



South Bay Musical Theatre proudly presents

THE REVOLUTIONISTS

BY LAUREN GUNDERSON

Directed by Diane Milo

A special Readers'Theatre presentation streamed live via Zoom on May 14, 2021

The Revolutionists is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Director's Note

Have you heard of Lauren Gunderson? If you're a frequent theatre-goer, you've likely seen one or more of her plays, as she has become the most produced playwright in America other than William Shakespeare! Many of her best-known works tell stories of consequential, yet largely unknown, women. I think it is more than just a coincidence that her popularity has exploded during this era of #MeToo and the emergence of many charismatic female political figures.

Lauren Gunderson has given voice to ordinary women doing extraordinary things; or, perhaps, extraordinary women doing ordinary things in a man's world. Traditionally, we have learned our history from textbooks and plays and films written and produced primarily by white men, which has led to gaping holes in our understanding of the times and generations that have come before us. Thanks to playwrights like Gunderson and a growing number of historians from so many under-represented groups in our society, these gaps in our knowledge are being filled in.

Sometimes that is uncomfortable, because we learn things that we wish weren't true. Sometimes it is inspiring, because we hear stories that energize us and challenge us to do things that make our little corner of the world a better place.

The Revolutionists is about real women who influenced history during the French Revolution, but I challenge you to listen to this story with timeless ears.



Are the issues that these women faced in 1793 really any different from the issues of today? And if they are not, why have we as a global society made so little progress? What can we learn from these —

as Gunderson describes them — “badass” women? One thing I hope we can learn from this badass play is that words matter; art matters; stories matter; truth matters. And, at all costs, we must find ways to tell our stories despite the pressures against the telling of these truths.

Vive la Revolution!

Diane Milo
Director



Welcome!

The play we are presenting today, *The Revolutionists*, is a story about females' strength, their capacity to love, and their sororité, sisterhood. Lauren Gunderson's witty script weaves four tales of inspiring historical women, brought together in a universal tale told from their hearts. As the revolutionists observe, we can inspire through words and art. Theatre encourages us to view the world through a different lens. The causes championed by these brave women are still being worked on today, over 200 years later. These women are not perfect. They struggle, they care, and they are flawed.

During April and May in the eStudio, we “Rise Up!” I send special thanks to our volunteer staff and performers for their enthusiasm bringing *The Revolutionists* to life. Our Readers' Theatre productions allow us the ability to focus on the playwright's story,

and the messaging intended. Our community rose and supported us this past year, by embracing virtual connections and by donating to our cause at unprecedented levels.

As we optimistically look forward to welcoming you back to the Saratoga Civic Theater this fall, we are grateful for the growth and exploration over the past year. I hope you will join us on May 18, at 7:30 pm PDT, for our “State of SBMT” update. (See page 11 for details.)

Vive les arts!

Sara K. Dean
Executive Director,
South Bay Musical Theatre



Cast of Characters

Olympe De Gouges (The Writer) Mary Melnick
 Charlotte Corday (The Assassin) Sarah Thermond
 Marianne Angelle (The Spy) Anna Marie Sharpe
 Marie Antoinette (The Queen) Laura Domingo
 Narrator / Swing Kristin Hall



Celebrating our 58th season!

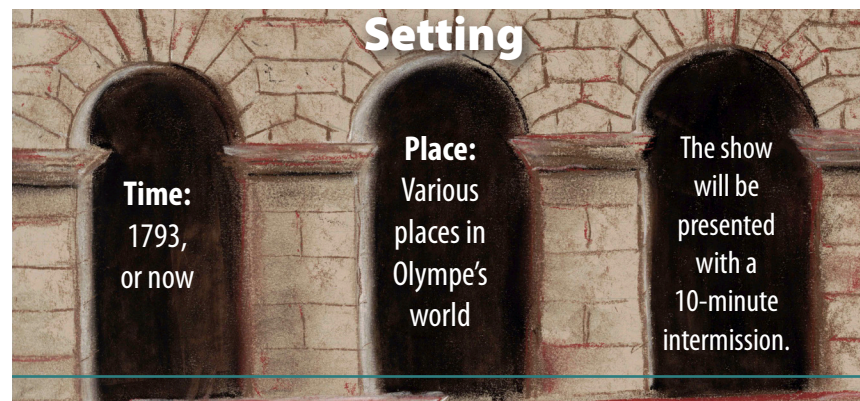
South Bay Musical Theatre
 a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization
 P.O. Box 700215, San Jose, CA 95170
408-266-4734
www.SouthBayMT.com



Noteworthy Entertainment

OUR COMPANY MISSION: South Bay Musical Theatre strives to provide high-quality entertainment by bringing together a diverse group of participants in an inclusive, collaborative, and nurturing environment. As we share our passion for Theatre Arts, we endeavor to leave a lasting, positive impression upon our community.

Setting



Production Staff

Auditions Coordinator Dallas Carter
 Box Office, House Manager, Volunteer Coordinator Diane Hughes
 Casting Director Vinh G. Nguyen
 Communications Assistant Kama Belloni
 Costume Designer Christina Bertani
 Director Diane Milo
 Facilities Director Jeffrey P. Henson
 Graphics, Marketing, Program, Video, Web Manager Doug Hughes
 Music Consultant Michael Johnson
 Producer; Executive Director Sara K. Dean
 Props Designer Patricia Bilello
 Sound Effects, Technology Director Dan Singletary
 Stage Manager Megan Reed
 Virtual Set Designer (see example at the top of this page) Brett Carlson



Donors make theatre happen!

We are extremely grateful to the generous donors whose contributions enable us to present shows like this one. To support SBMT with a tax-deductible contribution, please visit

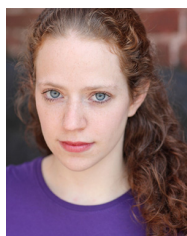
SouthBayMT.com/donate

Meet the Cast



Laura Domingo (*Marie Antoinette*) is so delighted to be working with SBMT once again, after appearing as Miss Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice* and as Mina in *Dracula*. Other previous roles include Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* and Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Actors Ensemble of Berkeley); Phoebe in *As You Like It* (Silicon Valley Shakespeare); Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Plethos Productions); Elizabeth Darcy in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (City Lights Theater Company); and Maria in *Lend Me a Tenor* (Ross Valley Players, SFBATCC Award). By day, Laura is the Marketing Director at Silicon Valley Shakespeare. Much love to Ryan and Artie!

Kristin Hall (*Narrator/Swing*) is thrilled to make her SBMT debut with this amazing group of women. She was last seen on stage way back in 2019 (remember 2019?) as Puck in Silicon Valley Shakespeare's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Virginia in San Francisco Olympians Festival's *The Murrigan*. She's also worked locally with Broadway by the Bay, Palo Alto Players, Tabard Theatre, Berkeley Playhouse, and others. As a playwright herself, she would kinda love to be Lauren Gunderson in real life, so she appreciates the chance to essentially play Lauren Gunderson in this production of her favorite Gunderson script. Love always to Mom and Bill.



Mary Melnick (*Olympe de Gouges*) gratefully returns to the SBMT family for her third eStudio production, after appearing in *The Book of Will* (Rebecca Heminges) and *Almost, Maine* (Marvalyn). In pre-pandemic times, Mary performed in SBMT shows such as *Mame* (Mame Dennis)—which, like today's show, was also directed by the talented Diane Milo—*Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown), *My Fair Lady* (Eliza Doolittle), *South Pacific* (Nellie Forbush), and *1776* (Abigail Adams). Other credits include *1776* at Tabard Theatre Company, where she had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play John Adams in the all-female version directed by Ms. Milo. She's excited for her next production titled *Fiction* at the Montalvo Arts Center in June, which will be in front of a live audience! Love to Robin and Andrew!



Anna Marie Sharpe (*Marianne Angelle*) is a dedicated mother, actor, director, and writer in the Bay Area. Recent credits include the on-stage filmed production of *[hieroglyph]* at SF Playhouse, and being cast in Berkeley Rep's *The African Mean Girls Play* as an understudy prior to the shutdown. Anna graduates with a BA from UC Berkeley this spring from the Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies department, and is the honored recipient of the Departmental Citation Award. She is very grateful to be performing in her second production with SBMT. Anna is very excited to work with the phenomenal cast and crew of *The Revolutionists*.

Sarah Thermond (she/her) (*Charlotte Corday*) is thrilled to be a part of this production, after playing another character with the same first name in *Pride & Prejudice*. She has also appeared as Witch/Doctor in *Macbeth*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, the Prioress in *The Hood of Sherwood*, Horatio in *Hamlet*, Queen Anne in *The Three Musketeers* (SVS), Lily St. Regis in *Annie* (Hillbarn), the title role in *Educating Rita*, Carol in *Black Comedy* (CTC), Dolly in *Anna Karenina*, and Clytemnestra in *Agamemnon* (USC School of Dramatic Arts). She is currently the full-time Theatre teacher and program director at Palo Alto High School. Thank you to the theatre companies, artists, and audience members who've made it possible for us to keep creating throughout this past year!



Meet the Staff



Christina Bertani (*Costume Designer*), new to both SBMT and SVS, is thrilled to be working on this production. She started costuming professionally as an apprentice at The Western Stage in Salinas, and has worked as a costume designer and builder for organizations all up and down the West Coast. In 2020, as a quarantine project, Christina began producing a series of short puppet shows featuring old music hall and vaudeville era songs. You can find them at "Very Small Music Hall" on YouTube: bit.ly/3oYRLE3

Dallas Carter (*Auditions Coordinator*) is thrilled to be joining this wonderful cast and production after serving as a Stage Manager for *I Am A Camera* and *Almost, Maine*. He has also been enjoying "backstage" work for the exciting "A Muse Event" eStudio productions, such as Trivia Night with Walter Mayes. He also continues to save various video-gaming worlds from peril and terrible foes, meeting with friends and family as much as possible for virtual happy



hours and gatherings, and enjoying the extra time home with his partner. Thanks for joining us this evening. Wear your mask and stay healthy and safe!



Patricia Bilello (*Props Designer*) is a professional mother of three (two teenagers and a toddler). She is also a wife, a craftswoman, a photographer, and a multitasking expert. She designs props for various community theatres in the Bay Area. She is also a costuming associate at Starting Arts, and the creative designer at Crafts Out of the Blue Studio. For the last five years, Patricia has been driving her two older kids to rehearsals every day. As a result, she ended up working backstage as a volunteer where she found her calling. She designed props for *Beauty and the Beast*; *Elf, the Musical*; *Legally Blonde*; *The Wiz*; *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*; *Matilda*; *Sweat*; and many more. Last year, when the pandemic shuttered live theatre, she found a way to take the big Audrey II and its shop from *Little Shop of Horrors* and adapt it to a small version, scaling it down to a puppet size, to be used in the virtual screening of the musical. By doing so, she proved that the show must go on, and now, more than ever, we need to find ways to adapt, be creative, and work as a community to keep the arts alive. This event—and all the online events that SBMT is providing—is another way to do it, and she is happy to be part of it!

Brett Carlson (*Virtual Set Designer*). When Brett's not busy acting (*Gentleman's Guide*, SBMT) or designing sound (*Les Mis*, PHS), he like to design and build sets. His designs were last seen on this stage for *She Loves Me* and *Big River*. His recent work also includes *Miracle on 34th Street* at LASC, and *Into the Woods*, for which he received a TBA nomination. Brett studied Theatre Arts at SJSU and was an intern at the Theatre Royal in Bath, England, where he worked with their youth theatre program.



Sara K. Dean (*Executive Director; Producer*) joined SBMT in 2017, and is grateful to be a part of its incredibly talented community. With the pandemic pause of 2020, SBMT has pivoted and developed virtual programs for audiences, performers and theatre fans. The SBMT eStudio aims to enlighten, enrich, and entertain. In return, we have deepened connections and strengthened our community. Sara earned her B.F.A. in theatre from Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She was the Company Manager for AMTSJ, and worked in Arts Administration for SJ Rep and CMTSJ. She is grateful to the entire team of *The Revolutionists* for their collaboration on this production. Thank you to our wonderful sustaining donors for their support as we pause our productions during the pandemic. Your giving keeps us thriving. SouthBayMT.com/donate.

Join us after the show

THE REVOLUTIONISTS

BY LAUREN GUNDERSON

Post-Performance Party a special Talkback session with the cast and staff



Following tonight's performance, please join the Cast & Staff of *The Revolutionists* for an informal talkback panel discussion.



Noteworthy Entertainment



Doug Hughes (*Marketing Director*) has been SBMT's "volunteer marketer" for the past three years. In that capacity, he has designed programs (like this one) for a dozen shows, edited around 200 videos, and created countless logos, collateral items, and social media posts. Doug appeared in SBMT's production of *Big River*, as well as roles for other theatre companies in *Sister Act*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *How 2 Succeed*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Godspell*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He is a retired communications professional who enjoys writing song parodies and creating custom children's books for his two young granddaughters. He and our box office manager, Diane Hughes, have been happily married for 40 years.



Diane Milo (*Director*) is grateful for the opportunity to return for her 18th SBMT show, having directed and vocal directed *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Mame*; performed in *The World Goes 'Round*, *A Little Night Music*, *Jerry's Girls*, *Forbidden Broadway*, and *Always...Patsy Cline*; and vocal directed *Big River*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *The Music Man*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Curtains*, *Forever Plaid*, and *City of Angels*. She has over 100 theatrical credits, both as a performer and director, with many different companies throughout the Bay Area. Directorial highlights for other Bay Area theatre companies include SCP's *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*; TTC's *Follies*, *Crowns*, *Tin Pan Alley Rag*, *The Story of My Life*, and the all-female production of *1776*; and LAT's *Always...Patsy Cline*, *Tenderly...The Rosemary Clooney Musical*, and *The Last Five Years*. Diane is honored to be working with such a fine cast and staff in this production of *The Revolutionists*, and is overjoyed to bring her passions of theatre, French, and politics together in one badass show. Vive la Revolution!

Vinh G. Nguyen (he/him/his) (*Casting Director*) is a theatre maker, educator, and advocate who directed our most recent production, *Anon(ymous)*. He has contributed to many productions throughout the Bay Area as an actor, director, and choreographer. Vinh has taught workshops and/or guest lectured at San Diego State University, UC Berkeley, Academy of Art University, and San Jose City College. He is currently the Casting Director and EDI Consultant at South Bay Musical Theatre and serves on the EDI Council for 42nd Street Moon. Vinh holds an MFA in Musical Theatre from SDSU and a BA from SJSU. He is an associate member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society and a passionate advocate for arts education and the promotion of equity, diversity, and inclusion.



The State of SBMT

Tuesday, May 18
at 7:30 pm

**Join our Board of Directors online
for this special event!**

- Unveiling our 2021-2022 season!
- Presenting our annual awards!
- Celebrating the one-year anniversary of the SBMT eStudio!
- Explaining our plans for the future!

Complimentary admission, thanks to
our monthly sustaining donors.
To reserve your spot, go to:

SouthBayMT.com/eStudio



Noteworthy Entertainment



Megan Reed (*Stage Manager*) is excited to return to SBMT as stage manager for her fourth eStudio production. She previously served as assistant stage manager for SBMT's acclaimed production of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. Around the Bay Area, she has worked as stage manager, assistant stage manager, sound board operator, follow spot operator, and in various backstage positions with such theatre companies as Sunnyvale Community Players, The Pear Theatre, Upstage Theater, and Peninsula Youth Theater. Megan is the current Artistic Director for Upstage Theater, a completely teen-run theatre company, and will attend The University of Southern as a BFA in Stage Management program. Merde!

Dan Singletary (*Sound Effects*) has been an active SBMT member since 2003, when he played trombone in our orchestra. He quickly moved on to music direct many of our productions, including *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*; *The Bridges of Madison County*; *City of Angels*; *Hairspray*; *Les Misérables*; *Promises, Promises*; *42nd Street*; *...Forum*; *The Producers*; *Chicago*; *1776*; *La Cage aux Folles*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; and *Ragtime*. Other MD credits include the award-winning *Urinetown* at SCP. Dan has become an active contributor in many areas at SBMT, having served as Producer, Co-Producer, Sound Designer, and Technical Director. He is a Design Verification Engineer at Apple.



Go into your dance!



During the pandemic, SBMT's eStudio has played host to SBMT dancers Francesca Cipponeri, who leads a virtual Tap Dance workshop and Michael Saenz, who leads a Jazz Dance workshop. They will each host one final free class in June before we transition back to paid programming. For info, please visit SouthBayMT.com/estudio.



Thanks to our foundation donor!

Even in normal times, revenue from ticket sales covers only a portion of our operating budget. SBMT depends on donors to bridge the gap between ticket revenue and our operating costs. Your support keeps our doors open and ticket costs affordable.



SVCREATES
in partnership with the
County of Santa Clara

South Bay Musical Theatre 2020-2021 Board of Directors



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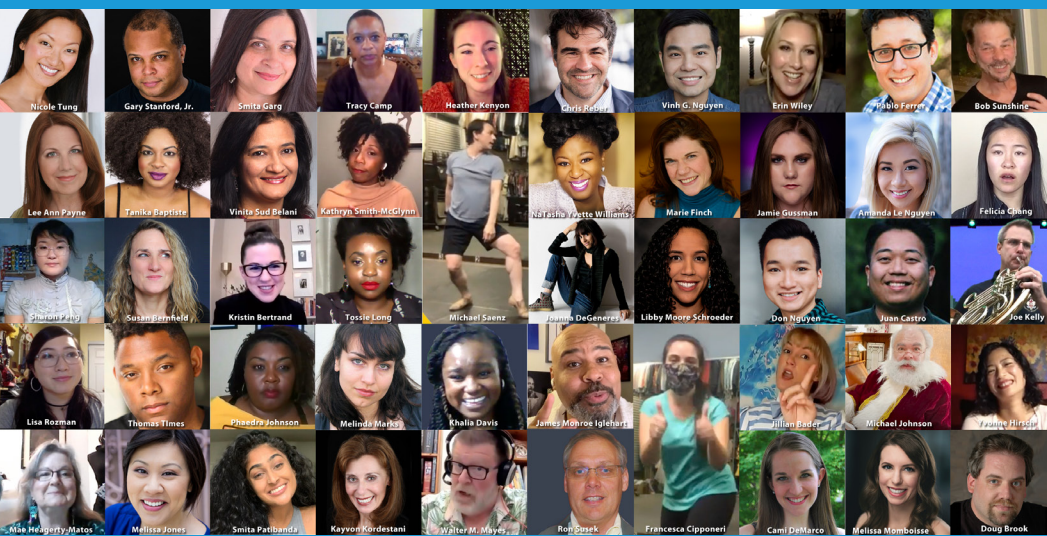
Dan Singletary



Jay Steele

Would YOU like to serve on our Board of Directors?

Volunteers are the heart of our company, and we treasure everyone who contributes in any way. We have elections for Board positions coming up in June, with both one-year and two-year term vacancies to fill. If you are interested in applying for a seat on the Board (or have another talent to share), please contact our Board Chair, michael.hirsch@southbaymt.com.



Huge thanks to our many eStudio artists!

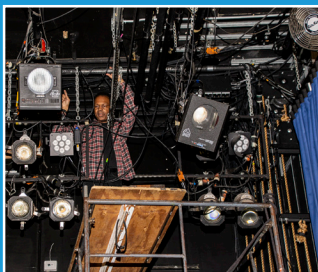
South Bay Musical Theatre is a non-profit organization that is largely driven by its volunteers. Even now during this “pandemic pause,” we’re always looking for more folks who like to share their talents in a variety of ways:

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| ❖ Ushering | ❖ Costumes | ❖ Spotlights | ❖ Event planning |
| ❖ Concessions | ❖ Set building | ❖ Stage crew | ❖ Fundraising |
| ❖ Hospitality | ❖ Painting | ❖ Videography | ❖ Grant writing |
| ❖ Box office | ❖ Props | ❖ Photography | ❖ Board of Directors |

Whether you’re already skilled or just keen to learn, we have opportunities for you to join the fun of live musical theatre. If you’re curious, please email us at chairperson@southbaymt.com, call us at 408-266-4734, or go online at southbaymt.com/join-us/volunteer to let us know about your passions.



Set builders are always welcomed. Not handy with tools? We'll train you!



Learn how to run spotlights or the sound board—or join the fun backstage on deck crew.

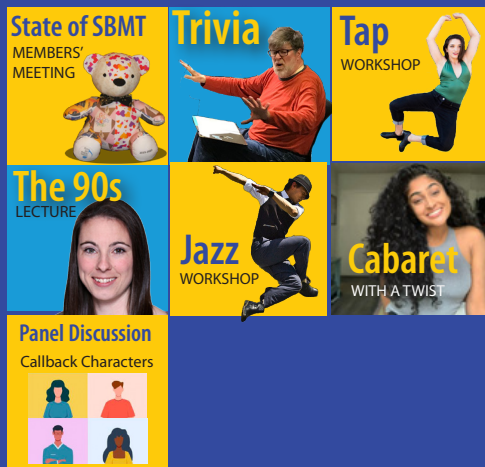


Sell snacks or volunteer as an usher, and free the show for free!



Since last May, SBMT has pivoted from fully staged musicals to online play productions—along with concerts, lectures, interviews, panel discussions, films, workshops, and game shows. Pictured here are the Readers’ Theatre plays we’ve produced in the eStudio for your entertainment, enrichment, enlightenment, and enjoyment. As we transition back to stage productions, our virtual eStudio will continue—but move into a supporting role. Learn more at our “State of SBMT” meeting on Tuesday, May 18 at 7:30 pm.

SouthBayMT.com/eStudio



Coming up in the SBMT eStudio



MAY

Tues., May 18 ...***SBMT Members' Meeting*** with the Board of Directors

Mon., May 24 ...***Musical Theatre Trivia*** with Walter M. Mayes

JUNE

Sat., June 12.....***Tap Dance Workshop*** with Francesca Cipponeri

Mon., June 14 ..***Musicals of the 90s Lecture***, with Heather Kenyon

Sat., June 19.....***Jazz Dance Workshop*** with Michael Saenz

Wed., June. 23..South Bay Cabaret: ***Extraordinary Perspectives: Classic Showtunes with a Twist***, with Smita & Daniel

Wed., June. 30..Panel Discussion: ***Creating Callback Characters***,
with Doy Charnsuphidar, Doll Piccotto, and Laura Domingo

ALSO COMING SOON

TBAAuditions for our fall show!

TBASeason subscription renewal packages to be mailed!

TBAMore workshops to be rolled out!

Check **SouthBayMT.com** for times and reservations.