



JAN 24 – FEB 23, 2025

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WRITTEN BY LAUREN GUNDERSON

DIRECTED BY KYM PAPPAS

<u>CAST</u>

Rachael Van Wormer	MARIE CURIE
Leigh Scarritt*	HERTHA AYRTON
Jonni Garro	

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	
Production Stage Manager	NATHAN WAITS
Scenic Designer	CHRISTOPHER SCOTT
	MURILLO^
Costume Designer	CLAIRE PETERSON
Lighting Designer	CURTIS MUELLER
Sound Designer	HARPER JUSTUS
French Dialect Coach	SUSANNA PEREDO SWAP
Dramaturg	KIM STRASSBURGER
Assistant Stage Manager & Props De	esigner MCKENNA FOOTE
Assistant Scenic Designer	CARTER VICKERS
Production Assistant	ROSEMARIE SISON

SETTING: 1911-1914: France and England.

APPROXIMATE RUN TIME: 90 minutes with no intermission.

THE HALF-LIFE OF MARIE CURIE was originally commissioned and produced by Audible Theater.

NOTE TO AUDIENCE: The videotaping or audio and/or visual recording of this production is a violation of United States Copyright Law and an actionable federal offense.

THE HALF-LIFE OF MARIE CURIE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

*Member of the Actors' Equity Association

^ Member of IATSE, United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829

NEW VILLAGE ARTS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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KALI BOSTON (she/her) ARTISTIC PRODUCER

BRE EUGENIO (she/her) PATRON SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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LENA CEJA (she/her) SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING ASSISTANT

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pug lee (they/them) NEXT STAGE SOUND ENGINEER

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Kristianne Kurner, Founder and Executive Artistic Director at kristianne@ newvillagearts.org

We acknowledge that The Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center operates on the unceded land of the Payómkawichum (Pye-om-ko-wi-chom) (Luiseño) and Kumeyaay peoples. We further acknowledge that NVA was founded upon exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples, including those who are the traditional Custodians and First people of the land on which we work, play, gather, share, and learn. New Village Arts honors the over 20,000 current tribal members living in the San Diego area, and promises to create a safe space for the local Native Communities to share the art, accomplishments, and history of their peoples. This is a starting point in our efforts to be more active in our local communities and we acknowledge that we have much further to go.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



KYM PAPPAS DIRECTOR

A Taste of Carlsh

This is for the women. You who are strong. Resilient. You who combine courage and compassion. Thank you. This is for you. The Fearless. This is for the Mothers. For the Grandmothers. For the teachers. You who are sanctuary. This is for you. For the warriors. The ones who are deemed loud...assertive...demanding. Thank you. This is for you. This is for the poets. For the ones who speak...for the ones who dance...for the bitches and the witches too. Thank you. This is for you. This is for you. This is for the ones who struggle in math class and the ones who excel. This is for you. This is for the ones who strut. The ones who travel, who carve a path for all to follow. For the ones who strut. The ones whose laughter could heal a nation. The ones who love the animals. This is for you. This is for the ones who write the words and speak the words and sing the words too. Thank you. This is for the ones who feel like they just cannot anymore. Those who carry the dark. This is for you. This is for the ones who show up, who bring the light. This is for you. Thank you. This is for the ways we get each other through. Thank you.

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A Message from Merryl Goldberg, Board President



Thank you for supporting live theater at New Village Arts! Research shows that the arts have enormous power in developing empathy, compassion, and cross-cultural understanding. As a professor of arts integration at California State University San Marcos, I've seen firsthand how the arts bridge multiple worlds and invite us into stories that broaden our understanding of others. The Half-Life of Marie Curie provides an intersection between the arts and science, while making visible the complex backstory of two amazing women in a powerful friendship. Hope and resiliency are two key aspects of the remarkable performance of The Half-Life of Marie Curie, a welcome sentiment for the start of 2025. My hope is that this performance brings you joy and insight and takes you off to that wonderful space of your own imagination. Thanks to all involved in bringing this play to life, from onstage performers to all those behind-the-scenes individuals, and to you too as audience members, for engaging with the magic of theater.

CAST / CREATIVES



RACHAEL VANWORMER (she/her), Marie Curie

Lily Blue in *Waving Goodbye*, Laura in *Be Aggressive*, Jessica Goldman in *This is our Youth*, and others (New Village Arts). Gwendolen Fairfax in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Rosemary Muldoon in *Outside*

Mullingar, Henrietta Leavitt in Silent Sky, and others (Lamb's Players Theatre). Maria in Twelfth Night, Mistress Overdone in Measure for Measure (New Swan Shakespeare). Mary in The Little Fellow, Harper Pitt in Angels in America Parts I & II, and others (Cygnet Theatre). Olympe DeGouges in The Revolutionists (Curtis Theatre); The Woman in The Yellow Wallpaper (Write Out Loud). Cecily in Plot Points in our Sexual Development, Charlotte in The Mystery of Love and Sex, and others (Diversionary Theatre). Little Froggy in Froggy, Sara in #SuperShinySara (La Jolla Playhouse). Also: North Coast Rep, San Diego Rep, PCPA TheatreFest. Rachael is also a playwright and the Associate Artistic Director of Write Out Loud. Find her original scripts on New Play Exchange.



LEIGH SCARRITT* (she/her), Hertha Ayrton

Leigh Scarritt is a veteran of film, television and stage. She has performed and directed extensively, locally, nationally, and internationally. Some of her favorite directing and musical directing projects include: *The*

Color Purple at New Village Arts; Trouble In Mind at The Old Globe Theatre; Fat Ham at The Old Globe Theatre; Derecho at La Jolla Playhouse; Xanadu, Sweet Charity, Jekyll and Hyde, Cabaret, Alice By Heart, Ride The Cyclone, The Mad Ones, Aida, Spring Awakening, Bye Bye Birdie at The San Diego Rep; Fame, Brooklyn - starring David McBean, Ruthless - starring Eileen Bowman at Moxie Theatre, Freaky Friday, Legally Blonde, and Crowns at The Lesher Center and Little Women at Moxie Theatre. Film and television audiences may recognize her from: Too Close For Comfort, Three's Company, Used Cars, In Search Of My Son. Favorite Stage Roles Include: Grandma Who in How The Grinch Stole Christmas at The Old Globe Theatre (Original Cast) with Tiffany Jane, Celebrity Sonnets - Old Globe Theatre, The Witch in Into The Woods, Nanalu in Blue Bonnet Court at The Diversionary Theatre, Audrey in Little Shop Of Horrors at the Spreckles Theatre, Billie Dawn in Born Yesterday, The Agent in Nine, Eva Peron in Evita at Starlight Musical Theatre, Queen Aggrevaine in Once Upon A Mattress at Lamb's Players Theatre, Marjorie in The Allergist's Wife, Deloris in Working, Ms. Pennywise in Urinetown, and Mrs. Peachum in Three Penny Opera.

Gratitude to the extraordinary Kym Pappas and to the wondrously talented Rachael VanWormer. My respect to all who create and all who support live theatre. May you be endlessly blessed. www.leighscarritt.com

*Member of the Actors' Equity Association



JONNI GARRO (she/her), Swing

Jonni Garro is thrilled to be making her debut at NVA. Favorite credits include Stepdaughter in *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Pope Theatre), Kipper in *My One & Only* (Welk Resort Theatre), Mother in *Santa Meets the Ice Dragon* (Beacon Theatre), and

on film as Sonya in *Charmed & Cheated* (Lifetime).

CREATIVES

KYM PAPPAS (she/her), Director

Kym Pappas is so grateful to be back at NVA! Directing credits include *Fun Home* (New Village Arts); *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Scripps Ranch Theatre); *Church, Revolt. She said. Revolt again., Gideon's Knot, Seminar, Fat Pig, Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead,* and *Disappearing Act* (InnerMission Productions); *Well* and *Plot Points in Our Sexual Development* (Diversionary Theatre); *The Falling and The Rising* and *Aftermath* (Bodhi Tree Concerts); *Sonnets for an Old Century* (UCSD); *The Kid Thing* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (MOXIE Theatre). You may have also seen her recently on stage at New Village Arts in Jez Butterworth's *The Ferryman* and *Doubt.* Kym is a member of the Pasadena Playhouse Directors Lab West. Big Love to our creative team, the entire NVA family, and to Jyl.

NATHAN WAITS (he/him), Stage Manager

Nathan Waits has been stage managing and building sets for productions around San Diego for over 10 years. Previously, he has served as the master carpenter for 1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas and Fun Home, and stage manager for Desert Rock Garden, Jez Butterworth's The Ferryman, Singin' in the Rain, Doubt, Fun Home, The 39 Steps, 8:TRACK: The Sounds of the '70s, and Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play (New Village Arts). He previously served as the resident set builder for Scripps Ranch Theatre (Lucky Stiff, Extreme Home Makeover, The Outsider, I Hate Hamlet, The Taming, and more), the master carpenter for The Roustabouts (Guntopia, Hand to God), the resident set builder/designer for Sage Creek High School (Les Miserables, Chicago, Legally Blonde, Into the Woods, Shakespeare in Love and many more), and the technical director for Mother of the Maid (MOXIE Theatre). Other credits include serving as the stage manager for Shrek the Musical, A Christmas Carol, Bye Bye Birdie, and Beauty & the Beast (Oceanside Theatre Company). He thanks you for coming to see the show and hopes you enjoy!

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO (he/him), Scenic Designer

Christopher Scott Murillo is a scenic designer, artist, and educator based in Los Angeles, CA. He is thrilled to be collaborating with New Village Arts once again. Since 2016, he has designed over fifteen productions here at New Village Arts. Recently, his stage designs have been seen at IAMA Theatre Company, Chance Theater, Latino Theatre Company, Playwrights' Arena, and East West Players. As a production designer for television, his work can be seen on Paramount+ on *The Ready Room* with Wil Wheaton and *Halo the Series: Declassified*. He is

CREATIVES

a 2016 recipient of the Princess Grace Foundation Theater Fellowship. Currently, he is on faculty at UC RIVERSIDE in the Department of Theatre, Film and Digital Production.

CLAIRE PETERSON (she/they), Costume Designer

Claire Peterson is a Costume Designer for both Theatre and Film with an MFA in Costume Design and Technology from San Diego State University. Originally from a small town in Montana, she found interest in art through theatre and design. With a main focus in theatre for social change, Claire strives to create a space where all people have the opportunity to feel safe and represented. She currently is working as a Costume Design Assistant at La Jolla Playhouse, along with doing freelance design around the country. Some design credits include *Midnight at the Never Get* (Diversionary Theatre), *Man and Moon* (MOXIE Theatre), *The Fog* (Montana Repertory Theatre), *The House of Bernarda Alba* (SDSU), *Cabaret* (SDSU), *Spring Awakening* (University of Montana), *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Grandstreet Theatre).

CURTIS MUELLER (he/him), Lighting Designer

Previous designs for New Village Arts include: Fun Home, A Weekend with Pablo Picasso, Guadalupe in the Guest Room, The Secret Garden, Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans, Big River, and Seascape. In the past, Curtis has also designed for other local venues including Backyard Renaissance, Diversionary Theatre, CoSA, The Roustabouts, Mira Costa College, Litvak Dance, and Moonlight Stage Productions just to name a few. Most importantly, Curtis would like to thank Kym and Kristianne for this creative opportunity.

HARPER JUSTUS (she/her), Sound Designer

Harper Justus is very glad to be back at New Village Arts! Sound Design Credits include: *Vinegar Tom, The Promise, Neha and Neel, The Winter's Tale, Dance Nation* (UC San Diego); *CLYDE's* (Moxie Theatre); *Head Over Heels* (Diversionary); *The Ferryman* (New Village Arts); *Great Comet of 1812* (Tantrum Theatre); *An Iliad* (Brick Monkey Collective); *Pluto* (Ohio University); *Bye Bye Birdie* (Pioneer Theatre). Upcoming Projects: *Do You Feel Anger*? (Moxie Theatre). Harper holds a BFA in Production Design from Ohio University and is very close to finishing her MFA in Sound Design at UC San Diego.

SUSANA PEREDO SWAP (she/her), Dialect Coach

Susanna Peredo Swap is an award-winning producer, journalist, and film director with over 25 years of experience as an arts administrator, actor, jazz vocalist, and public relations specialist. Fluent in French, she studied Art History at the Université Paris Sorbonne and Film History at the École du Louvre in Paris. She trained in theatre with local icon William Virchis; the late Jonathon McMurtry at the Old Globe Theatre, and at the Royal National Theatre in London. A magna cum laude graduate of SDSU with a Humanities degree and a French



CREATIVES

minor, Susanna was on the board of the Alliance Française de San Diego for over 6 years and is a passionate advocate for San Diego's creative sector, serving on multiple advisory boards, including the San Diego Museum Council and the Institute of Contemporary Art. Founder of Vanguard Culture, Susanna champions collaboration across the visual, performing, and culinary arts to enrich the region's cultural landscape. She is delighted to be returning to her theatre roots and supporting this production as a dialect coach.

KIM STRASSBURGER (she/her), Dramaturg

Kim is honored to be a part of *The Half-Life of Marie Curie*. Kim is a director, dramaturg, and actor. Selected dramaturgy credits include *Cabaret, Parade, Sweeney Todd* and *The History Boys* (Cygnet Theatre); *The Grapes of Wrath* and *The Glass Menagerie* (ion Theatre). As a science "buff," what a pleasure it is to study these amazing female scientists with this artistic team! Thank you.

Graciously Sponsored by Kathy Brombacher.

MCKENNA FOOTE (they/she), Assistant Stage Manager & Props Designer

McKenna is a local theatre artist and educator. They have a BA in Drama from the University of California, Irvine with a Minor in Sociology. McKenna was a producer for "Brick Theatre Company", an LGBTQ+ student run theatre company, and on the Neofuturist Collective "Schrodinger's Cast" at UC Irvine. McKenna's previous credits include Directing *Acute Exposure* (UC Irvine), Props Designing *Fun Home* and *The 39 Steps*, Assistant Stage Managing and Props Designing *Singin' in the Rain*, Assistant Stage Managing Jex Butterworth's *The Ferryman* and *The Servant of Two Masters*, and played Lydia in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (New Village Arts). They are also a Teaching Artist with New Village Arts and The Kids College as well as the resident Stage Manager at Star Theatre Company in Oceanside.

CARTER VICKERS (he/him), Assistant Scenic Designer

Carter Vickers is super excited to be working on *The Half-Life of Marie Curie*! Carter is primarily a scenic & production designer, having recently graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a Bachelor's Degree in both Theatre Arts (focus in Scenic Design) and Film, Television, and Media Studies. Other assistant credits include being the design intern for The Muny's 106th season, *The Very Best People* (IAMA Theatre Co) and *Twelfth Night* (Anteaus Theatre Co.). He is currently designing *Puffs* at Loyola Marymount University. Many thanks to Chris Murillo and the rest of the wonderful production team! @cartervickers.design

ROSEMARIE SISON (she/her), Production Assistant

Rosemarie is a third year student at Bennington College (VT) pursuing a BA in drama. She is originally from San Diego and is interning at New Village Arts for the winter.

LAUREN GUNDERSON (she/her), Author

Lauren is one of the most produced playwrights in America since 2015 topping the list thrice including 2022/23. She is a two-time winner of

the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award for I and You and The Book of Will, the winner of the William Inge Distinguished Achievement in Theatre Award, the Lanford Wilson Award and the Otis Guernsey New Voices Award; a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, Weissberger Award, and John Gassner Award for Playwriting; and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation's Residency with Marin Theatre Company. She studied Southern Literature and Drama at Emory University, and Dramatic Writing at NYU's Tisch School where she was a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. Her play The Catastrophist, about her husband virologist Nathan Wolfe, premiered digitally in January 2021. She co-authored the Miss Bennet plays with Margot Melcon, and The Half-Life of Marie Curie premiered off-Broadway and is now at Audible.com. Her work is published at Bloomsbury (Revolutionary Women: A Lauren Gunderson Anthology, anthropology, I and You), Playscripts (I and You; Exit Pursued By A Bear; The Taming and Toil And Trouble), Dramatists Play Service (The Revolutionists; The Book of Will; Silent Sky; Bauer, Natural Shocks, The Wickhams and Miss Bennet) and Samuel French (Emilie). Her picture book Dr Wonderful: Blast Off to the Moon is available from Two Lions/Amazon. She is the book writer for musicals with Ari Afsar (Jeannette), Dave Stewart and Joss Stone (The Time Traveller's Wife), Joriah Kwamé (Sinister), Kait Kerrigan and Bree Lowdermilk (Justice and Earthrise), and Kira Stone (Built for This). She is a board member of The Playwrights Foundation. LaurenGunderson.com

KRISTIANNE KURNER (she/her), Founder & Executive Artistic Director

Kristianne founded New Village Arts in 2001, and she has grown the organization from a starting budget of \$2,500 with two employees to a current budget of \$1.6 million with over 20 employees. Trained as an actor and director, she has worked on every NVA theatrical production. Her directing credits include *Doubt, Awake & Sing! The Weir, The Trip to Bountiful, True West, Sailor's Song, The Waverly Gallery, A Lie of the Mind*, and the premiere outside of Broadway and London of Jez Butterworth's *The Ferryman*. Her work has received numerous awards, including San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and KPBS Awards for Theatre Excellence. She is the recipient of the Clare Rose Sabbatical Award from Fieldstone Leadership Network and serves on the Board of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. She was named a "Woman Who Inspires" in 2024 by Senator Catherine Blakespear. Education: BFA Theatre, College of William & Mary; MFA Acting, the Actors Studio/New School.

KALI BOSTON (she/her), Artistic Producer

Originally from Massachusetts, Kali moved to California to pursue her passion in producing and directing. After graduating from the University of California, San Diego last year with a BA in Theatre, Kali has been a part of many different theaters and festivals including: *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play, 8-TRACK: The Sounds of the '70s, The Color Purple, The 39 Steps, Fun Home, 1222 OceanFront: A Black Family Christmas* (Producer, NVA), Jewish Arts Festival 2024 (Production Manager), *Doubt* (Production Manager), *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso* (Assistant Director, NVA), *Heathers: The Musical* (Producer/Director, Zorina Productions), Production Assistant (Dishwasher Dreams, The Old Globe).

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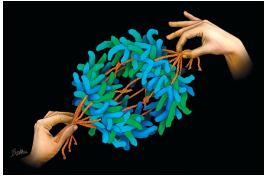
ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

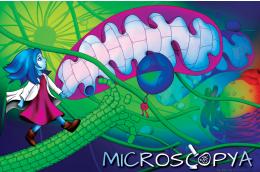
Please take a moment in our lobby to experience the Milena (Sellers) Phillips Gallery, in celebration of Jonathan Sellers & Charlie Keever, as well as the Judi Sheppard Missett and Jack Missett Gallery, in honor and celebration of Brendan John Sheppard-Missett, located in the New Village Arts Art Gallery.



BEATA EDYTA MIERZWA, PHD

THE DOUBLE-LIFE OF SCIENCE AND ART Beata Mierzwa is a cancer researcher and also shares the beauty of science through art, fashion, and interactive media. Her research at UCSan Diego focuses on understanding mechanisms of cell division to improve cancer therapy. Beyond her academic career, Dr. Mierzwa explores various approaches to visual science communication. Her hand-drawn illustrations use metaphor to portray scientific concepts in intuitive ways, while her microscopy fashion celebrates the beauty of the molecular world. She also created a science video game, Microscopya, that invites players to explore the beauty inside our cells. Through her AAAS IF/THEN Ambassadorship she aims to inspire students to pursue careers in STEM and empower our next generation of creative scientists. For more information, please visit www.beatascienceart.com or follow @beatascienceart on social media.





DRAMATURGY SPOTLIGHT BY KIM STRASSBURGER

MARIE CURIE & HERTHA AYRTON

- Marie was a pion<mark>eer in Radiation Physics. He</mark>rtha was a pioneer in Fluid Dynamics.
- Marie discovered the element Radium. Hertha was an engineer who fixed the original lightbulb so that it did not constantly hiss.
- Marie was a friend of scientist Albert Einstein. Hertha was a friend of suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst.
- Marie was a World War I hero who invented Mobile X-Ray Trucks. Hertha was a World War I hero who invented Anti-Gas Fans for the trenches.
- Marie was a private citizen pilloried by the press for her personal life. Hertha was a British suffragette arrested for fighting for her right to vote.
- Marie was a mother. Hertha was a mother.
- Marie was a friend of Hertha Ayrton. Hertha was a friend of Marie Curie.



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IN LOVING MEMORY OF DEA HURSTON MAY 15, 1951 – JULY 7, 2024



Miss Dea, as she was affectionately known by our staff, was one of the strongest and most inspirational women we've ever known. The world has lost an incredible light. She had an indelible impact in the San Diego theatre community: mentoring, encouraging, supporting, loving, and always, telling her truth. We feel so fortunate to have shared in Dea's extraordinary life.



The Dea Hurston Fellowship was created to address the lack of paid opportunities for women, BIPOC, and other underserved theater administrators, artists, and students in our region.

As a young girl, Dea was denied access to dance lessons and other artistic ventures due to the prevailing racist attitudes, politics, and laws. The Dea Hurston Fellowship has been her way to ensure that young women of color not only have access to the arts, but paid training, mentorship, and exposure to all aspects and vocations within the arts industry.

ANNOUNCING THE 2024-2025 DEA HURSTON FELLOWS

2024 DEA HURSTON PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS











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To Learn More about the Dea Hurston Fellowship, please visit the link in our QR Code:



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Photos are from NVA's school tour of Stellaluna.

Photography: Jason Sullivan/Dupla

Our donors are an essential part of the New Village Arts family. Your gift today will help us continue to bring new ways of storytelling to our community as we enter 2025.

SPECIFICALLY, YOUR GIFT HELPS NEW VILLAGE ARTS:

- **<u>CREATE</u>** We're back live on stage in the 2024-2025 season, expanded education offerings and a school tour throughout North County public schools
 - We're commissioning new work to keep our art form alive and meaningful to today's audiences.
- We are working to support a more diverse and equitable theatre community.
 Our new performing arts are blossoming on the White Family Next Stage.
- **BUILD** In 2023, we opened the beautiful new Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center, which serves as a beacon of hope for our collective future.

THANK YOU for making your most generous gift. Your tax-deductible donation safeguards New Village Arts' future, ensuring that we continue to make great theater together.

DONATE NOW by going to newvillagearts.org/donate or email bre@newvillagearts.org.

New Village Arts is a community-supported not-for-profit company. Your contribution will qualify as a charitable contribution. NVA's Federal Tax ID # is: #52-2320930.

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