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What the Constitution Means to Me
by Heidi Schreck
February 2 – February 26, 2023

THE CHINESE LADY
by Lloyd Suh
March 30 – April 23, 2023

DANCE NATION
by Clare Barron
May 25 – June 25, 2023
Greetings BLUEBARNERS!

Welcome to the BLUEBARN. You are in for a unique and wonderful experience today. Firstly, a piece that aligns with our mission as much as any production that has been produced on our stage. A mission in which we challenge ourselves to "provoke thought, emotion, action, and change." What the Constitution Means to Me is considered one of the most important plays to hit the Broadway stage in a number of years, and as such has gained appreciation and acclaim from around the globe. I'm sure you will find much in the work that resonates with you in these times of conflicting progress and uncertainty - along with a laugh or two which is always good medicine.

Secondly, what our performance of "Constitution" demonstrates is the reputation that the BLUEBARN carries with artists around the country. It was a friendship with Heidi and Kip, the playwright of "Constitution" and her husband, himself an actor and a director (and Omaha native!), that led to BLUEBARN being granted the first rights to produce the play. We are proud that the BLUEBARN's name and work is known in New York, Los Angeles, and so many points in between. We have seen and will continue to see our proud heritage serve us well as we continue to seek incredible new works and artistic partnerships to share with you all.

Thanks for being here, and enjoy the show!

Devin Fox, Board President

BLUEBARN Staff
Susan Clement
Producing Artistic Director

Erika Sieff
Managing Director

Amy Reiner
Director of Production & Prop Master

Heather Hoyt
Development Director

Bill Kirby
Resident Creative & Technical Director

Sydney Readman
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Laura Peet Erkes
Michael Walenta
Susan Clement
(ex-officio)
What the Constitution Means to Me

by Heidi Schreck

Feb. 2-26, 2023
Directed by Susan Clement

This performance runs approximately 100 minutes with no intermission.

Please silence all cell phones, smart watches, and other noise-making devices.

For your safety and the safety of those around you, masks are strongly encouraged.

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-Stolbn-Sussman, Rebecca Gold, Jose Antonio Vargas, Level Forward Cornice Productions, Lassen Wyse Balsam, Nederland Productions, and Kate Lear

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

Supreme Court audio recordings courtesy of the Library of Congress.
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Would you or your company like to sponsor a BLUEBARN production? Contact Heather at 402.345.1576 x6 or hhoyt@bluebarn.org.
WE the People: Pre-Show Art Chats with Curator, Jared Spence

Saturday, February 11th | 7:00 pm, before the 7:30 pm show
Sunday, February 19th | 5:30 pm, before the 6 pm show

Join us for a pre-show conversation with Jared Spence, curator of the WE the People group art exhibition which explores the social and political structures and systems in place in our country that marginalizes certain communities of people. The exhibition features multicultural artists of different ages and backgrounds currently residing in the Omaha and Lincoln area. Bring your questions to the WE the People artists who offer a wealth of united and varied experiences and points of view.

The WE the People exhibit is on display to the public in February, M-F during Box Office Hours, 10am-4pm.

WE the People Artist Roster:
Wesaam Al Badry, Ang Bennett, Gerardo “Pollo” Diaz, Mary Ensz, Eduardo Gardea, Thomas Halbur, Kendra Limon, Sarah Rowe, Nathaniel Ruleaux, Oria Simonini, Bart Vargas, Lily Stennis-Vinson

What the Constitution Means to Me: A Response through Poetry

BLUEBARN is proud to partner with the Nebraska Writers Collective during this production. Youth Writers will watch the show and write a response in the form of poetry. Poetry by Isabella Mitchell, NWC student and Youth Poet Laureate Runner-Up, will be featured on our website and social media in the month of February.

A Conversation with Playwright, Heidi Schreck
Saturday, February 25
Following the 7:30 pm show

We are thrilled to welcome Heidi Schreck to The BLUEBARN as we celebrate the closing weekend of her play, "What the Constitution Means to Me." Join this award-winning playwright in a conversation about the birth and evolution of this powerful show.
Afterwords with Nebraska Civic Leaders

Saturday, February 4th | Following the 7:30 pm show

What does the Constitution mean to you? Explore this question with representatives from the League of Women Voters and Civic Nebraska. This group will guide the audience through a discussion around the impact of constitutional rights in today’s society, with a focus on women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ2s+ matters.

Talkback Participants: Linda Duckworth, President at League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha; Bridget Claborn, Fundraising Director, LWV of Greater Omaha; Cat Henning, Vice-President at LWV of Greater Omaha; Karina Hernandez, Director at Large at LWV of Greater Omaha Board; Jenny Synowiecki, Public Policy Director at LWV of Greater Omaha; Chueqa Yang (they/she/any), Voting Rights Organizing Coordinator at Civic Nebraska, Sarah Walker, Development Director at Civic Nebraska

Afterwords with the Cast and Creative Team

Thursday, February 9th | Following the 7:30 pm show

Join the incredible cast and production team as they dive into the creative process behind BLUEBARN’s What the Constitution Means to Me.

ACLU Nebraska

For over 50 years in Nebraska, the ACLU has worked in courts, legislatures, and communities to protect the constitutional and individual rights of all people. With a nationwide network of offices and millions of members and supporters, we take up the toughest civil liberties fights. Beyond one person, party, or side — we the people dare to create a more perfect union. For additional information, please visit ACLU Nebraska’s website: aclubebraska.org.

Thank You

Al Marcault
Kim Meeks
Luz Dahlke
Creighton University
Bill VanDeest
Doug Sieburg
West & Janis Pierce
Kip Fagan
Center Trophy

Thanks to ACLU Nebraska for the donation of pocket constitutions.
ANTI-RACISM | ANTI-OPPRESSION ETHOS

BLUEBARN Theatre owns that systemic racism is real, always at play, and intersects with multiple systems of oppression, and that all must be fought against wherever and however they show up - in our community, in our theater, in ourselves.

ANTI-HARASSMENT & INCLUSION

BLUEBARN Theatre is committed to fostering a culture of civility, dignity, and respect as a right and responsibility of all who walk through its doors. Employees, guest artists, volunteers and patrons are entitled to and responsible for maintaining an environment of mutual trust - free from intimidation, exploitation, harassment, and discrimination. Offensive, abusive, or unwelcome verbal or physical conduct will not be tolerated. Adhering to this standard is vital to the BLUEBARN's mission.

DIVERSE AUDIENCE PRACTICES PRINCIPLE

Hospitality has always been one of the BLUEBARN's core values. Welcoming you to this space is our great joy. You are invited to bring your full self to the experience. Audible reactions and responses are absolutely welcome. For some people this is church, for some a meditative space, for others an escape, and we invite you to respect the ways that others engage in the experience based on their individual or cultural practices. By gathering at the BLUEBARN, you have committed to a shared experience in community with others, free from etiquette shaming, microaggressions, and entitled behavior.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The BLUEBARN Theatre stands in honor of the first inhabitants and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The BLUEBARN stands — the unceded territory of the Umonhon (’um AHHah”) and ochethi Sakoiwic, We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory. We honor the generations of stewards, and we pay our respects to the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land.

Visit native-land.ca to discover the native land on which you reside or currently find yourself.
ACCESS

BLUEBARN Theatre is committed to ensuring that our boundary-breaking theatre is accessible to everyone. We are committed to easing cost barriers for young professionals and students. We are committed to providing low-cost, last-minute opportunities for anyone to see a show. We are committed to recognizing those that give the most in service to our community.

BLUCrew - Young Patron Development Program
Anyone 35 or under is eligible. Members receive rush pricing for most Sunday and Thursday shows throughout the season with no upfront cost. Contact Sydney at sreadman@bluebarn.org to join BLUCrew.

Rush Tickets
Every unsold seat. Every show. $20. Available only at the box office, 45 minutes before curtain. If we’re not sold out, you have a new way in.

Nebraska Educators, Healthcare Workers, and Military Personnel
$5 off all tickets. All the time.

Radical Hospitality
Sometimes you need a break. It doesn’t matter why. For pay-what-you-wish tickets to any show, contact Sydney at sreadman@bluebarn.org.

Assisted Listening Devices
These are available at the box office for mainstage productions. BLUEBARN also utilizes Listen Everywhere, a smartphone application that allows you to stream audio directly to your own headphones and Bluetooth compatible hearing aids. See our box office staff for assistance or scan the QR code provided.

An American Sign Language interpreted performance is offered for What the Constitution Means to Me on February 9, generously supported by the Nebraska Arts Council.

An Audio Description Service is provided through Outlook Nebraska upon request. Audio described performances fall on the 3rd Thursday of each run, when requested.

Sensory Kits are available at the box office and the lobby is always available as a respite from the performance environment. Sensory Kits provided by Autism Action Partnership.

To request these or additional accommodations, or for more information, please call (402) 345-1576 or email Sydney at sreadman@bluebarn.org.
CAST OF CHARACTERS
(in alphabetical order)

Heidi.................................................................Katie Becker Colón
Legionnaire.......................................................Jonathan Hickerson
*Debater..........................................................Kiley Meleán
*Debater..........................................................Monica Shambare

*The two cast members playing the role of the DEBATER will appear in alternating performances.

PRODUCTION CREATIVES

Director/Producing Artistic Director.............Susan Clement
Scenic Designer................................................Lisa TenHulzen
Costume Designer...........................................Jocelyn Reed
Production Manager & Props Design..............Amy Reiner
Lighting Design...............................................Bill Kirby
Stage Manager...............................................Maggie Carolus
Costume Coordinator....................................Kerri Drake
Scenic Artist..................................................Craig Lee
Sound Board Operator.................................Mindy Cotner
Art Curator, Mammel Lobby..........................Jared Spence

Content Warning
This production contains mentions of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and discussions of abortion and its stigmatization.

NNPN is an alliance of professional theatres across the country who are evolving and exploring the frontiers of the American theatre. BLUEBARN has long been Omaha's home for professional contemporary theatre, bringing diverse perspectives, new voices, and provocative work to out community. The National New Play Network has become the most powerful, growing force in new play development, production, and promotion in the nation.

BLUEBARN is comited to seeking out collaborative relationships with other NNPN member theatres, producing and supporting the work of the most dynamic emerging voices in contemporary playwrighting, and promoting local artists on a platform with national reach.

To support New Play Development at the BLUEBARN, contact Susan at sclement@bluebarn.org.
To learn more about NNPN and their programs, visit NNPN.org.
Katie Becker Colón - She/Hers
Katie is so glad you are here to see this play. She last appeared at the BLUEBARN in *A Very Die Hard Christmas* (Narrator). Katie is a co-founder and co-conspirator of Old School Shakespeare Omaha (@ossshakespeareomaha). Omaha credits: *Romeo & Juliet* (Friar), *Twelfth Night* (Olivia) with OSSO; *Storm, Still* (Goneril), *Julius Caesar* (Cassius) with Juno’s Swans. Regional: *Bard Crawl: Love’s Labours Lost* (Costard), *The Jungle Book* (Shere Khan), *The Drunken City* (Marnie) with Duke City Repertory Theatre; *FROSTY* with Barter Encore & TheatreWorks USA. To Susan: thank you for this journey. To Ezra and Zella Rey: te amo. Facebook and IG: @katiebeckercolon

Jon Hickerson
Jon is thrilled to return to BLUEBARN with this incredible play! Omaha credits include *Holiday Hootenanny* (BLUEBARN); Narrator in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Rave On); Don in *Kinky Boots* and Ghost of Christmas Present in *Christmas Carol* (Omaha Community Playhouse); Ensemble in *Sweeney Todd* (Opera Omaha at The Orpheum), *Run for Cover* (Omaha Fringe), and Maxie in *Murder at Calumet Social Club* (Theatre-To-Go at Joslyn Castle); Grandpa George/Mr. Salt in *Willy Wonka* (Rave On); Harry in *Mamma Mia* (OEAA nomination); Man 2 in *World Goes Round, Ring of Fire*, and *Christmas My Way* (all with PART Theatre). Jon also earned a BFA from Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Chicagoland credits include *Promises, Promises* and *Sweeney Todd* (Porchlight), *The Fantasticks* (Metropolis), Mikado (Noble Fool), *Once Upon A Mattress* (Emerald City), *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Kokandy), and a season with Wagon Wheel Theatre in Indiana. Jon can be seen in several regional commercials and was a featured singer on *Quarantine Tonight* for News Channel Nebraska.

Monica Shambare - She/Her/Hers
Monica is making her professional debut on the BLUEBARN Theatre stage. She may be a freshman in high school, but she is no stranger to theatre. Recent roles include Oliver Rivers in *Puffs* and The Florist in *Kodachrome*. In Monica’s free time, she listens to tons of music. Music is what motivates her to continuously create art. She would like to thank her friends, family, and directors for supporting her throughout her acting experiences.
Kiley Meleán - She/Her/Hers
Kiley Meleán is thrilled to be a part of her first show at the BLUEBARN Theatre! Kiley was born and raised in Chicago and moved to Omaha to earn her BFA in Musical Theatre from Creighton University, which she will receive in May. Past credits include Next to Normal (Natalie), The Secret Garden (Mary), and Spelling Bee (Olive). She is thankful for the entire cast and crew of What the Constitution Means to Me for their hard work to put together such a great show. Kiley would like to thank her family for always making an effort to come from out of town. She'd also like to thank her friends for the constant support and love, especially Brayton, Evan, and Madi. Enjoy the show! instagram.com/kileymelean youtube.com/@kileymelean

CREATIVE BIOS

Jocelyn Reed - Costume Designer
Jocelyn Reed is an artist based out of Omaha, Nebraska, who has had the opportunity to work with collectives such as the Brownville Village Theatre (2021), the Great Plains Theatre Conference (2019-2020), and the Ollie Webb Center (2022) in recent years. Fresh off the OCP Design Team for The Cake (2022), and saddled with a BA in Theatre with a concentration in costume design, as well as a BFH in Black Studies at the University of Nebraska Omaha, this dude stays busy. They are so happy to be back for their second show with BLUEBARN. When they aren't running around like a headless emu, you can find Jocelyn at the front desk of The Rose Theater, where they will also design costumes for The Last Stop on Market Street this spring.

Lisa TenHulzen - Scenic Design
Lisa is a designer, artist, and collaborator. She is known for creating evocative and specialized scenic designs for theatres across the country. Lisa earned her M.F.A at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln along with her Bachelors of Art in theatre at Northwestern College in Iowa. lisamarie.design; @lisa.marie.design (Instagram)

Maggie Carolus - She/Her/Hers - Stage Manager
Maggie Carolus is an Omaha native and is thrilled to return to the BLUEBARN. She was an apprentice at the Omaha Community Playhouse where she worked on productions such as Ragtime, Sweat, and A Christmas Carol, and was also a stage management intern with Nebraska Shakespeare for two years. Since then, she has stage managed shows like an adaption of Spoon River Anthology, The Bald Soprano, and Measure for Measure, which could also be described as a ghost show outdoors, colorful absurdism, and Shakespeare in the round. Maggie loves to be a part of shows that are out of the ordinary and extra special, which is why she is ecstatic to be part of What the Constitution Means to Me.
Craig Lee - Scenic Artist
Mr. Lee has lived in the Midtown area of Omaha since 1985. His work has appeared on virtually every local live theatre stage since then, as well as in movies, on television, and in publications. He has worked with the finest designers in the area on countless shows and has painted indoor and outdoor murals all over Omaha. At his studio, he has completed commissioned paintings, drawings, and production designs. He has taught scenic painting and worked with students on many University productions. He has proudly supported and collaborated with BLUEBARN Theatre for much of its existence and is extremely fortunate to call the talented, passionate professionals who work here some of his very best friends.

Mindy Cotner - Sound Board Operator
Mindy has been involved in Omaha-area theater since age 11, first appearing onstage as Lullaby League #2 in a production of The Wizard of Oz. After earning a B.F.A from the University of Nebraska Omaha Writer's Workshop, she came to roost in technical theater and discovered the joys of working on the "dark side." Favorite productions in her 18 seasons with BLUEBARN include The 39 Steps, Spring Awakening, and Every Brilliant Thing. She has also worked on several productions with the Ollie Webb Center's Art of Imagination, appearing onstage as the Banshee and Selkie Queen in Fear Liath, and running follow spot for The White Gander and Morozko.

RESIDENT CREATIVE BIOS

Susan Clement - She/Her - Producing Artistic Director
Amy Reiner - She/Her - Director of Production & Props Design

Amy joined the BLUEBARN in 2012 as Production Manager and Properties Master. Amy went to college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she received a B.F.A in technical theatre with an emphasis on Scenic and Lighting Design. After leaving Lincoln, she spent three years freelancing in Los Angeles in the fields of film and television. Returning to her hometown of Omaha in 2000, she worked as Properties Master for 12 years at The Omaha Community Playhouse where some of her favorite shows were Violet, The Battle of Shallowford and The Fantasticks. Some of Amy's favorite BLUEBARN shows include Red, American Buffalo, the 39 Steps, and A Very Die Hard Christmas!. In her free time Amy enjoys volunteering at a few places including HETRA, a Gretna based equine therapy program. She especially loves her fur children Ethel, Norman, Pearl and Rose, as well as her goldfish Elmer Fudd and Sylvester.

Bill Kirby - He/Him - Technical Director & Sound Design

Bill joined the BLUEBARN staff as the Resident Creative and Technical Director in 2019, after working as a freelance designer for the two previous seasons. Favorite BLUEBARN productions include Venus in Fur, Wakey, Wakey, Indecent (OEA Award for Outstanding Sound Design), and Red Summer (OEA Award). Before relocating to Omaha in 2017, Bill spent 10 years as the resident sound designer and head sound engineer at Princeton University’s McCarter Theatre Center. Bill’s favorite McCarter productions include sound designing the original workshop production of Danai Gurira's Eclipsed and serving as the production sound engineer for the world premiere of Christopher Durang’s Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, which would go on to win the 2013 Tony Award for best play. Kirby has worked nationally and internationally, including productions at the New York Fringe Festival, LA’s Kirk Douglas Theatre, the Wuzhen Grand Theatre in China, and the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Bill is a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Web: kirbysound.live

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

The Nebraska Writers Collective helps thousands of people throughout the Midwest answer that question every year. In schools, prisons, and your community, our creative writing and poetry workshops amplify diverse voices in brave spaces. They also provide paying work opportunities that help sustain and retain our most talented writers and poets right here in Nebraska.

NEWRITERS.ORG
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