



Artistic Producer

Heath Hays*

Managing Director

Charlotte Thomas

Casting Director

Kanomé Jones

THE REVOLUTIONISTS

By Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Denise Yvette Serna

Executive Producer

Daniel R. Cyganowski in memory of Carol K. Cyganowski,
scholar and theatre lover

The Revolutionists is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Scenic Design

Alex Casillas

Lighting Design

Claire Chrzan*

Costume Design

Leah Hummel

Sound Design

Spencer Meeks

Properties Design

Danielle Myerscough

Dramaturg

Yasmin Mikhael

Stage Manager

Lauren Brady

Production Manager

Becca Levy*

**Music Direction/
Arrangements**

Spencer Meeks

*Denotes Strawdog Company Member

†Represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE

CAST

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Kamille Dawkins* | Marianne Angelle |
| Izis Mollinedo | Charlotte Corday |
| Sarah Goeden* | Marie Antoinette |
| Kat McDonnell* | Olympe De Gouges |

UNDERSTUDIES

Kenya Ann Hall, Talia Langman, Almanyana Narula, Rosie O'Leary

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Jessica Haworth | Assistant Director |
| Hai Alvarez Millard | Assistant Stage Manager |
| Gianna Charron | Assistant Costume Designer |
| Shelbi Ardnt | Master Electrician |
| Spencer Meeks | Music Direction/Arrangements |
| Rachel Rauscher | Scenic Charge |
| Harrison Ornelas | Technical Director |

*Denotes Strawdog Company Member

A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR DENISE YVETTE SERNA & DRAMATURG YASMIN MIKHAIEL

Man, are you capable of being just? It is a woman who poses the question; you will not deprive her of that right at least. Tell me, what gives you sovereign empire to oppress my sex? Your strength? Your talents? Observe the Creator in his wisdom; survey in all her grandeur that nature with whom you seem to want to be in harmony, and give me, if you dare, an example of this tyrannical empire... [Womxn], wake up; the tocsin of reason is being heard throughout the whole universe; discover your rights. (Olympe de Gouges, "Declaration of the Rights of Woman and Citizen")

When studying hxstory, a common question posed is "What do you think you would have done?" We are asked to place ourselves into the shoes and souls of those who have come before us. This is especially true for the many fights for equality. What would you have done? Well, look around. We are in a moment of great turmoil, upheaval, rage, and sometimes shock.

Here, we have The Revolutionists, four badass womxn playing distinct roles during the French Revolution. In a time where womxn were viewed as property, there was much at stake with the introduction of concepts such as liberty and equality. But even as such ideals were touted by radicals and revolutionists alike, the question "Liberty for who?" echoed in the background. As the people of France waged revolution against the monarchy, many were blind to the hypocrisy of their colonial rule over Haiti. It is here that we question the might of revolution when the reach is regrettably not that far.

But our womxn, Olympe, Marianne, Charlotte, and Marie, give us hope. They are smart and strong and relentless. Each with a different weapon to fight what befalls in a time of great change and uncertainty. Though Olympe, our playwright, is tasked with wordsmithing and the shaping of hxstory, she comes to realize the power of listening.

A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR CONT.

Our team has been challenged throughout this process to question the role of the artist in times of revolution, and our position as intersectional feminists. We, in turn, challenge you, the witness. It is not enough to tell stories, to paint pictures and hang them on gallery walls. All of us must engage. We must acknowledge where we hold privilege and social collateral, and advocate for the oppressed among us. We stand on stolen land, the soil of which is soaked in the bloody legacy of genocide and slavery. We enjoy freedoms that were forged in riots and marches. We rally against those who would use our names, our gender identities, our nations of origin, the color of our skin—our very existence, as stepping stones to hoard generational wealth and institutional power. We are responsible for our legacy. We are Revolutionists. The revolution is now. What is your role?

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Kamille Dawkins* (Marianne Angelle) hails from the island of Jamaica and has been performing in Chicago as an actor, singer and musician since 2014. She has worked with The

House Theatre, Adventure Stage Chicago, Haven Theatre and many others, but is currently an ensemble member at Strawdog Theatre. Kamille was most recently seen in Pillars of The Community and is thrilled to return to the Strawdog stage as a badass Caribbean woman surrounded by even more badass women. A personal dream come true.



Sarah Goeden* (Marie Antoinette) is so excited to be in this production of The Revolutionists at her home here at Strawdog, where she has also performed in Cymbeline, Quiz Show,

The Arsonists, Big Love, and Red Noses, among others. Recent credits include Wuthering Heights with Lifeline Theatre and Ironmistress with Oracle Theatre. She would like to thank real-life revolutionists, both past and present, for risking so much in the hope of a better tomorrow. She would also like to thank a very important

feminist in her own life, her husband Mac, who as you read this is caring for their ten-month-old son so that she can be here with you. Forward!



Kat McDonnell* (Olympe De Gouges) Chicago credits include: Well at Next Theatre; Scenes from the Big Picture at Seanachai Theatre; Pursued by Happiness at Steppenwolf Theatre/First

Look; Dolly West's Kitchen at TimeLine Theatre; The Sparrow and Valentine Victorious at The House Theatre of Chicago. Strawdog credits include: Once in a Lifetime, Old Town, Marathon '33 and Three Sisters. TV credits include Boss and Chicago Fire. Kat is a proud ensemble member of Strawdog Theatre Company. Vive la Revolution!



Izis Mollinedo (Charlotte Corday) is a Latinx actor, singer, and musician originally from Chicago and is beyond excited to be working with Strawdog Theatre Company for the first time! She earned her

BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. While in Chicago she has become a company member with Babes With Blades Theatre Company and The Unrehearsed Shakespeare Company, while also working with The Hypocrites, Pride

CAST BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Films and Plays, Eclectic Theatre Company, and Signal Ensemble Theatre. Final fun fact, Izis is a proud geek of many fandoms, always feel free to ask her about them.

Kenya Ann Hall (U/S Marianne Angelle) is an actress, writer, and dramaturg based in Chicago, raised in Oakland, CA. Her most recent acting credits include: *Mother of the Dark Water* (MPAACT, Tour, u/s), *Mr. Moral's Stories...* (El Bear), *Cornerstone*, *New World Play Festival* (NWC), *Electra Garrigo* (Right Brain Project), *Mary Shelley Sees the Future* (Runaways Lab Theater), *Collaboration's Peacebook Festival*, *Herculaneum* (Blue Goose Theatre). She is a proud graduate of Northwestern University.

Talia Langman (U/S Olympe De Gouges) Talia Langman is thrilled to be working with Strawdog Theatre Company. In Chicago, she has worked with *City Lit*, *Theatre-Hikes*, and *The Agency Theater*, and has trained at *Vagabond School of the Arts* and *Black Box Studio*. Originally from Seattle, WA., Talia received her

BA in Biology from Brandeis University and an MFA in Theatre from Sarah Lawrence College. Talia would like to thank her family and friends for their continued love and support.

Almánya Narula (U/S Charlotte Corday) is a fight choreographer, actor, director and writer. She is also the founder of the publication, CHICAGO THEATRE NOW. You can also catch her fighting / dancing with the SIZZLING SWASHBUCKLING SISTERS, a vaudevillian swashbuckling burlesque duo, which she co-founded with Bryn Riot as a response to the lack of fem representation within the stage combat and stunt world.

Rosie O'Leary (U/S Marie Antoinette) is beyond excited to be working Strawdog! Other Chicago credits include works with *The Waltzing Mechanics* and *Gorilla Tango Theatre*. Rosie moved to Chicago two years ago after working on a year and half tour with the *National Players* based out of Olney, MD. Rosie received her BFA in Acting from Boston University.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Lauren Gunderson (Playwright) is the most produced playwright in America of 2017, the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award, the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award and the Otis Guernsey New Voices Award, she is also a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and John Gassner Award for Playwriting, and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation's 3-Year Residency with Marin Theatre Company. She studied Southern Literature and Drama at Emory University, and Dramatic Writing at NYU's Tisch School where she was a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. Her work has been commissioned, produced and developed at companies across the US including South Cost Rep (*Emilie, Silent Sky*), The Kennedy Center (*The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful And Her Dog!*), Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The O'Neill, The Denver Center, San Francisco Playhouse, Marin Theatre, Synchronicity,

Berkeley Rep, Shotgun Players, TheatreWorks, Crowded Fire and more. She co-authored *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* with Margot Melcon, which was one of the most produced plays in America in 2017. Her work is published at Playscripts (*I and You, Exit Pursued By A Bear, The Taming, and Toil And Trouble*), Dramatists (*The Revolutionists, The Book of Will, Silent Sky, Bauer, Miss Bennet*) and Samuel French (*Emilie*). Her picture book *Dr Wonderful: Blast Off to the Moon* was released from Two Lions / Amazon in May 2017. LaurenGunderson.com and @LalaTellsAStory

Denise Yvette Serna (Director) is a theatre practitioner and arts activist. She is co-founder of Global Hive Laboratories, an international collective of artists working toward a global theatre. Chicago directing and curating credits include productions

with The Latinx Theatre Commons, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Pop Magic Productions, Victory Gardens Theater, El Semillero, Steep Theatre Company, Circle Theatre Chicago, Pride Films & Plays, 20% Theatre Company, and inappropriate theatre company. Denise is committed to supporting arts organizations as they champion the ideals of equity, diversity, access and inclusion into their programming and internal operations and move forward as transformative Anti-Racist forces in their communities. deniseyvetteserna.com

Hai Alvarez-Millard (Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent graduate of Purchase College where she received her BFA in Theatre Design/Technology with a concentration in Stage Management. Her past credits include: Great Lakes (PSM), The Bacchae of Euripides (PSM), Beehive the Musical (PSM), The Hound of Baskerville (SM), and Beauty and the Beast (SM). During her free time, she loves to draw/paint, dance, and hang on aerial apparatuses, including silks and trapeze.

Lauren Brady (Stage Manager) is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and is originally from Fayetteville, Arkansas. Some of their recent Chicago credits include SM for ILY with UnheardOf Company as well as ASM for The Lady Demands Satisfaction with Babes With Blades, Damascus with Strawdog Theatre Company, and 1980 with Jackalope Theatre. They are very excited to work with Strawdog again, and on this show in particular, with such a wonderful and passionate group of artists.

Alex Casillas (Scenic Designer) recently moved to Chicago and is excited to be working with Strawdog Theatre. After receiving her MFA in Scenic and Lighting Design, Alex spent a year at PCPA: Pacific Conservatory Theatre in Santa Maria, CA as Assistant Scenic Designer. This past summer she designed six shows as the Lighting Designer/Master Electrician at Festival 56 in Princeton, IL including

The Addams Family, Peter and the Starcatcher and The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Past scenic design credits include *An Oak Tree, Sonia and Vanya and Masha and Spike, and Iphigenia Crash Land Falls... (a rave fable).*

Gianna Charron (Assistant Costume Designer) is a student at the University of Cincinnati and is interning at Strawdog this season with a focus on costume design. The fashion design program at UC requires students to alternate full time school semesters with full time work semesters, so for the past three and a half years, she has gotten to experience a lot of different working environments, from bridal boutiques to corporate, as well live in a lot of different cities, like New York, Texas, and even Italy. This semester brought her to Chicago and to Strawdog and she is very excited to be a part of the incredible team that is bringing The Revolutionists to life.

Claire Chrzan*(Lighting Designer) is a member of the Strawdog ensemble. Previous credits include *After Miss Julie, The Night Season, and Masque Macabre (Strawdog); Frankenstein, Radio Golf (Court Theatre); Evening at the Talk House, The Mutilated, The Room (A Red Orchid); The Distance, We're Gonna Die, Fear and Misery of the Third Reich (Haven Theatre); No Blue Memories, The Magic City, and The End of TV (Manual Cinema); Bull in a China Shop (About Face); Hamlet (The Gift); Fun Harmless Warmachine (The New Colony); Peerless (First Floor Theater).* Upcoming productions include *Dada Woof Papa Hot (About Face); Yen (Raven Theatre); Bloomsday (Remy Bumpo); The Recommendation (Windy City Playhouse).* Clairechrzandesigns.com

Jessica Haworth (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be working with Strawdog Theatre for the first time! Previous assistant directing credits include *Emilie (Organic Theater), The Madwoman of Chailot (Promethean), I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Quest), Sketchbook 15 (Collaboraction) and Death of a Salesman (ORU).* In her previous life as a

stage manager she worked with many companies including Stage Left, Sideshow, Collaboraction, Pegasus Players, Provision and ATC. Jessica graduated with her degree in theater and film production in 2005.

Leah Hummel (Costume Designer) is very happy to work with Strawdog Theatre Company for the third time. Much love to DLC, Mom, and Dad.

Kanomé Jones (Casting Director) is the Resident Casting Director for Strawdog Theatre Company. She works with many theater companies in the city, in varying capacities and is also an actor and director. Most recently, Kanomé co-directed *Plainclothes* with Spenser Davis at Broken Nose Theatre and directed *She Kills Monsters* at Aurora University. Other directing work includes: *Radio Golf* (Assistant Director - Court Theatre); *Insurrection: Holding History* (Assistant Director—Stage Left Theatre); *Kingdom* (Broken Nose Theatre) and *Well Intentioned White People* (SLT Residency). She is proud alumni of the Actors Theatre of Louisville Apprenticeship and BFA graduate of Missouri State University.

Becca Levy (Production Manager) is honored to PM *The Revolutionists*, her 8th Strawdog production and 3rd as a Strawdog ensemble member! She's a Chicago production manager, stage manager, and teaching artist, who has also worked with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Emerald City Theatre, Jackalope Theatre, and Red Theatre. Outside Chicago: Seabright Productions and Starvox Touring (Potted Potter) and Networks Touring (Elf: The Musical). BFA Stage Management, WMU. Big love to BL, PS, and BN!

Spencer Meeks (Sound Design/Music Direction/Arrangements) is a performer/writer/musician/composer/self-proclaimed-Chicago-Native. They have done some music direction/composition work with: The Neo Futurists (The Food Show, Pop Waits, The? Unicorn? Hour?, Saturn Returns), About Face (Scary Stories...), Haven Theater/Steppenwolf

(We're Gonna Die), The Hypocrites (American Idiot), and Theatre Wit (Mr. Burns). They are a company member at Blue Man Group, compose and teach with Barrel of Monkeys, and make weird stuff with The New Mechanics. Have you watched Steven Universe yet? You should watch Steven Universe.

Yasmin Mikhael (Dramaturg) is a dramaturg, writer, and oral historian based in Chicago. She graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul University with a BFA in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism. While there, she dramaturged *God's Ear, Failure: A Love Story*, *The Misanthrope*, an adaptation of *Crime and Punishment*, and *Cinderella: The Remix*. She is excited to be working on her first production at Strawdog. As an oral historian, Yasmin has worked as a consultant for many museums and a foundation including the Chicago History Museum, Indo-American Heritage Museum, and MacArthur Foundation. Check out her work at www.yasminzacaria.com.

Danielle Myerscough (Props Designer) a props designer from Detroit, is very excited to be working with Strawdog for the first time. Her recent credits include *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Oakton Community College); *Nick and Zoe/Oxy*, Ohio (The Side Project); *The Cake* (Rivendell Theatre Ensemble); Metropolis Performing Arts Center's Summer Program; and upcoming credits include *The Safe House* (City Lit Theater); and *Doubt* (Oakton Community College). She would like to thank Liz and Echo for the unwavering love and support.

Harrison Ornelas (Technical Director) was born and raised in Chicago. After graduating from Columbia College Harrison has been Technical Directing for theater all over the city including Akvavit, Redtwist Theatre, Silkroad Rising, A Red Orchid, UrbanTheater, Red Tape Theater, and served as on staff TD for this past summers Theater on the Lake festival. Harrison is thrilled to be working with Strawdog Theatre Co. again for *The Revolutionists* and is always looking for his next creative venture.

Rachel Rauscher (Scenic Charge) is excited to be working on her first show with Stawdog. The Atlanta native earned her BA at Emory University and her MFA in Scenic Design from the University of Virginia. Recent design credits include: Pinkalicious (Marriott Theatre), Junie B Jones (Northbrook Theatre), It's Only A Play (Pride Films and Plays), and The Good Fight (Babes with Blades). Rachel has also designed productions for Haven Theatre, The Comrades, 20% Theatre,

Dandelion Theatre, Heritage Theatre Festival, UVa Drama, Bravo Performing Arts, etc, with upcoming productions at York High School, Northbrook Theatre, and Jedlicka Arts. Recent paint credits include productions with Citadel Theatre, Haven Theatre Co, and Chicago Scenic Studio. She'd like to thank her amazing husband and adorable dog for their unending support. For more information, please visit www.RauscherDesigns.com

DONORS

Stawdog Theatre Company is enormously grateful to all its donors for their generous support. Due to limited space, we recognize below those who have contributed \$125 or more between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

The Revolutionists is made possible in part by support from Executive Producer Daniel R. Cyganowski in memory of Carol K. Cyganowski, scholar and theatre lover.

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