

# **2025-2026 Theatre Season “What’s in a Name?”**

**Blinn College Division of Arts, Kinesiology &  
Agriculture-Brenham Campus**

## **The Boys Next Door**



### **Resource Guide**

**This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying *The Boys Next Door*. Please note that the interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.**



# **The Boys Next Door**

**Written by Tom Griffin**

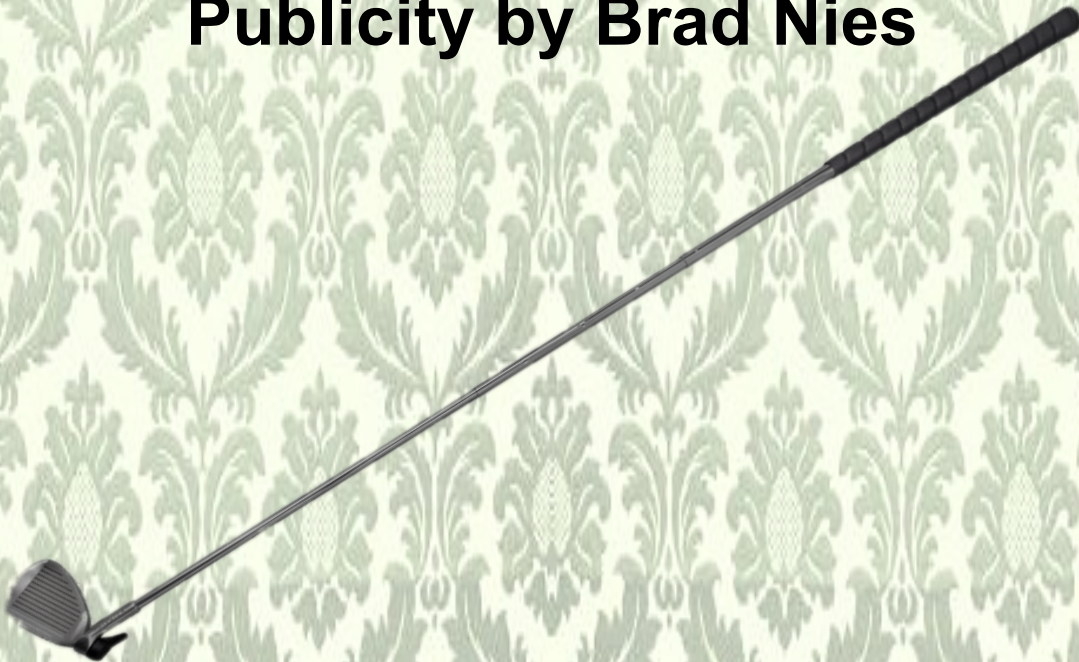


**Directed by Jennifer Patrick**

**Technical Direction by Kevin Patrick**

**Costumes, Makeup, and Hair Design  
by Jennifer Patrick**

**Publicity by Brad Nies**





# **Synopsis**

**Four men with intellectual disabilities live in a communal residence under the supervision of an earnest but burned out young social worker. Mingled with scenes from their daily lives are moments of poignancy when we are reminded that they want only to love, laugh, and find meaning and purpose.**

**Suitable for ages 13 and up.**

## **Public Performances**

**April 16 & 17**

**7:00 PM**

**April 18 & 19**

**2:00 PM**

## **School Preview Performances**

**April 16**

**10:00 AM & 1:00 PM**

## **Endowed Scholarship Auditions**

**April 18**

**4:30 PM**

**Dr. W. W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center  
Blinn College-Brenham**





# **Tom Griffin, Playwright**

Thomas E. Griffin, Jr. was born in Providence, Rhode Island on February 14, 1946. In 1969, he graduated with a B.A. in theatre from the University of Rhode Island and joined the Trinity Repertory Company shortly thereafter. While there, Griffin taught playwriting at the University of Rhode Island. He earned acclaim as a playwright when his play, *The Taking Away of Little Willie*, was performed at the 1979 Mark Taper Forum Playworks Festival, as well as Theatre Three in Dallas, Texas. A year later, his play, *Einstein and the Polar Bear*, was selected for the National Playwrights Conference. From there, the play was picked up by the Hartford Stage Company, and the work eventually found its way to the Cort Theatre on Broadway. Griffin, who died on March 20, 2018, is best known for his plays *The Boys Next Door*, *Amateurs*, *Pasta*, and *Mrs. Sedgewick's Head*.

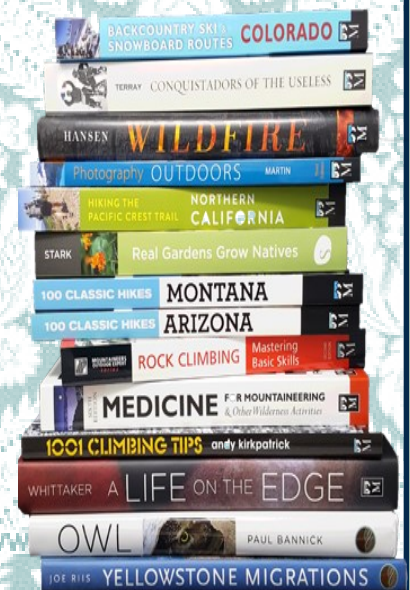
# Key Themes Found in The Boys Next Door

**Humanity and Connection:** The play emphasizes the fact that, despite differing abilities, everyone shares the fundamental desires for love, laughter, purpose, and belonging.

**Challenges and Triumphs of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities:** The play depicts the daily lives of men with various disabilities, highlighting their struggles and their moments of joy and success.

**Societal Perceptions and Acceptance:** The play shows how society views and treats individuals with disabilities, encouraging compassion and understanding.

**Friendship and Community:** The play showcases the importance of friendship and support within the group home, as well as in the broader community.



# Sources

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