



Theatre presents

Written by
Lauren
Gunderson



The Revolutionists

Directed by
Claire Syler

Rhynsburger Theatre
555 Hitt St. Columbia MO

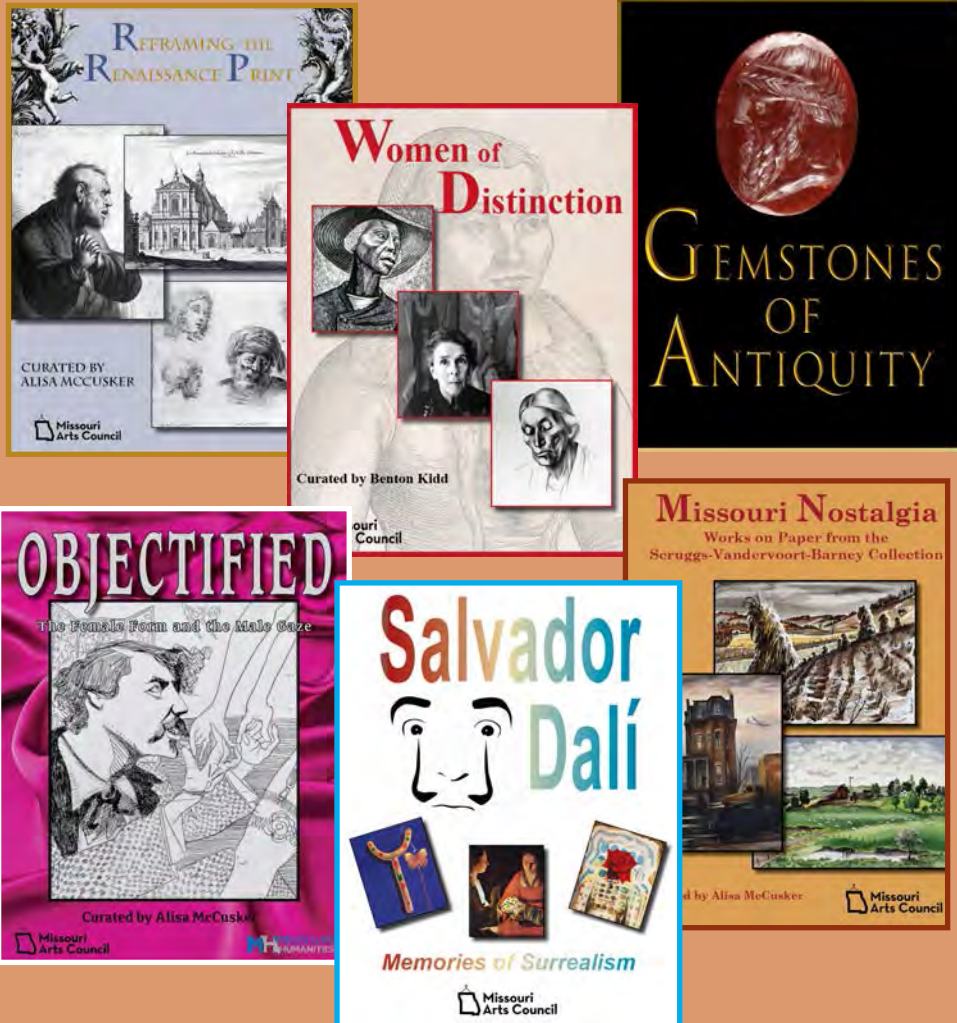
7:30pm April 27- 30 2:00pm April 30 and May 1



MUSEUM OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The Museum is on the MOVE!

While the galleries are CLOSED as the Museum moves to its new location in the lower east level of Ellis Library, explore online exhibitions as well as the collections portal, which offers information and images of every object in the Museum's collection.



The Revolutionists

Welcome to our exciting production of *The Revolutionists* by Lauren Gunderson. Director Dr. Claire Syler and assistant Director alum Raynesha Green, in collaboration with our production design team directed by Mimi Hedges, have created a stunning evening of theatre for you, our dear audience.

I began writing these introductions to our programs when I became Chair almost a decade ago. In that time we have seen so much talent combined with blood, sweat and tears on our stages as we continue to create theatre despite hardship, loss, and the challenges of a global pandemic.

But this time together, sharing laughter and tears, warmth, and compassion is why this work remains deeply important to society—we treasure how we are building community with every aspect of this artistic and academic journey.

As I transition from the role as Chair, I see nothing but a bright future for our department and our dedicated students as they charge ahead into their next chapters. MU Theatre looks forward to our upcoming growth this Fall as we welcome new hires in faculty and staff, a new graduate cohort, and an incoming class of first year undergraduates.

This summer we are thrilled to announce that the Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre will present *AIDA* featuring Symonne Sparks and directed by Scott Koonce on the Rhynsburger stage, and a traveling children's performance directed by Kasey Lynch of *The Cat in the Hat*.

Thank you for helping MU Theatre and the performing arts continue to be stronger and more innovative than ever.

M. Heather Carver,
Artistic Director and Chair

The Revolutionists

A Comedy, a Quartet, a Revolutionary Dream Fugue, a True Story

Written by Lauren Gunderson

DIRECTOR
CLAIRE SYLER

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
RAYNESHA GREEN

COSTUME DESIGNER
MARC W. VITAL II

SCENIC DESIGNER
MIMI HEDGES

LIGHTING DESIGNER
STEVEN MILLER

ASST. LIGHTING DESIGNER
ELLA ILG

STAGE MANAGERS
AVEREY CAMPBELL AND DE'JANNA SCALES-HAND

SOUND DESIGNER
JOE SHIFRIN

DRAMATURG
IRENE GASARAH

Commissioned and first produced by
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

Cast

Olympe de Gouges.....Kasey Lynch
Charlotte Corday.....Abaigeal Uphoff
Marie-Antoinette.....Payton Woodruff
Marianne Angelle.....Chloe Oliphant

Setting: Paris, the Reign of Terror (1793). A safe place, a study, a prison cell, the Tribunal. Then the scaffold.

Intermission: There will be a 10-minute intermission.

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Partial funding for our productions is provided by Chrisha's Fund, an endowment established by her parents in memory of Chrisha L. Siebert, BA, '90.

MU Department of Theatre Faculty

Kevin Brown, Associate Professor
M. Heather Carver, Professor, Department Chair
David Crespy, Professor
Les Gray, Postdoctoral Fellow
Mimi Hedges, Visiting Professor
Joy Powell, Associate Teaching Professor
Claire Syler, Assistant Professor
Marc W. Vital II, Assistant Professor

Post-Performance Conversations

On Friday and Saturday night, join us for a post-performance conversation about the play’s history and production, featuring the following campus voices:

Friday, April 29:

- Dr. Billy Coleman, Kinder Institute Post-Doctoral Fellow
- Raynesha Green, Assistant Director
- Dr. Ilyana Karthas, Associate Professor, History
- Dr. Claire Syler, Assistant Professor, Theatre
- Abaigeal Uphoff, Actress
- Professor Marc Vital, Assistant Professor, Theatre
- Payton Woodruff, Actress

Saturday, April 30

- Irene Gasarah, Dramaturg
- Dr. Maurice Gipson, Vice Chancellor of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity
- Dr. Valerie Kaussen, Associate Professor, French
- Kasey Lynch, Actress
- Chloe Oliphant, Actress
- Dr. Stephanie Shonekan, Associate Dean of the College of A&S, Professor of Music and Black Studies
- Dr. Claire Syler, Assistant Professor, Theatre

Stage Door Club

Your support of the Stage Door Club helps keep the curtain rising on live theatre at Mizzou!

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MU Dept of Theatre, 129 Fine Arts,
University of Missouri, Columbia MO 65211
Thank you!

The Revolutionists Production Crew

Assistant to the Scenic Designer.....	Amanda Clifton
Hair and Makeup Design.....	Jillienne Hayes, Lana Rudloff, De’Janna Scales-Hand
Properties Manager.....	Mimi Hedges
Properties Assistant.....	Ellison Land
Light Board Operator.....	Jodelyn Belew
Sound Board Operator.....	Chloe Fiet
Wardrobe Crew.....	Hannah Fuller, Jake Price, Dacia Slater, Ayanna Taylor
Costume Shop Assistants.....	Harlow Bunten, Ally George, Jill Hays, Mackenzie Miller, Elizabeth Randall, Lana Rudloff, De’Janna Scales-hand
Running Crew.....	Kali Baker, Ethan Durflinger, Kyler Gher, Cheyenne Shepherd, Aeryn Yonke
Electrics Crew.....	Joey Belmore, Trent Bracht, Lin Choi, Angelina Derry, Michael Frimpong, Gabrielle Hochwender, Grayson Nikkel, Clayton Pickens, Adam Rush
Scenic Studio Assistants.....	Eliza Brooks, Robert Dresselhaus, Ellison Land, Jake Price, De’Janna Scales-Hand
Scenic Artist.....	Jake Price

Director's Notes

While rehearsing for this production of *The Revolutionists*, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson was confirmed to the US Supreme Court. As the first Black woman to serve on our nation's highest court, Justice Jackson noted in her confirmation speech: "It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States." Justice Jackson's words remind us that her participation in Western democracy—a social project committed to "liberty for all"—is revolutionary.

Lauren Gunderson's play, *The Revolutionists*, takes audience members into a key event in Western democratic history, the French Revolution. Set in Paris during the Revolution's Reign of Terror in 1793, the play features four female revolutionaries: playwright Olympe de Gouges, Haitian rebel Marianne Angelle, assassin Charlotte Corday, and former Queen of France Marie Antoinette. The play's full title, *The Revolutionists: A Comedy, a Quartet, a Revolutionary Dream Fugue, a True Story*, reveals that the story is rooted in reality and imagination. Olympe de Gouges, Charlotte Corday, and Marie Antoinette were real participants in the French Revolution, just as women like Marianne Angelle really did shape the Haitian Revolution. But, Gunderson's play is also a hypothetical "what if." What if female revolutionaries of varying cultural backgrounds could have come together in *sororité* to think, argue, and imagine a different version of *liberté*?

Liberation, of course, is imagined differently by different people in different contexts. In the play, Marianne envisions liberation for the enslaved people of Saint-Domingue (today's Haiti), while Olympe focuses on female citizenship in the new French Republic. Though neither Marianne's nor Olympe's imagined goal occurs in the play, their revolutionary ideas endured. The people of Haiti won their independence from

France in 1804, and French women won the right to vote in 1944. To imagine is to consider the world otherwise. And from the imaginations of revolutionaries—be they the characters in this play, or girls imagining themselves in roles like supreme court justices—new worlds begin.

—Dr. Claire Syler
Director

Dramaturg's Notes

The history of the French Revolution for me starts with a cube of sugar. As a Nigerian who is studying theatre in the US, experiencing other histories always fascinates me. And as I basked in all that French history had to offer, something went off when I read about the French-run sugar mills and plantations in Saint-Domingue—today's Haiti. Suddenly, it all began to make sense. I grew up on St. Louis sugar cubes and apparently, these sugars were (are) imported into Nigeria from France. France in turn, was a major supplier of the sugar it got from its colony, Saint-Domingue. However, while France was supplying the world with sugar, running various colonies and slave labor camps, they were fighting a revolution back at home that intensified by 1793.

Lauren Gunderson situates this play, *The Revolutionists*, at the peak of the Reign of Terror: where we meet these amazing women at various stages as they struggle to make impacts while staying alive. *The Revolutionists* highlights the voices of women who have been silenced or misunderstood by history. As much as this play is historic, it also gives room

for us to draw on the similarities between 1793 and our present day. As we watch the women live in a world with intense distrust in government, street violence, huge wage gaps (the Estate System), racism (slavery) and sexism, which part of our contemporary world is reflected back? These brave revolutionists have chosen to tackle at least one part of this dysfunction. And if we lived in 1793, which issues would we have taken on?

As you experience *The Revolutionists*, I encourage you to consider how you show up in this “historically-current” piece. A good place to start might be the creation story of our great state, Missouri, and its purchase from France in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Or simply understanding the imagery of the St. Louis flag as it details the state’s relationship to Spain and France. Some of this information I have curated in the lobby to support your experience. However, if you want more access, take a glance at the exclusive website I built for our amazing cast and crew below. Ultimately, I encourage you to indulge your curiosities and feed them!

—Irene Gasarah
Dramaturg

<https://gasirene.wixsite.com/mutherevolutionist/team-1>



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The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

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.

MU Theatre Technical Crew and Staff

Artistic Director.....	Heather Carver
Director of Production.....	Mimi Hedges
Technical Direction.....	Babs Randazzo, Vincente Williams
Head of Costumes.....	Marc W. Vital II
Cutter Draper.....	Lida Aflatoony
Costume Shop Manager.....	Manda Apony-Moriarty
Costume Shop Assistants.....	Harlow Bunten, Ally George, Jill Hays, Mackenzie Miller, Elizabeth Randall, Lana Rudloff, De’Janna Scales-hand, Rose Shirkey
Scenic Studio Assistants.....	Jake Price, Eliza Brooks, Robert Dresselhaus, De’Janna Scales-Hand, Ellison Land, Juan Martinez
Artists-in-Residence.....	Babs Randazzo, Vincente Williams
Academic Advisors.....	Alex Anderson, Jennifer Bloss
Director of Front of House.....	Jabarbara Jennings
Assistant Box Office Manager.....	Josh Saboorizadeh
Box Office Staff.....	Tricia Carver Horner, Raynesha Green, Abby Harpenau, Sydney Hendrickson, Kasey Lynch, Dani Major, Maggie McGrath, Emma Neel, River Pich, Brandon Riley, De’Janna Scales-Hand, Joe Shifrin, Dacia Slater, Abby Uphoff, Payton Woodruff
Business Affairs.....	Pat Garmon
Graphic Design.....	Dory Colbert

Scholarship Recipients 2021-2022

Richard And Patricia Wallace Endowment For The Arts Liza Mahacek, Dacia Slater
Donovan and Peggy Rhynsburger Scholarship Harlow Bunten, De’Janna Scales-Hand
Terry Perkins Comic Actress Scholarship Payton Woodruff
Sol Feinstone Technical Theatre Award Ben Prentiss, Juan Martinez
John Ross Berneche Acting Scholarship Ayanna Taylor
Tom Berenger Acting Scholarship Jack Fulkerson, Raynesha Green
James M. Miller Musical Theatre Scholarship Dacia Slater, Anthony Blatter
Richard M. Hennessy Scholarship Reginald Coleman, Avereey Campbell
Dan Springer Memorial Scholarship Ellison Land, Jake Price
Dr. Marcia Berry Memorial Scholarship Symonne Sparks
Frances McCurdy Memorial Scholarship Brandon Riley
Carla Waal Johns Award Kasey Lynch
MU Theatre Citizenship Award De’Janna Scales-Hand
Curators Scholarship Jodelyn Belew, Joseph Belmore, Anthony Blatter, Peyton Boudouris, Shannon Bradley, Max Bodenhausen, Harlow Bunten, Avereey Campbell, Ryan Cohen, Reginald Coleman, Brayden Corniels, Lucy Ebeling, Hayley Frazer, Michael Frimpong, Jack Fulkerson, Raynesha Green, Alana Hayes, Emily Inman, Kaylah Janssen, Caleb Jared, Hayley Jones, Ellison Land, Liza Mahacek, Juan Martinez, Brittaney Nicholson, Ben Prentiss, Jake Price, Joel Rodriguez, Tinek Robinson-Douglas, Grant Rust, De’Janna Scales-Hand, Dacia Slater, Ayanna Taylor, Justice Thompson, Zach Vajda, Jor’Dan Weatherspoon, Payton Woodruff



Stories matter.

Come experience the ones we tell.

AIDA

Music by Elton John, Lyrics by Tim Rice

Book by Linda Woolverton, Robert Falls, David Henry Hwang

Directed by Scott Koonce

Rhynsburger Theatre, June 23 - July 3

The Cat in the Hat

Based on the Book by Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss)

Adapted and Originally Directed by Katie Mitchell

Director, Kasey Lynch

Studio 4, June 9 - 12



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