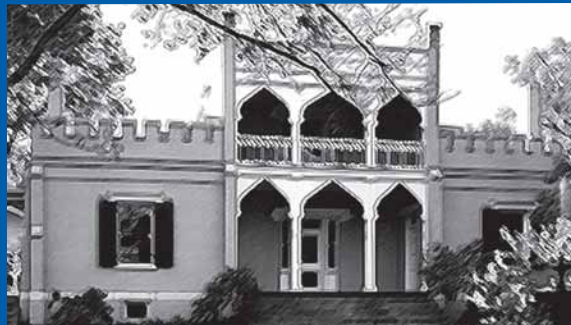


**WATERSHED
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presents

Maury Voices: Stories from Our Community's Past

by
Beverly Mitchell



March 19-21, 2021



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Maury Voices: Stories from Our Community's Past

Written by
Beverly Mitchell

Cast

"An Evening with Sarah Childress Polk"

Sarah Childress Polk Sherry Johnson

"Learning to Live Free"

Henry Quantagus Mcfall

"Jennie Cheairs of Rippavilla: A Story of Two Women"

Jenny Cheairs Hickey Megan Roberts

Jenny Cheairs Detra Walker

"A Schoolgirl's Diary: The Columbia Athenaeum"

Mary Stuart McFall Cameron Schulz

Production Team

Directors Beverly Mitchell, Kate Foreman

Stage Manager Sarah Kennedy

Costume Design Melissa Durmon, Katie Sellers

Videography Visual Media Company

Special thanks to the **Maury County Historical Society** and
Tennessee Arts Commission for their generous support
throughout the development of this original work.

Special thanks to the
Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
for their generous support of the production and filming.

The Cast



Sherry Johnson (Sarah Childress Polk) is the owner/founder of Building Block School for the Arts and is a graduate of the Governor's School for the Arts in Norfolk, Virginia. She's been seen as characters such as Lilian Gilbreath, Marion Paroo, Ruth in *Pirates of Penzance*, and created roles in *Scathe*, *Elfkin Christmas* and *Nutcracker Story*. Sherry is overjoyed to be returning to the stage with Watershed Public Theatre. She would like to thank her family for their support and encouragement.



Quantagus Sanchez Mcfall is a 36-year-old father of two (Brechon & Novaly Mcfall), visual artist, videographer/photographer, and editor. Over 10+ years of video, pre/post production, lighting, and stage, he has found a way to apply his skills to help others. Quantagus is a Columbia native who has invested interest in the arts at a local level, making him proud to be involved with Watershed Public Theatre, the cast and crew.



Megan Roberts (Jennie Cheairs Hickey) is thrilled to be a part of her third production with Watershed Public Theatre. Previous credits include Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*, Betty Haynes in *White Christmas* (Pull-Tight Players Theatre), and March Hare/Mouse/Fish/Jury in *Alice in Wonderland* (Watershed). Megan is profoundly thankful for her family and friends' constant support and to God for every gift He has given her and every opportunity she's been given to share those gifts with others.



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The Cast *(continued)*



Cameron Schulz (Mary Stuart McFall) is 14 and a freshman in high school. She currently lives in Spring Hill, Tennessee, and has been homeschooled her whole life. She not only has a passion for theatre, but also enjoys reading, exploring nature, and playing games with her family.



Detra Walker (Jennie Cheairs) first appeared on a Watershed Public Theatre stage as Snug the Joiner in the 2018 production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Detra is an alum of Tennessee State University and Belmont University Graduate School. She is a native of Columbia, Tennessee.



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The Production Team

Melissa Durmon (Costume Design) holds an MFA in Theatrical Costume, Hair and Makeup Design from California State University Fullerton and a BS in Speech & Theatre from MTSU. She feels fortunate to have worked in film, theatre and television productions for more than two decades spanning from the Southeast to the West Coast. Melissa loves the creative process and thoroughly enjoys traveling. She happily resides in Franklin with her three teens and too many pets.

Kate Foreman (Director) is a Columbia native who has worked in professional theater in Middle Tennessee for over 15 years, including 8 years working for Nashville (formerly Tennessee) Repertory Theatre. Kate is thrilled to be working at the helm of Watershed Public Theatre. Many thanks to husband John, the WPT board of directors, the cast & crew, audiences, friends and family for their amazing support.

Vincenzo Frattarola (Videographer, Visual Media Company) With close to 20 years in film, video production, television, and photography, Vincenzo's experience has been developed from work on the corporate, independent, and startup levels -- ranging from Discovery Communications, Amazon, and NBC, to numerous independent films, including Touchy Feely (2013), written and directed by the late Lynn Shelton. Telling an interesting, entertaining story unique to the subject is the primary focus of every project Vincenzo undertakes. In addition to working frequently with Visual Media Company, Vincenzo continues to study the art of cinematography and video editing in the never-ending quest to improve his craft. He is always open to collaborating on creative projects, especially centered around music, bands, and singer/songwriters.

Ross Jaynes (Videographer, Visual Media Company) is acknowledged as an award-winning and internationally published multimedia producer, specialized in marketing, cinematography, videography, photography, graphic design and other visual media. He aims to incorporate an ingenious mix of his in-depth expertise and experience to guarantee greater visibility of his clients' best available opportunities that genuinely perform for them. Ross also loves to serve the community in any positive way possible. He has been associated with various non-profit organizations serving thousands of hours volunteering.

The Production Team *(continued)*

Sarah Kennedy (Stage Manager) is enjoying yet another Watershed Public Theatre experience. By day she is the director of Ghostlight Books in Spring Hill, which benefits programming at Midsouth Youth Theatre & Arts, for which she also serves as Artistic Director. In between peddling books, teaching, directing and keeping up with her 4-year-old son Benjamin and miscellaneous pets, she also coordinates youth arts field trips and advises for youth arts and education in multiple organizations regionally and nationally.

Beverly Mitchell (Playwright/Director) is a retired professor of English and serves as chair of the Columbia Arts Council. She has embraced this project as a way to reveal and honor Maury County's rich history.

Katie Sellers (Costume Design) has been working in the Nashville area as a costumer for more than ten years. Having worked at Nashville Children's Theatre, Nashville Repertory Theatre, and as a freelance costumer has afforded her the opportunity to work on such fantastic productions as *Avenue Q*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Katie is very proud to be a part of Watershed Public Theatre.

 Sarah Linnea
Photography

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The Locales



The **Historic Athenaeum** in Columbia, Tennessee, is all that remains of two famous girl schools that flourished in the area from the 1830s until the Great Depression. Built in 1837, the Athenaeum served as the rectory for these two schools and was occupied by the same family

for over 130 years. *HistoricAthenaeum.com*



The **James K. Polk Home** is the only surviving residence of the 11th President of the United States (other than the White House). This beautifully preserved American landmark is home to one of the finest Presidential collections in the nation, as well as period artifacts and authentic glimpses of life in the early

1800s in what was then America's Western Frontier.

Polk's presidency represents two remarkable stories: the story of his own unlikely rise from a sickly frontier youth to a powerful U.S. President, and the beginning of America's westward expansion. During Polk's single term, the United States grew from a coastal nation nestled between the Atlantic and the Appalachians to a continental country that reached the Pacific. *JamesKPolk.com*



Historic Rippavilla is located in the heart of Spring Hill, Tennessee and features a stunning and fully restored 1855 Greek Revival styled mansion, complete with original Cheairs family antiques, heirlooms and Civil War artifacts.

The grounds, which span 98 acres in Maury County, encompass the family and slave cemeteries, Freedmen's Bureau school house, slave quarters, and the Battlefield of Spring Hill (precursor to the famous Battle of Franklin). *Rippavilla.org*

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Sarah Kennedy

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Rippavilla
Sarah Tatom

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Maury County Historical Society





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