In *Performing Anti-Slavery*, Gay Gibson Cima reimagines the connection between the self and the other within activist performance, providing fascinating new insights into women’s nineteenth-century reform efforts, revising the history of abolition, and illuminating an affective repertoire that haunts both present-day theatrical stages and anti-trafficking organizations. Cima argues that black and white American women in the nineteenth-century abolitionist movement transformed mainstream performance practices into successful activism. In family circles, literary associations, religious gatherings, and transatlantic anti-slavery societies, women debated activist performance strategies across racial and religious differences: they staged abolitionist dialogues, recited anti-slavery poems, gave speeches, shared narratives, and published essays. Drawing on liberal religious traditions as well as the Eastern notion of transmigration, Elizabeth Chandler, Sarah Forten, Maria W. Stewart, Sarah Douglass, Lucretia Mott, Ellen Craft, and others forged activist pathways that reverberate to this day.

PERFORMING
ANTI-SLAVERY

Activist Women on Antebellum Stages

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Gay Gibson Cima
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For Ron

the love of my life
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9 First Lady Michelle Obama, left, leaning over artist Artis Lane, who sculpted the bust of Sojourner Truth, to shake hands with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee at the unveiling of the bust in the new visitor center at the United States Capitol in Washington, DC, April 28, 2009. At right, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks with actress Cicely Tyson. Photo by Nancy Stone/Chicago Tribune/MCT via Getty Images. 251
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Abbreviations


APSO American Periodicals Series Online, www.proquest.com/en-US/catalogs/databases/detail/aps.shtml (accessed Nov. 9, 2013; descriptive article titles in square brackets are taken from this source)

BPLAS Boston Public Library Anti-Slavery Manuscript Collection, Rare Books Department, McKim Building, Central Library, Boston, MA

FHL Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

LC Library of Congress, Washington, DC

LC MERC Microform and Electronic Resources Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

LC RBSCD Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC


SJMSC Samuel J. May Anti-Slavery Collection, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Carl A. Kroch Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (all references to box 20, 20.049)


Dates in Quaker sources

Dates in Quaker sources typically take the form “10 Mo. 26th, 1843,” meaning the 10th month, 26th day, 1843; the capitalization and punctuation of these dates have been standardized.

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