

FINE ARTS CENTER THEATRE COMPANY
Scott RC Levy, Producing Artistic Director
Presents

BEAUTIFUL

By

Mêlisa Annis



FEATURING

Lynne Hastings as Katharine Lee Bates

Anna Faye Hunter as Katherine Coman

Holly Haverkorn as Dot and others

Kyle Steffen as Dr. Ely and others

Bob Morsch as the Driver and others

Directed by
Scott RC Levy



Lynne Hastings has been a part of the Colorado Springs Theatre Community for nearly 25 years. Past performances include: *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Happy Days*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Seven Guitars*, and *Doubt* at Theatreworks; *Hairspray*, *Intimate Apparel* and *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Fine Arts Center; and *Afterlife: A Ghost Story*, *Motherhood Out Loud* and *Julius Caesar* at SET. Lynne is wife to actor, David Hastings, and mom to Trevor and Maya.



Holly Haverkorn, a native of Colorado Springs, studied theatre and directing at Lindenwood University in Missouri where she became heavily involved in the improv community, working with City Improv in St. Louis. After moving back to Colorado Springs, she continued to both act and/or direct with Castaways, the FAC, The Colorado Springs Conservatory, JAKES Theatre, and Springs Ensemble Theatre. She currently teaches theatre at Mitchell High School where she has been for nearly 15 years.



Anna Faye Hunter is a Colorado Springs interdisciplinary artist and performer. While theatre is her passion, she has also worked on various independent films, regional radio, and local TV commercials. Most recent theatre credits include Antipholus/Luciana in *The Comedy Of Errors* (Theatreworks) and Katrin in *Mother Courage and Her Children* (Millibo Art Theatre). She is inspired by her creative Colorado Springs community and proud to call these mountains home.



Bob Morsch is very excited to work with his FAC family again. He last appeared on the FAC stage in *The Bridges of Madison County*, which closed right before the world fell apart. Before that he appeared in *Hands on a Hardbody*. He can also be spotted working on theatre and film projects all over Colorado Springs and the internet, including the web series *The Now Show With Jack Belle*, which he made with his partners in crime at Grown Up Costume Party. On stage his favorite roles have included Hamm in *Endgame* and Jack in *Jack Goes Boating* with Star Bar, Joel in *The Gnome in the Room* at Springs Ensemble Theatre, and Andrew Carnes in *Oklahoma!* at Theatreworks. He loves Colorado Springs and is honored to be a part of this series of radio pieces about the history of his home town.

Kyle Dean Steffen — Recent FAC credits include *Sound of Music*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. He has acted with the Arvada Center for the Performing Arts, Creede Repertory Theatre, Theatre Aspen, THEATREWORKS!, Aurora Fox, Cherry Creek Theatre, Houston Shakespeare on the Green, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and Palo Duro Shakespeare. Kyle also directed CSFAC's *Busytown* and *Fully Committed*. MFA: University of Houston. AEA Member.



MÉLISA ANNIS (WRITER OF BEAUTIFUL)

Mélisa is an award-winning playwright (Parity Commission Winner, The Margaret Lamb Prize for Creative Writing) and director. Her work has been developed and presented at and with Primary Stages (NY), The Lark (NY), Rattlestick Theater (NY), Dorset Theater Festival (VT), The Theresa Rebeck Writers Colony (VT), Parity Productions (NY), The New School (NY), Ambassador Theater Group (UK), Arcola Theater (UK), Athena Film Festival (NY), Clutch Productions (FL), About Face Theater (Dublin, Ireland), Theater Masters (CO), ESPA*Drills (NY), The National Arts Club (NY), Shadowland Theater (NY), The Playground Experiment (NY). TV and Commercial writing include; *Jessy & Nessy* (Amazon Studios), Trader Joe's Frequent Flyer sketches, and Conde Nast content online. Mélisa is also writing and developing a new musical, *The King's Wife*, with Grammy Award Nominee Jamie Floyd, Jennifer Krantz and Rosalind Productions. Personal essays have been published in several major publications (The Western Mail, Salon, HowlRound, Dinesydd, Golwg), and she is a frequent contributor to the BBC and BBC Wales. Her play *Aberfan* was published by Clockhouse, and *Fit For A King*, published by Fourth Wall. Mélisa also teaches at the NYU Tisch Dramatic Writing program in NYC. Fun fact, Mélisa is a fluent Welsh speaker, and in a former life she was an actress in a soap opera. "I am thrilled to be back working with the Fine Arts Center, directing *Matilda the Musical* in 2018 was a highlight!"

ABOUT KATHARINE LEE BATES

Katharine Lee Bates was born on August 12th, 1859 in Falmouth, Massachusetts. Moving to Wellesley as a child, she attended Wellesley high school graduating in 1874. She continued her education at Newton High school and then entered Wellesley College graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wellesley College in 1880. From 1880 to 1925, Bates taught at Wellesley College as a professor of English Literature. She also studied at Oxford and earned a master's degree in arts from Wellesley.

Bates was a noted scholar, poet, and writer. She was a prolific author publishing many volumes of poetry, books on her travels to Europe and the Middle East and stories, verses and plays for children. She also published several books on Shakespeare and pre-Shakespearean English Religious drama. She was involved in social reform activities, working for labor reform and planning the College Settlements Association with Vida Scudder. Bates lived for 25 years with Katharine Coman. She never married and had no children. In 1925, Bates retired and spent the remaining years in Wellesley. Katharine Lee Bates died on March 28, 1929.

"America the Beautiful" first appeared in print in the weekly journal *The Congregationalist*, on July 4, 1895. The lyrics were written while on an 1893 summer lecture series at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

Looking at the view of the Rockies from Pikes Peak, its author, Katharine Lee Bates recalls, "It was then and there, as I was looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies, that the opening lines of the hymn floated into my mind. When we left Colorado Springs the four stanzas were penciled in my notebook, together with other memoranda, in verse and prose, of the trip. The Wellesley work soon absorbed time and attention again, the notebook was laid aside, and I do not remember paying heed to these verses until the second summer following, when I copied them out and sent them to *The Congregationalist*, where they first appeared in print July 4, 1895. The hymn attracted an unexpected amount of attention. It was almost at once set to music by Silas G. Pratt. Other tunes were written for the words and so many requests came to me, with still increasing frequency, that in 1904 I rewrote it, trying to make the phraseology more simple and direct."

In addition to simplifying the phrasing and text, Bates made one change in the wording of the third stanza adding "beautiful." The new version was published in *The Boston Evening Transcript* on November 19, 1904. While the poem was sung with a variety of tunes, it has almost exclusively adapted Samuel A. Ward's "Materna" as its melody.

Bates remarked on the immediate and lasting success of the song stating: "That the hymn has gained, in these twenty odd years, such a hold as it has upon our people, is clearly due to the fact that Americans are at heart idealists, with a fundamental faith in human brotherhood."

OF SPACIOUS SKIES STAFF

THE WRITERS

Mélisa Annis

Jonathan Andujar, Mickey Burdick, Marisa D. Hebert, Jessica Kahkoska, Xochitl Portillo, Jess Weaver

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Scott RC Levy & Nathan Halvorson — Episode Directors

Jacob Keough-Mishler — Sound Designer, Engineer & Mixer

Bob Morsch — Assistant Sound Designer

Stephanie & Jay McGuffin — Composers, *Of Spacious Skies* Theme Music

Kate L. Ferdinandi, Morgan Gatson & Terri Harrison — Production Management

Christina Shoemaker — Theatre Company Assistant

FOR THE VISUAL VERISON

Christopher L. Sheley — Production Design and Art Direction

Holly A. Rawls — Associate Art Director and Video Editing

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COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE