

# PLAYBILL®

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

PRESENTED BY THE EMMA FUND AT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TAMPA BAY

*Powerstories*  
THEATRE  
REAL LIFE. ACTED OUT.  
PRESENTS

**ADA AND THE ENGINE**  
By Lauren Gunderson

**SEPTEMBER 12-21, 2025**

**HIDDEN HERSTORIES... INNOVATION**

Supported by the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners Hillsborough County Florida





REAL LIFE. ACTED OUT.

Presents

# Ada and the Engine

by Lauren Gunderson

CO-PRODUCED BY  
CINDY KANE, PEGOTTY COOPER,  
MARIE GALAMBOS, AND HELIOS EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

## CAST

ADA BYRON LOVELACE ..... Kayla Witoshynsky  
CHARLES BABBAGE ..... Ron Nummi  
LORD LOVELACE..... Nick Noelte  
LADY ANABELLA BYRON, MARY SOMMERVILLE... Gigi Jennewein  
LORD BYRON ..... John Millsap

## CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR..... Alexa Perez  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/DIALECT COACH..... Katherine Yacko  
STAGE MANAGER..... Allison Bica  
MUSIC DIRECTOR ..... Xander McColley  
SCENIC DESIGNER..... John Millsap  
PAINT DESIGNER..... Chloe Belle Adair  
LIGHTING DESIGNER..... Celeste Mannerud  
COSTUME DESIGNER..... Lindsay Ellis  
SOUND DESIGNER..... Clareann Despain

ADA AND THE ENGINE is presented by special arrangement with Dramatist  
Play Service, Inc.

Running Time - Act 1 - 60 minutes | 15 minute intermission | Act 2 - 46 minutes

# FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

Twenty-five years ago, a story began—one stitched with courage, compassion, and the belief that true voices matter. This season, as we mark our silver anniversary, we're not just celebrating theatre... we're celebrating you.

You've been with us through every standing ovation and silent moment that spoke volumes. You stood firm when the lights dimmed in 2023, helping us rise with resilience. And now, in our Hidden HERSTORIES season, your support lets us spotlight the voices too often overlooked.

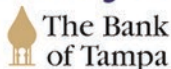
Powerstories Theatre thrives because of champions like you—artists, dreamers, advocates, and believers. Thank you for walking beside us, for holding space for brave stories, and for lifting up the women whose truths demand to be heard.

Here's to every moment behind us—and to the powerful stories still waiting in the wings.

With gratitude,  
Fran Powers



## COMMUNITY SPONSORS



**Thank you to the Emma Fund at Community Foundation Tampa Bay, Helios Education Foundation, Hancock Whitney, Marie Galambos, Cindy Kane, The Bank of Tampa, Pegotty Cooper, Dana & Paul Whiting, Andrea Graham, Judy Gay, WMNF, and Dragons on the Green Mah Jongg, Inc.**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Fran Powers - Founder and Executive Director  
Clareann Despain - Artistic 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 *Ada and the Engine*



KAYLA WITOSHYNSKY (Ada Bryon Lovelace) is delighted to be making her return to the stage after a two-year hiatus traveling in Asia, studying Kung Fu and yoga. Previous credits include *Dracula* (Lucy; Jobsite), *Plot Points in Our Sexual Development* (Cecil; Off Central Players), *Romeo+Juliet* (Juliet; Jobsite), and *A Shayna Maidel* (Luisa; Innovocative Theater). Kayla would like to express her deep gratitude towards all who have supported her in her endeavors. Follow your longing.

RON NUMMI (Charles Babbage) is a returning local artist. He is so very pleased to be a part of the Powerstories family and this remarkable cast! Undying love and appreciation to his beautiful wife, Jen (Buttercup Marine) Nummi for her unflappable, consistent support. It goes without saying that his finest productions are his sons, Montgomery, Andres & Taylor.



NICK NOELTE (Lord Lovelace) is pleased to be part of this incredible production with this amazing cast and crew! Nick's previous credits include Powerstories *Irena's Vow*, and *The Wives*. Nick is currently the middle division director of theatre at Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa. He would like to thank the Powerstories team and his amazing wife, Brooke, for their support!

GIGI JENNEWAIN (Lady Anabella Byron, Mary Sommerville. ) is a theatre veteran who recently landed (back) in Tampa, where she grew up. Since returning, she has directed productions and readings for Stageworks, Lab Theatre Project, Powerstories, and Off-Central; served as dramaturg for Stageworks' *When the Righteous Triumph*; and acted in the Tarpon Springs Cultural Center production *Love Letters*. A Professor Emerita in Communication and Theatre at DePauw University, Jennewain's acting and directing credits include Indiana Repertory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Phoenix Theatre, Summit Performance, American Lives Theatre, Betty Rage Productions, USF and the Playmakers Theatre. In 2010-2011 she served as the Chair of the Theatre Department at Patel Conservatory. Jennewain is most proud of her work with the Indiana Women's Prison education program, wherein she advised the creation of and directed the original play *The Duchess of Stringtown*, now featured in the award-winning book *Who Would Believe A Prisoner?* Jennewain is married to retired DePauw University Head Men's Basketball Coach Bill Fenlon. They have two children and a grandson, Frankie.



JOHN MILLSAP (Lord Byron) is a performer and theatre technician residing in St Petersburg, FL. You may have seen his most recent scenic design at Powerstories' *Witch Hunt* and he couldn't be more grateful at the opportunity to perform in this magnificent show. He would like to thank his fiancée, his family, his friends and theater collaborators for always supporting him. Enjoy!

## SPECIAL THANKS

We'd like to thank the Computer History Museum for the audio of Babbage's Difference Engine, Lauren Gunderson, Katherine Yacko, freeFall, Stageworks, American Stage, and Barbara Bird for her expert presentation of Ada Lovelace for our *Beyond the Story Series*.

## Meet the Creative Team of *Ada and the Engine*



ALEXA PEREZ (Director), a director and actor local to St. Petersburg, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts from the University of Tampa. Alexa is a graduate of the Emerging Arts Leader Fellowship at American Stage and is currently both an Artist in Residence and the Associate Artistic Producer at The Studio@620. Past directorial credits include *Enemy | Flint* (USF), *LIFE CORP* (The Sarasota Players), *Decolonizing Your Mind with Walter Mercado*, and *After Orlando* (American Stage). Assistant director credits include *In the Blood* (USF), *La Gringa*, *Disgraced*, *Ragtime*, and *Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans: A Salsa Fairytale* (American Stage). Alexa would like to thank her fiancé, family, friends, and her mentors for all of their support.

KATHERINE YACKO (Dialect Coach/Asst. Director) is delighted to join this tremendously talented team! Previous local Asst. Directing credits include the award-winning *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Jobsite), award-nominated *Little Shop of Horrors* (Richey Suncoast Theatre), and *Creating Monsters* (Lab Theater Project - Dialect Coach) as well as Directing the award-nominated *Thrice To Mine* (Jobsite) starring Powerstories' favorite: Roxanne Fay. Onstage, you may have spotted her locally in several Jobsite shows as well as productions with the Off-Central Players, Stageworks Theatre, and ThinkTank TYA. An enormous thank you to Clareann, Fran, and Alexa for letting her help with this project as well as to this phenomenal cast and crew for bringing this rarely told story to life. All of her love to her spouse, Landon & bb Briscoe for this final production before his real-world debut.



ALLISON BICA (Stage Manager) is excited to join Powerstories once more in this production. Previously, she worked on *Girls in the Boat* and *In McClintock's Corn*. Recently, she has been the sound engineer for many musicals at Stageworks, including *Lady Day* and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. She is grateful for all the support from friends and family, as always.



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.

CHLOE BELLE ADAIR (Paint Designer) is very grateful to be a part of this creative process. She has worked on many amazing shows in the Tampa Bay Area and is a full time artist. Thank you to John and Alexa for trusting her input and letting her be creative! Chloe is also grateful for her loving supportive husband and crazy dog. Enjoy the show!





## Meet the Creative Team of *Ada and the Engine*



LINDSAY ELLIS (Costume Designer) moved to St Pete in 2017 from Maryland. Lindsay's costuming career started over 20 years ago. She 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!

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



### Director's Notes On Hidden **HER**stories: *Ada and the Engine*

When I first read this play, I felt a familiar frustration: the tragedy of a brilliant woman's story going untold. Like many, I hadn't known who Ada Byron Lovelace was, yet her life's work speaks so powerfully to our time.

What struck me most is how Lauren Gunderson's writing humanizes these historical figures. They are neither entirely good nor bad; they are complex people caught in a delicate balance between their genius and their flaws. Their true struggle, I believe, is not with each other, but with the patriarchal society that limited their choices.

It is against this backdrop that Ada's vision shines so brightly. Her ability to look beyond the confines of her time to imagine a world where machines could create art is a testament to her incredible spirit. I'm deeply honored to be a part of bringing this important story to the stage with our incredible cast and crew. My hope is that as you watch her journey unfold, you will see a little bit of yourself in her audacious spirit—a testament to the enormous, often unseen, contributions women and the arts have always made to our world.

We are all flawed. There are moments where every single one of us don't get it right, but that is what connects us all as humans. In a time where we are constantly told that being different is wrong, I want all of us to remember that we all have greatness within us. That greatness is what makes us different, and that difference is the whole world.

Thank you for being here.

# COMING IN OCTOBER 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

## Powerstories THEATRE

REAL LIFE. ACTED OUT.

### Seek and Speak Your Powerstory

October 7, 14, 21, November 4, 11, 18

7 pm to 8:30 pm EST, plus 30-minutes additional work time, support, 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 a woman who wants to articulate who you are, what you stand for and how you contribute to the world... this workshop is for you. It will support you in seeking to know and build your own story for personal, business or entertainment reasons. 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 sharing it

Your workshop includes the following:

- Expert instruction by 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 class recordings and online resources
- Opportunity to present story to a zoom audience
- Opportunity to present story to a live audience at the annual Voices of Women Theatre Festival.

Cost - \$495.00.

Special 25th Anniversary offer: Buy one workshop, and bring a friend for **FREE**

Powerstories Theatre believes that powerful connections begin with a story. Stories help others feel valued and validated. They help people feel alive and engaged in their communities. 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 to thrive.

All workshops to be held on Zoom.

Register online at  
[www.powerstories.com/seek-and-speak-your-powerstory](http://www.powerstories.com/seek-and-speak-your-powerstory)

For any questions, please contact Janice Crenetti at  
[janicecrenetti@gmail.com](mailto:janicecrenetti@gmail.com) or Fran Powers at  
[Fran@powerstories.com](mailto: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. Apply online at [www.powerstories.com/seek-and-speak-your-powerstory](http://www.powerstories.com/seek-and-speak-your-powerstory).

Learn more:  
[bit.ly/powerstoryworkshop](http://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**

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

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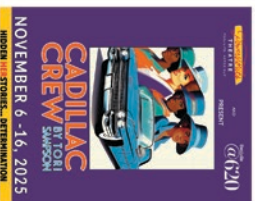
Supported by the Hillsborough  
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Hillsborough  
County Florida

# SPONSOR A SHOW



Hillsborough Supported by the Hillsborough County *Reels* County Board of Commissioners.



## POWERSTORIES THEATRE 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

HIDDEN HERSTORIES... INNOVATION.

### INDIVIDUAL SHOW SPONSORSHIP

Level of Sponsorship Recognition - 25th Anniversary Season	\$1499	\$999	\$499	\$299
Your business will be listed under "Presented By" on the front cover of the playbill.	✓			
Your business will be listed under "Co-Produced By" on the inside cover of the playbill.		✓		
Your business will be listed as a Community Sponsor in the playbill.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Your business will be listed in all print and digital promotional materials.	✓	✓	✓	✓
You will have a half-page business ad in the playbill.	✓			
You will have a quarter-page business ad in the playbill.		✓		
Your business will appear as a sponsor on our website with a link to your web page for the season.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Your business will be listed as a sponsor in a weekly emails to patrons.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Your business will be listed in all press materials.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Your business will be thanked and promoted on social media.	✓	✓	✓	✓
You will receive 12 sponsors tickets to the show.	✓			
You will receive 8 sponsors tickets to the show.		✓		
You will receive 4 sponsors tickets to the show.			✓	
You will receive 2 sponsors tickets to the show.				✓
Reserved front-row seats for opening night to the show.	✓	✓		



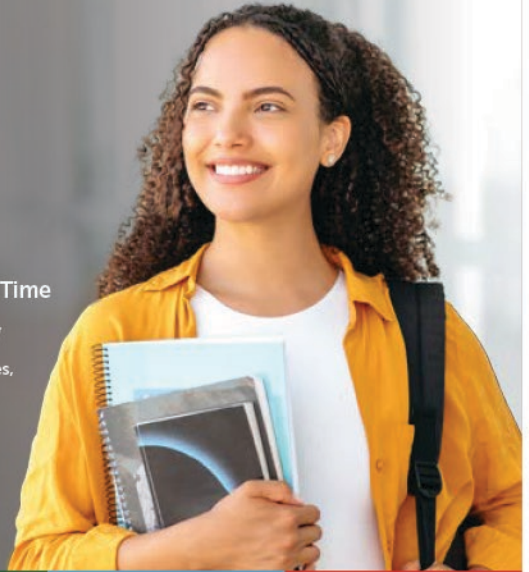


### Transforming Lives, One Student at a Time

For 20 years, we have supported postsecondary attainment for all students, especially from low-income and underrepresented communities, in Florida and Arizona.



See Our  
Impact



# CDC



## CDC Certified Divorce Coach

### Be the Divorce Difference

[certifieddivorcecoach.com](http://certifieddivorcecoach.com)

#### MISSION STATEMENT

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

**Powerstories.com**