



SILENT SKYY

by Lauren Gunderson

Original Music by Jenny Giering

MAY 1-3 @ 7:30 PM

MAY 4 @ 2:00 PM

directed by
Melissa Livingston

SILENT SKY is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

Commissioned and first produced by South Coast Repertory with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation.

Silent Sky

By Lauren Gunderson

Original music by Jenny Giering

Katrina Miller

Scenic Designer

Will Morris

Costume Designer

Jake Salgado

Lighting Designer

Matt Sheehan

Sound Designer

Laura Coffey* '26

Hair Designer

Alexander Owens

Production Manager/Technical Director

Melissa Livingston

Director

CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Henrietta Leavitt - Bernadette Holm '28

Margaret Leavitt - Ash Baeck-Hublox '26

Peter Shaw - Nikolai Gentes '28

Annie Cannon - Sonali Shah '26

Willamina Fleming - Thania Hernandez* '25

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager

Aven Lancaster* '26

Assistant Stage Manager

Syd Friedman '26

Assistant Technical Director

Katrina Miller

Assistant Lighting Designer

Kylee Brotz '27

Assistant Costume Director

Emma Li '26

Light Board Operator

Kairo Calcano '28

Sound Board Operator

James Miller '28

Wardrobe Lead

Emma Li '26

Hair & Make-Up Lead

Laura Coffey* '26

Dresser

Brooke Suzman '27

Roy Nisson '27

Stage/Props

Jiayu (Angel) Yan '28

Lexi Handelman '28

Costume/Prop Swing

Nihan Cedimagar '27

Nora Morsman '27

Properties Designer / Scenic Charge

Katrina Miller

Program Supervisor

Mary Jo Lodge

CaPA Arts Intern/Program Assistant

Harvest Gil '25

SHOP CREW

Aven Lancaster*, Laura Coffey*, Kairo Calcano, Kylee Brotz, James Miller, James Hixenbaugh, Alivia Smith, Calum McConnell, Sophia Gal, Lily Groff, Owen Eltz, Kate Stadter, Zoe Ohl, Lavender Layre, Jay Maresco, Select THTR 101 Students

*denotes a member of Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society

There is no eating or drinking in the theater. Please turn off all electronic devices.

*Silent Sky will play with one 15 minute intermission.
The run time, with intermission, is just under 2 hours.*

During the summer of 2016, I had the opportunity to travel and drive our country coast to coast by myself. I visited 23 states on my journey. Along the way I stopped at art museums, history museums, battle fields, theaters, and National Monuments. I hiked in National Forests and dipped my toes in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. I experienced this country in a wonderful and new way. However, as I visited these museums, battlefields, and historical sites, I was struck with how few stories there were being told about the women in our country's history.

I know you might be thinking, "how could I have not noticed before?"

However, I had never traveled alone, and on this trip the lack of women's history struck me differently. I spent hours wandering museums reading about the men that built The United States of America and I kept thinking the same thought over and over again...

What about the women?

The following summer I took a trip to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks with my parents. Our first day in Glacier, we took an open-air bus ride through the park. It was an 8-hour tour. Our tour guide spent the day telling us the story of how the park was built and preserved. I'm sure you are not surprised, but every story revolved around men. When we stopped for lunch, I waited for everyone to head into the restaurant, so I could speak to our guide alone. He was doing a great job and I didn't want to put him on the spot if he didn't have an answer. I asked him if he had any stories or information about the women who helped build and preserve Glacier as a National Park. He said that there were 5 peaks in the park that were named for people and one of them was Stanton Mountain. He proudly announced, "It was named for Mrs. Stanton." He went on to tell me she did some social things when the park was being built. I asked what kind of social things and he said he didn't really know anything more. I asked if he knew her first name and he did not. A mountain was named for her, and he didn't know her first name! In 150 years, the importance of Lottie Stanton and her role in the preservation and protection of this amazing place had almost been completely forgotten.

There is a saying in this country, "Behind every great man, is a great woman." We tell the stories of the great men who have sculpted this country. We learn of their successes and failures, but we learn very little about the women who stood behind, besides, and up to them. And we almost never tell the stories of the women who stood on their own and carved a new path for the future.

These two trips and the experiences I had along the way changed me as an artist and changed my artistic focus completely. I was filled with a passion to change the world through my art. I now tell the history of American women through theater. As a director, I look for scripts that tell the stories of the women from our past that have almost been forgotten or who have not been given the credit they deserve.

Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson is one of these stories. It tells the story of Henrietta Levitt and the women computers of the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s. I don't want to give away any spoilers, but this beautiful story highlights the accomplishments of these smart, strong female Astronomers and Mathematicians whose contributions and importance had almost been lost to the past.

I am honored to work with such a wonderful team to bring this story to life for the Lafayette College community! Our talented designers include Assistant Professor of Theater Jake Salgado as Lighting Designer, student Kylee Brotz as Assistant Lighting Designer, Katrina Miller as Scenic and Properties Designer and Scenic Artist, Matt Sheehan as Sound Designer, Will Morris as Costume Designer along with student Emma Li as Assistant Costume Designer and student designer Laura Coffey as Hair Designer. Our wonderful stage management team, Aven Lancaster as Stage Manager and Syd Friedman as Assistant Stage Manager, have been invaluable partners in this process. Finally, none of this would be possible without our talented and hard working Technical Director and Production Manager, Alex Owens! Together we have created a magical world where art and science collide in the most wonderful way.

-by Melissa Livingston

Ash Baeck-Hubloux (Margaret Leavitt) is a junior from New Jersey studying biology and psychology. Recent roles include Benedick in *Much Ado about Nothing* (Lafayette College), Amy Langford in *Lift Every Voice* (Lafayette College), and Susan in *Wait Until Dark* (Dragonfly Multicultural Center). They would like to thank the cast and crew of *Silent Sky* for making this an amazing and fun production.

Kylee Brotz (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a sophomore theatre major who has been involved with the department's productions since October of her freshman year as crew, scene shop technician, and recently, as an actor. She wants to thank Director Livingston, Technical Director Alex Owens, and Lighting Designer Jake Salgado for this wonderful opportunity.

Kairo Calcano (Lighting Board Operator) is a first-year student at Lafayette. Involved in the theater world since high school, he has worked on the lighting for various shows including *The Little Mermaid*, *Footloose*, *Puffs*, and more. He is excited to continue to build his theater repertoire for the foreseeable future!

Nihan Cedimagar (Costume/Props Swing) is a sophomore theater and physics double major from Istanbul, Turkey. She has been involved in various productions of the Lafayette Theater department including *Miracle on 34th Street* and *Bright Star*. She is also the Operations Manager of Marquis Players, having recently worked on *Rent*. She is so excited to be working on *Silent Sky*!

Laura Coffey (Hair/Makeup Lead) is a third-year student majoring in Film and Media Studies and Theater. In addition to her work in theater, she spends her time with her adorable pet rabbit, Balerion, who is round and perfect. She would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the production.

Syd Friedman (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Mechanical Engineering major and Philosophy minor. This is their first time as

an Assistant Stage Manager, and they are thrilled to have the chance to work on a show like *Silent Sky*.

Nikolai Gentes (Peter Shaw) is a sophomore double major in film & media studies, and government & law. Recent roles include Chuck Cranston in *Footloose* (Palace Theatre), and Roger in *101 Dalmatians* (Palace Theatre). Though he's participated in theater since middle school, this show will mark the first ever production he's taken part in at Lafayette College. He's incredibly grateful for the opportunity to perform alongside the talented cast and crew of *Silent Sky*, and is looking forward to continuing to involve himself in Lafayette's theater community. Nikolai is a proud recipient of both the Dr. Patricia A. Donahue Scholarship Fund, and the Carl R. Hellstrom Scholarship.

Harvest Gil (CaPA Arts Intern/Program Assistant) is a senior Geology major with an Anthropology minor. She is also a CaPA scholar and arts assistant/intern for the spring semester in the Theater Department. She would like to thank her CaPA advisors and Mary Jo Lodge for this opportunity to get involved with the department and world of theater one last time!

Lexi Handelman (Stage/Props) is a first year student and is planning on pursuing a dual major in Theater and Environmental Studies. She was raised in Connecticut, where she performed in and completed technical work for 6 mainstage productions with her high school's theater arts department and three twenty-four-hour play productions. Additionally, she worked on the Costume Crew for the Theater Department's fall production of *Bright Star*.

Thania Hernandez (Willamina Fleming) is a senior at Lafayette College, double majoring in English and Theater. As her final performance on the Lafayette stage, she is deeply grateful to this cast, crew, and especially Director Melissa Livingston, who nurtured her voice and vision. This role is dedicated to her mother—her guiding light, and the woman who, like Willamina, never stopped laughing.

Bernadette Holm (Henrietta Leavitt) is a freshman at Lafayette. She started in theater in 7th grade when she was in her Middle School production of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. In her free time Bernadette likes to sing and read. She'd also like to thank Professor Livingston, Aven, and Syd for their incredible work on *Silent Sky*.

Aven Lancaster (Stage Manager) is a junior theater major with a focus in scenic design and stage management. Aven is back on campus this semester after having studied abroad in London and was most recently Assistant Scenic Designer on both *Bright Star* (Williams Center) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Weiss Theater). Aven spent the summer making theater in the mountains as a carpenter with Creede Repertory Theatre and that experience has been invaluable as a Scene Shop Technician with the LC Theater Department. Last year Aven was the Stage Manager of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Weiss Theater). Aven would like to thank the cast and Syd for always making the rehearsal room an amazing space to work in, and Jake, Alex, and Melissa for their continuous support.

Emma Li (Assistant Costume Designer/Wardrobe Lead) is a second year theatre major at Lafayette College. She has recently been co-costume and props designer for *RENT* with the Marquis Players, assistant costume designer for *Much Ado About Nothing*, and co-costume lead for *Bright Star* with the Theater Department. Emma would like to thank the department for their support.

Melissa Livingston (Director) is currently the Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater at Lafayette College. Melissa specializes in new plays and reimaged classics. She approaches her work with enthusiasm, passion, and an openness to learn from the process. She believes organization, collaboration, communication, respect, and the desire to "play" create the best art and strives to embody these qualities as a director and an artistic leader. Her artistic focus is on using theatre to facilitate change by amplifying awareness of social issues affecting American

women. She is a proud member of SDC (Stage Directors and Choreographers Society) and has directed over 40 professional productions. Some of her favorites include *The Cake* by Bekah Brunstetter, *The Roommate* by Jen Silverman, *The Whale* by Sam Hunter, *The Revolutionists* by Lauren Gunderson, and *An Iliad* by Lisa Peterson & Denis O'Hare. Melissa is thrilled to bring this story to life with and for the Lafayette College Community.

James Miller (Sound Board Operator) is a freshman studying engineering. Born and raised in Pasadena, California, James worked on several productions at Polytechnic High School, often on sound. This will be his third time working on crew for a Lafayette production, following last semester's *Bright Star* and *Much Ado About Nothing* earlier this semester.

Katrina Miller (Scenic & Props Designer/Scenic Charge) holds an MFA in Scenic Design from Purdue University and a BFA in Theatre Design and Production from Northern Illinois University. Previously her work has been seen at Boston Children's Theatre, Music Theatre Wichita, Orlando Shakespeare Theatre, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Lehigh University, and NBC's production of *Peter Pan Live*. Locally her work can be seen throughout the Lehigh Valley on stage at Lafayette College, Muhlenberg College, and Parkland High School.

Will Morris (Costume Designer) is a freelance theatrical designer and director. Scenic, costume and lighting design credits include (selection): *Billy Elliot*, *The Color Purple*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Spring Awakening*, and *The SpongeBob Musical*. Directing credits include (selection): *The Humans*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Noises Off*, *Sister Act*, and *Spamalot*. Education: Furman University. Will is a recipient of the Emerging Artist Arts Ovation Award bestowed upon him by the Allentown Arts Commission. To learn more, visit www.willmorrisdesign.org

Nora Morsman (Costume/Props Swing) is excited to participate in her second show with the Theater Department and third show overall at Lafayette. They're relatively new to the tech side of theater but have had a wonderful experience getting to learn more

about that side of the stage curtain.

Alexander Owens (Technical Director/Production Manager) has collaborated on a successful grant for the creation of the Immersive Arts Lab, developed a fellowship for Engineering students interested in theater, constructed a swimming pool onstage for *Metamorphoses*, and oversaw the opening of Buck Hall.

Jake Salgado (Lighting Designer) is an Assistant Professor of Scenography with the Department of Theater at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, and a designer for plays, musicals, and live events. Jake strives in his design work to produce compositions that are supportive of storytelling, sustainably achievable, and experientially engaging. In addition to his design and technical career, Jake is a model-making hobbyist, dinosaur aficionado, and a tremendous enthusiast of all things sci-fi and/or fantasy.

Sonali Shah (Annie Cannon) is a junior English major with a concentration in writing and a minor in theater. She has previously been involved in *Much Ado* (Hero), *Bright Star* (Edna), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *Lift Every Voice* (Production Assistant), and Marquis Players' *Footloose* (Ensemble).

Matt Sheehan (Sound Designer) is local to Easton, PA. Matt primarily focuses his artistic work in stagecraft, music, and ceramics.

Brooke Suzman (Dresser) is a sophomore and is excited to work on this incredible show. This is her first time participating in one of Lafayette's theater productions and she has loved getting closer with the cast and crew!

Jaiyu (Angel) Yan (Stage/Props) is a freshman majoring in theater and is considering a double major in economics. Recently, she was the Watchperson in *Much Ado*, assistant stage manager in *Bright Star*, in the ensemble of *RENT* (Marquis Players) and participated as Xiaohong and Ensemble in *Luxun the musical* produced by Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Prior to attending Lafayette College, Jiayu worked as the composer and director of the original musical *Li Qingzhao* and she is still working on it.

25/26 THEATER DEPARTMENT SEASON

Join us for the 2025-2026 Theater Department Season, to be performed in the Weiss Theater at Buck Hall on the Arts Campus at Lafayette College

Auditions for *Sense and Sensibility* will be held at the start of the Fall Semester. In order to perform or work on the TYA production of *Stuart Little*, you must register for the THTR 335 course, Theater for Young Audience.

Sense and Sensibility

Kate Hamill

Runs Oct. 23rd-26th, 2025

In Jane Austen's classic novel, the Dashwood family is forced from their estate to a modest country cottage after a change in circumstances, and sensible Elinor and passionate Marianne, sisters with very different approaches to life, struggle to find love. This delightful and hilarious stage adaptation by Kate Hamill is a fast-paced story of unlikely loves, and is presented in celebration of both Lafayette's bicentennial and Austen's 250th birthday. Directed by Professor Mary Jo Lodge, Head of Theater

Stuart Little (Touring Version)

Adapted by Joseph Robinette. Based on the book by E.B. White.

Public Performances on Nov. 15th, 2025 at 1:30p.m. & 3:30p.m.

(45 minutes long and free and open to the public. Appropriate for audiences ages 5 and up.)

This charming version of the beloved E.B. White story of Stuart, the New York City mouse with a human family, will be presented to students in the Easton Area School District in celebration of Lafayette's two hundredth anniversary of rewarding collaborations with the surrounding community.

Directed by Professor Mary Jo Lodge and featuring the THTR 335 Class

Medea

Runs March 5th-8th, 2026

In this new adaptation of the classic Greek myth by Professor Melissa Livingston, Medea, a woman who has lived her life in service of her husband, Jason, finds herself cast aside when Jason decides to leave the marriage and take the youthful princess of Corinth as his new bride. Alone, broken, and

in despair, Medea hatches a plan that she believes will bring her husband joyfully back to her but ends tragically for all.

Directed by Professor Melissa Livingston

Lighting Designed by Professor Jake Salgado

Featuring two talented rising seniors completing their senior Capstone Projects:

Set Design by Aven Lancaster ('26)

Costume Design by Emma Li ('26)

Fringe Festival

Runs March 28th-May 3rd, 2026

A month-long showcase of student work in celebration of the Lafayette bicentennial, including student created work, directing and acting class projects and Capstone projects anchored by an abridged version of award-winning playwright Caridad Svich's new play *The Next One Hundred Years* directed by Professor Courtney Ryan, who will also curate the Fringe, and designed by Professor Jake Salgado

The Next One Hundred Years

runs April 30-May 3rd 2026

All Fringe Events require tickets, but are free and open to the public

How can I support the Lafayette College Theater Department?

HAVE a SEAT

Theater Legacy
Endowment Fund

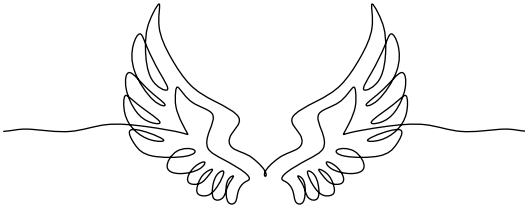


You don't have to be a performer to play a starring role with the Lafayette College Theater Department!

Whether you were in the cast or crew of a past production, are an appreciative member of the audience, or a family member of one of our thespians looking for a memorable gift.

Our *Have a Seat* campaign offers you a chance to leave a lasting legacy and play an important role in ensuring our primary performance space remains at the edge of comfort, safety, and technology for students and community members alike.

[leave a lasting legacy today!](#)



Theater Angels

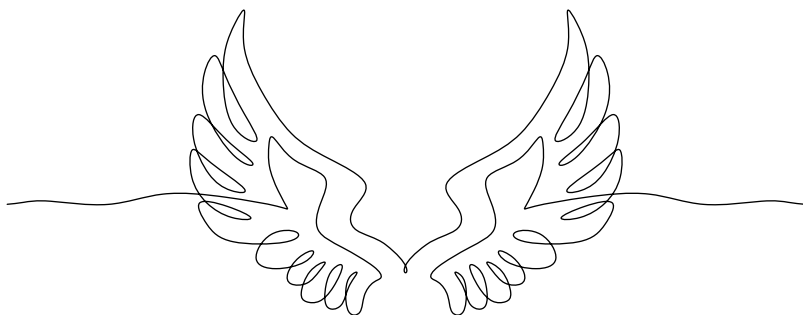
Become an Angel through a donation of any amount! Your support goes towards expanding student opportunities beyond the classroom through programmings such as guest speakers /artists, professional development, workshops, student-directed and designed productions and lots more!

[become an angel today!](#)

Theater Angels are recognized on a designated page in each of our playbill booklets in digital format.

WE BELIEVE IN ANGELS

In the theater, an angel is a divine person who makes generous donations so theater can happen right here on earth. Support from our Angels has brought in professional designers and choreographers, supported our students competing in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and sponsored lectures by playwrights.



Theater Angels 2024-2025

Jay Bradley Ascher
Ms. Carolyn A. Fast
Ms. Anne Crisafulli
Grace E. Marchena
Chad W. Davis
Ms. Kathleen Marano
Ms. Jennifer Heim Roux
Mr. Matthew J. Roux
Mr. Robert A. Follett
Mr. Henry D. Tuck
Ms. Carmella S. Stadter
Dr. Patrick A. Stadter
Ms. Allison B. Shapp
Ms. Meryl V. Hahne
Amy P. Ahart
Thomas A. DiGiovanni
Rebecca Rose Wilts
Dr. C. Beth Wynstra
Ms. Marta Kepka
Dr. Kenneth H. Einhorn
Dr. Gianna M. Locascio

Ms. Stephanie M. Petersen
Ms. Brenna Murphy
Ms. Christina Mangione Miller
Mr. James N. Miller
Thomas M. Dunlap
Mrs. Tamara F. Dunlap
Suzanne R. Westfall
Mr. Steven D. Putzel
Mr. John A. Kolba
Ms. Margaret K. Frodell
Mr. Brent B. Horowitz
Jeffrey D. Helm
Ms. Erin P. FitzGerald
Ms. Keara F. McCarthy
Ms. Jacqueline I. Greenlee
Mr. Richard C. Laskey
Ms. Carolyn A. Kerr
Mr. Martin J. Robinett
Ms. Carolyn A. Fast
Mr. Arthur P. Ernst Jr.