

Florence Nightingale: In Her Own Words

A Celebration of Nursing

60-minute Educational Dramatization



Courtesy of the Florence Nightingale Museum Trust, London

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In the mid-1800s, while women were struggling for respect and influence, nursing had an equally limited, if not menial place in the British healthcare system. Nonetheless, Florence Nightingale defied the traditional female role to champion the cause of the ill and suffering.

“Susan Mazer and Dallas Smith have brought alive and made real the heart and lineage of nursing and healing... Through this extraordinary performance, Florence Nightingale speaks to today’s nurses in a clear and passionate voice, inspiring them to recognize the roots of their commitment, and remember the nature of their professional integrity.”

**Barbara M. Dossey, RN, MS,
HNC, FAAN
Director, Holistic Nursing
Consultants, Santa Fe, NM
Author of “Florence Nightingale:
Mystic, Visionary, Healer”**

News of a 42% mortality rate in the British Army hospitals in Turkey paved the way for Nightingale to move ahead with her reforms in nursing practice. She created the first comprehensive clinical nurse training programs and established the basis for statistically based nursing research and its application in public health policy and hospital design.

Drawing from biographical literature and the original writings of Nightingale, Susan Mazer and Dallas Smith portray both in drama and music the story of the imminent founder of modern nursing. Their telling of Nightingale’s story brings into the forefront therapeutic protocols that may be considered as “alternative” today, but were “primary” in Nightingale’s time and defined the foundation of good nursing practice.

Whether discussing theory or practice, the voice of Nightingale speaks to issues of patient environments, nurse/physician relationships, statistics, public health, and women’s rights. This dramatization provides insight to Nightingale’s personal and

professional struggles within a conservative medical system as well as the power of practiced commitment and dedication in dramatically changing the future of healthcare.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Participants will be able to:

- Understand the evolution of Nightingale’s environmental theory in practice and its application reducing patient morbidity and mortality.
- Distinguish between role of the nurse from that of the physician.
- Identify specific environmental factors that impact patient outcomes as recognized in Nightingale’s environmental theory.
- Identify challenges faced by Nightingale that exist today and their respective solutions.

About the Speakers

Healing HealthCare Systems founders Susan Mazer and Dallas Smith are acknowledged pioneers in the use of music as environmental design for healthcare facilities. They are the authors of “Sound Choices: Using Music to Design the Environments in Which You Live, Work, and Heal” (Hay House, 1999).

Trained as classical musicians, this husband and wife team spent the first 20 years of their careers as full-time performing and recording artists. Their work at HHS today includes the development of new products, environmental design consulting, and educational training.

“Susan and Dallas’s performance of Florence Nightingale...gave us a chance to return to our foundations...to remember and reflect on why we are here in the first place and to appreciate the difference that one person can make.”

**Jan Boller, RN, Director of Clinical
Outcomes and Healing Practices
Sutter Solano Medical Center,
Vacaville, CA**