

ArtStory

Pursuing quality of life.

John Boldenow

Director of Theatre, Wichita
Center for the Arts

Principal Director, Wichita
Children's Theatre & Dance Center

Genre:
Theatre

Notable Tours:

1776

*Our Young Men Are Dying
and Nobody Seems to Care*

The American Dream

What About Black Womyn

Film Credits

Mary White

Twister

Notable Local Performances:

Beauty & The Beast

Me & My Girl

Annie Get Your Gun

The Miracle Worker

A Christmas Carol



“The art is not what is happening on stage. It is in what passes between the performer and the audience member”

—John Boldenow



The Wichita theatre scene would not be complete without John Boldenow. For the past 27 years, he has lent tireless energy, an endless stream of talent and a passion for the arts to the stages of Wichita. Directing children in the latest performance at Wichita Children's Theatre & Dance Center, portraying the sinister Monsieur D'Arque in Music Theatre's recent production of *Beauty & The Beast*, or reprising his signature role as Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* — whatever the performance, most Wichita theatre lovers have seen Boldenow in action.

His love for drama was sparked in 1971 at Newton High School where he won awards for adapting a chapter of the book—*To Kill a Mockingbird*—into a script. He went on to earn both his bachelor's and master's degree in theatre from Emporia State University.

An interesting acting credit? “I guess you could say it was a gripping psycho-drama. At Prairieview Mental Health Center,” he laughs. He worked for an educational theatre company

role-playing as a patient so psychology students could practice psychotherapy.

Since then, he left off “the couch” and began to climb the stages of the world performing in several national tours and in films. But his work in Wichita has given him the most satisfaction, particularly with young people. He hopes to leave behind a legacy as a teacher and as someone who helped bring great theatre to Wichita.

“The driving force behind what I do at The Wichita Center for the Arts is the opportunity to work with world-class literature, translating it into a three-dimensional experience for an audience. I strive to choose plays that have been pivotal to the evolution of theatre in the United States and then bring that to the audiences of Wichita.”

When acting, Boldenow is driven by the energy and expression of performance. “The art is not what is happening on stage. It is in what passes between the performer and the audience member. My job is to make sure that feeling reaches all the way to the back row.”