

# Tom Brennan Media

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For Immediate Release:

## **Andrea Martin, Ari Graynor & Juanita Jennings Join Cast of *Women of Courage* Compelling Reality Theatre Comes to Central Library's Mark Taper Auditorium**

**Special One-Night Performance of *Women of Courage* on April 10, 2003  
Written by Katherine Martin & Directed by Ricka Fisher**

*"Women of Courage is one of the most riveting, emotional, and ultimately inspiring pieces of theatre you are ever likely to see. It stays with you long after the lights come up, seared into the memory. This is theatre at its most powerful. It can change your life."*

**- Allen Nause, Artistic Director, Artists Repertory Theatre**

**LOS ANGELES - People Who Dare, LLC**, has joined with **Facing History and Ourselves** to present a one-night, special performance of *Women of Courage* at the Los Angeles Central Library's Mark Taper Auditorium. Traditionally playing to sold-out audiences, *Women of Courage* is a riveting blend of theater and reality. From the loud and public to the quiet and private, courage comes alive in unexpected ways through five women whose stories create a surprising arc. As narrator of the piece, **Katherine Martin** takes us inside her journey as she wrote the book, *Women of Courage*, surprised by what she found and changed by the true nature of courage. The performance is built upon a potent dramatic device that sends a surge through the audience and brings people to their feet.

Joining the cast on April 10, 2003, is **Andrea Martin** of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, **Ari Graynor** of *The Sopranos*, and **Juanita Jennings**, whose television appearances include *The Practice*, *Frasier*, and HBO's *Laurel Avenue*.

### **Women of Courage Honors Special Guests:**

- Julie Su**, who, a year out of law school, brought a landmark lawsuit against garment sweatshops
- Michèle Ohayon**, who was nominated for an Academy Award for her feature documentary *Colors Straight Up*
- Kathy Buckley**, America's favorite hearing-impaired comedienne and author of *If You Could Hear What I See*
- Margaret Ensley**, who created **Mothers Against Violence in Schools** following the random shooting death of her son at school

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## Women of Courage, continued:

**What:** *Women of Courage* Special One-Night Performance  
**When:** 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 10, 2003  
**Where:** L.A. Central Library's Mark Taper Auditorium, 630 West 5th Street, Los Angeles  
**Why:** To Accompany *Facing History and Ourselves* Exhibit "Choosing to Participate"  
**Who:** Writer Katherine Martin & Director Ricka Fisher  
Featured Performers Andrea Martin & Juanita Jennings & Ari Graynor  
**How:** Free Admission & Reservations Required - 626.744.1177 x 25

### *Women of Courage* Writer Katherine Martin

A former resident of Los Angeles, **Katherine Martin** is an award-winning screenwriter who has written for numerous national magazines such as *Esquire*, *Parents*, *Ms.*, *Working Mother*, and *San Francisco*. Following the bestselling *Women of Courage*, she wrote *Women of Spirit: Stories of Courage From the Women Who Lived Them*. Through her company, **People Who Dare**, she lectures nationally and leads courage workshops. She is the Courage Counselor at *iVillage.com*, the largest women's website. Katherine lives with her husband, Franc Sloan, in Portland, Oregon.

### *Women of Courage* Director Ricka Fisher

A longtime executive with experience in theatre, publishing, and television, **Ricka Fisher** has had an extensive career in the network and cable movie arena. Most recently, she was president of Ventanarosa Productions, Salma Hayek's film company, which executive produced the Showtime movie, *In the Time of the Butterflies*. She has also served as vice president of production for Disney Telefilms, where she oversaw an eighteen-movie slate and the revival of *The Wonderful World of Disney*. At NBC, she was Director of Movies & Miniseries, overseeing dozens of productions, including the Emmy Award-winning miniseries *A Woman Named Jackie* and the miniseries *Diana: Her True Story*, based on the Andrew Morton biography of Princess Diana.

### Facing History and Ourselves

*Women of Courage* is one of the featured events of the traveling exhibit *Choosing to Participate*, created by **Facing History and Ourselves**. Since 1976, this national educational organization has been engaging students of diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism, prejudice, and anti-Semitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry. By studying the historical development and lessons of the Holocaust and other examples of collective violence, students make the essential connection between history and the moral choices they confront in their own lives.

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