

LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY'S THEATRE PROGRAM PRESENTS

# Silent Sky

By Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Emily Jones



PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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*I have fundamental problems with the state of human knowledge! Who are we, why are we – where are we?! --Henrietta, *Silent Sky**

Henrietta Leavitt was a trailblazer who questioned our very existence—who are we, why are we.....*where* are we. Her curiosity and perseverance charted a path for astrophysicists to measure the universe and paved the way for female scientists at the turn of the 20th century.

Lauren Gunderson's play celebrates Henrietta's accomplishments and challenges us to face our historical neglect of female scientists and the adversity they faced within the field. The additional use of historical figures such as Annie Cannon and Williamina Fleming, both remarkable in their own right, creates a powerful feminist drama.

Ms. Gunderson's body of work focuses primarily on politics and science. Is it simply coincidence then, that at the height of our first female presidential candidate's campaign, she stumbles upon Henrietta's story in a New York library, and given her tendency toward strong female characters, began to see the potential for *Silent Sky*?

It has been nothing short of wonderful to have had the privilege to bring this beautiful story to life. Embracing and celebrating the strength and courage of these women has been an honor for us all. May our story serve as a startling reminder of our past and inspiration for generations to come as we continue to stand for equality. "It's about equality – and it's about time!"

Emily Jones, Director

## CAST

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Henrietta Leavitt.....	Zoe Gudehus
Margaret Leavitt.....	Bethany Miscannon
Annie Cannon.....	Camryn Ruhl
Williamina Fleming.....	Abby Brisbane
Peter Shaw.....	Yianni Perahoritis
Understudies.....	Gloria Adama, Isley Duarte

## PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

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**Bethany Miscannon** is a senior BFA Acting major. Recent roles and productions include the Coroner in *Jaws! A Parody* (Magic Smoking Monkey Theatre), Tara in *Fat* (Because Why Not? Theatre), and Lucy in *Mr. Marmalade* (Lindenwood University). After she graduates in May, Bethany plans to continue her current job in arts administration at Encore Theater Group with the goal of eventually moving to Chicago. Bethany would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers for all their support.

**Yianni Perahoritis** is a junior Advertising and Strategic Communications major with a minor in Musical Theatre. Recent St. Louis credits include: *Guys and Dolls* (Stray Dog Theatre), *Our Town*, *Mr. Marmalade*, & *Mary Poppins* directed by Dennis Courtney (Lindenwood University), and *Rock of Ages* (Take Two Productions). He would like to thank the cast, the creative team, and his cousin Christoff. Απολαύστε το θέαμα! Enjoy the show!

**Abigail Brisbane** is a sophomore at Lindenwood University pursuing her BFA in Acting. Her passions lie in performance and photography. Along with Silent Sky her most recent productions at Lindenwood include *Our Town*, *Waiting* and *Night Mother*. She is excited to continue her work, and is thrilled to have the chance to do what she loves. Follow Abigail on Instagram at [abigail.brisbane](https://www.instagram.com/abigail.brisbane).

**Camryn Ruhl** is a junior BFA Acting major. Recent productions include Belle in *A Christmas Carol* and The Jumper in *Playwriting 101*. Camryn plans to move to Los Angeles after graduation to pursue a career in film and television. She wishes to thank her director and cast mates for making this experience out of this world. Follow Camryn on Instagram at officialcamrynruhl.

**Zoe Gudehus** is a senior BFA Acting major. Past roles at Lindenwood include Ann in *All My Sons* and Rachel in *Our Town*. Zoe is directing Ethan Coen's *Waiting for the Fall* Play Fest in November and served as Assistant Director this past summer for ACT INC's *Travels with My Aunt*. Zoe is also an active member of the Nick of Time Players and she would like to thank her family and cast for all their love and support.

## PRODUCTION

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Director .....	Emily Jones
Assistant Director .....	Camden Scrifres
Stage Manager .....	Emily Curtis
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Riley Mayne
Technical Director.....	Stuart Hollis
Assistant Technical Director.....	Christopher Phillips
Lighting and Scenic Designer.....	Tim Poertner
Sound Designer .....	Mari-Ellin Witt
Costume Designer.....	Louise Herman
Props Master.....	Mike Wartgow
Props Designer .....	Brian Wasserman
Poster Designer .....	Brandon Perkins
Program Designer .....	Darren Collier



## SCENES

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### SETTING

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United States, 1900 – 1920

### ACT ONE

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Scene 1: 1900, Outside a rural Wisconsin church

Scene 2: Harvard Observatory

Scene 3: 1905, Harvard Observatory

Scene 4: Harvard Observatory

Scene 5: Leavitt House

Scene 6: Leavitt House

### ACT TWO

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Scene 1: 1910, Harvard Observatory

Scene 2: 1912, Ocean Liner

Scene 3: 1912, Harvard Observatory

Scene 4: 1918, Henrietta's Apartment

Scene 5: Harvard Observatory

## ORIGINAL PROJECTION IMAGES CREDITS

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### **ESA/Hubble, NASA, and Beachfront B-Roll**

Explore further at <https://www.spacetelescope.org>  
and <https://images.nasa.gov>

## RUNNING & CONSTRUCTION CREWS

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Light Board Op.....	Emma Bailey
Sound Board OP.....	Emma Carriker
Projectionist.....	Isley Duarte
Deck Crew.....	Raven Knight, Rhianna Beattie
Costume Construction Crew .....	Mikaelee Behen, Jenna Biagi, Mackenzie Holtman, Sarah Ratcliff Mia Valentine, Erykah Wells Isabelle Jackson, Zachary Garcia Mari-Ellin Witt, Camden Scifres
Wardrobe Crew .....	Gloria Adame, Jessie Elliott
Electricians.....	Janelle Kloss, Timothy Henderson Cameron Durbin, Mari-Ellin Witt Baylee Speer
Front of House .....	Kayla Taabish, Brendan Van Keuren, Justin Wood, Hikaru Sayama

## SCHEIDEGGER CENTER PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Theater Operations .....	Kathleen Eads
Interim Production Manager/Audio Director .....	Brian Bird
Academic Production Manager .....	Stacy A. Blackburn
Technical Director .....	Stuart Hollis
Assistant Technical Director .....	Christopher Phillips
Scenic Artist .....	Michael Wartgow
Lighting Director .....	Tim Poertner
Assistant Lighting Director .....	David Carr
Costume Director .....	Louise M. Herman
Assistant Costume Shop Manager .....	Cody Floyd
Director of Marketing & Communications .....	Peter Colombatto
Box Office and Patron Services Manager .....	Tony White
Assistant Box Office Manager .....	John Fisher
Box Office Coordinator .....	John Emery
Graphic Designer .....	Darren Collier



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