

That Takes Ovaries

PR-Info Packet

The book, open mike movement and play

Bold, gutsy, brazen, **outrageous**, audacious, *courageous*, in-your-face, strong, adventurous, **estrogen-fueled**, powerful, **BRAVE**, unabashed, smart, **PRECOCIOUS**, muckraker, full of chutzpah, valiant, **heroic**, daring, fearless, plucky, **forward**, intuitive, empowered, proud, self-assured, *self-possessed*, **SELF-CONFIDENT**, full of oneself, **spirited**, playful, feisty, **gorgeous**, irresistible, sexy, **shameless**, controversial, challenging, bigheaded, hotheaded, excessive, *bossy*, brash, tenacious, stick-to-itiveness, compassionate, **righteous**, loving, **creative**, capable, **effective**, successful, **glorious**, fabulous, **influential**, genius, goddess, more than a match, in full force, in full swing, woman-on-top, hot mama, immodest, shameless hussy, mighty, vigorous, brag, boast, swagger, formidable, compelling, **not to be trifled with**, **thick-skinned**, cheeky, **SASSY**, **strident**, unceasing, unbeaten, *undiminished*, in fine feather, **in top form**, a leader, *emphatic*, assertive, *rock hard*, hard as iron, **tough as steel**, bold as brass, **ADAMANT**, firm, solid, stout, **strong as a horse**, strong as an ox, fortified, undiminished, enduring, broad-shouldered, robust, **hardy**, unbreakable, indestructible, **bulletproof**, strong-fibered, **FULL-BODIED**, *self-respecting*, no bones about it, blunt, **outspoken**, straight from the hip, *not afraid to be different*, not afraid to be difficult, loudmouthed, smart-mouthed, cheeky, give lip, thumb one's nose at, ruffle, be insolent, stir up trouble, ask for it, **make something of it**, defiant, gumption, **TAKING NO GUFF**, activist, agitator, against the grain, incite, inspire, up the ante, **double the stakes**, wave a banner, march, demonstrate, *challenge*, dissent, oppose, **not take it lying down**, refuse to bow down, stand up for one's rights, confront, **irreverent**, unconventional, **assert oneself**, react, **resist**, not do as one is told, disobey orders, be a renegade, challenge, defy, disrupt, rebel, protest, *raise a stink*, stage a revolt, lead a rebellion, rise up, **throw off the shackles**, fight for independence, full of fight, **full of beans**, **SPUNKY**, dynamic, rocking, *unstoppable*, uncontrollable, effervescent, **passionate**, snappy, insistent, driving, Amazonian, *tough*, mettlesome, **strong-minded**, unswayed, dogged, determined, **resolute**, ready for anything, **UNFLINCHING**, **leading the charge**, *Thelma and Louise-ish*, carefree, devil-may-care, mischievous, **unpredictable**, damning the consequences, **throw caution to the wind**, wild and crazy, overdaring, **daredevil**, all-or-nothing, do-or-die, danger-loving, **thrill-seeking**, risk-taking, **overambitious**, overconfident, rash, foolhardy, *hit-or-miss*, **optimistic**, hell-bent, **raising hell**, excitable, *spontaneous*, impulsive, unflappable, extreme, extravagant, **true grit**, backbone, moxie, **screw up one's courage and walk through fear...HAVING OVARIES!**

This *Ovaries* PR-Info Packet includes

1. A Press Release (with press quotes)
2. Our "Summary of All Things Ovarian" -- a summary of the book, open mike movement and play
3. Details: A letter explaining *That Takes Ovaries*
4. Short snapshots/quotes from open mikes
5. A list of all stories in the book & play (one-line summary of each)
6. A synopsis of the play
7. Inviting Rivka, Bobbi or Mira to speak at your event: Bios of book author, playwrights, leaders and "women of note" in the book

Available upon request:

The play/script

Press clips (articles about us)

Video clips

Int'l Handout

Photos from open mikes and performances in the U.S. and Abroad

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- PRESS RELEASE

That Takes Ovaries

Celebrating gutsy women around the globe -- because courage is contagious

A Book, a Play, an Int'l Open Mike Movement
& an Organizing Tool for Women & Girls' Empowerment

CONTACT: Rivka Solomon <rivka@thattakesovaries.org> // Thattakesovaries.org

That Takes Ovaries is an open mike movement, a play and a best-selling book (Three Rivers/Random House) -- all focusing on real-life stories from women and girls, and the bold, gutsy, brazen, outrageous, courageous things they have done. From playful to political, *That Takes Ovaries* is full of multicultural, sassy, often touching true tales of estrogen-powered deeds. *Ovaries* mixes art with activism and fun in an international grassroots movement for empowerment: Because women and girls everywhere have inspiring stories to tell, any woman or organization anywhere can host an *Ovaries* open mike. Theaters and campuses are invited to stage the play. Hundreds of open mikes and dramatizations have been held by theaters, national organizations and neighborhood women. Events are often fundraisers for local and global women and girls' causes, thereby offering women's organizations an exciting tool for raising community awareness and money, so that they, in turn, may continue their own good work for women. For more info: www.thattakesovaries.org/

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT THE OPEN MIKES, PLAY AND BOOK

[S]alutes 'ballsy' acts by bold women -- the anatomically correct way. -- *Glamour magazine*

In praise of strong women... gynocentric tales of courage... -- *Washington Post*

Whenever Solomon hears of a woman pulling off a particularly daring act, she'll say, "That takes ovaries."... Plenty of defiance was in evidence at a recent event celebrating "Ovaries"... -- *Chicago Tribune*

Though in the same tradition of "The Vagina Monologues" -- a collection of funny, poignant, and sometimes shocking stories about women... -- "That Takes Ovaries" is dedicated to capturing moments of personal triumph, whatever forms those take... The message has caught on. Women across the country -- and as far away as India... have held open mike nights to share their stories. -- *Boston Globe* **Boston Globe Bestseller**

[An] irresistible idea of highlighting take-charge, no-nonsense women... In addition, Solomon's formula for do-it-yourself open mikes appears at the end of the book, and numerous readings have been followed by unrehearsed testimonials from audience members. These free-for-alls have, unsurprisingly, played well with youthful, feminist crowds but they've also gone over in very different contexts, like a Gilroy event that drew nearly 100 Latino immigrants. -- *San Francisco Chronicle*

Stories of courage, tales of inspiration, anecdotes about spontaneity, audacity or just plain fun -- everything from the seemingly frivolous to the obviously political, concerning women's freedom and empowerment issues took centerstage at the That Takes Ovaries [event].. -- *The Telegraph of India*

The session, feisty, cheeky, hilarious and moving by turns, was all but boring. Stories poured forth as women (and men) spoke of experiences of courage and risk taking. The story telling was interspersed with readings from Rivka Solomon's book *That Takes Ovaries Bold Females and their Brazen Acts*. It was good to hear of the acts that defied stereotyping. One hopes that they were contagious enough to empower other women in similar circumstances. -- *Hindustan Times, HT City Correspondent*

The [TTO]! movement revisits the traditions of oratory and story telling in groups. It has become a mutable text... flexible and adaptable to how the event is presented in different cultures and countries. The events operate as fundraisers for local women's groups and international causes. Australia, Amnesty International has become involved in hosting Open Mikes as part of their Stop Violence Against Women Campaign. -- *The Australian Women's Book Review*

TTO-a collection of women's and girls' stories captures a wide range of what editor Solomon calls "gutsy acts. It has inspired a worldwide movement in which an adaptation is performed either as a play or an open-mike event in which audience members of all ages and both genders are invited onstage to share stories of courageous girls and women. To date more than 500 TTO events have occurred worldwide. [T]he aim of TTO performance pieces is to showcase real women who have thrown off the yoke of "internalized social messages and conditioning by a sexist, often violent society". -- ***The New Nation: Bangladesh's Independent News Source***

THAT TAKES OVARIES

Celebrating gutsy women around the globe -- because courage is contagious

"If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun." Katharine Hepburn

"Well-behaved women rarely make history." Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

SUMMARY OF ALL THINGS OVARIAN

A book, play, open mike movement & organizing tool for women & girls' empowerment

THE BOOK: *THAT TAKES OVARIES!: BOLD FEMALES AND THEIR BRAZEN ACTS* (Three Rivers/Random House) is an exciting collection of real-life stories from women and girls about the gutsy, outrageous, courageous things they have done. The book is jam-packed with 64 multicultural, fun, sassy, touching true tales of estrogen-powered deeds that range from playful to political, including women fighting for their human rights. The book is coupled with an open mike movement for women and girls' empowerment.

THE OPEN MIKES, FUNDRAISING FOR WOMEN'S CAUSES & PROMOTING ACTIVISM: *That Takes Ovaries* is a unique initiative (and a nonprofit organization) that mixes the arts with activism for women and girls' empowerment. Since 2002, hundreds of *That Takes Ovaries* open mikes have been held around the globe, either led by Rivka, Bobbi (co-playwrights of the play) or Mira (India coordinator) -- or organized and led by local women in the community -- like you! At an *Ovaries* open mike, gutsy gals share stories about times they acted boldly. Guys brag about the ovaries in their lives -- their mothers, sisters, daughters. Everyone who shares gets a chocolate egg wrapped in gold foil -- a Golden Ovary award. **Many events are fundraisers** for local girls' groups and groups working to end human rights abuses against girls. *That Takes Ovaries* offers a fun and empowering community relations event or fundraising tool that any individual or women's organization can use to raise community awareness or money for themselves, so that they, in turn, may continue their own good work for women. Those interested in organizing a *That Takes Ovaries* open mike can easily do it, either as a stand-alone event or as an exciting audience-participatory component to an already scheduled meeting. First time organizers welcome: **Learn to be an activist for women's voices and causes!** The open mike Guidelines and Registration (registration is required) are found at thattakesovaries.org. To invite Rivka, Bobbi or Mira to speak at or lead an event contact Info@thattakesovaries.org.

THE PLAY: Like the hits *The Exonerated* and *The Vagina Monologues*, our play has a powerful message and can use rotating celebrity actors to help draw in crowds and obtain press coverage. Full productions and staged readings (often including open mikes with the audience after the performance) have been done in theaters and on university campuses around North America, including in California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York City, Toronto, Washington DC, Calcutta, India. (We are currently seeking interested producers, theaters, celebrity and community-based actors in all areas.)

PRESS COVERAGE: We have generated over 300 press articles and interviews, including *Glamour* and *Jane* magazines, the *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Detroit Free Press*, *NY Daily News*, *Times of India* and *Telegraph of India*. We were a **Boston Globe bestseller**.

INVITING RIVKA & BOBBI: Rivka, Bobbi and Mira are available for speaking and open mike events. They offer a talk/workshop titled "That Takes Ovaries: Leading a Bold Life," geared towards women but open to all genders; an exciting reading of women's true stories of boldness and courage; and lastly a fun, audience-participatory That Takes Ovaries open mike. To invite our speakers to your community, contact <Info@ThatTakesOvaries.org>.

At www.thattakesovaries.org

- * Buy the book (also available at bookstores) *
- * Watch our promo video *
- * Register to hold an *Ovaries* Open Mike or Play *
- * Invite Rivka or Bobbi to speak at your event *

That Takes Ovaries

Rivka Solomon • PO Box 750061, Arlington, MA 02475 USA • (781) 674-2244 • rivka@thattakesovaries.org

In praise of strong women...gynocentric tales of courage. **Washington Post** (re: the play)

[S]alutes 'ballsy' acts by bold women -- the anatomically correct way. **Glamour magazine** (re: the book)

Though in the same tradition of "The Vagina Monologues" -- a collection of funny, poignant, and sometimes shocking stories about women -- "That Takes Ovaries" is dedicated to capturing moments of personal triumph, whatever forms those take. **Boston Globe** (re: the open mike movement)

Dear Folks Interested in *That Takes Ovaries*,

This letter contains detailed information on *That Takes Ovaries: Bold Females and Their Brazen Acts* and the exciting projects surrounding it -- including entertainment events and fundraising opportunities for organizations. Women everywhere are planning *Ovaries* open mikes and dramatizations. We are happy to speak with anyone interested in doing a public event, an event at an annual meeting/conference or any media interested in covering the book, open mike movement and play.

First, where it all began: the book. *That Takes Ovaries* (Three Rivers/Random House 2002), is a collection of women and girls' real-life stories in their own words. From courageous to outrageous, these accounts capture the breadth of gutsy acts. This book embraces diversity with the voices of everyday females from many ages and cultural backgrounds, and also includes a few stories from better-known individuals and activists. The book is in its fourth print run and, along with the open mike movement it has inspired, is getting great press attention, including *Glamour* and *Jane* magazines, the *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Boston Globe*, *Detroit Free Press*, *NY Daily News*, *Times of India*, *the Telegraph (of India)*. We were a *Boston Globe* bestseller.

The book contains sixty-four first-person narratives representing a variety of audacious deeds, from light and frivolous acts to fighting for human rights. It includes accounts of women and girls standing up to a gun-toting gang banger in a fast food joint, skysurfing out of airplanes, organizing a hundred high school girls to take on the boys who harass them, jumping off a moving train to see the Alps, making a living as a sex writer and risking one's life to end sex trafficking of girls. The stories tell of how a fourteen-year-old led a revolt in her synagogue, a woman rose out of destitution and prostitution, a passerby confronted a crowd of catcalling men, a public health educator founded the country's first women-oriented sex toy store, a peacemaker met with guerilla leaders in a war zone, a reporter started a mass movement against "honor" killings, a Catholic school teacher snuck in to see the Pope...and dozens of other sassy, spirited acts. (For sample stories from the book: www.ThatTakesOvaries.org.)

The audience for this book are those eager for examples of women and girls acting outside the stereotype of passivity and niceness, including women and men of all ages who want to see their sisters, mothers, grandmothers and friends leading empowered lives; parents who care about their daughters growing up self-assured and confident; and girls eager to be part of the growing *girl power* movement. In short, this book is for everyone interested in challenging a culture still wrought with inequality and double standards. *That Takes Ovaries* taps into the vibrant mass of women and girls hungry for powerful female role models.

Coupled with the book is a *That Takes Ovaries* open mike movement, where local women and girls from the community have fun *and* inspire each other as they share their own stories of gutsy brazenness. Because women and girls everywhere have triumphant stories to tell, included in the back of the book and on the website are guidelines for how *any* woman *anywhere* can organize and lead an *Ovaries* Open Mike in her own community, from an intimate (just friends) *Living Room Open Mike* to a bigger, more public one—which could serve as a fundraiser. (To lead a public one, first register on the *Ovaries* website.)

In fact, we suggest—but don't mandate—that *Ovaries* Open Mikes be fundraisers, with as much of the proceeds as possible going to women and girls' causes. (Note: If your event is a fundraiser, 10-15% of the door goes back to the *That Takes Ovaries* organization to help facilitate our work around the globe.) In this respect, ***That Takes Ovaries* offers a fun and empowering community relations event or fundraising model/tool that women's and girls' organizations can use to raise community awareness or money for themselves, so that they, in turn, may continue their own good work for women.**

Established organizations can host *That Takes Ovaries* Open Mikes, too, transforming a humdrum fundraiser or annual conference into a fun, audience-participatory event.

Women from all walks of life and with all levels of organizing experience are leading *Ovaries* events. *Maybe you will, too.*

- * A community center in Washington held an open mike to celebrate Jewish women's *chutzpah*.
- * The Boston grant-giving organization held an open mike for their culturally diverse grantees and donors – from newly arrived immigrant women organizers to young, cutting-edge queer activists.
- * A group dedicated to ending violence against women in Calcutta, India held an open mike.

Additionally, we have a *That Takes Ovaries* play. Adapted from the book. Like the hits *The Exonerated* and *The Vagina Monologues*, our play has a powerful message *and* can use rotating celebrity actors to help draw in crowds and obtain press coverage. Full productions and staged readings (often including open mikes with the audience after the performance) and have been done in theaters and on university campuses around North America. We are seeking more interested producers, theaters, celebrity and community-based actors. We have available a professional letter of recommendation from David Wheeler, former Resident Director at the American Repertory Theatre (A.R.T.) in Boston.

Personally, book editor Rivka Solomon is a women's activist/advocate, with her writing appearing in U.S. magazines, newspapers, anthologies and radio broadcasts. She is available for keynotes, panels and speaking engagements. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

Rivka Solomon

Writer * Playwright * Executive Director *THAT TAKES OVARIES*

781-367-9444 // Rivka@thattakesovaries.org // www.thattakesovaries.org

Praise for *That Takes Ovaries*: Quotes From Participants

www.ThatTakesOvaries.org

Since 2002, we have held 500+ *That Takes Ovaries* readings, open mikes and performances of the play. They ranged from smaller living-room gatherings to larger audience-participatory entertainment events for 500 women in one hall. These quotes are from participants who attended and those who helped organize the events.

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"That Takes Ovaries" [the play and open mike] was a huge success. Students brought their moms, faculty brought their sisters and daughters to this glorious celebration of women. I was thrilled to see the courage of the students, men and women, who shared their stories. That Takes Ovaries will be the standard by which other Women's Studies events are measured.

Rivka's wonderful, clear message of empowerment and the overcoming of life struggles touches women and girls of all ages. Faculty and students continue to talk about the That Takes Ovaries event.

Susan A. LaRocco, Ph.D., RN
Associate Professor & Coordinator of Women's Studies
Curry College, Milton, MA
- and -
Heather Curtin
Administrative Assistant, Division of Nursing
Curry College, Milton, MA

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Many lives have been impacted in Calcutta, India, by "That Takes Ovaries". It has given women here a voice. You cannot imagine how electrically charged the whole atmosphere becomes at every TTO event! I can literally see a rebirth happening in the women who attend.

Mira Kakkar, Director
Thoughtshop Foundation
Kolkata, India
<thotshop@cal2.vsnl.net.in> // www.thoughtshopfoundation.org

==== o0o ====

Rivka's presentation electrified the audience, and over a month after her visit to our campus, my students still make references to her book and presentation. "That Takes Ovaries" is an excellent presentation and a fantastic book! I gave it to my senior seminar to read before Rivka's visit.

Dr. Arlene Holpp Scala
Women's Studies Department Chair
William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ
<ScalaA@wpunj.edu>

==== o0o ====

This show can move you to laugh, move you to tears, move your spirit and quite possibly move you to action.

Jimmy Tingle
Artistic Director
Jimmy Tingle's OFF BROADWAY Theater
Somerville, MA
www.jtoffbroadway.com

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*I *so* enjoyed the That Takes Ovaries play and open mike last weekend - it was absolutely fantastic! We are so glad we were able to be a co-sponsor, and we are more excited than ever about doing That Takes Ovaries as a benefit for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.*

Sarah Bruno, MSW
Development Coordinator
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
<sbruno@barcc.org> // www.barcc.org

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The "That Takes Ovaries" play, post-performance open mikes and Rivka's appearance were a real success in Toronto, Canada! What a delight to see both younger and older women share stories of their bravery and courage, and what a treat it was to see older South Asian men brag about their wives and daughters.

Sally Jones, Artistic Producer
Rasik Arts - Devoted to South Asian Theatre
Toronto, Canada
Rasikarts <rasikarts@yahoo.com> // www.rasikarts.com

==== o0o ====

Bismarck, North Dakota, enjoyed their first "That Takes Ovaries" open mike this past Friday. You laughed, you cried, you admired all those strong, vivacious women who boldly spoke about their life stories. Impressively enough, a few brave gents also got up to speak about their mothers. Thank you for creating such an awesome empowering program. I love your vision!

Angil
Bismarck, ND

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Rivka and Bobbi had gathered an inter-generational group, 90 year old writer Tillie Olsen in the same room as younger women in their 20's. Tillie began talking about her 1920's activism in the labor movement and the younger women were also inspiring and eagerly listening to each other as each woman told one incident of their courageous acts. Because of what Rivka provided in that room, I felt personally energized. What happened to me at this inspiring meeting is why I took on leading a That Takes Ovaries open mike in my small town of Gilroy, CA. Our event was a complete success. After much crying and laughing, I think every woman left knowing her heroic deeds, and acknowledged aloud that anything is possible. I would say that Rivka has forever changed our little old town of Gilroy. We are just one of the multitude of places that Rivka has sparked this vision of courage and hope. Rivka is a visionary. More importantly, she understands that every woman is a visionary who can succeed.

Rivka's work, the book and the open mike movement, is a tool for lasting social change. She has taken the written word and given it voice, and expanded that to give others who do not usually have a voice (or a voice that is heard), a platform for sharing their own stories.

Patricia Caradonna
Community Advocate
C.E.O of the Wild Rose Cultural Center
Gilroy, CA

==== More participants' quotes from our open mikes ====

Ankeny, IOWA At our open mike, we had a woman who came who stopped a moving car that her kids were inside, and a woman who at age nine not only outwitted a rapist, but designed a plot so that the police could catch him! It was a great evening, and we awarded each other a Golden Ovaries award -- round gold-wrapped Rocher candies.

Gilroy, farm belt of CA, "Garlic Capital of the World" I attended this event which was organized and run by a restaurant owner and held in her restaurant. About fifty women came, most Latina farm workers. In Spanish, Chicana women came up to the front to tell their stories of courage: raising kids on their own, staying with and then leaving abusive fathers, the hardship of coming to the U.S. from their homelands. Women laughed and several had red-stained eyes from crying. It went on one hour longer than it was supposed to. Women just kept coming up and coming up to share their stories.

Calcutta, INDIA The Ovaries event finally happened tonight in Calcutta, India. As people walked in they saw on the walls the colorful banners with the ovaries adjectives that I had made: "gutsy," "brazen," "outrageous," "unstoppable." Our next open mike, next week, will be part of the annual Fortnight Protesting Violence Against Women and Girls. It is a public event and sponsored/hosted by some key organizations in Calcutta that work to empower women. Good news! Calcutta's leading confectioner agreed to make, even donate, twenty special Golden Ovaries – large, chocolate eggs covered with golden foil. We shall present all those who share stories with one Golden Ovary award.

Washington DC A local conservation leader MC-ed and sixty-eight women and men shared stories that celebrated Jewish women's chutzpah. Two actresses from the Jewish theater read stories. A younger woman talked about stopping homophobia in her Jewish summer camp. A wildlife biologist unexpectedly met up with the most poisonous snake in the region she was visiting. Her first thought? *Cooooooooo!*

Seattle, WA One Lebanese women told how she left Lebanon when she was fourteen, sneaking out all alone, leaving her mother a letter under her bed, and going off to England where she got a job. A man said it was so encouraging and inspiring to know what wonderful, brave things these women had done. He shared that he was a victim of sexual abuse as a young child: "I was obligated to get up there and share and let all these women know how much their stories and courage meant to me."

San Francisco, CA A sixteen year old shared a story about talking back to catcallers. Another told one of thwarting a robbery! Someone told how she sprayed paint over swastikas in Assisi, Italy after several requests asking the town to remove them did not materialize. A crowd of men watched her and clapped when she finished spray painting.

Boston, MA It was the teens' graduation ceremony from the Teen Voices mentoring/leadership/editing the magazine program. As part of the graduation ceremony, three teens read stories from the book. The teens, all African American and Latinas were thirteen to fifteen years old.

That Takes Ovaries: Bold Females and Their Brazen Acts

Stories in the Book and Play [Stories found in the play are noted with an asterisks (*)]

ON THE SPOT: IMPULSIVE, GUTSY ACT

1. **Preaching to the Convicted** / Kathleen Tarr -- makes burglar cry after he breaks into her home
2. * **Alps-ward Bound** / Frezzia Prodero -- jumps off moving train to see the Alps
3. **Hands On, Hands Off** / Bobbi Ausubel -- girl grabs child molester's hand; as adult confronts pickpocket
4. **Amen for Sneaky Women** / Cecilia Wambach -- sneaks in to see Pope, sits in front row
5. **Fat Grrlz Kick Ass** / Beth Mistretta -- 16-yr-old fat girl climbs rope in gym class
6. **Paying for It** / Monique Bowden -- gets pimp to pay her for a conversation with her
7. **Selling the Berlin Wall** / Rivka Solomon -- sells pieces of the Berlin Wall, gets arrested
8. **Educating Bill Clinton** / Bonnie Morris -- tells president to stay for women's basketball game, he does
9. * **Saving Mommy** / D.h. Wu -- 6-yr-old saves mom from suicide
10. * **Nothing From Nobody** / Tara Betts -- child confronts white cop during DWB incident
11. **I Swear!** / Louise Civetti -- playful swearing with boss after board meeting
12. **You Can Take That Law and...** / Gwyn McVay -- invites cops to "legalize it" pot rally

AFTER SOME THOUGHT: MAKING LIFE-CHANGING CHOICES

13. **Double Whammy** / Lynda Gaines -- chooses double mastectomy when facing breast cancer
14. **Divine Perfection** / Anitra Winder -- rises out of poverty and prostitution
15. **Cinderella Ph.D.** / Iris Stammberger -- leaves \$\$/prestige in Latin Amer. to start humane business
16. **Committing to Motherhood** / Rebecca Walker -- chooses (lesbian) co-parenting
17. **Returning Home** / Wilma Mankiller -- from poor single mom to leader of Cherokee Nation
18. **Courage at the End** / Mireya Herrera -- helps women dying of AIDS say goodbye to their kids

FOR OURSELVES: TAKING CHARGE OF OUR BODIES AND SEXUALITY

19. **Cupid's Paintbrush** / Amelia Copeland -- instigates sexy interlude with paint
20. * **Smutmonger** / Celia Tan -- decides to be a sex writer
21. * **Big Beauty** / Tess Dehoog -- fat girl wears tank top for 1st time
22. **First Pride** / Amanda Rivera -- 8-yr-old (with 2 moms) leads first gay pride march in her city
23. **Loving w/o Limits** / Robin Renée -- on live TV (BET), to talk about being a polyamorist
24. * **Good, Good, Good, Good Vibrations** / Joani Blank -- founded 1st women's sex toy store in U.S.
25. **Declawing Catcalls** / Julia Acevedo -- confronts catcalling men, befriends them
26. **MTV, Bite Me!** / Sabrina Margarita Alcantara-Tan -- hypersexualized music video extras rebel
27. **Spreading My Legs for Womankind** / Molly Kenefick -- teaches med students gyn exam on herself

DANGER: RISKING LIFE OR LIMB

28. **Adventures in the Jungle** / Denise Grant -- stands up to gang-banger
29. **Slapshot Off the Rink** / Amy Chambers -- jumps into middle of ice hockey fight
30. **Not Minding My Own Business** / Mary Ann McCourt -- saves a stranger from rape/abuse
31. **Surfergrrrl** / Elaine Marshall -- skysurfing on a 30-inch surfboard
32. **War Zone** / Anonymous -- meets guerrilla fighters in an effort to start a peace process
33. * **Impossible Choices: El Salvador to the U.S.** / Eva -- walks to U.S. from Central Amer
34. * **Documenting It** / Ruchira Gupta -- makes documentary on sex trafficking industry in India
35. * **Gorilla Dreams** / Maite Sureda -- searches for gorillas in Africa, finds lots
36. **Triumphs of the Amazon Queen** / Kym Trippsmith -- saves houseboat from destruction during storm

REBELS: INDIVIDUALS TAKING A STAND

37. * **Letting Justice Flow** / Alison Kafer -- launches pee protest to secure wheelchair accessible toilets
38. **One Moonshine Night** / Julia Willis -- 11-yr-old dumps alcoholic dad's moonshine
39. **Yay for Hairy Women** / Mica Miro -- hairy jr high school girl shaves legs in stripes

40. **Painting the Town** / Sasha McInnes -- after gang-raped, paints *RAPE* under dozens of STOP signs
41. **Camping With a Ventilator** / Connie Panzarino -- goes camping w/her wheelchair and ventilator
42. **A Room of Our Own** / Kathryn Roblee -- locks men's toilet at worksite to demand women's toilet
43. **Dauida and Goliath** / Jane Colby -- battles British medical establishment re: chronic fatigue syndrome
44. **Taking Up Tools** / Elizabeth Young -- becomes roofer-carpenter after father's dare
45. **Just Don't Do It** / Adrienne -- kindergartener demands her right to play dodge ball with the boys
46. **Transforming Hate** / Krissy -- paints over anti-Jewish graffiti on highway overpass
47. **Digging for Dough** / Amy Richards -- breaks taboo of asking for money, fund-raises big donations
48. **Stage Presence** / Phoebe Eng -- Asian girl gets lead in high school play *Oklahoma!*, PTA freaks
49. **Remaining Whole Behind Bars** / Fauziya Kassindja -- African genital mutilation resistor survives isolation in U.S. prison

DOING IT TOGETHER: COLLECTIVE ACTIVISM

50. * **Love Thy Neighbor With Avengence** / Jessica Brown -- lesbian rights action at conservative think tank
51. * **High-School Gauntlet** / Rachel -- 150 high school girls organize against boys who harass
52. **Synagogue Revolt** / Loolwa Khazzoom -- teen leads revolt against cultural imperialism in her temple
53. **Diary of an Urban Guerilla** / Kathy Bruin -- midnight postering of anti-anorexia message
54. **Civil Disobedience: A Primary School Primer** / Debra Kolodny -- first schoolgirl to wear pants
55. **Nine Days To Change the World** / Terri M. Muehe -- starts pants rebellion in '60s jr high school
56. * **Women's Rights Are Human Rights** / Rana Hussein -- Jordanian reporter starts mass movement against "honor crime" killings

"THAT'S NOT NICE!": ACTING ON ANGER

57. **How to Stop a Thief** / Mary Going -- waitress retaliates when restaurant patron steals her tips
58. **Eye on the Ball** / Kathleen Antonia -- jockgirl grabs crotch of assaulting jockboy
59. **Mike Meets the Dykes** / Judith K. Witherow -- lesbian couple runs sister's abuser out of town
60. **Charmed, I'm Sure** / Audrey Shaufer -- deflects pickup line with smart comeback
61. **Closing the Nasty Girl** / Elizabeth O'Neill -- 50 incest survivors trash porn shop
62. **No Screwing Around** / Vashti -- lets loose on boyfriend who is sleeping around
63. **Biker Babe** / Hilken Mancini -- strikes back against butt pinching couple
64. **Driven** / Christine Maxfield Stone -- totals husband's mistress's car

Some Activists and Leaders in the Book

Some better-known activists and leaders are in the book: **Rebecca Walker**, writer, 3rd Wave activist, and, of course, daughter of writer Alice Walker; **Wilma Mankiller**, one of the U.S.'s most prominent Native American leaders, former Principle Chief of the Cherokee Nation and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. **Joani Blank**, founder and former owner of the U.S. renowned women's sex toy store Good Vibrations; **Fauziya Kassindja**, one of the first women to receive political asylum in the U.S. for fleeing Female Genital Mutilation in Africa; **Rana Hussein**, internationally known activist and journalist fighting against so-called "honor killings" in the Arab world; **Ruchira Gupta**, whose Emmy-award winning film exposed the truths about the sex trafficking of girls in Asia.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

THAT TAKES OVARIES

by Rivka Solomon and Bobbi Ausubel

contact Info@ThatTakesOvaries.org for the script

This play is adapted from the book, *That Takes Ovaries!: Bold Females and their Brazen Acts* (Random House/Three Rivers Press), a collection of real-life experiences and first person narratives, edited by Rivka Solomon. The play *That Takes Ovaries* has some flexibility: It is written for three actors, but directors can use more actors if they wish; all stories in the play can be performed either as monologues or as scenes with two or more actors; and lastly, the play can be performed either on a bare stage or as a full theatrical production. The playwrights encourage the use of this play as a fundraiser for worthy women's causes.

SYNOPSIS: The play opens as actors rhythmically call out "ovarian synonyms" -- gutsy, bold, brazen, etc. They playfully play a game of tag with each other as each synonym is called out, and/or they strike powerful poses reflecting the words. One actor addresses the audience, asking, "When have *you* ever been feisty, brave... a risk-taker?" She dramatically announces a "call for stories", inviting all women to share their ovarian acts. In response, a flood of stories is enacted on stage -- true stories of outrageous, audacious and courageous acts of real-life women and girls. The twenty stories in the play are culturally diverse, fun, sassy and often touching true tales of estrogen-powered deeds that range from playful to political, including women fighting for their human rights. The stories range from lighter ones, such as Joani opening the country's first sex-toy store for women and Alison staging a pee protest to secure wheelchair accessible toilets on her campus, to heavier ones, such as Rana building a mass movement to end so-called honor killings of women in the Middle East and D.H. Wu, a child in Asia, stopping her mother from committing suicide on a railroad track after years of spousal abuse. Between each story, the upbeat rhythmic music and the calling out of ovarian synonyms continues. Towards the end of the play, the audience hears from Rivka as she recounts her act of courage: Despite a profound disability that leaves her bedridden and unable to function much of the time, she manages to write a book (from her bed) that is a collection of real-life women's bold deeds. As Rivka sends out a "call for stories" via email and into cyberspace to get these accounts for her book, the audience now understands where the original "call for stories" they heard at the start of the play comes from; it is from the tenacious act of one woman determined to write a book called *That Takes Ovaries* (and obviously a play, too), while significantly debilitated with a chronic illness. The last story of the play is from Ruchira who risks her personal safety to help girls trapped as sex slaves in Asia. In turn, the young and usually meek prostituted girls act together against powerful pimps and mafia to save Ruchira's life. In the final moments of the play, after all the longer stories are complete, the actors call out short, one-sentence ovarian acts. It reaches a climax as the actors' -- in rapid fire, over-lapping each other -- proclaim their strength and courage in these punchy, serious and comedic one-liners.

OPTIONAL Post Performance Event: After the play, theaters can hold their own open mikes with their audience. Women and girls share stories about times they acted boldly. Guys proudly brag about the ovaries in their lives -- mothers, sisters, daughters. Everyone who speaks gets a chocolate egg wrapped in gold foil -- a Golden Ovary award.

Inviting Rivka, Bobbi or Mira from *That Takes Ovaries* To Your Community

Rivka Solomon, Bobbi Ausubel or Mira Kakkar (in India) are available to come to your community, campus or conference **to speak and lead a fun, inspiring *That Takes Ovaries* reading and open mike.** *That Takes Ovaries* is a multicultural book, an open mike movement & organizing tool for women and girls' empowerment. We have held over 500 events to date. Rivka is author of the book *That Takes Ovaries: Bold Females and Their Brazen Acts*. Bobbi is our Artistic Director. She recently used our *That Takes Ovaries* open mikes to empower Asian prostitutes living in the red light district to speak out about their lives, in an effort to end sex trafficking. Mira Kakkar is our event leader and coordinator in India. All Rivka, Bobbi and Mira are dynamic and inspiring speakers **currently booking their speaking, workshop and open mike events** for this and next year. They can come to your community individually or as a team.

"Because women everywhere have gusty stories to share, our open mike events have sparked a grassroots movement for women and girls' empowerment. Hundreds of our Ovaries open mikes have been held across North America, and in Latin America, Asia and Africa, often as fundraisers for worthy women and girls' causes. We have over 300 articles written about our work, from Glamour magazine to the Washington Post to the Telegraph of India." -- Rivka

WHAT WE OFFER

* A talk/workshop titled "That Takes Ovaries: Leading a Bold Life." Geared towards women and girls but open to all genders;

* Entertaining readings from the *Ovaries* book or play: Women's true stories of gutsy, risk-taking and courageous deeds -- from playful to political. Stories selected in advance to resonate with your particular audience;

* A "That Takes Ovaries" Open Mike: The high point of the event. Gutsy gals in the audience share stories about times they acted boldly. Guys brag about the ovaries in their lives, such as their mothers, sisters and daughters. Everyone who shares gets a chocolate egg wrapped in gold foil, a Golden Ovary award.

Additional Options:

* We are eager to foster women's leadership in your community. With this in mind, if you wish, before the event we coach a few select women of your choice and invite them on stage with us to join in the dramatic reading and to co-MC. This format has been highly successful on campuses.

* Though not necessary, we encourage you to invite other local community groups to attend your event (i.e. women's shelters; rape crisis centers; teen, girls' or seniors' programs). This results in a good variety of stories from the audience. It builds bridges and the sense of a larger community of women, one that transcends often difficult to overcome barriers, like age, race, culture and class.

* We are happy to meet informally with interested folks, as a group, after the event. Perhaps a luncheon, tea or anything that gives us all an opportunity to interact and share in a more comfortable, intimate environment.

INVITE US TO YOUR COMMUNITY

To invite Rivka, Bobbi or Mira (individually or as a team), to discuss availability, fees and the possibility of doing your event as a fundraiser for a worthy women's cause of your choice, including your own organization, **contact <Info@ThatTakesOvaries.org>**. Popular dates: October (Domestic Violence Awareness Month) and March (Women's History Month). But any time is a good time to celebrate gutsy women! *Please forward this info to those who bring speakers to your campus/community.*

BIOS

Rivka Solomon writes, organizes and rabble-rouses on the East Coast of the U.S. She edited the book *That Takes Ovaries* (Random House), an exciting collection of real-life stories from women and girls about the gutsy, outrageous, courageous things they have done. The book is jam-packed with 64 multicultural, fun, sassy, touching true tales of estrogen-powered deeds that range from playful to political, including women fighting for their human rights. Rivka co-wrote the play of the same name, and directed two productions in the Boston area. Her play has also been produced by schools and community theaters around the U.S. Now, as Executive Director of the nonprofit organization *That Takes Ovaries*, she leads TTO workshops, lectures and is coordinating a global initiative of community-oriented *That Takes Ovaries* open mikes, plays and fundraisers. Her writing has appeared in U.S. magazines, newspapers, anthologies and has aired on radio broadcasts. Since darn near babyhood, she has been a women's rights advocate and activist.

Bobbi Ausubel is co-playwright of the *That Takes Ovaries* play and Artistic Director of the organization, a workshop leader, theater director, playwright, acting teacher, drama therapist and consultant in the schools. Bobbi was a leader in the Second Wave of the Women's Movement: She co-wrote and directed the first play inspired by the modern feminist movement in the US in the 1960s and '70s, *How To Make A Woman*. She brings with her, to her TTO workshops, the unique perspective of someone who was active -- not just witnessing, but taking part -- in the evolution of the U.S. women's movement over the last few decades. Also, she was co-director of Caravan Theater in Boston, MA, for twelve years, during which time her adaptation of Tillie Olsen's (icon of the women's movement) novella *Tell Me A Riddle* was named "Best Play of the Year". Ausubel also directed with Union Sister, a labor-sponsored theater, as well as other theaters on the US East and West Coast. She taught acting for fifteen years at the Boston Conservatory, where she was also Chair of the Theater Division for four years. Recently she co-directed Araceli Theater's *Touched by Cancer*, a bilingual (Spanish-English) play created by a drama therapy process with persons with cancer.

Mira Kakkar, our *That Takes Ovaries* (TTO) Coordinator in India, based in Calcutta/Kolkata, holds TTO dramatic readings and open mikes in a wide variety of venues, from five star hotels, such as the Oberoi Grand, to college campuses to the U.S. Consulate to NGO centers, including centers for women in prostitution. She has organized and anchored TTO events that were co-anchored and/or co-hosted by celebrities and dignitaries, such as George Sibley, U.S. Consul General and his wife Lee Sibley, and by Konkana Sen Sharma, the actress and daughter of well-known director Aparna Sen. Mira's TTO events have been held as part of Int'l Women's Day events and the International Fortnight Protesting Violence Against Women and Girls. They have been co-sponsored by the West Bengal Government and by NGOs, such as Oxfam, Seagull Foundation, Swayam and Mira's very own NGO, Thoughtshop Foundation. The TTO events Mira has led have been attended by women from all walks of life, from students, professionals, and prostituted women who live in the Red light Districts. In addition to working with *That Takes Ovaries*, **Mira Kakkar** specializes in writing, storytelling, advertising, publishing, communications and social activism. As helmswoman of an NGO called Thoughtshop Foundation, which she launched in 1993, Mira focuses on the mental and physical health of youth. As an advertising and communications person, her multi-media campaigns have been instrumental in starting mass movements.