



• GUIDING ARTISTS TO SUCCESS •  
SCRIPT, PROJECT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

NAMT 2020 Festival Application  
Re: "Legacy Boy"

January 15, 2020

Dear NAMT Committee,

I am writing to endorse the new musical "Legacy Boy", and the extraordinary writing team, composer Aaron Jones, book & lyrics writers Harley Erdman and Gina Kaufmann, and Kyle Boatwright, who wrote additional music and words. Erdman and Kaufmann are nationally recognized, distinguished theatre professionals. Erdman is a Fulbright Fellow (2016), a prolific playwright, and Chair of the Theater Department at University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Kaufmann worked extensively with Paula Vogel at Brown University on new play development, is a member of SDC, and Co-Director of the MFA Directing program at UMass Amherst. Composer Aaron Jones holds an M.F.A. from the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, New York University, and Kyle Boatwright holds a B.A. from Amherst College in Music, with an emphasis on Musical Theatre Composition, Theatre, and Creative Writing.

"Legacy Boy" tackles issues of misogyny and racism on a modern college campus in a way that absolutely hits the mark. Through the story of Donny Johns, a fifth generation descendant of the school's founder and a reframed Don Juan, we meet an entitled young white man who has been handed everything by virtue of his legacy. The story and music keeps it lively through smart dialogue and an irresistible indie rock score, as Donny engages in a toxic cycle of manipulating students and staff to get what he wants. The trouble begins when the college hires the first black, female president in its history, Loretta Lord, who soon learns she must either stay quiet about the blatant inequities she sees, or speak out and lose whatever power she may have.

As a director, artistic director and producer over the past 24 years, I've read, developed, and produced many new plays and musicals. "Legacy Boy" is the strongest overall new musical and sharpest creative team I've seen, with a huge potential for success as a professional production. The lyrics, script and music are all very strong, the characters are diverse, and the core conflict of the piece represents what is arguably the most important of our time, that of inequity and hate against women and men due to gender, ethnicity, and race. I attended the NAMT Festival in 2019, I feel strongly that "Legacy Boy" is on par with the strong work presented there.

To give you a sense of my credits and background, I am the Founder of Blue Panther Productions (2014-present). We produce professional theatre in San Francisco, New York and London; all staff/artists are compensated.

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I was a member of the investment team for the 2018 Broadway revival of “Children of a Lesser God” with lead producer Hal Luftig. Blue Panther is currently developing a full-length version of the new musical, “Love Goddess”, the story of Rita Hayworth’s assimilation, and tragic rise and fall. Blue Panther Productions produced the cabaret version, titled “Me, Myself and Rita” in London, 2017; the show travels to Tel Aviv in March, 2020. Recent productions in the United States and Europe include “What They Said About Love”, “Colette Uncensored” in London, the tour of “Dylan Brody’s Driving Hollywood” in Chicago, Barcelona, London, and New York, Alicia Dattner’s “The Oy of Sex” in New York, and Toronto dancer Sara Porter’s “Sara does a Solo” at the San Francisco Festival for the Arts. I was the Founding Artistic Director (2005-2015) of San Francisco’s Virago Theatre Company, where I produced and directed “Candide,” “Three Penny Opera,” “A Taste of Honey” and co-developed/produced over 30 original plays and readings, touring select productions in major cities, including George Pfirmann’s new play “AROUSAL” paired with Harold Pinter’s “The Lover” in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York, The Flea Theater; William Bivins’ “Ransom, Texas” in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Laura Lundy (Jan 15, 2020)

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