

# SILENT SKY

By Lauren Gunderson  
Directed by Peter Wray



Oct. 14, 15, 19–22 at 7:30 p.m.  
Oct. 16 at 2 p.m.  
Mainstage Theatre, CA 3043  
[events.towson.edu](http://events.towson.edu)

May contain material recommended for mature audiences. Proceeds benefit the TU Foundation. Commissioned and first produced by South Coast Repertory with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation. Original Music by Jenny Giering. ASL Interpretation Oct. 20.

Towson University Department of Theatre Arts Presents

# Silent Sky

by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Peter Wray

Dance Choreography by Ruben Del Valle Jr.

Lighting Design by Jay Herzog

Scenic Design by Kai Hopkins

Costume Design by Julie Potter

Sound Design by Jay Herzog

Intimacy Choreography by Danielle Drakes

Dialect Coaching by Teresa Spencer

Stage Managed by Lia Megger

Run time 1hr, 45m with a 10 minute intermission

*Silent Sky is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection.*

*Commissioned and first produced by South Coast Repertory with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation.*

*Original Music by Jenny Giering*

*Opening Music courtesy of Bensound.com*

# Director's Note

Women in science... around the 1910s...

...the untold stories of heroic women who changed the world but are still not household names.

*Miss Leavitt's Stars: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Discovered How to Measure the Universe*, by George Johnson. This book was the inspiration for playwright Lauren Gunderson to write about Henrietta Leavitt and an entire cohort of women who were Harvard "computers." Yes, that's what they were called – long before electronic computers we know today. So, we also get to know Annie Jump Cannon and Williamina Fleming, and other astronomers that worked with Henrietta.

When asked how she would characterize the play *Silent Sky*?

Lauren Gunderson said:

*This play is about the glory and hard work of science. It is a story of family, both the ones we are born with and the ones we choose. It's the story of sisterhood and, yes, a little bit of old-fashioned boy meets girl as well. The other incredibly exciting feature of this play, she says, is music. Henrietta's sister Margaret is a pianist and her love of music transforms into a critical way that Henrietta understands stars and the patterns in the sky. Music and math are one in the same!*

The connections and parallels between the sciences and the arts is profound.

And so, for me directing this play, like Lauren and Henrietta – the wonder, awe and the insatiable drive to know what's out there – in the universe – fuels my passion to illuminate our humanity...

...as we strive to understand our place in the cosmos...

...in addition to highlighting the significant contributions of women in science.

– Peter Wray, Director

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# Cast

**Henrietta Leavitt**  
**Margaret Leavitt**  
**Peter Shaw**  
**Annie Cannon**  
**Williamina Fleming**

EJ Roeder  
Mel Gabel  
Eric Panuela  
Brooke Donald  
Lindsay Wilk

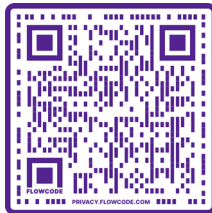
## Astronomy Panel Participants

Dr. Rachel Beaton- Researcher, Space Telescope Science Institute, Postdoctoral Fellow  
Samantha Hoffman - Staff Scientist II, Science Support at Space Telescope Science Institute  
Meaghan McDonald - Science Support Analyst, Space Telescope Science Institute  
Dr. Jennifer Scott - Professor, Department of Physics, Towson University

## Special Thanks

Max Mutchler - Consulting Staff Scientist, Space Telescope Science Institute  
Christian Ready - Director, Towson University Planetarium, Department of Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences

## TU Planetarium



<https://www.towson.edu/fcsm/centers/planetarium.html>



# Production Crew

<b>Technical Director</b>	Anthony Rosas
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Patrick Cullinan Shakirah Miller
<b>Faculty Mentor Scenic Design</b>	Daniel Ettinger
<b>Costume Shop Manager</b>	Alizon Santamaria
<b>Assistant Costume Manager</b>	Hannah Brill
<b>Properties Manager</b>	Kai Hopkins
<b>House Electrician</b>	Mel Gabel
<b>Sound Board Operator</b>	Jeremiah Catoe
<b>Light Board Operator</b>	Jordan Pemberton
<b>Light Board Programmer</b>	Jordan Pemberton
<b>Electrics Consultant</b>	Hector Quintero Alvarado
<b>Video Board Operator</b>	Patrick Cullinan
<b>Wardrobe</b>	Kai Hopkins Max Stover
<b>Scenic Painter</b>	Daniel Ettinger
<b>Costume Shop Staff</b>	Yenevi Castillo Shana Fishman Alyssa Millward
<b>Scene Shop Staff</b>	Ryley Gardner Marlie Mitchell Grady Heveron Kieran Newell
<b>Poster Design</b>	TU Creative Services
<b>Production Photography</b>	Katie Simmons-Barth

## **Costume Shop Crew**

Jovan Brooks  
Yenevi Castillo  
Sanai Cooper  
Sarah Gonder  
Grady Heveron  
Lenox Kamara  
Alexander Mungo  
Aniya Robinson  
Makenzie Wiegand

Rose Buker  
Izaak Collins  
Benjamin Florian  
Emily Grasso  
Cyan Jackson  
Marlie Mitchell  
Corinne Onley  
Edward Stockman  
Danielle Williams

## **Scene Construction Crew**

Rose Buker  
Mel Gabel  
William Kinna  
Keyshawn Mingo  
Myah Stokes

Ruthie Douglass  
Julia Holsapple  
Elizabeth Ludwig  
Jolie Smith  
Tyler White

## **Lighting Crew**

Jaeden Arrington  
Sanai Cooper  
Abigail Duggan  
Sarah Gonder  
Lia Megger  
Marlie Mitchell  
Mathew Price

Madeline Baynard  
Jaelyn Craigen  
Carley Edelman  
Conor Harris  
William Memmott  
David Norris  
EJ Roeder

## **THEATRE ARTS FACULTY & STAFF**

Hannah Brill	Assistant Costume Shop Manager
Tom Cascella	Assistant to the Chairperson
Tomi Casciero	Professor Emeritus
Ruben Del Valle, Jr.	Movement/ Acting for Musical Theatre
Danielle Drakes	Script Analysis, Community Outreach
Daniel Ettinger	Scenic Design
John Glover	Distinguished Visiting Professor of Acting
Jay Herzog	Lighting & Sound Design, Stage Management
Tavia La Follette	Theatre Studies/Cross-disciplinary Works
Naoko Maeshiba	Professor Emerita
John Manlove	Professor Emeritus
Stephen Nunns	Theories of Theatre/Theatre History/Directing
Susan Picinich	Theatre History/ Costume, Dress and Society
Julie Potter	Costume Design
Robyn Quick	Theatre History/Dramaturgy/Chairperson
Juanita Rockwell	Professor Emerita
Anthony Rosas	Technical Director
Alizon Santamaria	Costume Shop Manager
Steven J. Satta	Voice/Acting
Katie Simmons-Barth	Academic Program Coordinator
Diane Smith-Sadak	Professor Emerita
Teresa Spencer	Acting
Elena Versényi	Administrative Assistant
David White	Script Analysis/Playwriting/Thesis
Peter Wray	Acting/ Shakespeare/ Senior Acting Seminar

## **ADJUNCT FACULTY**

Donna Fox	Acting
Corey Hennessey	Acting
Mallory Kubicek	Acting
Dian Perrin	Acting
Kyle Prue	Acting
Susan J. Rotkowitz	Acting/Theatre Studies/ Arts Integration
Tom Shade	Theatre Studies
Katie Solomon	Acting/ Speech and Dialect
Rohaizad Suaidi	Acting
Yury Urnov	Acting
Gavin Witt	Theatre History

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Greg Faller	Associate Dean
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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 and the President's Advisory Committee on the 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 1,300 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.

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