

MRS. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON
An Evening with Senator Margaret Chase Smith

In a world where it seems commonplace to see women in government and on the world's stage, it can be hard to remember when there were no women in the U.S. Senate before Margaret Chase Smith from Maine who served from 1948 to 1972.

Smith, Maine's honorable, long time senator, was a woman of firsts: the first woman elected to both the House of Representatives and to the Senate, the first senator to speak up publicly against Senator Joe McCarthy, the first woman to appear on Face the Nation, the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for President at either a national Republican or Democratic Convention.

"Mrs. Smith Goes to Washington," is a play written by Linda Britt and performed by Sally Jones. The one-woman play is an intimate and fascinating look at the life and times of Margaret Chase Smith, told in her own words and in the words of the people closest to her. It tells of her journey from humble beginnings in Skowhegan, Maine, to a position of power and respect as a United States Senator. Sally Jones, as Senator Smith, relates personal anecdotes and recites from her "Declaration of Conscience," sharing both private and public moments with the audience. This production brings her to life for a contemporary audience.

In March, two performances of "Mrs. Smith Goes to Washington" are scheduled at the University of Maine at Augusta in observance of Women's History Month. Senator Smith was one of two inductees at the first Maine Women's Hall of Fame in 1990. On Saturday, March 19, 2011, two more outstanding Maine women will be inducted: Honorable Susan M. Collins, United States Senator, of Bangor, and Katherine O. Musgrave, DSc, of Orono, Professor Emerita of Food Sciences and Human Nutrition, University of Maine, Registered Dietitian.

Both "Mrs. Smith Goes to Washington" and the Maine Women's Hall of Fame are co-sponsored by the Maine Federation of Business and Professional Women, the University of Maine at Augusta, and the BPW/Maine Futurama Foundation. Proceeds above expenses from the play will be used to help fund the annual scholarships awarded each year to deserving Maine women with financial need.

Performances will be held at 4 PM on Friday, March 11, and at 7 PM on Friday, March 18. (Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 7 PM is snow date.) This will be held at Jewett Hall Auditorium at the University of Maine at Augusta. The evening begins with seventy-five minute one-woman play. After the performance the actor returns and talks to the audience still in character as the senator. The tickets are \$13 for adults and \$5 for students. There is general seating for each performance;

the doors will open one half hour before each performance. Please send check or money order payable to BPW/Maine Futurama Foundation for the number of tickets requesting. Reservations should include the performance date, time, and number of tickets requested along with name, address, phone number, and email. The request should be mailed to Sally Ann Parks, Maine Women's Hall of Fame, P O Box 84, Hinckley, ME 04944; 207-453-6004. Reservations are encouraged and requested to ensure a seat for this special look at the life and times of our beloved Senator Smith.

All shows are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather at the sole discretion of BPW/Maine Futurama Foundation. Additionally if the UMA campus is closed due to weather or for any other reason, there will be no show. Please check the University website (www.uma.edu) the day of the show if you are concerned about the possibility of a weather related cancellation. Refunds will be granted only if the show is cancelled due to weather, or by events beyond the control of BPW/Maine Futurama Foundation.

"The Senator's story is such a compelling one, the play almost wrote itself," Britt said. "She was an amazing woman who accomplished many things, but what is most memorable about her is her unfailing integrity, along with her incredible courage."

As word got out about the Britt's upcoming play, people told her and Jones stories about what the Senator had done for them. Britt made the decision to have Jones include the audience in the evening.

"After the performance I returned and talked to the audience still in the character as the senator," said Jones. "I invited anyone to tell me about a time "we" had met. Those stories were funny and often times very moving. People also brought letters and photos to share. I think in Lewiston that more than one person may have, for a moment, forgotten that they weren't talking to the real Margaret Chase Smith."

Comments from people who have attended previous productions have included: "I didn't know the play," said Catherine Napolitano-Ross from Peru. "I thought it might just be a history lesson and not very interesting, but I wanted to take my mother who thought so highly of Margaret Chase Smith. Now I know why. The way that Sally Jones played the senator, I just loved it. The time passed so quickly. It kept my enthusiasm throughout the show. Afterwards my mother gave "the senator" a photograph she had taken of the real Margaret Chase Smith wearing a suit the very same color that Sally was wearing in the show."

Remarks from someone involved with prior performance: Amanda Houtari,

Executive Director of the Celebration Barn: "Sally Jones' performance was magical. Audience members left with the sense they've just spent a delightful evening with the Senator herself! It is an intimate, informative and very charming celebration of Margaret Chase Smith and the impact she had." Last fall there were three performances at the Celebration Barn in South Paris.