

Transgender Performance of “The Vagina Monologues”

On February 21, 2004 Deep Stealth Productions and the GenderMedia Foundation will present the Los Angeles V-Day campaign. V-Day is a nonprofit corporation that distributes funds to grassroots organizations and programs that work to end violence against women and girls.

Since 1998 local volunteers have participated in V-Day campaigns by producing performances of “The Vagina Monologues” to increase awareness in the community and to raise funds for anti-violence organizations. See www.vday.org for more information.

This year, for the first time, a production of “The Vagina Monologues” will feature a cast of transgender women from around the country and will include new material written by the author, Eve Ensler, specifically about the experience of transwomen.

In a press release about this historic event, Deep Stealth Productions said, “This large-scale, mainstream event will also be a historic opportunity for the trans community to present ourselves in a positive, contributing light.

“The performance will showcase notable trans women reading Eve’s beautiful monologues about the experiences of womanhood and the reclaiming of self through loving and respecting our bodies.”

Please go to <http://www.deepstealth.com/vday> for more information

University City, MO passes Anti-discrimination Law

University City, Missouri, which adjoins St. Louis, has become the first municipality in the Show Me State to explicitly protect transgender people against discrimination. University City is home to Washington University in St. Louis.

Sixty-eight jurisdictions nationwide—including four states—now protect people based on gender identity/expression. The city council of U. City passed the law in November by a vote of six to one, bringing to 13 the total number of jurisdictions passing such laws in 2003.

The way the ordinance is written mirrors the language in the Missouri state hate crime law in which “sexual orientation” is defined as “male or female heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality by inclination, practice, identity or expression, or having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one’s gender.”

The new ordinance protects people against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Mara Keisling, Executive Director of NCTE, speaking in St. Louis last weekend, noted that “Even in a politically conservative state like Missouri, it is possible for activists to pass trans inclusive laws. Just like any where else, it takes strong committed trans activists and our allies working together to teach legislators about LGBT people and our need for legal protections. Missouri showed it in 1999 by passing a transgender inclusive state hate crime law and the good people of U. City showed it again with this new ordinance.”

For a complete list of jurisdictions that protect people based on gender identity/expression, see our website at:
<http://www.nctequality.org/AntiDiscriminationByJurisdiction.pdf>

CAPPS II New Developments

Last month, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced a decision to implement a controversial new security system called CAPPS II (the “Computer-Assisted Passenger Pre-Screening System,” version 2). This decision comes despite overwhelming opposition from American privacy rights groups, the travel industry, Congress and the European Union. CAPPS II will sort airline passengers into risk groups for security purposes. The system will color code all passengers into red, yellow or green risk groups, which will be determined by matching passenger information captured from reservations (name, home address, home phone number and date of birth) with data provided by commercial data base providers. This data will then be compared to US government lists of individuals with links to terrorist organizations.

As we noted in our November Issues Alert, NCTE is extremely concerned about the dangers this ill-conceived system poses for transgender people and others. Because of the frequency of name and address changes among transgender people, and because of well-known inconsistencies between airline reservation information and commercial databases, we fear that this system will cause transgender people to be labeled as “high” (red) or “unknown (yellow) risk,” requiring transpeople to go through unspecified heightened security screening by untrained and potentially insensitive personnel and protocols.

There is also concern that this system will out transgender travelers. “Being outed to co-travelers, or even to sworn federal security personnel, can lead to additional outing and can subject transgender people to loss of jobs or even lead to physical assault,” according to Mara Keisling, NCTE Executive Director.

NCTE Provides Trainings and Speakers

NCTE offers the following trainings for campus groups, non-profit organizations and businesses that are looking to expand their knowledge, understanding, and inclusion of transgender and genderqueer people.

Transgender: An Introduction

This training is geared towards participants who want a more detailed awareness of transgender issues.

Creating a Trans Inclusive Environment

This training moves beyond a general Transgender 101 and focuses on the issues that transgender people face in your particular organization.

Organizing for Trans Positive Change

In this training, the trainers work with the participants to think strategically about how to move from a place of understanding to devising a concrete action plan to improve the lives of transpeople.

How to Pass a Bill

This training takes participants, step by step, through the process of passing a bill in their state or local community.

Educating Congress

This training teaches participants how to have an effective meeting with a member of Congress.

These trainings can be done individually or in groups and can be shaped both in time and content to fit your organization's needs.

NCTE can also provide fun, engaging, and informative speakers to discuss a variety of topics important to the transgender community.

NCTE speakers have presented to LGBT and ally student groups and non-profit organizations around the country. Speaking engagements can focus on one topic or cover a range of issues and can be adjusted in length and content to fit your needs.

If you are interested in being an NCTE speaker or trainer please contact Caeden at cdempsey@nctequality.org.

Contact NCTE at NCTE@NCTEquality.org to schedule a training or speaker.

CAPPS II Continued

NCTE submitted official comments to the TSA outlining these concerns. During a comment period that ended in September 2003, thousands of comments were submitted in opposition to the CAPPS II system. In late September, Congress postponed the implementation of the CAPPS II system until a General Accounting Office study could be conducted about the effectiveness and privacy implications of the system. See NCTE's comments at <http://www.nctequality.org/CAPPSIIComments.pdf>

Governments and privacy advocates in the European Union claim that European airlines providing information to the United States would violate E.U. privacy laws. Airlines in the United States are also currently refusing to provide passenger data to the TSA for this program.

NCTE along with privacy rights organizations continue to battle the implementation of CAPPS II. We will continue to monitor this process and its impact on transgender people and others.

For more information about CAPPS II follow these links:

[http://www.aclu.org/Privacy/](http://www.aclu.org/Privacy/Privacy.cfm?ID=13453&c=130)

[Privacy.cfm?ID=13453&c=130](http://www.aclu.org/Privacy/Privacy.cfm?ID=13453&c=130)

<http://www.epic.org/privacy/airtravel/profiling.html>

Become a Member of NCTE

Please join NCTE today to increase our ability to educate policymakers and others about transgender people. Everybody has a right to participate in their movement for equality. Every donation no matter how large or small is welcome, honored, effective and needed. Please consider making a donation today. Monthly donations are especially important to helping us plan for the future.

Fill out and return the following form to the address listed below or email to NCTE@NCTEquality.org. Thank you for your support.

Name _____

Contact Name (if different) _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

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Telephone number _____

Would you like to receive

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Make checks payable to:
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Washington, DC 20005

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