

# SIGNS AND WONDERS

*(A Delirium for a Wounded World)*

(A full-length one act in twelve scenes; ninety minutes)

**TIME:** The possible future

**PLACE:** Lebanon, Kansas: a stylized set represents a meeting room, hospital corridors, and the periphery of a crater.

**CHARACTERS: (three men and four women)**

MINERVA BELLWETHER, a young medical scribe from London, England

MORRIS HENDERSON, a professor and member of the Society for Sobriety

CAMILLE KEARNS, a lawyer and member of the Society for Sobriety

NADINE SUMMERS, a manicurist and member of the Society for Sobriety

HARLAN REDHILL, a carpenter and member of the Society for Sobriety

ARCHIBALD (ARCHER) SWAIN, an ophthalmologist

HILARY HOROWITZ, a journalist for The Wichita Eagle

**PLOT SYNOPSIS:**

Failure of the Planetary Defense System has caused an asteroid named Osiris to impact the exact center of the United States, creating a cavernous crater that sprouted geological fault lines dividing the state of Kansas in half. A British medical scribe named Minerva volunteers to assist an ocular surgeon treating the injured eyes of survivors. Minerva recounts their contentious relationship while attending court ordered Society for Sobriety meetings. Since the asteroid is named for an Egyptian deity, there is a revival of interest in ancient pagan religions, especially since the crater evokes suicidal urges in vulnerable people who leap from its periphery. Even skeptical Sobriety members exchange wild rumors of the crater being inhabited by a vengeful Earth Mother Goddess demanding human sacrifices for the centuries of abuse she's endured. A curious reporter from Wichita befriends Minerva and together they venture to explore the edge of the crater. When the reporter slips and vanishes, Minerva becomes a murder suspect, causing her passport to be confiscated, her personal life upended, and her bright future threatened. Although she is tempted to succumb to despair, fate intervenes and Minerva is redeemed through relationships that enrich her world view.

**THEMES:** The play explores the corrosive effects of an astronomical crisis, as well as the human capacity for romance, redemption, and invention.

