

Review of "Silent Sky"
By: Kayla Clark

Recently the St. Norbert College theater program presented the play "Silent Sky." This took place in the Webb Theater located within the Abbot Pennings Hall of Fine Arts. The show put on six performances and ran from April 12, 2024, to April 20, 2024.

I had the opportunity to attend the play and found it to be very compelling. The performance was based on the life and story of Henrietta Leavitt, a young aspiring astronomer who moved to Massachusetts after getting a job at Harvard Observatory. However, upon arrival, she faces various challenges and restrictions regarding what she is allowed to do and her place in the institution. It follows her story as she challenges these societal expectations and pursues her studies of the stars, even when the odds are stacked against her.

The play was made up of a small cast of five St. Norbert students, but that allowed for a much more emotional performance to be conveyed. Cast members include Violet Hagen (Margaret Leavitt), Will Mlenar (Peter Shaw), Naina Rattu (Henrietta Leavitt), Jacqueline Stumpf (Williamina Flemming), and Violet Hagen (Annie Cannon).

The students put a great deal of work into this performance during the spring semester and it showed. Beyond the physical performance, the sets were beautifully constructed and the use of lighting to reflect different constellation patterns and stars only enhanced the stories. Themes of gender equality and progress were evident throughout the show, and the addition of astronomical elements amplified the already well-developed story. All in all, the theater program put on an enjoyable yet emotional performance of a moving and historically significant story.