

Hollins Theatre

Presents

The Revolutionists

Written by Lauren Gunderson

November 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, 2019

Directed by Lauren Brooke Ellis

Technical Direction by John Forsman

Lighting Design by Megan Gilbert

Sound Design by Anna Johnson

Costume Design by Virginia Varland

Stage Management by Anna Johnson

The Revolutionists runs 105 minutes with an intermission.

Thanks to Matt Shields at Mill Mountain Theatre for assistance with
props.

CAST

Olympe de Gouges..... Emma Haigh-Hutchinson
Charlotte Corday..... Kate Statelman
Marie-Antoinette..... Cierra Culbertson**
Marianne Angelle..... Andrea Braxton**

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director: Lauren Brook Ellis
Producer: Ernest Zulia
Technical Director: John Forsman
Box Office Management: Anna Goodwin
Costume Designer: Virginia Varland
Assistant Costume Designer: Sophie Myrick
Lighting Designer/Master Electrician: Megan Gilbert**
Stage Manager/Sound Designer/Board Operator: Anna Johnson**
Assistant Stage Manager/Props Master: Alison Hadley
Dramaturg: Katie Stueckle**
Light Board Operator/Props: Tatiana Durant**
Backstage Run Crew: Hope Napier
Costume Crew Head: Mollie Davis
Costume Crew: Francesca Riley
Stitcher: Kaley Wood

** Members of Alpha Psi Omega

Director's Note

When a play is about the question of whether or not art accomplishes tangible change and creates lasting good, it's really no wonder a director's note and writer's block go hand-in-hand. At its core, *The Revolutionists* recognizes that intersectionality means that there is no one theme. Just as systems of discrimination and disadvantage overlap and intertwine, our discussions and dismantling of them start to feel like untangling numerous cords. How do we talk of legacy without talking of our problematic history (and problematic present)? How do we speak of activism without addressing methods that perhaps only work for one group, or for the privileged, or maybe don't work at all? How do we gauge the validity, scope, and impact of the change we are trying to create? Can art be a catalyst for that change? Is that wishful thinking? In this staged reading, we used our rehearsal time to focus on these questions and engage in exercises to empathize with the characters as they struggle to discern what counts as action or inaction, how we support each other through crises, and how we band together under a system designed for us to fail. Knowing that, I can't help but admire the tremendous work by the folk involved in this reading, both on and offstage. What courage they all have, what ingenuity, what kindness and empathy. Approaching a script like this requires not only deft skill, it requires an open mind and an open heart that allows them to see themselves in the good and bad of these characters. Where they fall short, we fall short, and once we understand that, we are obligated to do better. Our education and our empathy are what define our legacy, and allows us to shape our own stories and our larger roles as we work to repair society.

For what it's worth, I believe art can do that. Theatre can do that. By actively grappling with these questions and engaging with the stories of our pasts and the hopes for our future, we create empathy for each other and the experiences of all humans. By witnessing these women, we allow ourselves to identify with and experience the fears, concerns, joys, and hopes of people outside ourselves. And I hope by witnessing this play, you feel empowered to witness and actively engage in the world with the best tools available to us: open hearts, open minds, and a great sense of humor.

As we watch Olympe struggle to rewrite her own story and the role she played in her revolution, we are forced to ponder our own positions of power and our own methods of leaving marks and legacies. What part will you play in altering this narrative?

Lauren Brooke Ellis

CAST

Cierra Culbertson (Marie-Antoinette) is a senior theatre major from Fredericksburg, VA. Cierra has been a part of many Hollins productions as an actor, director, and costumer; but this is her first time taking part in a staged reading! She would like to say *merci* to her amazing cast and crew for their dedication and support throughout this process as well as her wonderful friends and roommates for keeping her sane through the busy semester!

Emma Haigh-Hutchinson (Olympe) is a senior Psychology major from Austin, Texas. She is excited to be acting again at Hollins after working in costume design, construction, and management on precious productions including *Godspell*, *Fun Home*, and *The Wolves*. Previous acting credits include *Legally Blonde* and *To Aylan*. In addition to playing Olympe, she composed the melody for *Our Song* for this production of *The Revolutionists*.

Andrea Nicole Braxton (Marianne) is a junior theatre major and gender and women's studies minor from Richmond, VA. She has been involved in six other shows at Hollins. Most recently, she has acted in *Marvelous Cornelius*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream: In Motion!*. She's excited to be involved in such a power-driven show!

Kate Statelman (Charlotte) is a junior theatre major from Richmond, Virginia. Most recently at Hollins she has appeared onstage in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander) and *The Wolves* (#11), and worked as assistant director for *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. Thank you to everyone involved in putting together this show!

CREW

Alison Hadley (Assistant Stage Manager & Props Master) is a sophomore film major from Warrenton, Virginia. She has been involved with eight short films for the 48-Hour Film Festival, the latest of which was awarded Best Picture. Most recently, she produced and directed a short film called *The Kid*. This is her first production at Hollins and she couldn't be more excited to be involved.

Anna Johnson (Stage Manager & Sound Designer) is a junior theatre major from Asheville, NC. Current and upcoming sound credits include sound design for Mill Mountain Theatre's *Romeo & Juliet*, *The 24-Hour Play Festival*, *Arachnothology*, and *Moving*. She also recently worked as a sound intern on five productions at the Berkshire Theatre Group including the Broadway-transfer show, *Rock and Roll Man*. She is thrilled to be a part of the Spotlight Reading Series!

Kaley Wood (Run Crew) is a first-year undecided major from Kernersville, NC. This is their first participation in a Hollins theatre production. They are a self-taught beader, embroiderer, and sewer, and is incredibly excited to have this opportunity to work on costumes for this production!

Katie Stueckle (Dramaturg) is a senior English Literature and Performance major and Theatre minor from Nashville, Tennessee. Hollins dramaturgy credits include *Fun Home*, *She Made Space*, and the Winter Festival of New Works in both 2017 & 2018. She also recently was the dramaturg for the Nashville Shakespeare Festival's 2019 productions of *The Tempest* and *Pericles*. Vive la Revolution! Long live the future!

Lauren Brooke Ellis (Director) is a director, stage manager, and playwright from Aiken, South Carolina. She completed her undergraduate degree in Theatre from the University of South Carolina Aiken, where she graduated with honors in 2014. She spent the next two years as a freelance theatre practitioner as far as Detroit, Michigan and as close as Augusta, GA before she started her Certificate in New Play Directing at Hollins University in 2016. After completion of that certificate, she enrolled in their MFA playwriting program and she will graduate in May of 2020. Her main focus is in new works and utilizing them to amplify marginalized voices and question the status quo through theatre. She currently serves as a respondent for new works for KCACTF, the chair of the Ten Minute Play Festival for SETC, and as a Resident Professional Teaching Artist with Hollins for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Megan Gilbert (Lighting Designer) is a senior theatre major from Richmond, Virginia. Recent Hollins productions include *Goodnight Moon*, *The Wolves*, and *The P.E. Teacher*. She would like to thank her cat, Mouse, and the Department for their continued support.

Mollie Davis (Costume Run Crew) is a sophomore theatre/political science double major from Maryland and is thrilled to be working on her second show at Hollins. She is grateful to all of her friends and family for their continued support in her theatre endeavors.

Tatiana Durant (Light Board Op) is a Junior Theatre Major at Hollins University, and is greatly anticipating Hollins Theatre's Spotlight Reading Series premiere of *The Revolutionists*. Recent credits include Stage Managing Mill Mountain Theatre's adaptation of *Romeo & Juliet* and Hollins Theatre's *Fun Home*, and Directing and Producing *The P.E. Teacher*. Upcoming productions include Directing *Exit Interview* in Hollins Ten-Minute Play Festival, Playwriting for The 24-Hour Play Festival, and appearing as Gwen in *Arachnothology*.

VIRGINIA VARLAND (Costume Designer) is delighted to join the *Revolutionists* team as Resident Costume Designer and Adjunct Faculty for the fall semester. Hailing from Chicago, she works professionally as a costume designer, design assistant, and costume shop manager at various theaters including Writers Theatre, Victory Gardens, Strawdog Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre Co, etc. She received her MFA in Costume design from Northwestern University and BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is excited to return to her home-state for the fall and thankful to work with such a passionate and dedicated team of individuals here at Hollins.