

The Carthage College Theatre Department Presents:

Silent Sky

By Lauren Gunderson
Directed by Herschel Kruger

CAST

Henrietta Leavitt Fae Rose
Margaret Leavitt..... Lydia Haasl
Peter Shaw Cameron Tucker
Annie Cannon Ilirida Memedovski
Williamina Fleming Jenna Rose Drea

SETTING

Star Field, Wisconsin
The Harvard Observatory, Second Floor Offices
Leavitt Home, Wisconsin
Ocean Liner on the Atlantic
Henrietta's Home, Cambridge, MA

Time: 1900-1920, fluid and always moving forward

PRODUCTION TEAM

Herschel Kruger Director
Maggie White..... Stage Manager
Martin McClendon Scenic Designer/Sound Designer
William Newcomb..... Technical Director/Lighting Designer
Kim Instenes..... Costume Designer
Mitch Weindorf..... Master Carpenter
Brooke Halverson Assistant Stage Manager
Nicole Thompson Costume Shop Supervisor
Jasmine Ratcliff Scenic Charge
Dr. Daniel Steiner Dramaturg
Christine Latourette..... Sound and Projections Operator
Anamaria Palomarez Props Crew Head
Latore Lezotte..... Light Board Operator
Ashley Veltman, Hannah Allen Run Crew
Christine Barreca, Brigette Garcia, Emma Swain Costume Run Crew
Scenic and costume construction, lighting and painting The dedicated students of the
Carthage Theatre Department

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Production work often begins months before a show starts rehearsal. This is where analysis and interpretation begin, as well as a scrutiny of ideas that will eventually shape a production. For me, this is one of my favorite parts of my work as a director. When I first found this play, I was excited about the possibilities of producing and directing it at Carthage. The play meets all the different demands we look for in finding what would be the right fit in our season. The style of production, the size of the cast, the style of writing, and a compelling story and cast of characters. With that being said, picking the play is only the first in many steps necessary to bring a play to life. Earlier this year we worked through production meetings starting with some initial design ideas and concepts. My design team and I found that our approach was somewhat of a cookie cutter representation of what many other productions had already staged. I presented our scenic designer, Professor Martin McClendon, with a notion to take an abstract approach, and to find a way to represent both Henrietta and Margaret's world of the stars and heaven. In one of his early renderings, he had an abstract sketch on scrap paper that we went back to and found the germ that set us forward into the production you will see tonight. The design has a mix of realistic and abstract elements that opened up an avenue for more exciting and interpretive lighting and visual effects that support the play. With this choice intact, the next planning element of costuming needed to be addressed. We discussed possible choices, but decided not to stray from a realistic design scheme. We believed we needed the costumes to help ground the play in the period and the world of our characters. With the planning and design phase completed, the implementation of all of our choices began. The story of these amazing women needs to come to life. So what you see tonight is a culmination of multiple steps that started several months ago, and then were compressed into a five-week rehearsal and implementation phase. It is best described by Declan Donnellan as *The Invisible Work*. All of this planning and dreaming disappears as we create theatre magic, *The Visible Work*, which will ultimately and ideally inform, educate, entertain, and fill you with inspiration.

DRAMATURGICAL NOTES

Astronomers can calculate the distance to a star by combining a measurement of its brightness and a prediction of its power output. A source of light will appear dimmer when it is further away; any star of a given brightness could be nearby and weak or distant and powerful.

Light passing through a prism is split into a spectrum; each star offers a different range of emitted colors and absorbed lines. Annie Jump Cannon manually sorted 350,000 stars by their spectra, and developed the Harvard Classification Scheme to accurately measure surface temperature. For most stars this correlates to its power output, allowing distance to be measured.

Some stars can be found in a transitional period where they grow and shrink with a repetitive pulsation. Henrietta Swan Leavitt noted that more powerful variable stars have longer periods, allowing for calculations of their distance. These observations require much less light than a full spectrum, expanding the cosmic ruler to accurately map the Milky Way. Shortly after her death this technique was used to demonstrate that ours is but one galaxy in a much larger universe.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Jenna-Rose Drea (Williamina Flemming) Jenna-rose is a junior Theatre Performance major and history minor. Jenna-rose is thrilled to be in her second production at Carthage College, her first being *MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN* (Ensemble) She would like to thank Herschel Kruger for this amazing opportunity. Further thanks goes to Jenna-rose's family for the incredible love and support they have given her. Jenna-rose dedicates this performance to the actual Williamina Flemming, as Jenna-rose has had such a fulfilling time researching her and hopes her portrayal does her justice.

Fae Rose (Henrietta Leavitt) is a sophomore Theatre Performance major. This is Fae's third main stage production at Carthage College. Her previous credits include last season's production of *A SEAT AT THE TABLE* (Rita Schwerner) and this season's production of *MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN* (Katrin). Fae would like to thank her amazing director Herschel for the opportunity to play such an exceptional women. She would also like to thank her family for always supporting her. She dedicates this role to her great grandmother Rose. Like Henrietta Leavitt, she overcame hearing loss and sexism and received a college education.

Lydia Haasl (Margaret Leavitt) is a sophomore Music Theatre and Theatre Performance double major. This is Lydia's fourth mainstage production at Carthage College. Last year she was seen in *THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD* (Ensemble/Shadow Droid), the reboot of *THE BREATH*

OF STARS (Ariel) in which she traveled to Indianapolis to perform at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region III, and *MARRIAGE A LA MODE* (Beliza). She was more recently seen in the *It's A Woman's World Cabaret*. Lydia has also worked behind the scenes on run crew, costume crew, and as an Assistant Stage Manager. She is also a member of the theatre fraternity on campus, Alpha Psi Omega. She would like to thank everyone involved in creating this production, especially Herschel for providing her with this incredible experience.

Ilirida Memedovski (Annie Cannon) is a senior theatre major. *Silent Sky* will be her final performance on the Carthage stage and she'd like to take the time to thank her friends and family for their constant love and support. A special thank you to Herschel Kruger for casting her in her very first college show, *DAY AFTER NIGHT*, as a freshman. He unknowingly changed Ilirida's career path and she will always be grateful. To digress from the sappiness she would like to dedicate her performance to all of the strong women that have inspired her throughout her life. We can do anything.

Cameron Tucker (Peter Shaw) is a freshman theatre major. This is his first mainstage production here at Carthage College. He would like to thank the director, Herschel, for this wonderful opportunity. Cam would also like to thank his family for their support and love and he would like to dedicate this performance to his brother and sister.

FACULTY AND PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Kim Instenes (Costume Designer, Assistant Professor of Theatre) holds an MFA in Costume Design and Technology from Ohio University, and a BA in Theatre from UW-Whitewater. Her faculty credits include UW Parkside, UW Whitewater, UW Milwaukee and Lawrence University. In addition to teaching at these schools she has designed costumes and makeup for a number of productions including *IMAGINARY INVALID*, *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*, *TROJAN WAR*, *SWEENEY TODD* and *TRANSLATIONS*. Kim continues to work as a freelance costume and make-up designer in the Milwaukee/Chicago area. Professional design credits include *THE SNOW* and *BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER*, as well as the musical *BIG* at Milwaukee's First Stage Children's Theatre, the *JEEVES* Trilogy and *HEROES* at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and numerous shows at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Renaissance Theatre Works, Utah Shakespearean Festival and the Racine Theatre Guild. Design work at Carthage includes *SPRING AWAKENING* and costumes for the world premieres of *NO NAME* by Jeffrey Hatcher and *GHOST BIKE* by Laura Jacqmin, to name a few. *GHOST BIKE* won her a Certificate of Merit from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for costume and makeup design and an invitation to show her work at the

Festival. Kim is excited to be a part of the Theatre Department here at Carthage as it strengthens and strives to create theatre artists of the highest quality. She enjoys the thrill of watching a student understand what a costume does for their character and watching that character come to life as a result. She would also like to thank her family, husband Doug, and children, Lauren and Dalen, for their continued support of her creative endeavors.

Herschel Kruger (Director, Professor of Theatre) Joined the Carthage faculty in 2005 and served seven years as Chair of the Theatre Department, and three years as Chair of the Division of Fine Arts. In 2017 he was named the Region III Vice-Chair of the Kennedy Center, American College Theatre Festival. (KC/ACTF) He also served six years as the Wisconsin State Chair, and three years as the Music Theatre Intensive Region III Chair. During the 2008-2009 school year Professor Kruger established the New Play Initiative commissioning original works each year for the Carthage Theatre Program. Professor Kruger has directed three of the new plays from this series including *NO NAME*, written by Jeffrey Hatcher, *GHOST BIKE*, written by Laura Jacqmin (2013, five KC/ACTF national awards including; Distinguished New Play, Directing, Lighting Design, Sound Design,

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and Outstanding Scenic Design) HONEST, written by Eric Simonson (2010, winner of four KC/ACTF national awards including Distinguished Curricular Development, Playwriting, and two Distinguished Performance awards) Additionally Herschel directed the staged reading of Mikaley Osley's One-Act play MATILDA'S CHARACTERS which was named a KC/ACTF Region 3 winner. Other directing credits at Carthage include SILENT SKY, STAGE KISS, MAN OF LA MANCHA, DAY AFTER NIGHT, SPRING AWAKENING, CABARET, INSPECTING CAROL, SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE, LYSISTRATA, MOON OVER BUFFALO, BLOOD BROTHERS, PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE, POSTMORTEM, INDEPENDENCE, and the entire OVER THE TAVERN trilogy including OVER THE TAVERN, KING O'THE MOON, and LAST MASS AT ST. CASMIR'S. Professor Kruger teaches both acting and directing classes, and a variety of other theatre classes. He has also led six separate J-term study tours to Greece, New York City (4), and Germany to study theatre. He has worked as an actor and director in New York, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Professor Kruger earned his MFA in acting from the University of Illinois, is a graduate of the National Shakespeare Conservatory two-year Professional Actors Training program in New York City, and holds a BA in Theatre Communication from Cardinal Stritch University.

Martin McClendon (Scenic Designer/ Sound Designer, Associate Professor of Theatre) Martin is concluding his 6th and final year as chair of the Carthage Theatre Department. Most recently he directed Carthage's world premiere production of Regina Taylor's A SEAT AT THE TABLE, which was selected for production at the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, Region 3 Festival in January. Martin has received KC/ACTF Certificates of Merit for scenic design for the Carthage productions of MAN OF LA

MANCHA, BOEING BOEING, ONE DAY IN THE SEASON OF RAIN, DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE, and a collaborative certificate for video technology for THE BREATH OF STARS. Martin was also honored to receive the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Innovative Teaching Award for 2016-17 for his work with students in developing veteran theatre projects. He is also the co-founder, with David Chrisinger and Lawrence Gums, of Carthage's annual Veteran Night of the Arts, held every November. Before coming to Carthage, Martin spent 10 years working as a professional actor, carpenter, and scene designer in Chicago and Los Angeles. He was twice nominated for Jeff Citation Awards while designing scenery for the Defiant Theatre Company, Chicago. In addition for designing scenery, video, and sound at Carthage, regional design credits include First Stage Children's Theatre (Milwaukee, WI), Actor's Ensemble (Rockford, IL), and The Evidence Room and Odyssey Theatres (Los Angeles, CA). Onstage appearances in Chicago included MOJO and SKYLIGHT (Steppenwolf), DANNY BOUNCING (Victory Gardens) and THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN (Northlight). On-camera work includes several independent movies, episodes of ER and EARLY EDITION, and numerous commercials. He is a proud member of Actor's Equity and SAG/AFTRA. Martin received his MFA in acting from the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana, and his BFA in acting from Rockford College. He would like to thank his beautiful wife Jennifer and his wonderful kids Arabella and Horatio for their support and inspiration.

William Newcomb (Technical Director/ Lighting Designer/Assistant Professor of Theatre) holds a B.F.A. in Technical Theatre from Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, and an M.F.A. in Arts Administration from Southern Utah

University. He was assistant manager of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre for two years before coming to Carthage. William also served as production Manager for the Optimist Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park. William is a national member of USITT. Other credits include technical director of the Wells Fine Arts Center at Tarleton State University, assistant technical director at Oberlin College, scene shop foreman at Ohio Light Opera, and assistant to the production manager of the Utah Shakespearean Festival. He would like to thank his wife Alison for her continued love and support and Spencer too.

Nicole Thompson (Costume Shop Supervisor) is from Minneapolis, MN. She recently graduated from the University of Arkansas with her MFA in Costume Design and Technology. She lives in Milwaukee where she works part time at the Brass Rooster Hat Shop.

Dan Steiner (Dramaturg) graduated from the University of Wisconsin and the College of William & Mary, studying experimental particle physics. After teaching for eight years, he joined the Department of Physics & Astronomy in Fall 2014 and focuses on instruction of students outside of the Physics major (especially his own children, Abigail and Graham). He is responsible for operation of the Carthage College Planetarium, and can usually find the Big Dipper from his backyard.

Maggie White (Stage Manager) is a senior English major and theatre minor. She is thrilled to be working on her second main stage show at Carthage and to be

working with Herschel Kruger. She would like to thank her friends and family for all their support, and Victor Pilolla for all he has taught and given her. Maggie would also like to thank Herschel and the whole cast for telling Henrietta's story with great pride and strength; Henrietta's, Annie's, Williamina's, and Margaret's stories are shining examples of the true strength and courage in the heart of every female and all she can do if given the opportunity. It's about time we stop learning only history and begin learning *Her*story. Maggie dedicates her work on the show to all the "nasty women" out there.

Brooke Halvorsen (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman communications major. She is extremely excited to be working on her first production at Carthage, and she'd like to thank Herschel for taking a chance and giving her this opportunity. She would also like to thank Nic Cicerale for being her mentor and teaching her everything she knows about theatre.

Jasmine Ratcliff (Scenic charge) is a sophomore theater major. She has done scenic painting for *INVISIBLE HAND*, *MARRIAGE A LA MODE*, *A SEAT AT THE TABLE*, *THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD*, *TWIN SET* and *MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN*. This is the second production for which she has held the position of Scenic Charge, and she is very excited to continue to grow and learn more and more about this aspect of theater making. She would like to thank her family for all they have done to support her and she hopes she is making them proud.

SPECIAL THANKS

David Ceccarini, Next Act Theatre, Milwaukee, WI, Dr. Brian Schwartz

CARTHAGE COLLEGE THEATRE AND DANCE FACULTY

THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Martin McClendonDepartment Chair/Associate Professor of Theatre
Dr. Maria Carrig..... Associate Professor of English and Theatre
MT Cozzola..... Adjunct Instructor of Theatre
Kim Instenes.....Assistant Professor of Theatre/Costume Designer
Marcella Kearns..... Adjunct Instructor of Theatre
Herschel KrugerProfessor of Theatre
John Maclay.....Assistant Professor of Theatre
William Newcomb.....Assistant Professor of Theatre/Technical Director
Don Russell Adjunct Instructor of Theatre
Dr. Neil Scharnick.....Assistant Professor of Theatre
Nicole Thompson Costume Shop Supervisor
Mitch Weindorf..... Master Carpenter

DANCE PROGRAM

Stacy PottingerAssistant Professor of Theatre-Dance/Head of Dance Program
Joseph Hernandez Adjunct Instructor of Theatre-Dance
Kristina Saldarelli Adjunct Instructor of Theatre-Dance
Juliet Stephenson..... Adjunct Instructor of Theatre-Dance

MUSIC THEATRE

Dr. Corinne Ness..... Dean for the Division of Arts and Humanities,
Associate Professor of Music
Jeremy Mossman..... Assistant Professor of Music, Head of the Music Theatre Program
Maggie SpanuelloAdjunct Assistant Professor of Music Theatre
Lorian SchwaberAdjunct Assistant Professor of Music - Voice

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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 inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2018.

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.