

BLUE FIRE STAGE COMPANY *presents*

The Great American

TRAILER PARK

Musical

BOOK BY
BETSY KELSO

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
DAVID NEHLS

PLAYBILL



Original Off-Broadway Stage Production by Jean Doumanian, Jeffrey Richards and Rick Steiner in association with Janet Paillet. Originally presented in the 2004 New York Musical Theater Festival.



The mission of Blue Fire Stage Company is to build a collaborative, diverse, and accepting community through the arts and arts education. We look forward to astounding our audiences with high quality performances and theatrical experiences.

There is nothing that compares to the excitement of bringing people together to share in the collective experience of live theater. Blue Fire Stage Company is such a gathering place . . . where creativity, collaboration, and education come together to enrich our community and make the arts accessible to all.

Our goals at BFSC are to produce exceptional performances and provide classes and workshops that teach skills in all areas of theatrical arts. Find out more on [our website](#). Enjoy the show!

The Great American Trailer Park Musical is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing Global. www.broadwaylicensing.com

NOTE TO AUDIENCE: The videotaping or audio and/or visual recording of this production is a violation of United States Copyright Law and an actionable federal offense.

PHOTOSENSITIVITY WARNING: FLASHING LIGHTS Please be advised that this performance contains flashing lights which may cause discomfort or trigger seizures for people with photosensitivity.

FIREARMS WARNING Be advised there will be prop firearms used in the performance which may cause discomfort for some people. Be aware these are props and are not real.

BLUE FIRE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

BFSC is greatly saddened at the results of Tuesday's referendum approving the lease of the former Haddam Elementary School (and our current home!) to RAK Realty. This project will effectively render us homeless and greatly impact our ability to continue our programming within our community.

As was stated in a recent information session, there is "no space" for us in the former HES building with this project moving forward. At this point we will work to find other options to stay viable as an arts asset to the community. We ask for support from the community during this challenging time for us. If you want to support our nonprofit organization, please buy tickets to come see our amazing performance this weekend, make a donation to our organization and follow us on social media for more opportunities to show how "Blue Fire" you are!

Donations can be made via Venmo (@bluefirestage)
or PayPal (bluefirestage@gmail.com)

MUSICAL NUMBERS

This Side of the Tracks	Girls, Jeannie, Norbert, Pippi
One Step Closer	Norbert, Jeannie, Girls
The Buck Stops Here	Pippi, Girls/Men
It Doesn't Take A Genius	Girls, Norbert, Pippi, Jeannie
Owner of My Heart	Jeannie, Norbert
The Great American TV Show	Girls, Norbert, Pippi
Flushed Down the Pipes	Jeannie, Girls
Storm's A-Brewin'*	Girls, Pippi, Norbert, Jeannie

– INTERMISSION –

Road Kill'†	Duke, Girls
But He's Mine/It's Never Easy	Pippi, Norbert, Jeannie
That's Why I Love My Man	Girls
Panic	Jeannie
Finale	Company

*Choreographed by Michael P. Morgan

†Choreographed by Juliette Harriman & Adelaide Hawkins

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to Blue Fire Stage Company! *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* is not your conventional musical. You won't see tap dancing, elaborate sets flying, an 18-piece orchestra, or dazzling costumes that make *Moulin Rouge* look like a whore on Tuesday night. Instead, the show gives you a look at some every day, quirky, dysfunctional, and wickedly absurd characters who are going through it. Open a beverage, enjoy your snacks & welcome to Armadillo Acres—rent is due on the 1st of the month!

PERFORMERS



Staci Battle



Christa Douyard



Emma Gulick



Brooke Hendon



Ashley McLeod



Lori Raye



Dave Walls

PRODUCTION TEAM



Matt Durland



Rebecca Degnan



Brionna Ingraham



Mark Degnan



Dawn McGoey



Adelaide Hawkins



Lucas Joyce



Juliette Harriman



Robyn Joyce



Quaren Joyce

CAST

Betty	Lori Raye
Donna “Pickles”	Emma Gulick
Linoleum “Lin”	Christa Douyard
Nobert Garstecki	David Walls
Jeannie Garstecki	Ashley McLeod
Pippi	Brooke Hendon
Duke/Elvis	Staci Battle

BAND

Conductor/Keyboard	Rebecca Degnan
Guitar	Sal D’Allesandro
Drums	Nate Dobas

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director/Musical Staging	Matt Durland
Music Director	Rebecca Degnan
Stage Manager/Sound Effects	Brionna Ingraham
Choreographer	Michael P. Morgan
Technical Director/Set Design/Sound Operator	Mark Degnan
Apprentice Director	Adelaide Hawkins
Apprentice Stage Manager	Lucas Joyce
Apprentice Choreographer	Juliette Harriman
Lighting Design	Robyn Joyce
Lighting Operator	Quaren Joyce
Set Construction	Mark Degnan, Christa Douyard, Melissa Rostkoski
Stage Crew	Lucas Joyce, Dawn McGoey
Costumes	Dawn McGoey
Properties	Amy Armstrong Koepke, Christa Douyard, Melissa Rostkoski
Marketing/Graphics	Christa Douyard
Front of House Manager	Dawn Alger

BLUE FIRE STAGE COMPANY—BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca Degnan, *President* Jess Soucy, *Treasurer* Melissa Rostkoski, *Secretary*
Dawn Alger, Mark Degnan, Christa Douyard, Brionna Ingraham, Amy Armstrong Koepke

WHO'S WHO

Staci Battle (Duke) Staci is excited to make his debut at Blue Fire Stage Company. His latest credits include the Woodcutter in *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* with Golden Fox Theatre Co, Lawrence in *Calendar Girls* with Connecticut Theatre Company, and Steve in *Zanna Don't* with Connecticut Theatre Company.

Christa Douyard (Linoleum) Christa is a founding board member of Blue Fire Stage Company and is very excited to play Lin in *Trailer Park*. She previously played Pippi and Jeannie, and always wanted to play one of the trailer park wives (bucket list, check). Other favorite roles include: *Freaky Friday* (Katherine); *Into the Woods* (Witch); *Passion* (Fosca); *The Who's TOMMY* (Cousin Kevin); and *Cabaret* (Emcee). She is so excited for the opportunity to work with this cast and crew. Big love to Chris and Elliott for their love and patience.

Emma Gulick (Pickles) Emma is thrilled to be making her Blue Fire Stage Company debut! Within the past year she has been seen in *Cabaret* (Frau Kost) and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Janet) at Square Foot Theatre Company as well as in *Zanna Don't* (Kate) at Connecticut Theatre Company. Emma would like to thank her friends for all the support, and this cast and production team for making this experience wonderful.

Brooke Hendon (Pippi) Brooke is so stoked to play Pippi in this production of *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. She has been involved in theatre for years. Her favorite shows include *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *The Ladies in The 39 Steps*. She is currently studying Theatre at Central Connecticut State University. Brooke hopes you enjoy this whirlwind of a show!

Ashley McLeod (Jeannie Garstecki) Ashley is excited for her Blue Fire debut in a show that has been on her bucket list for years! Favorite roles: *Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake); *Disaster!* (Sister Mary Downey); *Annie* (Miss Hannigan); *Title of Show* (Heidi)—twice!; *The Rocky Horror Show* (Janet)—three times!; *Seussical* (Gertrude McFuzz); *Into the Woods* (Witch); *Young Frankenstein* (Elizabeth); *Evil Dead the Musical* (Cheryl); and *We Will Rock You* (Killer Queen). A huge thank you to the production team, cast, crew, and band, and to Mom, Dad, Clint, and Caden for their love, patience, and support. Armadillo Acres, here we come!

Lori Raye (Betty) Lori is making her comeback debut at BFSC after a 20-year absence from the stage. Her daughter, Ella, is entirely to blame for encouraging Lori to audition (and she is very grateful for the nudge). Lori works as a pediatric physical therapist at Stretch Pediatric Therapy in Cromwell. In her spare time, she hangs out with the donkeys (and other animals) at Raye of Light Farm Animal Sanctuary and impresses all her friends with her martial arts prowess at 360 Defense.

Dave Walls (Norbert Garstecki) Dave is thrilled to be taking the stage again in his second production with Blue Fire after last summer's *Freaky Friday*. He recently played various roles in *Puffs* at the Wyndham Theater Guild. Truly a fan of musical comedies, this show was a must for him. Dave would like to acknowledge his family for their love and support for all the time away to do what he loves so much.

Jess Soucy (Lin/Pickles understudy) Jess has been a costumes mistress, producer, and treasurer and is now adding understudy to her resume! You may recognize her in her previous roles as Torrey in *Freaky Friday* or as Princess with a Secret in the 2023 production of "An Evening of Inappropriate Song."

Matt Durland (Director) Matt works as an actor, director, and music director. He recently music directed *Matilda* at Chestnut Street Playhouse. Last year, it was his great privilege of directing and choreographing *Freaky Friday* for BFSC. Directing credits: *Contractions; Miscast: A Cabaret; Romeo and Juliet; The Lemonade Play; Honk; High School Musical; Legally Blonde*. Matt has acted in *The 39 Steps; Island Song; Romeo and Juliet; Eurydice; A Piece of Monologue; Taming of the Shrew; Oliver*; and many others. His orchestrations led him to *Is There Life After High School* and *The Rocky Horror Show* and he composed music for Valley Shakespeare's Festival's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Matt had the great honor of working as faculty guest Music Director for University of New Haven and Mt. Holyoke. Music directing credits: *Matilda; Leader of the Pack; Cabaret; A Chorus Line; A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum; Rock of Ages*. This Fall, Matt heads to Michigan State University for his M.F.A. in Acting/Directing.

Rebecca Degnan (Music Director) Bec is so excited—she has wanted to do *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* with Blue Fire since the company started in 2019. She is the President and a founding member of BFSC. A Hartt grad, Rebecca has music directed and accompanied throughout CT for over 20 years. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and the founder of Prism Counseling and Support, a counseling practice for the LGBTQ+ community in Killingworth.

Brionna Ingraham (Stage Manager) Bri is a stage manager, BFSC board member, and all around theater techie and has been involved over the last ten years in staged readings of new plays in New Haven; college productions; and various community theaters and opera companies across CT. Recently, she has worked on *Black Book* at Collective Consciousness Theatre, *Curtains* at East Haven High School, and *Finding Nemo Jr.* with East Haven Academy. Brionna is beyond excited to be back to stage manage such a fun show like *Trailer Park!* She is beyond grateful for the amazingly wonderful team at Blue Fire who make the process of putting a show together both easy and fun! A special thank you to the fantastic cast, crew, and production team for being the best people and artists to create theater with! Break a leg everyone!

Michael P. Morgan (Choreographer) Michael holds a B.A. in Theater & Speech Communication from Siena Heights University. He has been performing throughout CT in many fashions for over 30 years. Many may not recognize Michael, but have seen his alter ego, Morgana deLuxe. He was the Artistic Director of Granby Memorial High School Drama Club for five years, and has choreographed productions of *Anything Goes*; *The Music Man*; *No, No, Nanette*; *42nd Street*; *Carousel* and previously choreographed *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. He would like to thank BFSC and Matt for this opportunity and appreciates the opportunity and patience of everyone. Michael dedicates this to his spouse, Trevor Reynolds.

Mark Degnan (Technical Director, Set Design/Construction, Sound Engineer) Mark is a founding board Member of Blue Fire Stage Company and has been an active participant in every event since this company's inception. This includes being thrown in front of the bright lights a few of times! He has been given the wonderful opportunity to work with so many truly talented humans along the way. Mark feels truly blessed to work alongside his best-est friend through all of them, *love you Bec!* For this show, he especially thanks Melissa and Christa for their continuous support and help whilst listening to his constant and (not so) inner dialog the entire week leading up to opening night.

Robyn Joyce (Lighting Designer) Robyn is thrilled to light this production with Blue Fire! Previous credits include: "Evening of Inappropriate Song;" *Shrek Jr.*; *Dear Edwina*; *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (BFSC); *Hamlet/Taming of the Shrew*; *Macbeth* (Capital Classics); *Matilda*; *Little Shop of Horrors*; *Misery* (Chestnut Street Playhouse); *Legally Blonde*; *Beauty & the Beast*; *In the Heights* (Little Theater Manchester) among others. She currently serves as the Head Electrician for Mortensen Hall at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. Previously, she was the Manager of the Patricelli '92 Theater at Wesleyan University, Lighting Designer/ Teaching Artist for The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts (credits include: *Once on this Island*; *West Side Story*; *Sweeney Todd*), and a lighting and pyrotechnician for Walt Disney World. She thanks her family for their continued love & support.

Amy Armstrong Koepke (Properties) Amy has enjoyed learning about theater production since her first experience with the BFSC family before the company's inception. Now that she has the honor of being on their board of directors, and since recently retiring from 35½ years in public education, she is looking forward to jumping into more aspects of production. She has appeared in several shows with BFSC including the ever popular "Evening of Inappropriate Song," and recently produced "I'll Drink to That!" Wine Tasting and Cabaret. Last, she wants you to know that even when she thought a flan hat would be the death of her, creating and collecting props is invigorating.

Dawn McGoey (Costumes) Dawn is happy to be involved in her first show with Blue Fire Stage Company. She has helped with costumes for Haddam-Killingworth Middle School and Haddam-Killingworth High School for the past eight years. HKMS shows included *Seussical Jr.*, *Annie Jr.*, *Guys & Dolls Jr.*, and *Into the Woods*. HKHS shows included *Working*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Sound of Music*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Adelaide Hawkins (Apprentice Director) She/her. Adelaide will be a senior at Niagara University where she is earning her B.F.A. in Theatre Performance with a minor in dance. This is her second show with Blue Fire Stage Company, she played the role of Gretchen in last year's production of *Freaky Friday*. Adelaide has directed a couple of times before, but it's her first time directing outside of school. Her university productions include: *RENT* (ensemble) and *Discovering Me, Embracing We* (dancer). Adelaide also works backstage, most recently, she was Assistant Technical Director for *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *RENT*. When not in class or rehearsal, she can be found rehearsing with her acapella group or hanging out with friends.

Lucas Joyce (Apprentice Stage Manager) Lucas is thrilled to be the apprentice stage manager for *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. He has previously worked on stage crew and helped set up lights for *Dear Edwina, Jr.*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *An Evening of Inappropriate Song* (twice!) and *Shrek the Musical, Jr.* He particularly likes working on the adults' shows.

Juliette Harriman (Apprentice Choreographer) is thrilled to work behind the scenes for Blue Fire Stage Company. This is her first time on the production crew and she has learned so much from this amazing team. Juliette has performed with Blue Fire in *Dear Edwina Jr.* (Kelli P), *Freaky Friday* (Hannah), and *Shrek the Musical Jr.* (Princess Fiona). Juliette has been featured as Kim Macafee in Haddam-Killingworth High School's production of *Bye Bye Birdie* as well as Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family Jr.* at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. Thank you so much to Blue Fire Stage Company for offering me this amazing opportunity!

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AUDITIONS: NOVEMBER 2024

PERFORMANCES: FEBRUARY 2025

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