

Spy! The Story of Civil War Spy Elizabeth Van Lew

Written and Performed by Lynn Ruehlmann



ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Elizabeth Van Lew was the most significant female spy for the Union during the Civil War. Her passionate objection to her own family's slaveholding led her to smuggle messages out of the Confederate Capitol across Union lines to General Ulysses S. Grant. This costumed theatrical portrayal follows Van Lew as she saves her favorite horse, Chieftan, from soldiers, hides escaped prisoners, and earns the nickname "Crazy Bet." The story is drawn from written histories of the Civil War and from Van Lew's own diary she kept during the war.

- ▶ Audiences of this show will come away feeling as though they have been part of the Civil War, including attending the Battle of Bull Run and its aftermath.
- ▶ They will understand how the war affected people, and see what it was like to be a spy.
- ▶ They will meet and understand what motivated and drove Elizabeth Van Lew to risk being a Union supporter amid Confederate circumstances.



"The audience loved the suspense of the story. Lynn did a wonderful job of creating atmosphere and taking her audience back in time." --*Norfolk Academy*

Lynn Ruehlmann tells stories through theatrical portrayals of real people in history and real people she's known and bigger than life characters of myths. She has been presenting programs at festivals, museums and schools for over fifteen years. Lynn was named "Best Actress in a Comedy" by Folio, and "Artist of the Year" by Young Audiences of Virginia. Her CD "Spy! The Story of Civil War Spy Elizabeth Van Lew" won two national awards. For more information on Lynn's programs, visit her website: www.cascadingstories.com.

For scheduling and questions, please contact

Lynn Ruehlmann
Email: ruehlmann@erols.com
Phone: 757-625-6742
www.cascadingstories.com