



# silent sky

WRITTEN BY  
Lauren Gunderson

DIRECTED BY  
Loriann Schmidt

The **true story** of 19th-century  
astronomer Henrietta Leavitt

Our 2024 season is generously presented by the  
**Erik and Laura Davis Fund**





# CAST

Henrietta Leavitt.....Shilah Tibbits  
 Margaret Leavitt.....Mandi Thompson  
 Peter Shaw.....Rain Holland  
 Arnie Cannon.....Nathalie Reid-Holbrook  
 Willamina Flemming.....Julianna Gibbons



# THE CREW

Director.....Loriann Schimdt  
 Assistant Director.....Laura Davis  
 Stage Manager.....Laura Davis  
 Technical Director.....Nathaniel J. Price  
 Set Design.....Nathaniel J. Price  
 Costumes.....Loriann Schimdt, Jeri  
 Gamaney  
 Props.....Laura Davis  
 Board Operator.....JD Drake-Holbrook  
 Light Design.....Nathaniel J. Price  
 Photography.....Jennifer Johnson  
 Dramaturge.....Jordan Reid  
 Poster.....Andrew Jackson  
 Program.....Lyndon Zaitz  
 Social Media.....Jeff Minden  
 Volunteer Coordinator.....Celeste Guptill  
 Observatory Design/Build.....Gabriel Ramirez  
 Production Manager.....Jennifer Johnson

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## Director's Note

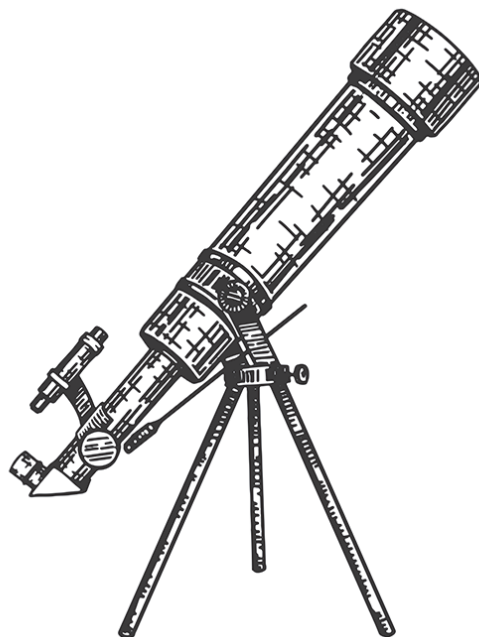


Carl Sagan's *Cosmos* series was not my first impression of the greater universe outside of our solar system, but it was my strongest memory of when I had decided to become an astrophysicist.

Yet my dream seemed impossible as 1 of only 9 women on my entire college campus (engineering and physics college) in the late 1980s. As I dug more deeply into the cosmos, I encountered Henrietta Leavitt about whom very little had been written. And I felt a kindred spirit as a woman fighting to be recognized in a field dominated by men.

When Lauren Gunderson wrote this wonderful historical re-imagining (some details changed for story-telling flow), it immediately took its place atop my bucket list to direct. I'm grateful to Keizer Homegrown Theatre for this chance to tell a "herstory" about these groundbreaking women astronomers.

*Loriann Schmidt*





# Biographies

**Shilah Kahree Tibbits (Henrietta)** grew up in the woods on a mountain in rural northeastern Washington as a deeply feeling, intensely curious being with a bleeding heart and a love for all creatures as well as the avenues of connection between them - especially art. Shilah has always adored the natural world and developed an adamant affection for science in adulthood; they recently earned a Bachelor's of Science at OSU in psychology and writing.

After a long hiatus from theater, KHT gave Shilah a route back into a most beloved form of community and connection for the first time in adulthood. Since 2018 Shilah has enjoyed her roles in *The Tempest*, *Dating: Adults Embracing Failure*, and most recently, *The Book of Will*. Each time, she shared the stage with her late husband, Sam Tibbits. This one is hers. She's filling it with her whole heart and sending it out into the stars.

She wants to once again thank her five small fae creatures masquerading as human children for being gracious enough to share her with the stage, and for the dear loved ones and found family who have been present and supportive during this time; they've made her participation in this opportunity to create and share art possible and it's been the very kindest act of love.



**Mandi Thompson (Margaret)**—This is Mandi's fifth production at Keizer Homegrown Theatre. She was previously seen in *Boeing Boeing*, *The Book of Will*, *Miscast*, and *Happy 10th Birthday KHT*. Other theatres she has worked with are The Sellwood Playhouse (*Scrooge*), Pentacle Theatre (*1984*, *Shrek*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*), and The Salem Theatre Network (*All Together Now*). Some of her favorite roles include The Fairy Godmother (*Shrek*), Gloria (*Boeing Boeing*), Mama Asaka (*Once on this Island*), and Billy Flynn (*Miscast*). Mandi continues to be actively involved as a student of The Salem Playhouse. She wishes to thank all of her friends and family for their continued encouragement and support.



**Rain Holland (Peter)** has been acting since 2018, and most recently acted in Albany Civic Theater's production of *Peter and the Starcatcher*. At Keizer Homegrown Theatre he played Van Helsing in *Dracula* in 2022 and Jo in *Finding Jo March* in 2023. He is also involved in the tech side of things, and has hung lights for a variety of shows for local community theaters. Rain is currently living in Salem with their family and pursuing a career in acting.





# Biographies

**Nathalie Reid-Holbrook (Annie)**— She moved with her family to the Salem area in August 2022. She was most recently seen portraying Aunt Sponge in *James and the Giant Peach* with Enlightened Theatrics and as Phoebe D'Ysquith in the Pentacle Theater's production of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. *Silent Sky* is her first non-musical performance & her stage debut with Keizer Homegrown Theater!



Prior to relocating, Nathalie was heavily involved with the local theaters in Klamath Falls both on and off stage. With the Ross Ragland Theater she served on the Board of Directors and was seen in such varied roles as Wednesday (*The Addams Family*), Fiona & Dragon (*Shrek*), Lucy (*You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*), Jennyanydots & Griddlebone (*Cats*) just to name a few.

Along with many other small stage and cabaret shows, she also served as music director for *Shrek*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Producers* and several children's summer shows and charity events. As a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Music, Nathalie is classically trained in opera and musical theater and is the voice teacher and owner of Lighthouse Vocal Studio.

**Julianna Gibbons (Willamina)**, who has a rewarding job as a high school theater teacher, has appeared in productions at Keizer Homegrown, Pentacle, Albany Civic, and Gallery Theaters. She'd like to thank her wife, Dixie, for the encouragement and support; middle-school astronomy teacher Mr. Hamilton for pointing her eyes toward the sky; Lauren Gunderson, KHT, and Loriann Schmidt for the opportunity to perform this touching, funny play; and the audience for supporting live theater. When not being dramatic, she enjoys camping, fishing, hiking, and visiting national parks.



Media Partner



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**Our 2024 season is made possible, in part, by funding from**

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Joanna Summers



**Upcoming shows**

**June 14-30**  
*Lifespan of a Fact*  
Directed by  
Linda Baker

**August 23-31**  
*Lovecrafted*  
Keizer Homegrown  
Conservatory  
Directed by

**Loriann Schmidt**  
  
**November 1-17**  
*The Thanksgiving Play*  
Directed by  
Nyla McCarthy

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