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Volunteer Engagement & IDEA	Samantha Carson
Inventory & Facilities	Mike Johnson
Technical	Steven Eastgaard-Ross

We are looking for committed, fun—loving individuals to join our committees this year. Please reach out to <a href="mailto:volunteer@frontrowcentre.ca">volunteer@frontrowcentre.ca</a> or visit our website to join us!

# **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 It is our privilege to welcome you to the third show of the 2022-2023 season, our first full season since 2019! *Follies (Concert Version)* is a new format attempt for us – we are hoping that you enjoy seeing a lesser-produced show in this format in this slot going forward!

President's Message

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 see our shows. To help us achieve this, we humbly ask that if you can, you contribute more than the price you paid for admission. Anything you can give will go a long way to helping us create memorable experiences for all involved.

Thank you for continuing to support the arts, and for coming back to live theatre! And a special thanks to all of you for supporting FRC specifically – we would not be back on stage were it not for the support of our friends, family and patrons. Enjoy the show!

Jenn Lanciault, President

Calgary's Premier Community Musical Theatre Company

# Front Row Centre Players Presents

# **FOLLIES**

# Book by JAMES GOLDMAN Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

**Produced Originally on Broadway by Harold Prince** 

**Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick** 

By special arrangement with Cameron Mackintosh

FOLLIES CONCERT VERSION is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Follies Concert Version may contain content that may not be appropriate for everyone. Parental quidance is recommended.

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge Moh'kinsstis, and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot confederacy: Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, as well as the Îyâxe Nakoda and Tsuut'ina nations. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3 within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. Finally, we acknowledge all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

This sacred gathering place provides us with an opportunity to engage in and demonstrate leadership on reconciliation. Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to join our team on the lands of Treaty 7 territory.

# **SPONSORS & DONORS**

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### Legacy Gifts

Ms. Jo-Ann Marcella de Repentigny

# **Special Acknowledgements**

Beddington Theatre Arts Centre StoryBook Theatre IP Thibodeau Skylar Desjardins Morpheus Theatre Benjamin Moore Beacon Heights Paint and Design

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



A Stephen Sondheim musical can present some of the biggest challenges to both a cast and a directorial team. The rewards far outweigh the challenges though, and Follies is no exception. This is Front Row Centre's first foray into the "concert" style of presenting a show, and I confess to being only partially successful with this, having staged what I'm calling "concert-plus". As opposed to a regular concert where cast are sitting waiting in chairs, getting up to the microphones only to sing, I quickly realized that the narrative and conceptual demands of the show made that approach far too limiting.

However, I've maintained throughout this process that everything with this show is in service to the music, which comprises one of the richest scores created by one of the 20th Century's greatest composers. Thus staging has been kept minimal, with a focus on moving the story forward and presenting the deep layers of the characters. Minimal but impactful sets, costumes and lighting – all aimed at supporting the score – and oh, what an amazing score it is, brought to gorgeous life by our talented orchestra of nearly 30 musicians led by the truly remarkable Joanne Sampson. The incredible Lindsay Kurtze generously stepped in as musical director at almost the last moment to give life to the project with the tricky task of teaching a complex Sondheim score to our dedicated cast of 22 in half the time we would normally allot to the rehearsal period of a show.

And what a show it is - a look at aging, at surviving, at how the decisions made early on in life impact the present day, about taking ownership, and so much more. When I first fell in love with the show thirty years ago, I thought how old and jaded the characters were; now that I'm the same age as - or older than - the protagonists, I find so much to relate to in these characters. How time flies, yadda, yadda.

I'd like to give special thanks to Artistic Director Jeremy Walker for having confidence in my ability to bring this show to stage and to my dear friend Scott Ashton Swan for getting me a copy of the libretto of Follies from New York twenty years ago, allowing me to fully appreciate the story behind this masterpiece of musical theatre. And as always, my thanks and love to my husband, Valentín Zapien Mercado, for his support and patience.

And a huge shout out and my undying love to the cast, musicians, team leaders, backstage and front of house managers and volunteers and everyone who helped bring you *Follies* (*Concert Version*) when everything was possible and nothing made sense. Thank you.

Joey Sayer Director



# Act One

- Prologue / Overture
- Beautiful Girls
- Don't Look at Me
- Waiting for the Girls Upstairs
- Montage
  - o Rain on the Roof
  - o Ah, Paris
  - o Broadway Baby
- The Road You Didn't Take
- In Buddy's Eyes
- Who's That Woman?
- I'm Still Here
- Too Many Mornings

# Act Two

- The Right Girl
- One More Kiss
- Could I Leave You?
- Loveland
- You're Gonna Love Tomorrow
- Buddy's Blues
- Losing My Mind
- Lucy and Jessie
- · Live, Laugh, Love
- Finale
- Curtain



Sally Durant Plummer	Kelly Misko
Benjamin Stone	
Phyllis Rogers Stone	
Buddy Plummer	Gavin Liam Logan
Young Sally	Chelsea Howell-Fellows
Young Ben	Joshua R. Read
Young Phyllis	Sophia Wallace
Young Buddy	Nolan Brown
Carlotta Campion / 2nd Cavalier	Cathy Martin
Heidi Schiller / 6th Cavalier	Sherry West
Hattie Walker / 4th Cavalier	Rowena Romero
Solange La Fitte / 5th Cavalier	Claudia Blackwood
Stella Deems / 1st Cavalier	Jacqueline Gibney
Emily Whitman / 3rd Cavalier	Jill Howell-Fellows
Dmitri Weismann	Bill Ouellet
Roscoe	Clark Adams
Theodore Whitman (Ben / Buddy Understue	dy) Gary Silberg
Christine Donovan / "Sally"	Colleen Bishop
Dee Dee West / "Margie"	Michelle Yoder
Meredith Lane	Peggy Porisky
Young Stella	Megan Connolly
Young Heidi	Micah Mayer
Understudies	Joey Sayer, Lindsay Kurtze, Rick Yoder
Swing	Colleen Bishop



Orchestra Director	Joanne Sampson
Piano	Blake Doucet-Lewis, Brent Krawchuk
Reeds: Eb Clarinet / Bb Clarinet / Alto Sax / F	lute / Tenor SaxKimberly Linkert
Reeds: Bb Clarinet / Soprano Sax / Alto Sax	Robert Seymour
Reeds: Bb Clarinet / Bass Clarinet / Tenor Sa	x / Flute Elaine Cheung
Reeds: Tenor & Bari Sax / Bb Clarinet / Flute	Larry Blenkin
Reeds Sub	Barbara Hume
Flute / Piccolo	Lily Lau-Porta, Terri Shouldice
Oboe	
Trumpet 1	Mark Paidra
Trumpet 2	
French Horn	Robert Calderwood, Steve Lenz
Trombone 1	
Trombone 2	
Trombone 3 / Bass Trombone	
Percussion	
Harp	Kari Calderwood
ViolinAlex Chung, Andrea Elias, Daniel	Chen, Diana Piggott, Kiara Rautenbach
Viola	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Cello	
String Bass	
String Bass (Sub Bass)	Asher Justine



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2023 Calgary Community Theatre Awards

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D: 1	
Director	
Musical Director	
Orchestra Director	•
Choreographer	
Producer	
Stage Manager	
Lighting Design	Kathryn McLaren
Projection Design	Valentin Zapien
Master Carpenter	Harlan Sterner
Costume Design	Christie Johnson
Prop Design	Mike Johnson
Sound Design	Andrea Katz
Hair & Makeup Design	Emily De Boer
Assistant Stage Manager	Aleena Khalek
Lighting Board Operator	Alyssa Gavinski, Brian Unterschultz,
	James Tonkin, Sutton Clarke
Costume Assistant	Lorraine Aha
Costume Support	
Set Construction	Samina Khandwala
Dance Captain	Chelsea Howell-Fellows
Photography	
Poster Design	Winnie Tran
Program Design	Jenn Lanciault
Rehearsal Pianist	



BILL OUELETT (DMITRI WEISMANN)

I am so proud to work with this amazing caste and crew Joey and Daisy are great to work with Having worked in Community theatre in Calgary for over 40 years I am still lucky to have a part



# CATHY MARTIN (CARLOTTA CAMPION / 2ND CAVALIER)

Cathy's last appearance with FRC was in 2015's *Urinetown* and she is thrilled to be back on stage as Carlotta in *Follies*. When not treading the boards, Cathy can also be found performing with "Blend Vocal" - a 12-voice women's choir - and "Here Comes Treble" - a quartette. Many thanks to the talented musicians in the band, the whole production crew and FRC board - you all make an actor's job a breeze!



# CHELSEA HOWELL-FELLOWS (YOUNG SALLY, DANCE CAPTAIN)

This is Chelsea's fourth show with FRC. Past credits include / Love You, You're Perfect Now Change, Victor/Victoria, All Together Now! Other recent credits The War Brides are Coming (Confederation Theatre Society), Heritage Park Acting Troupe 2022, Into the Woods (Capilano University). Chelsea is thrilled to be sharing the stage again with her Mom, Jill, and would like to thank her family for all their support!



# CHERIE LEE (PHYLLIS ROGERS STONE)

Cherie is thrilled to be back on stage with FRC in *Follies*. She has been performing in theater since she was 9 years old and has never stopped. Favorite roles include Fraulein Schneider (*Cabaret*), Violet (*9 to 5*), Mazzepa (*Gypsy*), Mary Magdelene (*JC Superstar*), and Golde (*Fiddler on the Roof*). Cherie thanks her husband and two sons for their support of her love of performing. Enjoy the story and may you fall in love with Sondheim musicals all over again!



### CLARK ADAMS (ROSCOE)

Clark is thrilled to be taking part of this folly. He's recently been seen in productions such as, *Prescription: Murder* (Torchlight Theatre) *The Weir* (Liffey Players) *Pricilla, Queen of the Desert, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, 9 to 5,* and *The Producers* (Front Row Centre) He wishes you a fun time of Recklessness, Imprudence & Madness and remember; a comfort zone is a beautiful place, but nothing ever grows there.



### CLAUDIA BLACKWOOD (SOLANGE LA FITTE / 5TH CAVALIER)

After a 30 year absence from the stage, Claudia is back on the boards with Front Row Centre Players. She spent 20 years in the UK teaching and directing at a specialist Performing Arts school. Her time in the Calgary theatre scene included major roles for Alberta Theatre Projects Playrites '92, Stage West and Theatre 80: Dames at Sea, A Streetcar Named Desire, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Come Back to the 5& Dime Jimmy Dean Jimmy Dean. Thank you to the warm welcome from FRC, and the encouragement and support from family and friends. Ooh La La!



# COLLEEN BISHOP (CHRISTINE DONOVAN / "SALLY")

Colleen has been singing, dancing, and backstage as part of Calgary's theatre scene for almost 3 decades. Most recently she's been behind the scenes as a producer and director for Morpheus Theatre. She was last onstage with FRC in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.* Thank you to Carl, Lily, and Scarlet for being her heart and letting her play.



# GARY SILBERG (THEODORE WHITMAN)

Gary is delighted to be a part of Follies. This is his eleventh FRC show, following appearances in Victor/Victoria, City of Angels, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, 9 To 5, Gypsy, The Producers, Chess, Fiddler on the Roof, The Wizard of Oz, and Chicago. Gary sends thanks to the wonderful production team and fantastic cast for an enjoyable experience in Loveland. Gary has recently retired and looks forward to the extra time to perform, travel, work in the garden, and have lots of fun with his 6 grandchildren.



# GAVIN LIAM LOGAN (BUDDY PLUMMER)

Gavin is an ELA/ Musical Theatre teacher at Notre Dame High School. He is thrilled to be able to perform in this very important and challenging musical. This is Gavin's fourth major show with FRC, having previously appeared in Chess, Evita, and The Addams Family. He would like to dedicate his performance to his wife, Meghan, and their daughters Arianna and Kenlea, the only girls in their elementary school who know all the words to "Broadway Baby"!



# JACQUELINE GIBNEY (STELLA DEEMS / 1ST CAVALIER)

My name is Jacqueline Gibney. I have a huge passion for theatre. I'm a huge Sondheim fan. I have been in shows such as Descendants with Storybook theater and had the time of my life. I want to thank those that have pushed me to grow as a performer. Stella is a huge dream role.



# JILL HOWELL-FELLOWS (EMILY WHITMAN / 3RD CAVALIER)

Jill is delighted to be back on the FRC stage with the grand cast of Follies. This is her 9th show with FRC. Selected past credits include The Wedding Singer (Angie,) Catch Me If You Can (Carol Strong,) and My Fair Lady (Mrs. Pearce.) She is excited to be in a show with her daughter Chelsea. Jill would like to thank FRC and the production team for Follies, for giving her this exciting opportunity, as well as her family for their ongoing support of her performing dreams.



# JOSHUA R. READ (YOUNG BEN)

Joshua R. Read is a Calgary-based actor and bass-baritone. He is very excited to return to the stage with FRC after previously being seen in I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. He enjoys singing a wide range of music including, opera/classical, musical theatre, and jazz. Instagram: @joshua.r.read



# KELLY MISKO (SALLY DURANT PLUMMER)

Kelly is thrilled to be performing in Follies as Sally. Her recent credits include Clue-the musical as Ms.Peacock (Dewdney Players), The Pajama Game (FRC) and performing as an improviser with the Kinkonauts and F-Squared. When not on stage, you can find Kelly guest teaching in schools or doing improv classes for teens. She would like to thank Joey, Lindsay, Daisy, Joanne, Danielle, and the rest of the fabulous production team for the incredible encouragement, guidance, and support they have given. Much love always to her dots, family, and friends for believing she can do these things. Say, yes and....



# MEGAN CONNOLLY (YOUNG STELLA)



After being discovered for her AMAZING singing talent during karaoke at her staff Christmas party, Megan was encouraged to take the leap into the exciting world of theatre. This is her 1st acting performance on stage. She has broad experience ranging from her participation in the Royal Canadian Navy to veterinary & animal services, and human services. These multiple worlds in which she has existed that have maintained the spark in her life to always pursue new adventures! Megan regularly spends her spare time writing fiction, practicing her dance moves and telling very funny jokes. She credits her family and friends for their unconditional love and support - much love. Special thanks to the entire cast and crew of Follies who welcomed her with open arms and incredible kindness, and to Ericka Esplin for her encouragement to audition.



MICAH MAYER (YOUNG HEIDI)

This is Micah's first show with FRC - enjoy!



# MICHELLE YODER (DEE DEE WEST / "MARGIE")

Michelle is thrilled to be working with such an amazing and fun cast in her first Front Row Center production. Select credits include The *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Cappuccino Theatre), *Iolanthe* (Morpheus Theatre), *It Came from Mars* (Scorpio Theatre), *Office Hours* (Confederation Theatre), and *Death of a Saleman* (Morpheus Theatre) among others. When not dabbling in the theatre you can find Michelle frequenting Calgary's farmers markets, getting dirty in her garden or cooking up a storm in her kitchen. She hopes you enjoy this blast from the past!



# MURRAY MELNYCHUK (BENJAMIN STONE)

Murray is delighted to be part of this show. The songs get stuck in your brain and won't let go. You may have seen Murray in FRC's past productions of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, City of Angels, The Pajama Game, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Catch Me If You Can, Urinetown, Spamalot, and Assassins.* Murray has been very involved with Calgary's other Community Theatre companies as well, having done several shows with Cappuccino Musical Theatre, Morpheus Theatre, Simply Theatre, and Liffey Players.



# NOLAN BROWN (YOUNG BUDDY)

Nolan Brown is an actor, singer and improviser. He has trained and performed with such companies as Loose Moose Theatre, Storybook Theatre, Yuk Yuk's and at Sheridan College. Nolan would love to thank the cast and crew and couldn't be more excited to join this awesome show.\r\n



# PEGGY PORISKY (MEREDITH LANE)

Peggy is thrilled to be doing her first show with Front Row Centre. She has performed with the Victoria Operatic Society, in several musical theatre productions that included *The Wizard of Oz, Show Boat, Annie Get Your Gun,* and the *King and I,* to name a few. Following a long break, Peggy came back to theatre in Storybook Theatre's recent production of *Sound of Music.*The magic of musical theatre is still there! Peggy would like to thank her family and friends for all of their unconditional support.



# ROWENA ROMERO (HATTIE WALKER / 4TH CAVALIER)

Row is tickled to be in *Follies* alongside an amazing cast. Previous roles with FRC: Bloody Mary (*South Pacific*) and Christmas Eve (*Avenue Q*). Row has also performed professionally with Lunchbox Theatre and Occasional Notes Productions. Penguin hugs go out to the Bear Cubs (Ricardo, Jerrin & Nancy), mom, siblings, fellow Toastmasters, and friends (especially the Watkins & Happe clans) for their love and support. Special thanks to Dan for being her Karaoke Buddy and bringing Row out of her shy shell. May your lives be filled with Follies!



# SHERRY WEST (HEIDI SCHILLER / 6TH CAVALIER)

Sherry has performed in several FRC shows, from JCS in Jan 2004, to Urinetown, in 2015! She is delighted to be back on stage with this hugely talented cast and production crew. Sherry has also performed in many of FRC's Gala Season Announcement shows, and with other community theatre companies in Toronto, Fort McMurray and Calgary. Sherry hopes you enjoy this voyage back to the glory days of the Broadway Follies!!



# SOPHIA WALLACE (YOUNG PHYLLIS)

Sophia began performing with Broadway North Theatre Company in Prince Albert, SK at age seven. Her first role was as a utensil in *Beauty and the Beast*. She also played Mrs.Potts ten years later in the very same show. It's been eight years since Sophia's latest performance in *Shrek the Musical*. Sophia is extremely excited to be back on the stage for her first show with FRC!

# MEET THE BAND



ALEX CHUNG (VIOLIN)

Alex is happy to be part of the band for Follies – enjoy the show!



# ANDREA ELIAS (VIOLIN)

Andrea is thrilled to join the pit and add *Follies* to her growing list of musical theatre experiences, having started her run in last year's *Pirates of Penzance* with Morpheus Theatre. She currently rehearses/performs with the New West Symphony & Chorus. When not fiddling around, Andrea pays her bills by working for AHS as a Capital Healthcare Planner. She also enjoys recording a weekly podcast, reading crime thrillers, knitting hats and guiding her son into adulthood.



# ASHER JUSTINE (BASS SUB)

Asher is so excited to join the orchestra of *Follies* this year! Though he has played in several high school bands before, this is the first time he's played in a full orchestra. He is looking forward to a great show!



# BARBARA HUME (REEDS SUB)

Barbara graduated from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance and is currently the principal clarinetist with the Symphony of the Kootenays. Her versatile music career also includes performing on saxophone and flute in a wide variety of groups from swing music to rock and roll. She performs in a number of ensembles, including the Southern Stardust Big Band and Timeless Jazz. Barbara has taught privately and as a school woodwind clinician for over 35 years, and also enjoys repairing musical instruments as a hobby.



# BLAKE DOUCET-LEWIS (PIANO)

This is Blake's first show with FRC, but he's sure it's one of many to come! He's excited to play violin next in the upcoming Kinky Boots!



### BRENT KRAWCHUK (PIANO)

Brent has played several shows for FRC, and he's excited to take part in this one as well.



# CLAIRE GENDRON (OBOE)

Claire is excited to be playing in her first show with FRC, having begun her musical theatre journey last year with Morpheus Theatre's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Along with being an elementary music teacher at Sundance School, Claire has been a member of the Rocky Mountain Concert Band for 20 years. Claire would like to thank her family for supporting her in her musical endeavours, as well as Joanne and FRC for this fun musical opportunity.



# DANIEL CHEN (VIOLIN)

Daniel is thrilled to be part of the band for Follies, and he hopes you enjoy the show!



# DAVID RAMSEY (PERCUSSION)

David is pleased to be the featured instrumentalist in Follies (there are 27 others? oh OK), his first Sondheim show in twenty years. The last one was Company (a much smaller company), which is still one of his favourites. This is a more traditional show than his last, the more recent written, I love you, you're perfect, now change, an edgy rock musical. The cast is huge and the pit, enormous, full of talented musicians supporting a nice variety of both experienced and new actors. And all is presented in a new form for Front Row Centre. After twenty-two years, David is happy to be "...still here".



# DEANNA MANSON (STRING BASS)

Deanna started playing in the FRC pit in 2017, performing in *City of Angels, Dogfight*, and *Priscilla* in the 2017-2018 season. Leaving Calgary later in 2018 to take a job at the UN in NYC, she has returned to Calgary and the FRC family recently playing in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Happy to be back and now working for Canada Border Services Agency, you can ask her anything about her love for musicals and her Playbill collection!



# DIANA PIGGOTT (VIOLIN)

Diana has been playing violin, singing, and tutoring maths and physics around Calgary since the early 1980s. She is active in the local chamber music scene, plays with the Rocky Mountain Symphony, and sings with the Christ Church Choir. A relative newcomer to musical theatre, this will be her third show with FRC. Bring on the chaos!



### DON KUCHINSKI (REHEARSAL PIANIST)

Don leapt at the chance to do a rare Sondheim offering and is so pleased to have collaborated with two fellow musical theatre junkies...namely Lindsay and Joey. Lotsa fun the entire time! Don has participated in community theatre since the mid 90s and hopes to continue doing it into HIS mid 90s!. Special thanks as always to Joanne for her encouragement.



# ELAINE CHEUNG (REEDS: BB CLARINET / BASS CLARINET / TENOR SAX / FLUTE)

Follies is Elaine's first show with FRC. She has also played Reeds in Sweeny Todd, The Pirates of Penzance, Chicago, and Once Upon a Mattress. In the Calgary community, Elaine is a therapist who uses counselling as well as music and its qualities to effect change within a therapeutic relationship.



**ERIN BEACH (CELLO)**Erin is thrilled to play cello for this production - enjoy!



EVA AMBROSE (CELLO)

Eva is also thrilled to play cello for this production – enjoy!



# GARY MCPHEE (TROMBONE 3 / BASS TROMBONE)

This is Gary's fourth show with Front Row Centre (Third to actually make it on stage thanks to COVID...). After sharing the single trombone part in *Evita, The Addams Family*, and *Cabaret*, this is Gary's first Full run of an entire show and he is really hoping he has the stamina to last to the end of the run. Gary so enjoys the challenge of playing a musical for the crazy number of key changes and time changes in the music, all of which is very lyrical and pleasing to be a part of. This is what Retirement is all about.



# KARI CALDERWOOD (HARP)

Kari is new to theatre, playing harp for the production of *Follies* as her first foray into the genre. Normally, she can be found playing as part of the New West Symphony and Chorus, but has spent much of her life singing in various choirs as well. Kari has a history in piano, voice, and oboe, coming from a very musical family (you'll find her dad Robert in the French Horn section) although she has been primarily honing her harp skills since starting university. She is happy to be graduating this Spring with two bachelors' degrees: Behavioural Science and Biology.



# KATHY MA (PERCUSSION)

Kathy is really thrilled to be playing with this huge orchestra. She had previously done *Mamma Mia* with FRC and *The Lightning Thief* with StoryBook Theatre. She also plays steel pan with Calysto Steelband and scratches at the fiddle with Prairie Mountain Fiddlers. When not soooo busy with music she also plays pickleball.



# KIARA RAUTENBACH (VIOLIN)

My name is Kiara and this is my first time playing with Front Row Centre. I have been playing violin since childhood, and have always had a love music. Currently I play with New West Symphony Chorus and am glad to have gotten the opportunity to play with FRC through connections there and doing more in the future!



# KIMBERLY LINKERT (REEDS: EB CLARINET / BB CLARINET / ALTO SAX / FLUTE / TENOR SAX)

This is Kimberly's 11th show with Front Row Centre and she is very excited to share the music of Follies (Concert Version) with you! When she's not on stage with FRC you can find her playing clarinet with the Calgary Wind Symphony and Alberta Winds and tenor sax in the Southern Stardust Big Band. Thanks for coming & enjoy the show!



# LARRY BLENKIN (REEDS: TENOR & BARI SAX / BB CLARINET / FLUTE)

Larry was a Music Teacher for over 30 years after graduating from Dickinson State College with a performance degree in Saxophone and a BSc. Degree in Music Education! While at College Larry played the pit for Hello Dolly, Oklahoma, and West Side Story. During his teaching career Larry formed and conducted the Pit for Oklahoma, Annie Get Your Gun, Annie, Guys and Dolls, Anne of Green Gables, & Bye, Bye, Birdie. Larry is enjoying his Pit experience for Sondheim Follies and hopes that you enjoy the show!!



# LILY LAU-PORTA (FLUTE / PICCOLO)

Lily is thrilled to be playing in the Follies pit. This is her 3rd pit experience, previously playing in *South Pacific* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. She's had so much fun and hopes to play with FRC again. In the meantime, she performs regularly as a member of New West Symphony & Chorus. Lily thanks her amazing hubby for supporting her passion for fluting.



# MARK PAIDRA (TRUMPET 1)

Originally from Kingston, Ontario, Mark has lived in Calgary for the past 24 years. He was a bandsman in the Naval Reserve (HMCS Tecumseh) for 14 years, and is currently a member of the Southern Stardust Big Band, the Doug Fox Big Band, and the Calgary Wind Symphony. His first show with FRC was last year's *Victor/Victoria*, and he is delighted to be back to play the marvellous music of Stephen Sondheim.



# MICHAEL HARLE (TROMBONE 1)

Good Evening. This is Michael's introduction to playing the music of Stephen Sondheim and is his second show with FRC. He is usually found playing in some of the big bands around town. First picking up a horn at age 8, he was fortunate to tour most of Canada and parts of the United States as a teenager playing concert, marching, and jazz music with the Regina Lions Band program. After a short quarter century break, Michael is again enjoying playing. Crystal is to be thanked (profusely) for letting Michael come out to play. Hope you enjoy the show.



# ROBERT CALDERWOOD (FRENCH HORN)

Robert is excited to once again play his French horn on stage for the production of Sondheim's Follies. He has played in many musicals over the years, including Evita, Little Women, Sound of Music, Fiddler on the Roof, South Pacific, and most recently, Pirates of Penzance. Outside of musicals, he also plays his French horn as part of the New West Symphony and Chorus.



### ROBERT SEYMOUR (REEDS: BB CLARINET / SOPRANO SAX / ALTO SAX)

This show is Robert's 8th participation in a Stephen Sondheim work and is the largest orchestra of his FRC experience. He is grateful to the Alberta School Much Programs and their many inspirational teachers. He started clarinet in grade school in Edmonton and has played ever since. As an adult, he added the saxophone and flute families to his abilities. He has performed a wide variety of music: folk, orchestral, classical chamber music, opera, big-band etc. Now, over 5 decades and more than 100 musical theatre shows later. Robert is thrilled to be part of this amazing FRC production.



# RON STREM (TROMBONE 2)

Ron played trombone for 8 years with the Moose Jaw Lions Band in Moose Jaw, Sask., during the 1960s, trumpet for 2 years in Westwinds, trombone for 5 years with the Centre Street Church orchestra, trombone for 13 years with New West Symphony and Chorus and trombone in FRC shows South Pacific, Jekyll & Hyde and Follies.



# STEPHANIA LUCIUK (VIOLA)

Stephania has played violin/viola across Canada, including with the Regina, Ottawa and PEI Symphony Orchestras, Nova Sinfonia in Halifax and Symphony of the Kootenays as well as Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra and other Calgary ensembles (and she is excited to play with FRC to add to prior musical/ballet gigs along the way). She loves Ukrainian folk music - performing with Ukrainian choirs/instrumental groups, arranging music and jamming with family. In real life, Stephania is a federal public servant and mom to 4 plus a pandemic puppy.



# STEVE LENZ (FRENCH HORN)

Has played horn with Calgary's Centre Street Church Orchestra for more than twenty-five years, and with the New West Symphony & Chorus for eight. He has been involved in many artistic projects in Calgary and New York including South Pacific with FRC, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and The Pirates of Penzance. As an occupation, he works as a Scientist for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. On most Saturdays, you will find him on a trail somewhere, hiking or skiing the majestic Rockies.



# TERRI SHOULDICE (FLUTE / PICCOLO)

A 4th generation Calgarian, Terri graduated from The University of Calgary with a BMusic. She has played in numerous ensembles including The Calgary Concert Band, The Calgary Civic Symphony, UofC Operetta (where her love of pit orchestras began), Alberta Winds, Ambrose Orchestra and accompanying many choirs. She currently performs with the Calgary Wind Symphony, the Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra, and the chamber groups Trinity Winds and Patio Set. Terri's last FRC musical was the amazing Evita and she is so excited for Follies!



# TIM BULLEN (TRUMPET 2)

Tim Bullen is a retired music educator/ trumpeter who has recently returned to his Alberta roots, living in Northwest Calgary. He retired from 20 years of teaching music at both LV Rogers Secondary School and more recently, Trafalgar Middle School in 2019. Tim has been a member of the Circumpolar Big Band (Whitehorse), Cariboo Gold Big Band (Williams Lake), Vancouver Island Big Band (Victoria), Playmor Junction Big Band (Nelson) and the Southern Stars Big Band here in Calgary. As well, he has played professionally with Nelson bands "Bessie & the Backeddies", "Hornography", and the Chicago tribute band, "25 or 6 to 4". He is currently the principal trumpet for the Symphony of Kootenays in Cranbrook. When not playing in the pit orchestra for FRC, Tim can be found directing the Rocky Mountain Concert Band.



# **MEET THE WRITERS**



# JAMES GOLDMAN (BOOK)

James Goldman was born in Chicago and graduated from the University of Chicago; he did postgraduate work at Columbia University. He has written numerous plays, including Blood, Sweat and Stanley Poole (1961; co-written with his brother, William Goldman), They Might Be Giants (1961) and The Lion In Winter (1966). In addition to Follies (1971), he has been the bookwriter of A Family Affair (1962; co-author with William Goldman, music by John Kander), the television musical Evening Primrose (1967, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim) and Follies (1987, London - a reconception of the original piece). His screenplays include The Lion in Winter (1968 - Academy Award; British Screenwriters Award), They Might Be Giants (1970), Nicholas and Alexandra (1971), Robin and Marian (1976) and White Nights (1985, co-writer), Goldman's work for television has included an adaptation of Oliver Twist (1982), Anna Karenina (1985), Anastasia: The Mystery of Anna Anderson (1986). He is also the author of a novel, Waldorf...



# STEPHEN SONDHEIM (MUSIC & LYRICS)

STEPHEN SONDHEIM wrote the music and lyrics for Saturday Night (1954), A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM (1962), ANYONE CAN WHISTLE (1964), COMPANY (1970), FOLLIES (1971), A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC (1973), THE FROGS (1974), PACIFIC OVERTURES (1976), SWEENEY TODD (1979), MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG (1981), SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE (1984), INTO THE WOODS (1987), ASSASSINS (1991), PASSION (1994) and ROAD SHOW (2008) as well as lyrics for WEST SIDE STORY (1957), GYPSY (1959) and DO I HEAR A WALTZ? (1965) and additional lyrics for CANDIDE (1973), Anthologies of his work include SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM (1976), MARRY ME A LITTLE (1981), YOU'RE GONNA LOVE TOMORROW (1983), PUTTING IT TOGETHER (1993/99) and SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM (2010). He composed the scores of the films "Stavisky" (1974) and "Reds" (1981) and songs for "Dick Tracy" (1990) and the television production "Evening Primrose" (1966). His collected lyrics with attendant essays have been published in two volumes: "Finishing the Hat" (2010) and "Look, I Made A Hat" (2011). In 2010 Broadway's Henry Miller's Theatre was renamed The Stephen Sondheim Theatre in his honour; in 2019, London's Queens Theatre was also renamed the Sondheim.

# FRONT OF HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

### Front of House Managers

Samantha Carson Steven Eastgaard-Ross Jenn Lanciault Joey Sayer Hannah Unterschultz

### Ushers

Kathy Bauer Nella Benacchio Jessie Bigler Louise Bisson Amanda Burch Rhonda Clarke Brenda Cosens Carine Fossez Alan Hamaliuk

Joe lampen Pete Jemus Don Kraft Jennie Kwan Myrna Malanik Lorraine O'Neill Susan Patterson TBD Kaye Tollefson Susanne Traber Brian Unterschultz Corinne Webb Rick Yoder

# Ticket Takers Jessie Bigler Janet Brown

Marlene Cain Amber Dujay Linda Ehman Aura Felipe Myrna Malanik Joy Mamer Janice Patterson Wendy Trueman

### Will Calls

Daniella Benacchio Mark Born Marianna Farafoszyn Deb Finkleman Donna Gerbrandt Joe lampen Don Kraft Heather MacDonald

Dave Ottenbreit

### Bartenders

Donna Bibeau Trish Farrow Kaaren Finlay John Gray Jessica Norgaard Heather Palmer Susan Rubin Aretha Smith Tracy Smith Aretha Smith Monti Tanner Jeri Wallis Rick Yoder

# **MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM**



# ALEENA KHALEK (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

This is Aleena's first show with FRC - she is thrilled to be part of this musical adventure



# ANDREA KATZ (SOUND DESIGN)

Andrea excited to be back in the theater for her 15th show with FRC. For her last show, *Avenue Q*, Andrea won the ACT Award for sound design. Andrea would like to thank her wife for putting up with her when she is in 'show mode' and she would like to thank Stevee for all of his help.



# CHRISTIE JOHNSON (COSTUME DESIGN)

Christie Johnson, costume designer, milliner and clothing historian. She has worked as a costume designer on numerous productions Some of her costuming credits include numerous Gilbert and Sullivan plays, *Shakespeare in love* as well as *Boy from Oz* and *My Fair Lady* (creating almost 50 custom one-of-a-kind hats) for FRC. Christie has also created period costumes for historical sites including Lougheed House, Fort Calgary and Fort Steele.



# DAISY POND (STAGE MANAGER)

Daisy is excited that her first show after a COVID-induced hiatus is another FRC show. From working as a lighting op, an ASM, a Stage Manager, and the Executive Producer of Scorpio Theatre, she's been involved in many aspects of many wonderful shows. Thank you to a great cast and crew for all your hard work!



# DANIELLE DESMARAIS (CHOREOGRAPHER)

Danielle, well known choreographer for FRC and many other companies in Calgary, was too busy to write a bio so the producer made this one up. Love to her girls Tanis and Ophelia.



# EMILY DE BOER (HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN)

Emily is thrilled to be designing hair and makeup for *Follies*. FRC became home to Emily in 2018 during *Spamalot*, and now they just can't get rid of her. As a certified makeup artist, most shows are spent backstage, but every once in a while Emily also enjoys performing.



# HARLAN STERNER (MASTER CARPENTER)

Harlan has been building sets for FRC and other community theatre groups since 2010 and has constructed a number of sets that went on to receive CAT nominations and awards for stagecraft. He is thrilled to be part of this production of Follies (Concert Version) which is the 30th FRC stage set that he has been involved with the construction and the 16th set as Master Carpenter. He would like to thank his wife for her support with the time he spends in the garage working on stage sets.

# **MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM**



# JENN LANCIAULT (PRODUCER, PROGRAM DESIGN)

Jenn is excited to help bring *Follies (Concert Version)* to life! You've probably seen her around the theatre a lot this year – she conducted the band and played piano for *Mamma Mia!* and is ecstatic to be producing the upcoming *Kinky Boots*. Much love to David, Sutton & Iris for all your support, and for making it possible to do what brings joy!



# JOANNE SAMPSON (ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR)

Joanne has had the pleasure of being involved in numerous productions with FRC since 2004 (*Jesus Christ Superstar*) as both a conductor or as a member of the pit. She has also been involved in the same capacity with Morpheus Theatre. As a music major and theatre minor, musical theatre brings her two passions together. Currently Joanne performs with the New West Symphony and Chorus. Joanne thanks Joey for trusting her to once again bring an orchestra of outstanding musicians together to play this wonderful music. She also thanks Lindsay for her collaboration and support in this adventure.



# JOEY SAYER (DIRECTOR)

This is the second time Joey has been able to play with Stephen Sondheim, having previously directed *Putting It Together* for FRC. Other directing credits for FRC: *Cabaret, Eating Raoul, Pippin,* Hair, the Americal Tribal Love-Rock Musical, *Little Shop of Horrors, The Wizard of Oz, Forbidden Broadway,, The 25th Annual Putnam Country Spelling Bee, South Pacific and Avenue Q.*Outside FRC, he has directed *Seasons in the West* (Scorpio), *Blood Brothers* (Cappuccino), *Ruthless! The Musical* (Curtain Call), *Torch Song Trilogy, The International Stud* and *WEX* (White Rose). Special thanks to Daisy, Joanne, Lindsay & Valentin!.



# KATHRYN MCLAREN (LIGHTING DESIGN)

Kat forgot to write a bio. She's been busy this year, ASM for Victor/Victoria and Mamma Mia, SM for I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, and now lights for her favourite show, Follies! Enjoy!



### LINDSAY KURTZE (MUSICAL DIRECTOR)

Lindsay has done over 25 productions for FRC and this will be her fourth Sondheim show. Select credits include: *Mamma Mia, Grease, Jekyll and Hyde, Urinetown, 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (FRC), *Assassins* (Quintescence Musical Theatre Co-op), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and *Sweeney Todd* (Grant MacEwan). She thanks this AMAZING cast and orchestra (with a special shout out to Joanne) for all their hard work to bring this epic Sondheim composition together in such a short period of time!! And as always a big thank you to her husband and kids for being supportive so she can play in the theatre.



### MIKE JOHNSON (PROP DESIGN)

Michael Johnson, Props designer and Steampunk Artist. He has done props and set décor on numerous productions for FRC and other theatre companies, working with a variety of materials to create authentic period appropriate props that suit the play. He has also recently branched out to try Stage management.



# VALENTIN ZAPIEN (PROJECTION DESIGN)

Valentin usually can be found on stage, but when he is not, he can be found doing photography, video and illustration. For a few years now he has enjoyed creating projections for different shows. It is always exciting to see how acting, music, stage, lights, projection and sound come together in a show, this time with Artdeco glam.

# Follies—A brief Analysis and Synopsis

# By: Gavin Liam Logan

It is often said that Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* is the first great American tragedy. The story of an aging salesman, trapped by an inability to accept his reality, forced ever more frequently to resort to living in a fantastical version of his idealized past. It is often regarded as an epitaph for the American Dream. In much he same way, Sondheim's *Follies* is to the musical theatre world what Miller's masterpiece was to the world of the 'straight plays'—this is the first truly tragic American musical.

Follies. The name alone conjures up a bygone era, a time of frivolity and innocence, of the excitement and possibility of life in America—the aforementioned American Dream. However, as we all know, dreams can easily turn into nightmares, and it is this trepidatious fine line that James Goldman (libretto) and Stephen Sondheim (music and lyrics) and Hal Prince (direction) were drawn to exploring when they wrote *Follies*. There is also the secondary meaning—folly, meaning foolishness. Therefore, *Follies* uses the lighthearted, foolish world of the old-style follies-revue to examine a much deeper and more serious human issue.

While often referred to as a loving homage to the bygone world of the Ziegfield Follies in New York City between WWI and WWII, Follies really only uses that world and those musical styles as a metaphorical framework. It is a 'concept musical'; it does not have a true 'plot' and focuses instead on the exploration of an idea—the idea of what happens when people cling to the dreams and ideals of their youth to such a degree that they can no longer function? Cheery premise for a song and dance spectacle, no?

Throughout the evening, the central characters of Phyllis and Benjamin Stone and Sally and Buddy Plummer are old friends drawn together again after thirty years at the 'first and last reunion' of the Weismann Follies, a revue show in which both Phyllis and Sally performed in their youth, before their old theatre is set to be demolished. Initially, they seem happy to be back together and reminisce, but soon they find themselves forced to admit to their disillusionment that their lives have not been what they hoped for, even though outwardly they seem successful enough. Haunted throughout the evening by the ghosts of their younger selves, they are reminded repeatedly how young, innocent, and yes, foolish, they once were, when "everything was possible and nothing made sense".

The other characters in the show, the returning follies performers (Heidi, Solange, Hattie, The Whitmans, Carlotta, Stella, and Roscoe), are used by Goldman and Sondheim to further highlight the problems in the main character's lives. Each of the follies girls has a chance to shine, reveling in their glory songs from the past, or explaining how their lives have turned out. The difference, however, is that for these secondary characters, they have managed to figure out how to successfully navigate disappointment, and they are living healthy, if not perfect, lives.

The score to Follies is brilliantly structured; in essence, there are two scores at once. There is the score packed full of the delightful tunes and parodies (pastiches) of the older styles of music, mimicking composers from Irving Berlin to Gershwin to Romberg to Richard Rodgers; each of these tunes are the tunes that the young men and women would have performed in their glory days. Then there are the 'character' songs for the four principal characters. These songs are the 'true' Sondheim voice, and while maybe reminiscent of the sounds of the follies, are actually unique to each character and reveal who they truly are, rather than allowing them to hide behind parody.

However, Sondheim being Sondheim, there is never a simple throwaway tune. Even the pastiche parodies of the songs of the past are lyrically commenting on the main idea. For example, from the very beginning, we are warned in the Berling-style parody "Beautiful Girls" to be careful in "the home of/ beautiful girls/ where your reason is undone...this is how Samson was shorn." Similarly, while Stella Deems sings "Who's That Woman?" with her chorus (and the ghosts of her younger self, along with those of Sally and Phyllis), the lyrics are actually literally commenting on the mental states of the two female protagonists: Phyllis, who is constantly "joking/ but choking back tears" and Sally, whose "Lothario let her down", and for both of them "the vision's getting blurred."

Later, seemingly out of nowhere, Heidi appears and sings (harmonizing gloriously with the ghost of her younger self), the beautiful operetta inspired song "One More Kiss", with the warning that "dreams are a sweet mistake/ all dreamers must awake."

As the barriers between reality and fantasy slowly blur in the show, the principal characters then enter into a surreal "Follies-revue" in which each of them expresses, in the style of a Follies-song most closely related to their personality, their frustration. We are led through a series of ravishing and brilliant pastiche songs that explicitly chronicle the inner pains of these trapped individuals, who once hoped that "love [would see them] through till something better comes along" and are now struggling, whether it be with the belief that "if-l'm-good-enough-for-you-you're-not-good-enough", or an inability to move on from unrequited love, stagnating, standing "in the middle of the floor/ not going left/ not going right", or a "poor sad soul/ itching to be switching roles", or the epitome of imposter syndrome who cannot enjoy his success, exclaiming "one day their diplomats/ well bully and congrats!".

The combination of pastiche songs as metaphors for loss, frustration, and confusion, along with Goldman's sharp-witted dialogue, was a unique and almost completely unheard of technique in the world of musical theatre when the show premiered in 1971. Guided by Hal Prince's direction, the show was a vast spectacle... the crumbling theatre itself a visual metaphor for the crumbling lives of the characters but also for the slow death of the idealized "American Dream"... bringing us back to the comparison to Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. Both pieces due brilliantly what theatre is intended: they hold a mirror up to us, they allow us to see the results that can occur if we are unable or unwilling to let go of our folly.

Follies the musical is, to quote Shakespeare, "the abstract and brief chronicles of the time" in which it was written.

"On, then, with the dance, No backward glance Or my heart will break. Never look back."

-- "One More Kiss", Stephen Sondheim

# YEARS OF FRC

1988-1989

Jesus Christ Superstar

1989-1990

Tunes and Tickles

Damn Yankees

1990-1991

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

1991-1992

Tunes and Tickles Three Weather Report The Fantasticks

1992-1993

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

1993-1994

Tunes and Tickles IV Oliver!

1994-1995

Tunes and Tickles 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 (twice) 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 Spamalot 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

Doafiaht

Priscilla Queen of the Desert

2018-2019

Monty Python's Spamalot Evita

Grease Avenue Q

The Wedding Singer

2019-2020

The Addams Family

The Boy From Oz

2020-2021

Front Row at Home for the Holidays Hope Springs

2021-2022

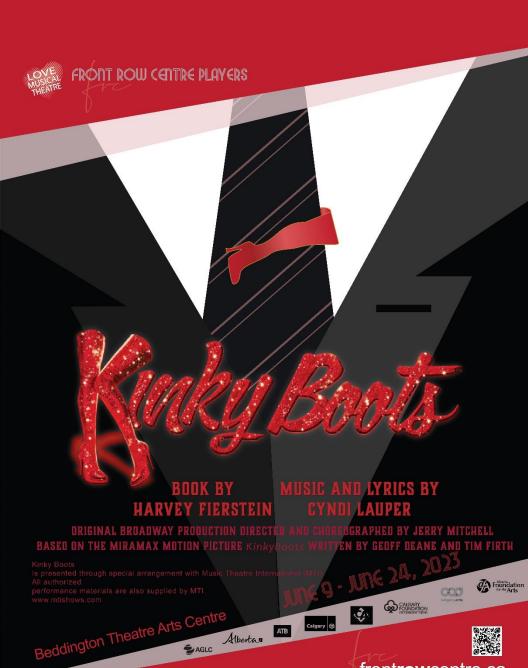
All Together Now! Victor Victoria

2022-202

Mamma Mia!

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

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