



# FUN HOME

## ON-THE-BUS GUIDE

### A REMINDER FOR STUDENTS ABOUT THEATER ETIQUETTE

- LISTEN, EXPERIENCE, IMAGINE, DISCOVER, LEARN!
- GIVE YOUR ENERGY AND ATTENTION TO THE PERFORMERS.
- PLEASE DO NOT EAT OR DRINK IN THE THEATER.
- TALK ONLY BEFORE AND AFTER THE PERFORMANCE.
- TURN OFF WIRELESS DEVICES.
- NO PHOTOS, VIDEOS, TEXTING, OR LISTENING TO MUSIC.

\*These are guidelines... We understand that some students may need to experience the performance in their own way, and we are here to support all students and their unique needs.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE CONTENT

- What do “gay” and “lesbian” mean? Does gender determine sexuality? What is “sexuality?”
- What does it mean to “come out”? Why might it be scary to come out - to peers, to parents, etc.? Why might it even be scary to come out to other gay people? How might you react if a friend came out to them? What would be a supportive way to react?
- Why are honesty and trust important in healthy relationships? Of all the relationships we see in the show, it’s fair to say the healthiest one is Alison and Joan’s; what makes a relationship healthy and supportive?
- Is it appropriate for an adult to have a relationship with someone under 18?. Is it ok for an adult to have a relationship with someone who is now also an adult, but who used to be the older person’s student? Why not? Also, do all gay men seek younger partners? (Gay men can be unfairly miscast as predators. Alison’s dad is one person, not a representative of all gay men.)
- Shame and hopelessness were the source of Alison’s father’s pain, and often are the precursors to suicide - what can we do when we feel shame or hopelessness to get through it, seek support, and not let it overtake us?

### HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE:

**It’s a Musical:** This show is a musical, so the actors will sing intermittently throughout. There will be spoken dialogue as well, but all performers will sing at some point.

**Nonlinear Timeline:** In many ways, this is a memory play; Adult Alison trying to make sense of her past through her art (cartooning). Because of this, we bounce back and forth from current day to memories of Alison’s childhood and young adulthood. Lisa Kron, who wrote the book and lyrics for the show shares that in this show, the past always understands itself as the present, and that the more innocent the characters in the past are of what will happen in the future, the more deeply felt the tragedy is when it arrives. If they are predicting or expecting it, it loses gravity.

**Three Alisons:** Three actors play Alison at three different points in her life (Small Alison-Approximately 9 years old, Medium Alison-about 19, Adult Alison-Written as 43). Adult Alison is aware of the other two Alisons but they aren’t aware of her. She’s looking back, they are moving forward to an unknown future.

**Live Musicians:** The creative team members of *Fun Home* are choosing to have a seven piece orchestra on stage with the actors to provide live musical accompaniment.

### Content Note:

This beautiful and exceptional show contains powerful and provoking themes and content. The play depicts and mentions mental health and suicide, discusses sexuality (healthy/consensual sexuality between Alison and her first girlfriend contrasted with implied sexual relationships between Alison’s father and younger men, including his students), focuses on death (a “dead body” is shown on stage and the show is set primarily in a funeral home), alludes briefly to college students smoking pot, and uses the word “dyke,” albeit in a positive, reclaiming way.

