

PLAYBILL®

Powerstories Theatre
Powerstories Theatre of Tampa Bay Inc.
TAMPA, FL

Powerstories

THEATRE

REAL LIFE. ACTED OUT.

PRESENTS

WITCH HUNT

OR, A DISCOURSE ON THE WONDERS OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD

By Liz Duffy Adams

JULY 11-20, 2025

HIDDEN **HER**STORIES... PERSECUTION

Supported by the Hillsborough Hillsborough
County Board of Commissioners. County Florida



REAL LIFE. ACTED OUT.

Presents

Witch Hunt
or, A Discourse on the Wonders
of the Invisible World

by Liz Duffy Adams

CAST

ABIGAIL WILLIAMSMegan Phillips
MERCY LEWIS.....Holly Marie Weber
REBEKKAH.....Riley Calahan
REVEREND PECK.....Roxanne Fay
JOHN FOX.....Theron (T.R.) Butler
JUDAHKevin Tydlaska

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR.....Clareann Despain
STAGE MANAGER.....Brianna "Bree" Brand
SCENIC DESIGNER.....John Millsap
LIGHTING DESIGNER.....CJ Marshall
COSTUME DESIGNER.....Lindsay Ellis

WITCH HUNT is presented by special arrangement with Theatrical Rights Worldwide.

Running Time - Act 1 ⏱60 minutes | 15 minute intermission | Act 2 ⏱40 minutes

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

As we proudly celebrate our 25th anniversary season, we're taking a moment to reflect on the journey that brought us here. A quarter century of true stories, bold voices, and transformative theatre—made possible by the incredible VIPs who have stood beside us with unwavering belief in our mission.

We're not just marking a milestone—we're honoring a movement. For 25 years, Powerstories Theatre has been dedicated to bringing true stories of women and girls to life, and we're here on our silver anniversary—stronger, bolder, and more passionate. From the very first curtain rise to our most recent community collaborations, your support—whether as an artist, audience member, volunteer, or donor—has been the heart of Powerstories. Even through changing times—including the loss of our theatre home in 2023—you've helped us pivot with purpose and keep the spotlight shining. Your support has carried us. This year, our Hidden HERSTORIES season honors the voices that have too often gone unheard—stories that challenge, inspire, and uplift.

Because of you, we're not only still here—we're thriving. Thank you for 25 unforgettable years. Together, we're amplifying women's voices, revealing hidden HERSTORIES, and shaping the future of theatre in Tampa Bay.

Here's to the next 25!
Fran Powers



COMMUNITY SPONSORS



Thank you to Powerstories Angel Elizabeth Corwin and Powerstories Supporter Katie McFarland.

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STAFF

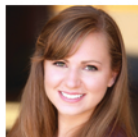
Fran Powers - Founder and Executive Director
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John Millsap - Production Director
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Krista Blanchette - Girls' Programs Director
Stefanie Coren-Marotta - Girlstories Leadership Theatre Teaching Artist
Ivy Sunflower - Girlstories Leadership Theatre Teaching Artist

Meet the Cast of *Witch Hunt*



MEGAN PHILLIPS (Abigail Williams) is excited to make her Powerstories debut. She was last seen as the playwright of *In The Grid*, in Powerstories' playwrighting festival. She has just graduated from the University of South Florida with a B.A. in theater performance. Megan would like to thank everyone who supports her!

HOLLY MARIE WEBER (Mercy Lewis) has performed in productions across the country including *Tarzan* (Kala), at Theatre West Virginia, *Ella Enchanted the Musical* (Ella) at Orlando Rep, and *When the Righteous Triumph* (Kimberly), at Stageworks Theatre, in addition to feature films. She has also taught acting and voice at several private studios and at the university level. She holds an MFA in Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi and is Stage Combat certified through Dueling Arts International.



RILEY CALAHAN (Rebekkah) is thrilled to be a part of *Witch Hunt*. Riley is a freshman class of 2028 musical theater student at Pinellas County Center for the Performing Arts. Outside of school Riley performs at The Off Central and Big Break Youth Stage. Riley would like to thank the cast and the staff of *Witch Hunt* for working tirelessly to make this happen.

ROXANNE FAY (Reverend Peck) was honored with the 2022 Berkie Award (Berkshire Theatre Critics' Association) for her portrayal of Mary Tyrone in the Bridge Street Theatre production of *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (NY). She joined the 2022 summer season at the Prague Shakespeare Company (Czech Republic). Credits include *OZ*, *Hamlet*, *Doubt*, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Normal Heart*, *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and her original work, *Thrice to Mine*. Roxanne was named a 2016 Hawthornden Writers' Fellow (residence, Scotland) and was twice awarded the Creative Pinellas Professional Artist Grant. Book versions of her works are available on Amazon.



THERON "T.R." BUTLER (John Fox) is overjoyed to spend time again with Powerstories telling this timely story! Past local roles include Lord Capulet in Jobsite's *Romeo & Juliet*, David Okello, *Dionysus on the Down Low*, and Bouc, *Murder on the Orient Express*. T.R. received a Theatre Tampa Bay award for *Murder* in 2022.

KEVIN TYDLASKA (Judah) is thrilled to be in his first production at Powerstories! Kevin's credits include *Into The Woods*, *Les Miserables*, *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me*, and *The Redemption of Rube Moats*, among others. His TV/Film credits include Hallmark's *South Beach Love*, *Bird Brain*, and Apple TV's *Bad Monkey*. Kevin would like to thank his husband, Brandon, for his infinite love and support.



SPECIAL THANKS

We'd like to thank Timon Brown, Thad Engle, James Moline, Karla Hartley, Heather Krueger, Katie Calahan, Michael Horn, Alaina Rahaim, Angelina Martinez, Katie Huettel, Stageworks Theatre, The Off Central Players, American Stage, and The Studio@620.

Meet the Creative Team of *Witch Hunt*



CLAREANN DESPAIN (Director) Dr. Clareann Despain is an award-winning producer and director. Based in Tampa, FL she is the Artistic Director of Powerstories Theatre, Inc. Recent directing projects include *Irena's Vow*, *Ride the Cyclone*, and *The Underpants*.

BRIANNA "BREE" BRAND (Stage Manager) is a New College Alumni with a Bachelor of Arts. In the past, she has stage managed multiple shows for Powerstories including (but not limited to): *Girls in the Boat*, *Alabama Story*, and *Irena's Vow*. She looks forward to working with everyone!



JOHN MILLSAP (Scenic Designer) has had a lifelong passion for the arts. He began performing with Dramatic Impact in Columbus, Ohio at a young age and later went on to assist and counsel the program alongside Candace Darmin. John graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from the University of Tampa in 2015 and spent the first few years of his professional career working in Chicago. John eventually found his way back to Tampa Bay and served as the Assistant Technical Director and Master Carpenter at American Stage for seven years. He couldn't be more excited to be managing the technical needs for *The Studio@620* and *Powerstories*.

LINDSAY ELLIS (Costume Designer) moved to St Pete in 2017 from Maryland. Lindsay's costuming career started over 20 years ago. Lindsay has costumed for Off Central Players (FL), Think Tank (FL), Stageworks (FL), MAD Theatre Tampa (FL), LAB Project Theatre (FL), Big Break Youth Stage (FL), Ensemble Studio Theatre (NYC), Kooza Cirque du Soleil (NYC), and Milburn Stone Theatre (MD), just to name a few. Lindsay lived and worked in Australia as a stitcher, dresser, and assistant with BBC Australia, Australian Ballet, and Australian Opera and a Design Assistant for a Bridal Designer. Lindsay wants to thank her husband Tyler and family for helping and adjusting to the crazy hours!

Director's Notes On Hidden Herstories: *Witch Hunt*

History is a destabilizing topic once you consider the source... Imagine historians 350 years from now and the sources of information they may have access to about what is happening right now - which news sources, media outlets, notes, diaries and narratives are likely to be preserved? Whose perspectives do we expect to be privileged in preservation? Given what these future historians may have to work from, what are their chances of getting it right?

Today's historians, looking back, face the same problem.

Particularly when it comes to women in history.

Because what we think we know about historical women usually comes to us from historical men.

History is always an interpretive project whereby the historian helps us make sense of the past in order to bring meaning to our present.

Our season has women playwrights making meaning from sources as scant as whispered oral histories to as personal as a woman's journal to as abundant as the volumes upon volumes scribbled by men terrified of women's power.

In Liz Duffy Adams' *Witch Hunt*, we explore what would happen if Abigail Williams were allowed her own voice in reflecting on the Salem Witch Trials. What invisible forces might we uncover and what deeper truths might we reveal?

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Powerstories

THEATRE

REAL LIFE. ACTED OUT.

PRESENTS



ADA AND THE ENGINE

By Lauren Gunderson

SEPTEMBER 12-21, 2025

HIDDEN **HER**STORIES... INNOVATION

Powerstories Theatre
@Stageworks Theatre
1120 E. Kennedy Blvd.,
Ste. 151, Tampa
813-205-3451
www.powerstories.com

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COMING IN FALL 2025



"Tell me a fact, and I'll learn. Tell me a truth, and I'll believe. Tell me a story and it'll live in my heart forever..." *Indian Proverb*



Seek and Speak Your Powerstory

7 pm to 8:30 pm EST, plus 30-minutes additional instruction, if desired, till 9 pm.

An on-line zoom workshop.

This is a signature workshop taught to thousands of women since 2000. If you are seeking to know and build your own story for personal, business or entertainment reasons...this workshop is for you. It is for the woman who wants to articulate who you are, what you stand for and how you contribute to the world. Both beginner and experienced storytellers are welcome.

- Identify your message of truth
- Uncover work and life story topics
- Realize the power of the personal story
- Develop a five-minute story
- Learn tips on crafting a story and techniques for presenting

Your workshop includes the following:

- Expert instruction by two experienced professionals
- 10 hours of on-line instruction (includes the optional 30-minute bonus)
- A 45-minute private consultation
- 35-page workbook
- Access to all recorded sessions
- Lifetime access to all resources on Teachable
- Opportunity to present story to a zoom audience
- Opportunity to present story to a live audience at Voices of Women Theatre Festival.

Cost - \$495.00.

Powerstories Theatre believes that powerful connections begin with a story. Stories help others feel valued and validated. They help people feel alive and engaged with others. Our mission at Powerstories Theatre is to stage true stories of women and girls to open minds and hearts. The mission for this workshop is to help you realize the power of your story...and use it for your success.

All workshops to be held on Zoom.

Register on line at
www.powerstories.com/seek-and-speak-your-powerstory

For any questions, please contact Janice Creneti at janicecreneti@gmail.com or Fran Powers at Fran@powerstories.com.

Testimonials from Past Participants

"Attending the Seek and Speak Your Story Workshop changed my life by giving me a safe space to be vulnerable and share my story in a way that could impact an audience. It was the right balance of setting the scene and providing a broad brush sense of the impact of my childhood experience. It opened a door for me to step out from behind the fear I had of speaking in public and gave me a whole new freedom to be me, warts and all."
- Pegotty C.

"When Powerstories sent an email recruiting for their next Women's group, I was sitting on my couch at my lowest, low. My son had died less than a year earlier, and I was still not getting on with my life. I remember wanting to be involved because I had the opportunity to see 'Let the Stories Move You' and was quite moved by the production. After approaching all of my friends who I thought might be interested and getting a resounding no from everyone, I was at the crossroads. Try something I've never done before or remain on the couch going nowhere. I went alone. I never looked back. Being a part of Powerstories has restored me to my full self. Being able to share my story of grief and showing others how you can come through has changed me forever. I never imagined I would also receive a gift of lifelong friendships with amazing women."
- Cheryl F.

"Many years ago I shaped the Powerstory about my close relationship with my dear mother, and her unexpected, early death. I told how in the height of my intense grief, I was astounded when six gorgeous horses galloped down my city street in a way that had never happened before or since, decades later. Sharing this story helped me see how it uplifted me so much at the time. The telling also enabled me to understand the experience as a direct gift from my beloved mother which filled my being. Writing and sharing this Powerstory solidified this amazing event in my mind, and touched many people, according to their reports."
- Janice N.S.

Ask about the Jo Ranney Scholarship - This is a scholarship for up to 100% of the course fee. Jo Ranney was a long time Powerstories facilitator who specialized in working with Cancer patients. We are offering these scholarships in honor of her life and her love for the power of story.

Learn more:
bit.ly/powerstoryworkshop



COMING IN NOVEMBER

Powerstories
THEATRE
REAL LIFE. ACTED OUT.

AND
PRESENT

the studio
@620



CADILLAC CREW BY TORI SAMPSON

NOVEMBER 6 -16, 2025

HIDDEN HERSTORIES... DETERMINATION

Powerstories Theatre
and Studio@620
620 1st Ave S., Saint Petersburg

813-205-3451
www.powerstories.com

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POWERSTORIES THEATRE 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

HIDDEN HERSTORIES.
PERSECUTION, INNOVATION, DETERMINATION.

INDIVIDUAL SHOW SPONSORSHIP



Level of Sponsorship Recognition - 25th Anniversary Season	DIAMOND Presenter \$1499	PLATINUM Co-Producer \$999	GOLD Play Community Partner \$499	SILVER Patron of the Arts \$299
Your business will be listed under "Presented By" on the front cover of your individual show's playbill.	✓			
Your business will be listed under "Co-Produced By" on the inside cover of your individual show's playbill.		✓		
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Your business will be listed in all print and digital promotional materials.	✓	✓	✓	✓
You will have a half-page business ad in your individual show's playbill.	✓			
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Your business will be listed as a sponsor in a bi-weekly mass email to patrons.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Your business will be listed in all press materials.	✓	✓	✓	✓
You will receive 12 sponsor tickets to your individual sponsored show.	✓			
You will receive 8 sponsor tickets to your individual sponsored show.		✓		
You will receive 4 sponsor tickets to your individual sponsored show.			✓	
You will receive 2 sponsor tickets to your individual sponsored show.	✓	✓		✓
Reserved front-row seats for opening night to your individual sponsored show.	✓			
Your business logo and link will be listed on the Sponsors page in the website.	✓	✓	✓	✓

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MISSION STATEMENT

Staging true stories of women and girls to open minds and hearts and inspire action worldwide.

Powerstories.com