

GLORIA KAUFMAN

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SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Gloria Kaufman's achievements as a writer, scholar, producer/director of feminist videos, and university professor are widely ranging. Her videos (including The Politics of Humor, Clothes, Women, Ritual, & Religion) are shown all over the world. Her latest book, In Stitches: A Patchwork of Feminist Humor & Satire, culminates fifteen years of work on feminist humor. In 1980, she co-edited the first collection of feminist humor (Pulling Our Own Strings) with Mary Kay Blakely. Her first collaborative work was a musical play (Which Witch Is Which?) written with Mary Laporte and published in 1953.

Many of her poems have been published, including a small collection (Sixteen Poems) in Rome, Italy in 1962.

Originally trained as a scientist (she was elected to the New York Academy of Sciences in 1952 while only a graduate student), Gloria Kaufman reluctantly abandoned her interest in modern physics because of the atomic and hydrogen bombs (and because of the destructive potential she saw in cosmic rays, her area of interest). As a Fulbright scholar in Munich, Germany, in 1956-57, she studied philosophy. Her M.A. from Brooklyn College and her Ph.D. from Brandeis University are in English and American Literature with Shakespeare as her specialty.

A seven-month stay in Tucumán, a subtropical province of Argentina, enhanced Gloria Kaufman's global interests, and led to her first published political essay ("Sugar and Machine Guns") in 1960. As Director of Women's Studies at Indiana University at South Bend, she promotes multicultural, interdisciplinary, international, environmental, and non-traditional perspectives. Gloria Kaufman is a frequent keynoter at conferences and a popular national speaker. Her on-going marriage to Samuel Shapiro in 1959 has produced two children: Leslie Viktora, a composer and musician, and David Shapiro, a computer artist and writer.