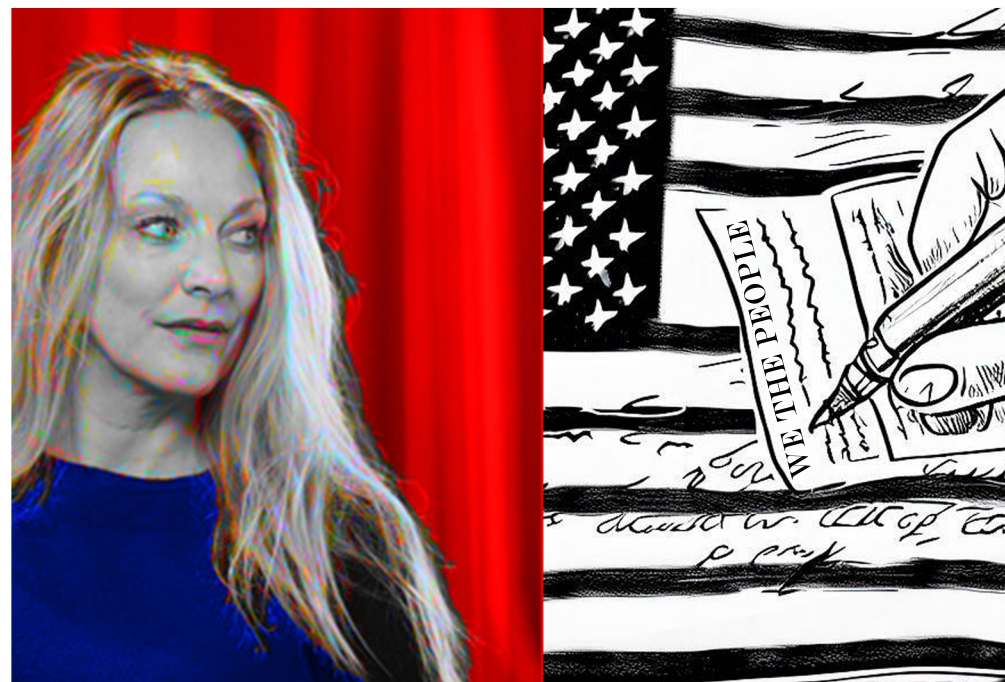
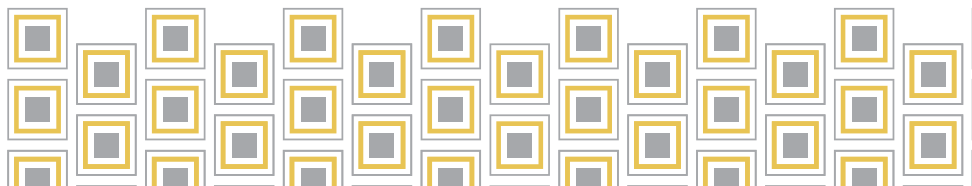


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# WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME

BY HEIDI SCHRECK

DIRECTED BY DAVID LEE-PAINTER

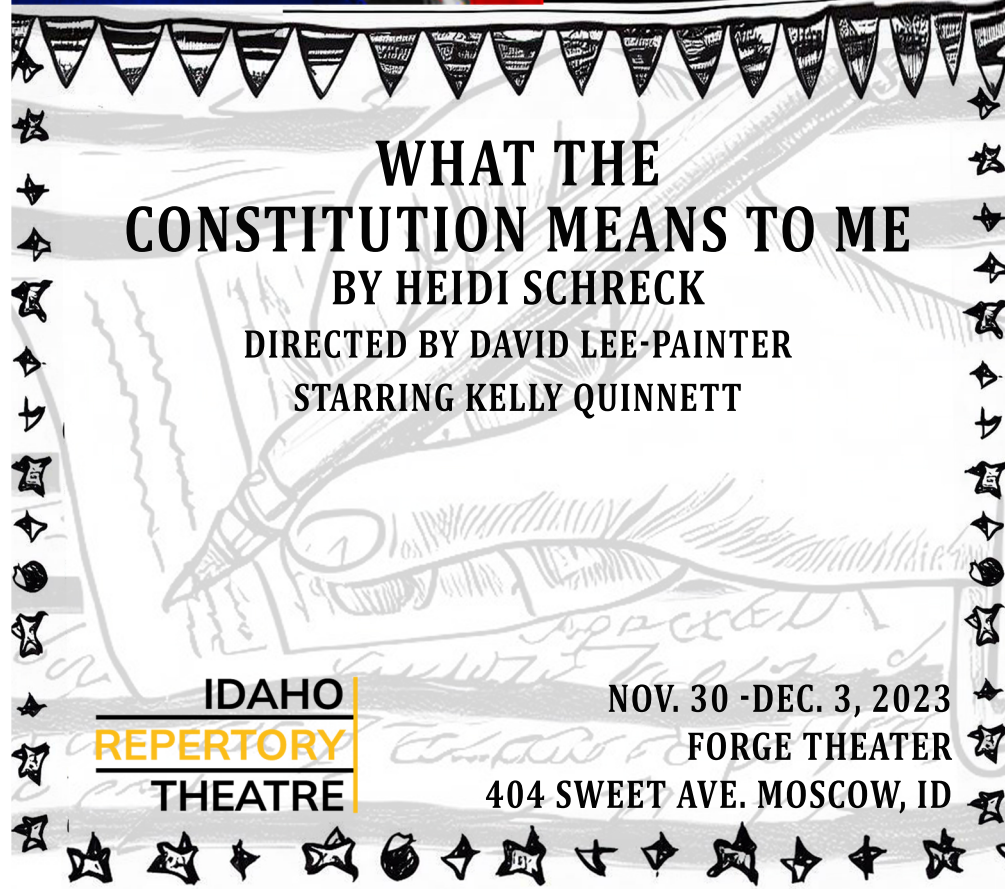
STARRING KELLY QUINNETT

IDAHO  
**REPERTORY**  
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NOV. 30 - DEC. 3, 2023

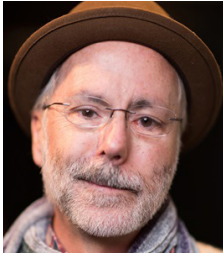
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# A Message from the Director



Heidi Shreck's Pulitzer-Prize finalist play is a gentle but insistent call to action. Hopeful insistence – we must do better.

The play asks important questions about where the constitution may make us proud to be Americans, and has also profoundly failed people that live in this country.

This play is a penumbra.

As Heidi writes: Here we are, trapped between what we can see, and what we can't.

Who we are now may not be who we will become. It leaves a little room ... for the future self. And we just have to hope we don't drown in the process of figuring out what that is.

We invoke hope for the beloved young ones in our lives now, and for those that will come after us – as well as honoring and celebrating the lives of our ancestors who worked so hard to make a better life for us all.

Thank you so much for supporting live theatre and joining us this evening.

*David Lee-Painter, Director*

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

RICH SEAMON  
LEAH EVANS-JANKE  
LYSA SALSBUURY

"What the Constitution Means to Me" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

Original Broadway Production Produced by  
Diana DiMenna Aaron Glick Matt Ross  
Madeleine Foster Bersin Myla Lerner/Jon Bierman  
Jenna Segal/Catherine Markowitz Jana Shea/Maey-Stolbun-Sussman  
Rebecca Gold/Jose Antonio Vargas  
Level Forward Cornice Productions Lassen Wyse Balsam Nederlander Productions/Kate Lear

"What the Constitution Means to Me" was commissioned by True Love Productions.

This production originated as part of Summerworks in June and July 2017,  
produced by Clubbed Thumb in partnership with True Love Productions.

West Coast premiere produced by  
Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley, CA  
Tony Taccone, Artistic Director/Susan Medak, Managing Director.

"What the Constitution Means to Me" had its Off-Broadway premiere in New York City at New York Theatre Workshop, Jim Nicola, Artistic Director, Jeremy Blocker, Managing Director, 2018



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**DIRECTED BY KATE PEMBERTON**



**University of Idaho**  
Department of Theatre Arts

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6:30 PM FEB. 2, 3, 9, 10  
2:00 PM FEB. 4 & 11  
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# A Message from the Dramaturg



## What Does the Constitution Mean to You?

“What the Constitution Means to Me” has received multiple laurels. Most notably, the play was a finalist for both a Pulitzer Prize in drama and the Susan Smith Blackburn prize. It was nominated for the 2019 Tony Award for Best Play. Author Heidi Schreck was presented the Hull-Warriner Award by the Dramatists Guild of America Council for the play.

## A Humorous, Intelligent and Personal Look at the U.S. Constitution

Humorously and intelligently and deeply, Schreck enacts and reflects on her connection to the U.S. Constitution and the role it plays in her life, her mother’s life, and her grandmother’s life.

Her play begins with the American Legion Oratorical contests she competed in as a 15-year-old girl living in Wenatchee, Washington. In the competition, debaters addressed sections of the Constitution and its connection to them. The contests’ prize money paid Schreck’s way through college, and as importantly, affected her as a person. She takes these remembrances and contrasts them with her thoughts on the Constitution now, thirty years later.

## Real Time Research with the Supreme Court

In creating the script, she listened to recordings of courtroom arguments of the Supreme Court Justices on important cases related to the amendments. The Justices’ attention to detail and nuance as they strived to accurately interpret what the framers put down impressed Schreck and influenced her playscript.

“The fact is there was no possible way for the framers to put down every single right we have—the right to brush your teeth, sure you’ve got it, but how long do we want this document to be?” she writes in the script.

## A Living Document Two Hundred Years Strong

“What the Constitution Means to Me” is most definitely not a lecture. Schreck herself is drawn in by her memory and the meaning of the Constitution as she interacts with the audience and reflects on this foundational document and what it means in our time two hundred years after the writing.

With our current, national interest in this document that laid the groundwork for our republic and as the Supreme Court reviews cases focused on its interpretation, this play is an offering to help us better understand where we are coming from and asks us to look to where we shall head as a nation. Please join us for a time of reflection and inspiration.

*By Ariana Burns, U of I Dramaturg for “What the Constitution Means to Me”*



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

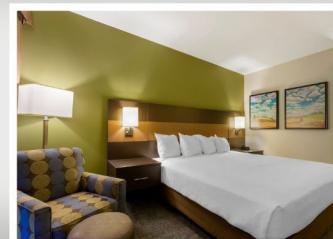
Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation. Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

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

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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 7:30 PM APRIL 26, 27, MAY 3, 4  
 2:00 PM APRIL 28, MAY 5  
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**University of Idaho**  
 Department of Theatre Arts

**Cast & Artistic Team Bios (continued)**



**Kelly Eviston-Quinnett**, (Heidi) is head of performance at the University of Idaho. Kelly was the recipient of the National Irene Ryan Scholarship presented by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, which led to her being placed under a development contract with ABC. She appeared on "All My Children" as Maria Monterey and on "One Life to Live" as Blaine Adams. Films include: "The River Murders" with Ray Liotta, "Without a Ladder" with Jack Bannon, "Frank" with John Gries and Britt Robertson, "Home of the Brave" with Samuel Jackson, "Mozart and the Whale" with Josh Hartnett, "The Basket" with Peter Coyote, "Mr. Write" with Paul Reiser and Martin Mull, "Brothers and Sisters" with Franco Nero and Stefano Accorsi. Plays include: *ReEntry*, *GO.PLEASE.GO.* by Emily Feldman at Montana Repertory Theatre, National New Play Network's rolling premiere of "Lucky Me" by Robert Caisley, "Bus Stop" with Ellen Travolta, "Circle Mirror Transformation," "Noises Off," "Grace and Glory" and more. Kelly has had the good fortune of being a guest artist for the MFA Playwriting Workshop at the Kennedy Center with the National New Play Network and worked on plays with and by Steve Yockey, Martyna Majok, Meg Miroshnik, Michael Mitnick, Dan Le Franc, Aurin Squire and Lindsey Ferrentino. Recently, she was in the workshop performance of Randy Reinholz' *Under a Big Sky* with Sheila Tousey. In 2016, Kelly was honored with the National KCACTF, Special Achievement in Performance as Medea in "Medea: Her Story." She is the first ever Uta Hagen Teaching Award recipient and the Mayor's Arts Award recipient for Outstanding Achievement in Arts Education. Kelly is proud grandma Kel Kel, mom of 4 and wife of SUSHI-MAN.

**Jana Veleva** (Debater) is an international student from Skopje, Macedonia, majoring in psychology and minoring in theatre performance. She was previously seen in "Into the Woods" and "Measure for Measure". This is her last semester, and she feels incredibly grateful that she's in this production as her last one here, working with DLP again, and sharing the stage with Kelly Quinnett. Jana dedicates this performance to her mom, Emilija, who is the reason she came to the United States and who taught her the importance of education and advocacy.



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## Cast & Artistic Team Bios (continued)



**Macy Korsten** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman at the University of Idaho double majoring in theatre and virtual technology and design. They are from Sandpoint and have been involved in theatre for close to eight years, including 12 full Broadway style musicals, and most recently, "Amelie" at the University of Idaho. They have loved being involved in this show and working with all the amazing people involved in the show and the theatre department. They are thankful for this wonderful opportunity and can't wait for what comes next!

**David Lee-Painter** (Director) earned an MFA in Directing from Illinois State University and has been a Professor of Theatre at U of I since Bill Clinton was president, specializing in acting, directing, and mischief-making.

"I am so honored to be a co-director of 'What the Constitution Means to Me' – somehow it is my 52<sup>nd</sup> – and final play as a director while being a proud member of the theatre faculty at U of I – it is and has been such a wonderful life!" he says.

"I have savored this time with a small flock of dear passionate, committed students, my long-time trusted, gifted teaching colleague Kelly Quinnett, my beloved partner-in-time, my wife Nancy/Achali – and a very generous and talented alum-friend Jeff Davis."



**Nancy Achali Lee-Painter** (Co-Director) is a newly minted emerita professor of theatre at Lewis-Clark State College where she loved making theatre happen with students for almost 20 years. She also served as National Playwriting Program chair for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Region VII.

As an actor, she's worked with Idaho Repertory Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, American Stage Company, Vandal Lab and the Idaho Shakespeare Festival among others. She was also honored to be a part of two productions that were nationally recognized by KCACTF in 2019 and 2023.

"It's such a huge thrill to be working again with David and long-time theatre pals, Kelly and Jeff on this important and timely production," she says. But redirecting her full-time focus to her home, family - featuring four grand kiddos - and her Moscow community is the icing on her life-cake.

**Luke McGreevy**, (Sound Designer) is a tried-and-true Moscow lad, in his senior year at University of Idaho where he will (fingers crossed) earn his BFA in theatre arts. He has worked as a sound designer on several U of I productions, including "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," "Macbeth," "Measure for Measure" and now, "What the Constitution Means to Me." Cheers!



*continued on next page*

## Lionel Hampton School of Music presents



## Die Fledermaus

By Johann Strauss Jr.

Hartung Theater

March 1 & 2, 2024, 7:30 PM



# What the Constitution Means to Me

by Heidi Schreck

## Cast

Heidi.....KELLY QUINNETT~  
Legionnaire.....JEFF DAVIS+  
Debater.....JANA VELEVA  
Debater.....AURORA DICKEY  
Legionnaire Understudy.....ANTHONY KIRBY

## Artistic Team

Director.....DAVID LEE-PAINTER~  
Co-Director.....NANCY/ACHALI LEE-PAINTER+  
Dramaturg.....ARIANABURNS+  
Scenic Designer/Technical Director.....KEVIN BAKER  
Sound Designer.....LUKE MCGREEVY  
Costume Designer.....LAUREN WELCH  
Lighting Designer.....PAIGEO'CALLAGHAN  
Stage Manager.....RENEE ANNUNZIATO  
Assistant Stage Manager.....ALLEN HADLEY  
Assistant Stage Manager.....MACY KORSTEN  
Assistant to the Directors.....ABBEY HAMPTON  
Costume Design Advisor.....JEANNIE GALIOTO~  
Costume Director.....GINGERSORENSEN~  
Lighting Design Advisor.....ALANA SHEPHERD~  
Sound Advisor.....DAVID HARLAN~+  
Technical Advisor.....MICHAEL BRANDT~+

\*Work on "Constitution" helps fulfill degree requirements for MFA candidates.  
~ University of Idaho Faculty  
+ Alumni

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[www.uitheatre.com](http://www.uitheatre.com)

## Cast & Artistic Team Bios (in alpha order)



**Ariana Burns** (Dramaturg) is a dramaturg and playwright. Past dramaturgy includes "Everybody," "This Random World," and "The Clean House." Her plays include "Silver Wings on Blue," "Tiny Lives, Tiny Deaths," and "The Three Keys of Captain Hellfire" which premiered here in 2019. She has worked for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Repertory Theatre, Shade of Difference, the Dread Admiral's Sunshine Factory, and the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. She earned a B.F.A. in technical theatre and an M.A. in cultural anthropology from the University of Idaho.

**Jeff Davis** (Legionnaire) is thrilled to be returning to the IRT stage after a brief (20-year) absence from theatre on the Palouse!

Jeff received his MFA in Performance from U of I in 2003 and was subsequently awarded the Rex Rabold Fellowship at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for the 2004 season. After his stint in Ashland, Jeff flew to the other coast where he appeared on stage in the 2005 season at Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, VA. In search of a great theatre town where he wouldn't have to change his address every few months, Jeff settled in Chicago where he appeared in several "storefront" theatre productions around the city.

In 2006, Jeff wandered into an advertising agency in search of a "day job" to help support his love of food and shelter. Jeff was hired as an Administrative Assistant and started working his way up. Currently he is the Head of Production at that very same agency.

In 2021, Jeff partnered with Kelly Quinnett to develop and teach U of I's first-ever voiceover acting class. Jeff and Kelly will be teaming up again to offer this course next semester.

U of I Theatre credits include "Stop Kiss," "The Importance of Being Earnest," "Romeo and Juliet," "Cabaret" and "The Laramie Project." Regional credits include "Prelude to a Kiss," "Two Gentlemen of Verona," "Wild Oats" and "As You Like It" (Idaho Repertory Theatre); "King Lear," "Much Ado About Nothing," "Henry V," "The Visit" (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); "Hamlet" (Mill Mountain Theatre). Jeff currently makes his home in Forest Park, IL with his partner, Martin and more dogs and cats than are actually permitted by local zoning restrictions.



**Aurora Dickey** (Debater) is a freshman theatre major from Lewiston Idaho. As a student at Lewiston High School, she performed in "Silver Wings on Blue" and "Guys and Dolls, The Musical."

**Abbey Hampton** (Assistant to the Director) is from Meridian. She has experience in sound design and other aspects of the backstage world, but working on this show has been a bit of a brand new experience for her, she says. "I have loved being pushed out of my comfort zone and trying something new. Sometimes, being a fish out of water is good for you."



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