Bikeman
By Thomas F. Flynn
Directed by Mark Cosdon

A journalist’s harrowing account of 9/11, that “Forever September Morning.”
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Cast

Safiatou Compaore
Barry Crentsil
Matthew Dugan
Karen Gauriloff
alex martin
Victoria Smith

THE VIDEOTAPING OR OTHER VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDINGS
OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
About Journalist and Author Tom Flynn

Tom Flynn, author of *Bikeman*, was a writer and producer at CBS News for more than a quarter century. He was a founding member of "48 Hours," an investigative producer for the "CBS Evening News with Dan Rather," and a producer at "60 Minutes" for Steve Kroft. He currently writes and produces for "Dan Rather Reports" on cable broadcaster HDNet. Flynn has been honored by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with 15 Emmy Award nominations, winning six. And, he was honored with the prestigious Peabody Award for his work on "48 Hours."

PRODUCTION STAFF

Lighting Designer
Costumer
Technical Director
Assistant Technical Director
Projection and Sound Designer
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers
Light Board Operator
Sound Board and Projections Operator
Wardrobe Crew
Poster Design

Michael Mehler
Miriam Patterson
LeeAnn Yeckley
Heather Curtis
Heather Curtis
Tully Taylor
Jonathan Brodak and Sydnie Patton-Neil
McKenzie Dewolf
Maria Cabrera
Madeline Segar, Syd Hammerman
Blair Hartman and Office of College Relations

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Bikeman's* 2013 Cast and Stage Manager:

Lee Ann Adelsheim, Bolatito Aderemi-Ibitola, Katie Beck,
Maggie Boone, Duane Horton, AJ Long, Lee Scandinaro

Blair Hartman

Allegheny Bike Share

Penny Drexel and Brian Martone, Office of College Relations

Lynette Passilla
The Playshop Theatre acknowledges that it is situated on the ancestral territories of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. This land has been cared for and called home by the Haudenosaunee for over 1,000 years, along with the Indigenous cultures ancestral to the Confederacy for time immemorial.

**A Note from Director Mark Cosdon**

In 2013, Allegheny’s Playshop Theatre first presented Tom Flynn’s extraordinary *Bikeman*. Eight years later, we offer *Bikeman* as a commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of September 11. In exacting detail, many of us are able to recall when, where, and how we heard and watched the news unfolding in Lower Manhattan, at the Pentagon, and in Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania. However, as *Bikeman*’s cast and crew set to work this past August I was amazed to realize that the majority of our current students had virtually no memory of that fateful day—if they were even born.

To my mind *Bikeman* becomes all the more crucial. Some 2500 years ago the Greeks developed a new theatrical form known as “tragedy.” In choral songs—long and elaborate—the Greek people dramatized and commemorated their history. Doing so honored those that had come before, conveyed accounts of the immensely painful past to current generations, and demonstrated how present events had been shaped.

In moving Tom Flynn’s *Bikeman* to the stage, I’ve attempted to pay homage to these theatrical antecedents. With a chorus of six performers, the Playshop’s *Bikeman* returns to the elemental roots of drama—a collection of narrators conveying an enormously painful and important story to an audience that is asked to listen intently. Visual adornment and spectacle have been all-but-abandoned in favor of enormously expressive language, gripping imagery, and a desire to tell “the tale as it happens, not only its extremities and cruelty, but also the goodness that flourishes too.”

Due to the global pandemic, the Playshop Theatre has been away from its home in the Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre for over eighteen months. It’s an honor to once again be creating and sharing our work
with you. *Bikeman* feels like a crucial way to demonstrate yet again the power of our artform—as we listen, learn, and commemorate. Thank you for coming.

**A Note from Victoria Smith, Bikeman Performer**

I thought I knew what to expect when I agreed to be in this show. I just took it for what it was: a first-person account of the horrors of September 11th, 2001 and the trauma that followed. I knew it was poetry, and I knew we had a short rehearsal period. I thought I knew a lot of things about this show, but I was mistaken. When I first started reading through the many cantos and diving into my assigned few, I felt a little stirring of something, “a shapeless shrug” as Tom would say. There was this intense language that I don’t think I really appreciated at first. The pictures that Tom is able to paint are both awe-inspiring and heart-wrenching. And at first, I only got the briefest impression. But when we put this show on its feet, everything became real. The emotion that Tom weaves into countless similes and striking metaphors, the desperation and connection he portrays in his supporting cast of characters, the sheer power he concentrates into every word in every line. I have never known the fear, sadness, confusion, and solidarity that Tom presents for us, but this show has given me the chance to begin to understand this national and international turning point. On stage, we commiserate together despite never experiencing it ourselves. We actors and you the audience come together as one no matter our age, our background, or our life experiences. Together, we will strive to commemorate “this forever September morning.”

**Playshop Theatre Staff**

Managing Director: Mark Cosdon  
Resident Directors: Mark Cosdon, kt shorb  
Production Manager: LeeAnn Yeckley  
Resident Designers: Michael Mehler, Miriam Patterson  
Technical Director: LeeAnn Yeckley  
Asst. Technical Director: Heather Curtis

**Playshop Student Assistants**

Assistant Production Manager: Sydney Emerson  
Lead Technicians: Makenna Graham, Sabrina Mullen, Sydnie Patton-Neil, Alayna Willow  
Production Technicians: Grant Haggard, Syd Hammerman, Sasha Holguin, Claire Hurd, Grayson Reitz, Liam Richmond, Damaris Rodriguez, Oscar Spiker, Elsa Waidelich  
Lead Costume Technicians: alex martin, Luis Mendoza, Kaleigh White  
Costume Technicians: Nicole Arias, Mollie Cochran, Josie Huntzler, Vanessa Kocher, Quinn McCrea, Jaclyn Pham, Mycah Quevillon, Madeline Segar, David Swett, Akira Wills  
Photographer: Mary Dosch
The Playshop Theatre’s 2021/2022 Season

Bourbon at the Border by Pearl Cleage and directed by Terrence Spivey
Howard University students May and Charlie joined hundreds of other Americans in Mississippi in the summer of 1964 for a voter registration drive. Years later, they are still searching for a way back from the damage that was done to them during that long ago “Freedom Summer.” Performance dates: November 11-14, 2021.

Proof by David Auburn and directed by Mark Cosdon

She Kills Monsters by Qui Nguyen and directed by kt shorb
Qui Nguyen's action-packed comedic drama follows a very average Agnes as she goes on a Dungeons & Dragons quest to make sense of the death of her little sister, Tilly. Monster melees, puppetry, fantasy cos-play, the 1990s, coming out stories, and mourning meet for this energetic yet moving show. Performance dates: April 28-May 1, 2022.
Celebrate the Legacy of Allegheny Theatre

Support Allegheny’s Playshop Theatre by purchasing a personalized brass plaque for a seat in the Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre.

- Express your appreciation of Allegheny
- Recognize a special person or occasion
- Share a word of wisdom or encouragement

The funds raised through this endeavor will be placed in an endowed fund, the income from which will be used to support Playshop Theatre productions. With this valuable resource, the Playshop can continue to engage in innovative and exciting performances, and students will achieve new levels of excellence as they pursue their passion for theatre.

To purchase a plaque and for more information

(814) 332-6556 • lyoung@allegheny.edu