Artistic Director – Julie Proudfoot
Artemisia produces plays that empower women, gives playwrights career-altering opportunities and brings groundbreaking new plays to Chicago audiences.

THE MIDWEST PREMIERE OF

sweet texas RECKONING

by traci godfrey

Directed by Julie Proudfoot

Stage Manager
Darby Fitzsimons

Costume Designer
Lily Walls

Properties Master
Theatre at the Center

Dialects
Molly Lyons & Corey Bradberry

Scenic Designer
Ann Davis

Lighting Designer & Master Electrician
Becs Bartle

Intimacy Director
Darby Fitzsimons

Photographers
Amber Floy Barkes & Heather Mall

Set Build by
Theatre at the Center
Scene Shop

Sound Designer
Blake Cordell

Dramaturgy
Amber Floy Barkes & Corey Bradberry

Assistant Directors
Claire Bauman & Corey Bradberry

FEATUREING
Anita Kavuu-Ng’ang’a, Scottie Caldwell, Molly Lyons & John Wehrman

June 7 – 30, The Den Theatre, 1131 N. Milwaukee, Chicago

The Midwest Premiere of Sweet Texas Reckoning is partially supported by a Grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and a Grant from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation. Artemisia’s 2018-2019 Theatre Season is partially supported by a Gen Ops Grant from the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.
Windy City Times is the voice of Chicago’s Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans and Queer Community since 1985 and is proud to serve as MEDIA SPONSOR for Artemisia’s Midwest Premiere of SWEET TEXAS RECKONING. Join Artemisia and Windy City Times in celebrating #PRIDE 2019.

Word of Mouth is a powerful audience builder.
Thanks for sharing Artemisia’s production of SWEET TEXAS RECKONING, by Traci Godfrey, with your world!

Artemisia loves working with new talent, volunteers and sponsors. If you’re interested in getting involved please contact Artistic Director Julie Proudfoot at artemisiatheatre@gmail.com

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
Artemisia is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube – Thanks for tagging us with the hashtag #ArtemisiaTheatre.

Artemisia Theatre
5601 N. Sheridan, #6A  |  Chicago, IL  60660
ARTEMISIA THEATRE.ORG

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Ellie..............................................................Molly Lyons
Alan John............................................................John Wehrman
Kate..............................................................Scottie Caldwell
Samantha............................................................Anita Kavuu-Ng’ang’a

UNDERSTUDIES
Sheri Reda (Ellie), Blake Holen (Alan John), Bethany Arrington (Kate), Angela Mo’Nique (Samantha). Understudies will never substitute for a listed player unless an announcement is posted at the performance.

SETTING

Present Day - The home of Ellie Wolcott in Sealy, Texas

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager......................................................Darby Fitzsimons
Assistant Directors.................................Claire Bauman, Corey Bradberry
Production Assistant................................Amber Floy Barkes
Social Media Manager.................................Jinni Barak
Marketing..........................................................Amber Floy Barkes, Jinni Barak, Andrea Klohn
Press & PR......................................................John Olson
Photographers..............................................Amber Floy Barkes, Heather Mall
BIOGRAPHIES

Molly Lyons (Ellie, Dialects) is excited to return to the woman-centric story telling of Artemisia Theatre, where she was previously seen as Paola in CHEWING ON BECKETT. Other Chicago Credits include HELLCAB, JULIUS CAESAR, SHAVE AND A HAIRCUT, TEMPERANCE VS. TOLERANCE, FATHER RUFIAN, ROMEO & JULIET & BEYOND THE HORIZON. In Chicago, Molly has acted with Midsommer Flight; Unbraced Theatre; Wild Claw Theatre; Step Up Productions; City Lit and Eclipse Theatre. Molly's work as a director has been seen at Unbraced Theatre, Main Street Opera, Piccolo Theatre and Chicago Dramatists. Molly has acted & directed across the US and internationally in Canada, France, Ireland & Republic of Georgia, including her one-woman show, A MOST NOTORIOUS WOMAN, about the last queen of Ireland. She most recently returned from her new home in Tucson where she directed at University of Arizona. Molly has been Artistic Director of Green Wood Studios, actor training, since 1994, which has taken her across N America and to Europe.

Scottie Caldwell (Kate) has worked in Chicago with Lookingglass Theatre Company, Windy City Playhouse, Strawdog Theatre Company, The Gift, Commission Theatre, First Floor Theatre, and Cor Theatre, among others, and most recently played Raina in City Lit Theater's ARMS AND THE MAN. She received a Time Out Chicago Theatre Award nomination for her work in Cor Theatre’s A MAP OF VIRTUE, and appears in the web series THE SCARLET LINE. She played Canadian Suffragette Gertrude Harding in both Babes With Blades Theatre Company’s THE GOOD FIGHT and in the documentary film about the same subject, NO MAN SHALL PROTECT US. She is represented by Big Mouth Talent.

Anita Kavuu-Ng’ang’a (Samantha) is proud to be working with Artemisia Theatre and playing the role of Samantha in SWEET TEXAS RECKONING. She has worked with Red Tape Theatre and understudied for The Goodman Theatre. She is excited to get back on the stage with her fellow accomplished actors.

John Wehrman (Alan John) is very thankful to be working on such a beautiful piece. Recently, he appeared as a townsperson in TRAITOR with Red Orchid Theatre (d/ Michael Shannon), and as Pato in THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE with Bluebird Arts. Elsewhere, he has worked with The Hypocrites, AstonRep, Eclipse, The Artistic Home, Fox Valley Rep, New Leaf, Circle Theatre, and many others. John is a proud graduate of The School at Steppenwolf and an alumni of The Atlantic Acting School in NYC. Thank you to Artemisia and everyone in this amazing ensemble.

First Floor Theatre, and Cor Theatre, among others, and most recently played Raina in City Lit Theater’s ARMS AND THE MAN. She received a Time Out Chicago Theatre Award nomination for her work in Cor Theatre’s A MAP OF VIRTUE, and appears in the web series THE SCARLET LINE. She played Canadian Suffragette Gertrude Harding in both Babes With Blades Theatre Company’s THE GOOD FIGHT and in the documentary film about the same subject, NO MAN SHALL PROTECT US. She is represented by Big Mouth Talent.

Bethany Arrington (U/S Kate) is an actor, model, and voice over talent originally from Carmel, Indiana. She is thrilled to be working with Artemisia for the first time. Bethany is a proud staff and ensemble member of NoMads Art Collective and performs in the new web series THE HAVEN on OpenTV. bethanyarrington.com

Angela Mo’Nique (U/S Samantha) is very honored to be appearing in her first production at Artemisia Theatre. She has performed in theater and television/film productions for eleven years most recently...
in the lead roles of Judy in THE BLOODLINE: A CTA HORROR STORY and Romana in BLACK STAR.

Blake Holen (U/S Alan John) has appeared in productions at Lifeline Theatre, Eclipse Theatre and Oil Lamp Theatre in Chicago. Some favorite roles while in Chicago have been Levin in ANNA KARENINA, Clarence in IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A RADIO PLAY and Jerry in Harold Pinter’s BETRAYAL. Blake has enjoyed working with Artemisia in their last two Fall Festivals.

Traci Godfrey (playwright) – Traci’s writing credits include screenplays HOTTER THAN GEORGIA ASPHALT, THE PINK PERFECTION, JAMBONI MACARONI (for children’s television), and SPITTING IMAGE (that explores nepotism in Hollywood). Among her stage plays are MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP (produced in London and New York), and the Award Winning SWEET TEXAS RECKONING honored with First Place Winner of: The New Works Of Merit International Playwriting Contest 2015; Artemisia’s Fall Festival 2016; and Pandora Production’s Playwriting Contest of 2015 where it was given a full production and named “Best of 2016 Theatre” in Ocean County, California. As an actress, Traci is known for her long-time roles on LAW & ORDER CRIMINAL INTENT and AS THE WORLD TURNS, as well as numerous guest appearances on THE SOPORANO’S, ALL MY CHILDREN, LAW & ORDER, ONE LIVE TO LIVE, and ANOTHER WORLD. Her favorite performances on stage include her appearances in LAUGHING WILD, FOOL FOR LOVE, GETTING OUT, CRIMES OF THE HEART, THE TAMING OF THE SHREW, VANITIES, UNDIVULGED CRIMES, CHAOS THEORIES and the groundbreaking one woman show LADY, which succeeded in expanding current ideas about women’s equality on both the London and New York stages. Traci enjoys being a long-time National Board Member of SAG/AFTRA as well as the National Chair of SAG/AFTRA’s LGBT Committee.

Julie Proudfoot (Director) – Julie is the founding artistic director of Artemisia, a Chicago Theatre, where she has created roles in world premiere feminist plays, including Lauren in VISITING, by Ed Proudfoot, for which she was nominated for a Broadway World Award for Best Ensemble, and Viola in CHEWING ON BECKETT, also by Ed Proudfoot. Julie directed the American Premiere of the critically acclaimed box office hit BELFAST GIRLS, by Jaki McCarrick, and the World Premiere of GAMBIT, by Ross Tedford Kendall at Artemisia in addition to numerous staged readings for the theatre’s annual fall festival, an event she created and curated for eight years. Julie has extensive experience performing in new and classic plays in regional theatre and Off-Broadway. Most recently Julie was proud to appear as a performing understudy as Mama in TimeLine Theatre’s incredible production of A SHAYNA MAIDEL, by Barbara Lebow, and directed by Vanessa Stalling. Julie is story analyst for HBO and Fremantle, teaches screenwriting in Roosevelt’s Creative Writing Program and is passionate about new feminist plays. Julie is honored to launch Artemisia’s intensive play development process with Traci Godfrey and her timely play, SWEET TEXAS RECKONING.

Ann Davis (Set Designer) – Ann first worked with Artemisia in 2013, when she designed the elegant set for the world premiere of GAMBIT, by Ross Tedford Kendall. In 2015, Ann designed the set and served as technical director for Artemisia’s American premiere of BELFAST GIRLS, by Jaki McCarrick. Ann is the head of Production at Theatre at the Center, where she has spent 15 years working as a painter, welder, carpenter and draftsperson. Besides TATC, Ann has designed for The Art Institute of Chicago, CCPA, Victory Gardens, Metropolis, The Apollo Theatre, the Athenaeum, DePaul University Opera, Chamber Opera of Chicago, and many others including lots of painting on films in Chicago. Ann holds a BS degree in industrial technology and an MFA in theatrical design. Ann is passionate about Artemisia’s feminist focus and is thrilled to serve as one of the theatre’s Artistic Associates.

Blake Cordell (Sound Designer) – Blake is a Chicago-based lighting & sound designer whose recent credits include Artemisia Fall Festival 2018, THE TOTAL BENT, (Haven Theatre) and SWEET TEXAS RECKONING (Artemisia.) Blake’s work will be seen this summer in KING LEAR (Redtwist Theatre), and HUMAN RESOURCES (Theatre Evolve.) He has worked on a variety of projects, such as a production of Glass Menagerie that created set and props from sound alone. He has also worked on projects such as the workshop of Chantal Bilodeau’s “Forward” where he created underscoring and accompaniment tracks.

Lily Walls (Costume Designer) – Lily is thrilled to be making her Artemisia Theatre debut with SWEET TEXAS RECKONING. Credits include Akvavit Theater’s English language premiere of BAD GIRLS: THE STYLISTS, American Blues Theater’s FLYIN’ WEST, Midsommer Flight’s TWELFTH NIGHT and Citadel Theater’s THE ROOMMATE. She would like to thank Michael (husband), as well as Bamba and Khoshekh (cats) for their respective support, love and ankle bites.

Darby Fitzsimons (Stage Manager, Intimacy Director) – Darby is a director, designer, and theatre artist based in the Chicago area, working primarily with new and abstract works. Darby is honored and excited to be working with Artemisia for the first time! Her recent Chicago Theatre credits include working with Pride Films and Plays on LezFest and LezPlay and directing Elizabeth A.M. Keel’s MISSIONES at Otherworld Theatre’s Paragon Festival. Outside of the theater, she enjoys reading, gardening, and a good cup of coffee.

Amber Floy Barkes (Dramaturgy, Marketing & Production Assistant) – Amber is a senior honors scholar at Roosevelt University studying English language and literature. She was the first place winner of Roosevelt's Poetry Award 2017 and the recipient of the Ostrowsky Award 2018. In the spring of 2019 she became a fellow of the Newberry Library Research Seminar, writing her thesis on Cloyd Head’s The Grotesques: A Decoration in Black and White and The Chicago Little Theatre in progressive era Chicago. She is the senior editor of literature magazine The Oyez Review issue 46, and part of the marketing team. Amber joined Artemisia Theatre for her second internship, performing roles in dramaturgy, marketing, and production. She is delighted to play an integral part in the development of a script into a fully staged production.

Claire Bauman (Assistant Director) – Drawing from over 15 years of acting and dancing experience, Claire Bauman is a director and choreographer in Chicago who investigates theater through devising and collaborating with an interdisciplinary and feminist lens. She has directed for Rhinofest, Broken Nose Collective, Chicago Theatre Marathon as well as produced and devised her own pieces and events. Claire co-created Making (the) Movement, a dance arts festival supporting Chicago organizations dedicated to combating sexual violence. She has assisted and performed with Interrobang Theater Project and Walkabout Theater, where she is also an Artistic Associate. She graduated from Vassar College and further trained at the Moscow Art Theater School and the American Conservatory Theater. Claire has participated in DirectorsLabChicago, Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation Observership Program, and Hangar Theatre’s Directing Apprenticeship.

Corey Bradberry (Assistant Director, Dramaturgy) – Corey is a stage director committed to clear, efficient, and compelling storytelling. A Chicago newcomer, he most recently returned to his native Atlanta to direct MURDER AT THE STRAND II: DARK MATTERS, an immersive sci-fi murder
It seems that we are sorely short on understanding and compassion these days. Whether we encounter differences in thoughts about race, religion, sexuality, or political views, I believe our best approach to healing is one person, one family, one theatre at a time. I began the writing of SWEET TEXAS RECKONING to explore these ideas by examining the plight of Ellie Wolcott. Through the damaged eyes of both Ellie and her daughter Kate, maybe we can begin to heal our own hearts, and then see the world at large with clearer eyes and a more profound hope. As a woman who grew up closeted in Texas, I believe we have come a long way. But there is still so much of our path yet to be traveled. I am very honored to share my play with you in hopes of creating a better future for us all.

SWEET TEXAS RECKONING is one of those dangerous plays – it dares to shed light on what is darkest in human nature. Traci Godfrey’s courageous crafting of a gay woman coming out to her bigoted, alcoholic mother as a comedy inspired and intrigued me from the very first time I read the play in 2016. It was chosen as one of six plays presented that year during Artemisia Fall Festival and the audience delighted in Ellie and Kate’s battle to find some common ground, some “love” that might heal the divide between them. SWEET TEXAS RECKONING was chosen for full production and I had one of the best theatre adventures of my career with Traci as we took a deep dive into her bold, feminist story and further developed its characters and prescient themes. As we began rehearsals, I was delighted to discover Traci’s unshakeable commitment to her characters, their struggles, their histories and their shared humanity. Bravely rejecting sentimentality and political correctness, SWEET TEXAS RECKONING finds the truth in what tears us apart and, ultimately, what brings us home.
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the suffrage plays

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