

# A SENSE OF WONDER

**A PLAY BASED ON THE LIFE AND WORKS  
OF RACHEL CARSON**

Written and Performed by Kaiulani Lee

**[WWW.KAIULANILEE.COM](http://WWW.KAIULANILEE.COM)**



## ABOUT THE PLAY

The play is the story of a woman's love for the natural world and her fight to defend it. It is the story of the extremely private Rachel Carson thrust into the role of controversial public figure.

A Sense of Wonder has been created with the help and guidance of many of Miss Carson's friends and colleagues and with permission from the Rachel Carson Estate.

# ABOUT RACHEL CARSON

Rachel Carson has been called the "Patron Saint of the Environmental Movement." She was a marine biologist and zoologist best known for her book *Silent Spring*, which alerted the world to the dangers of chemical pesticides and launched our modern environmental movement.

Less known is that Miss Carson was one of America's great poets of natural world. In her earlier works she brought alive the beauty and mystery of the seas and its creatures to millions of readers.

In their purest form the poet and the scientist are one and the same. They are the seekers after truth. Through the power of her knowledge and the beauty of her language, Rachel Carson became one of the great champions of the living world.

# ABOUT KAIULANI LEE

Kaiulani Lee has more than thirty-five years of experience in theater, film and television. Ms. Lee has starred in over a dozen plays on and Off- Broadway. She has been nominated for the Drama Desk Award on Broadway and has won the Obie Award for “Outstanding Off-Broadway Achievement.”

Ms. Lee has guest starred in numerous television series from “The Walton’s” to “Law and Order.” Her film work began with “The World According to Garp” and has continued through “A Civil Action” and “A Bird of the Air.” She portrayed Martha Ballard in the critically-acclaimed PBS film “A Midwife’s Tale.”

For the past 24 years Kaiulani has been performing her one-woman play, A Sense of Wonder, based on the life and works of Rachel Carson. The play has been the centerpiece of conferences on conservation, education, journalism, and the environment. She has performed it at over one hundred universities, the Smithsonian Institute, the Albert Schweitzer Conference at the United Nations, at the Department of Interior’s 150th anniversary, and in 2007 performed on Capitol Hill, bringing Miss Carson’s voice once again to the halls of Congress. A Sense of Wonder has played in every Province of Canada, in England, Italy, India, Japan, and Bangladesh.

In 2007, Bill Moyer's celebrated Ms Lee's work with an hour-long interview on Bill Moyer's Journal." A Sense of Wonder" was later filmed by award winning cinematographer, Haskel Wexler, featured at film festivals across the U.S. Canada and Japan and continues to air on PBS.

In 2011, Ms Lee's second play, "Can't Scare Me...The Story of Mother Jones," opened at the Atlas Theater in Washington D.C. Kaiulani has performed it at universities, for union conferences, and toured it with The United Mine Workers. She has also performed it in Ireland, Bangladesh, and Cambodia. Kaiulani continues to tour both plays nationally and internationally.

# REVIEWS & RESPONSE

**You cannot watch Kaiulani Lee without reflecting on universal themes - life, death, the power of place, courage in growing old and in speaking truth.**

**You cannot walk away unmoved.**

**- Bill Moyers, PBS**

**"...what Lee achieves in barely an hour is something rare and almost spiritual. She merges herself with Carson's spirit. Chin jutting forward, she leans toward us, reminiscing, lecturing, pleading. Fire comes into her eyes...I felt flashes of transcendence, the stage disappearing into a living authentic presence. "**

**-Christopher Rawson, Drama Critic  
Pittsburgh Post Gazette**

**"Rachel Carson shook the world of journalism and changed the shape of environmental politics. There are few if any comparable figures in either field. Kaiulani Lee's performance gave me the opportunity to feel I had met this remarkable woman and experienced the quiet courage of Rachel Carson.**

**- Peter Dykstra, CNN**

**"Lee, as Carson, alternately charms, provokes, and inspires. The audience was transformed by the actress' portrayal...Her thoughtful and emotional performance brought them to their feet.**

**-Judy Harrison, Maine Times**

**"Rachel Carson is my great hero. She essentially directed my life. Ms. Lee has gone through all Carson's writings and put together a two act drama. The play was just enchanting and very emotional."**

**-Dr. David Suzuki, The Suzuki Foundations**

# AUDIENCE RESPONSE

## PAUL BROOKS

*Former Editor-in-Chief  
Houghton, Rachel Carson's  
editor and biographer*

"This is the Rachel I knew, brought to life with almost uncanny skill and understanding...a perfect introduction to one of the most influential women of our time."

## THOMAS BERRY

*Author: The Great Work: Our  
Way in to the Future*

"Kaiulani Lee's play communicates in its fullness Rachel Carson's sense of wonder. We need this wonder to guide us into the twenty first century if we are to save our earth and souls."

## JOHN R. LEMON

*Director of the National  
Conservation Training Center  
Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.  
Department of Interior*

"Conservation professionals from across the country sat transfixed by Miss Lee's performance. It was as if they were in the room with Rachel Carson. A Sense of Wonder has spurred our professionals to redouble their own efforts to conserve our precious natural resources. The play is an overwhelming and inspirational experience."

## SEYMOUR CHAPMAN

*Professor of Rhetoric and Film,  
University of Berkeley*

"I want to testify to the artistry and power of Kaiulani Lee's performance as Rachel Carson. Carson's foresight and courage in defending the environment is ripe for celebration and the stage play which Ms. Lee has written and so beautifully performed is a brilliant reminder of this truly great America."

## JACK COOGAN

*Professor of Communication Arts,  
Claremont School of Theology*

"Kaiulani Lee's performance was superb; one of the most moving evenings of theater I have experienced. Detail by detail, an unforgettable portrait of Rachel Carson and her struggle emerged and gave immediacy and humanity to issues which otherwise remain abstract and unengaging. It was a transforming experience."

# BOOKING & CONTACT INFORMATION

Event hosts are responsible for a performance fee of \$3,000 as well as travel and accommodation for Ms. Lee.

## Email

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## LinkedIn

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## Website

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**“Sensationally wonderful. To see and hear Kaiulani Lee is to have been touched by Rachel Carson herself.”**

**-John A. Hoyt, Former Chief Executive, The Humane Society of the U.S.**