

**The Honorands of
the 1999 Commencement**

Bowdoin College

**Kaiulani Sewall Lee
Doctor of Arts**

Actress Kaiulani Sewall Lee's family ties to Maine go back more than 200 years to when the Sewall family first settled along the Kennebec. Lee has spent each summer of her life in what she considers home, the state of Maine. In accord with a Sewall family custom, she is named after Princess Kaiulani of Hawaii, whose name was given to the last Yankee square-rigger built in Bath by Lee's great-great-grandfather, Arthur Sewall.

A graduate of American University and a student of Lee Strasberg and Sanford Meisner, Kaiulani Lee also spent five years as the leading actress with the New York City Street Theater. The National Endowment for the Humanities funded the company, which performed across America in major urban ghettos, prisons, and migrant camps. In 1972 the Street Theater was one of five companies from around the world chosen to perform at the Olympic Games in Munich.

Lee has gone on to star in dozens of plays on and off Broadway. She was nominated for a Drama Desk Award on Broadway and won the Obie Award for outstanding achievement by an actor Off Broadway. Her extensive work in television has spanned 25 years and has ranged from regular roles on *The Waltons* and *Another World* to guest appearances on *The Equalizer* and *Law and Order*. She has appeared in a dozen feature films including *The World According to Garp*, *Cujo*, and *A Civil Action*.

Most recently Lee has worked on two projects that embrace her Maine roots. After months of training with midwives and learning the crafts of spinning and weaving, Lee portrayed Martha Ballard, the 18th-century midwife from Hallowell, Maine, in the film version of Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *A Midwife's Tale*. This critically acclaimed film was premiered on the American Experience for PBS and is now being screened across the country.

Perhaps the theatrical accomplishment of which Lee is most proud is her one-woman production of *A Sense of Wonder*. For this production based on the life and works of Rachel Carson, Lee drew on all of Carson's published and unpublished works to create a play in defense of the natural world. *A Sense of Wonder* has been performed at more than 60 universities and has been the centerpiece of national conferences on education, the environment, and journalism. It has also been presented at the Smithsonian Institution, for the Albert Schweitzer conference at the United Nations, and for the Sierra Club's Centennial, among others.

Lee is married to public interest attorney, activist, and author Andrew Kimbrell. They have two children, Kaiulani (the seventh) who is studying at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and Nicholas, a freshman at Yorktown High School.