

# from the director

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In December 2013 while on a Broadway trip to New York, I was tasked with going to TKTS to buy tickets for *Pippin* for our group of friends. I patiently waited in line while daydreaming about all the “magic to do” that we would be seeing on stage later that afternoon. I finally got to the ticket window and, to my dismay, learned that *Pippin* was sold out for the day. Now if you’ve ever been to TKTS, you know when you get up to that window you don’t have a lot of time to dilly-dally with your decision. In a hurried panic, I scanned the list of shows left and just said, “We’ll take four for *Big Fish*.” I arrived back at the hotel and told my friends that we would be seeing *Big Fish* instead of *Pippin* that afternoon. To say that they were unhappy would be the understatement of the century. No one wanted to see *Big Fish* — at all. With tickets in hand however, the group begrudgingly made their way over to the Neil Simon Theatre for that afternoon’s matinee. By intermission, everyone was surprisingly enjoying themselves and had decided that my last-minute decision wasn’t so bad after all. The show was flashy fun, the music was catchy, and Norbert Leo Butz and Kate Baldwin were fantastic as Edward and Sandra Bloom. Then came Act 2. I don’t want to give away any spoilers here for the audience members with us who aren’t familiar with *Big Fish*, but I will tell you that the lady seated in front of us turned around and politely asked if we needed any tissues. We were all a big blubbing mess of tears by the end of the show.

*Big Fish* is so much more than just a flashy fun musical. It’s full of heart and a Southern authenticity that moved me and stuck with me long after I left the theatre on that December day — so much so that here I am six years later directing this show for the closing of Pull-Tight’s 50th anniversary season. Thank you to everyone at Pull-Tight for giving me the opportunity to bring this story to the stage during this important milestone year.

It wouldn’t be possible for me to write a “Director’s Note” without saying thank you to all the people who helped make this show a reality and believed and supported my vision for it. I’m not going to list them individually (that’s what the crew list is for), but know that I am incredibly grateful for the time and energy each of you put into this production. To our cast — you are the heroes of this story! Thank you for working so hard and trusting this team as we worked together to create something that I know is going to leave a lasting impression on our patrons. It has been my honor to work with you all.

Last, but certainly not least, I have to thank my husband, Nathan McIntosh. You support me in every way, and I can’t imagine this show without you. Thank you for encouraging me and loving me always.

It all ends well, this much I know.

~ Justin McIntosh