

Amazing Women of History

JoAnn F. Peterson

Is a professional actor and singer who has performed in films (Astrid in "A Promise to Astrid"), equity theater (Mother Abbess in "The Sound of Music") and is a West Virginia Humanities Council History Alive! Presenter. JoAnn has turned her love for acting and history into performing **first person portrayals of some of history's most amazing women.** Portrayals are in the Chautauqua style – monologue followed by Q&A of the historical figure and then as the researcher. Programs are available for churches, tour groups, schools, libraries, historical societies, seniors, festivals, Chautauquas, Woman's Clubs and more!



Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale, became a world-renowned opera singer whom Mendelssohn called "the most gifted artist of the century". She inspired Hans Christian Andersen to pen "The Ugly Duckling" and "The Snow Queen", the basis for Disney's "Frozen". Known for her philanthropy and great faith, she contributed to anti-slavery, the blind, widows, and others. Hear the true story about her American tour promoted by P.T. Barnum, and her life and adventures.

Mary Lincoln – The wife of Abraham Lincoln, Mary's story symbolizes the pain and loss of Civil War America. Born into a politically active, slave owning family, she was her husband's political advisor. In this portrayal, you will see Lincoln through the eyes of the woman who loved him during the tragedies that befell her divided family and the nation. *Peterson performed Mary Lincoln at Cooper Union in New York City.*



The compassion and courage of **Margaret Tobin Brown, the "Unsinkable Molly Brown"**, captured the world's attention during the Titanic tragedy. Margaret ran for Senate before women had the right to vote, helped form the U.S. juvenile justice court, volunteered during WWI, and became an award-winning actress. You'll learn that her extraordinary life was even greater than the Hollywood hype.



Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Jane Cochrane) – A groundbreaking, "stunt" journalist, she feigned insanity to be committed to a "lunatic asylum" to report on the horrific conditions there. In 1890, she became the fastest human being to circle the globe, reporting along the way, completing the trip in 72 days. She was the first journalist reporting from the Eastern Front in WWI and was one of the first females to run a major business. *She has performed Nellie Bly her hometown, Apollo, PA and for the U.S. Embassy in Prague.*



Shirley Temple Black – *From Child Star to Diplomat* - humorous and poignant stories of how the darling of the Silver Screen and world's #1 box office draw (1935-38), grew up to become the Amb. to Ghana, first female Chief of Protocol, and Amb. to Czechoslovakia during the fall of Communism. "I was a child actor, a diplomat in training," said Shirley Temple Black. *Peterson owns Black's SAG's Life Achievement Award ensemble and has performed Amb. Black in Prague at the US Embassy.*



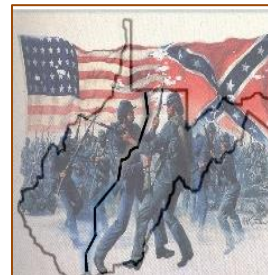
Abigail Adams – A witness to and active participant in our nation's birth, Abigail Adams is well known for her advocacy of women's rights, especially in education, and her opposition to slavery. A valued confidant and advisor to her husband John Adams, the nation's 2nd president, Abigail asked him to "remember the ladies" in the new laws the Founding Fathers would write for our young country.



NEW - Frances Perkins – First Female Cabinet Member, FDR's Secretary of Labor, and the woman behind the New Deal, Perkins was a social reformer and suffragist, You can thank Frances for Social Security, minimum wage, unemployment insurance, Worker's Comp, child labor laws and so much more.



A Mother's Heart Divided: a WV Civil War Story - Maisie Twigg's life is shattered when her son Willie joins the Rebels while her husband Johnny is fighting with the Union army. As Willie marches away, she wonders, "How can I now call them traitors, when my own son is one of them?" Nineteen songs of the Civil War weave the story together. This moving story will tug at your heartstrings as one mother's heart is divided in two by the Civil War, while telling **the story of how West Virginia was born.** As Maisie says, "In the past two years, I've lived in three states – Virginia, the Restored Government of Virginia, and West Virginia...without even moving one inch!" *Written and performed by JoAnn F. Peterson with guitar accompaniment by Tom Peterson.*



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Testimonials for JoAnn F. Peterson's Portrayals

"As a former Chautauqua Scholar and current full-time performer/presenter, I have to say that I was very impressed with JoAnn Peterson's rendition of **Mary Lincoln**. While the scholarship involved in the research was clearly evident, her presentation was vivid and artistically compelling. The dramatic set up and implied foreshadowing is stunning. Mrs. Peterson's portrayal is a truly riveting, historically accurate, and biographically insightful experience that I thoroughly enjoyed." *Mick Souter, the Bard of West Virginia Education, Elkins, WV*

"JoAnn IS **Mary Todd Lincoln**. She has the character and the emotions to carry off a fine show!!" *Robert O'Connor, author of "The Life of Abraham Lincoln as President" and "The Virginian Who Might Have Saved Lincoln", Charles Town, WV*

"Thank you for your exceptional performance of **Mary Todd Lincoln** for the families of the Fighting 69th in the Great Hall at The Cooper Union in New York where "Candidate" Abraham Lincoln made his important "Right Makes Right" speech. I do not believe there is not a more appropriate location for your portrayal of his wife. Lincoln's speech at Cooper Union propelled him into the National fame and I hope your performance there does the same for you. Congratulations on an extremely compelling and vivid performance. Your dedication, research, and scholarship is self-evident." *Col. James P. Tierney, U.S. Army, Retired; Honorary Colonel of the Sixty-Ninth Infantry Regiment, NY*

"JoAnn, you were so good as **Mrs. Lincoln!** It was the best History Alive I have seen! I know the ladies here are still talking about it and they want to have you back!" *Paul Zuros, Craik-Patton House, Charleston, WV*

"Thank you for your very enriching presentation as **Mary Todd Lincoln**. Beyond your captivating stage acting, I am quite impressed at your breadth and depth of knowledge of the characters you bring to life. What made your program special was that it was not simply a lecture in costume - but a voice from the past reaching out with passion, grace and humor." *Mary Mullenax, Tucker County, WV*

"I felt like I was actually on the Titanic, experiencing the heart wrenching ordeal through the eyes of **Molly Brown**. What a superb, well researched presentation, what a remarkable woman and what a terrific portrayal! I forgot it was a performance and actually felt like I was with Molly Brown." *Twila Gardner, Coraopolis, PA*

"JoAnn Peterson did a superb job of capturing the essence of **Nellie Bly**. I was riveted by the performance, my imagination truly captured and enlightened by being part of the audience. Ms. Peterson was wonderfully engaging and thoroughly professional in her approach, grounded in her presentation and delightful to watch. I could not have enjoyed it more!" *Kathie Rybka, Frostburg, MD*

"People are still talking about their evening with **Nellie Bly** and asking who you'll be for us next! What a beautifully nuanced portrayal of a fascinating woman – you conveyed Nellie Bly's sensitivity and heart as well as her tenacity and courageous character. From head to toe you looked like Nellie Bly had stepped out of the history books and we were a stop on her round-the-world voyage! The judicious use of props, capped with the revelatory unpacking of Nellie's kit bag, and your wealth of knowledge about the character and the times, meant the Q&A segments were as riveting as the monologue." *Catherine Feryok, Moundsville-Marshall County Public Library, Moundsville, WV*

"From the beginning, she was **Jenny Lind**. Her accent was impeccable, and her facial expressions were absolutely sincere. You immediately thought you were in the presence of the famous opera star. The audience was so taken with her performance. In a word, Ms. Peterson's performance was impeccable." *Shirley Hartley, Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee, Rowlesburg, WV*

"We thank you for doing such an outstanding job (as **Jenny Lind**). I've heard positive comments about your program; it was more than just entertaining--it was educational. I'm impressed with the amount of research you did, including your visits overseas." *Jack Anderson, Pennsylvania Chautauqua, Mt. Gretna, PA*

"From all the comments I heard, your presentation of **Jenny Lind** was a highlight of our program for the year." *Richard Walters, Monongalia Historical Society, Morgantown, WV*

"We so enjoyed your **Jenny Lind** presentation. Your considerable research has paid off because Jenny really does seem to 'come alive'. Thank you for such an engaging performance. Our members and the students were enriched because of you." *Grace Sundelin, AAUW Elkins, WV*

"Your portrayal of **Shirley Temple Black** was absolutely fantastic. All of our attendees were most impressed (as was I)." *Teresa Stenstrup, National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids, IO*

"Our audience was captured by Peterson's first-person performance (as **Shirley Temple Black**). We were impressed by her extensive knowledge about the subject and enjoyed her large display of Shirley Temple Black's memorabilia." *Harriet Berg, Springs Historical Society, Springs, PA*