

PLAYBILL®

ARIZONA MUSICAL THEATRE ORCHESTRA
All Saints Lutheran Church
September 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

DREAM BIGGER.

Big Fish

A NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL

CAST

Edward Bloom	Scott Seaman
Will Bloom.....	Elijah Viray
Sandra Bloom.....	Madalyn Kiewiet
Young Will/Will's Son	Kingston Petty-Purcell
Josephine Bloom.....	Christina Epp
Karl the Giant.....	William Blankemeier
Amos Calloway.....	Cameron Abaroa
Dr. Bennett.....	Jennifer Couldry
The Witch.....	Molly Virtue
Don Price	AJ Lepore
Zacky Price	Tucker Brown
Jenny Hill.....	Emily Bingham
Narrator.....	Dawnette Palmer

CHORUS

Soprano 1: Katie Babbitt, Jennifer Couldry, Christina Epp, Madalyn Kiewiet, Robyn Pitman, Lily Shelmire, Zoey Waller; Soprano 2: Emily Bingham, Kerri Christie, Alixandra Giordano, Liv Knoblauch, Alicia Lanstraat, Taylor McGlone, Valarie Vousden; Alto 1: Leslie Boucher, Darienne Brown, Abigail Judd, Margaret Miller, Dawnette Palmer, Caresa Townsend, Kathy Travous, Molly Virtue; Alto 2: Jordan Applegate, Nancy Browne, Samantha Isely, Vivian Lin, Jan Schmidt, Thylma Stamaria; Tenor 1: Kei Henriquez, Elijah Viray, David Weck; Tenor 2: Tucker Brown, AJ Lepore, Craig Spaulding; Bass 1: Cameron Abaroa, Matt Snell; Bass 2: William Blankenmeier, Dan Holme, Scott Seaman

ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Josh Condon

Chorus Director: Stephen Schermitzler

Reeds: Tim Solarz, Denise Wilson, Suzanne Johnsen, Michelle Horowitz; Trumpet: Mike Downey; Horn: Luke Light; Violin: Lauren Rae Evans, Tracy Peterson, Dylan Suehiro, Stephen Tillery; Viola: Gabrielle Beam, Tahlia Mak, Grace Wills; Cello: Nicholas Applegate, Abbey Hunt, Mark Pyle; Bass: Albert Allende; Keyboard 1: Stephen Schermitzler; Keyboard 2: John Luke Osorio; Guitars: Alejandro Estrella Lopez, Carlos Garibaldi; Drums: Josh Weinstein; Percussion: Sonja Branch

Rehearsal Pianist: Joni Van Rossum

CREW

AZMTO Volunteers.....	Edie Chudnow, Kyle Varble, Susan Woods, Mary Kelly, Emma Torres, Sheri Dixon
All Saints Lutheran Church Staff.....	Shari Clark, Bill Dunlop, Jerry Gunderson, Dan Hoeger
Audio Technician.....	Andrea Gudeyon
Percussion Equipment.....	All Saints Lutheran Church Pro Musica Arizona Orchestra Sonja Branch

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

By the Banks of a River	
“Prologue”	Orchestra
Outside the Rehearsal Dinner	
Will’s Bedroom	
“Be the Hero”	Edward and Company
The Swamp	
“The Witch”	The Witch, Edward, and Company
Wedding Reception	
Doctor’s Office in NYC/Doctor’s Office in Alabama	
Central Park	
“Stranger”	Will
The Backyard	
“Two Men”	Sandra
Ashton Town Square	
“Ashton’s Favorite Son”	Company
A Cave	
“Out There on the Road”	Edward, Karl, Jenny Hill, and Company
The Calloway Circus	
“Little Lamb from Alabama”	Sandra and Alabama Lambs
“Time Stops”	Edward and Sandra
“Closer to Her”	Amos, Edward, and Company
Auburn University	
“Daffodils”	Edward and Sandra

ACT II

Scout Campsite	
“Red, White and True”	Sandra, Edward, and Company
Edward and Sandra’s Bedroom	
“Fight the Dragons”	Edward and Young Will
“Showdown”	Will, Edward, and Company
“I Don’t Need a Roof”	Sandra
Jenny Hill’s House	
Ashton Town Square	
“Start Over”	Edward, Don, Amos, Karl, and Company
Hospital	
“What’s Next”	Will, Edward, and Company
“How It Ends”	Edward
The River’s Edge	
“Be the Hero (Reprise)”	Will

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

CREATIVE TEAM



CATHERINE RICAFORT (*Stage Director*) is an eight-time Broadway actor, singer, and dancer. Broadway credits: *Mamma Mia!*, *SpongeBob SquarePants* (“Karen the Computer”),

Cinderella, Jason Robert Brown’s *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *Allegiance*, *Disaster!*, *Holiday Inn*, *Miss Saigon*. Off-Broadway: *Alice by Heart*. NYC Readings (Pre-Broadway): *Hamilton*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Beetlejuice*. TV appearances: NBC’s *The Sing-Off* (award-winning acapella vocalist of “The Backbeats”), *PBS Great Performances*, *The Tony Awards*. An Arizona native, Catherine is excited to bring her stage experience full circle to the community as a director, performer, and coach. Arizona credits: 2024 Zoni-nomination for “Reno Sweeney” (*Anything Goes @ MCC*). Phoenix Theatre Company credits: asst. Director/Choreographer of *Titanmen*; starring role in 2024 *Festival of New Theatre*. At AZMTO, she played “Adelaide” in *Guys & Dolls* and is making her AZMTO Stage Directing debut with *Big Fish*. Catherine is also a software engineer and co-founder of Artists Who Code, featured in the LA Times and Forbes for helping 300+ artists pivot into tech during the pandemic. IG: @catricafort



JOSHUA CONDON (*Conductor*) is thrilled to conduct *Big Fish* with AZMTO! Around the Valley, Josh’s work as a music director has been heard on the stages of

Arizona Broadway Theatre, The Phoenix Theatre Company, Xavier College Preparatory, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Childsplay, and Arizona State University. Prior to coming to Arizona, Josh served as a music director/pianist for the Norwegian, Celebrity, and Princess cruise lines, where he collaborated with numerous West End and Broadway performers. He holds a B.M. in Jazz Studies from Ithaca College and an M.M. in Musical Theatre/Opera Music Direction from ASU. He currently serves as Director of Community Music

Programs for Arizona Musicfest and the Assistant Conductor of the Phoenix Symphony Youth Orchestra. Previous AZMTO productions include *Sweeney Todd* (2022) and *Parade* (2023).



JONI VAN ROSSUM (*Rehearsal Pianist*) is an accomplished musical director and composer. Originally hailing from the Netherlands, Joni’s 15-year passion for music and theatre

led him to embark on a journey to citizenship in the US. Throughout his career, Joni has been associated with remarkable productions including acclaimed shows like *Blood Brothers*, *Hair*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, and countless others. In 2015, Joni’s outstanding musical works were recognized with an esteemed composition award. Since 2016, Joni has been living in Phoenix. He served as Musical Director for the Scottsdale Musical Theater Company and is now the Director of Media & Production at a local Tempe church. *Big Fish* is Joni’s seventh production with AZMTO.



STEPHEN SCHERMITZLER

(*Chorus Director*) is the Founder and Executive Director of AZMTO. After earning a BFA in Music Composition from ASU in

2010, Stephen became the resident music director for Detour Company Theatre and the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre (now Silver Star), along with several independent local community productions. As a pianist, he has collaborated with artists who have performed Broadway and National Touring runs of *1776*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Waitress*, *Hamilton*, *Camelot*, *New York, New York*, and *42nd Street*. As a singer, he has been a featured vocal soloist or section leader with Arizona Musicfest, Phoenix Chorale, Arizona Bach Festival, Symphony of the Southwest, North Valley Chorale, and the West Valley Symphony. He is intensely devoted to the nurture of authentic artistic development of all actors and musicians. Love always to Ray and the Pod.

SPECIAL THANKS

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH: especially Shari, Bill, and Jerry — for graciously facilitating venue arrangements, storage needs, sheet music supervision, etc., with full hearts and open minds. Thank you for being such generous hosts and for being written into AZMTO's story.

AZMTO BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES: for your service behind the scenes to promote and champion this organization's work. Special thanks to Board Chair Lynne Traverse for her guidance and discernment as we grow.

AZMTO VOLUNTEERS: for all you do, big and small, behind the scenes to keep AZMTO operations running smoothly. You are the backbone of this organization, and we simply could not do what we do without your support. Special thanks to Susan Woods & Kyle Varble for additional volunteer coordination, concessions, and so much more!

THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE: for providing the licensing for Big Fish and other community productions nationwide.

CATHERINE RICAFORT, JOSH CONDON, AND JONI VAN ROSSUM: for your care shown in your devotion to artistry, camaraderie, and community artistic growth, and for the hours of preparation that go largely unnoticed but make such a huge difference. You made all of this happen, and I'm so grateful to you!

SATELLITE COLLECTIVE: for being the nonprofit fiscal sponsor that makes all AZMTO events possible (and all donations tax-deductible!).

ANDREA GUDEYON: for offering guidance to steadily improve the sound quality of every Showcase, for providing equipment in times of need, and for staying levelheaded as we grow. You are dearly appreciated!

AZMTO PARTICIPANTS: for all the time, money, and energy that it takes to create Art for Art's Sake. You are the Heroes of our Story!

PERCUSSIONISTS SONJA BRANCH & JOSH WEINSTEIN: for generously carting your own equipment to and from All Saints for tonight's performance. We simply wouldn't sound the way we do without you.

AUDIENCE: for your support and celebration of 100% LIVE theatre. The Arizona Arts community is strong because of your active and consistent engagement with local programming. Thank you!

GENEROUS AZMTO DONORS: for your ongoing financial support, and for in-kind donations of flights, equipment, snacks, etc. that keep us running strong! Your support helps us become leaders of artistic education & appreciation in our community.

DYLAN SUEHIRO: for your skilled assistance with Playbill design, photography, and social media. Thank you so much for everything you do!

ABOUT THE SHOW

BOOK BY
John August

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
Andrew Lippa

Based on the novel *Big Fish* by Daniel Wallace
and the Columbia Pictures film screenplay by John August

Big Fish is presented through special arrangement with Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by TRW. www.theatricalrights.com

The unauthorized recording of this production, in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited. AZMTO thanks you for your cooperation.

SYNOPSIS

Edward Bloom has lived a full and fantastical life, populated by witches, giants, and mermaids, marked by true love that stops time in its tracks, and framed by heroics that push the limits of believability. His adult son, Will, is no longer amused by his father's fantastical tales, insisting on a rational rather than a fantastical account of one's life. When Edward's health declines, and Will learns that he and his wife, Josephine, will have a son of their own, Will decides to find out his father's "true" life story, once and for all. *Big Fish* is a heartfelt, powerful, and truly magical musical about fathers, sons, and the stories that we use to define our identities. *Written by Rebecca Ballenger*

WHAT'S NEXT?



Showcase: RAGTIME

November 16, 7:00 p.m. | All Saints Lutheran Church

Tickets & Info: www.azmto.org