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LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

Directed & Choreographed by Chris Carter
Music & Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe & Nell Benjamin
Book by Heather Hatch

FEBRUARY 14 – MARCH 1
ETHEL M. BARBER THEATER
WIRTZ.NORTHWESTERN.EDU



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James Weber.....Scenic Artist
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Northwestern | COMMUNICATION

Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz
Center for the Performing Arts

November 8 – 24

Ethel M. Barber Theater



Book and Lyrics by **Lisa Kron**

Music by **Jeanine Tesori**

Directed by **Roger Ellis**

Northwestern University's
Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts

RIVES COLLINS
Theatre Department Chair

AL HEARTLEY
Managing Director

RAMÓN RIVERA-SERVERA
Performance Studies
Department Chair

proudly present

FUN HOME

Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Based on the Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel

Scenic Designer
NORA SMITH

Costume Designer
MEEKA POSTMAN

Lighting Designer
GABRIELLE STRONG

Sound Designer
MICHAEL DALY

Choreographer
ROGER ELLIS

Music Director
BRYAN ENG

Intimacy Choreographer
BRITAIN WILLCOCK

Stage Manager
BETH KOEHLER

Director
ROGER ELLIS

November 8 – 24

**Ethel M. Barber Theater
30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL**

The running time for this production is 1 hour 45 minutes
with no intermission.

Setting: Beech Creek, PA (1970–1980); Oberlin College (1979–1980);
New York City (1975); Bechdel's Studio (2005)

"Fun Home" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

The Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts is a member of
Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American Theatre.

Program Cover & Promotional Artwork by Collin Quinn Rice
Program Editor: Carter Liebman & China Whitmire

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Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts
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NAMT
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MUSICAL THEATRE

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SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

CAST

In Order of Appearance

Emma Griffone.....Alison
Claire Kwon.....Small Alison
Theo Janke-Furman.....Bruce Bechdel
Holly Hinchliffe.....Helen Bechdel
Emmet Smith.....Christian Bechdel
Tyler Felson.....John Bechdel
Lydia Weir.....Medium Alison
Amy Prochaska.....Joan
Rory Schrobilgen.....Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy

PRODUCTION TEAM

Music Supervisor.....Dr. Ryan T. Nelson
Dramaturg.....Janine Chow
Voice/Dialect Coach.....Gail Shapiro
Asst. Stage Mgr.....Jessica Nekritz
Asst. Stage Mgr.....Lucy Harrington
Asst. Lighting Designer.....Jo Pazol
Asst. Lighting Designer.....Max Grano De Oro
Asst. Costume Designer.....Kotryna Hilko
Asst. Sound Designer.....Matt Chase

Run Crew Head.....Katie Lupica
Sound Board Op.....Sam Kim
Light Board Op.....Sydney Hastings-Smith
Costumes Run Crew.....McGuire Price,
Wilke Macariola, Gabrielle Bieder
Set Run Crew.....Sarah Alpert,
Tano Barendsen-Rossi
Mic Runner/A2.....Natalie Rarick
Follow Spot.....Rachael Dec, Zachary Forbes, Gabby
Schultz

Photography.....Justin Barbin
Promotional Videography.....Stephen J. Lewis

TEAM MUSIC

Music Director.....Bryan Eng
Asst. Music Director.....Ezri Killeen
Music Asst.s.....Sarah Geltz, Sam Kim
Samuel Perlman
Keyboard Programmer.....Mason Frasher

Bryan Eng (Keyboard/Conductor), Sarah Kim (Violin/
Viola), Saoirse Lee (Reeds), Mat Coble (Guitar),
George Estey (Bass), Oliver Holden-Moses (Drums/
Percussion), Nick Kinney (Cello)

Aspects of the preparation and construction of this
production have been executed by student crews
under the supervision of professional staff members
in the following areas:

PAINTSHOP: Lydia Henry, Erin Claeys, Meghan
Johnson, Alexander Christie, Liam Oh, Olivia Reis
COSTUMES: Brendan Riley, Maxwell Han
LIGHTS/SOUND: Daphne Agosin Orellana, Max
Grano de Oro, Brian Jordan, Yun Lin, Olivia Greene,
Nick Kinney, Madalena Martins, Hamish Marissen-
Clark, Olivia Pryor, Jared Son

SPECIAL THANKS

Dean Barbara O'Keefe, David H. Bell, Rives Collins,
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Linda Gates, John Haas, Dr. Susan Lee, Sandra Marquez,
Kelli Nichol McHugh, Todd Rosenthal, Linda Roethke,
Joel Valentin-Martinez, Michael Brown, Ramón Rivera-
Servera, Joel Solari, Kelly Wisecup, Kate Shindle, Evan
Robinson-Johnson, Kerry Trotter, Dean Adam Joyce,
Robert Brown, Mary Overlie, Fay Simpson, Human Rights
Campaign, Matthew Shepard Foundation, The Trevor
Project, GLAAD.

THE CREATORS

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.

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*; *BLIZZARD ON MARBLEHEAD NECK* (MET/LCT Opera/Theater and Glimmerglass Opera commission); and a collaboration with Tazewell Thompson, *BLUE* commissioned for Glimmerglass Opera company. 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. 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.

ROGER ELLIS (Director) is a theatre artist whose work encompasses directing, choreography, dramaturgy, new works development, and teaching. Roger is an Assistant Professor of Music Theatre and Dance at Northwestern University. Recent projects include movement direction of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at Horizon Theatre Company. He is the director of Nikki Lynette's *Get Out Alive*, which will be featured in Steppenwolf Theatre's *LookOut Series* in January 2020. He has worked in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, and across the United States with Sacramento Music Circus, Paramount Theatre, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, Pace University, Marymount Manhattan College, Tuacahn Center for the Arts, San Diego Repertory, The American Music Theatre Project, and Gallery Players Brooklyn, among others. His directing credits include *Parade*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Wild Party* (LaChiusa/Wolfe), *The Light in the Piazza* (Associate Director/Movement Coach), *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Maverick* (Associate Director/Choreographer), and *Thou Shalt Not*. He is the 2019 recipient of the Earl Gister Fellowship and holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre from San Diego State University. Roger is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (Associate).

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Everyone covers. To cover is to tone down a disfavored identity to fit into the mainstream. In our increasingly diverse society, all of us are outside the mainstream in some way. Nonetheless, being deemed mainstream is still often a necessity of social life. For this reason [everyone] has covered, whether consciously or not, and sometimes at significant personal cost."

-*Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights* by Kenji Yoshino

FUN HOME is a musical adaptation of Alison Bechdel's critically acclaimed graphic memoir with a Tony Award-winning score by Jeanine Tesori and Lisa Kron. Bechdel's autobiographical account wrestles with questions of identity, familial dynamics, and unmetabolized shame. At its heart, *FUN HOME* is an intimate, moving portrait about the meaning and limitations of family. Despite the imperfect ways in which each member of the Bechdel family plays their respective roles, this is a family bonded by genuine love and care for one another.

"We are all nesting dolls--how we are, how we were, perhaps how we're going to be. They ricochet against each other."

-Jeanine Tesori

FUN HOME takes the form of a memory play. The character Alison is played by three actors, each embodying three major flashpoints in Bechdel's life--Small Alison at age ten, Medium Alison at age nineteen, and Adult Alison at age forty-three. We journey with Alison through the labyrinth of memory as she doggedly uncovers, reveals, excavates, interrogates, and liberates her past, charting a path forward into the future.

This production is lovingly dedicated to everyone on the path to living more authentically and to the LGBTQ ancestors who paved the way.

-Roger Ellis

MUSICAL NUMBERS

It All Comes Back (Opening)
Company

Welcome to our House on Maple Avenue
Helen, Bruce, Small Alison, Christian, John, Alison,
Roy

Come to the Fun Home
Small Alison, Christian, John

Helen's Etude
Helen, Bruce, Roy, Small Alison, Christian, John

Changing My Major
Medium Alison

Maps
Alison

Raincoat of Love
Company

Pony Girl
Bruce

Ring of Keys
Small Alison

Days and Days
Helen

Telephone Wire
Alison, Bruce

Edges of the World
Bruce

Flying Away (Finale)
Alison, Small Alison, Medium Alison