



Bucknell Theatre & Dance presents

FUN HOME

Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Based on the graphic novel by Alison
Bechdel

Directed by Dr. Bryan M. Vandevender



Harvey M. Powers Theatre
April 8-11, 2022
at 7:30 pm

Tickets available at:
Bucknell.edu/BoxOffice

Bucknell | Theatre
UNIVERSITY & Dance



Bucknell University Department of Theatre & Dance presents

FUN HOME

Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel

Directed by Dr. Bryan M. Vandevender

Music Direction by Jamie Namminga

Musical Staging by Dr Bryan M. Vandevender & Jeniah Martin '22

Stage Management & Dramaturgy: Julia Tokish '22

Scene Design: F. Elaine Williams

Costume Design: Jennifer Lippert

Light Design: Ian Evans

Sound Engineering and Design: Matt Nowell '23

Intimacy Design: dr cfrancis blackchild

Assistant Director: Jeniah Martin '22

CAST LIST

Alison.....	Sydney Dickinson '22
Medium Alison.....	Emma Battle '22
Small Alison.....	Yasmine Adam '24
Bruce Bechdel.....	Jon Riker '22
Helen Bechdel.....	Miki Du Bois '22
Christian Bechdel.....	Naveen Ramsaran
John Bechdel.....	Aidan Wooden-Enyeart
Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy.....	Ryan Hill '24
Joan	Emma Olson '24
Alison Understudy.....	Emma Olson '24
Bruce Bechdel Understudy.....	Ryan Hill '24
Helen Bechdel/Joan Understudy.....	Isabel Steinberg '23
Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy Understudy.....	Harper Dick '25

Orchestra

Piano.....Jaime Namminga
Reeds.....Leslie Cullen
Guitar.....Griffin Miller '24
Percussion..... Urie Kline
Cello..... Nathan Lavender
Violin/Viola..... John P. Tobin, Ashley English Tobin
Bass..... Alejandro Mijangos Sampsell

PRODUCTION STAFF

A2 SoundEliza Greenberg '24
Assistant Stage Managers..... Eliza Greenberg '24, Olivia Schroeder-Positano '25,
Harper Dick '25, Noemi Pedraza '24
Caption Animation..... Ryan Bremer '22
Costume Studio Manager.....Pam Miller
Costume TAs..... Abby Strayer '22, Haley Qualls '24, Lindsey Kaufman '24
Sarah Preston '25, Nellie Smith '24
Fly Operator.....Jingtong Yu '22
Lightboard Operator.....Evelyn Pierce '25
Poster Design..... Clea Ramos '25
Publicity.....Jeniah Martin '22, Caroline Tattersfield '22, Miki Du Bois '22,
Ryan Bremer '22 , James Howe '23, Clea Ramos '25
Scenery and Lighting Production Crew.....Josh Kearstan '25, Jack Kennedy '24,
Matt Nowell '23, Riley Steere '24, Carina Beebe '25, Joe Dox '25, Eliza Greenberg '24
Alice Jackins'25, Evelyn Pierce '25, Daniela St. Pierre, '23, Jingtong Yu '22
Video Opereator.....James Howe '23
Wardrobe/Makeup/Hair.....Zoha Nadeer '25, Ainsley Manlowe '24, Lea Codispot '24
Joselyn Busato '24, Bryanni Williams '23

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Max and Mary Van Buskirk Bucknell Class of 1953
Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble
Dr. Benae Beamon, Women's & Gender Studies, Bucknell University
Dr. Trevor Boffone, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Houston
Dr. Erica Delsandro, Women's & Gender Studies, Bucknell University
Mike Fox, Shippensburg University
Barrie Gelles, Theatre, Graduate Center at the City University of New York
Dr. Chase Gregory, English, Bucknell University
Barry Loveland, LGBTQ Center of Central PA History Project
Bill McCoy, Director of Gender and Sexuality Resources, Bucknell University
Ellen Robinson, Office of Communications, Bucknell University
Dr. Nikki Young, Associate Provost of Equity and Inclusive Excellence, Bucknell University
Wigs provided by Douglas Schreck at Elsen Associates Inc.
Music Department Bucknell University
Lee Bard II, Counseling & Student Development Center, Bucknell University
Dr Ben Marsh

Director's Note

Award-winning cartoonist Alison Bechdel (b. 1960) came of age fifty miles west of Lewisburg in Beech Creek, Pennsylvania. The Stonewall Rebellion, often cited as a watershed event of the gay liberation movement, occurred two months before her ninth birthday. Ten years later, she publicly claimed her lesbian identity and proceeded to center queer subjectivity in her artwork, beginning with the comic strip, *Dykes to Watch Out For*. Her father Bruce (1932-1980) was also a product of Beech Creek. He was also queer, but unlike his daughter, deeply closeted. Bechdel memorialized him in her 2006 graphic memoir, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, and noted the ways in which they were considerably alike and appreciably dissimilar. Throughout the musical adaptation of *Fun Home*, Bechdel's dramatic surrogate draws our attention to examples of such (dis)connection. At the conclusion of "Welcome to Our House on Maple Avenue," she states, "My dad and I both grew up in the same, small Pennsylvania town. And he was gay, and I was gay. And he killed himself. And I Became a lesbian cartoonist." Despite growing up in the same community, Bruce and Alison's experience of sexual identity contrasted greatly. While his daughter publicly claimed queerness and thrived, Bruce (according to Alison's account) died having dedicated himself to the task of cultivating and maintaining heteronormative artifice. By announcing Bruce's suicide early in the musical's action, the fictional Alison forecasts not only the ending, but also the fact that her father will never exist as a queer social subject.

While it might be tempting to identify time and generational differences as the cause of Bruce and Alison's contrasting fates, it is also worth noting that Alison created a life for herself away from Beech Creek while Bruce, who spent his early adulthood in New York and Europe, forged his life and family in central Pennsylvania. Where Alison discovered herself at a marked distance from Beech Creek, Bruce complied with the heteronormative standards of the region. I contend that geography plays a substantial role in *Fun Home*'s events, perhaps more so than time. I also submit that time has not wholly eroded these standards. As demonstrated by last year's attack on Fran's House (Bucknell's LGBTQIA affinity house), being openly queer in central Pennsylvania can still attract physical and symbolic violence. Moreover, recent legislation out of Florida and Texas confirms that anti-queer animus is not unique to our locality. As the one-year anniversary of the Fran's House attack approaches, I challenge us to contemplate the exigencies of being queer in this region. *Fun Home* depicts the joys and challenges (mundane, formative, ecstatic, heartbreaking) of queer life and reminds us (through Alison and Bruce's stories) that being queer in central Pennsylvania is a study in contrasts.

Bryan M. Vandevender (he/him/his)

Guest Artist

Musical Director: Jaime Namminga

A passionate educator and performer, Jaime Namminga is an Assistant Professor of Music at Susquehanna University, where she coordinates the collaborative piano area and teaches ear training and class piano. She holds a BM in piano performance from the University of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a MM in collaborative piano from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and a DMA in collaborative piano from Arizona State University, where her major teachers have included Allison Gagnon and Andrew Campbell. Namminga has been rehearsal pianist, coach, and vocal director and piano conductor for various opera and theatre projects, a choral and dance pianist at several universities, an adjudicator and pianist for concerto and composition competitions, and has performed on numerous recitals with noted performers such as Wesley Baldwin and Dennis Askew. Indie Opera Podcast described her playing as "gorgeous and fantastic," and Namminga was a finalist for the 2021 Puerto Rico Collaborative Piano Institute competition. Namminga's scholarship includes writings and presentations on various collaborative piano topics, including the pianistic enhancing of musical theatre and choral repertoire. She composes and arranges, namely for voice, piano, and strings. Namminga is a member of Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association (PMTA), Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), and a mentor for International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society (IKCAS). She resides in Selinsgrove with her husband Darin and their three children: Sophia (10), Dakota (6) and Oliver (4).

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Yasmine Adam '24 she/her/hers (Small Alison) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Love/Sick* (Louise Overbee), *The DMV One* (Woman), *As You Like It* (Martext), *Appropriate* (Assistant Stage Manager and Ainsley).W

Emma Battle '22 she/her/hers (Medium Alison) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Taming of the Shrews* (Katherine), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Assistant Director), *As You Like It* (Stage Manager), *Love/Sick* (Director), *Cabaret* (Swing), *Unheard/Unspoken* (Stage Manager), *The Wolves* (#14), *Women and Wallace* (Stage Manager); Stage Left Theatre: *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Banks / Stage Manager), *Peter Pan* (Nibs / Stage Manager).

Harper Dick '25 he/they/she (Understudy/Assistant Stage Manager) - Bucknell Debut

Sydney Dickinson '22 she/her/hers (Alison Bechdel) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *As You Like It* (Rosalind); *Cabaret* (Rosie); *Unheard/Unspoken* (Violet's Mom); *The Wolves* (#00); *Women and Wallace* (Lily). Film: *Every Day Is a Holiday* (Bartender); *Club Quarantine* (Clubber).

Miki Du Bois '22 she/her/hers (Helen Bechdel) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Antigone* (fly operator), *The Wolves* (light operator), *Blue Stockings* (video operator), *Cabaret* (Frenchie), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Gerte Schulte).

Eliza Greenberg '24 she/her/hers (Assistant Stage Manager) - Bucknell Theatre Department: *Appropriate* (sound operator), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (sound operator).

Ryan Hill '24 he/him/his (Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Love/Sick* (Andy), *Time and Tony Oliva* (Dale).

Jeniah Martin '22 (Assistant Director) - Bucknell Theatre Department: *Crumbs From The Table of Joy* (Ernestine) *Bliss* (Cassandra), *Truth, Beauty, Authenticity* (Ensemble), *Cabaret* (Assistant Director), *The Revolutionists* (Marianne), *Delivery* (Director), *UnHeard/UnSpoken* (Imani/Ensemble), *Antigone* (Chorus).

Emma Olson '24 she/her/hers (Joan) - Bucknell Theater Department: *Love/Sick* ("Woman" in Sonnet Nine), *Soup* (Finley)

Noemi Pedraza '24 she/they (Assistant Stage Manager) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance Debut.

Naveen Ramsaran '28 (LASD) he/him/his (Christian) - Lewisburg Area High School: *Les Miserables* (Thenardier). Williamsport Community Theatre League: *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Dill Harris), *A Christmas Story The Musical* (Randy), *Elf: the Musical Jr.* (Michael Hobbs).

Jon Riker '22 he/him/his (Bruce Bechdel) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Appropriate* (Bo); *As You Like It* (Touchstone); *Cabaret* (Schultz / u.s. Emcee, Cliff); *Unheard/Unspoken* (Thomas / Will); *Blue Stockings* (Will); *Women and Wallace* (Wallace); The Texas Shakespeare Festival: *Romeo and Juliet* (Peter, Gregory / u.s. Romeo); *Gnomes of Gnot-a-Hill* (Charlie); *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Pistol, John / u.s. Master Page); *The Book of Will* (Marcellus, Crier / u.s. Jaggard); Pennsylvania Playhouse: *Avenue Q* (Rod); MA Theatre: *Into the Woods* (The Baker); *Cymbeline* (Posthumus / Fight Captain); *Urinetown* (Mr. Cladwell); *Arcadia* (Bernard); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Ernest).

Olivia Schroeder-Positano '25 she/her/hers (Assistant Stage Manager) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance Debut.

Isabel Steinberg '23 (u.s. Helen and Joan): Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *As You Like It* (Madame), *Bliss* (u.s. Antonia), *Truth, Beauty, Authenticity* (Cast Ensemble), *A Sign* (Sara), *Love and Information* (Cast Ensemble); NCS Theatre Department: *Titanic: The Musical* (Kate McGowan), *Leader of the Pack* (Annie's Backup), *42nd Street* (Ensemble), *Love and Information* (Cast Ensemble).

Julia Tokish '22 she/they (Stage Manager). Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Love and Information* (Ensemble), *UnHeard/UnSpoken* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Cabaret* (Matron), *As You Like It* (Olivia), *Appropriate* (Stage Manager).

Aidan Wooden-Enyeart '33 he/him (John Bechdel) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance Debut.

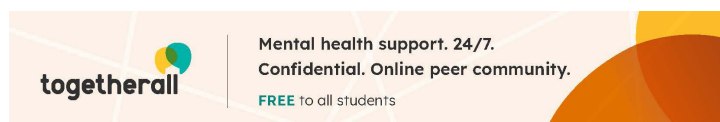
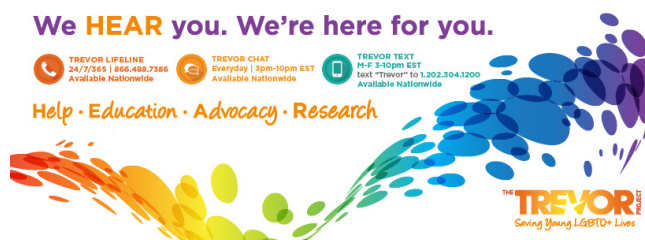
Content Information:

This musical features strong language and imagery related to death. It also contains discussions and depictions of verbal abuse, sex, and suicide.

Available Resources (from Lee Bard II, Staff Counselor, Counseling & Student Development Center): Distress related to mental health concerns, suicidal thoughts, attempts to die by suicide, and completed suicides are an unfortunate but very real experience for many. Suicide is preventable and the first steps to preventing deaths is creating a community that is a) aware of signs that a person may be considering suicide, and b) able to take next steps to help a person at risk. In addition to the national resources listed above, the Counseling and Student Development Center has additional resources for students, faculty, and staff.

Kognitio is an online training module that allows individuals to practice conversations that can lead to positive changes in social, emotional, and physical health. This training includes topics including encouraging help seeking behaviors to direct conversations about suicidal thoughts and self injury. Faculty, staff and students can access this training module via bucknell.kognito.com.

Togetherall is a FREE, clinically moderated, online peer-to-peer mental health community that empowers students to anonymously seek and provide support through a message-board style environment. This vibrant community is made up of others around the world experiencing similar challenges. Students also have access to self-paced courses, articles, self-assessments, exercises, and more on a variety of mental health topics. Students can sign up for Togetherall via account.v2.togetherall.com/register/student.



DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

cf Francis Blackchild.....post-doctoral fellow
Paula D. Davis.....costume design and history
Ian Evans.....entertainment technology assistant
Katie Hanes.....academic assistant
Heath J. Hansum, co-chair, director of theatre.....lighting and sound design
Er-Dong Hu.....dance technique and theory
Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson.....acting, directing, devising
Mark Hutchinson, director of theatre.....technical coordination, stage management
Kelly Knox, co-chair, director of dance.....dance technique and theory
Jennifer Lippert.....assistant costumer
Dustyn Martincich, chair (on leave).....theatre and dance technique and theory
Ryan McMullen.....dance adjunct instructor
Pam Miller.....costume studio manager
Bryan M. Vandevender.....theatre history, theory
F. Elaine Williams.....scenography

THEATRE AND DANCE AFFILIATE ARTISTS

Dr Jaye Austin Williams
Dr Benae Beamon
Dr Meenakshi Ponnuswami

Generous support by the Bucknell Association for the Arts, Richard A Klein Theatre and Dance Endowment, the Lisa Lu Foundation, the Skvarla Family, and the Benson Fund have made guest artists' residencies, master classes and workshops for our 2021-22 artistic season possible.

2021-2022 Theatre & Dance Contributors

Laurie Aburdene, Claire Andrews, Chuck Arnao, Justine Bailey, Jill Baumbach, Ashley (Elder) Bishop, El (Crayton) Braun, Paige Braun, Graysen Bright, Isabelle Bristol, Marcie (Baria) Bristol, Jamie Brouse, Alianna Buck, Kathy Caldas, Stacey Carpeny, Tyler Chadwick, McKayla Charney, Beibei Chen, Kim Cipolla, Shirley (Parker) Curry, Fred and Eleanor Dallabrida, Eleanor (O'Connor) Dallabrida, Emily Delanty, Thomas Delanty, Chelsea Dieck, Anthony DiFazio, Rich Dionne, Martin Du Bose, Brooke Echnat, Mimi Elder, Devon English, Sally Evans, Pam Fornero, Donna Frieri, Erin (Braun) Froehlich, Fruehauf Foundation, Abigail Garrett, Ilene Garrett, Evan Gingrich, Mackenzie Gross, Brent Guenther, Meg (Frye) Helsel, Hope Hutchinson, Caroline Hybels, Liana Irvine, Hannah Jarosinski, Richard Johnson, Robert Kittell, Megen Karakelian, Joseph Koletar, Les Lagnese, Michelle Lantz-Echnat, Millo Lazarczyk, Kim (Wallace) Logan, Lisa Lu, Bob Mandel, Abigail McMullin, Eric Molitor, Douglas Monty, Lisa (Senkowski) Murphy, Sam Nelsen, Colin O'Neill, Marisa Patti, Martin Pfleger, Marilyn (Holland) Pitman, Estie Pyper, Pam (Martindell) Rank, Katie (Culver) Rastetter, Libby Safir, Ridhi Sahani, Lauren Scott, Christina Seymour, Ilana Shektman, Rachel Sherbill, Brian Simon, Kurt Skvarla, Janece Smallwood, Susan Smith, MB Sodini, Donna Spinweber, Mallory Steffey, Thomas Suczewski, Melanie Taylor, Emily Tevebaugh, Melissa Tushman-Agrimanakis, Richard Wagner, Rodney West, Alice (Haytmanek) Wood

PLEASE NOTE: The balcony for this show will require masking. In the orchestra, masking is recommended but not required. The cast is vaccinated and will be unmasked while performing on stage.

Taking photographs, and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited. Please turn off your cell phones and other electronics before the performance begins. Thank you.



The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

