



**Announcing a new performance piece by Barbara Bates Smith,  
—Off-Broadway’s “Ivy Rowe” from *Fair and Tender Ladies***

*Set among the ashes of the Civil War, Lee Smith’s new novel brings a dead world blazingly to life... using as touchstones a mysterious benefactor, a wrecked plantation, a school for young ladies, and music-lovin’ mountain folk.*

—Donna Rifkin, *The Washington Post*

*Someone should give a copy of this novel to the Nobel committee—Donald Harrington, Raleigh News-Observer*

## *On Agate Hill*

a stage adaptation of Lee Smith’s powerful new novel

**—A one-woman, one-hour play with live music—**

Minimal set-up requirements— Adaptable to your space—Optional Talkback

Molly Petree, orphaned by the Civil War, is "a spitfire and a burden" who risks everything to hold to her own nature and to true love. The end of her story is as unpredictable and as passionate as her wide-open heart.

*The publication of “On Agate Hill” is more than happy— it is very special. It is one of her major books, perhaps her best since “Fair and Tender Ladies.” Molly Petree, the extraordinary heroine of “On Agate Hill” must rank with Ivy Rowe as one of Smith’s most endearing characters... The book also contains a great love story as fine as anything Smith has written. In 2003 Smith lost her beloved son, Joshua. This book is dedicated to him. I cannot help but think that the novel’s extraordinary passages of grieving are as much Smith grieving for Josh, as they are Molly grieving for her love, Jacky. But neither Smith nor Molly can be kept down long. They are both survivors, and we are blessed to have them with us.*

—Anthony Abbott, *Charlotte Observer*

*An authentic American saga, bittersweet as an Appalachian ballad, peopled with wonderfully vivid characters, so brilliantly constructed we never even notice the quilt-like artfulness of its design. One of those books you can either roam contentedly around in for days, or devour at once, in a rush of pure pleasure.* —Kirkus Reviews

*Lee Smith calls Barbara Smith’s performance as Ivy Rowe “brilliant.”*

—The Virginia Mountaineer

*Jeff Sebens is a genius as Barbara Smith’s accompanist seamlessly making the music a major, integral part of the story.*

—Lee Smith, author, *Fair and Tender Ladies*

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