

EMMA GOLDMAN: MY LIFE

Press Kit

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Commissioned for and first performed for East Lynne Theater Company in Cape May, NJ in 2010

EMMA GOLDMAN: MY LIFE



Written and Performed by Lorna Lable

Directed by Karen Case Cook

Emma Goldman: A fearless woman who fought government and big business said,

“If big business and government is running scared of me, there must be something valid in what I say.”

Emma was witty, wise, a dynamic leader in the fight for women's rights and the unemployed. She used her voice and passion for justice. She inspired people to fight for a better life

Lorna Lable (playwright/performer Emma Goldman) was a professional modern dancer with the well-known Ruth Currier and Eleo Pomare Dance Companies, and for four years managed her own troupe, The Lorna Lable Dance Company. As a dancer, she performed in such venues as Lincoln Center and City Center in NYC. As an actor, she performed her one-woman show, *The Door is Mine*, a positive look at divorce, along the East Coast from Vermont to Pennsylvania. Her film credits include *The Wiz* and *Keeping the Faith* with Ben Stiller. Her commercials run the gamut from selling hams to phones. Lorna's enjoyed working on all NYC-based soaps from *Edge of Night* to *All My Children* and all the versions of *Law & Order*. You might have seen her as Helga in *Grandma Sylvia's Funeral* in NYC at the Soho Theatre or Mrs. Bendle in *Not in Our Town* at Manhattan Theatre Club, or other shows in NYC and in regional theater.

Karen Case Cook (director) most recently directed the Philadelphia premiere of *The Twentieth-Century Way*. Directing highlights include: *Hot L Baltimore* (Stella Adler Conservatory NYC); *Dad Doesn't Dance* (NYC's Midtown International Festival); *The Guardsman*, *Alice on the Edge*, *Emma Goldman*, *My Life* and *Helpful Hints* (East Lynne Theater Company); *On the Verge*, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Couer* and Assistant Director for Elise Stone *I Have Before Me A Remarkable Document* (Phoenix Theatre Ensemble); *Mass Appeal*, *Shadows of Poe* and Ibsen's *Ghosts* (Dave McCracken Productions). Summer 2005, Karen travelled to Beijing, China to direct Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Karen is an SDC Associate and a member of AEA, AFTRA and SAG.

**Special Thanks: Rabbi Kaye, Stephanie Lasher, Gina Levine,
Aunt Fannie, Nanette Pal, Fonda, Tommaso Marchiaro, Carole Cote
Victoria Thompson, Juliette Frydman**

If you would like to share this show with other groups, please contact Lorna Lable at 917-747-5623

Emma Goldman: My Life

Written and performed by Lorna Lable
Resident artist, Ohio State Newark



The wit and passion of the revolutionary Emma Goldman are brought to life in this exhilarating production

Tuesday, February 26 at 8 p.m.

Black Box Theater, LeFevre Hall
The Ohio State University at Newark

Free and open to the public



For more information: Virginia Cope, Ph.D., at cope.38@osu.edu

LeFevre Hall is located at 1199 University Drive, Newark, OH 43055

Visiting actress tells story of activist Emma Goldman at OSU-N

A longtime actor and dancer in New York City, Lable had written several plays about her life experiences when a colleague recommended she find out more about Goldman.

As she read biographies and Goldman's autobiography, she realized how different Goldman was from most women of her time.

"She refused to be 'the little woman,'" Goldman said. "She wanted to change the world."

In 2010, Lable received a commission from the East Lynne Theater Company to tell Goldman's story. She focused on her life from when she came to New York City to when she was deported in 1919.

"Writing for Emma Goldman was the first time I wrote about something I didn't live and I had a blast," Lable said. "I believe in everything that she said, that she worked for and that she fought for."

To portray Goldman, Lable used her extensive research to bring her words, emotions and movements to life.

She'll share some of her methods with students when she arrives at OSU-N on Friday.

On campus, she'll teach several acting classes focused on character movement.

"Acting doesn't need to have words, it has to come from the inside," Lable said. "I'm going to teach them how to use that information to enhance their scene."

Lable will be working with students until Feb. 28. But her performance of "Emma Goldman: My Life" is open to the public.

She said she hopes audience members will ask questions about Goldman, then go home and learn more about her.

"She was a wonderful woman who believed in rights in the workers, womens rights and that women have control of their bodies," she said. "That, to me, is the crux of who she was."

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newarkadvocate.com

Lorna Lable, Visiting Artist, performs one-woman show

Actress Lorna Lable attracted an overflow crowd to the Black Box Theater of The Ohio State Newark campus last month for a performance of "Emma Goldman: My Life," a play she wrote to bring to life the early 20th century revolutionary. The play is set at Ellis Island as Emma Goldman, age 50 and about to be deported for her work as a social and labor reformer, responds to reporter's questions.

More than 75 students, faculty and community members filled the seats and lined the floor for the performance.

"I had never heard of Emma Goldman, but she was a woman worth knowing about. Ms. Lable did a superb job portraying her," said Margaret Wolford, a Newark resident.

Laura Younger, who teaches English at the campus described the one-woman show as "spirited and inspirational."

Born to Jewish parents in Russia in 1869, Goldman emigrated to the United States at age 17, initially working as a seamstress in a factory with her sister. Enraged by the terrible working conditions and other injustices, Goldman joined the newly formed Anarchism movement, and soon was giving talks around the nation, publishing her own paper, and writing books advocating for the rights of the disempowered. She championed free speech, birth control, women's equality, immigrant rights, and labor unions. An anti-

"Emma Goldman: My Life"



war activist, she was arrested, jailed and deported to the Soviet Union in 1919 on charges of interfering with the draft. "She fought for the rights of workers and for women to control their own bodies," said Lable, who was commissioned to write the play in 2010 by the East Lynne Theatre Company in Cape May, N.J. Before beginning research, she knew little about Emma Goldman, but what she found inspired her: "She wanted to change the world."

A Newark resident in attendance said she had studied Emma Goldman in a college class in the 1970s and remembered her story well. "Lorna captured the true essence of Emma. I wish there were a million Emmas in this world--such bravery."

Alcira Duenas, a history professor at Ohio State Newark, appreciated the insight the play gave into an important historical figure, as well the opportunity it gave students to "learn important things while having fun."

Lable, resident artist at Ohio State Newark in February, also taught an acting classes and a workshop on how to portray

character through body language and expression. "You don't have to say a word to act," she told students.

ADHD *(continued from page 2)*

In the peer mentoring class, Ohio State Newark students are trained in ADHD coaching methodology to help their peers (not necessarily diagnosed with ADHD) discover solutions to their academic problems, particularly those involving initiation and organization. They received 12 hours in ADHD coaching training from Jodi Sleeper-Triplett, one of the nation's best known ADHD coaches.

"We created a hybrid using coaching methods combined with traditional mentoring," said Cope. "Mentors in the program are not focused on course content, but in helping mentees find their own solutions and follow through. That's hard to do typically if you have ADHD, and even harder if you've gotten discouraged after years of struggling in school."

"It's important that these students are empowered to choose their own goals and strategies," said Cope. "They know

themselves best. The coach just helps keep them on track, encourages them to brainstorm, or offers suggestions for resources."

Cope said that it can make a big difference: "One student who failed all his classes last semester is earning all A's this semester," she said.

"In the peer mentoring program, we are helping each other change our habits of thought," said Laura Younger, Ph.D., a lecturer in the English department, who is participating in the peer mentoring program.

Cope said that she expects the programs to grow. "We anticipate that the first year will serve as a pilot for both programs; the second year will provide refinements to the program based on feedback from participants and organizations; and the third year the programs would be established and predictable elements of our curriculum and co-curriculum," Cope said.



EMMA GOLDMAN

A fearless woman who fought government and big business and said, "If big business and government is running scared of me, there must be something valid in what I say."

Emma was a force that united people, witty, wise a dynamic leader in the fight for women's rights and the unemployed, using her voice and passion for justice. She inspired the immigrants to fight for a better life.

'Emma Goldman: My Life' writer superb

By ED WISMER
Star and Wave Critic

CAPE MAY - When East Lynne Theater Company artistic director Gayle Stalhuth commissioned New York actress Lorna Lable to write and perform "Emma Goldman: My Life," it was one of Stalhuth's wisest decisions ever.

Lable switched some time ago from her highly successful career as a professional dancer to an equally successful acting career. It was a propitious move and, with Stalhuth as catalyst, Lable added writing to her resume. Her acting career has included roles in films like "The Wiz" and "Keeping the Faith" with Ben Stiller and Jenna Elfman. Like Goldman, Lable is a bit of a maverick. She wears nobody's brand.

Lable's arduous research for the role of Emma Goldman led to the discovery that Goldman was an ardent dancer as well as agitator. That sold the charming Lable on the whole idea. She said that prior to her research she knew precious little about her subject but the research intrigued her. Lable learned that in addition to Goldman's love of dancing, she fought for the poor and unemployed, for women's rights and birth control, and much else that is relevant. Goldman was portrayed by Maureen Stapleton in the 1981 film, "Reds," starring Warren Beatty. Stapleton earned the supporting actress Oscar, and I

believe Lable deserves an award for her portrayal as well.

Unfortunately, Emma Goldman is not well remembered these days, but Lable

blouse, tie and long hobble skirt, the epitome of a late 19th century woman. Goldman was born in pre-revolution Russia and came to the United States as a

attempts to make a bomb, and equally unsuccessful plan B which entailed a gun, elicited gales of laughter from the audience. Even though they were attempted assassinations, they had their funny aspects too.

Lable made it plain that Goldman seriously hated union busters and corporations, and Lable brings a large measure of passion to her portrayal and yet manages to make the audience see the funny side of it all. Goldman's failed attempt to become a prostitute is hilarious in Lable's hands.

Goldman was repeatedly incarcerated for her activities and views. She, like singer/actor Paul Robeson (to be played by Derrick McQueen later this season) was at first an admirer of the U.S.S.R., but later became disillusioned.

Lable ends the play sitting in a chair at Ellis Island awaiting deportation. It's a stunning moment, and the audience gave Lable a standing ovation.

"Emma Goldman: My Life" can be seen at First Presbyterian Church at 500 Hughes Street in Cape May Wednesday through Saturday until July 10. You'll enjoy the show even more if you check out Goldman's story on your computer or at the library. For more information on the show - a world premier - call (609) 884-5898.



brings her vividly back to life. According to Lable, Goldman was no great beauty but had more than her share of lovers. She didn't want to be a conventional wife and didn't want children, but was passionate about all things. Lable made her appearance as Goldman sitting alone on an antique chair in a middy-

child.

After introducing herself as Goldman, Lable's first utterances were ones of defiance. She talked about the high and low points of her life while gracefully dancing about the stage. She tells her tales with great belly laugh humor. Comic/tragic episodes, like her lover's unsuccessful

The Story Of One Very Special Woman

"Emma Goldman: My Life" is reviewed by Tom Sims

YOU'RE witnessing one of the greatest activists in history answer questions from phantom colleagues sitting next to you. She is a masterful speaker, answering questions with authority and ease. She's passionate, insightful and, from her answers, you soon realize she is eternally pulling for those who are lacking an advocate. And that's what you learn to love about her.

She is Emma Goldman and she is captured wonderfully in the world premiere one-person play *Emma Goldman: My Life*, playing through July 10 at East Lynne Theater. The play takes us from Emma's beginnings in the late 1800s, through a variety of love interests, to her start as an early campaigner for worker and women's rights. We watch as she first arrives in the US ("We are all foreigners in this county"), moves from Rochester to New York City, where she falls for the city then for a fellow activist.

Emma Goldman's life was filled with glory, as she rose to prominence as a public speaker and activist, to tribulation, as she experienced her lover's imprisonment and



Activist Emma Goldman is played superbly by Lorna Lable in East Lynne's new production

then her own. She had her challenges with love as well and says "I could not submit to a love who insists that I must change." But she did submit to the beauty of her world, insisting, "What is the point of a revolution if you don't stop to smell the roses."

The play is performed by Lorna Lable, who is also the playwright. Lable is an accomplished actor for stage, TV, and film. She effortlessly draws you into the life of this remarkable



woman, and her words (much like that of the woman she portrays) are "passion-covered." She delivers a performance that always keeps pace, always keeps in character. Karen Case Cook, the show's director, is no doubt a major influence in ensuring that the performance is as intimate as it is informative. And the set was subtle, just enough to ensure that you're brought into Emma's world and are not distracted from this engaging life story.

I'm always impressed that East Lynne Theater productions run education and entertainment side by side. Their shows consistently enlighten and amuse – a rare combination that results in an uplifting experience. Artistic Director Gayle Stahlhuth commissioned this play and is dedicated to revealing to us great figures who are often marginalized by history. As you plan your summer theater plans, don't miss *Emma Goldman*.

The show is running at the First Presbyterian Church, 500 Hughes Street. Tickets are priced from \$28 to \$13. For more information and reservations, call (609) 884-5898 or visit www.eastlynnetheater.org.

— The Cape May Star & Wave (NJ)

Emma Goldman: My Life

With Lorna Lable + Directed by Karen Case Cook

My husband and I had a chance to check out Emma Goldman: My Life on Saturday evening (July 3). Lorna channeled Emma—what I particularly liked was the fact that she presented Emma as a warm, lively and very witty woman—something you get when you read Emma's biography, but not something you would necessarily pick up from the movie Reds. Maureen Stapleton captured Emma's strength, for sure, but presented her as an unsmiling, rigid personality.

Anyway, if you love American history, have any kind of labor roots, are a feminist, or just want to learn about a remarkable woman, I highly recommend Emma Goldman: My Life . . . and Lorna!

—Colleen Puckett



Derrick McQueen
as Paul Robeson



Lorna Lable
as Emma Goldman



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Executive Director
Joan Shapiro Green

National Council of Jewish Women
New York Section

241 W. 72nd Street, New York, NY 10023-2703

Tel. (212) 687-5030 Fax (212) 799-7283

E-mail: info@ncjwny.org Website: www.ncjwny.org

June 12, 2013

Lorna Lable
152 West 25th Street
New York, NY 10001

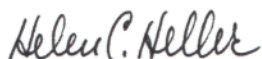
Dear Lorna,

On behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women New York Section and The Workmen's Circle, I want to thank you for the superlative performance you gave of Emma Goldman's Life. The audience was mesmerized by your presentation. Nobody moved a muscle they were all transported to another time and another life.

How you manage to incorporate the many sides of this complex woman who was a fighter for worker's rights, understood women's desires and still was able to move from the role of orator, to care giver, friend and lover is almost unbelievable. You made the conflicts understandable and brought her to life with all her accomplishments, her foibles and her concerns. The audience will remember her as a result of your portrait and will remember this unusual and driven woman with awe.

Thank you for sharing your artistry with us. For everyone attending it was a real treat. As an activist she was admirable and you gave us the picture. Many will question her politics but her desire to right some of the wrongs she saw in Russia and this country, made her a beacon for the poor and the disadvantaged and the audience appreciated your tremendous portrayal.

Sincerely,



Helen Caplin Heller
Program Chair

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Lorna Lable

LORNA LABLE

SAG-AFTRA-EQUITY

917-747-5623

Height: 5'1"
Weight: 122
Hair: Dark Brown
Eyes: Brown

THEATRE OFF BROADWAY

EMMA GOLDMAN: MY LIFE

One woman show written and performed by Lorna Lable

Emma

Ohio State University

Artist in residence

EMMA GOLDMAN: MY LIFE

One woman show written and performed by Lorna Lable

Emma

Metropolitan Playhouse at NYC

EMMA GOLDMAN: MY LIFE

One woman show written and performed by Lorna Lable

Emma

East Lynne Theatre at Cape May

BLISS

Granny Smith

Chelsea Playhouse

THE DIVORCE OR THE DOOR IS MINE

Marci

Here Performance Space

One woman show written and performed by Lorna Lable

THE DIVORCE OR THE DOOR IS MINE

Marci

Riant Theatre

NOT IN OUR TOWN

Mrs. Bendle

Manhattan Theatre Club

GRANDMA SYLVIA'S FUNERAL

Helga Helsenrott

Soho Theatre

FUNNY GIRL

Mrs. O'Malley

Equity Library Theatre

SOUL OF A STRIPPER

Marie

Eccentric Circles Theatre

MORNING

Gertrude

18th Street Playhouse

POT ROAST

Wife

Polaris North

SCOTT JOPLIN

Singer/Dancer

Macmillan Theatre

BLACK EXPO

Singer

City Center

RAGTIME CHRISTMAS

Singer

Avery Fisher Hall

REGIONAL

JUST A SECOND

Miriam

Lake George Dinner Theatre

BEAU JEST

Miriam

Lake George Dinner Theatre

THE MUSIC MAN

Mrs. Paroo

Lawrence Welk Theatre

THE PAJAMA GAME

Mabel

Lawrence Welk Theatre

TAXI TALES

Mrs. Tucker

Eastside Westside (L.A.)

BLEACHER BUMS

Rose

Burbage Theatre

A SALUTE TO THE 30'S

Singer

New York State Fair

JAZZAMATAZZ

Singer

Merry-Go-Round Playhouse

NO NO NANETTE

Pauline

Merry-Go-Round Playhouse

GUYS AND DOLLS

Mimi

Merry-Go-Round Playhouse

LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE

Cora

Merry-Go-Round Playhouse

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