

It Happened in the White House

True stories of the lives of the eight Virginia presidents and their wives



This show is eight theatrical portrayals about the people who gave Virginia the name “Mother of Presidents.” These stories give the audience a rapid fire, entertaining and enriching overview of the history of America. During the show, you’ll hear:

- ▶ Mrs. Chamberlain tell how George Washington met Martha, and then became general of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.
- ▶ Thomas Jefferson’s daughter tell how her mother, Martha, died before her father became president, and what her father thought were the greatest of his many achievements.
- ▶ A vivacious little girl describe the heroism of James Madison’s wife, Dolley, on the day the British burned the President’s House during the War of 1812.
- ▶ A cranky servant tell the story of how James and Elizabeth Monroe saved Madame de Lafayette from the guillotine during the French Revolution.
- ▶ Why William Henry Harrison died after only one month as president.
- ▶ A singer of sea chanties reminisce about how the explosion of the canon, Peacemaker, contributed to John Tyler’s becoming the first president to marry while in office.
- ▶ A tourist to Washington, D.C., viewing Zachary Taylor’s stuffed war horse on the White House lawn.
- ▶ And last, you’ll see how Woodrow Wilson’s second wife, Edith, became known as the First Lady President after World War I.



After all these true historical stories, you will believe: *truth is better than fiction!*

“Your spellbinding performance was an essential part of the success of “The Lines of Literacy” Festival
- Phil Raisor, Professor of English, Old Dominion University

“Your personality and wit captured the audience and joyfully involved them in your stories.”
- Rosann Cook, International Reading Association, Purdue University, Calumet

Lynn Ruehlmann tells stories through theatrical portrayals of real people in history and real people she’s known and bigger than life characters of myths. She has been presenting programs at festivals, museums and schools for over fifteen years. Lynn was named “Best Actress in a Comedy” by Folio, and “Artist of the Year” by Young Audiences of Virginia. Her CD “Spy! The Story of Civil War Spy Elizabeth Van Lew” won two national awards. For more information on Lynn’s programs, visit her website: www.cascadingstories.com.

For scheduling and questions, please contact

Norris Spencer
Email: tellspence@cox.net or
Phone: 757-428-8501

Lynn Ruehlmann
Email: ruehlmann@erols.com
Phone: 757-625-6742