





# FUN HOME

# Music by Jeanine Tesori **Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron** Based on the Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel

Originally Produced on Broadway by
Fox Theatricals Barbara Whitman, Carole Shorenstein Hays
Tom Casserly Paula Marie Black Latitude Link Terry Schnuck/ Jane Lane The Forstalls
Nathan Vernon Mint Theatricals Elizabeth Armstrong Jam Theatricals Delman Whitney
and Kristin Caskey and Mike Isaacson
The world premiere production of FUN HOME was produced by The Public Theater
Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director Patrick Willingham, Executive Director
In New York City on October 22nd, 2013 FUN HOME was developed, in part, at the 2012 Sundance
Institute Theatre Lab at White Oak and the 2012 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab at the Sundance Resort.

Directed By Rod Oden Music Direction by Laurie Klaus

Choreography by Kristin Swilley

**CAST** 

Alison Raquel Oden

Medium Alison Caroline Forrester

**Small Alison** Maryella Rosko

Bruce Bechdel Tommy Foster

Helen Bechdel Allison Proba

Christian Bechdel Luke Bardinas

John Bechdel James Oden

Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy Matt Windsor

Nunna Noe Joan

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager Sarah Large

Colleen Welday **Assistant Stage Managers** 

Ruby Jones, Eliza Smith **Deck Crew** 

Set Designer David Pulliam

Lighting Designer Caleb Garner

Costume Designer Beth Bentley

**Master Carpenter** John Rosko

**Props** Alice Rich, Eva Rosko, Lizzie Ruiz

**Child Wrangler** Sharon Foster

**RUN TIME: 1-Hour 45-Minutes** 

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission This production includes adult language and themes.

#### MUSIC NUMBERS

#### ACT 1

- "It All Comes Back (Opening)" Small Alison, Bruce, Alison & Company
- "Welcome to Our House on Maple Avenue" Helen, Alison, Small Alison, Christian, John, Bruce & Roy
- "Not Too Bad" Medium Alison
- "Come to the Fun Home" John, Christian & Small Alison
- "Helen, Bruce and Roy" Helen, Bruce, Roy & Kids
- "Tough Titty" Small Alison, Bruce & Medium Alison
- "Changing My Major" Medium Alison

#### ACT 2

- "Maps" Bruce, Alison
- "Raincoat of Love" Bobby Jeremy & Company
- "Pony Girl" Bruce
- "Ring of Keys" Small Alison
- "Days" Helen
- "Telephone Wire" Alison & Bruce
- "Edges of the World" Bruce
- "Finale: Flying Away" Alison, Medium Alison & Small Alison

#### **ORCHESTRA**

Laurie Klaus - Conductor & Keyboard

Amanda Sycamore - Percussion

Randy Mintz - Bass

Allan Beck - Guitar

Jennifer Lane - Violin

Taiki Azuma - Reeds

Liz Burns - Cello

The performance this evening utilizes professional recordings of live instrumentation. These performance tracks were created using professional musicans in the greater triad area. We appreciate their hard work and note the essential component of their contribution, even though they cannot be with us during these shows due to COVID-19 restrictions.

# MEET THE CAST

RAQUEL ODEN (Alison) has been involved in all facets of theater for over 25 years. Her first performance was in the Los Angeles Children's Theater Peter Pan when she was only 5 years old. Since then she has performed on stages from Los Angeles to New Orleans and now Salisbury, NC. Some of her favorite roles include Lucy in You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, Ivy in August Osage County, Miss Casewell in The Mousetrap, and Miss Poppenghul in Moonlight and Magnolias to name a few. She would like to thank her husband, Rod, and children for supporting her theatre passion.

CAROLINE FORRESTER (Medium Alison) is a Senior at Catawba College majoring in Communications and minoring in theatre and worship arts. You may see her performing on campus or leading worship at local churches. Some of her favorite roles include Lucy Van Pelt in "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," Toffee in "Zombie Prom," and Ensemble in "Anything Goes" at Catawba College. Most recently, she played Mama Murphy in Catawba College's production of "Bright Star". She is thrilled to bring Alison Bechdel's unique story to life.

MARYELLA ROSKO (Small Alison) is excited to be performing at Lee Street Theatre with such an amazingly talented cast and crew. She made her acting debut as Annie in the Magic Tree House: Pirates Past Noon in 2018 with Piedmont Players Theatre. You may have also seen her as Duffy in their production of Annie. At Hickory Community Theatre she performed as Razzy in their production of Snazzy Razzy and as Hortensia in Matilda. She performed at Old Courthouse Theatre in their Christmas production as Donkey. When not on stage, Maryella can be found writing scripts, drawing, painting, sewing, baking, as well as singing and dancing to the glee of her two cats and her typical family quintet!

**TOMMY FOSTER (Bruce Bechdel)** is honored to be returning to Lee Street Theatre, where he played the roles of Edward Bloom in BIG FISH and Dan in NEXT TO NORMAL, as well as directed THE LAST 5 YEARS, SOUNDS OF THE 60's, and created the revue, BROADWAY LULLABIES. Other local credits include the evil Miss Trunchbull in MATILDA THE MUSICAL at Children's Theatre of Charlotte, the tortured Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in JEKYLL & HYDE at CPCC Summer Theatre, and Ned in THE NORMAL HEART at Theatre Charlotte. He re-located to his hometown of Concord, NC after nearly 15 years of being professionally based in New York City; having appeared in FOOTLOOSE!, GEORGE M!, THE LAST 5 YEARS, Andrew Lippa's THE WILD PARTY, THE FULL MONTY, THE WHO'S TOMMY, NEXT TO NORMAL, JOHN & JEN, SLUT! THE MUSICAL, CAROUSEL, and tic...Tick...BOOM!, among others, having worked1 at the Ogunquit Playhouse, Gateway Playhouse, the Gorilla Theatre, Kalliope Stage, Mill Mountain Theatre, the Gallery Players, Cape Fear Regional Theatre, and Actor's Theatre of Charlotte. He's toured the East coast as Aslan in THE LION, THE WITCH, & THE WARDROBE; toured the world performing onboard the Norwegian Crown and won a 2005 Bistro Award from Backstage Magazine for his one man show, THE METHOD TO MY MADNESS. Tommy has directed for Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Carolina Actor's Studio Theatre, Old Courthouse Theatre, Lee Street Theatre, local high schools, and Catawba College. Tommy has taught Musical Theatre,

# MEET THE CAST con't . . .

Shakespeare, Clowning, Dialects, and New Thought for Actors to at Catawba College, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, Acting Up! Children's Theatre, and privately through the Tommy Foster Studio. He has a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Michigan and MFA in Classical Acting from the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting at the George Washington University. For my sons: may you endeavor to be better men than I could ever be. www.tommyfosternc.com / www.tommyfosternyc.comand Courtney, and is also looking forward to taking on the role of grandmother for the first time in June!

**ALLISON PROBA** (Helen Bechdel) (*The real*) Allison is honored to bring the role of Helen to life in Fun Home. Allison lives in Concord with her two dogs and two cats and acts as the Board President for Old Courthouse Theatre. She was last seen in the livestream version of Lee Street's 9 to 5 in the ensemble. Prior to covid she has played several roles at Old Courthouse Theatre, Lee Street Theatre, Uwharrie Players, and Piedmont Players. Thank you, Rod, for giving me a chance to take on this difficult role and be a part of this moving show. And thanks to all my friends and family who are always so supportive.

**LUKE BARDINAS (Christian Bechdel)** is in the 7th grade at Salisbury Academy. In my free time I love to act, sing, dance, and play the piano. Being in a production or part of a play gets me out of the house and away from my three brothers. So far I have been in four productions at the PPT and my favorite shows that I've done are Stinky Cheese Man and Junie B. Jones is not a crook.

JAMES ODEN (John Bechdel) is making his stage debut with Lee Street's FUN HOME. James is a fun loving kid who enjoys videogames (fort night), hanging with his family and dancing! James parents are very proud for him stepping into this role last minute, and he wants you to have a great time!

MATT WINDSOR (Roy/Pete/Mark/Bobby Jeremy) is a recent graduate from Catawba College. He graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a Minor in Music. His past credits include PPT's Shakespeare in Love (Ned Alleyn/Fight Captain), Lexington Live's 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Carl Dad/Jesus & Leaf U/S) and CPCC's Jekyll & Hyde (Ensemble). He is beyond excited to work with such a talented cast of individuals and do his part in helping Allison Bechdel tell such an amazing story.

NUNNA NOE (Joan) is a Senior at Catawba College, pursuing a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre and a minor in Sociology. Some of her favorite previous credits include Lucy Grant in Catawba's production of Bright Star and an ensemble member and codeviser in the world-premiere of a new play, The Space Between. This upcoming year, she will serve as Vice President of the Blue Masque, Catawba's theatre club. She is also a proud member of Catawba's Improv Team, Where Are the Diamonds, and she is currently working on an Honors thesis that mixes devised theatre work with genocidal studies. She is beyond excited to be able to work with such a talented cast and crew!

# The Creators of Fun Home



Alison Bechdel - Source Material (Graphic Novel) Author
Alison Bechdel is an American graphic novelist and cartoonist. She was born in 1960 in Pennsylvania to teacher parents; her father also worked part-time as a funeral director (Bechdel and her siblings nicknamed the funeral home "the fun

home"). She earned a BA from Oberlin College in 1981 and moved to New York City, where she began writing and drawing the comic strip Dykes to Watch Out For from 1983-2008. Much of Bechdel's work lives in the overlapping of political and personal, "the relationship of the self to the world outside." In 2006, she published Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic, a graphic memoir that contained her relationship with her father, his closeted sexuality, and her own realization and coming out as a lesbian. The book was critically acclaimed and named by Time as the Best Book of 2006. The musical adaptation of Fun Home opened in 2015 and won five Tony Awards. In 2012, Bechdel released another memoir, Are You My Mother? A Comic Drama which dealt with her familial relationships as well as psychoanalysis theories. Bechdel has written/drawn comics for The New Yorker, Slate, McSweeney's, and other publications. She was the recipient of a MacArthur Genius Grant in 2014. One of the characters in her comics in 1985 inspired what is now known as the Bechdel Test, which is applied to film and theatre to illustrate gender disparity - a "pass" of the test is whether the script has at least two women, who talk to each other, about a topic other than men. Bechdel currently lives in Vermont.

Interesting Themes and Topics to do with Bechdel, FUN HOME and the LGBTQ+ Community:

An Ally's Guide to Terminology from GLAAD:

http://www.glaad.org/sites/default/files/allys-guide-to-terminology\_1.pdf

Lesbians and Ring of Keys: A Cultural Love Story - article about [signalling/symbolism] and exploring the metaphors used in [song] https://slate.com/human-interest/2016/12/the-lesbian-love-of-key-rings-and-carabinersexplained.html

Gender Nation Glossary: A crowdsourced glossary developed by Refinery 29 editors in collaboration with GLAAD, one of America's leading LGBTQ\* organizations. Many definitions of terminology and slang relating to gender and sexuality. https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/lgbtq-definitions-gender-sexuality-terms

## Lisa Kron - Book and Lyrics

Lisa Kron is an actor and writer based in New York City whose plays have



been nominated for and won multiple awards, and are performed internationally. Her past and family history (her Jewish father came to America to escape Nazi threat in 1937, and her mother fought racism in their community) are often themes in her writing. Fun Home was the first piece of theatre that she had written based on someone else's work. Kron attended Kalamazoo College in Michigan and moved to New York in 1984 where she was a founding member of the collaborative company The Five Lesbian Brothers; their plays have been produced by the New York Theatre Workshop and published by Samuel French. Kron has acted in those

plays as well as other productions, and her playwriting honours include fellowships from the Lortel and Guggenheim foundations, Sundance Theatre Lab, the Lark Play Development Centre, and the MacDowell Colony. She was resident playwright at the American Voices New Play Initiative at Arena Stage, and currently teaches playwriting workshops and is a member of Actors Equity and a Council member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

#### Jeanine Tesori - Music

Jeanine Tesori is a multiple award-winning American theatre composer,



arranger, pianist, and conductor. She has also composed songs and scores for films. Tesori grew up in Port Washington, Long Island, where she began playing the piano at age 3. Her parents are a doctor and nurse, and she planned to study medicine, but after coaching at a theatre camp in the Catskills, she changed her major to music. After graduating, she worked in musical theatre in New York City as an arranger, pianist, and associate conductor, at which time she also met her husband.

musical director Michael Rafter. Tesori wrote her first musical in 1997 and has continued to compose as well as move into a producer role with 2017's Sunday in the Park with George. She is the first woman composer in history to have two original musicals running on Broadway concurrently. Tesori is a member of the Dramatists Guild, a music lecturer at Yale University, and now lives in Manhattan with her husband and daughter Siena.

Alison Bechdel illustrates her experience of watching her life interpreted onstage by the original cast of FUN HOME. To find out more about Alison Bechdel, visit https:// dykestowatchoutfor.com/the-essential-dtwof/

# FUN HOME! THE MUSICAL!

byAlison Bechdel

IMISSED THE OPENING NIGHT OF FUN HOME, THE OFF-BROADWAY MUSICAL ADAPTED FROM A GRAPHIC MEMOIR I HAD PUBLISHED SEVEN YEARS EARLIER



DUE TO A SCHEDULING CONFLICT, I FOUND MYSELF IN A HOTEL IN RURAL OHIO, REPEATEDLY REFRESHING THE NEW YORK TIMES THEATER PAGE.



I WAS JUST AS GLAD TO BE IN OHIO THAT NIGHT, IT WAS FAMILIAR, GROWING UP IN PENNSYLVANIA, NEW YORK CITY HAD ALWAYS BEEN A DISTANT BEACON.



I HAD CEDED ANY CREATIVE CONTROL OVER THE PLAY, WHEN I SAW A PRE-VIEW TWO WEEK'S EARLIER, I'D BEEN STUNNED BY HOW GOOD IT WAS.



BUT THEN HOW COULD I HAVE ANY CRITICAL OBJECTIVITY WHATSOEVER ABOUT A MUSICAL BASED ON MY OW REAL LIFE AND FAMILY ?



MY MEMOIR HAD BEEN AN INTRICATE, NONLINEAR ACCOUNT OF MY CLOSETED GAY FATHER'S SUICIDE AND MY OWN COMING OUT AS A LESBIAN.



I COULDN'T IMAGINE ANYONE BREAK ING INTO SONG, BUT THEN I LEAR THAT MUSICALS ARE ALWAYS ABOUT LIFE-AND- DEATH SITUATIONS.



AND HERE WE WERE. SINGING, ONE OF EARLIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORIES HAD BECOME A LESBIAN ANTHEM.



MY EXCRUCIATINGLY AWKWARD FIRST SEXUAL EXPERIENCE WAS TURNED



MY MOTHER, WHO HAD BEEN A VAGUE CHARACTER IN MY BOOK, WAS FLESHED OUT WITH A DEVASTATING SONG ABOUT THE TOLL OF SACRIFICE.



AND THE MOMENT MY FATHER STEPS IN FRONT OF THE TRUCK IS A RAW, DISSONANT REVELATION.



MY REAL MOTHER HAD BEEN AMBIVA-LENT ABOUT MY BOOK, AND WAS EVEN MORE SO ABOUT THE MUSICAL



SHE WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE THEATER. I LEARNED FROM HER. THAT THE TIMES REVIEW MEANT LIFE OR DEATH FOR A PLAY.



SHOW SPENT YEARS IN DEVEL OPMENT. MOM DIED FIVE MONTHS BEFORE IT OPENED. I WAS NEVER REALLY INVESTED IN HER SEEING IT.



I KNEW IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO PAINFUL FOR HER IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. BUT HOW I WISH SHE COULD HAVE SEEN THE REVIEW.





MY PARENTS, WHO HAP MET, AS IT APPENED, IN A PLAY - WOULD GET TO GO ON LIVING IN ONE .



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#### SPECIAL THANKS

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AUGUST WILSON'S January 22 - February 6, 2021 7:30pm