The Taming

Written by: Lauren Gunderson
Guest Director: Jake Penner

Sept 13, 14, 20, 21, 2019 at 7:30pm
Sept 21 at 2:00pm

Performance at: Diane Ballweg Theatre

Designed by: Anju Ozaki
PRODUCTION TEAM

Director ................................................................................................................................. Jake Penner
Production Producer .............................................................................................................. Jeanne Leep
Stage Manager ..................................................................................................................... Megan Stroetz
Stage Management Mentor ................................................................................................. Audrey Lauren Wax
Scenic Designer ..................................................................................................................... Christopher R. Dunham Wax
Resident Lighting Designer .................................................................................................... Aimee Hanyzewski
Sound Designer ..................................................................................................................... Aimee Hanyzewski
Resident Costume Designer ................................................................................................. Mary Waldhart
Hair & Makeup Designer ........................................................................................................ Cassie Carney
Box Office Crew .................................................................................................................... Cassie Carney & Isabel Vreeke
Sets Crew ............................................................................................................................... Veronika Bienvenu-Neville & Joe Bondurant
Costume Crew ......................................................................................................................... Rachel Seizer & Emma Sorenson
Hair & Makeup Crew ............................................................................................................... Noelle Grapentine-Benton & Ari Manghera
Props Crew .................................................................................................................................... Jade Proctor & Megan Stroetz
Sound Crew and Sound Board Operator ............................................................................... Katherine Johnson
Lights Crew and Light Board Operator .................................................................................... Alan Lau-Brown
Costume Shop Work Studies .................................................................................................. Cassie Carney, Elizabeth Simon, & Sarah Weh
Department Work Studies ....................................................................................................... Ari Manghera, Emily Schlepp, & Megan Stroetz
Scene Shop Work Studies ........................................................................................................ Veronika Bienvenu-Neville & Alan Lau-Brown
Box Office Work Studies ........................................................................................................ Cassie Carney, Noelle Grapentine-Benton, ...
Recruiting Work Study ............................................................................................................. Shawn Padley
Lighting & Sound Work Study ................................................................................................. Riley Culver

CAST LIST

Katherine ................................................................................................................................. Ari Manghera
Patricia ....................................................................................................................................... Veronika Bienvenu-Neville
Bianca ......................................................................................................................................... Jade Proctor

TIME AND PLACE

Now, a nice hotel room in Atlanta, GA.
July 1787, the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.
Now, the stage of the Miss Georgia Pageant

Supported, in part, by the Pleasant T. Rowland Endowment Fund.
I was lucky enough to spend a little time with the playwright Lauren Gunderson. This is going back a few years though, when she was still a pre-America’s-Most-Produced-Living-Playwright playwright. But even though she had yet to earn that distinction, it was easy during those two days in Fall 2015 to see where she was headed in the pantheon of contemporary stage scribblers. I noticed a few things very quickly. I first and foremost realized that she loved collaborating, in fact doing everything she could both within her script (Silent Sky) and our rehearsal room at Overture Center for the Arts to ignite the imaginations of all involved. Rather than dictate the nature of her play down to the letter to the rest of us (the way young writers are often prone), she instead dropped bits of conceptual code into the minds of each actor and designer. Then she stood back and watched whatever alchemy she’d orchestrated take shape. It was the technique of a person who is hopelessly in love with this oftentimes contentious collaborative medium and is completely comfortable letting others take her story and run with it. When one of the actors, Clare Haden, asked Lauren to clarify a line she’d written that Clare had been struggling to understand for weeks, Lauren scanned her script and a moment later, brow furrowed, she said, “Oh yeah just cut that.”

I liked her immediately.

You also tend to notice the speed with which her mind works. Like her characters, she’s a fast talker with a razor-like wit. Lunch with Lauren was an intellectual contact sport: she was tough to keep up with and somehow you felt a bit banged up by the whole thing.

So as I’ve read, prepared, and rehearsed The Taming, a play that premiered in 2015, with this group of talented artists, it’s been no wonder to me at all that the piece has only matured in the last few years. The culture had to catch up to the play. Whereas in 2015, the discussion may have still seemed somewhat absurd, in this performance you’re going to hear rhetoric that is deeply and urgently critical of the political discourse that surrounds us today in 2019. You’re going to hear about the gridlock that occupies our legislative bodies, the corrupt practices that disenfranchises voters, and the racism woven into the very foundation of a country all too proud to call itself the Land of the Free.

It is perhaps only right that The Taming, a play about the dream of “rebooting” American politics, has found a good number of its productions on college campuses. When I look at Generation Z, I see a group of young people spectacularly unimpressed with me and my peers, and for good reason. I think they’re trying to figure out a way around our present mess, a task we were unable to complete. And, the more I collaborate with them, the more I know in my heart they’re going to do exactly that, with compassion, with brutal honesty...

And hopefully with razor-like wit. Enjoy.

Jake Penner
LAND RECOGNITION STATEMENT

We recognize the sacred land on which our College exists. Our Dominican heritage, educational mission, and core values call us to be stewards of this land and the Native mounds located throughout our campus. We respectfully acknowledge our local First Nation, the Ho-Chunk, and the additional 11 Indigenous Nations of Wisconsin that have shaped our state’s history and our local community.

Mąnaŋkre, hanąć wakąŋacakže aie. Teejopregi, Edgewood Collegera, eegi miŋnakra, že’e heesge harukosire wa’iŋanaŋkwi. Waagax hojoci xetera hacjja howaa awiwiwira, jaagu wagigusikjera, anaga jaagu cooweeja hakerewira, mąnaŋkre haišakikjawi heesgeže wa’ąŋkra, anaga mąnaŋkre eegi, wąąkšiks’akra wooxe t’şupirera, hanąć wiirakara njhekjesge wa’ąŋkšaną. Hoocakra nga Waąkšikhijar产业升级 hanąć eegi stoo hįįkikichinihawira, že’e haąpće’e hanąć hirokikikere wąąkšik ho’ja, hįįkikišjek hiįwa’ąjawi. Woojįŋapesge!

BETWEEN THE EAGLE AND THE BEAR

Edgewood College Theatre’s home, The Diane Ballweg Theatre in The Stream, is carefully placed between two important effigy mounds on the Edgewood College campus: The Eagle, directly in front of the building, and the Bear, closer to the shores of Lake Wingra. The Eagle stretches in front of our building, and we invite you to view it from the second floor of the building, or read the plaque on the sidewalk near the DeRicci building. The Bear was ransacked in the 1800’s by looters and is more difficult to find, but lives quietly, now without a head, in the trees behind the outdoor amphitheater and the Park and Pleasure Drive. We encourage you to come early to the show and view the Eagle effigy so near to our door where we are privileged to make theatre.

AUDIENCE INFORMATION

• *The Taming* is presented without an intermission.
• Restrooms are located to your right as you exit the theatre.
• Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
• Out of courtesy to the actors and fellow audience members, no photo, video, or sound recordings are permitted during the performance.
• After the performance the cast will change out of their costumes before greeting the guests.

SPECIAL THANKS

Children’s Theater of Madison, University Theatre, Jim Greco, Lee Waldhart

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

Producer of Edgewood College Theatre, Department Chair & Professor of Theatre Dr. Jeanne Leep, Assistant Professor of Technical Theatre Christopher R. Dunham, Lecturer of Theatre Education Susan Nanning-Sorenson, Box Office Manager & Lecturer of Theatre Arts Audrey Lauren Wax, Theatre Arts Department Instructors Dr. Phil Martin & Donna Peckett, Resident Costume Designer & Costume Shop Manager Mary Waldhart, Resident Lighting & Sound Designer Aimee Hanyzewski, Professor Emerita Jewell P. Fitzgerald
VERONIKA BIENVENU-NEVILLE (Patricia & Sets Crew) is a sophomore at Edgewood College, with a double major in Psychology and Theatre Arts. Some credits include: Love/Sick (Sarah), The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (Poole/Hyde 4), Little Shop of Horrors (Bernstein), Honk! (Greylag), and To Kill a Mockingbird (Mrs. Dubose). She is looking forward to a new year in Edgewood College’s Theatre Department and would like to thank her friends and family for their support!

JOE BONDURANT (Sets Crew) is a freshman at Edgewood College. He has previously worked with Edgewood College as an actor in Little Shop of Horrors (Ensemble). He has also worked with Memorial Theatre Company in shows like Shrek: The Musical (Shrek), and with First Act Children’s Theatre in You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown (Schroeder). He cannot wait to work with the Edgewood College Theatre Department in the future.

CASSIE CARNEY (Hair & Makeup Designer & Box Office Crew) is a Senior at Edgewood College. She plans on majoring in Musical Theatre. Some of her previous productions are Little Shop of Horrors, Love/Sick, Late Company, The Rail Splitter, and SHOUT! The Mod Musical. Cassie has also designed hair and makeup for a number of Edgewood College Theatre shows: Late Company, Love/Sick, and the Student Directed One Acts. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her acting career.

CHRISTOPHER R. DUNHAM (Scenic Design, Technical Direction, & Crew Mentor) is the Assistant Professor of Theatre Design and Technology for the Department of Theatre Arts, and Technical Director for the Edgewood College Theatre. Some of his Edgewood College Theatre credits include designs for The Penelopiad, Woods of Weaver, The Arabian Nights, and Metamorphoses. He has worked professionally with Forward Theatre, Children’s Theatre of Madison, Theatre Lila, and Four Seasons Theatre among others on productions including Tuck Everlasting, Marjorie Prime, Outside Mullingar, The Mojo and the Sayso, Assassins, and Anne of Green Gables. Selena Milewski from the Shepard Express described his work as “spectacularly elaborate, and Gwen Rice from The Isthmus has called it “gorgeous and ingenious”. Chris would like to thank a devoted crew of students who assisted in realizing this production and most importantly Kat and Emerson for being there when he comes home.

NOELLE GRAPENTINE-BENTON (Hair & Makeup Crew) is a junior majoring in Theatre Arts. This is her first production with Edgewood College Theatre. Past credits include August: Osage County (Jean) and Complete History of America (Abridged) (Reed) with Cornell College Theatre and Dance. She has also recently directed Caesar and Cleopatra and Hamlet with Young Shakespeare Players. She would like to thank her family for all their love and support.

AIMEE HANZEWALSKI (Resident Lighting & Sound Designer) is a freelance lighting/scenic designer and the Resident Lighting Designer for Edgewood College Theatre. Her work has been featured at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Merrimack Repertory Theatre. Other theatres are Children’s Theatre of Charlotte, In Tandem Theatre, Next Act Theater, Forward Theater, UW-Madison, UW-Whitewater, Capital City Theatre, Madison Savoyards Ltd., and The Legacy Theatre.

KATHERINE JOHNSON (Sound Crew & Sound Board Operator) can be found directing, acting, and designing. Past work includes directing 25 scenes from Shakespeare and Sid Caesar, co-directing Nicholas Nickleby at local youth theater YSP, directing Rhinoceros for Strollers Theatre, and acting in Love’s Labour’s Lost with ALATT. They last acted in the Student Directed One Acts for Edgewood College Theatre.

ALAN LAU-BROWN (Lights Crew & Light Board Operator) is a Junior/Senior at Edgewood College majoring in Theatre Performance with an interest
in Stage Managing. He is looking forward to being a part of more Edgewood College Theatre productions to fulfill his passion of performing on stage. He has performed in Agatha Christie’s: A Murder is Announced, The Rail Splitter, and Late Company, along with several other productions at Edgewood College. He would like to thank his family and friends for their continuous support of the arts. Enjoy the Show!

DR. JEANNE LEEP, PH.D. (Producer of Edgewood College Theatre) is the head of the acting and directing program in the Department of Theatre Arts at Edgewood College. She received her Ph.D. in directing from Wayne State University and her M.A. from the University of Michigan in theatre studies. She has also studied at the Moscow Art Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. She is the author of Theatrical Improvisation, Short Form, Long Form, and Sketch-Based Improv. and the cofounder of River City Improv, a performance improvisational troupe based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Past directing credits include Metamorphoses, Our Town, The Arabian Nights, Love’s Labour’s Lost, and Proof. A longtime member of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education, Dr. LEEP serves as the Chair for the Acting Focus Group. She has a heart full of gratitude for friends, family, and her husband, Chris Edmonds, for their unending support.

ARIANA MANGHERA (Katherine & Hair & Makeup Crew) is a sophomore at Edgewood College with a double major in History and Theatre, with hopes to continue into Law. She has been involved in theatre for many years, being a part of productions such as The Little Mermaid (Ariel), You Can’t Take it With You (Essie) and A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Hermia). She would like to thank her parents and sister for all of the continued support, as well as for pushing her to continue pursuing her passion. She is thrilled to be able to work with Jake Penner and be surrounded by such a talented cast and crew!

JAKE PENNER (Director) is a Wisconsin-based director, associate director and member of the Advisory Company at Forward Theater. Recent credits include Skeleton Crew, Fun Home, Two Steps Forward Monologue Festival (Forward Theater Company); Carrie: The Musical (Capital City Theatre); Blood Knot (American Players Theatre); All For One (Wisconsin Public Television). Thanks so much to Jeanne Leep and the entire Edgewood College Theatre team for the chance to work with such talented emerging artists. For Clare Haden.

JADE PROCTOR (Bianca & Props Crew) is a sophomore at Edgewood College where she is studying Political Science. She has been involved in many productions at Edgewood College, both on stage (Little Shop of Horrors, Student Directed One Acts) and off (Love/Sick). She is so grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank her friends and family for their love and support. Enjoy the show!

RACHEL SEIZER (Costume Crew) is in her second semester at Edgewood College. She is a proud transfer student from Madison College where she earned a Women and Gender Studies Certificate. She has enjoyed working with Edgewood College Theatre in her first time on a costume crew. Rachel was last seen on stage in Lysistrata at Broom Street Theater. Previous productions include Broom Street Theater: Prom, Madison College: Student Body, The Addams Family, StageQ: Queer Shorts: Unity. Thank you for supporting live theatre.

EMMA SORENSEN (Costume Crew) is a sophomore this year and is ecstatic to be a part of her first production with Edgewood College Theatre. Her previous theatre credits include First Act Children’s Theatre’s You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown (Snoopy), Carthage College’s Secret in the Wings (Ensemble #7) and The Taming (Bianca). She would like to thank the Edgewood College Theatre Department for their warm welcome and looks forward to her future with Edgewood College.

MEGAN STROETZ (Stage Manager & Props Crew) is a senior at Edgewood College with a double major in Theatre and Psychology. This is the ninth production she has been a part of at Edgewood College. She was previously seen in Love/Sick (Jill)
and Little Shop of Horrors (Ensemble), along with working backstage on many productions. She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her. She would also like to give a huge thanks to guest director Jake Penner for allowing her to work on this amazing project with him. Enjoy the show!

ISABEL VREEKE (Box Office Crew) is a sophomore at Edgewood College majoring in Theatre Arts. Isabel is excited to be participating in her third production with Edgewood College Theatre. Enjoy the show!

MARY WALDHART (Resident Costume Designer & Shop Manager) joined the Edgewood College Theatre Arts Department in 2010. Costume designs at Edgewood College include: Little Shop of Horrors, As You Like It, The Penelopiad, Boeing, Boeing, Clue: The Musical, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, The Crucible, Little Women, The Wedding Singer: The Musical Comedy, Love’s Labours Lost, Absurd Person Singular, The Arabian Nights, Bye Bye Birdie, Antigone, and Brigadoon. Mary was the Costume Director at the Madison Repertory Theatre for 23 years, designing costumes and managing the costume department, and was the Resident Costume Designer at Madison College. Other design credits include: Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Forward Theater Company, Next Act Theatre, and Children’s Theater of Madison.

AUDREY LAUREN WAX (Box Office Manager) is part of the Theatre Arts Faculty. She is an alumna of Edgewood College, and is thrilled to be working in the Diane Ballweg Theatre. Audrey has directed plays all over the Pacific Northwest, as well as right here in Madison. She recently directed H.M.S. Pinafore, The Gondoliers, and Princess Ida for Madison Savoyards; Much Ado about Nothing for StageQ, Inc.; and Little Shop of Horrors, The Rail Splitter, Woods of Weaver, The Wedding Singer: The Musical Comedy, Almost, Maine, and Fuddy Meers for Edgewood College Theatre. She also co-wrote, directed and produced Conceal & Carry: Queers Exposed which debuted at Broom Street Theater in 2012. Audrey looks forward to directing columbinus and The Wolves this spring.

2019-2020 THEATRE SEASON

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE
By Bob Martin & Don McKellar
Directed by Jeanne Leep
November 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 2019

COLUMBINUS
By Stephen Karam & PJ Paparelli
Directed by Audrey Wax
February 28, 29, March 6, 7, 2020

THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE
By Pierre Marivaux
Directed by Susan Nanning-Sorenson
April 24, 25, May 1, 2, 2020

THEATRE.EDGEWOOD.EDU
The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.

Additional support is provided by the U.S. Department of Education, the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation, The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein, and the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACFT). 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 KCACFT representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACFT programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturges, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACFT regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACFT national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2020.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACFT involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACFT goal to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.