Sally On The Steps

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**Sally On The Steps**

A protest performance art piece at the Jefferson Memorial to acknowledge Sally Hemings and the lack of representation of women’s sexual trials in American History.
The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
Sally Hemings stands here to disrupt your view of the Jefferson Memorial.

In 1787, forty-four-year-old Thomas Jefferson chose fourteen-year-old Sally Hemings, his slave, for a sexual relationship. First pregnant as a teenager, Sally ultimately bore Jefferson six children, four of whom lived to adulthood. Over the course of his political career, Jefferson took Sally Hemings to Paris and enjoyed her in Virginia, but never brought her to Washington D.C., where he and his powerful white male counterparts crafted our perception of American ideals. Jefferson’s eventual death in 1826 resulted in the sale of over 130 slaves to repay his debts. However, after years of negotiating for herself and her children before Jefferson’s death, Sally earned legitimate freedom for her children in his will and unofficial freedom for herself.

Was there love in the relationship? Was it rape? Are these even relevant questions when slavery was the law of the land?

I am here today to proudly support Miss Sally Hemings and all women whose sexual trials are disregarded in American history.
Source: “Sally by the Door”

Source: “Standing with Sally by the Door.”
Sally On The Steps

Source: “Sally in Front of the Declaration of Independence Large.”
Sally On The Steps

Source: “Sally in Front of Monticello Vertical.”
Source: “Sally in Front of the Jefferson Memorial.”
visiting monticello was
an education of course you
named your home in a romance
language spent 40 years
constructing it and the myth
of yourself

we hold these truths

(created equal and are

you designed your home on aesthetic
and scientific principles maximizing
space
in the main house by placing
the dependencies beneath and behind
it built into the hillside half
underground

to be self

These "dependencies," or areas for domestic work, served as points of
intersection between Jefferson's family and enslaved people, and were
instrumental to the functioning of the house.

-evident, that

Monticello, which means "little mountain" in Italian, was a house,
an ornamental landscape, a diverse community that included as many
as 150 enslaved men, women, and children, and a plantation.

-liberty

James Hemmings trained his brother Peter, completed an inventory of the
kitchen, and left Monticello in February 1796. Word came in 1801 that he
had "committed an act of suicide."

Source: "Dependencies"
Kara Walker
PICTURES FROM ANOTHER TIME

Source: Image by Kara Walker.
PRIVILEDGE
Performance Theory
Gallbladder Attack

Source: Image of "Gallbladder Attack Symptom #3: Dizziness"
March 30th - March 31st, 2019

Sally On The Steps

Source: “Sally in Front of the Jefferson Memorial”
IMPACT
March 30th - March 31st, 2019

Sally On The Steps

Source: “Sally in Front of the Jefferson Memorial.”
Works Cited Images:

Alt, Elizabeth. “Sally by the Door.” September 17, 2018. JPEG File.
Alt, Elizabeth. “Standing with Sally by the Door.” September 17, 2018. JPEG File.


Works Cited Images:


Works Consulted Sources:


