BIG FISH
Jewish Theatre Ensemble
Winter Louis Room Week 4

Music by Andrew Lippa
Produced By Arella Flur

Book by John August
Directed by Bennett Petersen

Rehearsals Begin: November 29
Tech Week: January 24 - January 27
Shows: January 28-29

About the Show
BIG FISH tells the story of Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman whose incredible, larger-than-life stories thrill everyone around him—most of all, his devoted wife Sandra. But their son Will, feeling estranged from Edward and about to have a child of his own, is determined to find the truth behind his father’s epic tales. This show tackles themes of family, why we tell stories, and just how extraordinary an ordinary life can be.

Character Breakdowns*

**Edward Bloom** (Lead, Male, varying ages early teens through mid-60’s, vocal range G2-G4)
Younger Edward - Quintessential hometown hero, charming, charismatic, romantic.
Older Edward - Devoted yet absent father nearing the end of his life. Comfortable in his own skin but wants Will’s approval. Absolutely loves his wife, his son, and telling stories.

**Sandra Bloom** (Lead, Female, varying ages late teens through mid-60’s, vocal range G3-E5)
Younger Sandra - A go-getter, sweet, charming, excited to explore all the possibilities of life.
Older Sandra - Patient, confident, and calm. Complete opposite to Edward’s energy. Peacemaker, wants to reconcile the relationship between her husband and son.

**Will Bloom** (Lead, Male, late 20’s, vocal range C#3-G4)
Edward’s son. Earnest, thoughtful, and serious man, too practical to appreciate Edward’s romantic view of life. Has a successful career and new wife, he’s shifting into the next phase of his life: fatherhood.
Josephine (Supporting, Female, late 20's)
Will's wife, sweet, intelligent, successful, is always the one keeping things light, acts as a bridge of sorts between Edward and Will, helping Will to find the deeper meaning behind Edward's stories.

Young Will (Supporting, Male, elementary aged, vocal range F3-C4)
Precocious and thoughtful, unsure whether all of his father's stories are real.

Karl the Giant (Supporting, Male, vocal range A2-G4)
Edward's best friend, shy, extremely intelligent and hermit-like. They are very tall, with a very deep voice and quiet charisma.

Jenny Hill (Supporting, Female, late teens and mid-60's, vocal range Db4-E5)
Younger Jenny - Cheerleader, Edward's first girlfriend. Very devoted, a bit naive, perfectly happy in her small town bubble and has no intentions of leaving it.
Older Jenny - Much more tired and disillusioned version of the younger Jenny, but carries herself with dignity and honesty.

Amos Callaway (Supporting, Open gender, vocal range C3-G4)
The quite eccentric and energetic owner of the circus. Very outgoing personality and humor, they also happen to be a werewolf.

The Witch (Supporting, Open gender, ageless, vocal range F3-F5)
Commanding performer with great confidence and storytelling ability. They convince Edward to pursue a big life without fear.

Don Price (Supporting, Male, various ages, vocal range C3-F#4)
Older snarky bully, Sandra's first fiancé. Not the brightest bulb and insecure about it.

Zachy Price (Supporting, Open gender, various ages, vocal range G3-F#4)
Younger sibling and shadow of Don Price, nerdy and a bit weird.

Ensemble
A group of actors that are relaying the plot of Big Fish to the audience as if it's one of the bedtime stories that Edward would tell Will growing up. In this production they will be involved in transitions, hop in as additional characters, and have more stage time than the script indicates.
Notes:
• All character descriptions apply only to the characters’ identities, actors of all gender identities will be considered for all roles. All characters are open ethnicity.
• We strongly encourage those with tap and/or clogging experience to audition, though it’s not necessary.

Moments of Intimacy & Violence
• Pg. 7 - EDWARD and the MERMAID kiss
• Pg. 44 - EDWARD and JENNY share a chaste kiss
• Pg. 73 - DON PRICE suddenly clobbers EDWARD. His buddies join in, roundly kicking the crap out of EDWARD
• Pg. 76 - EDWARD and SANDRA kiss
• Pg. 80 - EDWARD and RED FANG battle
• Pg. 80 - RED FANG knocks out EDWARD
• Pg. 109 - EDWARD and JENNY: A hug. The hug turns into a kiss. EDWARD lets it go on longer than he should
• Pg. 120 - WILL kisses EDWARD’s forehead

For any questions, please reach out to bennettpetersen2022@u.northwestern.edu

Interested in joining the Big Fish team in a behind the scenes capacity? Reach out to arella@u.northwestern.edu