



THE

ROPE

IN YOUR HANDS

A theatrical program
unraveling the race
and class struggle
exposed by
Hurricane Katrina

“A tour de force.”

EDINBURGH FRINGE REVIEW

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY
Siobhan O’Loughlin

WWW.SIOBHANOLOUGHLIN.COM

WHAT IS

THE ROPE IN YOUR HANDS ?

**All anyone around here wants
is someone to listen
to their stories.**

THE ROPE IN YOUR HANDS is a solo performance piece and workshop focusing on post-Katrina New Orleans.

It boldly opens a concrete dialogue about race and class that the United States still desperately needs to address.



This performance is an ethnographic illustration of life after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, LA. With text taken directly from interviews in New Orleans, the playwright performs as 13 different survivors telling their stories as they were told to her. The characters (ranging in age from 7 to 65 years old, and with a diverse background of race and ethnicity) appear in a series of monologues that have been interspersed; creating a character collage that suits the multi-faceted feeling of New Orleans.

Each voice lends a particular perspective to the injustices that our country continues to grapple with, and how to move forward.

“**Brilliant.**”

DC METRO THEATRE ARTS



WHERE HAS THE ROPE IN YOUR HANDS BEEN ?

The Rope in Your Hands was developed at Towson University and had its world premiere in Baltimore, MD. Since then, it has gone on to perform at universities, educational programs, regional theatres and festivals throughout the United States as well as the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. In St. Louis, the show was performed in alliance with activists from Ferguson, and paired with workshops within the Ferguson and St. Louis community.

“ This play made me want to go out and help my community in any way possible. When I am teaching in the future, I want all of my students to feel involved in the world. I want to take them to plays such as this one, plays that open their eyes to different view points.”

—
STUDENT & AUDIENCE MEMBER,
SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

WHAT COMMUNITIES IS THE ROPE IN YOUR HANDS FOR ?

The Rope in Your Hands is especially impactful for universities and college campuses. However, the performance serves beautifully at theatres and theatre festivals, schools, arts camps and programs, community centers, as well as alternative performance spaces.

WHO

IS
SIOBHAN O'LOUGHLIN ?

Siobhan is a Brooklyn-based writer, performer, activist and award-winning playwright who tours her solo work internationally. She is a **MOTH STORY SLAM CHAMPION**, a founding member of the Australian/American storytelling conglomerate **EVERYTHING IS EVERYWHERE**, a published playwright with **INDIE THEATRE NOW**, and a trained Joker with **THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED NYC**.

O'Loughlin received her BA in Acting from Towson University in Baltimore, MD, studied Devised Theatre and Choreography abroad at Dartington College of Arts in Devon, England.

Her work has been seen all over the world, from New York to LA, from Japan to Australia, the Philippines, across the UK, and Ireland.

WORKSHOPS

BY SIOBHAN

“

The show portrays Katrina as a sort of magnifying glass, which identifies how racial and economic inequality are part of the fabric of America and how such a disaster can bring these issues to the surface.

In the end though,

THE ROPE IN YOUR HANDS

projects a glimmer of hope.

”

—

THEATRE IS EASY, NEW YORK CITY

**SPEAK TRUTH
TO POWER**

Telling Your Story

Anyone on campus or in the community is invited to learn to shape and share their personal stories. These stories can be inspired by any of the themes of the play: racism, privilege, class, trauma, survival, triumph. Following the practice of **PAULO FREIRE'S PEDAGOGY OF THE OPPRESSED**, we learn that vocalizing our experiences is an instrumental tool for cultivating peace and community. In this workshop, we will hone our specific skills in not only telling our own stories, but in supporting, empowering, and listening to each other.

**CREATIVE CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT**

**Docu-Drama &
Your Community**

A session for artists and creative types who make work (or wish to) based on, or that involves, interviews with other people. In this workshop, we will share each others' stories and perform them back to each other. This is a practice that allows the student to observe the significance of the personal narrative paired with that of performing as someone else; we see ourselves in each other, we connect, share, and honor each others' experiences. This enables us to publish work, create theatre, and art that is more informed, aware, and open—and based on interviews, of course.

SEEN / HEARD

**Creativity
Amidst Injustice**

This is a workshop for anyone who has felt injustice against them based on their race, class, gender, orientation, religion, or identity. It's no secret that the way our society, and sometimes our own communities, treat us is often internalized towards our own struggles with confidence. Together, we will unpack the reasons for those feelings, and we will tackle the ways to dismantle the culture that constantly shames us, embarrasses us, and changes our own self definition. We will begin the difficult conversations that are necessary to create steps of social change.



SHOW SUMMARY

SHOW RUN TIME

60 minutes

WORKSHOP RUN TIME

90 minutes - 2 hours

**CONTACT SIOBHAN TO DISCUSS LONGER
WORKSHOPS OR RESIDENCIES**

AGE RANGE

Suitable for adults, young adults,
and teenagers.

PRICE

Contact for details:

SIOBHAN@SIOBHANOLOUGHLIN.COM

TYPICAL TECH REQUIREMENTS

This is NOT a complete technical rider
and is intended ONLY as an example of
our typical technical needs.

Please contact

SIOBHAN@SIOBHANOLOUGHLIN.COM
with any questions.

AUDIO & LIGHTING

Stereo sound system capable of
filling the facility with clean,
undistorted sound

Repertory theatrical lighting system
with minimal 'specials,' (or simple
lighting is also flexible)

Stage Manager and operator positioned
with a clear view of the front of the
stage that allows for easy access to the
sound and lighting consoles set

One sturdy black or wooden chair

PERSONNEL

One Technical Director or person
empowered to make logistical decisions
concerning the use of the facility
and stage. Must have the authority to
organize special needs, such as removal
of items from the stage.

All front of house staff including
box office personnel, ticket takers,
ushers, security, janitor, and other
personnel as necessary.



THE ROPE

For more information, or to bring
THE ROPE IN YOUR HANDS to you:
SIOBHAN@SIOBHANOLOUGHLIN.COM

IN YOUR HANDS

“The disquieting magic of the rope in your hands, Siobhan O’Loughlin’s one-woman tour de force at this year’s St. Lou Fringe Festival, is that one forgets just who’s on stage. Is it Claude, a 58-year-old black man grappling with gross injustice, or a Japanese jazz musician, Nobu Ozaki, or a righteous preacher, Keith Sam, who blames Katrina on “recent immorality” in the inimitable French Quarter?

It is, in fact, all three figures, and many, many more, as O’Loughlin transmogrifies on stage in a New York minute (or, rather, a New Orleans brass-band beat).”

—

ST. LOUIS MAGAZINE