

SKIDMORE THEATER PRESENTS

JKB SpringFest

Όπταις Άμμε~optais amme

Written and Directed by
Cate J. LeCours '22



CAST

Sariah Johnson '24 Diana
Joe Newman-Getzler '21 Lew
Emma Powell '23 Oliver

PRODUCTION TEAM

Claire Fink '22 Stage Manager
Cameron Jabs '21 Material Culture Collaborator

Special Thanks to Julia May Jonas



Rehearsal photo by Wynn Lee '21

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Όπταις Άμμε is the final play from my *Tales from the Other Country*, a cycle of plays exploring gender, hierarchy, violence, free will, and jealousy.

The Other Country is a faraway land where peasants are ruled by an oppressive feudal Princess. There are two kinds of peasants in the Other Country: boys who cut the grain, and girls who mill and bake it into cakes. Boys who plant the flax, and girls who card and spin it into thread. The boys burn outside under the sun. The girls burn inside at the hearth.

In a rural village, Diana is a wise and independent young woman preparing her trousseau for her wedding. Her talents of poetry, prophecy, and needlework give her an independence that challenges societal norms in her own subtle way. Her fiancé is the earnest but immature Lew, who wants to provide Diana with prosperity— but sees no way to do so, with so much of the grain harvest owed to the Princess.

Meanwhile, a child named Oliver is struggling to find their own place within the Other Country's rigid structures. In questioning their gender, they begin to also question the strict class divides which separate Oliver and the boys not only from feminine labor, but from the wealthy Princess herself.

Thus the Fire Tide is born— Oliver's movement to carve out their own place in the world by challenging the Princess, redistributing wealth, and transcending the gender binary— but soon all the boys in the village are competing to join this new faction, including Lew, and in so doing corrupt Oliver's vision with their violent and misogynistic ambitions for power.

In this play, Oliver is driven to confront Diana, whose individualistic forms of resistance are at odds with the Fire Tide's professed collectivism. Despite their differing roles and philosophies, Oliver finds they have a surprising amount in common with Diana, and is tempted to develop solidarity with her. But the boys of the Fire Tide are always watching, and that is a very heavy weight to bear.

Soon I will be far away. And thou mayst be obsolete. But my words will outlive us both. These words belong to everyone. These poems, and these yarns, and these colors, and these stories. These vocabularies. These worlds. They belong to everyone. Do not forget it.

– Cate J. LeCours



Rehearsal photo by Wynn Lee '21



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CAST BIOS

Sariah Johnson '24 (Diana) is an English and Theater double major. Their previous non-Skidmore credits include *Little Women* (Beth), *Crushed* (Female Narrator), and *Comedy of Errors* (Luciana). Sariah has trained at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute. They would like to thank their director, stage manager, and cast for an amazing opportunity in their first show at Skidmore.

Joe Newman-Getzler '21 (Lew) is a Theater major. His previous Skidmore credits include *Unison* (Ned) and the senior project *Everyman* (Ensemble), as well as various crew jobs. He has studied acting at the British-American Drama Academy in London as well as at various other small programs and companies. He'd like to thank Jul for their limitless creativity, Claire for always being on top of things, the entire wonderful cast, and Layla and Luna for being small, furry, and endlessly supportive.

Emma Powell '23 (Oliver) is a Theater and Political Science double major. Their previous credits include *By Design* (Natasa) and *Snow White* (The Queen/Doofy). Emma plans to hopefully train at the Gaiety School of Acting next fall. They would like to thank their director for their constant support and this wonderful opportunity.

PRODUCTION BIOS

Claire Fink '22 (Stage Manager) is a History and Theater double major. Her previous credits include *The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other* (Master Electrician) and *Men on Boats* (Dramaturg). She has worked with the Southeastern Summer Theater Institute and plans to go to graduate school for Dramaturgy. She would like to thank her director and the cast members for the incredible experience for her first time stage managing.

Cate J. LeCours '22 (Lead Artist) is a Classics major. Their play, *The Fascists of the Future* was produced as the Playwright's Lab last semester. Cate has also written for and performed with Ad Astra Theatre Troupe and The Glimmerglass Festival, and makes stop-motion films for their YouTube channel. They would like to thank Claire, Ron, Julia, and their wonderful and imaginative cast!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Theater Department at Skidmore College acknowledges that we work, learn, create, and reside on the lands of the Haudenosaunee, Muheconneok, Kanienkehaka, and Abenaki peoples. We thank the elders of these tribes for their past, present, and continued stewardship of these lands. We recognize that land acknowledgement is only a first, small step towards building ethical, reciprocal, and reparative relationships with the indigenous, Native, and First Nations peoples of this hemisphere and we strive to move beyond our words to reflect our intentions through our actions.