

WAM

theatre

2021 Annual Report

Here's how **YOUR** support changed WAM



A NOTE FROM THE TEAM

March 2022

Putting together this 2021 report has given us an opportunity to reflect on all we were able to accomplish during a challenging year. It's truly extraordinary. Thank you for your support throughout the entire pandemic. Because of you, the impact and opportunities you see in these pages were possible.

This year, we are looking forward to returning to our full season of programming, something we have not been able to achieve since 2019. We would not be putting together the vital season we have planned for you in 2022 without your steadfast support.

Thank you for being part of WAM, a place of groundbreaking theatrical stories, female empowerment, and transformative action. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you in the year ahead and hope you are as excited as we are about what is yet to come in 2022.

With endless gratitude, enthusiasm, and hope for 2022,

The WAM Team

P.S. Our performance season kicks off May 1st with a Fresh Takes play reading of *The New Galileos*. Tickets are now on sale including our new Fresh Takes Play Pass.



Cast and creative team of KAMLOOPA



Every time an audience comes together for a theatrical event, a community is formed. WAM Theatre engages that community by producing theatrical events for everyone, with a focus on women theatre artists and/or stories of women and girls, and by donating a portion of the proceeds from those theatrical events to organizations that work to benefit the lives of women and girls in our communities and worldwide.



Through theatre and in theater, we strive for **equality** in **opportunity** and **treatment**.

We make an **impact locally** and **globally**.

We stand up with **integrity**, **honesty**, and **respect**.





Letters to Kamala **March**

WAM Theatre began its 12th season with an online Fresh Takes Play Reading of *LETTERS TO KAMALA* by Rachel Lynett, directed by Nicole Brewer. In the tense lead up to the 2020 presidential election, playwright Rachel Lynett conjured three female American political leaders of the past to share their wisdom, perspective, and wry humor with VP candidate Kamala Harris.



Torie Wiggins as Charlene Mitchell, Lilli Hokama as Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink, and Shannon Lamb as Charlotta Bass



Elle Borders and Brandon G. Green

The Light **April**

In April, WAM produced a virtual reading of the sensational new play *THE LIGHT* by Loy A. Webb, directed by Colette Robert. A surprise proposal gift puts the future of Genesis and Rashad's relationship at risk when they are forced to confront a devastating secret from the past. WAM's reading featured real-life Boston couple Elle Borders and Brandon G. Green.

“Wonderful mission, WAM walks their talk!”

Audience member, Pittsfield

Where We Belong **June**

WAM streamed Madeline Sayet's stunning Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company film adaptation, produced in partnership with Folger Shakespeare Library. Madeline's story echoes a journey to England braved by Native ancestors in the 1700s following treatise betrayals – and forces us to consider what it means to belong in an increasingly globalized world. The special limited engagement was a benefit for WAM, with proceeds dedicated to furthering and deepening our accountability work.



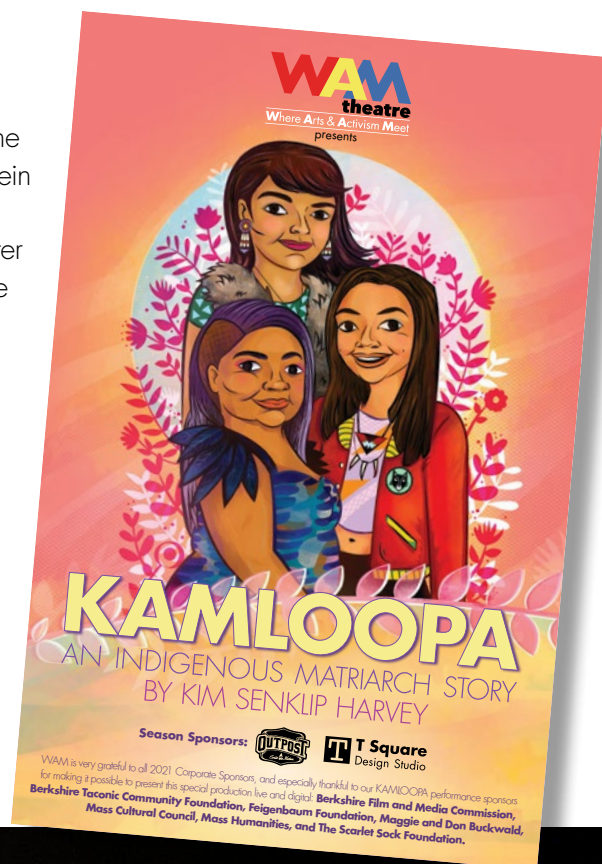
Madeline Sayet in *WHERE WE BELONG*. Photo credit Jon Burklund (Zanni Productions)

KAMLOOPA

In the fall, 1000 people experienced the US premiere of *KAMLOOPA: AN INDIGENOUS MATRIARCH STORY* by Kim Senklip Harvey, winner of Canada's prestigious Governor General's Award for English Language Drama, directed by Estefanía Fadul. The COVID-safe live performances of the new comedy was presented at Shakespeare & Company's Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre in Lenox, MA, and then streamed digitally across the United States. The high energy play follows two urban Indigenous sisters and their encounter with a lawless trickster, as they explore what it means to honor who they are and where they come from.

"Stepping foot into a theater space for the first time in two years of pandemic, this was the absolute perfect piece to encounter there. It was uplifting, culturally competent, present in our moment, and magical."

Kamloopa, Audience Member



"Harvey has set the play in all times in the multiverse, as though these three women can walk into a place where they can knead physics like clay and remake the world by hand."

Kate Abbott, BTW Berkshires

"...a detailed examination of identity and perception..."

Deanna Dement Myers, Theater Mirror

Ria Nez, Jasmine Rochelle Goodspeed, and Sarah B. Denison

Beneficiary Update

In keeping with WAM Theatre's mission, **WAM was thrilled to donate \$1,850 raised from Kamloopa ticket sales to the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohicans Family Services Center** for their healing work with women in the community.

The Family Services Center provides the Stockbridge-Munsee Community with educational programming and vital daily services such as after-school programming for K-12 students, homeless and domestic violence shelter, emergency food and clothing, supervised visitation for youth and elders, independent living skills classes, transportation and family fun.

The donation from WAM Theatre's production of *Kamloopa* will be put towards healing for women in the community. Kori Price, the Center's longtime manager, is planning...



“social gatherings with the females such as: tea parties, mediation, and sharing groups, self-reflection sessions, reiki sessions and painting/art classes.” She also notes that...

“we would like to provide personal hygiene bags to the women.”

For our 2021 Fresh Takes Reading Series WAM made a donation to the following organizations that were uplifted by the artists involved in our reading series:

- Women of Color Health Equity Collective
- The Loveland Foundation
- ACL Japanese Citizens League
- WINNYC Supporting Families Without Homes and (after the terrorist attack in Atlanta) Support the AAPI Community "Go-Fund-Me" Campaign.
- Elizabeth Freeman Center (our domestic violence/sexual assault prevention non-profit in Berkshire County)

This brings WAM's **donation total** since its founding in 2010 to more than **\$80,000**

ACCOUNTABILITY

In January 2021, WAM released an accountability plan to you, our WAMily, to invite you to share our journey. The full document can be read and downloaded here:

<https://www.wamtheatre.com/our-story/accountability-work/>

That living document itemizes how the WAM board and Team are working towards being an anti-racist and accessible organization. It focuses on three key areas: Leadership and Training, Productions and Season Planning, and Audiences and Community Engagement.

Here are a few examples of our forward movement in 2021:

Leadership and Training:

- Participated in a year-long Inclusive Leadership Cohort
- Held monthly board and team accountability meetings
- Adjusted staff pay in line with our pay equity work

Productions and Season Planning:

- Continued to work closely with our BIPOC staff advocate, Tenda Loftin
- Our 2021 artists were 100% BIPOC
- Eliminated extended tech hours and have a 5 day rehearsal week

Audiences and Community Engagement:

- Implemented an accessible ticket pricing system
- Implemented media accountability protocols
- Our production of KAMLOOPA was opened by a Mohican ceremonialist



Hampshire College at Kamloops

Community engagement is a central part of WAM Theatre's activist mission. We program workshops, classes and conversations that are responsive to the needs of the community in the contemporary moment. In 2021, coming together in person for the first time after Covid-19 hit, we took inspiration from the Indigenous practice of stories as medicine (taught to us by Madeline Sayet) and facilitated the following programming:

Story-circle workshops with affinity groups of Berkshire community members including

- college students
- public school teachers
- parent-artists and
- elders (women 65+)

provided creative space for reflection on their pandemic experiences for over 40 community members.



Mother's Story Circle

"...there is a whole other piece to the reality of inhabiting the roles of mother and artist that can be difficult to articulate, and often feels isolating. How great to be face to face with other people who are experiencing life in a similar way!" Hāna Kenny, Story Circles Participant

A **week-long creative drama workshop** with 3rd-5th grade students from Southern Berkshire Regional School District. After a disrupted school year, many of these students have fallen behind academically and socially, and needed a creative space to reconnect with each other and their own potential as learners.

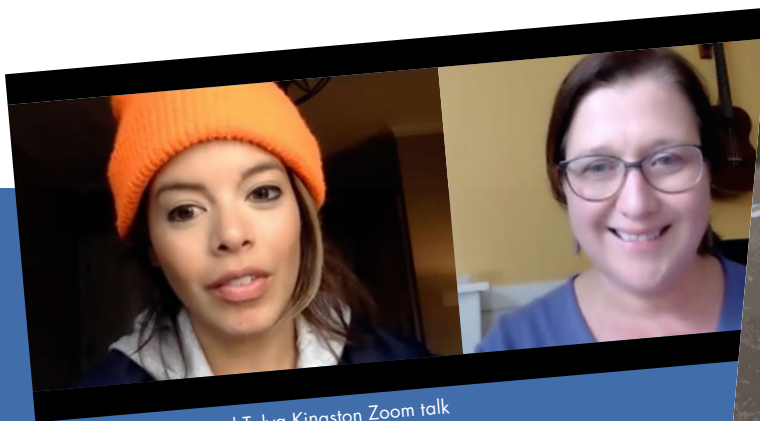


Pittsfield High School Students Watching Kamloopa

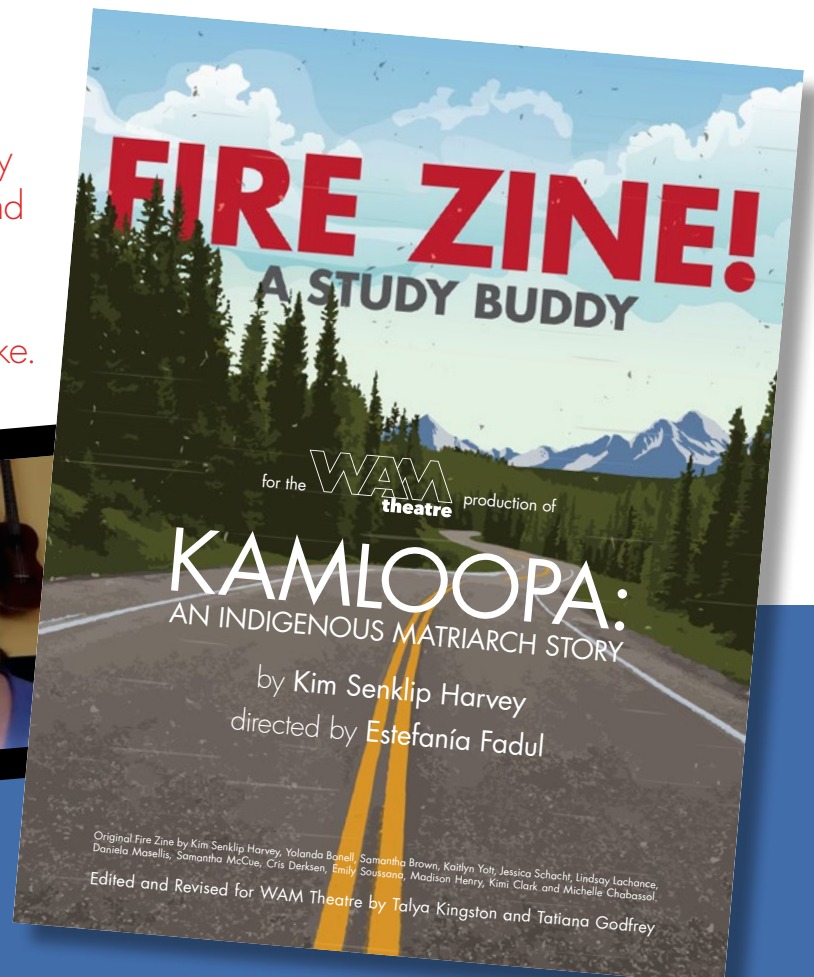
*"An inspiring play for everyone.
Very relatable to me as someone
who lives in a place that doesn't
feel like my own."*

Pittsfield High School student after watching Kamloopa.

Kamloopa materials and conversations (designed in collaboration with Indigenous Consultants) included: a study guide, video interview with the playwright and artists, lobby displays, and a zoom seminar on "Presenting Indigenous Theater" led by Kamloopa Stage Manager Amanda Nita Luke.



Kim Senklip Harvey and Talya Kingston Zoom talk



WAM 2021 Team & Board



Cate Alston
Artistic Associate

"Being able to have a hand in both technical and performance aspects of theatre allowed me to learn more about the entire process. WAM has allowed me to understand just how many moving parts there are and made me feel like a true collaborator."



Tatiana Godfrey
Dramaturg and Teaching Artist

"To me, Community Engagement means that we're removing unnecessary barriers to entry. We are actively working to remove obstacles for those members of the community for whom there are serious roadblocks to actively participating in cultural events."



Trena Loftin
Teaching Artist

"I respect WAM's commitment to, not only the ongoing development of, but the implementation of their accountability plan. It's more than just words on a page- it's about showing up to do the work again and again. WAM continues to show up!"



Dori Parkman
General Manager

"Something you can't tell from the financials is how we found ways to connect with our WAMily, despite the tremendous challenges of the Pandemic. The feeling of support that we received from so many individuals kept us going. Experiencing the support and encouragement of our community is one of the most motivating and rewarding parts of being part of the WAM team."

2021 Board

Erica Barreto

Toni Buckley, Vice-President

Carolyn Butler, Secretary

Margaret Fluhr

Wendy Healey, President

Ellen Ring

Diane Scott, Treasurer

"My eight years working with WAM have been incredibly rewarding. I've developed as an artist, activist, and administrator through creative and collaborative work with our outstanding team, board and artists!"



Gail Burns
PR & Marketing Associate

"Our performances mostly invite audiences in to watch and receive a story. I believe that it is equally important for an activist theatre company to facilitate creative spaces where we receive our community's ideas and open up our artistic process."



Talya Kingston
Associate Artistic Director

"I am incredibly amazed by WAM's team and board. The amount of time, talent and passion contributed is immense. They uplift our community through their work, and collaborating with them is the highlight of my job."



Molly (Clancy) Merrihew
Managing Director

"Each day, our accountability work integrates more and more with every other area of WAM, from ticketing to hiring to programming. We also continue to fail and create harm. Cultural humility is what we aim for in all our actions. Thank you for continuing to hold us accountable in 2022."



Kristen van Ginhoven
Producing Artistic Director

"For the past 13 years, WAM has created dynamic, magical, storytelling environments to bring the power of our plays straight into the hearts of the audience. Will you join us? Together we can make magic happen."



Juliana von Haubrich
Production Manager

Marketing Consultant Laura Roudabush Consulting
Graphic Design T Square Design Studio
Accountant Prix-Fixe Accounting

Despite all of the uphill battles of the pandemic, we are grateful for how much we have accomplished with YOUR support, including our ability to storytell through theatre, maintain our community outreach opportunities, and keep our staff and artists employed.

"WAM is a unique treasure among the world-class performing arts community here in the berkshires"

Audience Member, Pittsfield, MA

"WAM is a beacon of hope in the theater industry...creating an equitable and inclusive culture for theaters."

Shela L., Pittsfield, MA

"Your mission of blending art with social justice activism is brilliant and such important work! Keep up this battle!"

Tommie H., Becket, MA

"I love the wonderful community WAM has built, and the way you support women."

Audience Member

"Much of my personal growth has been impacted by WAM Theatre. It reaches me in a way that reading and lectures just don't. So thank you for all that you do to make it happen!! Such important work!"

Karen Clark, Housatonic, MA

"I am amazed that WAM is presenting live theatre and also supporting a cause, especially at this time where everything is so iffy, it's wonderful!"

Audience Member, Schenectady, NY

"From what plays WAM produces to casting practices, recruitment and retention, WAM is creating an equitable and inclusive culture for theaters."

Audience Member, Pittsfield, MA



Ria Nez, Jasmine Rochelle Goodspeed, and Sarah B. Denison in KAMLOOPA

With your help, WAM brings artists and audiences together to shift narratives, explore the injustices of our world, and raise not only awareness, but also crucial funds, for organizations on the front lines of this crisis.

2021 Volunteers, thank you for your hard work and dedication to WAM Theatre. We could not do our work without your support:

Barbara Allardyce
 Leslie Applegat
 Bet Azar
 Louise Barber
 Kate Barton
 Don Betit
 Myla Blum
 Vicki Bonnington
 Esther Budnick
 Helen Busby
 Carolyn Butler
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 Abbie von Schlegell
 Hannelore Vones
 Claire Wernik-Cantone
 Nancy Wilcox
 Nina Wishengrad
 Mike Zippel



Dori Parkman at a Fresh Takes Play Reading

"I'll never forget the thank yous earnestly shared by the audience as they slowly filtered out of the room, the emotional impact visible on their faces and the still heightened energy palpable. It was an honor to be a part of something larger than myself - not just an ordinary piece of entertainment, but a thought-provoking masterpiece made to change hearts and minds."

Arantazú Galdós-Shapiro, Kamloopa, Volunteer Usher



WAM 2019 Gala

We greatly value our volunteers, and would love to have you involved with our WAMily! WAM Volunteer Sub-Committees opportunities include: communications, ushering, hospitality, special events, development, and strategic planning. Contact our Managing Director Molly Merrihew at molly@wamtheatre.com to learn more and get involved with WAM Theatre.

2021 Financial Overview

WAM THEATRE, INC. 2021 BUDGET OVERVIEW

INCOME

Contributed Income

Corporate Support	\$ 20,550
Foundation and Government	\$ 230,682
Individual Donations	\$ 154,401
Subtotal Contributed Income	\$ 405,633

Earned Income

Total Ticket Sales	\$ 35,850
Other (contract services, co-production, tuition, interest)	\$ 3,404
Subtotal Earned Income	\$ 39,254

In-Kind Donations \$ 9,650

Total Income \$ 454,537

EXPENSES

Contract Services/Professional Fees	\$ 82,939
Pre Production/Production Costs	\$ 47,310
Administration	\$ 79,559
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 217,968
Donation to Women's Organizations	\$ 3,850
Donation from WAM	\$ 510

Total expenses \$ 432,136

Surplus \$ 22,401

2021 Sponsors

Producer Sponsors \$5,000



Partner Sponsors \$3,000



Leader Sponsors \$1,500



Patron Sponsors \$750



Supporter Sponsors up to \$250



WAM Theatre is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act for the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Amy Alladonna
Pat Anderson-Schwartz
Anonymous+
Sarah Anthony
Gail and Joel Appelbaum
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 Kathy Walters
 Janet Walton
 Benjamin Warriner
 Washington Cultural Council
 Phyllis Webb
 Liz Weilbrecht
 Francine Weinberg and
 Lawrence Strauss
 Andrew Weinberger
 Wendy Welch
 Judeth Wesley
 Western Mass Code Pink
 Marjorie Wexler
 Whistler's Brother
 Timothy Whittemore
 Shaun Wilde
 Diane Wilson
 Rachel Winell and Andrew Chanyi
 Deb Winslow
 Terry and Jay Wise
 Susan Woglom
 Caroline Wolf
 Jessica Wolf
 Frances and Joel Wolk
 Women's Fund of Western MA
 Katherine Woodhouse
 Adrienne and William Wooters
 Alyssa and William Wright
 Carolyn Yalkut
 Charles Yanikoski
 Natalya Yantovsky
 Rita Yahalem
 Akiyo Yokoi
 Nicole Young
 Janet Young
 Adam Zahler

“Imaginative, current, and cutting edge, WAM Theatre is warm hearted and intellectually stimulating, with deep artistic expression in exploring the pressing issues of our society. A dollar spent in the purchase of a ticket for a theatrical experience and/or a dollar donated assuring WAM’s future furthermore plants priceless seeds in our community inspiring the best in us all.”

George Pinney, WAM Donor



2019 Ensembles

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WAM Theatre is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to creating opportunities for women and girls through arts and activism. Funding from individual donors, and from public and private institutions, is critically important to realizing our mission.

To make a gift or to learn more about WAM’s work, please visit us at:

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This list includes donations received between 1/1/2021 and 12/31/2021. If your name was misspelled or inadvertently omitted, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us at info@wamtheatre.com so we may correct our records.

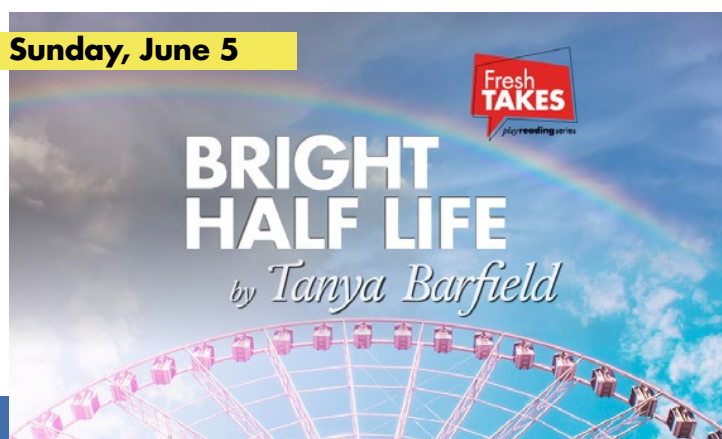
Sunday, May 1



Thursday, July 7



Sunday, June 5



Fall Mainstage Production



Sunday, August 7



PO Box 712 • Lenox • MA • 01240 • 413-274-8122 • info@wamtheatre.com

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