

CU ★ PRESENTS

2021-22 Season



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Contents

Click or tap to view content

View the program

Upcoming events

Your support matters

Personnel

CU Presents

Digital Program

Spring 2022

Editors

Sabine Kortals Stein

Becca Vaclavik

Designer

Sabrina Green

Photography

CU Boulder Photography

Ian McMorran

AT THE PERFORMANCE

- Please refrain from using electronic devices during the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at any time prior to the performance, during intermission or after the performance ends.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

CU ★ PRESENTS is the home of performing arts at the University of Colorado Boulder.



Remarkable performances are the heart of
CU Theatre & Dance.



*The Department of Theatre & Dance acknowledges that the University sits upon land within the **territories of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho** peoples and are grateful to have the opportunity to be here. Further, we acknowledge the 48 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to lands that make up Colorado. We recognize and pay our respects to these Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. We pay our respects to the ancestors, elders, relations past, present and emerging.*

They Promised Her the Moon

The unknown true story of aviator Jerrie Cobb

By Laurel Ollstein, playwright

April 15-16 and 20-23, 7:30 p.m.

April 17 and 24, 2 p.m.

Loft Theatre, University Theatre Building

Director

Kent Thompson*

Assistant Director

Cailyn Sales

Movement and Voice Director

Tamara Meneghini

Dramaturg

Sam Collier

Costume Designer

Elise Rosado

Scenic Designer

Annika Radovcich

Props Designer

Olivia Allen

Lighting Designer

Jonathan Spencer

Sound Designer

Sam Morin

Stage Manager

Clara Hoppe

** Professional director Kent Thompson joins us as our 2021-22 Roe Green Visiting Artist; special thanks to Roe Green for her generous support through the Roe Green Visiting Artist Fund.*

Lobby display courtesy of Old Globe San Diego

Lobby display film courtesy of Katherine Wavering and Laurel Ollstein

*THEY PROMISED HER THE MOON is produced by special arrangement with
BRET ADAMS, LTD., 448 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036.
www.bretadamsltd.net*

THEY PROMISED HER THE MOON was developed and produced by Miranda Theatre Company in 2017.

THEY PROMISED HER THE MOON was developed at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley as part of their New Works Festival.

THEY PROMISED HER THE MOON received its West Coast premiere on April 11, 2019 at The Old Globe, Barry Edelstein, Erna Finci Viterbi Artistic Director, and Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director

Please note: This production contains adult language.

Cast

Jerrie Cobb

Jackie Cochran

Dr. Randy Lovelace and others

Helena Cobb and others

Harvey Cobb and others

Jack Ford and others

Ashleigh Parish

Madelyn Wible

Cameron Hazlip

Claudia Davis

Wulfgar Parmenter

Daniel Oliveri

Voices

Russian Announcer

Carlos

BBC Announcer

Artemi Romanov

Marcos Steuernagel

Tamara Meneghini

Understudies

Jerrie Cobb

Jackie Cochran

Dr. Randy Lovelace and others

Helena Cobb and others

Harvey Cobb and others

Norah Schaefer

Claudia Davis

Jamie Lammers

Maddy Goldberg

Troy Coleman

Director's note

Reading *They Promised Her the Moon* for the first time, I fell in love with its little known female superstar, Geraldyn “Jerrie” Cobb, who almost became an astronaut in the early 1960s. And I was equally taken by its other, older female superstar, Jackie Cochran, who funded “The Mercury 13,” the first program to test Jerrie Cobb and 12 other female pilots for our country’s space program. They took on the men (“The Mercury 7,” including John Glenn) and matched or bested them. And yet, male power and privilege would deny women access to the NASA program; that honor—a U.S. woman traveling into space—would have to wait 20+ years for Sally Ride.

These two women were extraordinary. They broke barriers and held world records in aviation. Jackie Cochran was a pioneer in women’s aviation, as one of the most prominent racing pilots of her generation. She was the first woman to break the sound barrier in 1953! She was the wartime head of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (the “WASPS”) in WWII, when more than a thousand female pilots ferried planes from factories to overseas airfields near the frontlines. She also ran a successful line of cosmetics. Jerrie Cobb knew from a young age that she wanted to fly; her determination led her to pilot dozens of aircraft. She, too, broke records in speed and altitude; she won international awards in aviation. When tested for space, she bested everyone (including the men). And she became instrumental in pushing for women to become astronauts. When space was closed to her, Jerrie went on to pursue life as a missionary.

I regret that I knew nothing about this. When I asked around, no one with whom I spoke had ever heard of Jerrie Cobb or Jackie Cochran. I found myself becoming more and more excited to direct the play. This was a story that needed to be told. And the more we have worked on it, the more we have discovered the barriers these women faced. It has been shocking and sobering, but also inspiring to see these women’s courage and resilience. Laurel Ollstein has crafted a remarkable play about these two women and their pursuit of space. Jackie Cochran is the older and tougher woman—she is unafraid to use her feminine wiles at the same time she demands attention, respect and results. Jerrie Cobb is humbler, less wealthy and privileged, and less outspoken, but no less driven.

How would the world be different if Jerrie Cobb had made it into space? And how did she deal with the sexism and male privilege that sidelined her and the Mercury 13 women?

Times have changed—somewhat. More people know about Jerrie and Jackie now. There's a Netflix documentary about the Mercury 13, and an Apple+ TV show, *For All Mankind*. Hopefully, one day there will be as many women as men in space. That will require us to remember the forgotten women who have been overlooked and under-appreciated.

Dramaturg's note

Jerrie Cobb was 16 years old the first time she flew solo, in a small, fabric-covered Aeronca plane. She would later write that when she reached altitude that day, “I was in a wonderful state of silent aloneness, floating high and free on a small kite I could control.”[1] For a young woman growing up in Oklahoma in the 1940s, there were few opportunities to feel that kind of independence. Becoming a female pilot in a field dominated by men meant that Jerrie faced levels of sexism that may be hard to imagine today. But when she was up in the sky, she could test her skill and stamina squarely against the laws of physics and the capabilities of her plane.

In Laurel Ollstein's play, *They Promised Her the Moon*, famed aviator Jackie Cochran tells Jerrie, “The sky's the only place you're completely responsible for your own existence. You control the air. And everything beneath you melts away.”[2] For Jackie Cochran, who grew up in poverty and—through sheer determination—forged a life of adventure and glamor for herself, nothing matched the thrill of flight. In the cockpit of a plane, she could become entirely self-reliant and free. She earned her pilot's license after only three weeks of lessons. After that, she was unstoppable.

In this play, you'll see these two characters navigate the challenges of carving out a place for women in a man's world. You'll also get a sense of just how exciting—and dangerous—the early days of aviation were, and how space flight opened up a brand-new horizon. Suddenly, the sky was no longer the limit. For a time, everything seemed possible.

[1] Cobb, Jerrie, and Jane Rieker. *Woman into Space: The Jerrie Cobb Story*. Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1963.

[2] Ollstein, Laurel. *They Promised Her the Moon*.



Roe Green, arts patron and community activist, is chief executive officer of the Roe Green Foundation. With a BA in theatre and communications from the University of Colorado Boulder and a MA in theatre from Kent State University, her experience in stage and business management includes Porthouse Theatre, Cain Park, Cleveland Opera and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Today, she is President Emeritus of C.A.V.O.R.T. Inc. (Conference About Volunteers of Regional Theatre), serves on the Foundation board of Kent State University, the Board of the Cleveland Play House (where she is Honorary Producer of New Ground and the board of Maltz Jupiter Theatre in Florida). She also created the Green House, a battered women's shelter in Geauga, Ohio. Green is an avid traveler, having visited over 160 countries and sees theatre

whenever she can. Green received the Governor's 2009 Ohio Arts Council's Governor's Arts Patron Award, the 2012 Alumni Recognition Award from CU Boulder, the 2013 Dramatist Guild Fund Award and the Muse Award (2014) from the Cultural Council of Palm Beach.

In 2015, Green received the Kent State University College of the Arts' inaugural Centennial Award for her service and patronage, and the Cleveland Play House Super Nova Award. In 2017, she received the Theatre Forward Leadership Award at the Theatre Forward Chairman's Awards Gala, the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2020 was named a winner of the Cleveland Arts Prize.

Her gifts to CU Boulder have created the Roe Green Visiting Theatre Artist Program and the Roe Green Endowed Chair in Theatre. We all thank Roe Green (BA Theatre '70) for her munificent support of our department.

CU Theatre & Dance Production team

Assistant Costume Designer

Carly Peterson

Assistant Lighting Design/ Lighting Programmer

Nicholas Cozzo

A1/Sound Board Operator

Sam Morin

Assistant Stage Manager

Aani Sukumar

Technical Director

Adam Garb

Assistant Technical Director

Aspen Kimlicko

Show Electrician

Hayley Garcia Parnell

Deck Crew

Christina Simaan

Light Board Operator

Leah Doogan

Wardrobe Head

Mari Beazley

Wardrobe Crew

Kyra Long

Zixiao Wang

COSTUMES

Costume Shop production assistants: Mari Beazley, Grace Burner, Emma Donnelly, Celeste Fenton, Payton Godlewski, Maddy Goldberg, Caitlin Johnston, Alida Kress, Katie Marting, Sophia Morris, Carly Peterson, Emily Ray.

Practicum students: Marisa Dinsmoor, Wyeth Doherty, Nikky Haabestad, Clara Hoppe, Mikayla

Jassem, Katie Marting, Hayley Parnell, Connor Robertson, Kelsea Sibold

SCENERY AND ELECTRICS

Scene Shop production assistants: Olivia Allen, Lily Bergen, Matthias Bolon, Stephanie Castro-Rivera, Nicholas Cozzo, Asher Farr, Rachel Fields, Adam Garb, Nikky Haabestad, Marla Kassanoff, Aspen Kimlicko, Isabella Jones, Annika McTamane, Kyle Lawrence, Hayley Parnell, Sam Morin, Nathan Peterson, Annika Radovcich, Connor Robertson, Kelsea Sibold, Aani Sukumar, Stephanie Talder, Jacob Turner, Madelyn Wible. **Production Practicum students:** Emma Donnelly, Leah Doogan, Nicole Gadbery, Nicholas Galvez, Sarah Jeffers, Grace Kohler, Katie Kramer, Annika Radovcich, Ethan Robinson, Adam Schuh, Emma Watson. **Lighting Practicum students:** Olivia Allen, Natalie Connelly, Nicolas Galvez, Tyler Hansen, Sarah Jeffers, Sophia Morris, Alessa Oltman, Annika Radovcich

DANCE PRODUCTION

Technical crew: Sam Blagg, Stephanie Castro-Rivera, Nick Cozzo, Xaalan Dolence, Rachel Fields, Devin Garza, Ruth Goldenberg, Sam Morin, Hayley Parnell, Anna Pillot, James Solis-Gutierrez. **Dance Practicum:** Izzy Banse, Shannon Boyle, Julia Fish, Ruth Goldenberg, Cassie Greenly, Rachel Halmrast, Dominique Holing, Edward Lee, Gianna Lucarelli, Claudia Parsons, Izzy Phipps, Lana Salfiti, Becca Schaff, Maya Blom Walker, Jiawei Wang

CU ★ PRESENTS

Theatre events: Spring 2022



Gallathea

A queer love story in the woods

Feb. 16-20, 2022

[Learn more](#)



Airness

A comedy about air guitar, competition and finding the airness in yourself

March 4-13, 2022

[Learn more](#)



They Promised Her the Moon

By Laurel Ollstein, playwright

The unknown true story of aviator Jerrie Cobb
2021-22 Roe Green Production

April 15-24, 2022

[Learn more](#)

CU ★ PRESENTS

Dance events: Spring 2022



Catapult

A BFA dance concert

Feb. 4-6, 2022

[Learn more](#)



Open Space

Curated by CU Dance Connection

Feb. 25-27, 2022

[Learn more](#)



The Current

Dance works by faculty and guest artists

April 7-10, 2022

[Learn more](#)



FRESH: Spring 2022

A CU dance concert

April 22-23, 2022

[Learn more](#)



Now more than ever,
your support matters.

CU Presents inspires thousands of arts patrons of all ages every year. Your support helps support the people and activities of our performing arts programs.

Give online to CU Boulder
Theatre & Dance

OR

Call to make a gift
303-492-3054

Personnel

As of Jan. 15, 2021

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES: DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

Department Chair

Bruce Berger

Associate Chair

Kevin Rich

Associate Chair of Dance and Director of Dance

Helanius Wilkins

Production Coordinator

Kaylyn Kriaski

Director of Dance Production

Kate Bashore

Costume Production Director

Ted Stark

Technical Director

Jordan Feeler

Associate Technical Director

Stephen Balgooyen

Production Electrician

Cooper Braun-Enos

Production Audio Visual Technician

Matthew Eckstein

Music/Accompanist Coordinator for Dance

Jesse Manno

Assistant to the Director of Dance Production

Anna Pillot

Assistant to the Costume Production Director

Veronica Dewey

Program Coordinator

Stacy Norwood

Graduate Program

Assistant

Patricia Paige

Academic Advisor

Jessica Baron

Student Hourly Payroll

Emma Donnelly

Costume Rental/Stock Manager

Jo Hoagland

Production Bookkeeper

Noah Carlson

Costume Shopper

Clara Hoppe

Wardrobe Supervisor

Caitlin Johnston

Dance Costume Coordinator

Sarah Napier

Dance Events Coordinator

James Nguyen

Dance Video Recording/ Archivist

Christy Mitchell

Front of House Manager

Xaalan Dolance

House Managers

Noah Carlson,
Maddie Grove, Rachel
Halmrast, Jesus Munoz

CU PRESENTS

Executive Director

Joan McLean Braun

Marketing and PR Director

Laima Haley

Operations Director

Andrew Metzroth

Director of Communications, College of Music

Sabine Kortals Stein

Assistant Director of Marketing

Daniel Leonard

Assistant Director of Public Relations

Becca Vaclavik

House Manager

Rojana Savoye

Publications Specialist

Sabrina Green

Communications Assistant, College of Music

MarieFaith Lane

Marketing Communications Assistant

Emma St. Lawrence

Video Producers

Ashwini Anupindi
Jacqueline Sandstedt

Box Office Manager

Christin Rayanne

Box Office Services Coordinator

Adrienne Havelka

Lead Box Office Assistant

Alex Herbert

Box Office Assistants

Macy Crow
Jenna Christine
Skylar Pongratz
Morgan Ochs
Lily Valdez