Bull Durham is a world premiere musical adapted from the movie, both by Ron Shelton. The play can be seen on the Alliance Stage from September 3, 2014 to October 5, 2014.

Reviews

“Bull Durham,” a musical making its premiere at the Alliance Theater… hits a solid double – New York Times

Like the Bulls, the North Carolina farm team of the title, the show has its scruffy charms, renegade spirit – Variety

Shelton’s quirky romantic comedy… has been brilliantly reimagined as a song-and-dance spectacle by composer Susan Werner, choreographer Joshua Bergasse and director Kip Fagan – Atlanta Journal-Constitution

It is an evening of fine musical theatre and… that has to count as a home run – Atlanta Cultural Arts Reviews

About Ron Shelton

Ron Shelton is a film director and screenwriter, most notable for the many films he has made about sports. As a writer and director, he has helmed *Bull Durham, Blaze, White Men Can’t Jump, Cobb, Tin Cup, Play it to the Bone, Dark Blue, Hollywood Homicide,* and *Hound Dogs.* He has also written *Under Fire, The Best of Times, Blue Chips, The Great White Hype,* and *Bad Boys II.* Shelton was a minor league baseball player in the Baltimore Orioles' organization from 1967 to 1971.

About Susan Werner

“Dubbed by NPR as the “Empress of the Unexpected,” singer/songwriter Susan Werner confirms her reputation as an artist changeable as the weather… At age five, Werner made her debut, playing guitar and singing at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Manchester, Iowa; she learned both piano and guitar by ear. After earning a degree in [classical] voice from the University of Iowa, she attended Temple University in Philadelphia, performing in numerous recitals and operas while completing her graduate studies.”

Inspired by a Nanci Griffith concert, Werner left behind her opera training and began performing as a singer-songwriter at coffeehouses throughout the Northeast. She self-released her first album *Midwestern Saturday Night* in 1992 and then went on to put out *Live at Tin Angel* the following year. In 1995 came her breakout album, BMG/Private Music's *Last of the Good Straight Girls.* Werner went on to record two more albums, adding some country and soul sounds to her signature vocal stylings. In 2004 Susan Werner released her album of instant songbook classics *I Can't Be New* on Koch Records. Since 2005, Werner

has released a handful of albums, asserting her command over the form through collections of agnostic gospel hymns, classic American rock and pop songs, and a cycle of tunes inspired by her farming roots (2013's *Hayseed*).

**About the Director, Kip Fagan**

Kip Fagan directed Jesse Eisenberg’s *The Revisionist* (with Vanessa Redgrave) as well as Eisenberg’s *Asuncion* for Rattlestick. Other Rattlestick credits include Heidi Schreck’s *There Are No More Big Secrets* and Sheila Callaghan’s *That Pretty Pretty; or, The Rape Play*. Other NYC: Carlos Murillo’s *A Thick Description of Harry Smith* and Sam Hunter’s *Jack’s Precious Moment* (P73), Sheila Callaghan’s *Roadkill Confidential* and Rachel Hoeffel’s *Quail* (Clubbed Thumb), Zayd Dohrn’s *Reborning* and Cory Hinkle’s *Cipher* (SPF), Sheila Callaghan’s *Recess* and Christopher Durang’s *Not a Creature Was Stirring* (The Flea), Greg Keller’s *The Young Left* (Cherry Lane), Sam Marks’s *Nelson* (Partial Comfort). Other regional: Annie Baker’s *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Marin Theatre Company), Greg Kotis’s *Michael Von Siebenberg Melts Through the Floorboards* and Jennifer Haley’s *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (Humana Festival), Sam Hunter’s *A Permanent Image* (Boise Contemporary Theater), Jordan Harrison’s *Futura* (Portland Center Stage), Len Jenkin’s *Limbo Tales* (Todd Mountain), Tommy Smith and Gabriel Kahane’s musical *Caravan Man* (Williamstown), Craig Lucas’s *Small Tragedy* (The Playwrights Center), Kenneth Lonergan’s *The Waverly Gallery* (Empty Space Theatre), and several plays with Printer’s Devil in Seattle, which he co-founded.

**Synopsis of Bull Durham**

*Bull Durham*, loosely based on Ron Shelton’s experiences on and off the field with a Minor League Baseball team, tells the story of three lives brought together by America’s two favorite pastimes—baseball and romance. Veteran catcher “Crash” Davis has been brought to the Durham Bulls to prepare rookie Ebby Calvin “Nuke” LaLoosh, a hot rod pitcher with a “million dollar arm and a five cent head,” for the majors. Annie Savoy, self-appointed high priestess and muse of the Bulls, has a hard decision to make: every season she transforms one lucky player from an also-ran to an all-star by sharing with them

---

her wisdom, experience… and bed. The love triangle heats up quickly as each character struggles with their own desires and hopes for what the future holds.

**Actors & Characters**

- **Randy Aaron**  
  Ensemble

- **John Behlmann**  
  Ebby Calvin "Nuke" LaLoosh

- **Jake Boyd**  
  Jimmy

- **Chris Critelli**  
  Ensemble

- **Khris Davis**  
  Ensemble

- **Lily Dickinson**  
  Ensemble

- **Erica Dorfler**  
  Ensemble

- **Benny Elledge**  
  Umpire/Ensemble

- **Melissa Errico**  
  Annie Savoy Wilkie Ferguson III  
  Ensemble

- **Randi Garza**  
  Ensemble

- **Lora Lee Gayer**  
  Millie

- **Jordan Gelber**  
  Joe "Skip" Riggins

- **Meg Gillentine**  
  Ensemble

- **Joel Hatch**  
  Max Patkin

- **Manuel Herrera**  
  Jose

- **Harrison McCall Lewis**  
  Batboy

- **Koh Mochizuki**  
  Ensemble

- **Chase Peacock**  
  Ensemble

- **Diany Rodriguez**  
  Ensemble

- **Travis Smith**  
  Ensemble

- **Manuel Stark**  
  Ensemble
**Baseball Words and Phrases**

**Minor League Baseball** -- A hierarchy of professional baseball leagues in the Americas that compete at levels below Major League Baseball (MLB) and provide opportunities for player development and a way to prepare for the MLB.\(^9\) (See also [The History & Function of Minor League Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minor_League_Baseball).)

**Baseball Basics: Lingo\(^10\)**

- **ace** -- A team’s best starting pitcher.
- **alley** -- The section of the outfield between the outfielders. Also "gap."
- **around the horn** -- A double play going from third base to second to first.
- **backdoor slider** -- A pitch that appears to be out of the strike zone, but then breaks back over the plate.
- **bag** -- A base.
- **Baltimore chop** -- A ground ball that hits in front of home plate (or off of it) and takes a large hop over the infielder's head.
- **bandbox** -- A small ballpark that favors hitters.
- **bang-bang play** -- A play in which the baserunner hits the bag a split-second before the ball arrives or vice versa.
- **basket catch** -- When a fielder catches a ball with his glove near belt level.
- **Bronx cheer** -- When the crowd boos.
- **brushback** -- A pitch that nearly hits a batter.
- **bush** -- Also "bush league." An amateur play or behavior.
- **can of corn** -- An easy catch by a fielder.
- **caught looking** -- When a batter is called out on strikes.
- **cellar** -- Last place. Also "basement."
- **cheese** -- Also "good cheese." Refers to a good fastball.
- **chin music** -- A pitch that is high and inside.
- **circus catch** -- An outstanding catch by a fielder.
- **closer** -- A team's relief pitcher who finishes the game.


cutter -- A cut fastball (one with a late break to it).
cycle -- When a batter hits a single, double, triple and home run in the same game.
dinger -- A home run.
dish -- Home plate.
fireman -- A team's closer or late-inning relief pitcher.
fungo -- A ball hit to a fielder during practice. It's usually hit by a coach using a "fungo bat," which is longer and thinner than a normal bat.
gap -- See "alley." A ball hit here is a "gapper."
gopher ball -- A pitch hit for a home run, as in "go for."
heat -- A good fastball. Also "heater."
high and tight -- Referring to a pitch that's up in the strike zone and inside on a hitter. Also known as "up and in."
hill -- Pitcher's mound.
homer -- A home run. Other terms include: blast, dinger, dong, four-bagger, four-base knock, moon shot, tape-measure blast and tater.
hot corner -- Third base.
in the hole -- The batter after the on-deck hitter.
jam -- When a hitter gets a pitch near his hands, he is "jammed." Also when a pitcher gets himself in trouble, he is in a "jam."
leather -- Refers to how good a player plays defensively or handles the glove. Ex: "He flashed some leather on that play."
meatball -- An easy pitch to hit, usually right down the middle of the plate.
Mendoza line -- A batting average of around .200.
moon shot -- A very long, high home run.
nail down -- As in "nail down a victory." Refers to a relief pitcher finishing off the game.
on the screws -- When a batter hits the ball hard. Also "on the button."
painting the black -- When a pitcher throws the ball over the edge of the plate.
pea -- A ball traveling at high speed, either batted or thrown.
pepper -- Pepper is a common pre-game exercise where one player bunts brisk grounders and line drives to a group of fielders who are standing about 20 feet away. The fielders try to throw it back as quickly as possible. The batter hits the return throw. (Some ballparks ban pepper games because wild pitches could land in the stands and injure spectators).
pick -- A good defensive play by an infielder on a ground ball. Also a shortened version of "pick-off."
pickle -- A rundown.
punchout -- A strikeout.
rhubarb -- A fight or scuffle.
ribbie -- Another way of saying RBI. Also "ribeye."
rope -- A hard line drive hit by a batter. Also "frozen rope."
rubber game -- The deciding game of a series.
run-down -- When a baserunner gets caught between bases by the fielders.
Ruthian -- With great power.
seeing-eye single -- A soft ground ball that finds its way between infielders for a base hit.
set-up man -- A relief pitcher who usually enters the game in the 7th or 8th inning.
shoestring catch -- A running catch made just above the fielder's shoetops.
southpaw -- A left-handed pitcher.
sweet spot -- The part of the bat just a few inches from the barrel.
table setter -- Batter whose job is to get on base for other hitters to drive him in. Usually a leadoff or No. 2 hitter.
tape-measure blast -- An extremely long home run.
tater -- A home run.
Texas Leaguer -- A bloop hit that drops between an infielder and outfielder.
tools of ignorance -- Catcher's equipment.
touch 'em all -- Hitting a home run (touching all the bases).
twin killing -- A double play.
Uncle Charlie -- Curve ball.
utility player -- A player who fills in at many positions.
wheelhouse -- A hitter's power zone. Usually a pitch waist-high and over the heart of the plate.
wheels -- A ballplayer's legs.
whiff -- Strikeout.
yakker -- Curve ball.

Creative Writing Prompts

1. Write a monologue of your most favorite or least favorite baseball memory.

2. If someone you know has played baseball either as Little League, Park District, Minor League, Major League or other type of team, write their story from their point of view, as though they are the one speaking.
Bibliography


