

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SEQUOYAH INSTITUTE PRESENT



# NANYEHI

Nancy Ward Beloved Woman of the Cherokee 1738 - 1822

## DLEGA

August 27, 30, 31 • 7:30 p.m.  
NSU Center for the Performing Arts

Go Beyond The Stage

Matinee performance for area high schools

Tickets & Information

918-458-2075 or [www.nsuok.edu/si](http://www.nsuok.edu/si)

Made Possible By



NORTHEASTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY



These performances are sponsored  
by Northeastern State University and  
the Cherokee Nation

# Nanyehi-Beloved Woman Of The Cherokee

Book by Becky Hobbs & Nick Sweet

Music by Becky Hobbs

Director- Nick Sweet

Music Director- Becky Hobbs

Choreographer- Jenna Stocks

Produced by NSU's Sequoyah Institute and the NSU College of Liberal Arts  
Sponsored by the Cherokee Nation and Northeastern State University

---

## Act I

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

Overture

- I. White Wolf on the Horizon
- II. Song of the Nunnchi
- III. Stickball Song
- IV. O Great Spirit
- V. Battle of Taliwa
- VI. Donadagohvi (Until We Meet Again)
- VII. Little Fellow my Son
- VIII. Pass the Whiskey
- IX. By the Fire
- X. This Land is Not Our Land

## Intermission

## Act II

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

- XI. Nanyehi
- XII. Long Way Over
- XIII. The Same Thing
- XIV. There Will Be Blood
- XV. Pale Moon
- XVI. War or Peace
- XVII. Let There Be Peace

## CAST

<b>Nanyehi</b> ( <i>called Wild Rose in childhood, Nancy Ward by the Whites</i> ) -----	Michelle Honaker
<b>Tenia</b> ( <i>Nanyehi's mother</i> ) -----	Angelina Villegas Cummings
<b>Attakullakulla</b> ( <i>Nanyehi's uncle</i> ) -----	Michael Stopp
<b>Dragging Canoe</b> ( <i>Attakullakulla's son, War Chief of the Chickamauga</i> ) -----	Travis Fite
<b>Oconastota</b> ( <i>War Chief of the Overhill Cherokee</i> ) -----	Tommy Cummings
<b>Kingfisher</b> ( <i>Nanyehi's first husband</i> ) -----	Josh Stacy
<b>Bryant Ward</b> ( <i>Nanyehi's second husband</i> ) -----	Hansen Johnson
<b>Katie</b> ( <i>Nanyehi and Kingfisher's daughter</i> ) -----	Nikara Soap
<b>Little Fellow</b> ( <i>Nanyehi and Kingfisher's son, called Fivekiller in adulthood</i> ) -----	Ace Vogle
<b>Fivekiller</b> -----	Wes Nelson
<b>Betsy</b> ( <i>Nanyehi and Bryant Ward's daughter</i> ) -----	Molly Stocks
<b>Lydia Bean</b> -----	Josie McConnell
<b>Sequina</b> -----	Candice Byrd
<b>Young Nanyehi</b> -----	Sadie Foster
<b>Nunnehi Grandmother</b> -----	Barbara McAlister*
<b>Sali</b> -----	Mary Beth Nelson
<b>Tooka</b> -----	Sara Downey
<b>Young Sequina, Cherokee Woman</b> -----	Sinihele Rhoades
<b>Young Dragging Canoe, Dragging Canoe Warrior</b> -----	Bretly Crawford
<b>Thomas Jefferson</b> -----	Steve Ball
<b>Gov. of South Carolina</b> -----	Dice Dawson
<b>Col. Campbell</b> -----	Buddy Stacy
<b>Longfellow, John Stuart, Isaac Thomas, Creek Warrior</b> -----	Derrick Branson
<b>White Settler, William Peyton</b> -----	Cary Pruitt
<b>Young Katie, Nunnehi</b> -----	Ella Mounce
<b>Virginia, Cherokee Woman #1</b> -----	Paula Chaffin
<b>White Woman #1, Chotan</b> -----	Margaret Lemley
<b>Cherokee Woman #2</b> -----	Brenda Bruce
<b>Cherokee Woman #3</b> -----	Lea McCormick
<b>Nunnehi, Chotan</b> -----	Koda Ellis
<b>Nunnehi, Chotan</b> -----	Katelyn Myers
<b>Nunnehi, Chotan</b> -----	Madilyn Joise
<b>Nunnehi, Chotan</b> -----	Emily Morrison
<b>Nunnehi, White Woman</b> -----	Hadley Hume
<b>Cherokee Warrior #2, Dragging Canoe Warrior</b> -----	Panther Alex Cooksey
<b>Cherokee Warrior #1</b> -----	Solen Deer-In-Water
<b>Dragging Canoe Warrior, Creek Warrior</b> -----	Weston Choate
<b>Creek Warrior, Chotan</b> -----	Onan Rhoades
<b>Chotan, White Woman</b> -----	Kathy Morgan
<b>Chotan, White Woman</b> -----	Shay Downy
<b>Chotan, White Woman</b> -----	Marilyn Pierce
<b>Chotan, White Women</b> -----	Christina Hanvey

\* Barbara McAlister appears by permission of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers of the United States.

**Musicians:**

Becky Hobbs -----Keyboard  
Duane Sciacqua ----- Acoustic guitar, electric guitar  
Jim Paul Blair -----Mandolin, acoustic guitar  
Holly Stocks -----Keyboard  
Jim Loftin ----- Bass  
Ron Boren ----- Drums, percussion

Director ----- Nick Sweet  
Music Director ----- Becky Hobbs  
Choreographer ----- Jenna Stocks  
Dance Captain ----- Molly Stocks  
Scenic Design ----- Chris Miller  
Technical Director ----- Scott Pursley  
Stage Manager ----- Amanda Tharp  
Lighting Operators ----- Sterling Spinks, Drew Latta  
Assistant Choral Adviser ----- Barbara McAlister  
Cherokee Costume Designer ----- Wendell Cochran  
Assistant to Cherokee Costume Designer ----- Tonia Weavel  
White Costume Designer ----- Dr. Robyn Pursley  
Hair & Make-up ----- Dr. Robyn Pursley, Ashley Mora and Angelina Villegas-Cummings  
Wardrobe Assistant ----- Michelle Widener  
Props ----- Knickel Sloan, Candace Smith  
Cherokee Costume Construction ----- Margaret Lemley, Marilyn Pierce, Linda Nichols, Andy Baxter,  
Lou Hoos, Lee Jones, Kathy Carter Tibbits,  
Ashley Mora, Shawna Morton Cain

Special thanks to Chief Bill John Baker, Gary and Barbara White, Dr. Phil Bridgmon, Dr. Ron Cambiano, Joe Byrd, Andy Baxter, Wendell Cochran, Tonia Weavel, Margaret & Fred Lemley, Marilyn Pierce, Lea McCormick, Kathy Morgan, Paula and Harvey Chaffin, Dice Dawson, Wes Nelson, Michelle Widener, Evelyn Hibbs, David Hampton and the Association of the Descendants of Nancy Ward.

Very special thanks to our friend and mentor, NSU faculty member, Chris Miller. We could never find the right words to express our gratitude. But if we did find the right words, Chris could show us how to restructure them to make them more entertaining.

**Becky Hobbs** (composer, co-playwright) was born and raised in Bartlesville, OK. She is a 5th-great granddaughter of Nancy Ward (Nanyehi) and a Cherokee Nation citizen. Her songs have been recorded by Alabama ("Angels Among Us"), Conway Twitty, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Glen Campbell, Emmylou Harris, Helen Reddy, Shirley Bassey, Wanda Jackson, the Cherokee National Youth Choir, and more. As a recording artist, she's had over 20 Billboard chart singles, including "Jones on the Jukebox," "Honky Tonk Saturday Night," and the Top Ten Duet with Moe Bandy, "Let's Get Over Them Together." The "Beckaroo" has performed in over 40 countries and lives in Nashville, TN. She is thrilled that Nanyehi-Beloved Woman of the Cherokee is having its Oklahoma premiere in the heart of the Cherokee Nation.

**Nick Sweet** (director, co-playwright) has been a freelance stage director since 1977. He has directed more than 130 productions for theatres in Oklahoma, Texas, Alaska, and Georgia, including the historical outdoor drama, Trail of Tears, at the Cherokee Heritage Center in 2002. The previous year, he portrayed the stockade doctor and understudied the role of Will Rogers under the direction of NSU grad and TONY nominee Joe Sears. Nick also directed *Annie*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Lost Highway: The Hank Williams Story*, and *The Buddy Holly Story*, for the Muskogee Little Theatre. He has written several historical plays including *In Our Own Words* (Oklahoma School for the Deaf Centennial), *Pride of the Prairie*, and *City of Legends*, ( Bartlesville's City and Statehood Centennials), and *Darkness Before Dawn*, ( Muskogee Civic Center ). He resides near Houston, TX.

**Michelle Honaker** ( Nanyehi/Nancy Ward) was raised in Hawaii where she started performing at an early age. She moved to the beautiful North Georgia mountains and graduated from Young Harris College with a Bachelor's Degree in Musical Theatre. After her college career she played Nancy in the outdoor drama, *Unto These Hills*, for two seasons in Cherokee, North Carolina. Michelle is part Cherokee and is thrilled to be able to portray

Nanyehi for the second time after making history in the World Premiere in Hartwell, GA last spring! She is grateful to Becky Hobbs and Nick Sweet for giving her this opportunity. Honaker currently lives in New York City. She would like to give all the glory to the Lord and thank her parents for their loving support throughout the years.

**Travis Fite** (*Dragging Canoe*) studied creative writing at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo. He has been a part of the Washington Improv Theater in Washington D.C. He has been a cast member, and a house band member for community theater productions in Tulsa, Ok and surrounding areas. Travis has been a part of many music groups and ensembles. He has toured with funk-soul bands such as Phat Thumb, What It Is(San Francisco), Leon Russell, Full Flava Kings, Wayman Tisdale band, Eldridge Jackson and Toni Estes. Travis can be seen with his current group, the funk-fusion ensemble, What's That (Tulsa), as well as his other projects, Soul Revolution Reggae Band and the alternative country, Jared Tyler Band(Tulsa). Travis currently runs SoulTree recording studio in Tulsa—writing, producing and recording music for local and national artists.

**Hansen Johnson** (Bryant Ward) is nineteen years old and is a sophomore at NSU. He is studying voice and is a member of the University Singers, Community Chorus, and Opera Workshop. He recently has performed with the River City Players. In the near future, he will perform in an on-the-road review of *The Marriage of Figaro*. He has also been cast in NSU's spring production of *Into the Woods*, as Jack. Upon graduating, Hansen would like to be a music educator and also plans to audition for more professional shows and choirs. Hansen would like to thank all of his friends and family for all of their love and support.

**Josh Stacy** (*Kingfisher*)was born and raised in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. His hobbies include drawing, painting, and performing magic tricks. He has been in a couple of other productions including: *The King and I*, *Honk*, and *Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet*.

**Candice Byrd** (Sequina) is a Tahlequah native born and raised, returning from her first year of graduate school in Savannah, GA. An influential THS teacher once told his class, "Find something you love to do, then try to find a way to make a living out of it." Since then, she's earned her Bachelor of Science in Drama/Television/Film from Oral Roberts University, and been involved with numerous plays, musicals, and dance concerts—both on stage and offstage. Favorite roles include "Lenny" from *Crimes of the Heart*, "Woman" from *The Red Balloon*, and the title role from the Tulsa workshop of *Nanyehi: Beloved Woman of the Cherokee*. Thank you Becky and Nick, for this wonderful show! Special thanks to MaryKay Henderson for getting me involved in the first place. And a big thank you to Julia, Joseph, Grandma, Mom and Dad! The Lord has blessed me with a truly supportive family!

**Wes Nelson** (Fivekiller) was born in Edmond, Oklahoma. He spent most of his youth in Guthrie, though he chose to move to Muskogee, Oklahoma to be closer to his maternal family and native roots. He is an experienced musician and vocalist, having performed on stage on several occasions. Nelson is new to the theatre scene; however, at age sixteen he appeared as an extra in a number of scenes for the film, "The Gray Man."

**Barbara McAlister** \* (Nunnehi Grandmother), a graduate of O.C.U. School of Music, is an internationally acclaimed opera singer. After winning the Zachary auditions in Los Angeles, she went to Germany, singing over 35 opera roles in the repertory theatre. She then guested in the opera theatre in Monte Carlo, Hong Kong, Spain, Italy and France in roles as Azucena and Ortrud and Ulrica. She has since sung at Carnegie Hall; Kennedy Center; NMAI, NY Grand Opera in Central Park. Barbara's career began in summer stock theatre. Ms. McAlister is a F/A Instructor/performer at the Cherokee Nation and is on the Oklahoma Arts Council Touring Roster, 2013-2014.

\* *Appearing by permission of Actors' Equity Association.*

**Josephine McConnell** (Lydia Bean) will receive a B.A. from the University of Arkansas this fall. She is a proud graduate of Tahlequah High School, where she participated in choir, show choir, theater and musical theater. She sang with the local band, Mook (2007-2009), and has returned to the stage in Tahlequah after three years of 'living in an office in Germany.' She will move to Los Angeles, California after *Nanyehi* to pursue acting full time. She would like to thank her parents, family and boyfriend for their full support.

**Angelina Villegas Cummings** (Tenia) is excited to be back in Tahlequah, working with director Nick Sweet again. The last few years, she has been a part of the Muskogee Little Theatre. Her recent performances include *Maria Elena* - "The Buddy Holly Story" and *Jo Gallaway* - "A Few Good Men." Angelina has also appeared in "Beauty and The Beast," "Chicago," and "Little Shop of Horrors," which she also choreographed. Angelina lives in Muskogee with her husband, Tommy Cummings and their two boys, Thomas and Tyler.

**Michael Stopp** (Attakullakulla) is a Cherokee and Creek Indian from Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He is currently studying Finance at Northeastern State University, and is a veteran of the United States Army. He is a voice student under the direction of Barbara McAlister

**Tommy Cummings** (Oconastota) No stranger to the stage, Tommy Cummings has been performing on stage for a decade. He primarily plays in Muskogee, OK where he had a very busy year. Along with directing "A Christmas Story" this past year for Muskogee Little Theater, he has also performed in "A Few Good Men" and recently finished "The Buddy Holly Story" with director Nick Sweet.