

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Theatre and Dance

presents

Big Fish

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.

Directed by Kate Arecchi

Music Direction by Adam Shenk

Choreography by Brittney Griffin

Scenic and Projection Design by Ryan Michalowicz

Costume Design by Harri Horsley

Associate Costume Design by Jill Parzych

Wig Design by Karman Boisset

Lighting Design by Catherine Holcomb

Sound Design by Simon Marland

Props Design by Emma Skog

Dramaturg: Theresa Carpinelli

Stage Manager: Emily Doppée

Tuesday-Saturday, February 25-March 1, 2025 @ 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 2, 2025 @ 2:00 pm

Mainstage Theatre

Atmospheric haze and fog will be used in this production.

*Presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance
materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide. 1180 Avenue of the
Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036 www.theatricalrights.com*

Dramaturg's Note

We all craft tall tales. We excitedly share exaggerated details, oftentimes making us seem brighter and stronger in the process. In the most often told version of your first day at sleep-away camp, maybe the counselors are 10 feet tall. The roller coaster you rode on the hottest day of summer gets one more loop every time the story is shared. In the retelling of when you met the love of your life, time literally stopped. In this way, storytelling, parables, and folklore are incorporated into the fabric of our history. The “true” versions of these occasions are absorbed by the winds of fantasy, memory, and grandeur.

Big Fish tells the story of Edward Bloom, the biggest “fish” in the small “pond” of Ashton, Alabama. His life, as it is known by his son Will, is that of legendary myth. Since Will was young, Edward has told stories. The ordinary memories of the people Edward meets, places he visits, and connections he forms are retold as magnificent tales. For Will, the facts of his father's life have become intertwined with the mythic versions in his stories. Edward's consistent narrative makes him out to be the ultimate hero, but where does the sincerity lie in his larger-than-life image? Who is Edward really? Why does he tell stories - why do any of us? Does it even matter what is true? And in the end, must we determine where fairy tales end and reality begins?

Stories have unmistakable power. They tie us to the people and places in our lives, forging an unbreakable bond through the act of creating and telling. From parent to child, between friends, and as generations pass, the memories made with stories are what is left behind and shared. Stories become the thread with which we weave our individual journeys into the “perfect tale” of our lives. While those camp counselors may not have been quite that tall, that memory and the story it became formed a new truth in itself.

Like in Edward Bloom's mythic life, telling stories is how we remember and are remembered. And there is magic in that. As Daniel Wallace, author of the original novel *Big Fish*, so beautifully reminds us, “when [someone's] stories are remembered, then [they are] immortal.”

Theresa Carpinelli
Dramaturg

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Edward	Mason Jett
Will	Solomon Iem
Young Will/ Will's Son	Pryor Ferguson (2/25, 2/27, 3/1) Flint Herrick (2/26, 2/28, 3/2)
The Witch	Tessa DeGrace
Karl (The Giant)	Harrison Melton
Mermaid	Tara Kay Moran
Fisherman	John Sheldon
Sandra	Carrigan Young
Don Price	Brandon McKinney
Zacky Price	Sofia Cruz
Josephine	Campbell Ella
Dr. Bennett	Ashley Calza
Jenny Hill	Maria Carpinelli
Mayor/ General Patterson	Max Layman
Amos	Malik Jallow
Alabama Lambs	Ellie Boles, Alyssa Minuto, Alexis Wiest
Over-Excited Scout	Jarius Hines
Red Fang	Alex Geoffroy
Dancing Fire	Ella Walters
Ensemble	Ellie Boles, Jonah Burton, Ashley Calza, Aaron Crouse, Sofia Cruz, Tessa DeGrace, Brenna Duffy, Aaliyah Ellison, Alex Geoffroy, Jarius Hines, Max Layman, Brandon McKinney, Alyssa Minuto, Tara Kay Moran, Dylan Schneider, John Sheldon, Alia Smalls-Ojuolape, Ella Walters, Alexis Wiest

Understudies & Swings

Understudies and swings never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement for the appearance is made at the time of the performance.

Understudies

Edward: Malik Jallow, *Will:* Brandon McKinney, *The Witch:* Alia Smalls-Ojuolape, *Karl:* Max Layman, *Sandra:* Brenna Duffy, *Don Price:* Alex Geoffroy, *Zacky Price:* Dylan Schneider, *Josephine:* Ashley Calza, *Dr. Bennett:* Jarius Hines, *Jenny Hill:* Tara Kay Moran, *Amos:* John Sheldon

Swings

Lucy Carnese, Marisol Chesla, Nicholas Ferreira, Olivia Florian, Tate Gilbert

Musical Numbers

Act I

“Be the Hero”	Edward, Company
“I Know What You Want”	The Witch, Edward, Company
“Just Take Another Look”	Josephine
“Stranger”	Will
“Two Men in My Life”	Sandra
“Ashton’s Favorite Son”	Company
“Out There on the Road”	Edward, Karl, Jenny Hill, Company
“Little Lamb from Alabama”	Sandra, Alabama Lambs
“Time Stops”	Edward, Sandra
“Closer to Her”	Edward, Amos, Company
“Daffodils”	Edward, Sandra

15-minute Intermission

Act II

“Red, White, and True”	Sandra, Edward, Company
“Fight the Dragons”	Edward, Young Will
“Stranger (Reprise)”	Will
“Showdown”	Will, Edward, Company
“I Don’t Need a Roof”	Sandra
“Start Over”	Edward, Don, Amos, Karl, Zacky, Company
“Start Over (Reprise)”	Edward
“What’s Next”	Will, Edward, Company
“How it Ends”	Edward
“Be the Hero (Reprise)”	Will

Orchestra

Conductor	Adam Shenk
Keyboards	Adam Shenk, Dan Curtis
Guitars	Drew Dodson, Brendan Ramirez
Piccolo, Flute, Alto Flute, Alto & Tenor Sax, Clarinet	Emma Lisson (2/25, 2/28-3/2), Mihir Borah (2/26-2/27)
Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Tenor & Baritone Sax, Bassoon	Ian Graff
Trumpet	Owen Brown (2/26-3/2), Mason Puckett (2/25)
French Horn	Kendall Hicks (2/25, 2/28-3/2), Ainsley Hanson (2/26-2/27)

Orchestra (cont'd)

Violin	Alexandra Goodell (2/25-2/28, 3/2), Sierra Rickard (3/1)
Viola	Elliot Drew
Cello	Danny Postlethwait
Bass	Jack Choi
Drums	Josh Sheppard
Percussion	Richard Collister III
Percussion Assistant	Adelaide Hofmann

Production Staff

Production Manager	Brian Smallwood
Technical Director	Connor Profit
Lighting and Projections Supervisor	Catherine Holcomb
Scene Shop Supervisor	James Eaton
Costume Shop Manager	Jill Parzych
Assistant Costume Shop Manager	Jenny McNee
Assistant Director	Benjamin Mills
2nd Assistant Director	Hannah Wiegand
CASTING ASSISTANT	Bethanie Richters
Lighting and Projections Supervisor	Catherine Holcomb
Sound Mixers	Ellie McNally, Leslie Evanko, Mikey Barlow
Intimacy and Fight Choreographer	Kate Arecchi
Assistant Intimacy Choreographer	Savannah Gravitt
Circus Consultant	Lucas Mugica
Fight Captain	Alex Geoffroy
Associate Choreographer	Sireena Dunford
Assistant Choreographers/Dance Captains	Jonah Burton, Quincee Stamps
Assistant Music Director	Dan Curtis
Rehearsal Accompanists	Dan Curtis, Adam Shenk
Orchestra Pit Assistant	Danny Postlethwait
Vocal Captains	Maria Carpinelli, John Sheldon
Assistant Stage Managers	Lily Pinchbeck, Sadie Watterworth, Aly Brement
Production Publicist	MK Patteson
Cast Deputy	Max Layman
Assistant Lighting Designer	Joey Besant
Assistant Scenic and Projections Designer	Zoe Rodenas
Assistant Costume Designers	Meg Hogan, Kayden Peddicord
Associate Props Designer	Madison Hill

Production Staff (cont'd)

Assistant Props Designers	Alyx Strong, Emma McMahon
Head Electrician	Kaylie Richmond
Assistant Head Electrician	Abby Greenstreet
Scenic Designer Faculty Mentor	James Ogden
Musical Theatre Social Media Manager	Malik Jallow
STAD Publicity and Media	Anjali Sharma, Mina Alhomos
Costume Shop Employees	Erin Boyle, Jordyn Butts, Maria Carpinelli, Tessa DeGrace, Leslie Evanko, Erin Feldman, Meg Hogan, Solomon Iem, Hope King, Lucas Mugica, Kayden Peddicord, Erin Webber
Costume Shop Practicum	Haiku Burgiel, Jonah Burton, Kal Jack Collins, Sofia Cruz, Grace Drasin, Alexandra Gound, Dylan Hammer, Hope King, Heleigh Maguire-Hernandez, Jaeli Mason, Aamirah McDonald, Maggie Meynardie, Lily Pinchbeck, Caitlin Quigley, Zoe Rodenas, McKenna Slocum, Emily Wasson, Alexis West, Jacob Wunderler
Lighting Shop Employees	Abby Greenstreet, Alex Tuszynski, Alyssa Minuto, Campbell Ella, Carrigan Young, Drew Workman, Joey Besant, Kate Schneider, Katherine Dee, Kaylie Richmond, Mason Jett, Stella Shoemaker
Lighting Shop Practicum	Madi Aedo Espicto, Will Chapman, Aaron Crouse, Rylan Farey, Alexandra Gound, Dan Klein, Manuel Mejias, Lauren Motter, Agori Padgett, Cameron Parker, Makayla Parker, Mason Vales, Jackson Zahn
Overhire Painter	Brittany Mongold
Lead Carpenter	Benjamin Mills
Scene Shop Employees	Myer Kim, Emily Doppée, Emma Skog, Meg Hogan, Emma McMahon, Haiku Burgiel, Sarah Schmidt, Joshua Kunkel, Aaron Crouse, Ryan Michalowicz
Scene Shop Practicum	Magdalena Ignacia Aedo Espicto, Annabelle Bozarth, Caroline Bunner, Salem Clouse, Lexi Donnelly, Kelly Dudley, Brenna Duffy, Megan Frigerio, Alexandra Gound, Madison Hill, Jarius Hines, Amy Jo Lee, Brandon McKinney, Tara Moran, Alex Pollard, Katherine Porter, Kaylie Richmond, Morgan Roberts, Claire Sauls, Kate Schneider, Penelope Venhaus, Kylie Watkins, Alexis West
Sound Shop Employees	Stella Shoemaker, Caroline Bunner, Emily Doppée, Leslie Evanko, Luke Freisner, Daniel Gilmore, Myer Kim, Kate Schneider, Declan Wood
Sound Shop Practicum	Abby Greenstreet, Alexandra Gound, Drew Workman, Ellie McNally, Joey Bessant, Leslie Evanko, Madison Hill, Mikey Barlow, Savannah Gravitt, Vesa Fhankham, Zoe Rodenas, Alex Tuszynski
Paint crew	Salem Clouse, Abby Greenstreet, Gavin Greygor, Adam Hill, Meg Hogan, Canyon Koenig, Emma McMahon, Ryan Michalowicz, Lily Pinchbeck, Ivy Ridenhour, Zoe Rodenas, Stephi Shraga

Production Staff (cont'd)

Running Crew

Sam Brinton, Makayla Galgano, Fin Harrison, Sam Hodges, Elizabeth Houser, Heleigh Maguire-Hernandez, Jenna Moser, Valeria Navia, Hunter Olsen, Agori Padgett, Kaleigh Parkinson, Josh Porter, Francesca Racanelli, Payton Rhodes, Lily Irene Rork, Claire Rumuly, Myah Scott, Renee Smith, Shohan Thapa, Daniel Wright, Jacob Wunderler

Special thanks:

Damian Dominguez and Tiia Lager (Carnegie Mellon University), Richard Finkelstein, Becky Ford, Kate Lumpkin, Justin Poole, the Ferguson and Herrick families, Elisabeth Wislar (Washington and Lee University), Kathleen Conery, Ryan Corrison, Ben Lambert, David Newman, Cypress Smith, Haley Davis, Joss Hill, Klutch Hill, Micheal Hill, and Micheal Clem

Please turn off all pagers, cell phones, personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

The unauthorized videotaping or any other recording of this production is strictly prohibited in adherence with federal copyright laws.

Upcoming Events

MARCH

Jazz at Lincoln Center presents <i>New Orleans Songbook</i>	Mar. 2
*The Vanishing Elephant	Mar. 7
Houston Ballet II	Mar. 25-26

APRIL

<i>The Antipodes</i>	Apr. 1-6
<i>Idomeneo</i>	Apr. 5-6
Miró Quartet	Apr. 11
Reduced Shakespeare Company: <i>All the Great Books</i>	Apr. 16
<i>New Voices in Dance</i>	Apr. 11-13
JMU Symphony Honors	Apr. 27

*A Forbes Family Fun event

Friends of the Arts and Design

Thanks to our generous Friends of the Arts and Design scholarship donors whose support allows our students to continue to create, perform, and inspire.

Arts and Design Hero (\$5,000+)

James McHone Jewelry • Ann and Mark Siciliano

Arts and Design Champion (\$1,500 - \$4,999)

Rubén Graciani and Matt Pardo • Hotel Madison • Kathy Moran Wealth Group • Mack and Towana Moore • Shannon Tierney

Arts and Design Advocate (\$500 - \$1,499)

Beth and Jim Cahill • Nancy Davis • Matthew Duffy and Christine Jimenez-Duffy • Energy Windows LLC • Jonathan Fox • Holly Haney and Bob Kolvoord • Matchbox Realty • Barbara and William Mayo • Ron Pugh • Scott and Wren Stevens • Matthew and Sarah Von Schuch

Arts and Design Ally (\$250 - \$499)

Paul Ackerman and Weldon Bagwell • John Allemeier • Elizabeth Alspaugh • Jerry Benson and Martha Ross • Stephen Bolstad and Stephanie Wasta • Robert and Suzanne Bothamley • Jared and Jenny Burden • David and Jennifer Campfield • Jennifer Copeland • Myron Dickerson • Len and Miriam Discenza • Rhonda Dolan • Hillary Ellis • Joe and Rose Estock • Bob and Linda Failes • Johnny and Phyllis Garber • Quillon Hall and Karin Tollefson-Hall • Holly Haney and Bob Kolvoord • George and Marilou Johnson • Jamie and Tim Miller • John Keightley and Tammy Mannarino • Brenda and Ronald Krablin • Kristi Lewis • Kathryn and Michael Loy • Nick Swartz • Kristee Jo Trumbo • Cecelia Wolf • Melinda Wood

Theatre, Dance and You

How you can become a patron of the arts!

Many scholarships are funded by generous individuals who recognize the important role that theatre, musical theatre, dance and the arts play in society. Scholarship contributions help further the development of new, creative voices – artists who will leave James Madison University and make a difference in the world.

As our program grows, we strive to continue to help these young students find their artistic paths. Your generous contribution to this endeavor is greatly appreciated. With your help, we will be able to offer our talented students more financial help in pursuing their goals. You can make a difference in the lives of our student artists.

Thank you for supporting the arts through your attendance at the Forbes Center. If the magic of theatre and dance is important to you, please consider making a contribution to one of the funds used for scholarships and program enhancements. We sincerely appreciate any contribution you choose to make. Thank you!

Visit us online at www.j.mu/stad