

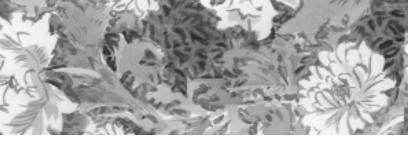
Fun Home

music by Jeanine Tesori

book and lyrics by Lisa Kron

based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel

THEATER
WIRKS
HARTFORD



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I first saw **FUN HOME** on Broadway when it had just moved uptown from the Public Theater. Everyone who saw it downtown was blown away by its unique power and unconventional centering of a Lesbian cartoonist as a protagonist. To our amazement, it became a "must see" musical. Brilliant. Groundbreaking.

From a personal perspective, the themes of coming out and self-acceptance touched a deep and vulnerable place in me. But it was the theme of parental forgiveness and self-love that ultimately moved me in a profound way. I understood it. It was bigger than a gay story – it was many people's story. You felt it.

In **FUN HOME**, Alison draws her life in an effort to understand the mysteries of her father – to forgive him, and to release herself from the guilt of his death. At the end of her journey, she embraces all of herself, and is finally able to fly.

We all deserve that freedom. Let's fly.

- Rob Ruggiero

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Portions of Allison Bechdel's images are used on stage.

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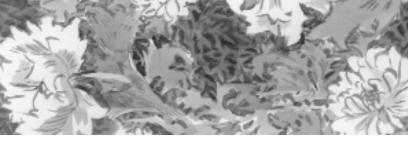
FUN HOME is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

Originally Produced on Broadway by
Fox Theatricals Barbara Whitman Carole Shorenstein Hays
Tom Casserly Paula Marie Black Latitude Link
Terry Schnuck/Jane Lane The Forstalls
Nathan Vernon Mint Theatricals Elizabeth Armstrong
Jam Theatricals Delman Whitney
and Kristin Caskey & Mike Isaacson

The world premiere production of **FUN HOME** was produced by The Public Theater Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director Patrick Willingham, Executive Director In New York City on October 22nd, 2013

FUN HOME was developed, in part, at the 2012 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab at White Oak and the 2012 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab at the Sundance Resort.

FUN HOME is the first show of our 22/23 Season
twhartford.org / @twhartford



Fun Home

music by **JEANINE TESORI** book and lyrics by LISA KRON based on the graphic novel by ALISON BECHDEL

CAST

(in order of appearance)

SARAH BETH PFEIFER* Alison

SKYLAR LYNN MATTHEWS Small Alison

Bruce **AARON LAZAR*** Helen **CHRISTIANE NOLL***

Christian **MYLES LOW SAM DUNCAN** John John (10.22) **JASPER BURGER**

Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy **ALI LOUIS BOURZGUI*** Medium Alison JULIA NIGHTINGALE*

CAMERON SILLIMAN Joan

LUKE CANTARELLA Set Design Costume Design Lighting Design Sound Design **Projection Design**

Casting

Director of Production Stage Manager

Stage Manager (after 10.16)

HERIN KAPUTKIN **ROB DENTON JOANNA LYNNE STAUB CAMILLA TASSI** HARDT CASTING, LLC MIKE LENAGHAN

NICOLE WIEGERT* THERESA STARK*

Hair by E JOHN McGARVEY for Les Cheveux Salon Additional Musical Staging by RALPH PERKINS

THE BAND

Conductor / Keyboard JEFF COX Guitars **MORGAN BROWN** Bass **KEVIN HUHN** Reeds **HARRY KLIEWE** Cello **CELESTE CUMMING** Violin / Viola **SELAH KWAK** Drums / Percussion **ELLIOT WALLACE**

> music direction by JEFF COX directed by ROB RUGGIERO[†]



AARON LAZAR (Bruce) is making his
TheaterWorks Hartford debut. Aaron was
recently seen as Reverend Paul Thomas opposite
Kim Cattrall in Filthy Rich for FOX. He has extensive
Broadway credits including Sting and John Logan's
The Last Ship, the only revival of Stephen Sondheim's
A Little Night Music opposite Catherine Zeta Jones

and Angela Lansbury, Impressionism with Jeremy Irons and Joan Allen, the first revival of Les Miserables (Drama Desk Nom.) and Lincoln Center's The Light in the Piazza (also Live on PBS). TV Arcs: The Strain for FX, Quantico for ABC, Girl Meets World for Disney. Some films: Warner Bros.' This Is Where I Leave You, Paramount's The Wolf of Wall Street, Warner Bros.' J. Edgar and Marvel's Avengers: Infinity War. Concerts include: Company with the New York Philharmonic, South Pacific at The Hollywood Bowl, Carousel with the Boston Pops, the NY Pops at Carnegie Hall, the NSO at the Kennedy Center, and the Jerusalem Symphony at Masada. Other recent credits include A24's film Everything Everywhere All at Once, PBS' tribute to Lerner and Loewe with The American Pops, and critically acclaimed concert All For You with two-time Tony Award nominee, Kate Baldwin. BA Duke University. MFA Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. aaronlazar.com IG: @aaronscottlazar



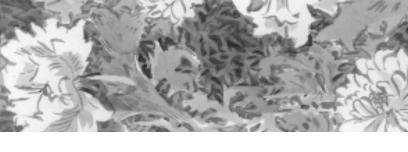
CHRISTIANE NOLL (Helen) received Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations and won a Helen Hayes Award for her portrayal of Mother in the Kennedy Center Revival of Ragtime on Broadway. She starred in the record-breaking First National Tour of Dear Evan Hansen (BWWLA award) and took over the role of Cynthia Murphy in the Broadway

Company before and after the Broadway pandemic shutdown. She made her Broadway debut creating the role of Emma in Jekyll & Hyde, receiving a FANY Award for Best Actress in a Musical. Christiane received her second Drama Desk nomination for her work in Chaplin on Broadway. She has been seen as Sister Margaretta in NBC's The Sound of Music Live with Carrie Underwood and she supplied the singing-voice of Anna in the animated feature The King and I. She has also enjoyed starring in Broadway productions of Elf, It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues and on tour in Urinetown (Ovation Award), The Mambo Kings, Grease!, Miss Saigon and City of Angels. Christiane has performed a varied repertoire in Broadway, Operetta and Jazz. She made her Carnegie Hall debut with Skitch Henderson, in his last pops performance with The New York Pops and sang with Steven Reineke Sondheim! The Birthday Concert. She made her Hollywood Bowl and O2 Arena debut singing with Julie Andrews in Gifts of Music and her opera debut with Placido Domingo in The Merry Widow at the Kennedy Center. TheaterWorks Hartford audiences remember her from her starring role in 2017's Next to Normal (Connecticut Critics Circle award) and 2021's Coming Alive Again. TV appearances include Law & Order: Organized Crime, Law & Order: SVU, Evil, Madam Secretary, among others. Christiane has performed her solo shows in NYC and across the country as well as appearing in Lincoln Center's American Songbook Series. Christiane is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University. IG: @christiane.noll



SARAH BETH PFEIFER (Alison) is making her TheaterWorks Hartford debut. SB is an actor and writer based in New York City. Broadway: The Lightning Thief. National Tours: The Lightning Thief, Legally Blonde. Off Broadway: The Lightning Thief, Goldstein. A prolific voice over artist, she has voiced many national commercials and audiobooks. Love to

Lily and our zoo. sarahbethpfeifer.com





ALI LOUIS BOURZGUI (Roy/Mark/
Pete/Bobby Jeremy) is making his TheaterWorks
Hartford debut. Credits include: The Band's Visit (First
National Tour - Haled). Regional: Barrington Stage
Co., Berkshire Theatre Group, Hope Summer Rep.
Theatre, Titan Theatre Co., The Theater Barn, GhostLit
Rep. Voiceover: Antibody for Gimlet/Monkeypaw
(Hassan). BFA Ithaca College. Original music on

Spotify/Apple Music. Much love to BRS/Gage, Mom, Baba, Driss, & the people at Cheez-Its who came up with the extra toasty version. alilouisbourzgui.com IG: @ali.louis



JASPER BURGER (John 10.22 | Understudy: Christian) is making his TheaterWorks Hartford debut. He is from New York City and Lakeville, CT, and is excited to make his regional theater debut. His education credits include Actors Technique NY productions of Hairspray, Newsies, School of Rock and Matilda. Over this past summer, he attended

French Woods Performing Arts Camp and filmed a feature film due out this winter and a short film, Queen of Magic. He also played Young Roy in The Werewolf Butcher episode of Evil Lives Here. Special thanks to David Gilbert at Zuri Agency, Broadway Kids Auditions, and Badiene Magaziner Vocal Studio! IG: @jasperburgerofficial



SAM DUNCAN (John) is making his
TheaterWorks Hartford debut. He was most recently
seen on stage this past summer, playing the Duke of
York in The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park
production of Richard III. Regionally, he played Tiny
Tim in Goodspeed Musicals' A Connecticut Christmas
Carol. On screen, Sam played Baby Colin on the FX

television series, What We Do in the Shadows, and you may also recognize him from various small roles on Saturday Night Live. Sam is a trained singer and dancer, whose musical theater dance solos have been recognized with national and regional titles. Special thanks to Linda Thornberg at CT Talent Management, and Bonnie Shumofsky Bloom and team at Stewart Talent NY for making Sam's dream of performing in a production of FUN HOME a reality. IG: @sam.duncan.triplethreat



MYLES LOW (Christian) is thrilled to be making his TheaterWorks Hartford debut. Myles fell in love with acting when he appeared in the 2021 Hartford Stage production of Ah! Wilderness. Since then he has appeared in an Amazon Prime Video commercial for The Rings of Power, as well as a commercial for Hungryroot. Myles has taken acting and musical

theater classes through Hartford Stage, Playhouse on Park and Kingswood Oxford. When he isn't on stage, Myles enjoys going to school on the farm at the Montessori School of Greater Hartford, playing piano, and skiing. Myles would like to thank his vocal coach, Kyle Reynolds, for encouraging him and sparking his love of musical theater and his agent, Bonnie Shumofsky Bloom at Stewart Talent, for giving him opportunities to explore the world of acting.



SKYLAR LYNN MATTHEWS (Small Alison) is a NYC based actress and is beyond excited to make her TheaterWorks Hartford debut in FUN HOME. Skylar is from Cape May, NJ and has been acting, singing, and dancing since she could walk and talk! Skylar trains with Danielle Brindisi at Be You Arts Academy (NJ) and Badiene Magaziner (NY) for vocals, Allen

Fawcett (NY) for acting, and Katrina Prodan (NJ) and Dance Molinari (NY) for dance. She is represented by the Carson Adler Agency and Innovative Artists and is managed by Jody Prusan (NY). Skylar's most recent credits include Ocean City Theatre Company's professional performance of The Sound of Music (Marta) and being featured in a national commercial for L.L. Bean. When she is not performing you will find Skylar tumbling in the backyard, doing crafts, or playing with her brother, Lincoln and sister, Saige. skylarmatthews.com IG: @skymatthews3



JULIA NIGHTINGALE (Medium Alison) is is making her TheaterWorks Hartford debut.
Broadway: The Ferryman. New York: Generation Me (NYMF), The 8th (The Secret Theatre). Regional: The Bridges of Madison County, Because of Winn Dixie (Arkansas Repertory Theatre). Film & TV: Evil (CBS), Master (Amazon Prime Video), Misty Button. Love to

the Landfairs, Penny Luedtke, and Griffin O IG: @julianightingale



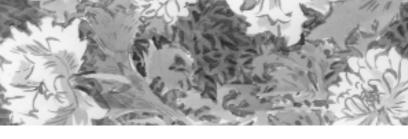
CAMERON SILLIMAN (Joan | they/she) is making their TheaterWorks Hartford debut.
Cameron is a NYC based actor and singer in their band Granite Garden. NY Theater: Twelfth Night (The Center at West Park). Developmental: The Killing Fields (NY Classical Theatre); R&B, Lying (The Tank); Cafe Society Swing (McKittrick Hotel). Regional:

Ghost the Musical (Winnipesaukee Playhouse), Hair, Avenue Q. TV: New Amsterdam. BA in Theatre/Spanish from Muhlenberg College. Reps: Take3 Talent. IG: @sillyman106 and @granitegardenmusic.



JEANINE TESORI (Music) has written a diverse catalog for Broadway, opera, film and television. Her Broadway musicals include: FUN HOME (2015 Tony Award Winner, Pulitzer finalist); Violet; Caroline, or Change; Shrek the Musical; Thoroughly Modern Millie; Twelfth Night (LCT); John Guare's A Free Man of Color. Delacorte: Mother Courage (starring

Meryl Streep). She has received five Tony nominations, three Obie Awards and three Drama Desk Awards. The hallmarks of her work have been described as "close-to-the-surface emotion, structural rigor and rhythmic drive." Her operas include: The Lion, the Unicorn and Me and A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck (MET/LCT Opera/Theater and Glimmerglass Opera commission); her collaboration with Tazewell Thompson, Blue. She wrote the musical featured in the 2016 revival of Gilmore Girls and has also written special material for artists such as The Girl in 14G for Kristin Chenoweth and has been featured in the documentaries ShowBusiness and Theater of War. Jeanine Tesori became the founding Artistic Director of a new concert series at New York City Center called Encores! Off-Center, for which she has helmed seasons joined by artists such as Stephen Sondheim, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Randy Newman, William Finn, Alan Menken, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Sutton Foster and Jonathan Groff. After producing four seasons of Off-Center concerts, she took one of those concerts, Sunday in the Park with George (starring Jake Gyllenhaal) to Broadway where she produced the 2017 revival, with ATG and Riva Marker. She was the recording producer for Sunday as well as for the Original Cast Recordings of Violet; Caroline, or Change; Shrek; and Twelfth Night.





LISA KRON (Book and Lyrics) is a writer and performer whose work has been widely produced in New York, regionally, and internationally. Her plays include Well, 2.5 Minute Ride and The Ver**zon Play. She wrote the book and lyrics for the musical FUN HOME (with music by composer Jeanine Tesori), winner of five 2015 Tony Awards including

Best Musical. Lisa and Jeanine were the first all-woman team to ever receive a Tony for best score. As an actor Lisa was most recently seen as Mrs. Mi-Tzu and Mrs. Yang in the Foundry Theater's acclaimed production of Good Person of Szechuan (Lortel Award, Outstanding Featured Actress). Honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Doris Duke Performing Artists Award, and the Cal Arts/Alpert Award. She is a proud founding member of the OBIE- and Bessie Award-winning collaborative theater company The Five Lesbian Brothers. Lisa currently serves as Secretary of the Dramatists Guild Council and on the boards of the McDowell Colony and the Lilly Awards.



ALISON BECHDEL (Graphic Novelist) is a cartoonist and graphic memoirist exploring the complexities of familial relationships in multilayered works that use the interplay of word and image to weave sophisticated narratives. Bechdel's command of sequential narrative and her aesthetic as a visual artist was established in her long-running

comic strip, Dykes to Watch Out For (1983–2008), which realistically captured the lives of women in the lesbian community as they influenced and were influenced by the important cultural and political events of the day. Garnering a devoted and diverse following, this pioneering work was a precursor to her book-length graphic memoirs. Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic (2006) is a nuanced depiction of a childhood spent in an artistic family in a small Pennsylvania town and of her relationship with her father, a high school English teacher and funeral home director. An impeccable observer and record keeper, Bechdel incorporates drawings of archival materials, such as diaries, letters, photographs, and news clippings, as well as a variety of literary references in deep reflections into her own past. With storytelling that is striking for its conceptual depth and complexity, Bechdel is changing our notions of the contemporary memoir and expanding the expressive potential of the graphic form.



ROB RUGGIERO (Director/Producing
Artistic Director) has been part of TheaterWorks
Hartford artistic leadership for 30 seasons. He has
directed over 65 shows, including TWH productions
of Zoey's Perfect Wedding, The Sound Inside,
American Son, The Legend of Georgia McBride,
Constellations, Next to Normal, Relativity (starring

Richard Dreyfuss) and Christmas on the Rocks, which he also conceived. His Broadway credits include Looped (starring Valerie Harper in a Tonynominated performance) and High (starring Kathleen Turner) which had its world premiere at TWH. He also conceived and directed the musical revue Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn which moved off-Broadway and was nominated for Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards. Rob conceived and directed Ella, a musical about Ella Fitzgerald, which saw sold-out runs in 24 regional theaters and was produced as a National Tour. His work on plays and musicals has received multiple awards in Connecticut



and around the United States. Rob recently directed A Grand Night for Singing at Goodspeed Musicals where over his 14-year relationship he has directed many award-winning musical productions. Internationally, he directed Fiddler on the Roof in Athens, Greece.



JEFF COX (Music Director) is making his TheaterWorks Hartford debut. He is a NYC based music director and conductor who has performed internationally and on Broadway. His credits include The Band's Visit (Broadway & National Tour), A Letter to Harvey Milk (Off-Broadway), Wicked (National Tour), Austen's Pride (5th Avenue Theatre

Seattle), and numerous other regional theaters and concert venues. An avid arranger and orchestrator, Jeff has shaped the development of new works, most notably as music supervisor of Danny K. Bernstein's Far From Canterbury. His work as a copyist has appeared on music stands in New York, on cruise ships and across the country. Jeff is a faculty member at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, and he holds a Master's Degree in conducting from Ithaca College. jeffcoxmusic.com



LUKE CANTARELLA (Set Design) is pleased to be returning to TheaterWorks Hartford where he first designed in 2001 (Chesapeake). His favorite projects at TheaterWorks include Hand to God, Good People, The Understudy, Woody Sez, and Lobby Hero. His work has been seen at theaters across

the country including the Repertory Theater of St. Louis, The Muny, A.R.T., Yale Repertory Theater, Seattle Rep, Pittsburgh Public, the Atlantic Theater Company, the Asolo and many others. Opera credits include productions with Santa Fe Opera, Peabody Opera Theater, Wolftrap, Center for Contemporary Opera and Des Moines Metro Opera. Internationally, he has designed in London's West End, Amsterdam, Sibiu, Vienna and Cairo. Luke is also a professor of design at Pace University. lukecantarella.com

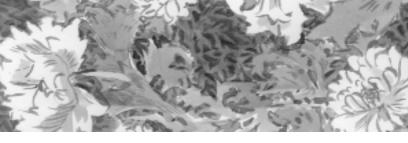


HERIN KAPUTKIN (Costume Design) is excited to work on her second production with the incredible team at TheaterWorks Hartford, and is honored to be part of sharing this story on stage. Her credits include: (upcoming) Christmas in Connecticut (Goodspeed Opera House); (upcoming) LaCocina

(Fordham University); The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [Revised] (Shakespeare on the Vine); RAGE! A Play with Music (Quinnipiac University); American Son (TheaterWorks Hartford); El Huracan (Yale Repertory Theater); Othello, The Girl is Chained, This Sweet Affliction and Pentecost at the Yale School of Drama; Marvellous (NYC Fringe Festival); The Shakes: Romeo and Juliet (The Flea Theater); Cendrillon (Purchase Opera Company). She has assisted designers such as Linda Cho, Jess Goldstein, Emily Rebholz, and Paul Tazewell. Herin holds an MFA in Costume Design from Yale University, and a BFA in Costume Design and Construction from Purchase College.



ROB DENTON (Lighting Design) is thrilled to be returning to TheaterWorks Hartford where he last designed Girlfriend. Rob's recent designs include Chicago, Legally Blonde, Mary Poppins (The Muny); The Cake (Repertory Theatre St Louis); Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park);



The Marvelous Wonderettes (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors (Capital Repertory Theatre); Will Roger's Follies (Goodspeed Musicals); Disney's Beauty and the Beast (Theatre Under the Stars); Tosca and La Bohème (Opera San Antonio). Some of Rob's upcoming designs include: Jersey Boys, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Maltz Jupiter Theatre); The Wizard of Oz (Capital Repertory Theatre). IG @rdentexdesign



JOANNA LYNNE STAUB (Sound Design) is making her TheaterWorks Hartford debut. She is a NYC-based Sound Designer and Audio Engineer with over 30 years of experience in Live Entertainment. Her Off-Broadway and Regional designs include work at Alliance Theatre, Asolo Rep, 5th Avenue Theatre Seattle, Goodman Theatre, La Jolla

Playhouse, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Public Theater, and Seattle Rep. She has extensive credits associate designing and engineering Broadway Shows and National Touring Companies. TV credits include audio engineering the NBC-Live! Productions of The Sound of Music, Peter Pan, and The Wiz. Her work as a recording engineer was honored with a 2022 GRAMMY Nomination for Best Musical Theatre Album for Snapshots. She holds degrees in music and audio engineering from Ithaca College and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. ilssound.com



CAMILLA TASSI (Projection Design) is a projection/video designer, producer, and musician from Florence, Italy. Design credits include Golijov's Falling Out of Time (Carnegie Hall), Monteverdi's L'Orfeo (Apollo's Fire), Pollock's Stinney: An American Execution (PROTOTYPE, NYC), Deavere-Smith's Fires in the Mirror (Baltimore Center Stage

& Long Wharf Theater), Mozart's Magic Flute (Berlin Opera Academy), Talbot's Path of Miracles (Conspirare, TX), and Handel's Alcina (Yale Opera). Tassi enjoys bringing theatrical design to traditionally unstaged compositions, recontextualizing the repertoire with today's audiences. For video, she has directed and edited for the Washington Chorus, Les Délices Early Music, Princeton Festival, and Chicago Ear Taxi Festival. Tassi holds degrees in computer science, music, and projection design. She completed her MFA in Design at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale, under Wendall Harrington. camillatassi.com

HARDT CASTING (Casting) Broadway: West Side Story, Come Fly Away, August: Osage County, A Moon For The Misbegotten, On Golden Pond, Hot Feet, Caine Mutiny Court Martial, and the upcoming Once Upon A One More Time. National Tours: West Side Story (US and World tour), A Bronx Tale, Dirty Dancing, Legends!, Whistle Down the Wind, On Golden Pond, August: Osage County, The Bodyguard, and the current tours of Cats and Annie. Regional Theatres include: Goodspeed Opera House, Bucks County Playhouse, Delaware Theatre Company, TUTS, Pasadena Playhouse and Asolo Rep.

MIKE LENAGHAN (Director of Production) is so happy to come back to TheaterWorks Hartford this season after spending the past 8 years as the Production and Design teacher at Kinsella Magnet School for Performing Arts. From 2004-2014 Mike was Technical Director then Production Manager and occasionally Props Master. Regional credits: Goodspeed Musicals, Juilliard School Production Department, Downtown

Cabaret Theater and Westport Playhouse. Broadway credits include Thoroughly Modern Millie, Our Town and Fortune's Fool. Off-Broadway: The It Girl, Suburb and The Summer of '42.

NICOLE WEIGERT (Production Stage Manager) TheaterWorks Hartford: Zoey's Perfect Wedding, This Bitter Earth, Christmas on the Rocks '21, Walden. Regional: Goodspeed Opera House, Hartford Stage, Long Wharf, CT Rep, Mountain Playhouse, Ivoryton Playhouse, Theater by the Sea, First Stage Milwaukee, Renaissance Theatreworks, Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee Public Theater, Milwaukee Chamber Theater. Television: House Hunters, Extreme Cheapskates, Biggest Loser. Other: Love to LC, WW and CW.

THERESA STARK (Production Stage Manager after 10.16) is very excited to be working for TheaterWorks Hartford for the very first time. Some of her past credits include: Westchester Broadway Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Hartford Stage, The Ivoryton Playhouse, Westport Country Playhouse, Goodspeed, Stamford Theatre Works, Summer Theatre of New Canaan, Elm Shakespeare, New Paradigm Theatre, Barrington Stage, Hangar Theatre and Yale Opera. Theresa also works as a dog handler for William Berloni Theatrical Animals, Inc.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks



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Jenna Willet

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