

# LIZZIE

## THE LIZZIE BORDEN ROCK MUSICAL

written by  
**Steven Cheslik-DeMeyer,  
Tim Maner, and  
Alan Stevens Hewitt**

directed by  
**Kell Christie**

*Lizzie* is  
Sponsored by  
Dorothy Kirsch



**Slaying October 12-28, 2018**  
Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm  
**at Theatreworks, 2085 Monroe Ave.**  
NewMoonTheatre.org      901.484.3467

## *Lizzie Will Be Presented In Two Acts*

### CAST

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<b>Actor</b>	<b>Character</b>
Christina Hernandez.....	Lizzie Borden
Jaclyn Suffel.....	Emma Borden
Joy Brooke Fairfield.....	Alice
Annie Freres.....	Bridget

### ORCHESTRA

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<b>Musician</b>	<b>Instrument</b>
Whitney Kessling.....	Drums
Eileen Kuo.....	Keyboards
Corbin Miles.....	Guitar
Freddie Mooney.....	Bass
Brenton Moore.....	Cello

### ARTISTIC / MANAGEMENT STAFF

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Director.....	Kell Christie
Music Director.....	Eileen Kuo
Choreography.....	Brittany Church
Staging.....	Kell Christie & Brittany Church
Stage Manager.....	Mystie Watson
Costume Designer.....	Bruce Bui
Lighting Designers.....	Melissa Andrews & Thomas Halfacre
Set Designer.....	Chris Sterling
Orchestrations.....	Alan Stevens Hewitt
Sound Consultant.....	Eric Sefton
Sound Mixer.....	Steven Gary & Kell Christie
Sound Design.....	Gene Elliott
Stage Crew.....	Shawna Lacy
Props.....	Laurie Boller
Poster Graphics & Design.....	Andrew Chandler

New Moon Theatre  
*Presents*

# Lizzie

Music by Steven Cheslik-deMeyer and  
Alan Stevens Hewitt

Lyrics by Steven Cheslik-deMeyer and Tim Maner  
Book by Tim Maner

Additional Music by Tim Maner

Additional Lyrics by Alan Stevens Hewitt

Based on an original concept by Steven  
Cheslik-deMeyer and Tim Maner

Orchestrations by Alan Stevens Hewitt

**Directed by Kell Christie**

**Music Direction by Eileen Kuo**

**Choreography by Brittany Church**

*Lizzie* has been developed with the assistance of tiny mythic theatre company, HERE arts center, Took An Axe Productions (Hillary Richard & Peter McCabe), Brisa Trincherio/Corey Brunish (Make Musicals) and Van Dean/Kenny Howard (Broadway Consortium). *Lizzie* was presented at the National Alliance for Musical Theatre's Festival of New Musicals in 2010 and further developed by Village Theatre, Issaquah, Washington (Robb Hunt, Executive Producer, Steve Tomkins, Artistic Director). *Lizzie* was produced by Theatre Under The Stars, October 2013. The West Coast Premiere of *Lizzie* was produced by Portland Center Stage, Chris Coleman, Artistic Director.

To purchase recordings and sheet music, or for more information, please visit: [www.LizzieTheMusical.com](http://www.LizzieTheMusical.com)

# ABOUT THE CAST

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**Christina Hernandez** (*Lizzie Borden*) is excited to be making her New Moon debut in this insanely exciting role/production! Favorite credits include *Phantom of the Opera* (Christine Daae), *The Producers* (Ulla), *Carrie: The Musical*, *Falsettos*, *Closer*, *Assassins*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Edges: A Song Cycle*, and *West Side Story*. She thanks Kell and Eileen for trusting her to take on such a challenging role and to tell this story. "This one is for Colt, who has had to listen to me sing this show in our house for months and is still the most supportive human on the planet. All my love."



**Annie Freres** (*Bridget*) is honored to return to NM for another daring and unique production. Building *Lizzie* with these dynamic women has harkened a true feminine power that she does not intend to let fade. You may remember a whole lot of her last year in *Killer Joe*. Recent performances include *Ladies & Legends*, *Drowsy Chaperone* (*Chaperone* (Ostrander nomination) and *Shrek Dragon* (Ostrander winner) for TM and *Mamma*

*Mia Donna* at POTS. She treasures every story she brings to the Memphis stages to share with you all and would like to thank Memphis for being such an inspiring hometown. "Thank you to my loving family and especially all the strong women who shaped me."



**Joy Brooke Fairfield** (*Alice*) is a theater artist from Northern CA. Recent Memphis credits include Alison in *Fun Home* & Reza in *Once*, and you can catch her playing violin regularly with the local folk-punk band The Wailing Banshees. As part of her duties as a professor at Rhodes College, she directed the world premiere of *The Unencumbered* at the McCoy Theatre, where this upcoming February she will direct the 2018 update of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

Joy dedicates this performance to all survivors of childhood sexual abuse and prays that we work together as a culture to end exploitation of the vulnerable.



**Jaclyn Suffel** (*Emma Borden*) is thrilled to make her NM debut with such a hard-rockin', lady-featurin' show as *Lizzie*. Originally from Houston, TX and graduated cum laude from SW University with a B.A. in Theatre & Gender Studies. Notable roles include Susan in [*title of show*], Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein*, (Ostrander nomination), The Stepmother in *Into the Woods*, & Charlotte in *Falsettos* (TM) and Gretchen in GCT's

*Boeing Boeing*. She is excited to return to the stage after directing *Victory Blues* and *Crib*. Big thanks to all the *Lizzie* women for making this process such an enjoyable one - "y'all better slay (literally)!" She would like to dedicate this performance as always to her father who she knows will always have the best seat in the house.

# ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

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**Whitney Kessling** (*Drums*) earned her bachelor's degree in Music Performance from Bluffton University in Ohio. Whitney started drumming at the age of 10 and was performing professionally with local theater groups by age 13. Her music has led her on tours across Europe, the Caribbean, and throughout the US. She is a member of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, Memphis Repertory Orchestra, and also performs in pit orchestras in various Memphis area theatres. With her husband Robert, she operates and teaches out of the Academy of Percussive Arts. Skol, Vikings!

**Corbin Miles** (*Guitarist*) is a guitarist, guitar instructor, and professional face melter who hails from Richmond Va. In pit orchestras he has previously played for *Anything Goes*, *Shrek*, *Newsies* (Theatre Memphis), *Footloose*, *Hairspray*, *Joseph & The Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Harrell) *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and *Honky Tonk Angels* (GTC). He can also be seen rocking out with the jam band Grape. Shout out to his wife Zeynep, who is pretty much the best ever.

**Freddie Mooney** (*Bassist*) former bassist with Rick Springfield, Billy Preston, Albert Collins, and The Hues Corporation (Rock the Boat). Some recent musicals include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Honky Tonk Angels*, *Godspell*, *Spring Awakening*, *Urinetown* and *Little Women*. Writing credits include Bass Player Magazine The Art of Successful Subbing. When not onstage Freddie can be found subbing for churches, and playing weekly engagements in local clubs.

**Brenton Moore** (*Cello*) received his B.Mus. in Cello Performance at Point Loma Nazarene University and his M.Mus. in Cello Performance at University of Arizona. He is a cello instructor at Bellevue School of the Performing Arts and plays for the Memphis Symphony as well as other theater and freelance gigs in and around Memphis.

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# ABOUT THE CREW

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**Melissa Andrews** (*Lighting Designer*) returns to New Moon after designing and stage managing *Othello* last spring. Other recent credits include *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (stage manager, Desoto Family Theatre), *Beauty and the Beast* (lighting designer, Harrell Theatre), *Pretty* (lighting designer, FEMMemphis), and *Godspell* (stage manager, Desoto Family Theatre). A million thanks to Thomas, Gene, and her amazing husband for making the magic happen.

**Laurie Boller** (*Props*) is excited to be part of such an amazingly talented company! Laurie recently designed props for Femmemphis' *Desdemona: A Play about a Handkerchief* and New Moon's *Eurydice*. Laurie's stage managing credits include, *August Osage County*, *Rasheeda Speaking*; *Judy, Just for You*, *39 Steps*, *Mother and Sons*, *Doubt*, *The Boy from Oz*, *The Submission*, *As You Like It*, and *The Royal Family*. Many thanks to her family: Greg, Rae and Jamie for their constant love and support.

**Bruce Bui** (*Costume Designer*) is originally from Southern California and a graduate of CLU. He now lives in Memphis, and is going into his 18th season as the Wardrobe Director and Resident Costume Designer for Ballet Memphis. His works can be seen regularly on the Orpheum stage and numerous other venues around the mid-south, and nationally. His designs have been praised as "dazzling" by Critical Dance Magazine, and a "Master of Chiffon" by the Commercial Appeal. He has worked with companies such as Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival, Tennessee Shakespeare Company, Trey McIntyre Project, Ballet De Moines, The Harid Conservatory, and The Western Stage, among others. Some of his specialty garments can be seen on Mrs. Tennessee for Mrs. America, At Home Tennessee Magazine's featured wedding issue, The Memphis Mystic Krew court, Curb Couture Trashion Show, and Condomonium. Bruce has also worked on several commercials here in the Mid-South.

**Brittany Church** (*Choreographer*) is so grateful to be part of her second New Moon show with such a fantastic team. Next up, find her reliving her ballet days as the dance captain in Playhouse on the Square's *Tuck Everlasting*. "Many thanks to Gene for giving me a space where I can step out of my typical showgirl persona onstage and get weird. To the Lizzie production team and cast, I adore each and every one of you. C, A, J, & J, thank you for trusting me on this journey – you are amazing, and it was an honor to work with you. And Kell, Queen Cackles, thank you for being you and for having me. Thanks always to mom, dad, Dust, and Neil for being the most supportive loves of mine."



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# ABOUT THE CREW

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**Thomas Halfacre** (*Lighting Designer*) As a way to keep him from touching the instruments on stage, or possibly hurting himself, Thomas Halfacre was sequestered to the front-of-house riser where the sound and lighting consoles lived. It was his first experience of being at a load in and sound check of a major rock tour. Being only eight years old at the time, he was allowed to push a single button that, in turn, lit over 40 vibrantly colored lights, so high in the air that they created a new sky. This little control freak was addicted! Many years later, having worked with names from Tina Turner to Justin Timberlake, and putting on productions for audiences from 20,000 to 2 people, no one has been able to convince him to quit. Maybe he knows that one day, he will get it right!

**Eileen Kuo** (*Musical Director/Orchestra Keyboards*) is thrilled to swing an ax and melt faces with this ridiculously talented group of ladies. Eileen's past credits include music directing *Honky Tonk Angels* (GCT), *Sweeney Todd* (GCT), and most recently, *Nunsense* (GCT), and performing in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *the Tempest*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Eileen was also previously seen in FEMMEphris' *Collective Rage: A Tale of Five Betties*, and POTS@Theatreworks' *4000 Miles*. Much love to Nathan.

**Chris Sterling** (*Set Designer*) has designed the sets for *Buried Child*, *Killer Joe*, *Haint* (Ostrander winner for Best Set Design), *Bug* and *The Rainmaker*. He has been seen on several local stages over the years, most recently as the Sheriff in NM's production of *The Rainmaker*. He has also appeared in *Newsies* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Theatre Memphis; *The Hollow* and *The Mousetrap* at GCT.

**Mystie Watson** (*Stage Manager*) has a BFA in Theatre Production and performance from U.T. Knoxville. She has had the privilege of working with some talented people and doing several exciting productions throughout the years, on and behind the stage. She can semi-frequently be found in the halls of Evergreen Theater, Theatreworks and Theater Memphis for different projects. Her most recent Stage Manager credits include Theater Memphis's *Ladies & Legends*, *Liberace!*, and *Three Memphis Tenors ...and a Baritone*. She also Stage Managed New Moon Theater's *Killer Joe*. Whether she is acting, directing, stage managing, or even creating costumes, she has truly loved being a part of each and every show. "...no day but today!"

*In Loving Memory*

**Mary Barringer,**

**b. 08/30/1911 d. 11/16/2017**

Mother of Sylvia Wilson, New Moon Bard Member

# THE DIRECTOR

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**Kell Christie** (*Director*) is an area director and actor, and the theatre teacher at Houston High School. Past credits with New Moon include *Othello*, *King Lear* and *Bug*. A few productions she's directed include *Amadeus*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *42nd St.*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Kell has enjoyed every moment with her all-female production team and cast. More experiences like this, please and thank you. She'd like to dedicate this performance to her students, who are the best in the world. "Special thanks to Steven and Annabelle, the pin of my heart." #coven4eva

## ABOUT THE PLAY

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### The Borden Murders

Lizzie Borden (1860-1927) lived with her her father, Andrew Borden (1822-1892), her stepmother Abby Borden (1828-1892), her older sister Emma (1851-1927), and the Borden's Irish housemaid, Bridget Sullivan (1869-1948) at the time of the murders. Andrew was a man of self-made wealth but often described as extraordinarily frugal with his finances, a point of contention with both his family and outsiders. Neither having married, the subject of their father's inheritance may also have served as a source of discord among the daughters. Lizzie and Emma, while having a cordial relationship with their stepmother, referred to her as Mrs. Borden and rarely ate meals with the rest of their family, according to Bridget.

On the morning of August 4th, 1892 Andrew Borden was found brutally murdered in the sitting room by Lizzie. Abby, thought to be out on a sick call in town was found sometime later in the upstairs guest room with similar head wounds, having actually been killed first. The suspicion quickly fell to Lizzie, the only one home at the time of the attacks aside from Bridget, who was outside cleaning.

From the start, Lizzie had a very difficult time keeping her whereabouts straight when questioned, and whether the stress caused her uncertainty or her alibi was flimsy, she became the prime and sole suspect almost instantly. Problematically, the police had a very difficult time finding physical evidence linking anyone to the crime, including no plausible murder weapon but a broken hatchet head with no discernible signs of blood on it. The trial itself began June of 1893 in the nearby town of Taunton. With little evidence to go on and Lizzie's initial interviews and testimony being dismissed after her indictment, she was acquitted of the murders. Lizzie remained in Fall River after the trial until her death in 1927. The case remains unsolved to this day.

Theatreworks would like to thank the following arts organizations that offer assistance through grants and arts programs.



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## New Moon Theatre's 2018 - 2019 Season

**October 12 - 28, 2018**

*Lizzie – The Musical*  
(The Lizzie Borden Story),  
By Steven Cheslik-DeMeyer,  
Alan Stevens Hewitt,  
Tim Maner

**February 8 - 24, 2019**

*Agnes of God*  
by John Pielmeier

**April 19 – May 5, 2019**

*12th Night*  
by William Shakespeare

For more info please visit  
[www.NewMoonTheatre.org](http://www.NewMoonTheatre.org)

New Moon Theatre would like to thank the following, without whom this production could not have succeeded:

**Aliza Moran, Our Own Voice,  
Nathan Till, Houston High School,  
Germantown Municipal School  
Dist., Douglas Mayes, Memphis  
Symphony Orchestra, Chris Ran-  
dolph, Midtown Crossing Grill,  
Jeff Rust, Church of the Good  
Shepherd, Tom & Tracie Han-  
som, Theatre Memphis,  
Fred Harpell, University of  
Memphis**

### New Moon Theatre Company Board of Directors

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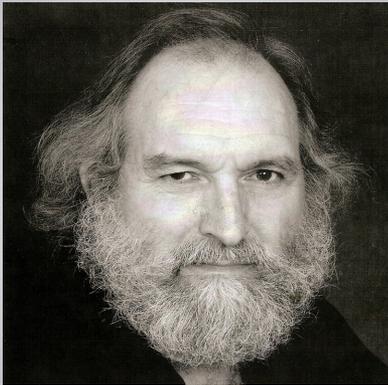


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**Ron Gordon, ever with a gener-  
ous heart, helped one and all.**



B. Feb. 4, 1949, D. April 17, 2017

*“Say not in grief he is no more—  
but live in thankfulness that he  
was.” Hebrew Proverb*

New Moon Theatre Company  
was formed in 2004 to  
produce challenging works.  
It's debut production of *Fefu  
and her Friends* was a  
wonderful success.

New Moon would like to  
acknowledge the original  
four founding members,  
and thank them for  
their vision, dedication  
and hard work.

**Bert Godwin  
Pam Goss  
Eastern Hale  
David Newsome**