

Spotlight on Learning

a Pioneer Theatre Company
Classroom Companion

A Few Good Men



Pioneer Theatre Company's Student Matinee Program is made possible through the support of Salt Lake County's Zoo, Arts and Parks Program, Salt Lake City Arts Council/Arts Learning Program, The Simmons Family Foundation, The Meldrum Foundation Endowment Fund and R. Harold Burton Foundation.

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**George Q. Morris
Foundation.**

Approx. running time:
2 hours and 30 minutes, including
one fifteen-minute intermission.

Student Talk-Back:
There will be a Student Talk-Back
directly after the performance.



A Few Good cast members, from left to right: Austin Archer, Joe Tapper, Corey Allen and Kate Middleton.

A FEW GOOD MEN • January 24 - February 8, 2014
By Aaron Sorkin • Directed by Karen Azenberg

“...the Truth.”

Probably the most famous line from American playwright and screenwriter Aaron Sorkin's *A Few Good Men* is Colonel Nathan Jessep's response to his cross-examination by Lt. J.G. Daniel Kaffee: "You can't handle the truth." Wartime atrocities have proven that the truth is often tough to swallow.

The core of the conflict in this story deals with obedience to authority. Were the two marines who are on trial for murder acting with malicious intent, or were they simply carrying out malicious orders from a higher authority? In the 1960s, Yale psychologist Stanley Milgram famously—and disturbingly—proved that most people would knowingly hurt another person rather than disobey orders from someone in a position of authority.

Milgram began his experiments during the trial of Holocaust organizer Adolf Eichmann, in response to the question on many people's minds at the time: "Could it be that Eichmann and his million accomplices in the Holocaust were just following orders?" And so he constructed an experiment in which participants believed that they were "teaching" other participants, with the "help" of electric shocks as punishment for not learning. Those "teachers" in the experiment also believed that their pupils suffered from a heart condition, and that eventually the shocks they delivered rendered those pupils unconscious, or possibly dead.

Though the circumstances of the experiment were constructed, and participants were not actually harming their pupils, those teachers were led to believe that the test and all its variables were real. Even once their pupils began screaming and begging for the experiment to cease because of the pain caused by the shocks, an appalling 65% of teaching participants in the Milgram experiment carried the project through to its seemingly disastrous conclusion, merely because of their belief in the authority held by the research team.

Though controversial in many ways, the results of Milgram's experiment gave insight to atrocities around the world and throughout time periods—even as recently as the Abu Ghraib scandal in Baghdad during the Iraq War.

Relations Between Sailors and Riflemen

The U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps are both part of the Department of the Navy, and work closely together. However, there is some (mostly friendly) rivalry between “Sailors” (Navy) and “Riflemen” (Marines).

“We’re the Men’s Department” is a commonly heard phrase among Marines when they are ribbing Sailors. During their grueling 13-week training, enlisted Marines are taught to believe that they are the U.S. military’s toughest warriors, which can lead to a certain elitism amongst Marines in general.

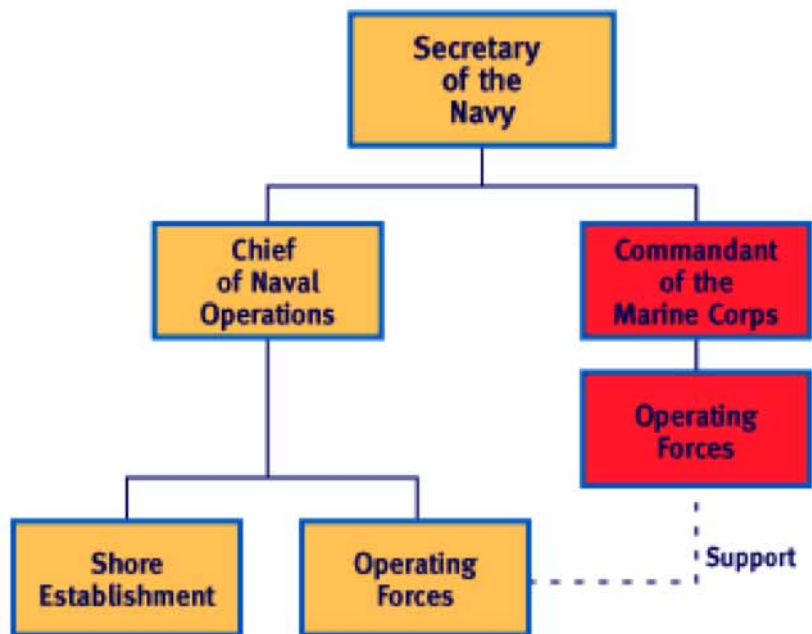
And even within the Marine Corps, there are hierarchies. Infantry guys (“03s”) see themselves as the toughest warriors in the USMC. In addition to their 13 weeks of basic training, they go through Infantry Training Battalion, a 59-day course that prepares recruits for service in the “operating forces.” If you’re not an 03, then you’re just a POG (a person other than a grunt).

By the same token, Sailors typically see Marines on ships, where the Marines have nothing to do but work out while the Sailors are working hard at their various jobs. This, naturally, can lead to a certain level of misunderstanding between the two branches. To the Marines, the Sailors are glorified taxi drivers; and to the Sailors, the Marines are a bunch of meatheads.

Organization of the U.S. Navy

The following chart presents an overview of the organization of the Department of the Navy. The U.S. Navy was founded on October 13, 1775, and the Department of the Navy was established on April 30, 1798. The Department of the Navy has three principal components: The Navy Department, consisting of executive offices mostly in Washington, D.C.; the operating forces, including the Marine Corps, the reserve components, and, in time of war, the U.S. Coast Guard (in peace, a component of the Department of Homeland Security); and the shore establishment.

The dashed line marked “Support” indicates the cooperative support of the Navy-Marine Corps team. Each of the operating forces supports the other.



The cast of A Few Good Men. Those dressed in green are “Riflemen.” “Sailors” are dressed in blue.

Glossary of Terms

Article 31	Article 31 is the U.S. military's equivalent of Miranda rights.
Conduct unbecoming a Marine	Although there is no such charge for enlisted service members, all service members are held legally accountable for "all disorders and neglects to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the armed forces, all conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces, and crimes and offenses not capital."
Court-martial	A court-martial is simply a trial in a military court. A general court-martial is similar to a felony court, and may impose the death penalty.
Discharge	When a soldier leaves the military he or she receives a "discharge." Discharges come in various flavors: Honorable, General, Other than Honorable Conditions, Bad Conduct and Dishonorable (for enlisted service members), and Dismissal (for officers). A Dishonorable Discharge is the punitive discharge of an enlisted service member and can only be handed down by a court-martial. With a DD, all veteran's benefits are lost and many states regard it as the equivalent of a felony conviction.
My Lai	What became known as the My Lai Massacre occurred on March 16, 1968, when a company of American soldiers entered a village in Vietnam and killed as many as 507 unarmed civilians, mutilating and raping others. The incident was covered up for over year, until Ron Ridenhour, a recent Vietnam veteran, sent letters to 30 congressmen reporting the incident. The letters led to a formal inquiry, courts-martial, and the conviction of Lieutenant William Calley, who claimed he was following orders. But news of the massacre did not reach the American public until two months after Calley had been charged, when journalist Seymour Hersh broke the story based on interviews with Ridenhour.
Nuremberg	After WWII ended, the Allied powers brought 24 Nazi leaders to trial in Nuremberg, Germany. The defendants admitted to the crimes but claimed they were following orders. All were found guilty.

~ Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell, dramaturg

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY IN THE 1980S



Women marine recruits at Parris Island, SC learn to field strip the M-16A 1 rifle during basic training, 1986.

THE DECADE

During the 1980s, the first women cadets graduated from the service academies and the numbers of women in the armed forces increased dramatically: to 12% of total personnel by the end of the decade. Women were deployed to conflict zones in Grenada and Panama.



Senior naval enlisted advisor supervises a working party on USS Grapple as the ship tows three minesweepers to the Persian Gulf in 1988.

Debate flew between military leaders opposed to increasing women's role in the services and civilian officials committed to strengthening the armed forces through expanding the utilization of women and ensuring fair treatment and professional equity for them. In the end, the decade reflected a 1982 memorandum to the service secretaries from Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of Defense under President Ronald Reagan:

"Qualified women are essential to obtaining the numbers of qualified people required to maintain the readiness of our forces... This Department must aggressively break down those remaining barriers that prevent us from making the fullest use of the capabilities of women in

providing for our national defense."

However, women were still excluded from combat, the core mission of the military and a major determinant of promotions. Military involvement in Panama and Grenada forced the services to re-evaluate the meaning of combat and the application of combat exclusion laws, and to decide how to provide equal career opportunities for women who were excluded from combat.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The buzzwords for the decade were "combat exclusion." Many women of the '80s neither needed nor wanted this exclusion and many civilian policymakers in Congress and the Department of Defense believed women capable of filling the assignments in question.

Most military leaders thought differently. The Army's Direct Combat Probability Coding (DCPC) system of 1983 illustrated the military's position. Using the DCPC, the Army rated each job and each position in every unit along a continuum. Jobs with low probability of enemy contact were on one end and those of high probability were on the other and closed to women. The DCPC forced women out of jobs and units where their capability was already proven.



Member of first-ever, all-female parachute jump at Fort Bragg, NC, packs up her kit bag, 1980.

Even with the limitations imposed on their service, women filled positions that made combat-exclusion policies difficult to define and enforce. All services, with the exception of the Marine Corps, trained women as pilots and aviation crew. The Coast Guard and Navy provided some opportunities for seagoing and command assignments. Women received weapons training, served as military police and embassy

guards, launched missiles and served in other positions that blurred differentiations between combat and noncombat positions. Women in the Air Force, for example, could launch ICBMs with nuclear warheads to eliminate enemy targets—but they could not serve in air-to-air combat.

In 1983, when the United States sent forces to Grenada, women were an integral part of combat-ready units and had the skills and training to perform their jobs. As a result, 170 female soldiers served in Operation Urgent Fury in the first gender-integrated units ever deployed. In several cases, however, women who were filling no-combat designated positions such as MPs were initially returned to Ft. Bragg, NC, because the commander on the ground in Grenada believed their risk of being exposed to a combat situation was too great. The commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division, interpreting the DCPC system differently, overturned the ground commander's decision and returned the servicewomen to Grenada.

Under pressure and faced with complaints and inconsistencies, the Army fine-tuned the DCPC, opening 12,000 more positions to women by 1987. And when the invasion of Panama occurred in 1989, close to 800 military women took part in Operation Just Cause, the then-largest deployment of U.S. troops since Vietnam. Women found themselves dodging bullets and returning fire as they served in a variety of combat support and combat service support roles. Combat operations clearly were not limited to members of the infantry—a field still closed to women. As helicopter pilots and military police, they commanded assault teams and served under heavy enemy fire in the air and on the ground.

The press seized their stories, and issues of women in combat moved outside the Pentagon into public debate. But substantial policy change did not occur until after Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

From: History and Collections of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation. <http://www.womensmemorial.org/H&C/History/1980s.html>

Post-Show Discussion

- The play is set in the year 1986. What's one major difference between that time and now that might affect details about the play's setting in Guantanamo Bay?
- At one point in the story, Kaffee wants to subpoena (or to legally require the court appearance of) Captain Markinson. He is then told that Markinson can't be found because his "Counter Intelligence" background has rendered him capable of disappearing without a trace. What kind of training is "Counter Intelligence," and in what capacity is it used?
- Where does the title *A Few Good Men* come from? What are some of its applications in the play? Similarly, what are some of its ironies?

Information in this guide was provided and original articles written by Dramaturg Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell.

The Study Guide was compiled and edited by PTC Assistant Marketing Director Heather Nowlin.

THE MILITARY BASE AT GUANTANAMO BAY: A TIMELINE

Follow the history of the U.S. military base on the southern tip of the island of Cuba, Guantanamo Bay, or "Gitmo," as the base is known to the U.S. soldiers, sailors and Marines who serve there:

June 10, 1898: A U.S. Marine Corps battalion — the first U.S. troops to land on Cuba during the Spanish-American War — camps at Guantanamo Bay.

Feb. 23, 1903: U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt signs a deal with Cuba to lease 45 square miles at the mouth of Guantanamo Bay for 2,000 gold coins a year — which is valued at \$4,085 today. (The U.S. government still continues to pay the lease every year, but Fidel Castro's government refuses to cash the checks.)

1934: The United States and Cuba renegotiate the Guantanamo Bay lease, agreeing that the land would revert to Cuban control only if abandoned or by mutual consent.

Jan. 1, 1959: Communist revolutionaries led by Castro overthrow the Cuban government. The United States bans its servicemen from entering Cuban territory.

Jan. 4, 1961: Cuba and the United States formally break off their once-friendly relations, but President Eisenhower declares this "has no effect on the status of our Naval Station at Guantanamo."

Oct. 21-22, 1962: Civilians are evacuated from the base at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis, with the island blockaded by U.S. warships to force the withdrawal of Soviet nuclear missiles. Reinforcements arrive to man the base's front lines, facing inwards toward the island.

November 1991: The Pentagon builds housing for the flood of refugees arriving at the base from Haiti. In 1994, thousands of Cubans join them. Eventually, more than 45,000 Cubans and Haitians are held in tent cities covering much of the base. Most Cubans are admitted into the United States, but most Haitians are sent back home. The last of the Cubans depart in 1996.

April 1999: President Clinton considers plans to house thousands of Kosovo refugees in Guantanamo Bay, but abandons the idea.

Jan. 11, 2002: A U.S. military plane from Afghanistan touches down at Guantanamo Bay carrying 20 prisoners, marking the start of the current detention operation, which houses "war on terror" detainees.

Sources: Official history of U.S. Navy base, AP archives.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4715995>



Artist's depiction of the first U.S. troop landing on Cuban soil during the Spanish-American War, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

OUR EQUITY CAST

* Member of Actors' Equity Association



KAREN AZENBERG (Director) This marks Karen's second season as Artistic Director here at PTC; last season she directed *The Odd Couple*, choreographed *Les Misérables*, and directed and choreographed *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*. This season, she directed *Something's Afoot*.



KATE MIDDLETON*
(Lt. Cmdr. Galloway)

COREY ALLEN*
(Lance Cpl. Dawson)

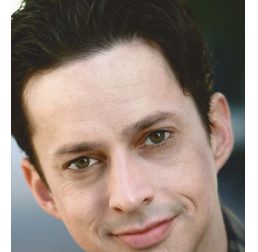
COREY ALLEN* (Lance Cpl. Dawson) Recent New York credits include *Moony's Kid Don't Cry* (Drama League DirectorFest) and *Created Equal* (Red Fern Theatre). His recent film credits include *Lost in the City* and *Where Truth Lies*.

JASON CRUZ* (Pfc. Santiago) in his PTC debut from New York City. Theatre credits include *Drop Dead Perfect* (Penguin Rep), *The Tempest* (Bermuda Arts Festival Theatre credits), and *Dark Play...* (Amphibian Stage Productions). TV/Film: *Law & Order: SVU*, *Important Things* w/Demetri Martin (Comedy Central), *Last Day of Summer*, *Beneath the Rock* (Best Narrative EFFF).



JASON CRUZ*
(Pfc. Santiago)

TORSTEN HILLHOUSE* (Lt. Col. Jessep) Theatre: (NYC) *The Polish Play* (off-Broadway), *The Odyssey* (off-Broadway), *Tender* (Thirteenth Night), *As You Like It* and *The Recruiting Officer* (NY Classical Theatre), *WTC View* (59E59). Television: *Law & Order*, *Law & Order SVU* and *As the World Turns*.



SPENCER MOSES*
(Lt. J.G. Weinberg)

CHRISTOPHER KELLY* (Lt. Ross) returns to PTC after *The Foreigner*, *The Yellow Leaf*, and *Dracula*. Regional: *Grace, or the Art of Climbing* (World Premiere), *Great Wall Story* (World Premiere), *Pierre* (World Premiere), *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Hamlet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Madwoman*, *The Three Sisters*, (Denver Center Theatre Company), and more. Television: *Dr. Quinn*, *Medicine Woman* and *Damages*.



TORSTEN HILLHOUSE*
(Lt. Col. Jessep)

DAVID MANIS* (Capt. Randolph) was seen last year at PTC in *Clybourne Park*. Broadway credits include *War Horse*, *Henry IV* with Kevin Kline, *Exit the King* with Geoffrey Rush, *Abe Lincoln in Illinois* with Sam Waterston, *The Rivals*, and the U.S. premieres of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* and *The Coast of Utopia*. TV: *Frasier*, *Boston Public*, *King of Queens*, *Monk*, *The Onion News*, and a telekinetic weatherman on *The X-Files*.



MAX ROBINSON*
(Capt. Markinson)

KATE MIDDLETON* (Lt. Cmdr. Galloway) debuts at Pioneer Theatre Company for this production. Off-Broadway/NYC: *Pratfalls* (The Abingdon, world premiere), *The Late Christopher Bean* (TACT), *Avow* (NYIT Best Lead Actress), *The Other Place* (MTC workshop), *Separate Tables* (TACT Salon Series) and *The Unearthing* (New TACTics), among others. TV/Film: Recurring on NBC's *Mercy*, *Law & Order: "Fame,"* *Law & Order SVU: "Desperate,"* Comedy Central's *Date From Hell*.



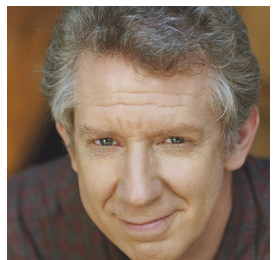
CHRISTOPHER KELLY*
(Lt. Ross)

SPENCER MOSES* (Lt. J.G. Weinberg) Broadway: Original casts of *Guys and Dolls* (2009 revival) and Aaron Sorkin's *The Farnsworth Invention* (co-produced by Steven Spielberg). Other TV credits: *Nurse Jackie* and *The Electric Company*.



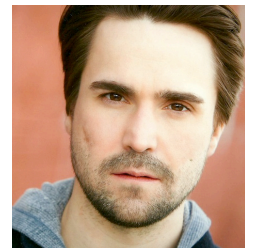
S.A. ROGERS*
(Cmdr. Stone/Ensemble)

MAX ROBINSON* (Capt. Markinson) was last seen at PTC in *Noises Off* and as Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady*. He has also appeared in *The Producers*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Les Misérables* (Thénardier), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Amadeus*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and nearly 100 other productions at PTC. Film and TV credits include *Other People's Money*, *All My Children*, *One Life to Live*, *Touched by an Angel*, Woody Allen's *Shadows and Fog* and Disney's *Pixel Perfect*.



DAVID MANIS*
(Capt. Randolph)

S.A. ROGERS* (Cmdr. Stone/Ensemble) S.A. was seen in last season's production *Of Mice and Men* as Slim. He has performed with the Classical Theatre Company in Houston, TX as Telegin (*Uncle Vanya*) and Dimas (*The Triumph of Love*), and at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.



JOE TAPPER*
(Lt. J.G. Kaffee)

JOE TAPPER* (Lt. J.G. Kaffee) returns to PTC after playing George in last season's production of *Of Mice and Men*. Theatre: 59E59 Theater, Huntington Theatre, Yale Repertory, The Shakespeare Theatre, Mabou Mines, Studio 42, The Hangar Theatre, Northern Stage, The Kitchen Theatre and The Edinburgh International Fringe Festival (*The Jammer*, winner of the Fringe First Award). TV: *Law & Order: SVU* and *Taxi Brooklyn*.