

DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT



BOSTON LYRIC OPERA'S REVOLUTIONARY "DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT"

SETS THE OPERA'S STORY AT THE BIRTH OF AMERICA

Boston playwright Kirsten Greenidge's witty new American Revolution-set story features pieces of Boston history and inspiration from Deborah Sampson.



Brenda Rae (l.) and Spencer Britten (r.) star as young lovers Marie and Tonio.



(BOSTON, Mass.) — April 1, 2026 — Boston Lyric Opera's new production of **Gaetano Donizetti's** beloved comic opera [DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT](#) transports the story from Napoleonic wartime to American Revolution-era Massachusetts, with inspiration from the true stories of revolutionary women Deborah Sampson and Phillis Wheatley. It features new English dialogue by OBIE Award-winning Boston playwright **Kirsten Greenidge** (BLO's "The Anonymous Lover") that blends romance, humor and history amid the battles of the nation's birth 250 years ago.

Conducted by **Kelly Kuo**, directed by **John de los Santos** and performed in English based on the G. Schirmer translation by Ruth & Thomas Martin, revised by de los Santos, DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT plays four performances **April 24 to May 3** at the Emerson Colonial Theatre. Tickets are on sale now at blo.org/daughter.

DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT is part of BLO's "[Voices of Revolution](#)" initiative, which rediscovers stories of America's birth by lifting iconic and overlooked voices in an effort to celebrate the country's history, its present day and its future. "Voices of Revolution" is part of BLO's 50th Anniversary and includes an April 7 [Opera Night at the Boston Public Library](#) event titled "Daughters of Revolution," as well as "[She Was There](#)," June 13-14, that brings together film, music and conversations to spotlight overlooked stories of Black revolutionary women. Details of "Voices of Revolution" events are [here](#).

DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT CAST/CREATIVE TEAM

The cast features **Brenda Rae, Spencer Britten, Kenneth Kellogg, Sandra Piques Eddy, Angela Yam, Neal Ferreira, and Devon Russo**. Cast bios and more information is [here](#).

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In addition to Kuo, de los Santos and Greenidge, the creative team includes set designer **Liliana Duque Piñeiro**, costume designer **Oana Botez**, lighting designer **Reza Behjat**, wig and makeup designer **Earon Chew Nealey**, and intimacy director / fight choreographer **Angie Jepson**. Creative team bios and information is [here](#).

“Bringing *Daughter of the Regiment* to Revolutionary Boston feels especially meaningful as we approach America’s 250th anniversary,” says **Stanford Calderwood General Director and CEO Bradley Vernatter**. “This is a story about belonging and the courage to choose your own path; these are ideas that resonate deeply with Boston’s history and with the communities we serve today. It’s a celebration of the city’s revolutionary past and its ongoing spirit of independence.”

SYNOPSIS

In Revolutionary-era Massachusetts, a baby abandoned beneath a “Liberty Tree” is discovered and raised by a ragtag militia led by Colonel Sulpice (Kellogg). Years later, that child, Marie (Rae), has grown into a fiercely independent young woman, devoted to the regiment she calls family and inspired by the revolutionary ideals taking hold around her. When she falls in love with Tonio (Britten), a devoted outsider eager to prove himself worthy, their romance unfolds against the backdrop of war, political upheaval, and the fight for American independence.

Marie’s world is upended when the aristocratic Widow Birkenfeld (Piques Eddy) arrives with her attendant Hortensia (Yam) and reveals herself as Marie’s long-lost relative, insisting she leave the regiment behind for a life of refinement in Boston. Torn between duty and desire, Marie is thrust into a world of social expectations, secret identities, and arranged marriage. As truths come to light, including revelations about her parentage and the motives of those around her – including the wily Aunt Crakenthorpe (Ferreira) – Marie must ultimately choose between the life she’s been given and the life she wants.

Informed in part by the true story of **Deborah Sampson**, the Massachusetts woman who disguised herself as a soldier during the Revolutionary War, and infused with the spirit and words of **Phillis Wheatley**, who upon her release from slavery became the first African American woman to publish a poetry anthology, Greenidge’s adaptation infuses the opera with local history and contemporary wit – creating a patriotic, laugh-filled tribute to the revolutionary spirit that helped define Boston and the nation.

“Kirsten’s libretto is smart, funny, and deeply rooted in the Massachusetts story,” Nelsen says. “She brings a fresh perspective to this classic, drawing on figures like Deborah Sampson to create a heroine who feels both historically grounded and strikingly modern. It’s a joyful, inventive take that honors the original while making it entirely our own.”

SCHEDULE and TICKETS

Boston Lyric Opera’s DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT plays Fridays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 3 pm from April 24 thru May 3, 2026 at the Emerson Colonial Theatre. Tickets start at \$40 plus fees and are available at BLO.org and by phone at 617-765-7662.

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MEDIA INFORMATION and CONTACT

Interviews, photos and press tickets for DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT are available now. Contact **John Michael Kennedy** at jmk@jmkpr.com or cell/text 212-842-1752.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT

WHAT: Laughter meets revolutionary spirit in Boston Lyric Opera's presents "[DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT.](#)" a new staging of Donizetti's comedy. With new English dialogue by Boston playwright Kirsten Greenidge – who transports the story to Revolutionary-era Boston, and was inspired in part by the life of Massachusetts revolutionary Deborah Sampson and the writings of Phillis Wheatley – this production tells a heartfelt tale of love and loyalty in a patriotic toast to America at 250. Presented in partnership with Everyone250.

WHEN: **Friday April 24 - Sunday May 3, 2026.** Fridays @ 7:30 pm; Sundays @ 3 pm

WHERE: Emerson Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St.

TICKETS: Start at \$40 plus fees; available at blo.org and by phone at 617-765-7662.

OPERA NIGHT AT THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

WHAT: Part of BLO's [VOICES OF REVOLUTION](#) series, this concert-and-conversation event, titled "**Daughters and Revolution,**" takes inspiration from BLO's upcoming productions of DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT and SHE WAS THERE. Performances by soprano **Laura Santamaria** and mezzo-soprano **Arielle Rogers-Wilkey** enhance a panel discussion moderated by Boston Lyric Opera **Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen** with **Freddie Kay (Massachusetts Women's History Center)** and violist **Ashleigh Gordon** (co-founder/Artistic Director of **Castle of Our Skins**). Texts and English translations will be provided. *Rabb Lecture Hall at the Boston Public Library Central Branch, 700 Boylston Street in Boston.* blo.org.

WHEN: **Tue. April 7 @ 6 pm**

WHERE: *Rabb Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library Central Branch, 700 Boylston St.*

TICKETS: Free; details at blo.org.

SHE WAS THERE

WHAT: Part of BLO's [VOICES OF REVOLUTION](#) series, this two-day event brings together film, music and dialogue to illuminate overlooked stories of Black revolutionary women. The June 13 program features a screening of **Joy Davenport's** documentary ***Fannie Lou Hamer's America*** followed by a discussion of the activist's enduring impact. On June 14, artists from BLO and **Castle of Our Skins** present a concert of opera, spirituals and contemporary works featuring soprano **Kearstin Piper Brown**. Presented in partnership with **Castle of Our Skins**, **the Museum of African American History**, **the Roxbury International Film Festival**, **The West End Museum** and **Everyone250**.

WHEN & [Screening and Discussion:](#) **Sat. June 13 @ 3p, The West End Museum, 150**

WHERE: *Staniford St.*

[Concert:](#) **Sun. June 14 @ 3p, Museum of African American History, 46 Joy St.**

TICKETS: Free; details at blo.org.

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