

Fun Home

By Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori

Spring 2024

Who?

Producers: Marissa Blum and Perri Hawkins
Director: Naomi Schwartzburt
Associate Director: Alastair Rao
Stage Manager: Coryell Smith
Musical Director: Violet Barnum
Preferred Contact Email: perri.hawkins@yale.edu

What?

Based on the graphic novel of the same name by Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* tells the story of Alison at three stages of her life as she comes to terms with her own sexuality, as well as that of her closeted gay father. As she struggles to write her autobiography, we follow Alison as she jumps between time periods, reflecting on her career, her identity, and her family.

When?

Date of First Rehearsal: Week of October 9th
Current Tech Week Dates: February 25th - February 28th
Performance Dates: February 29th - March 2nd
Overall Dates (First Rehearsal to Last Performance): Week of October 9th - March 2nd

Time Commitment

Weekly Estimated Time Commitments (in Hours)
Fall semester: 2-4 hours per week (higher end for Alisons and Bruce)
Spring semester: 6-10 hours per week, increasing as tech approaches

Content Warnings

Coarse language, discussion and depiction of suicide, staged intimacy, grooming

Audition Expectations

1. Please prepare a 32-bar cut (around 90 seconds) of a song of your choice. It does not have to be a musical theater song, but we recommend a song that has a story and emotion behind it.

1a. We will have an accompanist, so please bring a copy of the sheet music for them to play (two copies if you want one to reference, memorization is not required).

2. Tell us a story about something that happened to you in the past year (or longer than a year, just something you remember vividly). It can be a major life event or the most random and trivial occurrence. Editorialize the event as much as you want, but try to tell it in an amusing or funny way. The actual event doesn't need to be funny or even significant - just your retelling of it.

Self-tape video submissions will include recordings of both of these components (more info in the main packet).

Audition Location(s)

Friday, September 29th

Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Place: BRL 205

Note on location: The Broadway Rehearsal Lofts (BRL) are located at 294 Elm Street next to Tyco. Room 205 is on the second floor and is the closest room to the lower staircase. The second floor is also accessible via elevator through Arnold Hall.

Saturday, September 30th

Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Place: 220 York St Ballroom

Note on location: The Ballroom is located at 220 York Street (next to the David Geffen School of Drama, down the alley thing) and is accessible via ramp. The Ballroom is on the first floor (go down the hallway when you enter and it is to your left).

Sunday, October 1st

Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Place: WLH 207

Note on location: William L Harkness Hall (WLH) is located at 100 Wall Street and can be accessed via Cross Campus. Room 207 is on the second floor and is accessible via elevator. It is the room in the corner (farthest from either staircase) across from the water fountain.

SYNOPSIS

Fun Home is a 100-minute one-act musical written by Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori adapting the graphic novel of the same name by Alison Bechdel, namesake of the Bechdel test. The musical recounts Alison's journey discovering her sexuality as it parallels coming to terms with the death of her closeted gay father. We see Alison through three stages of her life: as a child who hates wearing frilly dresses, as a college student meeting her first girlfriend, and as an adult coping with the loss of her father. Through this non-linear story, we see the joy and heartbreak in this "typical family quintet," as the cracks start to show.

MEET (SOME OF) THE TEAM!

Perri Hawkins (Producer) (indecisive) is a junior in Saybrook majoring in Psychology. She's also a part of the Education Studies Scholars program, and is the Wellness Coordinator for the Yale Drama Coalition (it is not the Dramat). One of their favorite activities is taking aimless walks around campus to avoid doing work.

Naomi Schwartzburt (Director) (any pronouns) is a senior (gross) in Pauli Murray College (not gross) double majoring in Theater Studies and Astronomy. In addition to working as a stage manager and all-around techie across campus, they serve as the Casting Cycle Coordinator for the Yale Drama Coalition. When they are not doing theater, they spend their free time staring at other people's calendars finding times for everyone else to do theater.

Coryell Smith (Stage Manager) (they/he) is a junior Astrophysics major in TD. In addition to stage managing, they are the co-chair of QuArk, Yale's queer physics group, and a member of the climbing team. If you want to test the limits of how long a person can talk, ask him about music, film, or video games.

Violet Barnum (Music Director) (she/her) is a junior in Saybrook from New York City. She is a music major with a focus in composition/songwriting. She is so excited to be music directing *Fun Home*--"Come to the Fun Home" has been continuously stuck in her head ever since her best friend showed her the song in middle school.

TIMELINE

Fall 2023

October 2023 - Casting, begin learning music, potential character meetings

November 2023 - Continue learning music

December 2023 - Finish learning music

Spring 2024

January 2024

- First day back will be a sing-through
- Off-book deadline is the end of add-drop

- Begin staging

February 2024

- Continue staging rehearsals
- Stumble and run throughs

February 25th through February 28th - Tech week

February 29th through March 2nd - Performances

CHARACTERS

Note: All characters can be played by actors of any race or ethnicity.

Alison (43, she/her, Mezzo-Soprano, E3-D5) - Lesbian cartoonist. Having become a writer, Alison is our grounded narrator, as she reflects on her life and her relationship with her father.

Medium Alison (19, she/her, Mezzo-Soprano, G3-E5) - An intelligent but awkward college freshman at Oberlin leaving home for the first time. She discovers that she is a lesbian and meets her first girlfriend. (This actor also plays Susan Dey)

Note: This actor engages in consensual onstage intimacy with Joan.

Small Alison (8, she/her, Mezzo-Soprano, B4-B5) - A strong-willed and opinionated child on a journey to discover herself and her relationship with traditional femininity.

Bruce (44, he/him, Baritone, A2-G4) - Alison's father. High school English teacher by day, funeral home director by night, and antique collector by weekend. As a closeted gay man, Bruce's repressed anger often comes to the surface and is at odds with his care for his children.

This actor has suggestive and intimate conversations with Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy that are considered non-consensual intimacy. This role also includes a stylized depiction of suicide.

Helen (47, she/her, Mezzo-Soprano, A3-E5) - Alison's mother. Quietly frustrated by her marriage and turns to music as an outlet. Helen tries to hold the family together, wilfully ignoring her husband's unfaithful acts. Ability to play piano is a plus, but not expected or required.

Christian (10, he/him, any range) - Alison's older brother, though he only appears in the show as a child. (This character is a child and thus the actor will be able to sing in whatever octave they are most comfortable. Actors of any voice part are encouraged to audition for this role.)

John (6, he/him, any range) - Alison's younger brother, though he only appears in the show as a child. (This character is a child and thus the actor will be able to sing in whatever octave they are most comfortable. Actors of any voice part are encouraged to audition for this role.)

Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy (16-25, he/him, Tenor, G3-A4) - Roy is a young man Bruce hires to do yard work. Mark is a high school junior. Pete is a mourner visiting the Bechdel funeral home. Bobby Jeremy is the lead singer on a television show in Alison's imagination.

This actor has suggestive and intimate conversations with Bruce that are considered non-consensual intimacy.

Joan (19-21, she/her, Alto, G3-G4) - An out and proud lesbian student at Oberlin who helps Medium Alison explore her sexuality and navigate her freshman year. She is blunt, sarcastic, and dry. Alison's first girlfriend. (This character also plays Susan Dey)

This actor engages in consensual onstage intimacy with Medium Alison.

Note on intimacy: We hope to work with an Undergraduate Production assigned intimacy coordinator to work through all of these moments. Consent and comfort of each actor is our priority, and we are willing to adjust blocking to accommodate your needs.

AUDITION TIMELINE

In-Person Audition Slots (each are 20 minutes)

Please sign up for a slot on [Yale College Arts](#) (make sure you are signed in!). Be sure to fill out the [audition form](#) prior to your audition.

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Self-Tapes

Self-tapes are due by midnight on Monday, October 2nd (like end of day Monday midnight) and will be submitted via [this form](#). We ask that anyone submitting a self-tape also fill out this [audition form](#). Please reach out ASAP if you need an extension on your self-tape.

Callback Notifications

Callback emails will be sent by the time we go to sleep on the evening of Tuesday, October 3rd. Actors who did not receive a callback will also be notified. Please note that not getting a callback does not mean we are not considering you for a role!

Callbacks

Callbacks will take place on the evening October 5th, between 8pm and 11pm. More specifics and locations will be given in an email when you are notified of your callback.

Casting Notifications

Casting calls will begin at noon on Sunday, October 8th. Please make sure you have your phone on you! Calls will be made throughout the afternoon, so don't be discouraged if you don't hear from us right away. All auditionees will receive a casting notification by the end of that day.

AUDITION MATERIALS

For an in-person audition

Please prepare a 32-bar cut (around 90 seconds) of a song of your choice. It does not have to be a musical theater song, but we recommend a song that has a story and emotion behind it. Memorization is not required. We will have an accompanist, so please bring a copy of the sheet music for them to play (two copies if you want one to reference).

Here are some songs that we recommend if you don't know where to look for music (some songs fit certain characters better than others - most importantly, choose a song that fits your voice!):

I Miss the Mountains (*Next to Normal*), Superboy and the Invisible Girl (*Next to Normal*), Every Day a Little Death (*A Little Night Music*), Temporarily Lost (*Bridges of Madison County*), Just Breathe (*The Prom*), Nothing Short of Wonderful (*Dogfight*), and You Learn to Live Without (*If/Then*).

You will then receive some notes or adjustments and perform the song again.

In addition, we'd like you to tell us a story about something that happened to you in the past year (or longer than a year, just something you remember vividly). It can be a major life event or the most random and trivial occurrence. Editorialize the event as much as you want, but try to tell it in an amusing or funny way. The actual event doesn't need to be funny or even significant - just your retelling of it.

For a self-tape submission

Please record yourself singing a 32-bar cut (around 90 seconds) of a song of your choice. It does not have to be a musical theater song, but we recommend a song that has a story and emotion behind it.

Here are some songs that we recommend if you don't know where to look for music (some songs fit certain characters better than others - most importantly, choose a song that fits your voice!):

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Once your videos are complete, please name the files using the following format:

For songs - YOURNAME_FH_SONG

For stories - YOURNAME_FH_STORY

If you are having trouble naming or uploading your files, please reach out. You will then upload them to [this google form](#), where we will ask a few additional questions.

You did it! You got through the packet! Congrats :) Here's a meme to celebrate. (i have so many more)

