

Women's Experimental Theatre—Roberta Sklar and Sondra Segal

The Women's Experimental Theatre was founded in 1976 in New York City by Claire Coss, Sondra Segal, and Roberta Sklar. They set out to create a theatre for women and by women, where they could tell their own stories. Sklar left Joseph Chaikin's Open Theatre to form a group focused on feminist theatre work, finding it too difficult to converge her own feminist identity with the work of the Open Theatre's ensemble. The company worked in a predominantly collective way throughout their new-work development process, though they took on more traditional roles throughout the rehearsal process, with Segal performing, Coss writing and revising, and Sklar stepping into a directorial role (294). One of their most famous works, the [*Daughter's Cycle Trilogy*](#), focused on the relationships between mothers and daughters. The piece consists of three parts: *Daughters*, *Sister/Sister*, and *Electra Speaks*. Each part explores a different element of mother/daughterhood from the relationship between sisters to a reclaiming of matrilineage. Eventually, the group paused production of work because they didn't view the 1980s "post-feminist" movement as being a productive backdrop for feminist theatrical production.

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