

At the Foot of the Mountain Theatre—Martha Boesing

Minneapolis-based At the Foot of the Mountain Theatre operated from 1974 to 1991. In 1976, a group of women including Martha Boesing decided to rededicate the work of the company to making theatre for, by, and about women. The permanent home of the company, the People's Center, housed them for twelve years until the company's dissolution in 1991, at which point they were the nation's longest-running feminist theatre company. Some of At The Foot of the Mountain's most well-known works include *A Story of A Mother*, *Raped: A Woman's Look at Bertolt Brecht's The Exception and the Rule*, and *Ashes, Ashes, We All Fall Down*. *A Story of A Mother*, which founder Martha Boesing called "the most radical play we ever did," was created through a combination of guided meditations and improvisation surrounding the company's relationship with their mothers. You can hear Martha talk about this process in an interview [here](#). The work of At The Foot of The Mountain Theatre was heavily linked to the Second Wave feminist idea of the personal as political, and so they incorporated opportunity for audience involvement into many of their pieces—in *Raped*, audience members were invited to "pause" the show at any point and to tell their own stories of sexual assault. The company was heavily focused on process, emphasizing collaboration and collectivism in their work.

Chinoy, Helen K, and Linda W. Jenkins. *Women in American Theatre*. New York: Theatre Communications Group, 2006.