

# The Eight Faces of Jane

THE LIFE AND WORK OF JANE CHAMBERS  
A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY ALISON McMAHAN

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## 2018 Women in Theater Pre-Conference

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This year the [Women and Theatre Program Pre-conference had the theme of Revolutionary Pedagogy](#).<sup>[1]</sup> It was a wonderful day of panels, workshops, and awards, including a reading of the 2018 Student Jane Chambers Award Winning Play, *Son of Soil* by Andie Berry. (Andie is in blue, second from left).

The program begins with this quote by bell hook, from *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black* (1989):

**To make a revolutionary feminist pedagogy, we must relinquish our ties to traditional ways of teaching that reinforce domination...**

**We must learn from one another, sharing ideas and pedagogical strategies."**

That is exactly what happened during this wonder day. During the first session I attended the panel on Revolutionary Pedagogy in Action: Three Approaches to Active Engagement and Empowerment in The Classroom. I particularly enjoyed the exercise where we looked up something feminist online and then were encouraged to write a five-minute play about it. The resulting topics were inspiring.

The panelists were:

- Lynn Deboeck, University of Utah, "Improve and Liveness as Active Pedagogy."
- Laura Neill, Boston University, "Joy and Choice: Empowering Revolutionaries"
- Heather Welch, Bridgewater State University, "Actively Engaging First Year Seminar Students: The Use of Active Concisouenss and Feminist Playwriting."
- Moderator: Chrstine Young, University of San Francisco.



The second session featured two workshops, one by [Gina Young](#) entitled [How to Teach a Feminist Acting Class](#) [2] and one by [Claire Warden: Working with Consent and Intimate Scenes in the Rehearsal Room](#). [3] I participated in Claire Warden's workshop, and I am still reflecting on the issues of consent that came up.

Then came the reading of the 2018 Student Jane Chambers Award Winning Play, [Son of Soil](#) [4] by Andie Berry. Andie Berry is a writer and scholar from Silver Spring, Maryland. She is a second-year student in the English Ph.D. program at Yale University where she studies the intersections between trauma, collective memory, performance, and race in late-20th and 21st century dramatic literature. Read more about [Andie and the play here](#). [5]

[Maya Roth \(Georgetown University\)](#) [6] was presented with the 2018 Award for Service by [Jenn-Scott Mobley of East Carolina University](#) [7].

The last panel for me was the panel I was on, entitled *Celebrating a Legacy, Empowering Future Generations: The 35th Anniversary of the Jane Chambers Award*. Participants included:

- [Sara Warner, Cornell University](#) [8]
- Alison McMahan, Filmmaker
- Gina Young, playwright and former Jane Chambers Award Winner
- Moderator: Kristen Wright, Cornell University

My part of the panel consist of showing a new trailer for *The Eight Faces of Jane* and answering some questions about the film. We also had a lively discussion about what was a feminist play. Some conclusions: a feminist play dealt with the interstitial, showed women with agency, was conscious of issues of class and race and identity politics.

See [the trailer here](#). [9]

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**Links:**

- [1] <http://www.womenandtheatreprogram.com/about.html>
- [2] <https://www.ginayoung.com/feminist-acting-class>
- [3] <https://www.clairewarden.com/intimacy-direction>
- [4] <http://www.studlife.com/cadenza/2017/04/02/son-of-soil-embraces-but-never-accepts-the-weight-of-death/>
- [5] <https://source.wustl.edu/2016/09/qa-playwright-andie-berry/>
- [6] [https://gufaculty360.georgetown.edu/s/faculty-profile?netid=mer46%2F#\\_ga=2.74275154.1118396482.1534213052-697410739.1534213052](https://gufaculty360.georgetown.edu/s/faculty-profile?netid=mer46%2F#_ga=2.74275154.1118396482.1534213052-697410739.1534213052)
- [7] <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cfac/theatredance/JenScottMobley.cfm>
- [8] <http://pma.cornell.edu/sara-l-warner>
- [9] <https://youtu.be/OB7ZLzC0XIQ>
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