

MAY RIVER HIGH SCHOOL WITH MAY RIVER THEATRE
PRESENT

DREAM BIGGER.

Big Fish

A NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL

Book by JOHN AUGUST

Music and Lyrics by ANDREW LIPPA

Based on the novel by Daniel Wallace and
the Columbia Motion Picture written by John August

Directed by Elizabeth Schlieger

Stage Managed by Sarah Derrer

JULY 30 @ 7 🐟 JULY 31 @ 2 & 7 🐟 AUGUST 1 @ 2
MAY RIVER HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

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July 2021,



Dear Patrons and Supporters,

First and foremost, thank you for being here and embracing all that is the theatre. I am privileged to continue my own theatrical journey with this production of *Big Fish*. This show speaks to me, because in many ways, I think we are all Edward Bloom. We start off in a small space and then we find our way to reach out and impact those we know...and those we have yet to meet. As a young adult I ventured out to explore our great country. Starting in Wisconsin I would encounter "characters" in Tallahassee, Madison, Los Angeles and Chicago that would help me discover who I was, and along with that my worth within this greater human existence. Where they may not have been witches, giants, mermaids and werewolves, they were nonetheless, inspiration for great tales for my children to consume.

I have been fortunate to design and create sets/costumes at May River High School over the past four years. To create the illusion of time and space that allow characters to come to life for both performer and audience member. *Big Fish* has given me the opportunity to step back into the director's role, and with the support of the May River High School community, the May River Theatre board, and the many theatre enthusiasts in the greater Bluffton community, develop an experience that I am truly proud of. This is an amazing cast with a great spirit. They have flowed with the many twists and turns and shown up to every rehearsal with a smile and ready to work. Without their commitment, and that of our production team, none of this is possible. Sarah, Daniel, Christa, Michelle, and many others, without you there is no story to share.

So why *Big Fish*? For me, theatre is a venue for people to discover themselves and to also celebrate with those around them. With each experience we are able to expand our identity, connect, and find common ground. We become more compassionate through the exploration of the story. And, if Edward Bloom was nothing else, he was a good storyteller. And like he strove to inspire Will through his stories, I hope that what we have created here will inspire you to "Dream Bigger" on your own journey.

Beth Schlieger, Director



Book by JOHN AUGUST
Music and Lyrics by ANDREW LIPPA
Based on the novel by Daniel Wallace
and the Columbia Motion Picture
written by John August

Originally produced on Broadway by Dan Jinks, Bruce Cohen and Stage Entertainment with Roy Furman, Broadway Across America/Rich Entertainment Group, John Domo, The Nederlander Organization and Edward Walson in association with CJ E&M, Dancing Elephant Productions, Parrothead Productions, Harvey Weinstein/Carole L. Haber, Peter May/Jim Fantaci, Ted Liebowitz/Joe Piacentile and Columbia Pictures.

Director- Beth Schlieger
Stage Manager- Sarah Derrer
Costume/Set Design - Beth Schlieger
Set Construction - Don Schlieger
Sound - James Brinson
Light Design - Sarah Derrer
Lighting Tech - Gerald Sorrow
Assistant Stage Managers - Lily Peloquin and Eva Ganzell
Dresser - Lily Beck

"The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited."

The Cast

Edward Bloom - Daniel Derrer

Will Bloom - Matthew Davey

Sandra Bloom - Mary Metsker

Young Will - Zachary Metsker

Josephine Bloom - Harper Krimm

Karl the Giant/Zacky Price - Aidan Tibbitt

Amos Calloway - Donnell Caldwell

Don Price - Justin Stone

The Witch - Ellie Friedman

Jenny Hill - Christa Fortney

Dr. Bennett - Brad Parker

Girl in the Water - Liz Rockwell

Will's Son - Jacob Couey

ENSEMBLE

Isabel Hart, Mia Hlywa, Isabel Madden, Anri

Braun, Chloe Simone Rosenberg, Gabriella

Griggs, Catherine Trotter , Dalton Kimbrell,

Briana Williams, Angel Woods

Overview

Based on the celebrated novel by Daniel Wallace and the acclaimed film directed by Tim Burton, BIG FISH tells the story of Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman who lives life to its fullest...and then some! Edward's incredible, larger-than-life stories thrill everyone around him—most of all, his devoted wife Sandra. But their son Will, about to have a child of his own, is determined to find the truth behind his father's epic tales. Overflowing with heart and humor, BIG FISH is an extraordinary musical that reminds us why we love going to the theatre—for an experience that's richer, funnier and bigger than life itself. (<https://www.theatricalrights.com/show/big-fish/>)

Meet the Production Team

ELIZABETH SCHLIEGER - DIRECTOR/COSTUME/SET DESIGN

Beth is excited to be back in the director's seat with this eclectic group of community performers after many years of set/costume design with a variety of theatres in her home state of Wisconsin as well as here in SC. She is a visual art teacher/department chair at May River High School and the president of the May River Theatre Board. She received her undergraduate degree from Columbia College Chicago and her Masters in Arts Administration from SCAD. She is thankful for her daughter Cait for introducing her to this show as well as her husband for being willing to share this journey with her and helping create the magic. She would also like to thank Sarah and Daniel for making this journey easier.

SARAH DERRER - STAGE MANAGER

Sarah is thrilled to be participating in this collaborative musical as the stage manager. She is currently the theatre teacher at May River High School and a May River Theatre board member. A graduate from Winthrop University, Sarah has experience in both the performance and technical aspects of theatre. She'd like to thank her husband Daniel for agreeing to do some theatre with her this summer and her partner in crime Beth for maintaining the vision for this show.

DON SCHLIEGER - STAGE CONSTRUCTION

Don is thrilled to be able to share his ability to make the magic happen with the greater Bluffton community. Years of printing and museum display experience with his business in Wisconsin has made this possible. He would like to thank his wife for always believing that he can make her visions come to life, and his parents for not being too mad when he took everything apart as a child...understanding the parts has made it all possible.

Meet the Production Team

EVA GANZELL - ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Eva is a rising senior at May River High School and is excited to be assistant stage manager again for Big Fish. She's been backstage before for Shark Tank Theatre productions including The Monologue Show and Into the Woods, helping as light board operator and assistant stage manager respectively. In the future, Eva plans on studying something related to art and is hopeful to find a career in the arts. She would like to thank Lily for always making rehearsal a blast.

LILY PELOQUIN - ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Lily is a rising senior at May River High School and she is ecstatic to be assistant stage manager for Big Fish. She was also head stage manager for The Monologue Show and Into the Woods, as well as assistant stage manager for Little Shop of Horrors. Lily's summer has been very chaotic and stressful but she is very thankful to be a part of this production. Lily would like to thank Sarah and Eva for keeping her sane during rehearsals.

LILY BECK - DRESSER

Lily is a freshman at Bluffton High School. She first appeared onstage at age five in MSYT's Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Other roles include Orphan/Molly U/S in Annie, Ensemble in Evita, The Music Man, and State Fair, Fan in A Christmas Carol at ArtWorks, and Tracy Turnblad in Hairspray at McCracken Middle School. Thanks to Beth for letting her be a part of the crew!

TREY SORROW - LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR

Gerald "Trey" Sorrow is a multimedia professional with work ranging from theatre and film to news and advertisement. He graduated from Georgia Southern University in May of 2021 with a bachelors in Multimedia Film and Production. Along with his degree, Trey has received certifications in OSHA safety and on-set Covid safety through Georgia Film Academy. Most of his time spent at GSU was working with the film and theatre departments; building sets, staging lights and working with cameras. His work in film ranges from personal projects and short films to working with independent companies and schools. He has worked on several theatre sets including Godspell, Spoon River Anthology, and Much Ado About Nothing. He specializes in lighting and cinematography. His passions lie in documentary filmmaking, specifically the camera work involved, and theatre stage lighting. A special thanks to my teachers Abbey Hoekzema, Kelly Berry, John Grace, and John Goshorn. Each of you helped instill a passion in him and furthered his love and creativity in the world of art. A thanks to Donnie and Christie Sorrow for believing in him and pushing him to always work hard and try his best. To Aaron Householder and Caleb Gundich, for always being at his side and helping him through his worst and best days. Without you all, he would have never made it to where he is today.

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Choreography by
Jamal Edwards

Background Music by
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Musical Numbers

Act One

- **Be the Hero – Edward Bloom and Company**
- **The Witch – The Witch, Edward Bloom and Company**
- **Stranger – Will Bloom**
- **Magic in the Man – Sandra Bloom and Will Bloom**
- **Out There on the Road – Edward Bloom, Karl, Jenny Hill and Company**
- **Little Lamb from Alabama – Sandra Bloom and Alabama Lambs**
- **Time Stops – Edward Bloom and Sandra Bloom**
- **Closer to Her – Amos Calloway, Edward Bloom and Company**
- **Daffodils – Edward Bloom and Sandra Bloom**

Act Two

- **Fight the Dragons – Edward Bloom and Young Will Bloom**
- **This River Between Us – Will Bloom, Edward Bloom**
- **I Don't Need a Roof – Sandra Bloom**
- **Start Over – Edward Bloom, Don Price, Amos Calloway, Karl and Company**
- **What's Next – Will Bloom, Edward Bloom and Company**
- **How It Ends – Edward Bloom**
- **The Procession - Company**
- **Be the Hero (Reprise) – Will Bloom and Company**

Meet the Cast

DANIEL DERRER - EDWARD BLOOM

Daniel is excited to be back on stage. He has performed in over 20 productions throughout the Bluffton/Hilton Head community. One of his favorite roles was Donkey in Shrek the Musical at Main Stage Community Theatre. He is currently a board member for May River Theatre. He'd like to thank his wife Sarah for being so amazing (and for writing his bio for him).

MARY METSKER - SANDRA

This is Mary's first show with the May River Theatre. Mary studied vocal performance at the University of Washington and sang with the Seattle Symphony Chorale and is very excited to have the chance to act as well. She is incredibly grateful to her family for their support and encouragement and to May River Theatre for giving her this opportunity to play out this great story.

MATTHEW DAVEY - WILL BLOOM

Matthew is a rising sophomore at Coastal Carolina University pursuing a BFA in Acting. He is very excited to be returning to May River Theatre playing Will. He has performed with May River Theatre in shows such as Smoke on the Mountain, Curtains, and The Drowsy Chaperone. Other credits include The Robber Bridegroom (SCGSAH), Anything Goes (SSTI), Chicago (SSTI), and Once Upon a Mattress (MRHS). Matthew would like to thank both his friends and family for supporting and encouraging him to continue on in his love for performing.

HARPER KRIMM - JOSEPHINE

Harper Krimm is a rising senior at Hilton Head Christian Academy. Harper was last seen on stage as Lucy Van Pelt in Christian Academy's You're a Good Man Charlie Brown. A favorite role has been Judy Haynes in White Christmas in 2019. Aside from performing in theatrical productions, Harper enjoys performing with the Junior Jazz Foundation! Harper would like to thank her mom Joy for the endless support. Enjoy the show:)

ZACHARY METSKER - YOUNG WILL

Zachary performed his first show in a Costco at 9 months old riding in the shopping cart. A born performer, Zach jumped into every play that would let him join from the moment he could read. He has had roles as Maurice in Beauty and the Beast Jr., Donkey in Shrek, and Bert in Mary Poppins Jr. When not acting, Zachary enjoys playing the piano, and has a preference for John Williams. Zachary hopes to be an actor one day professionally; if that doesn't work out, he wants to work for SpaceX. Zachary would like to thank his parents for their support.

AIDEN TIBBITT - ZACKY PRICE/KARL THE GIANT

Aidan is a rising senior at John Paul II Catholic School. Some of his favorite past productions include The Addams Family, Elf, and High School Musical. He would like to thank Lily for telling him to audition. He'd also like to thank Sam Richardson, Ava Nixon, Clare Archer, Andi Shaw, his parents and the entire cast and crew of Big Fish for their encouragement and support.

Meet the Cast

ELLIE FRIEDMAN - THE WITCH

Ellie is excited to return to musical theatre after a six year hiatus. She has been involved in theatre since age nine as Molly in Annie Warbucks at HH Playhouse in 1995. Favorite roles include: Narrator, Joseph...; Rizzo, Grease; Baker's Wife, Into the Woods; Gertrude, Seussical; Lily St. Regis, Annie; and Emily Arden, State Fair. All her love to her patient and awesome daughters, Lily and Gemma.

DONNELL CALDWELL - AMOS

Donnell is excited to be in Big Fish, getting more experience with singing, acting, and performing in front of people. This being Donnell's second show it's very different from the other show's he's been a part of but he's loving it every second; especially the fact that he's made even more friends on this journey.

CHRISTA FORTNEY - JENNY HILL

Christa Fortney was involved in many aspects of performance in her younger years, and has been apart of the Lowcountry community theatre scene since 2015. Most recently she performed as Ms. Darbus in High School Musical (MSYT) and Pickles in The Great American Trailer Park Musical (CSP). Some of her behind the scenes work includes vice president of MRT and stage manager of The Hunchback of Notre Dame (MRT/MSYT) and The Miracle Worker (MRT). Her time away from the stage is spent drafting plans as a residential designer, planning parties, and spoiling her dogs - Roscoe & Wednesday.

LIZ ROCKWELL - MERMAID

Liz went to Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she majored in Biology. She is a current science teacher at May River High School. She enjoys being outdoors and hanging out with her friends. Beyond contrary belief for those who know her, she has no prior theatre experience. This performance as the mermaid is her first show and her big theatre break. She would like to thank her loyal friends for supporting her in her journey as the mermaid.

DALTON KIMBRELL - ENSEMBLE

Dalton is an upcoming sophomore at May River High School. He has a large interest in music ranging from the 50's to the 90's and has been working on guitar for a few years. He has no past theatre experience. He would like to thank his friends Angus Nivens, Jacob Himes, and Gage Wall and his grandfather Norm Reichart for always motivating him to do his best.

MIA HLYWA - ENSEMBLE

Mia is thrilled to be a part of the ensemble in Big Fish. Mia is a freshman at Belmont University majoring in journalism. Mia has been in every musical production at May River High School, most recently playing Florinda in Into the Woods. She would like to thank Mrs. Schlieger and Mrs. Derrer for making this production possible and for allowing her to be a part of such a beautiful story. She would also like to thank her family and friends for supporting her! Enjoy the show!

Meet the Cast

CATHERINE TROTTER - ENSEMBLE

Catherine is 16 years old and will be a junior at Bluffton High School. She has performed in 7 theatrical productions, most notably, as one of the leads in her own school's musical *Once On This Island*. Catherine is thrilled to have been in *Big Fish* and has loved every bit of it. She enjoys the arts, having had 9 years of choir interaction. Catherine would like to thank her entire family for always being so supportive of her pursuing acting. She would also like to express her gratitude towards her director and fellow cast for making this such a fun experience.

ANRI BRAUN - ENSEMBLE

Anri Braun is excited to be part of *Big Fish*. This is the first time they have been part of an ensemble for a musical and singing. Their past theatre experience include *Little Shop of Horrors* being the puppeteer and *Into The Woods* playing Milky White. Anri is very grateful for the opportunity to continue theatre during the summer and hopes to perform to the best of their ability.

GABRIELA GRIGGS - ENSEMBLE

Gabriela is a rising sophomore at May River and is excited to be a part of *Big Fish*! She has recently been in *Into the Woods* with MRHS as well as other productions locally. Besides theatre, she also enjoys singing in her school's choir. She hopes you enjoy the show!

BRIANA WILLIAMS - ENSEMBLE

Briana is very excited to join the cast of *Big Fish*! She's done past shows at HHCA where she attends during the school year. She's appeared in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Spring 2021) and others. She would like to thank her HHCA fine arts department for all they've taught her. She would also like to thank Mrs. Schlieger for all she's done and the questions she's answered that helped her feel less like a fish out of water. You can see her in the ensemble. Hope that you enjoy the show!

CHLOE SIMONE ROSENBERG - ENSEMBLE

Chloe is very happy to be performing in this showing of *Big Fish*! She has been in previous musicals such as *Into the Woods*, *LSOH*, *Annie*, *HSM* etc. Besides spending her time in theater she likes watching movies and spinning vinyl. She would like to thank her loved ones for the support in her career journey and Mrs. Derrer and Mrs. Schlieger for the opportunity to participate.

ISABEL HART - ENSEMBLE

Isabel is a rising senior at May River High School. She has been in 5 previous productions, and she is very excited to work with different people that she hasn't worked with before. She is excited for the extra experience in dancing and singing, and is looking forward to learning so much more from her peers. Isabel wants to thank her director and stage managers for all their hard work, and hopes you come to enjoy *Big Fish*.

Meet the Cast

IZZY MADDEN - ENSEMBLE

Izzy is an upcoming senior at May River High School and is so excited to be a part of the ensemble in Big Fish. She has previously played Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors and most recently Lucinda in Into the Woods with Shark Tank Theatre at MRHS. This is her first May River Theatre production. She would like to thank Mrs. Schlieger and Mrs. Derrer for their support and hard work. She hopes you enjoy the show!

JUSTIN STONE- DON PRICE

Justin is a Motorsport Engineering and Theater major at UNCC. He has been doing theater for 7 years now and is excited about being a part of this show. He would like to thank Beth, Sarah, the cast, and the crew for all the hard work they've put into this show.

BRAD PARKER- DR. BENNETT

Brad and his wife Beth live in Hilton Head but he is a Native of Charlotte, NC. Previous shows include To Kill a Mockingbird, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, White Christmas, A Christmas Carol, Legend of Sleepy Hollow, and Diary of Ann Frank. Brad really enjoys the time working with the young people in the cast, who, he learns something new from every day. He would like to thank Beth for the opportunity to be part of Big Fish.

ANGEL WOODS- ENSEMBLE

Angel is so excited to be a part of Big Fish this year. Previously, she was a part of three musicals at May River High School, including Once Upon A Mattress, Beauty and the Beast, and Little Shop of Horrors. Angel would like to thank Mrs. Derrer and Ms. Schlieger for being such amazing directors, and cannot wait to be a part of future productions.

JACOB COUEY- WILL'S SON

This is Jacob's first time on stage, but he loves dressing up in costumes as much as he can. He is a rising 1st grader at Red Cedar elementary and loves Star Wars, swimming, and movie night. Thank-you to his mom, dad, and baby brother Sammy for their encouragement and support.

Congratulations

Cast and Crew of Big Fish

Meet the Authors

JOHN AUGUST

John received a 2004 BAFTA nomination for his screenplay for *Big Fish*. His other credits include *Go*, *Titan A.E.*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*, *Corpse Bride*, *The Nines*, *Frankenweenie* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, for which he received a 2006 Grammy nomination for lyrics. The first book in his middle-grade fantasy adventure series *Arlo Finch* was published by Macmillan in February 2018 and has been translated into 11 languages. Born in Colorado, he is a graduate of Drake University and USC's School of Cinematic Arts. On Twitter and Instagram @johnaugust.

ANDREW LIPPA

ANDREW LIPPA's new epic choral work "Unbreakable" had its world premiere with The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus on June 22nd and 23rd, 2018 in San Francisco with 300 artists onstage including Mr. Lippa. Ten more choruses across the country will present this new work in the next year and the original cast recording, produced by legendary producer Leslie Ann Jones, will be released by Ghostlight Records in November, 2018. He conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a new production of his "A Little Princess" in concert in London at the Royal Festival Hall in May, 2018 to a sold-out crowd of nearly 3,000 people.

His hit song "Evil Like Me" appears in Disney's "Descendants". Written for Kristin Chenoweth that soundtrack hit #1 on the "Billboard 200" album chart, #1 on the iTunes and Billboard soundtrack charts, has been viewed over 70 million times on YouTube and "Evil Like Me" was certified gold in 2017. On Feb. 1st, 2017, Lippa opened the new season of The American Songbook Series at Lincoln Center with his sold out concert of "Andrew Lippa and Friends." In 2016, he composed and conducted a world premiere piece for the international piano virtuoso Lang Lang and the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra in Guangzhou, China. This new work, a 32-minute, 5-movement piece called "Rising Tide", was reprised later in 2016 and recorded in China. Lippa's epic Concept Opera "I am Anne Hutchinson/I Am Harvey Milk" had its world premiere at The Music Center at Strathmore in April of 2016 starring Kristin Chenoweth as Anne Hutchinson and Mr. Lippa as Harvey Milk. Summer 2016 saw the US premiere of "Life of the Party" – a musical compendium of Mr. Lippa's career – produced by Theatreworks in Mountain View, CA and starring Mr. Lippa. Summer of 2017, Bay Street Theater in Sag Harbor, NY, presented the world premiere of *The Man in the Ceiling*. Based on Jules Feiffer's award-winning novel, this musical features a book by Mr. Feiffer and music and lyrics by Mr. Lippa. Directed by Jeffrey Seller (Tony-winning producer of "Hamilton") Mr. Lippa played the role of Uncle Lester in this production.

Broadway credits include: Music and lyrics for *Big Fish* directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman; the Tony-nominated music and lyrics for the Broadway musical *The Addams Family* (directed by Jerry Zaks) as well as the music for Aaron Sorkin's Broadway play *The Farnsworth Invention* (directed by Des McAnuff). Other musicals include the Drama Desk award winning musical *The Wild Party* (book/music/lyrics); *A Little Princess* (music); *John & Jen* (music/book); *Asphalt Beach* (music and lyrics); and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (additional music/lyrics and arrangements). His epic oratorio for men's chorus, orchestra and soloists, *I Am Harvey Milk* has seen over 30 productions including Disney Hall and Lincoln Center. Awards: Tony and Grammy nominations; shared Emmy for Nickelodeon's "The Wonder Pets"; SFGMC Vanguard Award; The Gilman/Gonzalez-Falla Theater Foundation Award; ASCAP's Richard Rodgers/New Horizons Award; The Drama Desk Award; The Outer Critics Circle Award. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Mr. Lippa serves as president of the board of The Dramatists Guild Foundation (dgf.org). He was born in Leeds, England, grew up in suburban Detroit and is an ordained Interfaith minister. andrewlippa.com

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