
THE REVOLUTIONISTS

By Lauren Gunderson

*Produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service*

SETTING: *various locations around Paris, France, 1793, during the Reign of Terror*

SHOW LENGTH: *there will be one 10-minute intermissions.
The show runs for approximately two hours.*

This play is based on historical events, words, and personages.

THE REVOLUTIONISTS

THE CAST (in order of appearance)

Olympe de Gouges, badass playwright
Olympe Understudy
Marianne Angelle, badass freedom fighter
Charlotte Corday, badass assassin
Charlotte Understudy
Marie Antoinette, badass former Queen of France
Marie Antoinette Understudy

Becca Westbrook
Ella Archer
Hannah Lee
Lexi Mecikalski
Rebekah Smith
Brianna Bond
Paige McDonnell

CREATIVE TEAM

Director
Producer/Scenic Designer
Assistant Director
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Costume Designer
Assistant Costume Designer
First Hand/Wig Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Faculty Sound Design Mentor
Props Master
Dramaturg
Board Operators

Scenic Fabrication

Amy Guerin
David Harwell
Katie Bezilla
Melissa "Birdie" Jones
LeAnne Bradford
Nolan Stuessy
Amy Boles
Seth D'Avignon
Kelly McGill
Matt Reynolds
Whitney Leonard
Karen Baker
Emma Watkins
Gail Hetherington
Jace Nixon
Olivia Creager
Ethan Mitchell
Nick Clifton
Stagecraft Students

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Revolutionists is the play that introduced me to the real life playwright Olympe de Gouges (1748-1793) and the historical event that was the Haitian (called Saint-Domingue—pronounced SAN doMANG—during its time as a French colony) Revolution. I have spent my life in the theatre, but had never heard of this woman whose works were produced during her lifetime, and who wrote a scandalous answer to the extremism of the French Revolution called *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and of the Female Citizen*. At a time when the right-wing (a term coined during this period) men who ran the revolution were determined to kill every man, woman, and child who stood in their way (and did), de Gouges dared to challenge them on their hypocrisy with the force of her words.

Similarly, the Haitian Revolution, happening at the same time as the French Revolution, was a challenge by the free and enslaved folks of Haiti to these same revolutionaries to live up to their stated values of *Liberté, Égalité, and Fraternité* (Liberty, Equality, and Brotherhood.) That the French chose to continue to oppress Haiti through warfare should come as no surprise to those who know and understand history. What is surprising is that the Haitians won—and became the first independent Black state in the Western Hemisphere—and against Napoleon, no less, by then the Emperor of France. The victory, however, came at a terrible cost. Napoleon told the Haitian leadership that he would end the French occupation and warfare, but only if Haiti paid the French slaveholders for their lost income. The Haitian leadership agreed to this Faustian bargain, and the debt they owed, calculated in today's dollars at \$560 million, financially incapacitated the young country. We see the results of this past usury in the poverty of today's Haiti.

That I was never taught this history—either of this groundbreaking playwright, or of this just victory with an unjust result—is the reason that I wanted to direct this play. It also happens to be the funniest, most feminist, and most uplifting play about the necessity of speaking truth to power, even if speaking this truth costs you your life, that I have ever read. Bringing this play to life has been a revelation to me as a theatre director. I hope that you take from it what Olympe, Marianne, Charlotte, and Marie, would want you to take—that courage comes in many different forms and that words are more powerful than any man.

It is my privilege to be a part of this company and my honor to present our work to you.

For Killian Brooke, my joyful heart, and to Matt Carey: super tremendous.



Amy Guerin, Director

THE CAST



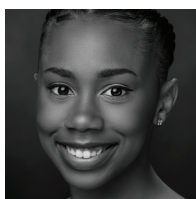
BECCA WESTBROOK

Becca is an Alumna of the UAH Theatre Program. They have been involved in many UAH productions, some of their favorites including Diane in *Hurricane Diane*, Agnes in *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms*, Hanna in *La Cage Aux Folles*, Actor B in *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again*, and Student 4 (Nurse/Tybalt) in *Shakespeare's R&J*. They have also done work with Huntsville Shakespeare and Unto These Hills Outdoor Drama, and are a registered Actor Combatant with the SAFD. Becca is excited to be working with this wonderful cast and crew, and happy to be back on stage with their Alma Mater.



ELLA ARCHER

Ella Archer is a freshman here at UAH pursuing a double major in Aerospace Engineering and French Language and Culture. She participated in both the performance and technical aspects of theatre in high school and is thrilled to be continuing this passion in college. Her favorite projects include being a featured ensemble member *Bright Star*, the Drunk/Train Conductor/French Reporter in *Anastasia*, and directing and producing a children's show. She is very excited about the opportunity to be part of *The Revolutionists* and cannot wait for an audience to experience the emotion, laughter, and joy she sees everyday during rehearsal.



HANNAH LEE

Hannah is a Junior here at UAH. She has done small roles growing up in her local churches, but her first appearance in a show, was as an ensemble member in an opera titled *Dido and Aeneas*, produced here in Morton Blackbox Theatre. Hannah has also performed with Huntsville Shakespeare, where she played the roles of Moth and Boyet in Shakespeare's *Love Labour's Lost*. She loves acting and is very dedicated to growing and strengthening her craft. She is so excited for the opportunity to portray such a powerful character and work with really great people in *The Revolutionists*, and she hopes everyone comes out to see it.



LEXI MECIKALSKI

Lexi is an alumna of UAH, where she received her Bachelor's in Theatre and Psychology, along with her Master's in Psychology. During her time with the UAH Theatre Department, Lexi performed in a number of productions, including *Revolt*. *She Said*. *Revolt Again*, *Dr. Faustus*, and *Proof*. She also enjoyed working as the Stage Manager for UAH Theatre's production of *Grounded*, and serving as an Assistant Stage Manager for Huntsville Shakespeare's production of *Twelfth Night*. Lexi is incredibly grateful and excited to have the opportunity to perform in another UAH Theatre production!



REBEKAH SMITH

Rebekah is a double creative writing and theatre major. Her first production was the kids version of *Aladdin* where she was one of the main dancers. This production solidified her love of theatre and ultimately led to her making it a minor. While performing in UAH's production of *Our Town* during the fall of 2021, she started debating on making theatre her major. She is excited to say that it is now a double major alongside her other love of creative writing, and is looking forward to the next couple of years of classes within two of her favorite things. She is beyond excited about participating in the production of *The Revolutionists* this fall here at UAH, and encourages everyone to enjoy the show.



BRIANNA BOND

Brianna Bond got her BA in Performing Arts from the University of South Alabama. She made her television debut as a body for the gameshow *The Cube* and spent this past March filming season two. She also toured with the National Theatre for Children in 2018. She has done multiple shows for community theatre. Previous appearances on a Huntsville stage include *Things My Mother Taught Me* as Olivia, *Mamma Mia* as Lisa, *School House Rock Live!* as Dori (in which she was nominated for a Wings Award), *Always A Bridesmaid* as Kari and Vanya, *Sonia*, *Masha*, & *Spike*, as Cassandra. She is honored to be in this cast and grateful for the ability to work with her talented cast mates. She also thanks God for this opportunity and her family and friends for their constant encouragement.

THE CAST



PAIGE MCDONNELL

Paige is excited to be a part of *The Revolutionists* at UAH. She has previously worked with Theatre Huntsville as an ASM for *Steel Magnolias*, as tech crew for *A Christmas Story*, Max Mirowski in *Things My Mother Taught Me*, and various roles in *Dreamgirls*. She went from doing zero shows for over a decade to participating in as many shows as possible, and she is grateful to all of the directors who have given her these opportunities.



Dido and Aeneas

Fall 2021 – UAH Theatre

CREATIVE TEAM



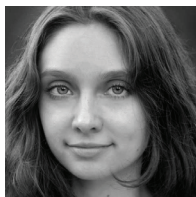
AMY GUERIN – DIRECTOR

Amy Guerin is a faculty member with the UAH Theatre Program. Amy is also the co-founder and co-Artistic Director of Huntsville Shakespeare. She previously taught at Texas A&M University. In 2009, Amy's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a collaboration with A&M's Department of Computer Science & Engineering showcasing flying fairy robots alongside human actors, was featured in *Wired Magazine*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and on *NPR*, and *NBC News*. She has also directed *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Conduct of Life*, *Bus Stop*, *Measure for Measure*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Tartuffe*, *Machinal*, *I and You*, *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *tempOdyssey*, *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms*, *Oh The Humanity*, *And Other Good Intentions*, *Our Town*, and *Love's Labour's Lost*. Amy received her BFA in Theatre from the University of Oklahoma, and her MFA in Directing from the University of Houston.



DAVID HARWELL – PRODUCER/SCENIC DESIGNER

David is a Huntsville native and the Director of the Theatre Program at UAH. He received his BFA in theatre at the University of Montevallo and his MFA in scene design from the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana. After many years of working in professional theater, he returned to Huntsville and started teaching at UAH in 2005. He is grateful for his colleagues and students who share their deep love of the theatre and who risk it all to pursue this thrilling, dangerous and life-changing work. for his colleagues and students who share their deep love of the theatre and who risk it all to pursue this thrilling, dangerous and life-changing work.



KATIE BEZILLA – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Katie is a Huntsville native and has been at UAH since 2019. She started acting in film in 2020 and has since joined UAH Theatre. After graduation, she hopes to continue acting in film and eventually be a writer and director. Outside of school, Katie enjoys spending time with her friends and family, being involved in church, and playing with her grumpy gray-tabby cat “Hazel” and “Sadie,” her new puppy who frequently has the zoomies.



MELISSA “BIRDIE” JONES – STAGE MANAGER

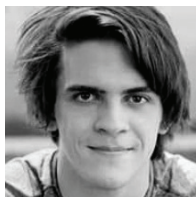
Birdie is a life-long student of the performing arts and this production is a homecoming for her. She started her theatrical adventures in 2011 at UAH! In the summer of 2012, she traveled to the Mountainside Theatre in Cherokee NC to serve as Assistant Stage Manager for *Unto These Hills*. In 2014, she was hired by the Huntsville Ballet Company, serving six seasons as their Production Stage Manager and Lighting Designer. She also served a two year stint as the Production Manager at Theatre Huntsville from 2020-2022. Birdie also works professionally with many arts organizations around the city including the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theatre, and Arts Huntsville. When not making cue sheets and chasing performing artists, she enjoys baking and drinking entirely too much coffee. She sends love and gratitude to her wonderful partners, to Amy, and to David... who is really to blame for all this.



LEANNE BRADFORD – ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

LeAnne Bradford is a sophomore theatre major. This is her first production with UAH, but has enjoyed theatre since elementary school. Her decision to pursue a career in theatre came after she missed working in her high school's theatre productions for 4 years. She worked on the Huntsville Ballet Company's production of *The Firebird* in spring of 2022. LeAnne is excited and grateful for the opportunity to work in *The Revolutionist* and can't wait for future shows!

CREATIVE TEAM



NOLAN STUESSY – ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Nolan Stuessy is a student at UAH. He has had various roles and tech positions with UAH Theatre and Huntsville Shakespeare over the past year and is excited to work on this show as an assistant stage manager.



AMY BOLES – COSTUME DESIGNER

Amy Boles is a Costume/Fashion Industry professional. She attended the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in San Francisco and Los Angeles, where she earned degrees in Fashion Design and Apparel Manufacturing Management. Amy has designed costumes for the mass market under labels of Storybook Heirlooms, Celebrate Express, Chasing Fireflies and Fun.com.



SETH D'AVIGNON – ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Seth is a senior at the University of Alabama in Huntsville majoring in theatre. He has worked on previous UAH productions such as *She Kills Monsters* and *Everyman*. Seth is very excited to work on the show and is thankful for the experience. Evelyn, James, and Kiwi, for putting up with their random disappearances to go work in the creepiest parts of the theater annex.



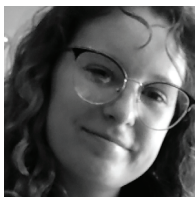
KELLY MCGILL – FIRST HAND/WIG DESIGNER

Kelly earned a BFA from West Virginia University in 2005 where she trained under Peggy McKowen. She has worked in costume shops as a stitcher and as a touring wardrobe technician for several shows. Among her credits are Cirque Du Soliel touring, Broadway touring, Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Feld Entertainment, international ballet, and many more. Kelly is a member of the film workers union IATSE 479. She is a big believer in the true meaning of Halloween and the Great Pumpkin and that every child deserves the chance to be in high-quality zombie makeup at least once in their lives. She's deeply grateful to her supportive husband, and is sure the toddler will prove useful at some point.



MATT REYNOLDS – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Matt Reynolds serves as Assistant Professor of Lighting, Sound, & Digital Design at The University of Alabama. In addition to UA, New Mexico State University, Michigan State University (M.F.A. '12), and Indiana University (B.A. '08), his work has been enjoyed internationally at Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Casa de la Cultura de Tulum; Off-Broadway at 59E59 Theatre and Anita's Way; and regionally at Horizon Theatre, Red Mountain Theatre Company, and Phoenix Theatre, among others. Matt has also designed for fantastic choreographers such as George Pinney, Jin Wen Yu, Shoko Tamai, Bella Lewitzky, Debra Knapp, Sherrie Barr, and Iris Rosa. Matt strives through theatrical design to amplify marginalized voices and tell compelling stories. As an instructor, Matt encourages experimentation, self-reflection, and most importantly, play. Matt dedicates his life to his loving wife of 20 years, Mollie, and his kids Lucy and Hugo.



WHITNEY LEONARD – SOUND DESIGNER

Whitney is a Senior student majoring in Theatre Technology & Design at UAH emphasis on Sound Design. She has worked and designed several different shows here at UAH including some of her favorites; *Mr. Burns*, *La Cage aux Folles*, and *Hurricane Diane*. She plans on moving to Texas, with her dog (who she loves very much), after she graduates in December.



KAREN BAKER – SOUND MENTOR

Karen Baker is a Full Time Lecturer at the University of Alabama Huntsville. She received her MFA in Directing from The University of Alabama. Some of her favorite projects include: *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Dr. Faustus*, *Eurydice*, *City of Angels*, *Children of Eden*, and *Fefu and her Friends*.



GAIL HETHERINGTON – DRAMATURG

Gail is a Theatre Performance and English major at UAH. Gail's previous UAH Theatre roles include Messenger/Doctor in *Everyman*, Tilly Evans in *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms*, Anne in *La Cage Aux Folles*, and Last Day Girl in *tempODYSSEY*, and outside of UAH, Gail has been in shows such as Huntsville Shakespeare's *Othello*, AMT's *Xanadu*, and The Whole Backstage's *High School Musical*. Gail would like to thank family, friends, Trixie the cat, and everyone from McCoy's Taekwondo America for all their support.

SPECIAL THANKS:

Rachel Lynn Moore, for the cover of "Blaze of Glory"

Lauren Gunderson, for the answers to our questions

Kailey Burkhardt, for all the things

Ron Guthrie

Adrienne West

Jenny Clifton-Russell



Our Town

Fall 2021 – UAH Theatre

OUR DONORS: JAN. 2021 – OCT. 2022

ANGEL	Ms. Claudia G. Conn Dr. Christine Curtis and Mr. Larry Curtis Huntsville Ballet (Community Ballet Association) Huntsville Literary Association Ms. Patricia Kiley Mr. Thomas E. Rhamstine and Ms. Maria Lofgren Rhamstine Ms. Jodi Stephens
SHOWSTOPPER	Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey N. Nelson
PRODUCER	Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Altenkirch Ms. Miriam Deal Dr. Rolf J. Goebel Mr. Stewart King
DIRECTOR	Mr. Samuel M. Gillis Ms. Karessa Acosta Lee Mr. Johnny Sumner Ms. Emily Vandiver Anonymous Donor
CAST	Drs. Lynn and Stephen Edmondson Anonymous Donor
CHORUS	Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Boswell Ms. Sabrina Boswell Mr. Charles Dutch Mr. and Mrs. William Goodwyn Anonymous Donor

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ABOUT UAH THEATRE



UAH Theatre is an entrepreneurial, pre-professional training program that works to put you in charge of your career within the entertainment industry. Our curriculum is based on making you an artist who can create your own opportunities, rather than waiting for jobs to find you. We are a small, but actively growing program, and because of that, our majors aren't sectioned off into "actors only," "designers only," "stage managers only," etc. UAH Theatre majors learn how to be good at everything, which means you have maximum employability once you graduate. Our majors also start working from the first semester of their freshman year.

UAH Theatre produces four plays a season, including a musical, and we collaborate very closely with the UAH Music Department. Our curriculum for majors includes 39 hours – 24 hours of core courses, 9 hours of an emphasis (design/technology, performance, or dramaturgy), and 6 hours of electives. We also offer a minor that encompasses 24 hours of core courses and electives.

As a program, we function like a company, with everyone working together on each production, and class sizes are small and student-centered. We take pride in being on a first-name basis with each other.

Scholarships are available and there is a competitive application process that happens at the start of each school year.

Would you like to know more about being a Theatre major or minor at UAH? Email us at theatre@uah.edu, or check out our website at uah.edu/theatre.



uahtheatre

ABOUT UAH MUSIC



The Department of Music at UAH seeks to provide a program of superior quality, where all students are given the opportunity to experience music as an academic discipline and as an art form. Its academic courses foster in students an understanding of music as an art and the appreciation of the best in music literature in order to enhance and enrich their lives. Its ensembles and performance-related curricula expose students to the artistic and communicative values of music.

UAH's Department of Music prepares musicians for careers as performers, educators, composers, church musicians, and music industry professionals. We enable all students, regardless of major, to pursue the art and beauty of music while honing the interpersonal and communication skills vital to every career.

Noted for quality instruction by nationally and internationally renowned faculty, and an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music, the Department offers eight music programs, performance ensembles, and over 150 music performances each year. The Faculty of the Department of Music strives to provide leadership in artistic endeavors as well as cultural enrichment within the academic community and the participation in regional, national, and international forums.

So whether you are a current or prospective student, a curious amateur musician, or a community appreciator of music, let your voice be heard at UAH.

Would you like to know more about being a Music major or minor at UAH? Email us at music@uah.edu, or check out our website at uah.edu/music.



uahmusic



Hurricane Diane
Spring 2020– UAH Theatre