



HOPE
REPERTORY
THEATRE

JULY 6 - 15
2023

NATURAL SHOCKS



NATURAL SHOCKS

By Lauren Gunderson

Jack Miller Recital Hall



HOPE *REPERTORY THEATRE* **IS FOR EVERYONE**

CAST AND CREW

Angela DeAnna S. Wright*

Understudy Tia Hockenhull

**Appearing courtesy of Actors Equity Association*

Director Michelle Aguillon
Scenic Designer Leazah Behrens
Costumes Designer Michelle Aguillon
Lighting Designer Amber Whatley
Assistant Lighting Designer Natalie Stringham
Sound Designer Adiah Hicks
Props Supervisor Adrianna Nelson
Scenic Charge Artist Rebecca Conaway
Stage Manager Jennifer Lowe
Rehearsal Asst. Stage Manager Hope Still
Rehearsal Asst. Stage Manager (Swing) Harriet Carr
Wardrobe Supervisor Amy E. Mills
Crew Hope Still, Joi'anna Partee

Run Time: approximately 70 minutes, there will be NO intermission.

CONTENT WARNING

A non-firing/prop firearm is featured in *Natural Shocks*, as well as references to domestic abuse, gun violence, and adult language. We encourage you to visit the resource table in the lobby to make use of any material you may find useful in processing this performance.

Marcus D. Johnson
Artistic Director

Staci Timmer
Managing Director

Lenny Banovez
Producing Director

Hope is for everyone!

Last August when we stepped onstage to announce our 51st Season and the rebranding of the theatre, we recommitted ourselves as a company to serve this community by making good art. Good art is so many things, but it isn't always easy to digest. In fact, perhaps it shouldn't be. Perhaps we shouldn't be so easily swayed by a gorgeous song or powerful monologue.

As we advance as a company and in pursuit of making good art, we speak in draft. Nicole Brewer is an advocate for anti-racist theatre and defines "speaking in draft" as conversations built on an understanding that nothing is final, that our ideas and solutions are always evolving and growing.

Speaking in draft embraces the truth of the moment, while leaving space for change, growth, and other truths. Nicole challenges theatre artists to "speak in draft" at the core of the creative process. Speaking in draft is also at the heart of the work we do at Hope Rep. We value a play's ability to make us think, feel, think, articulate, reflect, question and explore. We also value your ability as a community to push us to further growth and change.

Perhaps good art is the kind of art that prompts you to speak in draft. Perhaps it is the art that requires a full heart, deep reflection, revision, rearticulation, and continued action. As we continue to embrace the adage, "Hope is for everyone" we want to thank you for challenging us, growing with us, trusting us, and showing us your unwavering support.

Hope Rep is in the early stages of developing a strategic plan that will allow us to maintain our commitment to entertain, engage, and educate. We are strengthening our education and outreach programs, expanding beyond the summer season and continuing to produce plays and musicals of the highest quality. We cannot go on this journey without you, our loyal supporters and passionate theater-goers!

Thank you all for making Hope Rep for everyone!
Sincerely,
Marcus and Staci

"Speak in draft." – Nicole Brewer – Conscientious Theatre Training



Who's Who



DEANNA S.
WRIGHT



Michelle Aguilillon
Director

I wanted to express my gratitude to Marcus Johnson, Hope Rep's Artistic Director, Lenny Banovez, Hope Rep's Producing Director, and to the entire Hope Rep company for having me back this summer. I am incredibly honored to work with these artists, designers, and production team.

Natural Shocks was a natural fit for me as a director. It evokes self-empowerment, redemption, and grappling with self-truths. Based on Shakespeare's famous "To be or not to be" soliloquy from Hamlet, Lauren Gunderson has written this tour de force, one-woman play.

Our actor, DeAnna Wright, and her understudy, Tia Hockenhull, has taken this play by the reins with their bodies, hearts, and souls. Our journey together during rehearsals was not taken lightly given the heavy source material. We formed bonds during rehearsals ensuring there was trust, kindness, and space for each other. From that comes this powerful, brutally honest, surprisingly funny, piece. There are quirky stories, confessions, a tornado, and reckonings – sorry to be vague here, but I'll let our heroine, Angela, tell you.

Who's Who Cast & Crew

DEANNA S WRIGHT* (*Angela*) is an actor/artist/educator brought up in High Springs, FL. Her educational journey includes a BA in Theatre from the University of Florida and an MFA from FSU Asolo Conservatory, where she also currently resides as a Visiting Professor of Theatre. DeAnna's work as an artist spans through theatre, film, and rhythmic afro movement. Some of DeAnna's past credits as a theatre artist include Sophie Washington in *Flyin' West* (Quintessence Theatre, Phila., PA), Jane Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice* (Creede Rep - Creed, CO), Cassandra in *Sender* (Urbanite Theatre SRQ, FL) and Macy in *The Cake* (Asolo Rep SRQ, FL). DeAnna has also found recent success in film and television, in addition to devising her own works in collaboration with other art makers. Text Work/Technique coach for Asolo Conservatory theatre productions is another exciting endeavor contributing to DeAnna's growing artistic repertoire. DeAnna is thrilled to be joining Hope Repertory's summer season. "

TIA HOCKENHULL (*Angela Understudy*) is new to the professional theatre world. She has been involved with school and community theatre from the age of 10 until present. She has spent the last 4 years performing with the theatre, dance, and vocal departments of Hope College. Her summers were spent working in the chemistry department at Hope, and taking classes at the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts. BA: Hope College.

MICHELLE M. AGUILLON (*Director/ Costume Designer*) (she/her/hers) is excited to be invited to join Hope Rep again after directing *Hold These Truths* by Jeanne Sakata for its 50th Season last summer. Michelle is an Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) theater artist who has worked in the Boston area for more than 25 years. Michelle recently directed the world premiere of *Middleton Heights* by Hortense Gerardo, a play about a Filipino immigrant family in Cleveland, for the Umbrella Stage Company in Boston. Other directing credits include *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* by Lynn Nottage, *Dracula, a Feminist Revenge Fantasy* and *Sense and Sensibility* by Kate Hamill, *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson, *The Joy Luck Club*, *Clybourne Park*, *of Mice and Men*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Disgraced*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *True West*, and *Passion* by Stephen Sondheim. Michelle produces, writes, and directs for the Annual Asian-American Playwright Collective Play Festival (2020-2022), including this year's at the Starlight Square Theater in Cambridge, MA. Michelle also directed *The Walking Plays* (Lyric Stage), Boston Resilience Project Plays: East Boston, *Nos Vemos* (Speakeasy Theater), *Augusta and Noble* (Emerson Stage), *Vietgone* (Company One Theater), and *Proof* (with an Asian cast at Central Square Theater). Michelle won Best Costume Design for *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall at the 2021 American Association of Community Theaters Annual

Who's Who Cast & Crew

Festival. She received her theatre education at San Francisco State University, California State University at Long Beach, and at the National Theater of London.

LEAZAH BEHRENS (*Scenic designer*) is a freelance scenic designer in the Minneapolis, MN area. This is Leazah's first design with Hope Rep. She has worked with over 20 theaters as a designer, scenic artist or technical director, she is also a member of IATSE local 13 working as a stagehand for live events (Broadway national tours, concerts and many more) throughout the Twin Cities area. She has taught at Southwest Minnesota State University and Willamette University. She holds a M.F.A. Theatre Arts: Scenic Design from Wayne State University's Hilberry Repertory Theatre and B.S. in Theatre Arts and Art: Graphic Design from Southwest Minnesota State University. You can see more of her work at LeazahBehrens.com

HARRIET CARR (*Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager-Swing*) (she/her) is a college student and is working on her BFA in Theatre: Stage Management at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. She has spent the last two years working on both theatre and dance productions at WMU. Last summer, she was the ASM for Flint Repertory Theatre's queer adaption of *The Fantasticks*. This is Harriet's first summer at Hope Rep.

REBECCA CONAWAY (*Scenic charge artist*) (she/her) is an interdisciplinary theatre artist and is excited to begin her first season at Hope Rep as the Scenic Charge for the season! She has just graduated from the University of Evansville with her Bachelor of Science in Theatre Studies and a minor in Studio Art. Some of her previous credits at the University of Evansville include being the Director of *Animal Farm* and the Scenic Charge Artist for multiple shows including *Cabaret* and *Three Sisters*. Her previous summer was spent at the Utah Shakespeare Festival as a Scenic Artist. In the fall, she plans to move to New York and begin creating theatre for change!

ADIAH HICKS (*Sound designer*) is a Philly-based performer, sound designer, and educator. She is a graduate of Arcadia University and a former Arden Professional Apprentice. Her design credits include *Fefu and Her Friends* (Temple University), *The Color Purple* (Hope Repertory Theatre), *Wine in the Wilderness* (Philadelphia Artists Collective), and *All My Mothers Dream in Spanish* (Teatro Del Sol/ Azuka Theatre). Adiah is ecstatic to be back for her second show with Hope Rep.

JENNIFER LOWE (*Stage manager*) (She/Her) has recently worked on many different shows including *Wild Horses* (ASM) at Williamston Theatre, *Bright Star* (PSM) at MSU, *What If*

Who's Who Cast & Crew

Wilhelmina (SM) with the sense ability ensemble at MSU, and has production managed many different student shows at MSU. This is Jen's first year at Hope Rep and she couldn't be more excited. BFA: Michigan State University. To learn more visit <https://lowejen50.wixsite.com/stagesm>

AMY E. MILLS (*Head of Wardrobe*) (she/they) is delighted to be back at Hope Repertory Theatre for her second season! This season, in addition to her role as marketing director, she is returning back stage to manage the wardrobe department and run some shows. They have over 20 years wardrobe experience and have worked at several regional theatres including: Milwaukee Repertory, American Payers Theatre (Spring Green, WI), Denver Center Theatre Company, and Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

ADRIANNA NELSON (she/her) (*Props master*) is a Musical Theatre student at Siena Heights University with a Tech Minor and a focus in Props. She has been the primary Prop Master for her school for the past 3 years and has worked on many shows with her favorite being *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Croswell Opera House in Adrian, MI. This is her first summer with Hope Rep and she is very excited for the new experience.

HOPE X. STILL (she/her) (*Asst. Stage Manager*) is a stage manager based out of East Lansing. She is currently

pursuing a BFA in Stage Management at Michigan State University along with a minor in Arts & Cultural Management and a secondary focus in Scenic Painting. Some of Hope's recent past productions at MSU include *The Rocky Horror Show* (Stage Manager), *Sweat* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Charlotte's Web* (Scenic Painter), and *Bright Star* (Scenic Painter). She is thrilled to be working at Hope Repertory Theatre this season as a Stage Management Intern and hope's you enjoy the show! To learn more, visit hopexstill.com

NATALIE STRINGHAM (*Assistant Lighting Designer*) is a lighting intern. She is currently studying technical theatre at Hope College.

AMBER WHATLEY (*Lighting Designer*) is a lighting designer for live performance. Her skills include lighting for theater, dance, concert, and lighting for the camera. Her technical strengths are programing and moving light programing. She was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama. She Then completed her BFA at Savannah College of Art and Design. She has consulted for several theaters and churches in the Southeast U.S. Her MFA graduate studies in Lighting Design at The University of Texas at Austin lead her to the creation of Blackout a workshop and video series in which her objective is to bring lighting design and technology awareness to Black youth and minorities in under supported communities. Her research

Who's Who Cast & Crew

interests include creating accessible lighting knowledge for BIPOC youth and under supported communities, new works, and non-traditional theater design. As a current post MFA fellow at The Ohio State University Amber enjoys teaching, freelance designing, and furthering the development of Blackout.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Together we, Hope Repertory Theatre, acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa Peoples, past and present.

We honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. As a community, we recognize the ever-present systemic inequities that stem directly from past wrongdoings.

We acknowledge this long history of injustice and commit to educating ourselves and our community as we seek to honor the legacy and culture of Indigenous Peoples.

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA TIERRA

Juntos, Hope Repertory Theatre, reconocemos que nos reunimos en la tierra tradicional de los pueblos Potawatomi, Ottawa y Chippewa, pasados y presentes.

Honramos con gratitud la tierra misma y las personas que la han administrado a lo largo de las generaciones. Como comunidad, reconocemos las desigualdades sistémicas siempre presentes que se derivan directamente de las malas acciones del pasado.

Reconocemos esta larga historia de injusticia y nos comprometemos a educarnos a nosotros mismos y a nuestra comunidad mientras buscamos honrar el legado y la cultura



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging VISION STATEMENT

Hope Repertory Theatre is committed to fostering and supporting an authentically diverse and intentionally inclusive environment, both on and off stage. We embrace and celebrate diversity in all its forms, from differences in race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and cognitive and physical ability. We know, however, that celebrating diversity is only a small step in creating an inclusive and welcoming community. We must listen, ask questions, and collaborate with all members of our community to show that we truly value the rich experiences and perspectives that exist.

DECLARACIÓN DE VISIÓN Diversidad, Equidad, Inclusión y Pertenencia

Hope Repertory Theatre compromete a fomentar y apoyar un entorno auténticamente diverso e intencionalmente inclusivo, tanto en como fuera del escenario. Abrazamos y celebramos la diversidad en todas sus formas, desde las diferencias de raza, etnia, estatus socioeconómico, religión, edad, orientación sexual, identidad y expresión de género, y capacidad cognitiva y física. Sin embargo, sabemos que celebrar la diversidad es solo un pequeño paso para crear una comunidad inclusiva y de bienvenida. Debemos escuchar, hacer preguntas y colaborar con todos los miembros de nuestra comunidad para demostrar que realmente valoramos las ricas experiencias y perspectivas que existen.



HOPE *REPERTORY THEATRE* **IS FOR EVERYONE**

HOPE REPERTORY THEATRE

LEADERSHIP

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Marcus Denard Johnson

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Staci Timmer

PRODUCING DIRECTOR

Lenny Banovez

COMPANY MANAGER

Patrick Poole

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Katy Atwell

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Demetria Thomas

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Julia Moriarty, PhD

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Amy Elaine Mills

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dan Rutzen

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Production Manager Katy Atwell

Assistant Production Manager Jenna Keefer

SCENIC STAFF

Technical Director Todd Meyers

Head Carpenter Brian Wasserman

Carpenter Nikki Donely

Intern Canyon Manikko

Intern Adam Chamness

Hope College Liason Stephen Krebs

COSTUME STAFF

Costumer Shop Manager Anthony Paul-Cavaretta

Asst. Shop Manager/Lead Draper Jordan Meyer

First Hand Thomas Price

Head of Wardrobe Amy Elaine Mills

Stitcher/Wardrobe Assistant Katie Pearson

Stitcher/Wardrobe Lane Breimhorst

Wardrobe Intern Mallory Stiles

LIGHTING STAFF

Lighting Supervisor Zack Saunders

Asst. Lighting Supervisor Nicole Rataj

Intern Nicole Blodig

Intern Natalie Stringham

Intern Andrew Wilmot

Hope College Liason Ken Chamberlin

SOUND AND STAFF

Audio and Media Supervisor Thomas White

Asst. Audio and Media Supervisor Otto Leider

Audio Engineer Ian Macdonald

PROPERTIES STAFF

Head of Props Adrianna Nelson

Asst. Head of Props Erin McDonald

Intern Jasmine Satterwhite

SCENIC ARTS STAFF

Paint Charge Artist Rebecca Conaway

Intern Amelia Keyes

Intern Aedan Munger

STAGE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Production Stage Manager Emily Sandstedt

Stage Manager Courtney Rasor

Stage Manager Jen Lowe

Stage Manager Jenna Keefer

Intern Hope Still

Intern Renee Kinsler

Intern Joi'Anna Partee

Intern Harriet Carr

SUPPORT FOR HOPE REP

*We gratefully acknowledge the following contributors to
Hope Repertory Theatre.*

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*We gratefully acknowledge the following contributors to
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**Reflects donations made between April, 1, 2022 -
May, 1, 2023*

SUPPORT HOPE REP

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of an American flag waving. The stars and stripes are visible, with the flag angled diagonally across the frame. The background is out of focus, showing hints of greenery and a building.

AN IMMIGRANT LOVE LETTER

temporary

UNA CARTA DE AMOR PARA LOS INMIGRANTES

HOPE
REPERTORY
THEATRE

JULY 25 -29, 2023

FRIED-HEMENWAY AUDITORIUM