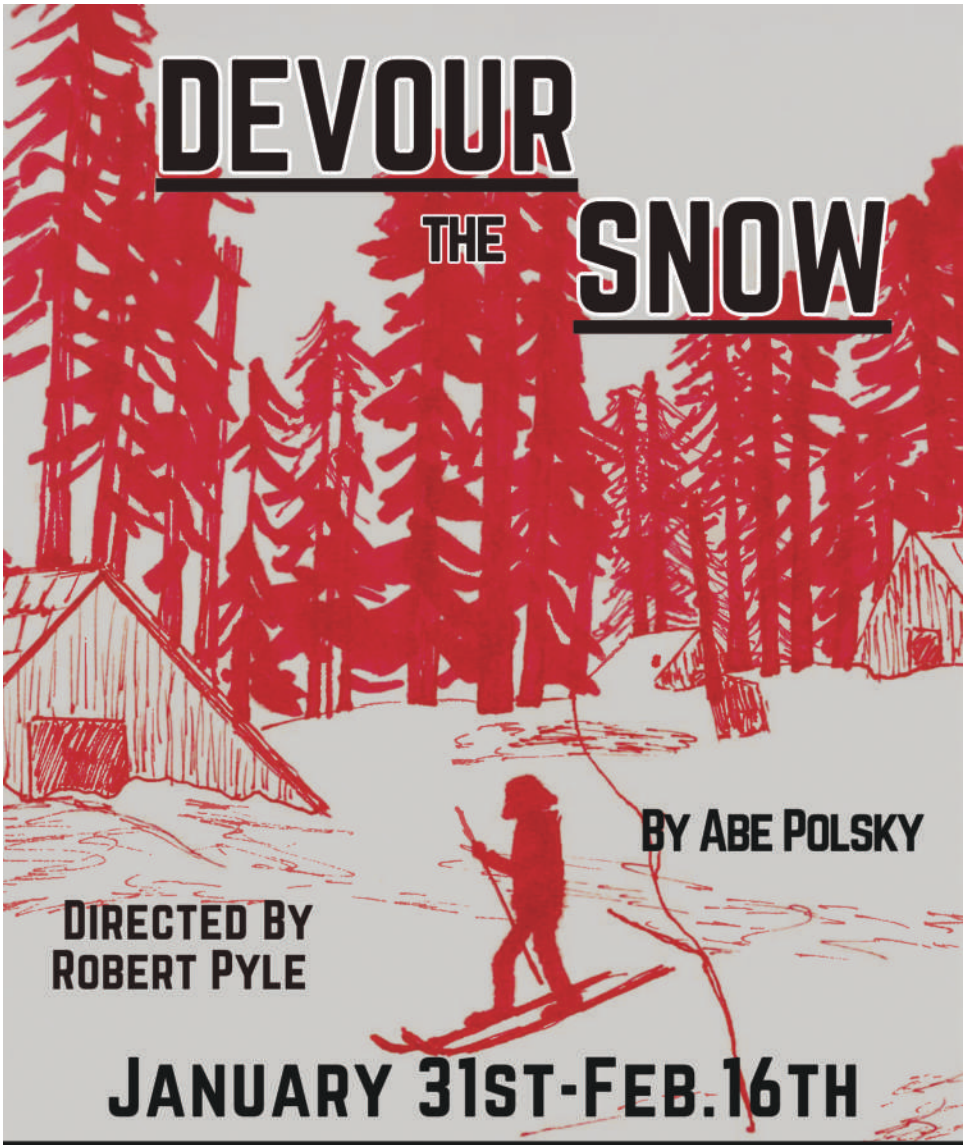


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BY ABE POLSKY

DIRECTED BY ROBERT PYLE

JANUARY 31ST-FEB.16TH

PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHT FEB.6TH 7:30PM

FRI. & SAT 7:30 PM SUNDAYS 2PM

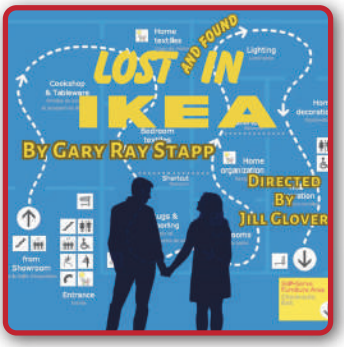
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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



My connection to the Donner Party began 30 years ago, when I was 14 and my father lived in Battle Mountain, Nevada. He often spoke of them, as their 1846 expedition passed directly through that area. Over time, I sadly forgot those childhood stories.

That changed about two years ago, when I was asked to direct a new production at Barnstormers Theatre. A friend gave me two scripts; the first didn't resonate, but the second—**Devour the Snow**, about the Donner Party's aftermath—immediately captivated me. I agreed to direct it.

Driven to learn more, I immersed myself in books and journals about the Donner Party. My growing excitement led me to Sacramento, where the play is set. I visited Sutter's Fort, the site of the Keseberg trial. On my return to Oregon, I made a crucial stop at Donner Pass. Standing at the site of such immense tragedy was a surreal experience. It struck me how many people are unaware of this pivotal moment in Western American history—a moment that should never be forgotten.

I'm thrilled to share this powerful story of triumph and tragedy. As you watch this production, please remember these events truly happened. Consider what you would have done in the desperate circumstances these people faced during the harsh winter of 1846.

I hope you enjoy this show as much as I have bringing it to the stage,

- ROBERT PYLE

CREW

Director ..... **Robert Pyle**

Stage Manager ..... **Mary Edwards**

Kid Wrangler/Greenroom Mom ..... **Mary Edwards**

Set Design ..... **Robert Pyle**

Set Construction ..... **Tom Miller, Brian "Beef" Williams, Stephy & Zach Dodge**

Set Painting ..... **Robert Pyle, Emery Pyle, Jeremy Pyle, Mary Edwards, Dan Edwards**

Light Designer ..... **Clyde Highbarger**

Light Board Operator ..... **Lasky**

Sound Designer ..... **Lasky**

Sound Board Operator ..... **Clay**

Costume Design ..... **Ruth Sears**

Stage Crew ..... **Mary Edwards, Kodah**

Photography ..... **Zach Dodge**

Poster Design ..... **Robert Pyle & Niki Richards**

Playbill Design ..... **Jaren Hobson**

Poster Printing ..... **Karen Zimmer at Evergreen Federal Bank**

Executive Director ..... **Niki Richards**

Production Coordinator ..... **Lisa Miller**

Board of Directors ..... **Gabrielle Hahn, Dawn Allen, Jamie Banister, Sharif Abdulrahman, Jill Glover,Tanaia Green, Judie Erickson, Sharon Giddings, Evie Benson, Robert Pyle, Denise Baker , Marleen Granas**

SCENE & SETTING

Act 1 Scene 1

Sutter Fort in Northern California. A early morning in May, 1847

Is a common hall serving as a courtroom.

Act 1 Scene 2

Same location. Afternoon.

Act 2

Same Location. Early evening

THANK YOU'S

Brian "Beef" Williams

Emery Pyle

Mary Edwards

Jeremy Pyle

Niki Richards

Gabrielle Hahn

Steve Corelis

Ruth Sears

Barnstormers Artistic Committee

Barnstormers Board of Directors

CAST



DAVID BLAKE *(John A. Sutter)*

It's a pleasure to return to the stage. In this gripping courtroom drama working with a splendid cast and director.



SKYLER BENNETT *(Phillipine Keseberg)*

Skyler is excited to be a part of another show at Barnstormers. Skyler has been preforming with Barnstormers since moving to Grants Pass in 2016. Some of her favorite roles have been Lucy in **Dracula**, Joanna in **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner**, and Grace Fryer in **Radium Girls**. Skyler would like to thank her family for all their help and support. She would also like to thank the amazing cast and crew who have brought this play to life through hardwork and dedication. She hopes you enjoy the show



ZACHARY DODGE *(Lewis Keseberg)*

I'm happy to be back on stage again! Over the last year, I've had the pleasure of performing as Renfield in **Dracula**, Reverend Parris in **The Crucible**, Mr. Phillipmepockets during the youth theatre summer camp show, **Face Your Fears**, understudying for a role in **39 Steps** , and Mr. Mannignham in **Angelstreet**. I'm passionate about theater and hope you enjoy the show!

CAST



CONNOR BENNETT *(James Reed)*

Connor is no stranger to the stage, he's been involved in community theatre locally for the past 15 years. He's worked with One Eleven Theatre Company and Rogue Valley Shakespeare. He is always happy when he can the stage with his sister Skyler. He hopes you enjoy the show!



STEPHY DODGE *(Margaret Reed)*

I'm thrilled to be involved in another fantastic Barnstormers production! It's a privilege to join my husband in his theatrical passion. He's the one who encouraged me to delve deeper into theater as a shared hobby, and we've had the pleasure of performing together in a few plays back in Wisconsin after the move from Guatemala. Now, it's hard to imagine being away from the stage. I'm incredibly grateful to my husband, Zach, for his unconditional love and support, and to the community for its dedication to theater. I hope you enjoy the show!



EVAN BORMAN *(James Eddy)*

Evan Borman is a Southern Oregon native who discovered a passion for acting in high school. His most memorable roles were Macbeth, Mr. Hyde, and Plankton in **Sponge Bob the Musical** . Apparently he has a good face for villains! After a stint in Portland community theater, he is back in town and enjoying his new role at Barnstormers.

CAST



STEVEN CORELIS *(Fallon)*

Steven is a transplant from the Bay Area and thoroughly enjoying Southern Oregon and it's wonderful people. He was last seen in **The Crucible** here at Barnstormers, and now **Devour the Snow**. He really needs to audition for a comedy soon! Thank you so much for supporting local theater and enjoy the snow—er, show.



ALEX BINDER *(Georgia Donner)*

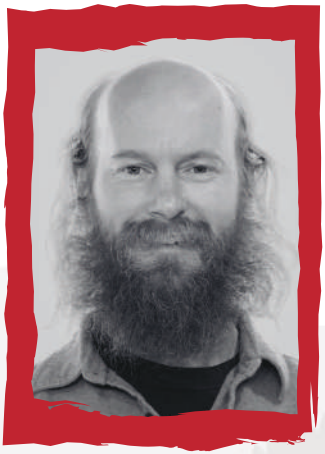
Alex Binder, who plays the role of Georgia Donner is debuting in their first role at Barnstormers. They previously appeared as Narrator 2 in **10 Ways to Survive the Apocalypse** at South Middle School. Don't devour the snow.



JEREMY PYLE *(Sheriff George McKinstry)*

This is Jeremy's 14th show working with Barnstormers (seventh show acting), with his last role playing Salem Thompson in **The Cracked Slipper** earlier this season. Jeremy's first appearance at Barnstormers was when he was 13 years old. He played one of Black Bart's minions in **A Christmas Story**.

CAST



JONO VANDER BROEK *(William Foster)*

Jono grew up in Lincoln Nebraska, where he got his start at acting both at the local community playhouse and in public school programs. He has been a performing musician since childhood and plays piano, electric bass, and loves singing. After high school he made the timeless journey as so many did from Nebraska to Oregon, for promise of a better future. While passing the Sierra Nevada's, his camper van broke down just outside of Sacramento. With everything he owned packed in his van, and no smartphone to order better options from Grubhub, he survived only on fast food that was within walking distance of the mechanic. After days of being stranded, his arteries nearly gave out in a desperate haze of McFlurries and McRibs. Luckily, the non-VW mechanics fixed up his Volkswagen just in time, and he was back on his way. This is Jono's first play at Barnstormers, and previous to this he has found an outlet for his acting through writing parodies to perform at local cabaret nights with the Williams World Music Choir. He is currently working on incorporating comedy pieces from Portlandia into his musical trio, and firmly believes that he could "change the world, one party at a time."

BARNSTORMERS Theatre SINCE 1952

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PRODUCTION TEAM



ROBERT PYLE *- Director*

For 27 years, Robert has been a part of the Barnstormers family, contributing both onstage and behind the scenes. He made his directorial debut with **The Christmas Angel** in 2020, followed by the summer hit **Treasure Island** in 2022. With **Devour the Snow**, Robert aims to push boundaries and underscore the importance of history. He hopes to remind audiences that despite tragedy and obstacles, hope should never be abandoned.



MARY EDWARDS *- Stage Manager*

Mary is excited to be stage managing again, having co-stage managed **39 Steps** last season at Barnstormers. It has been a delight to work along side of Robert, whom she has known since middle school. She would like to thank her son Kyler for always being willing to be her theater buddy and the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication. She hopes you enjoy the show!



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