

Men on Boats

By Jaclyn Backhaus

Directed by Guest Artist Joy Dolo (joydolo.org)

Performance Dates: March 13-17, 2024

Audition Dates: video submissions by January 13, 2024; Callbacks on January 22, 2024

See audition information elsewhere

About the play:

Men on Boats is a thrilling, action packed, hilarious story of the rigorous expedition of John Wesley Powell and team as they map to and through the Grand Canyon via the river rapids of the US. This (partially true) historical comedy is told by Actors who are BIPOC, female, female identifying, trans identifying, gender fluid, and/or non-gender conforming. If this is you, please submit!

Characters to be Cast:

John Wesley POWELL—one-armed leader of the expedition. A crazyface with a fiery temper and an excitable soul. Powell hates suits and loves adventures.

William DUNN—hunter and trapper. Dunn wears beaver skin always.

John Colton SUMNER—former soldier, current explorer. Sumner is widely known to be the Bear Grylls of the 1860s. Sumner will just go snowshoeing through the Rocky Mountains in winter because “no one had done it yet.”

OLD SHADY— Powell’s older brother, Civil War vet.

BRADLEY—lieutenant, manic with youth.

O.G. Howland—printer and hunter.

SENECA Howland—O.G.’s quiet little brother.

Frank GOODMAN —British, and so excited (Standard British dialect required).

HALL—mapmaker, old soul.

HAWKINS—the cook.

The Others on the Land:

TSAUWIAT—a Ute chief (doubles with OG HOWLAND).

THE BISHOP—Tsauwiat’s wife (doubles with SENECA HOWLAND).

MR. ASA—a desert settler (doubles with GOODMAN).