SILENT SKY
By Lauren Gunderson
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THE UW-PARKSIDE THEATRE ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

SILENT SKY
By Lauren Gunderson

LEAD PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR
Jennifer Sassaman

SCENIC DESIGNER
Alex Hamilton*

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Lyric Simonson*

COSTUME DESIGNER
Darice DaMata-Geiger

MAKEUP DESIGNER
Hailey Schowalter*

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Chelsea Strebe*

SOUND DESIGNER
Tyler Coffey*

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Jody Sekas

STAGE MANAGER
Alexander Gray*

PROPERTIES MASTER
Jeff Brain*

SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST
Alexa Joy*

PROJECTIONS DESIGNER
Sarah Hemken*

DRAMATURG
Jon Rocha*

(*) indicates student

DR. DONALD A. CRESS, Producing Sponsor

Silent Sky is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Commissioned and first produced by South Coast Repertory with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation.
Recently I was watching one of my favorite comedy TV shows and one character referred to another as a “lady scientist” several times. Each time the character did so the show’s narrator popped in and commented “also known as: a scientist.” Great joke, also a sad reflection of how pervasive the notion that the sciences are meant to be a field for men only still is.

Silent Sky is a play that imagines the lives of three extraordinary lady scientists (also known as scientists) who dramatically changed their field. In particular, the play focuses on Henrietta Leavitt, whose discovery of a way to accurately measure distances on an inter-galactic scale paved the way for modern astronomy’s understanding of the structure and scale of the universe.

This is historical fiction, which means that some of the elements are based on documentation and others have been invented to represent both the struggles and the relationships the playwright imagined these women had. This also means that some of the events that happened in their lives occurs in a different order in the play than it did in real life.

Many of the struggles illustrated throughout this play are things that women have not exactly escaped today: needing to fight in order to follow a passion that falls outside of what is considered a traditionally acceptable role for women, choosing between what you are passionate about and choosing to have a personal life and family, and what we lose when we are forced to make that choice.

Finally, you should know this play jumps in and out of realism as it spans two decades at the start of the last century. It’s a magical kind of realism where certain scenes are performed as if they are more or less in the same recognizable world we live in, and certain scenes are most decidedly... other. This allows us to see inside the mind of one of the great astronomers of the 20th century, her thoughts, her dreams, and her vast imagination.

I truly hope you enjoy this enchanted ride.
The Harvard Observatory was founded in 1839, and has been a leading beacon in astronomical sciences ever since. In its earlier years, the Observatory received very little funding from Harvard University. This lead to Observatory Director Edward Pickering to push for volunteers in 1882 to aid in observing variable stars. Some of these volunteers, of whom were mostly women, would go on to be hired by the observatory as human computers who would catalog stars on glass photographic plates that would be taken by male scientists on the observatory’s telescopes. At the time, women were not allowed to use the telescope, because men were concerned about women’s wellbeing if exposed to the cold, New England air during the amount of exhausting hours at night that a telescope could be used effectively. The standard pay rate for these women was $0.25 per hour, which would be around the modern day equivalent of our minimum wage. These women would skillfully and meticulously classify and log hundreds of thousands of stars over the course of over a hundred years. While doing so, many of these women would discover new astrological phenomena, and create classification systems to bring order to objects found in space.

Astronomers across the globe praised the Harvard Observatory computers for their dedication, expertise, and findings. Unfortunately, much of the work of the women of the observatory would only be published under a male astronomer who utilized their research in his own work and would receive the credit. Many times, the women who made the original discovery would only get a mention in the introduction of the publication. Nevertheless, the women at The Harvard Observatory would continue to make discoveries, and garner respect and acceptance of women in the sciences during a period of time where most women were expected to be homebodies.

While it takes some liberties chronologically, Silent Sky highlights the important work that these incredibly skilled women have done that has gone unnoticed. My research had me delve into the lives of our three female astronomers, and bringing to light how impactful their contribution to the sciences were. At a time when the thought was that our galaxy was the only one in the universe, and that there was only a certain amount of accomplishments a woman can achieve, these women persisted nonetheless; They gave us ways to measure the previously unmeasurable and move towards the infinite possibilities of space, and of ourselves. The work of Williamina Fleming, Henrietta Leavitt, Annie Jump Cannon, and the women of the Harvard Observatory not only have altered the course of astronomy and our fundamental ideas of our ever-expanding universe, but have also inspired generations of women to break through the roles and expectations placed on them.

JON ROCHA
CAST

HENRIETTA LEAVITT .................................................................................................................. Bailey Johnston
MARGARET LEAVITT .................................................................................................................. Samantha Feiler
PETER SHAW .................................................................................................................................. Josh Pride
ANNIE CANNON .......................................................................................................................... Rebecca St. Ange
WILLIAMINA FLEMING ............................................................................................................. Delaina Kuzelka

SETTINGS

1910–1920

Star Field
The Harvard Observatory, 2nd Floor Offices
Leavitt home; Wisconsin
Ocean Liner in the Atlantic
Henrietta’s home; Cambridge, MA

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

Learn about student successes in the Parkside Theatre Arts program.

uwp.edu/theatre
SAMANTHA FEILER (Margaret Leavitt) is in her senior year and is pursuing a theatre arts major with a concentration in both acting and stage management. Past Credits include stage manager for Pinta El Feugo in Milwaukee Chamber Theatre’s Young Playwright Festival, for the Br!nk Br!efs 2018 Playwright Festival and the Br!nk Br!efs 2019 Playwright Festival with Renaissance Theaterworks, and for Love’s Labour’s Lost and The War of the Worlds, assistant stage manager for One Man, Two Guvnors and wardrobe crew for Angels in America.

BAILEY JOHNSTON (Henrietta Leavitt) is a senior focused mostly in performance but also interested in stage management. Previous credits on campus include One Man, Two Guvnors (Christine Patterson), the FreshINK staged reading of Water by the Spoonful (Orangutan), Urinetown (Billy Boy Bill), and Love’s Labour’s Lost (assistant stage manager). Bailey has also been seen in Blithe Spirit (Edith) at the Racine Theater Guild and both A Christmas Carol (Ensemble 6) and The Taming of the Shrew (Tranio, fight captain, assistant stage manager) with Fleeing Artists Theatre.

JOSH PRIDE (Peter Shaw) is overjoyed to be in his first production at Parkside. As a transferring junior, his recent credits include Addams Family (assistant director), Oedipus the King (Oedipus), A Doll’s House (Krogstad), and Cabaret (Cliff Bradshaw) at College of Lake County; Rabbit Hole (Howie) and As You Like It (Oliver) at Augustana College; and the QC Theatre Workshop’s productions of Almost, Maine (various roles) and Buried Child (Vince). He thanks everyone in the seats, the Parkside company, and Jennifer Sassaman for constantly challenging and inspiring.

REBECCA ST. ANGE (Annie Cannon) is a freshman theatre arts major. Her acting credits include All My Sons (Kate Keller), The Little Prince (The Little Prince), The Christians (Choir Member), and Argonautika (Medea).

DELAINA KUZELKA (Williamina Fleming) is in her first year at Parkside. Delaina has been involved in theatre around the Kenosha area for the past seven years. Favorite productions have included The Lakeside Players productions of RENT (deck crew) and To Kill a Mockingbird (Scout Finch), Tremper High School’s The Spitfire Grill (Percy Talbott), Bradford High School’s The Lion In Winter (Eleanor), and Indian Trail High School’s Almost, Maine (Hope & Gale), Ghost: The Musical (Molly), and Proof (Catherine).
PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

EMMALEE BERGER (Assistant Costume Designer) is a senior theatre arts major with a concentration in theatre design and technology focusing in costume design and is minoring in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies and studio art. She spent this past summer in California working at the Pacific Conservatory Theatre as a stitching intern. On stage she could most recently be seen in Urinetown (Old Ma Strong) at Parkside. Before that she could be seen in A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Helena) and Street Scene (Emma Jones) at College of Lake County, both of which she assistant costume designed.

JEFF BRAIN (Properties Master) is a theatre arts major in his senior year. At Parkside, he played Longaville in Love’s Labour’s Lost, for which he received an Irene Ryan Acting Award nomination. He has also been in The War of the Worlds (Announcer 2 / Wilmuth) and designed hair and makeup for Urinetown. His previous credits at the College of Lake County include A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Nick Bottom), The Tempest (Sebastian), and The Cherry Orchard (Pishchik). He has also worked with Kenosha’s Fleeing Artists Theatre in Twelfth Night (Toby Belch) and Lakeside Players in A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Nick Bottom). He most recently spent his summer as scene shop foreman for Okoboji Summer Theatre in Okoboji, Iowa.

TYLER COFFEY (Sound Designer) is a senior double-majoring in psychology and theatre arts. Previous credits include Urinetown and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (dramaturg), Midnight and Moll Flanders (assistant sound designer). Acting credits include Love’s Labour’s Lost (Moth) and the FreshINK staged reading of Water by the Spoonful (Ghost).

DARICE DAMATA-GEIGER (Costume Designer) is the Costume Lab Supervisor and a lecturer teaching Costumecraft at Parkside. She brings over 45 years of professional and educational experience as a costume designer, lab supervisor, and instructor. Darice earned her MFA in Theatre Design at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI, as a Hilberry Fellow. Darice has extensive professional costume design experience and has designed for multiple Chicago theatres including City Lit, Famous Door Theatre, and The Next Theatre. The last two summer seasons she designed costumes for the Michigan Shakespeare Festival.
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Play a part in changing the life of a student through contributions to the Theatre Arts program.

Cole Conrad | Lois J. Skatrud
Scholarship Recipient in “Midnight and Moll Flanders” Fall 2018
An Exciting Opportunity to Create More Scholarship Funds!

Longtime theatre creator and enthusiast, Lois J. Skatrud, created a scholarship to support students who dream of pursuing an education in the theatre arts.

The Lois J. Skatrud Theatre Arts Scholarship Fund is over halfway to realizing its goal of a $100,000 endowment, which will cover 50% of the annual tuition costs for a Parkside theatre arts major.

You can help make Lois's dream a reality by contributing to the Lois J. Skatrud Theatre Arts Scholarship Fund. The first $2,500 in gifts made by Dec 31, 2019 will be matched dollar for dollar.

Choose from three donor categories, each representing the roles and children’s theatre produced by Lois and friends throughout her career.

**Raggedy Ann** | $2,500  
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To invest in Parkside Theatre Arts students through the Lois J. Skatrud Scholarship, visit: uwp.edu/skatrud-scholarship

For more information or questions about making a donation to support student success, contact:
Linnea Booher | booher@uwp.edu | 262-595-2404

ABOUT LOIS J. SKATRUD
Born in 1933 during the Great Depression, Lois was a ray of sunshine for her mother, Ruth Shultz. Lois was a natural entertainer who on her fifth birthday was featured in the local press as the family’s own “Shirley Temple.” She pursued her love of theatre after high school with the Maskers Club of Manitowoc and played a host of different roles. Lois married Glenn Skatrud, who served as a United Methodist Pastor for nearly 50 years, in 1957 and together they had six children—it was truly “A Wonderful Life.” In 1987, she started a children’s theatre troupe, the Milton Optimist Club’s Kids on Stage, in Milton Wis., and devoted enormous time and energy to them. She co-directed for 27 years and worked with nearly 1,000 children. Lois is remembered by children as the energetic emcee who presented each show dressed as Raggedy Ann.
“I could have never imagined this if I tried. Helping students finish college to pursue a career in theatre is my dream... If I had a bucket list, this would be on it.”

- Lois J. Skatrud on creating the scholarship
The University of Wisconsin-Parkside Theatre Arts Department focuses on student success by providing unparalleled opportunities for them to hone their craft. The Department deploys a company model that allows all students to practice the various theatre arts from acting and directing to set building, to lighting, to sound, and costume construction. Because our faculty continue to be professionally engaged, our students can take advantage of extraordinary internships with professional theatres.

The excellence of the Theatre Arts Department was recognized by the Wisconsin Board of Regents with the Award for Teaching Excellence 2009. Each year, Parkside students compete at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and take home many awards, including progression to the national final in Washington DC.

Students largely rely on financial aid to help make their dreams a reality. We hope that you will consider a donation to support student success and exceptional performances at Parkside.

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To select a designation to UW-Parkside Theatre, select a designation of “Other” and fill in which fund you would like your investment to support.

Please make checks payable to the UW-Parkside Foundation and note the theatre fund or purpose in the check memo line. Checks can be mailed to:

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For more information about supporting the arts at UW-Parkside, contact Linnea Booher:
booher@uwp.edu | 262-595-2404

Chelsea Strebe | Lois J. Skatrud
Scholarship Recipient in “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum”
Spring 2017
ERIN DILLON (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore theatre arts major and has picked up a dedication for lighting as well as for acting. Educational credits include The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Siobhan), Midnight and Moll Flanders (minor supporter), Urinetown (spotlight operator), Love’s Labour’s Lost (light board operator). Professional credits include stage managing at First Stage Children’s Theatre in Milwaukee. She is excited to continue learning about her passion with the wonderful friends and faculty she has had the pleasure of getting to know in this department.

ALEXANDER GRAY (Stage Manager) is in his second year at Parkside majoring in psychology and theatre arts with concentrations in performance and stage management. Parkside credits include Urinetown (assistant stage manager) and The War of the Worlds (sound board operator). Previous College of Lake County credits include The True Story of the Three Little Pigs (stage manager), A Relationship - Abridged (director), and Jekyll & Hyde (assistant director).

ALEX HAMILTON (Scenic Designer) is a fifth year transfer student with a theatre arts major and an emphasis in design and technology. He is training to become a scenic designer and technical director. This past summer Alex worked as the master carpenter for Arkansas Shakespeare Theater. His past production credits have been projection designer for The War of the Worlds and scenic designer for Love’s Labor’s Lost.

SARAH HEMKEN (Projections Designer) is in her final year at Parkside and is a theater arts major with a concentration in design and technology. She has a passion for costuming and most recently was the designer for The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night-Time. She has been assistant costume designer for Urinetown, wardrobe supervisor for Love’s Labours Lost, and has also enjoyed being on wardrobe crew for several other shows here at Parkside. She also works in the costume shop and helps with builds and alterations for each show. Some of her other work includes stitching and being on wardrobe crew for Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre this past summer.
PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

ALEXA JOY (Scenic Charge Artist) is in her final semester majoring in theatre arts with a visual arts minor. At Parkside, she has served as a scenic artist on many shows, was the charge artist for Macbeth, Angels in America, Eurydice, Midnight and Moll Flanders, and Urinetown. She was the makeup and hair designer for One Man, Two Guvnors and Love’s Labor’s Lost. Alexa had the opportunity to work as a scenic artist at Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre in Allentown, PA, in 2017 and as an assistant charge artist at Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts (PCPA) in Santa Maria, CA, in 2018. She is excited to paint her last show at UW-Parkside, Silent Sky.

ABBY KUBIK (Assistant Stage Manager) transferred to Parkside this year after earning an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts from Milwaukee Area Technical College. She is a junior pursuing a theatre arts major with a concentration in direction and stage management. Previous high school credits include Once Upon a Mattress (assistant director), The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis, It’s Murder in the Wings, and Fly by Night (stage manager). She is thrilled to continue her education here.

JON ROCHA (Dramaturg) is a junior in the theatre arts department with a focus on dramaturgy and directing and is a transfer student from The College of Lake County. Recent performance credits include The Addams Family Musical (Lurch), and Oedipus Rex (Kreon). He was also a student director for Play-On!, a student showcase at CLC.

JENNIFER SASSAMAN (Director) has directed, choreographed and acted in more than 70 productions in her career and has to also written several plays and musicals. She received her MFA in Directing from Florida State University after having started her own theater company in Philadelphia, where she served as the artistic director for five seasons. Parkside credits include The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, and One Man Two Guvnors. Jennifer is also the co-artistic director of Open Door Theater in Montpelier, Vermont where she has worked on several shows including a collaboration with the podcast Girl Tales on an original audio play she wrote and co-starred in called Hansel & Gretel & Minna which you can listen to wherever you get your podcasts.
HAILEY SCHOWALTER (Makeup Designer) is a junior. She has a passion for both doing makeup and acting. She was makeup designer for *Shrek The Musical* at William Horlick High School in the Spring of 2018. On the Parkside stage, Hailey was recently seen in *Urinetown* (Penelope Pennywise). Some of her favorite credits elsewhere include *Annie* (Miss Hannigan), *Seussical the Musical* (Sour Kangaroo), and *Hairspray* (Tracy Turnblad).

CHELSEA STREBE (Lighting Designer) is a senior. Her educational credits include: *Silent Sky* (lighting designer), *Love’s Labour’s Lost* (lighting designer), *Urinetown* (assistant lighting designer), *Midnight and Moll Flanders* (technical director), and *Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches* (master carpenter). Professional credits include: carpenter for Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, production assistant for American Players Theatre, and shop assistant for Fireside Dinner Theatre.

JODY SEKAS (Technical Director) is an associate professor of scenic design and technology and a core professor in the digital design and fabrication certificate at Parkside. He has taught scenography in the Theatre, Film, & Dance Department at Humboldt State University in northern California; scenic/lighting design and technology at UW-Eau Claire, and for four years was the resident scenic and lighting designer for the Sioux Falls Playhouse in South Dakota. He has worked as a freelance designer for such venues as the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Door Shakespeare, First Stage Children’s Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Dell’Arte International, Rochester Civic Theatre, Omaha Theatre Company for Young People, The Western Stage, and on several independent films.
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PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

SCENIC CONSTRUCTION CREW ............................... Isabella Cernuska, Maddison Crecchio
                                      Jennifer Franco, Lynsey Gallagher, Nadia Goldstar
                                      Bianca Gonzalez, Aidan Johnson, Abby Kubik
                                      Joseph Leidlein, Chris LeValley, Noah Museitif, Hans Pfrang
                                      Ambrea Pinkowski, Rachel Robinson, Jon Rocha
                                      Hailey Schowalter, Dylan Thomas, Celeste Zuniga

PROPERTIES CREW ..................................................... Starlyn Howard, Samantha Feiler
                                      Talia Last, Rebecca St. Ange

LIGHTING CREW .............................. Ben Briselden, Jessica Baker, Jenny Bauer, Bryan Byars
                                      Lynsey Gallagher, Nadia Goldstar, Bianca Gonzales
                                      Sawyer Edwards, Abby Kubik, Jenna Eve Kleinofen
                                      Kammi Kringle, Shamoon Mian

COSTUME CREW .............................. Marcus Case, Reagan Becker, Emily Bernhagen
                                      Eric Danyus, Mya Figueroa, Ben Compton, Timara Frink
                                      Rayanna Johnson, Samual Kim, Abby Kubik, Leticia L'Huilleir
                                      Jennifer Nelson, Tomer Proctor-Zenker, Sarah Severson

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT - PROJECTIONS ........................................... Noah Frye

MARKETING / PROGRAM LAYOUT .................................................... Oliver Johnson

PROMOTIONS  .............................................................. Jennifer Sassaman

POSTER DESIGN ............................................................... Kim Sekas

PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHER .................................................. Alyssa Nepper

DIRECTOR OF CRAFT SERVICES .................................................. Keith Harris

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANTS ................................................. Jennie Filippone, Jared Holloway
                                      Joe Lambin, Edson Melendez, Karen Sorensen

SPECIAL THANKS

Bess and Chad Jocius, Janine and Scott Anderson, Jessica and Tim Smith
Judith Christianson, Next Act Theatre, Bob & Ginny Sassaman for director support
and Casa Capri for their ongoing support

PROGRAM ENTRANCE AUDITIONS
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Support the Theatre Arts at Parkside.

In the same way that mounting a play requires a team, funding it is likewise a team effort. To produce our amazing shows, we rely on a combination of sources—ticket sales, the University, and private funding.

This year we kick off two new initiatives that will allow us to maintain our high standards through patron donations.

**LOIS J. SKATRUD THEATRE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

We are making a concerted effort to complete the Lois J. Skatrud Theatre Arts Scholarship Fund. When we reach our goal of $100K, the scholarship will cover 50% of a theatre student’s tuition. See our insert for more details.

**PRODUCING SPONSORS**

We are inaugurating a new program for donors who underwrite a significant part of each of our productions, including our FreshINK series. It is our pleasure to recognize the important contribution that these theatre lovers have made. To our 2019-2020 producing sponsors, we say a heartfelt thank you.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*
Patricia Petretti

*Silent Sky*
Dr. Donald A. Cress

*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, abridged*
*Romeo and Juliet*
Amy Bigna

*FreshINK Series*
Julie Anding & Lisa Kornetsky

For more information about becoming a producing sponsor for 2020-2021, contact Dean Lesley Walker: lwalker@uwp.edu

**EVEN MORE WAYS TO GIVE**

You can also play a part in changing the life of a student through contributions to the Theatre Arts program. You can choose to invest in Theatre Production Enhancement, which will go directly toward funding various aspects of our season, or Student Scholarships. Funds contributed to scholarships are awarded each year based on academic and artistic achievement.

For more information about supporting the arts at UW-Parkside, contact Linnea Booher: 262-595-2404 | booher@uwp.edu
Thank you for being part of our work!

The College of Arts and Humanities with the UW-Parkside Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their investment in the Theatre Arts Department and students.

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For omissions or changes to this donor list, please contact:  
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*Denotes members of the UW-Parkside Chancellor’s Society.  
For more information, visit: uwp.edu/chancellors-society

A STANDING OVATION for our partner, The Fireside Dinner Theater in Fort Atkinson, WI. The University of Wisconsin-Parkside celebrates a long-standing partnership with The Fireside and is grateful for its continued partnership with our program that creates hands-on, professional learning experience for our students.
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Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
FEATURE STORIES

BOSWELL ODYSSEY: THEATRE IN SCOTLAND
Parkside Theatre Arts had the incredible opportunity to be part of Marie Kohler’s *Boswell*, presented during the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland.

TWO WORLDS, ONE ART: MUSIC IN CHINA
A music and cultural exchange between students and faculty from Parkside and Jhanghan University in Wuhan, China.

ON THE WAY TO MARS: PARKSIDE IN SPACE
Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dr. Daryl Sauer ‘84 and Parkside science students are working together to help humans go where they have not gone before — Mars.

View articles, images, and audio clips at uwp.edu/magazine
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