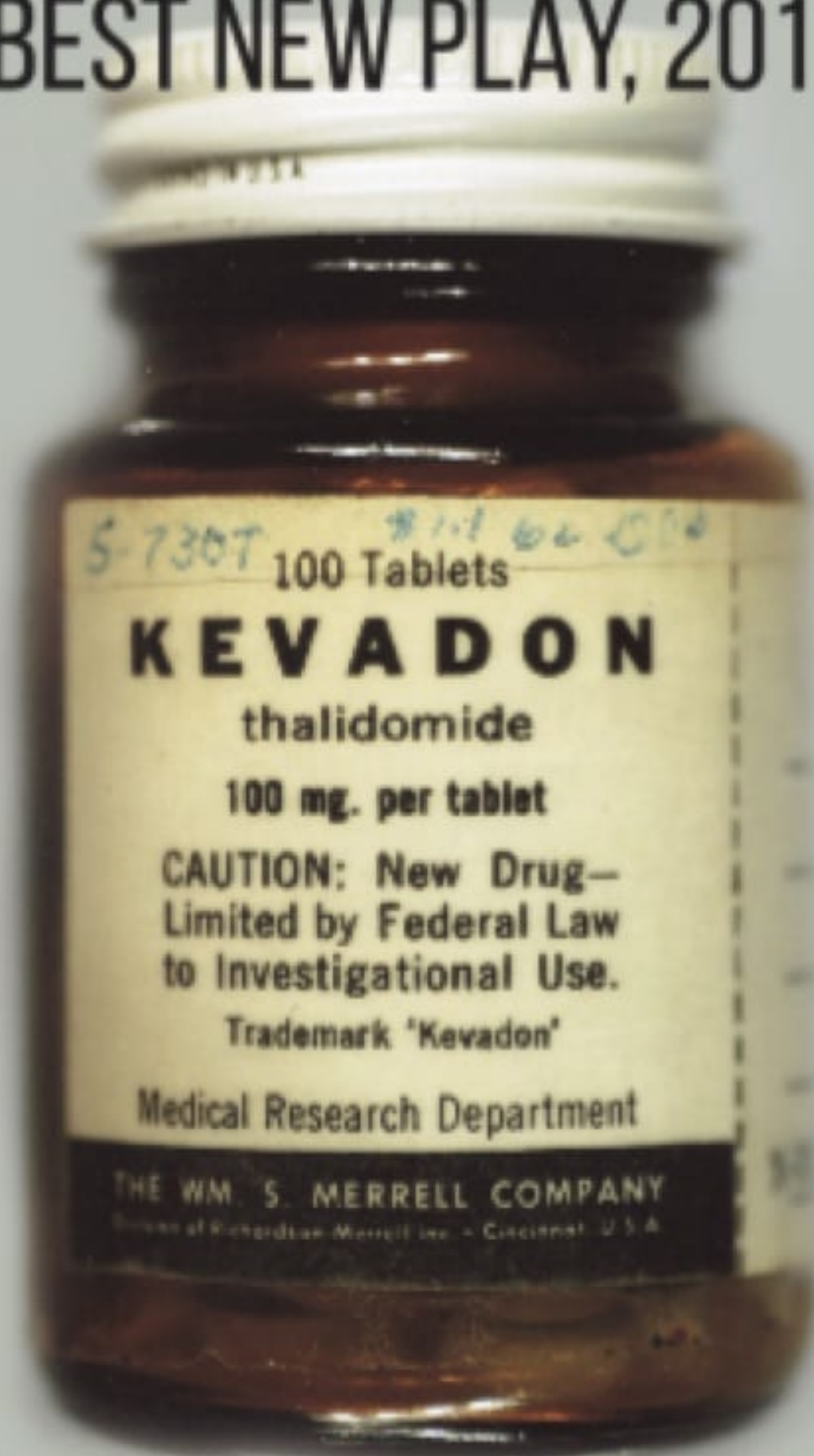


Hardly Working Productions Presents

[Miss]

WINNER, CHARLES M. GETCHELL AWARD
BEST NEW PLAY, 2017



AUG 24 - SEPT 8

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About the Play

[Miss] is a fictional theatrical drama based on true events. It relies on court testimony, lawsuit filings, FDA documents, participant recollections, marketing materials, scientific articles, newspaper accounts and scholarly textbooks. Casting considerations required that some of the characters be composites of more than one person. Some encounters which occurred over several days have been condensed into a single encounter. In instances where there exist strong differences of opinion as to what happened, deference has been given to Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey's personal recollections of events. Some characters and events have been created or modified for dramatic effect.

Letter from the Author, W.L. Newkirk

Thank you for coming to see *[Miss]*. The audience is the most important part of any show. You make it possible for those of us involved with *[Miss]* to do what we love to do.

Frances Oldham Kelsey is one of the great heroines of the twentieth century. When I read her obituary in the *New York Times* on August 7, 2015 (She died at 101.), I was reminded of the August 10, 1962 issue of *Life Magazine* which showed pictures of the thalidomide babies. I was 11 when that issue came out and it terrified me.

As I began digging into the information that has come out since the *Life* article was published, particularly what was unearthed in the subsequent US lawsuits and German criminal trial, I was stunned by the behavior of the William S. Merrell Company. As a physician and medical writer, I thought that if I didn't know about what actually had happened, most other people wouldn't either. *[Miss]* grew out of my obsession to bring these events to light.

I hope today's performance of *[Miss]* can convey to you the enormous challenges Dr. Kelsey faced in speaking truth to power and how her courage in doing so averted what would have been one of the greatest public health disasters in American history.

It's an amazing story.

W.L. Newkirk

Cast & Crew

Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey.....Allison Ma'luf
Gertrude Helfer.....Alice Corvo
Dr. F. Joseph Murray.....Ed Krasnow
Dr. Raymond Pogge.....Mark Anderson
Dr. Ray Nulsen/Dr. Ray Stehle.....Matthew Zahnzinger
Betty Yoder.....Gabrielle Jaques
John Yoder.....Alexander Stravinski
Mary Beck.....Victoria Anne Brancazio

Stage Manager.....Brianna McDermott
A/V Specialist.....Emily Bearce
Graphic Artist.....Ryan McKenzie
Set Manager.....Josh Sawicki
Assistant to Set Manager.....Chris Mierzwa

Costumes, Props, and Set Provided by Hardly Working Productions

Directed by Jo d'Angelo

Written by W.L. Newkirk

**Produced by Deena Flowers
President/Founder
Hardly Working Productions**



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Scenes

Prologue

(Feb 16, 1936)

- McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Act I

(September 4, 1960-December 24, 1960)

- Small Home in Ohio
- Merrell Offices, Cincinnati, Ohio
- FDA, Washington, DC
- Kevadon Training Session
- Outside Dr. Ray Nulsen's Office, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Country Club, Cincinnati, Ohio

Ten Minute Intermission

Act II

(January 4, 1961-June 5, 1962)

- Small Home in Ohio
- FDA, Washington, DC
- Merrell Offices, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Outside Dr. Ray Nulsen's Office, Cincinnati, Ohio

Epilogue

(October 10, 1962)

- FDA, Washington, DC

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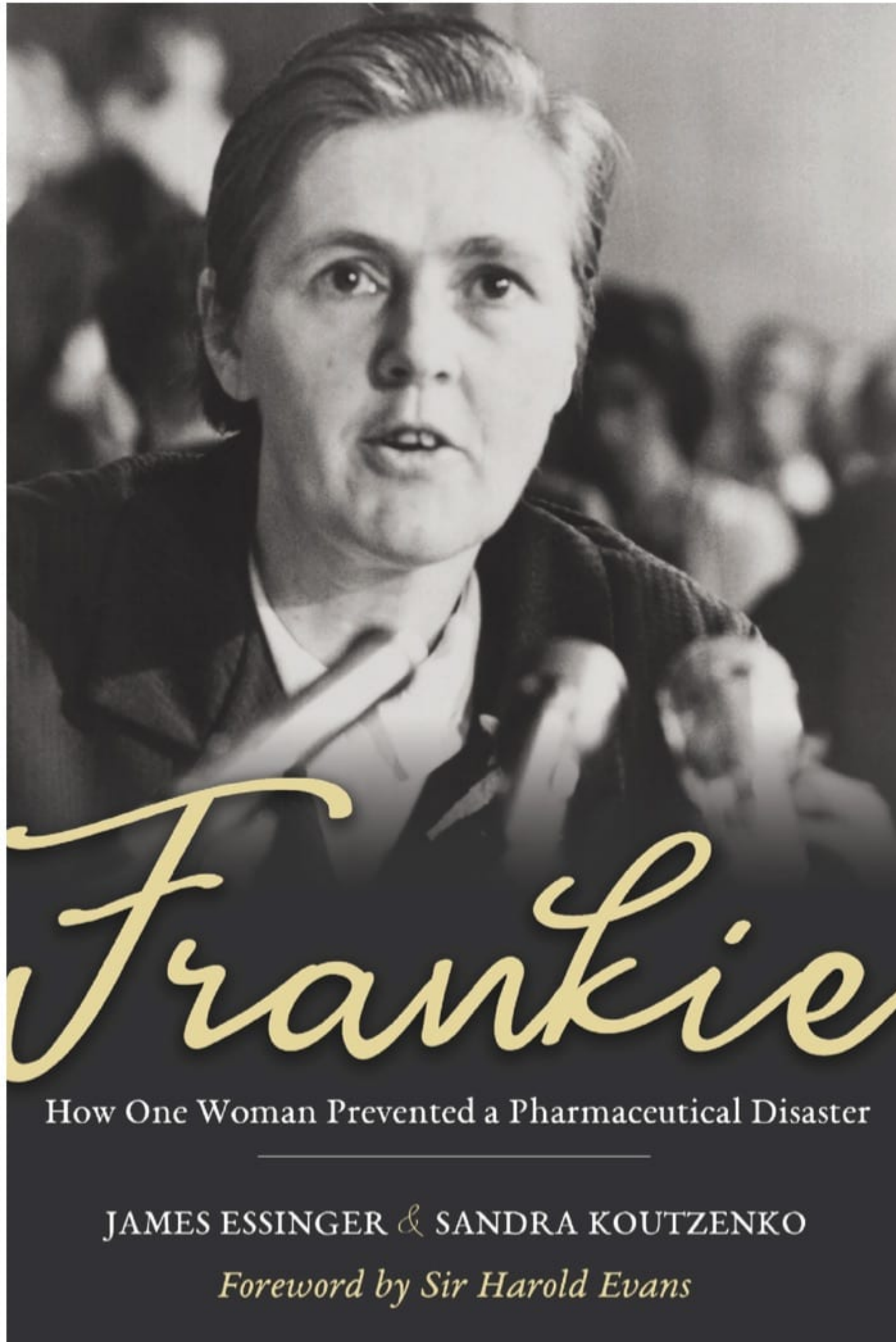
Letter from the Director, Jo d'Angelo

[Miss] is a montage of true events that took place in the 1960's. Many will remember the pictures of the Thalidomide children of Europe, but how many will remember the woman who prevented similar tragedies here in the United States? This is the incredible story of Dr. Francis Oldham Kelsey, new appointee at the FDA and the trials and tribulations she went through opposing the powerful Merrell Pharmaceutical of Cincinnati and the men hell-bent to stop at nothing to get what they want.

This has been an enlightening journey for me and an honor to bring W.L. Newkirk's new play to the Boston Center for the Arts and to present to you, an extremely talented cast who embody these characters, bringing them to life, to tell this relevant story.

I hope you will take away with you the thought about how one person really can, literally, change the world!

Jo d'Angelo,
Director



Frankie

How One Woman Prevented a Pharmaceutical Disaster

JAMES ESSINGER & SANDRA KOUTZENKO

Foreword by Sir Harold Evans

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Who's Who-Cast & Crew (In Alphabetical Order)

Mark Anderson (Dr. Raymond Pogge)

It is a thrill for Mark to enjoy this first opportunity to work with the BCA. He has been performing with community theatre groups throughout the Greater Boston area since 1980. His roles have ranged from Matt in the musical “The Fantasticks” to Dr. Chumley in the comedy “Harvey” and, most recently, Joe Keller in Arthur Miller’s drama “All My Sons”. Mark is a licensed CPA working at the Pine Street Inn; is a member of the Board of Advisors for the Colleges of Management and an Adjunct Instructor in Managerial Accounting and Finance at Suffolk University and UMass Boston, and is an Advisory Board member for The Greater Boston Corps of the Salvation Army. Mark lives in Milton and summers in Green Harbor. His son Francis is a professional Motion Graphics Animator, and his daughter Emily works for The Washington Post in New York City. He wishes to thank Jo, Brianna, and Deena for making this all possible.



Emily Bearce (A/V Specialist)

Emily Bearce is a New England-based lighting designer. She is very excited to be collaborating with Hardly Working Productions for the first time. Recent credits include Operahub’s *DIVAS*, Fresh Ink’s *Heritage Hill Naturals*, and Maiden Phoenix Theatre Company’s *Or*. — For more information please visit www.ebearce.com



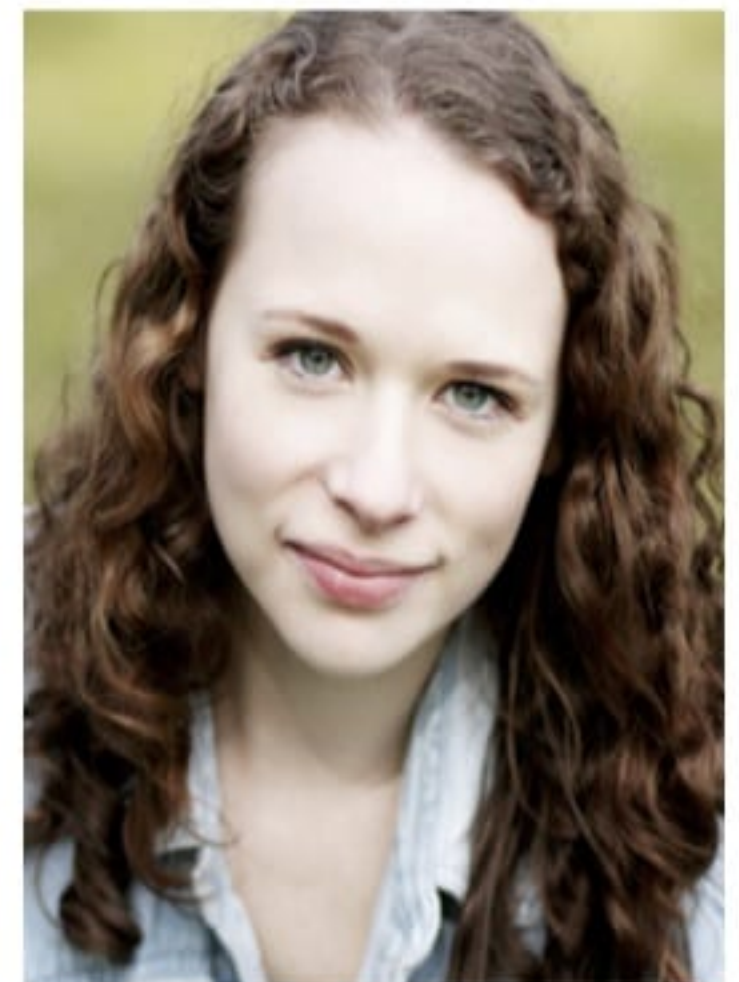
Victoria Anne Brancazio (Mary Beck)

Victoria Brancazio is an actor, poet and playwright currently based in Boston, MA. Originally from Chapel Hill, NC, Victoria graduated from Emerson College in 2018 with a BFA in Acting and Theatre Education. In addition to theatre, Victoria is an avid reader, a horrible roller skater, and works in a bakery making espresso drinks and serving sticky buns.



Alice Corvo (Gertrude Helfer)

Alice Corvo is very proud to be making her Boston debut with Hardly Working Productions! Originally from Vermont, her past credits include *The 39 Steps* (Vermont Stage), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (East 15), and *How I Learned to Drive* (Royall Tyler Theatre). She can also be seen as Alice Powers in the web series *Drama School*. Alice holds an MFA in Acting from East 15 Acting School and has also trained at GITIS in Moscow, at Shakespeare's Globe, and with the Ruotalibera Teatro in Rome. Alice would like to thank this amazing cast and crew, and all of the women working in fields where men outnumber them.



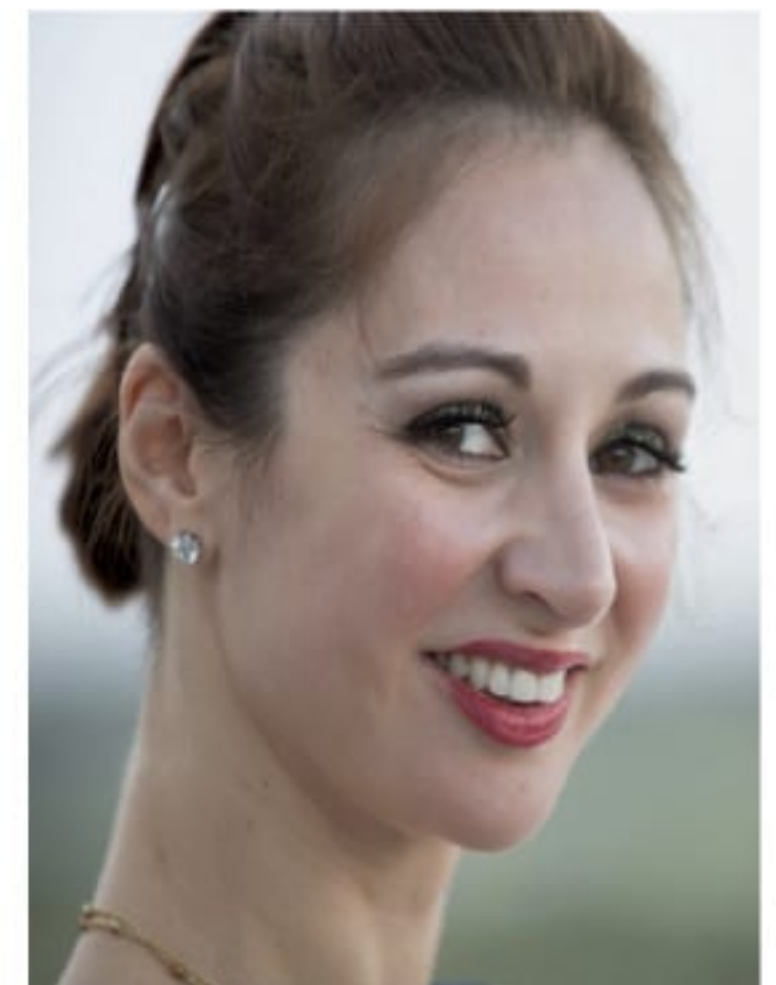
Jo d'Angelo (Director)

Jo d'Angelo studied acting at the E15 Acting School in London, England for three years. She has acted in Philadelphia, Minneapolis, and the Boston area. For ten years, she served as Artistic Director for TheatreWorks at Babson College. She has directed shows for Boston Actors Theatre, Marblehead Little Theatre, The Footlights Club, and several other local theaters around Boston. She has performed with the Boston Actors Theatre, Marblehead Little Theatre, Boston Children's Theatre, and other local theaters. She has appeared in several commercials and films. Jo has received EMACT awards for her acting, directing and make-up design.



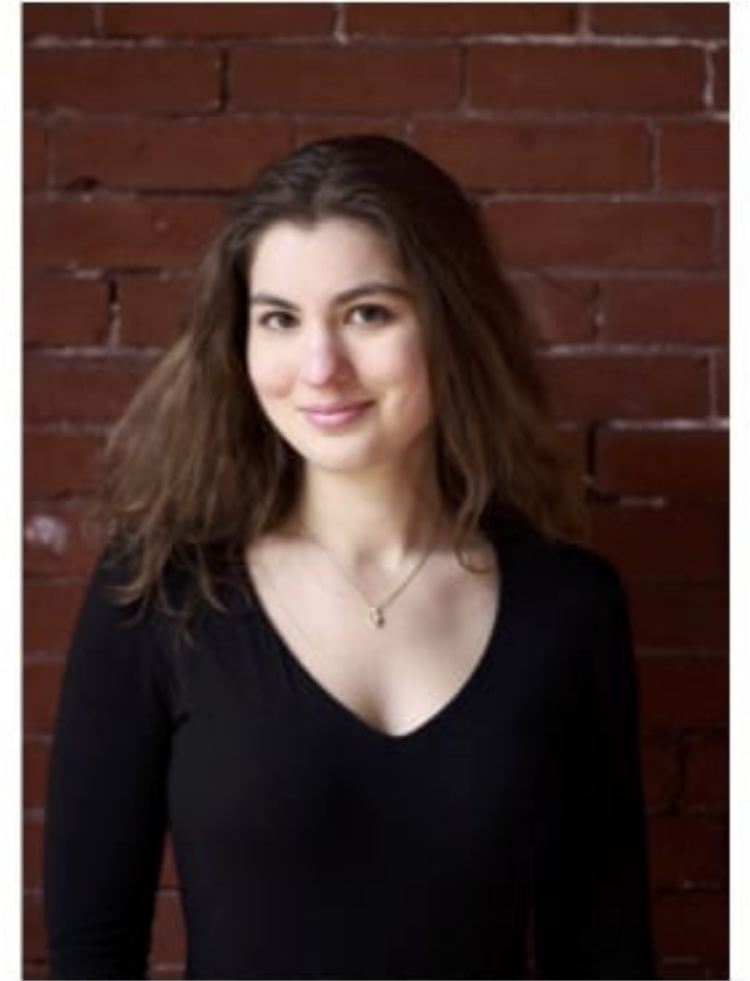
Deena Flowers (Producer)

Deena is making her solo producing debut with [Miss] at the Boston Center for the Arts! She began her career in entertainment at the age of 13 when she started her international modeling career that she is still actively engaged in to date. Over the past two decades, Deena expanded her repertoire from modeling to ballroom dancing to acting and writing until ultimately the launch of her own production/marketing and promotions company, Hardly Working Productions. For more information, Deena invites you to visit her website, www.hardlyworkingproductions.com which has a full list of her artistic endeavors and professional photographers. You can also find her on LinkedIn, and the social media pages for Hardly Working Productions on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter! Huge thanks to [Miss] author, W.L. Newkirk, to my Orlando thespians who always believed in me, my AMAZING cast and crew, Mama Lil, and countless friends and family.



Gabrielle Jaques (Betty Yoder)

Gabrielle Jaques has regional credits that include Florence u/s in *Chess*, Sarah Brown in *Guys & Dolls*, and Emily in *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*. Other favorite roles include Izzy in *Seminar*, Truffaldino in *The Serpent Woman*, Catherine Earnshaw in *Brontë*, and Helen in *Moving Pictures*. Recently, she has performed in several new plays and one act festivals with Roxbury Repertory Theatre and the Walpole Footlighters. Ms. Jaques has dramaturged for the Longwood Players, the Dover Foundation, and the Weston Friendly Society of the Performing Arts. A performer and a writer, she has a BA in English from Stonehill College and studied Shakespeare at Oxford University.



Ed Krasnow (Dr. F. Joseph Murray)

Ed Krasnow has been performing in the Boston area for nearly 30 years. He recently appeared in the Nemasket River Productions performance of *All My Sons*, along with director Jo D'Angelo and cast mate Mark Anderson. Ed is a writer and has produced and directed television, film, radio, and stage shows. He is currently Director of Television and Radio at Massasoit Community College. Previous stage shows include *Frost Nixon*, *12 Angry Men*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, *Harvey* (Elwood P. Dowd), *Moonlight and Magnolias* (David O. Selznick) and more. Theater companies Ed has performed with over the years include Duxbury Bay Players, Nemasket River Productions, Plymouth Community Theatre, Massasoit Theatre Company, Hat Trick Theatre, and Curtain Call Theatre, where he serves as an executive board member. This is his first show with Hardly Working Productions. Ed is proud to be working with such a talented cast sharing this important story written masterfully by W.L. Newkirk. Ed thanks his family and friends for their support and appreciates their ongoing encouragement.



Ed Krasnow

Allison Ma'luf (Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey)

Allison Ma'luf has performed as Clelia (The Nerd), Killaine (The Clearing), Laura (Look Homeward Angel), Sophia (Fools), Emily (Our Town), Pooty (Reckless) and other roles for a variety of theater companies mainly in North Carolina. She also works as an attorney for a nonprofit based in Boston that serves anti-poverty organizations nationwide. Allison received both her bachelors in Theater and law degree from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC.



Brianna McDermott (Stage Manager)

Brianna is an arts manager and theatre artist based in the Boston area. She graduated from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in May 2017 with degrees in both Arts Management and Theatre. While in school, Brianna held administrative positions with organizations such as Williamstown Theatre Festival and Boston Children's Theatre, in addition to spending a number of semesters on- and off-stage in MCLA's Performing Arts Department. She has since found a home at the Andrew Wilson Agency, working as an Agent Assistant to both the adult and youth agents. Brianna is proud to now be sharing the story of Dr. Frances Kelsey, and to be collaborating with such a talented and brave cast and crew. Big thanks to her mom and dad for their endless support!



W.L. Newkirk (Author)

W. L. Newkirk is the 2017 recipient of the Charles M. Getchell Prize from the Southeastern Theatre Conference for his award-winning play, *[Miss]*. Other recent notable plays include: *East Lansing* (Best Play, Tampa Bay Theatre Festival, 2014), *In Me* (Vigoda Award Winner, Best Dramey, 2015), *5 to 4* (Best Play, 4x6 Fest, Tampa, Florida, 2015), *Suffocation* (Grand Prize, Emerald Theatre Company New Play Festival, Memphis, Tennessee, 2016), *The Nude* (Best Play, A Strong Woman Play Festival, Washington, DC, 2016), and *After the Intervention* (Judges Choice Award, Festival of Shorts, Edmonds, Washington, 2018). He teaches playwriting in Celebration, Florida.



Alexander Stravinski (John Yoder)

Alexander Hackim Stravinski is pleased to be a part of the production of *[Miss]*. A local Boston actor, he has been seen playing the role of Giuseppe in 'The Light in the Piazza' and Satan in 'The Last Days of Judas Iscariot'. Currently he can be heard performing various roles on 'The Penumbra Podcast', most notably, The Man in the Brown Jacket. If you'd like to learn more about Alexander, visit www.alexanderstravinski.com. Thank you and enjoy the show.



Matthew Zahnzinger (Dr. Ray Nulsen/Dr. Ray Stehle)

Matthew Zahnzinger is pleased to join Hardly Working Productions for the Boston premier of [Miss]. Recent credits include: *The 39 Steps* (IRNE, Best Supporting Actor & Best Ensemble), *Amadeus* (IRNE, Best Actor) – Moonbox Productions; *The Midvale High School Fiftieth Reunion*, *Arcadia* – Nora Theatre; *Company* – Lyric Stage; *Crazy for You* – Reagle Music Theatre; *The Polish Joke* (IRNE, Best Supporting Actor) – Titanic Theatre. A Brockton native, Matthew has also worked with Theater UnCorked, Bridge Repertory, Flat Earth Theatre, Longwood Players, Science Fiction Theatre Company, and Hub Theatre, as well as the Peterborough Players in New Hampshire and the Lost Nation Theatre in Vermont. He is a contributing voice over artist with the Penumbra Podcast and the Colonial Radio Theatre and a two-time participant of the Boston Theatre Marathon. A graduate of Northeastern University with a B.A. in Theatre and English, Matthew has also studied at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland.



Letter from the Producer, Deena Flowers

Dear Patrons,

The story of Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey is both inspiring and sobering. Since my first experience with this production in the spring of 2017, when I played the role of Mary, I knew [Miss] would change my life both personally and professionally. This show is not only the catalyst to starting my own company, Hardly Working Productions, it is also an excellent reminder of what is possible when you try your best and trust your instincts and the daily responsibility we all have to the greater good of our world and to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves.

My greatest hope for you, the audience, is that you find this story not only entertaining, but also motivating and thought-provoking.

I am both humbled and honored that you are sharing this journey with me of [Miss] and eternally grateful for your support of the launch of the first show Hardly Working Productions has done as a stand-alone company.

Sincerely,

Deena M. P. Flowers
President/Founder
Hardly Working Productions



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