

MEN ON BOATS

Written by Jaclyn Backhaus
Directed by Erin Murray
Performed by YTN Annex
August 22-30, 2020

Cast (in order of appearance)

Aboard the Emma Dean

Major John Wesley Powell Gwen Brewer
William Dunn Abby Gamache
John Colton Sumner Tori Patterson

Aboard the No-Name

O.G. Howell Leiny Gamache
Seneca Howland Anamaria Guerzon
Frank Goodman Kate Petersen

Aboard the Kitty Clyde's Sister

George Young Bradley Marie Sailer
Old Shadey Milo Mechem-Miller

Aboard the Maid of the Canyon

William Robert Hawkins Kyra McPherson
Andrew Hall Maya Paletta

Time: 1869

Place: On boats traversing the Green & Colorado Rivers from Wyoming to a Big Canyon on the government's first Sanctioned Expedition.

Men on Boats is performed and streamed through a special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, inc.

YTN Annex is a new advanced acting program in which high school and college aged students mount a full production over three weeks.

Cast Bios (in alphabetical order)

Gwen Brewer (Powell) is 19 years old and lives in Bellevue. This is Gwen's 13th production with YTN, and she is very excited to be involved with *Men On Boats*. She has been in other YTN productions, including *The Little Mermaid* (Ursula). Gwen enjoys reading and playing video games. She studies Theater at Western Washington University in hopes of having a career in stage acting. She thanks her family and friends for supporting her and hopes you enjoy the show!

Abigail Gamache (William Dunn) is 15 years old and will be a sophomore at The Center School this fall. She is so excited to be performing in her 16th show at YTN! Most recently, she was in *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Rent*. When she's not at YTN, you could find her hanging out with her dog Buddy, watching Netflix, scrolling through TikTok, or annoying her friends. She hopes you love the show!

Leiney Gamache (OG Howland) is an incoming freshman at Fairhaven College (at WWU). Her previous YTN shows include *Rent!*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Night of the Living Dead*, and more. In her free time Leiney enjoys reading in the sun, playing with her dog, and spending time with friends and family. She's passionate about Social Justice is planning to study social activism. Leiney would like to thank her parents for always being so supportive and everyone at YTN for an amazing, safe change in pace from her daily pandemic lifestyle! She hopes you enjoy the show!

Anamaria Guerzon (Seneca Howland) is delighted to be making her return to Youth Theatre Northwest Annex with *Men On Boats*! Recent credits include *Saturn in Voyagers* (a staged reading) (ACT Theatre), *Leeanne in A Piece of My Heart* (Pacific Lutheran University), and Dromio in *Comedy of Errors* (Pacific Lutheran University). She also recently composed orchestrations for *Voyagers*. She studies Theatre and Communications at Pacific Lutheran University. She also plays in a rock band, Saint Vivian. She's like to thank you for coming, enjoy the show!

Kyra McPherson (Hawkins) is a rising junior at MIHS. Her previous roles at YTN include Ethel Tofflemeier in *The Music Man* and Albany in *King Lear*. You also may have seen her in the ensemble of *Mamma Mia!* at MIHS. In the past three weeks, Kyra has learned about TikTok dances, killing snakes, navigating rivers, and Snoop Dogg, as well as plenty of other things. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does.

Milo Mechem-Miller (Old Shady) is a sophomore at Mercer Island High School. Youth Theater Northwest has been a part of his life for as long as he can remember. Most recently you may have seen him as Lazar Wolf in *Fiddler on the Roof* or as part of the *RENT* ensemble. When not doing theater, Milo loves making art and playing with his dog. This show has been such a wonderful experience for him, and he hopes you love it!

Tori Patterson (Sumner) is an incoming senior at Pacific Lutheran University studying Theatre and Dance. Her previous roles include Sissy in *A Piece of my Heart*,

Ape/Cleva/Dorothy in *Precious Little* and Mrs. Fezziwig/Martha in *A Christmas Carol* all at PLU. She would like to thank Erin Murray for making this show possible and for providing transportation, Sydney Thieme for being the best stage manager ever, and the cast and crew for all of the smiles, laughs, and dance breaks. She hopes you enjoy the show.

Kate Petersen (Goodman) is a junior at MIHS and is very glad *Men On Boats* was able to happen this year! She would like to thank the cast and crew for working so hard to put on a play in these crazy times and for making the process so fun. Enjoy the show!

Marie Sailer (Bradley) is a proud YTN alum of shows such as *Go, Dog. Go!* and *Cats*. In the fall she will be a junior nursing student at Gonzaga University. Despite the circumstances, she is excited to be a man on a boat this summer!

Production Team

Director Erin Murray
Choreographer Mimi Katano
Set Designer Matthew Lazure
Costume Designer Heather Culver
Lighting Designer Lily Mcleod
Prop Designer Cory Southwell
Sound Designer Trey McGee
Assistant Director/Dialect Coach Aurora Behlke
Stage Manager Sydney Thieme
Master Electrician Angelo Domitri
Director of Photography/Editing Mimi Katano
Production Manager Cory Southwell
Set Construction Brian Jackson, Matthew Lazure, and Philip G. Smith

Production Bios

Erin Murray (Director) is thrilled to direct the inaugural production of YTN's Annex program with *Men On Boats*. Erin has been a teaching artist with YTN for four years where she has directed Show-To-Go musicals, taught summer camps, and created an annual text analysis class about contemporary American female and transgender playwrights for advanced high school students and YTN alumni - Kilroys and Coffee. Erin has directed projects all over the world including Anne Washburn's *The Internationalist* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago), John Cameron Mitchell's *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Project Arts Centre, Dublin), and the Seattle premiere of

Annie Baker's *John* (ArtsWest). Education: MFA Theatre Directing, Northwestern University; BA Drama and Theatre Studies, Trinity College Dublin. For more on Erin's accomplishments, go to erinmurraydirects.com.

Mimi Katano (Choreographer/Director of Photography/Editor) is the Executive Artistic Director of YTN, celebrating her 21st season. She is thrilled to have had this opportunity to collaborate with the amazing Erin Murray to create illusions of boats and the rapids of the Green and Colorado River. While wearing many hats on the show was at times stressful, making art during COVID 19 with this team of artists and the cast confirmed her belief in theatre. Many thanks to her husband and kiddo for their support especial during the week of editing. For more on Mimi's artistic career, go to mimikatano.com.

Matthew T. Lazure (Set Designer) is a fine artist, scenic designer, carpenter, and scenic painter new to the PNW, originally from Boston, MA. Recent credits include charge scenic artist for ArtsWest's Saint Joan, lead carpenter for Bainbridge Performing Arts' Fun Home, and charge scenic artist for Thalia's Umbrella's Europe; none of which were able to open to live audiences. He's thrilled to be a part of this innovative collaborative project and looks forward to future partnerships with Youth Theatre Northwest. His work can be seen at <https://matthewlazure.wixsite.com/artist>.

Heather Shannon Culver (Costume Designer) is delighted to be designing *Men On Boats* here at Youth Theatre Northwest, and to be working with Erin Murray for the first time. This is Heather's 16th season with YTN, where she has designed costumes for YTN's productions of *The Monkey King*, *The Lion King Jr.*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, *Willy Wonka Jr.*, *Treasure Island*, *Seussical Jr.*, *Robin Hood*, *The Neverending Story*, *Animal Farm*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Urinetown*, *Disney's Sleeping Beauty*, and *Pippi Longstocking* among others. She is on staff at YTN as the Costume Shop Manager, is a Dickens Caroler, and has worked as a seamstress and/or a costume designer around town for The Seattle Shakespeare Company, Spectrum Dance Theatre, Taproot Theatre, and The Seagull Project among others. She sends love to Chili and Sophie.

Lily McLeod (Lighting Designer) is a local designer with a B.A. from Seattle University, a past FAIR Assistant at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and is currently the resident Assistant Lighting Designer at ACT and the Lighting Associate at Seattle Rep. Past Youth Theatre Northwest design credits include *Sideways Stories at Wayside School*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, and *Rikki Tikki Tavi*.

Cory Southwell (Prop Designer) is a theatre education graduate of Emerson College in Boston. Cory teaches, designs, stage manages, and directs at YTN; most recent credits include *Rent*, *Reluctant Dragon*, *Monkey King*, and *Ragtime*. In 2019, Cory joined the YTN staff as the Programs Assistant. Other recent credits include stage managing The Seattle Sings Choral Festival and designing props for MoPop.

Aurora Behlke (Assistant Director/Dialect Coach) is a young director and playwright, raised in Alaska and based in Seattle and St. Louis. She is excited to assistant direct her

first YTN show! Her short play *Folly* was recently featured on The Playwright Repertory Podcast. Recent directing credits include: *Mr. Burns, a Post Electric Play* (Young Americans Theatre Co.), and *Antlia Pneumatica* (Roosevelt High School). Aurora is pursuing a BA in Directing from Webster University.

Sydney Thieme (Stage Manager) is a stage manager, choreographer, and teaching artist with a BFA in Performance Production from Cornish College of the Arts. Recent credits include *Dare to Claim the Sky* (ACTLab Solo Fest), *The Secret In The Wings* (Cornish), *Animal Farm* (Cornish), and a stage management internship at ACT Theatre. Sydney has previously worked at YTN as a choreographer on *Music Man Jr.*, *Willy Wonka Jr.*, and *Cats*.

Men On Boats was produced following the guidelines established by the Washington State Governor's office for Youth Development Programs and Summer Camps, which include the following:

- Daily health screening of the cast and staff
- Wearing of fitted facial masks at all times (the costume masks, which appear to be a bandanas, have fitted masks underneath).
- Three sets of double doors and the front entrance to the theatre open for ventilation at all times.
- Rigorous cleaning of the space, and props before, during, and after each rehearsal with CCD approved cleaning products.
- Social distancing both on and off the stage.

The occasional laughter you hear in the show is of the production staff who watched at a distance, with masks on.

Youth Theatre Northwest Staff

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Executive Education Director Kate Swenson
Registrar/Business Manager Stephanie Bull
Development Director Katie McKenna
Program Assistant Cory Southwell
Administrative Assistant Mike Lion
Technical Director Brian Jackson
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Costume Shop Manager Heather Shannon Culver
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