

Theatre UAB 2017-2018 Season

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

by William Shakespeare
Directed by Dennis McLernon
October 18-21 at 7:30pm
October 22 at 2:00pm
The Sirote Theatre

WORKING

Book by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso, music by Schwartz, Craig Carnelia, Micki Grant, Mary Rodgers, and James Taylor, and lyrics by Schwartz, Carnelia, Grant, Taylor, and Susan Birkenhead.
Directed by Valerie Accetta
Musical Direction by Carolyn Violi
Movement Direction by Roy Lightner
November 8-11, 15-17 at 7:30pm
November 18 at 2:00pm
The Odess Theatre

SILENT SKY

by Lauren Gunderson
Directed by Karla Koskinen
February 21-24 at 7:30pm
February 25 at 2:00pm
The Sirote Theatre

STANDING ON CEREMONY: THE GAY MARRIAGE PLAYS

by Mo Gaffney, Jordan Harrison, Moisés Kaufman, Wendy MacLeod, José Rivera, Paul Rudnick, and Doug Wright, conceived by Brian Shnipper
Directed by Brandon Bruce, Jack Cannon Mel Christian, Cheryl Hall, Karla Koskinen, Dennis McLernon
Feb 27-28, March 1-3 at 7:30pm
March 4 at 2:00pm
The Odess Theatre

HAIRSPRAY

Music by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Scott Wittman and Shaiman and a book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, based on the 1988 John Waters film *Hairspray*.
Directed by Valerie Accetta & Roy Lightner
Musical Direction by Carolyn Violi
Choreography by Roy Lightner
April 11-14 at 7:30pm
April 15 at 2:00pm
The Sirote Theatre

ASC Box Office: 975-ARTS.

Show information at <http://www.uab.edu/cas/theatre/productions>

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Department of Theatre

Frank and Joan Dawson,
Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman
Lanny and Darlene Gray
Mary and Kyle Hulcher
and
W.B. Philips, Jr.

SILENT SKY

by Lauren Gunderson
directed by Karla Koskinen

UAB DEPARTMENT
OF THEATRE



The Sirote Theatre
in the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center

OVATION THEATRE UAB

Opening nights at Theatre UAB are OVATION nights. OVATION UAB features refreshments and conversation with the director and designers before the show, as well as a post-performance meet & greet with the cast and crew.

But that's not all. OVATION's mission is to support and sponsor our students working backstage and performing in Theatre UAB productions. Membership dues ranging from \$40 - \$1500+ help off-set the cost of tuition for each student to participate in the productions.

Join us! Park early, socialize, learn about the show and enjoy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, coffee and light refreshments before an evening of great theatre. OVATION THEATRE UAB is a perfect way to assist our talented students and have lots of fun!

OVATION THEATRE UAB Membership Forms are in our Theatre UAB Season Brochure or contact Program Manager, Mel Christian at 934-3237 or cmel@uab.edu. We'd love to see you at our next OVATION!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT OVATION UAB MEMBERS

Founding Members

Russell Drummond, Col. Daniel D. Hall, Patty McDonald, Carol Odess, Chandler S. Smith, Jane Paris Smith, BBS Martha Moore Sykes Fund

2017-2018 Members

Susan Atwood, Peter and Miriam Bellis, Anne Marie Brown, Wendy Gunther Canada, William & Mary Capps, Peggy Carlisle, Betsy & Joe Cooper, Frank & Joan Dawson, Chuck & Mary Dunham, Ben & Ellen Erdreich, Mary Jane & Ray Faircloth, John R. & Linda Frawley, Michael J. & Mary Anne Freeman, Dai'Sean Garrett, Randy & LaDonna Gibbs, Dr. Robert & Mrs. Barbara Glaze, Lanny & Darlene Gray, Virginia & Boyce Guthrie, Dr. Ward & Mrs. Martha Haarbauer, Frank & Rona Harper, Stephanie Harris, Mary & Kyle Hulcher, Michael and Catherine Hulcher, Bill & Hettie Johnson, Bill & Judy Lewis, Allen & Cele Montgomery, Patrick & Mary Morrissey, Carol Odess, James & Angela Owen, Bill Paracca, Steve & Laura Parker, W. B. Philips, Jr., Beverly & David Radford, Miriam Kirklin Reed, James & Dawn Ribe, John & Deborah Sellers, Arnold & Fran Singer, Dorinda & John A. Smith, Kenya Stewart, Phil & Beverly Stine, Charles Turnbough, Jr., Nancy Whitt, Joyce Whitten

THE KENNEDY CENTER

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival 50th, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; and Beatrice and Anthony Welters and the AnBryce Foundation.

KCACTF is part of JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy, inspired by five enduring ideals often ascribed to JFK: Courage, Freedom, Justice, Service, and Gratitude. Support for JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy is provided by Ambassador Elizabeth Bagley, Chevron, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, and Target.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Theatre UAB Faculty and Administrative Staff

Kelly Dean Allison, Professor.....Chair
Valerie Accetta, Assistant Professor.....Head of Musical Theatre Performance
Jack Cannon, Assistant Professor.....Acting/Intro to Theatre
Ward HaarbauerProfessor Emeritus
Cheryl Hall, Assistant Professor.....Intro to Theatre
Karma Ibsen.....Professor Emerita
Marlene Johnson, Professor.....Acting/Voice
Karla Koskinen, Professor.....Acting/Directing
Roy Lightner, Associate Professor.....Musical Theatre Performance/Dance
Dennis McLernon, Professor.....Head of Performance
Amy Page, Assistant Professor.....Costume Director
Kimberly Schnormeier, Associate Professor/Associate Dean.....Costume Design
Lee Shackleford, Associate Professor.....Playwriting
Cliff Simon, Professor.....Scene Design
Carolyn Violi.....Musical Director/Accompanist
Vessela Warner, Associate Professor.....Theatre History
Will York.....Professor Emeritus
Ed Zuckerman, Associate Professor.....Production Manager/Technical Director

Adjunct Faculty

Carlton AlexandraIntro to Dance
Tiffany HeimbachTap I
June Mack.....Intermediate Narrative Filmmaking
Mary Margaret ScaliciBallet II

Mel Christian.....Program Manager/Tour Coordinator
Chris Humphries, Duncan McCrary.....Audio/Visual Technicians
Nora Whitten.....Administrative Associate

Theatre UAB is a proud member of...



The Kennedy Center

AMERICAN
COLLEGE
THEATER
FESTIVAL

NAST
The National Association of
Schools of Theatre



SOUTHEASTERN
THEATRE CONFERENCE

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Department of Theatre
Frank and Joan Dawson,
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Lanny and Darlene Gray
Mary and Kyle Hulcher
and
W.B. Philips, Jr.

Silent Sky

by **Lauren Gunderson**

With original incidental music by **Jenny Giering**

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

Stage Manager
Spencer Webb

Scenic Design
Kelly Allison

Costume Design
Kimberly Schnormeier

Lighting Design
David Page

Sound Design
Katherine Montgomery

Properties Design
J. Marc Quattlebaum

Vocal & Dialect Coach
Marlene Johnson

Projection Artists
Courtney Lassiter Mila Oliviera Elisabeth Pellathy

Directed by Karla Koskinen

Assistant Directors
Roxana Munoz & Hayley Procacci

Opening Night: Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

The videotaping or other video, photography or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

CAST

Henrietta Leavitt.....Alicia Batterson
Margaret Leavitt.....Victoria Cruz
Peter Shaw.....Chance Novalis
Annie Cannon.....Katie Strickland
Williamina Fleming.....Lew Williams

SETTINGS:

1900-1920

Star Field

The Harvard Observatory, 2nd Floor Offices

Leavitt Home, Wisconsin

Ocean Liner on the Atlantic

Henrietta's Home, Cambridge, MA

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

Silent Sky was first produced by South Coast Repertory with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation.

From The Director of *Silent Sky*...

This production is dedicated to Connie Koskinen, Ann Schnormeier, and Mary L. Violi, all strong, intelligent women who lived rich, meaningful lives in a world that often does not encourage women to reach their full potential. We can only wonder at what that world would be like if women had always been afforded equal opportunities. Sharing women's stories, like that of *Silent Sky*'s Henrietta Leavitt, is one way to foster a different and brighter future.

- Karla Koskinen

Dramaturgical Notes:

Breaking the Silence

In October 1923, the New York Times made the announcement, “Doctor Hubble confirms view that they are 'island universes' similar to our own.” Astronomer Edwin Hubble had just discovered that spiral nebula in the sky were actually stellar systems—other galaxies in our universe. This discovery, however, depended upon the work of a little-known astronomer, Henrietta Leavitt, a member of a group of women working at Harvard College in the early 1900s, who mapped the stars in our sky. Lauren Gunderson’s *Silent Sky* (2011) broke the silence of Leavitt’s significant contribution to science, while also revealing the work and passion of Harvard’s human “computers,” who created the star classification system still used in modern astronomy.

Hailed by the American Theatre Magazine as the most produced living playwright in America for the 2017 season, Gunderson enjoys writing about science, or what she calls “the stories of discovery, the unfolding of human knowledge, the democracy of method.” Her science-inspired work includes *Ada and the Engine*, *The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful (and her dog!)*, *Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight*, and *By and By*. She feels that scientists make great dramatic characters because their lives and work resemble the journeys of real heroes. They have a clear objective (the goal of their investigation), an antagonist or obstacles they struggle against (cultural prejudice, lack of time, or nature’s unpredictability), and hopefully, arrive at a climactic moment of discovery that not only changes their scientific perspectives but also the way in which we understand our world. More importantly, Gunderson finds that female scientists are “doubly tested,” so their stories are “far richer in struggle, and far greater in triumph.” In *Silent Sky*, she beautifully uses dramatic oppositions between the individual and family, science and religion, men and women, work and passion, computation and interpretation, and sound and silence in order to illustrate the inner conflict between the head and heart.

Silent Sky explores the theory of relativity not only as a scientific principle but as a metaphor of how people navigate their world and relationships. By reminding us that we are in constant motion in our continually expanding universe, it sparks our wonder and charges our curiosity, encouraging us to look up at the starry sky.

For more dramaturgical information about the play, explore: <http://www.uab.edu/cas/theatre/on-stage/current-season/silent-sky>.

**- Ben Lundy
Dramaturge**

Silent Sky Production Biographies

Kelly Allison (Scenic Design)

Home Town: Litchfield, MN

Education: BFA-Stephens College, MFA-University of Minnesota.

Recent Production Work: Lighting Design: *A Little Night Music*, *Spring Awakening*, *Buried Child*, *Stupid F***ing Bird*, *Avenue Q*, *Urinetown: The Musical*, *Big Love*, *Charley’s Aunt*, *Macbeth*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Eurydice* (UAB.)

Alicia Batterson (Henrietta Leavitt)

Home Town: Columbus, OH

Education: Worthington Christian High School/ Fort Hayes Performing Arts Ctr

Recent Production Work: Acting: *2017-18 Bookends Touring Company*, *Working*, *A Little Night Music*, *2015-16 & 2016-17 Cabaret Touring Company*, *Vinegar Tom*, *Spring Awakening*, *Avenue Q*, *Women of War* (UAB,) *Into the Woods* (Carriage Place Players,) *Cinderella* (WCHS,) *Steel Magnolias* (Fort Hayes Performing Arts Center.)

Victoria Angelina Cruz (Margaret Leavitt)

Home Town: Birmingham, AL · Education: B.A. Public Relations, UAB

Recent Production Work: *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *The Fourteenth Festival of Ten Minute Plays*, *Black Lady Authority* (UAB,) *Othello: Abridged* (HurryUp Prod.)

Marlene Johnson (Vocal & Dialect Coach)

Home Town: Allentown, PA

Education: MFA, Virginia Commonwealth University

Recent Production Work: Voice & Text Coach: *Working*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (UAB.) Vocal Coach: *The Real Inspector Hound*, *You Can’t Take It With You*, *Spring Awakening*, *Buried Child*, *Stupid F***ing Bird*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Avenue Q*, *In The Next Room (or, The Vibrator Play)*, *Women of War*, *Urinetown: The Musical*, *Twelfth Night*, *Big Love*, *Charley’s Aunt*, *Proof*, *Macbeth* (UAB.) Vocal Director: *Vinegar Tom*, *On The Verge* (UAB,) *Around The World in 80 Days*, *God of Carnage* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival.)

Karla Koskinen (Director)

Home Town: Chicago, IL

Education: MFA, Illinois State University

Recent Production Work: Artistic Director for Shakespeare on the Green for Twelve years. Co-author of *Re-Visioning Lear’s Daughters*. Directing: *Buried Child*, *Proof*, *On The Verge*, *Eurydice*, *Scenes From An Execution* (UAB,) *Our Town* (Phoenix Theatre.) Co-Writer/Script Compilation: *Women of War* (UAB.)

Silent Sky Production Biographies

Katherine Montgomery (Sound Design)

Home Town: Stuart, FL

Education: South Fork High School

Recent Production Work: A1: *Working* (UAB.) Light Board Op: *Million Dollar Quartet, Whipping Man* (Endstation Theatre Co.)

Roxana Munoz (Assistant Director)

Home Town: Hoover, AL

Education: Spain Park High School. Transfer: The University of Alabama

Recent Production Work: Acting: *Women of War* (UAB,) *Agnes of God* (The Company Acting Studio.) Dancing: *The Nutcracker, Alice in Wonderland, Cinderella, Giselle, Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake* (Alabama Dance Academy.)

Chance Novalis (Peter Shaw)

Home Town: Madison, AL

Education: Bob Jones High School

Recent Production Work: Acting: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2017-18 Bookends Touring Company, The Real Inspector Hound, Vinegar Tom, Dancing at Lughnasa, 13th Annual Festival of Ten Minute Plays* (UAB,) *Southern Baptist Sissies, The Explorer's Club* (Theatre Downtown,) *In the Heights, The Standard Deviation* (Bob Jones.) Directing: *Off a Broken Road* (Bob Jones.)

Mila Oliveira (Projection Artist)

Home Town: Birmingham, AL

Education: B.A., UAB. Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School

Recent Work: Photography and videography for UAB Digital Strategy & Marketing.

Farryn Owens (Assistant Stage Manager)

Home Town: Seymour, TN

Education: Seymour High School

Recent Production Work: Running Crew: *Working* (UAB.) Acting: *The Drowsy Chaperone* (SHS.)

Silent Sky Production Biographies

David Page (Lighting Design)

Home Town: New Orleans, LA

Education: BA in Theatre, Louisiana Tech University

Recent Production Work: *A Chorus Line* (Virginia Samford Theatre), *The Tragedy of Carmen* (Opera Birmingham), *The Jungle Book* (Birmingham Children's Theatre), *Rock of Ages* (Virginia Samford Theatre, BroadwayWorld Birmingham Best Lighting Design 2015), *Pinocchio* (Birmingham Children's Theatre), *Damn Yankees* (Virginia Samford Theatre), *Next to Normal* (Red Mountain Theatre Company), *Mary Poppins* (Red Mountain Theatre Company), *The Producers* (Virginia Samford Theatre), *42nd Street* (Red Mountain Theatre Company), *Babes in Toyland* (Birmingham Children's Theatre), *Hairspray* (Red Mountain Theatre Company.)

www.davidpagedesign.com

Hayley Procacci (Assistant Director)

Home Town: Hoover, AL · Education: Hoover High School

Recent Production Work: Acting: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2016-17 Bookends Touring Company, You Can't Take It With You* (UAB,) *Antigone* (Hoover High School,) *The Miracle Worker, Eleemosynary* (South City Theatre.)

J. Marc Quattlebaum (Properties Design)

Home Town: Lexington, SC

Education: MFA Wayne State University 2009. BA Newberry College 2005.

Recent Production Work: Properties Design: *Working, A Midsummer Night's Dream, A Little Night Music, You Can't Take It With You, Vinegar Tom, The Real Inspector Hound, Spring Awakening, Buried Child, Dancing at Lughnasa, In The Next Room (or, The Vibrator Play,) Clybourne Park* (UAB.)

Kimberly Schnormeier (Costume Design)

Home Town: Gambier, OH

Education: MFA in Scenography from Northwestern University. BFA in Graphic Design, Miami University

Recent Production Work: Costume Design: *Working, A Little Night Music, Vinegar Tom, Buried Child, Dancing at Lughnasa, In The Next Room (or, The Vibrator Play,) Clybourne Park, Urinetown: The Musical, Big Love, Charley's Aunt, Don't Trifle With Love, Caucasian Chalk Circle* (UAB.) *Beauty and the Beast, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Birmingham Children's Theatre.)

***Silent Sky* Production Biographies**

Kathryn Strickland (Annie Cannon)

Home Town: Scottsboro, AL

Education: Scottsboro High School/Northeast Alabama Community College

Recent Production Work: Sound Board Op: *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (UAB.)

Spencer Webb (Stage Manager)

Home Town: Madison, AL

Education: Bob Jones High School

Recent Production Work: Directing/Stage Management: *14th Festival of Ten Minute Plays* (UAB.) Assistant Stage Management: *Working* (UAB,) *A Chorus Line* (Virginia Samford Theatre.) *Scenic Construction: Willy Wonka, Jr., A Christmas Story, Spamalot* (VST,) *Spring Awakening* (UAB.)

Anna Whitlock (Assistant Stage Manager)

Home Town: Alabaster, AL · Education: Thompson High School

Recent Production Work: Acting: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, You Can't Take It With You* (UAB,) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (South City Theatre). *Into the Woods, James and the Giant Peach* (Thompson HS).

Lew Williams (Williamina Fleming)

Home Town: Scottsboro, AL

Education: Scottsboro High School, Northeast Alabama Community College

Recent Production Work: Lighting Design: *Working, You Can't Take It With You* (UAB,) *Forbidden Broadway, Big Fish, The Foreigner* (NACC.) Acting: *The Fourteenth Festival of Ten Minute Plays* (UAB,) *Les Misérables, Blithe Spirit* (NACC.)

With Special Thanks to Carolyn Violi.

Theatre UAB Production Staff

Production Manager/Technical Director.....Ed Zuckerman
Costume Studio Supervisor.....Sharon Morgan
Stage Electrics Director.....Sean Allan Doyle
Properties Master.....J. Marc Quattlebaum
Assistant Technical Director.....David Page
Scenic Studio Assistants.....Joseph Baude, Emily Harris, Ben Johnson,
Ben Lundy, Ashley Cobb
Electrics Assistants.....Katherine Montgomery, Noah D. Parsons, Lew Williams
Costume Assistants.....Olivia Bowles, Elana Brooks, Emily Harris, Marissa Hebson,
Josie Jackson, Sam Mathews, Phoebe Miller, Rita Pearson-Daley,
Kayli Porter
Properties Assistants.....Lauren Edwards, Allie Nichols, Noah Parsons,
Rita Pearson-Daley, Anna Whitlock
Media Relations.....Shannon Thomason
Videography.....Mel Christian
ASC Manager of Patron Services.....Jeremie Kirkwood
ASC House Management.....Noah Andrews, Joel Corley, Jeremie Kirkwood
ASC Associate House Managers.....John Bryan, Terrie Entrup, Mary Washburn

Staff for this Production

Assistant Stage Managers.....Farryn Owens, Anna Whitlock
Assistant Costume Design.....Phoebe Miller
Dramaturg.....Ben Lundy
Sound Coordinator.....Sean Allan Doyle
Scenery/Lighting Construction/Electrics.....Anna Baehr, Tanier Dutton, Nia Evans,
Devin Franklin, Nadia Harden, Royal Keeton, Jr., Mel McComber,
Joseph McKinley, Meredith Morse, Morgan Newton, Kierra Price,
Jeremy X. Richardson, Jacob Salathe, Lew Williams
Scenic Painter.....Ashley Cobb
Scenery/Properties Running Crew.....Megan Smith
Costume/Craft Construction.....Courtney D. Emmons, Austin Helmers,
Ellen Macklin, Erin Murphy, Kaylee Radney, Lauren Smith,
Megan Smith, Tricia Swann, Alex Wallace, Alyssa Wilke
Dressers.....Savannah Faulkner, Evan Wilson
Properties Construction.....Lauren Edwards, Allie Nichols, Noah Parsons,
Rita Pearson-Daley, Anna Whitlock
Light Board Operator.....Marissa Hilton
Sound Board Operator.....Diamond Carson
Cover/Poster Design.....Cliff Simon