

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

AUDIO DESCRIPTION NOTES

MYSTIC PIZZA

These description notes were provided by Janet Zoubek Dickson, audio describer, and will be shared in advance of scheduled audio-described performances.

Mystic Pizza features a book written by Sandy Rustin, based on the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Motion Picture, with story and characters by Amy Holden Jones. Arrangements, orchestrations, and music supervision are by Carmel Dean; scenic design by Nate Bertone; costume design by Jen Caprio; lighting design by Ryan J. O’Gara; sound design by Matt Kraus; hair & wig design by Roxanne De Luna; stage managed by Andrea Cibelli; music direction by Kristin Stowell; choreographed by Connor Gallagher; and directed by Casey Hushion.

This production is recommended for ages 12 and up. Bright lights and theatrical haze are used throughout the performance. The show runs approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes with one intermission.

Based on the 1988 rom-com that starred Julia Roberts, *Mystic Pizza* tells the story of three working-class waitresses who navigate the complexities of life, love, and family in a small-town pizza joint. The score features megahits of the ’80s and ’90s, from “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” to “Nothing’s Gonna Stop Us Now” and songs originally recorded by Cyndi Lauper, John Cougar Mellencamp, Wilson Phillips, The Bangles, Belinda Carlisle, and Bryan Adams, among many others.

SCENERY

The show takes place in the fishing village on the coast of **Mystic, Connecticut**, and the set reflects it: A weathered, rustic, worn, dark shingled building. The playing space is in the center. On the left and right are two outer walls facing the audience. The whole set is decorated with flying gulls, buoys, and canoe paddles. On the left outside wall is a framed rectangular sign – an arrow containing the words “This way to the” and below it in block

letters, "BEACH". On the right outer wall is a round sign with gold raised letters – "Welcome to Historic Mystic Beach."

On the left and right are two sets of wide, large alleys that serve as entrances and exits to the playing space. On the left is a long, vertical sign reading "PLANETARIUM" in descending letters, with gulls and a large red lobster on the wall above. Above the right alleys is another sign: "Dory Shop" on the wall above. On the wall below is a dark board. To the back is a platform and three large openings - one wide and large, the other two are narrower and closer together. Behind these openings is the orchestra. On the wall above the orchestra is a sign for "STEAMERS".

Above the wide opening (to the left) is a red neon sign with "MYSTIC" in solid red letters. Below it, "PIZZA" is written in lower case in script. Beside the title is the outline of a slice of pizza, with pepperoni on top and dripping cheese.

The set is mostly the site of the **Mystic Pizza restaurant** but will flow into other scenes. The pizza restaurant has several dark brown tables covered by red and white check tablecloths. To the upper left is the door to the pizzeria, surrounded by a cut out of brick. To the upper right is the pizza counter. There is a wooden top over the counter and from it hangs some framed photos, and two different size pizza pans marked "small" and "large." A wooden post at the counter has a wall telephone on one side and a certificate on the front; below it is a framed picture of a dollar bill. At the other end of the counter is a post with a framed blackboard. In chalk it says "Promotion: buy one get one – a slice of heaven" with a drawing of a slice of pizza in the middle. The bottom of the counter is a light brown wood bordered with a red painted wood.

The set changes to **the living room** of a house being renovated. The walls have been removed and only the barebones of the walls show. There is a wooden staircase that ends in a landing. A hanging sheet covers the frame of a doorway.

Some scenes will take place on a series of multi-level wooden **docks** at the water. A visit to the museum is suggested by the lowering of a painting. Another takes place in a living room with a leather tufted wine-colored sofa; another scene is in a living room, with

windows at the back, a blue, grey and white sofa with throw pillows and a table next to it with a statue of Jesus and a standing white cross next to it.

Dinner at **the Windsor mansion** is an elegantly set dining table with three paintings hanging behind the table. Each is of a large schooner ship at sea.

CAST & CHARACTERS

Mystic, Connecticut is a fishing village: The fishermen wear knee boats, waterproof overalls and heavy jackets and knit hats on their heads. Others wear casual clothing, flannel shirts, tee shirts, jeans, khakis, etc.

Daisy Arujo is played by Krystina Alabado. Portrayed in her early 20's, she is a young woman with light-tan skin, slender, and around 5' 4" with cascading dark brown curly hair. She has dark brown eyes, an oval face with black lashes and red lipstick. At the pizzeria, while waitressing, she wears a t-shirt with the logo "Mystic Pizza" on the front, and jeans with a small black apron that goes from her waist to the top of her thigh. It has pockets for tips and her order pad. When she is not at the pizzeria, in one scene she wears a lavender miniskirt and a black, thin-strapped, low-cut top; in another she wears a purple blouse with slightly puffy short sleeves, rose designs and jean skirt.

Katherine "Kat" Arujo is played by Alaina Anderson. She is a young woman with lighter-tan skin, also portrayed as 18 years old; she is slightly shorter than her sister. Her brown hair is thick, wavy, and shoulder-length. While waitressing at the pizzeria she wears a long-sleeved t-shirt; pink sleeves with a white front and the logo "Mystic Pizza" on the front, and a short apron over jeans. Later, she wears a teal blue knee-length dress with tiny white flowers and a drape sleeve to her elbows. In another scene, she wears a Kelly green top over jeans, carrying a soft, mint-green backpack; later, a cap-sleeved blue and white horizontal shirt under a pair of blue jean overalls.

Tim Travers is played by Ben Fankhauser. He is a tall white man, portrayed in his 20's. He has short, dark brown hair, and brown eyes. He wears a shirt with small black/white/yellow squares over a beige button-down t-shirt and khakis. Later, he wears a brown tweed overcoat over a navy shirt and dark mustard pants.

Leona Silvia is played by Jennifer Fouché. She is a lighter-skinned Black woman in her 40's and is the owner of the Mystic Pizzeria. She is tall (around 5'8") and slightly heavier than her waitresses. She has black hair usually covered by a bandanna tied around the back of her neck and wears large gold hoop earrings. She wears a long red blouse with swirled patterned black leggings, or black t-shirt with "Have a slice" on the front and leopard spandex leggings. In another scene she wears a long blue blouse with leggings. At times, she will don a black apron that goes to her knees with patches of flour on it.

Josephine "JoJo" Barboza, the third waitress of the group, is played by Deanna Giulietti. She is a white woman portrayed in her early 20's. She is of medium height with long brown hair pulled off her round face into a pony tail, with corkscrew curls falling down her back. She first wears a black T-shirt with "Mystic Pizza" on the front, a bright red belt at the waist, blue jeans, and red ankle boots. In another scene, she wears a red T-shirt with the pizzeria logo, short brown skirt, and black tights.

Bill Montijo is portrayed by F. Michael Haynie. He is a bigger white person, bald, and a light brown beard and moustache. They are a fisherman, and wear knee boots, orange waterproof overalls, a tie-dyed shirt underneath and a red and blue flannel shirt over. They will also wear flannel shirts over jeans, or a sleeveless black tee over jeans.

Charles "Charlie" Gordon Windsor, Jr. is played by Vincent Michael. He is a tall white man with light brown hair, wavy in the front, He wears a greenish-blue horizontally striped polo shirt under a tan sports jacket with jeans.