

Celebrating 35 Years of Women's Studies

5th Annual Women's Studies Student Conference



Thursday, November 30 – University Art Museum

4:30 pm Opening Reception

6:00 pm Evening Performance: **Words of the Prophets**

Arranged and Directed by
Janell Hobson

Characters
The Three Graces

Cast
First Grace – Nicole Wan
Second Grace – Joanelle Lusk
Third Grace – Tibusay Hernandez

Stage Assistant and Costume
Libby Becker

Choreography
Amina Ayad
Tibusay Hernandez

Note from the Director:

Words of the Prophets is both an invocation and celebration, a “looking back” and “moving forward” as the muses of poetry, past and present, are summoned for our annual student conference that pays tribute to Women's Studies at the University at Albany in its 35-year history. Borrowing from the theatrical traditions of the African Diaspora and of Ancient Greece, the Three Graces - who alternate in their roles as the Three Furies or the Three Fates (reinterpreted in Judeo-Christian and other traditions as female Prophets) -

effortlessly weave spoken-word and poetry with music and dance, the sacred and the secular, hip-hop and graffiti. Covering diverse topics, from femicide in Juarez to wars and the everyday violence that all women face, from sexual objectification to erotic reclamation, this collaborative performance offers a message of hope and resistance. Beginning with the words of "Warrior Poet" Audre Lorde, the Three Graces intermix original poetry offered by the director and performers with the prophetic wisdom and playful banter expressed in the beat poetry of Jayne Cortez, the free verse of '70s-era feminist poets Adrienne Rich, Chrystos, Mitsuye Yamada and Ntozake Shange, the passionate ethos of June Jordan and Lucille Clifton, and the hip-hop flavor of spoken-word poets Sarah Jones and Amalia Ortiz. This performance also pays homage to the choreopoem structure of Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow is Enuf*, which debuted on Broadway 30 years ago, itself modeled after Judy Grahn's *The Common Woman*. We honor the feminist past and herald our feminist future in this multiracial, multi-faith, and multi-voiced collage of energy, creativity, and wisdom. **Some strong and adult language is included.*

Friday, December 1 – Standish Room, 3rd floor of the Science Library

8:15-8:45 am
Breakfast.

8:45-10:00 am

Session I - Barriers, Borders, and Crossings: (Re)locating Access

- Orpha K. Ongiti, PhD candidate in Educational Administration and Policy Studies, UAlbany, "Women in Mathematics: Dismantling Barriers to Graduate Education."
- Meghan Ochal, David Axelrod Fellowship Recipient, School of Public Health, UAlbany, "Increasing Immigrant Women's Access to Reproductive Health Care: Strengthening Cultural Competency among Family Planning Providers."
- Minjeong Kim, PhD candidate in Sociology, UAlbany, "Beyond 'Mail Order Brides': A Feminist Analysis of Filipina Marriage Migrants around the Globe."

Moderator: Jeanine Hanna, PhD student in Sociology, UAlbany.

Break

10:15-11:30 am

Session II - Waste/lands: Material Worlds and Environmental Spaces

- Amy Scott, MA student in Women's Studies, UAlbany, "Sale! Identity, Values, and the Cult of Consumerism."
- Shell Majury, MA student in Women's Studies, UAlbany, "Looking Back and Moving Forward with Nuclear Energy: Silkwood Revisited."
- Menoukha Case, PhD candidate in English, UAlbany, "Tidal River Cycle."

Moderator: Stacie Kryger, MA student in Women's Studies, UAlbany.

11:30 am
LUNCHEON

12 noon

Keynote Address: *Minoring in Women's Studies, Majoring in Community*

*Keynote Speaker: **Nadya Lawson** is President of Holding Our Own Women's Foundation. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University at Albany in 1993, where she also did graduate coursework in English and Women's studies. She has a long history of work with activist and community organizations, including *In Our Own Voices*, *the Social Justice Center*, *the Feminist Action Network*, *the Women's Building*, *the Sisters of Color Writing Collective*, and *NYPIRG*. Ms. Lawson currently works as a non-profit administrator, meeting facilitator, anti-racism educator, and housecleaner. She lives in Albany with her 6-year old son, Jason. Ms. Lawson's talk, "Minoring in Women's Studies, Majoring in Community," explores the necessary art of building families and communities in the context of politics, oppression, and liberation.

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

Session III - Placing Agency: Body, Politics, and Woman-as-Nation

- Mallory A. Brown, undergraduate student, Le Moyne College, "Traditional Politics of Female Sexuality: Ancient Beliefs and Modern Values."
- Cassandra Carter, PhD student in Sociology, UAlbany, "'Woman, Thou Art Loosed!' Women's Roles in the Black Church."
- Yuan Zhang, graduate student in Cultural Foundations of Education, Syracuse University, "Women Hold Up Half the Sky!"

Moderator: Victoria Russo, MA student in Women's Studies, UAlbany.

Break

2:30 - 3:45 pm

Session IV - Pleasure and Pain: Romance, Pornography, and Violence

- Rochelle Bilow, undergraduate student, Le Moyne College, "Amatory Games: The Connection between Ovidian and Modern Female Sensual Tactics."
- Melissa A. Murphy, undergraduate student, Le Moyne College, "The New Feminism: Why We Went from Bra Burners to Porn Stars."
- Ilona Flores, graduate student in Cultural Anthropology, UAlbany, "Targets of Violence: Women in Ciudad Juarez."

Moderator: leigh vandebogart, MA student in Women's Studies, UAlbany.

4:00 pm

Roundtable Discussion –

War, Terror, and Rape: Looking Back and Moving Forward

(A Women's Studies Roundtable in Response to Sexual Violence)

Sponsors for this event include the Departments of Women's Studies, Art, Africana Studies, English, History, Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies, Sociology, the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, University Auxiliary Services, Multicultural Affirmative Action, and Women's Studies GSO group, CATALYST.

Conference Organizers:

Special Thanks to the students enrolled in **Feminist Theory** (WSS 565 - Fall 2006):

Janine Hanna

Stacie Kryger

Victoria Russo

leigh vandebogart

This conference is planned in association with the Fall 2006 courses Feminist Theory and Graduate Orientation in Women's Studies.