

2022  
may 13-june 11

program



west  
chester  
play  
house



directed by Kathy Dershimer

musical direction by Cheryl Gaul

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produced by **Jenny Boone** and **Harold Dershimer**

book and lyrics by **Lisa Kron**

music by **Jeanine Tesori**

based on the graphic novel by **Alison Bechdel**

May 13 - June 11, 2022

"Fun Home" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company

Kentwood Players proudly presents

# FUN HOME



Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron  
Music by Jeanine Tesori  
Based on the Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel

**DIRECTED BY** Kathy Dershimer  
Produced by Jenny Boone, Harold Dershimer

**Set Designer**  
Kathy Dershimer

**Music Director**  
Cheryl Gaul

**Lighting Designer/Sound Designer**  
Michael Thorpe

**Stage Manager**  
Roy Okida

## CAST

**Alison**  
**Medium Alison**  
**Small Alison**  
**Bruce Bechdel**  
**Helen Bechdel**  
**Christian Bechdel**  
**John Bechdel**  
**Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby** Jeremy  
Joan

Amanda Webb  
Nico Fisher  
Natalie Cayetano  
Jon Sparks  
Dana Weisman  
Ryver Townsend  
Amelia Fischer  
Grant Ruckheim  
Julia Sison

## MUSICIANS

**Conductor/Keyboard**  
**Cello**  
**Violin**

Cheryl Gaul  
Michael Esquer  
Colleen Okida

## **TIME**

Fun Home takes place over three different time periods, spanning more than thirty years in Alison's life from age 12 to 43. The story takes place in and around Beech Creek, Pennsylvania

## **ACT I**

### **IT ALL COMES BACK (OPENING)**

*Company*

### **WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE ON MAPLE AVENUE**

*Helen, Alison, Small Alison, Christian, John and Bruce*

### **COME TO THE FUN HOME**

*Small Alison, John, Christian*

### **HELEN, BRUCE AND ROY**

*Bruce, Helen, Roy, Kids*

### **PARTY DRESS**

*Small Alison, Medium Alison*

### **CHANGING MY MAJOR**

*Medium Alison*

*There will be a 15-minute intermission between Acts I & II*

## **ACT II**

### **MAPS**

*Bruce, Alison*

### **RAINCOAT OF LOVE**

*Company*

### **PONY GIRL**

*Bruce*

### **RING OF KEYS**

*Small Alison*

### **DAYS**

*Helen*

### **TELEPHONE WIRE**

*Alison, Bruce*

### **EDGES OF THE WORLD**

*Bruce*

### **FLYING AWAY (FINALE)**

*Alison, Small Alison, Medium Alison*

## Director's Note



The first time I saw *Fun Home* I completely fell in love with the beautiful and brutal honesty expressed in the music and story. I felt the messages of love, courage, self-discovery and hopefulness were very important to share. I also felt the pain, desolation and darkness.

We feel each character's struggle, and are given the opportunity to understand the varied events that form each of them. While some people see this play as being very sad, I view it more as experiencing sad events, yet always moving forward with acceptance and forgiveness to the future. In many ways, we are reminded that we each have our own story, our own struggle, and yet continue on with our own memories and the belief that

there is an element of joy in our lives.

Throughout the rehearsal process, we found that many of us had difficult stories that we shared, brought up because of the emotions and experiences being portrayed.

While the struggles in the show are difficult issues, it is important to know that asking for help is never a sign of weakness, but of strength.

Special Thanks to Alchemy Theatre Company

[alchemytheatre.com](http://alchemytheatre.com)

Juan and Chris Alas of Payless Caskets

Julia and Nico for all their technical and understudy work during rehearsals!

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# Meet the Cast



## **Natalie Cayetano (Small Alison)**

Natalie is thrilled to be making her Kentwood Players debut as Small Alison. Some of her past favorite roles include Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Academy of Visual and Performing Arts), Fiona in *Shrek Jr.* and Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods Jr.* (Dee-lightful Productions), Gabriella in *High School Musical Jr.* and Cinderella in *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Culver City Middle School Performances). Nicknamed "Little Jukebox" by her dad at two years of age, Natalie has continued pursuing her passion for singing, as well as dancing and acting. Natalie is extremely grateful for the unwavering love and support of her family and friends.



## **Amelia Fischer (John Bechdel)**

is a 5th grader in Manhattan Beach and ecstatic to be making her Kentwood Players debut! Previous credits include: *Annie* (Glendale Centre Theatre and Monrovia Performing Arts), *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (3D Theatricals and 5-Star Theatricals), and *Carousel* (Musical Theatre West). Amelia is a fun-loving spirit who enjoys competing with her soccer team, making up silly dances, and singing with the *Voices of Hope Children's Choir*, which received the coveted "Golden Buzzer" on *America's Got Talent 2018* (NBC). Many thanks to the Fun Home creative team for this incredible opportunity!



## **Nico Fisher (Medium Alison)**

Nico is so incredibly excited to play a dream role in their favorite musical! This is their 3rd show at Kentwood, you may have seen them in *The Little Mermaid* (Flounder) and *Our Town* (Wally/Joe/Si). Some other favorite credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck), *Mary Poppins* (Jane Banks) and *Matilda The Musical* (Matilda). Nico would like to thank the entire creative team and cast for being the absolute best anyone could ask for and their parents for driving them to rehearsals because they are still too anxious to actually get a license. Enjoy the show!

# Meet the Cast



## **Grant Ruckheim (Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy)**

Grant is thrilled to perform in his first Kentwood Players production after a two-year pandemic hiatus. This is his first performance in L.A., having moved to California from Minnesota this last year. His past shows include: *Spring Awakening*, *Leap of Faith*, *110 in the Shade*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He couldn't be happier returning to the theatre and to be part of such a fantastic cast and production team.



## **Julia Sison (Joan)**

Julia is a Filipino-American performer born and raised in Los Angeles. She received her first degree from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York. She went on to receive her BFA in Musical Theater and Film from The New School last year. Julia is excited to be in her first Kentwood Players production! She'd like to especially thank the directors, the cast/crew, and her family for their support. Her instagram is @jujudafu\_ if you would like to follow her future endeavors.



## **Jon Sparks (Bruce Bechdel)**

A 20+ year member of Kentwood Players, Jon is thrilled to be a part of this amazing cast. KP roles: Edward Bloom/*Big Fish*, Stine/*City of Angels*, Cinderella's Prince-Wolf/*Into the Woods*, El Gallo/*The Fantasticks*, John Jasper/*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and Charlemagne/*Pippin*. Regional: Mary Dale/*Red Scare on Sunset*, Billy Bigelow/*Carousel*, Mrs. Lovett/*Sweeney Todd*, Jess Winfield/*The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)*, Sylvia St. Croix/*Ruthless*, Roger DeBris/*The Producers* and Pippin/*Pippin*. Jon has performed for Holland America Cruise Lines and is also an accomplished wig master, having worked at Disneyland as well as many local theaters. GMKL-FLAMES

# Meet the Cast



## **Ryver Townsend (Christian Bechdel)**

He/They began theatre at an early age and has kept their love for it ever since. Their favorite roles they have played include Terk in *Tarzan* and Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They were raised in Georgia and followed their passion to get a BFA in Musical theatre from AMDA. Ryver would like to thank family and friends for their constant inspiration and support. As this is his second time in the past year playing Christian Bechdel, this show and role meant the world to him. Enjoy it!



## **Amanda Webb (Alison)**

Amanda Webb is thrilled to join this fantastic cast and production team in telling this story for her 2nd Kentwood Players show. An East Coast native & NYU grad, past shows include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Follies* (Phyllis), *Hairspray* (Velma), *The 39 Steps* (Annabella/Pamela/Margaret), *The Women of Lockerbie* (Olive), *Psycho Beach Party* (Bettina), the NY Renaissance Faire, Universal Halloween Horror Nights, and most recently, Kentwood's production of *Clue* (Mrs. White). In addition to theatre, she enjoys reading, cheeses, board games, whiskey, hiking, and karaoke. Much love to her incredible family & friends and her partner-in-crime.



## **Dana Weisman (Helen Bechdel)**

Dana is so happy to be back on stage with her "home" theater Westchester Playhouse and Kentwood Players. Most recently, Dana was seen in hoop skirts and crinolines as Marmee in Canyon Theatre Guild's production of *Little Women*. Other favorite roles include Donna in *Mamma Mia* (SVCAC), Blanche in *Broadway Bound* (WCJT), Fruma Sarah in *Fiddler On The Roof* (Troika), Robin in *Godspell* (Surflight Theatre), Cinderella's Stepmother in *Into The Woods* (Cupcake Theatre), Frau Blücher in *Young Frankenstein*, Yvonne in *Sunday In The Park With George* and Lettie in *Something's Afoot* (Westchester Playhouse). Dana is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts (Circle-in-the-Square) and NYC's LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts. She cannot thank her husband Jon, and children Lilah, Casey and Dashiell enough for always supporting her acting career with gusto, grace and love.

# Meet the Crew

## **Kathy Dershimer (Director)**

Kathy is thrilled to be directing *Fun Home*, her first time directing a musical at Kentwood Players. She has previously directed *Orphans*, *Wait Until Dark* and *Dangerous Obsession* at Kentwood, as well as produced *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Our Town*, *Dial M for Murder*, *The Giver* and *Native Gardens*. She has costumed over 25 productions at Kentwood and done Set Design and Set Decoration. Kathy thanks her co-producers, musical director, the amazingly talented cast and the dedicated production team for their inspired and inspiring work.

## **Cheryl Gaul (Musical Director)**

Cheryl is thrilled to be working on one of her favorite shows. In addition to music direction, she is also a musical theater keyboardist, synth programmer, and conductor. Recent local/education credits include *Spamalot*, *Newsies*, *Pippin*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Spring Awakening*, *Legally Blonde*, *Songs for a New World*, and *Catch Me If You Can*. Lots of love to the cast and crew, you are all amazing!

## **Roy T. Okida (Choreographer/Stage Manager)**

Roy is very excited to be back at the theatre and working with this talented cast and production staff of *Fun Home*. In addition to stage managing, he got to recreate some iconic moves he saw so much of in his youth. Many thanks to Kathy, Harold, and Jenny for this opportunity to wander out of my comfort zone. Much love to Colleen and Fiona.

## **Jenny Boone (Co-Producer)**

*Fun Home* marks Jenny's third time producing for Kathy, the first being 2016's *Wait Until Dark* and the second 2018's *Dangerous Obsession*. A lifetime member, and one of Kentwood's original "Kentwood Kids", Jenny has worked behind the scenes producing, stage managing, operating lights and sound, appearing on stage, most recently in *Our Town* and *The Giver*, and serving on Kentwood's Board of Directors for over 20 years concluding as President from 2019 - 2021. When not working at the theatre her energy is devoted to her other passion, teaching. Thanks to Kathy, a talented, creative director and a true friend, for another wonderful opportunity to work with her and to Harold for co-producing this amazing production. Endless love to Larry, Erin and Brandon.



## Meet the Crew

### Harold Dershimer (Co-Producer)

Harold has been a member with KP for the past 14 years in which time he has served on the board for 8 years, and has directed 4 productions, most recently *The Giver*. Additionally, he has performed, stage managed, and/or designed for over 30 productions. *Fun Home* is his first outing as producer, and he is thrilled to be a part of this production team and to be working with this amazing cast as we all work to bring such an important story to life. We hope our efforts touch you as much as it did us!

### Michael Thorpe (Lighting Designer)

With a long history of putting the “ham” in “hamburger”, Mike is here to put the “fun” in “funeral” and maybe even to put the “ho” in “home”. If anyone has any spare “lig”s that he could put into “lighting design”, please let him know; otherwise we’ll be stuck with some “ill” in our “illumination”.

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# Production Staff

<b>Director</b>	Kathy Dershimer
<b>Producers</b>	Jenny Boone, Harold Dershimer
<b>Musical Director</b>	Cheryl Gaul
<b>Choreographer</b>	Roy T. Okida
<b>Set Design</b>	Kathy Dershimer
<b>Set Decoration Design</b>	Jenny Boone, Kathy Dershimer, Harold Dershimer
<b>Light and Sound Design</b>	Michael Thorpe
<b>Costume Design</b>	Kathy Dershimer
<b>Graphic Design</b>	Andrew Dershimer
<b>Master Builder</b>	George Kondreck
<b>Construction Crew</b>	George Kondreck, Doug Carlson
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Roy T. Okida
<b>Asst Stage Manager</b>	Harold Dershimer
<b>Stage Crew</b>	Cast
<b>Props</b>	Jenny Boone, Kathy Dershimer
<b>Booth Crew</b>	Jenny Boone, Kathy Dershimer, Michael Thorpe
<b>Audition Desk</b>	Anne and Myron Klafter
<b>Photography</b>	Shari Barrett

# Board of Directors



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## WORK SUNDAY

Alison Boole, Jenny Boone, Stanley Brown, Mark Bruce-Casares, Doug Carlson, Natalie Cayetano, Jamie Dawley, Harold Dershimer, Kathy Dershimer, Margie Equihua, Holden Fisher, Jodi Fisher, Nico Fisher, Nathan Gebhard, Samuel Goldman, George Kondreck, Catherine Kondreck, Howard Male, Elliott Plunkett, Shawn Plunkett, Michele Selin, Julia Sison, Jon Sparks, Bruce Starrett, Michael Thorpe, Amanda Webb, Dana Weisman, Brian Wells

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For the latest info about Kentwood Players visit our website  
**[KentwoodPlayers.org](http://KentwoodPlayers.org)**

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**2021**

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**2020**

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**2021**

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# Thank You To Our Donors

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# Upcoming Productions

## **LAUGHTER ON THE 23rd FLOOR**

*by Neil Simon*

*Directed by Stanley Brown*

July 22 – August 6, 2022



## **NIGHT WATCH**

*by Louise Fletcher*

*Directed by Brandon Ferruccio*

September 23 – October 8, 2022



## **9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL**

*Book by Patricia Resnick, Music & Lyrics by Dolly Parton*

*Directed by Kirk Larson*

November 11 – December 10, 2022



## **All My Sons**

*by Arthur Miller*

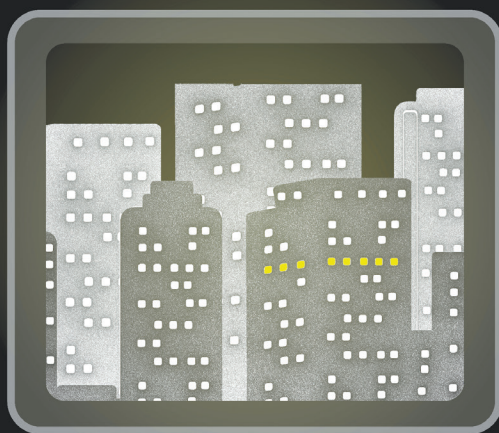
*Directed by Ben Lupejkis*

January 20 - February 11, 2023

Kentwood  
Players presents

# LAUGHTER *on the* 23rd FLOOR

*by Neil Simon*



*July 22 - August 6, 2022*

*Directed by Stanley Brown - Produced by Kathy Dershimer*

Produced by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

**Coming This Summer**