

Abstract for 'Restoring peace: building post-conflict societies'

Sarah Black Esther Wilson

Title of Paper – 'A Call to Arms'

Five key Words – Mothering, Peace, Homeland, Performance, Border (less).

A performative response to *The Mother's Day Proclamation* - Julia Ward Howe (1870)

Join us the Congress of Women on our pilgrimage towards the creation of
The Mother's Day Project.

This is a performance presentation called a *Call to Arms* exploring the development of a future international Mother's Day ritual, that is truer to the intention of Julia Ward Howes vision in the *Mother's Day Proclamation* (1870). We create a space where through performance, music, digital art, film and movement the Members of the Congress bring alive their own performance practices framed within the shared vision of the Mother's Day Project.

After the performance, we contextualize this work and invite members of the audience to engage, debate with us.

The Mother's Day Project, an international, interdisciplinary, cross-borders project that works directly with female artists whose work centers on the ideologies of mothering, peace and the global crisis of war. We explore multidisciplinary approaches to linking academics, practitioners to engage with the work of artists across the globe whose focus is on the practice of peaceful strategies.

We unveil our intentions to develop a Digital Homeland - a web narrative site, an ongoing, borderless space where connection, sharing, inspiration and collaboration can be possible, in order to encourage the spiritual, cultural and intellectual advancement of the 'great human family' (Ward Howe 1870).

For more information mothersdayproclamation@gmail.com

Ms. Sarah Black – Liverpool Hope University

Sarah is a lecturer in dance and performance studies at Liverpool Hope University her teaching focuses on dance and film installation, auto-ethnographic and autobiographical dance practices. Her current research focuses on developing a maternal arts practice located within her family home. This work is critically framed with maternal and feminist ethics and narrative performance strategies. Sarah is currently a PhD student at Middlesex University; entitled *Mother as Curator – Doing Family*, where she has presented internationally. Sarah has taught and performed the Limon Institute New York and continues to develop a Humphrey Limon based technique taught in Higher Education.

Ms. Esther Wilson – Freelance Writer

Esther Wilson started out as an actor but after winning one of the BBC's Northern Exposure Awards – Short film category '*The Swimming Man*' she has focused more on writing.

She has written for Red Ladder Theatre Company, The Liverpool Lantern Company, Zoo Theatre, and Hope The Unity Theatre. Liverpool Everyman/Playhouse.

Major credits include –

BBC R4, *Hiding Leonard Cohen* – Winner of the 2004 Mental Health in Media's best Radio drama award and *Hush Little Baby* was also shortlisted.

In 2006 Esther was commissioned to write a ten-minute Radio short, 'Writing of Harlots' for BBC's Freethinking Festival.

R4 Friday play '*The Heroic Pursuits of Darleen Fyles*'.

R4's *Unprotected* (Lead-writer) was transmitted on March 17th 2006 to coincide with the Liverpool Everyman's stage version of *Unprotected* (Lead writer) The Stage version transferred to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, winning an Amnesty International Freedom of Expression award. The Radio version was short listed for a Prix Europa, award.

Her Liverpool Everyman Playhouse play *Ten Tiny Toes* was nominated for The TMA awards. It was also a finalist in the prestigious Susan Smith Blackburn Prize.

Along with Zoo theatre Esther was commissioned to write *The Quiet Little Englishman* for Liverpool's 2008 Capital of Culture celebrations. Esther won the RTS Award Best Newcomer for her episode of the final series of the multi-award winning series Jimmy McGovern's *The Street*.

In 2009 Esther co-wrote a feature film about The Beatles while in 2010 her short film *The Swimming Man* was co-produced by North West Vision & Media and LA Productions.

Her episode of Jimmy McGovern's prime time TV series *The Street* was nominated for a Mental Health in Media Award. It also won an RTS Best Newcomer award.

Esther's episode of Jimmy McGovern's *The Accused* was broadcast in November 2010.

In 2012 her radio drama about homeless people, *Tony Teardrop*, was on BBC R3. A Radio 4 series followed in 2013. A stage production was performed in Liverpool in 2013.

She was recently Danish International Visiting Artist (DIVA) at Warehouse 9 in Copenhagen.