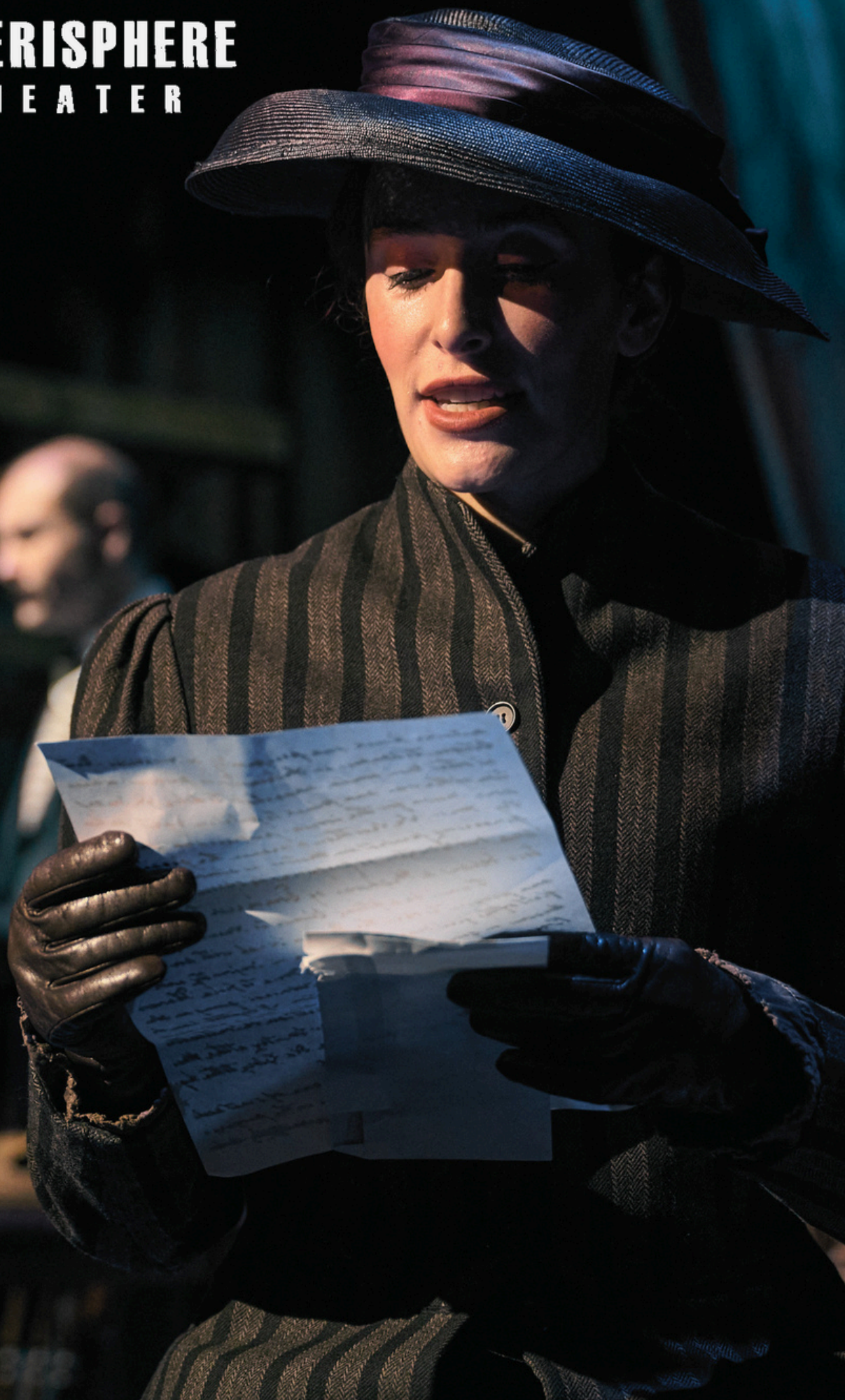




PERISPHERE
T H E A T E R



Annual Report

July 1, 2025 -
June 30, 2026

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Cover Photo of Madeline Marie and Hanlon Smith-Dorsey in Perisphere's production of *Silent Sky*. Photo above featuring Martina Schabron and Rocelyn Frisco in Perisphere's production of *Silent Sky*. Photos courtesy of DJCorey Photography.



Lizzi Albert



Gerrad Alex Taylor

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

For our 2026 season, we set out to measure the universe and chart the century-spanning history of Black performance in America. Building our season around the theme of a journey through time and space, we invited exciting new collaborators to guide our productions of *Silent Sky* by Lauren Gunderson and *I Know How To Curse: a re-blackening of shakespeare* by Gerrad Alex Taylor, Perisphere's first genre-bending solo show. We deepened our roots in the DMV, securing support from the Baltimore-based Helm Foundation and performing for the Washington Arts Club's re-invigorated drama wing. With the help of our first resident dramaturg, we continued Perisphere's tradition of educational pre-show presentations that help to situate the audience members in the historical contexts we're exploring. And most meaningfully, we earned heartfelt feedback from our audiences, who shared how moving, entertaining, thought-provoking and inspiring they found this season's offerings. Our patrons made it clear that they want to see more well-acted, thoughtfully designed stories from the overlooked pages of history. We can't wait to share what we have in store for 2027. Thank you for your continued interest and support of Perisphere Theater's mission of producing plays that examine personal and collective history and the notion of history itself.

Lizzi Albert,
Co-Artistic Director

Gerrad Alex Taylor,
Co-Artistic Director

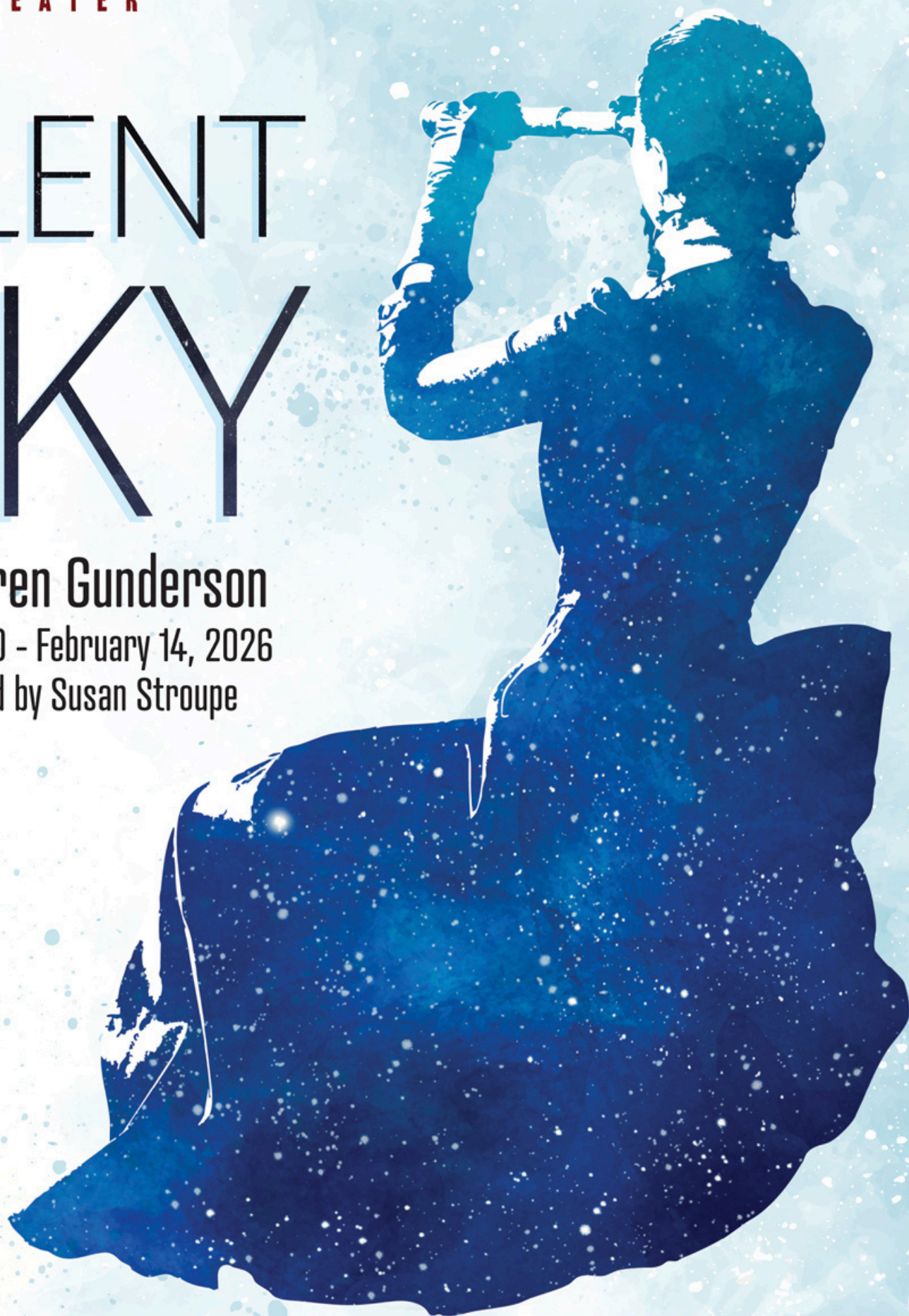


SILENT SKY

by Lauren Gunderson

January 30 - February 14, 2026

Directed by Susan Stroupe



“...well-developed and emotionally nuanced characters.”



Top: Lizzi Albert as Henrietta and Madeline Marie as Margaret
Bottom: Lizzi Albert as Henrietta and Hanlon Smith-Dorsey as Peter
Production Photos of *Silent Sky* courtesy of DJCorey Photography.

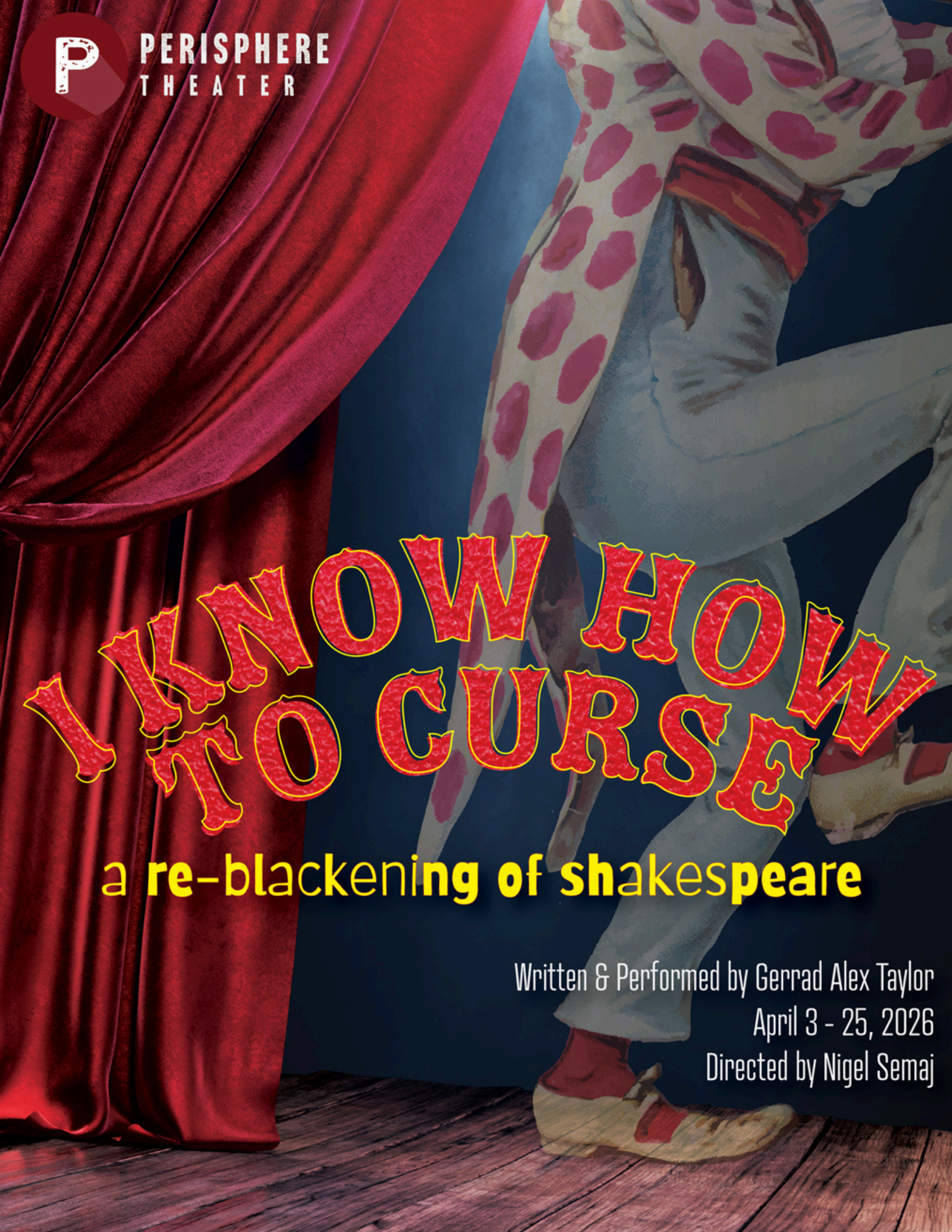


Silent Sky became Perisphere’s most successful production to date, surpassing the ticket sales of last season’s *The America Play* to become the highest-attended show in the company’s history. Audiences embraced the production’s blend of science, heart, and history, while critics praised its emotional impact, calling it a “love letter to women, science, and those who love exploring life’s bigger ideas.” We expanded audience engagement through a series of special events—including a *Hidden Figures* book club, artist talkbacks, and a pre-show discussion with astrophysicist Dr. Emily Rickman—and the production was recognized with a Helen Hayes Recommendation from Theatre Washington. This remarkable success reflects the growing impact of Perisphere’s mission to produce thought-provoking theater that inspires curiosity, sparks dialogue, and brings new audiences into our community.



P

PERISPHERE
THEATER



I KNOW HOW TO CURSE

a **re-blackening of shakespeare**

Written & Performed by Gerrad Alex Taylor

April 3 - 25, 2026

Directed by Nigel Semaj

“...a world that feels
cartoony, surreal, and
human all at once.”

I Know How To Curse showcased Perisphere Theater's commitment to bold new work and artistic innovation. The company's first fully developed solo production combined live music, audience interaction, puppetry, and projections to create an immersive theatrical experience unlike anything Perisphere had previously staged. The production earned a Helen Hayes Recommendation from Theatre Washington and left a lasting impression

on audiences, with one patron sharing that its "structure kept me bouncing between thinking and feeling throughout the play, complicit and amused and uncomfortable and inspired," while many others remarked that they had "never seen anything like this" and were eager to experience it again

(yes, we had a few patrons return 2 or 3 times)! By investing in original storytelling and inventive theatrical forms, Perisphere continues to expand what's possible on its stage and for its audiences.



Gerrad Alex Taylor in Perisphere's production of *I Know How To Curse: a re-blackening of shakespeare*. Photos Courtesy of Kiirstn Pagan.



A CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SEASON!

A love letter
to women,
science, and
those who
love exploring
life's bigger
ideas...

-Kate Mankowski,
MD Theatre Guide



HELEN HAYES AWARDS
RECOMMENDED



HELEN HAYES AWARDS
RECOMMENDED



Wholly Original...
Uproarious... Gut-
Wrenchingly Honest
-Daniella Ignacio,
DC Theater Arts

PERISPHERE THEATER ANNUAL REPORT 25/26

This season's success was made possible by an extraordinary team of artists, many of whom were collaborating with Perisphere Theater for the first time. Across our productions, we welcomed new actors, designers, stage managers, and production professionals, expanding our creative network and strengthening ties throughout the region. We were especially excited to introduce our first Season Dramaturg, Shana Laski (center), whose insight enriched the artistic process across the season, and to welcome acclaimed Baltimore directors Nigel Semaj (left) and Susan Stroupe (right), whose distinct artistic voices brought fresh perspectives to our stage. These new collaborations not only elevated this season's productions but also laid the foundation for lasting artistic partnerships that will shape Perisphere's future.



Perisphere Completed Budget FY 2026

July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

EXPENSES	Projected	Actual
Production Expenses-Silent Sky		
ScriptLicense	\$3,169.00	\$3,209.00
Personnel (actors, director, designers, etc.)	\$18,700.00	\$17,050.00
Materials (furniture, props, set)	\$2,050.00	\$2,264.61
Marketing and community outreach)	\$1,500.00	\$1,526.51
Event Insurance	\$400.00	\$0.00
<i>Silent Sky Production Budget Subtotal</i>	\$25,819.00	\$24,011.76
 Production Expenses-I Know How To Curse		
ScriptLicense	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Personnel (actors, director, designers, etc.)	\$15,400.00	\$12,436.40
Materials (furniture, props, set)	\$2,050.00	\$2,468.10
Marketing and community outreach)	\$1,500.00	\$1,375.40
Event Insurance	\$400.00	\$0.00
<i>IKHTC Production Budget Subtotal</i>	\$20,350.00	\$17,318.26
 Perisphere Overhead		
TWC Venue Manager	\$10,500.00	\$9,527.50
Administrative Personnel Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
Storage/Rehearsal Space	\$0.00	\$461.41
Website and email	\$515.00	\$490.81
Dues & Subscriptions (Theatre Washington...)	\$500.00	\$500.00
MD Incorporation Fees	\$265.00	\$0.00
Bank Fees	\$50.00	\$0.00
Credit Card Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$150.00	\$17.48
Donor and Patron Entertainment		\$601.65
Postage and Printing	\$250.00	\$99.18
Organizational Marketing	\$500.00	\$30.73
Contingency (5%)	\$636.50	
Total	\$13,366.50	\$11,728.76

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$59,535.50	\$53,058.78
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REVENUE	Projected	Actual
Total Earned Income: ticket sales, concessions, othe	\$17,700.00	\$14,659.27
Government Giving: Maryland State Arts Council	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Foundation & Corporate Giving	\$10,500.00	\$10,000.00
Board and Individual Giving	\$18,000.00	\$17,134.13

TOTAL REVENUES	\$50,200.00	\$45,793.40
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In-Kind Giving	\$10,000	\$8,875.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$664.50	\$1,609.62

Beginning Balance		\$1,188.89
Ending Balance		\$2,798.51



KIA HUNTER
Board President

JEFF MCDERMOTT
Board Secretary/Treasurer

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN MCCOSKEY
Board Member

JANA DOUGHTY
Board Member

NIGEL SEMAJ
Board Member

KEEGAN CASSADY
Board Member



Thank You

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO BOTH THE MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL AND
THE HELM FOUNDATION FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF
PERISPHERE THEATER



**PERISPHERE THEATER
ANNUAL REPORT
25/26**

TO OUR DONORS

Your generous support is the heartbeat of our nonprofit's mission. With your contributions, we can continue to create transformative theatrical experiences that enrich our community. Your belief in the arts empowers us to push boundaries and inspire audiences. Thank you for making our work possible and for being champions of creativity and culture.



DONATIONS OF \$1K OR MORE

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Lynn Quincy & Brannan Chisolm
Kevin O'Connell
Anne Kelleher

DONATIONS OF \$500-\$1K

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Joe Cassady
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Cameron Cassady
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Erik Hoffman
Elisabeth Hofmann
Diane Mezzanotte
Aliya Reich
Carrie & John Pirie
Dominique Quincy

*denotes a member of the Perisphere Theater Board of Directors

<https://perispheretheater.com>
info@perispheretheater.com

Above: Gerrad Alex Taylor in Perisphere's production of *I Know How To Curse*. Photo courtesy of Kiirstn Pagan.

Find out how you can become a supporter of Perisphere Theater and help us continue producing community centered and innovative seasons at our website:
<https://perispheretheater.com/donate/>



Lizzi Albert and Martina Schabron in Perisphere's production of *Silent Sky*. Photo courtesy of DJCorey Photography.



PERISPHERE
THEATER

SEASON 2027:

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

The Turn of the Screw

adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher

(from the novel by Henry James)

Directed by Gerrad Alex Taylor

Performance dates 1/22/27-2/6/27

In the Next Room Or The Vibrator Play

by Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Tessara Morgan Farley

Performance dates 4/9/27-4/24/27

Perisphere will also celebrate its **10th Birthday** of Producing Plays
that “examine personal and collective history and the notion of
history itself.”