

MEN ON BOATS

Audition & Casting Information

MEN ON BOATS by Jaclyn Backhaus

Directed by Aubrey Saverino

Ten explorers. Four boats. One Grand Canyon. Men on Boats is the true(ish) history of an 1869 expedition, when a one-armed captain and a crew of insane yet loyal volunteers set out to chart the course of the Colorado River.

This play contains cursin' and drinkin'.

Note on Casting from the Playwright: “The characters in MEN ON BOATS were historically cisgender white males. The cast should be made up entirely of people who are **not**. I’m talking about racially diverse actors who are female-identifying, trans-identifying, genderfluid, and/or gender nonconforming”.

To that end, we are especially interested in white and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) nonbinary actors, white and BIPOC trans actors, white and BIPOC cis women, and BIPOC cis men.

AUDITION INFORMATION

Actors should prepare one or both of the following:

- a one-minute comedic monologue *and/or*
- Men on Boat audition side(s) from a character you are interested in playing.

All the characters in this play are cis-men, you are highly encouraged to find monologues from the cis male characters that you’ve always wanted to play. Your audition does not need to be memorized (though it can be!). The director would rather see a strong, evocative performance with a script in hand than have you hesitating over memorization.

The director hopes to learn something about your vocal and physical instruments and how you take up space when playing someone you might not usually be cast as. You may also be asked to read from more of the sides provided and do some movement work. This a comedic and very physical play!

CHARACTERS

POWELL - Confident, charismatic, one-armed leader of the expedition, fiery temper and excitable soul, loves adventure. (*SIDES 1, 2, 3 & 4*)

DUNN - A hunter and trapper, wears beaver skin always. Has a close but competitive friendship with Powell. (*SIDES 1 & 2*)

SUMNER - A former soldier, current explorer, adventurous and maybe a little cocky, the Bear Grylls of the 1860s (*SIDE 1*)

OLD SHADY - Powell's older brother, oldest in the crew, Civil War vet, still, quiet, observant, but when he speaks, it's the truth. Sings and does not like people, "a tree in the breeze" (*SIDES 8 & 4*)

BRADLEY - 19 years old, youngest in the crew, lieutenant, manic with youth, genuinely loves people, never stops talking, like an excited puppy dog (*SIDE 8*)

O.G. Howland - Printer and hunter, calm, protective of his brother. Must be non-white. (*SIDE 6*)

SENECA Howland - O.G.'s quiet little brother, has a temper, protective of his brother. Must be non-white. (*SIDE 6*)

GOODMAN - British, so excited. Not an explorer, just here for fun. British accent required. (*SIDES 6 & 5*)

HALL - Mapmaker, old soul, on the "party boat" with Hawkins (*SIDE 7*)

HAWKINS - The cook and the "fun" one on the "party boat", impulsively brave (*SIDE 7*)

There are a few more minor characters, including Mr. Asa, that double with the characters above, TBD. (SIDE 9)