

PLAYBILL®

THE MAIN

HOPE THEATRE ARTS

PRESENTS



THE **BOOK** WOMEN

BY **RACHEL BUBLITZ**

DIRECTED BY **SUSAN FLETCHER**

**PACK HORSE LIBRARIANS WHO DELIVER
PROMISE, DREAMS AND HOPE**



June 16-18 and June 23-25, 2023

"The Book Women" is produced by special arrangement with Stage Partners.
(www.yourstagepartners.com)

HOPE



THEATRE ARTS

presents

"THE BOOK WOMEN"

In the midst of the Great Depression, a group of determined librarians take to their horses to reach the people of Eastern Kentucky. With a dedication equal to the US Postal Service, these "Book Women" deliver more than the books and magazines they carry. They bring hope, dreams and the promise that if we support one another, tomorrow will be better.

Director: Susan Fletcher • **Assistant Director:** Val Boss

CAST

<i>Della "Star" Harlow</i>	Hailey Graves Tucker	<i>Mrs. Stevens</i>	Emily Morales
<i>Erma Frey</i>	Sierra Priest	<i>Frances</i>	Leah Torres
<i>Sissy Mae Harlow</i>	Kay Verity	<i>June Carroll</i>	Sally Lantis
<i>Josephine Jolly</i>	Kacey Powell-Thorps	<i>Minnie Carroll</i>	Kenzie Stokholm
<i>Leo Burnet</i>	John Thomas Benson	<i>Thelma Carroll</i>	Agnes Dawahare
<i>Cora Walker</i>	Rebecca Clark	<i>Mr. Ashley</i>	David Ritterband
<i>Mrs. Wilkins</i>	Meggan Taylor	<i>Sue Ashley</i>	Glynis Grafton
<i>Hubert Penland</i>	Michael Davies	<i>Ella Letton</i>	Glynis Grafton
<i>Pa Harlow</i>	David Ritterband	<i>Pastor Bridges</i>	Adam Dale Tucker
<i>Betty Farris</i>	Sally Lantis	<i>Willie</i>	Giorgio Cozzani
<i>Mrs. Dixon</i>	Valerie Weld	<i>Jean</i>	Agnes Dawahare
<i>Ollie</i>	Giorgio Cozzani	<i>Mr. Suter</i>	Adam Dale Tucker
<i>Mr. Arnett</i>	Adam Dale Tucker	<i>Lonnie</i>	Oliver Dawahare
<i>Reg</i>	Oliver Dawahare	<i>Jo</i>	Kenzie Stokholm
<i>Mr. Young</i>	David Ritterband	<i>Carla Folsom</i>	Valerie Weld

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer	Vicki Edwards	Sound & Lighting	Robert Read
Director	Susan Fletcher	Make-Up	Rebecca Clark, Lucy O'Brien
Assistant Director	Val Boss	Musicians	Sam Besse, Magdalen Kroeger, Edward Landon
Production Designer	Robert Read	Stage Crew	Dale Boss, Kevin Fletcher, Tammy Recktenwald
Dialogue Coach	John Sal	Marketing	Ann Baldwin
Stage Manager	Anna Dawahare	Artwork/Design	Brian Peterson, Lori Peterson
Costume Designer	Claire Edwards		
Costume Assistants	Lauryn Kanagi, Abigail Paulson		



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Susan Fletcher

What a privilege it is to tell the story of these brave Kentucky women who held uncommon, demanding jobs. This story takes place in the hills of Eastern Kentucky at a time when the area was wracked by bloody coal mine wars and the Great Depression.

These book women became an important bridge to education for those with no access to schools. Literacy provided a break in the cycle of debilitating poverty, providing empowerment and freedom, often to women and children who were ruled by patriarchal law.

We chose to cast one of the book women here as a Blue. The Blue people of Kentucky were marked by a rare blood disorder, congenital methemoglobinemia, which caused the skin to appear blue. We attempt here to show how any skin color different than most made life even harder in an already hard life.

We invite our audience to use their imaginations! One of the wonderful advantages of those books that these women delivered was the power of imagination that is invoked with every turn of the page. Here, with every scene change, we invite you to imagine the horses and mules, the ramshackle cabins and schools, the Library Headquarters, and those magnificent Kentucky hills!

INTERMISSION

There will be a short 15-minute intermission.

Please stay for a brief talkback with the cast and crew following every performance.

We want to know how this story resonates with you!



ABOUT THE CAST



HAILEY GRAVES TUCKER - Della "Star" Harlow

Hailey is a native Los Angeleno, a CSUN and John Rosenfeld Studios alum. Her greatest passion is telling stories. Being a part of *The Book Women*, she says "is an honor. These ladies literally risked their lives to bring people stories, teach them to read, and have a better life. What a gift to be able to tell their story."



SIERRA PRIEST - Erma Frey; a Blue

Sierra is a multidisciplinary artist based in LA. She earned her MFA in Acting from California Institute of the Arts and BA in Acting from Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. She recently performed as a dancer for MGMT and is choreographing for LAMusArt. This is her first production with HOPE Theatre Arts.



KAY VERITY - Sissy Mae Harlow

Kay is excited to return to The Main! She's most recently known for her role as Harlene in *Southern Fried Funeral* at CTG! When she's not busy being an annoying sister (on AND off stage), she's probably at a Jonas Brothers concert. She dedicates this role to the important and inspiring women in her life, including her first niece, Elliott.



KACEY POWELL-THORPS - Josephine Jolly

Kacey is a native of California, a Reiki therapist, writer, producer, and actor, with many years in the entertainment industry. Among her recent credits are her own talk show, *Beyond A Dream*, an NAACP-nominated play titled *When the Past Comes Back*, and two music videos, *Crazy Ass* and *Queen Appeal*. Kacey is thrilled to be a part of this ambitious and historic production.



JOHN THOMAS BENSON - Leo Burnet

John Thomas is honored to be part of Team HOPE. Thanks to the leadership board for providing the opportunity. Thanks to his cast mates and all involved behind the scenes. Thanks to John Rosenfeld Studios for providing a space to explore this craft. Thanks to his family, and community at Mosaic for constant inspiration. Thanks to Jesus for life.

ABOUT THE CAST



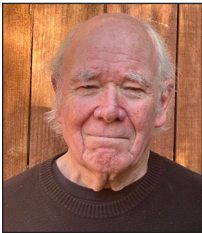
REBECCA CLARK - Cora

Rebecca thanks HOPE Theatre Arts for this wonderful opportunity to be part of this story being pulled to life. Rebecca has worked backstage and done makeup for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Romeo and Juliet*; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *Seussical*. She is an avid student of acting. Rebecca last appeared at The Main as a Junior Spy in 1984.



MEGGAN TAYLOR - Mrs. Wilkins

Meggan is thrilled to be part of this production, her first with HOPE Theatre Arts. Previously, she appeared at The Main in *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Mrs. Van Daan) and *Arsenic & Old Lace* (Abby Brewster). Most recently, she appeared in the premiere production of *Rembrandt Perfected* (Madame Daguerre). Reading is life; books are nourishment. Add love and life is complete.



MICHAEL DAVIES - Hubert Penland

Michael was born in England and has been acting and directing for over fifty years. Some of his favorite roles include Dolittle in *My Fair Lady*, Bottom in *A Midsummers Night's Dream*, and King Arthur in *Camelot*. He most prefers directing Shakespeare and British comedies. He is pleased to be helping to tell this wonderful story.



DAVE RITTERBAND - Pa Harlow; Mr. Young; Mr. Ashley

Dave is proud to be making his HTA debut, hitting the Appalachian trails with *The Book Women*, but he is no stranger to the local theatre scene. In fact, he recently appeared here at The Main portraying Louis Daguerre in the world premiere comedy *Rembrandt Perfected* last January and as Professor Sloane in *The Explorers Club* just last month!



SALLY LANTIS - Betty; June

Sally is thrilled to be working on The Main stage again where she was recently in Eclipse Theatre LA's *The Sandman*. She was Janie Bailey in CTG's *It's a Wonderful Life* and Sally in *The Curious Savage*. She has done many shows in which she worked behind the scenes as stage crew. Thank you, Susan & Val, for this opportunity!

ABOUT THE CAST



VALERIE WELD - Mrs. Dixon; Carla Folsom

Valerie is excited to be in *The Book Women* as her third major play with HOPE Theater Arts, after *The Velveteen Rabbit* and *The Amish Project*. Valerie also enjoys sharing the fun with her grandson, Giorgi. Former professional dancer, dance teacher, and performing arts studio owner, Valerie loves being retired in California.



GIORGIO COZZANI - Ollie; Willie

Giorgio premieres his acting ability in *The Book Women*. He thanks HOPE Theater Arts for the opportunity which fits in easily with school and his lessons at T.K. Tae Kwon Do. Giorgio is 9 years old and shares the spotlight at home with his wonderful two brothers Marco and Enzo.



ADAM DALE TUCKER - Mr. Suter; Mr. Arnett; Pastor Bridges

Adam moved to LA in 2012 after receiving his BFA in Theatre Performance from The University of Central Missouri. Adam studied at Brian Cutler Actors Studio and can be seen on the show *All American*. Adam is a Youth Pastor at Grand Central Collective in Newhall. Adam is pleased to be back in the theatre, to be a part of an amazing story.



OLIVER DAWAHARE - Reg; Lonnie

Oliver is happy to be on stage again with his big sister. He has previously appeared as a Police Officer in *Pirates of Penzance* and as Jack and Happy in *Fractured Fairy Tales*. He would like to thank the cast and director for making this such a wonderful experience.



EMILY MORALES - Mrs. Stevens

Emily has lived in California her whole life. She is the first born of the Garcia sisters. She is a wife and proud mother of three girls. Emily spends her free time with her loved ones. This is her first time on stage. She is grateful to share this experience with her daughter, Leah Torres.

ABOUT THE CAST



LEAH TORRES - *Frances*

Leah Torres is a seventh-grade student at Sierra Vista. She is outgoing, likes to travel and do many extracurricular activities. This is her first time acting and is happy to have this experience with her mom. She is grateful for the bonding time which makes her feel less nervous. Leah looks forward to more experiences like this.



KENZIE STOKHOLM - *Minnie; Jo*

Kenzie is excited to be part of this production and thankful to HOPE Theatre Arts for the opportunity. She's had a passion for performing since a young age and enjoys singing, acting and delivering presentations to family, friends and classmates. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, singing her favorite songs, roller coasters, reading books and spending time with family.



AGNES DAWAHARE - *Thelma; Jean*

Agnes would like to thank HOPE Theatre Arts for the opportunity to share this amazing story. She has previously appeared as a daughter in *Pirates of Penzance* and as Mary Quite Contrary, Grumpy, and Jill in *Fractured Fairy Tales*.



GLYNIS GRAFTON - *Sue Ashley; Ella Letton*

This is Glynis' first performance with HOPE Theatre Arts and it's her pleasure to join this merry troupe of actors. Her previous credits include directing and leading roles in *Hello, Dolly*; *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Gypsy*; *California Suite*; *My Husband's Wild Desires* and *Mousetrap* to name a few. She thanks her family and friends for their support.



VAL BOSS - *Assistant Director*

Val is beyond excited to be AD on this new production! She most recently appeared at Canyon Theater Guild as Fairy June in *Southern Fried Funeral*. She has also appeared in *The Amish Project*, *The Tin Woman*, *Crazy for Crayons*, *Pete the Cat*, and *The Green Velvet Christmas Dress*. She is grateful to HOPE Theatre Arts for allowing her the opportunity to be part of the telling of this incredible story.



HOPE THEATRE ARTS WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

Jeff and the staff at The Main for their support



The Dumas-Stenson Players for promoting our production of *The Book Women* in their program of *Uncle Rufus*



HOPE Theatre Arts Executive Board

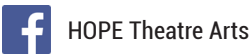
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BEYOND A DREAM Travels



A Day of Adult Fun, Gaming, Raffles,
Free Wine, & \$40 in Free Play Money!

Friday June 30th, 2023

Depart @ 8:45 AM

Return @ 7:00 PM

FOR BOOKING INFO.

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