

**Electronic
Press Kit**
Jan 8, 2024

SILENT SKY

by Lauren Gunderson
Directed by Levi Gore

Performances
Jan 25 - Feb 11

Actors Studio 66

ACTORS STUDIO 66 PRESENTS *SILENT SKY*

ACTORS STUDIO 66 PRESENTS LAUREN GUNDERSON'S HISTORICAL DRAMA, *SILENT SKY* ABOUT REAL-LIFE ASTRONOMERS HENRIETTA LEAVITT, WILLIAMINA FLEMING AND ANNIE CANNON WHO WORKED AT THE HARVARD OBSERVATORY IN THE 1900'S MAPPING THE STARS AND PAVING THE WAY FOR MODERN ASTRONOMY.

WHEN

JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 11, 2024

PERFORMANCES AT 7:30 PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2 PM ON SUNDAY

PREVIEW: THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024

PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 (PROCEEDS BENEFIT CAST & CREW)

UNDERSTUDY PERFORMANCE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

WHERE

THE BLACK CAT CULTURAL CENTER

3011 MONTE VISTA BLVD NE

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87106

TICKETS

\$10 - STUDENTS

\$15 – PREVIEW

\$20 – GENERAL ADMISSION

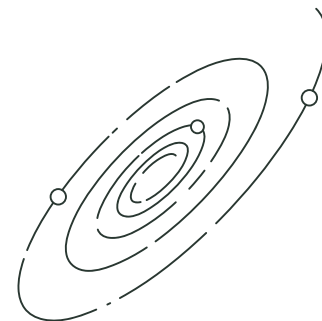
ALBUQUERQUE'S ACTORS STUDIO 66 (AS66), PRESENTS *SILENT SKY* WRITTEN BY LAUREN GUNDERSON.

This is the second show of AS66's '23-'24 Season. The play is directed by Levi Gore and the cast includes actors Caitlyn Kelly as Henrietta Leavitt, Andra Beatty as Margaret Leavitt, JohnnyHoward as Peter Shaw; Kim Monti as Williamina Fleming and Christine Grenier as Annie Cannon. Understudies, Graydon Clarke, Alex Armbruster and Taylor Jung round out the cast with a performance, as well. The crew includes a group of extremely talented, local designers.

Silent Sky is written by American playwright Lauren Gunderson, a graduate of Emory University (BFA) and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts (MFA). Ms. Gunderson is an award-winning playwright whose works focus heavily on female figures in history, science, and literature. She is considered one of the top 20 most-produced playwrights in the United States.

DIRECTOR LEVI GORE SAYS OF THE PLAY

"Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson is a play that celebrates the resilience and achievements of women in an era when societal norms confined them to roles deemed inferior to their male counterparts...Before reading this play, I, too, was sadly unaware of Henrietta Leavitt, Annie Cannon, and Williamina Fleming and their profound contributions to expanding our understanding of the universe...Despite societal constraints and physical impairments, they persisted, challenging norms and expectations, contributing to professional and societal fields."

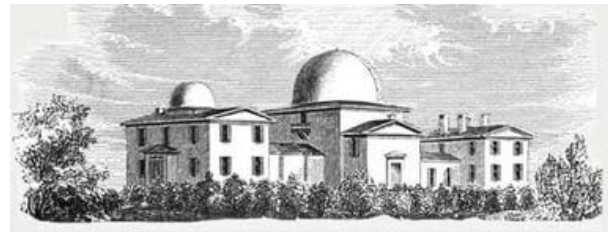


ABOUT THE PLAY

When Henrietta Leavitt begins work at the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s, she isn't allowed to touch a telescope or express an original idea. Instead, she joins a group of women "computers," charting the stars for a renowned astronomer who calculates projects in "girl hours" and has no time for the women's probing theories.

As Henrietta, in her free time, attempts to measure the light and distance of stars, she must also take measure of her life on Earth, trying to balance her dedication to science with family obligations and the possibility of love.

The true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt explores a woman's place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women's ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them. Social progress, like scientific progress, can be hard to see when one is trapped among earthly complications; Henrietta Leavitt and her female peers believe in both, and their dedication changed the way we understand both the heavens and Earth.



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Lauren Gunderson is an American playwright, screenwriter, and short story author, born in Atlanta. She lives in San Francisco, where she teaches playwriting. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing from Emory University in 2004, and her Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2009, where she was also a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship.

Lauren Gunderson's works heavily focus on female figures in history, science, and literature. She is one of the top 20 most-produced playwrights in the country, and has had over twenty plays produced including, *I and You*, *Émilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight*, *Parts They Call Deep*, and *Background*. She is married to virologist Nathan Wolfe and has 2 sons.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Levi Gore is an Actor and Director and a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA). He grew up in Amarillo, Texas, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance from West Texas A&M University. Following graduation, Levi honed his skills by working with various theatre companies in Austin, Atlanta, and New Jersey before relocating to Albuquerque in 2020.

A founding member of The Stage Austin, he moved to Albuquerque in 2020 with his wife, Kaylee. He made his acting debut in Albuquerque during the New Mexico Shakespeare Festival's 2021 production of *Hamlet* and subsequently in the Festival's 2022 production of *As You Like It*. As a director, he directed *The Tempest* and *As You Like It* for the City Theatre in Austin, *Lovers*, and *Madmen A Midsummer Night's Carnival* for The Stage Austin, and most recently *Constellations* at The Vortex Theatre in Albuquerque, and is co-directing the anticipated revival of *All Is Calm* with Mother Road Theatre.

With a profound passion for Theatre and extensive knowledge of Shakespeare's works, Levi is eager and excited to collaborate and grow with as many outstanding artists as he can

ABOUT THE CAST

ANDRA BEATTY -- MARGARET LEAVITT

Andra (shelherlhers) is a midwest born, Chicago-trained actor, artist, and resource development professional. Andra holds her BFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University, and is a proud alumni of Interlochen Arts Academy where she studied Theatre Arts, as well as Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre.

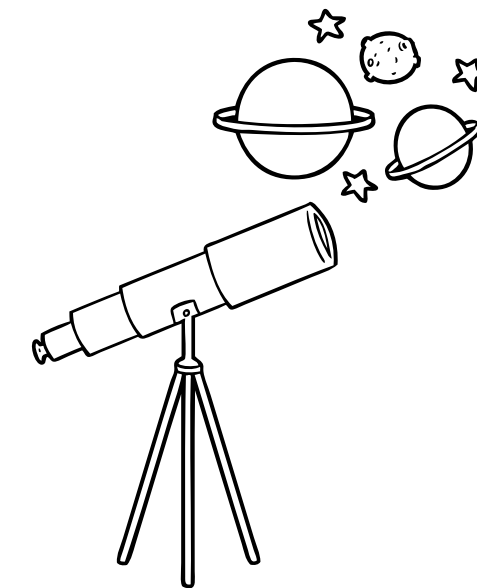
In the last decade, Andra has completed two national tours with Hampstead Stage Company, appeared in various commercials, and has been on stage and screen in Chicago and beyond. She was most recently seen as Lady Eugenia in Santa Fe Playhouse's production of A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder. As a resource development professional, Andra is currently the Director of Development & Communications at Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Mexico and also served as Development Director for Blank Theatre Company in Chicago from 2018-2021.

Andra currently lives and works in New Mexico and is represented by Bankston Talent in New Mexico and Texas.

CHRISTINE GRENIER - ANNIE CANNON

Christine earned her bachelor's degree in physics from Boston University, and also attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC for acting. Christine began her NYC acting career in 2003, working regularly with theatre companies including The 52nd Street Project and Falconworks Artists Group.

She earned a Best Actress Award, presented by The Looking Glass Theatre in NYC, for her performance as Linny in Hustlers. Christine travels for work in film, theatre and commercials. She played the role of Deena in Caldwell's Bomb which ran at Actors Studio 66 in Fall of 2022.



JONATHAN HOWARD - PETER SHAW

Jonathan Howard is an English actor known for playing Ian Boothby in Thor: The Dark World, Darcy's intern and love interest, Godzilla King Of The Monsters playing Charles Dance's son and for leading performances in Skylines currently streaming on Netflix, Trespassers, The Five Rules of Success and Neil Marshall's The Lair.

A graduate of the prestigious London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), Howard began his career with prominent British TV performances in Dream Team, Julien Fellows critically acclaimed Downton Abbey and mini series Titanic along with supporting roles in Mr Selfridge and British/American sitcom Episodes with Matt Le Blanc. In the US he has recurred on TNT's The Last Ship and Kingdom, as Nic Jonas' boyfriend.

CAITLIN KELLY - HENRIETTA LEAVITT

Caitlin is ecstatic to be back at Actors Studio 66. She has previously had the pleasure of playing roles such as: Ophelia in Hamlet (NMSF 2021), Juliet in Romeo and Juliet (NMSF 2019), Sonia in LIFESUCKS (Actors Studio 66), Emmy in Doll's House, Part 2 (The Vortex) Hester Prynne in The Scarlet Letter (Aux Dog), and more!

She is represented by Peter Yanke of Phirgun Mair Worldwide. And would like to thank the creative team of Silent Sky for their tireless efforts in creating a terrific experience on and off the stage.



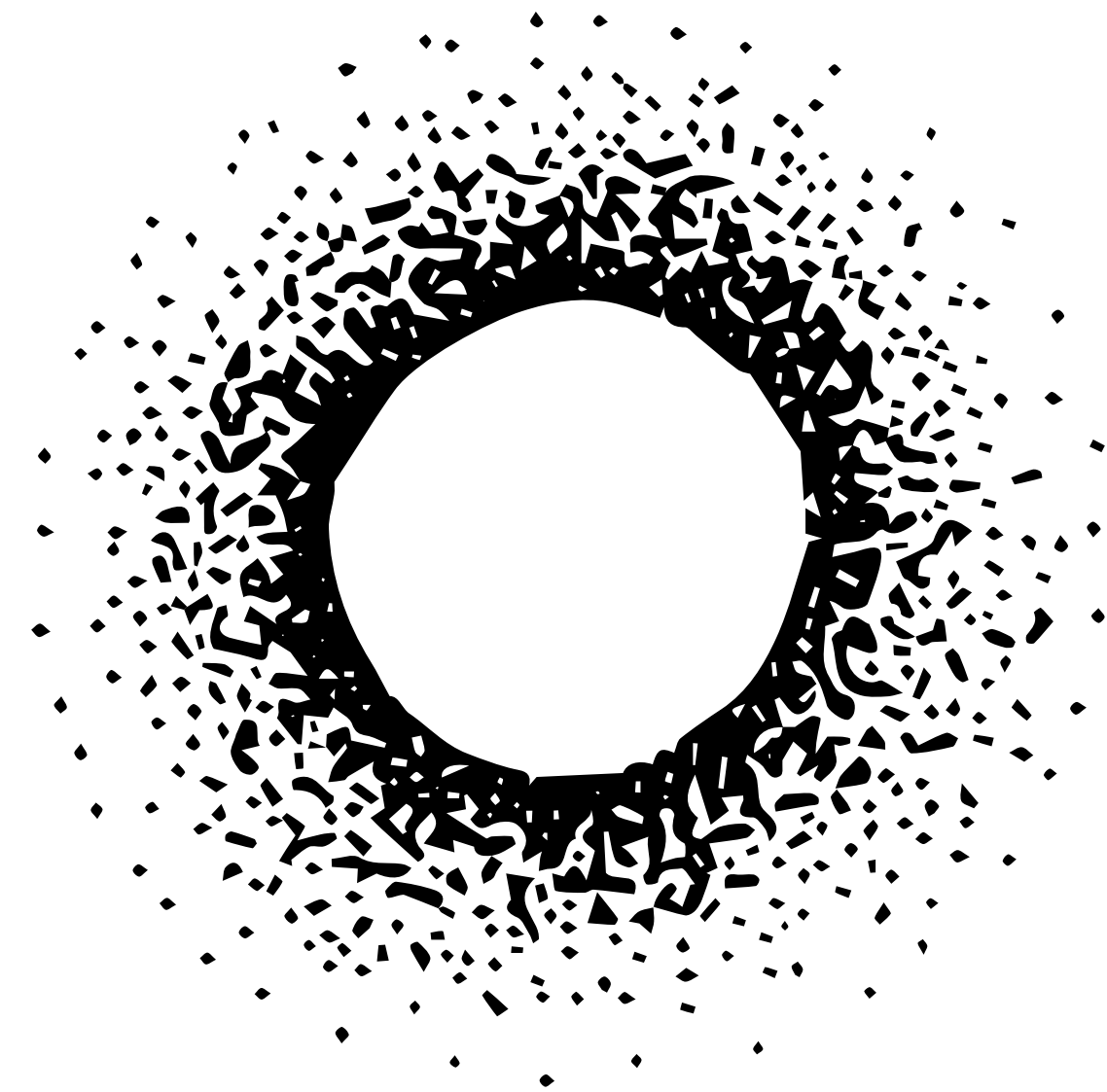
KIM MONTI - WILLIAMINA FLEMING

Kim S. Monti is excited to join the highly accomplished cast of Silent Sky. She previously had the pleasure of working with Actors Studio 66 as Jane Wilson in the dramatic reading of Free Man of Color. Her stage credits also include Vera Claythorne in Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None, and Narrator in Katrina Muldoon's NM production of Phantom in the Third Reich.

As an actor, voice actor and Mrs. Claus, she has a wide variety of credits in front of the camera for major and independent films, and commercials. Kim graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University (BA in Chemistry) and had a geek career as a research environmental chemist, then found her technical happy place with unmanned robotics.

She is deeply grateful to her husband, Michael Gates for his support and hours of time helping her learn lines. As for acting, she says: I'm delighted to blend my geekiness, a genuine love for life, and storytelling into making a difference as a creative being."

She is most grateful for all of those who support live theater.



CAST UNDERSTUDIES

Alex Armbruster - Alex Gonzales Armbrüster (she/her/they/them) is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, graduating with a BA in Performer's Process. She has an eclectic history of performance, loving to be involved in anything from new experimental work to classical pieces. This is their first production with Actor's Studio 66. She was most recently seen in Sopita De Entropia as Estefania and Midsummer Night's Dream as Hippolyta.

Graydon Clarke - Graydon Clarke graduated from the University of New Mexico with an MBA in International Management. He begun his acting career as Prince Fortinbras in Hamlet in the 2021 NM Shakespeare Festival. Other rolls he has done include Rudi Scherz in A Murder is Announced (Albuquerque Little Theatre), the King of France in King Lear (NM Shakespeare Festival), and Angelo in Comedy of Errors (NM Shakespeare Festival). He's very excited and honored to be a part of Silent Night, understudying for his largest roll yet.

Taylor Jung - This is Taylor's first production with Actors Studio 66 . It is her first time to be back onstage after 4 years, and she couldn't be more excited! Taylor just moved here from Minneapolis where she lived for 3 years, She is originally from North Dakota and attended the University of North Dakota where she got her BFA in musical theatre. Some of her favorite roles include Eurydice in Eurydice, #13 in The Wolves and Prentiss in Peter and the Starcatcher. She wants to thank her family for their support in everything she does!



THE BOARD & STAFF

Zoë Yeoman - President

Linda Ferro - Secretary/Treasurer

Roger Cacchiotti



Stephanie Grilo - Artistic Director

Aislinn Granzin - Stage Manager

Riley Lewis - Lighting Designer

Rikki Lowder - Props Designer

Mattie Roos - Set Designer

Kaylee Silcocks - Costume Designer

**Banx Tenorio - Technical Director
Sound Designer**



ABOUT ACTORS STUDIO 66

MISSION STATEMENT

Actors Studio 66 (AS66), will strive to provide a wide spectrum of diverse and inclusive theater experiences to the greater Albuquerque area, with emphasis upon support and outreach to underserved communities. As a civic and community-oriented theater arts organization, our aim is to offer job creation, training and educational opportunities within theater performance and production.

“A mission to share and to educate, through stories that need to be told.”

OUR VISION

- Produce high quality, socially relevant entertainment for the community
- Provide an environment for artists and technicians to learn, develop and advance their skill sets through various educational opportunities
- Encourage the development and production of new and lesser-known works

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Founded in the Summer of 2021, AS66 is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization. Its founding members were Frederick Ponzlov, Kathleen Welker, Tim Wilkins, Linda Ferro and Zoë Yeoman.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH CONTACT

Zoë Yeoman

zoe@actorsstudio66.org

(310) 251-6180

