



TigerLion Arts
presents

Nature



a walking play



The outdoor telling
of Emerson, Thoreau,
and their mutual love
of the natural world.



The 2021 Tour



Exclusively at
Trustees reservations

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TigerLion Arts is a Minneapolis-based production company. We celebrate human wisdom and the spirit of Nature through creative works that awaken, inform, and delight.

TigerLion.org

Creator's Notes

By Tyson Forbes, Markell Kiefer & Sam Elmore



The writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau have held an important place in American Literature for over 150 years. As artists and citizens we have referenced their words in order to find answers to burning questions on how to live our lives more deeply and responsibly in this world. Emerson and Thoreau were both radicals of their time, calling on their peers to think for themselves and to be agents of change. We believe their words and ideas are as necessary now as they were then.

In today's world it is easy to become estranged from our natural environment and we feel that humankind must reconnect with nature in order to survive. As oil spills into our oceans, as we race through our lives, as we look further and further outside ourselves for the answers, it is our hope that *Nature* can be a catalyst for our collective healing.

More than anything, we hope that this play will inspire you to consider a very simple question:

What is your relationship with nature?



Music Notes

By Dick Hensold, Adapted by Laila Sahir



Although most of the music in *Nature* has been composed for the play, the new music is largely modeled on music that was current in New England in the 1840's. Some of the choral music, for instance, is based on shaped-note music, which had its origins in late 18th-century New England, and was still popular there as late as the 1850's. Other singing is based on the old traditional sea-shanties or on New England contra dance music, which is still played today for dancing as it was in colonial times. The period music in the show includes Abraham Wood's terse funeral song "Brevity" from 1800, all the vocal music in the preshow (including the shaped-note hymn, "The Promised Land" and "Tom Bowling," Henry Thoreau's favorite song).

Previous productions of *Nature* also included several songs by Stephen Foster, a popular composer of the period and known to many as "the father of American music." Even though Foster lived most of his life in Pittsburgh, PA, many of his most popular pieces are now associated with the late 19th-century American South, and the works are tied to the minstrelsy form of entertainment popular during this time period. Although a few all-Black minstrel troupes existed, most were composed of white folks dressed in blackface. Considered to be the first distinctly American art form, minstrelsy was exceedingly popular during this time, and folks from all walks of life would come to watch caricatures of both free Black Americans and enslaved



Africans being performed. Many of these caricatures contributed to racist stereotypes that still exist in America to this day. Minstrel shows were performed up until the 1920s, when this performance tradition gradually transformed into burlesque, which then ultimately influenced the performance style of American Broadway musicals as we know them today.

During the 2019 production of *Nature*, TigerLion Arts engaged in an information- and feedback-gathering process with Black singers, musicians, and composers in our community to gain clarity and insight around the impact of including Foster's work in this show. Based on those conversations, the company decided to retain the song "Hard Times Comes Again No More," but to remove "Ring, Ring the Banjo" and "Oh, Susannah!" from the 2021 production of the show. They were replaced with "Skip to my Lou." Known for being one of Abraham Lincoln's favorite childhood party games, "Skip to my Lou" dates back to the 1840s, accompanied by an ice breaker game designed with the intention of giving party-goers a chance to get to know one another, where verses like "lost my partner what'll I do?" are sung while participants switch partners, similar to square dancing. The word Lou is a derivative of the Scottish "loo" meaning love. Additionally, "The Good Old Way" was added to the pre-show music. While the exact origins of this song are unclear, it is believed that the song was written by an enslaved person and was first published in a collection of spirituals in the 1860s.

Additional Sources:

NewYorker.com: "[Can't Escape Stephen Foster](#)"

Wikipedia: "[Down in the River to Pray](#)" and "[Skip to My Lou](#)"

NYTimes.com: "[Stephen Foster's World Truly Was Sad and Dreary](#)"

AllNurseryRhymes.com: "[Skip to My Lou](#)"




Historical Context

By Andrew Schelling



When Ralph Waldo Emerson was approached by Henry David Thoreau in 1837, the thirty-four year old Emerson was already a renowned lecturer, writer, and professor. Thoreau was just twenty, a college graduate, and was training himself as a naturalist in the woods around Concord, Massachusetts, where both men lived. Concord shortly became the United States' intellectual center, the home of the Transcendentalists. Its residents included Bronson Alcott (father of Louisa May), the feminist Margaret Fuller, and Nathaniel Hawthorne.

 From our contemporary point of view, the spiritual heart of Concord was the friendship of Emerson and Thoreau. The men had very different temperaments—Thoreau an outdoorsman in rough clothes, Emerson a former minister. What joined them was a conviction that nature, not religion, would provide humans with spiritual insight, love, and the visions for art. Both abhorred slavery, mindless commercialism, conventional thought, and found solace in wilderness. Their quest was the origin of an American tradition built on nature and poetry.

Thoreau lived for two years on land owned by Emerson at Walden Pond. When Emerson departed

for a European trip he invited Thoreau to live in his house, leaving the younger man with his wife, Lidian, and two children. On Emerson's return, the men had a row, and their friendship ended. Was it temperament? Rivalry over Lidian's affections? For years they went their own ways, each a troubled companion of nature. Their friendship enjoyed an ironic recovery when Thoreau died and Emerson delivered the eulogy at his grave.



Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Standing on the bare ground, – my head bathed by the blithe air and uplifted into infinite space, – all mean egotism vanishes.

I become a transparent eyeball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part and parcel of God.” ~Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Henry David Thoreau

“We can never have enough of Nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees, the thunder-cloud, and the rain.” ~Henry David Thoreau



Creative & Production Team

(and our favorite places)

Markell Kiefer Director/Creator/Executive Producer
Naushon Island

Tyson Forbes . . Writer/Creator/Producer/Set Designer/
Lackey's Bay, Atlantic Ocean Tech & Co-Music Director

Samuel Elmore Writer/Creator
Cuttyhunk, MA

Andrew Schelling Writing Advisor/Contributor
Kippen

Dick Hensold Lead Composer
The Isle of Harris

Norah Long Composer
Swimming in a warm and frolicsome ocean

Jared Troilo Co-Music Director
Any place near water

Beth Norton Community Chorus Director
A forest trail, serenaded by a hermit thrush

Kimberly Richardson Choreographer
Glacier National Park

Christine A. Richardson Costume Designer
The Three Sisters over Phalarope Lake

Chelsie Newhard Movement Coach
Yellowstone

Eric Sharp EDI & Creative Consultant
The mountains of Korea

Kira Cowan Troilo EDI Consultant
Any beach



Eric “Pogi” Sumangil* . . Stage Manager, Asst. Director,
Sunset, Lake of the Isles Marketing & Publicity Manager

Megan Fae Dougherty* Stage Manager
Staring through the trees, watching spiders, birds, or squirrels

Nathan Gebhard Tour & Company Manager
Glen Alps in Chugach State Park, AK

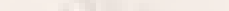
Gabriel Ortiz-Larrauri Asst. Stage Manager
Mountain ranges, i.e. Catskills, Berkshires, Rockies

Laila Sahir Education & Outreach Coordinator
Franconia Sculpture Park in Franconia, MN

Brittany Meehan Costumer
A nice botanical garden

Jeremiah Zortman Operations Consultant
Woods across from my home

Kelsye A. Gould **Graphic Designer**
The Côte d'Azur



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



The Ensemble

(and our favorite places)

Tyson Forbes* Ralph Waldo Emerson
Lackey's Bay, Atlantic Ocean

Cristhian Mancinas-García Henry David Thoreau
The Sierra Madre Occidental mountains, Durango, Mexico

Olivia Duvall Nature
The Beach

Ryan Behnke. Piper/Musician
The Burren, County Clare, Ireland

Nigel Berkeley Hawthorne/Eddy/Ensemble/Crew
California Redwoods, anything treelike

Addison Boger Guide/Ensemble
The lake

Corinne Brooks Elly/Ensemble
Up north, surrounded by trees, water, and ongoing sky

Aimee Doherty* Lydian/Ensemble
The Kaanapali Coast

Deanna Dunmyer* Moody/Ensemble
The ocean

Jay Dunn* Swing/Guide
Minot Beach on the mighty Atlantic

Zoe Garcia Elly/Ensemble
Iceland

Nathan Gebhard Ensemble/Percussionist/Crew
Shores of Lake Michigan



Johnny Gordon Parker/Ensemble/
A beautiful sunrise or sunset Thoreau understudy/Crew

Isa Guitian Fuller/Ensemble
The Dolly Sods in WV, or my mom’s backyard garden

Molly Jane McCarthy Elly/Ensemble
The beach

Sylvan Mayer. Elly/Ensemble
Mount Greylock, Massachusetts

Jared Troilo* Bronson/Ensemble/Emerson understudy
Any place near water

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

Full bios available on our website:
TigerLion.org/Nature



The Community Chorus

Jocelyn Bailin

Sara Ballard

Helen Batchelder

Cynthia E. Bencal

Kate Blair

Anjuman Chowdhury

Barry Copp

Carolyn Copp

Susan Current

Daric Delfino

Ann Donogue

Mary M. Fleming

Erica Josslyn

Anne Ketchen

Richard Ketchen

Amar Kharidia

Michael Lauer

Jeanne Maurand

Gib Metcalf

Brenda Mosetich

Cynthia Nordstrom

Elizabeth (Beth) Norton

Stephen Quinn

Barb Siftar

Ben Soule

Tanya Tupper

Kathy Waugh

Deborah Weiner Soule



Presenters and Venues



TigerLion Arts



The
RALPH WALDO
EMERSON
SOCIETY



Special Thanks

We thank Sharon Franquemont, Dianne Lev, Sam Elmore, Eric Sharp, Kira Cowan Troilo, Beth Norton, Mary Cunningham, Laila Sahir, Kristen Swanberg, Beryl Jolly, Christine Morin, Janelle Woods-McNish, the García family, the Brooks family, Lydia Butler, Peter Makrauer, Amanda Peckham Smith, Oliver Bingham, Jasper Bingham, Colin and Minna Brooks

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Special thanks Housing Hosts:

Anne & Richard Fortier, Darien Smith, Liz and John García, Carolyn & Barry Copp, Danny Emerson, Martha Sopar & Tom Wilsons



Nature for the Nation

Join us on the Journey.



Tigerlion Arts tours **Nature** to parks, arboretums, universities and communities across the country to reconnect the minds and hearts of thousands to the vital influence of nature. We welcome like minded sponsors, partners, and friends to join us in this mission by providing financial support as well as in-kind and local connections.

Tax-deductible donations are warmly welcome at any level of giving. Every dollar helps the tour!



Donate Online Today

or mail your contributions to TigerLion Arts:
730 2nd Avenue South, Suite 1400,
Minneapolis, MN 55402



Nature

The 2021 Tour



Exclusively at Trustees reservations:

1. Fruitlands Museum, Harvard

2. Appleton Farms, Ipswich

3. Francis William Bird Park, Walpole

About The Trustees



Founded in 1891, The Trustees is Massachusetts' largest conservation and preservation organization. Our 121 properties span 27,000 acres across the state—from working farms, landscaped and urban gardens, and community parks, to barrier beaches, forests, campgrounds, inns, museums, and historic sites. They include 75 miles of coastline, 350 miles of hiking trails, and eleven historic homesteads. We are a nonprofit supported by members, friends, and donors. With your support as a member, we can continue to keep amazing places like Fruitlands Museum, Appleton Farms, and Francis William Bird Park open to the public, forever. Join us today! thetrustees.org

Collaborating with parks, arboretums, universities, and communities across the country in this creative movement to reconnect with the natural world.



TigerLion Arts

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