

Illini Student Musicals Presents...

Big Fish



Mom's Weekend

April 12 @ 7:30pm

April 13 @ 4:30 and @ 8:30pm

April 14 @ 2:00pm

Table of Contents

Note from the Artistic Leads.....	3
Cast List.....	4
Staff Roles.....	5
Committees.....	8
Songs.....	10
Cast Bios.....	11
Staff Bios.....	21
Pit Bios.....	26
Special Thanks.....	27

Note from the Artistic Leads

I cannot adequately express how grateful I am to have been involved in this production. It's been an incredible experience watching our vision come to life on stage. Every rehearsal, every moment of collaboration has been a true joy. Thank you ISM, for the opportunity to be a part of something so magical! To the rehearsal staff and my co-artistic lead, you all are awesome! The work you put into every rehearsal and every aspect of the show makes me want to work harder. To the hardworking crew, it has been so amazing to work with and learn from you all. To the incredible cast, your talent and dedication shine each moment you are on stage. You've brought these characters to life in a way that is captivating and exciting. I am so proud of you all! To the audience, thank you all for joining us; your enthusiasm and support fuel each company member's passion for theatre. Enjoy the show! - **Harper Clark**

ISM is proud to present Big Fish! Our members have worked tirelessly since January of this year working to bring this show to you. Completely student run, ISM continues to be an impressive powerhouse of student talent, and a testament to the necessity of arts in our world. This is my eighth and final production with ISM. I first started with ISM during COVID when lockdown and masks were heavily in effect. It has been a real journey, and a great experience to see ISM evolve and overcome struggles as we moved out of the pandemic. Starting with smaller casts and distanced rehearsals, to gradually increasing production size, and eventually coming back to a sense of normalcy with some of our largest productions ever. I am so happy to call this organization my home, and I am so lucky to have been a part of it for so long. Thank you for coming to see this show and for supporting ISM. I would like to thank all of the incredibly talented cast, staff, and pit who have made this show possible. Enjoy the show! - **Aidan Gardner**

Cast

Edward Bloom.....	Michal Szczepaniak
Will Bloom.....	Nathan Pugh
Sandra Bloom.....	Amanda Barry
Josephine Bloom.....	Laine Gamrath
Young Will.....	Owen Coughtry
Karl the Giant.....	Ethan Coronelli
Amos Calloway.....	Matt McDonnell
The Witch.....	Sari Gluck
Jenny Hill.....	Maggie Hancock
Dr. Bennett/Judge.....	Ryan Kreiter
Don Price.....	Nick Pugh
Zacky Price.....	Shrenik Balaji
Alabama Lamb 1/Cheerleader.....	Ellie Pierzina
Alabama Lamb 2/Cheerleader.....	Ainsley Holland
Red Fang/Cheerleader/Ensemble.....	Lara Keim
Schoolteacher/Cheerleader/Ensemble.....	Alexa Petrando
Mermaid/Ensemble.....	Mimi Erickson
Fisherman/General/Ensemble.....	Marcello Gaus Ehning
Mayor/Ensemble.....	Elayna Hermanns
Farm Girl/Ensemble.....	Sivan Orgad
Shepherd/Ensemble.....	Sophia Ranes
TV Narrator/Ensemble.....	Kristina Vezmar
Over-Excited Scout/Ensemble.....	Rebecca McPherson
Cowboy/Ensemble.....	Keegan Mullins
Sharecropper/Ensemble.....	Alexander Sticha

Rehearsal Staff

Co-Artistic Lead, Choreographer.....Harper Clark
Director.....Sarah Heidorn
Vocal Director.....Emma Perisho
Stage Manager.....Yuna Choi
Assistant Director.....Bridget Nolan
Assistant Vocal Director.....Ally Howe
Assistant Stage Manager.....Aahana Meka
Assistant Stage Manager.....Hannah Sachs
Rehearsal Accompanist.....Marissa Carrell
Executive Producer.....Ava BooydeGraaff

Technical and Production Staff

Co-Artistic Lead, Co-Technical Director, Tech Advisor.....	Aidan Gardner
Scenic Designer, Co-Technical Director.....	Jesse McKenzie
Costume Designer.....	Vicka Liokumovich
Sound Designer.....	Darien Durell
Co-Lighting Designer.....	Rocky Daehler
Co-Lighting Designer.....	Abby Kong
Props Coordinator.....	Zoe Mihevc
Captioning Coordinator.....	Charles Lin
Hair and Makeup Designer.....	Noori Khurshid
House Manager.....	Katelyn Ulrich
Co-Paint Charge.....	Cam Baba
Co-Paint Charge.....	Ellis Mack
Legacy Archivist.....	Abby Rydberg
Intimacy Director.....	Sophia Urban
Assistant Technical Director.....	Maggie Sanchez
Assistant Costumes.....	Ragen Carey
Assistant Costumes.....	Maeve Condon
Assistant Costumes.....	Mia Petrie
Assistant Sound.....	Grace Cho
Assistant Sound.....	Will Mueller
Assistant Sound.....	Jamila Nadine Booc
Assistant Sound.....	Matthew Perry
Assistant Lights.....	Joshua Nelson
Assistant Lights.....	Rebecca Sulko
Assistant Props.....	Molly Balmes
Assistant Props.....	Wren Burzynski
Assistant Props.....	Cecelia Escobar

Technical and Production Staff Cont.

Assistant Captioning Coordinator.....	Norma Calderon
Assistant Hair and Makeup.....	Wendy Buchanan
Assistant Archivist.....	Aimee Hwang
Assistant Archivist.....	Cesar Medina
Usher.....	Ragen Carey
Usher.....	Avisha Yerramilli
Run Crew.....	Mara Burkhalter
.....	Maëlys Cadot
.....	Ava Jacobs
.....	Ana Kravchenko
.....	Ellis Mack
.....	Ben Neumann

Pit

Co-Pit Director.....	Annika Marchi
Co-Pit Director.....	Carlos Ponce Vargas
Keyboard 1.....	Marissa Carrell
Reed 1.....	Thomas Smith
Reed 2.....	Neal Linden
Trumpet.....	Laurel Hart
Horn.....	Maeve O'Hara
Violin.....	Aiden Sirotkine
Viola.....	Leith Mascari
Cello.....	Evie Irwin
Bass.....	Adam Quiballo
Guitar.....	Cole Pierzina
Percussion.....	Julia Olson
Drumset.....	Dominic Gomes

Build Crew

Co-Technical Directors - Aidan Gardner, Jesse McKenzie

Assistant Technical Director - Maggie Sanchez

Co-Paint Charges - Cam Baba and Ellis Mack

Helen Bruschuk, Will Curtis, Eric Hernandez, Maggie Hershey, Ava Jacobs, Ana Kravchenko, Will Mueller, William Shen

ISM Marketing Committee

Marketing Director - Laine Gamrath

Head Graphic Designer - Lyla Stern

Assistant Graphic Designer - Jillian Herter

Gianna Casanova, Claire Gao, Abby Kong, Bridget Nolan,
Emma Perisho, Nathan Pugh, Nick Pugh, Liesl Schrag,
Angela Tomaso, Katelyn Ulrich

ISM Board of Directors

President - Ellie Pierzina

Vice President - Aidan Gardner

Treasurer - Peter Giannetos

Secretary - Ava BooydeGraaff

Marketing Director - Laine Gamrath

Community Outreach - Michal Szczepaniak

DEIA Chair - Jaz Wilkins

General Board Members - Maggie Hancock, Zoe Mihevc,
Emma Perisho, Hannah Sachs, Sophia Urban

ISM DEIA Committee

DEIA Chair - Jaz Wilkins

Cam Baba, Aera Boateng, Emily Hackett,
Sophia Katsma, Noori Khurshid, Cesar Medina

ISM Outreach Committee

Community Outreach Director - Michal Szczepaniak

Amanda Barry, Maya Cornejo, Sarah Heidorn,
Elayna Hermanns, Ainsley Holland, Noori Khurshid,
Vicka Liokumovich, Brodee McCormick, Matt McDonnell,
Hannah Miller, Nick Pugh



Act 1

Be The Hero.....Edward Bloom, Ensemble
The Witch (I Know What You Want).....The Witch, Edward Bloom, Ensemble
Stranger.....Will Bloom
Two Men in My Life.....Sandra Bloom
Ashton's Favorite Son.....Jenny Hill, Ensemble
Out There on the Road.....Edward Bloom, Karl, Jenny Hill, Ensemble
Little Lamb from Alabama.....Sandra Bloom, Alabama Lambs
Time Stops.....Edward Bloom, Sandra Bloom
Closer to Her.....Amos Calloway, Edward Bloom, Ensemble
Daffodils.....Edward Bloom, Sandra Bloom

Act 2

Red, White, and True.....Sandra Bloom, Edward Bloom, Ensemble
Fight the Dragons.....Edward Bloom, Young Will Bloom
Stranger (Reprise).....Will Bloom
Showdown.....Will Bloom, Edward Bloom, Ensemble
I Don't Need a Roof.....Sandra Bloom
Start Over.....Edward Bloom, Don Price, Amos Calloway, Karl
What's Next.....Will Bloom, Edward Bloom, Ensemble
How It Ends.....Edward Bloom
The Procession.....Ensemble
Be the Hero (Reprise).....Will Bloom

Cast



Shrenik Balaji - Zacky Price (he/him) is ecstatic to be a member of the incredible company of *Big Fish*. Shrenik is a freshman majoring in Bioengineering, and this is his second semester in Illini Student Musicals. His favorite past shows include *The Prom* and *Beauty and the Beast*. He would like his family and friends for the endless support, the wonderful staff, pit, and crew of *Big Fish* for making him feel so welcome in the show, and the cast that he has had the honor of working with. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Amanda Barry - Sandra Bloom (she/her) is thrilled to be a part of her 4th show with ISM!

She is a sophomore studying Advertising, Communication, and Public Relations. Some of her favorite past credits include Roxie Hart in *Chicago* (Steps Performing Arts Center) and Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family* (Grayslake Central High School). Outside of ISM, Amanda is the Digital Marketing Specialist of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and a member of the American Advertising Federation. She would like to thank her amazing friends, family, and the talented company of *Big Fish* for their love and support. Enjoy the show!



Owen Coughty - Young Will Bloom (he/him) is finishing 4th grade at Leal School, and is thrilled to be working with ISM for the first time. He has appeared as the Changeling Boy in Illinois Shakespeare Festival's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and as June's unborn child in HBO's *Boardwalk Empire* (uncredited). He enjoys drawing and drums, and riding his bike. He would like to thank the cast, crew, and creative team for being so nice, really working hard, doing a great job on the play, and helping him learn. Thanks to Mom, Dad, Goggi, and Calla for their support and love.



Ethan Coronelli - Karl the Giant (he/him)

This is Ethan's second show with Illini Student Musicals and he is beyond excited to sing his heart out eight feet up in the air on his stilts.

Ethan does in fact live in a cave and is currently a junior studying Choral Music Education. That's all.



Mimi Erickson - Mermaid/Ensemble (she/her)

is a freshman studying English with a teaching concentration. Theater has been her passion ever since she was little, having performed in over 30 productions. Besides theater, Mimi is in the sorority Alpha Gamma Delta and is in Cru, a student led Christian ministry group. This is Mimi's second ISM show, as she was in the ensemble for *The Prom* last semester. She would like to thank her family, Dylan Rhodes, and the entire cast, crew and staff of *Big Fish*. Enjoy the show!!

Laine Gamrath - Josephine Bloom (she/her) is

so excited to be back on stage for her final semester of ISM! Laine is a senior studying Psychology, and this is her seventh production with ISM. Most recently, you may have seen her as the Director/Artistic Lead of *The Prom*, Asst. Director of *Grease*, Katherine Blake in *Freaky Friday* and Serena in *Legally Blonde*. Laine also serves as the Marketing Director.

Outside of ISM, Laine is involved in Alpha Delta Pi and works at Legends Bar and Grill. She hopes you enjoy the show!





Marcello Gaus Ehning - Fisherman/General/Ensemble (he/him) is thrilled to be working on *Big Fish*! He is a freshman majoring in Actuarial Science, and this is his first ISM production. He would like to thank the entire team of this production for making *Big Fish* an amazing experience, and his family, for always encouraging him. Finally, he would like to thank the audience for supporting ISM, and he hopes they enjoy the show!

Sari Gluck - The Witch (she/her) is so excited to be performing in her last ISM show. She is a senior Integrative Biology major with a minor in Ecology and Conservation. She recently performed in ISM's *Legally Blonde* as Brooke Wyndham, *The Prom* as Angie, and now *Big Fish*! Sari is so excited to perform with all of her amazing friends by her side! Thanks to ISM for the best years ever!



Maggie Hancock - Jenny Hill (she/her) is a sophomore majoring in Lyric Theatre, and this is her fourth semester in Illini Student Musicals. In the fall of 2022 she was Gretchen in ISM's *Freaky Friday* and the assistant choreographer for ISM's *Grease* in the Spring of 2023. Maggie also serves on the general board of ISM. You may have seen her in Lyric Theatre's *The Wild Party* at the Krannert Performing Arts Center in the Fall of 2023. Maggie wants to thank the company of this show for making it such an incredible experience! She is so excited to share it with you all!



Elayna Hermanns - Mayor/Ensemble

(she/her) is thrilled to be back on stage for another fantastic ISM show! She is a sophomore Developmental Psychology major with a minor in Chemistry, and this is her fourth semester with ISM. She would like to thank the whole production team for all they've dedicated to this show, and her family and friends for their continuous love and support. She hopes you enjoy the show!!



Ainsley Holland - Alabama Lamb/

Cheerleader (she/her) is a sophomore studying Molecular and Cellular Biology. She is so excited to be in her fourth ISM show and has enjoyed working with this incredible cast.

In her past ISM shows, Ainsley has played Alyssa Greene in *The Prom*, Marty in *Grease*, and Ellie Blake in *Freaky Friday*. Ainsley would like to thank her family for their endless support along with all her friends. She can't wait to share this amazing story with the audience and hopes everyone loves it as much as she does!



Lara Keim - Red Fang/Cheerleader/

Ensemble (she/her) is so excited to be apart of *Big Fish!* Lara is a senior studying Mechanical Engineering and minoring in the Hoeft Technology and Management program. This is Lara's third semester with ISM, having also been in *Grease* and *The Prom!* She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support, and the entire ISM community for making her last 3 semesters at Illinois so incredibly memorable. Enjoy the show!





Ryan Kreiter - Dr. Bennett/Judge (he/him) is thrilled to be in his second ISM Production! Past theatrical credits include *The Prom* (Trent), *Mean Girls* (Damian), *Addams Family* (Gomez), *Shrek* (Lord Farquaad), *Cats* (Bustopher Jones), and *Lion King* (Pumbaa). Outside of ISM, Ryan is a freshman in Media and Cinema Studies with a Business minor. Ryan would like to thank his family and friends for traveling from near and far to cheer him on. Ryan would like to thank the ISM creative team, cast, and crew for an incredible first year with the program! Finally, Ryan would like to thank his acting coach, Stacey Flaster for everything else.

Matt McDonnell - Amos (he/him) is currently a sophomore and going into the field of advertising. He is thrilled to be back at ISM for his second show, recently playing Sheldon in the fall 2023 production of *The Prom*. He wants to congratulate the entire cast and crew on their hard work and thank them for making this another great semester!



Rebecca McPherson - Over-Excited Scout/Ensemble (she/they) is a freshman at the University of Illinois. This is Rebecca's first semester with ISM and she is so excited to be a part of *Big Fish*! While the hours can be long, the people here make time fly by! Enjoy the show!



Keegan Mullins - Ensemble (he/him) is a freshman majoring in Linguistics and is incredibly excited to be a part of his first ISM show, *Big Fish*. Outside of ISM, he has been involved in numerous community productions at Peoria Players Theater. In his free time, Keegan likes to read and is an active member in the Illini Metagamer's Club Campaign. Lastly, he would like to thank his friends and family for always supporting him in his theater endeavors.



Sivan Orgad - Ensemble (she/her) is a sophomore Theater Studies major and this is her first ISM production! With previous credits including Eleanor in *Rogers and Hammerstein's State Fair*, ensemble in *Sister Act*, and ensemble in *Smokey Joe's Cafe*. She is very excited and grateful to be a part of this production and be a part of this wonderful organization.



**Alexa Petrandu - Schoolteacher/
Cheerleader/Ensemble** (she/her) is currently a junior studying choral music education. She has been having so much fun this semester in the cast of *Big Fish*. Last semester she co-vocal directed *The Prom* with her bestie Braulio Muro. She was last seen as Sandy in *Grease* and Savannah in *Freaky Friday*. Outside of ISM Alexa enjoys hanging out at her sorority, Alpha Phi. She is very grateful for her friends and family who are the best people ever! She would like to thank the entire cast, staff, and pit for such a wonderful experience!!





Ellie Pierzina - Alabama Lamb/Cheerleader (she/her) is a junior Music Education and Flute Performance major and is so excited to play a little lamb in ISM's production of *Big Fish*! This is her sixth ISM production, and her fourth as a part of the cast. She is also proud to serve as the ISM President! Outside of ISM, she enjoys being a part of the Marching Illini, playing in concert ensembles, leading the children's choir at United First Methodist Church, running, crocheting, and spending time with family and friends. She wants to thank you for taking time to support ISM and the arts and hopes that you enjoy the show!

Nathan Pugh - Will Bloom (he/him) is a sophomore majoring in Finance & Information Systems. He is thrilled to return to ISM this semester, after playing Nick in *The Prom*, Danny Zuko in *Grease*, and Parker in *Freaky Friday*! He has also performed at Carnegie Hall and in the Illinois All-State Honors Chorus. Outside of ISM, Nathan is a senior consultant at Illinois Business Consulting and member of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity. Nathan thanks all of the incredible cast, crew, pit, and staff that made this production possible and hopes you enjoy the show!



Nick Pugh - Don Price (he/him) is a sophomore Marketing and Information Systems major and is excited to be back as Don Price in *Big Fish* in his 4th semester with ISM! Previous ISM credits include *Grease* (Doody), *Freaky Friday* (Wells), and *The Prom* (Ethan). Other performance highlights include *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere), *Elf* (Buddy), and singing at Carnegie Hall. Nick is a member of ISM's Marketing and Outreach Committees, Alpha Delta Phi, AMA Consulting, and VP of Marketing and Events for UIUC REACH. As always, Nick is so grateful to be a part of this incredible cast and experience.
[@nickpugh_](#) on insta.

Sophia Ranes - Cowboy/Ensemble (she/they) is beyond excited to be back on stage with ISM in one of her favorite musicals! This is her second semester with ISM and she is currently a freshman studying Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. She would like to thank the production and tech teams for all the amazing work they do, her family and friends for their unending support and love, and the community at Olney Central College Theatre for all of the wonderful memories. Most of all, she hopes you enjoy the show! :)



Alexander Sticha - Ensemble (he/him) is very excited to make his ISM debut! He is a freshman double major in Psychology and English, with a minor in Music. Alexander's favorite past roles include Bill Austin in *Mamma Mia* and Professor Callahan in *Legally Blonde*. Alexander would like to thank his family, friends, and high school director for supporting him. He is still riding the high of being part of the winning scavenger hunt team at the ISM production retreat.

Michal Szczepaniak - Edward Bloom (he/him) is thrilled to be back on the Lincoln Hall stage in *Big Fish*. He is a senior studying journalism with a theatre minor. Some of his favorite past credits include *The Prom* (Barry Glickman), *Grease* (Roger), and *Legally Blonde* (Kyle B. O'Boyle). Michal also serves as the Community Outreach Coordinator on the ISM Board of Directors. This is his eighth semester with Illini Student Musicals and he would love to thank every member of this organization who has made these last four years unforgettable! Plus, he thanks his family and friends for all their support. Enjoy the show!



Kristina Vezmar - Ensemble (she/her) is a sophomore majoring in Choral Music Education and is so excited to be performing in her first Illini Student Musicals production! Her favorite past shows include *Godspell* and *Twelfth Night* and is excited to add *Big Fish* to the list. She is so thankful for all of the cast, crew, and staff that have helped bring this show to life and also to her friends and family for their encouragement.

She is so grateful to have the opportunity to continue to be involved with musical theater in college!



223 N Broadway,
Urbana IL

Since 1972



51st Season

UPCOMING SHOWS & AUDITIONS

DESCRIBE THE NIGHT

may 09-may 19

by Rajiv Joseph
Dir. Latrelle Bright

This Girl **Laughs**, This Girl **Cries**, This Girl Does **Nothing**

june 20-june 30

by Finegan Kruckemeyer
Dir. June Clark Eubanks

AUDITIONS for **LIZZIE**

may 12



LIZZIE: The Musical

by Steven Chesik-deMeyer, Tim Maner
and Alan Stevens Hewitt

aug 01-aug 18

Dir. Sophia Urban
Music Dir. Chris Huffman

Visit www.stationtheatre.com or email
stationtheatre.cu@gmail.com for more information!

FOELLINGER AUDITORIUM

peter mcpoland

SHOW
7:30 PM

DOORS
7:00 PM

APRIL
2014
8TH



STUDENT
\$15

STAR COURSE
TIX @ STAR-COURSE.COM

PUBLIC
\$23

Staff

Cameron Baba - Co-Paint Charge (she/her) is a senior studying Linguistics and Music. This is her fourth show with ISM, and she is so excited to be a part of the production again! Cam would like to thank everyone in the cast, crew, and pit for all of the work they put in to make this show as amazing as it is.

Molly Balmes - Assistant Props (she/her) is so excited to be working on her very first ISM show, *Big Fish*! She is an undeclared freshman who loves musicals and tech theater. She has greatly enjoyed being a part of bringing this show to life and would like to thank her parents and roommate for their endless support. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Ava BooydeGraaff - Executive Producer (she/her) is excited to be involved in her eighth and final show with ISM! Previously, Ava was the Executive Producer for *The Prom*, Stage Manager for *Grease*, *Freaky Friday*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Into the Woods*, and she was an Assistant Stage Manager for *Little Women* and the ISM Showcase. Ava is so grateful for all the opportunities and relationships ISM has provided over the past four years!

Wendy Buchanan - Assistant Hair and Makeup (she/her): This is Wendy's first show with ISM, but she has been involved in many theatre productions in various capacities over the years. Wendy is a freshman majoring in psychology. Outside of theatre, she enjoys playing trumpet, reading, and making things she finds on Pinterest. She is very excited for you to see ISM's production of *Big Fish*!

Mara Burkhalter - Run Crew (any) is happy to be back for her second show with ISM, on Run Crew once again. She's glad you came around for the show, and hope you enjoy the production as much as the cast, crew, pit and staff do!

Wren Burzynski - Assistant Props (they/he/she) is very excited to be working on their second ISM show! They are a freshman, and while they're currently undeclared, they hope to pursue a History and Creative Writing double major. They'd like to thank everyone involved for giving them an opportunity to work with such an amazing company and their family and friends back home for encouraging their continued involvement in theater!

Maëlys Cadot - Run Crew (she/her): This is Maëlys' first show with ISM, but she has been involved in many productions in various capacities in the past including *Puffs*, *Newsies*, *Beauty & the Beast*, and student written shows. She is a freshman majoring in Psychology and is very excited for this opportunity to dive back into the world of theatre!

Norma Calderon - Assistant Captioning Coordinator (she/her) is delighted to be working on this semester's ISM production *Big Fish*! She is a freshman and currently Undeclared in Engineering. This is her first ISM show and is working as an Assistant Captions Coordinator, working with Captions Coordinator Charles to turn the script into helpful captions for the show. Although she's never worked for theater production before, she is a massive fan of musicals, her favorites being *Heathers* and *In The Heights*! She would like to thank fellow ISM staff member Grace Cho for introducing her to ISM and her friends for supporting all her work.

Ragen Carey - Assistant Costumes, Usher (she/her) is proud to be a part of the production of *Big Fish*. She is a freshman Elementary Education major, and this is her first ISM show, which she has thoroughly enjoyed taking part in. She has loved working with the costume design crew in creating many of the amazing costume pieces you see on stage. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Grace Cho - Assistant Sound (she/her) is a junior Computer Science major returning for her sixth ISM production! Her previous ISM credits include *Into The Woods* (Little Red), *Legally Blonde* (Delta Nu/Judge), *Freaky Friday* (assistant sound designer), *Grease* (Ensemble), and *The Prom* (assistant props coordinator). Her other favorite past shows include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Marcy) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal). She thanks the cast, crew, and pit for their hard work and dedication toward this production, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Yuna Choi - Stage Manager (she/her) is a junior in Early Childhood Education, and she's grateful to return as the stage manager for another ISM production! Last semester she acted as stage manager for *The Prom*, and she's also served as assistant stage manager for three other ISM shows. She is very proud of this immensely talented staff, pit, and cast. She'd like to give shoutouts to her stage management team, Hannah and Aahana, for the hard work and dedication they've shown. Special thanks goes to Ava, for all the support she's given Yuna the past three years.

Harper Clark - Co-Artistic Lead, Choreographer (she/her) is thrilled to return for her second show with ISM! She is a sophomore studying Dance and Psychology. Past choreographic experiences include *The Prom* (ISM), *Chicago* (Double Threat Studios), and teaching for years at her home studio, Belle Academy of Dance. This summer she will be choreographing a production of *Freaky Friday* and this fall will serve as Assistant Choreographer for the Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' production of *Oklahoma!* Besides ISM, Harper is a member of Student Alumni Ambassadors and the President of her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Maeve Condon - Assistant Costumes (she/her) is excited to return to ISM for her second show with the program and would like to thank the wonderful people who have made that possible!

Cecelia Escobar - Assistant Props (she/her) is very excited to be working on *Big Fish*! She is a freshman double majoring in Political Science and Latina/Latino Studies. This is her second ISM show and she is excited to continue working on props. Enjoy the show!

Aidan Gardner - Co-Artistic Lead, Co-Technical Director, Tech Advisor (he/him) is a senior studying Sound Design & Technology. This is Aidan's eighth ISM production; his previous credits include Co-Sound Designer for *The Prom*, *Grease*, *Freaky Friday*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Into the Woods*. In addition, Aidan serves as the Vice President of the Illini Student Musicals Executive Board. Aidan would like to thank all of the talented cast, crew, staff, and pit that have made this show possible as well as a special shoutout to J Dawg, D Dawg, and P Dawg.

Maggie Hershey - Build Crew (they/she) is excited to be working on *Big Fish*. This is their second ISM production as a member of build/paint crew. They are a freshman BFA in Theatre Lighting Design & Technology with a minor in Business. This semester they were also the assistant lighting designer for *Witch*, lighting designer for *Bug*, and the programmer/lighting board-op for *The Gangster Play: Circus Circus*. She would like to thank the technical directors for being great mentors and teachers and making each show such a great experience.

Jillian Herter - Assistant Graphic Designer (she/her) is so excited to play even just a small part in bringing this incredible show to life! This is her second semester with ISM, and she is enjoying every minute of it! She has loved being able to work alongside the amazing people on the Marketing Committee. She would like to thank her family, friends, and Laine and Lyla for being her biggest supporters during this process!

Ava Jacobs - Run Crew, Build Crew (she/they) is ecstatic to be a part of the run and build crew for *Big Fish*. She is a freshman majoring in Architecture, and this is her first semester in Illini Student Musicals! She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her and everyone in this amazing team for their incredible hard work on this show.

Abby Kong - Co-Lighting Designer (she/her) is thrilled to be a part of *Big Fish*! This will be her third main stage production with ISM, and she continues to be grateful for the friends and fond memories developed through this organization. She was an assistant on the lighting team for *The Prom*, Assistant Stage Manager for *Grease*, and before college she was heavily involved with lighting on too many shows to count. Abby also creates this program you're reading, so if you find any typos, you can blame her personally.

Ana Kravchenko - Run Crew, Build Crew (she/they) is extremely excited to be a part of bringing this show to the stage. She is a freshman History major, and this is her first semester in Illini Student Musicals. Having participated in theatre for years, she's happy to be able to reconnect with it in college. She sends all her love to the *Big Fish* team for their hard work this semester, and she's excited to see the culmination of their collective efforts!

Charles Lin - Captioning Coordinator (he/him) is a graduating Computer Science student that has a true passion for projecting words for large audiences. In fact, he loves projecting words so much that this is his third semester making the highest quality captions for ISM. He is grateful to be a part of ISM, but besides working on captions, Charles enjoys making piano medleys and grabbing dinner with friends and... "Wait. Did we just order fish? Like Big Fish? I need to start working on captions again, don't I..." Oh, the end, is never the end, is never the end, is never the end...

Vicka Liokumovich - Costume Designer (she/they) is thrilled to be the costume designer for *Big Fish*! Vicka is a freshman majoring in History, and minoring in Secondary Education, Psychology, and Philosophy. This is Vicka's second semester working with Illini Student Musicals. She's worked on over twenty shows in the past during her high school years, and worked on the costume crew for *Shrek the Musical*, which was Illinois High School Theatre Festival's All-State show in 2023. She would like to thank her family, past high school teachers and costume manager, and everyone in this fantastic production who have been so lovely to work with! She hopes you enjoy the show!

Ellis Mack - Co-Paint Charge (they/them) is very excited to be a part of ISM's production of *Big Fish*! They are a sophomore Psychology student with a minor in French! This is their second show with ISM and they worked on *Grease* last spring as Assistant Paint Charge and a run crew member! They have immensely enjoyed working with everyone at ISM and would like to thank their family and friends for all their support! They hope you enjoy the show and have a wonderful Mom's Weekend!

Jesse McKenzie - Scenic Designer, Co-Technical Director (he/him) is a senior studying Scenic Technology with a minor in Business who loves to bring sets to life with ISM. This is not his first time designing or technical directing for ISM but will sadly be his last before graduation. He designed the set for this production and co-technical directed with Aidan Gardner. He cannot wait to see what ISM does next and hopes it will only continue to grow for years to come. Enjoy the show!

Aahana Meka - Assistant Stage Manager (she/her) is very excited to be working on *Big Fish*! She is a freshman pre-medical Psychology major, and this is her second ISM show working as Assistant Stage Manager. She has enjoyed her time working with rehearsal staff and building relationships with all of ISM. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Zoe Mihevc - Props Coordinator (she/her): *Big Fish* is Zoe's 8th and final show with ISM. She is grateful for everyone's hard work over the past few years to grow this community. It has been a fantastic experience to work on a production of *Big Fish* for the second time, as this show was Zoe's first musical in high school and what made her fall in love with theater. She would especially like to thank the wonderful mentors she has had over her 8 years doing theater and is excited to see what her mentees will do in the future.

Will Mueller - Assistant Sound (he/him) is a first-year Sound Design & Technology BFA from Grayslake, Illinois. A few recent credits include sound designer for *Little Women*, *Chicago*, and *The Addams Family*. *Big Fish* is his first production with ISM and he cannot wait to continue to work on more shows! Will hopes you sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

Jamila Nadine Booc - Assistant Sound (she/her) is a freshman studying Computer Science + Linguistics, and she could not be more excited to be on the staff for her second ISM production! In ISM, she was previously involved with *The Prom* as one of the Assistant Sound Designers. Outside of theatre, she is involved with PSA and GRMD. She would like to thank all of the cast, crew, and pit for all their hard work in putting this show together, and she hopes you enjoy!

Joshua Nelson - Assistant Lights (he/him) is a freshman studying Computer Science. He is thrilled to be a part of his second production with ISM and is overjoyed to express his creative passion for theatrical lighting through this show. Joshua would like to thank everyone involved in the production of *Big Fish* for working so tirelessly to bring this amazing show to life!

Bridget Nolan - Assistant Director (she/her) is so excited to be working on *Big Fish* with ISM this spring! Bridget is a sophomore pursuing a Media and Cinema Studies major with a minor in Theatre Studies, and this is her second semester in Illini Student Musicals. Bridget made her directorial debut in 2022 after writing and producing her own musical, and has been in a number of shows, including *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *12 Angry Men*, and *Chicago*. She would like to thank her loving family and friends for their support throughout this entire process.

Emma Perisho - Vocal Director (she/her) is beyond excited to be a part of her 6th ISM production, and is even more excited to be on the staff this time!! Emma is a junior studying Choral Music Education, and you may have seen her on stage last semester in *The Prom* as Emma Nolan, or last spring as Jan in *Grease*. She also serves on the ISM Board of Directors as a General Board Member! She has had so much fun working with this amazing cast, and would love to give a shoutout to her amazing assistant Ally and the rest of rehearsal staff for being a dream team to work with. She hopes you enjoy the show (especially how pretty they sound!!!)

Mia Petrie - Assistant Costumes (she/her) is very excited to help out with ISM's production of *Big Fish*! She is a freshman majoring in Secondary Education: Mathematics. She enjoys being involved in the many different parts of a production. In high school she performed as well as helped behind the scenes on costumes, set, props, and run crew. This is her second ISM show she is helping with. She hopes you all enjoy the show and looks forward to future productions!

Hannah Sachs - Assistant Stage Manager (she/her) is a sophomore studying Management and Information Systems. She has previously worked as an Asst. Stage Manager for ISM's productions of *Freaky Friday*, *Grease*, and *The Prom*. She is so excited to present *Big Fish* this semester and is proud of all the work the staff, pit, and cast did to make it an amazing show for you all. She would like to specifically thank the stage management team, Yuna and Aahana, for being supportive friends and for making this semester so enjoyable. Enjoy the show!!

Maggie Sanchez - Assistant Technical Director (she/her) is very excited to be working on *Big Fish*! She is a sophomore Psychology major with a minor in Criminology. This is her fourth ISM show, and she is very excited to be working alongside such an amazing group of people. She would like to thank her family for encouraging her to pursue her passion for theatre and her roommates who motivate her everyday. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Lyla Stern - Marketing Content Coordinator and Head Graphic Designer (she/her) is a junior Graphic Design student at the University of Illinois. She is extremely grateful to be back with ISM working on her second big visual identity project, and everything photo and video related for @illinimusicals on Instagram. Previously, she worked on sound for *Freaky Friday* and *Grease*. She was the co-proshot coordinator for last semester's production of *The Prom*, and this is her second year of ISM marketing. She is so unbelievably proud of all the work this organization has accomplished this semester and looks forward to spending her final year on campus with ISM.

Rebecca Sulko - Assistant Lighting (she/her) is a freshman studying Electrical Engineering. This is her first show with ISM. She likes to take long walks on the beach.



Marissa Carrell - Keyboard 1, Rehearsal Accompanist (she/her) is a freshman in Music Education and this is her first semester in Illini Student Musicals. *Big Fish* has been one of Marissa's favorite experiences on campus so far. She wants to thank, rehearsal staff, pit, and cast for being so welcoming. She also wants to thank her friends and family for all of their support!

Dominic Gomes - Drumset (he/him) is back in ISM on drum set! This is his second show here at ISM! His previous musical pits include *SpongeBob*, *Hello Dolly!*, *The Prom*, and *Spelling Bee!* He enjoys playing in various jazz ensembles at Jazz At Illinois here in Champaign, along with being principal timpanist with the Schaumburg Youth Symphony Orchestra, and serving as Coach Gomes to the Notre Dame College Prep Drumline! Enjoy the show and GO REMO!

Laurel Hart - Trumpet (she/her) is elated to be a part of telling the story of *Big Fish*. She is a senior studying Molecular & Cellular Biology. This is her first ISM production, concluding eight semesters (and two summers) of playing trumpet in campus music ensembles. She thanks Annika, Carlos, and the ISM leadership for welcoming her in her final semester at Illinois, and she is grateful for the best "pit-sters" to play this wonderful music with.

Neal Linden - Reed 2 (he/him) is thrilled to be in the pit for *Big Fish*. Neal is a freshman in Aerospace Engineering. This is his first show with ISM and he is excited for the experience. Neal would like to thank his friends and family for supporting him in his musical endeavors and Obama for making this experience possible.

Julia Olson - Percussion (she/her) is a freshman studying Music Performance with a minor in Business, and this her second semester in Illini Student Musicals. She previously played percussion for *The Prom*. Outside of ISM, she enjoys working as a research assistant for the School of Music and participating in the Philharmonia Orchestra, Illini Strings, National Band Association, and Pickleball Club. She would like to thank all of the staff, cast, and crew for their hard work that has gone into putting this show together. Julia is so excited to play for *Big Fish!*

Carlos Ponce Vargas - Co-Pit Director (he/him) is beyond excited to be a part of this production and share the beautiful music of *Big Fish!* Carlos is a junior studying Music Education with an Instrumental focus. This is his first time working with ISM and first time directing a pit. He's previously been a part of the pit for *In The Heights* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He is super thankful for all the welcoming energy from everyone in ISM! He would like to thank all his previous and current mentors and colleagues for providing him with the tools and support to undergo this incredible experience. Carlos hopes you all enjoy the show and leave humming a song or two!

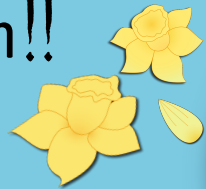
Adam Quiballo - Bass (he/him) is glad to be a part of this production. He is a Senior in Electrical Engineering, and this is his fifth show with ISM in the pit. He plays bass for Philharmonia Orchestra and Wind Orchestra and hopes to continue playing bass in theatre in the future. He hopes you enjoy the show.

Aiden Sirotkine - Violin (he/him) is happy to be making music for *Big Fish*. He is a Physics major but loves playing violin on the side, and he is happy to be playing with such a wonderful group. This is his first ISM show, but he played in various pit orchestras in high school. He hopes to be a part of more musical productions in future, and hopes you enjoy *Big Fish!*

Special Thanks to...



Pleasant Valley High School,
Reid Custer High School,
St. Francis High School,
Nisi Sturgis and Jordan Coughtry,
and Terry Dederich!!



We couldn't have put on
this show without you!

**Plant
Mode**



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

plantmode.com
plantmode13@gmail.com

BOHEMIA

Contact and Follow ISM!



[@illinimusicals](https://www.instagram.com/illinimusicals)



[@illinistudentmusicals](https://www.tiktok.com/@illinistudentmusicals)

Check us out at
illinistudentmusicals.org
and please consider

[Donating to ISM](#)

ISM | Illini
Student
Musicals