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# What the Constitution Means to Me

by Heidi Schreck

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## September 1-24, 2023

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*Directed by* **Charlie Flynn-McIver**

### **Starring**

**Kelley Hinman\***  
**Hanley Smith\***

**Production Stage Manager** Carrie Day\*

**Scenic Design** Julie K. Ross

**Lighting Design** CJ Barnwell

**Costume Design** Mandy Bean

**Props Design** Sylvia J. Pierce

**Sound Design** Charlie Flynn-McIver

**Additional Material** Danny Wolohan

### **And featuring Student Debaters**

Elise Carson & Ava Leigh Manderson

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*“What the Constitution Means to Me” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals  
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)*

*Original Broadway Production Produced by  
Diana DiMenna Aaron Glick Matt Ross  
Madeleine Foster Bersin Myla Lerner/ Jon Bierman*

*Jenna Segal/ Catherine Markowitz, Jana Shea/ Maley-Stolbun-Sussman Rebecca Gold/ Jose Antonio Vargas  
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*What the Constitution Means to Me was commissioned by True Love Productions.  
This production originated as part of Summerworks in June and July 2017,  
produced by Clubbed Thumb in partnership with True Love Productions.*

*West Coast premiere produced by  
Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley, CA,  
Tony Taccone, Artistic Director/Susan Medak, Managing Director.*

*What the Constitution Means to Me had its Off-Broadway premiere in New York City at New York  
Theatre Workshop, Jim Nicola, Artistic Director, Jeremy Blocker, Managing Director, 2018*

**\*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers  
in the United States appearing under a Small Professional Theatre SPT Tier 4 Contract**

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**  
**(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)**

**Heidi Hanley Smith\***

**Danny Kelley Hinman\***

**Student Debaters**

**Elise Carson & Ava Leigh Manderson**

*(Student debaters will alternate performances)*

**This play is performed in one act with no intermission.**

**SETTING**

Here

**TIME**

Now

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# Cast Bios

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



## **Kelley Hinman\* (*Danny*)**

Previous roles at NC Stage: *Other Desert Cities* (Lyman), *In the Next Room* (Mr. Daldry). Recent regional roles: *The Fantasticks* (Bellomy) & *A Few Good Men* (Whitaker) at Flatrock Playhouse; *Freud's Last Session* (Freud) at Black Mountain Center for the Arts. LA theatre: *She Loves Me* (George) & *Guys and Dolls* (Nicely-Nicely) (Ovation Award-nominees), *Terra Nova* (Wilson) (Dramalogue Award), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Antrobus), *Wait Until Dark* (Mike), *1776* (Hancock), *Damn Yankees* (Van Buren). Kelley originated roles in productions at The Actors Studio, Pan-Asian Rep, AMAS Rep in NYC and the Edison, Tamarind, Gene Dynarski Theaters in LA. Film/TV roles include: *The Staircase*, *The Last of Robin Hood*, *What to Expect When You're Expecting*, *Calm Before*, *Hornet's Nest*, *Drop Dead Diva*, *The Young and the Restless*, *Loving, Silk Stalkings*, *Civil Wars*. A Neighborhood Playhouse grad under Sanford Meisner, Kelley teaches Meisner acting technique in Asheville and in various film schools in the USA and Canada. Love to his wife Callan for her support.



## **Hanley Smith\* (*Heidi*)**

Hanley is beyond thrilled to make her NC Stage debut with this incredible piece and these equally incredible people. Select credits include: Maria in *The Sound of Music* (Pittsburgh CLO, MSMT, Fulton Theatre); Cathy in *The Last Five Years* (Syracuse Stage, directed by Jason Alexander); Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* (Pioneer Theatre Company); Barbara in *Major Barbara* (Portland Center Stage); Catherine in *In the Next Room* (Gulfshore Playhouse); and Vanda in *Venus in Fur* (Fulton Theatre). Hanley also serves as the Adult Educational Programs Coordinator for the arts nonprofit R.Evolución Latina; she is a producer/company member of the comedy troupe A Drinking Game NYC; and she sings all over the country with her folk trio, A Band Called Honalee. BA: Davidson College. Love and gratitude to friends, family, William, and everyone at NC Stage, including YOU!

# Student Debaters

(STUDENT DEBATERS WILL ALTERNATE PERFORMANCES)



## Elise Carson

Elise Carson is proud to make her debut at NC Stage Company, in her role as Debater. She has also appeared in performances of *Snowbound* at Asheville Community Theatre and *The Crowin' Hen* at the Folk Arts Center. A sophomore at Asheville High, Elise is an active member of the AHS Speech and Debate Team, recently winning 4th place at the State Championship and competing at Harvard University. Her love for debate is what inspired Elise to take advantage of the opportunity to portray a character so close to her heart.



## Ava Leigh Manderson

Ava Leigh is a 15 year old actor from Asheville, NC. She has previously performed in local theatre productions as well as appearing in TV shows such as Peacock's *A Friend of the Family*, along with various commercials, including the Asheville National Tourism Campaign. Ava is a member of her high school's debate team on the public forum squad, and enjoys songwriting and dance. She is extremely excited to be making her NC Stage debut with such a wonderful cast and crew in such an important show.



# Production Bios

**Charlie Flynn-McIver** (*Director*) is the Artistic Director and co-founder, with his wife, Angie Flynn-McIver, of NC Stage. He has appeared most recently in *Jeeves Intervenes*, *A Doll's House Part 2*, and *Stones in His Pockets* as well as NC Stage's world premieres of *Someone Else* and *Stalking the Bogeyman*. At Flat Rock Playhouse, he appeared in *The Odd Couple*, *12 Angry Men* and *The 39 Steps*. Some NC Stage credits include: *Hamlet*, *Loot*, *Art*, *All in the Timing*, *Chesapeake*, and *Macbeth*. National tour: *Wit* with Judith Light. Off Broadway: *Ice Island*, *the Wait for Shackleton*. Directing credits for NC Stage include: *The Book Club Play*, *The Understudy*, *R. Buckminster Fuller: The History (and Mystery) of the Universe*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Annapurna*, *4000 Miles*, *All is Calm*, *Rapture Blister Burn*, and *Other Desert Cities*. Charlie has a Bachelor of Music in Music Theatre from Shenandoah Conservatory of Music and an MFA in acting from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Carrie Day\*** (*Production Stage Manager*) has been Production Manager at NC Stage Company for the past 5 years. This is her first time as an Equity Stage Manager, and she is really enjoying this process with everyone on *What the Constitution Means to Me!* She has spent most of her life in theatre as a professional dancer, electrician, stagehand, and rigger, and is thrilled that this is how she gets to spend her time. Carrie has all the love and special thanks for her daughter, Catherine, who has been very patient while her mom is away in long rehearsals.

**Julie K. Ross** (*Scenic Design*) is a Florida State University grad that is based out of Asheville, NC. When she's not chasing her toddler, Jacob, around, Julie continues to paint and design in every capacity she can find. Julie is thrilled to be working with the NC Stage team again. Past NC Stage productions include: *The Roommate*, *Jeeves Intervenes*, and *Vanya Sonia Masha and Spike*. When she's not designing sets for the theater, she stays busy painting amusement parks, commercial murals and signage and residential faux finishes. You've probably seen her work at Dollywood (Wildwood Grove), Bass Pro Shops or the new Melting Pot Social. Most recently she painted the new Big Bear Mountain that opened this spring at Dollywood. You can see more examples of her work at [www.juliekross.com](http://www.juliekross.com).

**CJ Barnwell [he/him]** (*Lighting Design*) designs lighting and visual media for theatre and live events around the country. Starting with *All is Calm* in December 2015, CJ has designed lighting and visual media for a number of shows at NC Stage including *Jeeves Intervenes* (both times!), *Brave New World*, *Grounded*, and *Curvy Widow*. Regionally, CJ has designed a number of shows including *West Side Story*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *9 to 5*, and *South Pacific* at Flat Rock Playhouse in Flat Rock, NC; and most recently *Steel Magnolias*, *Ring of Fire*, and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* for North Carolina Theatre in Raleigh, NC. Other recent designs include projections for *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, and *Mountaintop* at TheatreSquared in Fayetteville, AK; and *How I Learned What I Learned* by August Wilson at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. See his other current and upcoming designs at [www.CJLights.com](http://www.CJLights.com).

## PRODUCTION BIOS

**Mandy Bean** (*Costume Design*) is a Weaverville native who has spent many years in the Asheville theatre community as an actor, director, and costume designer, as well as working front-of-house for NC Stage. She is co-founder of Multiverse Theatre Collective. Her most recent costuming work was for *The Little Prince* (Montford Park Players). Much love to her husband, Scott, and two wonderful children, Jasper and Arthur. Thank you for supporting live theatre!

**Sylvia J. Pierce** (*Props Artist*) is a life-long theatre enthusiast playing one of Ole King Cole's 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.

# Production Crew

**Production Manager** Carrie Day

**Head Carpenter** Aaron Shiver

**Assistant Carpenter** Connor Harmsworth

**Master Electrician** CJ Barnwell

# Special Thanks to:

Keith Pittman and the Asheville High School Debate Team

# 2023-2024 Annual Fund

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