

CHEYENNE GAGNER TOMMY CUMMINGS SPECIAL GUEST WINNIE GUESS PERDUE

FEATURING ACADEMY AWARD RECIPIENT WES STUDI IN THE ROLE OF ATTAKULLAKULLA

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 – 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\*\*\*\* – 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\*\* – 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\*\*\* – 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)                 | Wes Studi             |
| Elder Nanyehi   | Winnie Guess Perdue   |
| Tenia (Nanyehi's mother)  | Alaska Rayne Holloway |
| Oconastota (War Chief of the Overhill Cherokees)                              | Andy Sanchez          |
| Kingfisher (Nanyehi's first husband), Nunnehi                                 | Bretly Crawford       |
| Bryant Ward (Nanyehi's second husband)  | Sam Briggs            |
| Katie (daughter of Nanyehi and Kingfisher)                                    | Amayah Anguiano       |
| Fivekiller (son of Nanyehi and Kingfisher; called Little Fellow in childhood) | Thomas Cummings       |
| Lydia Bean, Nunnehi   | Angelina Villegas     |
| Sequina   | Chrissy Lewis         |
| Young Nanyehi, Ensemble   | Kyra Burrup           |
| Teenage Dragging Canoe, Warrior   | Cole Hogner           |
| Young Sequina, Ensemble   | Madelynn Agnew        |
| Betsy (Nancy and Bryant Ward's daughter), Nunnehi                             | Leilani Kristina      |
| Young Katie, Ensemble   | Price Smith           |
| Sali, Ensemble, Chotan  | Pam Musgrove          |
| Tooka, Ensemble, Chotan   | Siota Studie          |
| Virginia, Chotan, Nunnehi, Ensemble   | Colleen Kirkpatrick   |
| Gov. William Lyttelton, Gov. Thomas Jefferson, Ensemble                       | Jimmy Finnerty        |
| Longfellow (Nanyehi's brother), Warrior                                       | Trey Noe              |
| Col Arthur Campbell   | Fletcher Gross        |
| John Moreland, Warrior  | Armando Rivera        |
| White Settler   | Tommy Swearengin      |
| Isaac Thomas  | Brian Grace           |
| William Peyton, Warrior, Chotan   | Macen Higdon          |
| Ensemble, Chotan  | Judy Ross Moore       |
| Ensemble, Chotan  | Patty Dixon           |
| White Woman #1, Ensemble  | Polly Pickup          |
| Young Dragging Canoe, Ensemble, Chotan  | Ryan Altaffer         |
| Ensemble, Chotan  | Milly Bynum           |
| Ensemble, Chotan  | Bonita Bynum          |
| Ensemble, Chotan  | D'mi Johnson          |
| Ensemble, Chotan  | Jane Lyon             |
| Ensemble, Chotan  | Makayla Hernandez     |
| Ensemble  | Elias Ward            |
| Warrior #1  | Cliff Wofford         |
| Warrior #2  | Casey Riggs           |
| Nunnehi, Ensemble   | Andrea Ellis          |
| Warrior   | David Noe             |
| Warrior   | Bronc Ward            |
| Warrior   | Tiajur Russell        |
| Warrior   | Joel Williams         |
| Warrior   | Michael Sloan         |
| Warrior   | Craig Deerinwater     |

## 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.....         | Sammye Walton                           |
| Director.....                   | Nick Sweet                              |
| Music Director.....             | Becky Hobbs                             |
| Musical Conductor/Arranger..... | Duane Sciacqua                          |
| Stage Manager.....              | Susan Fenrich                           |
| Choreographer .....             | Angelina Villegas                       |
| Fight Choreographer .....       | Tommy Cummings                          |
| Technical Director.....         | Fletcher Gross                          |
| Properties Manager .....        | Mandy Gross                             |
| Costume Designer .....          | 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,  
the Union High School Theater Department, Cliff W. Wofford  
and Nighthawk Production/Casting Indigenous Warriors,  
and a big thank you to Theatre Tulsa.

This production is dedicated to David Webb, our retired  
Executive Producer and forever friend.

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



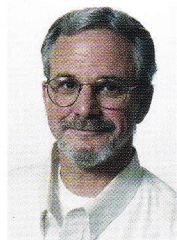
## COMPOSER, CO-PLAYWRIGHT & MUSIC DIRECTOR



**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 more than 20 Billboard chart singles, including

"Jones on the Jukebox" and a 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 and others in Texas, 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 been an artist in residence for the Oklahoma Arts Council since the mid-1980s. The Amy Kitchener Foundation named him Senior Poet Laureate for Oklahoma in 2010 and Texas in 2013. He has

written and directed three centennial productions: "Pride of the Prairie" and "City of Legends" for Bartlesville, and "In Our Own Words" for the Oklahoma School for the Deaf, where he conducted drama residencies from 1987–2008. He is the only honorary descendant of the Association of the Descendants of Nancy Ward.

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



**Sammye Walton** – Sammye 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, Beckaroo Music. Since then, Sammye has gone on to work in technology, hospitality, and human resources. She is currently the head of talent management at Compass. Sammye resides in Tulsa and is a Cherokee Nation citizen.

## MUSICAL CONDUCTOR/ARRANGER



**Duane Sciacqua** – From Madera, California, Duane has been playing music professionally since the eighth grade. Moving to Los Angeles in 1978, he became a noted "guitar slinger" playing, recording and touring with artists Glenn Frey and Joe Walsh (The Eagles), Paul McCartney, Vince Gill, Gary Morris, Rodney Atkins and many others. His recordings have been featured on many television and motion picture soundtracks, including "Airwolf," "Hotshots," "Cobra," "Navy Seals," "Stone Cold," "Hardball" and others. He scored the award-winning short film

"Nanyehi." He and his wife, Becky Hobbs, reside in Nashville. He owns Rough Edges Recording Studio and writes, produces and works as a session guitarist. [www.duanesciacqua.com](http://www.duanesciacqua.com)



## PRINCIPAL ACTORS



**Cheyenne Gagner (Nanyehi)** – Cheyenne is a real estate agent and former Kindergarten teacher from Owasso, Oklahoma. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation, she has been singing throughout the Tulsa metro area and the Midwest since she was 14 years old. This is Cheyenne's third stage production — she is reprising her role as Nanyehi for the second time and recently played Bette Logan in Muskogee Little Theater's production of "Heaven Can Wait." Cheyenne is honored to play this important and historic role again and is grateful for the support from her family, friends and the Cherokee Nation.



**Tommy Cummings (Dragging Canoe)** – Tommy is a member of the Creek Nation and Choctaw Tribe. He is a film, voice, and stage actor as well as a director, and he is playing the role of Dragging Canoe for the second time. He previously played Oconostota in the past several productions. Having studied theatre at Northeastern State University, he has been involved in community theatre for the past 20 years, playing such famous roles 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, playing Fivekiller.



**Wes Studi (Attakullakulla)** – A sixth great-grandson of Nancy Ward, Wes was raised in Cherokee County and has become an internationally acclaimed actor and musician. Drawing from his life experience, Wes moved audiences with unforgettable performances in "Dances with Wolves," "The Last of the Mohicans," "Geronimo: An American Legend," and "Heat," as well as James Cameron's "Avatar," Paul Weitz's "Being Flynn" and Scott Cooper's "Hostiles." In 2019, Wes received the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences'

Governors Award, an honorary Oscar statuette, given to honor extraordinary distinction in lifetime achievement. He grew up speaking only the Cherokee language until he entered school. He joined the U.S. Army and served one tour in Vietnam. After an honorable discharge, Wes became seriously involved with Native American politics. He joined the American Indian Movement (AIM) and participated in the Trail of Broken Treaties protest march in 1972. Afterward, Wes moved to Tahlequah where he worked for the Cherokee Nation and later attended Northeastern University. After college, Wes began running his own horse ranch and became a professional horse trainer. It was during this era that he began acting at The American Indian Theatre Company in Tulsa in 1983, which he has successfully continued to the present.



**Winnie Guess Purdue (Elder Nanyehi)** – A Cherokee Nation citizen and descendant of Sequoyah, at age 9 Winnie 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," and she has been recognized as a Dream Keeper by the Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs

Commission. Winnie portrayed the elder Nancy Ward in the short film "Nanyehi." She appears in the PBS documentary "Searching for Sequoyah" and Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon." Named Oklahoma Female Senior Athlete of the Year in 2004, she was a Senior Olympics gold and silver medalist in track and field for 20 years.



**Sam Briggs (Bryant Ward)** – Sam has been singing and dancing for more than a decade. He has appeared in "Sunday in the Park..." as George, "Sweeney Todd" as Anthony, "Oklahoma!" as Curly and "Les Misérables" as Marius. Sam was the winner of the 2019 Tulsa Sings! competition and was honored with a Tulsa Award for Theatre Excellence for his work in Theatre Tulsa's "Amadeus." Sam is a member of the Filstrup Resident Artist Company at Tulsa Opera.



**Bretly Crawford (Kingfisher)** – Bretly is a proud Cherokee Nation citizen who was raised Shawnee and celebrates his background. Bretly has performed at Theatre West alongside Sal Sabella, known for his role as the Phantom in the national tour, and Austin Winters, a professional actor from Wisconsin. He has trained with Michael McKelvey, professor at Carnegie Mellon Conservatory; Patrick Newell, artistic director at Theatre West and trainer of the Sweetland Voice; and Barbara McAlister, an acclaimed opera star. He has also assisted Tiffany Tabor, former rockette in Legally Blonde.



**Andres "Andy" Sánchez (Oconostota)** – Currently president of Muskogee Little Theater, Andy is a native of Aurora, Illinois, the youngest of nine children. He moved to Tulsa at a young age. Performances at MLT 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. He previously portrayed Attakullakulla.



**Chrissy Lewis (Sequina)** – Chrissy has been performing for more than 30 years on stage and in film. She studied theater at the Universities of Texas and Arizona. She has been active both on and off stage at the Muskogee Little Theater for 18 years. She played Tenia in the 2019 production and Sequina in 2021 and 2023. She is a proud citizen of the Muskogee/Creek Nation.

**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 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 share the stage with her son, Thomas Cummings.

**Thomas Cummings (Fivekiller)** – This is Thomas' second year in the 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 12 years old and in the seventh grade. She is honored to reprise her role as young Nanyehi for the fourth year with this phenomenal production and legendary cast! Since age seven, she has worked in more than 20 theatre and film projects. She is also a singer/songwriter who plays piano. Kyra appreciates the support of her family and her favorite kitty, Winnie.



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