

SILENT SKY

A TRUE STORY OF ASTRONOMICAL EXPLORATION

HISTORICAL DRAMA

SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 11

PARKER
THEATRE

SILENT SKY

Lauren Gunderson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James B. Parker

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Spencer Hohl

DIRECTED BY

Joanne Parker

STAGE MANAGER

"G" Maughan

SET & LIGHTING DESIGN

James B. Parker

COSTUME DESIGN

Paige Burton

SOUND DESIGN

Spencer Hohl

PROPERTIES BY

Erin Oliphant

HAIR & MAKEUP

Hillary McChesney

Light and Sound Tech

Elizabeth Greenwood

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS

ANNUAL SPONSORS

The George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles
Foundation ZAP Salt Lake County
Utah Division of Arts & Museums
Sorenson Legacy Foundation
The HAMSAM Foundation
SPAN Foundation
Pack Solvers
XMISSION

THE PARKER THEATRE BOARD

Michael Hohl

BOARD CHAIR

James Parker

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brinton Wilkins

Todd Perkins

SECRETARY

Tyler Hanson

Rich Eggett

MacKenzie Skye Pederson

Alison Jensen

John Holmgren

Alissa Udy

Matt Quinney

Scotty Halls

Pete Ashdown

Greg Hansen

STAFF

Executive Director

James Parker

Chief Ops Officer

Paul Peterson

Founding Director

Joanne Parker

Artistic Director

Spencer Hohl

Operations Manager

Missy Smith Stebbing

House Manager

Sarah Stillman

Production Manager

Lucas Charon

Marketing Manager

Olivia Simmons

Soda Fountain Manager

Amy Richardson

DIRECTORS NOTE

It has been an incredible experience bringing this powerful and technical story to the stage. I've always had a love for astronomy—so much so that it's become a family joke that my dream is to work for NASA. Unfortunately, my lack of skill in trigonometry has kept me firmly on Earth. Through Silent Sky, I've been able to connect with the wonder of the stars in a new way.

This play takes place over the years of 1906 to 1921. Henrietta's story forever changed the way we measure the universe. At a time when women at Harvard weren't allowed to look through a telescope, her wit, intellect, and relentless passion helped shift the trajectory of astronomy itself. In fact, her groundbreaking research directly paved the way for the creation of the Hubble Telescope.

Working on this show has been both humbling and inspiring. The courage, humor, and dedication of these women remind us that curiosity and determination can reach beyond any barrier. Together, this cast and I have taken a journey into the stars—and now we invite you to join us, and to see the universe through Henrietta's eyes.

Joanne Parker

SUMMARY

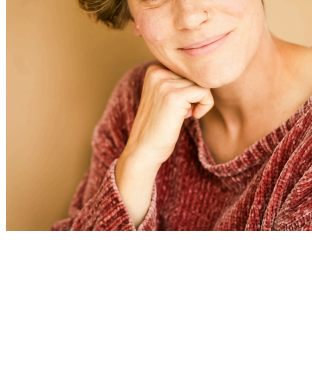
A compelling and uplifting theatrical experience that celebrates the courage, intellect, and resilience of Henrietta Leavitt and the women who defied societal expectations to reach for the stars. Through its blend of scientific discovery, personal narrative, and historical context, the play invites theatergoers to embark on a journey of exploration, inspiration, and discovery on stage.

CAST



EMMA WIDTFELDT HENRIETTA LEAVITT

Emma is so excited to be performing in her second show at the Parker Theater! Favorite stage credits include: Cigarette Girl/Fern in The Sting (Parker), Catherine in The Foreigner (Hale Orem), Topper's Girl in The Christmas Carol (Hale Orem), Mrs. Parker in Catch Me If You Can (Hale Sandy), and Lina Lamont in Singin' In the Rain (Playmill). Big thanks to her family and friends for all the love and support! "Wonder will always get us there!"



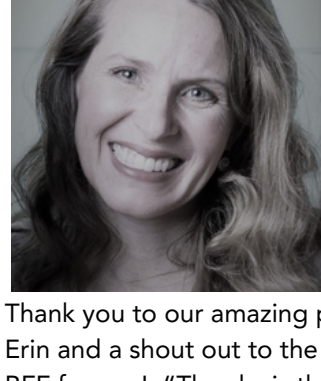
JALYN BENDER MARGARETTE LEAVITT

Jalyn is making her Parker Theatre debut and is absolutely ecstatic to be working with such a talented group of people. Her most recent credits in the Salt Lake Valley include Grumpy in Seven the Parody Musical with Courage Theatre, and Ensemble in Elf the Musical with Centerpoint Theatre. Jalyn holds a BFA in Acting and Directing from Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. For Aidan and Sidney—her real life Samuel and Michael.



HILLARY MCCHESNEY WILLIAMINA FLEMING

Hillary first performed in with Parker Theatre in Sleeping Beauty back in the City Rep days. Theatre has always been a passion for Hillary, mainly because it brings so many wonderful people into her life. The cast and pro team of Silent Sky rank among the most cherished. The story of these remarkable women has come to life in such capable hands. Williamina instantly became a new heroine in the McChesney household. Hillary's family is her pride and joy (and headache and challenge) and has been instrumental in encouraging her stage endeavours. Though she may not be wearing the tartan, she hopes to do the clan proud. Darach Cumhachdach!



EMILY PARKER HOLMGREN ANNIE CANNON

Emily is thrilled to be part of Silent Sky cast at the Parker. Being part of a theater family growing up meant learning all elements of the trade- music, acting, dancing, directing, technical skills, administration and props. Emily has participate in over 60 productions and has performed in many venues in Salt Lake including the Promise Valley Playhouse, the Historic Utah Theater, Symphony Hall, Kingsbury Hall, Capital Theater, WVA, and more.

Thank you to our amazing production team - Joanne, Jim, Spencer, Paige, Garan, Erin and a shout out to the best cast members EVER-Hillary, Julyn, Will and Emma. BFF forever! "The sky is the limit." A shoutout to my brilliant husband Nels and Her five children that are her greatest productions!



WILLIAM MCALLISTER PETER SHAW

Will is a big fan of telling stories. Working together with a group of dedicated people to help tell a tale -- there is just nothing else like it. Some of Will's recent roles include Harpo Hart in Kirby Saxton's miniseries Four Kings, Farmer McGregor in Cherie Julander's Beatrix Potter Must Die, and the Pale Face Killer in Witching Season Films' most recent feature, He Never Left. Will is massively grateful to his incredible wife, Zel, for being ever-supportive as he runs about from film shoot to theater stage in order to scratch his storytelling itch.

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR



JOANNE PARKER

Joanne M. Parker is the founding Artistic Director of the Utah Children's Theatre, now Parker Theatre founded 1985. Over the past 40 years, she has written over 100 plays and directed over 200. An original member of The Children's Dance Theatre under the direction of Virginia Tanner. Received a scholarship to Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Utah in 1970. She is also a composer and author of lyrics for several children's award-winning songs and plays including the Governor's Limelight Award

specifically for "her encouragement of young people participating in the performing arts and the opportunities given them to develop their talent." Also co-writer star shows, Hansen Planetarium, playwright and director for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints productions. Recipient of two Best of State Awards for Playwriting and Best Children's Theatre. She is the mother of 5, grandmother of 23 and great grandmother of 4.

STAGE MANAGER



"G" MAUGHAN

G has been in theater for most of his life, he started out young on the stage at 5, and never stopped! Somewhere around the high school years, he discovered the man behind the curtain and fell in love with the technical work of the backstage. He is currently studying towards a career in Recreational Therapy. G has found a home with The Parker Theatre and he would like to thank his whole community, the Parker Family, and his own Family for their support in life, and help in pursuing his theatrical passions! He hopes you enjoy Macbeth!

SET & LIGHTING DESIGN



JAMES B. PARKER

In addition to playing countless roles as an actor, James has been designing lights and building sets since for what feels like...most of his life. Starting way back in the City Rep days at the old Utah Theatre, through the Utah Children's Theatre years, and now the Parker Theatre. In addition to sets and lighting, James has designed and remodeled the historic Avalon Theatre along with the Soda Fountain Shop and Studio. James is the Executive Director of the Parker Theatre.

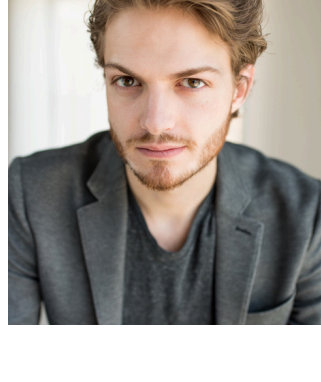
COSTUME DESIGN



PAIGE WILSON

Of the many, many thousands of words in the English language, there are few that bring a costumer more joy than "Imagine a pagan priestess, but grimmer". With those words, Macbeth was set to be stunning from the beginning. Paige is thrilled to be working on yet another Parker Shakespeare production, and has had a lot of fun with this one! When she's not sewing, taking measurements, or painting mud onto dresses, she can be found baking or watching Bob's Burgers for the 800th time this year. A big thank you to the cast for being an absolute delight to work with, to her husband for keeping her loved and fed, and to Rebecca for the memes and good cheer.

SOUND DESIGN



SPENCER HOHL

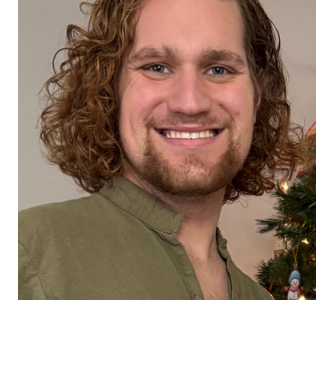
Spencer has created the music and sound effects for several productions at the Parker Theatre - including Emma, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Christmas Carol and many others. Spencer also serves the Associate Artistic Director at the Parker.

PROPERTIES



ERIN OLIPHANT

Erin has done many productions at Parker Theater, and is thrilled to be working with them again. For 16 years she has volunteered in various capacities with the Herriman Children's Theater program. By day, Erin can be found teaching reading groups at a local elementary school. She loves managing props as a local outlet and opportunity to mingle with amazing new people. Erin appreciates the support of her sweet husband and seven awesome kids.



"G" MAUGHAN

G has been in theater for most of his life, he started out young on the stage at 5, and never stopped! Somewhere around the high school years, he discovered the man behind the curtain and fell in love with the technical work of the backstage. He is currently studying towards a career in Recreational Therapy. G has found a home with The Parker Theatre however, and is honored to present Macbeth for you as the Booth Operator. He would like to thank his whole community, the Parker Family, and his own Family for their support in life, and help in pursuing his theatrical passions! He hopes you enjoy Macbeth!

HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN



HILLARY MCCHESNEY

So, you want your hair done? Your wig styled? Hillary is your girl, especially if it's a coif from another century! She started arranging hair the minute her little sister would allow it and always loves learning new techniques. She is delighted to work on Silent Sky before turning her brushes and bobby pins to Pride and Prejudice at CenterPoint Theatre later this season.

Ready For a Special Treat?

Stop by the soda fountain before the show or at intermission!

SILENT SKY SPECIALTY MENU

Vanilla Sky Soda

French Vanilla with hints of Amaretto and White Chocolate

Moon Cake

Reminiscent of the classic moon pie, Chocolate Cake with Chocolate buttercream

with Vanilla Bean cake and vanilla buttercream in the center topped with mini chocolate chips

Night Sky Candy Mix

Black chocolate covered peanuts with White Italian Almonds

Starlight Mint Brownie Sundae

Homemade brownies, with our house-made Hot fudge with Starlight mint ice cream

Stary Pecan Clusters

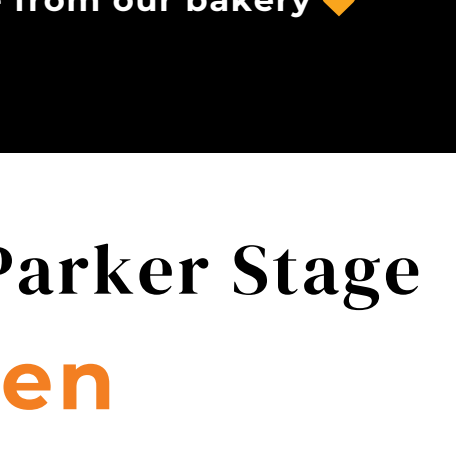
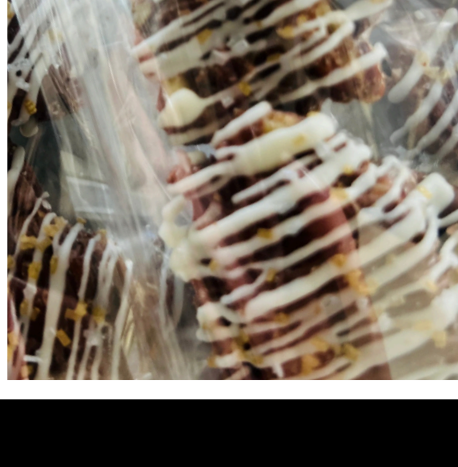
Carmel, milk chocolate, pecans, with sea salt, white chocolate drizzle and sparkle sprinkles

Constellation Crunch

Black Pepper Parmesan Chips, Rosemary and Russet Potato chips, honey roasted nuts,

buttery Sea-salt Chex crunch, Dark Chocolate covered Pistachios, dark chocolate

pomegranate, pretzel thins, and Milk chocolate covered pretzels



Always made with love from our bakery ♥

Next on the Parker Stage

The Women in Black

Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt

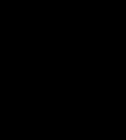
The framework of this spine tingler is unusual: a lawyer hires an actor to tutor him in recounting to family and friends a story that has long troubled him concerning events that transpired when he attended the funeral of an elderly recluse. There he caught sight of the woman in black, the mere mention of whom terrifies the locals, for she is a specter who haunts the neighborhood where her illegitimate child was accidentally killed.

Anyone who sees her dies! The lawyer has invited some friends to watch as he and the actor recreate the events of that dark and stormy night. A classic of the genre. "The most brilliantly effective spine-chiller you will ever encounter!"(Daily Telegraph)

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

THRILLER

OCTOBER 18 - NOVEMBER 1



Friends of The Parker!

Thank you to our individual sponsors! The Parker Theatre is a non-profit organization and donations from individuals help us continue to produce captivating performances

Melany Wilkins
Allison Peterson
Heather Bowen
James Wilson
Leslie Tingey
Doris Larsen
Mandi Marks
Tawnee McCay
JoLynn Bell
Brenda Hales
Barbara Svee
Joshua Shimizu
Tiffany Swaner
Nedra Carroll

Jean Bourne
Jane Pigott
Suzanne Moore
Randy Malan
Kris Redford
Eileen Moss
Glenn Dyer
Paul Erickson
Kent Prior
Missy Dawson
Marva Kleine
Mallory Evers
Stacey Thompson

John Wilbanks
Bethany Whipple
Jana Cox
Russell Warne
Elizabeth McCreary
Julie Smith
Debbie Dee Conger
Ronald Houston
Lawrence Hancock
Clifford Fisher
Mark Stahmann
Clark Bullen
Carrie Drown

We would love to hear your thoughts of the show!

