



mmmmmm...Good!

mask and mirror monthly membership magazine

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Michael Allen

"The Boys Next Door" - Auditions Preview - Dec 5 & 6

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Learn more at www.MaskandMirror.com

Michael Allen

If you've ever been in a Mask & Mirror show (at least since our third season), then you know Michael Allen. Michael has been in nine shows over the past five seasons, with leading roles in two. And that's not including his work with other local groups, including Beaverton Civic Theatre and Canby Community Theatre. Perhaps more importantly, Michael has been involved in all aspects of our shows - he's volunteered his time doing photography, poster design, set construction, and sound and served as stage manager, assistant producer and assistant director. If you've been in a Mask & Mirror show, then you've probably worked with Michael in one way or another.



Mike has been in the hospital since Nov 8 with stage 4 oral cancer. He underwent 11 hours of surgery on November 14 and they had to remove part of his tongue and do a few other things that we'll just leave out of this message.

He can't talk but he has a whiteboard to communicate. His earliest release date is the 24th or 25 of November if all goes well.

After he heals in about 6 weeks, he will start chemo and radiation simultaneously.

When his treatments start, he will need help getting to and from Providence Portland hospital. He won't be able to drive, so if you want to help out with a ride or two (or more) from Tualatin to Providence, send email to Info@MaskandMirror.com with days and times you are available and we'll be in contact.

Michael is currently staying in room 725 at Providence Portland Medical Center (4805 NE Glisan St, Portland OR). Yes, he's a bit lonely and bored and would gladly welcome your visit. Visiting hours are 24-7.

- John Bartholomew, Gary Romans, Cindy Green



The Boys Next Door by Tom Griffin

Directed by Gary Romans (Gary.John.Romans@gmail.com)

December 5 & 6 at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 10445 SW Canterbury Lane, Tigard (downstairs), 7-10pm

Rehearsals start January 3, 2019, usually 6:30 or 7 (depending on cast work schedule) to 10pm, Mon, Wed, Thurs at Calvin; with the possibility of some field trips at a time TBD.

Performances March 2-24, 2019 at Calvin (Saturday night 7:30pm & Sunday matinee 2:30pm, no Friday performances)

NOTE: Written in the early 1980s, the play uses terminology no longer PC. We will not change that language. Although a comedy, the play handles people with intellectual disabilities realistically and with sensitivity.

The Mask & Mirror production of The Boys Next Door will have the support of various organizations providing services for people with disabilities. Actors portraying characters with disabilities may be requested to participate in some activities with one of these organizations.

All roles open. No pay except for 2 comps to any performance. No monologues - readings from script are included below.

ARNOLD Bipolar (manic-depressive), very nervous, talks fast-with excellent diction, any age

LUCIEN Very severely retarded, with one contrasting "Shakespearian" monologue, any age (written for an African-American actor)

NORMAN Mildly retarded, friendly, earnest, should be overweight, loves donuts, one very competent dance (style TBD), any age

BARRY Schizophrenic, intense, insecure, serious, thinks he's a golf pro, age as son of **MR KLEMPER**

JACK Social worker, any age

SHEILA Mildly retarded, should be overweight, one very competent dance (style TBD), close in age to **NORMAN**

MR KLEMPER One-armed, insensitive, bully, age as father to **BARRY**

OTHER There are 6 smaller roles (3M, 3F), each with one scene, written to be played by 1M, 1F. We will use 1 to 3 actors depending on audition talent available.

In a communal residence in Portland in the 1980s, four men with mental issues live under the supervision of an earnest, but increasingly burned out young social worker named Jack. The comedy includes moments of great poignancy when, with touching effectiveness, we are reminded that people with disabilities want only to love and laugh and find some meaning and purpose in the time that they are allotted on this earth, just like the rest of

us.

Although the above description of the play may make it seem as though *The Boys Next Door* is a heavy-handed drama, it's actually a story filled with very funny moments. But for the play to work, the audience must be laughing with the characters and not at them. Most critics have favored productions in which the actors portray the disabilities as realistically as possible. We will do this!

We will also be interviewing possible crew members for *The Boys Next Door*, including choreographer (for one 30-45 seconds high quality dance scene); Assistant Director (ideally with experience with the disabled community); props, lights, sound, stage management, set construction, etc.

We'd also like to hear from you if you have any experience with people with intellectual disabilities, or any contacts or connection to any of the Portland area non-profits that service this community.

Audition sides are ready for review. Email the Director for a copy.