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MTSU THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS

FUN HOME

BOOK AND LYRICS BY
LISA KRON

MUSIC BY
JEANINE TESORI

BASED ON THE GRAPHIC NOVEL BY
ALISON BECHDEL

TUCKER THEATRE | APRIL 7-10
2022



ARTISTIC TEAM

DIRECTOR	LAUREN SHOUSE
ASST DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER	AUBREY ZURHELLEN
MUSIC DIRECTOR	ANGELA TIPPS
ASST MUSIC DIRECTOR	NOAH HUSEMAN
SCENIC DESIGNER	GAVIN STRAWNATO
ASST SCENIC DESIGNER	CAITLIN MCMAHAN
SCENIC CHARGE	ANNA GRACE GRAGG
COSTUME DESIGNER	JACOB DENNEY
LIGHTING DESIGNER	GAVIN STRAWNATO
ASSOC LIGHTING DESIGNER	SAMMY WEBSTER
ASST LIGHTING DESIGNERS	ZAKYRA MCKINNEY
	SUSIE MONK
SOUND DESIGNER & ENGINEER	RACHEL HALL
HAIR DESIGNER	MORGAN HUTCHINS
MAKEUP DESIGNER	ELIZABETH EDWARDS
PROPERTIES COORDINATOR	ANNA GRACE GRAGG

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION MANAGER / TECHNICAL DIRECTOR JOHN UNDERWOOD
STAGE MANAGER BEN LEONARD
ASST. STAGE MANAGERS MORGAN HUTCHINS
KALEY EATON
ASST TECHNICAL DIRECTOR NOAH MCCARTY
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER JULIA FLEMING
MASTER ELECTRICIAN SAMMY WEBSTER
ASST. MASTER ELECTRICIAN HARRY WHITMORE
AUDIO ASSISTANTS MATTHEW LAWS
YUJUNG KIM
BYEOLHA PARK
FLY CAPTAINS SUSIE MONK
MATTHEW PARVIN
FLY CREW MORGAN HUTCHINS
BRIAN D. ELLIOTT

WARDROBE HEAD NORA CHISAMORE
WARDROBE CREW STUDENTS OF THEA 3200
LIGHT BOARD OP CAITI MILLIGAN
FOLLOWSPOT OP DAX ARAYA-DEROSIER
ADAM FOX
LIGHT HANG / FOCUS CREW STUDENTS OF THEA 3400
COSTUME DESIGN FACULTY ADVISOR TOMMY MACON
LIGHTING DESIGN FACULTY ADVISOR DARREN E. LEVIN
SCENIC DESIGN FACULTY ADVISOR SCOTT BOYD
RIGGING AND LX TECHNOLOGY FACULTY ADVISOR BRIAN D. ELLIOTT
STAGE MANAGEMENT FACULTY ADVISOR KATE GOODWIN
MAKEUP / WIGS / HAIR FACULTY ADVISOR TRISH CLARK
SCENE SHOP MANAGER DILLON DAVIS
COSTUME SHOP MANAGER KATIE SELLERS
MARKETING CONTENT MANAGER AARON JOHNSON
SPECIAL EVENTS MANAGER MEGAN MARCHAN

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"And in a way you could say that my father's end was my beginning, or more precisely that the end of his lie coincided with the beginning of my truth." (Bechdel, 117)

This quote from Alison's Bechdel's 2006 New York Times bestselling graphic memoir, *Fun Home*, resonated with me from the moment I read it. Alison's father took his own life only four months after Alison came out as gay in college. Now at the same age her father was when he died, Alison becomes an investigative journalist of her own memory – combing through the pieces of memory that are easy to touch and then delving into the ones that are harder to bring into focus. As she repeats, "I want to know what's true, to dig deep into who and what and why and when until now gives way to then," she is trying to uncover whether these two events were connected. And her journey unearths a universal question a child has for their parent: Did you see me, really see me and love me for who I am?

As an adult, it takes work to bring that truth into focus to clarify what has made us into who we are today. Especially when you look back on your biased and fickle memory in order to find it. Told in a nonlinear narrative, the musical and graphic novel present these specific, vivid imprints of a life that is tethered by the gravity of Bruce's choices. But also afloat in the joyfully, awkward moments of self discovery. What I find so beautiful is that all of Alison's searching leads her to an image of her father lifting her up to fly in a childhood game. It is a pure and sweet memory, but also a powerful metaphor, highlighting that Alison can now live in her truth in a way that her father never could. And there is a freedom in that for her and for all the young people who can now soar as their authentic selves.

Welcome to the Fun Home!



DIRECTOR

Lauren Shouse is the Assistant Professor of Theatre Directing at Middle Tennessee State University and she works as a freelance director in Nashville, Chicago and beyond. Her recent directing credits include: Avenue Q, Rapture, Blister, Burn, Superior Donuts, and A Christmas Story at Nashville Repertory Theatre, Something Clean with Sideshow and Rivendell Theatre, The Cake at Rivendell Theatre (Jeff nomination for Best Director), The Legend of Georgia McBride at Northlight Theatre, and A Doll's House, Nice Girl and Betrayal at Raven Theatre. She received her MFA in theatre directing at Northwestern University. In Chicago, Lauren served as the Associate Artistic Director at Northlight Theatre and also worked with Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Route 66, The Gift, Chicago Dramatists, and Stage Left Theatre. www.laurenshousedirects.com



ASST. DIRECTOR CHOREOGRAPHER

Aubrey Zurhellen (Assistant Director/Choreographer) is a junior Theatre Education major who loves sharing the joy of theatre with others! Her previous MTSU credits include *SWEENEY TODD* (Assistant Director), *GODSPELL* (Celisse/Choreographer), *FAILURE: A LOVE STORY* (Jenny June Fail), and *SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION* (Kitty). She would like to thank Lauren for all her guidance and support as well as her fantastically talented best friends Llewyn, Carmen, and Jackson for being along for this journey!



STAGE MANAGER

Ben Leonard (Stage Manager) is a Senior Theatre Major. He has had the pleasure of working on the Stage Management teams for such shows as THE ROYALE, KISS ME KATE, and SWEENEY TODD. When he's not here at MTSU, he is volunteering with Mill Creek Musical Theatre on their productions and competition pieces. He wants to thank his family for their love and support, and hopes you enjoy the show!



ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Morgan Hutchins (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior who transferred last semester from Bluegrass Community and Technical College where she received her AFA in Theatre. At her previous college Morgan had several stage management and acting credits and since transferring has worked on STOP KISS (ASM), and SWEENEY TODD (Hair/Wig Design). She would like to thank her loved ones for their support and Ben and Kayley for being the best SM team!



ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Kayley Eaton (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman, theatre education major. She worked on fall dance last semester and is so excited to be working on a theatre show with MTSU. Kayley was a stage manager on Little Women in high school. She wants to thank my family for supporting her in continuing to learn more about theatre.

CAST LIST

ALISON	JULIA DEGNAN
MEDIUM ALISON	LLEWYN BEAVER
SMALL ALISON	EMMA BASTIN
HELEN	CARMEN DENNISON
JOAN	STOKELEY ELLISON
BRUCE	PAYTON MCCARTHY
JOHN	CHRIS COOPER
CHRISTIAN	ISAAC SISUNIK
ROY / PETE / MARK / BOBBY JEREMY	LOGAN PURCELL
SMALL / MEDIUM ALISON UNDERSTUDY	CAITLIN MCMAHAN
ALISON / HELEN UNDERSTUDY	SARAH CORNELISON
MALE UNDERSTUDY	JACKSON ROY



ALISON

Julia Degnan (Alison) is a first-year graduate student here at MTSU and received her Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Theatre at Birmingham-Southern College. She is currently studying for an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in theatre education. This is her first time performing on the MTSU stage, and she is so excited to be back after a year-long hiatus from theater. Her favorite part of this process was working with amazingly talented and tenacious fellow actors and crew to share Alison's relentless search for the truth. Julia is grateful to Lauren Shouse for giving her the opportunity to perform again, as well as the cast, crew, her amazing friends, and last but not least, her parents—who never stopped pushing her to pursue what she loves.



MEDIUM ALISON

Llewyn Beaver (Medium Alison) is a sophomore at MTSU who remains incredibly thankful for the opportunities they have been presented with. Past roles include Amy (YOUR FEETS TOO BIG) and Whisper (THE BUSIE BODY). They're so excited to share the hard work they've put forward with their fellow cast members to tell this story, and they'd also like to give thanks to their wonderful and supportive friends who they couldn't live without.



SMALL ALLISON

Emma Bastin (Small Alison) is a freshman Theatre Major, and she is so excited to be back in Tucker Theatre for FUN HOME. She has previously appeared in MTSU's production of SWEENEY TODD as the Beggar Woman. Emma would like to thank the cast and crew of FUN HOME for always supporting her and being one of the best groups she's ever had the opportunity to work with.



HELEN BECHDEL

Carmen Dennison is a junior at MTSU and is excited to be performing with the department again! She is currently majoring in theatre, a passion of hers since she was younger. She would like to thank the cast and crew of Fun Home for being kind and can't wait for her friends and family to see the hard work she and the cast have been working on. Carmen also wants to thank her best friends Aubrey, Llewyn, Jackson, and Justin for being her support system.



JOAN

Stokeley Ellison (Joan) is a Junior transfer student at MTSU, majoring in Advertising with a concentration in Recording Industry and double minoring in Graphic Design and Musical Theater Performance. You might have seen her on stage in the fall in Sweeney Todd (Ensemble). Her other roles include Anna Marie (Godspell), Little Inez (Hairspray), Adelaide (Guys and Dolls), Wicked Witch (Shrek the Musical), and Fairy Godmother (Cinderella). She is so thankful to be a part of the amazing cast of this show, and can't wait for everyone to see it!



BRUCE BECHDEL

Payton is so excited to be playing a dream role in his #3 favorite musical of all time. Favorite roles include Pippin, Tommy, and Frank-n-Furter. Thanks to Lauren, Angela and the entire Fun Home team for this incredible opportunity. This performance is dedicated to my incredible father.



JOHN

Christopher is a sophomore Theatre Education major, and he could not be more honored to join this group of brilliant artists. He has previously been seen on the Tucker stage in roles such as Ricky (RIDE THE CYCLONE), Chris (GODSPELL), and Drawer (THE BUSIE BODY). Other credits include: Dillon in YOU'RE STILL HERE (The Theater Bug), Mrs. Bumbrake in PETER AND THE STARCATCHER (Centennial High), and Daddy Cane in BRIGHT STAR (Franklin High). Christopher would like to thank both his current and former directors for shaping him on and off stage and his parents for their endless love and support (and for giving him his own ring of keys). He hopes you enjoy the show; you are loved!



CHRISTIAN

Isaac Sisunik (Christian) is a junior theatre major at MTSU and he's thrilled to be performing in his second main stage show. He's incredibly proud of the work he's done in the costume department for shows such as *The Busie Body*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Anon(ymous)* and is excited to be adding *Fun Home* to his college performance experience. He'd like to thank his family and wonderful friends and castmates for being so supportive, and he's looking forward to continuing his work at MTSU and elsewhere.



PETE/ROY/MARK/ BOBBY JEREMY

Logan Purcell (Pete/Roy/Mark/Bobby Jeremy) is a freshman Theatre Major and is making his theatre debut in his first performance at MTSU in FUN HOME. He has also appeared in HAIRSPRAY! , BYE BYE BIRDIE, and THE SOUND OF MUSIC. Logan has had a blast working on this show and would like to thank everyone in the Theatre Department for accepting him into their family! Logan would also like to thank his family for always supporting his pursuits in Theatre!



SMALL/MEDIUM ALISON UNDERSTUDY, ASST. SCENIC DESIGNER, TV V.O.

Caitlin McMahan (Small/Medium Alison Understudy, Asst. Scenic Designer, and TV V.O.) is a Junior/Senior Theatre Major. Caitlin has appeared in "Ruthless" as Tina Denmark at TN Tech University, as well as various other shows at the Cumberland County Playhouse. She would like to thank her family for always being incredibly supportive and the amazing cast and crew for a great first MTSU show.



ALISON/HELEN UNDERSTUDY

Sarah Cornelison (Alison/Helen Understudy) is working on her fifth show here at MTSU with Fun Home. Previous roles include Failure: A Love Story (Nelly Understudy), How To Be A Widow (Annaleigh), The Busie Body (Isabinda), and Sweeney Todd (Ensemble). Sarah is so happy that she had this experience, and she is so excited for everyone to see all of the hard work that everyone has put in!



MALE UNDERSTUDY/TV V.O.

Jackson Roy (Male Understudy, TV V.O.) Jackson has done theater since middle school. He has been in shows like HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (Coach Bolton), WEST SIDE STORY (Riff), and SWEENEY TODD at MTSU (Ensemble). He would like to thank his Grandpa, his sister Alyssa, and his friends for always supporting him



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APR. 21-23, 2022

Season Announcement

2022-2023

<p>Sense & Sensibility SEPT. 29 - OCT. 2, 2022</p>	<p>GIGADA OCT. 20-23, 2022</p>	<p>PETER AND THE STARCATCHER NOV. 3-6, 2022</p>	<p>FALL 2022 DANCE CONCERT NOV. 17-19, 2022</p>
<p>THE GIVER FEB. 16-19, 2023</p>	<p>the Language Archive MARCH 23-26, 2023</p>	<p>Cabaret APRIL 6-8, 2023</p>	<p>2023 SPRING DANCE CONCERT APRIL 20-22, 2023</p>