
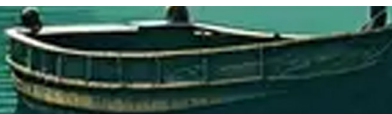


Ten Explorers.
Four Boats.
One Grand Canyon.



MEN ON BOATS

Four evenings: 7:30 pm
Thursday, Fridays
and first weekend Saturday

by Jaclyn Backhaus

Directed by Samantha Kelly

Three matinees: 2:30 pm
Sundays and second
weekend Saturday

Tickets: \$20 (Fri, Sat, Sun)
Thursday: \$15

APRIL 17-26, 2026

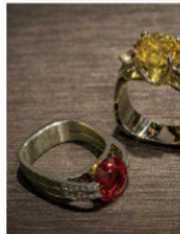
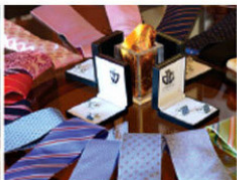
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254 Veterans Way • Carmel, IN 46032

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**Carmel Community Players
Proudly Presents**



**MEN ON
BOATS**

by Jaclyn Backhaus

Directed by Samantha Kelly

Produced by Margot Everitt

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR SMART PHONES AND DEVICES ARE
POWERED OFF DURING THE PERFORMANCE**

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Men on Boats is produced by special arrangement with
Dramatist Play Services, Inc.
Dramatists Play Services, 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

Carmel Community Players

For reservations, call (317) 815-9387 or see the link at our website:
www.carmelplayers.org

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Cast of Men on Boats

Aboard the Emma Dean. Named after Powell's wife.

John Wesley Powell.	Barb Weaver
William Dunn.	Desiree Black
John Colton Sumner.	Kelly Hutchings

Aboard the No-Name. The boat named after nothing.

O.G. Howland/ Johnson.	Katarina Zack
Seneca Howland/ Just Jim.	Victoria Garcia
Frank Goodman/ Mr. Asa.	Ozzie Buttler

Aboard the Kitty Clyde's sister. Named after Kitty Clyde's sister.

Old Shady.	Wendy Brown
George Young Bradley.	Sarah Arthur

Aboard the Maid of the Canyon – the party boat.

William Robert Hawkins.	Nick Chase
Andrew Hall.	Kenzie Wright

Production Staff of Men on Boats

Producer.	Margot Everitt
Director.	Samantha Kelly
Assistant Director.	Grant Bowen
Light Design.	Kristina Lawyer
Light Operator.	Grant Bowen
Sound Design/Operator.	Drake Smith
Costume Design.	Jacob Harris
Properties.	Mackey Brose
Hair/Makeup.	Samantha Kelly
Set Design.	Grace Kelly
Set Construction.	Grace Kelly, Charlie Hanover, David Muse
Set Decoration.	Samantha Kelly
Boat Design.	Kristina Lawyer, Broden Irwin
Boat Construction.	Broden Irwin
Curtain Speech	Jason Creighton
Webmaster	Daniel Smith
Poster	Lori Raffel
Social Media Manager	Hannah Janowicz
Program Coordinator	Kat Watson
Programs and Graphics.	Bill Miller

Setting - *Men on Boats*

SETTING: On boats in 1869. Traversing the Green & Colorado Rivers from Wyoming to a Big Canyon on the government's first Sanctioned Expedition.

SCENES: ACT ONE

The Boats in the Water
The Emma Dean
The Maid of the Canyon
The Kitty Clyde's Sister
The Rapids from Knife's Point
Carrying the No-Name
Campfire
The Morning Summit
Rapids From Dunn's Cliff
Dinner
The Next Day
Dinner
On the Boats
Goodman Chooses to Leave the Mission
Atop the Ridge
The Mouth of the Little Colorado

ACT TWO

The Big Canyon
Camp At Dusk
Blinding Daylight
Campfire, Dusk
Campfire the Next Morning....
Men On Boats

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.

Synopsis - *Men on Boats*

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 crew of insane yet loyal volunteers set out to chart the course of the Colorado River.



From the Director's Chair

When thinking about American history, we know the exact formula of how it goes. Old white guys go out and discover things and then they take credit for what's already there. It's been happening for the last 250 years. Do you know about the 1869 expedition of John Wesley Powell and his crew? No? Me either. *Men On Boats* lets us imagine something different. I was a part of a production my junior year of college. I played Frank Goodman/Mr. Asa. It was an interesting experience because

our only requirement was to be ourselves. We were able to create our own version of these real people. That is what we've done here. Jaclyn Backhaus has given us the framework to create something awesome.

I wanted to direct this show because it takes something that really happened and gives it a new life. The entire plot of this show came directly from John Wesley Powell's journals, so we only have one account of the entire event, but as Backhaus has stated over the years, he provided so much detail that we're able to walk ourselves through the expedition and what happened during the three months they were out there. I hope you enjoy what we've created, and we give thanks to Major John Wesley Powell and his entire crew for their sacrifices.

Samantha Kelly

Thank You!

We would like to humbly thank the following people and groups who were kind enough to assist in creating this production.

Kristina Lawyer & Broden Irwin

North Central H.S Theatre Department

Indy Ghost Light Photography

Katelyn Sutton

Jason Creighton

David J. Barker - Barker Law



**SARAH ARTHUR (Bradley)**

Sarah made her acting debut at the age of 9 as Asparagus Spears in her third-grade play of one acts. Since then, she's been in four plays, including *12 Angry Jurors* through the Rick-Weil's theater company in Greenfield, Indiana. This is her first production through Carmel Community Players, and they've already made her feel right at home! During the day, Sarah is an assistant site supervisor for Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation's extended school enrichment and summer camp series program. Her hobbies include writing, freelance voice acting and playing video games. She'd like her family, friends, CCPR team and most of all her cat, Augustus, who keeps her sane and has graciously allowed flexible dinner times so she could make it to rehearsal every night.

**DESIREE BLACK (William Dunn)**

Desiree is so honored to be in this production. She was last seen on stage with CCP as Charlotte in *Pride and Prejudice*. She also recently began her directing journey with *Rumors* at Anderson Mainstage Theater and is hoping to direct more in the future! Past favorite credits include *Shrek the Musical* (Fiona), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), and *Beau Jest* (Sarah). She would like to thank her husband, Gage, for always supporting her love of theater and Sam and Grant for casting her in this show. She would like to dedicate these performances to the men of the Powell Geographic Expedition of 1869, who inspired this story.

**WENDY BROWN (Old Shady)**

Wendy reentered theatre following thirty-eight years in the thoroughbred industry. She's enjoyed roles with Indianapolis Civic Theatre, Epilogue Theatre, Westfield Playhouse, Hendricks Civic Theatre, Center Stage, Buck Creek Players, Theatre Unchained, Catalyst, Indy Fringe, Diva Fest, American Lives Theatre, Carmel Community Players, Clerical Error Productions and Southbank Theatre. She serves on the board of Friends of Ferdinand, a thoroughbred aftercare organization and tends two retired horses. In addition to playing on stage, she loves losing herself through the lens of her camera. Wendy is happy to return to the CAT for Carmel Community Players.



OZZIE BUTTLER (Frank Goodman/Mr. Asa)

Ozzie is so happy to be joining CCP's *Men on Boats*! This is not only their first production with CCP, but their first community theatre production ever! While they are still a senior in high school, they are planning to pursue theatre for college. They were last seen in Herron High School's *Once Upon a One More Time* as Stepmother, and in *The Gab* as Angela (and going to the International Thespian Convention!!) They would like to thank their parents for their patience and support, as well as their thespian troupe 11828!



NICK CHASE (William Robert Hawkins)

Nick is so excited to be part of this production! He is originally from Utah, where he was a part of many productions such as *The Little Mermaid*, *SpongeBob*, and *9 to 5*. *Men on Boats* is his first show in Indiana, and he looks forward to many more! His favorite musicals are *Ragtime* and *Hadestown*. This summer he'll start attending Purdue University for Psychology and Law. He would like to thank his parents and siblings for supporting every show, his best friend Naomi, for always rooting for him even from 2,000 miles away, and the entire cast and crew of *Men on Boats* for such an amazing experience!!



VICTORIA GARCIA (Seneca Howland/ Just Jim)

Victoria is excited for her first production with Carmel Community Players. Her previous roles have been Claire in *Rumors*, Esmeralda in *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Extraordinary Girl in *American Idiot*, and Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family*. She is vocally trained in opera, musical theatre, and jazz. She would like to thank Sam, Grant, Drake, Grace, and the cast for a wonderful time working on the show. A special thanks to Des and she knows why. Another thanks to her husband Chaz.

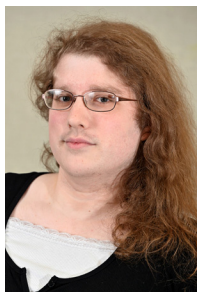


KELLY HUTCHINGS (John Colton Sumner)

Kelly is thrilled to be returning to CCP after nearly 10 years away from the theatre they grew up in. Recent credits include *Psycho Beach Party* (Nicky), *A Christmas Carol Comedy* (Fred/Ensemble), and *Reefer Madness* (Ensemble). Offstage, Kelly works as a lab tech and enjoys video games and petting their cats. They would like to thank Sam, and everyone involved in making *Men On Boats* possible, and thanks to their husband, Jarrod, their greatest support.

**BARB WEAVER (Major John Wesley Powell)**

Barb is excited to be back with CCP for this theater expedition! Her last appearance here was playing multiple characters in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* in 2022. Barb has been involved with various local community theatres since 2005. Past favorite roles include Ethel in *Barefoot in the Park* (Mud Creek), Kate in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Buck Creek), Karen in *August: Osage County* (CCP), M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias* (Mud Creek), various characters in *Red, White and Tuna* (The Belfry) and *The Dining Room* (CCT). Barb is retired and loves to travel to far-off places. She would like to thank the audience members for supporting live theater, Samantha for including her in this crazy journey, and her husband for his continued love and support.

**KENZIE WRIGHT (She/her) (Andrew Hall)**

Kenzie is incredibly excited to return to the stage both with CCP and at the Cat. Kenzie graduated from Ball State University in 2016 with a BFA in Acting. She also spent three years living in Dallas, Texas. When asked about her time there, she started sobbing uncontrollably and rocking back and forth in the fetal position. So, you can probably interpret that as a wholehearted recommendation. Some of her previous notable roles include Howard in CCP's production of *Moon Over Buffalo*, Scott in *A Little Family Business*, Ira Stone in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde in *Chemical Imbalance*, and Fyodor Kulygin in *Three Sisters*. She would like to thank her ever supportive wife for making the foolish mistake of marrying an actor, her cat for not ripping up her script this time, and her therapist for helping her work through the aforementioned crying fits.

**KATARINA ZACK (O.G Howland/ Johnson)**

This is Katarina's first show with CCP! Her last show was *Silent Sky*, where she played Margaret Leavitt. Some of her favorite roles from the past were in *Persephone UNCUT* (Hecate & Wood Nymph), and *The Further Misadventures of Martin Hathaway* (Fionn Mac Cumhail). Alongside her love for the spotlight, she enjoys her time set painting, props making, and set building! While not on stage, Katarina enjoys watching movies, trying new foods, playing games, and spending time with her friends! A big thank you to Sam and the whole cast and crew for bringing her along for this wild river adventure! She dedicates this performance to her loving and supportive family, who have always encouraged her dream!

**SAMANTHA KELLY (Director)**

Samantha is so excited to share this amazing show with all of you! She recently directed *Pride & Prejudice* for CCP as well as performing as a Phantom in *The Rocky Horror Show* with Main Street Productions in Westfield and as Smee in CCP's *Peter and the Starcatcher*. She has worked as Stage Manager/Asst. Director for a few of her favorites like *Steel Magnolias* (CCP), *Woman in Black* (CCP), *Moon Over Buffalo* (CCP) and *Murder on the Orient Express* (CCP). She holds a BA in

Theatre from Albion College with an emphasis in Acting and Costume Design. She is currently serving as CCP's Resident Stage Manager and a Board Member and works as an Instructional Assistant for Special Education at the middle school level and the Assistant Theatre Director at North Central High School. She would like to thank her boyfriend for supporting her constant crazy schedule and thank you to the cast and other creatives for helping create such an amazing show!

**GRANT BOWEN (Assistant Director)**

Grant is happy to be back in the assistant director's chair after making his debut with CCP's production of *Four Weddings and an Elvis!* He's even more ecstatic that the director for *Men on Boats* is one of his bestest friends, Sam Kelly! "The second she asked me to be her assistant director, I said yes without any hesitation. She gave me many opportunities to find my voice, and I can't thank her enough". He has had such a blast working with both her and the amazing cast o bring this amazing show

to life and is looking forward to the day he gets to make his directorial debut! As always, he would like to thank his friends and family for their continuous amount of love and support and hopes y'all enjoy the show!

MACKEY BROSE (Props)

Mackey is excited to provide backstage support for *Men on Boats* after assisting in CCP's production of *Pride and Prejudice* in 2025. By day, Mackey is an eighth grader at Westfield Middle School. By night, lover of the arts. She has graced such stages as Westfield High School, Westfield Intermediate School, Westfield Middle School, The Westfield Playhouse, The Belfry Theatre, and The Cat. She is excited to work alongside Sam once again!

BRODEN IRWIN (Boat Construction)

Broden is proud to create Boat-ver-alls™ for his first show with CCP! He has previously designed and built sets at Anderson's Mainstage Theatre and Main Street Productions. He has also appeared onstage at AMT, MSP, and The Alley Theater in numerous roles. He thanks the audience for supporting live theater, and his wife Kristina for her support. Contact LadderLordHeightServices.com for fireplace maintenance, chimney repair, gutter cleaning, or any job that requires a ladder.

KRISTINA LAWYER (Lighting Design)

Dr. Kristina Lawyer is excited to do lighting design here at CCP. Her recent credits include set designer and builder for several shows at Anderson's Mainstage Theatre, set builder for *The Rocky Horror Show* at MSP, and lighting designer/operator for *Almost, Maine* at MSP. When she's not engaged in theater work, she is managing Lawyer Motorsports or working as a Senior Mechanical Engineer or as a Visiting Professor of Engineering at Anderson University. She also recently completed the Sound Engineering for Live Events certificate from Berklee Online. Kristina would like to thank her husband, Broden Irwin, for being her partner in theatre and life and her many pets for their companionship.

DRAKE SMITH (Sound Design/Operator)

Drake is excited to work with CCP again as he has no personal life and relies solely on theater to fill that gap. Big thanks to Sam for giving him a break from the monotony of day-to-day life.

**JACLYN BACKHAUS (Playwright)**

Jaclyn Backhaus is a playwright and co-founder of Fresh Ground Pepper. Her play *Men on Boats* was a NYT Critics' Pick (Off-Broadway, Clubbed Thumb and Playwrights Horizons) after starting in Clubbed Thumb's Summerworks, and was a Kilroys play in 2015. Other works include *People Doing Math Live!* (Under The Radar Festival's INCOMING! Series at The Public Theater), *The Incredible Fox Sisters* (Live Source), *You On The Moors Now* (Theater Reconstruction Ensemble, The Hypocrites Theater Chicago), *Bull's Hollow* (Ars Nova), and the musical *Folk Wandering*. She has received commissions from Playwrights Horizons and Ars Nova and is the 2016 Tow Foundation Playwright-in-Residence at Clubbed Thumb. Her work has been developed and showcased with the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, Playwrights Horizons, The Public and Joe's Pub, The Ice Factory Festival, (not just) 3 New Plays, The Civilians R&D Group, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Ars Nova's ANT Fest, and The Falcons. BFA: NYU. She hails from Phoenix, Arizona.



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April 2026

April 16 - 26, 2026

The Tin Women

Epilogue Players

Thursdays-Saturdays 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2:00 p.m.

317-926-3139

epilogueplayers.com

April 17 – 26, 2026

Men on Boats

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317-815-9387

carmelplayers.org

April 24 – May 3, 2026

Godspell

Shelby County Players

Fridays - Saturdays 7:30 p.m.; Sundays 2:00 p.m.

317-392-6844

shelbycountyplayers.com

May 2026

May 1 - 17, 2026

Angel Street/Gaslight

Center Stage Community Theatre

Fridays-Saturdays 7:30 p.m.; Sundays 2:30 p.m. centerstagecommunitytheatre.com

765-894-5587

May 1 - 17, 2026

Kiss Me, Kate

Footlite Musicals

Thursdays - Saturdays 7:30 p.m.; Sundays 2:30 p.m.

317-926-6630

footlite.org

May 15 - 24, 2026

Joined at the Head

The Belfry Theatre

Thursdays - Fridays 8:00 p.m.; Saturdays - Sundays 2:00 p.m. Thebelfrytheatre.com

317-773-1085

June 2026

June 12 - 21, 2026

Disney's Descendants: The Musical

Carmel Community Players

Thurs, Fri, 1st-Sat 7:30 p.m.; Sun, 2nd-Sat 2:30 p.m.

317-815-9387

carmelplayers.org

June 2026 (continued)

June 18 - 28, 2026

Present Laughter

Epilogue Players

Thursdays-Saturdays 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2:00 p.m.

317-926-3139

epilogueplayers.com

July 2026

July 10 - 26, 2026

Unnecessary Force

Center Stage Community Theatre

Fridays-Saturdays 7:30 p.m.; Sundays 2:30 p.m. centerstagecommunitytheatre.com

765-894-5587

July 17 - 26, 2026

The Mousetrap

Shelby County Players

Fridays - Saturdays 7:30 p.m.; Sundays 2:00 p.m.

317-392-6844

shelbycountyplayers.com

July 22 - 26, 2026

Oliver! JR

The Belfry Theatre

Thursdays - Fridays 8:00 p.m.; Saturdays - Sundays 2:00 p.m. Thebelfrytheatre.com

317-773-1085

August 2026

August 7 - 16, 2026

Native Gardens

Carmel Community Players

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OUR NEW SEASON



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD from the book by Harper Lee

The peaceful facade of a Great Depression era town shatters when a black man is accused of a crime. Local lawyer, Atticus Finch, must defend the case. Adapted from the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, this powerful work explores prejudice, compassion, and the courage to do what is right.

Director: Andrea Odle
Venue: The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel, IN 46032



4 WEDDINGS AND AN ELVIS by Nancy Frick

Sandy, a four-times-married-three-times-divorced owner of a wedding chapel in Las Vegas, has seen her fair share of matrimones. In this comedy, we witness a revenge matrimony, a publicity ploy, an ex-con outrunning the police, and a final vow which takes the cake!

Director: Nicole Amsler
Venue: The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel, IN 46032



THE SPITFIRE GRILL

A troubled young parolee yearning for a fresh start. While working at a small diner in Wisconsin, Percy reawakens the entire town's capacity for rebirth, forgiveness and hope. Set to a melodic folk-inspired score, this musical celebrates the healing power of community.

Director: Kathleen Horigan
Venue: The Switch, 10029 E. 126th, Fishers, IN 46038



MEN ON BOATS by Jacklyn Backhaus

Ten explorers. Four boats. One Grand Canyon. A gender-bending retelling of John Wesley Powell's 1869 expedition of the Colorado River. An adventure drama boasting the bravery, determination, and the general foolishness of humanity.

Director: Samantha Kelly
Venue: The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel, IN 46032



DISNEY'S DESCENDANTS

Music/Book by Nick Blaemire, Music by Matthew Tishler (Musical, Rising Star Production) The teenaged children of villains Maleficent, the Evil Queen, Jafar, and Cruella De Vil are sent to attend prep school alongside the children of beloved Disney heroes. Should they follow in their parents' wicked footsteps or learn to be good?

Directors: Tanya Haas and Samantha Kelly
Venue: The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel, IN 46032



NATIVE GARDENS

by Karen Zacarias
Pablo and Tania purchase a house next door to community stalwarts Virginia and Frank. A disagreement over a long-standing fence line soon spirals into an all-out war of taste, class, privilege, and entitlement. The hilarious results guarantee no one comes out smelling like a rose.

Director: Lori Raffel
Venue: The Cat, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel, IN 46032