

Asheville Community Theatre

35 EAST WALNUT ST, ASHEVILLE, NC, 28801

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*** * * FAST FACTS * * ***

Box Office Hours:

Tuesdays-Fridays, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Mainstage performance weekends:

Fridays and Saturdays: 6:30 pm - curtain

Sundays 1:30 pm – curtain

Contact Us: 35 E. Walnut St., Asheville, NC 28801;
828-254-1320; www.ashevilletheatre.org

Curtain: Unless otherwise noted, evening performances begin at 7:30 pm and matinee performances begin at 2:30 pm. The house will open 30 minutes before curtain.

Late Arrivals: Late arrivals will be seated at the House Manager's discretion.

Cell Phones: Please turn off any device that rings, buzzes or beeps before entering the house.

Please Note: No photography or videography is allowed. Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.

Our auditorium has a hearing loop installed courtesy of Asheville Audiology Services. We also have listening devices available.

SINGLE TICKET PRICES

Mainstage Musicals: Adults \$35;

Youth (ages 3-17) \$18

Mainstage Comedy and Drama: Adults \$29;

Youth (3-17) \$18

If extra tickets remain 30 minutes before showtime, they may be purchased as Rush Tickets for \$18.

Rush Tickets must be requested by name and must be purchased in person at the door.

Asheville Community Theatre

Proudly Presents

BATBOY THE MUSICAL

Book by: Keythe Farley & Brian Flemming
Music and Lyrics by: Laurence O'Keefe

July 21 - August 6, 2023

Sponsored By

Elizabeth Huddleston & Bray Creech
Members of the ACT Board of Directors

Director.....	Stephanie Hickling Beckman
Music Director.....	Sharvis Smith
Choreographer.....	Kristi DeVille
Scenic Designer.....	Jill Summers
Costume Designer.....	Ida
Lighting Designer.....	Abby Auman
Sound Designer.....	Casey Clennon
Properties Designer.....	Nicki LaRue
Stage Manager.....	Mikayla Wilson

Bat Boy: The Musical is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC. (www.broadwaylicensing.com)

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

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Assistant Costume Designer - Gwyn Jennings

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GRAPHIC DESIGN

Poster Creative Direction by Dena Rutter Design

Bat Boy Logo Artwork by Keith Krebbs

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Tamara Sparacino, Greg Austin

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In order to achieve healing and reconciliation in our community, Asheville Community Theatre respectfully acknowledges that the land currently occupied was taken from its original stewards, the Anikituwah, otherwise known as the Cherokee. As part of the Cherokee's ancestral homeland, this area is known as Togyasdi. Asheville Community Theatre's acknowledgement demonstrates the organization's commitment to dismantling the damage done by settler colonialism. Please take a moment to honor this ancestral land and to celebrate the resilience and strength of the Cherokee people. This acknowledgement shall affirm and declare that the ground Asheville Community Theatre stands on to be the homeland of the Cherokee.

ABOUT THE SHOW

THE TIME AND PLACE:

Not too long ago in Hope Falls, West Virginia

SONGS

ACT I

Hold Me, Bat Boy.....Company
Christian Charity.....Sheriff, Meredith, and Shelley
Ugly Boy.....Shelley
Whatcha Wanna Do?.....Rick and Shelley
A Home for You.....Meredith and Bat Boy
Another Dead Cow.....Company
Dance With Me, Darling.....Dr. Parker and Company
Mrs. Taylor's Lullaby.....Mrs. Taylor
Show You a Thing or Two.....Company
Christian Charity (Reprise).....Sheriff, Dr. Parker, and Company
A Home for You (Reprise).....Bat Boy
Parker's Epiphany.....Dr. Parker
Comfort and Joy.....Company

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II

A Joyful Noise.....Reverend Hightower and Company
Let Me Walk Among You.....Bat Boy
A Joyful Noise (Reprise).....Reverend Hightower and Company
All Hell Breaks Loose.....Company
Stop the Bat Boy!.....Company
Three Bedroom House.....Meredith and Shelley
Children, Children.....Pan and Company
More Blood/Kill the Bat Boy!.....Company
Inside Your Heart.....Bat Boy and Shelley
Apology to a Cow.....Bat Boy
Finale: Hold Me, Bat Boy.....Company
Bows

The lobby will close 30 minutes after the performance concludes.

ABOUT THE SHOW

CAST

Bat Boy.....Zoe Zelonky
Dr. Thomas Parker.....Mark Jones
Meredith Parker.....Meg Hale Brunton*
Shelley Parker.....Grace Geoffrey*
Sheriff Reynolds.....Holli Banks Allie*
Rick Taylor / Lorraine / Mr. Dillon / Doctor / Ensemble.....Alec Shull
Ron Taylor / Maggie / Clem / Ensemble.....Jessica Gift
Ruthie Taylor / Ned / Ensemble.....Demon Thomas*
Pan / Reverend Billie Hightower / Institute Man / Ensemble...Sharvis Smith*
Mrs. Taylor / Roy / Ensemble.....Amanda Little
Daisy / Bud / Ensemble.....Daniel Canady
Ensemble / Young Meredith.....India Eddy*

** Denotes an actor's ACT Mainstage debut!*



WIN A TRIP FOR 2 TO NYC FOR THANKSGIVING! SEE US IN THE LOBBY TO FIND OUT HOW.



ABOUT THE CAST



Zoe Zelonky (Bat Boy) is honored to walk among this incredible cast in *Bat Boy!* Zoe is the Education Director here at ACT and has been seen on this stage in *Bright Star* (Lucy Grant) and *Elf* (Jovie). Other past favorite productions include *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Narrator), *The Addams Family* (Wednesday), *Kinky Boots* (Lauren), and *Annie Get Your Gun* (Annie Oakley). Zoe has directed over 30 productions, including *The Lightning Thief*, *High School Musical Jr.*, *Descendants*, and *Grease: School Edition*. She is making her ACT directorial debut this summer with *Seussical Jr.* Zoe would like to give special thanks to this daring cast, crew, and creative team, her

family, Eli, Ripley, the ACT staff and volunteers, and (as always) her Troupers.



Mark Jones (Dr. Thomas Parker) is thrilled to be returning to the ACT stage! He's been a part of many productions over the last 35 years, including *The Wizard of Oz* (Tinman), *The Addams Family* (Lurch), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *Hairspray* (Corny Collins), *The Buddy Holly Story* (Buddy Holly), *Young Frankenstein* (Frederick Frankenstein), and most recently as the Director of ACT's *Bright Star!* When he's not at the theatre, you can find Mark working the front desk in a downtown hotel or perusing his huge library of cast recordings and books about theatre! Mark would like to thank his family and friends for their support over the

years. He'd also like to give a HUGE shout out to the cast and crew for their hard work on this show.



Meg Hale Brunton (Meredith Parker) is thrilled to be back on stage after a long hiatus, during which she became a mom ... twice. Meg is super excited to be working at ACT for the first time, and endlessly humbled and honored to be directed by Stephanie Hickling Beckman once again. She has previously been seen in the *Bombs Away Cabaret* (Front Woman & Russian Sociopath Ivana Stabovich), *The Shape of Things* (Evelyn - Different Strokes), and Anam Cara's *Roadkill Confidential* (Melanie). She is the Asst. Editor for Carolina Spark Magazine and the lead singer in the soul/funk band The Groove Arcade. Meg would like to thank her mother, husband Chris, and two little boys for being patient and encouraging throughout the rehearsal process.

ABOUT THE CAST



Grace Geoffrey (Shelley Parker) is so excited to be making her ACT debut in *Bat Boy!* She is a rising senior at AC Reynolds High School and spends most of her time in choir rehearsals! Previous productions include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Mary Poppins*, *Crazy for You*, *The Lion King*, *Metamorphosis*, and *Almost, Maine*. She'd like to thank her parents for introducing her to the arts and her Fine Arts teachers for encouraging her to pursue performing!



Holli Banks Allien (Sheriff Reynolds) is thrilled to be making her ACT debut! Past favorite productions include *The Pajama Game* (Mabel - Shawnee Playhouse) and *The Wiz* (Evillene - Harlem Repertory Theatre). When she's not at the theatre, Holli spends her time protecting families with life insurance and wealth building products. She is grateful to ACT for the opportunity to be part of this incredible community. And huge thanks to the incredible women in her Symmetry Financial Group family for their support, particularly Cicily for helping facilitate my move to Asheville and Devon for driving up from Florida and Jaime

for flying down from Connecticut to see this show.



Alec Shull (Rick Taylor/Lorraine/Mr. Dillon/Ensemble) is so excited to be returning to the ACT stage in this fantastic show! Past favorites include *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (UNCG), *Fight Girl Battleworld* (ACT), *A Chorus Line* (BSS/WCPSS), *Spamalot* (UNCG), and *Columbinus* (Prep). He has worked with Bright Star Touring Theatre as both an actor and touring teaching artist, Lazoom's haunted comedy tours (2018), and worked in the inaugural cast of *The Dinner Detective RDU*. You can catch Alec in the Magnetic Theatre's *New Queers Eve* soon! Special thanks to his mom for guiding him to his love for entertainment, his whole Jewish family, the production crew at ACT, and his

Zambra family! "Couldn't have done it without y'all!"

ABOUT THE CAST



Jessica Gift (Ron Taylor/Maggie/Clem/Ensemble) is so excited to be returning to the ACT stage! You may have seen her as The Zookeeper in *Fight Girl Battle World* or in The Magnetic Theatre's One Act Play Festival. Other favorite performance credits include *Hand to God* (Margery), *Bachelorette* (Gena), and her time in the sketch-comedy troupe Pineapple Shaped Lamps. Jessica Gift graduated from UNCW with a degree in theatre and creative writing and now spends her days managing the office of Asheville's own Bright Star Touring Theatre. She'd like to thank Stephanie for her guidance, the cast and crew, her partner, Drew, for all of the late night dinners, and lastly,

her cat, Seaweed, for being completely and totally strange.



Demon Thomas (Ruthie Taylor/Ned/Ensemble) is over the moon to be making his onstage debut in *Bat Boy!* Demon is a model, the Director of Operations & Finance for YTL Training Programs, and a Sagittarius. Demon would like to shout out Dr. Tiece Ruffin, YTL, and Stephaine Hickling Beckman, "It is because of you all that I am standing in my truth and doing what I love, entertaining. I AM BECAUSE WE ARE!"



Sharvis Smith (Music Director, Pan/Reverend Billie Hightower/Institute Man/Ensemble) is excited to be making her debut at ACT! Favorite performances include the 369 Play Festival, *Blood at the Root* (Raylnn), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Diana), *Happyland* (Boss/Ensemble), *Sweeney Todd*, *The Christmas Schooner*, and *Jerry's Girls*. When she is not working, she can be found exploring new places, taking on a new DIY project, or sharing her love of the arts with others. She would like to thank Stephanie Hickling Beckman and Robert Arleigh White for the opportunity to be a part of this production. She would also like to thank the cast and crew of *Bat Boy* who have been very supportive and a joy to work with during this production.

ABOUT THE CAST



Amanda Little (Mrs. Taylor/Roy/Ensemble) is happy to be returning to the ACT stage after making her debut earlier this season in *Elf!* Other past productions include *The Wedding Singer* (Grandma Rosie, Hinman Production Company at Binghamton University) and *Hello, Dolly* (Ermengarde, Family Players of NENY). In her free time, Amanda enjoys hanging out with her husband and their many pets. She would like to thank Josh for encouraging her to do theatre, and all of you for supporting the show!



Daniel Canady (Daisy/Bud/Doctor/Ensemble) is excited to return to the ACT stage, having been seen earlier this season in *Our Town* as Joe Stoddard. In his free time, Daniel enjoys hiking, writing short stories, watching strange movies, and cooking delicious meals for friends. Daniel has far too many people to thank by name for their support to list here, but trusts they know who they are. Enjoy the show!



India Eddy (Young Meredith/Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her ACT debut in her all time favorite musical! Past productions include *Urinetown* (Little Sally) and *Puffs* (Megan Jones) with Albert Einstein High School and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck) with Imagination Stage. She can also be seen as Joan in David Stern's short film *Leaving*. India is currently pursuing her BFA in acting at Webster University's Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts and also enjoys writing for the stage and screen and feeding her addiction to sitcoms.

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION TEAM

Jill Summers (Set Designer) has been working full time at ACT since 2009 after graduating from UNC Asheville with a degree in technical production concentrated in scenic design. This show marks her 71st Mainstage production and her 36th scenic design for ACT. Past designs include *Bright Star*, *Native Gardens*, *Elf*, *Clue*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Avenue Q*, *The Full Monty*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Jill would like to dedicate this show to Jack Summers, who kept her updated daily on the Weekly World News of Bat Boy when she was growing up. As well as the dangers of exploding grapefruits and sightings of Nessie.

Nicki LaRue (Production Coordinator) is thrilled to assist with the production of *Bat Boy*! She enthusiastically brings her eclectic experience to our theatre staff and community. With a certification from Tom Savini's Special Makeup Effects Program, she is trained in practical makeup effects, prop-building, sculpture, fabrication, and graphic design. Aside from designing and creating props, graphics, puppets, hair and makeup for ACT productions, she is also responsible for coordinating our production volunteer activities. If you're interested in getting involved, she's the one to talk to!

Ida (Costumes) is pleased to be working with Asheville Community Theatre once more and to be designing costumes for *Bat Boy*. This is her 14th season with the company, and she is happy to learn and grow with each show. She is currently teaching costuming and makeup at Brevard College. Some of Ida's favorite designs for ACT include *Seussical*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *La Cage aux Folles*. Ida is happy to have worked with many area theatres, including NC Stage Company, Montford Park, Parkway Playhouse, SART, Flat Rock, Occasional Theatre Company, Bright Star, The Warehouse Theatre and GLOW. Enjoy the show!

Casey Clennon (Sound Engineer) is thrilled to continue her work with Asheville Community Theatre. This will be her fifth design for ACT, previously having worked on *Fight Girl Battle World*, *Transition*, [title of show], and *Bright Star*. Other design credits include *Metamorphoses* with TheatreUNCA, *Nothing's Happening: A Black Mountain College Project* with TheatreUNCA in conjunction with SITI Company for the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and *Birds of North America* and *Great Falls* with Mockingbird Productions. The energy the cast and crew brought to this show from the beginning has been the best part of this show for her, and she hopes that the audience now gets to experience the same love and joy she did the first time she saw the cast perform.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM



Stephanie Hickling Beckman (Director) has been active in Asheville's theatre scene since 1999. She has worked with several local theatre companies as an actor, stage manager, and director, and toured nationally as an actor. As the Founder and Managing Artistic Director for Different Strokes! Performing Arts Collective, Stephanie is committed to directing and producing theatre that expresses the diversity we encounter in our everyday lives and finding ways to recognize and honor our differences in a safe and positive environment. Stephanie would like to thank her wife, Trish, for her unrelenting support, and Robert Arleigh for this opportunity to direct *Bat Boy*.



Kristi DeVille (Choreographer) has been a choreographer, director, and actor for 30 years and serves as the Director of Movement for Different Strokes! Performing Arts Collective, the Resident Dance Choreographer and Social Media Manager for Montford Park Players (MPP), and the Director of First Stage Youth Theatre. She recently choreographed *Little Shop of Horrors* for UNCA as well as *Wendy and Peter* for MPP and is looking forward to choreographing and acting in MPP's *The Tempest*. Kristi would like to thank Stephanie and ACT for giving her this opportunity to work on this fun and exciting show and her family for their continued support.



Mikayla Wilson (Stage Manager) is so excited to be a part of this wonderful creative team. Past productions include *Leah and the Rabbit* (Writer, Director, Puppeteer), *Abe Lincoln and Uncle Tom in the White House* (Assistant Director), *369 Monologue and Play Festival* (Assistant Director), *An Appalachian Christmas Carol* (Director, Puppeteer, Actor), and *Three Pigs and The Red Line* (Assistant Director and Puppeteer). Mikayla likes to knit, watch Ghibli movies, babysit some awesome kids, and hang out with her two beautiful cats, Sammy and Turniphead. Mikayla would like to thank Stephanie, Sharvis, Kristi, and the cast and crew of *Bat Boy* for the opportunity to work on this show, and her sister, Alyssa, and partner, Carter, for

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is important that I first acknowledge how creatively rewarding it was to work with the cast, the production team, and co-Directors, Kristi DeVille (Choreo) and Sharvis Smith (Music). Words are not adequate to express my sincerest appreciation for their commitment to infusing excitement into the creative process. Also a hearty thank you to Mikayla Wilson, who kept us on track and organized.

In my work as a full time theatre artist, I exclusively direct and produce theatre that is not only entertaining, but provocative, socially relevant, and culturally sensitive. I had never seen *Bat Boy: The Musical* when Bob White (assistant director and ACT Artistic Director) invited me to direct it. A quick google search confirmed that the play was not about baseball but a social commentary on the dangers of prejudice and intolerance. *Bat Boy: The Musical* centers around the character of Bat Boy, a half-bat, half-human creature discovered in a cave, and delivered to the home of a local veterinarian and his family, who attempt to integrate him into society. Driven by fear and prejudice, the townspeople react with hostility.

Bat Boy: The Musical stands as an exceptional example of originality in the world of musical theater. Its unique blend of comedy, drama, and social commentary challenges traditional storytelling conventions and seamlessly shifts between comedic and dramatic moments. The musical explores the human capacity for compassion and cruelty, and invites audiences to reflect on themes of otherness and dangers of prejudice. The score blends various musical genres, including rock, pop, and gospel, resulting in a vibrant and energetic experience with witty and thought-provoking wordplay that adds depth to the storytelling. From the catchy and upbeat "Hold Me, Bat Boy" to the poignant ballad "Apology to a Cow," the songs capture the essence of the characters' emotions and drive the narrative forward and further enhances the originality of the musical.

Since its debut in 1997, *Bat Boy: The Musical* has become a cult classic and has been produced by numerous theater companies worldwide. Through its captivating plot, memorable music, and thought-provoking themes, *Bat Boy: The Musical* invites us to reflect on our own prejudices and strive for a more compassionate society.

OUR DONORS

Asheville Community Theatre is honored by all levels of support from businesses and individuals. Donations are used for everything from sequins to scholarships – and anything else that can make our community theatre exciting and accessible. This list includes donations given April 1, 2022 through July 11, 2023.

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