

Theatre for Transformation

EDUCATORS ARE SAYING...

"Students were riveted during the performance and deeply engaged in the talk-back..."

Lisa Graustein, Humanities Chair, Codman Academy

"The audience was harrowed by the intensity of Kemp's monologue."

Lancaster Live Wire, Harrisburg Area Community College

"Beautiful, funny and smart..."

Kerry Sherin Wright, Philadelphia Alumni Writers House, Franklin & Marshall College

"Dr. Amanda Kemp's Show Me the Franklins! is an amazing, extremely moving evocation of a central aspect of American and world history whose most troubling points are usually glossed over and only a few highlights retained in collective memory. Historians may remember that, in his last year of his long life, Benjamin Franklin was President of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, but give short shrift to his many years as a slaveholder before that. In a wonderful, convincing exercise of historical imagination thoroughly grounded in genuine historical sources, Dr. Kemp sensitively explores, not only disparate memories of Franklin, but also, more crucially, the tragic effects of slavery upon both slaves and slaveholders. Hers is a successful effort to explore the tragedy from many perspectives; even the perspective of author and narrator is called into question in this brilliant drama. The ultimate result is that rare work of literature on slavery that fully affirms the humanity of everyone drawn into the entangling web of an evil system. It leaves the audience profoundly stirred by the moral struggles of a not-so-distant past."

Dr. Stephen W. Angell, Leatherock Professor of Quaker Studies, Earlham School of Religion

"Kemp's play forces us to consider whose history is privileged and whose is erased by historians' standard practices... A healing ritual..."

Dr. Kathleen Coll, Stanford University

"Challenges students and their teachers to consider the many untold stories."

Deborah Sines Pancoe, Friends Council on Education

"This play will have lasting effects upon its readers and audiences."

Dr. Mike Heller, English, Roanoke College

"This piece approached complex issues from many sides at once. Amanda Kemp's writing and the superb acting simultaneously stirred my intellect, my heart, and my imagination."

Niyonu Spann, Founder of Tribe One and Beyond Diversity 101

