

THE BOY FROM

OZ

Music and Lyrics by PETER ALLEN

Book by MARTIN SHERMAN and NICK ENRIGHT

Original Production by BEN CANNON and ROBERT FOX



JAN 17 - FEB 1, 2020
FRONTROWCENTRE.CA
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THE BOY FROM OZ is presented by arrangement with David Spicer Productions
www.davidspicer.com.au



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Our Vision

A community that has opportunities to engage in diverse artistic expression.

Our Mission

Front Row Centre Players Society is a charitable, volunteer-driven arts organization that provides a supportive environment for anyone to participate in and learn all aspects of musical theatre and delivers memorable theatrical experiences.

Our Values

Fun • Safety • Collaboration • Passion • Creativity
Equal Opportunity • Diversity • Sustainability

FRC's offices and production facilities are at the

Beddington Theatre Arts Centre

375 Bermuda Dr NW | Calgary, AB | T3K 2J5
403-246-8505 | info@frontrowcentre.ca
Charitable Registration #892438565RR0001

Presidents Message

Hello and welcome to the second show of our 2019/20 season!

We were thrilled to learn that we would be the first Canadian production of this show that has swept through Australia and also did very well on Broadway starring Hugh Jackman. Hopefully you will enjoy this show brought together by an amazing team for FRC.

FRC is a volunteer-driven organization and we are always looking for new volunteers interested in learning about musical theatre and participating in creating memorable experiences both for themselves and for the audiences coming to view the shows.

To help us achieve that we humbly ask that If you can contribute more than the price you paid for admission then those dollars will go a long way to helping us create memorable experiences for all involved.

Darren Stewart, President

Calgary's Premier Community Musical Theatre Company



THE BOY FROM OZ

Music and Lyrics by PETER ALLEN

Book By MARTIN SHERMAN and NICK ENRIGHT

Original Production by BEN GANNON and ROBERT FOX

Orchestrations by MICHAEL GIBSON

**The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this
productions is strictly prohibited.**

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www.davidspicer.com.au

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☺ Steve Gin

☺ Mark Randall

☺ Donna Barnfield

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED IN ANY WAY WITH THIS PRODUCTION BUT WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN OMITTED.



I remember when my mom first told me I had lost an uncle to AIDS. It was this weird feeling of confusion and sorrow that I don't think I ever got over. Losing someone I didn't quite know, but felt like I had an intimate bond with.

When I was first asked to direct *The Boy From Oz* for FRC, I didn't know who Peter Allen was, but when I listened to his music, I instantly recognized it and the intimate bond I had with the songs "When I Go To Rio" and "I Still Call Australia Home." His songs were campy, odd tunes that would sometimes play on my record player at home. But I never actually knew of the person who sang these songs.

This production is an attempt to tackle two mighty things. The first was to honour Peter's life. To honour his ideas, hopes, and dreams for those around him. We attempted to cast and create a production based on how we thought Peter viewed the world. It's a world that doesn't know gender, sexuality, or race. Albeit this is quite a privileged and wild world, it is from the perspective of someone who lived in a time that I am not too familiar with. But it is also a world filled with glitter, lights and pizzazz (something I know VERY well!).

The second attempt with this show was to honour those we lost to AIDS. What the crisis of AIDS did to people and our modern culture is something I don't think we will ever fully grasp. What we lost has affected how the arts culture exists (with a massive lack of POC individuals in places of leadership, whereas if we hadn't lost the great amount of queer men of colour, I feel our modern arts culture would be very different). We wouldn't have lost the great artists like Peter, Freddie Mercury, Liberace, Anthony Perkins, or Rock Hudson. The list is endless.

But this play isn't completely about loss. It's a play about what we do with the things we lose, but also the things we gain from that loss. What we gain in dreams, in hopes, in goals. When I came out as queer, I had a great loss for a part of my life that I would never have back. But I gained a courage and fire to live my life more authentically and fully and to tell stories that mattered to me. To tell stories like that of Peter, and that of my uncle.

I want to thank everybody who joined us on the journey of making this incredible story come to life. Thank you to the cast, the crew, the production team, the directing team. With the tricky beast that is community theatre, it asks a LOT of those who agree to wrestle and play with it. What you will see today is a musical built out of literal sweat, literal blood, and literal tears. It was born out of frustrations, joy, anger, glee, and adrenaline. It was born out of a love of telling stories and singing songs. It was born from someone like you.

Thank you for supporting this musical. For buying a ticket and sitting down. I hope this musical uplifts you in ways you weren't expecting and draws you into the magical world that Peter Allen wanted us to live in.

A world where your baby smiles at you and you go to Rio!

Conrad Belau, Director



Act One

Act Two

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Opening | 17. Bi-Coastal |
| 2. All the Lives of Me | 18. If You Were Wondering |
| 3. When I Get My Name in Lights | 19. Sure Thing, Baby |
| 4. When I Get My Name in Lights – Reprise | 20. Peter's "Sure Thing, Baby" |
| 5. Love Crazy | 21. Everything Old is New Again |
| 6. Waltzin' Matilda | 22. Everything Old is New Again – Reprise |
| 7. All I Wanted was the Dream | 23. Love Don't Need a Reason |
| 8. Only an Older Woman | 24. I Honestly Love You |
| 9. The Best That You Can Do | 25. You and Me |
| 10. Don't Wish Too Hard | 26. I Still Call Australia Home |
| 11. Come Save Me | 27. Don't Cry Out Loud |
| 12. The Continental American | 28. Tenterfield Saddler |
| 13. She Loves to Hear the Music | 29. I Go To Rio |
| 14. Quiet Please, There's a Lady on Stage | |
| 15. I'd Rather Leave While I'm in Love | |
| 16. Not the Boy Next Door | |





Peter Allen	Mitchell Lukinuk
Young Peter.....	Hannah Wu
Judy Garland.....	Danielle Renton
Marion Woolnough	Angela Woodard
Liza Minnelli	Jessica Jones
Greg Connell.....	Harrison Bentley
Trio.....	Kim Cooke, Hannah Kerbes, Ellen Sullivan
Dee Anthony.....	Laura Gillespie
Dick Woolnough	Josef Vermeulen
Chris Bell	Daniel Huegli
George Woolnough.....	Rob Skeet
Mark / Trick.....	Andrew Russell
Ensemble.....	Samantha Carson, Mary Elizabeth Chisholm, David Grof

ORCHESTRA

Orchestra Conductor.....	Garrett Krause
Piano.....	Jenn Lanciault
Piano - Rehearsal Sub.....	Mike Jarzecki
Reed 1	Robert Seymour
Clarinet & Flute	Kim Linkert
Saxophone	Tessa Baker
Trumpet 1	Richard Fossey
Trumpet 2.....	Trudy Fossey
Percussion.....	Susan Eubank
Drums.....	David Ramsey
Electric Bass	Kevin DeBacker
Keyboard 2	Neil West

FRONT OF HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Front of House Managers

Jaclyn Barker
Shannon Beshara
Kat Carson
Joey Sayer
Darren Stewart

Ushers

Kathy Bauer
Mitchell Bauer
Kathy Bauer
Andrea Bohan
Amanda Burch
David Dewar
Aura Felipe
Lori Galiardi
Rhonda Gordon

Brenda Hillis
Pete Jemus
Jackie Lee
Myrna Malanik
Katelyn Morishita
Sydney Norgaard
Jessica Norgaard
Karen Patterson
Christopher Pratt
Rowena Romero
Kelsey Woodard

Ticket Takers

Zoë Arthur
Mitchell Bauer
George Bibeau
Brenda Cosens

Katerina Dewar

David Dewar
Katerina Dewar
Leanne Doppler
Amber Dujay
Rhonda Gordon
Brenda Hillis
Ann Kilpatrick
Jackie Lee
Joy Mamer
Laura May
Lorraine O'Neill
Jane Phillips
Rowena Romero
George Thomson
Nicole Woodard

Bartenders

Donna Bibeau
Kaaren Finlay
John Gray
Alan Hamaliuk
Heather Hutton
Laura Labovich
Jocelyn Laing
Jennifer Lealand
Phillip Liesemer
Karen Patterson
Daisy Pond
Serena Rayner
Joey Sayer
Darren Stewart
Vicki Trask



PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Conrad Belau
Assistant Director	Naomi Esau
Musical Director	Alixandra Cowman
Assistant Musical Director	Anne Roggensack
Choreographer	Alexa Elser
Assistant Choreographer	Alicia Ward
Producer	Henry Falls, Janos Zeller
Executive Producer	Jenn Lanciault
Stage Manager	Adam Rodgers
Lighting Design	Skylar Desjardins
Set Design	Jerod Fahlman
Master Carpenter	Nichole Thorne
Costume Design	Christie Johnson
Prop Design	Mike Johnson
Sound Design	Rew Armstrong, Steven Eastgaard-Ross
Hair & Makeup Design	Britta Siemens
Assistant Stage Manager	Sydney Chisholm, Jesse Beilman
Running Crew (Dresser)	Wendy Rurak, Kat Larocque, Sydney Chisholm
Lighting Board Operator	Aida Vermeulen, James Tonkin, Sky Desjardins, Sutton Clarke
Follow Spot Operator	Aida Vermeulen, James Tonkin, Tracy Smith
Sound Operator	Charlene Brydges, Steven Eastgaard-Ross
Costume Assistant	Shannon Beshara
Costume Support	Darcie Howe, Deloris Booker, Elayne Fischer, Jill Howell-Fellows, Joan Blumer, Kerri Wong, Laura May, Lorna Stuber, Lorraine Aha, Mike Johnson, Myrna Weiden, Nola Daly, Paul Keely, Rhonda Mottle
Set Construction	Phil Thorne, Bernie Epp
Set Painting	Megan Jovie
Dance Captain	Ellen Sullivan
Load-in	Allen Crowley, Greg Christmas
Assistant (Apprentice Director)	Jenny Austin
Assistant (Props Support)	David Anderson, Paul Keely
Photography (Headshots)	Anna Caldwell
Photography (Promotional)	Andre Goulet
Orchestra Conductor	Garrett Krause
Rehearsal Pianist	Don Kuchinski

Extra special thanks to the cast and crew for the long hours of move-in.

MEET THE CAST



HARRISON BENTLEY (GREG CONNELL)

Harrison honestly loves this show, it has been such a gem that he is so glad was brought into his life and given the opportunity to bring this character to life. Being part of a debut cast is such an amazing experience as well as an incredible responsibility to do the show justice. Get ready to be transported into the glamorously tragic life of Peter Allen, you'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll dance in your seat. previous works, *Addams Family*, *Wedding Singer*, *Pajama Game* (FRC), *A Toys Story*, *Star Warz 2 The Farce Strikes Back*, *Runaway Bridesmaids* (Jubilations Dinner Theater). ENJOY “(ツ)”



SAMANTHA CARSON (ENSEMBLE)

Samantha is thrilled to once again be joining FRC on stage. Her previous credits with FRC include: *The Addams Family* (Wednesday Addams), *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Diva), *Reefer Madness* (Stage Manager), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Newsboy/Ensemble), and *The Who's Tommy* (Sally Simpson). She would like to give a huge shout out to the production team for giving her this opportunity and she hopes you enjoy the show!



MARY ELIZABETH CHISHOLM (ENSEMBLE)

Mary is an aspiring aerial acrobat, an avid dreamer, an inspirer of tiny humans, and is riding the wave. She also performs professionally for a living. She's been in a lot of really cool shows, with a lot of really cool people, and would love to tell you all about it, because isn't human connection what this world's all about?



KIM COOKE (TRIO)

Kim Cooke is extremely excited to be making her Front Row Centre Players Debut. Recent credits have included the role of Heather Duke (*Heathers: The Musical*) and Ursula Merkle (*Bye Bye Birdie*). Kim is also releasing an EP in early 2020, entitled "All We Had". Feel free to follow her Instagram @kclynnmusic for updates on upcoming music and shows, or check out her website www.kclynn.com. She hopes you enjoy the show!



LAURA GILLESPIE (DEE ANTHONY)

Laura is delighted to make her FRC debut with the wonderful cast of *The Boy From Oz*. Theatre Credits include: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; and *Gifts of the Magi* (Rosebud Theatre); and *Bitches & Money* (Northern Light Theatre). Film Credits Include: *THE RED HERRING*, *HERSCHELL GORDON LEWIS' BLOODMANIA*, *WHO IS RILEY OAKES?*, and *DELIVERY*. Laura would like to thank her fiancée, Frances, for all her love and support.



DAVID GROF (ENSEMBLE)

David is super excited to be part of *The Boy From Oz*. This is David's second show with FRC, with the first being *The Addams Family*. His other show credits include; *HMS Pinafore*, *Princess Ida* (Morpheus), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (StoryBook) and *A Cowtown Christmas* (Cowtown Opera). You will also be able to find David in StoryBook's upcoming production of *Big Fish*. When not preoccupied with theatre David enjoys spending time with friends, relaxing, or playing video games.



DANIEL HUEGLI (CHRIS BELL)

A graduate from the University of Bern, Daniel moved to Calgary from Switzerland this August and did not waste any time joining the FRC family. He is new to theatre, though he did gather some experience in acting in theatre camps during his teenage years. His desire to participate in this musical stems from his dream to write and compose one of his own. This dream was born through his love for song writing. Daniel is very grateful and honoured to work in such an energetic and positive environment alongside such talented people.

MEET THE CAST



JESSICA JONES (LIZA MINNELLI)

Jess is so excited to be performing her first lead role with FRC! You may have seen her before in productions like *Sister Act: The Musical* (StoryBook Theatre), *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (FRC), and *The Pajama Game* (FRC). She is so grateful to this incredible cast, crew, and team for the opportunity to explore such a vibrant and vivacious character. She would like to thank her family and fiancé for being constantly supportive of her never being around. She cannot wait for you to see this gorgeous spectacle of a show!



HANNAH KERBES (TRIO)

Hannah is excited to be making her FRC debut. Hannah is a Calgary based actor/singer/sometimes dancer with an MA in Musical Theatre from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Select theatre credits include: *Sister Act*, *Mary Poppins*, *Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Seussical* (StoryBook Theatre) *FemiNazis* (Common Ground Festival), *Queenpins of Ponoka* (Sourdough Theatre) *Urinetown*, *Willy's Bitches* (RCS/Edinburgh Fringe). Hannah is a dedicated cat mom.



MITCHELL LUKINUK (PETER ALLEN)

For FRC- *Legally Blonde* (Nikos), *The Producers* (Ensemble), *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble). Elsewhere- *Next to Normal* (Dr. Madden), *Rent* (Angel), *Bare* (Lucas)-Cappuccino Musical Theatre. *Grease* (Teen Angel), *The Little Mermaid* (Grimsby), *Titanic-In Concert* (Harold Bride)-StoryBook Theatre. *Rocky Horror* (Rocky)-APN. *Dirty Dancing* (Kris Kellerman)-Jubilations Dinner Theatre. Mitch is incredibly excited to be making his return to Calgary theatre. He would like to thank his friends and family for their ongoing love and support.



DANIELLE RENTON (JUDY GARLAND)

Danielle is "Over the Rainbow" to be taking on the wonderful role of Judy Garland with this amazing cast and crew. It has been the opportunity of a lifetime and she has enjoyed every minute. Previous roles include, Mrs. Banks in *Mary Poppins* (St Peter's Players), Mrs. Walker in *Tommy* (FRC), as well as ensemble in *Anything Goes* and *How to Succeed in Business* (FRC).



ANDREW RUSSELL (MARK / TRICK)

After *Grease*, *The Wedding Singer*, and *The Addams Family*, Drew is elated to start the new decade with *The Boy From Oz*, his fourth show consecutively with Front Row Centre. Drew is excited to show you tons of versatility with this show as well as some fun out of this world looks. If you haven't gotten enough of Drew this year, catch him in something somewhere sometime because he doesn't know what he's doing after this show. Or on his Instagram @drew.r99. He wants to thank his friends and family for endless support and Ariana Grande just cause. ttylxxox :)



ROB SKEET (GEORGE WOOLNOUGH)

Rob has been performing since the time of kings & knights he almost feels prepared for his first musical tonight This spring he'll do an Elton show, but please ignore the image of Rob stuffed in a catsuit like a geriatric sausage. Rob's performance is dedicated to his best pal Steve, who lost his battle with AIDS in 1991.



ELLEN SULLIVAN (DANCE CAPTAIN/TRIO)

This is Ellen's third show with FRC and she is stoked to be performing alongside some truly beautiful people. Ellen is a graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, NY. Previous theatre credits include: *The Wedding Singer* (Julia Sullivan), *Legally Blonde* (Margot), *Children of Eden* (Eve), and *How I Learned to Drive* (Lil' Bit). These days you can find her singing with the Calgary wedding band *Pleasure Craft*.

MEET THE CAST



JOSEF VERMEULEN (DICK WOOLNOUGH)

Josef is thrilled to finally be making his stage debut with FRC with this amazing show. Previously he has directed and designed for FRC. He would like to thank the team for letting him come onstage this time, and would like to thank his wife and their six cats for giving him the time off to take part in the show.



ANGELA WOODARD (MARION WOOLNOUGH)

After a 6 year hiatus Angela is excited to return to the stage in this Canadian premiere! For FRC- *Chicago* Velma Kelly*/Choreographer*, *The Producers* Choreographer*, *Gypsy* Director/Choreographer*. Morpheus Theatre *Steel Magnolias* M'Lynn Eatenton*, StoryBook Theatre *Hairspray* Velma VonTussle, *Shrek!* Choreographer*, Oh Canada, Eh! *Suds...the musical* Choreographer, Star Time Revue-Japan/Dancer, NCL Cruises-South East Asia/Resident Entertainer, Angela has directed & choreographer MT students for CPA Festival. Tlx to the Fambam & furbaby xxx (*CAT Award recipient)



HANNAH WU (YOUNG PETER)

Hannah is very excited to debut with FRC. ELSEWHERE: *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre Calgary), *Camptastic* (Dirty Laundry: The Next Generation, guest), Cannonball Festival *Super Spud* (CYPT), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Hana's Suitcase* (StoryBook Theatre), *High School Musical*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid* (The Performance Studio). Hannah studies drama & dance at Central Memorial (PVA program gr. 10), vocal training with Rachel Hop. She thanks her family & friends!! Enjoy the show.

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MEET THE ORCHESTRA



GARRETT KRAUSE (ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR)

Garrett is thrilled to be involved in his first FRC production, and first major musical theatre experience, conducting *The Boy From Oz*. He studied music at the University of Calgary, is a national award-winning composer, and also a piano accompanist to multiple choirs in the city. He would like to thank all the talented, friendly musicians and cast for making him feel right at home in this new world of theatre!



JENN LANCIAULT (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/PIANO)

After producing last year's *Evita*, Jenn is stoked to be back behind the piano! Select credits on piano: *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Reefer Madness*, *Gypsy*, *Rocky Horror Show* (FRC), *Ordinary Days*, *bare*, *Rent* (CMT). Special thanks to her family - husband David and daughters Sutton & Iris - for being so supportive of her crazy artistic endeavours! Thanks, too, to everyone who is watching baby Iris backstage while Mommy plays the piano! <3



MIKE JARZECKI (PIANO - REHEARSAL SUB)

Six years ago, Mike began performing in local community theatre, both on stage and in orchestra pits alike, and has never looked back! Whether music directing, conducting a band, or playing a pirate, a transient, a film composer (on stage, not for real), a piano, or an accordion (for real), there's nothing else he'd rather spend his evenings doing. To all reading, enjoy the Canadian premiere production of *The Boy from Oz*!



ROBERT SEYMOUR (REED 1)

Robert has been performing on multiple reed/and flute instruments in Musical Theatre since his teenage years (in the 70s). In addition to Alto Sax, Clarinet, and Flute, this show has provided his first opportunity to perform on the Alto Flute. This biographic "jukebox musical" is guaranteed to trigger memories in the older crowd and introduce a man and his wonderful music through the band along with the on-stage singing and dancing. What an excellent show to kick off the new decade.



KIM LINKERT (CLARINET & FLUTE)

Kim lives and breathes music! When she's not in the orchestra pit, you can find her performing with the Calgary Wind Symphony, the Southern Stardust Big Band, Alberta Winds and the Airdrie Community Band. *The Boy From Oz* is her first show of the FRC 2019/20 season. Enjoy the show - hoo roo!



TESSA BAKER (SAXOPHONE)

Tessa has wanted to play for a live theatrical performance ever since she began to pursue a career in music; she previously performed with FRC in their production of *Grease*, and has been playing in both the Calgary Wind Symphony and Alberta Winds for the past four years. Tessa's passion for music led her to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance from the University of Calgary. She will be playing in concerts throughout the year with her community bands, and will continue pursuing opportunities to participate in live shows in the near future.



RICHARD FOSSEY (TRUMPET 1)

Richard began playing trumpet in Grade 6 and has been playing ever since. He studied music (Trumpet Performance) at the University of Alberta and played professionally until he took his mom's advice and got a real job. Since then, he has been playing semi-professionally and is excited to be playing with the Pit for *The Boy from Oz* (his eighth musical with Front Row Centre). Richard also plays trumpet alongside his wife Trudy in several other groups in Calgary.

MEET THE ORCHESTRA



TRUDY FOSSEY (TRUMPET 2)

Trudy works as a teacher with the Calgary Board of Education and Clinician for many band programs and performs regularly with many symphonies and orchestras in Calgary. She is also active as a bugler with Peace Keepers and Century Downs Horse Races. Trudy loves to travel and has performed in many countries in Europe and many cities in Canada and the U.S.A. with various musical ensembles. Her hobbies include karate and teaching young children karate and personal safety. Personally, Trudy is married to Richard. They have a son, Ross, and a daughter, Karen and are proud to have 4 grandchildren!



SUSAN EUBANK (PERCUSSION)

This is Susan's first show with FRC. She is a member of Westwinds Music Society's Women's Choir and the Bronze Concert Band and has enjoyed touring with them to China, Europe, and the U.K. She also plays percussion with Jazzniks Big Band. Susan would like to thank her family and friends for their patience with her many nights of rehearsals and hubby John (best roadie ever!) for his love and support.



DAVID RAMSEY (DRUMS)

David is pleased to be back playing drum kit for the first time in three years (for FRC). Since *Jekyll and Hyde*, he has played percussion or trumpet in six productions. In addition he plays trumpet with Summit big band and percussion with Calysto steel band. In May, he will be playing a variety of percussion for *Pirates of Penzance* (Morpheus Theatre).



KEVIN DEBACKER (ELECTRIC BASS)

Kevin is thrilled to be back for his fourth production with FRC. Kevin attended MacEwan University's music program where he studied performance and composition. Previous credits include *Avenue Q*, *The Wedding Singer*, and *The Addams Family*.



NEIL WEST (KEYBOARD 2)

This is Neil's fifth show with Front Row Centre having previously conducted *Spamalot* and *The Addams Family* and played in the orchestra for *Evita* and *The Wedding Singer*. He is excited to be back playing with this group of amazing musicians and the rock star cast. Much love to Stephen and the rest of his family and friends.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Graduate -- Morpheus Theatre
Friday January 31st, 2020 - Saturday February 15th, 2020

The Burning Pestle -- Scorpio Theatre
Friday February 21st, 2020 - Saturday February 29th, 2020

California Suite -- Simply Theatre
Friday March 6th, 2020 - Saturday March 14th, 2020

MORPHEUS THEATRE

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A PLAY ADAPTED BY **TERRY JOHNSON**

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY **CHARLES WEBB**

AND THE MOTION PICTURE SCREENPLAY BY

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DIRECTED BY

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**25th
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MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM



PETER ALLEN (MUSIC)

BIO: [WIKIPEDIA.ORG](https://www.wikipedia.org); HEADSHOT: [IMDB.COM](https://www.imdb.com)

Peter Allen was an Australian singer-songwriter, musician and entertainer, known for his flamboyant stage persona and lavish costumes. His songs were made popular by many recording artists, including Elkie Brooks, Melissa Manchester and Olivia Newton-John, with one, "Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do)" by Christopher Cross, winning an Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1981. In addition to recording many albums, he enjoyed a cabaret and concert career, including appearing at the Radio City Music Hall riding a camel.



NICK ENRIGHT (BOOK)

HEADSHOT & BIO: [ALCHETRION.COM](https://www.alchetrion.com)

Nick Enright was an Australian dramatist, playwright, and theatre director. He wrote the book and lyrics to a number of musical works: three musicals with Terence Clarke – *The Venetian Twins*; *Variations* (Winner, NSW Premier's Literary Play Award, 1983); and *Summer Rain* – and others with Alan John (*Orlando Rourke*), David King (*The Betrothed*, *The Voyage of Mary Bryant*, *The Good Fight*), and Max Lambert (*Miracle City*); and an opera with Graham Dudley (*The Snow Queen*). He wrote the book of the original version of *The Boy from Oz*.



MARTIN SHERMAN (BOOK)

HEADSHOT & BIO: [WIKIPEDIA.ORG](https://www.wikipedia.org)

Martin Gerald Sherman is an American dramatist and screenwriter best known for his 20 stage plays which have been produced in over 60 countries. He rose to fame in 1979 with the production of his play *Bent*, which explores the persecution of homosexuals during the Holocaust. Sherman is an openly gay Jew, and many of his works dramatize "outsiders," dealing with the discrimination and marginalization of minorities whether "gay, female, foreign, disabled, different in religion, class or color." He has lived and worked in London since 1980 and received a Tony nomination for his rewrite of *The Boy From Oz*.



CONRAD BELAU (DIRECTOR)

Conrad is a hard-of-hearing, non-binary theatre maker. Select directing credits include: *C**k (ACT)*; *Bright Lights* (Theatre BSMT); *The Monument* (Theatre of Consequence); *breathe* (Sage Theatre/Ignite!); and *Noises Off* (Theatre Calgary, Assistant). They were nominated for a Betty Mitchell Award for their work in *The Virgin Trail* (ATP) and a Critter for their work on *This is How I Left* (Third Street Theatre). March 2020 they will be assistant directing *A Tender Thing* (Lunchbox Theatre). They thank their family and Alix for their continued love and support. "GOD IS GOOD!"



ALIXANDRA COWMAN (MUSICAL DIRECTOR)

Alixandra works in theatre as an actor, music director, composer, and sound designer. Previous music director credits include *Matilda* (StoryBook Theatre - assistant), *Bare: A Pop Opera* (Honest Collective), *Breathe* (IGNITE), and *Wildwood Fire* (Rosebud Theatre). She is currently writing the libretto for a musical about being stuck in an airport during the holidays. Up next, Alixandra is jumping back on stage to perform as both actor and musician in *The Other Josh Cohen* with Birnthon Theatricals. "So much love and gratefulness for this team - thank you for being willing to come along on this journey."



ANNE ROGGENSACK (ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR)

Anne is ecstatic to have worked with and learned from this incredible cast and creative team! Select credits: *Evita*, *Chess* (FRC), *Samson et Dalila* (CCOC), Calgary Opera's *So You Think You Can Sing Opera?*, *Dido and Aeneas*, Spiritus Chamber Choir. By day, Anne is a specialist in Maternal-Fetal Medicine. She thanks her very understanding husband Doug and 7-year old twins Jana and Maren for their love and support.



ALEXA ELSER (CHOREOGRAPHER)

Alexa Elser is thrilled to be debuting her choreography for *The Boy from Oz* with Front Row Centre Players! Past choreography credits include *As You Like It* (Theatre Calgary), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Lethbridge Shakespeare Performance Society), and countless dances over the years for tots and children alike. She is also an actor, dancer, singer, musician, and clown, and is currently about to open *The Louder We Get* at Theatre Calgary. All the love to this stellar cast, crew, and creative team—you are all rockstars!

MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM



ALICIA WARD (ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER)

Alicia Ward is an enthusiastic human being, performer, teacher, and producer in Calgary. Throughout the year Alicia choreographs and instructs dance and drama for all ages at various locations around the city. She works administratively for a number of education and arts based organizations including Alberta Dance Theatre (Co-Artistic Director), Triple Bill Weekends (Co-Founder), Young Adventurer Society (Co-Founder), and the International Tap Dance Festival, Rhythm, Body, and Soul. Alicia loves performing for young audiences best. BFO is Alicia's first production with FRC!



HENRY FALLS (PRODUCER)

Henry's first show with FRC was *Dogfight* in 2018, and his most recent show was *The Addams Family* in 2019



JANOS ZELLER (PRODUCER)

Janos has done over 70 productions in various capacities. Selected production credits include: *South Pacific*, *Evita*, *Legally Blonde*, *Sweeney Todd* (FRC), *In the Heat of the Night* (Workshop Theatre). In his spare time, he serves on the board of Front Row Centre Players. Much love goes to his family.



ADAM RODGERS (STAGE MANAGER)

While new to the Calgary community theatre family, Adam Rodgers brings plenty of experience from Medicine Hat Musical Theatre. Recent notable productions include *Bare: A Pop Opera*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Boeing Boeing* among various others. The rewarding experience of successfully bringing a show together and the relationships developed during the production of a show keep Adam coming back to the theatre community.



SKYLAR DESJARDINS (LIGHTING DESIGN/LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR)

FOR FRC: Debut. ELSEWHERE: Select Credits Include *Splendour*, *Inside*, *Macbeth* (SCPA), *Junie B Jones*, *Boys Own Jedi Handbook*, *Return to Treasure Island*, *Curious George and the Golden Meatball*, *Bring It On*, *Junior Claus* (StoryBook), *Basic One* (Theatre Junction), *The Humans* (Theatre Calgary), *Facing the Light* (Corps Barra), *Much Ado about nothing* (TSC), *A Love Letter to Emily Carr*, *Invisible Too* (Handsome Alice). Next up for Skylar: *Mockus* (Jupiter Theatre), *The Rainmaker* (Torchlight Theatre), and *Putnam Spelling Bee* (Honest Collective).



JEROD FAHLMAN (SET DESIGN)

This is Jerod's first production with FRC, but he has been working as a professional in the industry for nearly 25 years now. You can see his current work on the most recent seasons of *Heartland*, *JANN*, and *Wynonna Earp*, as well as the feature films *HOLD THE DARK* and *LET HIM GO*, and he's about to start season two of *Black Summer* for Netflix. He hopes you enjoy the story of this remarkable man, told by this remarkable cast and crew!



NICHOLE THORNE (MASTER CARPENTER)

A Journeyman Carpenter with the UBC for 12 years, Nichole has done some major projects such as The South Health Campus. As a child of 4 Nichole started her theatre career with ATP for 17 years. Known as the PopCorn Queen for *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline*. Some shows Nichole has worked on are *A Christmas Carol*, *Glacé Bay Minors Museum*. Nichole is very pleased to be helping out this winter building the stage with an amazing crew and cast.

MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM



CHRISTIE JOHNSON (COSTUME DESIGN)

Costume designer, milliner and historical costumer. She has worked as part of the costume crew on numerous productions, most recently as the Costume Designer on Morpheus Theatre's production of *Princess Ida*. Some of her other costuming credits include *Shakespeare in Love*, *Iolanthe*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Death of a Salesman*, and creating almost 50 hats for FRC's *My Fair Lady*.



MIKE JOHNSON (PROP DESIGN/COSTUME SUPPORT)

Michael Johnson, Steampunk Artist and gadget maker. Michael creates retro Victorian pieces, merging modern technology with a Victorian aesthetic. He has done props and set decor on numerous productions for various Calgary theatre companies, most recently *Night of the Living Dead*.



REW ARMSTRONG (SOUND DESIGN)

Recently, Rew has played fiery roles, including Pistol in *Henry V* and Paris in *Romeo & Juliet* (within 3 seasons of Bard on Bower), and has worked as a Sound and Visual Material Designer and collaborator for *Kohkum & Me* (taking part in Calgary Fringe 2019 and Weesageechak 32). With a blend of background in acting, gymnastics, and an International Baccalaureate and Sheridan College visual arts education, she is inspired to create work that helps others and is driven by freedom of creation and empathy. Working in this production of *The Boy From Oz* has been a blessing for her. She hopes you enjoy!



STEVEN EASTGAARD-ROSS (SOUND DESIGN/SOUND OPERATOR)

Steven has 44 billings with Front Row Centre in 30 shows; including 3 on stage. His first show with FRC was *Chess* in 2010, and his most recent show was *Grease* in 2019. He was most recently seen as Bratt in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (2017).



BRITTA SIEMENS (HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN)

Britta is excited to be working with FRC for another season, last season working on *Avenue Q*. Britta has been doing hair and makeup in Calgary community theatre for the past 3 seasons, working with Morpheus and Scorpio Theatres. Britta is currently working as a barber and in her spare time enjoys making sausages and cakes. Britta's favourite food is tacos, and her least favourite food is seafood.



SYDNEY CHISHOLM (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER/RUNNING CREW (DRESSER))

Sydney's first show with FRC was *The Addams Family* in 2019.



JESSE BEILMAN (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

Jesse has 9 billings with Front Row Centre in 8 shows; including 4 on stage. Their first show with FRC was *Pearls of Wisdom* in 2018, and their most recent show was *The Addams Family* in 2019. They were most recently seen as Gary Coleman in *Avenue Q* (2019).

MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM



WENDY RURAK (RUNNING CREW (DRESSER))

Wendy got her first taste of the acting bug when she played the role of Vixen #1 in *Dracula* in 2006. This was an 'eye candy' role as her only line was, "And tonight?" She was hooked. She moved on to her first 'talkie' role as Mabel Maddigan in *Mickey Sibbeston, PI The Nahanni Files*, written by a local Yellowknife artist in a film noir radio style. Now living in Calgary, she assisted with makeup for the production of *Shrek* in 2013 presented by Story Book Theatre and now will enjoy assisting as a dresser for the current production *The Boy From Oz* presented by Front Row Centre.



AIDA VERMEULEN (LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR/FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR)

Aida is thrilled to be part of the crew for this fabulous show. This is her first time being involved in the theatre. Thank you to this wonderful team for being so welcoming and for teaching her so much. Thanks also to her husband Josef and their cats for being so awesome and for encouraging her to try something totally new.



JAMES TONKIN (LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR/FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR)

Walk softly, carry a big wrench, and stay out of the light. While James can often be found in the theatre, if the audience sees him that usually means something has gone drastically wrong.



TRACY SMITH (FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR)

Tracy is excited to work with FRC on *The Boy from Oz*. This has been a favourite show to watch and listen to, since seeing it on Broadway in 2004. She hopes everyone enjoys learning about the incredible life of Peter Allen.



CHARLENE BRYDGES (SOUND OPERATOR)

Charlene has 11 billings with Front Row Centre in 10 shows. Charlene's first show with FRC was *Little Shop of Horrors* in 2017, and Charlene will also be involved in *Cabaret* in 2020.

MEGAN JOVIE (SET PAINTING)

Megan Jovie is an actor, writer, and director living in Calgary. She holds a BFA in performance from the University of Lethbridge, where she also learned scenic construction and painting. She is Artistic Associate and founding member of the Calgary based theatre collective Seven Starving Artists, and is excited to be working on her first FRC show! Previous set painting credits include *Carrie: The Musical* and *Weldon Rising* at the University of Lethbridge.



DON KUCHINSKI (REHEARSAL PIANIST)

Don has participated in community theatre musicals since the mid 90s, primarily as a rehearsal pianist and hopes to be included in this capacity for many years to come. He has *The Boy From Oz*, a musical he knew very little about besides being aware that Peter Allen had co-written an Oscar-winning song with Burt Bacharach. Only when he got the score, which turned out to be quite challenging, did Don discover how many well known songs Mr. Allen had a hand in writing. As usual, Don thanks Adam, Conrad, and Alix for their patience and respect for time. And thanks to FRC, specifically Janos, for inviting him.

hear them

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PETER ALLEN, OUT LOUD

In high school, Peter Allen was my secret lover.

But not in the way you're probably thinking. These were the days of vinyl, back when it more functional than fashionable. In the privacy of my bedroom, I scoured album liner notes, searching for Peter's name among the songwriting credits of my gay divas: Olivia Newton-John, Helen Reddy, Melissa Manchester, Anne Murray and Maureen McGovern, to name a few.

Until he broke through as a solo performer, I fancied Peter Allen as my own personal discovery. Well before the sequins and theatricality of **I Go to Rio**, or the wink-and-a-nod in-joke of **Bi-Coastal**, Peter's decidedly queer sensibility stood out to me. And I loved him for that. It wasn't camp that gave him away though. It was his deep understanding of vulnerability and irony - precisely the weapons we little gay boys needed to survive in the seventies.

*"Don't cry out loud
Just keep it inside
And learn how to hide your feelings"*

It was probably no coincidence so many of Allen's greatest songs were written with women like Reddy and Carole Bayer Sager, and so many recorded by female singers. He understood the politics of empowerment, and the loneliness that accompanied being an outsider. **Tenterfield Saddler** can break your heart when you understand Peter's roots in rural Oz, and the virulent homophobia that greeted him from the Australian media. The gay closet enters into his biggest songwriting hit, **I Honestly Love You**, in a way few of us understood in the time:

*If we both were born
In another place and time
This moment might be ending in a kiss*

*But there you are with yours
And here I am with mine
So I guess we'll just be leaving it at this*

The closet led Allen to write coded lyrics about being trapped – with melancholy and sadness, even resignation - but never with self-pity.

*I could have been a sailor
I made my choice in life
I chose to settle down
I chose to take a wife*

*I could have been a lover
Watchin' waves before me part
But I settled for safer harbors of my heart.*

Peter Allen's voyage came to an end far too early in 1992 as a result of AIDS-related cancer. But in that all too-brief life, he wrote and sang with sensitivity, honesty and wit. If only one of his songs could serve as an epitaph, I'd pick an obscure and somewhat prophetic 1975 track, **Long Time Looking**:

*I guess I'll be a long time looking
Looking for that long time one
'Cause when you've had the very best*

*All there is, is all the rest
So I'll keep right on looking
'Cause you've been a long time gone*

.- Steve Gin, Calgary arts educator & actor

MY LIFE WITH HIV

It was 32 years ago when I acquired HIV, and it was 32 years ago in October that I received my HIV diagnosis. There were no treatment options, I was told get my affairs in order and that I would likely be gone in the next 3 – 5 years. I went home, told a couple of friends and kept it secret from family and friends as shame and guilt prevented sharing my diagnosis at the time.

It was a time of loss, grief and despair, all while putting on a brave front and going about my days as if nothing was wrong. I would just wait and deal with things when they happened. Medications to treat HIV began to emerge, some with harsh side effects and some with minor improvement in delaying the process of HIV replication.

Mid 90's I began to show the early signs of HIV treatment failure and an AIDS diagnosis soon followed. I took a number of medications upwards of 40 pills per days for treatment of HIV and prevention of opportunistic infections. I had to start making serious and emotionally draining decisions for my future.

I told my family and friends as I could no longer hide the illness and impact it had as I fell ill and onto disability no longer able to work. Depression, addiction and isolation were more the norm as I watched my relationship with my partner slip away though all the challenges the illness was having on us. I started making my final arrangements, saying good bye to people and preparing for the worst.

In 1996, weighing 95 lbs and barely able to climb the stairs, I received a call from the Southern Alberta Clinic about a new clinical trial using "protease inhibitors". They felt I was a good candidate so I took the tests and began treatment. This added another 18 pills to my day, but my options were this or nothing.

In 45 days, my weight increased to 175 lbs, I was able to do many things that just weeks before I could not, like walking my dog and shoveling the walk and driveway. You never know the joy of shoveling snow until you no longer can; like many things in life. I kept getting better.

This all lead to my returning to work and community as I felt a need to give back. I got involved with AIDS Calgary (now HIV Community Link) as a volunteer; however, I did not disclose my HIV status or register as a client.

This connection to the agency and people living with HIV was the catalyst for the new life – one of self-discovery, new learnings & direction with a move into activism & advocacy for people with HIV. This led to more work over the years in the field of HIV education and prevention sharing the advances and facts about HIV with others. Many things have changed and great advancements in treatment and prevention have resulted.

In all this amazing stride forward to address HIV, there remains funding & resources challenges for doing the work and one overarching challenge of HIV STIGMA.

In my 30 years of living with HIV I have witnessed it all; from we have no treatment so make your final arrangements, to HIV treatment works and can prevent the transmission of HIV to sexual partners while living a full and productive life.

I could never have imagined that 32 years later I would still be here and able to share this message of Undetectable = Untransmittable.

MR

31 YEARS OF FRC

1988-1989

Jesus Christ Superstar

1989-1990

Tunes and Ticksles
Damn Yankees

1990-1991

Tunes and Ticksles Too
How to Succeed in Business Without Really
Trying

1991-1992

Tunes and Ticksles Three
Weather Report
The Fantasticks

1992-1993

Broadway on the Move
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
Chicago

1993-1994

Tunes and Ticksles IV
Oliver!

1994-1995

Tunes and Ticksles V: A Look Back
Annie Get Your Gun

1995-1996

The Butler Did it Singing
Annie

1996-1997

Godspell
Guys and Dolls

1997-1998

The Sound of Music
Fiddler on the Roof

1998-1999

Sugar
Music Man

1999-2000

Bye Bye Birdie
Bells are Ringing

2000-2001

The Rocky Horror Show
The Rocky Horror Show
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the
Forum

2001-2002

Cabaret
Gypsy
South Pacific

2002-2003

Eating Raoul
How to Succeed in Business Without Really
Trying
My Fair Lady

2003-2004

Company
Jesus Christ Superstar
Kiss Me Kate

2004-2005

A New Brain
Man of La Mancha
Pippin

2005-2006

Leader of the Pack
Evita
Hair

2006-2007

Oklahoma
Chicago
Little Shop of Horrors

2007-2008

Nine
Camelot
Wizard of Oz

2008-2009

Godspell
Fiddler on the Roof
Grease

2009-2010

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet
Street
Hello Dolly!
Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits
Nunsense the Mega Musical

2010-2011

Chess
The Producers
Putting it Together
Brigadoon

2011-2012

The Rocky Horror Show
Assassins
Front Row Centre at the Movies
Gypsy

2012-2013

Singin' in the Rain
Monty Python's Spamalat
YESTERDAY • TODAY • TOMORROW
Legally Blonde

2013-2014

My Fair Lady
Footloose
Coming Attractions
Young Frankenstein
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

2014-2015

9 to 5: The Musical
Urinetown
Jesus Christ Superstar
Flights of Fancy
Anything Goes

2015-2016

The Mystery of Edwin Drood
The Who's Tommy
It's Good to be Bad
Catch Me If You Can
South Pacific
Opera in the Village Iconic Broadway

2016-2017

Jekyll & Hyde
Reefer Madness
Through the Decades
How to Succeed in Business Without Really
Trying
Little Shop of Horrors

2017-2018

The Pajama Game
City of Angels
Pearls of Wisdom
Dogfight
Priscilla Queen of the Desert

2018-2019

Monty Python's Spamalat
Evita
Grease
Avenue Q
The Wedding Singer

2019-2020

The Addams Family



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and stories by CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD

Music by JOHN KANDER Lyrics by FRED EBB

Original Production Co-directed and Choreographed by ROB MARSHALL
Original Production Directed by SAM MENDES



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