



Music by: Jeanine Tesori
Book and lyrics by: Lisa Kron
Based on the graphic novel by: Alison Bechdel

Directed by: Ryan Kathman

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

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

presents ...

PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Director.....	Shannon Chinn
Stage Manager.....	Lily Craig
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Emma Evenson, Dee Jackson
Music Director.....	Merrill Mitchell
Orchestration Programmer/Accompanist.....	Jack Forbes-Wilson
Drummer.....	Cameron James
Choreographer.....	Bailey Leuty
Dance Captain.....	Kenzie Hansen
Technical Director/Lighting Designer.....	Brendan Greene-Walsh
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Sierra Smith
Sound Designer.....	Emily Counts
Projection Designer.....	Tanner Langemeier
Projections Cartoonist/Illustrator.....	Merrill Mitchell
Projection Engineer/Light and Sound Technician.....	Josh Brauer
Scenic Designer.....	Brendan Greene-Walsh
Assistant Scenic Designer.....	Anna Dorr
Costume Designer/Costume Shop Manager.....	Rebecca Armstrong
Hair and Makeup Designer.....	Bailey Leuty
Additional Choreography.....	Claire Opheim, Shannon Chinn, Ryan Kathman
Master Carpenter.....	Lauren Elizabeth Spilinek

CAST

ALISON.....	Molly Davis
BRUCE.....	Matt Cobb
MEDIUM ALISON.....	Reanna Rohrer
SMALL ALISON.....	Audrey Stecher
HELEN.....	Hope Jimenez
JOAN.....	Hannah Tewes
CHRISTIAN.....	Drew Sinnard
JOHN.....	Claire Opheim
ROY/MARK.....	Dio Raquel, Jr.
PETE/BOBBY JEREMY.....	John Alden
MEMORY ENSEMBLE.....	Kenzie Hansen, McKenna Jones, Emma Jorgenson Lauren Laass, Kathleen Murray, Jaime Orton

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thank you to Julie Wilshusen, Jennifer Agee, Graciela Caneiro-Livingston, Jack Forbes-Wilson, Elke Myers, Ann Truka, The Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film, Jana Holzmeier, Courtney Ring, Janet Malone, McKenna Jones, and Jenny Kathman.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"There have been a few times in my life where I've thought about taking a stand but I'm not a hero. It that a cop out? Maybe so. It's hard sometimes to tell what is really worth it."

On April 15, 2015, *Fun Home* became the first musical on Broadway to feature a lesbian protagonist. On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same sex marriage in all fifty states. It was truly a year of acceptance, which is exactly what *Fun Home* is all about as we present it here, six years later, on the Nebraska Wesleyan McDonald stage. Based on the graphic memoir of the same name, cartoonist Alison Bechdel looks back on her past and tries to piece together the circumstances surrounding her father's death while recounting her own journey of self-discovery. Throughout both the graphic novel and the musical, Alison learns to accept not just her sexuality, but also what she cannot control; to accept that some questions can never be answered, and to accept that the past is just that: the past. She learns to hold on to not only the bad memories but the good ones as well. Like Alison, I hope that audiences can learn from this story how to accept themselves and who they are now, as well as who they used to be. I hope that *Fun Home* can show you that it is always worth it to live your life as you are and as truly, as bravely, and as freely as playing airplane.

- Shannon Chinn, *Directing BFA student, Assistant Director*

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

So much of what we do as educators and artists is tied directly to the purposeful lyrics sung early on in *Fun Home* by both Alison Bechdel and her father Bruce: "I want to know what's true, dig deep into who and what and why and when, until now gives way to then." Particularly in the performing arts and humanities, we're endlessly driven to study, investigate and, above all, try to understand history, whether it is global, national, societal, cultural or, very often, personal. In many ways, this relatively quiet story of a middle-class family in rural Pennsylvania touches all of those boundaries, and we're exploring it during a time in our own history when it can be a balm to escape into the past.

When this school year started, there was a lot of uncertainty about whether our vibrant musical theatre program would be able to provide opportunities for musical performances at all. Thankfully, through meticulous care and caution, we were able to present a fantastic cabaret of new songs in the fall called *Fresh Voices* in O'Donnell Auditorium, and we are finally premiering our first musical production in our newly renovated McDonald Theater with *Fun Home*. All of this has only been possible through the disciplined efforts of our students, staff and faculty, of course, but also by the truly inspiring support and guidance of the NWU administrators who were able to see the possibilities and help us mitigate the risks when so few other universities would attempt either.

Knowing that singing unmasked on stage is one of those risks, we not only continued to take the same precautions we've implemented all season, like masked rehearsals, frequent breaks, temperature checks and semi-weekly testing, but we also took the opportunity to reimagine this production in a way that has yielded unexpected rewards. We knew it would be important to keep singers stationary and distanced from one another on stage, but we also wanted to bring these gorgeous songs to life with visually compelling stage pictures. To that end, we created a six-member, all-female group of masked and gloved dancers and movers whom we've labeled the Memory Ensemble, and their performances and fantastic student-choreographed dance routines have illuminated themes and moments in the story that I never could have predicted. Their inclusion may be the only thing about the pandemic for which I'm grateful.

The graphic novel *Fun Home* altered what the literary world thought a memoir could be, and the musical version disrupted the theatre world in the same way. We hope our production can demonstrate that, under the right conditions, even as we endure what is hopefully the late stages of this pandemic, the conventional wisdom of what can and cannot be done on stage is also false. Because, like Alison and Bruce, we want to know what's true and we hope you find as much truth in this story as we have.

Thank you for joining us and enjoy the show!

- Ryan Kathman, *Assistant Professor of Acting/Directing, Fun Home Director*

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

The Bald Soprano
Enid Miller Lab Theatre

NWU ONLY Performances: March 18, 19, 25, 26 at 7:30 p.m.
PUBLIC Performances: March 20, 27 at 7:30 p.m.
March 21, 28 at 2 p.m.

Merrily We Roll Along
McDonald Theatre

NWU ONLY Performances: April 15, 16, 22, 23 at 7:30 p.m.
PUBLIC Performances: April 17, 24 at 7:30 p.m.
April 18, 25 at 2 p.m.

Directing IV: Advanced Directing Projects

THE 39 STEPS: March 11-14 at 7:30 p.m.
STUPID F*CKING BIRD: April 8-11 at 7:30 p.m.
AND THEN THERE WERE NONE: April 29-May 2
at 7:30 p.m.

For ticketing and further information, contact the Box Office.

*Limited seating for ALL performances due to campus and city-wide mandated Covid-19 safety precautions. For any questions or concerns, please email: theatre@nebrwesleyan.edu

PRODUCTION CREW

Electrics Crew.....Maggie Carolus,
Jovany Hernandez Corona, Lily Craig,
Claire Opheim, Gus Sippel
Hair and Makeup Crew.....Mandi McBournie
Lightboard Operator.....Ashlyn Rush
Props Designer.....Anna Dorr
Scenic Construction and Painting.....THTR 1400 Class
Scene Shop Assistants.....Tristen Brummer, Emily Burhani
Kaedyn Campbell, Anna Dorr
Soundboard Operators.....Harlie Delay, Gus Sippel
Wardrobe Crew.....Tylie Tinglehoff, Olivia Sis,
Emily Gardner

THEATRE FACULTY AND STAFF

Department Chair Jay Scott Chipman, Ph.D., S.D.C.
Manager of Theatre Operations Julie Wilshusen, M.A.

Faculty

Ryan Kathman, M.F.A., AEA
Joan Korte, M.F.A.
Anne McAlexander, M.F.A., AEA

Adjunct Faculty

Talea C.M.S. Bloch, D.M.A.
Sasha Dobson, M.F.A.
Courtney Ring, B.P.A.
Carson Cerney, M.F.A.
Scott Shomaker, M.F.A.
Petra Walqvist, P.G.D.
Becky Boesen

Staff

Costume Shop Manager Rebecca Armstrong, B.F.A.
Light and Sound Technician Joshua Brauer, B.F.A.
Administrative Assistant Kate Demoret, B.F.A.
Technical Director Brendan Greene-Walsh, M.F.A.
Master Carpenter Lauren Elizabeth Spilinek, B.F.A.

Emeriti Professors

Alice J. Jaswal, Ph.D.

HELPFUL RESOURCES



“At OutNebraska, we believe in a Nebraska free of judgment and filled with love. Every day we see this dream spreading through communities across our state, with resources and events for LGBTQ+ people growing like never before. OutNebraska empowers community building through culture, relieving the stress that comes from living in the margins. We provide the space to relax, laugh, enjoy each other and live your best life. We believe in pride of identity and welcome every new member with open arms.”

<https://outnebraska.org/>



“PFLAG is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies. With over 400 chapters and 200,000 members and supporters crossing multiple generations of families in major urban centers, small cities, and rural areas across America, PFLAG is committed to creating a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed.”

<https://pflaglincoln.org/>