

THE WASHINGTON STORY
A Production of the
Territorial Centennial

WHY WE HAVE IT - - THE WASHINGTON STORY was specifically designed to give to the citizens of the state an opportunity to see and hear a professionally produced show extolling the history of the area. It was felt that a local community could not afford and did not have the talent to write, direct and produce an undertaking such as this. The expense involved in doing a show that would travel over the state was to be divided among those areas seeing it. This eased the burden on each area asking for its showing. Consequently, and fortunately, a well-organized staff has developed. It is giving more than can be expected--planning, producing and rehearsing many hours in order to reach the state of perfection it feels it requires. Hollywood experts agree that this production offers a somewhat new method of presentation, a new development in historical presentation.

The committee having had experience in producing pageantry as such, planned also to attempt to relieve the local sponsors of many of the trials usually found with planning and producing on the local level. Thus, with a complete cast, costumes, properties, settings, lighting effects, sound system--even down to the stage upon which the show takes place, the local sponsoring group will have only to sell tickets, provide grounds, publicize and advertise.

Period of the story - - from 1800 to 1889-91

Time of play - - Slightly over two hours

Number in cast - - 30--playing over 100 parts

Width of Stage - - 84 ft. by 20 ft. in depth

Number of Acts - - Two

Sponsor - - Washington State Historical Society

Costumes - - Specially prepared for this production by Fonfara

Settings - - Designed and built by McDonald and Smith

Lighting - - By Scenic and Lighting Studios, Seattle

Sound System - - By Ruddell Sound System

Director and Producer - - Grant Redford, Univ. of Washington

Music and Choruses - - By Prof. Chas. Lawrence and Gerald Kechly

Dances - - Direction of Prof. DeVries

All spoken parts, choral work and music is to be taped. This has permitted a wider selection of voices in order to allow for fidelity of what a character is supposed to sound like. Cast members playing parts will be trained to pantomime each spoken word so that an audience will not realize that his and her voices are not being heard. This method allows for better audial reception and does not require causing an ambiguity that would be noticed if microphones were used to represent a 19th century period.

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SYNOPSIS

The play opens on an empty stage. A huge tidily bearded man, in a costume of no distinct period, steps onto stage. He is the Stage Manager, who speaks informally, directly to the audience and keeps the show moving. He is ordinary--is not conscious of any feeling of grandeur--is human and somewhat corny.

He calls for his helpers. They bring onto the stage a huge book--on its cover--THE WASHINGTON STORY--THE TRUTH. As the cover is opened, out streams a host of men and women--all shapes and sizes. Then he starts the activities, and here come Drake, Heceta, Barahof, Mears and others, quarreling as to how they are to take possession of the Northwest.

In quick succession are introduced, Jefferson, Lewis, Clark, Charbonneau, Douglas, McLoughlin, DeSmet, Wilkes, Whitman, all demonstrating their accomplishments and contributions to the area and how they were helpful in bringing about those influences which made us a part of the U. S.

As each district of the area is brought into attention, a huge map at the back of the stage is used to demonstrate additions of land.

The second act defines Washington as its main item of interest. The reasons for its being a territory, the customs of its people, the social activities, the hardships suffered in order to obtain local government. The settlements with the Indians by Gov. Stevens are vividly re-enacted. The problems of schools, churches, local government, cheap land, roads and growth are demonstrated.

When the Territory has reached sufficient growth to become a state, the actual scenes of the individual places of growth are shown on a screen. These scenes are pictures all taken before the period of statehood. They have been secured after a great amount of work in contacting myriads of sources. To the many people of the state who know little about the past, this is an interesting and human story. The whole accomplishment was due to the efforts of many people--men and women who ably and fearlessly demonstrated courage, patience, perseverance, stamina and dogged devotion to purpose. The story we present is just this--human, with stories, jokes, incidents selected from histories, journals, letters, diaries, conversations, newspapers and magazines after twelve months of research with one purpose in mind--is it suitable for The Washington Story. After seeing it and reading it, we are sure it will be popularly accepted.

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