



**Meet the Washington state Women who
helped win the right to vote for the first U.S. women.**

MAY'S VOTE

A streamed event with live commentary

Written by Toni Douglass
Directed by Brendan Chambers

Cast

Emma Smith DeVoe Barbara Callander*
May Arkwright Hutton Denise Winter*

Artistic Team

Director Brendan Chambers
Stage Manager Ry Armstrong*

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the labor union representing american actors and stage managers in the theatre.

Winning the Fight *and* the Right!

Many of you know 2020 marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which gave most women nationwide the right to vote. Here in Washington State, many women won the right to vote a full decade before the 19th Amendment. Pretty amazing.

This streamed performance, followed by a live commentary and Q & A, features the lives of two very different Washington State women who built upon our state's legacy and fought gallantly for the right of women to vote in the United States,

marked by the 19th Amendment. Meet Emma Smith DeVoe and May Arkwright Hutton, two fascinating women, who helped win the fight and the right despite their vastly different views on how to succeed.

KEY CITY PUBLIC THEATRE
Port Townsend, WA

MAY'S VOTE



Prim and proper Emma Smith DeVoe and outrageous, flamboyant May Arkwright Hutton worked side by side – but seldom eye to eye – to win the vote for women in Washington State in 1910. Suddenly May is gone, and Emma can't get her out of her mind!

Emma and May were as different as night and day. Emma, a professional suffrage organizer who had worked with Susan B. Anthony. Was learn-ed, proper, and very politically savvy. May, a Spokane millionaire who had struck it rich in the Idaho silver mines, was not learn-ed, not particularly proper, and best described as “street-savvy.” Both women, however, were passionately idealistic.

MAY'S VOTE presents these two fascinating women from Washington's past from their childhoods through the successful fight for the vote despite their vastly different views on how to win it. Only after May's death does Emma realize that perhaps their differing views actually strengthened their cause.

Produced by Key City Public Theatre in Port Townsend. Funded in part by the Washington State Women's Commission and the Washington State Historical Society through the Votes for Women Centennial Grant Program.



Some Background...

Prim and proper Emma Smith DeVoe and outrageous, flamboyant May Arkwright Hutton worked side by side – but seldom eye to eye – to win the vote for women in Washington State in 1910. Suddenly May is gone, and Emma can't get her out of her mind!

Emma and May were as different as night and day. They agreed on “the one big thing – on whether women should vote,” but on everything else, including how to achieve their goal, they disagreed completely. Emma, based in Western Washington, was a professional suffrage organizer who had worked with Susan B. Anthony. She believed that in order to win the vote, it was imperative to approach men in a ladylike manner, “to persuade them, to convince them, to argue their resistance down.” May, a Spokane millionaire who had struck it rich in the Idaho silver mines, believed that “you gotta . . . charm the pants off 'em. You don't focus on the issue; you distract 'em from it!”

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MAY'S VOTE was written by Toni Douglass in 1988 under a grant from the Washington State Centennial Commission. It has toured throughout Washington since 1989, including performances at the 1989 Inaugural Ceremonies in Olympia, the 1989 League of Women Voters State Convention, and the Seattle Fringe Festival and Jane Doe Theatre Women's Theatre Festival in the spring of 1995.

In the fall of 1995, MAY'S VOTE and MISSED LIBERTIES, Toni Douglass' play about Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, were presented in Seattle by Jane Doe Theatre under a grant from the Washington Commission for the Humanities (now Humanities Washington).

MAY'S VOTE and MISSED LIBERTIES, as well as other programs in the VOTES FOR WOMEN project, toured extensively throughout 1998 in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention in America. The two plays were presented as part of The Inquiring Mind program of Humanities Washington from 1998 to 2000. MISSED LIBERTIES also toured to several U.S. Forest Service locations in the Northeast in the fall of 1998.

In celebration of the 2010 centennial of woman suffrage in Washington State, MAY'S VOTE was once again on The Inquiring Mind roster from 2008 to 2010, along with WINNERS, a dramatic montage of women's rights trailblazers, some of the “extremists” who helped to make today possible.

Touring of MAY'S VOTE during the Suffrage Centennial culminated in performances at the State Capital Museum and the Capitol Building in Olympia on November 7-8, 2010 as part of the two-day Day of Jubilation celebrations.

The two most recent plays in the VOTES FOR WOMEN project are about Northwest women's rights pioneer Abigail Scott Duniway, who worked for 40 years in Oregon and throughout the Northwest to win the vote for women.

Scott Free, created in honor of the centennial of the 1912 suffrage victory in Oregon, began touring in March 2012. A play-within-a-play, Scott Free presents scenes from Mrs. Duniway's life interspersed with modern scenes between two actresses rehearsing a play about her. Remembering Jenny, a play for young audiences about Mrs. Duniway, toured during the spring of 2016.

All programs are available for touring to schools and community groups. For more information, email b.callander33@gmail.com or call (240) 893-3666.

Emma Smith DeVoe



*Emma Smith DeVoe
(1848-1927) Courtesy Tacoma
Public Library, Richards Studio
Collection (TPL-8717)*

Emma Smith DeVoe, as a leading suffragist in the early twentieth century, not only successfully ran the campaign that enfranchised women in the State of Washington ten years before the national amendment was ratified, but also helped transform the face of politics in America.

While DeVoe supported woman's suffrage from her early childhood, her real impact came after she moved with her husband to Tacoma, Washington in 1905. She revitalized the near-defunct Washington Equal Suffrage Association and headed up the campaign that resulted in the approval, by a nearly 64 percent majority vote, of a constitutional amendment enfranchising Washington State women. A ladylike, polite, and tactful woman, DeVoe pioneered what she called the Washington plan of campaign. She advocated using "womanly" ways and one-on-one persuasion. She urged her fellow workers to see that women asked every voter in the state to support the suffrage amendment. Thus, DeVoe coupled the precinct method, introduced in Idaho's 1896 campaign, with her new idea of a statewide canvass to determine how every voter stood on the question of suffrage. She also used other mass techniques, such as penny postcards and posters. She avoided alienating potent forces, such as big business and the brewers, by urging supporters like labor and temperance organizations to support the movement quietly rather than aggressively. She told her workers to remain "good-natured and cheerful." And to prove that suffragists did not want to change women's traditional role as homemakers, she published a cookbook that she distributed throughout the state, the back of which had the words "Votes for Women."

After her victory in Washington, DeVoe campaigned in other states, advocating the Washington method rather than the more aggressive style of eastern suffragists who tended to imitate their British sisters with sit-ins and mass rallies. In addition, she organized the first national organization of voting women, the National Council of Women Voters, which studied issues to educate voters on a non-partisan basis. The organization's "Declaration of Principles" proclaimed a dedication to holding itself above partisan politics and sectarian affiliations and instead working for equality of opportunity for all, the protection of children, and the promotion of the family. DeVoe's council eventually merged with the National League of Women Voters.

As a suffragist, DeVoe not only brought new energy to the suffrage movement but also helped personalize politics and introduce the idea of voting the issues rather than the party.

May Arkwright Hutton



May Arkwright Hutton
(1860-1915)

“*In the first place, there are absolutely no logical arguments against woman suffrage. It is only a matter of justice that women be given the ballot.*

Taxation without representation is tyrannical, and maintains throughout the United States today, as far as taxpaying women are concerned, with the exception of four states in the Union, as it did prior to the Boston Tea Party.

Women should vote because they have the intelligence to vote. They should vote because it gives them responsibilities, and responsibilities better fit women for all conditions of life. Equality before the law gives women a fair chance with men in a question of wages for the same work. In other words, the enfranchisement of women means a square deal for all. ”

May Hutton was born July 21, 1860, in Ohio. When she was young she cared for her grandfather, Aza, who was blind. May always believed in helping others, and always wanted to build an orphanage. In 1883, when May was thirty-three, she moved to the Silver Valley in Idaho with dreams of riches and good wealth.

She traveled by train with a group of coal miners from Ohio. When she got to Wardner, a man asked her if she knew how to cook? She told him, “yes,” and immediately went to work at a restaurant. Soon May fired up her cook stove and opened up her own restaurant. May was a large and rough woman who loved feeding the miners and the poor, and a certain Northern Pacific locomotive engineer who came to eat every day. His name was Levi Hutton, but he was called “Al”. They had a lot in common – each was an orphan, and they were both hard workers. They got married in 1887 and moved to Wallace, where May ran the Dining Room of the Wallace Hotel.

In the 1890’s miners didn’t get paid very much. The mine owners got most of the money. There were unions trying to help get the miners more money, and May was part of the discussion and believed that conditions should improve for the miners. One day in 1899, when Levi was driving the train, 150 angry miners got on the train and forced him at gunpoint to drive the train to Burke, Idaho, to the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mine where they blew up the mines. Although he did not participate in the destruction, he was carried off and put in the “Bull Pen” stockade for 12 days with the miners from the train. May wrote letters and a book telling about the bad situation in the mines.

The Huttons had invested in a mine called the Hercules. They worked side by side in the mine until 1901; the mine “hit big” and they found a lot of lead and zinc. The mine yielded \$150,000,000. May and Levi became millionaires along with August Paulsen, Harry Day, F. M. Rothrock and C. H. Reeves. They moved to Spokane in 1907 and lived in a luxurious apartment at the top of the Hutton Building they had built. In Spokane, May continued her interest in politics and became a member of the Spokane Equal Suffrage Club. She had helped gain voting rights for women in Idaho in 1896, and now she helped women in Washington, so they also had the right to vote. May Hutton was a candidate for the Senate in Washington, but was defeated, although she did get to attend the Democratic National Convention in 1912.

Meet the Company

Barbara Callander

Emma Smith DeVoe

Barbara Callander has been acting professionally for over 35 years, appearing in theatres nationwide. She has created and toured plays about the woman suffrage movement extensively throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond with actress/playwright Toni Douglass. In 1995, for the Seattle celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Ms. Callander organized a multi-cultural festival of entertainment, for which she received a "Write Women Back Into History Award" from the National Women's History Project. She is proud to be a graduate of Oberlin College, the first co-educational college in the country.



Brendan Chambers

Director

Brendan Chambers is the Artistic Associate at KCPT. His most recent directing credits include KCPT's PlayFest 24 and 2019 musical production of SPIRIT OF THE YULE, where he also played Rum Runner and Rothschild. His other directing credits include KCPT's main stage productions, DADDY LONG LEGS and THE BOOK CLUB PLAY. He holds a BFA in acting from Carnegie Mellon University and a master's degree in educational theater from New York University. Brendan is a proud member of Actor's Equity. Brendan would like to thank all the patrons of KCPT for sticking out this Pandemic with the staff and making opportunities like this production possible during these times when Theatres are forced to be dark.



Denise Winter

May Arkwright Hutton

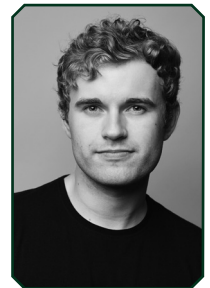
A sixteen-year staff member of Key City Public Theatre, Winter was last seen on KCPT's mainstage in 2018's ANNAPURNA. Previously she created the role of Eunice, one of the infamous stepsisters in KCPT's original holiday production of CINDERELLA. Winter is pleased to revive the role of May Arkwright Hutton this fall after performing MAY'S VOTE on tour last February. Other notable Key City performances include: THE EIGHT: REINDEER MONOLOGUES, HERE, THERE, & EVERYWHERE, and A CHRISTMAS STORY. Prior to arriving in Port Townsend, Winter appeared onstage with Children's Theatre Company (Minneapolis, MN), Hartford Stage Company (Hartford, CT), and as a voice actor for Nickelodeon's national tour of BLUE'S CLUES, LIVE!, among others. A graduate of Kenyon College with a B.A. in drama and literature, she has performed as a member of the theatrical unions Actors' Equity Association, American Guild of Musical Artists, and American Guild of Variety Artists. For the last five years, she has appeared as Emcee at the renowned Port Townsend Wearable Art Show.



Ry Armstrong

Stage Manager

Ry Armstrong was formerly seen in KCPT's production of SPIRIT OF THE YULE as an actor. This time you won't see him at all as he is running the show from behind the scenes. Former stage manager credits include Teacher from the BLACK LAGOON (ASM) with TheatreWorks USA and the Off-Broadway production of ORPHANS AND OUTSIDERS (ASM). Thank you KCPT for giving me my Principal Stage Manager debut in a show so focused on the history of these two amazing feminists of their time.



Key City Public Theatre's Mission

Key City Public Theatre fosters artistic expression that entertains, educates and engages our community while developing an accessible and relevant theater, which produces new work, contemporary plays, and innovative interpretations of classics that captivate, challenge, and celebrate our audiences and artists.