

MICHELLE HONAKER TRAVIS FITE

SHE BROUGHT HOPE.  
SHE BROUGHT PEACE.

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THE STORY OF NANCY WARD

# NANYEHI

A MUSICAL BY BECKY HOBBS AND NICK SWEET

# NANYEHI

Music and Lyrics by Becky Hobbs  
Book by Nick Sweet and Becky Hobbs

Executive Producer – David Webb  
Producer – Mike DeMarco  
Director – Nick Sweet  
Music Director – Becky Hobbs  
Musical Conductor/Arranger – Duane Sciacqua  
Stage Manager – Madison Bishop  
Choreographer – Christina Jenkins

Sponsored by Cherokee Nation Businesses and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa

## ACT I

### From Nanyehi's birth in 1738 until the French and Indian War

#### Overture

- I. White Wolf on the Horizon – Tenia and Chotans
- II. Song of the Nunnehi\* – Young Nanyehi and the Nunnehi
- III. Stickball Song – Chotans
- IV. O Great Spirit – Nanyehi and Kingfisher
- V. Battle of Taliwa – Chotans and warriors
- VI. Donadagohvi (Until We Meet Again) – Nanyehi
- VII. Little Fellow, My Son – Kingfisher
- VIII. Pass the Whiskey\*\*\*\* – Bryant Ward and traders
- IX. By the Fire – Nancy and Bryant Ward
- X. Love Doesn't Come in Colors – Attakullakulla and Dragging Canoe
- XI. This Land is Not Our Land\*\* – Dragging Canoe and warriors

#### Intermission

## ACT II

### On the verge of the Revolutionary War until Nanyehi's death in 1822

- XII. Nanyehi – Chotans
- XIII. Long Way Over – Nancy and Bryant Ward
- XIV. The Same Thing\* – Nancy, Lydia Bean and women
- XV. There Will Be Blood – Dragging Canoe and warriors
- XVI. Pale Moon – Nancy
- XVII. War or Peace\*\* – Nancy and Dragging Canoe
- XVIII. Let There Be Peace – Nancy and cast

All songs written or co-written by Becky Hobbs

\*with Duane Sciacqua

\*\*with James Nihan

\*\*\*with Nick Sweet

\*\*\*\*with Nick and Peggy Sweet

## CAST

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Nanyehi (called Wild Rose in childhood, Nancy Ward by whites)                 | Michelle Honaker      |
| Dragging Canoe (Attakullakulla's son, War Chief of the Chickamauga)           | Travis Fite           |
| Attakullakulla (Nanyehi's uncle, Peace Chief of the Cherokee)                 | Andy Sánchez          |
| Tenia (Nanyehi's mother)  | Chrissy Lewis Thomson |
| Oconastota (War Chief of the Overhill Cherokees)                              | Tommy Cummings        |
| Kingfisher (Nanyehi's first husband)  | Seth Arnold           |
| Bryant Ward (Nanyehi's second husband)  | Gustus Pennington     |
| Katie (daughter of Nanyehi and Kingfisher)                                    | Taylor Pearce         |
| Fivekiller (son of Nanyehi and Kingfisher; called Little Fellow in childhood) | David Barnoski        |
| Betsy (Nancy and Bryant Ward's daughter)                                      | Madeleine Phillips    |
| Lydia Bean  | Tabitha Littlefield   |
| Sequina   | Sloopy McCoy          |
| Young Nanyehi, Ensemble   | Constance Palmer      |
| Teenage Dragging Canoe, Warrior   | Dylan Harmon          |
| Young Sequina, Ensemble   | Bella Ingersoll       |
| Young Katie, Ensemble   | Raylea Coggburn       |
| Sali, Ensemble  | Debra West            |
| Tooka, Ensemble   | Pam Musgrove          |
| Virginia, Ensemble  | Peggy Sweet           |
| Gov. William Lyttelton, Thomas Jefferson                                      | Steven Osborn         |
| Isaac Thomas, John Moreland, Warrior  | Steven Lambie         |
| Longfellow (Nanyehi's brother), Warrior                                       | Nick Sanchez          |
| Col. Arthur Campbell, White settler   | Mike DeMarco          |
| Warrior   | Jordan Barrow         |
| William Peyton, Warrior   | Aaron Henningsen      |
| Ensemble, Cherokee Woman #1   | Jocelyn Evans-Palmer  |
| Ensemble, Cherokee Woman #2   | Stephanie Gilbert     |
| Ensemble, Cherokee Woman #3   | Gayle Campbell        |
| Ensemble  | Lucy Gonzalez         |
| Ensemble  | Chloe Kennedy         |
| Ensemble  | Amanda Yarberry       |
| Ensemble  | Nancy Gilbert         |
| Ensemble  | Jasmine Hoskin        |
| Ensemble  | Martha McSherry       |
| Ensemble  | Michelle Palmer       |
| Ensemble  | Jane Duenner Lyon     |
| Ensemble  | Olivia Slatton-Fite   |
| Ensemble  | Arden Coggburn        |
| Ensemble  | Alyssa Sanchez        |
| Ensemble  | Lara Sanchez          |
| Ensemble  | Sara Sanchez          |
| Warrior #1  | Sean Downey           |
| Warrior #2  | Cameron Anderson      |
| Nunnehi, Ensemble, Dance Captain  | Andrea Collins        |
| Nunnehi, Ensemble   | Kate Jacobs           |
| Nunnehi, Ensemble   | Dorothy Palmer        |
| Nunnehi   | Becca Worthington     |
| Little Fellow, Ensemble   | Milly Bynum           |
| Young Dragging Canoe  | Logan Bynum           |

## ORCHESTRA

Piano, keys..... Becky Hobbs  
Electric, acoustic and synthesized guitars ..... Duane Sciacqua  
Mandolin, acoustic guitar and percussion..... Jim Paul Blair  
Synthesizer, additional keys ..... Farren Mayfield  
Bass..... Jim Loftin  
Percussion..... Ricky González  
Drums..... Rick Gomez

## CREW AND OTHERS

Executive Producer ..... David Webb  
Director ..... Nick Sweet  
Music Director ..... Becky Hobbs  
Musical Conductor/Arranger..... Duane Sciacqua  
Producer ..... Mike DeMarco  
Stage Manager ..... Madison Bishop  
Choreographer/Fight Coordinator ..... Christina Jenkins  
Technical Director ..... Fletcher Goss  
Properties Manager ..... Peggy Sweet  
Costume Designer..... Cherokee National Treasure Tonia Weavel  
Hair and Makeup..... George Miller  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Maryah Reavis  
Dance Captain..... Andrea Collins

Special thanks to Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., former Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker, David Hampton and the Association of the Descendants of Nancy Ward, Peach Williamson, Troy Powell and the Union High School Drama Department and Gary and Barbara White.

A very special thanks to Sammye Walton.

This production is dedicated to Ronald Boren,  
our previous percussionist and forever friend.

Nanyehi's wild turkey feather cape designed and constructed by  
Cherokee National Treasure Shawna Morton Cain.



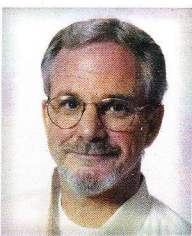
For more historical information about Nancy Ward or for genealogy questions, please visit [www.nancyward.org](http://www.nancyward.org).

## COMPOSER, CO-PLAYWRIGHT AND MUSIC DIRECTOR



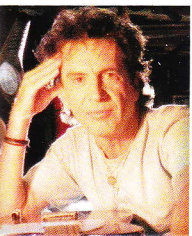
**Becky Hobbs** – Born and raised in Bartlesville, Becky is a 5th-great granddaughter of Nancy Ward (Nanyehi) and a Cherokee Nation citizen. Her song, "Angels Among Us," recorded by Alabama, Demi Lovato, Scotty McCreery, and more, has been used to benefit charities throughout the world, namely St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Other songs of hers have been recorded by Conway Twitty, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Glen Campbell, Emmylou Harris, John Anderson, Helen Reddy, Wanda Jackson, the Cherokee National Youth Choir and more. As a recording artist, she's had more than 20 Billboard chart singles, including "Jones on the Jukebox," and a Top Ten Duet with Moe Bandy, "Let's Get Over Them Together." The "Beckaroo" has performed in more than 40 countries. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in 2015 and awarded Cherokee National Statesman in 2017.

## DIRECTOR AND CO-PLAYWRIGHT



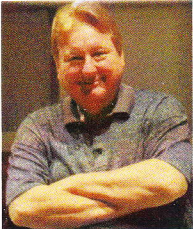
**Nick Sweet** – Nick has been a freelance stage director since 1977. Included in the 147 shows he has directed is the historical outdoor drama "Trail of Tears" at the Cherokee Heritage Center. He co-founded the drama program at Oklahoma Wesleyan University, taught literature, communications, English and humanities, and directed OKWU's first five musicals. He has written and directed three Centennial productions - "Pride of the Prairie" and "City of Legends" (Bartlesville's city and statehood) and "In Our Own Words" (Oklahoma School for the Deaf), where he conducted month-long drama residencies from 1987-2008. Nick was named Senior Poet Laureate for Oklahoma (2010) and Texas (2013) by the Amy Kitchener Foundation. He was named the only honorary descendent of the Association of the Descendants of Nancy Ward. He and his wife, Peggy, reside on the outskirts of Houston, Texas.

## MUSICAL CONDUCTOR/ARRANGER



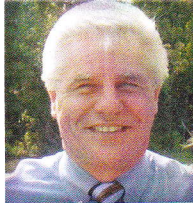
**Duane Sciacqua** – Duane is from Madera, California. He has been playing music professionally since the 8th grade. Duane moved to Los Angeles in 1978, where he became a noted "guitar slinger." There, he played, recorded and toured with artists including Glenn Frey and Joe Walsh (The Eagles), Paul McCartney (Beatles), Vince Gill, Gary Morris, Rodney Atkins and many others. His recordings have been featured on numerous television and motion picture soundtracks, including "Airwolf," "Hotshots," "Cobra," "Navy Seals," "Stone Cold" and "Hardball," just to name a few. He scored the award winning short film "Nanyehi." He and his wife, Becky Hobbs, reside in Nashville, Tennessee, where he owns Rough Edges Recording Studio, writes, produces and works as a session guitarist.

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



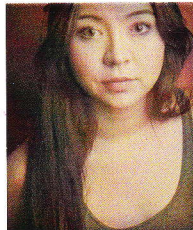
**David Webb** – David began his career as a teen in Independence, Kansas, putting up show posters for Jim Halsey and his Artist Management Agency. He soon founded his own talent agency booking local and regional acts including Becky Hobbs' band The Four Faces of Eve. David moved to Lawrence, Kansas where he merged his agency with Mid-Continent Entertainment, then to Chicago, where he helped manage and book Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon and Pine Top Perkins. He was a partner of Celebration Productions and vice president of sales and marketing for Ovation Records, where big hits by The Kendalls led Jim Halsey to offer David the position of vice president of marketing at Churchill/MCA Records, where he worked with Roy Clark, Hank Thompson, Jimmy Dean, and Ronnie Dunn. He later managed James Brown and served two terms as vice president of the GRAMMY organization. He worked for KVOO in Tulsa, then was vice president and general manager for radio stations in four states. In 2013, Webb retired from IMG Sports Management, and now serves as first vice president of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. He is co-producer and line producer for "Nanyehi" the short film, which was inducted into the Oklahoma Movie Hall of Fame in 2019.

## PRODUCER

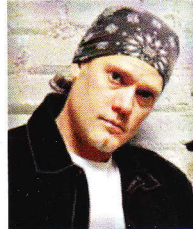


**Mike DeMarco** – Mike spent several years teaching theater arts as the Director in Residence at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center. He directed more than a dozen cabaret-style shows at the Damon Runyon Playhouse. He also founded, developed and directed the Spirit of Colorado Youth Theatre Group for the Colorado State Fair. He has performed with Theatre Tulsa, Walnut Creek Conservatory Theatre, Diablo Light Opera Company, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Hanford Players, Impossible Players, Civic Arts Repertory Company, San Ramon Conservatory Theater, and the Act V Players. Mike wrote and directed "Life Should Not Hurt – A Musical Revue.

## PRINCIPAL ACTORS



**Michelle Honaker (Nanyehi)** – Michelle Honaker is thrilled to return to Tulsa and Cherokee Nation! After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Musical Theatre from Young Harris College, she spent two seasons in Cherokee, North Carolina, in the outdoor drama, "Unto these Hills." In 2012, Michelle originated the role of "Nanyehi: The Story of Nancy Ward" for the World Premiere in Georgia, making this reprisal her 6th production! She currently works in New York and enjoys acting for plays in workshop. This summer, she had the opportunity to perform in the National Playwrights Conference at The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. Off-Broadway credits include "Miss Lead," "The Winter's Tale," "Macbeth," "Daughters of Leda," & "Sliver of a Full Moon."



**Travis Fite (Dragging Canoe)** – A Cherokee Nation citizen and funk-soul musician, Travis studied at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Fite has toured with Phat Thumb, What It Is (San Francisco), Leon Russell, Full Flava Kings, Waymon Tisdale Band, Eldridge Jackson and Toni Estes. He often is seen playing with his funk-fusion ensemble, The Oklahomies. Fite currently runs SoulTree recording studio, writing, producing and recording music for local and national artists. He is reprising his role as Dragging Canoe for the eighth time.



**Gus Pennington (Bryant Ward)** – From the Tulsa area, Gus is reprising his role from the 2015, 2016 and 2018 productions. He has been acting and singing since he was a small child. His previous acting roles include parts in “Les Miserables,” “Young Frankenstein,” “Footloose,” “Miss Saigon” and “The Sound of Music” (Captain Von Trapp).



**Andres “Andy” Sánchez (Attakullakulla)** – A native of Aurora, Illinois, the youngest of nine children, Andy grew up in family of musicians and actors. Andres moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma at a young age and has been a proud “Okie” ever since. Performances in Muskogee, Oklahoma Little Theatre productions include “Chicago” (Amos), “The Buddy Holly Story” (Ritchie Valens) and “Disaster” (Maury). Andy resides in Muskogee with his children Nicolas, Alyssa, Lara and Sara, all of whom are in this production.

**Sloopy McCoy (Sequina)** – Sloopy is a Tulsa native, Cherokee and 7th great granddaughter of Nancy Ward, but no stranger to the stage having appeared in over 20 plays and films in the last 8 years. Recently she was featured in “Sovereignty” by Mary Kathryn Nagle at the Tulsa PAC.

**Tommy Cummings (Oconastota)** – Tommy studied theatre at Northeastern State University and has been performing for local audiences for more than 10 years, having won several awards including Best Actor playing Gaston in “Beauty and the Beast.” His other favorite performances include “Grease,” “The Buddy Holly Story,” and “Spamalot.”

**Seth Arnold (Kingfisher)** – Seth hails from small town Gore, Oklahoma. Seth graduated from NSU in 2012 and has since been involved in many productions with the Muskogee Little Theatre including Gomez in “Addams Family” and most recently Mr. Wormwood in “Matilda.” He has also performed with Tahlequah Community Playhouse and Tulsa Opera Chorus. This is Seth’s first year with Nanyehi and he feels honored to be included in its seasoned cast.

**Chrissy Lewis Thomson (Tenia)** – Chrissy has been performing for over 20 years, and has studied at University of Texas and University of Arizona. Some of her favorite roles include Ado Annie in “Oklahoma”, Evelyn in “The Girl in the Frame”, and Louise Peakes in “The Outsider,” all at the Muskogee Little Theatre. She is thrilled to be a part of this amazing production!

**Tabitha Littlefield (Lydia Bean)** – Tabitha has been involved in the Tulsa theatre community since the age of 9. She played the role of Lydia Bean in 2014 and Nanyehi in 2018. By day, she works as the marketing assistant for Tulsa Community College’s School of Visual & Performing Arts. She also serves as vice president on the Heller Theatre board and is the graphic design co-chair for the Association for Women in Communications.

**David Barnoski (Fivekiller)** – A Cherokee Nation citizen and native of Tahlequah, this is David’s third production, having also appeared in the “Nanyehi” short film. David, a singer and songwriter, lives in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he works as a graphic artist. He has three children, Solomon, Ariel and Gabriel.

**Constance Palmer (young Nanyehi)** – Constance is no novice to performing, having made her stage debut at age 4 as the Elephant Bird in “Seussical.” Since then, she has appeared in “The Little Mermaid” and “Newsies,” as well as conceiving and directing her own unauthorized adaptation of “The Lightning Thief: The Musical.” She enjoys anchoring KCAT Morning News at her elementary school.

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