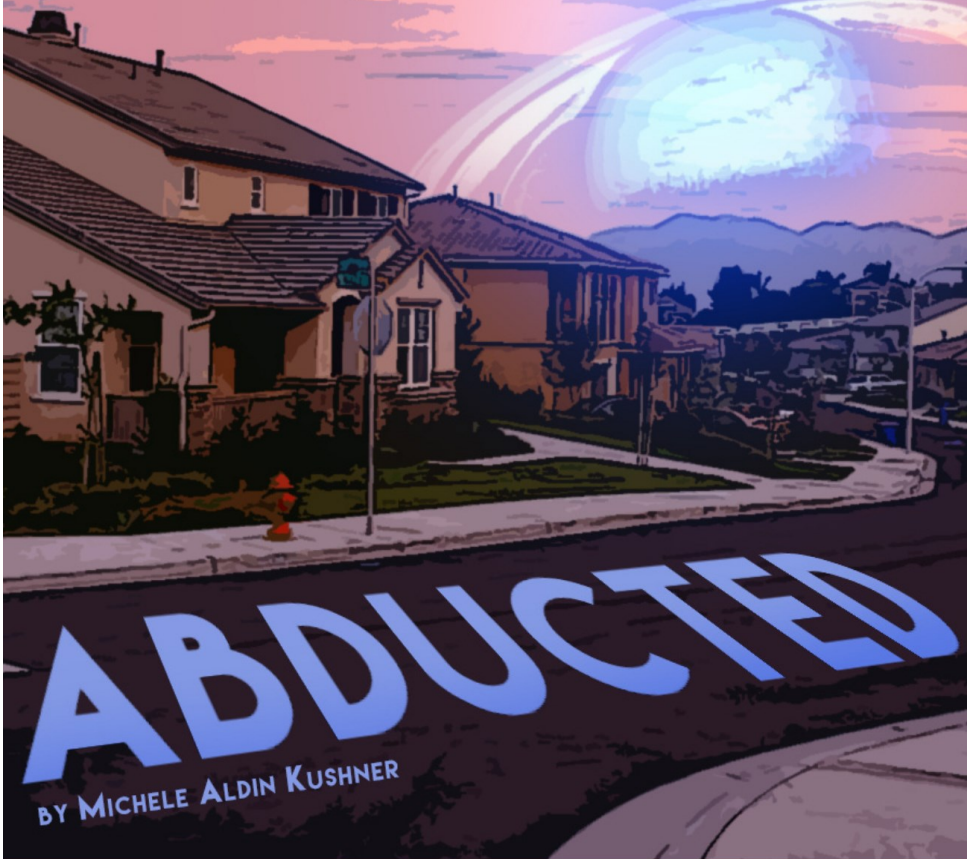


CENTENARY
STAGE
COMPANY

Women Playwrights Series Presents

WPS
WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS SERIES



April 5th - 7:30 pm

Sponsored by:



**THE HOUSE OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD**
Welcome to Joyful Living at Riverwalk Village



**The
Stages Festival**

Official Partner NIM Funded by the New Jersey State Theatre

Sitnik Theatre | 715 Grand Ave | Hackettstown NJ 07840
908.979.0900 | Centenarystageco.org

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT...

A Note from:

Michele Aldin Kushner



I have never been abducted by aliens. I have never seen a spaceship outside the Kennedy Space Center. But there are thousands of people who make the claim. By their own account, they really really really didn't want to be stolen, experimented upon, and continue living bereft of normalcy. Not one person relays having wanted the experience. The pain and bewilderment of self-identifying abductees feel palpable. I needed to write a play about one such person - who could no longer live the life she was living because of her history with extraterrestrials.

Aside from the many hours I spend watching abduction-alien conspiracy television, I read. "Intruders, The Incredible Visitations At Copley Woods" by Budd Hopkins has been particularly influential. It was published in 1987. The book is still on Amazon if you're interested. In my paperback version - which has broken in half and turned a book-lover's shade of beige - there is "praise for" on the inside jacket. This is what The Houston Chronicle says: "A convincing case...that the invasion from outer space is not fiction but fact and ...(INTRUDERS) predicts that the human race is in for some large surprises by the year 2000."

So, yes. We can take an alien invasion with grace and skepticism. It is more credible to embrace that we can be most sure: Each one of us will age. Each one of us will face change. Each one of us has one whom we painfully love. And sometimes - those absurd milestones are just as difficult as leaving our own planet.

- *Michele Aldin Kushner*

Michele Aldin Kushner: RADIO GALAXY, has been optioned and is in development with commercial producers. ABDUCTED, was read at The Barrow Group, and the WorkShop Theater Company, NYC. THE TEXT OF SEX premiered in FringeNYC and was a semi-finalist for Centenary Stage Company's Women Playwright Series. THE BABY GAME is the recipient of the Fulton Theatre's 2012 Discovery Project New Play Contest. ADVANCED WOMEN is the 2009 recipient of the Todd McNerney Playwriting Award; it took part in the 2010 Piccolo Spoleto Festival and The Great Plains Theatre Conference Playlabs 2010. Other plays have been at FringeNYC and around the country.

Abducted
By Michele Aldin Kushner
Directed by : Lauren Moran Mills

THE CAST

DIANEROSIE MCCOOE
CLIVECLARK SCOTT CARMICHAEL
DERBY.....CHRISTOHER RICE
BECCAASHLEY KOWZEN
NARRATOR.....MICHAEL JAY

CREATIVE TEAM / CREW

DIRECTOR LAUREN MORAN MILLS
WPS PROGRAM DIRECTOR MIKAELA KAFKA
STAGE MANAGER LINDSEY KAZAR

SETTING:

Present Day. A living room with an adjacent kitchen in suburban Connecticut.
THE STORY IS TOLD IN TWO ACTS OVER FOURTEEN DAYS (SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 13)

Sponsored By:



**THE HOUSE OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD**
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This event is part of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance 2023 Stages Festival, made possible by support from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; Bank of America; The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey; OceanFirst Foundation; New Jersey Historical Commission. www.njtheatrealliance.org/stages



Made possible by funds from the
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**New Jersey
Theatre Alliance**
Supporting Theatre • Engaging Audiences

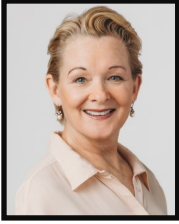


The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey

Special Thanks to our 2023 WPS Committee!

Rebecca Engborg, Vita Morales, Robin Gurin, Emily Miller,
Debra Scacciafero, Maria Brodeur, Ruth Zamoyta,
Kimberly Bollard, and Catherine Rust

THE CAST



Rosie McCooe (Diane) started performing as a youngster & loves the opportunity to work with emerging artists on original material. She is thrilled to be working with such a talented group on the Women Playwright Series at Centenary Theatre & thanks Mikaela, Lauren, & Michele for the opportunity. After earning her MFA from Rutgers University (where she studied Meisner technique with the late, great Bill Esper), she began her professional acting career in the "soaps" as "Young Vicky". Over the years, she appeared in several independent films, including *A CASE OF BLUE*, *SHUTTERFLIES*, *THE JERSEY DEVIL*, & *BAD PARENTS* to name a few. She has originated several roles with the New Jersey Playwrights Festival & has a Broadway co-producer credit for *BANDSTAND*. A professional director, Rosie has had the absolute pleasure of working with hundreds children, teens, & adults over the past twenty years directing musical theatre & plays in Bergen County, NY, & California. She most recently partnered up with Actor Technique NY to direct a production of *MATILDA* that was performed at the American Theatre for Actors in NYC.



Clark Scott Carmichael (Clive) was seen last season in *Whippoorwill* at Centenary. He plays Detective Church in the upcoming film, *Invitation to a Murder* and was a Jumper on Broadway in Tom Stoppard's, *Jumpers*. Regional/off Broadway credits: Rep St. Louis, Hartford TheatreWorks, The Acting Company, Red Bull Theater, Two River Theater, KC Rep, New York Fringe Festival, Williamstown Theater Festival, Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, Dorset Theater Festival, Pennsylvania Center Stage, Great Lakes Theater Festival, Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, NJ Rep, Hope Summer Rep, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Theatre in Washington DC. Television credits: *Lioness*, *The Gilded Age*, *FBI: Most Wanted*, *The Politician*, *Living with Yourself*, *Little America*, *Plot Against America*, *Pose*, *Blacklist*, *Gotham*, *Forever*, *House of Cards*, *Law & Order*, *Kidnapped*, *As the World Turns*, *Unforgettable*, & *Boardwalk Empire*. Film credits: *The Porcupine*, *Inside Game*, *The Irishman*, *The God Committee*, *The Kindergarten Teacher*, *Campbell Scott's Hamlet*, *Sweet Lorraine* and *Hard Sell*.



Christopher Rice (Derby) is a Sophomore here at Centenary University, pursuing his dreams as a musical theatre major. He is a Franklin High School Alumn, doing shows such as *West Side Story* (A-Rab), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Mrs. Bumble), *Rent*, *Dreamgirls*, as well as many others. His Centenary Journey started with *Grace for President* (Robbie), *Alice and Slasherland*, and *Head Over Heels*, the absolutely crazy *Living Dead In Denmark* (Horatio) and most recently *Macbeth* (Seyton/Mur. 3). He also had the honor of being ASM and Deck supervisor in the world premiere of *Whippoorwill*. Leading to now, he is absolutely thrilled with the opportunity to be a part of this reading. He hopes to continue his dream, as he is bound for Broadway, as well as movies and TV. He wants to thank his friends and family, and almost as crazy as him; his girlfriend Alannah for sticking with him throughout his crazy journey.



Ashley Kowzun (Becca) is delighted to be at the Centenary! She has been seen working up and down NJ. Here are a few of her favorites as Dawna in *Boogie* at the Growing Stage, Mickey in *Off Balanced* at Luna Stages Lab, the Christmas Carol at the Bickford, as Mari in *Heels Over Head* with Tristate Actors Theatre, as Miss Casewell in *The Mousetrap* at Centenary Stage Company, as Barb in *Romance*, *Romance* at The Women's Theatre Company, as Daisy in *He and She* and *She with East Lynne* Theatre. Currently you can see her as the Queen and falconer at *Medieval Times*. She would like to thank her Dad, Mom, and husband for all the support they give her.

THE CAST (Continued)



Michael Jay (Narrator) holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Drew University. Recent CSC credits: *Apartment 3F* (Narrator), *Badlands* (Patrick O'Connor), and *The Persuadables* (Narrator). Stage credits include: *Romeo & Juliet* (Lord Capulet), *Radium Girls* (C.B. Lee, Dr. Von Sochocky, Cowboy), *Twelfth Night* (Sebastian), *King Charles III* (Prince Harry), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Spike), *Death of a Salesman* (Happy Loman), and *Spamalot* (Sir Lancelot). His TV/Film credits include "Smash", "Louie", "Boardwalk Empire", Noah, Delivery Man, and The Dark Knight Rises.

MEET THE DIRECTOR...

Lauren Moran Mills

Lauren is happy to be back at Centenary University! She has been working as a Director, Choreographer and Teaching Artist, Actor for the past 20 years throughout the NJ regional theatre circuit. She wrote and starred in the webseries VERIFIED, which won BEST WEBSERIES/TV PILOT in the London Independent Film Festival and the New Jersey Film Awards where she was also nominated for BEST ACTRESS. She directed her first short film THE FUNDRAISER where she won Best Female Filmmaker in the San Diego Film Awards. She is a teaching artist at the jewel box theatre The Mayo Performing Arts Center. She was last seen onstage as Abby in OUR MOTHER'S BRIEF AFFAIR, and Alexandra in SPIN with The Women's Theatre Company (Best Actress nominee Broadway World). Her Directorial credits include: [title of show], Musical of Musicals the Musical (2017 Broadway World nominee Best Director & Choreographer), A Grand Night for Singing, The Last 5 Years, Romance, Romance, The World Goes Round, Side by Side by Sondheim, Mauritius, Frankie and Johnny in the Clare De Lune, Wit, Kindertransport (The Women's Theater Co) The Neighborhood (Vivid Stage). She is the resident Choreographer at Montville Township Highschool. You can see Lauren eating her way through Boonton NJ in the series, Lomo Eats Main on [instagram.com/Btnmainstreet](https://www.instagram.com/Btnmainstreet). She is the Chaplain of Boonton Elks Lodge 1405, On the Board of Trustees at the Boonton Holmes Library and Community Champion for Relay for Life Montville. Lauren is the Artistic Director of LoMotion Live at The Parsippany Arts Center. Proud working Mom to Ryan Leala Declan and Luna.



[facebook.com/LaurenMoMills](https://www.facebook.com/LaurenMoMills)

[instagram.com/lomomill](https://www.instagram.com/lomomill)

[instagram.com/lomotionlive](https://www.instagram.com/lomotionlive)

A Note from the WPS Program Director:

Four Weeks...Four Playwrights.....and YOU!!!

First off, Congratulations!!! to our fabulous playwrights; Michele Aldin Kushner, Barbara Blatner, Jaqueline Goldfinger, and Arlene Hutton. Thank you for your work!



As told to me from the illustrious founder of this Series, Catherine Rust, whose position I have stepped into this year, "I like to think of it as an Adventure Series.!" I concur! Each of these women playwrights is bringing us a brief look at humanity; each with their own subtle and sometimes not so subtle, unique touch. Each one its own adventure! From the 16th Century... to just Two Weeks into the Future, these plays will hopefully move you, make you question, allow you to step away..... and Enjoy!!! And... that's what we want to find out after the show!!! Please stay for the talk back. You are the last piece of the puzzle!

It all starts back in the Fall with our fabulous committee of readers. The heart, mind, and time they put into voraciously reading the over 200 submissions is mind blowing. These women are the backbone; selecting these strong pieces, celebrating their unique voices and stellar uses of the art form. Next, thanks to the Directors who have come on board, bringing them from the page to the stage. They are also the ones responsible for our amazing lineup of actors.a much desired piece of the puzzle. And thank you, actors, for bringing your talent to the series! They say that casting is 90% of the game, and these directors have lined up a great group!

Now here we are, LIVE... in the theatre. The final piece of the puzzle!!! Thank you to our Administrative staff for getting the word out!

Since 1992, the year the Women's Playwright Series began here at Centenary, the percentage of Women playwrights being produced has increased, but we still have a ways to go. We, here at Centenary, are proud to be celebrating women's voices in the theatre! We are proud to be telling their stories.

So, now, and finally...Thank you to the crew, who will be dimming the lights shortly... allowing us to sit back and Enjoy the Adventure!

Sincerely,

Mikaela Kafka

Mikaela Kafka
Program Director, WPS 2023

Don't Miss NEXTstage Rep's production of



The Addams Family

April 20-30th

**Follow us online and stay up-to-date
with all of our upcoming events!**



**AND for a full list of our shows this season, or to read up on
our new COVID-19 Policies, go to our website at:**

CentenaryStageCo.org



Diane is getting her affairs in order. As she prepares for “departure” from her present life, her family takes sides. Is this being forced upon her or does she wish to leave life on her own terms?

The reign of the Tudors, King Henry VII. Jane meets Princess Mary Tudor, becoming the first female Foole of the court. We join two very different women as they bond finding agency in the male centric court.



When a soldier returns from war carrying the ghosts of the tour, she is faced with a sobering decision: address the alarming PTSD with Virtual Reality therapy, or risk losing access to her family forever.

Two women: one traveler in need of medical attention; one Lawyer, just doing her job. In this surreal, kafka-esque world, we find these women at opposite sides of the table amidst legal precedents & moral obligation.

