

BIG LAKE THEATRE CO. PRESENTS

LIZZIE

STEVEN
CHESLIK-DEMEYER

TIM
MANER

ALAN
STEVENS HEWITT



The Honorable Distillery | MARQUETTE
OCTOBER 27 - 30 | 7:00 PM

LIZZIE is presented by special arrangement with
Broadway Licensing Global. (www.broadwaylicensing.com)

BigLakeTheatreCo.com | biglaketheatreco@gmail.com

LIZZIE

Music by Steven Cheslik-DeMeyer and Alan Stevens Hewitt

Lyrics by Steven Cheslik-DeMeyer and Tim Maner

Book by Tim Maner

Additional Music by Tim Maner

Additional Lyrics by Alan Stevens Hewitt

Based on an original concept by Alan Stevens Hewitt and Tim Maner

Orchestrations by Alan Stevens Hewitt

LIZZIE has been developed with the assistance of tiny mythic theatre company, HERE Arts Center, Took An Axe Productions (Hillary Richard & Peter McCabe), Brisa Trincherro/Corey Brunish (Make Musical and Van Dean/Kenny Howard (Broadway Consortium).

LIZZIE was presented at the National Alliance for Musical Theatre's Festival of New Musicals in 2010 and further developed by Village Theatre, Issaquah, Washington (Robb Hunt, Executive Producer • Steve Tomkins, Artistic Director).

LIZZIE was produced by Theatre Under The Stars, October 2013.

The West Coast Premiere of LIZZIE was produced by Portland Center Stage, Chris Coleman, Artistic Director.

Original European and London premiere produced by Fredericia Theater and Soren Moller, Denmark.

To purchase recordings and sheet music, or for more information, please visit:
www.LizzieTheMusical.com

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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

Lizzie Borden was not just a rhyme from childhood or a figure of morbid fascination—she was a real woman, living in a society that offered her little in the way of freedom, autonomy, or voice. **LIZZIE** takes that history—the infamous 1892 axe murders of Andrew and Abby Borden—and reimagines it through the raw power of rock music, placing female rage, repression, and rebellion center stage. This show does NOT pose the classic question: Did she do it? But more importantly, it asks: What would drive a woman to such an edge? What kind of world confines someone so tightly that the only perceived escape is through destruction? This is not a true-crime retelling. It's a feminist reclamation. It's about what happens when women are silenced for too long, when they're abused, overlooked, disbelieved. It's about sisterhood, solidarity, secrets—and yes, rage. In this production, we lean into the theatricality, the rebellion, and the defiance in the music and the storytelling. The all-female cast becomes a chorus of resistance, with each woman embodying a different face of the pressures and expectations put on women of the time—and still today. Lizzie's story has long been twisted, sensationalized, and mocked. But here, she is given a voice. Whether or not she raised the axe, **LIZZIE** raises a mirror to the world that may have driven her to it. Let it be loud. Let it be angry. Let it be hers.

-AMANDA BOUNDY

CAST

Lizzie Borden.....Clara Usealman
Emma Borden.....Allyse Belanger
Alice Russell.....Rachel Hay
Bridget Sullivan.....Leslie Parkkonen

BAND

Director & Keyboard.....Sara Parks
GuitarRyan Dart
Drums.....Bud Clowers
Bass.....Roscoe Schieler

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director/Costumes/Props.....Amanda Boundy
Music/Band Director.....Sara Parks
Lighting Design.....Vic Holliday
Sound Design.....Dan Zini
Art Design.....Kaitlin Aisthorpe

ADVISORY BOARD

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks to Anne White & The Honorable Distillery staff,
Messiah Lutheran Church, Jason Dean Photography, Steady
Stone Productions, Vic Holliday, and Kaitlin Aisthorpe.



MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

Forty Whacks.....	Alice, Bridget, Emma, Lizzie
The House of Borden.....	Bridget, Lizzie, Emma, Alice
This is Not Love.....	Lizzie
Gotta Get Out of Here.....	Lizzie, Alice
If You Knew.....	Alice
The Soul of the White Bird.....	Lizzie, Bridget, Alice, Emma
Maybe Someday.....	Alice
Sweet Little Sister.....	Emma, Lizzie
Shattercane and Velvet Grass.....	Bridget, Lizzie, Alice, Emma
Will You Stay.....	Alice, Lizzie
Why Are All These Heads Off?.....	Bridget, Lizzie, Alice
Mercury Rising.....	Bridget, Lizzie, Alice, Emma
Somebody Will Do Something.....	Bridget, Lizzie, Emma, Alice

Intermission: 10 minutes

Act II

Forty Whacks (Entracte).....	Band
The Fall of the House of Borden.....	Bridget
What the Fuck Now, Lizzie?.....	Emma, Lizzie
Burn the Old Thing Up.....	Lizzie, Emma, Bridget, Alice
Questions.....	Lizzie, Emma, Alice, Bridget
Will You Lie?.....	Lizzie, Emma, Alice, Bridget
Watchmen for the Morning.....	Lizzie, Emma, Bridget
Maybe Someday (Reprise 1)	Lizzie
Thirteen Days in Taunton.....	Lizzie, Emma, Alice, Bridget
Maybe Someday (Reprise 2).....	Lizzie, Emma, Alice, Bridget
Into Your Wildest Dreams - Epilogue...Lizzie, Emma, Alice, Bridget	
Forty Whacks (Bows).....	Ensemble

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



Allyse Belanger is a Marquette native, who has been involved in community theater for the past 10 years. She has played many fun roles including a Silly Girl in *Beauty and the Beast* (Vista Theater 2016), Scuttle in *The Little Mermaid* (Vista Theater 2017), Joann in *Rent* (Masonic 2021), Sister Hubert in *Nunsense* (Lake Superior Theater 2021), Tammy in *Escape to Margaritaville* (LST 2023), and DeeDee Allen in *The Prom* (LST 2024). In her spare time, she attends classes at Adrian College for Elementary Education, student teaches at Graveraet

Elementary School, and teaches several dance classes at Dawn Dott Dance Studio. Allyse is so excited to be a part of this incredible cast, and ready to rock!

Rachel Hay was born and raised in Ishpeming, MI and has been involved in theatre in the Marquette area since age 8. She is excited to return to BLTC for her second show! Some of her favorite previous roles include Wendy in *Peter Pan*, Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Annabeth in *The Lightning Thief*, and Shelby in *The Prom*. Rachel is incredibly proud of all of the hard work put into *LIZZIE* 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.



Leslie Parkkonen found her love for theatre when she was cast in *The Sound of Music* at the age of 10. She has been involved in shows at The Historic Vista Theater, NMU, Lake Superior Theatre, Wolf's Head Theatre Company, and, now, Big Lake Theatre Co. You might remember her as Sister Amnesia in *Nunsense*, M'lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast* or the Witch in *Into the Woods*. Leslie had the honor of being an Irene Ryan nominee in her college days. She also had the opportunity to perform at the Weidner Center in Green Bay and the Kennedy Center in Washington DC in *Haywire*. Some directing credits are *Rocky 2015*, *Next to Normal*, *RENT*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Heathers*, *I Love You You're Perfect Now Change* and *The Last Five Years*.

Clara Usealman is excited to make her Big Lake Theatre Company debut as Lizzie Borden. Though she hails from below the bridge, she loves the Marquette community and considers it home. When not performing, she works as a nursing assistant.



BAND



Dennis (Bud) Clowers currently drums with Flat Broke Blues Band and WhoDat Brass. He's played drums, bass, guitar, and various other instruments in many pits over the years including *Rocky Horror*, *Evil Dead*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Nunsense*, *Frog and Toad*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, and recently *Cabaret* at Forest Roberts.

Outside of music he is building a small business as a crafter making hats and woodworking.

Ryan Dart is a guitarist from Ventura, CA. He studied jazz guitar with Larry Koonse at California Institute of the Arts from 2008 to 2010. He can be found performing around Marquette County in various small band formats.



Sara Parks 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.



Roscoe Schieler is a Marquette local and has been involved in community music and theatre for the better part of two decades. You may have seen him on stage in shows ranging from *Pirates of Penzance* and *Beauty and the Beast* to Wolfs Head theatre's *Titus Andronicus*. In the pit orchestra, he has played trombone for shows including *Sweeney Todd, 1776*, NMU's production of *Cabaret*, and was the music director for Wolfs head theatre's 2017 production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. As a musician he performs with the Marquette City Band, Choral Society, Derrel

Syria Project and the WhoDat Brass Band. He's really looking forward to working with the band and the cast to bring this show to life.

AUTHORS

Steven Cheslik-deMeyer

Fresh out of art school in the early 80s, Steven bought a used guitar in a junk shop on St. Marks Place, learned three chords, and taught himself to write songs by listening to Dolly Parton records. He insinuated himself into the post-punk neo-folk scene in the East Village, but soon discovered the world of downtown theater. Through the late 80s and early 90s, he wrote and performed music in several experimental productions with Tiny Mythic Theatre Company and directors Kristin Marting and Tim



Maner. In 1992, he and Jay Byrd created an act called Y'all, singing original songs and telling stories in the style of old-time country vaudeville. The act sprang from the downtown theater scene but went on to play in coffeehouses, churches, retirement homes, and rock clubs across the U.S., Canada, and Europe. In ten years, Y'all recorded four CDs, published two books, appeared on MTV and Comedy Central, and went broke. Their last two years together, they lived in a camper on the road with a third partner. Steven made a documentary about that relationship and the final years of Y'all, *Life in a Box*, which premiered in the San Francisco International Film Festival in 2005. After the demise of Y'all, Steven returned to New York where he continues to make music and theater and musical theater. He is a 2019 Jonathan Larson Grant finalist, a MacDowell Fellow, and a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in American Studies. For more information, go to stevencheslikdemeyer.com.

Tim Maner



Right out of college, Tim co-founded the tiny mythic theatre company with a focus on developing the work of creator/directors and a mission to “disrupt the american living room / rearrange the furniture in the american mind”. tiny mythic’s work became a staple of the downtown alt-theatre scene of the early 90s, and just a few years later, the previously transient company transformed into the award-winning NYC arts center, HERE, called “One of the most unusual arts spaces in New York – and possibly

the model for the cutting edge arts space of tomorrow” by The New York Times. His producing/presenting history at HERE included hundreds of productions brought to life by thousands of artists. He remains an active founding board member working to expand opportunities for mid-career artists. Tim has created over twenty original works as a creator/director including: The Hawthorne Project, a six-year collaboration with writer/adaptor Elizabeth Banks building a trilogy of multi-layered multi-

media events adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's three American novels and The Opera Project, a five-year collaboration with writer Ruth Margraff and composers Matthew Pierce and Fred Ho creating a series of original new wave operas. Outside of the work he created with his own companies he has directed at The New York Shakespeare Festival and New Dramatists Guild, was a guest artist/teaching fellow at Harvard University, and has taught at New York University/Playwrights Horizons. He's also sung in some bands, arranged and conducted a Cowgirl Chorus, and originated roles in two Robert Wilson shows: Hamletmachine (NY/European Tour) and Salomé (La Scala, Milan). He is a graduate of NYU/ Tisch School of the Arts.

Alan Stevens Hewitt grew up in a musical family, the son of a Philadelphia Orchestra oboist. He cut his teeth as a teenager recording for Ruffhouse/Columbia Records at Studio 4 in Philly, and during the 90's as member of alt-folk band The Low Road (Caroline Records), touring with Los Lobos, Barenaked Ladies, and label-mates Ben Folds Five. He moved full-time to NYC in the late 90's to pursue his conservatory degree in composition at Mannes College of Music/The New School, where he studied with Robert Cuckson and Carl Schachter. In the mid-aughts, with partners, he opened The Coral Room, a nightclub in the Chelsea section of Manhattan, which featured a 10,000 gallon saltwater aquarium with live "mermaid" performances and hosted cutting edge bands, performance artists, events, and djs nightly. As an actively performing musician, his credits include Broadway's Frozen, Come From Away, The Band's Visit, Fun Home (also 1st Natl. Tour), Finding Neverland, Matilda, Sting's Last Ship, Rocky, Jekyll & Hyde, Lysistrata Jones, Green Day's American Idiot, Spring Awakening (also 1st Natl. Tour), Off-Bway's Closer Than Ever, RENT, tours in the U.S. and abroad, and numerous recordings as player, composer, arranger, and producer. His first score for theatre was for a production of Bertolt Brecht's Baal that the NYTimes thought was awful. He lives in the Lower Hudson Valley and enjoys motorcycles and longboarding.

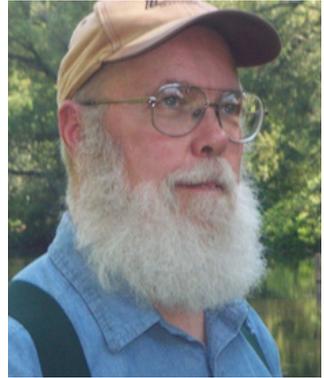


PRODUCTION TEAM



Amanda Boundy 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 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.

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.