



SPEAKEASY STAGE TO REMOUNT “*FUN HOME*” JUNE 8-30, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Jim Torres -617.529.1670

Click [here](#) for a Selection of Photos from the SpeakEasy Production of *Fun Home*

(BOSTON) – Due to unprecedented demand, SpeakEasy Stage will remount its acclaimed production of **FUN HOME** for four additional weeks, June 8-30, 2019. Amy Jo Jackson, Ellie van Amerongen, and Marissa Simeqi will return to play the three Alisons in the production, which ranks as SpeakEasy’s top-selling show ever. Tickets for these new dates are now on sale.

“I am thrilled to have another opportunity to share **FUN HOME** with Boston audiences,” said the show’s director, SpeakEasy Founder and Producing Artistic Director Paul Daigneault. “I couldn’t be more proud of this production, and am thrilled by how our audiences have embraced this show.”

Featuring music by Tony Award winner Jeanine Tesori and a book and lyrics by Tony Award winner Lisa Kron, **FUN HOME** is a landmark musical about seeing one’s parents through grown-up eyes. Based on Ms. Bechdel’s best-selling memoir of the same name, this groundbreaking musical introduces us to Alison at three different ages, revealing memories that celebrate the curiosity of childhood, the challenges of coming out, and the complexities of family.

SpeakEasy Founder and Producing Artistic Director Paul Daigneault will oversee this remount, which he originally directed for the company. Winner of three Elliot Norton Awards including the 2014 Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence, Mr. Daigneault had directed dozens of Boston premieres, including the company’s recent productions of *The Scottsboro Boys*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *Allegiance*.

The artistic team also includes IRNE Award-winning Music Director Matthew Stern and Choreographer Sarah Crane.

Other members of the cast slated to return are Laura Marie Duncan, Luke Gold, Desiré Graham, Cameron Levesque, and Todd Yard.

The design team includes Cristina Todesco (scenic); Charles Schoonmaker (costumes); Karen Perlow (lighting); Andrew Duncan Will (sound); and Jennifer Butler (props).

Rachel Sturm is the Production Stage Manager. John Meredith is the Assistant Stage Manager.

FUN HOME will run for four weeks, from June 8-30, 2019, in the Roberts Studio Theatre in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston.

Tickets prices start at \$25, with discounts for students, seniors, and persons age 25 and under.

For tickets or more information, the public is invited to call the box office at **617.933.8600** or visit www.SpeakEasyStage.com.

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SpeakEasy Stage Company

FUN HOME RETURNS JUNE 2019

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Show History

In 2009, Lisa Kron (Book and Lyrics) and Jeanine Tesori (Music) began adapting Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* into a musical.

The show was first work-shopped at the Ojai Playwrights Conference in 2009 followed by further development at both the Sundance Theatre Lab and The Public Theater's Public Lab in 2012.

The first full production opened Off-Broadway in October of 2013 at The Public Theater. The cast included Beth Malone as Alison, Alexandra Socha as Medium Alison, and Sydney Lucas as (Small Alison) plus Michael Ceveris and Judy Kuhn as parents Helen and Bruce Bechdel.

Notable for being "the first mainstream musical about a young lesbian," the Public Theater's production of *Fun Home* required multiple extensions due to high ticket demands. This production was nominated for nine Lucille Lortel Awards (winning three, including Outstanding Musical), two Obie Awards and eight Drama Desk Awards, and was a finalist for the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

In April 2015, *Fun Home* opened on Broadway at Circle in the Square Theatre, with Emily Skeggs taking over the role of Medium Alison. This production was nominated for twelve Tony Awards, winning five, including Best Musical, Best Score (Jeanine Tesori and Lisa Kron), and Best Book (Lisa Kron). This was the first time an all female-writing team took home the Tony for Best Score as well as Best Musical.

In 2016, the original cast recording was nominated for a 2016 Grammy Award.

Creative Team Information

JEANINE TESORI (Music) won the Tony Award for Best Original Score with Lisa Kron for the musical *Fun Home*. She has also written Tony-nominated scores for *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center; *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (lyrics, Dick Scanlan); *Caroline, or Change* (lyrics, Tony Kushner); and *Shrek The Musical* (lyrics, David Lindsay-Abaire). The production of *Caroline, or Change* at the National Theatre in London received the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Her 1997 Off-Broadway musical *Violet* (lyrics, Brian Crawley) opened on Broadway in 2014 and garnered four Tony nominations, including Best Musical Revival. Opera: *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (libretto, Tony Kushner; Glimmerglass) and *The Lion, The Unicorn, and Me* (libretto, J. D. McClatchy, Kennedy Center). Music for plays: *Mother Courage* (dir. George C. Wolfe, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline), John Guare's *A Free Man of Color* (Lincoln Center Theater, dir. George C. Wolfe), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Delacorte Gala). Film scores: *Nights in Rodanthe*, *Every Day*, and *You're Not You*. Ms. Tesori is a member of the Dramatists Guild and was cited by the ASCAP as the first female composer to have two new musicals running concurrently on Broadway. She is the founding artistic director of Encores! Off-Center at New York City Center, and is a lecturer in music at Yale University.

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CreativeTeam Information (cont).

LISA KRON (Book and Lyrics) is a writer and performer whose work has been widely produced in New York, regionally, and internationally. She wrote the book and lyrics for musical *Fun Home*, with music by composer Jeanine Tesori, which won five 2015 Tony awards including Best Book, Score, and Musical, and was finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Lisa's other plays include *In The Wake, Well*, and the Obie Award winning *2.5 Minute Ride*. As an actor, she received a Tony award nomination for her performance in *Well* and a Lortel Award for her turn as Mrs. Mi-Tzu and Mrs. Yang in the Foundry Theater's acclaimed production of *Good Person of Szechuan*. She is the recipient of Guggenheim, Sundance and MacDowell fellowships, a Doris Duke Performing Artists Award, a Cal Arts/Alpert Award, a Helen Merrill Award, the Kleban Prize for libretto writing, and grants from the Creative Capital and NYFA. Lisa is also founding member of the OBIE- and Bessie-Award-winning collaborative theater company The Five Lesbian Brothers. She serves on the boards of the MacDowell Colony and the Sundance Institute, and as Council Vice President of the Dramatists Guild of America.

ALISON BECHDEL (Author of the Graphic Novel) created the countercultural comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*, which ran in lesbian and gay publications from 1983 to 2008. In 2006, Bechdel began to gain a wider readership with the publication of *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, named Best Book of the Year by *TIME Magazine*. She followed this with a memoir about her mother, *Are You My Mother?: A Comic Drama*. Bechdel has drawn comics for many publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Slate*, *McSweeney's*, *The New York Times Book Review* and *Granta*. She is currently at work on another graphic memoir called *The Secret to Superhuman Strength*.

Artistic Team Information

PAUL DAIGNEAULT (Director/Producing Artistic Director) was the recipient of the 2014 Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence presented by the Boston Theater Critics Association. Since founding SpeakEasy in 1992, he has produced over 100 Boston premieres. SpeakEasy directing highlights include *Allegiance*; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; *The Scottsboro Boys*; *Significant Other*; *Dogfight*; *Violet* (2016); *Mothers & Sons*; *Big Fish*; *The Color Purple*; *In the Heights*; *Xanadu*; *Next to Normal*; *Nine*; *Body Awareness*; *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*; [title of show]; *The Savannah Disputation*; *Jerry Springer: The Opera*; *The New Century*; *Some Men*; *Zanna, Don't!*; *Parade* [2008 Elliot Norton Award–Outstanding Director]; *Almost Maine*; *Caroline, or Change*; *Take Me Out*; *Company*; *A Man of No Importance* (co-production Sógán); *Bat Boy: The Musical* [2003 Elliot Norton Award - Outstanding Director]; *Passion*; *A New Brain*; *Violet* (2000); *Songs for a New World*; *Floyd Collins*; *Love! Valour! Compassion!*; and *Jeffrey*. Regional credits: *Grand Hotel* and *Nine* (The Boston Conservatory and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music); *Rent*; *City of Angels*; *Sunday in the Park with George*; *Merrily We Roll Along* (The Boston Conservatory); *Evita*; *Into the Woods*; *Urinetown*; *Blue Window* (Boston College). Paul is a Professor of Musical Theater at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He was honored in 2007 with the Boston College Art's Council's Alumni Award for Distinguished Achievement, and served as the 2011-2012 Rev. J. Donald Monan S. J. Professor in Theatre Arts.

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Artistic Team Information (cont).

MATTHEW STERN (Music Director) is thrilled to return to SpeakEasy Stage after music directing *Allegiance*, *The Bridges of Madison County* (IRNE Award), *The Scottsboro Boys* (IRNE Award), *Violet*, and *Big Fish*. Other Boston area credits: *Merrily We Roll Along* (Huntington [IRNE Award, Elliot Norton Nomination]); *She Loves Me*, *Altar Boyz*, *Mame*, *Forum*, and *The Nutcracker* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *Shrek*, *Hairspray* (Wheelock); *Brecht on Brecht*, *Assassins* (New Rep); *Ragtime* (Fiddlehead); *Parade*, *The Human Comedy*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Assassins*, and *Merrily We Roll Along* (Boston University), and many productions at French Woods Festival. Matthew teaches musical theater on the faculties of The Boston Conservatory at Berklee and Boston University, and holds an MFA in Theatre Studies from Boston University. Upcoming: *Runaways* (Boston University), *Cabaret* (Boston Conservatory at Berklee), *James and the Giant Peach* (Wheelock). www.mattsternmusic.com

SARAH CRANE (Choreographer) returns to SpeakEasy after last appearing as an actor in *In the Heights* and *Big Fish*. Sarah is a Miami native who received a BFA from The Boston Conservatory with a major in Musical Theater. Now based in NYC, Sarah has choreographed new musicals Off-Broadway at The Players Theatre, and most recently at The Corkscrew Theatre Festival. Big thanks to Paul D. for bringing me back into the SpeakEasy family. www.sarahcrane.net

Actor Information

LAURA MARIE DUNCAN* (Helen) is thrilled to be making her SpeakEasy debut. She is a Massachusetts native and a proud graduate of The Boston Conservatory. Broadway credits include the original companies of *The Full Monty*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and *South Pacific* at Lincoln Center, as well as the final 16 months of *Billy Elliot*. Laura Marie also starred as Christine in the first national tour of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Off-Broadway credits include *Cupid and Psyche* (Houseman Theatre); *La Terrasse* (Manhattan Theatre Club); *An Experiment with an Air Pump* (MTC); *House and Garden* (MTC), *Heat Lightning* (Kirk Theatre); and *The Body Beautiful* (York Theatre). She has also had the privilege of working extensively with musical director Ted Sperling on concerts at the 92nd St. Y in NYC, as well as in St. Petersburg, Russia. Laura Marie has also enjoyed working regionally at Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera, New Rep, and North Shore Music Theatre. Television credits include *Law and Order*; *Law and Order: SVU*; *Ed*; *Guiding Light*. Things coming full circle as they do, Laura Marie is now enjoying the next phase of her career as an Associate Professor at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where she teaches Senior Musical Theatre and directs the Senior Showcase in NYC.

LUKE GOLD (John) is so excited to be making his SpeakEasy debut with *Fun Home*. Professional credits include *Mame* (North Shore Music Theatre); *Beauty and the Beast* (Wheelock Family Theatre); *Billy Elliot*, *Oliver!*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *A Christmas Carol* (Palace Theatre, Manchester, NH). Favorite youth theatre credits: *Addams Family Young@Part*, *Seussical Jr.*, *All Shook Up Young@Part*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Disney's Jungle Book Kids!*

DESIRÉ GRAHAM (Joan) is delighted and tickled pink to be making her SpeakEasy debut in *Fun Home*. Previously she's appeared in O.W.I.'s Boston premiere of *Red Velvet* as Connie. She is a recent graduate of Boston University's School of Theatre where she credits include *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom*, *Baltimore*, *Cabaret*, and *Gem of the Ocean*. Thank you, Alison Bechdel, for your graphic novel and your story.

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Actor Information (cont).

AMY JO JACKSON (Alison). SpeakEasy: *Nine*; *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Elliot Norton & IRNE nominations). NYC: EPBB, The Flea, Prospect, EST, UCB, The PIT. Selected regional: *The Little Mermaid* (Arkansas Rep); *The Wizard of Oz* (Syracuse Stage); *Boeing Boeing* (Seven Angels); *Midsummer* (W.H.A.T.); *Cymbeline* (Opera House Arts); *Noises Off* (Lake Dillon). Amy Jo is also an accomplished text and dialect coach (*Kinky Boots* – Broadway, First National Tour, and Toronto companies) and cabaret artist who has performed in many of NYC’s clubs (Feinstein’s/54 Below, Joe’s Pub, The Green Room 42, The Duplex, littlefield, Laurie Beechman, Caveat). BFA: The Boston Conservatory. Insta/Twitter: @amyjojackson; amyjojackson.com

CAMERON LEVESQUE (Christian) is thrilled to make his SpeakEasy debut! Select Regional: *Merrily We Roll Along* [2018 IRNE Nomination—Promising Young Performer] (Huntington Theatre Company); *Mame* [2016 ArtsImpulse Award—Best Student Actor] (Greater Boston Stage Company); *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Fiddlehead Theatre Company); *Carousel* (Reagle Music Theatre); *Mary Poppins* [2017 IRNE Nomination—Promising Young Performer] (Wheelock Family Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (Hanover Theatre); *The Wizard of Oz* (Metrowest Family Theatre); and The Who’s *Tommy* (Turtle Lane Playhouse). He has starred in *Billy Elliot* and *Newsies*, both performed through Weston Drama Workshop. Cameron can also be heard in Family Time Audio Theatre’s recording of *Jimmy and the Star Angel*.

MARISSA SIMEQI (Small Alison). SpeakEasy: Debut. Marissa is an IRNE Award winner and a sixth grader at Doherty Middle School in Andover. This is her third professional show. Previously she appeared at Gloucester Stage as Little Lucie in *Madame Defarge* and at Greater Boston Stage Company (GBSC) as Estelle in *Gabriel*. She has also appeared in many shows with GBSC’s Young Company.

ELLIE VAN AMERONGEN (Medium Alison) is incredibly excited to be back at SpeakEasy doing a show she holds so close to her heart. She was previously seen in *Men on Boats* last fall as Seneca Howland. Ellie graduated from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee in May where she studied Musical Theater with an emphasis in Songwriting. You can find her music on SoundCloud/YouTube @ellievanam.. www.ellievanam.com

TODD YARD (Bruce). SpeakEasy: Debut. Credits include *Barnum* (PT Barnum) and *The Wild Party* (Burrs) with Moonbox Productions; *Company* (David) and *Gypsy* (Uncle Jocko) at Lyric Stage; *Man of La Mancha* (The Governor) at New Rep; *A Little Night Music* (Fredrik) at NextDoor Theater; *Carousel* (Jigger) and *Oklahoma!* (Ali Hakim) at Reagle Music Theatre; and *La Cage Aux Folles* (Albin) and *Ragtime* (Tateh) at The Umbrella. Todd is a graduate of Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London.

For tickets or more information on **FUN HOME**, the public can call the BostonTheatreScene Box Office at 617.933.8600 or visit www.SpeakEasyStage.com.

Press inquiries should be directed to **Marketing & Communications Director Jim Torres**:
Office: 617.482.3279 Cell: 617.529.1670 Email: JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com

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SpeakEasy STAGE COMPANY

STAGING BOSTON PREMIERES

Calendar Listing Information

FUN HOME

Music by Jeanine Tesori, Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron; Based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel

Presented by: SpeakEasy Stage Company, the Calderwood Pavilion Resident Theatre Company at the Boston Center for the Arts; Paul Daigneault, Producing Artistic Director

FUN HOME is a landmark musical about seeing one's parents through grown up eyes. Based on Bechdel's best-selling memoir, this groundbreaking musical introduces us to Alison at three different ages, revealing memories that celebrate the curiosity of childhood, the challenges of coming out, and the complexities of family.

Cast: Laura Marie Duncan, Luke Gold, Desiré Graham, Amy Jo Jackson, Cameron Levesque, Marissa Simeqi, Ellie van Amerongen, Todd Yard

Director: Paul Daigneault

Artistic Team: Music Director: Matthew Stern
Choreographer: Sarah Crane

Design Team: Scenic: Cristina Todesco**
Costumes: Charles Schoonmaker **
Lighting: Karen Perlow **
Sound: Andrew Duncan Will
Props: Jennifer Butler

Production Stage Manager: Rachel Sturm*
Assistant Stage Manager: John Meredith

Performing at: The Roberts Studio Theatre
in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts,
527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End

Performance Schedule: June 8-30, 2019
Tu, Wed. & Thurs -7:30PM; Fri & Sat. - 8PM; Sun. - 3PM.
Additional performances Sat. June 8 – 4PM, Sun., June 9 - 7PM

Estimated Run Time: 1 hour and 40 minutes without intermission

Ticket Prices: Tickets start at \$25. Seniors: \$5 off at all times except gallery seats.
Age 25 and under: \$25 at all times.

Student Rush: \$15 with valid college ID, in person at the box-office only,
two hours before curtain, subject to availability.
Limit – one rush ticket per valid ID.

Box Office: 617.933.8600; www.SpeakEasyStage.com

Press Contact Only: Jim Torres – 617.529.1670 (cell – not for publication)
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