



UW **DRAMA** 14/15

# BOYS' LIFE

*By Howard Korder*

DIRECTED BY  
**VALERIE CURTIS-  
NEWTON**

*Penthouse Theatre*  
**MAY 27-JUN 7, 2015**



SCHOOL OF DRAMA  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

# BOYS' LIFE

written by **HOWARD KORDER**

directed by **VALERIE CURTIS-NEWTON**

*Scenic Design*  
Andrew Guy

*Lighting Design*  
Bryce Bartl-Geller

*Sound Design*  
Valerie Curtis-Newton  
Mikko Juan

*Technical Director*  
Justin Roberts

*Stage Managers*  
Megan Brewer  
Beau Castillo

*Costume Design*  
Melinda Hare\*

\* Member of the Master of Fine Arts Program in Design

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*Prop Master*  
Andrea Bush

*Costume Assistant*  
Monica Gonzales

*Light Board Operator*  
Melody Donais

*Costume Crew*  
Veronica Cedillo Hernandez  
Timothy Han

*Assistant Director*  
Parker Kennedy

*Light Board Programmer*  
Melody Donais

*Running Crew*  
Sarah Burpee  
Will Conway

Mickey McDonell  
Peter Sakowicz

*House Manager*  
Jackie Wagner

*Sound Board Operator*  
Megan Brewer

Max Kerwien  
Adrianna Lopez

*Photographer*  
Mike Hipple

*Special Thanks:* 5th Avenue Theatre, ACT Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Opera, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Theatre Puget Sound, Village Theatre

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## CAST

*Jack*..... Tim Moore  
*Don*..... Nathan Wornian  
*Phil*..... Denny Le  
*Karen*..... Emma Broback  
*Man*..... Andy Tran  
*Maggie*..... Lindsey Crocker  
*Lisa*..... Alexandra Feinberg  
*Girl*..... Grace Ai Nguyen  
*Carla*..... Brynne Henry

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Scene 1—Don's bedroom  
Scene 2—A child's bedroom  
Scene 3—The city park  
Scene 4—A restaurant  
Scene 5—Don's bedroom  
Scene 6—The city park  
Scene 7—Don's bedroom  
Scene 8—Don's bedroom  
Scene 9—A wedding venue

The play runs about 100 minutes with no intermission.

*Boys' Life* is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.  
Originally produced by Lincoln Center Theater, New York City.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Professor in Acting and Directing and Head of Performance, Valerie oversees The Hansberry Project, a professional African American theatre lab. She has directed projects for professional companies, including Actors Theatre of Louisville, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Mark Taper Forum, Seattle Children's Theatre, Northwest Asian American Theatre, and Capitol Repertory Theatre. Valerie has participated in new play development for the New York Theatre Workshop, The Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis, The Mark Taper Forum, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and at the ACT/Hedgebrook and Seattle Rep/Hedgebrook Women Playwrights Festivals, working with playwrights including Kia Corthron, Caridad Svich, Gina Gionfriddo, Laurie Carols, and Valetta Anderson. In addition, she has served as Artistic Director for The Performing Ensemble of Hartford and the Ethnic Cultural Theatre at the UW, and was a participant in the 1997–98 NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors, assisting Tina Landau, Douglas Hughes, Lisa Peterson, Gordon Edelstein, and Sharon Ott. Valerie is a recent recipient of both the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation's Sir John Gielgud Directing Fellowship and a UW Presidential Faculty Development Fellowship. She is an alumna of Holy Cross College and the University of Washington (MFA). Professor Curtis-Newton is also a Donald E. Petersen Fellow.

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## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Howard Korder is an American screenwriter and playwright. He is the author of the 1988 coming-of-age play *Boys' Life*, which earned him a Pulitzer Prize nomination for Drama. His play *Search and Destroy* was adapted into a film in 1995. Among the screenplays he has written are *The Passion of Ayn Rand* and *Lakeview Terrace*. He is also one of the writers and producers of *Boardwalk Empire*.

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Boys' Life* is set in the late '80s. It is the time (post-Reagan) that many young people began coming home after college and, rather than striking out, prolonged "adolescence." It is the time of St. Elmo's Fire and the Brat Pack. Actors like Rob Lowe, Ally Sheedy, Molly Ringwald made their start in angst movies about how tough it is to get started on your own. *Boys' Life* is a play about that time. It is also a play about our time. Just think about how student debt forces people to depend on their parents, about how many young people struggle to find purpose and meaning, how adolescence is encouraged culturally, or about what the "hookup" culture has done to intimacy and the ecology of relationships.

When I selected *Boys' Life*, there were some raised eyebrows. I heard rumblings that it was "fluffy" and by implication not worth investigating. I respectfully disagree with that reading of the play. For me and our company, this is a play about three guys who must finally sacrifice the "boys life" lifestyle of their 20s—skirt chasing and carousing—in order to step into the "mans life" lifestyle of their 30s—real connections/partnerships with each other and with the women they encounter along the way. It is a play about the definition of manhood, about the pressures faced by boys playing at man-ness and ultimately about how much men need places to be really seen for who they are: vulnerable, proud, competitive, strong, and funny. Yes, the play is very funny, even silly sometimes, but it is also relevant.

We thank you for joining us and hope you enjoy the show.

Valerie Curtis-Newton, Director

## UPCOMING SHOW

### *On the Verge*

by Eric Overmyer  
directed by Rosalind Phelps  
presented by the Undergraduate  
Theater Society  
May 28–June 7  
Cabaret Theatre

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## 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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UW School of Drama  
101 Hutchinson Hall  
Box 353950  
Seattle WA 98195-3950  
206.543.5140

**Website:** [drama.uw.edu](http://drama.uw.edu)  
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206.543.4880

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## FURTHER READING

Check out our online resource guide to learn more about the play:  
[guides.lib.washington.edu/boyslife](http://guides.lib.washington.edu/boyslife)

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## AUDIENCE SURVEY

Let us know what you thought! Take our brief survey at:  
<http://bit.ly/boys-life-survey>





The University of Washington School of Drama develops innovative and courageous artists and scholars poised to be the creative leaders of tomorrow. Our dynamic, award-winning faculty is dedicated to enabling each student to reach their full potential and our alumni are advancing the artistic conversation through innovative and diverse work across the globe.

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*Executive Director*, Todd London

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