

FRANK AND BEAN: THE MUSICAL!



KRISTIN BAIR



LIBBY BREWER



BRIDGET ANNE BYRNES



A. J. FREEMAN



BOB KOLAR



SARA KRUPNICK-RITZ



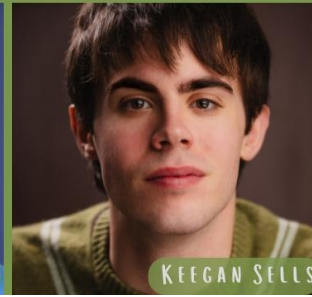
JAMIE MICHALAK



NICOLE MULREADY



JACK ROMERO



KEEGAN SELLS

***Performed at the 2025 WBUR Festival
Saturday, May 31st***

Book, Lyrics, & Direction: A. J. Freeman
Music & Music Direction: Kristin Bair
Choreography: Bridget Anne Byrnes
Prop & Costume Design: Libby Brewer
Cricket Puppet Design: Sara Krupnick-Ritz
Projection Design: Bob Kolar

Cast

Frank: Keegan Sells
Bean: Jack Romero
Owl: Bridget Anne Byrnes
Frog (and Cricket Chirp): Nicole Mulready

Based on the series *Frank and Bean*
Written by Jamie Michalak
Illustrated by Bob Kolar
Published by Candlewick Press

*Special thanks: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center's
Summer for the City, Doug Reside, and Frank Galgano*

Biographies

Kristin Bair (*Music & Music Direction*) is a musical theatre composer who received the 2015 BMI Foundation's Jerry Harrington Award with writing partner Kevin Hammonds for the superhero musical comedy *Up and Away*. It premiered in 2018 at Pittsburgh CLO with an extended 16-week run (director: Marlo Hunter), and its 2020 West Coast premiere at Broadway Rose Theatre Company garnered multiple Portland theatre awards. Their adaptation of Hinda Schuman's memoir *Dear Shirley* received a 2020 NAMT Writers Residency Grant with Philadelphia Theatre Company (director: Paige Price). Up next: an adaptation of *True Crime Obsessed* podcaster Patrick Hinds' book *Failure Is Not NOT an Option*. With lyricist/librettist A.J. Freeman: *Frank and Bean*, from the award-winning children's book - Lincoln Center's Summer for the City 2024; The WBUR Festival 2025. BMI Workshop and Dramatists Guild member.

Libby Brewer (*Prop & Costume Design*) is a senior in high school at Germantown Academy located just outside of Philadelphia. This past year she performed in her school's production of *Mamma Mia* in the ensemble as well as led the girl's high school diving team as team captain. Next year Libby will be attending Tulane University in Louisiana studying business. Libby is happy to be the prop designer for the production of *Frank and Bean the Musical*!

Bridget Anne Byrnes (*Owl*) is excited to be a part of Frank & Bean! She is a Boston Conservatory graduate. Favorite roles include Ashlee in *Dance Nation* and Charlotte in *Helen of Troy*. She recently made her debut at 54 Below in NYC and will return this June in *Acts of Love*. Bridget also choreographs for Spotlight Theatre Productions, working with youth performers. bridgetannebyrnes.com & [@bridgetbyrnes.actor](https://www.instagram.com/bridgetbyrnes.actor).

A. J. Freeman (*Book, Lyrics, & Direction*) is a writer, teacher, director, and performer- and the first *three-time* Lincoln Center Library for the Performing Arts Billy Rose Theatre Division Fellowship Winner (for her musicals *Tomorrow*, *The Carousel of Inevitability and Certain Foreboding*, and *The Crane Wife*). A. J.'s other musicals include: *A Cordial Invitation*, *Hay Fever*, *Derailed!*, *fables*, *You Don't Say* (award-winning musical film), *Curses!*, *What's Her Line?*, *Kurt 'n' Pat: Spies 4 Hire!!!*, *In Other Words*, *Today We Celebrate Earth Day*, and *A Note of Explanation*. A. J. has worked for over 12 years in educational theater, directing dozens of full scale productions, and running her own literacy-based musical theater nonprofit for underserved students across Los Angeles. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild and Actors' Equity. Follow A. J.'s adventures here: aj-freeman.com // YouTube: [afreeman727](https://www.youtube.com/user/afreeman727) // IG: [@ajfreeman727](https://www.instagram.com/ajfreeman727)

Bob Kolar (*Illustrator of Frank and Bean & Projection Design*) grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. He studied at the Columbus College of Art & Design and Syracuse University. He has illustrated over thirty-five picture books, seven of which he was also the author. Bob's work has been translated into eleven different languages. Two of Bob's books have been turned into animated television series. In addition to books, Bob has created an array of products for children including cards, puzzles, games, apparel, plush and toys. He lives and works in the Kansas City area.

Sara Krupnick-Ritz (*Cricket Puppet Design*) is a costume/prop designer, ceramicist, and arts educator. She has a passion for transforming everyday tactile materials to help inspire our imaginations and bring worlds to life. In her spare time, Sara enjoys building things with clay and upcycled materials. She hopes the work touches hearts and that it is impossible for the viewer not to want to touch and feel it with their own hands. Sara is thrilled to be part of *Frank and Bean the Musical*!

Jamie Michalak (*Author of Frank and Bean*) is the author of many children's books, including the Frank and Bean series, the Joe and Sparky series, the Dakota Crumb picture books, and *Hazel the Handful*. She has also adapted numerous TV shows and movies. Jamie is a secret notebook owner, just like Frank. She lives in Rhode Island. Visit her at www.jamiemichalakbooks.com.

Nicole Mulready (*Frog*) is jumping for joy to be making her professional theatre debut in *Frank and Bean* as Frog! Some of her other favorite credits are playing Shelby Hinkley in *I'm Gonna Marry You Tobey Maguire* and Bertie in *The Convent* at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee where she received her BFA in Musical Theatre earlier this month. Special thanks to the brilliant writers A.J. Freeman and Kristin Bair, this awesome cast, and her wonderful family and friends. nicolemulready.com

Jack Romero (*Bean*) is a determined and ambitious actor, singer, and comedian who loves bringing comedy and heart to audiences on stage and camera. Favorite past roles include "Buddy Fidler" in *City of Angels*, "Miss Trunchbull" in *Matilda*, "Action" in *West Side Story*, and "Sheriff Reynolds" in Casa Mañana's *Bat Boy*. He is so excited to be bringing this hysterical show to life with such a wonderful cast and creative team. Special thanks to his family, Katya who shared this opportunity, and Renee and Joe at About Artists Agency. website - jackromero.net instagram - [jackromero.mt](https://www.instagram.com/jackromero)

Keegan Sells (*Frank*) is excited to be working on *Frank and Bean* with some of his favorite classmates from Boston Conservatory, where he recently graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre. He's recently worked on: *Million Dollar Quartet* (Metropolis Arts), *Spring Awakening* (Madison Lyric Stage), *The Wedding Singer* (Great Plains Theatre), and *I'm Gonna Marry You Tobey Maguire* (Boston Conservatory.) When he's not being a hot dog Keegan likes to visit antique stores, take photos, and play guitar. Keegan would like to thank his family for constantly supporting him and his multiple trips to Fenway Park in preparation for this role.