Director's Notes

Here's a heads-up for our audience: *Big Fish* is bursting with fantastical storytelling—tales that are wild, whimsical, and sometimes delightfully over-the-top. Larger-than-life characters appear, timelines blur, and settings shift in magical and unexpected ways. The story doesn't unfold in a straight line; instead, we glimpse people at different stages of life, like pieces of a puzzle gradually falling into place.

And here's another heads-up: you just might shed some tears. At the heart of this musical is a father, Edward, confronting his mortality after a cancer diagnosis. His son, Will—on the verge of marriage and fatherhood—sets out to understand the truth behind his father's larger-than-life stories before it's too late. Their wives, Sandra and Josephine, offer love and insight, grounding the journey in real emotion. These are the characters' challenges, but through their stories, you may find reflections of your own. As Edward shows us, no moment is ordinary when we recognize the magic in the breath of life.

How can such fantastical storytelling and deeply emotional themes share the same stage? That may be the message of *Big Fish* itself: that life, in all its chaos, wonder, and sorrow, is a mystery worth embracing. As we face our dragons, follow our better angels, and live with courage and heart, may grace guide us—and may we each become the hero of our story.

"We live in a rainbow of chaos." Paul Cezanne

~ Craig Schieber

2025 Fall Classic • September 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21 • 2 pm



A Midsummer Night's Dream is a comedic play written by William Shakespeare around 1596. The play revolves around the story of four young lovers who find themselves entangled in a romantic quadrangle. As they navigate their complicated emotions, they become lost in the mystical forest, where the fairy king Oberon and queen Titania are engaged in a bitter dispute. With the mischievous Puck as their guide, the mortals become unwitting pawns in the fairies' games. **This production will be set in 1960s Appalachia with original music and dance inspired by the time period.** With its lighthearted tone, witty dialogue, and enchanting blend of magic and mayhem, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a timeless delight that continues to captivate audiences with its exploration of love, relationships, and the power of imagination. You won't want to miss it!

Invest in the Future of the Kitsap Forest Theater

Be a part of preserving a treasured legacy for the next 100 years. Nestled in nature and rich in history, the Mountaineers Kitsap Forest Theater offers an irreplaceable experience—bringing together family, friends, and the magic of live performance in the great outdoors. As we look to the future, we invite you to help us sustain this unique cultural gem. Your financial support will:

- Protect and maintain this historic property
- Advance our mission of inspiring creativity and community
- Fund vital capital improvements to keep the theater thriving

Scan the QR code to make your tax deductble donation today. Together we can ensure the Kitsap Forest Theater continues to inspire for generations to come.

The Mountaineers Players History • 1923–2025

The rich history of The Mountaineers Players began on a Spring day in 1909 when a 'local walk' by a group of 66 hikers to view the wild blooming rhododendrons around Wildcat Lake went astray. They wandered into Hidden Valley Ranch and met Edward Paschall and family, starting a fast friendship that began one of The Mountaineers most enduring traditions.

Skits around campfires grew into a production of *Robin of Sherwood* on June 17, 1923, performed in the woods going from glade to glade with the audience following along. Realizing the need for a permanent theater, Bill Darling and volunteers built the outdoor amphitheater in 1925-1926. This marked the birth of The Players who went on to produce an annual spring show every year except 4 years during World War II and 2020. A summer show was added in 2007 and a fall show in 2024.

The Mountaineers Players are one of the oldest, continuously operating community theater groups in the country, performing in one of the oldest outdoor theaters in North America. Read about our history and our early shows on our web site ("History" tab under "About Us") - all past shows are listed with descriptions & pics.

Kitsap Forest Theater Camp
Sing ✦ Dance ✦ Perform
Escape the Ordinary ✦ Create the Extraordinary

2025 Theater Day Camp • Aug. 4 - 8

Campers entering 5th–8th grades will rehearse a musical theatre review from a variety of Broadway shows. Learn the joys of the outdoor theater while developing teamwork, creative problem solving and confident performance skills. This will be an intensive and inspiring week of learning music/dance. The camp ends Friday with a performance for family/friends, followed by an optional family dinner. August 4-8. Please see KFT website for details.

Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp
play ★ explore ★ create

Did you know that we offer two one-week day camps for kids entering grades K-4th grade every July at this beautiful forest property with an optional Friday dinner/overnight for families? It's a great way to unplug your kids and get them outside. See our website for all the details.

Salmon Safari

In November, seagoing salmon migrate from their feeding grounds to streams of their birth. Chico Creek is the largest chum salmon run in Kitsap County. Come November 1st from 11am-3pm for a fun & informational tour of the returning Salmon. Perfect adventure for the whole family. Meet at the start of the Big Tree Trail. Tours run as needed. Rain or Shine!



Singing with Ila • The Voice Studio of Ila Faubion

Serving Poulsbo and Kitsap County • (425) 205-1341 • singingwithila@gmail.com

Are you interested in learning more about the magical instrument all of us carry within us? Whether you are a young singer interested in learning to sing like your favorite Disney Princess, or an advanced singer looking to further your skills, Ila is a vocal coach specializing in teaching musical theater and classical voice, as well as pop, folk, and bluegrass styles. Schedule your introductory lesson today!



Foreman's Forest Works • 360-536-8960

Travis Foreman, the Kitsap Forest Theater caretaker, has left his mark all over the property – notice the benches, fences, arbors, swings, and mushrooms. Contact him for a custom piece of yard art to grace your yard.

Find us on Facebook
Kitsap Forest Theater
POST A COMMENT OR REVIEW

Did you enjoy your visit to our magical theater?

Become a theater ambassador and spread the word about this special place. Tell your friends, post a review on our facebook page, share our website: word of mouth is our best advertising!



Director:	Craig Schieber
Music Director:	Mark Press
Asst. MD/Accompanist:	Nancy Press
Choreographer:	Guy Caridi
Costumers:	Amy Fancher & Gail Foster
Props:	Angela & Reid Templin
Sets:	George Pledger & Jim Johnson
Stage Managers:	Kristen Deskin & Danette Lam

Big Fish is based on the novel BIG FISH by Daniel Wallace and the Columbia Pictures film screenplay written by John August

Book by **John August** • ***Music & Lyrics by*** **Andrew Lippa**

Big Fish is presented by the Mountaineers Players through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036 • www.theatricalrights.com

Help ensure future generations experience the magic!
Thanks to the donors/volunteers who keep this magical theater thriving.
Donate your time and money today to keep the tradition alive!
Please visit **www.ForestTheater.com** and click the ***donate*** tab for more info.
Call 206-542-7815 or email players@foresttheater.com with questions.
Thanks for your support of the Mountaineers Players/Kitsap Forest Theater.

www.ForestTheater.com

Synopsis of Scenes

Act One

Prologue — Ashton Town Band

Scene 1 — **River Bank – Spring, 1995**

Scene 2 — **A Boy's Bedroom – 1968**
Be the Hero ..... Edward, Ensemble

Scene 3 — **The Swamp – 1945**
I Know What You Want ..... Edward, Witch, Other Witches
I Know What You Want (Reprise) ..... All Witches

Scene 4 — **Near the Banks of a River – Spring, 1995**

Scene 5 — **Wedding Reception at the Water's Edge – Spring, 1995**

Scene 6 — **Two Different Doctors' Offices – Fall, 1995**
Stranger ..... Will

Scene 7 — **New York City/Central Park – Fall, 1995**
Stranger continues ..... Will

Scene 8 — **Attic—Night – Fall, 1995**
Two Men in my Life ..... Sandra

Scene 9 — **Ashton Town Square – 1948**
Ashton's Favorite Son ..... Jenny Hill, Townsfolk

Scene 10 — **Fantastical Forest – 1948**

Scene 11 — **The Cave – 1948**
Out There on the Road ..... Edward, Karl, Jenny Hill, Townsfolk

Scene 12 — **The Calloway Circus – 1948**
Little Lamb from Alabama ..... Sandra, Two Friends
Time Stops ..... Edward, Sandra
Closer to Her ..... Edward, Amos, Circus Folk

Scene 13 — **Auburn University – 1951**
Daffodils ..... Edward, Sandra

Act Two

Entr'acte — Ashton Town Band

Scene 1 — **Attic – 1995, Camp – 1971, USO – 1953, Camp – 1971**
Red, White and True ..... Edward, Sandra, Ensemble

Scene 2 — **Bedroom Past – 1972**
Fight the Dragons ..... Edward, Young Will
Stranger (Reprise) ..... Will

Scene 3 — **Bedroom Present – Fall, 1995**
Showdown ..... Edward, Will, Ensemble
I Don't Need a Roof ..... Sandra

Scene 4 — **Outside a Tidy, Little House – Fall, 1995**

Scene 5 — **Ashton Town Square – 1973**
Start Over ..... Edward, Don Price, Amos, Karl, Ensemble
Start Over (Reprise) ..... Edward

Scene 6 — **Hospital Room – Fall, 1995**
What's Next ..... Edward, Will, Don Price, Zacky Price, Ensemble
How it Ends ..... Edward

Scene 7 — **The River's Edge – Fall, 1995 & 2001**
The Procession ..... Ensemble
Be the Hero (Reprise) ..... Will

Cast of Characters

Edward Bloom ..... ♦ Kristopher Jones
Sandra Bloom ..... Ila Faubion Dreessen
Will Bloom ..... Kevin Tanner
Josephine Bloom/Ensemble ..... ★ Emma Drazkowski
Young Will Bloom/Ensemble ..... Fynn Moore
Karl the Giant/General Patterson/Ensemble ..... Ashton Stonhill
Amos Calloway/Ensemble ..... Walt Foster
Witch/USO Singer/Ensemble ..... Ellen Hume
Jenny/Alabama Lamb/Ensemble ..... Gracie Butterfield
Don Price/Ensemble ..... Hebron Solomon
Zachy Price/Ensemble ..... Alejandro Enguidanos
Dr. Bennett/Judge/Ensemble ..... Christian Saether
Mayor/Ensemble ..... Brian Lindvall

Dancing & Singing Ensemble

Mermaid/USO Tapper ..... Naomi Dugaw
Alabama Lamb/ USO Tapper ..... ★ Ada Lovelace
Fire Dancer/USO Tapper ..... Winnie Milisavljevic
Nurse/Red Fang ..... Vega Tsuchida
USO Singer ..... Valerie Foster
School Teacher/USO Dancer ..... Carol Stanley
Fisherman/USO Dancer ..... Rachael Scott
USO Dancer ..... Harper Rogers
Cheerleader/USO Dancer ..... Lilah Wakefield
Scout/Western Mob ..... Celina Brewder
Will's Son ..... Ezra Moore
Scout ..... Isla Deskin

★ Dance Captains ♦ Fight Captain

Big Tree Trail

The Kitsap Forest Theater is surrounded by the Rhododendron Preserve – a 460 acre nature conservancy with over 70 acres of old-growth forest. One of the 10 largest Douglas Fir trees in the world (2nd largest in Kitsap County) is located on the preserve. The trail to 'Big Tree' is about 1/2 mile long and starts near Kitsap Cabin, ending at Big Tree. The tree is over 30' in diameter. The first part of the trail is steep – the hike takes you through Hidden Valley, on a bridge over Wildcat Creek with views of blooming trillium, wild rhododendrons and other native trees and plants.

If you hike the trail after the show, please be sure your car is not blocking anyone in. Wear walking shoes and enjoy your trek to another time and place!

The Mountaineers Players Committee (2024-2025)

Kitsap/Players Coordinator ..... Jerry Dreessen
Players' Chair ..... Jenny Dreessen
Vice-Chair ..... Laura Howell
Treasurer ..... Walt Foster
Secretary ..... Carol Stanley
Committee ..... Joan Barrera, Ila Dreessen, Jerry Dreessen, Kelly Flynt, Holly Girouard, Andrea McDonald, George Pledger, Cindy Raven, Stefanie Somers
Kitsap Cabin co-Chairs ..... Gala & Brian Lindvall
Gardner Hicks Theater co-Chairs ..... Jim Johnson & George Pledger
Costume Rental Manager/Kitsap Cabin Kitchen Manager ..... Jenny Dreessen
Kitsap Property Caretaker ..... Travis Foreman

Music & Dance Staff

Choreographer ..... **Guy Caridi**
Music Director/Conductor ..... **Mark Press**
Asst. Music Director/Accompanist ..... **Nancy Press**
Keyboardist ..... **Shana Prine**
Woodwinds ..... **Mark Kunz**
Drums ..... **Mark Jackson**
Violin (July 26/27, August 2/3) ..... **Marian Silberstein**
Flute (August 9/10, August 16/17) ..... **Alec Keith**
Fight Choreographer ..... **LeeAnn Hittenberger**

Production Staff

Director ..... **Craig Schieber**
Stage Managers ..... **Kristen Deskin & Danette Lam**
Costume Design & Construction ..... **Amy Fancher & Gail Foster**
Shirlee Mavar, Heather McMinds, Carrie Moore, Travis Foreman (singing witches head pieces)
Set Construction/Painting ..... **Jim Johnson & George Pledger**
Aidan Deskin, Kristen Deskin, Isla Deskin, Danette Lam, Kuran Pettiross, Craig Schieber
Prop Managers ..... **Angela & Reid Templin**
Technical Director/Sound Design/Sound Technical ..... **Kevin Matthew**
Sound Engineer ..... **Jules Shusterman**
Sound Emeritus ..... **Greg Brown**
Trail Decorations ..... **Gala Lindvall, Tiffany Maloney**
Publicity Manager ..... **Jerry Dreessen**
LeeAnn Nolan, *Players' Committee and entire Big Fish cast, crew & families.*
Seabeck Highway Sign ..... **Danette Lam**
Graphic Design, Buttons, Program ..... **Gala Lindvall**

Special Thanks to:

Tom Vogl, *CEO of The Mountaineers,* **Mark Kerr**, *VP of Properties, and* **Mountaineers staff** *for their unwavering support of The Mountaineers Players.*

Prestige Copy & Print *(printing & mailing);* **Absolute Graphix** *(t-shirt printing)*

Northwest Native Trail Signs ..... Richard Cromer, Leadership Kitsap 2025
Jim Johnson, Gala Lindvall, Ink & Era (Jordan & Aleya Veach)

Production Manager ..... **Gala Lindvall**
Associate Production Manager/Kitchen Manager ..... **Jenny Dreessen**
Shuttle Driver ..... **Les Bagley**

Thanks to our many Volunteers!

Putting on shows at KFT takes an army of volunteers who sell tickets, house manage/usher, head park/park, sell concessions, help backstage with sets and painting and **cook for cast and crew**. **Thank you to all of you who are the backbone of our organization, helping to staff these positions for our shows.** **If you'd like to volunteer** to help in any of these areas, please call 206-542-7815 or email players@foresttheater.com to sign up. And see the show for free!

And what do you think of our latest volunteer project – the beautiful colored signs identifying the many native trees and plants as you walk down the trail? This was a joint project with many people helping to make it a reality!