



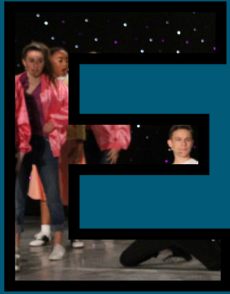
BAT BOY

the
Musical

by Brian Flemming and Keythe Farley

AUGUST 9-24, 2024

ABET



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AND JOHN & BEVERLY JOHNSON
present

BAT BOY

the
Musical

by Brian Flemming and Keythe Farley

AUGUST 9-25, 2024



ABET is sponsored in part by the City of Jacksonville and the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville through the Cultural Service Grant Program.

ABETTHEATRE.COM | 904.249.7177

This production uses the Artist Engagement Services of the University Resident Theatre Association.

THE CAST

Bat Boy	Ethan Edward Fisher	Mrs. Taylor	Phedre Delinois
Meredith Parker	Amy Allen Farmer	Reverend Billie Hightower	Zoe Pruitt-Green
Dr. Thomas Parker	Josh Waller	Maggie	Julia Fallon
Shelley Parker	Julia Blasi	Lorraine	Ilana Marshall
Sheriff Reynolds	Bill Ratliff	Daisy	Adrianna Williams
Rick Taylor/Ned	Rylan Serrano	Bud/Pan	Frankie Rady
Ron Taylor	Raphael Albea	Roy	Jennifer O'Brien
Ruthie Taylor	Ella Escamilla	Clem.	Cole Marshall

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Directed by	Cole Marshall	House Manager	Holly Gutshall
Stage Managers.	Susan Roche & Ashley Buckley	Production & Publicity Photographer.	Jax Headshots
Musical Director.	Katy Polk	Volunteer Coordinator	Maureen Johnson
Choreography.	Theresa Panzanowski	Box Office Assistant	Nina Williams
Dance Captain.	Ilana Marshall	Production Manager	Lee Hamby
Lighting Design	Ben Sparenberg	Set Painters.	Evan Gould Ilana Marshall Jenny Tamera Darrell Allen Morton George Kruer
Set Design	Cole Marshall	Set Build Crew	Timothy Marshall Brian Johnson George Kruer Cole Marshall
Set Dressing	Darrell Allen Morton	Set Dressing	Darrell Allen Morton
Sound Board.	Golden Stage Productions		
Props	Heather Goliber & Kat Goliber		
Lighting Board Operator	Kaleigh Ervin		
Costumes & Wigs	Phedre Delinois		
Sound Editing	Susan Roche		

ACT ONE

Hold Me, Bat Boy	Ensemble
Christian Charity	Sheriff, Meredith, Shelley
Ugly Boy	Shelley
Whatcha Wanna Do?	Rick, Shelley
A Home For You	Meredith, Bat Boy
Another Dead Cow	Bud, Ned, Roy and Ensemble
Dance With Me, Darling	Dr. Parker and Ensemble
Mrs. Taylor's Lullaby	Mrs. Taylor, Rick, Ron, Ruthie
Show You A Thing Or Two	Meredith, Bat Boy, Shelley, Dr. Parker and Ensemble
Christian Charity (Reprise)	Sheriff and Ensemble
A Home For You (Reprise)	Bat Boy
Comfort and Joy	Dr. Parker, Meredith, Shelley, Bat Boy, Sheriff and Ensemble

ACT TWO

A Joyful Noise	Reverend Hightower and Ensemble
Let Me Walk Among You	Bat Boy
A Joyful Noise (Reprise)	Reverend Hightower, Bat Boy and Ensemble
Three-Bedroom House	Meredith, Shelley
Children, Children	Pan and Ensemble
Inside Your Heart	Shelley, Bat Boy
Apology to a Cow	Bat Boy
Finale: I Imagine You're Upset	Bat Boy, Meredith, Dr. Parker, Shelley, Sheriff and Ensemble
Finale: Hold Me Bat Boy	Shelley and Ensemble

ABOUT THE CAST & CREW



ETHAN EDWARD FISHER (Bay Boy) is overjoyed to make his debut appearance on The Players' stage portraying *Bat Boy* in his first production with ABET. Previous projects: *Silence! The Musical*, *The Harvest* (5 & Dime); *Slow Food* (Theatre Jax); Jason Woods' *Christmas Spectacular* (Ritz Theatre/Dickens on Centre). Off stage, you can find Ethan at the St. John's Town Center in the luxury luggage boutique, TUMI, where he is the Store Manager and member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He also enjoys yoga, fashion, and playing piano. Thank you: to Cole Marshall for taking a chance on me; to the entire cast and crew for holding my hand and having patience; to my sisters for your undying support; to my Dad for your constant validation; and to my Mom for being my biggest fan. What's next for Ethan Fisher? Stand up comedy.



AMY ALLEN FARMER (Meredith Parker) is excited to be back at ABET having last been seen as Carlotta in *Phantom* earlier this Spring. While Amy's bios may never rival those of bio legends such as Phedre Delinois and Gary Baker, she strives to someday achieve the level of playbill excellence so adeptly demonstrated by these theatre legends. Whether she's training actors, working with cadavers, creating gory special effects makeup, or playing villains, crazy people, or opium den madams on stage, Amy always finds a way to overbook herself and survive on sarcasm and caffeine for extended periods of time. Some of her favorite roles include *The Witch in Into the Woods* (PBTS), *Joanne in Company*, (5&Dime), *Little Edie in Grey Gardens* (Theatre Jax), *Trenna in Ring of Fire* (Limelight Theatre), and various and sundry Gilbert & Sullivan operetta roles across the Boston area during her much younger days (*Mad Margaret/Ruddigore*, *Phoebe/Yeoman of the Guard*, *Tessa/Gondoliers*, *Ruth/Pirates of Penzance*). Amy would like to thank Rick, Charlotte, and Audrey for surviving on leftovers and takeout for the last 3 months while I pursue this crazy hobby. Amy would also like to thank her mom, brothers and best friend Julie for their unwavering support and love. I miss you Pops, you'll always be my #1 fan!



JOSH WALLER (Dr. Thomas Parker) In 2007, Josh Waller gave a career defining performance as Bat Boy in the Jacksonville premiere of *Bat Boy: The Musical*. Almost 17 years later, he's now playing Dr. Parker and couldn't be more excited to revisit one of his favorite shows. A regular on ABET's stage, he's remembered for his performances in *Alabama Story* (Thomas), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Charley Kringas), *Floyd Collins* (Floyd Collins), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Chip Tolentino), and *Ordinary Days* (Jason). A longtime local performer, Josh has graced almost every stage in town. Just a few of his favorites include Nick Bottom in *Something Rotten!* (Theatre Jax), Marvin in *Falsettos* (5 & Dime), Bobby in *Company* (5 & Dime), Bruce Bechdel in *Fun Home* (Limelight Theatre), Burrs in *The Wild Party* (Players by the Sea), Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* (Theatre Jax), Leo Frank in *Parade* (Players by the Sea), and so many others. "This one is for Shirley."

ABOUT THE CAST & CREW



JULIA BLASI (Shelley) is so happy to be back on stage with ABET. Julia is a lifelong theatre lover, singer, and actress. You may have recently seen Julia as Rosie in *Traces in the Wind* (Theatre Jacksonville), or as Cinderella in *Disenchanted* (ABET). Some of her other local credits include Sara in *Murder Ballad* (ABET), Lucy in *The Little Toy Shoppe* (Jason Woods Productions), ensemble in *Pippin* (Theatre Jacksonville) and Alice Murphy in *Bright Star* (ABET). She would like to thank her friends, family, and her husband, Matt, for all of their love and support.



BILL RATLIFF (Sheriff) is paying a nostalgic second visit to Hope Falls, having given an award-winning performance as Dr. Parker in the 2007 *Players by the Sea* production of *Bat Boy*. Bill stands 6'4" tall, bats left-handed, and is technically blind in his right eye. He has a mini doodle named Hilda Mae with no remarkable skills, and he has never seen an episode of *Game of Thrones*.

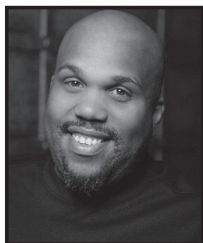


RYLAN SERRANO (Rick Taylor/Ned) is a sophomore acting major at Ithaca college. They are delighted to work with both Cole and ABET for the first time. You may have seen them around town in *Kinky Boots* and *West Side Story* at *Players by The Sea*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at FSCJ. They would like to thank Shirley Sacks-Kirby and Jeffery Grove for help in igniting their passion for theatre. They would like to dedicate every performance to Shirley.



RAPHAEL ALBEA (Ron) a seasoned performer hailing from Augusta, GA, began his artistic journey at the age of four, showcasing his passion for singing. His early involvement in church performances laid the foundation for a remarkable career. As he delved into piano and vocal lessons, his love for musical theater blossomed. Notable roles include Lefou in *Beauty and the Beast* and Junior Davis in *Choir Boy*. Raphael completed a successful run as a Drifter in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* at *Players By the Sea*, where he displayed exceptional acting, dancing, and vocal prowess. He is excited to announce his upcoming performance with ABET Theater as Ron in the musical *Bat Boy*, a role that promises to highlight his dynamic range and talent. Beyond the stage, Raphael contributes his talents to Ritz Voices in Jacksonville and holds a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in Economics from the University of North Florida. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Raphael remains committed to community service and fostering honorable achievements. In his downtime, he channels his creativity into writing and producing music, engaging in DIY projects, and indulging in binge-worthy shows. As a versatile artist, he even finds time for the latest trend, creating captivating TikTok videos.

ABOUT THE CAST & CREW



PHEDRE DELINOIS (Mrs. Taylor) is known for their unforgettable roles at All Beaches Experimental Theater (ABET) as Hermes in *Xanadu* and Larry in *Burn This*, they've mastered everything from divine messenger to fiery protagonist. Now, donning the persona of Mrs. Taylor in their latest venture, Phedre is more pumped than a shaken soda can at a talent show. With each performance, they sprinkle a bit of magic on stage, dedicating this one to their fabulous friends and ever-supportive family. Offstage, Phedre is a self-professed theater "chicer" who can turn a costume malfunction into a standing ovation. Whether it's rehearsing lines or perfecting their jazz hands, they bring a contagious energy that keeps the cast and crew laughing all the way to curtain call. Get ready to be entertained, amazed, and serenaded by Phedre's star power—it's showtime, sugah!



ZOE PRUITT-GREEN (Reverend Billie Hightower) is excited to make her ABET debut. She has played in shows at Players By The Sea, like *The Wiz* as Adapearl and the radio singer in *Bridges of Madison County*. She has also played in the Limelight Theater in Saint Augustine as McKnight in *Parade*. She has even done Shakespeare with the Pursued By A Bear Shakespeare group as Titania in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is excited to do another show with our director, Cole Marshal, and very grateful that you chose to come today!



JULIA FALLON JOHNS (Mayor Maggie) Julia is so excited to be a part of this cast! Some recent performances include *Urinetown* as Soupy Sue (5&Dime), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Starveling (Pursued by a Bear) and *Something Rotten* as Bea Bottom (Theatre Jax). Julia would like to give special thanks to her family for their support and endless love.



FRANKIE RADY (Bud/Pan) is excited to be working with ABET again for this fun and downright zany musical! Frankie was last seen onstage for ABET's production of *Phantom! The Musical* as part of our ensemble. Born and raised here in Jax Beach, Frankie is no stranger to local theatre; they have performed in several of Players By The Sea's recent musicals including *The Addams Family* (Caveman Ancestor), *West Side Story* (Officer Krupke), *Kinky Boots* (George), and *Sweeney Todd* (as Ensemble). Frankie has a BAS in Digital Art and Media and has experience in digital illustration and video editing as well, you can check out their portfolio at www.frankierady.art. Frankie would like to thank their family, their friends, and the wonderful cast and crew of *Bat Boy* for not only being delightful to work with but for being absolute angels during rehearsals. Thank you for coming to see us, enjoy the show!

ABOUT THE CAST & CREW



ELLA ESCAMILLIA (Ruthie) is so excited to be in her first show with Abet! She is a rising senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. You may have seen her in shows like *Parade*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Fun Home*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Prom*. Thank you Cole for another opportunity to perform, and thank you Abet for this amazing show!



ILANA MARSHALL (Lorraine) is so proud to be a part of this production! This is her first time being directed by her sweet husband, Cole Marshall. You may have seen her as Snow White in Abet's *Disenchanted!* Or as Leading Player in Theatre Jacksonville's production of *Pippin*. Ilana couldn't be more proud of her husband for directing his first musical. She wants to thank her friends, family and husband for always believing in her. Enjoy this spooooky but fun show!



ADRIANNA WILLIAMS (Daisy) is so grateful to be a part of *Bat Boy*. She is from Orlando, FL and came to Jacksonville a couple of years ago to attend UNF. Adrianna has trained in ballet, jazz, and tap and continues to take lessons. While at UNF, she was in their theatre club, Swoop Troupe, where she performed in shows, choreographed, was in charge of finances and social media. She would like to thank her family and friends for being so supportive. This is Adrianna's first show with ABET and can't wait to participate more in the theatre community of Jacksonville!



JENNIFER O'BRIEN (Roy) is thrilled to be onstage at ABET again! She holds an A.S. degree in musical theatre from Florida School of the Arts. She has previously been seen in *Xanadu* (ABET), *Silence! the Musical* (5 & Dime,) *The Laramie Project* (5 & Dime,) *Company* (5 & Dime,) *Avenue Q* (Amelia Community Theatre,) and *Bye Bye Birdie* (OPCT.) She wishes to thank the entire cast, crew, and creative team of this show for this wonderful experience! Thanks and love to my biggest supporters - James, Aaron, and Jordan!



COLE MARSHALL (Director) is making his directorial debut at ABET with *Bat Boy*, and coincidentally it also happens to be his first time directing a musical! He couldn't be happier with his amazing production team and cast. Special thanks to Theresa and Katy for taking on equally taxing jobs, and to Susan and Ashley for keeping him sane. Cole is a founding member and the artistic director for the Shakespearean troupe Pursued by a Bear and most recently directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Most importantly, a gigantic thanks to his wife, Ilana. He quite literally couldn't accomplish anything without her love and support. One final thought. This show was directed by Jacksonville theatre icon, Shirley Sacks Kirby, almost two decades ago. Not only did she give Cole his first leading role in a musical, but he directed her in her final theatrical performance. This show is dedicated to her.

ABOUT THE CAST & CREW



KATY POLK (Music Director) is a native of Jacksonville, Florida, and holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Florida State University and a Master of Music in Performance from Boston University. Since 2015, she has dedicated her career to teaching music and nurturing the musical talents of students. For the past five years, Katy has served as the Chorus teacher and established the Musical Theatre program at Middleburg High School in Clay County, Florida. During her tenure at MHS, she held the positions of Fine Arts Department Head and All County Chorus Coordinator and was nominated for the 2022-2023 MHS Teacher of the Year. She will begin the 2024-25 school year as the new choral and musical theatre director for the SJCCA at St. Augustine High School. She is thrilled to revisit *Bat Boy* and hopes you enjoy the show.



THERESA PAZANOWSKI (Choreographer) has been dancing and performing since she was 4 years old. She spent several years performing professionally in both Virginia and Delaware before moving to Jacksonville in 2019. You may recognize her from various productions in the area including *Parade* at The Limelight, *Pippin* at Theater Jacksonville, and as Helena in *Pursued By a Bear's A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Theresa joined ABET as a choreographer for this season's production of *Phantom* in the spring. She also enjoys sharing a love of dance and movement with students, and she is currently an instructor with Don't Miss a Beat's summer camp and production of *Matilda, Jr*. She has loved working with this talented cast and applauds them for embracing the wildness of this show. Special thanks to Cole for the opportunity to be a part of his passion project, and lots of love to her favorite Matt - thank you for all the love and support!

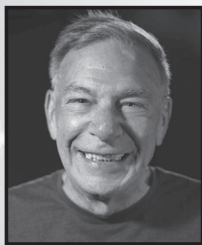


ASHLEY BUCKLEY (Stage Manager) has been singing since birth and officially studying music for over 20 years. She is a DA graduate and earned a Bachelor's degree in Music-education-Voice from JSU. She is passionate about arts education and has taught pre-school music and theatre and assisted with music and theatre intensives. Ashley shares her love of arts working with the FSCJ Artist Series which presents a wide variety of concerts and Broadway productions in Jacksonville. Favorite roles include: (Junie) *Junie B. Jones The Musical*, *Jerry's Girls*, (Clarissa) *Little Women The Musical* at Limelight Theatre; (u/s Beggar Woman / Ensemble) *Sweeney Todd*, (Angel City 4 Sop.) *City of Angels* at PBTS; (Lay Sister / Ensemble) *Suor Angelica* at Shorter and Bold City Opera; (Sister Mary Hubert) *Nunsense* at Blue Fire Theatre; (Dancing Fork) *Beauty and the Beast* at JSU; and (ASM) *Phantom! The Musical*. Ashley is forever grateful for her supportive family and friends.

ABOUT THE CAST & CREW



SUSAN ROCHE (Stage Manager) is happy to once again be working at her favorite theatre! Susan has been volunteering at ABET for the last 16 years as an actor, singer, musician, photographer, videographer, board member, tech, stage manager, house manager and assistant director. Favorite roles as an actor include Joanne (*Company*, OPCT), Sister Mary Lazarus (*Sister Act*, TJ), Marge (*Bridges of Madison County*, PBTS), Officer Randy (*Superior Donuts*, PBTS), Robert Anne (*Nunsense*, ABET), and Hannah (*Spitfire Grill*, Limelight). Away from the theatre, Susan raises her 2 dogs, Dakotah and Kiera, and works as Lead Technical Analyst III at a world wide travel management company. Many thanks to this cast and production team; you are all rock stars! This show is dedicated to my parents for their unwavering support and to Shirley, who is forever in our hearts.



Ben Sparenberg (Lighting Designer) is excited to be working with ABET again on *Bat Boy the musical*. Working with this production team and talented cast has been wonderful. Ben relocated to Jacksonville in December 2018 from Charlotte NC where he had a long career as an architectural lighting designer. His love of theater brought him to Theater Charlotte where he worked on and designed a number of productions. Since moving to JAX that same love of theater brought him to ABET and PBTS.



HEATHER GOLIBER (Props) Heather, commonly known as "Props Mistress," has been employing her creative expertise for several productions at Christ Episcopal Church, *Players by the Sea* and ABET for over 10 years. A sincere "Thank you" to Director Cole Marshall, cast and crew for making me part of *Bat Boy* the musical.



KATARINA GOLIBER (Assistant on Props) Katarina has been helping in the local theater community since 2012, starting at Christ Episcopal Church, and broadening towards Abet Theater. She currently attends classes at UNF and still manages to find time to help her mother, Heather, with any local productions. She is not fully familiar with the story of *Bat Boy* but is excited to see this wonderful cast work their magic. She thanks the cast and crew of *Bat Boy* for this opportunity and wishes everyone the best of luck.

ABET DEDICATES

BAT BOY the Musical

to the memory of

Shirley Sacks

Educator, Theatre Artist, Mentor and Beloved Friend



"It's silly, it's bloody, it's goofy, it's campy and it's off the wall. Sometimes poignant, sometimes tragic, and sometimes just truthful about who and what we are as Americans."

– From Shirley Sacks' Director's Notes for Bat Boy the Musical, July 2007

When Shirley Sacks directed the North Florida premiere of Bat Boy the Musical at Players by the Sea seventeen years ago, it was a ground-breaking event. No local theatre had ever attempted a show so lurid and bizarre. Would audiences buy tickets for an edgy cult musical based on a macabre tabloid headline ("Bat Child Found in a Cave!)? It would take extraordinary vision to capture the kinky humor as well as the serious themes of compassion and tolerance. And how on earth do you stage an inter-species orgy of woodland animals? Shirley put together a "Bat Family" production team and pulled off the challenge with expertise, imagination and daring. "Bat Boy" was a monster hit. Shirley instantly shattered all the "you-can't-do that-in-community-theatre" taboos. The following seasons saw sold-out productions of complex shows like Sweeney Todd, Hair, Rent, and Next to Normal.

Shirley was small in size, but gargantuan in her legacy, inspiring generations of students and colleagues, who continue to keep the lights of community theatre shining and relevant in an ever-changing world.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We would like to thank the following Donors for their generosity...

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for hosting our entire 2022-23 Season.



OUR MISSION

is to bring the excitement of live theatre to diverse audiences. An emphasis is placed on new and original plays, neglected classics, and on developing new talent.

ABET is a not-for-profit theatre registered with the state of Florida, the City of Jacksonville through the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, The Tom Nehl Fund of the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, and other private foundations and individual donations.

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