

Focus

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Television

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Academy and Emmy ward-winner Christine Lahti ("Lieberman in Love," "Chicago Hope") stars in the LIFETIME Original Movie "An American Daughter," the story of prominent female doctor awaiting confirmation as surgeon general, who is shattered by media investigations of her family and friends. This drama, which explores the effects of a private life turned public, is scheduled to premiere on LIFETIME Television on Monday, June 5 from 9-11 pm. (ET/PT). Lyssa Dent Hughes (Lahti) is the privileged, well-educated daughter of a well-known Republican senator and fifth-generation granddaughter of Ulysses S. Grant. She is the wife of a professor (Skerritt), a mother, a prominent health expert, and the president's nominee for surgeon general. But when a seemingly inconsequential detail about her life is revealed to a reporter (Thomas), the snowball effects of media scrutiny threaten both her career and personal life. "An American Daughter" raises themes about the compromises and disappointments of "baby boom idealism" and the challenges of feminism in modern times.

Lahti, an accomplished actress and filmmaker, is no stranger to the works of Wasserstein. She starred on stage in New York as Heidi Hollard in Wasserstein's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "The Heidi Chronicles." She has also won an Emmy and a Golden Globe award for her work on the critically acclaimed television series "Chicago Hope." In addition, Lahti won an Academy Award for directing the live-action short film "Lieberman in Love," in which she also starred. She recently directed her first feature film, "My First Mister," starring Albert Brooks and Leelee Soobieski.

Wasserstein's play, "An American Daughter," had a bi-coastal premiere in April, 1997. The play opened at the Cort Theatre on Broadway, starring Kate Nelligan and Hal Holbrook, and at the Bagley Wright Theatre in Seattle, starring Barbara Dirickson and John Procaccino.

Wasserstein is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and the Yale Drama School. She won the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize for her play "The Heidi Chronicles," and her play "The Sisters Rosensweig" was a huge commercial and critical success, both on and off Broadway.

An American Daughter



Multi-award-winning actress Lynne Thigpen ("Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?") reprises her Tony Award-winning role as Dr. Judith Kaufman, an African-American Jewish oncologist, in the LIFETIME Original Movie "AN AMERICAN DAUGHTER." The movie will premiere on LIFETIME Television on Monday, June 5 from 9-11 pm. (ET/PT).

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