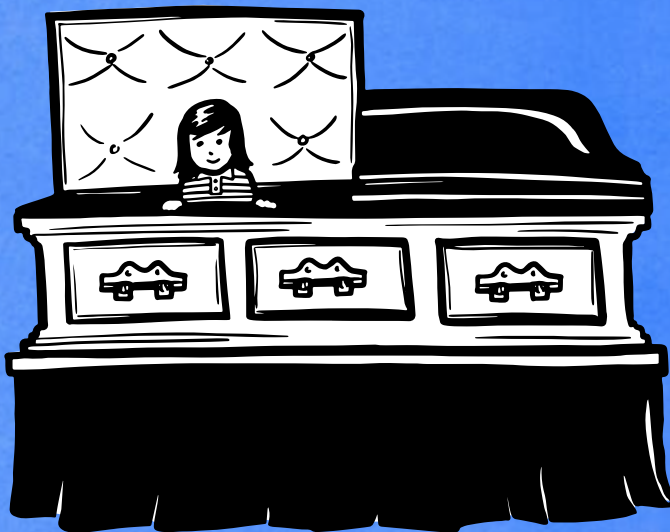


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FUN HOME



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— Alaskan Regional Theatre —

APRIL 22 - MAY 8, 2022

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NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Perseverance Theatre Comes Home to Fun Home to Close our 43rd Season!

It is with great joy that we welcome you to our production of *Fun Home* adapted by the Tony-Award-Winning playwright and composing team, Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tessori!

Fun fact: *Fun Home* is adapted from Alison Bechdel's 2006 graphic memoir of the same name.

We were clear that when the Covid-19 pandemic shuttered our production of *Fun Home* in March of 2020, we would bring this important work back to our stage and here we are! This season represents our staff's wholehearted perseverance.

More Fun Facts: *Fun Home* is the first Broadway musical with a Lesbian protagonist and our stage director, Hannah Wolf, is one of very few Lesbian female directors to direct this musical in the American Theatre. This production also marks the first time that Perseverance Theatre is centering an LGBTQ+ story and its Alaska LGBTQ+ artists and communities on its mainstage. After being closed and working remotely/virtually, we had to come home for *Fun Home*.

Even more Fun Facts: Again, I proudly lift-up the leadership of born and raised Juneau-ite, Hannah Wolf, who celebrates a twenty-year relationship with Perseverance! I also proudly lift-up the LGBTQ+ cast, crew, musicians, and staff who are

also supported by the leadership of Gary Busby, Maestro/
Musical Director, Joseph Biagini, Associate Producer, Erin Marie
Suscheck, Stage Manager, and Sarah Brownstein, Assistant
Stage Manager.

During rehearsals, I had the honor of witnessing Hannah's
"joy practice," where the company took turns to invite each
other to play and engage in what brings them joy—from
dance parties to meditation to sharing their art to playing
hide 'n seek and more. This practice brought laughter and
creative freedom that illuminated even more the dark
humor and the pain of *Fun Home's* characters' unconscious/
conscious unfulfillment. Experiencing the vulnerabilities and
deep revelations of these complex characters, we witness
the societal repression that a mainstream heteronormative
stipulates of LGBTQ+ Peoples. Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tessori
profoundly reveal this depth of loss and the high cost of
internalized homophobia at this time when legislation and
the dominant culture continues to threaten lives and take
away the human rights of our LGBTQ+ communities.

So, I must ask myself these questions: In my heart, where
am I repressed because I'm afraid of being vulnerable? How
does this unconsciously/consciously dehumanize the LGBTQ+
community because what was/is normal is changing? Does
this make me unconsciously/consciously complicit with
expecting all to live in a binary world—in the rigid rules

of bygone heteronormativity because it's "normal and how we've always done?"

More Questions: How can I use my privilege for good to foster a culture where myself and others can be their full selves—fully human 100% of the time? I can start with deepening my listening and respect for how my family members, neighbors, classmates, colleagues identify. I also pledge to use the pronouns they have shared for me to respectfully refer to them.

As you have done by engaging in our production of Fun Home, we must continue our learning about the challenges, heartbreaks, and triumphs of the LGBTQ+ Community. We must keep learning together and support each other's vulnerabilities for greater actions and accountability towards the needed changes that the LGBTQ+ Communities aspire to accomplish.

Perseverance looks forward to continuing to use our stage and platforms to center the stories of our most underrepresented,

our most marginalized. Join us as we evolve our learning and joy practice with updated terminology



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and effective advocacy, so we produce theatre to engage and experience each other as fully human 100% of the time.

My heartfelt gratitude to you, our audience, and all of our donors and supporters, as a voyager with us through this season and through this unprecedented time as we are paranormally haunted by all that is pressing globally and at home. Your tremendous support has kept us alive and continuing to recover through this pandemic!

For sharing your brilliant artistry and vulnerabilities, my deepest Japanese bow to all of the creative teams, casts, crew, musicians, and the Alaska Native/Indigenous, Black and Thai Communities, the LGBTQ+ Community and our mighty staff of this season. Your vulnerability helps each of us to grow our trust in one another that sows transformative societal change. We keep making theatre because it can and will free us collectively.

What an important note to end on this season!

Enjoy the journey that is *Fun Home*!

Leslie

Artistic Director

P.S. Stay tuned for details about our STAR Program this summer!

We can't wait to welcome you back in the Fall—and please stay safe with LOVE and JOY!

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The Biller Family Foundation and
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Music by **Jeanine Tesori**

Book and lyrics by **Lisa Kron**

Based on the graphic memoir by **Alison Bechdel**

Directed by **Hannah Wolf**

Musically Directed by **Daniel Gary Busby**

Scenic Designer **Iman Corbani**

Lighting Designer **Mike Inwood***

Sound Designer **Rory Stitt**

Costume Designer **Jojo Siu**

Choreographer **Hali Duran**

Stage Manager **ErinMarie Suscheck**

Properties Master

Glo Ramirez

Producer

Joseph W. Biagini

Associate Scenic Designer

Mikaela Kelarek

Assistant Stage Manager

Sarah Brownstein

Technical Director

Erik Chadwell

House Sound Engineer

Betsy Sims (Studio A)

Poster Design

Pat Race

Engineering and Consulting Technical Director

Evan Price

Master Electrician

Todd Hunt

Child Supervisor

Ashleigh Watt



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CAST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Rio Alberto ... Roy/Pete/Mark/Bobby/Jeremy (Understudy)
Axel Boily.....John Bechdel
Enrique Bravo.....Bruce Bechdel
Brita FagerstromMedium Alison/The Susan Deys
Margeaux Ljungberg Helen Bechdel
Fiona McFarlinSmall Alison
Allison Mickelson..... Big Alison
Cate RossJoan/The Susan Deys
Chris Talley.....Roy/Pete/Mark/Bobby/Jeremy
Kyra Wood..... Christian Bechdel



MUSICIANS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Daniel Gary Busby..... Piano/Conductor
Rob Cohen Guitar
Paul CottonReeds
Franz Felkl.....Violin/Viola (May 1 -May 8)
Liz Hanley.....Violin/Viola (April 22 - May 1)
Dale McFarlin..... Drums
Ty Wolvertson..... Cello

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Enrique Bravo.....Electrics
Irene Marinko Substitute Child Supervisor
Axel Gillam (Studio A) Audio Mix Engineer
Mikaela Kelarek..... Scenic Charge Artist
Richard Lannon Followspot
Allison Mickelson.....Scenic
Cate RossDance Captain
Susan Settje..... Wardrobe
ErinMarie Suscheck.....Scenic/Hair Stylist
Rachel Wood..... Followspot

SPECIAL THANKS

Rachel Wood, Christina Apathy, Téa Neilson, Jennifer Quinto, Lily Odekirk, Sarah Wallace, Abel Ryan, Kathleen Harper, Robin Merritt, Maura and Brandon at Amalga, Wesley Mann, Dean Silkaitis, UAS, SEAGLA, James Hoagland, Alaskan Hotel and Bar, Island Pub, JAMHI, NAMI, Juneau Pride, and Kathryn Kurtz

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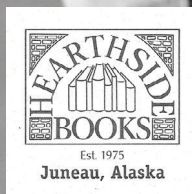
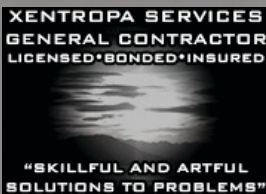
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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for gathering with us to bear witness to this unlikely musical, a dark comedy based on the graphic memoir by Alison Bechdel. It's an honor to share in person space with you!

There are universal touchstones in this very specific family story. At the heart, it's about unraveling a family secret and a daughter working to free herself from Bruce's (her father) shadow. Alison is 43, the same age as Bruce when he died, and she must find the truth of his life to begin her story. Alison and Bruce grew up queer in the same small town, a place where it can be hard to redefine



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yourself in front of your neighbors and community. This is a story that asks us all to take the risk of being vulnerable, of being seen, and attempting to shake loose the shame that can hold us down. Fun Home is the first Tony Award winning musical to center a lesbian character. I grew up closeted in Juneau, not seeing myself in media and afraid of being different. It's hard to live authentically, especially in a small town, but it's equally hard to pretend to be someone you're not. The act of being authentic and visible requires a level of bravery that Bruce can't muster, and that Medium Alison is just starting to find. It is a gift to explore the vulnerability and courage that authenticity takes here in Juneau.

Alison uses her art, her writing, and drawing to process and heal these deep wounds. Her art helps her organize the chaos of her life, her guilt, and her grief. My own father passed away at the end of February, right before we started rehearsals. This musical is an architecturally



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complex and finely calibrated representation of the grief spiral. When somehow we are simultaneously ourselves at multiple ages, remembering our person. It's been a trip to spend my days combing through my own father's objects and spend my evenings watching Alison parse out her memories of Bruce. The question I asked myself at the start of rehearsals was, how can this collaboration, this show, and this story aid in the healing process. No matter the story you carry with you, can these characters and their arc aid in your processing?

Two years ago, I was writing the first draft of this director's note. We were a week away from opening, and in a blink of an eye, everything changed. This is also a story about the work that Alison does to become unstuck. After the events of the past two years, I return to this story to teach me how to approach my blocks and fears head-on. This musical is about how you need an end to have a beginning. The question I invite you all to ask with me is: What are the things (personal and systemic) that we all need to unlock to move forward into healing, creation, and joy?

Hannah Wolf

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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

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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 and Lyrics) LisaKron 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 Verizon 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.

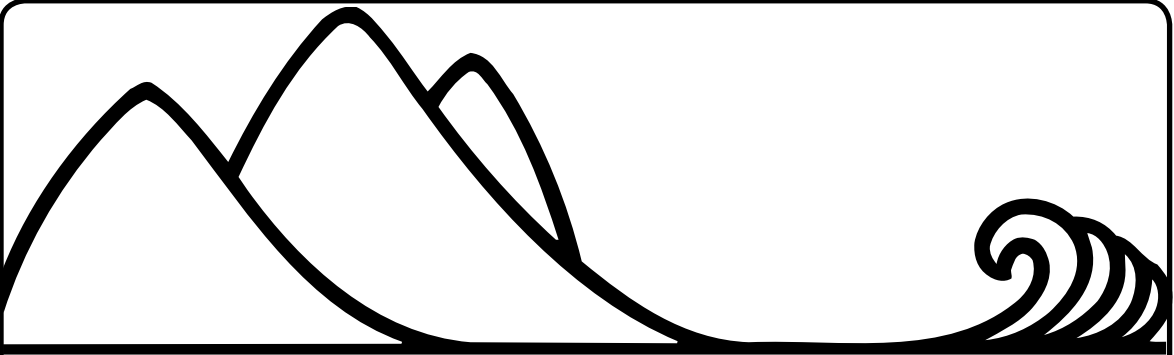
Lisa currently serves as Secretary of the Dramatists Guild Council and on the boards of the McDowell Colony and the Lilly Awards.

Alison Bechdel (author of the original graphic memoir) Alison's comic strip *Dykes To Watch Out For* became a countercultural institution among lesbians and discerning non-lesbians all over the planet. And her more recent, darkly humorous graphic memoirs about her family have forged an unlikely intimacy with an even wider range of readers.

Bechdel self-syndicated *Dykes to Watch Out For* for twenty-five years, from 1983 to 2008. The award-winning generational chronicle has been called “one of the pre-eminent oeuvres in the comics genre, period.” (Ms. magazine)

In 2006 she published *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*. Time magazine named it the Best Book of 2006. It was adapted into a musical by the playwright Lisa Kron and the composer Jeanine Tesori. It opened on Broadway at the Circle in the Square Theater on April 19, 2015, and won five Tony Awards, including “Best Musical.”

In her work, Bechdel is preoccupied with the overlap of the political and the personal spheres, the relationship of the self to the world outside. Her 2012 memoir *Are You My Mother? A Comic Drama* delved into not just her relationship with her own mother, but the theories of the 20th century British psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott. Her most recent book, *The Secret to Superhuman Strength* (May 2021), continues her investigation of the relationship between inside and outside, in this case the outside where she skis, bikes, hikes, and wanders in pursuit of fitness and, incidentally, self-transcendence. Alison’s comics have appeared in The New Yorker, Slate, McSweeney’s, The New York Times Book Review, and Granta. She has been awarded Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellowships. She lives up a hill in Vermont.



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Rio Alberto (He/They) (Roy/Pete/Mark/Bobby/Jeremy Understudy) is a Chicano actor, director, producer, educator, and current Artistic Director of Spokane Ensemble Theatre. Born and raised on Yakama lands, they are the current Director of Marketing and Community Engagement at Perseverance Theatre. Most recently onstage with Spokane Playwright's Laboratory in *Minimum Wage*, a new play by Dahveed Bullis, other notable roles include Yinaahaat in the world premiere of *Devilfish* by Vera Starbard and directed by Leslie Ishii, and Tom Collins in *Rent*, directed by Jeff Sanders.

Axel Boily (John Bechdel) is 12 years old and in 6th grade at Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School. He discovered acting with Perseverance's Young Company, performing in *Norse Mythology* and *Disco Alice*. Axel studies piano with Rob Cohen and clarinet at school, and is looking forward to going to Sitka Fine Arts Camp for the first time this summer. Axel thinks it's important for everyone to know

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that acting is fun, but it's also hard work and a great job! But for now he's thinking he might become an architect. He thanks his big sister, Clare, for being his creative inspiration, and the cast and crew of *Fun Home* for making this such a great experience in both 2020 and 2022!

Enrique Bravo (Bruce Bechdel) has had the pleasure of performing in Juneau, Alaska since 2006. He is a founding member of both Theater Alaska and Generator Theater and has worked with Perseverance Theatre in over 30 productions. He was the Actor-In-Residence at Perseverance Theatre from 2013-2019 where he also received the Bishop Michael Kenny Award in recognition of long-term commitment to great artistry in the Theatre. Regionally he has worked at Harlequin Theatre, Seattle Repertory, New York Theatre Festival, ENACT Theatre, Colonial Theatre, Bridgework Theatre, Mcleod Summer Playhouse, Austin Shakespeare, Blue Theatre, and FronteraFest. He received his BFA in Regional Theatre from Webster Conservatory in St. Louis, MO and his MFA in Theatre from the University of Texas in Austin.

Sarah Brownstein (She/Her) (Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent graduate from Sarah Lawrence College, an aspiring stage manager, director, and playwright, and is delighted to join Perseverance Theatre as the production/stage management apprentice and the assistant stage manager for *Fun Home*. She has previously acted as assistant stage

manager for Chester Theatre Company, stage managed for the Melancholy Players, and stage managed and produced for Downstage Theatre Company. Sarah was the recipient of The Greta Minsky Prize for Stage Management in May of 2021 and can't wait to continue to learn throughout PT's 2021-2022 season.

Daniel Gary Busby (Music Director) has made a varied career as pianist, singer, conductor, teacher, administrator, philanthropreneur, and music critic. A versatile conductor. Dr. Busby's theatrical credits span both the musical theater and operatic genres—from Stephen Schwartz's *Godspell* to Igor Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. He has conducted throughout Europe, and South America. With a career that spans 30+ years and has had global reach, he is equally fluent in genres of cabaret, traditional musical theatre, new musical work, opera, drama and comedy. He has been a regular musical fixture at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Los Angeles Civic Light Opera, and universities like USC, UCLA, and UC Irvine, where he served as department chair. He is thrilled to make his debut with Perseverance Theater in this production of *Fun Home*.

Rob Cohen (Guitar) This is Rob's 12th production with Perseverance; he has most recently served as Musical Director for Perseverance Theatre's productions of the Musicals *Guys and Dolls*, and *Chicago!* Mr. Cohen is the 2021-22 recipient of the City's Kathy Kolkhorst Ruddy

Award for Achievement in the Arts, in the "Artist of the Year" category. His composition *Dance for Mixed Quintet in Uncertain Times*, will be performed later this year in the Con Brio *Small Wonders* Chamber Concert. He has composed and recorded soundtracks for documentary films that have actually seen the light of day, and has written and arranged tunes for Jazz Combo that have been filmed and televised on KTOO's 360TV, and have been performed at the Spenard Jazz Festival in Anchorage. Mr. Cohen makes his living teaching a wide variety of instruments to students of all ages at his downtown studio. Rob is enjoying his first stint on guitar for a Perseverance show, and he would like to give props to Music Director Daniel Gary Busby for his expertise, ability, and friendship.

Iman Corbani (Scenic Designer) is an international multidisciplinary artist, scenographer, storyteller, and idea generator. Her practice ranges from solo gallery installation to collaborations in film, television, opera, theatre, dance, and experimental live performance. Whether she is creating large kinetic sculptures for the stage or historically realistic settings for film, her goal is to give voice to important stories and leave an audience deeply engaged. Iman's recent research has been in sustainable design and construction methods toward a goal of zero waste. She holds a BFA in Design for Theatre from Concordia University in Canada and an MFA in Design and Technology at The University of Texas at Austin.

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Paul Cotton (he/ him) (Reeds) is native of Southern California and an established performer and instructor in woodwinds. Audiences have heard him play around the world in such prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Seoul Performing Arts Center, Nixon Library, Musical Arts Center in Bloomington, Carpenter Center, and numerous university campuses. Paul is also a member of the Catalyst Wind Collective, a professional wind ensemble established in 2021 dedicated to providing new music to the Southern California community through diverse programming and musicianship. Bringing his spirit for competition, he has won numerous international and national competitions and was featured as a guest soloist with orchestras such as Redlands Symphony Orchestra. Paul is committed to fostering an inclusive environment for all his students. He encourages teaching in various music styles such as classical and jazz performances. Paul received his Bachelor's in Music (BM) at California State University, Long Beach, and his Master's in Music (MM) in Performance at Indiana University. His teachers include Dr. Otis Murphy, James Barrera, and Jay Mason.



Hali Duran (Choreographer) studied at the International Ballet School, Colorado Conservatory of Dance, and the University of Colorado, Boulder. Notable local production credits include directing for *La Liberazione di Ruggiero dall' isola di Alcina* and *Juneau's Got Talent*, choreography for *Climate for a Cool Planet*, *West Side Story*, *Next to Normal*, *Whale Song*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Sweeney Todd*, was a movement coach for *Chad Deity* and *The Winter Bear*, and was a performer in productions of *A Wolf Called Romeo*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Chicago!*, and *Princes Sophia*. She is currently studying at Intimacy Directors and Coordinators and is proud to be a board member of Juneau Dance Theatre and the New JACC Partnership Board.

Franz Felkl (Violin/Viola) was born and raised in Juneau. He started his violin studies with Guo Hua Xia at age four and continued his studies in high school with Linda Rosenthal. Franz received a BS in Violin Performance and a Bachelor of Music Education K-12 from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In 2012 he won the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra's Concerto Competition. As an educator he has



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worked as a coach in a chamber music setting for young artists, taught at music camps for young musicians, and worked with the Fairbanks Youth Symphony Orchestras. From 2016 to 2019, Franz was the second violinist in the Amernet String Quartet, Ensemble-in-Residence at Florida International University. Franz has moved back to Juneau to teach violin privately and also has been appointed concertmaster of the Juneau Symphony.

Brita Fagerstrom (Medium Alison/The Susan Deys) is a Juneau-born artist with a passion for innovative storytelling. Returning to this cherished project two years later felt like a harrowing endeavor, but she is humbled to be back with this incredible cast and crew and to finally finish what they started. Brita graduated with her BFA in Musical Theatre from Sam Houston State University. She got her start here at Perseverance Theatre, performing in various STAR Programs, Young Company, and Mainstage shows over the past 15 years. Previous productions at other institutions include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Siobhan), for which she received a Kennedy Center National Award for Distinguished Performance, and her Irene Ryan-nominated performance in *Clybourne Park* (Bev/Kathy). Juneau Drag fans might recognize her as local Drag King “Roman Wilde”. She would like to thank Hannah Wolf for her faith and patience, as well as her beloved family and friends for their love and support over the years.



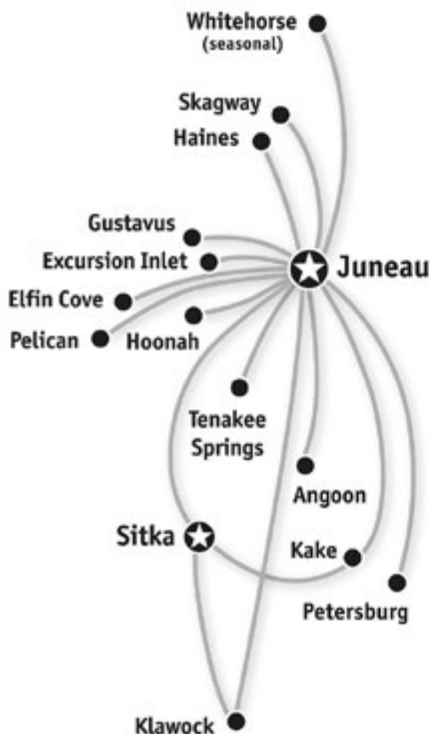
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Liz Hanley (Violin/Viola) is a Brooklyn based violinist, fiddle player, singer and composer. Hanley was trained in classical violin and voice, steeped in Irish and American folk traditions and tumbled in the rock n roll dryer. Vents Magazine states “Liz Hanley is a singer with the sort of crystal-clear, instantly ingratiating voice that has always been a hallmark of progressive folk-rock” and Irish Music Magazine write “Liz Hanley has that uncanny knack and the distinctive voice to reawaken our interest in the familiar...” Hanley has toured globally and recorded with groups such as Frogbelly and Symphony, Mick Moloney and the Green Fields of America and Emanuel and the Fear.

Mike Inwood (Lighting Designer) is overjoyed to finally be able to realize his design for *Fun Home* in Juneau, after two years of waiting! Past Perseverance credits include *Franklin* (also with Hannah Wolf), and *God of Carnage*. Other pre-pandemic credits include productions with Signature Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Ars Nova, The Arden, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Opera Philadelphia, BAM, and the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. His design work has been recognized with an Emmy Award for his lighting of NBC Sports’ coverage of the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, and DDI Magazine’s Winning Windows Award for his lighting of the Macy’s Christmas Windows at their flagship store in New York City.
www.mikeinwood.com

Mikaela Kelarek (Associate Scenic Designer) is a scenic artist based in Austin working both in theatre and film. She graduated from UT Austin with a degree in Theatre and Dance and a focus in scenic arts. Since graduating, she has worked at Texas Performing Arts in the scene shop for UT Austin's Theatre and Dance program as well as the Butler School of Music's opera productions. Her recent works include painting sets for *Walker* (the CW), *1883* (Paramount +) and *Carmen* (UT Austin). Follow more of her work on her Instagram @mikaela_christine.

Margeaux Ljungberg (Helen Bechdel) originally came to Juneau, as so many do, to perform in a production at Perseverance Theatre back in 2009. Notable local credits include Diana in *Next to Normal*, Annie Cannon in *Silent Sky*, Sabrina Daldry in *In the Next Room, or the Vibrator Play*, and Gertie Cummings in *Oklahoma*. She has directed Juneau's Annual Wearable Art Extravaganza since 2017, emceed a wide range of Juneau events, and frequently sung her heart out as a part of Juneau Cabaret's Lecture Concert Series. She is thrilled to join the cast and finish what they started in 2020.

Dale McFarlin (Drums) is thrilled and honored yet again to be on the Perseverance Theatre main stage! Besides drumming in various incarnations of musical expression, Dale is likely to be out in nature, mountain biking, building trails, swimming, hiking, traveling, dreaming of endless

possibilities, and spending cherished time with his beloved wife Florence and two children; Zhuji and Fiona. Dale is especially excited to have the opportunity to perform on stage for the first time with his daughter Fiona, who plays Small Allison! Other Perseverance Theatre performances include *Guys and Dolls*, *Chicago*, *Yeast Nation*, *Tommy*, *Hair*, and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

Fiona McFarlin (Small Allison) is excited for her debut performance on stage with Perseverance Theatre! Fiona fell in love with the theatre after attending *Guys and Dolls* on the Perseverance main stage when she was 8. She has been drawn to acting ever since. Fiona is in the 5th Grade at Sít' Eetí Shaanáx - Glacier Valley School. In her free time, Fiona likes to read and draw. She also enjoys playing violin in the JAMM program as well as hitting the drums. Fiona loves being out in nature with her dogs, and playing with her brother, Zhuji. Thank you Dr. Heagy and Mr. Roblin for your musical and theatrical guidance. And, thank you daddy for inspiring me to play drums.

Allison Mickelson (Big Alison) is a UK- based theatre maker who hails from South Dakota and New York City. She recently completed the MFA in Classical and Contemporary Text at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. While at RCS, she was co-creator of the On The Verge Festival piece, *Risk Assessment*; a devised piece about the risks and rewards of being a woman in community. She also played Perkin



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Warbeck in the Marc Silberschatz adaptation of John Ford's *Perkin Warbeck: A Masque of Anamnesis*. She is honored and excited to be back at Perseverance Theatre to perform Alison Bechdel in *Fun Home* (and to hike all of the trails). Credits include *Next To Normal*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Elf The Musical*, *We Are Gathered Here Today* (UK Premiere and co-developer). Allison also performed Lisa Kron's one-woman show *2.5 Minute Ride and Well* with Profile Theatre in Portland, OR. She has written and performed numerous solo cabarets across the US. Gratitude to the womyn who wrote, scored, adapted, and live this piece. May we continue to honor the stories that haven't been told and need to be heard.

Website: www.allisonmickelson.com

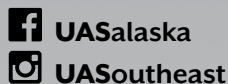
Glo Ramirez (Props Master) is a visual artist, scenic painter, Illustrator, wearable art artist, and small business owner born and raised in Puerto Rico, currently living in Juneau, Alaska. She explores colors and different mediums to create whimsical art not restricted by rules. Insta @gloinkpr webpage www.gloinkpr.com

Cate Ross (Joan/The Susan Deys/Dance Captain) has been seen on the Perseverance stage many times over the years, most recently as Dolores Barrymore in the world premiere of *Dreaming Glacier Bay*. She has also performed with many other local organizations, including as Lady

Macduff (*Macbeth*, Theater Alaska), Gee-Tar (*West Side Story*, Orpheus Project), and Dale Prist (*5 Lesbians Eating A Quiche*, Juneau Ghost Light Theatre). She has been a board member with Juneau Ghost Light Theatre since 2017, and recently produced two radio plays (*A Sherlock Holmes Radio Mystery*, and *Dracula*). In not as bizarre times, she also performs as Drag King Ryder Strong, and sings whenever she can. She'd like to thank her family for their unending support of her various endeavors. She firmly believes more art should pass the Bechdel Test.

Jojo Siu (Costume Designer) has worked nationally and internationally for theatre, film, opera and dance. Her show repertoire includes *Così Fan Tutte*, *These Shining Lives*, *As You Like It*, *Joy Luck Club*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Into the Woods*, among many others. Her work has been featured at New Village Arts, Main Street Theatre, Singapore Repertory, Sierra Madre Playhouse, and Skylight Theatre, among many others. She is also an educator at Fullerton and Golden West College, where she teaches costume design and construction. As a Chinese designer, she is a huge advocate for diversity within theatre, and loves supporting powerful storytelling by bridging cultures and experiences through design. She thanks her family, friends, and husband for their never-ending support and patience.

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Rory Stitt (Sound Designer) Active primarily as a composer and sound designer, Rory has also worked extensively as an actor, orchestrator, and music director. He has performed his solo work at the Kennedy Center (D.C.), Joe's Pub at the Public Theatre (NYC) and been represented at the MIDEM music festival in Cannes. Hear his work at www.rorystitt.com

ErinMarie Suscheck (Stage Manager) ErinMarie is thrilled to be returning for their second season at Perseverance Theatre as the Stage Manager for *Fun Home*. They first made their premiere at Perseverance as the Stage Management and Production Apprentice in 2019 after graduating with a BFA in Design Technology from Wright State University. During the original production of *Fun Home* at Perseverance Theatre, ErinMarie was the Assistant Stage Manager, they are excited to be stepping into the role of Stage Manager. Their recent credits include *110 in the Shade* (Stage Manager), *Moonlight and Magnolias* (Stage



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Manager), *Devilfish* (Asst. Stage Manager), and *A Little Night Music* (Stage Manager). During the pandemic, ErinMarie decided to pursue their non-theatre related passion and attend cosmetology school. They are a fully licensed cosmetologist in the state of Ohio! Follow their adventures on Instagram @erinmarie_cosmetology

Chris Talley (Roy/Pete/Mark/Bobby/Jeremy) is a local actor, musician, and rapper from Juneau, Alaska. He spends most of his time performing, writing and producing music, and hanging out with friends. This will be his 5th show with Perseverance Theatre, who he owes a lot of his starting success to! He's also a part of the Alaskan hip-hop duo Radiophonic Jazz, promoting the underground Juneau sound for the town and state! His music can be found on all streaming services, including music videos on YouTube. He'd like to thank the amazing community, his friends, and his family for supporting his dreams, and not letting him give up no matter what.

Hannah Wolf (Director) (she/her/hers) is a Los Angeles based theatre artist and educator who grew up in Juneau. She directs new plays and musicals and subverts old ones. Hannah got her start in Perseverance's STAR program and over the past 20 years she's done everything from clean the bathrooms to direct shows for Perseverance Theatre. Hannah's directed and developed new plays at the Geffen

Playhouse, La Jolla's WOW Festival, Echo Theater Company, B Street Theater, IAMA Theater Company, Boston Court, and Fusebox Festival. Recent projects include *Men On Boats* at the University of California Riverside, co-directing *Islands Of Contentment* with Arpita Mukherjee at Hypokrit Productions, and *Instructions For A Seance* at the Museum of Human Achievement. Hannah's a 2018 National Directors Fellow, a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, and a 2013 Fulbright Research Fellow in Bucharest Romania. She received her M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Texas at Austin and is a proud SDC Associate. hannahjwolf.com

Ty Wolverton (Cello) is a local musician happy to be performing on cello with our theater once again. He first played for Perseverance Theater for the premiere of *Big Foot and Other Lost Souls* in 2012. Since that time he has performed multiple seasons with the Millennial Choirs and Orchestra in Mesa, Arizona, with the Juneau Symphony, and with the Juneau Cello Choir. Formaly known in town



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as Mr. Pini, Ty taught orchestra at Thunder Mountain High School for seven years, conducted the Juneau Student Symphony for three seasons, and premiered several of his music compositions in collaboration with various local groups since his first move to Juneau in 2009. Ty is currently working on an ongoing project available at www.stringlesson.com to help anyone who would like to learn to play stringed instruments.

Kyra Wood (Christian Bechdel) has loved acting since his first time on stage when he was seven years old and he has taken every opportunity to perform on-stage since then. Kyra last appeared onstage as a part of perseverance theaters STAR program in the summer of 2021. Kyra is thrilled to return to *Fun Home* with renewed gusto after a two year hiatus. Off the stage Kyra enjoys listening to music and playing guitar.

The mission of Perseverance Theatre is to create professional theatre by and for Alaskans.

Perseverance values community engagement, cross-cultural and cross-racial collaboration, professional rigor, and regional voice. Alaska is full of stories and characters that aren't found anywhere else in the world. Perseverance is committed to creating theatre that represents all that is great about Alaska, and to bringing great live theatre to our Alaskan audiences.

Perseverance Theatre believes theatre-going creates shared experiences for our communities, which foster empathy, build relationships, and cultivate communication skills, and in the process better equip us all to solve problems together and create more vital and just communities.

In 1979, Molly Smith founded Perseverance Theatre, following her dream of starting a professional theatre company in her hometown. Over forty years, Perseverance has grown to serve 20,000 audience members, in both Juneau and in Anchorage, employ over 400 artists, and engage 300 volunteers annually to produce a season of classical, contemporary, and world premiere productions on our stages.

Perseverance believes that professional theatres play a vital role in training and cultivating the next generation of artists and audiences. The theatre's education department produces extensive education and training programs, including Summer Theatre Arts Rendezvous (STAR), mainstage student matinees, and season-long internships.

Perseverance has premiered more than 70 new plays by Alaskan and national playwrights. Perseverance has a national profile, known for its commitment to developing artists and engaging programming reflective of the highly diverse communities of Alaska, to deliver the finest professional theatre anywhere to our loyal and local audiences.

LEADERSHIP

Frank Delaney (Managing Director) After completing his MFA in acting Frank worked as a fight choreographer and actor throughout the Midwest. He returned to Alaska to work on *Othello* at Perseverance. Born and bred in Anchorage, Frank is excited to have the opportunity to help lead Perseverance into it's next chapter. He has more than twenty years of experience in the IT world as a manager, technician, and project manager. That work took him to every corner of the state. As an actor

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31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11



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and choreographer some of the companies Frank has worked within addition to Perseverance Theatre include Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Shawnee Summer Theatre, Midnight Summit Ensemble, the Know Theatre, Cyrano's Theatre Company, and Anchorage Opera.

Leslie Ishii (Artistic Director) is a leader in the American Theatre in many capacities. (Stage Director) Perseverance Theatre: *Voyager One*, *Devilfish*, *Silent Sky*, *We Hold These Truths*; East West Players: *Takarazuka!!!*, *Taking Flight: The Katherine Cheung Story*, *Crimes Of The Heart*; Artists At Play: *99 Histories*; productions at UC, Irvine, USC, CSLA; Oregon Shakespeare Festival: Founder/Director of API 2x2 Lab New Works Residency, Dramaturgy, FAIR Assistant Director Program Recipient; and where she began, Northwest Asian American Theatre. (Actor) Broadway, regional theatre—Penumbra Theatre Company, El Teatro Campesino, American Conservatory Theatre, and South Coast Repertory to name a few. She has also appeared in TV and film. (National Scope) Board President: Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists; Co-Founder National BIPOC/BITOC Coalition/ Commons for the sustainability of artists and theatres of color; Board Member/Membership Committee: National New Play Network; Steering Committee:

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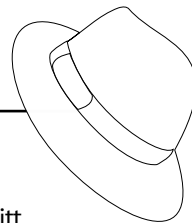
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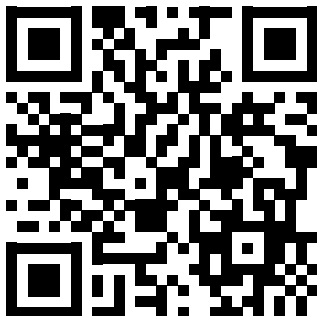
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