

Pauline Cushman- The Union Spy

Marilyn Warsofsky



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ArtAge Publications

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Readers Theatre: *Legendary Ladies and their Gents* by Marilyn Warsofsky is a collection of five plays based on historical women characters. For ten years, she toured the shows throughout her community. Actors and audiences loved the combination of rich history with solid theatre. We think you will too! The book includes:

[*Molly Brown She Was Unsinkable*](#). Full of spirit, this is Molly Brown's tale of rags to riches and her courage when the *Titanic* was sinking.

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[*Pauline Cushman: The Union Spy*](#). This true, but little-known story, is the tale of a brave woman who helped the Union Army win the Civil War. She was a legend!

You can order plays from *Readers Theatre: Legendary Ladies and their Gents* as individual e-scripts or get all of them in a hard copy book.

PAULINE CUSHMAN-THE UNION SPY

by

Marilyn Warsofsky

CAST

PAULINE: A woman with determination, living life dangerously. She started out as an actress but loyal to the Union, she used her lack of fear and the stage as a vehicle to spy.

HISTORIAN 1: Helps relate her life to the times of the Civil War and beyond.

HISTORIAN 2: Relates family facts and the dynamics that made Pauline interesting.

GOSSIP 1: She talks in disbelief about Pauline, jealous, and outspoken.

GOSSIP 2: Feeds into what Gossip 1 is saying, questions everything.

MOTHER: A loving, caring mother and a good wife.

FATHER: A person struggling to make a living for his family.

NEWS REPORTER: Reports theatre news as well as news about Pauline.

SHOW DIRECTOR: Runs a traveling theatre company, gives Pauline her break.

UNION COMMANDER: A strong persuasive man, has a way with words.

GENERAL FORREST: Southerner--no mercy for Pauline, plays word games with her.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN: A moment for him to praise and understand Pauline.

CAST: Ad libs, singing, general noises.

Production Notes:

Some parts have only a few lines so actors can be double cast as necessary.

Place

New Orleans, Michigan, New York, Louisville, Kentucky, Arizona.

Time

1830's through the 1870's.

STORY: A true story. Pauline Cushman, so the tale goes, helped save the Union Army from defeat. Then she married a younger man and served as his deputy in Arizona.

(SOUND CUE: Drum Roll 2 times)

CAST:

(SONG: Dixie)

I wish I were in the land of cotton,
Old times there are not forgotten.
Look away, look away, look away Dixie Land.

I wish I were in Dixie- Hurray, Hurray.
In Dixie Land I'll take my stand and live and die in Dixie.
Away- away- away down South in Dixie.

HISTORIAN 1: Pauline Cushman...The Union Army Spy.

GOSSIP 1: I met Pauline when she ran a hotel in Case Grande, AZ. She was no spring chicken then and she sure had an attitude.

GOSSIP 2: Pauline told stories about her past life, that were true, but at the time no one believed her. I certainly didn't. Did you?

GOSSIP 1: No way! Ya know to me she was just a woman past her prime married to a younger man.

GOSSIP 2: People said he was running around on her.

(The CAST reacts to this.)

GOSSIP 1: She claimed she was a major in the Civil War. That was a long time ago.

GOSSIP 2: Who ever heard of a woman being a major in the War Between the States?

GOSSIP 1: She told me she had four husbands. Who'd believe that?

PAULINE: You old gossips, I've had a life like no everyday woman. I'm proud to say I was a spy for the Union Army. And I don't like you talking behind my back.

GOSSIP 2: Well, ain't you highfalutin?

PAULINE: You don't know anything about me.

GOSSIP 1: We know you're real good at telling made up stories.

HISTORIAN 1: Actually her stories were very real.

HISTORIAN 2: Her father was a Spaniard from Madrid.

HISTORIAN 1: He and her mother moved to New Orleans where she was born.

HISTORIAN 2: Pauline's parents opened a business there.

MOTHER: My daughter was a beautiful baby and New Orleans was a wonderful place to bring up a little girl.

FATHER: There were all kinds of people there. The city was very sophisticated in the 1830's. We settled in and became members of the community.

MOTHER: There was theatre and opera, music, and dancing. Private schools with French tutors and marvelous food and wine. I wanted my daughter to have all that.

HISTORIAN 1: Well, it was not to be for the family.

MOTHER: My husband lost his business. We were sad when we left.

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