



WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS:

MEN ON BOATS

By Jaclyn Backhaus

DIRECTED BY CINDY GENDRICH
TEDFORD STAGE

SEPTEMBER 17-18 & 23-25
AT 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 19 & 26
AT 2:00 PM



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This athletic play by Jaclyn Backhaus has given us a theatrical workout perfect for our emergence from isolation and inactivity.

In 1869, led by John Wesley Powell, 10 men embarked on the first government-sanctioned exploration of the Green and Colorado Rivers. There were no guides or maps, and few warnings of the dangers they would encounter. Most of them Civil War veterans, these men endured familiar and unfamiliar hardships on Powell's expedition. However, they also got to see beautiful parts of the country that few non-Native people had ever seen. They got to test and strengthen themselves by doing difficult things--and they got to be remembered for what they did.

In Backhaus's casting notes, she says, "The characters in *Men on Boats* were historically cisgender white males. The cast should be made up entirely of people who are not." In 1869, trans people were invisible. The idea of people of color and/or women riding the rapids on a government sanctioned expedition was surely just as foreign. Even the expertise of Native people who already knew the land and the rivers was somehow peripheral. Yet why couldn't women, BIPOC, and trans people have been hired to make this journey? Why shouldn't they have been given chances to have adventures—testing their skill, imagination, and bravery, and even making stupid mistakes? And why are female, BIPOC, and trans actors so infrequently given the chance to play exciting characters like these?

In our current political environment, nationally and internationally, these questions have real resonance for me, and this funny, dynamic play has a bigger purpose. It's here to cheer for everyone's chance to explore the unknown, to risk, to take up space, and to own their personal narratives.

In making a play about these things, *Men on Boats* has simultaneously helped us embody them. Though rehearsals have sometimes been exhausting, they've helped us break free of our COVID confinement, and inspired creativity and confidence. A big thank you to my amazing stage management on this show, and to our steadfast and talented cast for all their contributions—with a special shout-out to Cameron and Adarian for boat and choreo help. We hope that, along with our marvelous designers, staff, and crew, we have made a production that helps you feel as invigorated as we have. Please enjoy being here with us, running the rapids and feeling the joy of a theatrical adventure once more!

Dr. Cindy Gendrich

Wake Forest University Theatre presents

MEN ON BOATS

by Jaclyn Backhaus

September 17-19 & 23-26, 2021

Director

Cindy Gendrich

Scenic Designer

Kyle Ransbottom ('12)

Costume Designer

Clare Parker

Lighting Designer

Kevin Frazier

Sound Designer

Jeff Sherwood

Stage Manager

Lydia Evans*^s ('23)

CAST

JOHN WESLEY POWELL.....	Eliza Drake*
WILLIAM DUNN.....	Mary Grace Gower
JOHN COLTON SUMNER.....	Elena Marsh*
OLD SHADY.....	Alexandra Battisti
BRADLEY.....	Sophie Thomas ^{s*}
O.G. HOWLAND/TSAUWIAT.....	Georgia Orchid ^{s*}
SENECA HOWLAND/THE BISHOP.....	Adarian M. Sneed ^{s*}
FRANK GOODMAN/MR. ASA.....	Cameron Michles ^{s*}
HALL.....	Elinor Grage*
HAWKINS.....	Katharine Collie
Understudy.....	Nicole Liu

*Anthony Aston Players member

^sPresidential Scholar in Theatre

SETTING

On boats in 1869. Traversing the Green & Colorado Rivers from Wyoming to a big canyon on the government's first sanctioned expedition.

Men on Boats is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Playwrights Horizons, Inc. and Clubbed Thumb produced MEN ON BOATS in New York City, 2016. Initially developed and produced by Clubbed Thumb in 2015.



Wake Forest University

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

This statement honors the land on which Wake Forest University now resides and the land on which the original campus resided.

This land served for centuries as a place for exchange and interaction for Indigenous peoples, specifically Saura (saw-ra), Catawba (ka-tah-buh), Cherokee (chair-o-kee), and Lumbee (lum-bee) in this location and Shakori (shuh-kor-ee), Eno (ee-no), Sissipahaw (sis-suh-pa-hah) and Occaneechi (oak-a-nee-chee) in the original campus location. Today Wake Forest continues to be a place of learning and engagement for Indigenous students, faculty, and staff regionally, nationally and globally.



INFORMATION

In consideration of everyone in the theatre, especially the cast who have rehearsed for weeks, please observe the following:

- ♦ Audience members must wear a mask while inside the building including the entire performance.
- ♦ Turn off and put away your cell phone or any device that might ring, buzz, or light up.
- ♦ If you are anticipating the need to be contacted during the performance, leave your name and seat location with the box office staff and the box office number with the person who may need you; the box office number is 336-758-5295.
- ♦ Laptops are not allowed; pens and paper are great alternatives for taking notes.
- ♦ Copyright laws prohibit recording in any format of any performance. Flash photography can be especially hazardous to performers and a distraction to the rest of the audience.
- ♦ Eating and drinking (other than water) are never allowed inside the theatre.

Thanks, and enjoy the show!

The show runs approximately 2 hours with a 10-minute intermission.

JAMES DODDING SCHOLARSHIP FOR THEATRE

Mr. Dodding, professor emeritus of theatre, died in March 2018 at his home in Garstang, England. You may be one of the fortunate ones who had the opportunity to learn about the craft of theatre, and the joy of living, by working or performing in one of his masterful productions. From Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas, to Shakespeare, to the WFU Passion Play, and any number of other first-rate memorable shows, Jim Dodding was a force for good and for good theatre at Wake Forest University.

Now it is time for us to remember this remarkable man and rise to a challenge that helps create a lasting legacy for this beloved professor.

We are asking for your help by joining us in supporting the James Dodding Scholarship for Theatre that has been established in his honor. Already a group of Mr. Dodding's former students and friends have raised \$61,000 to date towards an endowed scholarship celebrating his life and ensuring his name remains a part of Wake Forest Theatre for generations to come. In order to complete the endowment, we need to reach \$100,000 in funding. Of course, we want to exceed this minimum so that the scholarship generates the highest possible funding. We hope you will support this effort to honor a remarkable scholar, actor and teacher and to ensure his legacy for generations of talented Theatre students to come.

It's easy to give! You visit <https://forms.secure.wfu.edu/giving> for giving instructions. Please be sure to indicate that your gift is for the Dodding Scholarship. In addition, please contact Beth McAlhany for assistance and to share your stories about Professor Dodding and his impact on you -- Beth would love to hear from you.

We appreciate your consideration of support for this tribute and the impact it will have on generations of Wake Forest thespians to come.

--Steve (MA '87, P '15, P '18) and Sue Nedvidek ('87, P '15, P '18)

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Theatre.....	Jonathan Christman
Technical Director.....	Thomas Williams
Properties Masters.....	Alice Burton Barsony, Kyle Ransbottom ('12)
Assistant Director.....	Nicole Liu
Assistant Sound Designer.....	Vir Gupta
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Zachary Atala [§]
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Girnar Anand*, Katie Dietrich [§]
Production Sound Engineer.....	Jeff Sherwood
Master Electrician.....	Kevin Frazier
Assistant Master Electrician.....	Chris Cates*
Charge Scenic Artist.....	Kyle Ransbottom ('12)
Scenic Painters.....	Celina Seo, Riley Shanaghan
Electricians.....	Rachel Lin, Lainey Drake ^{§*} , Zachary Atala [§] Cameron Michles ^{§*} , Yaser Salamah [§] , Evan Souza [§] Nicole Liu, Girnar Anand*, Jax Revfi Christopher Quiroz [§] , Elinor Grange*, Sierra Browning* Tommy Taylor, Georgia Orchid [§] , Adarian Sneed ^{§*}
Scene Shop Assistants.....	Evan Daane, Dara Pokelwaldt, Drew Skilton Devonte Sobamowo, Tommy Taylor
Carpenters.....	Abigail Franke*, Cat D'Arcngelis Monty King, Drew Skilton
Painters.....	Isabella Biricik, Zac Anderson [§] , Sophie Thomas ^{§*} Sean Jones ^{§*} , Cameron Michles ^{§*} , MaryAnna Bailey [§]
Costume Shop Manager.....	Alice Burton Barsony
Assistant Costume Shop Manager, Draper, & Wardrobe Manager.....	Clare Parker
Stitchers.....	Ashanta Akins-Collier, Tatiana Bicalho Isabelle Merrifield, Emily Patten, Hannah Riley
Hair & Makeup Assistant.....	Lainey Drake ^{§*}
Light Board Operator.....	Jax Refvi
Sound Board Operator.....	Vir Gupta
Photographers.....	Ken Bennett, Bill Ray III
Audience Services Coordinator.....	Leslie Spencer
Social Media Managers.....	Zac Anderson [§] , Chris Cates*, Lainey Drake ^{§*}
House Managers.....	Devin Collins, Hope Peterson ('17, MS '18)
Box Office Staff.....	Zac Anderson [§] , Carol Arkalji, Jen Carroll Lainey Drake ^{§*} , Sean Jones ^{§*} , Isabelle Moore Kate Sloan, Adarian Sneed ^{§*}
Ushers.....	Anthony Aston Players, WFU Dance Company APO service fraternity, Theatre & Dance students

*Anthony Aston Players member

§Presidential Scholar in Theatre

SPECIAL THANKS

Julie Gendrich
Werner Goetzinger
Beth Homan
David Phillips

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

2021-2022 Season

September 7, 2021

BENEFACTORS

Barton & Brenda Baldwin[‡]
Estate of John Arthur Collins III
J.K. Curry & Dan Bradley
Caroline Sandlin Fullerton
Joel Leander & Perry Patterson
Sioban Nicole McNamara[‡]
Margaret Henry Moore
Ben Sutton
Dr. James & Patricia Toole[‡]
Don & Nancy Wolfe

John J. Casey
Claire & John Friedenberg[‡]
Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Jordan II[‡]
Denise Koch[‡]
James & Angela McNamara
Allison McWilliams[‡]
Steve[‡] & Sue[‡] Nedvidek
Harold & Josie Tedford
Mary Wayne-Thomas
Edwin & Emily Wilson[‡]

Estate of Robert Parker Wilson

SUSTAINERS

Anne Boyle
Michele Gillespie & Kevin Pittard[‡]

Jill Carraway[‡] & Debora Horning
Dr. & Mrs. R. Byron Moore[‡]

Jane Bess Wooten[‡]

PATRONS

Lynn Padgett-Brown & Douglas Brown
Brook Davis[‡] & Michael Huie[‡]
Ellen E. Kirkman
Bill[‡] & Marty[‡] Lamb
Nina Lucas
Sam Roy
Donna Votto

Anne Davenport
Janice Gendrich
Elizabeth Rief[‡] & Shawn Hooper
Tom Lewis[‡]
Mary Lee Porterfield[‡]
Meyressa Schoonmaker[‡] & John Carroll
Lawrence & Sandra Webb

SPONSORS

Sally Barbour
Iaona Farthing
Victoria Friendly
Gerald Taylor

David & Kathryn Levy
Liz Shumate[‡]
William H. Turkett, Jr.
Donna Votto

FRIENDS

Paul & Linda Edwards Early[‡]
Denise Pazda

Rebecca Gill
Shannon Pleasant

Shan Woolard

[‡] Wake Forest alumni

The Normal Heart

by Larry Kramer

directed by Brook Davis

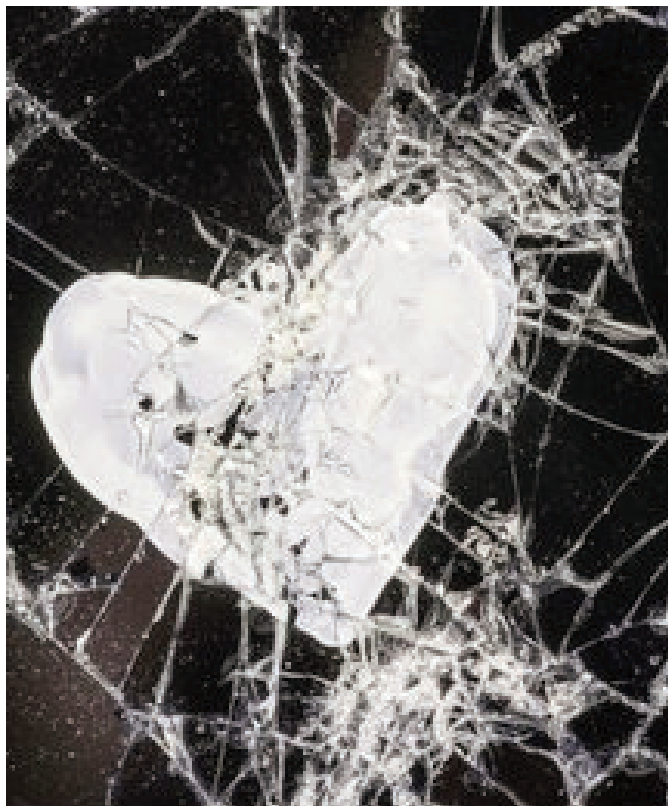
Oct. 29-30 & Nov. 4-6 at 7:30 PM

Oct. 31 & Nov. 7 at 2:00 PM

Harold C. Tedford Stage

Tickets:
\$15 adults,
\$12 senior citizens,
\$7 students

336.758.5295 theatre.wfu.edu



Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert

Directed by Nina Lucas

November 18-20 at 7:30 PM

November 21 at 2:00 PM

Harold C. Tedford Stage

Tickets: \$15 adults,
\$12 senior citizens, \$7 students

336.758.5295 theatre.wfu.edu