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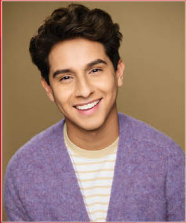
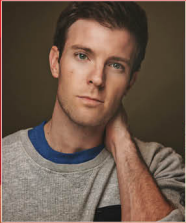
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ALLIANCE THEATRE ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

LIKE FATHER

CREATED BY JACOB RYAN SMITH
BY JACOB RYAN SMITH & CAROLINE PERNICK
DIRECTED BY TINASHE KAJESE-BOLDEN



 CHARITY ANGÉL DAWSON <i>Lillian Clarke</i>	 HANNAH ELLESS <i>Michelle</i>	 BENJAMIN H. MOORE <i>Ben</i>
 SOPHIE POLLONO <i>Chris</i>	 FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ <i>Trevor</i>	 BILLY HARRIGAN TIGHE <i>John Grady</i>

FEATURING CHARITY ANGÉL DAWSON, HANNAH ELLESS,
BENJAMIN H. MOORE, SOPHIE POLLONO, FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ,
AND BILLY HARRIGAN TIGHE

ON THE HERTZ STAGE AT ALLIANCE THEATRE
OCTOBER 8 – NOVEMBER 15, 2026

ATLANTA, August 17, 2026 — The Alliance Theatre today announced the cast of the upcoming world premiere musical, *LIKE FATHER*. Described as a coming-of-age story set against America's

Alliance Theatre

true-crime obsession, *LIKE FATHER* will run on the Hertz Stage at Alliance Theatre, October 8 – November 15, 2026. Opening night is Friday, October 16, 2026.

“From the moment we began assembling this company, I knew *LIKE FATHER* needed actors who could hold seemingly impossible things at once—ferocious musicality and emotional vulnerability, razor-sharp humor and real danger,” said Director Tinashe Kajese-Bolden. “This extraordinary company brings all of that and more. They are fearless storytellers who illuminate a world where the past is constantly pressing against the present, and where we are asked how much of who we become is inherited—and how much we get to choose for ourselves. I cannot wait for Atlanta audiences to experience the surprising, funny, haunting, and ultimately hopeful world we are building together.”

The cast of *LIKE FATHER* features **Charity Angél Dawson** (Broadway: *& Juliet, Waitress*) as Lillian Clarke; **Hannah Elless** (Broadway: *Bright Star*) as Michelle; **Benjamin H. Moore** (Broadway: *Hell’s Kitchen*) as Ben, **Sophie Pollono** (Off Broadway: *A Walk on the Moon*) as Chris, **Frankie Rodriguez** (TV: *Chad Powers, High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*) as Trevor, and **Billy Harrigan Tighe** (Broadway: *The Heart of Rock and Roll*; Alliance Theatre: *Millions, Fires, Ohio*) as John Grady. Understudies for the production include **Mila Bolash**, **Aavyn Lee**, and **Nevaeh Riddle**.

LIKE FATHER is created by **Jacob Ryan Smith** with Book, Music, and Lyrics by **Jacob Ryan Smith** and **Caroline Pernick**. As previously announced, the creative team of *LIKE FATHER* is led by Alliance Theatre Jennings Hertz Artistic Director **Tinashe Kajese-Bolden** (*The Preacher’s Wife, Furlough’s Paradise*), with Choreography by **Dell Howlett**, Music Supervision by **Alejandro Senior**, **Adam Beskind** as Music Director and Player/Conductor, and Dramaturgy by **Amanda Watkins**. Designers include **Luciana Stecconi** as Set Designer, **Lex Liang** as Costume Designer, **Thom Weaver** as Lighting Designer, **Melanie Chen Cole** and **Hidenori Nakajo** as Sound Co-Designers, **Caite Hevner** as Projections Designer, and Tony Award-nominee **August Eriksmoen** (Broadway: *Bright Star*) as Orchestrator. **J&J Music Preparation**, **Josephine Bearden** and **Jacob Fjeldheim**, will serve as Music Copyist. Casting is by **Kevin Metzger-Timson, CSA**, **Frankie Ramirez, CSA** from **Tara Rubin Casting** and **Jody Feldman** from Alliance Theatre.

Additional production support includes Associate Director **Rachel Sabo-Hedges**, Script Assistant **Vijay Vikram Patnaik**, Assistant Scenic Designer **Jack Golden**, Assistant Costume Designer **April Andrew Carswell**, Costume Studio Assistant **Sydney Dufka**, Associate Lighting Designer **Rachael N. Blackwell**, Associate Sound Designer **Tamir Eplan-Frankel**, Keyboard Programmer **Taylor J. Williams**, Stage Manager **Jayson T. Waddell**, Assistant Stage Manager **Xiaonan Chloe Liu**, Production Management Lead **Courtney O’Neill**, and Stage Management Production Assistant **Samantha Honeycutt**.

Additional musicians include **Greg Matteson** as Assistant Music Director, **Holt McCarley** as Music Assistant, **Amanda Wansa Morgan** as Music Production Assistant, **Patrick Arthur** playing Acoustic Guitar/Electric Guitar, **Geoff Gill** playing Drums, **Yinzi Kong** playing Viola, **Kenneth Lambert** playing Violin/Fiddle, and **Marc Miller** playing Bass.

LIKE FATHER is a coming-of-age musical set against America’s true-crime obsession. After her father’s arrest, seventeen-year-old Chris moves in with her estranged mother, Michelle, and stepfather, Ben. When a hit true-crime podcast exposes their family’s disturbing past to the world,

Alliance Theatre

they are forced to face the truth of what brought them together, or risk being undone by its consequences.

Driven by a bold, innovative folk-pop score, *LIKE FATHER* explores legacy, identity, and the cost of obsession, inspired by the loved ones left in the wake of infamous serial killers—and by the true-crime podcast industry's meteoric rise to over 250 million listeners worldwide.

Like Father: The Bloody Good EP, featuring songs from the musical performed by Broadway alums, was released on August 3. It's available on all major streaming platforms including [Spotify](#).

LIKE FATHER is commercially produced by Westway Studios, Howard Alter and Zachary Hausman, and Madison Thompson, and is co-produced by Jonathan & Rae Corr, Steven N. Lerner, Happy Recap Productions, Caryl & Kendrick Smith, City Cowboy Productions, Kerri Mandelbaum, Fahs Productions, Bonnie & Michael Hausman, Leachman Feigelson Productions, Ella Lao & Amy Lao, Amanda Larney, Tracey & Chip Thompson. Jennifer O'Grady serves as Associate Producer. Alex Lobel serves as Assistant Producer. Ella Lao serves as Content Associate.

DIGITAL ASSETS are available for download here –

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/hwdiwurd972cmmhr4iwii/AGv8DJz8WE_SuR5OoLEtOZM?rlkey=cuyh8yu4dlafbxkcytne5cdr4&st=b3us7tjr&dl=0

Tickets are available at the Alliance Theatre Box Office in person or by calling 404.733.4600, or by going online to www.alliancetheatre.org/likefather.

VENUE INFORMATION:

Hertz Stage at Alliance Theatre
1280 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION:

The Hertz Stage Series is sponsored by Warner Bros. Discovery.

CALENDAR LISTING SYNOPSIS:

LIKE FATHER (world premiere, musical)
October 8 – November 5
Hertz Stage at Alliance Theatre
1280 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

Created by Jacob Ryan Smith
By Jacob Ryan Smith & Caroline Pernick
Choreography by Dell Howlett
Directed by Tinashe Kajese-Bolden

Produced by Special Arrangement with Westway Studios

Alliance Theatre

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LIKE FATHER emerged as the winner of the inaugural Open Jar Musical Shark Tank and was a semi-finalist at the Eugene O'Neill New Music Theater Festival.

Tickets and information at www.alliancetheatre.org/purpose.

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ABOUT ALLIANCE THEATRE

Founded in 1968, Alliance Theatre is the leading producing theater in the Southeast, reaching more than 165,000 patrons annually. The Alliance is led by Jennings Hertz Artistic Directors Tinashe Kajese-Bolden and Christopher Moses and Managing Director Brandon Kahn. The Alliance is a recipient of the Regional Theatre Tony Award® for sustained excellence in programming, education, and community engagement. In January 2019, the Alliance opened its state-of-the-art performance space, The Coca-Cola Stage at Alliance Theatre. In January 2026, the Alliance opened the Goizueta Stage for Youth & Families on the campus of the Woodruff Arts Center to expand its programming and commitment to excellent productions for family and student audiences of all backgrounds. Known for its high artistic standards and national role in creating significant theatrical works, the Alliance has premiered more than 140 productions including eleven that have transferred to Broadway. The Alliance education department reaches more than 90,000 students annually through performances, classes, camps, and in-school initiatives designed to support teachers and enhance student learning. The Alliance Theatre values community, curiosity, collaboration, and excellence, and is dedicated to representing the cultural richness of Atlanta's community with the stories we tell, the artists, staff, and leadership we employ, and the audiences we serve. www.alliancetheatre.org

OUR MISSION

Atlanta's national theater, expanding hearts and minds on stage and off.