



# Eastern-in-the-News



## **Ilene Evans Brings 'Harriet Tubman—Behind Enemy Lines' To Eastern March 26**

Moorefield — March 22, 2013 — Visiting Moorefield from her home base at Voices-From-the-Earth Theater Arts in Thomas, WV, musician and storyteller Ilene Evans will offer a powerful performance — free and open to the public — of “Harriet Tubman: Behind Enemy Lines.” A featured performer with the West Virginia Humanities Council’s ‘History Alive!’ program, Evans will reenact this unique woman’s story March 26, at 1:30 pm, in the Resource Center at Eastern WV Community and Technical College.

(Financial assistance from the Office of the Secretary, West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, also supports this program.)

A freed slave, Harriet Tubman served the Union Army as a cook, nurse, organizer and armed spy during the Civil War. And this unique first-person enactment, packed with “story, song, tears and laughter,” dramatizes her remarkably courageous exploits in the cause of freedom and American ideals.

An experienced conductor on the Underground Railroad, on which she ferried more than 70 slaves to freedom, Tubman used her smarts and savvy to foray into Confederate territory on intelligence missions. Ilene Evans beguiles her listeners to join with her in interactive, spiritual celebration — launching into song along the way — as she enchants the audience with her portrait of this compassionate, visionary and stalwart woman.



Evans is “one of the most accomplished actresses in Appalachia,” WV historian Ray Swick told the Parkersburg News and Sentinel in February. Last year, she brought her first dramatization of Harriet Tubman to Moorefield, with ‘Her Escape on the Underground Railroad.’ This March, ‘Behind Enemy Lines’ offers another installment and further insight on Tubman’s extraordinary life.

“Tubman was going back into enemy territory, without tools, without papers, without anything but her great spirit, her intuition and the faith in God which guided her that has stood the test of time,” said Evans, who also serves as artistic director and educator-in-residence at Voices-from-the-Earth.

“It is an astounding thing. Harriett Tubman stood in that progressive line for what women who were ready and prepared need to do to follow the voice of God that is inside them,” she said.

“Ms. Tubman was a true American heroine,” agreed NBC News commentator Martin Bashir this month, remembering the 100th anniversary of the freedom-fighter’s death. “She moved the mountains of enslavement and captivity, and she did it with the only superpowers she possessed — her courage and her faith.”

For more information, call Amy Crites, Eastern’s Student Support Specialist, at 304-434-8000; or check the college’s website at [www.easternwv.edu](http://www.easternwv.edu).

(This West Virginia Humanities Council program is being hosted by Eastern WV Community and Technical College, and is supported with additional financial assistance from the Office of the Secretary, West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts.

Harriet Tubman is one of the many available character presentations offered through the West Virginia Humanities Council's History Alive! program as a means of exploring history by interaction with noteworthy historical figures. These programs provide audiences with the opportunity to question those who have shaped our history.

Historical characterization is the vehicle for this program. Humanities scholars have carefully researched the writings, speeches and biographies of the characters they portray and whenever possible, use their original words.

The West Virginia Humanities Council is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing educational programs in the humanities for all West Virginians. For over thirty years the Council has been providing educational programs in the humanities across the state.

This program is available to interested nonprofit groups such as libraries, museums, and historical societies. For more information call The West Virginia Humanities Council at 346-8500 or visit our web site at: [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org).)

Serving the residents of Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, and fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College is a comprehensive and equal opportunity community and technical college bringing the resources and assets of Education That Works to the families, communities and employers of the Potomac Highlands.

