

**BIG FISH AUDITION PACKET**  
(Sun, Feb. 16 & Mon, Feb. 17 @6:30pm | Callbacks Wed, Feb 19 @6:30pm)  
**REHEARSALS BEGIN MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 - 9pm**  
**SHOW DATES: MAY 15<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**



**PREPARATION:**

*Auditions are open call, no advance registration required. All should be prepared to sing a 16-32 bar cut of a song in the style of the show. An accompanist will be available; please bring your sheet music. Actors will be asked to read cold from the script as well as participate in a dance audition.*

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**SYNOPSIS:**

**Act 1**

The curtain rises in Alabama on Edward Bloom, who is skipping rocks on the river. His son, Will, who is about to get married, comes to ask Edward not to make a toast or tell any of his crazy stories at the wedding. Edward cannot understand why Will feels this way, but assures that he will oblige. Entering a flashback to when Will was a child, Edward tells him a story. Edward is walking down the river when he meets a man trying to catch fish to no avail. So Edward teaches him that the proper way to catch fish is by doing the "Alabama Stomp," saying "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. Teach a man the Alabama Stomp, you feed his soul!" The entire company joins in with them and they are able to catch many, many fish. At the very end of the song, a giant fish jumps out of the water into the fisherman's arms ("Be the Hero"). When he finishes his story, Edward's wife Sandra tells them it's time for Will to go to bed. Edward refuses behind her back and tells Will another story of a witch that Edward met as a teenager, who showed Edward and his high school enemy, Don Price, how they would die ("The Witch").

The story returns to present day to where Edward suspects that Will's fiancée, Josephine, is pregnant. He tells Will of his suspicion and after jokingly pushing a response from Will, his suspicion is confirmed. But Will tells Edward that he cannot go around telling people because it is too soon and "statistically, it might not happen." At the wedding reception, Edward noisily decides to make a toast saying he has "recently decided to become a grandfather," and that he has reason to believe that his wish "may come sooner than expected." This whole situation, of course, angers Will and as Josephine takes the shocked crowd to catch the bouquet, Will and Edward argue. Will is angry that he did not follow his requests, and Edward wishes to stop getting treated like a child. After Sandra breaks the argument before "one of [them] says something [they] can't take back," the reception ends. While leaving the celebration, Edward's doctor, one of the guests, notices that Edward seems to be in pain and suggests that he come in for an examination. At the hospital, Edward and Sandra discover that the cancer Edward has been fighting has spread beyond where they imagined. Though Edward has been hiding his cancer from Will, his doctor thinks he and Will should have a talk about it. Concurrently, in a hospital back where Will and Josephine live in New York City, they discover that their child is a boy ("Take Another Look"). Later that day, in Central Park, Will sings of the wonder and mystery of his future child, and promises to strengthen his relationship with his father, who he sees as a stranger ("Stranger"). But his joy is interrupted by a phone call from his mother, telling him about Edward's condition and asking him and Josephine to come home.

In Edward and Sandra's shed in Alabama, Sandra tells Will that although he and Edward can be a handful, she loves them both ("Two Men in My Life"). They travel to their back yard, and Edward and Josephine enter and it appears she is being entertained by his stories. She is enamored by his life and stories and wishes to hear them all, so he launches into another tale of his high school days. He was the hero of his small town, Ashton, and was the boyfriend of the head cheerleader, Jenny Hill ("Ashton's Favorite Son"). The town of Ashton, Alabama is scared because of a giant living in a nearby cave, so to get to the bottom of the situation, Edward volunteers to go talk to him. He has no fear because he knows he would not be killed by the giant. The witch told him exactly how he would go, and this is not it. He goes to the cave and introduces himself to the giant, named Karl, and convinces him to join him on a journey away from Ashton ("Out There on the Road").

Back in the present, Josephine and Will are looking through Edward's old files. Josephine is excitedly talking about Edward's stories while Will expresses his concern that his father will die and he will not know who he is. Josephine suggests that if he makes a list of his father's stories and each of their morals, he will learn what kind of a person his father really is. He begins listing some of them, but is interrupted when Josephine finds a deed to a house in Ashton signed by Jenny Hill and Edward. She thinks this proves that Edward must be telling the truth, but Will denies it and questions why the deed exists in the first place. However, Josephine's interest sparks a conversation of Edward and Sandra's meeting. While Will believes they met in college, Josephine explains that is not what Edward told her. Will asks which version of the story she was told, and there is another flashback: Edward has taken Karl to try out for a circus. When they get there, three girls are auditioning with their song and dance routine ("Little Lamb from Alabama"). Edward notices one of the girls, Sandra, and it is love at first sight ("Time Stops"). He convinces the ringmaster, Amos Calloway, to hire Karl, and then agrees to work for the circus for free in exchange for one clue about Sandra each month ("Closer to Her"). After three years of working at the circus, Edward asks why he will not tell him her name, and Amos says that "secrets are the backbone of society." Later that night, Edward finds Amos in his true form: a werewolf. Upon learning Amos' big secret, Edward finally convinces him to tell him what he wants to know. Her name is Sandra Templeton, she goes to [Auburn University](#), and she loves daffodils.

Edward travels over 700 miles in a cannon to Auburn University and finds Sandra only to discover that she is engaged to Don Price, Edward's high school rival. When Don sees Edward talking to Sandra, he beats him to the ground. Sandra breaks up with Don on the spot, and when Don asks, "You love this guy?" She responds, "Well he's just a stranger, but I prefer him to you." Edward proposes to Sandra, and though she is hesitant at first, he assures that they will love each other forever as he promises her a life full of daffodils ("Daffodils").

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**SYNOPSIS:**

**Act 2**

The show continues as Edward leads young Will and some other boys in a boy scouts troop to make a bonfire. He tells them the story of when he was in the war. Sandra and some show girls were performing for the military troops when a masked man appears on stage to kill the general. Edward goes on stage and discovers that this masked man is Red Fang, the infamous sniper. After a long battle on stage alongside the showgirls, he successfully kills Red Fang ("Red, White, and True"). Edward tells the boys that "some people say it was the turning point of the war." But when young Will asks which war, he is unable to answer. This adds to young Will's growing doubts of his father's stories. Later on, Edward tells Sandra and Will he has to travel for a while for his work as a traveling salesman. Will is upset, but Edward tells him he must be brave and Fight the Dragons ("Fight the Dragons").

In the present, Will nervously prepares to confront Edward about the deed he and Josephine found, as he has always been suspicious that Edward had been having an affair ("Stranger" (Reprise)). Edward is lying in bed when Will comes in and asks about the Ashton, but before he can address his suspicions, Edward grows angry and yells at him for wrongly accusing him of something. He yells at him to get out and Sandra comes in to calm him down and get him to sleep. He falls into an uneasy sleep and has a dream that he and Will have a Western-style duel and trial over the issue with the outcome being a sentence of hanging for lying and having a house with Jenny (The Showdown). He wakes up screaming, and as Sandra calms him and comforts him, it begins to rain. Edward says the roof should hold up for another ten years after he's gone, and Sandra tells him "I Don't Need a Roof" to feel at home as much as she loves him. He falls asleep in her arms as she begs, "Stay with me" ("I Don't Need a Roof").

Will, unable to get answers from Edward, goes to visit Jenny Hill in Ashton to find the truth. When he blatantly asks if she was having an affair with Edward, she says by telling him what happened she's afraid that she will warp his own view of his dad. He says that his father "talks about things he never did," and that he "probably did things he never talked about," and he just wants to separate fact from story. Jenny tells him the story of what happened when Edward returned to Ashton when Will was just a small boy. Another flashback. Edward returns to Ashton to learn that the town was going to be flooded, and he finds that the citizens and the mayor, Don Price, have chained themselves to the statue in the center of town out of protest. However, he learns they only have an hour before the flood covers the town and that no one with power even knows they are there. Despite Don's resentment of Edward, Don's brother Zacky and the people of Ashton convince Edward to take action with reluctant permission of Don. He visits Amos and Karl, who have both become rich and successful after being inspired by Edward. Using the land given from Amos and the money from Karl, he provides the citizens with a new town saying that Ashton isn't a place, it's a community. He convinces them all to move there instead of drown in the inevitable flood ("Start Over"). Everyone leaves except for Jenny, who explains her heartbreak when Edward never returned and how she has loved him all this time. Edward says that he's returned now and wants to start a new life with her. He buys a house for himself and Jenny that he has signed for, but suddenly regrets his decisions and expresses his love for his wife saying he can only truly love her. He leaves Jenny with another broken heart, never to return again ("Start Over" (Reprise)). At the end of Jenny's story, Will receives a phone call and must go visit his father in the hospital.

When he arrives to the hospital, he asks if Edward is going to be okay. Sandra and Josephine simply and solemnly shake their heads 'no.' There is nothing left that can be done. Sandra and Josephine go downstairs to get him some water and leave Will alone with his unconscious father. When his doctor, a long-time friend of Edward's, comes in, Will asks how he would describe his father. He responds saying he was a strong man with a good heart. When asked if Edward could hear them, he responds, "It's hard to say whether or not someone can hear you. Harder still to know if they're listening." The doctor leaves leaving Will alone, once again, with his father. He talks to him saying that if you put all his stories together, they create a myth, and he finally understands the reason for his stories. He is interrupted by Edward stirring and urgently asking Will to tell him the story of how he dies. Will urgently explains that he does not know because he was never told the story. He asks how it starts to which Edward responds, "like this." Will continues from there and makes up his own story of Edward escaping the "prison cell," realizing the reason he is sick is because he has been out of the water too long. They drive to the river where everyone from his stories is waiting for him as Will sings that Edward has finally finished telling his perfect tale ("What's Next"). At the river, Edward sings his love for all his memories and friends. When he notices that someone is missing, Sandra appears and they embrace one last time. They lead him back to his hospital bed as they disappear one by one, leaving Edward alone with Will. Edward's life has come to an end ("How It Ends").

The funeral takes place at the river's edge where it is apparent that Will is telling the same story that Edward told in the opening number. As the guests drop a flower and shake Will's hand one by one, he sees that each appears to be reflections of the characters from Edward's stories. Last in line, a tall man drops his flower and smiles at Edward's grave. Will shakes his hand and asks for his name. He simply responds, "I'm Karl". A few years later, Will and his son return to the river as he begins to tell him stories, just as Edward did to him ("Be the Hero" (Reprise)).

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**CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:**

**Edward Bloom: 40s - 50s (Will play age range from 15 to 65) | Baritone**

Edward is a charming, charismatic storyteller. A devoted yet absent father nearing the end of his life and wanting to reconnect with his son. He is comfortable in his own skin, but hopes for Will's approval. He absolutely loves his wife, his son, and telling stories. Needs a big voice and serious character acting. Plays ages ranging from young man to older sick man, so must be a versatile actor. Able to move but little real dance.

**Will Bloom: Late 20s - Early 30s | Tenor**

Will is a critical part of the story. He is an earnest, serious, thoughtful young man wanting to reconnect with his storytelling father, but unable to appreciate Edward's romantic view of life. He is a successful professional and new husband. He has to be able to take us on the journey of understanding and make us believe the complex relationship and final heartfelt embrace of his father's legacy. Needs a strong tenor voice. Some dance. Serious character acting.

**Sandra Bloom: 40s - 50s (Will play age range from later 20s to early 60s) | Soprano**

Sandra is patient, calm – the perfect balance to Edwards enthusiasm. She adores and appreciates Edward and tries to bring reconciliation to her husband and son, both of whom she loves. Needs a mellow ballad voice. Plenty of dance.

**Karl The Giant: 20s - 40s | Bass**

Edward's best friend. Karl is shy, exceptionally intelligent, hermit-like, and has a quiet charisma. He needs a booming voice and large personality. Needs to be decently tall, but not a "giant." \*Will need to learn to walk on stilts. Bass voice.

**Amos Calloway: 30s - 50s | Baritone**

Amos is the rather eccentric, quirky owner of the circus that employs young Edward. He also happens to be a werewolf (in Edward's tales). Needs an actor able to portray strong, outgoing personality and humor. Little dance. Good stage presence essential. Character voice.

**The Witch: 20s - 50s | Mezzo-Soprano**

Commanding performer with great confidence and storytelling ability. She convinces Edward to pursue a Big Life without fear. Needs belt voice, mezzo soprano. Some dance, could be extensive.

**Jenny Hill: 20's - 50s (Can be younger) | Mezzo-Soprano**

Edward's devoted, first girlfriend. She is beautiful, a dreamer, maybe a little "blonde" Also included in ensemble. Adult-- Very tired, disillusioned version of the younger Jenny. No longer a dreamer but she has dignity and honesty. She is crucial in helping Will to understand his father and his motivations. Serious Actress needed. Light singing.

**Don Price: 20's - 40's (Will play age range from 20s to early 40s) | Baritone**

Older snarky bully, high school quarterback. Athletic build. Sandra's first fiancé. Needs a bigger than life acting style. Little dancing.

**Zacky Price: 20's - 40's (Will play age range from 20s to early 40s) | Tenor**

Nerdy brother and shadow of Don Price.

**Josephine Bloom: Late 20s - Early 30s | Light-Singing**

Will's wife. Successful adult, sweet, intelligent, and organically compatible with Will. Josephine acts as the bridge between Edward and Will, explaining the deeper meaning of the stories. Often on stage. Light singing. No dance. Is pregnant most of the show. Serious character acting.

**Dr. Bennet: 40s - 60s | Non-singing**

Older man. Warm, kind, frank, soft-spoken friend and physician of Edward. Needs realistic actor. No singing or dancing necessary.

**Young Will: 7 - 10 | Non-singing**

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The younger version of Will Bloom. In him we see the slow transition of fascination with his father Edward to disbelief and annoyance at all his tales. We see the beginning of the disconnect Will has to face with his father throughout the story. Light dancing. No singing.

**Will's Son: Age 6 - 8 | Non-singing (Only in the last scene of the show)**

The son of Will Bloom. Is only in the last scene of the show. Will have very minimal rehearsal commitments.

**Red Fang The Poison Assassin: 20+ | Non-singing**

Male, assassin. World War II villain. Has a fight scene. Can play ensemble in other scenes.

**Ashton's Mayor: 20+ | Non-singing**

Typical small town good-guy mayor personality.

**Alabama Lambs: 16+ | Singing**

Two of Sandra's friends when she was younger. Perform with Sandra at the circus. Strong singing and dancing skills.

**Fisherman: 20+ | Singing**

Hometown redneck. Strong singing and dancing skills

**Ensemble: 12+ | All Ranges**

All sing and move. Some individuals will do extensive dance. Will be in multiple scenes as multiple characters.

**AUDITION FORM**

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER: \_\_\_\_\_

VOCAL TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_ VOCAL RANGE: \_\_\_\_\_

ROLE(S) DESIRED: \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU ACCEPT ANY ROLE?     Y     N

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BACKSTAGE CREW?     Y     N

CAN YOU JUGGLE?     Y     N     CAN YOU RIDE A UNICYCLE:     Y     N

PAST SHOW EXPERIENCE:

SHOW: \_\_\_\_\_ ROLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ANY CONFLICTS BELOW (Rehearsals will be every week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and some Sundays starting March 2nd 6:30pm - 9pm. Tech week(5/4) is M, T, W, TH, F. Opening week (5/11) is M, T, W, TH, F. See reverse side for full rehearsal schedule):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PL**

**EASE LIST ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON REVERSE**

**REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
MARCH	READ	3/3		3/5		SET DAY*

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	<b>THROUGH</b>	6:30 - 9		6:30 - 9		
	3/9 6:30 - 9	3/10 6:30 - 9		3/12 6:30 - 9		<b>SET DAY*</b>
3/15 Dance TBD	3/16 6:30 - 9	3/17 6:30 - 9		3/19 6:30 - 9		<b>SET DAY*</b>
3/22 Dance TBD	3/23 6:30 - 9	3/24 6:30 - 9		3/26 6:30 - 9		<b>SET DAY*</b>
3/29 Dance TBD	3/30 6:30 - 9	3/31 6:30 - 9	<b>APRIL</b>	4/2 6:30 - 9		<b>SET DAY*</b>
4/5 Dance TBD	4/6 6:30 - 9	4/7 6:30 - 9		4/9 6:30 - 9		<b>SET DAY*</b>
4/12 Dance TBD	4/13 6:30 - 9	4/14 6:30 - 9		4/16 6:30 - 9		<b>SET DAY*</b>
4/19 Dance TBD	4/20 6:30 - 9	4/21 6:30 - 9		4/23 6:30 - 9		<b>SET DAY*</b>
4/28 Dance TBD	4/27 6:30 - 9	4/28 6:30 - 9		4/30 6:30 - 9	<b>MAY</b>	<b>SET DAY*</b>
5/3 Dance TBD	5/4 <b>TECH/DRESS</b>	5/5 <b>TECH/DRESS</b>	5/6 <b>TECH/DRESS</b>	5/7 <b>TECH/DRESS</b>	5/8 <b>TECH/DRESS</b>	<b>SET DAY*</b>
<b>MOTHERS DAY</b>	5/11 <b>ORCHESTRA</b>	5/12 <b>ORCHESTRA</b>	5/13 <b>ORCHESTRA</b>	5/14 <b>ORCHESTRA</b>	<b>OPENING NIGHT</b>	<b>SHOW</b>
<b>SHOW</b>				<b>BRUSH UP</b>	<b>SHOW</b>	<b>SHOW</b>
<b>SHOW</b>				<b>BRUSH UP</b>	<b>SHOW</b>	<b>SHOW</b>
<b>CLOSING NIGHT</b>						

\* SET DAYS ARE OPTIONAL BUT LOTS OF HELP IS NEEDED

PLEASE LIST ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BELOW:

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**CONTACT INFO:**

Josh Jack Carl

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