



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 2, 2024

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## Open auditions Jan. 4 *Big Fish* Pentacle Theatre's rehearsal space.

**What:** Open auditions for *Big Fish*, Book by John August, music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa.  
Directed at Pentacle Theatre by Jill Sorensen

**When:** 1 p.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday, Jan 4.

**Where:** Pentacle Theatre's downtown rehearsal studio, 197 Liberty St SE in downtown Salem

### Casting call:

- Casting actors able to play eleven male-presenting roles, and six female-presenting roles
  - Ensemble: Wedding Guests, New Yorkers, Citizens of Ashton, Circus Performers
- For a full list of roles, genders, and ages, visit [pentacletheatre.org/auditions](http://pentacletheatre.org/auditions).
- Pentacle Theatre affirms, promotes, and celebrates the participation of all, without regard to race, color, sex, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, or socioeconomic status.

### Things to know:

- Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and open auditions for all roles begin promptly at 1 p.m. Please be on time and plan to stay through 5 p.m.
- Please arrive early to fill out an audition form. We encourage you to download the form at [PentacleTheatre.org/auditions](http://PentacleTheatre.org/auditions) and complete it in advance. Please write clearly, especially your contact information. Headshots and resumes are not required but are always appreciated.
- Bring your calendar and provide a complete list of your conflicts through Apr. 12, 2025. If you have a conflict with the audition date, please contact the director.

### Additional Information:

- **Singing:** Actors should be prepared with a musical selection of their choice that is limited (strictly limited) to no more than **2 minutes**. An accompanist will be available for those who do not bring a recorded track. Sheet music is the responsibility of the actor.
- **Dancing:** Actors should wear comfortable, dance appropriate clothing and shoes. **\*\*Actors who can tap - please bring tap shoes.** We are planning to have two dance songs - one that is tap specific.

**Callbacks:** TBA if needed.

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*Pentacle Theatre is Salem's premier community theatre, celebrating 70 years of professional-quality productions staged in an intimate setting. Pentacle Theatre affirms, promotes and celebrates the participation of all, without regard to race, color, sex, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion or socioeconomic status.*

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### Rehearsals:

- Generally, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, beginning in January.
- The director will set weekend rehearsals and work sessions as needed. Please keep this in mind when providing your list of conflicts.
- Rehearsals will be scheduled to make the best use of everyone's time. Cast members are required to attend every rehearsal once *Big Fish* moves into the theatre. If you have questions about rehearsals, please contact the director.

### The story:

- Based on the celebrated novel by Daniel Wallace and the acclaimed film directed by Tim Burton, *Big Fish* tells the story of Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman who lives life to its fullest...and then some! Edward's incredible, larger-than-life stories thrill everyone around him- most of all, his devoted wife Sandra. But their son Will, about to have a child of his own, is determined to find the truth behind his father's epic tales. Overflowing with heart and humor, *Big Fish* is an extraordinary musical that reminds us why we love going to the theatre – for an experience that's richer, funnier and bigger than life itself.

### The characters: Casting actors able to play the following roles, genders and ages:

- **Edward** – older man (father and beyond, actor ages 35-60). 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 father to older sick man. Able to move but little real dance.
- **Young Edward** – young man (everything before fatherhood, actor age 18-30). Young Edward is an enthusiastic, optimistic, energetic romantic. He needs to steal our hearts and make us buy into the fabulous myths that he enters. He is the quintessential hometown boy hero. Needs a big voice. Plays ages ranging from high school to late 20s/ early 30s. Very good mover.
- **Sandra** – older woman (married and beyond, actor ages 25-55). 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. Very little movement.
- **Young Sandra** – young woman (before married, actor ages 15-30). Young Sandra is a lovely, sweet, fresh-faced, innocent young girl excited by the possibilities of life. She appreciates Edward's romantic viewpoint. Needs a big voice, expressive acting ability, and a good bit of dance ability
- witness Elaine progress from casual happiness to utter bliss, to twisted confusion, to stark fear, to godsend relief, and back to casual happiness again.
- **Will** – adult (All but little boy, actor ages 20-30). 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. No dance. Serious character acting.

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- **Young Will** – young male (actors age 9 -12). Spoken part and ensemble (singing and dancing)
- **Josephine** – (actor ages 18-30). 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. No singing. No dance. Serious character acting.
- **Karl** – the Giant. (actor ages 18-40). Edward’s best friend. Karl is shy, exceptionally intelligent, hermitlike, and has a quiet charisma. He needs a booming voice and large personality. Needs to be decently tall, but not a “giant.” Bass voice. Ability to walk on stilts.
- **Amos** – adult male, circus owner (actor ages 30-50). 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 a strong, outgoing personality and humor. Sings, but not necessarily a great voice. Doesn’t need to move, but good stage presence essential. Character voice.
- **Witch** – adult female (actor age 20-40). 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.
- **Young Jenny Hill** – young cheerleader (actor age 15-30). Edward’s devoted, first girlfriend. She is beautiful, a dreamer, maybe a little blonde. Needs a loud belt. Some movement. Also included in ensemble.
- **Adult Jenny Hill** – adult (maybe same actress as young Jenny). Very tired, disillusioned version of the younger Jenny. She has dignity and honesty. She is crucial in helping Will understand Edward and Edward’s motivations. No movement, but serious acting needed. Also included in ensemble.
- **Don Price** – (high school, college, and mayor, actor ages 20-45, possibly two actors). Older snarky bully. Sandra’s first fiancé. Needs a bigger than life acting style. Possible movement but not crucial.
- **Zacky Price** – (high school, college, and later, actor ages 20-45). Nerdy brother and shadow of Don Price
- **Doctor Bennett** – considerably older man (actor ages 45-75). Warm, kind, frank, soft-spoken friend and physician of Edward. Needs realistic actor. No singing or dancing necessary.
- **Red Fang** – male, assassin (actor ages 18-28). World War II villain. Needs fight scene movement abilities.
- **Ashton Mayor** – adult male (actor ages 30-60). Typical small town good-guy mayor personality
- **Alabama Lambs** – two of Sandra’s friends (actors age 15-25). Perform with Sandra at the circus. Needs strong singing and dancing skills.
- **Fisherman** – adult male (actor age 18-35) hometown redneck

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**Show dates:** Mar. 21 – Apr. 12.

- Cast members may be required to make special appearances for marketing purposes in the weeks before the show opens.

**Suitability:** *Big Fish* is suitable for young teens and older people.

**Information:** If you have questions or a conflict on the audition date, please contact director Jill Sorensen at [jillsorensen2@gmail.com](mailto:jillsorensen2@gmail.com) or 583-983-0429.