

MICHELLE HONAKER

TRAVIS FITE

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 – Beloved Woman of the Cherokee**

Music and Lyrics by Becky Hobbs  
Book by Nick Sweet and Becky Hobbs

Producer – David Webb  
Director – Nick Sweet  
Music Director – Becky Hobbs  
Musical Conductor/Arranger – Duane Sciacqua  
Technical Director – Tim Turner  
Stage Manager – Melissa Sparks  
Choreographer – Christina Jenkins

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

All songs written or co-written by Becky Hobbs

\*with Duane Sciacqua

\*\*with James Nihan

\*\*\*with Nick Sweet

\*\*\*\*with Nick and Peggy Sweet



## CAST

Nanyehi (called Wild Rose in childhood, Nancy Ward by whites).....	Michelle Honaker
Dragging Canoe (Attakullakulla's son, War Chief of the Chickamauga).....	Travis Fite
Attakullakulla (Nanyehi's uncle, Peace Chief of the Cherokee) .....	Sidney Flack
Tenia (Nanyehi's mother).....	Amber Leilani Awalt
Oconastota (War Chief of the Overhill Cherokees) .....	Mitchell Tiger
Kingfisher (Nanyehi's first husband).....	Andrew Zapata
Bryant Ward (Nanyehi's second husband).....	Gustav Pennington
Katie (daughter of Nanyehi and Kingfisher) .....	Natalia Rossi
Fivekiller (son of Nanyehi and Kingfisher; called Little Fellow in childhood) .....	David Barnoski
Betsy (Nancy and Bryant Ward's daughter) .....	Chloe Kennedy
Lydia Bean, Nunnehi.....	Angelina Villegas-Cummings
Sequina.....	Candice Byrd
Teenage Nanyehi, Ensemble.....	Rose DeWeese
Teenage Dragging Canoe .....	Darrien Snyder
Teenage Sequina, Ensemble.....	Taylor Pearce
Young Katie, Ensemble.....	Blanca Jaramillo
Sali, Ensemble .....	Rita Peter
Tooka, Ensemble .....	Lea McCormick
Virginia, Ensemble.....	Peggy Sweet
Gov. William Lyttelton, Chotan, Col. Arthur Campbell.....	Alan David "Dice" Dawson
Isaac Thomas, Thomas Jefferson.....	Hunter Cates
Longfellow, Warrior.....	Jake Powers
White settler, Mr. Moreland.....	Chuck Osuna
Cherokee Woman #1, Ensemble .....	Dianne Barker Harrold
Cherokee Woman #2, Ensemble .....	Debra West
Cherokee Woman #3, Ensemble .....	Kourtney Vann
Ensemble .....	Jane Duenner Lyon
Ensemble .....	Jocelyn Evans-Palmer
Ensemble .....	Anastasia Root
Ensemble .....	Sabriah Hoover
Ensemble .....	Allie Jaramillo
Ensemble .....	Jasmine Hoskin
Ensemble .....	Madi Kupec
Ensemble .....	Kennedy Chase
Ensemble .....	Kaelynn Duncan
Ensemble .....	Olivia Fite
Ensemble .....	Arriana Peter
Ensemble .....	Gavon Peter
Warrior .....	Matt Griffiths
Warrior .....	Kevin Snider
Warrior .....	Zak Khamliij
Warrior .....	Jorge M. Moreno
Nunnehi.....	Becca Worthington
Nunnehi.....	Andrea Collins
Nunnehi.....	Graceson Todd
Nunnehi.....	Malia Aurigemma
Little Fellow .....	Dennis Duncan
Young Dragging Canoe.....	Bryton Snyder
William Payton.....	Andy Axwell

## MUSICIANS

Becky Hobbs..... Piano, keys  
 Duane Sciacqua ..... Electric, acoustic and synthesized guitars  
 Jim Paul Blair..... Mandolin, acoustic guitar and percussion  
 Jim Lofton ..... Bass  
 Ron Boren..... Percussion  
 Farren Mayfield..... Synthesizer, additional keys  
 Arthur Thompson ..... Drums

## CREW and OTHERS

Producer ..... David Webb  
 Director ..... Nick Sweet  
 Music Director ..... Becky Hobbs  
 Musical Conductor/Arranger ..... Duane Sciacqua  
 Technical Director ..... Tim Turner  
 Stage Manager ..... Melissa Sparks  
 Choreographer/Fight Coordinator ..... Christina Jenkins  
 Properties Manager ..... Peggy Sweet  
 Properties Assistant..... Lea McCormick  
 Costume Designer..... Cherokee National Treasure Tonia Weavel  
 Graphic Designer ..... Peyton Grufik  
 Vocal Director..... Tim Turner  
 Hair and Makeup..... Michelle Widener  
 Assistant Stage Manager ..... Chloe Kennedy  
 Dance Captain..... Andrea Collins

Special thanks to Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker; Rev. Rich Kilmer and the Broken Arrow Church of Christ; Peach Williamson; David Hampton and the Association of the Descendants of Nancy Ward; Troy Powell and the Union High School Theater Department; and Gary and Barbara White.

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



For more historical information about Nancy Ward or for genealogy questions, please visit [www.nancyward.org](http://www.nancyward.org).

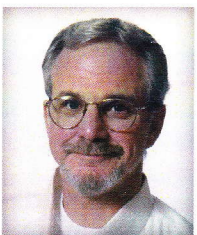


## COMPOSER, CO-PLAYWRIGHT AND MUSIC DIRECTOR



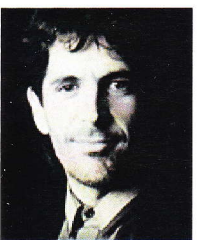
**Becky Hobbs** – Born and raised in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Becky Hobbs is a 5th-great granddaughter of Nancy Ward (Nanyehi) and a Cherokee Nation citizen. Her song, "Angels Among Us," as recorded by Alabama, is used to raise money for charities throughout the world. Other songs of hers have been recorded by Conway Twitty, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Glen Campbell, Emmylou Harris, Helen Reddy, Shirley Bassey, Wanda Jackson, Janie Fricke, 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," "Honky Tonk Saturday Night," and a Top Ten Duet with Moe Bandy, "Let's Get Over Them Together." The "Beckaroo" has performed in more than 40 countries and lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with husband, Duane Sciacqua. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame on Oct. 16, 2015.

## DIRECTOR AND CO-PLAYWRIGHT



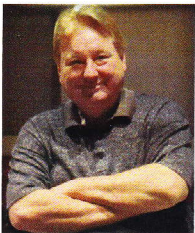
**Nick Sweet** – Nick Sweet has been a freelance stage director since 1977 and has directed 135 productions for theatres in Oklahoma, Texas, Alaska and Georgia, including the outdoor historical drama, "Trail of Tears," at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He co-founded the drama program at Oklahoma Wesleyan University and directed the college's first five musicals and taught humanities, literature, english, communications and musical theatre direction. As a historical playwright, he wrote and directed "Pride of the Prairie" and "City of Legends" (Bartlesville's centennial plays), along with many others. He conducted month-long residencies at OSU from 1968-2008. Nick was named senior poet laureate for Oklahoma in 2010 and Texas in 2013 by the Amy Kitchener Foundation. He has been named as the only honorary descendant of the Association of the Descendants of Nancy Ward. He and his wife, Peggy, reside on the outskirts of Houston, Texas.

## MUSICAL CONDUCTOR/ARRANGER



**Duane Sciacqua** – Duane is from Madera, California. He has been playing professionally since the 8th 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, 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 and his wife, Becky Hobbs, reside in Nashville, Tennessee, where he owns Rough Edges Recording Studio, writes, produces and works as a session guitarist.

## PRODUCER



**David Webb** – After putting up posters for Jim Halsey, David Webb started his own music booking agency. Becky Hobbs' group, The Four Faces of Eve, was one of the bands he booked. A move from Lawrence, Kansas, to Chicago, Illinois, led him to work alongside Muddy Waters and Willie Dixon. While in Chicago, David became a partner in Celebration Productions, and later the VP of sales and marketing for Ovation Records. A big hit by country duo The Kendalls, "Heaven's Just A Sin Away," led David to Churchill/MCA, where he worked with artists Roy Clark, Hank Thompson and Ronnie Dunn (Brooks and Dunn). In 1983, "The Godfather of Soul," James Brown, joined Churchill, and David both worked with and managed Brown. David has served two terms as vice president of the GRAMMY organization. He is currently the 1st VP of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame.

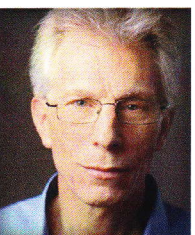
## PRINCIPAL ACTORS



**Michelle Honaker (Nanyehi)** – Thrilled to reprise her role of Nanyehi for the fifth time, Michelle currently lives in New York City where she actively works with AMERINDA, an organization working to empower Native American artists and culture. Inspired by her Cherokee heritage, she spent two seasons performing in the outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" (Nancy) in Cherokee, North Carolina. Honaker received her bachelor's degree in musical theatre from Young Harris College (Ga.) and her stage combat certifications from the Society of American Fight Directors. Off-Broadway credits include "Miss Lead" (Robyn), "Daughters of Leda" (Iphigenia) and "Macbeth" (Malcolm/Witch). She performs with the Native Shakespeare Ensemble, which will present "The Winter's Tale" this December. Michelle gives all the glory to the Lord and sends her love and gratitude to Beckaroo, Nick, her family, and the Cherokee people for their support.



**Travis Fite (Dragging Canoe)** – A Cherokee citizen, Travis Fite studied at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. As a funk-soul musician, Travis has toured with Phat Thumb, What It Is (San Francisco), Leon Russell, Full Flava Kings, Waymon Tisdale Band, Eldridge Jackson and Toni Estes. He often can be seen playing with his funk-fusion ensemble, The Oklahomies. Travis currently runs SoulTree recording studio, writing, producing and recording music for local and national artists. He is reprising his role as Dragging Canoe for the fifth time. He and his wife, Deb Watson, live in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



**Sidney Flack (Attakullakulla)** – This is the third year Sidney Flack has appeared in "Nanyehi." He was most recently seen in "The Trump Card" and in Theatre Tulsa's "Glengarry Glen Ross" (Dave Moss). Rev. Flack has played principal roles in Oklahoma films "Gosnell," "A Small Town Murder," "The Harvesters" and "Children of the Corn: Runaway." He pursued a B.F.A. in acting at Carnegie Mellon University and received a M.Div. from Wartburg Theological Seminary. A pastor for 31 years; Rev. Flack has served the last 15 years at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tulsa. He is grateful for the support of his family and parish, as well as the heroic efforts of his agent, Ms. Becky Switzer.



**Candice Byrd (Sequina)** – A native of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and of Cherokee, Quapaw and Osage descent, Candice Byrd is portraying Nanyehi's friend, Sequina, for the fourth time. Her theater highlights include "Sliver of a Full Moon (Terri Henry)," "Crimes of the Heart" (Lenny), "After Miss Julie" (Christine), "Spider's Web of Stories" (Spider) and she played the title role of Nanyehi for the production's 2011 workshop in Tulsa. Candice received her M.F.A. from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2015.

**Mitchell Tiger (Oconastota)** – Mitchell is a Creek citizen who was born in Tahlequah. He attended high school in Eufaula, Oklahoma, and studied music at Northeastern State University. Mitchell has performed as an independent music artist since 2005, and he created the independent music label "Make More Music." He currently lives in Tulsa and has two children, Raven and Ivory.

**Andrew Zapata (Kingfisher; warrior)** – Actor and singer, Andrew Zapata, has recently appeared as Ali Hakim in Theatre Tulsa's "Oklahoma," Anthony in "Sweeney Todd" at Oklahoma City's Reduxion Theater and Schroeder in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." He was a resident young artist with the Ohio Light Opera in 2015 and has performed with the Tulsa Opera chorus in "La Bohème" (Sergeant). A native of west Texas, Andrew received a degree in vocal performance from OCU and currently resides in Tulsa.

**Gus Pennington (Bryant Ward)** – From the Tulsa area, Gus is reprising his role from the 2015 production. He has been acting and singing since he was a small child. His previous acting roles include parts in "Les Miserables," "Young Frankenstein," "Footloose," "Miss Saigon" and "The Sound of Music" (Captain Von Trapp).

**Amber Leilani Awalt (Tenia)** – A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, Amber Leilani Awalt received her B.A. in communications from Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, Texas. She now teaches at Oneta Ridge Middle School in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. She has previously appeared in several community playhouse productions. She and her husband, Brett, live in Tulsa.

**Angelina Villegas-Cummings (Lydia Bean)** – A singer, actress and choreographer, Angelina has appeared in and choreographed many productions at the Muskogee Little Theater, notably "Beauty and the Beast," "Chicago," "Cabaret" and "The Buddy Holly Story." She is currently the membership director for the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in Muskogee, Oklahoma, where she lives with her husband, Tommy Cummings, and their two sons, Thomas and Tyler.

**David Barnoski (Fivekiller)** – A Cherokee citizen and native of Tahlequah, this is David's first production. He is reprising the role he played in the "Nanyehi" short film, which is currently in editing. David is a singer and songwriter. He lives in Tahlequah with his wife, Erica, and their children, Solomon, Ariel and Gabriel.

**Rose DeWeese (young Nanyehi)** – Rose has been involved in the arts since she was young, and she has taken vocal lessons from Barbara McAlister. She is a member of the Tulsa Youth Opera. Rose has participated in several school plays and Clark Theater Camps. This is her second time to appear in "Nanyehi."

**SPONSORED BY:**

