# THE HENRIETTA LACKS PROJECT AT GROSSMONT COLLEGE

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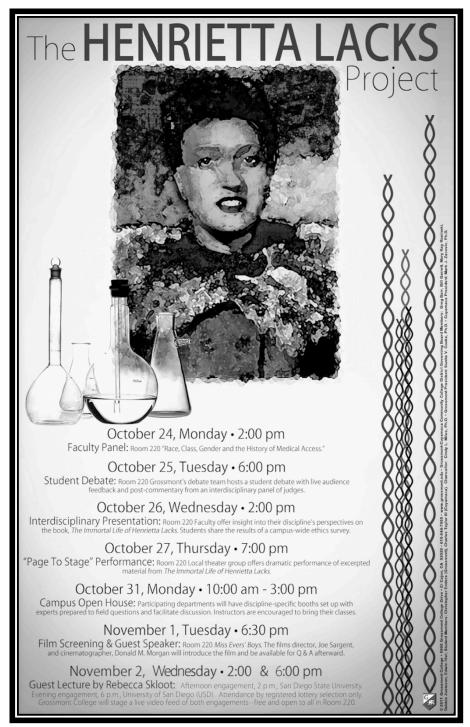
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# "Page-to-Stage" Performance of Rebecca Skloot's

## 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."