Blackwell, who we meet at the very beginning of this story, was the first woman in America to earn a medical degree. She spent her life campaigning for women in medicine, and founded a hospital and college to give them more opportunities. African American physician Rebecca Cole worked with Dr. Blackwell in New York, after graduating medical school in 1867. By the start of the twentieth century, women physicians had made significant inroads in the professions, yet they were still discouraged from pursuing careers in fields like surgery and scientific research. How could they break through this glass ceiling?

Making Their Mark

Women physicians brought new perspectives to medicine and often focused on problems that were not being addressed. Alice Hamilton focused on the illnesses of workers and helped develop the field of occupational health in America. In this play you can hear about the difficulties she faced as the first woman on the faculty at Harvard Medical School, and how pediatrician Helen Taussig handled discrimination as a medical student. Their research has led to breakthrough discoveries that benefit patients and communities around the world, yet the work of women physicians has not always been fairly acknowledged. During the Second World War, when soldiers and doctors were desperately needed, women were given opportunities they had never been offered before. How could they ensure that the progress that had been made for women in the profession would continue?

Changing Medicine, Changing Life

Recognizing the need for more diversity in medicine, many have focused on increasing the numbers of women and minorities at every level of the profession. Although nowadays men and women attend medical school in equal numbers, inequalities after graduation mean that women may not earn as much as their male colleagues, advance as rapidly in their careers, or win appointments at the highest levels. In 1991, Bernadine Healy was appointed director of the National Institutes of Health. She was the first woman ever to hold that office, and as we learn in the play, she and her family knew this marked an historic moment. As a leader in the field, she had an opportunity to raise the profile of women's health issues and to improve the lives of millions. What would it be like if every group in society were properly represented at every level of the profession, and if the concerns of all those in need were made a priority? Health care professionals treat individual patients, communities, and whole populations, solving problems and looking for new answers that benefit us all. Can you see yourself in such a role?

Biographies

The American Historical Theatre was founded in 1982 by Pamela and William Sommerfield. The mission of the theater is to produce plays and performance pieces merging history and drama. Since its inception, AHT has presented dramatic works across the U.S. and abroad.

In 1992 AHT became a non-profit organization and since has devoted its efforts to presenting history to both children and adults in an informative and entertaining manner. AHT programs have been seen at the White House, numerous historic sites, museums, and at countless schools.

Jerry James



Jerry James last wrote for the NLM in 2001 when the library produced his play, *The Once and Future Web*. Other plays include *Virgins & Dynamos*, *Sea Change*, *Hasta Cuando?*, *Spirit of the Dream*, *Pas de Trois* (author); and *Isadora: American Legend*, *Rage & Marge* and *Commie Lesbos from Outer Space* (co-author and director). Mr. James is also an award-winning short story writer. As a journalist, he wrote *The Life for Voices*, an alternative newspaper, for eight years. This monthly column is available online at www.voicesweb.org/thelife.

Pamela & Bill Sommerfield



Pamela Sommerfield is English-born and educated at London's Guild Hall School of Music and Drama with continuing work at the University of Washington, University of California, Irvine, Villanova, and the University of Pennsylvania. In 1992 she essayed the role of Lucretia Mott, in the docudrama, *Valiant Friend*. The production garnered an Emmy for best independent production.

Bill Sommerfield is widely recognized for his portrayal of George Washington. He is American Historical Theatre's resident historian and writer and has written many of the performance pieces for the "Living History Characters." Bill Sommerfield holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Wisconsin. He was nominated for an Emmy for his performance of George Washington in NBC's TV presentation, *Eye Witness to History*.

Demetria Joyce Bailey



Demetria has been busy recently with appearances in CBS' *Hack*. Her first love is live theater and she appears frequently at Freedom Theatre for Walter Dallas. Because she has a voice that encompasses classical and jazz, she has also traveled as far as Japan and the Philippines on tour with the USO. Most admired in her skills are Demetria's talents as a construction worker.

Ethan Cadoff



Ethan's many voices and expressive face have him in constant demand for roles that demonstrate his versatility. He has a fine baritone voice and sings with two quartets and is a staple in Philadelphia's Gilbert and Sullivan productions. He has appeared at People's Light, Villanova and Walnut Street Theatres in contemporary and classical plays. Recently he was seen in *Hack* and *Sex and the City*.

Elizabeth Michaels



Elizabeth Michaels is one of Philadelphia's best-known faces in the acting community. She is seen often in local and national TV commercials and in main stage productions from *Plaza Suite* to *Much Ado About Nothing*. Elizabeth has performed in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia and teaches acting every summer to young people.

Hannah Tsapatoris



Hannah is a graduate of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She is constantly active with the vibrant Philadelphia theater scene, from the classics to children's theater, in such capacities as choreographer, dancer, singer, and actor. Possessing a lovely soprano voice, she sings at her church and recently she directed and produced her own Greek wedding.

Kim Hanley

Kim, the Assistant Director, is also an actor, dancer, singer, choreographer, and costume designer. Trained as a ballet dancer, Kim got her BFA from the State University of New York. She has appeared as Abigail Adams, Molly Pitcher, and a host of other historical characters. She has also scripted and starred in an educational video, *Betsy Ross and the Flag*, produced by AHT.

William Alan Buckley

A graduate of CalArts, Technical Director, Michael Alan Buckley, was one of the founding members of AHT. A resident of Annapolis, he produces a weekly radio program, *Voices of the Bay*, which presents an eclectic selection of music together with lively interviews all dealing with the Chesapeake. Michael has also edited and produced educational videos and vcrs for AHT such as *Betsy Ross and the Flag* and *The Young Jefferson*.

Information

SCHEDULED PERFORMANCES at Lister Hill Center Auditorium (Building 38A)

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

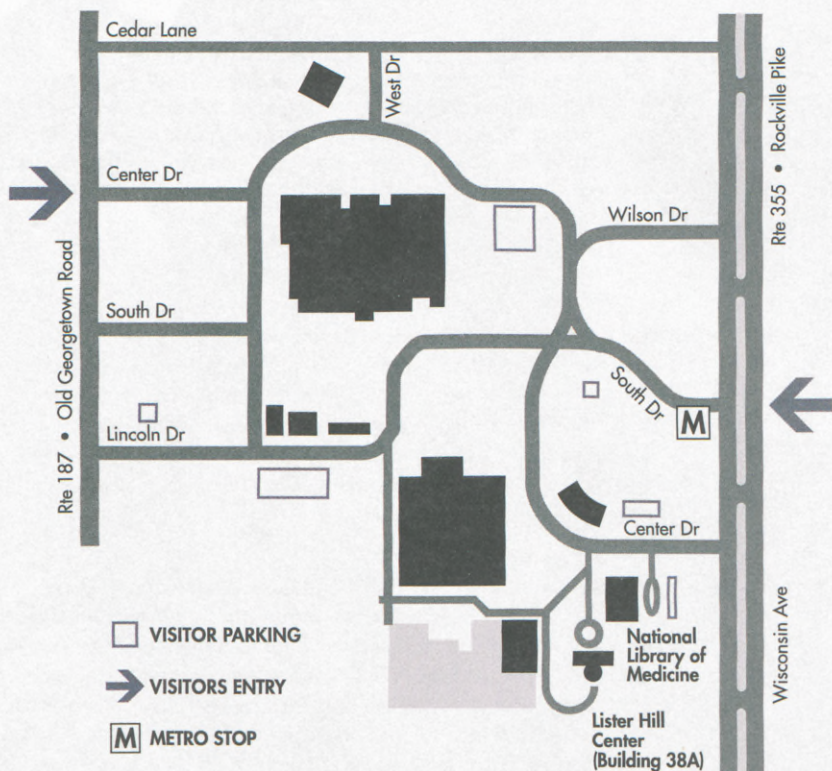
Wednesday, March 24, 2004

12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Thursday, April 22, 2004

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

For more information about the exhibition or to schedule a guided tour of *Changing the Face of Medicine*, please contact Jiwon Kim at 301.496.5963 or at educator@nlm.nih.gov





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES



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