



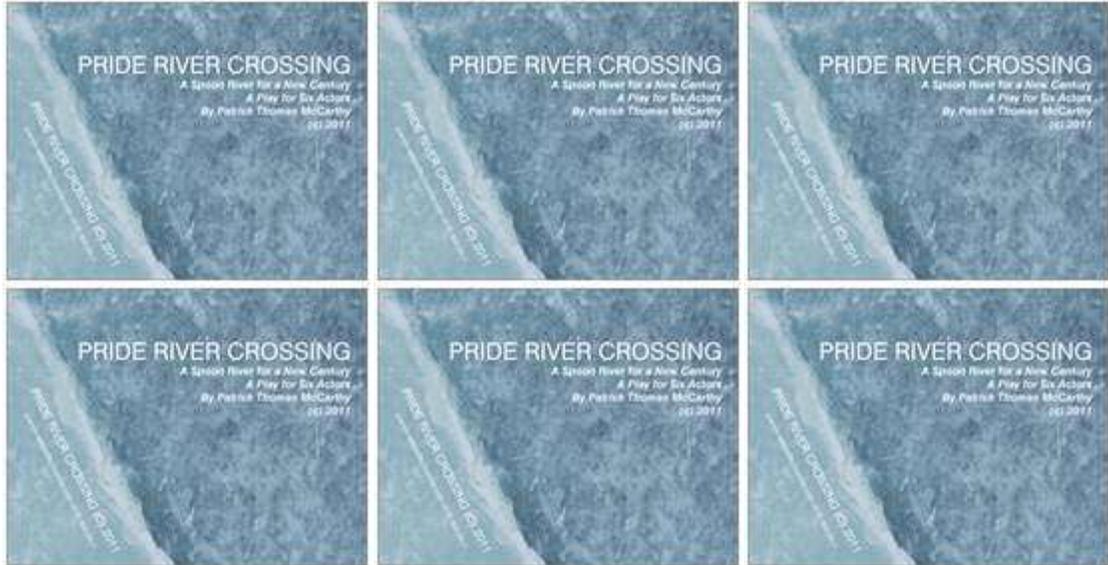
PRIDE RIVER CROSSING

By Patrick Thomas McCarthy

A SMITH SCRIPT

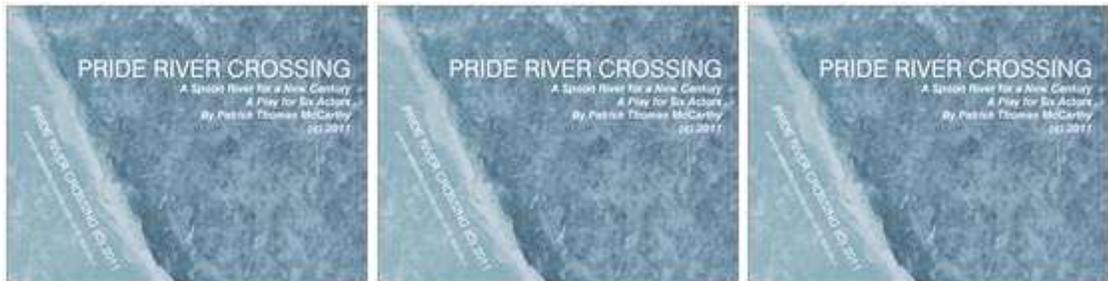
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PRIDE RIVER CROSSING

A Spoon River for a New Century



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Registration#PAU003569759

By Patrick Thomas McCarthy ptmc

PRIDE RIVER CROSSING: A Spoon River for a New Century

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Anchored in the heartland, PRIDE RIVER CROSSING channels SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY's otherworldly voices to comment on contemporary LGBTQ life in America, featuring 49 characters, 40 interconnecting monologues, and 13 connecting scenes.

[3M, 3W] 61 pages [Running time: 112 minutes + 10 minute intermission]

[For 95 minute run time cut intermission and Harold Potter & Ms. Sherman sequences]

CHARACTERS:

ONE – male adult plays: Doc Hill, Leviticus Johnson, Dad Kenny Kelly-Kennedy, Old Man 1, Mickey, Ray Dare, Groom Bob, Doc Hill, Harold Potter, Attorney Dewey Cheatam

TWO – female adult plays: Rachel, Dr. Singer, Secret Rapture, Mrs. McMahon, Dance Teacher, Bride Carol, Hope, Ms. Sherman, the Judge

THREE – male adult plays: Mr. Drama, Dom Dippold, Dad Kevin Kelly-Kennedy, Old Man 2, Policeman Ron, Groom Ted, The Mortician, Frankie

FOUR – female adult plays: Mitzi Reid, Secret Rapture, Marion, Anna [pronounced Ahna] Dare, Delores, Bride Alice, PFLAG mom/Mrs. Merry Bauxbaum, Mimi Winston Stanley, Delores

FIVE – male young adult plays: Trevor, Kyle Kelly-Kennedy, Perry, Spike, Style, Father Bobby, David Drummer/The Dreamer, Cam, Jimmy, John Winston Stanley/Johnnie

SIX – female young adult plays: Keira Kelly-Kennedy, Hadley, Angela Ann McMahon, Pas de Chat, Pastor Rhonda Younger, Cammy, Court Reporter

SETTING:

The Hill and Pride River, 6 bentwood or mission style chairs, 1 high stool

COSTUMING:

MEN in black pants and white long sleeved collared shirts

For the men, over the basic costume: Hats, glasses, aprons, scrubs, t-shirts over black shirt, straight tie, bow tie, jackets, vests, white shirts, orange jump suit & props - prescription bottle, books, mailbag, letter, priest's collar, wristwatch, bible, camera phone, briefcase, etc.

WOMEN in black pants and white long sleeved collared shirts

For the women over the basic costume: Hats, glasses, wrap housedresses, long skirts, jackets, coats, aprons, kaftans, scarves, bandanas, judge's robe & props - bible, prescription bottle, martini glass, paperback copy of Spoon River Anthology, camera phone, rat poison box/image, Silence = Death placard, 4 rainbow umbrellas, 1 small pillow, black shawl, etc.

PRIDE RIVER CROSSING ... A Spoon River for a New Century

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PROLOGUE VIDEO: 2 minutes 50 seconds; pre-show loop should repeat as audience enters; designed by Katherine Hammond & Lee Smith; Warehouse of Theatre, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA [Pre-Show: Sounds, a mix of noises in preparation for the rally from hymns, Come Gather By the River, to chanting of rally slogans, to sounds of crickets and wind in the cemetery, to applause and cheering, police sirens, microphone feedback, laughter, all the sounds of the gathering of a mass of people, contrasted with the solitude of a spring night in a cemetery; slides of Pride River, the American flag and the rainbow flag flash, amidst shots of a cemetery, the rally itself does not occur in the Pride River cemetery, but the voices of the past emerge from there, the map of Pride River keeps appearing leading us to the rally, there are 6 chairs and 1 stool onstage in the pre-set, high stool UC, 4 chairs CS, two MidCR, two MidCL, 1 chair DLC and last chair is placed DR At the start of the show, SIX/Keira Kelly-Kennedy appears in a down center pin spot to great applause and cheering, she tries to quiet the crowd, & eventually can begin....]

SIX / KEIRA KELLY-KENNEDY

[Suggested by Zach Wahl's address to the Iowa State Legislature]

Hello, people of Pride River. ***[Cheering]*** My name is Keira Kelly-Kennedy, yes it's hyphenated. I'm a fourth-generation citizen of Pride River ***[More Cheering]*** and a senior at Pride River High School, and my brother Kyle and I were raised by two men right here in Pride River. ***[More cheering, tries to quiet the crowd]*** Now you're going to have to quiet down or we'll never get to all of the voices who want the chance to be heard tonight. ***[Laughter & more cheering]*** And my family, my two fathers, Kenny and Kevin, and my brother Kyle and I, aren't so different from any other Pride River family. We go to church together, we eat dinner together, we go on vacations, & we have our hard times too. We argue, we can't figure out how to pay for my college education, & sometimes we even disagree about some very basic things, but we don't expect anyone to solve our problems for us. We fight our own battles and hope for equal & fair treatment from our government. And I am not really so different from any of the other young people in Pride River. My family really isn't so different from yours. A family doesn't derive its worth from being told by the state, "Congratulations you're married". The sense of family comes from the commitment we make to each other. It comes from the love that binds us. That's what makes a family. Now in the next ninety minutes we're going to hear plenty of testimony about what it's like to be a citizen of Pride River and whether my family deserves a place at the table here. You'll make judgements. You'll see many things from a different perspective, but you should know at the very beginning that in my 18 years here in Pride River, I have never been confronted by an individual who realized without being told that my brother Kyle and I were raised by a gay couple. And why is that? Because the sexual orientation of our parents has had zero effect on the content of our character. Thank you, Pride River.

[She waves to the crowd as light fades on her with applause and cheering fade into the sound of a strong wind blowing, the cast has faded in during her speech to take their places, SIX/Keira moves to RC chair and sits, FOUR stands behind the UR chair as it becomes the back of Keira's desk, FIVE/TREVOR moves to the LC chair, his mother TWO/Rachel stands

behind the UL chair and it becomes the back of Trevor's desk, she remains standing next to him watching him take his test, ONE/DOC HILL moves DR to sit on the DR chair, THREE/MR.DRAMA moves to the UC stool and sits creating his classroom]

ONE/DOC HILL

There was a wind on the hill that night. It blew with the indefinable current of change. They spoke of change and the words pierced the charged air of possibility. We hadn't heard the words before out loud, only whispered, or suspected in coded messages. We had come together to hear them, to feel as one, to be as one no matter how great the danger. Finally out in the open, we had gathered together in the promise of possibility. Would we stay there? In the infinite depth of possibility? There was a wind that night. It was charged with the current of change. *[Exits as the sound of wind subsides]*

TWO/RACHEL

[Rachel stands next to Trevor with a bible] When I heard about the rally, I made sure my Trevor was staying home that night. I am Rachel and as a mother, it's my duty to protect my child and make sure he's not being fed lies. And no TV for him either. TV is the worst, exposes him, gives him ideas. It's a parent's job to shape a child, to filter everything the child is exposed to. So I do the home schooling for my Trevor. Oh, I know what you're thinking. But I know my own shortcomings and I send Trevor for math classes to the public school. *[Mr. Drama begins writing UC on an imaginary chalkboard]* Not the science classes just the math where you know everything has a correct answer. And with the math class at school, Trevor will get the socialization skills that everyone says are so important. I handle science and all the other subject areas including religion. I know my Bible and all the appropriate passages to teach him. He's a good student and a good boy when he's not confused. Confused, that's what this country has become. Confused. Sometimes I am confused myself and cry myself to sleep worrying about his future here. He's my son and it's my job to protect him. *[Exits]*

THREE/MR DRAMA

I was grading papers that night. It was the end of the semester and I had to get my grades in on time and not give the school ammunition in their yearly attempts to dismiss me. I was the spinster English teacher loved by his students, player of practical jokes, director of the school play, called Mr. Drama, lover of Shakespeare, stern disciplinarian, yet capable of touching the hearts of my students *[SIX/Keira turns in her imaginary test paper flirting with Mr Drama as she exits]* when they would drop their learned defenses long enough, and also careful never to touch anything but their hearts. *[Mr. Drama tugs FIVE/Trevor's imaginary test paper from him and indicates for him to leave, FIVE/Trevor looks at him longingly starts to exit, returns to Mr. Drama reaches out and touches his arm, Mr. Drama turns, Trevor nods "nothing" and exits]* Not even a hug, not even if they needed it. Too dangerous, too human, too telling, and of course there had been parental complaints about my teaching for years and the requisite meddling. The attempts with the end around to get those light in their loafers dismissed by other means. But I am also an exquisite games player and had outmaneuvered the undercurrent for years. So, I told myself I would go to the rally when I finished my

grading, so in a way I knew I wouldn't be going. Everyone knew who I was and what I was anyway. I didn't have to make the appearance, but I had wanted to. Showing up, they say it's 90 percent of the effort. So, if I didn't show up and only scored a possible 10 for my decision, I'd have to rethink my grading curve. *[Exits]*

FOUR/MITZI REID

[Scenes of an idyllic Pride River flash on the upstage wall] I have lived here all my life. I've never been anywhere else. Why would I need to go anywhere else? Pride River has everything anyone could ever want, from its bounty of gracefully arching trees over peaceful shaded streets, to its fine school system, to its many churches and other places of worship. And diversity, we have that too, and I would say I have pride in Pride River. Some might call me a booster, guilty as charged. I will always sing the praises of Pride River. And if you want to buy a home here, I'm the person you want to see. Mitzi Reed. Real estate. Here's my card. *[Gives her card to many in the audience]* Low property taxes, great neighborhoods and schools, *[slides]* and home values are going up, up, up, because they're moving in *[slides of homes with rainbow flags]* with their attractive rainbow flags and their two income households. They actually mark their home locations with rainbow flags so they can tell where others like themselves live. And they can afford to live here with their two income households, and most of the time they don't even use the public schools, even though they pay taxes for them. It's a win, win situation. I make my commission, and they upgrade the neighborhood and pay taxes. Oh there are some who disapprove, and I've advised clients not to fly their flags so gaily, not to mark their property so obviously, due to the discomfort it may cause. But as long as I'm making my commission there's room for rallying and lots of rainbow flags in Pride River. It just makes economic sense and that's the most important issue. Anyone need my card? *[Trevor enters]* Oh hi, Trevor, will you tell your mom I have some prospects to look at your house and I can bring them by tomorrow. *[Trevor nods]* *[To audience]* She never returns my calls. *[To Trevor]* And how are you doing? No more accidents? *[Trevor nods no]* Tomorrow? *[Trevor nods]* To look at your house? Anyone like to look at Trevor's house? It's an excellent fixer upper. *[She exits passing out cards]*

FIVE/TREVOR

I live in that fixer upper. I'm a fixer upper myself, in need of fixing, sometimes on uppers. I live with my mom. She says I'm confused. Maybe I am. I've only had a few fixings so far, doesn't mean it couldn't happen again. I live as if another fixing is waiting to happen. I live one day at a time. I'm home schooled one day at a time. My mom says it's for my own protection. But I do get the privilege of math classes at Pride River High School. Mom doesn't know I also take Mr. Drama's English class. That's my secret. Mr. Drama makes up for Trevor running the gauntlet everyday I'm there. Trevor gets his social integration with Spike everyday. Trevor is in danger everyday. Mom doesn't get that. She thinks math classes are safe, that Trevor can't learn other things there. She wants Trevor to learn but only the things she chooses Trevor to learn, like bible verse. She likes Leviticus a lot. She wants me to like it a lot. Trevor is thinking about

how he'll be fixed the next time. Who and what will fix Trevor the next time? I'm a fixer upper. You want to fix me too? *[Trevor remains on stage to listen to Leviticus]*

ONE/REV LEVITICUS JOHNSON

Rev. Leviticus Johnson at your service, young man, in the heavenly father's service. Serving you all since 1822, ever since the blessed chapter 18 verse 22 came into my life and made me see God's plan for me. In the King James, Leviticus 18:22 is translated: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." Therein lays the beauty of God's plan for me, to teach his word concentrating on His Levitical prowess. It even brought me to be baptized anew into Leviticus. My newly christened name, Leviticus Johnson. Maybe we can baptize you anew too son. You'd like that wouldn't you? Into Leviticus? Now in Leviticus, we find the answers to all our questions. In Leviticus, by concentrating on this one holy book, we need not spread our powers of understanding scattershot, but focus on our heavenly target by learning the rules by which to live our lives. In Leviticus, we learn what sin is. In Leviticus, sin is defined. And God tells us what to do with sin. Hate it. God says that. Now, hate the sin and hate the sinner is what I've always said. I won't sugarcoat it for you. That's God's word. If God hates it, He's gotta hate those that live it. God hates fags, it's as clear as the King James bulging out of my pocket. It's as clear as AIDS and recruitment. It's as clear as Anita Bryant selling orange juice. It's as clear as Rev. Fred Phelps doing the lord's work. It's as clear as Hurricane Katrina and 9/11. It's as clear as they are trying to steal the holy union of a man and a woman. Take Leviticus to your hearts and know what God has in store for you. Rev. Leviticus Johnson, here in the lord's service. *[Trevor escapes/exits and Leviticus follows his prey offstage]*

THREE/DOM DIPPOLD

[He enters speaking and sits on the high stool behind the SR chairs, it now becomes his dispensary table] If you take a look at it you'll see, but so few people ever take a real look at anything. I'm Dom Dippold, your friendly optician here at the Lens Makers at the Pride River Mall, and with our special introductory price for exam, frames and lenses, I can get you to see things you've never seen before. But let's not get ahead of ourselves, don't worry about the frames, let's concentrate on what you're going to see, not how you're going to be seen. Let's do the eye test first then we'll try different lenses. Put your hand over one eye. One eye everyone please? Ready? Tell me how many fingers you see? *[He gives the peace sign]* Two, you saw two fingers extended and what does that mean? *[He smiles & shows the peace sign again]* Again, the other eye. How many of my fingers do you see extended with your other eye? *[He holds up two cuckold signs and his tongue is also extended]* That's right. Six, four fingers and two thumbs, but six all together, very good, excellent eyesight. One more, now with both eyes. *[He crosses his arms with the cuckold signs in a homey pose across his chest]* What do you see? You've got it. You might not even need the lenses. But let's try anyway, just for fun. Just so you can see things a different way. Here try this lens. *[He offers an imaginary lens to the audience]* Can you see me now? *[He does all 3*

poses again] Not clear enough? A little blurry? Here try this one. *[He offers another lens, then offers the bird with his middle finger]* Too clear? Too threatening? *[He offers another lens]* Okay, I know which lens you want, the rose colored lens. Try it. *[He offers the lens and sits there motionless]* That's the one you like, right? That's the way you want to see me. But I'm sorry, I don't sell that lens. I only sell the first two. A little blurry, that's fine, you can't really tell, not your fault, or too clear, that's really knowing who I am. Come to the rally tonight and you'll see me just the way I am. But seeing me just the way you want to see me, I don't sell that lens ever.

FIVE/KYLE

I'm Kyle. Kyle Kelly-Kennedy, yes, it's hyphenated. I'm fifteen, a sophomore here at Pride River High School. But now I'm at the public high school where things are different. I'm a good student. I like my classes. I do sports. I'm kinda shy. I'm adopted, and I have an adopted sister, Keira, she's a senior, and I go to her for advice cuz she's older than me and understands about girls, I think. Well I can't go to my dads about that kind of thing. What would they know about that? And I've got a girlfriend, Hadley, so I need the advice, and I trust my sister to tell me what a girl needs and wants. So we, Hadley and me, have a standing appointment to meet here on the hill, yeah here on the hill, it was her idea, what's that all about? And we experiment, here amongst the gravestones, and once she even let me get to fourth gravestone... well let's just say my cherry's gone miss'n. I did tell my dads that, after consulting with my sister, just so they'd know, that I'm not following in their footsteps, so they would know I'm striking out on my own. Sometimes, I don't like the advice Keira gives me. Lately she's been suggesting that Hadley is not the girl she seems to be. I don't care. She let me get to fourth base, gravestone. You know what I mean? She hasn't let me do it again, and she hasn't been showing up lately for our standing appointment, but it was a milestone for me, well a gravestone. So I come here and wait with my watch, to see what experiment we can have today. I've been waiting with my watch a lot lately. I don't care. I've had my milestone, my gravestone, and if she never shows up again, at least I've got that. *[He stays on the hill looking at his watch, looking off DL, waiting for Hadley, & does not see her enter]*

SIX/HADLEY

[Hadley has shown up on Kyle's line, "if she never shows up again" and stands looking at him from UR] Waiting, waiting, waiting. Watching, watching, watching, tick, tock, tick tock, tick tock. I watched Pride River until it came my time to leave. I learned by watching and doing the gym teacher, the head cheerleader, the curious college coeds, even a boy, anyone I could learn from until it came my time to leave. And leave I had to, even though my parents knew, I told them, and they tacitly approved with disinterest. They said, "Oh, Hadley, you'll grow out of it". "Oh, Hadley, you'll be fine when you go off to school." " Oh, Hadley, both of us are going away on business trips and you'll be left here to fend for yourself." So, I took them at their word, to fend for myself and did. I fended all over.... in locker rooms, in pink bedrooms, in dormitories, even with *[nods at Kyle]* ... once, just to see what that was like. And somehow the

fending became quite normal. Nothing very special about any of it. I seem to be well adjusted to my fending. I seem to be too normal, too well adjusted to my circumstances. So leave I must and go on to where I can fend in a new way and adjust to new circumstances. It came my time to leave and never go back. There was nothing to go back to. *[Dr. Maggie Singer enters and tries to hand Hadley a prescription]*

TWO/DR MAGGIE SINGER

Just take as directed and you'll be fine. *[Hadley doesn't respond]* It will clear up and you'll be fine. *[Hadley doesn't respond to the ghost of Maggie Singer]* Hard to get a read on you. *[Hadley exits, Kyle finally registers she was there and leaves following Hadley off]* Hard to remember, I no longer have a place here. But when I did, they all came to me. In their confusion, in their helplessness, in their isolation, they all came to me. Nowhere else to go. And they could all still come to me if ... I was happy in my work. I knew I wasn't going to be another Jonas Salk, or Marie Curie or Margaret Sanger but I was good at my work. They knew to come to me. I knew the dangers. I knew it was possible. I knew the ferociousness of belief, of the zealot. I had been warned. But I believed in what I was doing. I believed that what I did was right. I believed that helping others was what I was meant to do. First, do no harm. I did that. Others don't have to take that oath. What follows? You could call it an enforced work stoppage. Now, I can help no one. Now, no one can come to me. Now, I can only watch, watch, watch and grow numb as Pride River flows past me. Will they remember me? Why would they? How could they? And tonight... I won't be rallying, I'll be watching. It's all I can do now. Watching ... watching ... watching... *[She exits staring into space]*

JUNGLE GYM *[#1 & #3 enter & sit RC 2 chairs/parkbench]*

ONE/KENNY

When we put up the monkey bars in the yard, it was official.

THREE/KEVIN

We had started finishing each other's sentences years before...

ONE/KENNY

But the jungle gym, made it official.

THREE/KEVIN

We were the first, the very first with the Havin' Some Fun Now...

ONE/KENNY

Home Fun System in our backyard.

THREE/KEVIN

We could tell the neighbors finally got it

ONE/KENNY

No one else had it. The Home Fun System

THREE/KEVIN

Was ours alone. And Kyle and Keira loved it.

ONE/KENNY

They I-I-I-loved it. It was a statement.

THREE/KEVIN

No one else had it. We were the first.

KYLE [5]

[From offstage] Dad shut up.

ONE/KENNY

We're just telling a story.

KYLE [5]

Everyone's heard it. You're embarrassing us.

THREE/KEVIN

Well they don't play on it anymore, they're too old...

ONE/KENNY

But it's still there as our statement....

THREE/KEVIN

To the world, we love our two kids.

ONE/KENNY

Come on out here, so we can show you off.

KYLE [5]

Dad.

THREE/KEVIN

Kyle's shy. He's the baby. He's this many years old. *[Shows 15 fingers]*

ONE/KENNY

Keira, she's our oldest...