

**THE HENRIETTA LACKS PROJECT  
AT GROSSMONT COLLEGE**

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**GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA**

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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# The HENRIETTA LACKS Project



October 24, Monday • 2:00 pm

Faculty Panel: Room 220 "Race, Class, Gender and the History of Medical Access."

October 25, Tuesday • 6:00 pm

Student Debate: Room 220 Grossmont's debate team hosts a student debate with live audience feedback and post-commentary from an interdisciplinary panel of judges.

October 26, Wednesday • 2:00 pm

Interdisciplinary Presentation: Room 220 Faculty offer insight into their discipline's perspectives on the book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Students share the results of a campus-wide ethics survey.

October 27, Thursday • 7:00 pm

"Page To Stage" Performance: Room 220 Local theater group offers dramatic performance of excerpted material from *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

October 31, Monday • 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Campus Open House: Participating departments will have discipline-specific booths set up with experts prepared to field questions and facilitate discussion. Instructors are encouraged to bring their classes.

November 1, Tuesday • 6:30 pm

Film Screening & Guest Speaker: Room 220 *Miss Evers' Boys*. The film's director, Joe Sargent, and cinematographer, Donald M. Morgan will introduce the film and be available for Q & A afterward.

November 2, Wednesday • 2:00 & 6:00 pm

Guest Lecture by Rebecca Skloot: Afternoon engagement, 2 p.m., San Diego State University. Evening engagement, 6 p.m., University of San Diego (USD). Attendance by registered lottery selection only. Grossmont College will stage a live video feed of both engagements--free and open to all in Room 220.

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## "Page-to-Stage" Performance of Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Adapted by Professor T. Ford

Directed by Charles W. Patmon, Jr.

### Cast of Characters

**Angele Akili:** *Henrietta Lacks (born Loretta Pleasant).*

**Erika Beth Phillips\*:** *Rebecca Skloot, author, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.*

**Da' Jahn Blevins:** *David "Day" Lacks – Henrietta's husband and cousin.*

**Al Small:** *David Jr. "Sonny" Lacks – Henrietta's third child.*

**Alyce Smith Cooper:** *Deborah "Dale" Lacks – Henrietta's fourth child.*

**Elzie Billops:** *Lawrence Lacks – Henrietta's firstborn child.*

**Abner Genece\*:** *Zakariyya Bari Abdul Rahman (born Joe Lacks) – Henrietta's fifth child. Henrietta was diagnosed with cervical cancer shortly after his birth.*

**Camille Davidson:** *Bobbette Lacks – Lawrence's wife. She helped raise Lawrence's siblings after Henrietta's death.*

**Anthony Bell\*:** *Gary Lacks –Deborah's cousin. A lay preacher, he performed a faith healing on Deborah. Cootie—Henrietta's first cousin and first to greet Rebecca in Clover.*

**Monique Gaffney\*:** *Sadie Sturdivant –Henrietta's cousin and confidante, she supported Henrietta during her illness.*

**Brian Rickel:** *Donald Defler—Biology instructor; Howard Jones – Henrietta's gynecologist at Johns Hopkins; Victor McKusick – geneticist at Johns Hopkins who conducted research on samples taken from Henrietta's children without informed consent;*

*Christoph Lengauer – cancer researcher at Johns Hopkins who reached out to members of the Lacks family.*

**Greg Barr:** *Dr. George Gey – head of tissue-culture research at Johns Hopkins. He developed the techniques used to grow HeLa cells from Henrietta's cancer tissue in his lab. Carlton Lacks—oldest white Lacks; married to Ruby.*

**Marlene Barr:** *Margaret Gey – George Gey's wife and research assistant. She was trained as a surgical nurse. Ruby Lacks—married to Carlton Lacks.*

**Sarah Lochmann:** *Mary Kubicek- George Gey's lab assistant who cultured HeLa cells for the first time.*

**Bennie Herron:** *Gardenia's Brother-in-law. He told Bobbette that Henrietta's cells had been in the news due to contamination problems.*

**Jason Allen:** *Roland Pattillo – professor of gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine. First to give Skloot access to the Lacks. He organizes a yearly HeLa conference at Morehouse in Henrietta's honor.*

**Chuanyu "Stacy" Wen:** *Susan Hsu – the postdoctoral student in Victor McKusick's lab who was assigned to make contact with the Lackses and request samples from them for genetic testing without informed consent.*

**Gwen Chamberlain:** *understudy for Bobbette and Mistress of Ceremonies*

*and José Molina Serrano:*

*guitarist, along with Allan Phillips and Quino wrote, "Luna Llena"—the song played to wake up the astronauts aboard space shuttle "Endeavor."*