

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

PRESENTED BY WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE

September 23–25, 29–30, October 1–2, 2016 | The Tedford Stage | Directed by Sharon Andrews

Performances nightly 7:30 PM, except Sundays at 2:00 PM

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

After first reading *SPARK*, I was struck by just how much the devastating nature of war had affected Lexie and her relationship with her sisters. Finding signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder on nearly every page of dialogue she has was heartbreaking. She cannot eat, she cannot sleep, and in many ways she cannot simply live. There is a movement going around now called 22Kill, where people film themselves doing 22 push-ups for 22 days to raise awareness for the 22 American military veterans who are "killed by suicide" every day. Twenty-two people who could be just like Lexie. Twenty-two brave, fearless, and noble men and women who no longer have anywhere to turn. While this show may only be temporary, the problems our veterans face is not. They have fought for us, and we must return the favor.

COMPOSER'S NOTE

In composing the music for *SPARK*, I was required to recollect the history of my Great-Grandmother, who was born and raised in Sampson County, North Carolina, and my close relationship to her. She was a very humble and pure, religious, and extremely intelligent woman. In all of her 92 years, her only flaws were very light gambling (scratch-off mostly) and eating too much candy. For most of her life, my great-grandmother was a cleaning-woman, but, as she described, did it with a sort of grace and integrity; she was always happy in doing her work and proud of it. Her purity is something not very common with a person of her times with all the experiences she saw and dealt with. I believe it was due to the significance of music in her life that helped keep her purity. Her life was truly an opera. With everything she did, she always sang. It comforted her and comforted others. When she was mad she would sing, and sad, and happy, and anxious, and etc. – she sang for every emotion she felt and every situation. The opera that was my great-grandmother's life is what made her life gracefully pure. As a child, she used to baby-sit me and I was around her all the time and because of that, I was constantly immersed in her music. Singing to me and the plants, singing while changing my diapers, singing while cooking and cleaning; a lot of the songs were Baptist hymns, others were simply songs she made up. In composing the music for *SPARK*, I simply, for the most part, wrote down my grandmother's song. In writing the overture, the first and last themes are my great-grandmothers, but I wrote it in the Piedmont blues styles, which is the music created in the North Carolina Piedmont. I truly hope you all, enjoy my grandmother and my music.

SEASON DEDICATION

Wake Forest University Theatre dedicates the 2016-17 season in fond remembrance of our colleague Darwin Reid Payne. From 1983 to 2000, Darwin was Resident Visiting Scene Designer in the department. During that time he designed 21 productions, directed 2 productions, authored several books and taught many students. Darwin was an international leader in using computer technology in theatrical design. Nationally, he was known for his beautiful design work and his publications, influencing several generations of scenographers, including our own. We were lucky to have him as a colleague, and we sorely miss his artistry, his quirky personality and wry sense of humor, his passion, and his curiosity. Here's hoping this season of plays honors him and serves to remind us of Darwin's life and contributions.

Wake Forest University Theatre presents

SPARK

by Caridad Svich

September 24-25 & September 29-October 2, 2016

Director
Sharon Andrews

Scenic, Lighting & Costume Designer
Rob Eastman-Mullins

Sound Designer
Connor Sagerman

Composer
John Holley-Reid

Lyrics
Caridad Svich

Dramaturg
Charles Cicchino*

Assistant Director
Erin Farmer§

Stage Manager
Valerie Medoff*

CAST

EVELYN.....Justice von Maur*§
LEXIE.....Anne Peyton Brothers*§
ALI.....Lillie Burrow*§
HECTOR.....Philip Kayser*
VAUGHN.....Branden Cook*§
MUSICIAN.....Willis Landon§♫

*Anthony Aston Players member ♫Presidential Scholar in Music §Presidential Scholar in Theatre

SETTING

The present, in a small town in North Carolina,
situated somewhere along Interstate 40, also known as the "Tobacco Road."

INFORMATION

In consideration of performers and other patrons, please turn off any laptops, cell phones and electronic alarms. Please remember that any use of cameras and recording devices is strictly prohibited. Please refrain from eating or drinking in the theatre. Smoking is prohibited in the building. Any audience member disturbing other patrons or causing a disruption may be asked to leave without a refund or exchange of ticket. **This production is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes long with NO intermission.**

Spark originally received its professional premieres at Theater Alliance in Washington, D.C., and in revised draft at PYGmalion Productions in Salt Lake City, Utah. The play received the 2013 National Latino Playwriting Award sponsored by Arizona Theatre Company, and the 2013 McNerney Playwriting Award from the Charleston College of the Arts.

BIOGRAPHIES



Anne Peyton Brothers (Lexie) is a sophomore from Roanoke, Virginia and so thankful to be working with such a wonderful cast and crew. She would like to thank Sharon, whose invaluable direction was the true spark of the show.



Lillie Burrow (Ali) is a sophomore from Memphis, Tennessee and is thrilled to be back on the Tedford Main Stage! She would like to thank Sharon for this wonderful opportunity, and Valerie for being a fabulous stage manager! She looks to forward to working on more Wake shows, and thanks the cast and crew for making this show a spectacular one!



Charles Cicchino (Dramaturg) is a Theatre and Statistics double major originally from Toms River, New Jersey, currently living in Concord, North Carolina. *SPARK* is his first production as a dramaturg but Charles has experience in acting, directing, playwriting, stage management, and even set design. He would like to thank Sharon for giving him this wonderful opportunity, Caridad Svich for creating a fascinating world to research, and his friends and family for their endless support. Enjoy the show!



Branden Cook (Vaughn) is a senior Presidential Scholar Theater major from Charlotte, North Carolina. He is very excited to be back on the stage. His theatre credits include: *Hairspray*, *Our Country's Good*, *Clybourne Park* as well as numerous other outside productions. He would like to thank God and his mom for always being there and supporting his dreams.



Erin Farmer (Assistant Director) is a junior at Wake Forest majoring in Psychology and minoring in Theatre. She is a Presidential Scholar in Theatre. This is her first time assistant directing and she would like to thank Sharon for this wonderful opportunity!



John Holley-Reid (Composer), from Norfolk, Virginia, is a sophomore intending to major in Math. He would like to thank the talented cast and crew for all their hard work as well as his wonderful friends for their constant support. Finally, John is immensely grateful for Sharon Andrews for allowing him the opportunity and for being such a great director and friend and hopefully is able to work with her in the future. He hopes you enjoy the show.



Philip Kayser (Hector) is a senior from Apex, North Carolina and an Economics major who is currently interviewing at medical schools. This is his ninth show at Wake Forest and twentieth show in total with recent credits including *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Our Town*, and *Waiting for Godot*. When not acting, Philip works as a student manager at Benson University Center. He would like to thank Sharon for all of the wonderful times and character discoveries he has been privileged to share with her.



Willis Landon (Musican) is a freshman at Wake Forest University from Roanoke, Virginia and a Presidential Scholar both in Music and Theatre. He has played in a variety of bands, including orchestras, a bluegrass quintet, and several jazz combos. He's also the founder, rhythm guitarist, lead vocalist and songwriter for Of Company, a five-piece Americana band that has recorded three albums and performed at a variety of venues, including FloydFest, since 2013. Landon has played guitar for five years, though his primary instrument is the upright bass.



Valerie Medoff (Stage Manager), a senior from Delaware, is thrilled to be stage managing this production. A double major in Theatre and Communications and a Film Studies minor, Valerie has most recently stage managed *The Waiting Room* and *The Problem* at Wake. She also spent this summer assistant stage managing *The Music Man* (The Candlelight Theatre). She has been most recently seen in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *These Shining Lives* on the Tedford Stage. She would like to thank Sharon, the cast, and crew for making this experience such an enjoyable and rewarding one.

SPECIAL THANKS

Qadree Bell
Curry-Bradley Family
Michael Kamtman
LTC Adriana Laboy
Minglewood Farm and Nature Preserve
Caridad Svich
Phoebe Zerwick



Connor Sagerman (Sound Designer) is a senior from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He has previously worked on sound for last year's AAP production of *Cagebirds*, and this is his first sound design for the Tedford Main Stage. He has previously performed here in such shows as *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *This is Our Youth*, and *Sylvia*. He would like to thank Sharon for giving him a chance, John and Will for their wonderful music, and Remo for their wondrous invention, the Thunder Tube. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Justice von Maur (Evelyn) is a senior majoring in History with minors in Theatre and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. This is her fourth performance on the Tedford Main Stage; previous credits include *The Waiting Room*, *Our Town* and *Clybourne Park*. Justice is the proud Vice President of the Anthony Aston Players and is also a Presidential Scholar in Theatre. She thanks Sharon for always believing in her, and Valerie for keeping all of this together.

Connect with us!

#SparkWFU

@WFUTheatre
WFU Theatre and Dance

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....R. Trevor Anderson
Assistant Stage Managers.....Jonathan Dixon, Caroline Spurzem
Properties Master.....Eric Bray*
Costume Designer Assistant.....Tyler Wilson
Makeup Designer.....Mary Wayne-Thomas
Electricians.....Hope Peterson, Jyles Rodgers, Tracy Wegner*, Cheyenne Zuck*[§]
Scene Shop Assistants.....Price Dawson*, Jonathan Dixon, Courtney Geiger
Monty King, Hope Peterson*, Christian Ricci
Jyles Rodgers, Tracy Wegner*, Cheyenne Zuck*[§]
Costume Shop Supervisor.....Tyler Wilson
Collections Manager.....Alice Barsony
Costue Shop Assistants.....Emma Kennett, Megan Nigro, Bree Patsey
H'Chiem Siu, Lily Wieland*
Wardrobe Assistants.....Lily Wieland*, Charlotte Wu
Light Board Operator.....Junyi Evie Luo
Sound Board Operator.....J. J. Hubler
Photographers.....Bill Ray III, Ken Bennett, Leslie Spencer
Box Office Staff.....Eli Bradley*[§], Branden Cook*[§], Ben Diehl, Anna Hibbert*
Shane Lutz*, Habby Olesesi, Jayson Pugh*
Ushers.....APO Fraternity, Anthony Aston Players, WFU Dance Company

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Director of Theatre/Associate Teaching Professor.....J. E. R. Friedenberg
Administrative Coordinator.....Carol Lavis
Staff Assistant.....Richard Williams
Technical Director.....R. Trevor Anderson
Collections Manager.....Alice Barsony
Costume Shop Supervisor.....Tyler Wilson
Audience Services Coordinator.....Leslie Spencer
Instructional Technology Specialist.....Ryan McCollum
Social Media Manager.....Justice von Maur*[§]
Office Assistant.....Lily Wieland*
Department Chair/Associate Professor.....Nina Maria Lucas
Director of Dance/Associate Professor.....Christina Tsoules Soriano
Associate Chair/Associate Professor.....Rob Eastman-Mullins
Professors.....Dr. Cindy Gendrich, Mary Wayne-Thomas
Associate Professors.....Sharon Andrews, Dr. J.K. Curry, Dr. Brook Davis
Assistant Professor.....Kevin Frazier
Associate Teaching Professors.....Lynn Book, Leah Roy
Assistant Teaching Professors.....Brantly Shapiro, Chris Martin
Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor.....Michael Kamtman
Part-Time Instructors.....Michael Huie, Debra Sayles, Robert Simpson
Tina Yarborough-Liggins
Teaching Fellows.....Dahlia Al-Habieli, Jessie Laurita-Spanglet
Accompanists.....Ray Ebert, Randy Hawkins, Dan Knight, Hashim Saleh

*Anthony Aston Players member

[§]Presidential Scholar in Theatre

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

2016-2017 Season
September 15, 2016

Benefactors

Barton & Brenda Baldwin‡
Estate of John Arthur Collins III
J.K. Curry & Dan Bradley
Caroline Sandlin Fullerton
Denise Koch‡
James & Angela McNamara
Allison McWilliams‡
Harold & Josie Tedford
Dr. James & Patricia Toole‡
John J. Casey
Claire & John Friedenberg‡
Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Jordan II‡
Joel Leander
Sioban Nicole McNamara‡
Margaret Henry Moore
Mary Wayne-Thomas
Don & Nancy Wolfe
Estate of Robert Parker Wilson

Edwin‡ & Emily Wilson‡

Contributors

Monty King

Sustainers

Jill Carraway & Debora Horning
Dr. & Mrs. Byron Moore‡

Jane Bess Wooten‡

Patrons

Anne Boyle & Mark Espeland
Anne Davenport
Paul & Linda Edwards Early
Ellen E. Kirkman
Bethany Novak‡
Elizabeth Rief‡ & Shawn Hooper
Meyressa Schoonmaker‡ & John Carroll
Lynn Padgett-Brown & Douglas Brown
Brook Davis‡ & Michael Huie‡
Louise Y. Gossett
Bill & Marty Lamb
Mary Lee Porterfield
Sam Roy
Emily Seelbinder

Lawrence & Sandra Webb

Sponsors

Christin Essin
Celia Hooper
David & Kathryn Levy
William H. Turkett, Jr.

Friends

Elmer Hayashi
Dennis Sykes
Patsy Michel
Margaret Wagstaff

Other

Shirley Amen
Jodie Johnson
Suzanne Carroll
Steven Peterson

‡ Wake Forest alumni



HONK! JR.

Book and Lyric by Anthony Drewe
Music by George Stiles

Based on Hans Christian Andersen's
The Ugly Duckling

Directed by Cindy Gendrich

Nov. 4-5 & 10-12 at 7:30 PM
Nov. 6 & 13 at 2:00 PM
Tedford Main Stage

Tickets: $15 adults, $12 senior citizens, $7 students
336.758.5295
http://college.wfu.edu/theatre

FALL FACULTY & GUEST ARTIST CONCERT

Directed by Nina Maria Lucas

December 1-3 at 7:30
December 4 at 2:00 PM
Tedford Main Stage

Tickets: $15 adults, $12 senior citizens, $7 students
336.758.5295
http://college.wfu.edu/theatre

