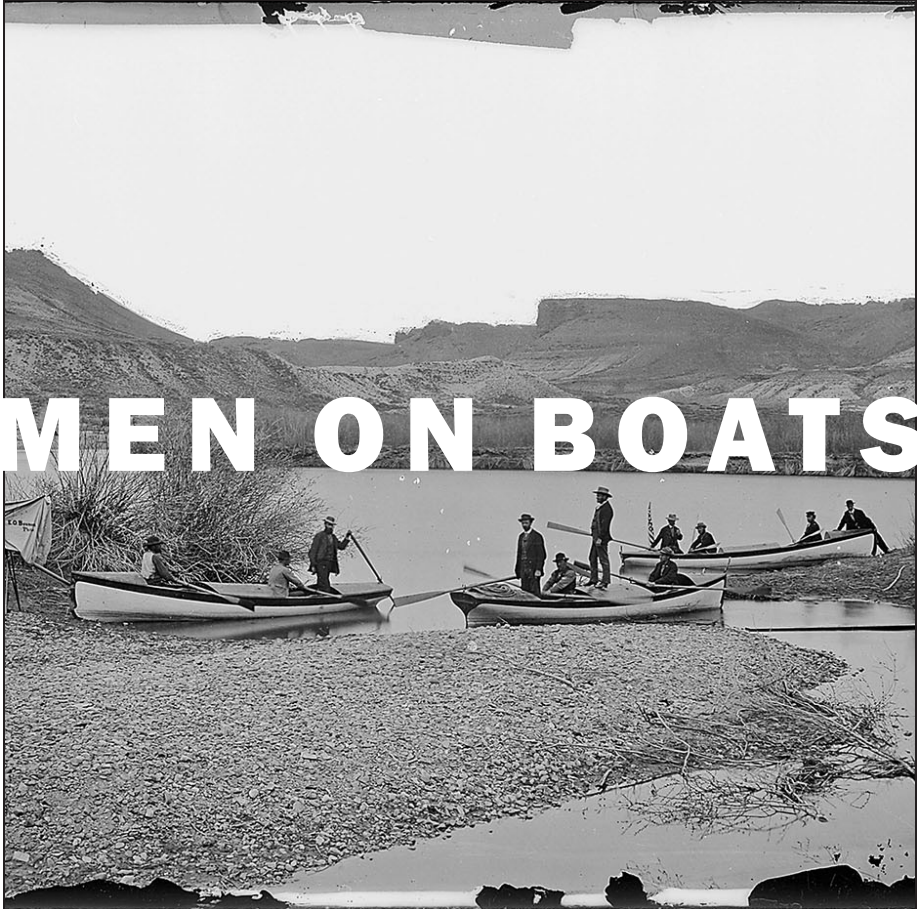


USC School
of Dramatic Arts



By Jaclyn Backhaus | Directed by Anita Dashiell-Sparks
McClintock Theatre **October 3-6, 2019**

USC School of Dramatic Arts

presents

MEN ON BOATS

By **Jaclyn Backhaus**

With

Areeta Asgharzadeh **Fiona Baquerizo** **Mikaela Barocio**
Alexis Cruz **Dani Fish** **Blake Fisher** **Casey Gardner**
Lina Goggins-Rendón **Clover Hong** **Katherine Jacobs**
Cheri McKenzie **Abigail Rowland** **Liv Sigel**

Scenic Design

Eliot Ohlemeyer

Costume Design

Wendell Carmichael

Lighting Design

G. Austin Allen

Sound Design

Mia Glenn-Schuster

Stage Manager

Megan M. Burns

Directed by

Anita Dashiell-Sparks

McClintock Theatre **October 3-6, 2019**

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.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

John Wesley Powell

Casey Gardner

William Dunn

Blake Fisher

John Colton Sumner

Mikaela Barocio

Old Shady

Abigail Rowland

Bradley

Dani Fish

OG Howland

Lina Goggins-Rendón

Seneca Howland

Liv Sigel

Frank Goodman

Fiona Baquerizo

Hall

Cheri McKenzie

Hawkins

Katherine Jacobs

Tsauwiat

Alexis Cruz

The Bishop

Areeta Asgharzadeh

Mr. Asa

Clover Hong

Time: 1869

Place: The Colorado and Green Rivers, The Grand Canyon

There will be no intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Manager **Isabella Gomez** | Assistant Stage Manager **Cameron Lexa**

Assistant Technical Director **Lily Lundine** | Dramaturg **Zoe Cantu**

Assistant Director **Rebecca Flores** | Assistant Scenic Designer **Zoya Naqvi**

Crew **Ashley Armstrong, Athena Karavasilis, Sloane Kelly, Chi Phifer, Callahan Teceno, Bea Tulchin**

WARNING Please be advised that this production contains some strong language, theatrical gunfire, theatrical fog and haze.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“A play is a blueprint of an event: a way of creating and rewriting history through the medium of literature.”

—Suzan-Lori Parks

The journey of Jaclyn Backhaus’ play *Men on Boats* provides a contemporary snapshot of the historic geographic expedition of 1869, led by naturalist John Wesley Powell and nine other white men through the Green and Colorado Rivers of the Grand Canyon. This story is set against the backdrop of discovery and innovation of the great frontier of the American west and manifest destiny. Backhaus places this historic moment from the past into sharp focus of the present by recasting the lens through which we experience this story. This moment in history is reimagined by an expedition or ensemble of multi-cultural women who tell this tale and discover the natural wonders of this beautiful landscape. Through their eyes and her-story, we find ourselves investigating the following questions: Who has been forgotten or left out of history and why? Who has the agency or power to explore and claim land, territory, and name it as their own? What is the relationship between man, woman, humanity and the land—natural elements of the world? What is the significance of legacy in relationship to history? How are moments in history remembered? Who lives, who dies, and who tells your story?

SPECIAL THANKS

Sarah Eagle Heart and Kevin Killer for sharing their expertise and experiences as Lakota native people and the significance of learning about and preserving indigenous cultures, customs, traditions, and history. Kate McMurtrey for her expertise and consultation about boats. Sparks Family for their unconditional love and support. Tracy Winters for helping us with dialect work.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Anita Dashiell-Sparks is an associate professor of theatre practice at USC, associate dean of equity, diversity and inclusion and has taught performance and critical studies courses in multi-cultural theatre for 18 years at the USC School of Dramatic Arts. For over 20 years, Dashiell-Sparks has centered diversity, equity and inclusion issues and initiatives in her career in theatre and higher education. As an actor, she has performed on Broadway, off-Broadway, and in regional theaters such as the Mark Taper Forum and the Geffen Playhouse. As a director of shows such as *Letters from Zora* and a producer, her creative work and scholarship have been seen in theaters across the country, including the Pasadena Playhouse and the Tony Award-winning Crossroads Theater. As an equity and diversity advocate in the arts, she has received numerous grants and awards (Fox Foundation, U.S. Dept. of Justice) for creating theatre for social change programs for at-risk youth in New York and Los Angeles. Dashiell-Sparks is trained as a National SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Leader/Facilitator, and is also the founding director of the “Building Bridges” leadership and empowerment theatre program through USC’s Neighborhood Outreach, regularly directs theatre productions at the USC School of Dramatic Arts including *Intimate Apparel*, *The Bluest Eye*, *Venus*, *Antigone X* and *An Octoroon*.

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USC School of Dramatic Arts 2019/20 Season of Plays



Men on Boats

By Jaclyn Backhaus
Directed by Anita Dashiell-Sparks
McClintock Theatre | Oct 3–6

Amsterdam

By Maya Arad Yasar
Directed by Lilach Dekel-Avneri
Scene Dock Theatre | Oct 10–20

The Cider House Rules

PART ONE: **Here in St. Cloud's**

PART TWO: **In Other Parts of
the World**

Adapted by Peter Parnell
From the novel by John Irving
Conceived for the Stage by Tom
Hulce, Jane Jones and Peter Parnell
Directed by Scott Faris
Bing Theatre | Oct 31–Nov 10

Trouble in Mind

By Alice Childress
Directed by John DeMita
McClintock Theatre | Oct 31–Nov 3

MFA ACTING YEAR 2 REPERTORY at

at The Los Angeles Theatre Center
LATC Theatre 3 | Nov 7–16

The Brothers Size

By Tarell Alvin McCraney
Directed by Larry Powell

The Minotaur

By Anna Ziegler | Directed by
Jonathan Muñoz-Proulx

Mad Forest

By Caryl Churchill
Directed by Christopher Shaw
Scene Dock Theatre | Nov 14–24

Barbarians

Book by Maxim Gorky | Translated
by Kitty Hunter Blair, Jeremy
Brooks and Michael Weller
Directed by Susan Angelo
McClintock Theatre | Nov 21–24

MFA ACTING YEAR 3 REPERTORY

Scene Dock Theatre
Feb 7–Mar 8, 2020

Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)

By Suzan-Lori Parks
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Andrei Belgrader

Guarded

By Boni B. Alvarez
Directed by David Warshofsky

Othello

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Kate Burton
Bing Theatre | Feb 27–Mar 1

Camino Real

By Tennessee Williams
Directed by Edgar Landa
McClintock Theatre | Mar 5–8

Fuente Ovejuna: A Disloyal Adaptation

By Cusi Cram
Directed by Rena Heinrich
Scene Dock Theatre | Apr 2–5

The Secret Garden

Book and Lyrics by Marsha
Norman Music by Lucy Simon
Based on the novel by
Frances Hodgson Burnett
Directed by Kelly Ward
Bing Theatre | Apr 2–12

Three Sisters

By Anton Chekhov
A New Version by Sarah Ruhl
Based on a literal translation
by Elise Thoron
With Natasha Paramonova and
Kristin Johnsen-Neshati
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel
Scene Dock Theatre | Apr 23–26

BFA Sophomore Show

McClintock Theatre | April 23–26

NEW WORKS FESTIVALS

YEAR 1

New Play Readings

Presented in association with
Playwrights' Arena | April

YEAR 2

Playwrights Workshop

Presented in association with
Latino Theater Company
Massman Theatre | Apr 11–19

YEAR 3

Play Project

Presented in association with
the Pasadena Playhouse
May 22 & 23

TICKET PRICES

Plays: General \$15, Seniors \$10, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID \$8
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(Except where noted)

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dramaticarts.usc.edu/on-stage

