

Harriet Tubman comes alive in “I CAN’T DIE BUT ONCE” presentation at Storowton Village Museum

Storowton Village Museum’s annual First Person Presentation will focus this year on Harriet Tubman. The museum will bring living historian Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti and her performance of “I Can’t Die But Once” to its historic Union Meeting House on January 25 at 7pm.

The aim of this performance is to take a closer look at the woman who inspired many during and after her lifetime. To the enslaved, Tubman was Moses leading them to freedom; to their slaveholders, she was a thief and trickster. Tubman was a fearless visionary who commanded an elaborate system of scouts and spies during abolition years. She often gave speeches before and after the Civil War, as a way of raising money for her humanitarian causes.

Quezaire-Presutti’s presentation will take the audience back to 1887, during one of Tubman’s speeches in a meeting hall addressing friends and supporters. Toward the end of the presentation, Quezaire-Presutti will answer questions as Tubman before switching to a short talk about researching her subject as an actor.

"Tubman's story is deeply meaningful and representative of antebellum society. However at closer historical examination, her life embodies so much more as woman of African descent, not solely her survival and runaway from slavery, but also her later life as a landowner and farmer," said Storowton Museum Director Jessica K. Fontaine.

Quezaire-Presutti, a committed scholar of African American Diaspora Studies, began performing in 1997 at The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures as an Educational Interpreter. An award-winning artist, she has been recognized for the quality and range of her work, receiving a certification in Theatre in Museums and Interpretation from The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. In 2010, she was crowned Ms. Senior Connecticut.

Admission to Storowton Village Museum’s annual First Person Presentation is \$8 in advance online at storowtonvillage.com and \$10 at the event. Event updates will be posted on [facebook.com/storowtonvillage](https://www.facebook.com/storowtonvillage). For more information, please call 413-205-5051.

Note: This event is weather permitting. If the weather is questionable, please call Storowton for details prior to your departure.

ABOUT STOROWTON VILLAGE MUSEUM

Storowton Village Museum, an educational arm of Eastern States Exposition (501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization) and located on its grounds in West Springfield, Mass., presents hands-on school programs and guided tours of its historic buildings throughout the year as well as seasonal 19th century-themed events. For more information, visit storowtonvillage.com or call 413-205-5051.