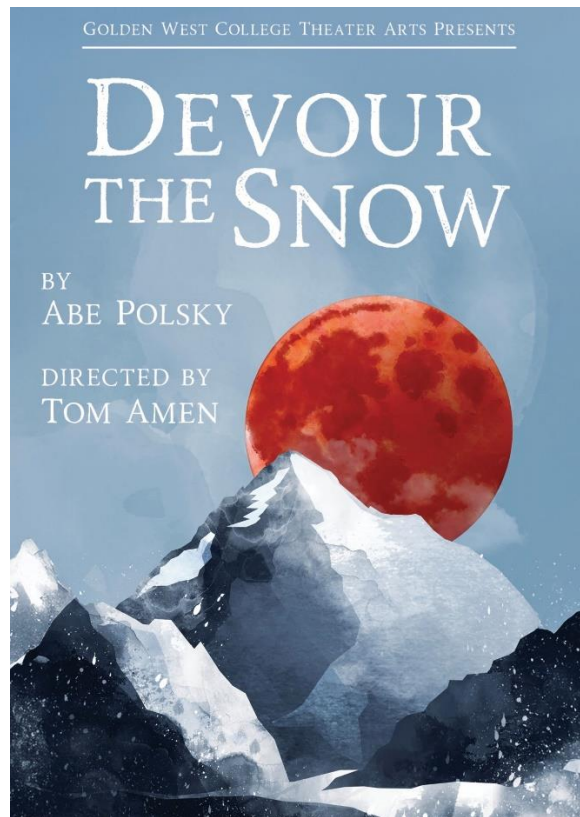


ATTENTION ACTORS – ADVANCED AUDITION NOTICE



DEVOUR THE SHOW By Abe Polsky Directed by Tom Amen

GENERAL AUDITION – OPEN CALL

December 2 at 7:00 PM
Stage West Theater
Golden West College
15751 Gothard Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

CALLBACK AUDITION (As Needed/By Invitation Only)

December 3 at 7:00 PM
Stage West Theater
Golden West College
15751 Gothard Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

AUDITION PREPARATION: Please Read the Play

PAY: None

PLEASE NOTE: Actors cast in DEVOUR THE SNOW will be required to enroll in a Tuition Free/Non-Credit Production Course. This course does not require any additional hours beyond the rehearsal and performance of the play itself.

ABOUT THE PLAY:

The tragic and haunting story of the Donner Party is brought to life in this riveting courtroom drama! Based upon an actual 1847 trial involving several members of the ill-fated wagon train, *Devour the Snow* captures all of the grim horror and desperate hope of early California pioneers trapped in the Sierra Nevada in the dead of winter. While hunger and hypothermia quickly claim the weak, a hearty handful, driven by tenacity and primal instinct alone, survive to write a proper ending to one of the darkest chapters in the history of the American West. Harrowing, heartbreaking, and brutally honest in its depiction of both human frailty and an almost superhuman will to live, *Devour the Snow* is gripping from gavel to gavel!

AVAILABLE ROLES: Roles for 7 Men, 2 Women, and 1 Girl – All Roles Open!

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Please note that some artistic license will likely be taken with the ages of the following characters. However, as these are non-fictional characters, in the interest of historical accuracy the actual age of each character at the time in which this play is set is listed within each brief character description.

Lewis Keseberg – (Age 33) The central figure and a survivor of the Donner Party who initiates a slander lawsuit. Hot tempered and angry and his accusers, yet wracked with guilt and shame.

Philippine Keseberg – (Age 23) Lewis Keseberg's loyal wife and fellow survivor.

Georgia Donner – (Age 5) A young girl who survived the ordeal but lost both parents in the snow.

Sheriff George McKinstry – (Age 32) The local lawman keeping the peace during the court proceedings.

James Reed – (Age 45) A prominent leader of the pioneer party who clashes with Keseberg. Accused of slander by Lewis Keseberg, who acts as Defense Council for Foster, Eddy, and himself.

Margaret Reed – (Age 32) James Reed's wife and fellow survivor. She is at odds with some of her husband's courtroom tactics.

Fallon – (Age 40-45 Precise Age Unknown) A member of the rescue party who brings graphic accusations against Keseberg.

John A. Sutter – (Age 44) The famous pioneer and landholder who hosts and presides over the legal proceedings at Sutter's Fort.

Bill Foster – (Age 31) A fellow survivor called to testify. One of those accused of slander by Keseberg, he is nonetheless a reluctant witness.

William Eddy – (Age 28-30 Precise Age Unknown) Another key survivor of the party involved in the bitter legal dispute. Unlike his co-defendants, Foster and Reed, Eddy is violently angry and out for blood.

Contact Director Tom Amen at tamen@gwc.cccd.edu for further audition details and/or character/casting requirements!

GENERAL REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION:

Rehearsal Schedule: Monday – Thursday from 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM beginning January 18, 2027.

PRODUCTION RUN: March 5 - 14, 2027

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 PM, Sunday at 2:00 PM

TOTAL PERFORMANCES: 7

PERFORMANCE VENUE: Performances will be held in the 339-seat Mainstage Theater at Golden West College. A well-equipped proscenium space, the Mainstage Theater is located at 15751 Gothard Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92647