



craigwetjen Photographer

SURREAL PROPERTY GROUP



Committee

Sally McKenzie, Steven McKenzie, Leanne Balfour-Smith, Colin Morley, Sara Broadway, Maeghan McKenzie, Lyn Strickland and Katrina Heuskes.

Thank You

PEP Productions, Matthew White, Elizabeth Matjacic, MLOC, FOH Volunteers, Madison Dennis, Alivia Dennis, Peter Garratt, Jerome Walshe, Andrew McDougall, Natayla Kluever, Elise Cavallo, Mordialloc Theatre Company BOOK by JOHN AUGUST Music and Lyrics by ANDREW LIPPA **Twelve Chairs Edition** Based on the novel by Daniel Wallace and the Columbia Motion Picture

DREAD LOVE LIVE BI99ER!

written by John August

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL ON BEHALF OF THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE, NEW YORK

BIG FISH

Book by JOHN AUGUST Music and Lyrics by ANDREW LIPPA

Twelve Chairs Version

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

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL ON BEHALF OF THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE, NEW YORK

Production Team

Direction	Sarah Tierney
Musical Direction	Sally McKenzie
Assistant Direction/Choreography	Tess Howiesor
	Aimee John
Production Management	Colin Morley
Stage Management	Lindsay Ower
Rehearsal Pianist	Lester Cheung
Sound Design	Peter Philp
Sound Operation	David Drew
Lighting Design and Operation	Yaz Sesta
Set Design	Sarah Tierney
Scenic Painting	Kat Leddin
I AND THE REAL PROPERTY IN THE REAL PROPERTY AND T	Magenta Townsend
	Hayley Todo
	Craig Wetjer
Prop Co-ordination	Micaela Briscoe
Costume Co-ordination	Colin Morley
Costume Design and Creation	Kate Williams and Lyn Strickland
Set Construction	Steven McKenzie and Graham Andrew
Backstage CrewLin	dsay Owen, Micaela Briscoe, Eliza Wetjen and
	Steven McKenzie



Fab Nobs Theatre dedicates this production of Big Fish to the memory of Keith Stubley.

In 2003, Keith was a cast member of one of our first productions, Something Funny Happened On The Way To The Forum, and in 2017 returned to our company to join our committee and perform multiple backstage roles.

He was a larger than life personality in every way, incredibly experienced and capable, full of joy, laughter and straight-talking when we needed it. We miss his sense of humour, wise counsel, and generous heart every day.

We raise a glass of bubbles to our Keith each night of this season.



Maeghan McKenzie – ENSEMBLE

This is Maeghan's third show on stage with Fab Nobs Theatre, after *The Witches of Eastwick* (2018) and *9 to 5* (2017). She has performed in various musicals that includes *Ragtime* (Waterdale), *Hairspray* (CPAC), *HONK! Children of Eden* (PEP), and many more. She has also choreographed various shows with young performers that includes *Legally Blonde* (Emerald Secondary College), *Electricity, Shrek Junior*, and *High School Musical Jnr* (Fab Nobs). She most recently directed Fab Nobs' 2019 production of *Aladdin Jnr*. She currently works as a secondary maths teacher and is so excited to be back on the Fab Nobs stage.





Emily Kay – ENSEMBLE

This is Emily's second show with Fab Nobs and she is looking forward to working with them once again after the wild year of 2020. Her previous roles include Heather Duke in *Heathers* (Fab Nobs), a Silly Girl in *Beauty And The Beast* (Windmill Theatre Company), and Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde* (Lumina Theatre Company). She has also performed in the ensemble of *Singin' In The Rain* (Babirra Music Theatre) and *Chicago* (Windmill Theatre Company). She is very excited to bring witches, circus folk and small town positivity to the stage in *Big Fish*.

Chelsea Hyde – ENSEMBLE/DANCE CAPTAIN

Chelsea's first words were "ee-ay-ee-ay" – the lyrics to the childhood classic, Old MacDonald Had A Farm. Chelsea has been drawn to performing ever since like a moth to a flame. She has danced for 18 years at Aspect Motion School of Dance and now teaches student of all ages. She has completed her Bachelor of Music (Music Theatre) and couldn't wait to get back to where her love of performing is strongest – within Melbourne's theatre community. She is so blessed to have the opportunity to share this beautiful show and such a talented cast and crew. She hopes the audience leaves the show after every performance just as inspired and moved as she is.



Director's Notes

Theatre by very nature is a highly collaborative medium and a project is only as strong as the people you work with - never has this statement been truer for me. In the face of the incredible challenges of COVID, I have been truly blessed to work with such wonderful people, and I am grateful to every person for their contribution to Big Fish both in 2020 and 2021. In spite of the setbacks, it has been a luxury to be able to revisit the show this year and finish what we started so long ago. Whenever I take on a new project, I am always driven by story as it is at the heart of all good theatre. I am interested in what a play or musical has to say and how the characters are drawn. My attraction to Big Fish, aside from the beautiful music by Andrew Lippa, was the captivating narrative and themes. At its core, this musical is about family, love, mortality, misunderstanding, and reconciliation. The relationship between a father and son is one that many of us can relate to in both family life and life in general. There are people we misunderstand, misread, and make assumptions about their motives and intentions, which is further complicated with emotion making it even more difficult to see things clearly. There is so much depth to this vibrant, moving, and larger-than-life story, and the complexity of the relationships and search for truth is captivating. There is a lesson in all of Edward's tales and, although he finds it challenging, his son Will is able to recognise his father's motives and intentions with the support of the strong and loving women in his life. He states that "All this time, I thought you were trying to impress me. You were trying to inspire me." This is a healthy reminder that we should always seek to understand. Thank you for attending this beautiful production and I hope that his show moves you, sparks joy, and highlights the importance of relationships, communication, and love.. - Sarah Tierney

President's Report

Owen James introduced me to the magnificent Big Fish cast recording in 2016, and I was immediately 'hooked'. It was always going to be a challenge staging such a visually spectacular and fantastical story on the small Fab Nobs stage, however when the 12 Chair Version became available with a smaller cast, reduced band and a few less technical challenges, it was all systems go! Whether or not you are a fan of the Tim Burton movie, this musical is sure to impress. There is utter beauty in every aspect of the show. Our Director Sarah Tierney has painted the many pictures of this beautiful story with such wonderful insight and sensitivity. With the cast she has explored every emotion possible and tears have flowed in many a rehearsal (as they did upon my first reading of the script!). Thank you, Sarah for your warm, honest and superbly creative approach to this rehearsal process. It is hard to believe that this is only your first time working with Fab Nobs. Our Choreographer/Assistant Director Tess Howieson has been a perfect match for Sarah. Her drive and vision and ability to work with dancers of all capabilities has been wonderful to watch. In recent months, Aimee John has been incredible as our Dance Supervisor, learning the entire show at lightning speed and helping our cast members prepare for opening night. Special thanks to Colin Morley who has led the production team and costumes team so brilliantly over the last 18 months (a Fab Nobs record!). We are so grateful to also have Fab Nobs newcomers to help behind the scenes: Micaela Briscoe (props) and Kathleen Leddin (costumes and scenic painting). To all of our other volunteers listed in our program who have returned to help put the 'pages' of this Big Fish 'story' together, our heartfelt thanks. We are indeed very proud. You are all the 'Hero[es] - Sally McKenzie Of [Y]our Story'.

Creative Team

Sarah Tierney — Director

Sarah's love for theatre was sparked as a child, regularly attending matinee theatrical productions with her grandmother. These trips sparked her passion for the Arts and has since driven her life journey. She completed a Bachelor of Contemporary Arts (Drama) before working as the artistic director for the independent theatre company Shadow Productions. She has worked as a writer, producer, and director over the years for both plays and musicals. Her directing credits include *Mary Poppins, Guys and Dolls, Beauty and the Beast,* and *Hairspray.* She has also worked as co-writer and co-director/director



respectively for *Hidden* and *Weapon of Choice*. She is currently working as an independent director and producer for her own company, Tierney Productions, and completed her first work for this venture in 2020.

Sally McKenzie — Musical Director

Big Fish marks Sally's 10th Fab Nobs Show as Musical Director and she feels extremely fortunate to be teaching and exploring this beautiful score. Its lush and lyrical melodies and the grandeur of Lippa's vocal harmonies are married with one of the most magical stories we have staged at Fab Nobs. Sally has previously musically-directed Fab Nobs' productions of *Little Miss Sunshine* and *Heathers* (2019), *Violet* (2018), *Chicago* and *9 to 5* (2017), and *Into The Woods* (2015). Her other musical direction highlights have been *Ragtime* (Waterdale, 2015) and *Children of Eden* (PEP Productions, 2013). Sally works as a singing teacher and is so grateful that she can expand her teaching horizons via musical theatre.

Colin Morley - Production Co-ordinator

Colin has been a proud member of Fab Nobs since 2012 and an active member of the community theatre scene in Melbourne for nearly 20 years. He has played a variety of roles – both on and off stage – including production manager, costume coordinator and director. This is Colin's 7th time as production coordinator for Fab Nobs and he is thrilled to present you with Fab Nobs' *Big Fish*. The quality of this production is testament to the amazing production team, a fabulous and talented cast, and the myriad of volunteers who help to make these productions happen. Please be sure that you are equipped with a suitable amount of tissues and enjoy our latest theatrical offering.





Joel Armour – DR BENNETT/MAYOR/ENSEMBLE

Joel is a Melbourne-based composer, actor and multiinstrumentalist currently studying at Box Hill Institute of Technology. His recent stage credits include *Broadway Obsessive Disorder* (Quartet), Charles J Guiteau in *Assassins* (PEP), Sir Archibald Proops in *Jekyll and Hyde* (CLOC), Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Roger Strong in *Catch Me If You Can* (OCPAC), and a smorgasbord of characters in *The Toxic Avenger* (Fab Nobs). As a saxophonist and vocalist, Joel trained and toured with the National Youth Jazz Academy and continues to record and perform in a range of musical contexts.

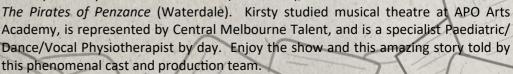


Imogen Whittaker – MERMAID/NURSE/ENSEMBLE

Imogen had been requiring constant attention for almost 19 years before she was cast as Little Sally in *Urinetown* (Waterdale). The lights and applause immediately had her hooked. Her credits since include Serena Katz in *FAME!* (Lumina), Anna in *Spring Awakening* (MLOC) and, most recently, Jennifer Gabriel in *Witches of Eastwick* (Fab Nobs) as well as featured performer roles in numerous varieties. Outside of theatre, Imogen works in the Integrated Family Services team with Berry Street as a Case Manager and Project Development worker. She is thrilled to be back in the theatre and sharing such a beautiful story with this incredible cast and crew.

Kirsty Nisbet – ENSEMBLE

This is Kirsty's first show with Fab Nobs and she has loved every second! Kirsty has had a huge love for this story for many years and stoked to be a part of bringing it to life. Kirsty would have been 18 weeks pregnant at the culmination of the show in 2020 and has been juggling this 2021 production with a 6 month old in tow (not to mention 4 major abdominal surgergies!). Thank you to the amazing production team and cast for supporting me on this journey! Some previous roles have been Liz in *High Fidelity* (SLAMS), Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical* (Waterdale), Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown* (Waterdale), and Ruth in



Heloise Meighan – JENNY HILL

Heloise is thrilled to be returning to the stage in Fab Nobs' production of *Big Fish*. This will be Heloise's second show with Fab Nobs, having performed in their 2019 production of *Heathers*. Other recent performances include *Rock Of Ages* (Altona City Theatre) and *The Sound Of Music* (Babirra). Heloise graduated from Melbourne University and by day works as a veterinarian. Heloise adores musical theatre, and has previously played in orchestras for various theatre and ballet performances. Heloise is proud to be a part of such a talented cast, and is excited to bring this magical show to life.

Mitchell Stewart – DON PRICE

Mitchell would like to formally apologise to the world. He goes and does his first Fab Nobs show and look what happens as a result: a worldwide pandemic. Despite this global hiccup, he is incredibly excited to finally be working onstage with one of his closest friends, Robbie, after nine years of friendship. He's also eager for his first onstage experience with his new-found gaming buddy Will. Given the nature of Big Fish, his performance is dedicated to his own Father who he is fortunate enough to share a very loving and close relationship with.



Dylan Mazurek – ZACKY PRICE

Dylan has been involved in theatrical productions all around Melbourne and Victoria. Some of his most recent on-stage appearances include the roles of Jeremy Heere in the Victorian premiere of *Be More Chill*, Moritz Stiefel in *Spring Awakening* (RMIT Creative) and most recently, Jason Dean in a highly regarded production of *Heathers* (Fab Nobs). Dylan has had the honour of being involved in multiple premiere/workshop productions including the roles of Mac in *Point of No Return* (Play) and Thomas in *Decoration Day: A New Musical*. Dylan has also directed, produced, and been involved behind-thescenes in many productions around Victoria.



Tess Howieson — Assistant Director/Choreographer

Tess is over the moon to be working on *Big Fish*. Tess has been dancing since the age of 4, when her parents placed her in a local dance studio. Her energy, enthusiasm, passion and hard work lead to her achieve national titles at both the Showcase National Dance Competition and Dancelife Nationals. She moved to Melbourne in 2015 to undertake full-time dance training at The Space Dance and Arts Centre and Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance, and graduated in 2017 with a Diploma of Dance and a Certificate IV in Dance Teaching and

Management. Following her graduation, she has been lucky enough to share her passion both locally and internationally. She has spent the last few summers in New York where she has choreographed musicals for Stagedoor Manor and their summer seasons, in addition to cultivating the talents of master dance students from all over the world. Tess has most recently been studying and choreographing in London. In 2021, Tess has commenced a new and exciting role as Head of Dance at Seton Catholic College. She would like to thank her very supportive and loving parents as well as the creative team and cast at Fab Nobs: it has been a dream come true.

Aimee John – Dance Supervisor

Aimee started performing from a young age doing annual dance concerts and then joined the amateur theatre community in 2015. It is just in recent years when she has found the love of being on the other side of the process of creating a show. With the support of Fab Nobs, she has taken on the role of Assistant Choreographer for *High School Musical* (2018) and Assistant Choreographer/Director for *Heathers* (2019). She had already heard amazing things about the original 2020 production of *Big Fish*, and was delighted to be approached to support Tess' choreography in an associate role! She has loved meeting and working with Sarah and Tess as well as working with Sally once again. Aimee can't wait for everyone to sale

as working with Sally once again. Aimee can't wait for everyone to see this amazing show that has been eagerly waiting to open!

A 2021 NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to warmly welcome all of our patrons back to Fab Nobs after the year that was 2020. After such a devastating year for the live theatre community I am incredibly proud of the work done by our committee to "keep our light on" during the extended shutdown and, in doing so, allowed us to welcome you all back for this season of Big Fish. We are thrilled to welcome back most of our original team to the 2021 season – with the addition of some little fishies along the way!

Production Numbers

۸	CT	1
A	LI	т

PROLOGUE	Edward Bloom and Will Bloom
BE THE HERO	Edward Bloom, Young Will, and Company
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT	The Witch, Edward Bloom and Witches
JUST TAKE ANOTHER LOOK	Josephine Bloom and Will Bloom
STRANGER	Will Bloom
	Sandra Bloom and Will Bloom
JENNY HILL	Jenny Hill
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 Ensemble
DAFFODILS	Edward Bloom and Sandra Bloom

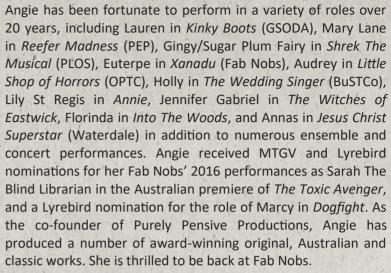
ACT 2

ENTRACTE	
FIGHT THE DRAGONS	Edward Bloom and Young Will
STRANGER (REPRISE)	Will Bloom
THE RIVER BETWEEN US	Edward Bloom and Will Bloom
I DON'T NEED A ROOF	Sandra Bloom
START OVERDon Price, Edward Bloom, Am	nos Calloway, Karl, Zacky Price 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

Band

CONDUCTOR	Sally McKenzie
KEYS 1	Lester Cheung
BASS	Tom Young
DRUMKIT	Ryan Evans, Paul Coles
GUITAR/BANJO/MANDOLIN	Darryl Barror
CELLO	Claire Abougelis
VIOLIN	Charlotte Black

Angie Bedford – THE WITCH



Ryan Etlis – AMOS CALLOWAY/THE FISHERMAN

Ryan has had a passion for performing all of his life. *Big Fish* is his first amateur theatre show, which makes the experience even more special for him. He was previously with Young Australian Broadway Chorus (YABC) for 10 years, which brought him the opportunity of travelling to the United States to perform in multiple states and venues. His first major role was as Mr Mushnik in his high-school production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. He has completed one year of musical theatre studies at Showfit. Ryan is determined to further push and develop his craft to one day be on a bigger stage doing what he loves.





Brent Denison – KARL THE GIANT

A former chorister with the National Boys Choir of Australia, Brent took an interest in musical theatre shortly after leaving the choir. His previous roles include Hanschen Rilow (*Spring Awakening*, Nuworks, 2014), Annas (*Jesus Christ Superstar*, MLOC, 2015), James Hanoney (*The Hatpin*, Waterdale, 2018), and most recently Theodore Bird (*Sincerely, Us*, UMMTA Sitzprobe, 2019). Off the stage, he is also the current Vice-President of Waterdale Theatre. Brent has found it both fun and challenging to take on the role of Karl – especially learning how to walk on stilts. He hopes that you enjoy the show.

Alison Coffa - JOSEPHINE BLOOM

Alison fell in love with performing as a youngster, playing Annie, and has been hooked ever since. She adores the wonderful Fab Nobs family and is thrilled to be back at the factory for her 4th Fab Nobs production. She most recently played Bo Peep in the summer pantomime *Mary Contrary and the Nursery Rhyme Mystery*, and has previously appeared as Judy Bernly in *9 to 5* and Ruth Two-Bears/ Chippy in *Dogfight*. In 2019, she performed her first self-devised cabaret as part of *The Cabaret Showcases* with Melissa Langton and Mark Jones. Previous stage credits include Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and Vivienne Kensington in *Legally Blonde*, as well as roles in *RENT*,



The Sound of Music, 13 the Musical, Aladdin Jr and more. Alison also spent many years working offstage with children's theatre company Sleeping Star Productions, including time as Director, Performance Coach and several backstage and production roles. Alison would like to thank the cast, crew and creative team of *Big Fish* for welcoming her into the fold over the last few weeks and feels privileged to be part of a truly special (and resilient!) production.

Michael Roskam – YOUNG WILL/WILL'S SON



Michael Roskam is thrilled to be in the Fab Nobs musical *Big Fish*. He fell in love with the stage when he watched his older sister perform in Fab Nobs' *High School Musical Jnr*. He then plucked up the courage to audition himself and has since performed in a number of musical theatre productions with Fab Nobs and Wendy Samantha Productions. A highlight was being nominated for a 2019 Musical Theatre Guild of Victoria (MTGV) Award (Best Supporting Male Junior Performance) for his role of the Sultan in Fab Nob's production of *Aladdin Jnr*. He enjoys being in a musical with adult performers because he can learn so much from them. When Michael grows up he wants to be an actor, specializing in comedy. He also loves music and plays the cello and piano. He has just started learning singing with Sally McKenzie who is the most amazing teacher ever.

Coby Ashman – YOUNG WILL/WILL'S SON

Nine-year old Coby is thrilled to be cast in his second Fab Nobs production following on from our 2020 season of *Puss In Boots*. Coby loves musical theatre and recently performed the role of Tomatoa in *Moana Jnr* (Artzmartz Theatre Company). Coby is a member of the National Boys Choir, enjoys dancing at Vibe Studios, and has singing lessons with Ms Sophie Weiss and Ms Danielle O'Malley. Coby would like to thank all of the talented production team and fellow cast members for their support and guidance. He has had an absolute ball with this wonderful



team. Coby would also like to thank his school friends and school teachers (particularly Mrs Jacquie Casey) for encouraging him to pursue his passion.

CAST

Robert Clark – EDWARD BLOOM

Robert, known affectionately as the 'Singing Health Inspector', is a classically trained vocalist who drinks way too much coffee! He has completed a Bachelor of Music (Solo Performance/Composition) at Monash University and was a member of the St Patricks Cathedral Choir where he later held the position of choir assistant. His favourite theatre credits include Neville Craven in *The Secret Garden* and Jud Fry *Oklahoma!* (PLOS), Herbie in *Gypsy*, Beast in *Beauty and The Beast*, and Javert in *Les Miserables* (NOVA), Jake in *Side Show* (WMTC), and JW Booth in *Assassins* (PEP). He was nominated

for an MTGV Bruce Award and the receipt of a Lyrebird Award (Best Male Actor in a Musical) for the role of Javert. *Big Fish* is a musical close to Robert's heart and having recently become a father to a little fella, he hopes he can guide him to "be the hero" of his own story. He hopes you enjoy the show.

Stephanie Powell – SANDRA BLOOM

Steph is glad to return to Fab Nobs after playing Sheryl Hoover in *Little Miss Sunshine* in 2019. Her other credits include Nellie in *Jekyll and Hyde* (CLOC,), Elizabeth in *When The Rain Stops Falling, Carmenesque* with Opera Su Presto, Gabby/Bobbi in *City of Angels* (WMTC), Diana in *Next To Normal* (OLT), Nancy in *OLIVER!* (OSMAD), Alexandra Spofford in *The Witches of Eastwick* (WMTC), Maggie Jones in *42nd Street* (CLOC), Star to Be in *Annie* (Babirra), Carlotta in *The Cherry Orchard* (White Oak Theatre), Elizabeth in *Aspects of Love* (CLOC), and Madame



Thenardier in *Les Miserables* (WTC). Steph received the GAT Award 2016 for Best Actress In a Musical (*Next To Normal*), the 2018 MTGV Award for Best Cameo Performance (*Jekyll and Hyde*), and was nominated for the 2019 Lyrebird Award for Best Actress in a Musical (*Little Miss Sunshine*).

Will Sayers – WILL BLOOM

Will has been performing for 20 years (ooft) and has appeared in a number of musicals across Melbourne. He has previously appeared as Shrek in *Shrek The Musical* (PLOS), Che in *Evita* (NOVA), Enjolras in *Les Miserables* (Panorama), as well as Toxie/Melvin in *The Toxic Avenger* and Uncle Frank in *Little Miss Sunshine* previously with Fab Nobs Theatre. When not performing, Will is a psychology and science teacher providing education via phat beats to enraptured students in Melbourne's north-west.









DREAM LOVE LIVE BIGGER!







