

MEDIA CONTACT:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joseph Lavis

[lavisjm@appstate.edu](mailto:lavisjm@appstate.edu)

(215) 840-4378

### INVISIBLE THEATRE EXECUTIVE BIO

The idea of In/Visible Theatre was conceived in 2010, when Dr. Derek Davidson started to speak with members of Blue Ridge Community Theatre, Appalachian State University, and Barter Theatre to discuss starting an entrepreneurial, innovative, and experimental type of theatre in the Boone area. In 2012, several members of the Barter Theatre filed a form for a “fringe festival.” When they were accepted, they decided that this was the perfect opportunity to launch the In/Visible theatre.

Their flagship performance was *Bumbershoot*, an original play by Derek Davidson in 2012. “I have been writing plays for years,” says Davidson. The show was performed at the NY International Fringe Festival and was named “best of the fest” by the *Wall Street Journal*. Fringe festivals provide opportunities for independent artists and companies that are non-mainstream, low budget, and experimental. “These festivals give a venue to shows that tackle topical issues and present them in a way that are very in your face,” according to Davidson. *Bumbershoot* was performed at the “here” space in NY, a fringe festival site given to In/Visible Theatre by the head of the fringe festival. Thousands of people were present at the festival. After *Bumbershoot* was performed, In/Visible started the process to become a non-profit organization and has since achieved that status.

In/Visible Theatre is project oriented and often has pieces debuted in the Appalachian Summer Arts Festival. They do a few shows that they produce at a “slow simmer” to ensure the show is of the highest quality. Pop-up plays are productions that In/Visible performs annually at surprise locations around Boone. Boone Solo Festival (“Bolo” Fest) is one of In/Visible’s most successful projects that

consists of several one person short plays that are performed annually in September. Bolo Fest gives people in the high country an opportunity to present smaller pieces for individual performers.

In addition to these smaller projects, the organization does one larger production per season that is performed whenever and wherever space is available. In the summer of 2017, *The Christians* was their larger show of choice.

The mission of In/Visible Theatre is “to serve this community and the local artists.” Part of this mission is to make underrepresented people more visible. *Without Words* is a show that In/Visible produced. It included 6 deaf actors who worked alongside hearing actors. It was an inclusive piece that was performed in American Sign Language in collaboration with translators.

In/Visible Theatre does not have a set venue in Boone, North Carolina, but are working on securing one. They use different venues based on the show being performed. Because they are an affiliate with Appalachian State University, they are allowed to use university rehearsal space, but . Being an affiliate means that they are a separate entity from the university, but still serves them. This allows them to use the ASU Loft when they are in NYC.

Artists, including actors, tech, and crew, are all paid when they work with the In/Visible Theatre. Derek Davidson is the Artistic Director and his wife, Karen Sabo, is the Artistic Producer and grant writer for the organization.

####