



presents

The Revolutionists

by

Lauren Gunderson

MAY 10 – JUNE 4, 2023

Directed by Willie Repoley

— *Starring* —

Kirby Gibson

Glenna Grant

Lauren Kriel

Parris Sarter

Production Stage Manager	Dakota Mann
Scenic Design	Willie Repoley
Lighting Design	Jason Williams
Costume Design	Sandy McDaniel
Props Design	Sylvia J. Pierce
Sound Design	Bailey I. Gafeny
Streaming Operator	Kyle Baumbach

Commissioned and first produced by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

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“What’s it about?”

Usually, the first question one gets asked by people who hear you are working on a play is, “What’s it about?” But the deeper we get into working on this story, the harder it becomes to answer that simple question. Our rehearsals have led us in wildly different directions, from the differences between patriots and zealots, to why the funniest political cartoons can also be the most dangerous, to when death might or might not be a reasonable consequence of someone’s actions (and who has a right to make that decision), to why Dorothy had to experience Oz before she could understand the true importance of home.

When we selected Lauren Gunderson’s play a year ago as a story we thought was worth telling, I found myself thinking about how difficult it can be to program a play so far in advance and still be responsive to current events. But we knew that a story in which women reacted boldly to short-sighted governmental policies would continue to be relevant. Add to that their grappling with how best to bring about the change they want to see in the world, and struggling with their ability to do so. Add to that the politics of privilege bucking up against the realities of lived experience. Add to that real connections being possible – unlikely, maybe, but possible! – across lines of class, race, and expectations. Add to that insights regarding insurrection, capital punishment, true love, and the practical value of words (maybe especially last words). And it’s a comedy!

So what does it all add up to? What is the play about?
I think it’s about us. Connecting. Together.

Welcome to the revolution.

Willie Repoley, Director



The Revolutionists is produced by Immediate Theatre Project. ITP was founded in 2004, and was featured as the first company to produce in NC Stage's Catalyst series. We operate without a performing space of our own, but since 2008 we have been honored to have a regular home producing once a year here at North Carolina Stage

Company, as well as a variety of venues ranging from Florida to Vermont to Minnesota with our WVL Radio plays. If you have seen shows at NC Stage like *The Glass Menagerie*, *All My Sons*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Grounded*, *An Iliad*, or *Silent Sky*, you are already familiar with our work!

Immediate Theatre Project tells stories that illuminate our experience of living here and now, reflecting the world around us and the depths within us. We strive to awaken in artists and audiences alike the possibility of sharing a simple and profound experience in real time.

In short, we are challenged to find the **immediate** in every play we produce in the **theatre**. How do we do that? Well, it's always a work in process — a **project**.

But we do have a few guides:

- In general, we find that that immediacy is most powerful when the words of the playwright are allowed to carry the story forward, rather than overwhelming the play with spectacle or diminishing it with tension.
- We believe that highly dedicated, creative work is encouraged by hiring artists who have a significant breadth and depth of experience and training, and by paying them fairly.
- We find inspiration from many people, places, and productions, and are eager to collaborate with artists and companies in different fields, cities, and situations to encourage deep creativity and lasting artistic development of theatre artists here in Asheville and beyond.

To keep in touch with ITP, please sign up to receive our infrequent newsletter in the lobby or at www.immediatetheatre.org. And please contribute to the last few days or weeks of our fund-raising raffle! Every \$20 gets you one raffle entry, and every entry will be matched through June by a generous donor. We have already given away gift certificates to several local restaurants like Blackbird downtown and flowers from the amazing folks over at Flora in West Asheville, and we have just a few more prizes left, including the Grand Prize of a quiet lakeside getaway in Henderson Country. If you have already donated, you are still in the running!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

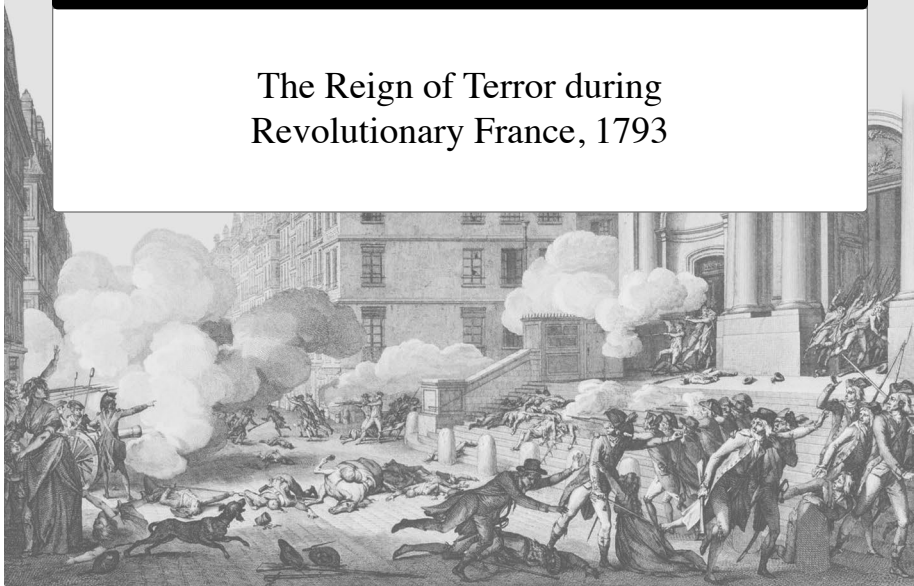
Olympe deGouges	Lauren Kriel
Marianne Angelle	Parris Sarter
Charlotte Corday	Kirby Gibson
Marie Antoinette	Glenna Grant

SETTING

Paris, France

TIME

The Reign of Terror during
Revolutionary France, 1793



Cast

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



Kirby Gibson (*Charlotte Corday*) is more than excited to be part of this ensemble. Since her graduation from UNC Asheville in 2012, Kirby has been heavily involved in the local theater scene here in Asheville. She also spent several years in Chicago, mostly exploring storefront theater before returning to Asheville in 2020. Some of her previous favorite roles include: Gary Coleman in *Avenue Q*, Marta in *Company*, Stephanie in *Oxalis*, Linda in *Evil Dead the Musical*, and Emilie in *The Submission*. Thank you for supporting local theater!

Love and gratitude to her partner Scott, her friends, and family.



Glenna Grant (*Marie Antoinette*) is an actor, singer, and teacher currently based in her hometown of Asheville, NC. In over a decade as an NYC based actor, she's performed with such companies as The Public, LABYrith Theatre, The Riot Group, and as a member of "The Bats" at the Flea Theater. She has previously appeared at NC Stage Company in *Jeeves Saves The Day* and *As You Like It*, and has played several iterations of Kitty Dayle in Immediate Theatre Project's beloved *WVL Radio Theater* series. Offstage, Glenna has been seen on OWN's *Queen Sugar*, Fox's *The Following*, &

Identification Discovery's *Swamp Murders*, among others. Her voice work can be heard in *GTA IV: The Ballad of Gay Tony*, *GTA IV: The Lost and the Damned*, *Lucky 420*, and *Red Dead Redemption*. As playwright and teaching artist, Glenna traveled to Ecuador & Tanzania with Dramatic Adventure Theatre Co, and co-taught workshops throughout WNC with the NC Stage Community Tour. She spearheaded the Acting Program at the Virginia Summer Governor's School from 2018 to 2022. A lifelong lover of Shakespeare, she maintains a focus on work that bridges the classical and the modern. In 2022, Glenna was able to apply that ethos to her directorial debut with *Hamlet*, with the Montford Park Players. Glenna holds a B.F.A in Acting from Purchase College.



Lauren Kriel (*Olympe de Gouges*) is delighted to be back on stage at NC Stage with Immediate Theatre Project. Most recently, she played Kitty Dayle/Violet Bick (et al) in ITP's production *Live from WVL Radio Theater: It's a Wonderful Life* in late 2022, and Evelyn Reed/Mary Bailey (et al) on Zoom in 2020 and on tour (2014-16, 2018-19). Other favorite roles include Lucius in *Titus Andronicus* (Montford Park Players), Catherine in *Henry V* (MPP), *Goblin Market* and *Petroleum Sundaes for Everyone!* (Anam Cara), Lauren in *Circle Mirror Transformation* (ITP/NCSC), and J'an Jah in *Fight Girl Battle*

World (NC Stage Catalyst). She also designed the Foley (live sound effects) in the ITP original production of *The Word Exchange* in 2021. Lauren is a proud Theatre/English alumna of Warren Wilson College and also has a MA in Sound Arts and Industries from Northwestern University. When not engaged at the theatre, you might find her knocking doors for local political campaigns, calling contra dances around the Southeast and Midwest, reading a historical fiction romance novel, complementing a dog on the street, or growing various flowers and vegetables in her garden. Big thanks to Willie and fellow cast badasses. Big love to Mama Penny and fr-amily.

CAST



Parris Sarter (*Marianne Angelle*) is excited about her debut at Immediate Theatre Project. She is a working actor in Atlanta, GA. This will be her second time bringing Marianne Angelle to the stage. Some of her Atlanta credits include: *Eclipsed* (Synchronicity Theatre); *Angels in America* and *Booty Candy* (Actor's Express); *The Cake* and *Square Blues* (The Horizon); *The Revolutionists* and *Angry Fags* (7 Stages); and *Women in Jeopardy* (Georgia Ensemble Theatre). Regional: *Wrong River* (Flint Repertory). She is also a fierce believer of new works and has collaborated with Hush Harbor Lab

in developing her one-woman show *Eunice in Paris: A Nina Simone Story*. Thank you for supporting live theater.

Production Team

Willie Repoley (*Director*) is a co-founder of Immediate Theatre Project and current Artistic Director. Director: *Live From WVL Radio Theater: The Word Exchange*; *The Headless Hessian of Sleepy Hollow (And Other American Horror Tales)*; *It's A Wonderful Life*. Also: *Circle, Mirror, Transformation* and *Shipwrecked! The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (As Told by Himself)* (all for Immediate Theatre Project / NC Stage). Actor: *Silent Sky, An Iliad, The Glass Menagerie* (ITP); *Frost/Nixon, Angels in America, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (NC Stage), *Million Dollar Quartet, A Christmas Carol* (Flat Rock Playhouse); *First Man* (Universal Pictures); *Genius: Aretha* (National Geographic/Hulu). He will finish certification as Patsy Rodenburg Associate teacher of voice this summer, and has taught voice and speech to individuals and groups, including at The Actors Center and Guilford College. www.immediatetheatre.org/voice

Dakota Mann (*Production Stage Manager*) is a local theatre artist within the WNC region, having worked on over 60 productions with theatres such as Haywood Regional Arts Theatre, Parkway Playhouse, Anam Cara, the Magnetic Theatre, and the Sublime Theater and Press, as well as performing overseas in Scotland at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. He received a B.A. in Drama from UNC – Asheville. This is Dakota's first production with Immediate Theatre Project. Previous stage managing credits include *The Frankenstein Rubrics, The Sparrow and the Whippoorwill*, and *Kore* (Magnetic), *TRNZ* (Sublime), *Nocturne* (HART) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Montford). Upcoming SM credits include *The Star-Spangled Girl* (Parkway) and *Every Brilliant Thing* (HART).

Des Brotak (*Dramaturg*) is a local writer, multimedia designer, and theatre aficionado thrilled to be working with Immediate Theatre Project for the first time! They have a B.A. in Media Arts from the University of South Carolina, where they were lighting designer for the musicals *Carrie* and *Catch Me If You Can*, along with a myriad of miscellaneous roles in film and theatre production. He is grateful to have the opportunity to put his encyclopedic knowledge of the French Revolution to use and hopes you enjoy this glimpse into a contentious but undeniably captivating era.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jason Williams (*Lighting Design*) is an actor, director and designer who works for many local theater companies. He is pleased to again work with Immediate Theatre Project on this show. Previously Jason designed lights for ITP's productions of: *Silent Sky*, *Burden*, *Below The Belt*, and *On The Verge*. He would like to thank you for coming to see this revolutionary show tonight. He sees theatre as a valuable life experience and an important part of the cultural fabric. If you enjoyed tonight's show he encourages you to seek out other performances in our vibrant local theatre scene, and please consider an additional donation or sponsorship to keep the area theater scene thriving.

Sandy McDaniel (*Costume Design*) is a hair stylist who has found her happy place in creating hair and costumes for local theatre. You may have seen her work in *The Three Musketeers*, *Peter Pan*, or *James and the Giant Peach* for the Montford Park Players.

Sylvia J. Pierce (*Props Design*) is a life-long theatre enthusiast playing one of Ole King Coles fiddlers at age 4. She pursued technical theatre in grad school, deciding she'd rather be a techie than a conceptual designer. Starting out professionally in Cambridge MA in 1978, she worked her way South, through New York City, Atlanta and all over the US and abroad for the next two decades. Along the way she built and managed shows for theatre and broadcast television events, joined IATSE Local #4, built lots of sets, owned two companies, went on the road, and finally moved slightly north to Asheville. Finding that the mountains felt like home, she finally gave up her nomadic lifestyle and settled down. Now, she works and builds for local theatre companies and is enjoying this phase of her career.

Bailey Gafeney (*Sound Design*) is an artist based in Atlanta specializing in sound design and audio engineering. She is a graduate of Georgia State University with a degree in theatre design and production. She began in sound as an apprentice with Multiband Studios, assisting in sound design on productions like *Lizzie* at Actors Express and *Roe* at Horizon Theatre Company, both in Atlanta. After completing her apprenticeship program, she designed sound for Horizon Theatre's *Designing Women*, freeFall Theatre's *The Agitators* in St. Petersburg Florida, and *Love and Information* at Kennesaw State University. What draws her to sound design is the potential to wield control over the imagination, taking unexpected sounds to evocative new soundscapes.

Additional Production Staff

CJ Barnwell *Lighting Associate*
Justin Whitlow *Scenic / Paint Assistant*

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