**SILENT SKY**

**BY LAUREN GUNDERSON**

Direction
KEVIN TRUDEAU

Scenic Design
ANDREW NELSEN

Costume Design
CELESTE MACKEY

Stage Manager
JOHN KLANDIS*

Lighting Design
JULIA EGIZIO*

Sound Design
AUSTIN JONES*

Properties Design
LUKAS ROY*

* Denotes student member of production team

**CAST**

Henrietta Leavitt.................................................................KATIE HORN
Margaret Leavitt.................................................................KYRA SAVAGE
Annie Cannon.................................................................ESTEFANIA FLORES
Peter Shaw.................................................................ALEX SCHEDEL
Williamina Fleming.........................................................HALEY MARCHEWKA

**SETTINGS**

1900-1920.
Star field.
The Havard Observatory 2nd-floor offices.
Leavitt home, Wisconsin.
Ocean liner on the Atlantic.
Henrietta’s home, Cambridge, Ma.

**Running Time is 105 Minutes**
Recommended for patrons 13 years of age and up

SILENT SKY was commissioned by and premiered at South Coast Repertory (Marc Masterson, Artistic Director; Paula Tomei, Managing Director), in Costa Mesa, California, with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation, as part of the 2011 Pacific Playwrights Festival.
The English Language stock and amateur stage performance rights in the United States, its territories, possessions and Canada for SILENT SKY are controlled exclusively by Dramatists Play Service, Inc., 440 park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. No professional or nonprofessional performance of the play may be given without obtaining in advance the permission of Dramatists Play Service, Inc., and paying the requisite fee.

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Director’s Note

Normally when I sit down to compose a director’s note, I might reflect on why I made a particular choice of play, or how I believe that play is relevant to the times we live in. I’m in a much different space today, mainly because any contemplation of directing choice is leading me inevitably to thinking of my first directing teacher, Wayne Loui—who passed away last weekend.

Mr. Loui—as we all called him—was a remarkable director and teacher. As a professor, his gentleness and gentility were constant. I can’t remember him ever raising his voice or embarrassing a student in front of others, but if you disappointed him, you felt it deeply. As if by magic, he created a safe environment for students to try new ideas, to excel—and, perhaps more importantly, to fail, and to learn from their mistakes, but never dwell on them. As a director, his taste was impeccable, particularly in his use of sound and music, and he had the uncanny ability to inspire student performers to excel in ways they never knew they could.

As I’ve been working with the student actors and designers over the days since his passing, his memory, wreathed somehow in his ever-present pipe smoke, has been with me. I can hear his low, gentle voice repeating words that he often repeated, almost like a mantra: “Get on with it.” This simple phrase was an amazingly flexible message for me as a scared, immature college student, who could get trapped all too easily in the anxious snares of “what do I do now? How do I begin?” In the face of all that, Mr. Loui asserted the importance of focusing past the anxiety and the daily heartbreak. Of getting on with the art, getting on with making the right choice, with applying your ideals to your aesthetic. With making the art.

Thank you, Mr. Loui. I’ll try to get on with it.

- Kevin Trudeau
February 12, 2021
Profiles

Estefania Flores (Annie Cannon) from Tinley Park, is a Lewis University fourth year theater major. She was previously seen in the roles of Charlotte Purcell, Reporter 1 in the PLT streaming production These Shining Lives. Other PLT roles include: Milton and Mrs. Trotsky in the PLT streaming performances of All in the Timing (KCACTF Irene Ryan acting nomination), Billie Dawn in Born Yesterday (KCACTF Irene Ryan acting nomination), the role of #13 in The Wolves, and the roles of Ted and Sanchez in Peter and the Starcatcher and Marianne in the HTC production of Constellations. She was the assistant stage manager for Leading Ladies, an ensemble member of the 14th Holiday Spectacular and was the stage manager for the 15th Holiday Spectacular. Katie has also participated in the 6th Annual 24 Hour Theatre Festival. In 2020 at the annual KCACTF conference, Katie received the California State University Summer Arts Scholarship. She was also named a finalist for the 2020 Dr. Stephany Schlachter Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Scholarship for her sound design of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. At the January 2021 KCACTF virtual conference, Katie participated in the VOICES OUT LOUD Workshop writing and performing an original monologue, the Irene Ryan acting competition, and presented her sound design for The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.

Katie Horn (Henrietta Leavitt) from Sturgis, MI, is a Lewis University third year theatre major. She was previously seen in the roles of Charlotte Purcell, Reporter 1 in the PLT streaming production These Shining Lives. Other PLT roles include: Milton and Mrs. Trotsky in the PLT streaming performances of All in the Timing (KCACTF Irene Ryan acting nomination), Billie Dawn in Born Yesterday (KCACTF Irene Ryan acting nomination), the role of #13 in The Wolves, and the roles of Ted and Sanchez in Peter and the Starcatcher and Marianne in the HTC production of Constellations. She was the assistant stage manager for Leading Ladies, an ensemble member of the 14th Holiday Spectacular and was the stage manager for the 15th Holiday Spectacular. Katie has also participated in the 6th Annual 24 Hour Theatre Festival. In 2020 at the annual KCACTF conference, Katie received the California State University Summer Arts Scholarship. She was also named a finalist for the 2020 Dr. Stephany Schlachter Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Scholarship for her sound design of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. At the January 2021 KCACTF virtual conference, Katie participated in the VOICES OUT LOUD Workshop writing and performing an original monologue, the Irene Ryan acting competition, and presented her sound design for The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.

Haley Marchewka (Williamina Fleming) from Loves Park, is a Lewis University fourth year theater major. She was previously seen in the roles of Betty and the Waitress in the PLT streaming performances of All in the Timing for which she received a KCACTF Irene Ryan acting nomination. Other PLT acting credits include: Mrs. Hedges in Born Yesterday, #00 in The Wolves, Nina in Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, and an ensemble member in Frankenstein. She stage managed the HTC production of Constellations. Her PLT production credits include: house manager for Mr. Burns, a post-electric play, properties manager for Broadway Bound, backstage crew for The Boys Next Door, sound designer for The Leading Ladies, a member of the 2019 student summer staff and a dresser for the musical Mamma Mia! Previous acting credits include: Brutus in Julius Caesar, and the Wicked Witch in Shrek the Musical, Chutney in Legally Blonde. She is the recipient of the Chet Kondratowicz and Vincent McGirr Endowed Scholarships, and has been named to the Dean’s list for the past three years.

Kyra Savage (Margaret Leavitt) from Romeoville, is a Lewis University first year theatre major and music minor. She was last seen in the role of Catherine Wolfe Donohue in the PLT streaming production These Shining Lives for which she received a KCACTF Irene Ryan acting nomination. She was the props manager for the Fall 2020 PLT streaming production of All in the Timing. Her high school acting credits include performing the role of Belle in Beauty and The Beast and Alice Beineke in The Addams Family. She has also worked with Bolingbrook’s Theatre on the Hill performing the role of Milis Kroqstat in A Doll’s House, Delta Nu Gaeleen in Legally Blonde and Hot Box Dancer Vernon in Guys and Dolls. While attending Romeoville High School, she received a Band Spirit Award, Give Something Back Foundation Scholarship, and was named an Outstanding Member of Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz. She loves to sing and plays the drums, and her career goal is to become a stage or film performer. Her hobbies include singing, playing drums and voice acting.
Profiles

Alex Schedel (Peter Shaw) from Bolingbrook, is a Lewis university third year theatre and music business major. He was last seen in the role of Don in the PLT streaming performances of All in the Timing. Other acting credits include: Bellhop in Born Yesterday, an ensemble member in Mamma Mia!, Reuben in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Benny in Rent, Col. Fitzwilliam in Pride and Prejudice, King Triton in The Little Mermaid, an ensemble member in Young Frankenstein, Prince Charming in Into the Woods, the Grinch/Professor Who in Seussical, Bill Slank/Hawking Clam in Peter and the Starcatcher, Scuttle in The Little Mermaid, an ensemble member and the Constable in Mary Poppins, Fezziwig and Old Joe in A Christmas Carol, a pirate in Peter Pan, FBI Agent in Anything Goes, ensemble in The 39 Steps, and the Roles of John, Peter, Jesus, Pontius Pilate in Living Stations of the Cross. His hobbies include being in a band with his brothers, performing in the choir, playing the piano, drawing and playing lacrosse. He is also a member of the Illinois Ambassadors of Music.

John Kladis (Stage Manager) from Palos Hills, is a Lewis University fourth year organizational communication and theatre double major. He was last seen in the roles of Tom, Dr. Rowntree, Dr. Dalitsch in the PLT streaming production These Shining Lives for which he received a KCACTF Irene Ryan acting nomination. Other PLT roles include: Al and Trotsky in the PLT streaming performances of All in the Timing, Voice Three/Policeman/Mr. Thompson/Drunk Two/Man with Socks/London Policeman in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, and an ensemble member in Mamma Mia! His PLT production staff experiences include props manager for The Wolves (KCACTF Certificate of Merit), light board operator for Born Yesterday, and is currently a member of the PLT student staff. He began his acting training at Moraine Valley Community College performing the role of Scott in Evil Dead: The Musical. John was also the sound designer and operator for the HTC 15th Annual Holiday Spectacular. John’s career goal is to become a theatre manager.

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 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. She co-authored the Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley 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. Her first musical, The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful and Her Dog!, commissioned by The Kennedy Center, opened in DC to rave reviews and prior to COVID-19, continued its life in state-wide tours.

She has been commissioned by South Coast Rep (3 times), San Francisco Playhouse (2 times), The Denver Center Theatre Company, Crowded Fire, CentralWorks, The Kennedy Center, The Alliance Theatre’s Collision Project, Marin Theatre Company, Actors Express Theatre, Dad’s Garage Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, City University of New York, and Synchronicity Performance Group.

She has spoken nationally and internationally on the intersection of science and theatre and arts activism, and teaches playwriting in San Francisco. She is a Playwright in Residence at The Playwrights Foundation, a Dramatists Guild member, and was a member of Just Theatre’s New Play Lab. She writes for The Huffington Post, The Wall Street Journal and tweets @LalaTellsAStory.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
John Kilpatrick, Lewis University Director of Television Operations, Associate Professor
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Adjunct, Introduction to Theatre Experience..................HAROLD McCAY
2020-2021 PLT Work/Study........................................KATIE HORN, AUSTIN JONES,
JOHN KLADIS, HALEY MARCHEWKA, JOHN OSHUKPEMHE, ALEXANDER SCHEDEL,
KATIE SZYMKIEWICZ, and SOMKENE UGWU

PHILIP LYNCH THEATRE INFORMATION

• BOX OFFICE: Open for window and phone sales Wednesday-Friday, between the hours of 1:00-4:30 p.m., 60 minutes prior to performances and during intermission. Phone (815) 836-5500

• GROUP TICKET DISCOUNTS: a discount is available for groups of 10 or more.

• SUBSCRIBER TICKET EXCHANGE: Subscribers may exchange tickets by phoning the box office at least 24 hours before the performance of their choice. Every effort will be made to exchange tickets for comparable seats, but all exchanges are contingent upon the availability of tickets.

• B3G1: Introducing a buy 3 tickets and receive your 4th ticket FREE! Must use promo code B3G1 for discount on adult, senior and non-Lewis student ticket purchases. B3G1 discount can be redeemed for reserved tickets by calling (815) 836-5500, if seating is available. B3G1 cannot be used to pay for a subscription or exchanged, once purchased.

• CREDIT CARD TICKET PURCHASES: Tickets can be purchased for PLT production by visiting our Website: lewisu.edu/plt and click the “buy tickets” like. Credit cards for ticket purchases cannot be used in-person or over the phone.

• RESTROOMS: Located on the first floor, through the Caterpillar Art Gallery. Restrooms are also located directly above on the second floor.

• SCHOLARSHIP FUND: All proceeds from concessions sales contribute to the theatre scholarship fund at Lewis University.

• EMERGENCY EXITS: Please note the nearest emergency exits before the performance begins. In case of an emergency, please proceed calmly to the nearest exit.

• PHOTOGRAPHS: The use of cameras or recording equipment is not permitted during performances.

• CELL PHONES & PAGERS: Please be sure all electronic devices are tuned off before entering the theatre. Patrons may leave phones and pagers, along with their seat number, at the box office if they need to be reached in an emergency.

• ASSISTED LISTENING SYSTEM: Units are available 30 minutes prior to performances and on a limited, first come first serve basis. The units are to be checked out at the concession stand located in the lobby. Units are to be returned to the box office at the conclusion of the performance.

• COURTESY: At the request of PLT patrons, please refrain from wearing heavy perfumes.

• CHILDREN: Unless family recommended, no children under the age of 6 are allowed to attend performances.
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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

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 invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 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.

**PLT PATRON SERVICES**

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