

**Marshall High School's
Statesmen Theatre Company**

presents

**B L U E
STOCKINGS
BY JESSICA SWALE**

With Original Music by Laura Forrest–Hay

By arrangement with Nick Hern Books (UK)

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Originally Produced at the National Theatre (UK) Studio & the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA) in 2012; then at the Globe Theatre, London in 2013.

**Any video and/or audio recording of
this production is strictly prohibited**

Cast (in order of scene appearance):

Students Molly Brewer, Nia Evans, Georgia Streett
Tess Moffatt..... Sophia Welch
Dr. Maudsley Omar Falki
Elizabeth Welsh Sophia Alexander
Maeve Sullivan..... Han Nguyen
Celia Willibond Reyna Berry
Carolyn Addison..... Natasha Dormont
Mr. Banks Daniel Petry
Edwards Elliott Boon
Holmes Ethan Taylor
Lloyd..... Kaden Hughes
Will Bennett..... Graham Poteat
Ralph Mayhew Benjamin Campagnuolo
Miss Blake..... Sara Porjosh
Miss Bott Sara Moharerrzadeh
Librarian Nia Evans
Minnie..... Haya Al-Maliki
Billy Sullivan..... Caden Mitchell
Professor Anderson Omar Falki
Professor Radleigh Phillip Goke
Professor Collins..... Caden Mitchell
Maid Molly Brewer
Mr. Peck Omar Falki
Mrs. Lindley..... Saniya Desai
Shop Assistants Molly Brewer, Nia Evans, Georgia Streett
Waitress Georgia Streett
Snooty Woman & Husband Tola Reasons, Phillip Goke
Customers..... Molly Brewer, Nia Evans

Time / Setting: 1896, in and around the campuses of Girton College for Women, Trinity College / Cambridge University in England

Production Team (BOLD denotes Crew Head)

Director	Bernie DeLeo
Co-Director.....	Olivia Tate
Stage Manager	Percy Eisele
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Rayan Afif, Emmie Baldwin
Lights	Maddie Schoepf , Joey Colaianni, Emma Kindelan
Sound.....	Nova Chien, Laila Reja , Adam Berninger, Emma Kindelan
Backstage Crew.....	Samantha Lauber , Joey Colaianni, Sophia Feinberg, Brandyn Heath, Zander Kime, Asher Wise
Props Crew	Allison Petersen , Ashley Chocon Flores, Cordi Norris, Rebecca Thompson
Costumes/Wardrobe	Kieran Mertz, Pressley Stevens , Molly Brewer, Gabriel Cotto-Rivera, Gisela Nunez-Vaca
Hair/Makeup Crew	Kieran Mertz , Erin Kentner-Leary, Sofia Kadkhodai, Valeria Rameriz, Natalie Salgado
Set Construction	5th & 7th Period Tech class
House Manager	Jaya Nath
Photographer/Documentarian	Rhea Newnaha
Dramaturg / Scenic Painter	Rayan Afif
Accent Coach	Nia Evans

Adult Support

Choral Direction.....	Tiffany Powell
Parent Costume Head	Barb Cressman
Publicity Parent Head	Dixie Welch
Parent Photographer	Brian Heath
Graphic Designer.....	Andy Saffron
T-Shirts.....	Stan Darke/DMV Tees

Booster Officers

President.....	Tania Hanna
Vice President	Bonnie Campagnuolo
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An Historical Perspective

Blue Stockings explores an influential school year (1896) at Girton College in Cambridge, England where women are fighting for their right to earn degrees and graduate like their male counter-parts. Four young women encounter challenges that have been ingrained at the root of education for women and their social statuses. Even in the 21st-century, women experience inequality in their social statuses around the world. In the United States, women continue to experience wage gaps in the workplace. Both, in the United States and United Kingdom, women share less seats in parliament compared to men. In Southwest Asia and North Africa, women are experiencing expansive barriers when trying to receive an education or enter the workforce. Needless to say, *Blue Stockings* is an incredibly relevant and powerful piece that symbolizes a key moment in women's fight for equality.

Here's what you need to know about the time and setting:

Queen Victoria (the queen at the time) did not directly support education for women. She believed that femininity surrounded the man and housework and did not include education. However, she had her own education at home that focused on distinct and intricate subjects, specific to her role as a monarch. She took classes such as arithmetic, and learned languages such as French and German. Furthermore, she promoted the work of Stickney Ellis, who spoke on the moral responsibility of women to have an education and use it, but in a way that does not interfere with their domestic duties.

Founded in 1879, Somerville (Oxford University) and Lady Margaret Hall (Oxford University) were the first womens' colleges to be created in England. Girton followed soon after on October 16, 1869 with Cambridge University.

Girton College was founded by Sarah Emily Davis, a suffragette who was educated at home yet proved her and other women's worth through giving "evidence at the school's inquiry commission" (Britannica). Her activism and fight for women's education strayed from her peers in that she wanted equal admissions for women compared to men. Girton was founded with the suffragette mindset but strayed from those ideals to appeal to men so that they could win their right to graduate, but really, to even have the vote.

- Rayan Afif, Dramaturg

Cast & Crew Head Bios



Ryan Afif (*Ass't Stage Manager/Dramaturg/Scenic Painter*), a senior, is ecstatic to be a part of Statesmen Theatre's production of *Blue Stockings*! They have participated in numerous Marshall productions before, both as a tech and actor. You may have seen their play *TheraDate* in last winter's one-act festival *Actin' Out*, or seen them in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Working*, *Edit Profile*, and others! Ryan would like to thank their family, friends, & teachers for supporting their passion for theatre.



Sophia Alexander (*Mrs. Welsh*), a junior, is thrilled to be a part of Marshall's production of *Blue Stockings*! Previously, she has been in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Saved*, and *A Year with Frog and Toad*. She wants to thank her family for driving her to and from rehearsals, the great cast and crew (especially Sara M for being her rehearsal buddy), and her friends for supporting her and always being there. She hopes you enjoy the show!!



Haya Al-Maliki (*Minnie*), a sophomore, is proud to be playing Minnie in the fall play *Blue Stockings*. You may have seen her in *Macho* in last year's Winter One-Acts, as well as backstage doing makeup for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *A Year With Frog and Toad*. She's excited to get back into theatre this year and for years to come!



Emmie Baldwin (*Ass't Stage Manager*) is a junior and *Blue Stockings* is her 5th show working as a tech at Marshall. She has previously worked on props, lights, backstage crew, and is excited to be stage managing again. She would like to thank her prior stage managers Sohani Agarwal & Abby Brunner for showing her the ropes, all the tech crew for working so hard, her friends for helping her through junior year, and the cast for putting in their all during rehearsals.



Reyna Berry (*Celia Willibond*), is ecstatic to be playing an awkward nerd who loves to Can-Can. A senior, this is Reyna's 8th show with Statesmen Theatre. You may have seen her in *Acting Out!* (Terry the Therapist), *Captain of the Bible Quiz Team* (Mrs. Dahl), or *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Egea) last year. A big thanks to everyone who has driven her home from rehearsal (who says legal adults have to be able to drive?) and to her sister for taking the weekend off to come see the show. Now put on your bluest stockings and get ready to cry!

Cast & Crew Head Bios



Elliott Boon (*Edwards*) is excited to be a part of Statesmen Theater again. He is a sophomore, and *has* previously been a part of the ensemble in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and various roles in last year's Winter One-Act Festival *Actin' Out*, both at Marshall High School. He would like to thank his friends for everything and his family for always supporting him.



Molly Brewer (*Maid/Costume Crew/Understudy-Celia & Minnie*) is a Junior at Marshall High School, and is playing the maid and other extra roles in *Blue Stockings*. She has previously played a Munchkin in a *Wizard of Oz* production, a bird in *Seussical the Musical*, and Madame Morrible in a *Wicked Medley*. This is her second year at Marshall and she is very excited that she is able to perform in person instead of online. She would also like to thank her family!



Benjamin Campagnuolo (*Ralph Mayhew*) wonders: has it already been 4 years?! Benjamin started his theatrical journey his freshman year in *The Gifted Program*; took part in 3 online shows his sophomore year, played love-drunk Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and even got to direct his own one act *Macho* last year. He is excited to start his senior year and wants to thank his family for dealing with him through all the college application craziness as well as his amazing and talented cast and crew for helping to put on this incredible show!



Nova Chien (*Sound Co-Head*) is a sophomore who debuted last fall working sound on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, then continued with last year's One-Act Festival, and *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Nova would love to thank their family for supporting all their creative passions, their wonderful friends for being some of the most amazing people ever, as well as fellow sound head, Laila, for being an amazing co-head and friend!



Saniya Desai (*Mrs. Lindley / Understudy-Carolyn*), a sophomore, is pleased to be in her 2nd year participating in GCM's drama program, and her 4th show at Marshall. Saniya caught the acting bug early, participating in her first musical at age 6. Saniya is also a member of Camerata, advanced Women's Choir, and has been dancing since age 2, with training in 8 dance styles. Saniya continues to hone her acting, singing and dancing skills through summer programs, like LM Project (conducted by Broadway performers), and Young Actors of America at the Strathmore.

Cast & Crew Head Bios



Natasha Dormont (*Carolyn Addison*) is a junior who is proud to be making her Statesmen Theatre debut in *Blue Stockings!* Natasha was not only an actor in *Blue Stockings*, but she also worked as a tech and on costumes as well. She would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work and dedication to this production!



Percy Eisele (*Stage Manager*) is a senior and is so excited to be working on his 7th show at Marshall. Previous acting credits include *Be More Chill* (Michael) and *RENT* (Mark) at Harmonia School of Music, and *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (Hippolyta) at GCM. Percy helped build sets for *Under the Sea with Dredgie McGee* at Tyson's 1st Stage Theater. Percy has been a stage manager for *TheraDate* and lighting tech for *Frog & Toad*. They would like to thank their family for their support throughout the years.



Nia Evans (*Librarian / Understudy Maeve & Mrs. Bott / Accent coach*) is excited to begin her sophomore year by acting in her 1st production with Statesmen Theatre. She would like to thank her parents for their constant support, her friends for their encouragement, and the bus services, so she didn't turn into a human popsicle walking home.



Omar Falki (*Dr. Maudsley/Prof. Anderson/Mr. Peck*) is currently a junior at Marshall making his debut with Statesmen Theatre. He'd like to thank his family, though none of them has ever pursued an interest in the arts, but they've always been supportive. He also thanks his close friends for supporting him through all the decisions he's made, stupid or not. He thanks you for reading and advises: just try to put yourself out there, you never know what chances you may receive.



Phillip Goke (*Professor Radleigh/Snooty Woman's Husband*) is a sophomore, and is thankful to be cast in this play. This is his first play here at Marshall but he played Lucas Beineke in *An Addams Family Musical* at Leesville High School in Louisiana before this. He's thankful for this opportunity and for the cast and crew.

Cast & Crew Head Bios



Kaden Hughes (*Lloyd*) was born and raised in the "always sunny" US Virgin Islands. He has always been involved with theater. From lead roles such as Simba in *The Lion King* or JoJo in *Seussical*, he has crafted his theatrical abilities to a great extent. Moving to Virginia last year, he played Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at GCM. He looks forward to continuing his acting in college next year, but will definitely miss his Statesmen Theater home.



Samantha Lauber (*Backstage Crew Head*) is a junior and was in the tech theater class for the past two years. She has worked on last year's Winter one-act *Macho* and *A Year With Frog and Toad* on the backstage run crew. This year she is becoming a paid tech to help out with other theater related activities.



Kieran Mertz (*Costume/Makeup Head*) is a sophomore working his 4th Statesmen Theatre show. He thoroughly enjoys Costume & Makeup which is surprising considering how much he's sobbed over this. You may or may not have seen his work in the past for *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *A Year with Frog & Toad*. He'd like to give a special thanks to his friends for tolerating him, Ms Cressman, our Costume mom, for dealing with his bad jokes, and lastly, Sohani Agarwal, the since-graduated Costume head for teaching him everything.



Caden Mitchell (*Billy / Prof. Collins*) is a freshman who is excited to be in his 1st high school play! Past roles include *Help Desk* (Mike), *Moana* (ensemble) at Jackson MS; *The Beatle Club* (David), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Dill), *A Christmas Carol* (Tiny Tim) at Providence Players; and *Pinocchio* (title role) at Creative Cauldron. When Caden is not acting you can find him playing ultimate frisbee, swimming, or hiking. He thanks Mr. DeLeo, and his parents for convincing him to try theater all those years ago.



Sara Moharerrzadeh (*Miss Bott*), a sophomore, has enjoyed her experience in the Theatre Program with Mr. DeLeo for the past two years. She worked on the crew of *Lagging Out* last year and the spring musical, *A Year With Frog & Toad*. She enjoys working with her fellow actors and is proud to finally see their hard work in the spotlight! Sara would like to thank Mr. DeLeo & Ms. Tate for their help creating Ms. Bott's character, her parents for transportation to and from rehearsals, and Sophia Alexander for being the best "rehearsal buddy" ever!

Cast & Crew Head Bios



Han Nguyen (*Maeve Sullivan*), a sophomore, debuted last year with Providence Players Community Theater and is excited to be in her 1st full-length GCM show. Past roles include *The Beatle Club* (Karen), *Junie B Jones*, *Jingle Bells! Batman Smells!* (Lucile), and *The Mug* (Stephanie). She thanks Mr. DeLeo for this opportunity, her family for not making her walk the long mile home after rehearsals, and her friends for smiling and nodding every time theatre was brought up in conversation!



Allison Petersen (*Props Head*) is a junior and this is her second high school play. She worked on costume crew for *Macho* in last year's Winter One Acts. She would like to thank everyone working on the play and a special thanks to the props crew for working extra hard.



Daniel Petry (*Mr. Banks*) is a senior and this is his 3rd show here at Marshall. He played Father Frog / Ensemble in last year's *A Year With Frog & Toad* as well as Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Daniel moved to Marshall during his Junior year after having done theatre at his previous school in Taipei, and he is so thankful to have become part of such a wonderful community. This is also one of his last plays in high school and he is so thankful to his family who have to seen them all since elementary school.



Sara Porjosh (*Miss Blake*) is so excited to be a part of her 6th Statesmen Theatre show! You may have seen her as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, or Turtle/Mother Frog in *A Year With Frog and Toad*. She also has a passion for singing, traveling the country and competing in vocal competitions. Sara would like to thank her parents for supporting her love of performing and listening to her talk in a British accent during the rehearsal process. She hopes everyone enjoys the show as much as she has enjoyed being a part of it!



Graham Poteat (*Will Bennett*) is in his second year with Statesman Theater, and the second production he has been in (he was in various Winter One-Acts last year). He really enjoys being in theater and appreciates being cast. Graham looks forward to being cast in many more productions throughout his time in the theater department.

Cast & Crew Head Bios



Tola Reasons (*Stuffy cafe lady / Understudy-Mrs Welsh & Miss Blake*), is a junior who is excited to be in yet another theatre production,. Prior to this, Tola has worked on the winter one acts, as well as local productions. Tola has a knack for theatre and truly enjoys the people that come with it. Tola would like to thank her friends for supporting her trying something new, and the theatre department for making this such a fun thing to be a part of.



Laila Reja (*Sound Co-Head*) is a senior and excited to be part of the *Blue Stockings* crew. This is her second show at Marshall, her first one being last year's Winter One Acts on sound. Laila would like to thank her family and her crew members for inspiring her to be part of tech theatre.



Maddie Schoepf (*Lighting Head*) is excited to be a part of the *Blue Stockings* crew. A sophomore, this is her 5th show with Statesmen Theatre. Some of her shows at Marshall include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Captain of the Bible Quiz Team*, and *A Year with Frog & Toad*. Maddie would like to thank her family and fellow tech crew for supporting her in her journey; as well as Ms. Kozik, who started her on her path to lighting.



Pressley Stevens (*Wardrobe Head*), a Sophomore, is working on her 4th production here at Statesmen Theater. She helped with costumes for *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *A Year with Frog and Toad*, as well as organizing the costumes for *The Mug*. She would like to thank her friends at Marshall and Madison, the actors she's worked with, her fellow Techs for helping during the *many* costume crises that have happened during the shows, and AJ Hernandez for forcibly adopting her the moment they saw her.



Georgia Streett (*Waitress / Ensemble / Understudy-Tess*) a freshman, is proud to be a part of Statesman Theatre. Due to COVID restrictions as well as recently moving to the area, Georgia has been away from the stage for a few years, but she's thrilled to be back. She'd like to thank all of her incredible castmates, the crew, her director, and all those involved for their hard work and dedication in making the play a success and for welcoming her to the family.

Cast & Crew Head Bios



Ethan Taylor (*Holmes*) is a senior and is excited to be in his 4th show with Statesmen Theatre. He was a Man-bird in *A Year with Frog & Toad* as well as Francis Flute/Thisby in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* last year. He enjoys singing and biking in his free time. He would like to thank all the cast and crew for all their hard work this fall and congratulates them on the wonderful show they made.



Sophia Welch (*Tess Moffatt*) is a Junior who is thrilled to be participating in *Blue Stockings*. Sophia has performed in a number of shows at Marshall including Peaseblossom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and a lady bird in *A Year with Frog & Toad*. In her free time, Sophia likes to sing, read, and spend time with her friends. Sophia would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her and Mr. DeLeo for giving her this opportunity.

Director Bios



Bernie DeLeo (*Director*) is in Year 5 as Marshall High School's Theatre Director. His 18th year in FCPS, he taught special education at Vienna's Marshall Road ES (3 yrs), drama at Thoreau Middle School (4 yrs), then at West Springfield High School (6 yrs) before coming to Marshall in 2018. Prior to teaching, Mr. DeLeo spent 20+ years working on stage & screen (large & small), as an actor, playwright, sitcom and screenwriter, and film producer in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago & Washington DC. He is a graduate of Catholic University (BFA, Acting), Rutgers University (MFA, Playwriting) and George Washington University (MS, Special Education). Mr. DeLeo discovered theatre in high school, and found it a welcoming environment where he could find out who he was, tap into his creativity and follow his dreams. He is thrilled to have come full circle as a high school teacher, creating the same home for students to explore their talents and make lifelong friends and memories.



Olivia Tate (*Co-Director*) currently teaches IB Anthropology & Government at Marshall High School. As always, she always finds her way back to Statesmen Theatre and loves being a part of every production (when she isn't coaching Marshall Girls Basketball). She hopes you have a wonderful time watching powerful, intelligent women fight for the right to graduate.

STATESMEN THEATRE PATRONS

Statesmen Theatre Boosters rely on the generosity of members of the Marshall Community and the families & friends of students involved in our productions who make donations to support our 5-star theatre program. THANK YOU for your support!

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A Director's Notes....

I was raised by a strong woman. I married an incredibly strong woman. I have brought up a blazing, feisty feminist of a daughter. And many of my friends—you guessed it: strong women. I have never shied away from them; in fact I gravitate toward them. I have always found them way more interesting than a lot of men. I absolutely acknowledge that it is way easier living in modern society as a man; but that doesn't mean as a man I shouldn't be trying to level the playing field—especially as a teacher.

It is a truism of most high school theatre programs that girls routinely outnumber the boys (ask any of my colleagues in the county). And yet so many large-cast plays feature male-heavy casts. Oh sure, there are a number of creaky old plays with large female casts (*The Children's Hour*, *The Crucible*, *The Women*) but their worldviews are wildly outdated and obsolete. There are a handful of newer ones (*Radium Girls*, *She Kills Monsters*) but they are incredibly overdone and not particularly fresh anymore either.

It is also a truism that girls have to work harder than boys in theatre. Argue all you want, but the few boys know they will get more chances, and the girls know there is more competition for fewer roles so they really have fight harder for the scraps. Because of both of these sad facts, I work harder to find scripts with more opportunities for my girls. I scour a couple of theatre teacher Facebook posts & websites looking for new works—but some of them push the envelope too hard, they just aren't appropriate for high school.

Two years back, *Blue Stockings* popped up on one of these discussion threads and I bought the script right away. It wasn't until this past summer that I added it to my tall stack of scripts and read it in the first weeks. Sometimes after reading a script, you just KNOW you have to produce it. And *Blue Stockings* had that effect on me. I put the script down after reading in rapt attention and thought, WOW. Now THAT'S a great story!

Upon first glance—Brit women fighting for educational equality in 1896—I was worried it would be starchy and bland. Nothing could be further from the truth! It felt vitally alive—and surprisingly funny with some fizzy scenes interspersed with the earnest and the dramatic. And wait, what's this? Romance too?? I loved that the script effortlessly weaved in and out of various tones and I had no idea where it was going—and by the time I got to the gut-punch of an ending (but with a glimmer of hope for our girls), I felt I had been on an incredible emotional journey. And I truly felt for these girls. They felt so real, so witty, with soaring dreams and intellects, yet vulnerabilities and real fears. Above all, there was so much heart and compassion and intelligence in this script. And these were some of the most well-rounded women characters I'd ever encountered. I felt as if I knew them. Because I did—I've taught so many girls just like them. And I wanted to see these characters come alive onstage and hopefully positively affect the young women who would play them—and encounter them in the audience.

I absolutely love providing opportunity for my young women. It doesn't mean the boys are ignored—but they'll get so many more opportunities in life, I don't feel I need to really advocate or push for them as hard. There are so many relevant themes upon reading this play right now, so many more fights women must continue to shoulder through. It's been a pleasure watching the cast rip into these layered roles—and a joy to work with another whip-smart woman, Olivia Tate, helping to shape the production with her vital take on the material that I just don't have. I hope you find this story as compelling and meaningful as I did—and that you'll join their fight for equality as well.

— Bernie DeLeo, November 2022

A Director's Thanks...

Putting on a good show requires an army of helpers behind the scenes. I cannot do it alone, and would like to personally thank:

Principal Jeffrey Litz, AP Danielle Schoolcraft, DSS Cindy Blakeley and the entire admin team for supporting this play and the Statesmen Theatre program;

Joe Swarm, Cornell Williams & the Activities Office for helping our cause, and Carla Martinez, Finance Officer, who pays all of my bills on time and takes care of me;

Olivia Tate, who has become my trusted right hand and vital sounding board! I love having you around, and your perspective is always welcome especially on this play!

Tania Hanna, Bonnie Campagnuolo, Dixie Welch & Anu Anaud, our stellar Statesmen Boosters Executive Board Officers! They all have demanding careers, but put in long hours after work to help keep this program alive and thriving—and to all our amazingly generous boosters! Thank you for your time, help and donations!

Maureen Berry, our ticket queen and Dixie Welch, our publicity goddess! Two hard-working ladies who are indispensable to our theatre program!

Sam Jalajel, Vanessa Gelinias, Tiffany Powell & Maeve Nash, for lending their time, talents, props, costumes and expertise to this show!

Phil Charlwood, my loyal friend, who once again, dropped everything when needed to come help build the two giant archways you see onstage. You're a true mensch, Philbert!

Barb Cressman, who's been making costumes & guiding our costume crews the past 4+ years! She puts in countless hours, and is a patient teacher to our students. A former Marshall parent, she's started with me at Thoreau MS (2009!) and continues as my Head Costume Parent all these years later! Thank you so much, Barb—you're the best!

Brian Heath, for taking our headshots and terrific show pictures, and journalism student Rhea Newnaha, for pitching in on publicity pix and putting together a documentary short about our show—it was a pleasure having both of you around and part of the process!

Andy Saffron, my amazing graphic designer since my West Springfield days, and special shout-out to Evelyn Vroom, the artist who created the Woman on Bike image on our key art; I found it on the internet, tracked Evelyn down and she licensed it to us! I love it so much—visit her website at <https://madame-memento.pixels.com> for more wildly cool art!

My other FCPS colleagues for helping on costumes, props and just moral support!

My wife Rebecca & family for putting up with long hours and old man groans.

Any parent who has ever supported our plays in any way, shape, form (and whose names I might have missed here) — thank you for all of your help and support! We couldn't pull this off without you!

