

SALLY ON THE STEPS

BY ELIZABETH ALT

DECEMBER 5TH, 2018

ADVISOR: PROFESSOR ELIN DIAMOND

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.



SALLY ON THE STEPS

SOURCE: "SALLY IN FRONT OF THE JEFFERSON MEMORIAL."



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](http://iwl.rutgers.edu).

SALLY ON THE STEPS

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 CUT OUT OF FOAM"

SOURCE: "SALLY HALF PAINTED."

SOURCE: "SALLY HEAD PAINTED"





SOURCE: "SALLY BY THE DOOR"



SOURCE: "STANDING WITH SALLY BY THE DOOR."

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.



When in the Course of human Events, we find certain Facts, which have unfolded themselves with a clear and undeniable evidence, that the great Architect of the Universe, has interposed his all-wise and powerful arm, to direct the course of the Nation, and to secure the happiness of his people: — We will then hold the most sacred and inviolable regard to the laws of our Creator; and will never fail to maintain them, until we have seen a more complete and unanimous consent to them, than we have hitherto experienced. — We will then hold the most sacred and inviolable regard to the laws of our Creator; and will never fail to maintain them, until we have seen a more complete and unanimous consent to them, than we have hitherto experienced. — We will then hold the most sacred and inviolable regard to the laws of our Creator; and will never fail to maintain them, until we have seen a more complete and unanimous consent to them, than we have hitherto experienced. —

John Hancock
John Adams
Samuel Adams
Thomas Jefferson
John Jay
Alexander Hamilton
Benjamin Franklin
James Wilson
George Washington
Patrick Henry
Richard Henry Lee
Edmund Randolph
George Mason
Gouverneur Morris
Robert R. Livingston
William Livingston
Francis Pickens
Richard B. Smith
Carter G. Woodson
John G. Thompson
John A. Quitman
Richard M. Johnson
George H. Davis
John C. Calhoun
Andrew Pickens
Francis Pickens
Richard B. Smith
Carter G. Woodson
John G. Thompson
John A. Quitman
Richard M. Johnson
George H. Davis
John C. Calhoun

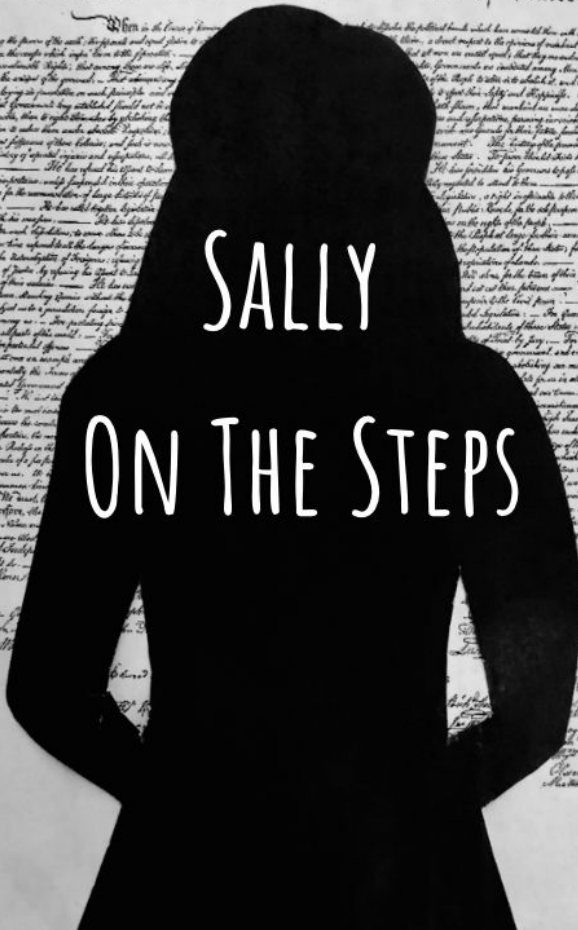
SALLY ON THE STEPS

SOURCE: "SALLY IN FRONT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE SMALL."

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

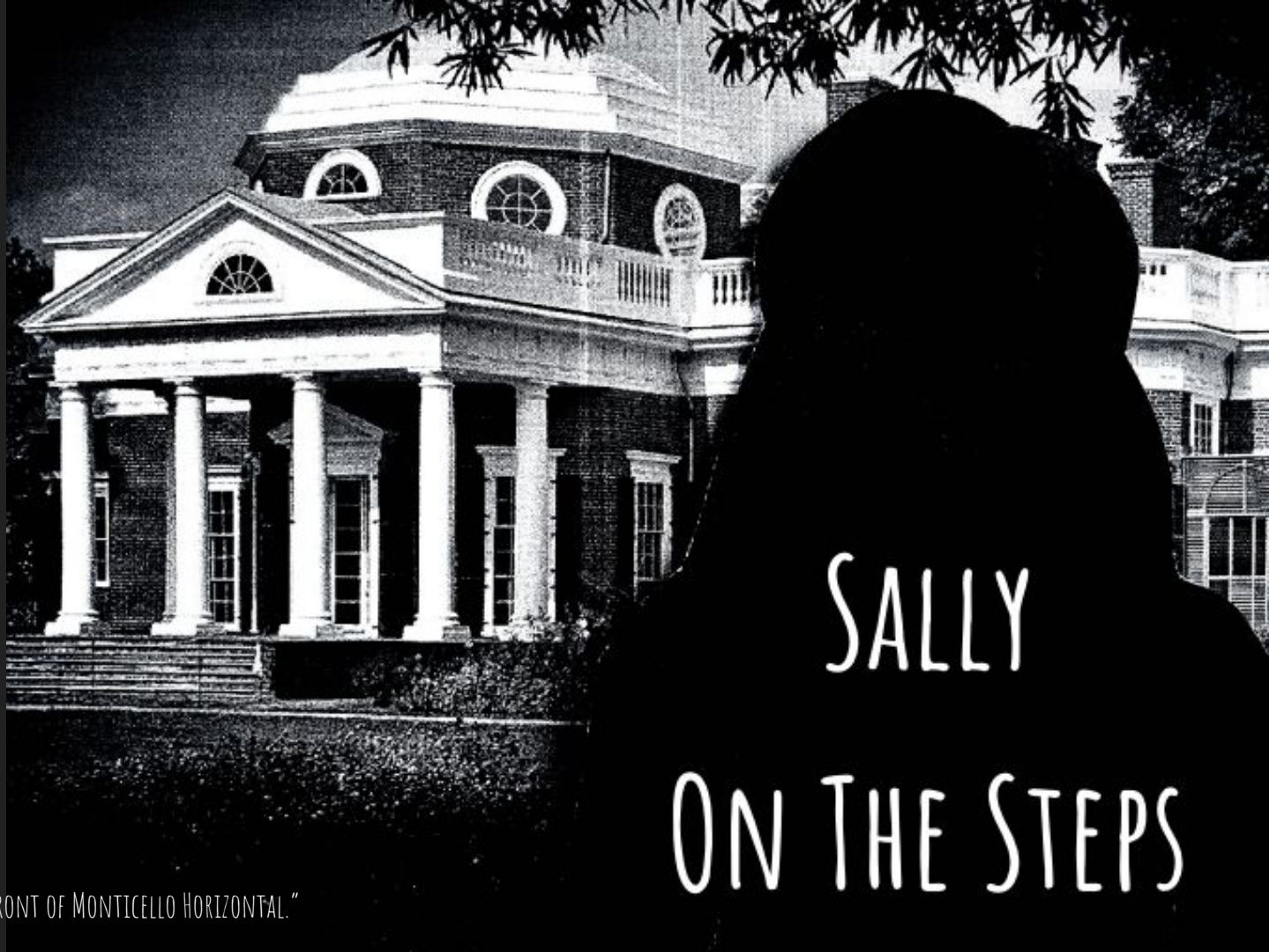
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

[Faint, mostly illegible text of the original document is visible in the background.]



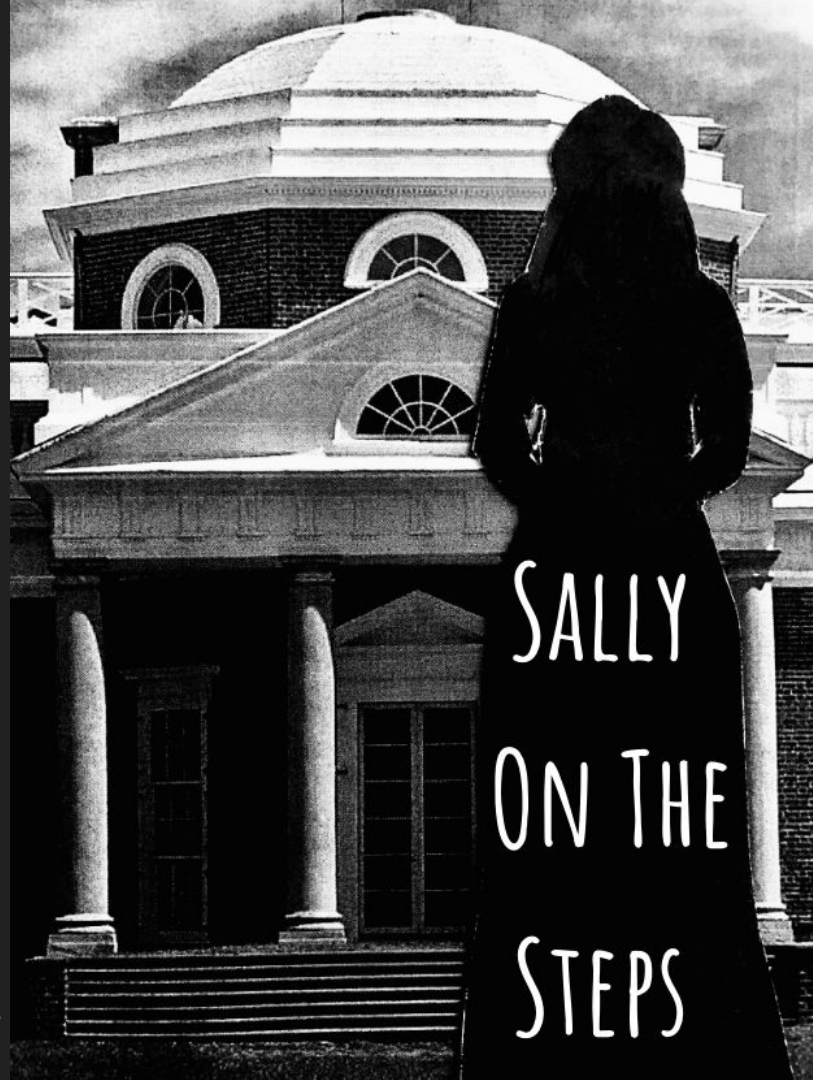
SALLY
ON THE STEPS

SOURCE: "SALLY IN FRONT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE LARGE."



SALLY
ON THE STEPS

SOURCE: "SALLY IN FRONT OF MONTICELLO HORIZONTAL."



SOURCE: "SALLY IN FRONT OF MONTICELLO VERTICAL."



SALLY ON THE STEPS

SOURCE: "SALLY IN FRONT OF THE JEFFERSON MEMORIAL."

ENGLISH

HISTORY

THEATRE

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

PERFORMANCE THEORY

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



THE
HEMINGSES
of
MONTICELLO

AN AMERICAN FAMILY

"A commanding and important book." —Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*

ANNETTE GORDON-REED

SOURCE: BOOK COVER IMAGE. GORDON-REED, ANNETTE.

KIMBERLY BRUBAKER BRADLEY
NEWBERY HONOR-WINNING AUTHOR



Jefferson's
Sons

A Founding Father's
Secret Children



SOURCE: BOOK COVER IMAGE. BRADLEY, KIMBERLY BRUBAKER.



SOURCE: "SITTING ON THE STEPS OF MONTICELLO."



SOURCE: "STANDING WITH JEFFERSON AT MONTICELLO"



SOURCE: PHOTOGRAPHS BY GABRIELLA DEMCZUK

dependencies

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

(freedom)

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

i hear you loved
wine (we have that in common)
you had a cellar full of french
vintage you drew up
to the dining room via
a dumbwaiter that ran between

SOURCE: "DEPENDENCIES"

you and the person
waiting (dumbly) below to set
the dark bottles

in place

all men are

i hear you had
sally hemmings i hear you
and she had
six children thus making a dependency
of your bedroom (another part
of the house rarely seen)

created equal and are

(free)

you had james (another
hemmings) to travel to paris
to study french cuisine to cook
for you for wages
during your years in france

endowed

Monticello, which means "little mountain" in Italian, was a house, an ornamental landscape, a diverse community that included as many as 140 enslaved men, women, and children, and a plantation.

by their creator

as president you sent lewis
and clark west they returned
with maps american elk antlers
american art painted on dried buffalo

native

hide you placed
these items on your walls
for the edification of your visitors

with certain in alien able

you founded the university
of virginia from your notes
students would learn they must compete
with the oorang-ootan for
the negress's favors from your life
they would learn

rights, that among

like you i read the poetry
of that good christian phillis wheatley
her ode to george washington the one
who freed his slaves

these are life

you promised james hemmings
his freedom if he would
return with you from france
(where he was free) and teach
others the french style of cooking
i hear you were as good
as your word

(enslaved)

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."

Kara

PICTURES FROM ANOTHER TIME **WALKER**



SOURCE: IMAGE BY KARA WALKER.



SOURCE: IMAGE BY K L RICKS

PRIVILEGE

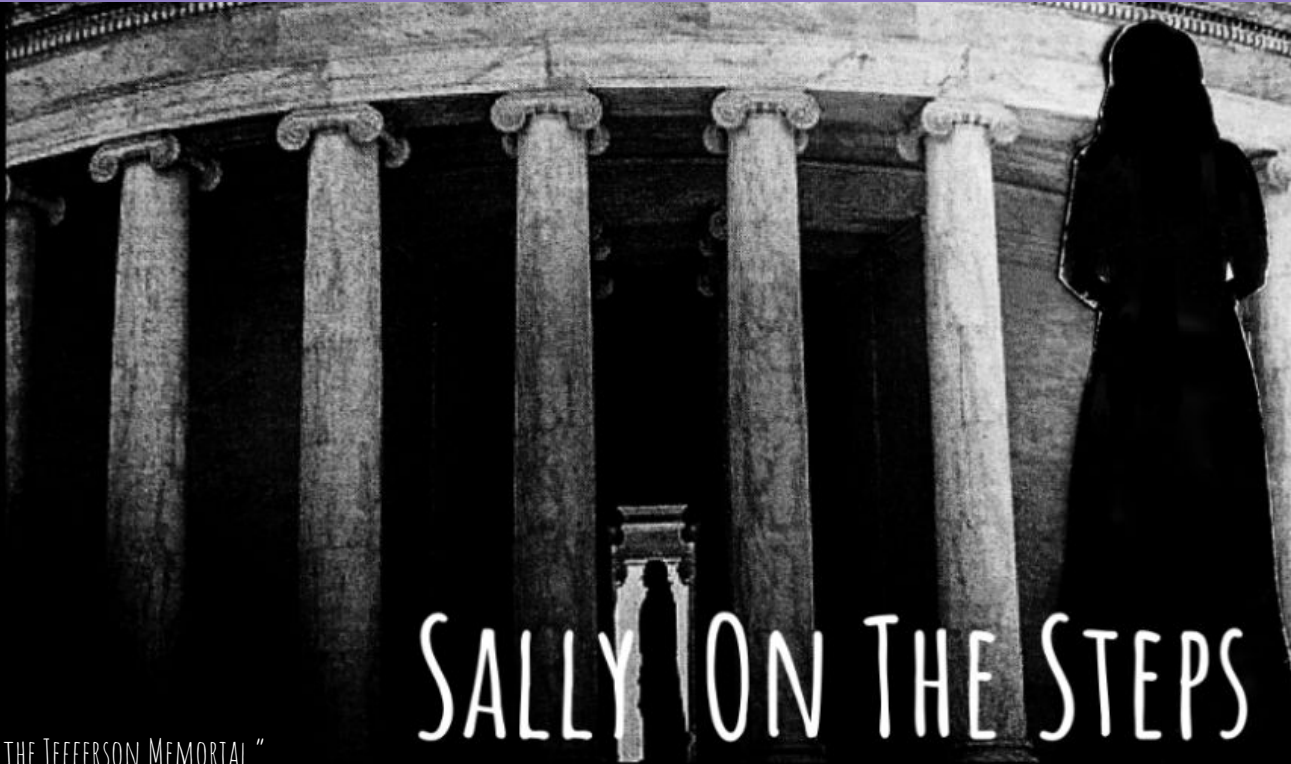
PERFORMANCE THEORY

An anatomical illustration of a human torso, showing the ribcage, spine, and internal organs. The gallbladder is highlighted in a bright yellow color, located in the upper right quadrant of the abdomen. The text "GALLBLADDER ATTACK" is written in large, bold, yellow letters across the center of the image.

GALLBLADDER ATTACK

SOURCE: IMAGE OF "GALLBLADDER ATTACK SYMPTOM #8: DIZZINESS"

MARCH 30TH - MARCH 31ST, 2019

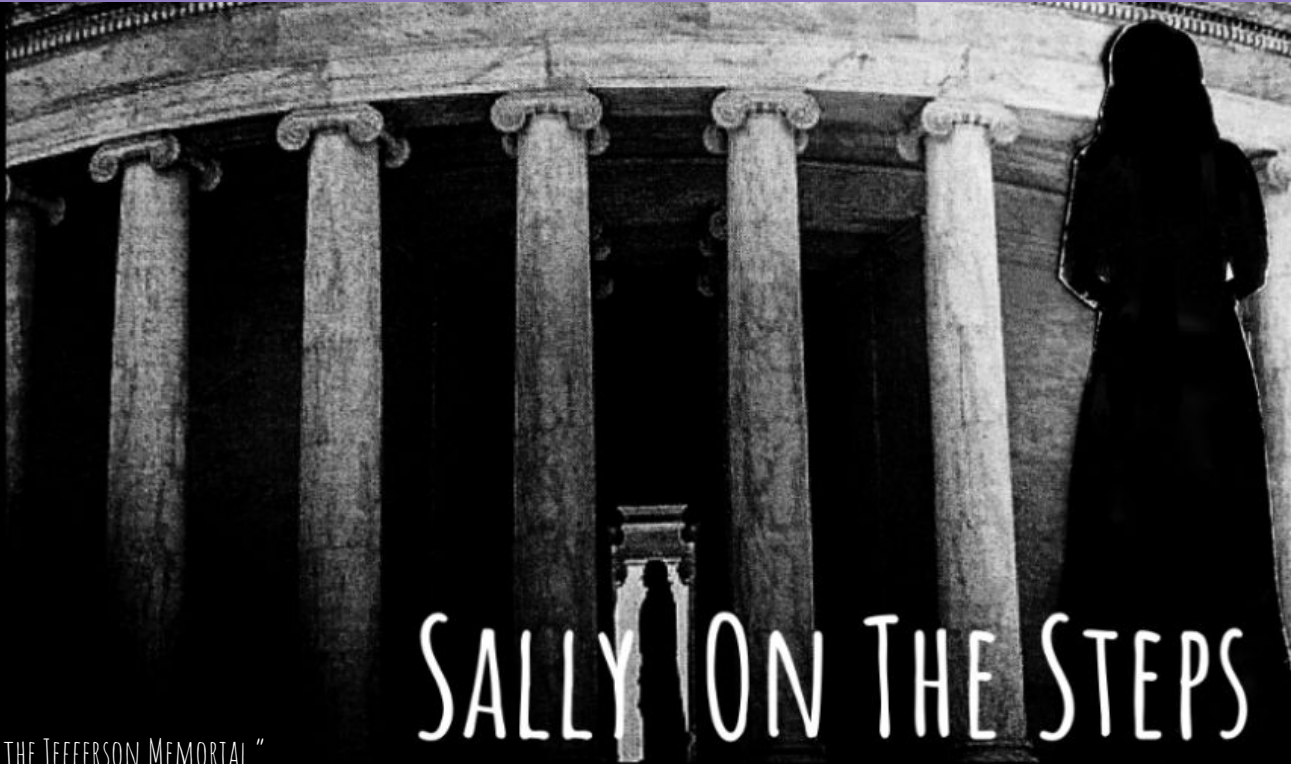


SALLY ON THE STEPS

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."

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- Alt, Elizabeth. "Sally Head Painted." September 15, 2018. JPEG File.
- Alt, Elizabeth. "Sally in Front of Monticello Horizontal." September 20, 2018. JPEG File.
- Alt, Elizabeth. "Sally in Front of Monticello Vertical." September 20, 2018. JPEG File.
- Alt, Elizabeth. "Sally in Front of the Declaration of Independence Large." September 20, 2018. JPEG File.
- Alt, Elizabeth. "Sally in Front of the Declaration of Independence Small." September 20, 2018. JPEG File.
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