



CHEYENNE GAGNER TOMMY CUMMINGS  
SPECIAL GUEST WINNIE GUESS PERDUE

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 – Sammye Walton

Director – Nick Sweet

Music Director – Becky Hobbs

Musical Conductor/Arranger – Duane Sciacqua

Stage Manager – Susan Fenrich

Choreographer – Angelina Villegas

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 & Chotans
- II. Song of the Nunnehi\* – Young Nanyehi & the Nunnehi
- III. Stickball Song – Chotans
- IV. O Great Spirit – Nanyehi & Kingfisher
- V. Battle of Taliwa – Chotans & Warriors
- VI. Donadagohvi (Until We Meet Again) – Nanyehi
- VII. Little Fellow, My Son – Kingfisher
- VIII. Pass the Whiskey<sup>\*\*</sup> – Bryant Ward & Traders
- IX. By the Fire – Nancy & Bryant Ward
- X. Love Doesn't Come in Colors – Attakullakulla & Dragging Canoe
- XI. This Land is Not Our Land<sup>\*\*</sup> – Dragging Canoe & 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 & Bryant Ward
- XIV. The Same Thing\* – Nancy, Lydia Bean & Women
- XV. There Will Be Blood – Dragging Canoe & Warriors
- XVI. Pale Moon – Nancy
- XVII. War or Peace<sup>\*\*</sup> – Nancy & Dragging Canoe
- XVIII. Let There Be Peace – Nancy & Cast

All songs written or co-written by Becky Hobbs

\*with Duane Sciacqua

\*\*with James Nihan

\*\*with Nick Sweet

\*\*\*with Nick & Peggy Sweet



## CAST

Nanyehi (called Wild Rose in childhood, Nancy Ward by whites)	Cheyenne Gagner
Dragging Canoe (Attakullakulla's son, War Chief of the Chickamauga)	Tommy Cummings
Attakullakulla (Nanyehi's uncle, Peace Chief of the Cherokee)	Andy Sánchez
Tenia (Nanyehi's mother)	Alaska Rayne Holloway
Oconastota (War Chief of the Overhill Cherokees)	Michael Stopp
Kingfisher (Nanyehi's first husband)	Drew Sears
Bryant Ward (Nanyehi's second husband), Nunnehi	Steven Lambie
Katie (daughter of Nanyehi and Kingfisher)	Chloe Smith
Fivekiller (son of Nanyehi and Kingfisher; called Little Fellow in childhood)	Thomas Cummings
Betsy (Nancy and Bryant Ward's daughter)	Peyton Richardt
Lydia Bean, Nunnehi	Angelina Villegas
Sequina	Chrissy Lewis
Elder Nanyehi	Winnie Guess Perdue
Young Nanyehi, Ensemble	Kyra Burrup
Teenage Dragging Canoe	Kaden Burrup
Young Sequina, Ensemble	Farrah Dupree
Young Katie, Ensemble	Price Smith
Sali, Ensemble	Jane Lyon
Tooka, Ensemble	Charmin Richardson
Virginia, Nunnehi, Ensemble	Colleen Kirkpatrick
Gov. William Lyttelton, Gov. Thomas Jefferson	Jimmy Finnerty
Longfellow (Nanyehi's brother), Warrior	Daystar Eagle
Col. Arthur Campbell, John Moreland	Nick Bradford
Isaac Thomas, William Peyton, Warrior	Aaron Willyard
White settler	Tommy Swearingin
Ensemble	Sabriah Hoover
Ensemble	Sophia Diaz
Ensemble	Lindsay McClure
Ensemble	Addison Smith
Warrior #1	Will Caywood
Warrior #2	Mitchell Rabbit
Young Dragging Canoe	Elias Ward
Warrior	Mitchell Rabbit Jr.
Nunnehi, Ensemble	Andrea Ellis
Nunnehi, Ensemble	Jessica Pierce
Ensemble	Joseph Kidwell
Ensemble	Jonathan Kidwell
Warrior	Mallory Lindsay
Warrior	David Allen

## ORCHESTRA

Piano, Keys .....	Becky Hobbs
Electric, Acoustic & Synthesized Guitars.....	Duane Sciacqua
Guitars & Mandolin .....	Tye Slagle
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.....	Sammye Walton
Stage Manager.....	Susan Fenrich
Choreographer .....	Angelina Villegas
Fight Choreographer .....	Tommy Cummings
Technical Director.....	Fletcher Gross
Properties Manager .....	Mandy Gross
Costume Designe .....	Cherokee National Treasure Tonia Weavel
Hair and Makeup.....	George Miller
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Melissa Burrup

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, Erica McGhee and the Union High School Theater Department, Ken Busby and a big thank you to the Tulsa Music Association.

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



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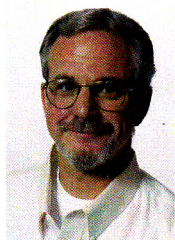


## COMPOSER, CO-PLAYWRIGHT & MUSIC DIRECTOR



**Becky Hobbs** – Born and raised in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Becky is a fifth great-granddaughter of Nancy Ward (Nanyehi) and a Cherokee Nation citizen. Her song, "Angels Among Us," recorded by Alabama, Demi Lovato, Kristin Chenoweth, Scotty McCreery, and more, has been used to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and many other charities. Other songs of hers have been recorded by Conway Twitty, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Glen Campbell, Kiss, Emmylou Harris, John Anderson, Helen Reddy, 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," and 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. [www.beckyhobbs.com](http://www.beckyhobbs.com)

## DIRECTOR & CO-PLAYWRIGHT



**Nick Sweet** – Nick has directed more than 150 productions, with all but 20 in Oklahoma. He's also directed in his home state of Texas and in Alaska and Georgia. Directing the historical outdoor drama "Trail of Tears" at the Cherokee Heritage Center sparked his interest in tribal history. While teaching Literature, English, Communications and Humanities at Oklahoma Wesleyan University, he received their Excellence In Teaching Award and directed the school'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.) At OSD, he conducted month-long drama residencies from 1987-2008. Nick was named Senior Poet Laureate for OK (2010) and TX (2013) by the Amy Kitchener Foundation. He is the only honorary descendant of the Association of the Descendants of Nancy Ward. He has been an Artist-in-Residence for the Oklahoma Arts Council since the mid-1980s.

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



**David Webb** – David began his career as a teen in Independence, Kansas, working for Jim Halsey and his Artist Management Company. He soon founded his own talent agency, booking acts like Becky Hobbs. David merged with Mid-Continent Entertainment of Lawrence. Upon moving to Chicago he booked/managed Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon and Pine Top Perkins. He was a partner at Celebration Productions, VP of Ovation Records, VP at Churchill/MCA Records, where he worked with Roy Clark, Hank Thompson, Jimmy Dean and Ronnie Dunn. He later managed James Brown, served as VP of the GRAMMY organization and worked as a GM

at seven radio stations, including a stint at KVOO in Tulsa. In 2013 he retired from IMG Sports Marketing. He is co-producer and line producer for the short film "Nanyehi," which was inducted into the Oklahoma Movie Hall of Fame in 2019.



## MUSICAL CONDUCTOR/ARRANGER



**Duane Sciacqua** – Duane is from Madera, California. He has been playing music professionally since the eighth 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. [www.duanesciacqua.com](http://www.duanesciacqua.com)

## PRODUCER



**Sammie Walton** – Sammie was born and raised in Coffeyville, Kansas. During her studies at Belmont University in Nashville she first met Becky Hobbs while working for her publishing company, Beccaroo Music. Since then, Sammie has gone on to work in technology, hospitality, and human resources. She is currently the Head of Talent Management at Compass. Sammie resides in Tulsa and is a Cherokee Nation citizen.

## PRINCIPAL ACTORS



**Cheyenne Gagner (Nanyehi)** – Cheyenne Gagner is a Real Estate Agent and former Kindergarten teacher from Owasso, Oklahoma. She is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and has spent the last school year coaching students for the Cherokee Challenge Bowl and Language Bowl competitions. She has been singing around the Tulsa metro area and throughout the Midwest since she was 14 years old.



**Tommy Cummings (Dragging Canoe)** – Tommy Cummings is a member of the Creek Nation and Choctaw Tribe. He is a film, voice, and stage actor, director, and is playing the role of Dragging Canoe for the first time. He previously has played Oconostota the past several productions. Having studied theatre at Northeastern State University, he has been involved in the theatre for the past 20 years playing such famous roles in community theatre as Miss Trunchbull in "Matilda", Professor Henry Higgins in "My Fair Lady" and Uncle Fester in "The

Addams Family Musical." He is grateful for not only the opportunity to play such a historic figure but to also share the stage with his oldest son, Thomas IV who is playing "Fivekiller."



**Winnie Guess Purdue (Elder Nanyehi)** – A Cherokee citizen and descendant of Sequoyah, at age 9 she began a career as a Traditional and Ceremonial Indian Dancer, performing on "The Today Show" and "The Ed Sullivan Show." She became the first female to perform the "Old School" Hoop Dance, a groundbreaking achievement. In 2016 the Cherokee Nation named her one of the five "Cherokee Women Who Changed the World." Recognized as a Culture Keeper with the Great Tulsa Indian Affairs Award,

she portrayed the elder Nanyehi in the short film. She will soon be seen in the PBS documentary "Searching for Sequoyah" and in Martin Scorsese's film "Killer of the Flower Moon." Named "Oklahoma Female Senior Athlete of the Year" in 2004, she was an Senior Olympic track and field gold/silver medalist for 20 years, representing the U. S. in the World Masters Game in Australia.





**Steven Lambie (Bryant Ward)** – Steven is thrilled to be back playing Bryant Ward in this year's production of Nanyehi. After taking some time away from theatre in 2022, he is back with a bang! Hot off the trail of playing "Gaston" in MLT's production of "Beauty & The Beast" last month, he cannot wait to be back on stage, under the direction of Nick, Becky & Angelina. All of this wouldn't be possible without the love and support of friends, family & his "Swiftie" at home!



**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) and "The Buddy Holly Story" (Ritchie Valens). Andy resides in Muskogee with his children Nicolas, Alyssa, Lara and Sara, all of whom have been in previous productions. This is his fourth time portraying Attakullakulla.



**Drew Sears (Kingfisher)** – Drew has been acting since he was in middle school, and fell in love with the art when he played Benny in Southstreet Edison High School's Guys and Dolls. Since then he's portrayed Charlie Price in Kinky Boots, Jeff Bowen in [title of show], a Bard Boy in Something Rotten, and a whole plethora of other shows! He's excited and honored to portray Kingfisher.

**Chrissy Lewis (Sequina)** – Chrissy has been performing for over 20 years on the stage and in film. She studied theater at Universities of Texas and 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 has also directed "The Wizard of Oz," "Duck Hunter Shoots Angel" and "The Guys". She played Tenia in the 2019 production and Sequina in 2021. She is a proud citizen of the Muskogee Creek Nation.

**Michael Stopp (Oconastota)** – Michael Stopp is the managing partner for Swift Creek Consulting, a veteran and native owned consultancy. He is the 7th great grandson of Nancy Ward and is returning to his roll of Oconastota which he portrayed in previous performances and the short film. Acting is a passion for him especially when bringing Cherokee history to life.

**Alaska Rayne Holloway (Tenia)** – Alaska was born in Tulsa and was in theatre and choir during high school. Afterward she appeared on Team Blake in "The Voice" which started her musical career. She is honored to be a part of Nanyehi and return to her musical theatre roots!

**Angelina Villegas (Lydia Bean)** – Angelina has been a part of the Nanyehi production since 2013, in many different roles, both on and off stage. A dance teacher for the last 15 years, she is ecstatic to be returning as choreographer this year and to be reprising her role as Lydia Bean. Angelina is proud to now share the stage with her son, Thomas Cummings.

**Thomas Cummings (Fivekiller)** – This is Thomas' first year in the Nanyehi production. His most recent role was James Broughton in "Blood Boundary" by Vickie Lynn Moonie. He is happy to be sharing the stage with his dad, Tommy Cummings, and his mom, Angelina Villegas

**Kyra Burrup (young Nanyehi)** – Kyra is 11 years old and is homeschooled in the 6th grade. This is her tenth stage production. Since age 7 she has worked as a model, film and stage actress and is a 1st degree Black Belt in Taekwondo. She enjoys singing, dancing and arts and crafts, and is honored to be part of this production.



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