

Ain't I a Woman and a Sister?

A Babes in Arms Production

by Holly Adams and the Babes in Arms collective

*(Stage in darkness. The actors sing an old freedom song.)*

*Projector 1: Slide of a plain, white building.*

*Projector 2: Slide of fire added.*

*Characters take places in exhibits. Cross fade: lights come up as projections go down.*

*Characters are frozen. They unfreeze and look to see that they are alone.)*

**Susan B Anthony:** *(Adjusting her costume)* My gosh, you'd think that they could make this waist band roomier! I can hardly breathe!

**Sojourner Truth:** You think yours is bad! Look how they tied my apron.

**Frederick Douglass:** Maybe these 1998 women aren't familiar with those kind of things. My clothes fit just fine.

*(Enter Lucretia Mott mannequin being carried by stage hand(s). They put her down unposed and exit.)*

**Lucretia Mott:** *(Standing)* Although a Quaker, I am not quite ready to appear as though we were still in the Garden.

*(Curator appears and Mott "flops" back over. Curator poses her and adjusts clothing. Curator sets up antislavery convention. Sign: Anti-Slavery Convention December 4, 1833)*

**Mott:** I remember that convention. Mr. Garrison was excited because Great Britain had abolished slavery in the West Indies.

**Douglass:** Of course. The West Indian slaves had executed so many bloody uprisings. The British Empire could not prevent these massacres. It became easier for England to abolish slavery than to try to maintain a failing system.

**Mott:** Yes, 'tis so. As in England, women were not yet delegates, but I was proud that husband, James, had been chosen. I had invited Mr. Garrison and others to morning tea that first day, but our numbers grew until I found myself with over fifty guests. Oh, what a morning it was! I loved the creativity involved in cooking a meal and keeping a hearth.

**Truth:** You became almost as famous for your hospitality as you did for your organizational work.

**Douglass:** *(To William Lloyd Garrison)* You were quite taken with her skills as well.

**Mr. Garrison:** I was indebted to Lucretia Mott for many things. Not the least of which was her homelike reception, which was affectionate and delightful.

**Mott:** I knew that I was not considered a full member of things, even then. Goodness, t'would be another fifteen years until the first women's rights convention that I would organize. But, perhaps, even then I was able to leave my mark.

**Truth:** With a sledgehammer! That's where you introduced your own version the abolitionist seal.

**Douglass:** I remember. The original seal was an African man on his knees and chains and the inscription read, "Am I not a Man and a Brother?"

**Truth:** But Lucretia's was an African woman asking, "Am I not a Woman and a Sister?"

**Mott:** (Smiling) My nephew, Thomas, tried to tease me about sermonizing, but I just smiled and went about my way. The impudence of that young man! Little did those men know what change their invitation to observe would bring to their convention.