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2003

Judith Butler and Guerrilla Girls correspondence 2003-2004

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December 2, 2003

Dear Sharon,

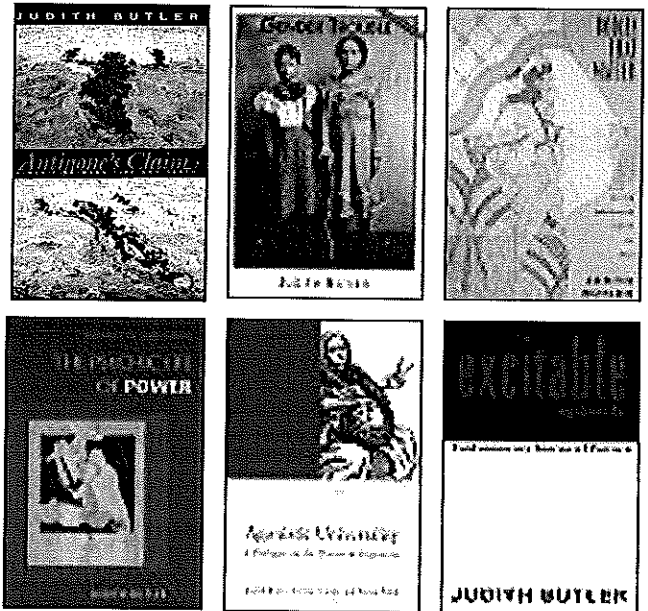
I am pleased to inform you that the Women's Studies Program will be hosting a visit next semester by **Judith Butler**, Chancellor's Professor in the department of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley.

Judith Butler's work branches from **cultural studies** and **philosophy**, to **political theory**, **gender studies**, and **queer studies**. With that in mind, we are contacting those faculty members who might have an interest in her work and asking them to consider **incorporating her visit into their syllabi for Spring**.

With intellectual courage, Judith Butler explores such tough issues as speech and conduct in contemporary political life, and cultural prejudices at play in genetic studies of sex determination. She is the author of *Gender Trouble* (Routledge, 1990), one of the most influential texts in the field of gender studies and *Bodies That Matter* (Routledge, 1993), which offers an original reformulation of the materiality of bodies, examining how the power of heterosexual hegemony forms the "matter" of bodies, sex, and gender.

Butler is also the author of *Antigone's Claim: Kinship Between Life and Death* (Columbia University Press, 2002), *Contingency, Hegemony, and Universality*, with Ernesto Laclau and Slavoj Žižek, (Verso Press, 2000), *The Psychic Life of Power: Theories of Subjection* (Stanford University Press, 1997), *Excitable Speech* (Routledge, 1997), as well as numerous essays on philosophy, feminism and queer theory.

Her recent project is a critique of ethical violence and an effort to formulate a theory of responsibility for a subject who cannot always know herself. This manuscript works with Kafka, Freud, Foucault, Adorno, and Levinas.



We have enclosed a brief list of her publications (both essays and books) for your consideration. The Women's Studies Program would welcome your involvement with Butler's visit and is happy to provide you with any needed support. Please share this information with any interested colleagues. We hope to reach as many interested faculty and students as possible.

Finally, we are pleased to offer **two reading groups** for faculty. The first will meet to discuss Butler's seminal work, *Gender Trouble*. This group will be designed for faculty who haven't yet had an opportunity to study Butler's theories or who would like the chance to discuss this important text with colleagues. The second group will read one of Butler's most recent works *Antigone's Claim* (2000). You are welcome, of course, to participate in both, if you like. Please contact the Women's Studies office at extension 6297, or e-mail Sandy Spence at spences@denison.edu to sign up.

With all best wishes for a delightful holiday season.

Marlene Tromp
Director of Women's Studies



Judith Butler
ITINERARY
March 30-April 1, 2004

Tuesday, March 30

- 8:15 a.m. Professor Sharon Collingwood to pick up Dr. Butler at OSU's Blackwell Inn
- 9:00 a.m. Check in at Middleton House
- 10:00 a.m. Meet with students in combined class. Knapp Hall 207 ⁴⁰
Classes: WMST 101: Issues in Feminism (Prof. Sharon Collingwood)
PHIL 101: Enduring Questions of Philosophy (Prof. Barbara Fultner)
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch with select faculty
Cherry Valley Lodge
Prof. Barbara Fultner to provide transportation.
- 1:30 p.m. Meet with students in combined class. Knapp Hall 302 ²⁰
Classes: DANC 302: Women in the Arts (Prof. Gill Wright-Miller)
WMST 307: Feminist Theory (Prof. Marlene Tromp)
- 3:00 p.m. Back to Middleton for rest.
Transportation provided by Marlene Tromp.
- 4:00 p.m. Depart Middleton and return to campus for Convocation.
- 4:30 p.m. Convocation: *Precarious Life: The Power of Mourning and Violence*
Slayter Auditorium
- 5:30 p.m. Book Signing
- 6:30 p.m. Faculty/Student Dinner
Granville Inn
- 8:00 p.m. Return to Middleton House

Wednesday, March 31

- 11:00 a.m. Professor Barbara Fultner to pick up Dr. Butler at Middleton House
- 11:30 a.m. Meet with students in PHIL 275: Philosophy of Feminism (Prof. Barbara Fultner)
409 Knapp Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Luncheon with Philosophy Faculty
- 3:30 p.m. Philosophy Colloquium
210 Talbot Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner with Philosophy Faculty (Columbus)
- 7:30 p.m. Return to (Need hotel arrangements in Columbus).

Thursday, April 1

- 9:45 a.m. Depart Columbus
American Airlines, Flight 781

Guerrilla Girls On Tour

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

During our 2001/02 tour, The Guerrilla Girls visited 18 cities in 7 months. We performed our *Guerrilla Girls Gig*, led workshops, visited classes and spoke to many students and faculty members who all asked us basically the same thing – “Can’t you help us do something about the sexism in our home towns?” We were invited to fight discrimination on many local levels, on campuses and in communities. We were told stories about women being denied tenure, how departments discriminated against their own students and faculty and how local theatres and museums across the country continue their sexist practices against women and artists of color without batting an eye. This discourse led us to make some changes in the way we work and how we are planning our next tour.

First of all, we decided that it was extremely important for us to research and give current stats relating to our old archival posters, which are all out of date. We went back to our five-minute research techniques and did things like return to the Met museum to count the number of paintings by men and the number of paintings by women. Next, we decided that in each part of the country that we appeared in, we would research stats on the current discriminating trends against women in the theatres, art galleries and on campuses. We revamped our *Guerrilla Girls Gig* to include these new and local stats as well as added more performance and less lecture. To further improve our appearances we now send 3 to 4 Guerrilla Girls out on tour instead of 2. We have made connecting to and involving our audience a priority. We feel that all of these improvements will better serve each individual community and help fight discrimination at the local levels. Back home we began discussing how we will combat sexism via performance and how best to involve our global audience and this led to the development of our new web site www.guerrillagirlsontour.com and our new play *The Guerrilla Girls Show* which premiered in Warsaw, Poland in April of 2003.

Probably the most important change in our touring schedule is that we have decided to add an extra day onto all of our scheduled appearances so that we can work more closely with members of the community on forming their own strategies that can continue after we leave. We hope to set up as many satellite “Guerrilla Girl On Tour” groups that we can (as we did at Stanford U Women’s Center and in Poland this past April) who will continue to meet and create their own posters and actions that bring the local facts about sexism and racism to the forefront. By spending an extra day wherever we appear we can lead workshops, master classes and hold discussions with communities that will help empower each city or campus to continue to fight discrimination after we are gone.

Lastly, we were reminded that what people respond to the most about our work is our humor. When we make people laugh they tend to listen more closely to our message. Our message is that feminism is alive and well but, unfortunately, so is sexism and racism. We remain determined to make a dent in discrimination while proving that feminists are funny. In this way we believe that we can change the world one sexist city at a time!

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Date)

Contact: (Denison University Contact Info)

Denison University (add women's studies program or appropriate sponsors) is pleased to announce that Guerrilla Girls On Tour, an internationally recognized feminist activist group, will be on campus (date). Guerrilla Girls On Tour will bring to the Denison University campus a focus on the disenfranchisement experienced by women artists and artists of color. While students are well trained in the technique and craft of their chosen art, they are not provided with the tools to critically examine and confront the sexism and racism they are bound to face in their future careers. This cross-cultural multi-disciplinary event will serve to educate the community about the current state of sexism at the same time proving that feminists are funny.

Guerrilla Girls On Tour Gig

Voted best multicultural event of the year at Metropolitan State College, Denver 2001, *Guerrilla Girls On Tour Gig* is an entertaining romp through the history of the Guerrilla Girls, an up-to-date look at Guerrilla Girls On Tour's latest masked capers and a discussion with the audience on the current discriminating trends happening right in their home towns. During a slide show of the Girls' most famous posters, actions and antics, three members of Guerrilla Girls On Tour share with the audience secrets about what makes the group run, where they get their ideas, how they invented their five-minute-research technique and the origins of the use of humor as a weapon to fight sexism and racism. Included are scenes from the brand new *Guerrilla Girls On Tour Show*, (a history of women in world theatre in 75 minutes), as well as a demonstration of GGOT's latest actions directed at the entertainment industry and highlights of their most interesting tour stops. *Guerrilla Girls On Tour Gig* ends with some current shocking statistics and a lively Q and A with the audience. 75 minutes.

The Details:

Time:

Location:

Tickets:

Phone number for more info:

To contact Guerrilla Girls On Tour visit www.guerrillagirlsontour.com

Or write to info@guerrillagirlsontour.com

Or call 917 742-2973

DENISON
UNIVERSITY

February 4, 2004

Aphra Behn
Guerrilla Girls on Tour
P.O. Box 2100
New York, NY 10021

Dear Aphra:

Instead of faxing you the maps to and from the Columbus Airport to the Middleton House, I thought I would mail them to you along with additional information about Denison and a map of campus. I've also included our initial flier announcing your visit, which was put in campus mailboxes last month. We are working to develop additional promo pieces that will be distributed later in February.

You will be happy to know that we have filled your Master Class, and that there is great excitement throughout the campus community about your performance.

Please note that the Women's Studies office is located in Knapp 108, which is building number 2 on the map. The newly built parking garage lies beneath Slayter Union, which is building 4. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 740-587-6297, or via email at spences@denison.edu.

Best regards,



Sandy Spence
Academic Secretary
Women's Studies Program

DENISON
UNIVERSITY

March 11, 2004

Mary Daly
55A Norwood Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Daly,

We are looking forward to your visit to Denison next month, and would like to take this opportunity to update you a bit on our plans.

First, we want to make you aware that a faculty reading group is meeting to discuss the introduction to Gyn/Ecology, as well as several articles on the tenure case at Boston University. This group will meet the week prior to your visit, and will join you for dinner (along with others) following your talk on April 14.

Also, we are in the midst of changing our tenure and promotion procedures following a study conducted by our AAUP chapter which found that women and minorities have overwhelmingly been the groups denied tenure. While a few cases were appealed and ultimately overturned, the statistics are disconcerting.


We thought you might be interested to know that the *Take Back the Night* program is planned for April 15th, the day after your talk. Students are working hard to promote this event and your visit, along with our efforts to inform the campus community.

Marlene Tromp, the Director of the Women's Studies Program will welcome everyone to your talk, and turn things over to Joan Novak who will introduce you. Joan is the retiring professor I spoke with you about. She introduced you on your last visit to Denison. She is a longtime servant to our college, to Women's Studies, and is one of our revered elders. As I mentioned before, we would appreciate you acknowledging her and taking part in her retirement celebration that evening.

Hotel accommodations have been made for you on the nights of April 13 and 14 at the Granville Inn. A continental breakfast will be available each morning, and a late check out has been set for 1:00 pm on the 15th. Transportation from and back to the airport will be arranged, and I will let you know more about that and other details closer to the time of your visit.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 740/587-6297. I hope the weather in your area has warmed up some since we last spoke. ☺

Best regards,


Sandy Spence
Academic Secretary
Women's Studies Program