

Herstory

an original musical for children

by

Patricia Causey

Patricia Causey

P.O. Box 2414

Gulfport, MS 39505-2414

TrishCausey@gmail.com

www.TrishCausey.com

WGA Registration, Pending

© 2007-2010 by Patricia Causey

All Rights Reserved

<EXCERPT>

Flapper #1

In 1939, World War II was just beginning in eastern Europe. The men of Europe and the United States were drafted into service to fight Hitler and the Nazis. The women left their traditional roles in the home and went out into the workforce. With their new careers, they had their own money for the first time and finally had freedom and control of their own destiny.

Flapper #2

Some women even went into battle. With the support of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, the United States Army Air Forces implemented a program of hiring civilian women pilots to fly combat missions in 1943. They were called the "WASP" – Women Armed Service Pilots. And unlike *male* Army Air Forces pilots, the WASP actually had to pay for *their* military training.

Flapper #3

The WASP flew military aircraft in World War II combat zones, being shot at by the enemy, to help our troops on the ground. The WASP program lasted only 18 months, but the women pilots flew more than 75 **million** miles for the war effort.

Flapper #1

World War II ended in 1945. Because the WASP were women, they were not recognized as having served in the military until Congress passed a law in 1977.

(Enter the 3 Canteen Singers as WASPs, dressed in the style of the Andrews' Sisters.)

Flapper #2

That's 33 years without veterans' benefits or healthcare...

Flapper #3

Thirty-three years **after** their heroic service as Women in Combat.

Women In Combat

(3 Canteen Singers as WASPs)

Doo! Doo-- doo!

Doo! Doo-- doo!

We're women in combat

Flying missions and all that.
We fly missions 'cause the generals don't want to lose any men.

We paid for the right,
Earned our wings for flight;
Now we're serving our country in combat.

We fly our planes into the war zones.
We fly our planes all on our own.
We bring in food and new supplies to our troops on the ground.

Dodging enemy fire,
We fly back to base,
Then we load up for another round.

We are the-- unsung heroes of World War II

With bombs and bullets
Flying around
We're dependable.

They don't care
If we're shot down.
We're just women, we're expendable

A-WASP-a-WAF-
A-waspy-waf-a-wasp
38 of us died

WASP #1: 38 shot down
The bodies came home but weren't
Allowed burial in Arlington

WASP #2 & 3: No, no!

The government said
We not veterans,
"Only veterans're buried in Arlington."

We are the-- unsung heroes of World War II

WASP #1: The WASP weren't militarized by Congress
till 1977.

All those years
With no benefits
Now we're being recognized for what we did

We're women in combat.
We're veterans and all that.
We paved the way for future women in combat
Yes, Yes!

Don't give up,
No matter what.
If you follow your heart you can do anything.

The future--
Is now up to you!

A-WASP-a-WAF,
We're the women of the past.
The future is up to you!

WASP #1

In 1939, Howard University arranged for African-American opera singer, Marian Anderson, to perform at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. But the group, the Daughters of the American Revolution, banned the performance because Marian was black.

WASP #2

When First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt heard about this, she resigned her membership in the group and arranged for Marian Anderson's concert to be held on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

WASP #3

The concert was attended by over 75,000 people. Little did they realize they would change history. Or that just 24 years later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would also stand in the presence of the Lincoln Memorial to deliver his famous "I Have A Dream" speech.

WASP #2

Marian Anderson was an alternate delegate to the United Nations and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was the first African-American to become a permanent member of the famous Metropolitan Opera, paving the way for other African-American opera singers, Leontyne Price, Jesse Norman, and Kathleen Battle.

(Marion Anderson enters wearing a long black dress and fur coat, crossing to 1930's microphone CS.)

WASP #1

Marian Anderson also became the first African-American to perform at the White House. Throughout her career and her life, she advocated civil rights and fought to break down barriers in society. She looked forward to the future and all the changes that were happening to bring people together.

Listen Children Listen

(Marion Anderson)

Listen, children, Listen,
To those who care for you.
Listen, to the women of the past
We fought for the freedoms that you have.

Listen to those who hate you
Make their hateful words your foundation to succeed.
Listen to those who love you
Use their words to lift you in times of need.

Listen, children, Listen.

You are our future, Boys and Girls--
All colors, all creeds.
The child who works hard
Is the child who succeeds
And our future will be a good one, yes indeed.

(US - in down spot - historical versions of women juxtaposed by modern women: Asian woman in kimono/uchikaki with modern Asian woman as orchestra Conductor; Sacagawea with Mary Crow Dog; Sojourner Truth with African American court Judge; Andalusian woman with modern Hispanic woman as airplane Pilot; warrior queen Boudicca with 21st century female soldier in BDU's.)

Listen to your parents
Your teachers
While you're traveling down this road.
We've walked and we marched for our freedoms
But we still have a long, long way to go.

Listen, children, listen.

Listen, listen.

<END EXCERPT>