

Truth on Trial

The Ballad of Sojourner Truth

By Dr. Doug Larche

First Published by **Dramatic Publishing, Inc.** Now available through **EQUITY HOUSE**
 4W/4M and multiple roles for members of an African American Ensemble
 and a 19th Century White Ensemble

Truth on Trial is a powerful and provocative play with music based on the life of Sojourner Truth, an illiterate former slave who fought for the causes of abolition, women's rights, temperance and evangelical Christianity all her life. Passionate academic and charged personal interchange, angry harangues and debate, bloodthirsty reporters, whippings, escapes, courtroom drama, appearances by historical figures, Civil War scenes, women's rights meetings, slave songs, African dances and a lusty Pinxter celebration expand this play to almost epic proportions. In several startling and clarifying moments, the centuries *collide* as the play surges to life with the powerful oratory, song, poetry and delightful Mark-Twain-like humor of Sojourner Truth.



"Truth on Trial is an emotional hammer to the forehead...and significant characters, a dynamic and highly theatrical structure, extremely dramatic moments, and the willingness to mix strong emotion, strong commitment to justice, and strong respect for ideas and facts...which characterizes the best of modern work." -Professor Charles E. Chapman, MFA, St. Louis University

"Truth on Trial is a wondrous drama with music on the life of Sojourner Truth...a stimulating, provocative drama operating on many levels. It should be, nay MUST be produced." -Barnett D. Laschever, Drama Critic, New York Herald Tribune, Founder, Connecticut Film Commission

"I ... felt elated by it. To mix the present and the past in it...provides an opportunity to enrich Sojourner's story, and to lighten it with irony, humor, provocative comparisons...The play moves fast, is gripping, has meat, has surprises. The use of Sojourner's songs stirs me. Of course I laughed a lot. (Truth on Trial is) moving, amusing, thought-provoking, stimulating... moral, intellectual and emotional. I am delighted with it." -Carleton Mabee, Ph.D., Pulitzer Laureate, Author of *Sojourner Truth: Slave, Prophet, Legend*

"Truth on Trial is dramatic, inventive, creative and powerful; stronger than any show I have ever seen or read. It made Black History come to life for me in a very personal way. I felt hatred, awe, delight, amazement, frustration, hurt, enough anger to want to shout 'Enough!' Get angry, get mad, shout, cry, laugh, scream, just make sure you get the message!" -Ret DeBrown, Director, Ebony Theatre

"Truth on Trial is wonderful! Brilliant! A remarkable treatment of the life of Sojourner Truth" - Forrest Stone, MFA Teacher of Playwriting, Yale University; Winner of the Sundance Festival

Extraordinary theatre! It is striking, revealing, shocking, jarring, disturbing and uplifting...raw, direct and pungent...It is playwriting genius to weave the present and the past...songs that inspire... your feet want to dance. This is masterful work (that reveals) the beauty and majesty of Sojourner Truth herself. -Dr. Alex Randall, Ph.D. Princeton University. Theatre review WSTA-FM, U.S. Virgin Islands.

