

Contents

Preface: Watching WOW—Jill Dolan	vii
Introduction: Secret WOW—Holly Hughes	1
Introduction: Liberté, Egalité, Lesbianité —Carmelita Tropicana	9
WOW Women in Their Own Words: Brave New World —Group Interview by Alisa Solomon with WOW Collective Members (1984)	14
Song: “It’s Hard to Be a Dyke in NYC” —Lynn Hayes and Debra Miller’s band, the Useless Fems	28

SECTION ONE

Lesbian Camp: Redressing the Canon of 1950s Television

<i>Introduction</i> —Holly Hughes	29
<i>Split Britches</i> (1981)—Lois Weaver, Peggy Shaw, and Deb Margolin	31
<i>Fear of Laughing on the Lower East Side</i> (1984)—Alice Forrester	38
WOW Women in Their Own Words—Alice Forrester	42
<i>Waaay Beyond the Valley of the Dolls</i> (1986) —Alison Rooney	47
<i>Paradykes Lost</i> (1988)—Lisa Kron for the Five Lesbian Brothers	55
WOW Women in Their Own Words: A Fine Bromance —Group Interview by Holly Hughes and Carmelita Tropicana with the Five Lesbian Brothers, Maureen (Moe) Angelos, Babs Davy, Dominique Dibbell, Peg Healey, and Lisa Kron (2000)	66
<i>Hamlet</i> (1989): Scripted after Shakespeare’s <i>Hamlet</i> —Deb Margolin	75
<i>Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same</i> (1992) —Madeleine Olnek	83
WOW Women in Their Own Words—An Interview with Madeleine Olnek by Holly Hughes (June 2000)	94

SECTION TWO

Dyke Noir

<i>Introduction</i> —Holly Hughes	99
<i>The Lady Dick</i> (1985)—Holly Hughes	101
<i>Pickaxe</i> (1986)—Ana Maria Simo	107
<i>O Darn! The World Is Not a Safe Place for Little Buttercups</i> (1991) —Moe Angelos and Dominique Dibbell	133
WOW Women in Their Own Words—Susan Young	143

SECTION THREE

How to Write Autobiography with Someone's Hand over Your Mouth

<i>Introduction</i> —Holly Hughes	145
<i>Memories of the Revolution/Memorias de la Revolución</i> (1987) —Carmelita Tropicana and Uzi Parnes	148
<i>How to Say Kaddish with Your Mouth Shut</i> (1988) —Claire Moed	154
<i>Threads from the Tailor's Grand Daughters</i> (1989) —Sharon Jane Smith	160
WOW Women in Their Own Words —An Interview with Sharon Jane Smith by Carmelita Tropicana (December 2001)	168
<i>Feeling Blue</i> (1988)—Eileen Myles	172
WOW Women in Their Own Words—Eileen Myles	180
<i>Women and Children First: Outstanding Perk or Tool of Oppression?</i> (1992)—Babs Davy	182
WOW Women in Their Own Words: As the World Turns —Group Interview (2004)	188
Contributors	197
Further Reading	207
Acknowledgments	209

Photographs following page 98