

BIG LAKE THEATRE CO. PRESENTS



FUN HOME

MUSIC BY
JEANINE TESORI

BOOK & LYRICS
BY LISA KRON

BASED ON THE GRAPHIC NOVEL BY
ALISON BECHDEL

THE WOMEN'S FEDERATED CLUBHOUSE | MARQUETTE
MARCH 23 - 26 | 7:00 PM

FUN HOME is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

BigLakeTheatreCo.com | biglaketheatreco@gmail.com

FUN HOME

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.

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ABOUT BIG LAKE THEATRE CO.

Mission

Connect our community to authentic, compelling, and entertaining storytelling.

Vision

To enrich the Upper Peninsula by setting a standard of excellence in community-based performance by:

- Delivering consistent, professional-caliber theatre performances
- Empowering local and regional performers to grow and flourish
- Providing a welcoming, inclusive, and professional environment for guests, performers, and volunteers.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Honesty. This is the first thing I thought about when Big Lake Theatre Company asked me to direct *Fun Home*. This brutally honest, reflective, hilarious tragedy needed honesty above all else. Lucky for me, I got a cast and production team that understood that from the get-go. Nine actors taking on a musical based on a graphic novel memoir of a lesbian cartoonist's life, navigating the good, the bad, the ugly, and the awkward.... It's no easy task. But they've honored it splendidly.

Alison's journey through her memories is so poignant and relatable for many reasons. Whether it's playing silly games with your siblings, coming into who you truly are in your formative years, disagreeing with your family, coming out, or being thrown into a moment where you are forced to experience the complex relationship that grief shares with loss and joy, especially when memory is involved. There's something for everyone here. As a queer person myself, the graphic novel gave me a lot of closure when I read it in college (right here in Marquette) and was coming into my own and beginning to come out as gay. The musical came out shortly after, and Alison & her relationship with her father Bruce once again hit me to the core. The brutal honesty, the admittance of the awkwardness at reviewing the past, and the charm, wit, and score were absolutely captivating.

Alison's voyage to discover what is true is beautiful, heartwarming, tragic, and (above all) honest. We thank you for coming out to share this journey with us. I hope you enjoy this intimate piece, in this intimate space, and become immersed in the honesty.

~~James Porras II~~

CAST

Alison.....	Jill Vermeulen
Small Alison.....	Zoë Gramana
Medium Alison.....	Rachel Hay
Bruce Bechdel.....	Alex Herman
Helen Bechdel.....	Iriena Irwin
John Bechdel.....	Daisy Gramana
Christian Bechdel.....	J.J. Reinhart
Joan.....	Serenity Cisneros
Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy.....	Joseph Pickens

PIT ORCHESTRA

Director & Piano.....	Sara Parks
Violin/Viola	Debbie Carlson
Cello.....	Nicole Nolan
Guitar.....	Gavin Schaub
Reeds.....	Matt Mitchell

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage & Vocal Director.....	James Porras II
Music Director.....	Sara Parks
Assistant Director & Stage Manager.....	Charles Orr
Lighting Design.....	Vic Holliday
Sound Design.....	Dan Zini
Art Design.....	Kaitlin Aisthorpe

ADVISORY BOARD

President.....	Sara Parks
Advisor.....	Tony Beacco
Advisor.....	Erin Colwitz

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks to The Women’s Federated Clubhouse, First Presbyterian Church, Messiah Lutheran Church, The Jason Dean Photography, Negaunee High School, Steady Stone Productions, Vic Holliday, and Kaitlin Aisthorpe.

*The
Jason
Dean
Photography*

Prints
Events
Portraits

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

It All Comes Back (Opening)	Company
Sometimes My Father Appeared to Enjoy Having Children	Alison
Welcome to Our House on Maple Avenue	Helen, Alison, Small Alison, Christian, John, Bruce
Not Too Bad	Medium Alison
Just Had a Good Talk With Dad	Medium Alison, Bruce, Alison
Come to the Fun Home	John, Christian & Small Alison
Helen's Etude	Bruce, Helen, Roy, Kids
Thanks for the Care Package	Medium Alison, Joan
Party Dress	Small Alison, Bruce, Medium Alison, Alison
Changing My Major	Medium Alison
I Leapt Out of the Closet	Alison, Small Alison, Helen, Bruce
Maps	Alison
Read a Book	Medium Alison, Small Alison, Bruce, Alison, Helen
Raincoat of Love	Bobby Jeremy & Company
Clueless in New York	Alison, Small Alison, Bruce
Pony Girl	Bruce
A Flair for the Dramatic	Medium Alison, Joan, Bruce
Ring of Keys	Small Alison
I Checked Out	Alison, Bruce, Helen
Let Me Introduce You to My Gay Dad ...Joan, Medium Alison, Alison Bruce, Helen	
Days and Days	Helen
Telephone Wire	Alison & Bruce
Edges of the World	Bruce
This is What I Have of You	Alison
Flying Away (Finale)	Alison, Medium Alison & Small Alison



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NOTE TO AUDIENCE: The videotaping or audio and/or visual recording of this production is a violation of United States Copyright Law and an actionable federal offense.

CAST



Jill Vermeulen (Alison) is a fourth grade teacher at Cherry Creek Elementary School & is the drama director for Marquette Senior High School, most recently directing *Hadestown* & *Les Miserables*. Some of her favorite performance credits include *The Prom* (Angie), *Heathers* (Ms. Fleming), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Mary Magdalene), *Footloose* (Vi Moore), *Mamma Mia* (Tanya), *The Addams Family* (Morticia), *Noises Off* (Belinda), and *Proof* (Claire). She holds a master's degree in K-8 Reading from Northern Michigan University. She is grateful to Big Lake Theatre Company for the opportunity to share Alison's story.

Zoë Gramana (Small Alison) is ecstatic to make her debut with Big Lake Theatre Company. She previously performed in *The Little Mermaid*, *SpongeBob: The Musical*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Zoë loves writing and performing stories, dances, and songs with her sister and friends, and she also collaborated with fellow young artists through Project Knot Work to create and perform in the documentary *Yours, Marquette* and the play *Journey Across the Sea*. She enjoys playing violin with Youth Volume, singing in the Wild Bird Voice Studio Lark Ensemble, and writing news articles and hosting podcasts through the youth journalism program 8-18 Media. When she's not performing, Zoë enjoys reading, crafting, and playing Animal Crossing. Special thanks to her mom and dad for all their love, support, and for cheering her on every step of the way.



Rachel Hay (Medium Alison) was born and raised in Ishpeming, MI and has been involved in theatre in the Marquette area since age 8. Some of her favorite previous roles include Wendy in *Peter Pan*, Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Annabeth in *The Lightning Thief*, Shelby in *The Prom*, Bonnie in *Bonnie & Clyde*, and Alice in *LIZZIE*. Rachel is incredibly proud of all of the hard work put into *Fun Home* and cannot wait to show it to an audience. She hopes everyone who sees the show will enjoy themselves and learn something along the way.

Alex Herman (Bruce) is a Physical Therapist Assistant for UP Rehab at the Great Lakes Sports Medicine Institute. This is his second production with Big Lake Theatre Company, having first played Clyde in *Bonnie and Clyde* last Summer. He has not been on the stage as much lately due to dedicating his time coaching his son in basketball, football, and baseball, where he is an active board member for Negaunee Little League. Some of Alex's past roles and performances of note include *Rent* (Mark), *The Last 5 Years* (Jamie), *Next to Normal* (Gabe), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Rocky x2, Brad Majors), *Proof* (Harold Dobbs), *Grease* (Danny Zuko), *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Joseph), and *The Addams Family* (Lucas). Alex wants to thank his friends and family for their support and hopes this production moves you in the way it moves him.



Iriena Irwin (Helen) is excited to be working with Big Lake Theater Company. She is a histotechnologist at UPHSM. Her recent credits include Maria (*Twelfth Night*), Reza (*Once*), and a soloist at Lake Superior Theater's *Broadway at the Boathouse*. When she isn't on stage she is adventuring with her husband Noah. She is incredibly honored to be helping bring this story to life as Helen Bechdel.

Daisy Gramana (John) is so excited to be playing John in *Fun Home* for her first show with Big Lake Theatre Company! She has performed in *The Little Mermaid*, *SpongeBob: The Musical*, and *The Wizard of Oz*, and she loves creating fun theatre, music, art, and dance projects with her sister and friends. Daisy enjoys playing violin with Youth Volume, singing in the Wild Bird Voice Studio Lark Ensemble, and participating in the youth journalism program 8-18 Media. Outside of performing, Daisy can often be found exploring different fashions, conducting kitchen science experiments, jumping on the couch, hanging out upside down, and spending time with her friends. She is grateful to James, Charlie, Sara, and Miss Amanda for helping her and for making this show so much fun.





JJ Reinhart (Christian) is a seventh grader at Bothwell Middle School in Marquette. He has been involved in theater productions since he was six years old with some of his favorites including *Junie B. Jones*, *The Lightning Thief*, *Disney's Dare to Dream*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. He's just recently finished *The Little Mermaid*, and now he is looking forward to his first community theater production. He's excited to have James as his director for the third time and to work with some incredible adult and fellow kid actors. JJ is thrilled to have been given the opportunity to play Christian and hopes to make his family, fellow cast members and directors proud.

Serenity Cisneros (Joan) is excited to be making her Marquette community theatre debut with Big Lake Theatre Company! She is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of telling such a thought provoking and touching queer story that anyone can relate to. She'd like to thank our talented cast and crew for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to telling this story with the respect it deserves, and also her friends and family for their continued love and support.



Joseph Pickens (Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy) is an MTU graduate with a BA in Theatre and Electronic Media Performance. He currently resides in Marquette where he enjoys participating in community theatre. Some of his favorite roles in Marquette theatre include Jinx (*Forever Plaid*), Moritz Stiefel (*Spring Awakening*), and Hipster Dork (*Heathers: The Musical*). He is grateful for the opportunity to continue performing, and would like to thank everyone who supports the local theatre scene!



PIT ORCHESTRA

Sara Parks (Music Director, Piano) has been performing and music-directing in Marquette's theatre community for the past fifteen years. Sara holds a Bachelor of Music Education from NMU and worked as a full-time elementary music teacher for nine years. Sara currently teaches private voice and beginning piano lessons at Yooptone Music Store in Marquette and is the Director of Music at Messiah Lutheran Church. Sara is also an adjunct instructor in NMU's Department of Music. Sara has music-directed several productions for local theatre companies; her favorites include *Bonnie & Clyde*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Into The Woods Jr.* Sara also enjoys performing as a vocal soloist with the Westerly Winds Big Band. Her favorite roles on stage include Emily Hobbs in *Elf the Musical* (FRT), Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (PAAC), and The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* (FRT). Sara is a co-founder and Board President of Big Lake Theatre Company.



Debbie Carlson (violin/viola) has had a violin under her chin since she was 2 years old. She grew up in Marquette but left to study violin performance at Lawrence University in 1994. She then went on to study at EMU for a year followed by three years at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. After that she moved to Lansing MI so she could be closer to her mom who had been battling deadly cancer for almost 10 years. Debbie performed with community orchestras along the East Coast, throughout lower MI, GBSO in WI

and all over the UP and Canada. She has also performed in Europe as assistant concertmaster with Blue Lake International Symphony Orchestra, with the Wolfratshausen Symphony in Germany and has toured parts of Canada with an orchestra in the Sioux, Canada. She has performed with artists Kenny Rodgers, Anne Murray, Andrea Bocelli, The Mambo Kings, The Dave Brubeck trio and Wayne Newton. Debbie also attended 7 years of Suzuki camp at Stevens Point, one Summer at Interlochen, three Summers at Lutheran Summer Music Camp, Tanglewood, Blue Lake International Orchestra. As a recipient of an I.D.E.A. fellowship award from LU she went to study with Denes Zsigmondy at his music camp in Germany. Debbie is the Principal violist with MSO and teaches violin, viola and cello lessons. She's also the current concertmaster with NMU Symphony orchestra and plays percussion with the Mqt City Band.

Nicole Nolan (cello) is a lifelong cellist who began playing at age 11 and has been devoted to the instrument ever since. She performs with the Marquette Symphony Orchestra, where she enjoys collaborating with fellow musicians and contributing to the Upper Peninsula's arts community. Nicole is also a dedicated physician assistant, practicing internal medicine and pediatrics at Marshfield Medical Center. She has loved this work for the past eight years for its blend of challenge, connection, and care. When she's not in the clinic, she can usually be found running outdoors or spending time with her family.



Gavin Schaub (guitar) is a freshman at NMU, with 15 years of guitar experience and 3 years of organized choir at Lakeshore Highschool. He has released two studio albums under the name "Gavin Raleigh." He has always been a lover of music and can often be found under a tree, strumming a tune with a cat in his lap.

Matt Mitchell (Reeds) is a multi-instrumentalist who was born, raised, and educated in Marquette, MI. Originally trained as a violinist, Matt has also performed throughout Marquette on flute, oboe, English horn, clarinet, saxophone, French horn, trumpet, percussion, piano, and voice. He served as conductor of the Upper Peninsula Youth Orchestra from 2014-2018 and has also worked as orchestra director for several Superior Arts Youth Theater productions. Aside from performing and conducting, he also offers freelance services as a music copyist and arranger. Matt currently works as a woodwind repair technician maintaining student, school, and professional musicians instruments across the U.P.



AUTHORS



Jeanine Tesori (music) has written a diverse catalog for Broadway, opera, film and television. Her Broadway musicals include: *Fun Home* (2015 Tony Award Winner, Pulitzer finalist); *Violet; Caroline, or Change; Shrek the Musical; Thoroughly Modern Millie; Twelfth Night* (LCT); John Guare's *A Free Man of Color*. *Delacorte: Mother Courage* (starring Meryl Streep). She has received five Tony nominations, three

Obie Awards and three Drama Desk Awards. The hallmarks of her work have been described as "close-to-the-surface emotion, structural rigor and rhythmic drive."

Her operas include: *The Lion, the Unicorn and Me* and *Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (MET/LCT Opera/Theater and Glimmerglass Opera commission); her upcoming collaboration with Tazewell Thompson, *Blue*, was commissioned for Glimmerglass Opera company and will premiere there next season. She wrote the musical featured in the 2016 revival of *Gilmore Girls* and has also written special material for artists such as *The Girl in 14G* for Kristin Chenoweth and has been featured in the documentaries *Show Business* and *Theater of War*.

Jeanine Tesori became the founding Artistic Director of a new concert series at New York City Center called *Encores! Off-Center*, for which she has helmed seasons joined by artists such as Stephen Sondheim, Lin Manuel-Miranda, Randy Newman, William Finn, Alan Menken, Renee Elise Goldsberry, Sutton Foster and Jonathan Groff. After producing four seasons of *Off-Center* concerts, she took one of those concerts, *Sunday in the Park with George* (starring Jake Gyllenhaal) to Broadway where she produced the 2017 revival, with ATG and Riva Marker. She was the recording producer for *Sunday* as well as the Original Cast Recordings of *Violet; Caroline, or Change; Shrek; Twelfth Night*; etc.

A lecturer in music at Yale and on faculty at Columbia University, Tesori has spoken and taught at universities and programs all over the country. She is the founding Creative Director of the non-profit *A BroaderWay*, an arts empowerment program for young women. She was given the Einhorn Mentorship Award by Primary Stages for her exceptional work with young artists. Her daughter, Siena Rafter, is a sophomore at Brown University.

Lisa Kron (book & lyrics) is a writer and performer whose work has been widely produced in New York, regionally, and internationally. Her plays include *Well*, *2.5 Minute Ride* and *The Ver**zon Play*. She wrote the book and lyrics for the musical *Fun Home* (with music by composer Jeanine Tesori), winner of five 2015 Tony Awards including Best Musical. Lisa and Jeanine were the first all-woman team to ever receive a Tony for best score.



As an actor, Lisa was most recently seen as Mrs. Mi-Tzu and Mrs. Yang in the Foundry Theater's acclaimed production of *Good Person of Szechuan* (Lortel Award, Outstanding Featured Actress).

Honors include a Guggenheim fellowship, a Doris Duke Performing Artists Award, and the Cal Arts/Alpert Award. She is a proud founding member of the OBIE- and Bessie-Award-winning collaborative theater company The Five Lesbian Brothers.

Lisa currently serves as Secretary of the Dramatists Guild Council and on the boards of the McDowell Colony and the Lilly Awards.



Alison Bechdel (cartoonist) was born September 10, 1960, in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. She grew up in Beech Creek, Pennsylvania, and attended high school where both of her parents taught English literature. After college, she began cartooning the lesbian-centered comic strips *Dykes to Watch Out For*. They were later compiled into a series of books with a quarter of a million copies in print. She also wrote and drew *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* (2006), a graphic memoir that encompasses her coming out story along with chronicling the perplexing relationship

she had with her father in response to his mysterious life. In 2012, Bechdel published another graphic memoir exploring the relationship she had with her other parent titled, *Are You My Mother? A Comic Drama* (2012). She has drawn comics for *Slate*, *McSweeney's*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and *Granta*. Her work is widely translated and anthologized.

PRODUCTION TEAM

James Porras II (Stage & Vocal Director) is honored to be involved in this production with Big Lake Theatre Company. James was involved in the Marquette theatre scene over a decade ago, and is so happy to be back. Recently, James directed *Junie B. Jones Jr.* and *Spongebob Squarepants Jr.* for SAYT, *Something Rotten* for Bay Shore Arts Center, and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels & Chicago: Teen Edition* for Menominee High School. Favorite acting credits include *Sweeney Todd*, *Man 2 (Songs for a New World)*, *Officer Lockstock (Urinetown)*,



Robert (Boeing, Boeing), and *Rutledge (1776)*. He has also become fascinated with music direction, having music directed, played keyboards for, and conducting many shows including *Mamma Mia*, *Into the Woods*, *The Addams Family*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Christmas By the Bay*, and *tick, tick, ...Boom!* Thanks to the cast, musicians, and production staff for being incredible forces of art, John & Kasey for being the best friends a guy could ask for, and the audience for supporting the arts in your community. He hopes you enjoy this powerful, heartfelt piece, and hopes to do more theatre work in this beautiful home-away-from-home very soon!



Charles Orr (assistant director/stage manager) is a sophomore at NMU studying Theatre and Entertainment Arts with a dual focus in Performance and Hair and Makeup Design. He was a 2023 Nominee for the Sutton Foster Awards, and a Semi-Finalist for the 2026 ACTF Region 3 Musical Theatre Intensive. Recent projects include playing The Usherette/Us Frank N Furter in NMU's *The Rocky Horror Show*, serving as Hair and Makeup Designer for NMU's *Into The Woods*, and writing and performing in the

collaborative sketch show *It Is The Scene*. He is a stitcher at the NMU Costume Shop, and performs in drag as Sensitivity in his free time. This is his first foray into Assistant Directing and Stage Management after taking Directing Theory with Kaitlyn Frotton. He would like to thank the cast and crew for their dedication, everyone who drove him to and from rehearsals, James Porras and Amanda Boundy for this amazing opportunity, and his best friend, Rachel Hay.

Vic Holliday was born in Detroit, but raised in Marquette, as his parents (both Yoopers) had the good sense to return to the UP before he turned one year old. He earned his BA in Psychology from St. John's University in Minnesota, and his MFA in scenic and lighting design from the U of Hawaii at Manoa. Vic retired from NMU in 2019, after thirty-seven years in the Theatre and Dance department, serving as associate professor and scenic/lighting designer. Since retiring, his time is occupied with house remodeling,



building ship models (pre-dreadnought steel navy), studying naval history, and doing scenic and lighting design for local theatre companies (PAAC/IronArts, MATI, Lake Superior Theatre, U.P. Shakespeare). He is also a practicing ailurophile.



Dan Zini is an award-winning designer and engineer in both live and broadcast sound and media with over a decade of professional experience. He also works as a composer, studio engineer, musician, and programmer, holding many internationally recognized certifications. Dan's client list is extensive and includes Andy Grammar, Keith Secola, Samantha Fish, Carlos Nunez, Alash, Sandra Joseph, Joshua Davis, LDI Las Vegas, Hershey Entertainment, and various theatre companies, serving on over 100 productions including *The Wizard of Oz*, *Les Miserables*, and *Mary Poppins*. At NMU's School

of Music Theatre and Dance, as well as the Department of Media Studies, Dan currently serves as an instructor in sound and media as well as the sound and media supervisor and engineer.

Amanda Boundy (Executive Director) is a U.P. native raised in rural Alger County. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from Albion College and a Master of Music in Voice from the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University. She's divided her career between performing musical theatre, opera, and choral solos, teaching voice and vocal ensembles, directing theatre productions, and providing administration for performing arts organizations. She is currently the Executive Director for Big Lake Theatre Company and owner of Wild Bird Voice Studio in Marquette.

