



Masked Activists Mix Feminism with Theatre

"...THEY INSPIRE!"
The Earlham Word

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Guerrilla Girls On Tour, who wear gorilla masks as a pun on their name, are a group of performance artists who teach their audience about discrimination against women and women's history all while simultaneously entertaining them. They brought their show, *Guerrilla Girls On Tour Show*, to Goddard Auditorium on March 11.

Guerrilla Girls On Tour began their show by jumping off the stage and distributing bananas to happy audience members. They made it clear at the start of the show that "there is no fourth wall," and that the audience is a part of their show. The GGOT Show includes entertaining skits, music and women's theatre history. One of the performers who went by the name of Remedios Varo, said she "appreciated the opportunity to take part in a cause that I think lacks attention".

Guerrilla Girls On Tour wear masks because they want the audience to focus on the message more than on the individual members of GGOT. They want their message against discrimination and racism to be front and center during their performance.

In keeping with this, none of the performers go by their own names. Each chooses the identity of a deceased female artist. This is partly for anonymity, but it also helps the audience learn about some famous women of the past. Remedios Varo, for example, was a Spanish surrealist painter of the early twentieth century.

The GGOT Show presented the history of women in theatre. It gave examples of famous women playwrights or dramatists throughout history and from different areas of the world. Members introduced the audience to Hrosvitha of Gandersheim and acted out part of one of her plays. Hrosvitha was a German nun and playwright in the tenth century.

They also talked about Lady Mary Wroth, an English writer from the early seventeenth century.

Sophomore Catherine Mallery said that she found the show "insightful and amusing", and she was happy to learn this sort of history.

During the GGOT Show, Guerrilla Girls On Tour revealed some facts about current incidents of discrimination in 2005.



www.guerrillagirlsontour.com

One of the facts they revealed was that less than 16 percent of all the plays performed in the United States are written by women. Women, however, buy more than 65 percent of all the theatre tickets in the US.

Guerrilla Girls On Tour believe that discrimination against women is alive and well in America and the rest of the world. They intend to reverse this trend. Their show raised the questions "when will sexism in theatre end?"

Freshman Rachel Hall said "they not only teach about discrimination, they also inspire women like me." Guerrilla Girls On Tour believe that if they inspire people to get involved in women's rights, they have succeeded in their mission.

By Zak Neiman