

**Runtime: 2 hours** 

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

SERIES UNDERWRITERS
Ward & Louise Calaway
David Gordon

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.

Original Music by Jenny Giering

Key Art by Mary Cox

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices.

#### **CAST**

## **Primary Cast**

Ann Marie Wilding	Henrietta Leavitt
April Elize	Margaret Leavitt
Candida Celaya	Annie Cannon
Aubrey Saverino	Williamina Fleming
Jack Menzies	Peter Shaw

## **Understudy Cast**

Madi Bready	Henrietta Leavitt
Madelyne Heyman	Margaret Leavitt
Gloria Tsai	Annie Cannon
Cristiana Barbatelli	Williamina Fleming
Chris Granlund	Peter Shaw

Understudies do not substitute for Primary cast members unless announced.

Designated Public Understudy Performances: Saturday September 17 at 2 pm Saturday, September 24 at 8 pm

Cast for Tuesday & Wednesday Student Performances: Ann Marie Wilding, April Elize, Gloria Tsai, Aubrey Saverino, Jack Menzies

Cast for Thursday Student Performances: Madi Bready, Madelyne Heyman, Gloria Tsai, Cristiana Barbatelli, Chris Granlund

#### FROM THE DIRECTOR



The most important thing a good evening in the theatre can deliver for its audience is a night of continuously engaging entertainment. A great evening in the theatre can and should deliver more: entertainment coupled with a deep dive into the nature of our shared humanity. Plays can emphasize drama, comedy, politics, philosophy, intellect, love, loss, social commentary,

heartbreak, or redemption—but the ultimate effect of a truly memorable evening of theatre should also be to leave the audience changed, renewed, by a deeper connection to each other and an appreciation of what it means to be human. Lauren Gunderson's Silent Sky does all these things. In focusing on Henrietta Leavitt's scientific achievements, Gunderson never forgets that the heart of a good play is, just that, it's heart. It is one of her great strengths as a playwright. While much of the intellectual and political tale she tells is centered around facts and real-life events, the emotional life of the play is born out of the playwright's rich appreciation of human nature and the imaginative question "what if?". By sensitively joining together fact and fiction, Gunderson weaves a wonderful evening of theatre, incorporating intelligence, humor, sorrow, and revelation. She sees in this template of a female scientist's struggle to achieve, a fundamental connection between Science and Art- the life of the mind and the life of the heart. My hope is that our production of Silent Sky will engage and entertain you; but also, will remind you of the many ways in which we share this strange, epic journey of discovery that we are all engaged in called "Life". Thank you for sharing this evening with us, and - Barbara Schofield for supporting this magical art called Theatre!

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director	Barbara Schofield
Interim Artistic Director	Gary B. Lamb
Music	Jenny Giering
Set Design	Barbara Schofield
Projection Designer	Fritz Davis
Costume Designer	Shon LeBlanc
Lighting Designer	Derek Jones
Assistant Lighting Designer	Matthew Duran
Sound Design	John Dimitri, Jeanne Marie Valleroy
Dialect Coach	Deborah Ross-Sullivan
Scenic Artist	Marygold Martinez
Props Master	Rachel Ross-Sullivan
Stage Manager	John Dimitri
	Dori Jurican
Alternate Assistant Stage Manager	Jeanne Marie Valleroy
Associate Company Manager	Berrie Tsang
Technical Director	Todd McCraw
Production Manager	Jeanne Marie Valleroy
Volunteer Coordinator	Pamela Winters
Electricians	Shannon Barondeau, David Campfield
	Kenny Cole, Matthew Duran
Scenic Builders	David Campfield, Dylan Maddalena
Marketing Director	C. Raul Espinoza
Program	Berrie Tsang
	Berrie Tsang, Jeanne Marie Valleroy
	Mary Cox, Jessica Phantanom
	Philip Sokoloff

#### **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**



Lauren Gunderson has been one of the most produced playwrights in America since 2015 topping the list twice including 2019/20. She is a two-time winner of the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award for I and You and The Book of Will, the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award and the Otis Guernsey New Voices Award, a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and John Gassner Award for Playwriting, and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation's Residency with Marin She studied Theatre Company. Southern Literature and Drama at Emory University, and

Dramatic Writing at NYU's Tisch School where she was a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. She co-authored the Miss Bennet plays with Margot Melcon, and her play The Half-Life of Marie Curie is available on Audible.com. Her work is published at Playscripts (I and You; Exit Pursued By A Bear; The Taming and Toil And Trouble), Dramatists Play Service (The Revolutionists; The Book of Will; Silent Sky; Bauer, Natural Shocks, The Wickhams and Miss Bennet) and Samuel French (Emilie). Her picture book Dr Wonderful: Blast Off to the Moon is available from Two Lions/Amazon. She is currently developing musicals with Ari Afsar, Dave Stewart and Joss

#### **CAST**



Ann Marie Wilding (Henrietta Leavitt) is thrilled to make her debut on the Sierra Madre Playhouse stage as Henrietta Swan Leavitt and she is delighted to share in this storytelling with such an incredibly talented creative team. Ann Marie graduated with her BFA in Acting for the Stage and Screen at Azusa Pacific University. She's continued her education studying at Joe Anthony

Studio, Independent Shakespeare Company and Upright Citizens Brigade. Ann Marie won the Bechdel Test Festival Best Short Play for her original short play *Lilies from Iron*. Last performing as Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Agnes in *Dancing at Lughnasa* at Open Fist Theatre Company, previous credits also include Claire in Downtown Repertory Theatre Company's world premiere of *It's Alive*, and Maria in *Twelfth Night*. A big thank you to Barbara for this wonderful opportunity. Long live the Ladies of the Logbook - Astronomers by profession.

April Elize (Margaret Leavitt) is an actress, dancer, athlete, and voiceover artist from northern Wisconsin. After spending the past several years working in film/television, she is thrilled to be stepping back onto the stage for her debut show in Los Angeles! Previous roles include Dorothy Gale in L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, Laurey Williams in Rodgers and



Hammerstein's Oklahoma, and Hodel in Joseph Stein's Fiddler on the Roof. She has been studying acting craft and technique with her coach and mentor Peter Frisch (former faculty at The Juilliard School, Carnegie

Mellon University) and would like to thank him for his unwavering friendship and support. She would also like to thank her brother Eric who has always encouraged her to shoot for the stars.



Candida Celaya (Annie Cannon) This is Candida's first artistic endeavor with SMP and she could not be any happier! Candida has been performing in theatre for over 30 years. Roles of note include HALL of FINAL RUIN (La Tules), IN THE HEIGHTS (Abuela Claudia), SOUTH PACIFIC (Bloody Mary), OKLAHOMA (Aunt Eller), and LEND ME A TENOR (Maria Merelli). She is very honored to be

working for a theatre and Creative team who believe and participate in inclusive casting! Thank you so much, Barbara, for the opportunity to just be the best actor I can be. ~ For all my BIPOC Creatives out there

Aubrey Saverino (Williamina Fleming) is a professional actor, director and theater professor with an MFA from The Old Globe/USD. She has performed on screen (including Adam Sandler's *The Week of* on Netflix), and onstage in New York, California, and around the country. Highlights include Regan in *King Lear*, Maria in *Twelfth Night* (The Old Globe); Lady Percy in *Henry IV*, Viola in



Twelfth Night (Independent Shakespeare Co.); Jordan Baker in The Great Gatsby, the Princess in Love's Labour's Lost (Orlando Shakespeare Theater); Elizabeth Bennet in Pride & Prejudice (Capital Repertory Theatre); Catherine Givings in In The Next Room (SD Repertory Theatre); additional credits include La Jolla Playhouse, Chance Theater, Furious

Theatre Company and more. She teaches at Fullerton, Moorpark and Ventura Colleges. http://www.aubreysaverino.com IG: @aubreysaverino



Jack Menzies (Peter Shaw) most recently appeared as Rodolpho in *A View From The Bridge*, Bobby in the premiere of *The Absurdity of Sex*, and as the understudy for Connor in the world premiere of the new play *Have A Good One*. You can also see him in the feature films *What Love Looks Like* and *No Escape* which comes out later this year. He received a BFA in Performance from

the University of Colorado, Boulder, and is also an avid writer and graphic artist. This is his first production with Sierra Madre Playhouse.

Madi Bready (Henrietta Leavitt Understudy) (she/her) is thrilled and grateful to be making her debut at Sierra Madre Playhouse after a 4 year long hiatus from a lifetime of working in the theatre. Madi graduated with a BFA in Acting from the University of Oklahoma in 2018 and moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in film and television shortly after. Since graduating, Madi has



worked on a handful of TV shows and commercials as well as over a dozen short and feature films, including the 2020 feature *Infamous* starring Bella Thorne on HULU and Amazon Prime. Madi would like to give big thanks to the Silent Sky cast and crew and her friends and family for continued support and encouragement!

Instagram: @madi\_bready; @madibready\_selftapes



Madelyne Heyman (Margaret Leavitt
Understudy) is so excited to join the Sierra
Madre Playhouse and this incredible team for
Silent Sky. Recent credits include Alison in Fun
Home (Conundrum Theatre), the Steward and
others in Into the Woods (Domino One), and Will
You Accept This Rose: The Bachelor Parody
Musical and Weed Shop the Musical (Art Time

Presents), both of which she also co-wrote and directed. Other recent directing credits include *Significant Other* and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Madelyne performs regularly across Los Angeles with her musical improv team, Adele Dazeem. Occasionally she is hired to sound like other, more famous people. // @madmadsrose

Gloria Tsai (Annie Cannon Understudy) is a Taiwanese-Texan actor/voice actor who moved to the LA area in late 2018 to take her acting career to the next level. In 2019, she worked with LA Arts Commissioner & former East West Players Artistic Director, Tim Dang, who directed her in *The Joy Luck Club* here at Sierra Madre Playhouse (SMP). She returned to SMP during the lockdown



for a virtual production of *Yellow Face* by D.H. Hwang. She also was in a virtual production of *Sex* by Mae West through Play \*Your Part Seattle in December of 2020. Gloria is excited to return to SMP as the understudy for the role of Annie Cannon in *Silent Sky*. More at <u>GloriaTsai.com</u> or @glowtsai on all socials.



Cristiana Barbatelli (Williamina Fleming Understudy) is positively starstruck and thrilled to make her Sierra Madre Playhouse debut! She moved from Chicago in March 2022 and Silent Sky is her second theatre production in a new city! Favorite previous projects include Crimes of the Heart (Meg), The Timemaker (film), and Battle on the Breakwall (short film). Sending love

to friends and fam, thank you for everything xo

Chris Granlund (Peter Shaw Understudy), after his time in the Marine Corps, found his passion for acting at his hometown community college, Las Positas. During which he performed in several shows including *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Titanic the Musical*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and *Heathers*. He moved to LA where he attended Theatre of Arts Acting Conservatory, where he now teaches



stunts and stage combat, and was cast in many productions with New York Film Academy, American Film Institute, Vet TV, and Chapman University. He also performed on stage in *Sweeney Todd*, *Den of Thieves*, and *Light It Up*.

#### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Barbara Schofield (Director) is a director, actor and arts educator. She is thrilled to be returning to The Sierra Madre Playhouse, where she directed critically acclaimed productions of *Incident at Vichy* [BroadwayWorld Award for Best Director], Arcadia, Proof, and The Fantastiks – [co-directed with James Fowler and recipient of multiple Scenie awards for Direction, Production and Debut Performance]. She is a long-time member of LA based Open Fist Theatre Company where she recently directed Dancing at Lughnasa [multiple Broadway World nominations], the LA premiere of Tom Stoppard's Rock 'n Roll, Machinal, and Stage Door [LA Weekly Nomination for Best Director]. In addition, Barbara has worked as director or actor at New York's Roundabout Theatre, The Kitchen, Westbeth Theatre Center, The Producers Club, Jean Cocteau Repertory, and The Independent Theatre Co. Also, the Renaissance Theatre, NJ; Boston Lyric Stage, Balsch Arena Stage, Missouri Repertory Theatre, and Kansas City Opera; and internationally at the Frei Vogelsbhune in Berlin, the Cockpit Theatre, London; and The Mynack Stage, Cornwall, UK. Barbara received her Ph.D. in Theatre from Tufts University, and her BA/Honors in Drama from Schiller University/London/Berlin. She has taught theatre at the University of California, Tufts University and The University of Missouri. Currently, she is Co-Chair of Acting at AMDA College of the Performing Arts/Los Angeles. Barbara is an active member of Actors Equity, and SAG/AFTRA.

Fritz Davis (Video Projection Designer) is a native of Philadelphia. Fritz relocated to Los Angeles in 2000 and began his 22-year career in the local theatre circuit. He has worked on numerous productions in various design and support roles. He is the technical director for the Actors Studio West in West Hollywood and is the owner and primary technician of Davis

Multimedia; a stage equipment rental company that caters to the needs of small and mid-size productions, concerts, celebrations and memorial events. His unique skill set includes video projection design, theatrical sound design, live audio, foley, photography, videography, as well as lighting designing general theatre and stage management. He is also an FAA certified commercial drone pilot. Fritz is pleased to make his debut at the Sierra Madre Playhouse with such a wonderful cast and crew.

John Dimitri (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be stage managing this production of *Silent Sky*! He has spent a lifetime in the Arts and has worn many different hats, including Stage Actor, Screen Actor, Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager, Tech Director, Assistant Tech Director, Lighting Designer, Sound Designer, Set Builder, Photographer, Videographer, and Running Crew. In addition to his work with SMP, John is an AMDA graduate, an IATSE Local 33 Stagehand, and has lent his skills to various other LA-based theatre companies and programs, including Open Fist, Downtown Rep, The Fountain, Vesper, Children's Theatre Experience, Storytailors, Pasadena City College, and Glendale Community College. He would like to thank his mother Barbara Schofield and all of his family and friends for their constant support over the years!

**Derek Jones (Lighting Designer)** For SMP: Bee-luther-hatchee, The Marvelous Wonderettes, A Christmas Story (2017, 2018), Nothing Is the Same, The Immigrant, Pump Boys and Dinettes, The Gin Game, Tuesdays with Morrie, Stuart Little, Dames at Sea, The Joy Luck Club, Little Women, Every Christmas Story Ever Told, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, and King of the Yees. In LA, he has been a lighting designer at California School for the Arts — San Gabriel Valley, REDCAT, SiriusXM, The Soraya, Stories Illuminated, Estrella TV, IATSE Local 33, and more. Highlights outside of LA include New York Fashion Week, Washington National Opera at the

Kennedy Center, and the Virginia Opera. Derek has an MFA in Lighting Design from Indiana University and a BA in Theatre and a BS in Physics from The George Washington University. He is the Lighting Director for SMP and the Lead Designer for Panda Roja Design. <a href="www.pandaroja.com">www.pandaroja.com</a>

**Doroteja "Dori" Jurican (Assistant Stage Manager & SMP Theater Production, Management, & Marketing Intern)** is excited to work with SMP as an ASM. Though born and raised in Slovenia, Dori has recently earned her theatre B.A at CSUN. She has been active in the theatre department as a Theatre Guild member and collaborator with CTVA film projects. For her performance in *Playwright's Will*, Dori received a KCACTF nomination and reached the second round of the Irene Ryan competition as a scene partner. Dori's proudest achievement is receiving a scholarship for her shot film *Blank Canvas* that she wrote, performed, and edited herself. She enjoys performing the most, however she has also enjoyed stage managing *Marian, Marian, Marian* at CSUN. When Dori is not performing, she writes, crafts, or crochets.

Shon LeBlanc (Costume Designer) celebrates 35 years designing costumes in California and across the country. He has designed shows for SMP (most recently *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*), Fountain Theatre, Colony Theatre, 3D Theatricals, Odyssey, Matrix, Theatre 40, Hudson, El Portal, Open Fist, Rubicon, Actors Co-Op, Greenway Court, Kentucky Shakespeare, Kentucky Opera, and Charlottesville Opera (VA) to name a few. Currently he is designing costumes for the new TV show *Encore*. Most recently he designed *Singing in the Rain*, for McCoy-Rigby and *All My Sons* at The Lounge Theatre. Shon is a multi-award-winning Costume Designer, with multiple Ovation, Drama Critics Circle, LA Weekly, and Garland awards and nominations. He is the owner of The Costume House, located in North Hollywood where the costumes for tonight's show were created.

Marygold Martinez (Scenic Artist) has first helped out Sierra Madre Playhouse as a crew member with their production *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* and around the Playhouse from time to time. She later assistant scenic painted with Orlando de la Paz in SMP's latest show *King of the Yees* and started scenic painting November 22, 2021 with theaters such as Center Theatre Group, A Noise Within, Skylight Theatre, and Boston Court.

**Todd McCraw (Technical Director)** moved here from NYC where he spent 28 years working in all aspects of theater tech, in nearly every theater in NYC. He is head rigger for Fly-By-Night Dance Theater. He rigs for many other silk acts, trapeze acts & other theatrical productions. Todd spent four years in Big Apple Circus, assisting world-famous horse trainer & performer Katja Schumann. Todd is starting a new production company, "Mad Cackle Productions", that focuses mainly on stand-up comedy, live music, and all aspects of live entertainment. As SMP's Technical Director, Todd is responsible for all aspects of the technical demands for each show. Todd has been involved in all mainstage productions at SMP since *The Glass Menagerie* in 2016.

Deborah Ross-Sullivan (Dialect Coach) has been coaching accents and dialects for actors in all mediums of entertainment since 1974 in Los Angeles and New York. Accents have been a passion since childhood. Inflections and tone are the music and sounds are the color and while we all have similar emotions the way we portray them in language are different. Motto: Just imagine every sound in every language lives in your mouth. You simply have to access it.

**Rachel Ross-Sullivan (Props Master)** is a prop master from Pasadena, California who has worked in television for over a decade on shows such as *American Idol*, *So You Think You Can Dance*, *Dancing with the Stars* and

Carpool Karaoke. She has worked as a fabricator creating specialty props for artists such as Post Malone. Rachel most recently worked as the Prop Master on the well-received production of "Our Country's Good" at the South Pasadena Theatre Workshop. She is a proud member of the Union Stagehand Local 33. Instagram: @Good\_Dream\_Designs

Berrie Tsang (Associate Company Manager) has been working for Sierra Madre Playhouse since June 2019. She coordinates SMP's management, marketing, social media, outreach, fundraising, group sales, and whatever else is needed. She also works as an in-house photographer/videographer and graphic designer, and has previously worked as a Properties Designer and Production Assistant for past SMP productions such as *The Joy Luck Club*, *Virtual Off the Page Reading Series*, and *You're A Good Man*, *Charlie Brown*.

Jeanne Marie Valleroy (Production Manager, Sound Designer, and Alternate Assistant Stage Manager) Some of Jeanne's favorite shows she has worked on include You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown (Sierra Madre Playhouse in Memorial Park), Cowboy Elektra (Rogue Artists Ensemble), The Joy Luck Club (Sierra Madre Playhouse), EINSTEIN! (Santa Monica Playhouse and Sierra Madre Playhouse), Princess Magic (The Complex), The Radiant (The Other Space), I Carry Your Heart (Bootleg Theater), Solve It Squad Returns (Tin Can Brothers), My Mañana Comes (The Fountain Theater), Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo (Long Beach Playhouse). She would like to thank her family and friends for their support. Thank you for supporting live theater.

## Silent Sky Thank Yous

We thank the following for their contributions to this production:

**April Elize** for dance consulting and choreographing, teaching the cast the steps and technique for waltz and blocking the dance sequence.

**Baldwin Art Gallery** for the use of their venue for our opening night reception.

**Estelle Campbell** and **Diane Siegel** for curating, designing, and installing our lobby exhibit.

Fritz Davis for projectors used in this production.

**Kinetic Lighting** for new lighting equipment.

**Christian Lebano** for choosing this show and choosing many of the production team members.

**Emilia Lopez** and **Axiom Printing** for their patience with our last-minute printing requests.

**John Mulchaey**, **Eun-Joo Ahn**, **Kit Whitten**, and **George Djorgovski** for speaking at *The Silent Sky Lecture Series* events.

**Jeff Rack** for the use of some of his props.

The **Sierra Madre City Council** for their continued support of Sierra Madre Playhouse.

**Deborah Taylor Clapp**, with additional material from **Dr. Elissa Sartwell**, for putting together a study guide for this production.

The **Volunteers of the Sierra Madre Playhouse** for contributing their time and talents to Opening Night, as ushers, marketers, assistants at public programs, and so many other tasks that help the Playhouse.

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Technical Director	Todd McCraw
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Berrie Tsang (Secretary), Lydia Chen Shah

Nicole Garcia, David Gordon, Wenli Jen

Linda Puchalski, Paul Scranton

Jeanne Marie Valleroy, Eileen Walker

Lighting Director	Derek Jones
Associate Artist – AKT Academy	Alison Eliel Kalmus
Organizational Consultant	Tim Dang
Grant Writer	Estelle Campbell



Pictured: Sierra Madre Playhouse (Photo: Jeanne Marie Valleroy)

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Your gift is deeply appreciated by all of us here at SMP, to report a misspelling or omission, please contact <a href="mailto:Info@SierraMadrePlayhouse.org">Info@SierraMadrePlayhouse.org</a>





























In conjunction with our production of *Silent Sky* (running from September 9 - October 9, 2022), Sierra Madre Playhouse is presenting *The Silent Sky Lecture Series*, in which distinguished speakers from the worlds of science and academia will provide fascinating historical and scientific insights into 19th-century astronomer (and the inspiration of *Silent Sky*) Henrietta Leavitt's work and profoundly impactful discoveries.

How Henrietta Leavitt Made Modern Astronomy Possible with John Mulchaey Director of Carnegie Observatories

Saturday, September 17 at 5 pm



Dr. Mulchaey, whose research focuses on many key areas in astronomy, including dark matter and black holes, will speak on Henrietta Leavitt.

Women in the Background:
Astronomy History's Deep Field
with Kit Whitten
Archivist & Librarian at
Carnegie Observatories

Sunday, October 2 at 5 pm



Kit Whitten, who is documenting the efforts of the female Research Assistants ("computers") behind the scenes of the Observatories' early scientific discoveries, will speak on women in astronomy.

Women Astronomers at Mount
Wilson Observatory: The Early Years
with Eun-Joo Ahn
Historian of Science
from UC Santa Barbara

Saturday, September 24 at 5 pm



Dr. Ahn, who researches on how SoCal astronomers interacted with their natural and socio-economic environment during the early 20th century, will be talking about women scientists at Mt Wilson.

Exploring Space in Cyberspace
with George Djorgovski
Professor of Astronomy and Data
Science and Director of the Center
for Data Driven Discovery at Caltech

Saturday, October 8 at 5 pm



Dr. Djorgovski, one of the founders of the global Virtual Observatory framework, and of the vibrant new field of Astroinformatics, will be speaking on the Virtual Observatory.

# The Silent Sky Lecture Series

RSVP at SierraMadrePlayhouse.org or 626.355.4318

Learn more about each of our 4 events, RSVP, and donate to support the costs of these special free events <a href="here">here</a>!