

A CHORUS LINE

Conceived and Originally Directed and Choreographed by

Michael Bennett

Book by

James Kirkwood
and **Nicholas Dante**

Music by

Marvin Hamlisch

Lyrics by

Edward Kleban

Co Choreographed by

Bob Avian

A CHORUS LINE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams - Witmark LLC.
www.concordtheatricals.com

JANUARY 12 -27 , 2024





Executive Committee 2023-2024

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Vice President.....	Samantha Bellamy
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President's Message

It is our privilege to welcome you to the second show of the 2023-2024 season! A *Chorus line* is a very challenging show to direct / choreograph / perform / produce, and we are thrilled with the end result, and know you will be as well!

Committee Leads 2023-2024

Marketing & Events.....	Angela Jobs
Volunteer Engagement & IDEA.....	Samantha Carson
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Technical.....	Steven Eastgaard-Ross

We are looking for committed, fun-loving individuals to join our committees this year. Please reach out to volunteer@frontrowcentre.ca 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

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

Jenn Lanciault, President

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 Iyáxe 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.

Calgary's Premier Community Musical Theatre Company

FRONT ROW CENTRE PLAYERS PRESENTS

A CHORUS LINE

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Book by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante

Music by Marvin Hamlisch

Lyrics by Edward Kleban

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Original Broadway production produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival, Joseph Papp, Producer, in association with Plum Productions, Inc.

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www.themtpit.com

A CHORUS LINE contains content that is not appropriate for younger audiences, including language and themes that might be deemed offensive. Parental discretion is advised.

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Ian Pond
Courtney Iliie
John Nairn
Aaman Merali
Mike Jarzecki

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Welcome to our production of *A Chorus Line*!! This iconic musical takes us behind the scenes of a Broadway audition in the 1970's, giving us a glimpse into the lives and dreams of the dancers who make up the chorus line.

As a dancer first and foremost, I have always been madly in love with this show and its seemingly simplistic nature. My goal when originally asked to direct this show, was to highlight some of the best performers in Calgary community theatre, with one of the most soul-baring shows out there. I wanted to bring raw emotions, passion, and vulnerability to each character. This show is not just about dancing. It is a show about the human experience, identify, self-discovery, sacrifice, and the pursuit of dreams.

The ensemble nature of this show is such an important aspect to highlight. The chorus line, just like this cast, represents a community of artists who support and rely on each other. Together they create a powerful and cohesive ensemble that makes this show as important as it is. As ambitious of a show as it is for community theatre, it is also a perfect reflection of what makes community theatre so special.

I am hoping as you watch this show, you can connect with the characters on a deeper level and are moved by the vulnerability and risks the cast are embracing on stage. I want to express my gratitude to the entire production team, cast, and crew for their dedication and hard work. *A Chorus Line* is a challenging and demanding musical, but I have no doubt that together, we have created a production that will leave a lasting impact on our audience.

Let's bring the magic of *A Chorus Line* to life!

Break a leg!

Danielle Desmarais
Director/Choreographer



I Hope I Get It	<i>Company</i>
I Can Do That	<i>Mike</i>
...And	<i>Bobby, Richie, Val and Judy</i>
At the Ballet.....	<i>Sheila, Bebe and Maggie</i>
Sing.....	<i>Kristine and Al</i>
Montage (Part I): Hello Twelve; Hello Thirteen; Hello Love	
.....	<i>Mark, Connie and Company</i>
Montage (Part II): Nothing.....	<i>Diana</i>
Montage (Part III): Mother	<i>Maggie, Judy and Company</i>
Montage (Part IV): Gimme the Ball	<i>Greg, Richie and Company</i>
Dance: Ten; Looks: Three	<i>Val</i>
The Music and the Mirror.....	<i>Cassie</i>
One.....	<i>Company</i>
The Tap Combination	<i>Company</i>
What I Did For Love.....	<i>Diana and Company</i>
One (Finale).....	<i>Company</i>

A Chorus Line is presented without an intermission.



Zach	Brad Simon
Larry	Valentin Zapien
Cassie Ferguson	Tanis Laatsch
Sheila Bryant	Lyndsey Paterson
Val Clark	Ginette Simonot
Diana Morales	Rochelle Viray
Judy Turner	Alina Cox
Kristine Urich (DeLuca)	Liz Lipton
Maggie Winslow	Megan Kerrigan
Bebe Benzenheimer	Vicki Trask
Connie Wong	Sandy He
Mike Costa	Stephen West
Richie Walters	Samuel Jones
Don Kerr	Thomas Zima
Paul San Marco	Isaac Barragan
Mark Anthony	Andrew Russell
Greg Gardner	Harrison Bentley
Bobby Mills	Connor May
Al DeLuca	Matthew McDonald
Vicki	Katie Bernardo
Tricia	Anna Lupeko
Lois	Alison Govier
Frank	Dougie Sharabura
Butch	Emma Garrison
Roy	Dwaigne Quierra
Tom	Lucia Sanabria



Orchestra Director	Joanne Sampson
Pit Tech	Neil West
Reed 1 & 3	Robert Seymour
Reed 2	Kimberly Linkert
Reed 4	Larry Blenkin
Reeds 4 Sub	Malcolm McKay
Reeds 4 Rehearsal Sub	Cory Kubik
Flute/Piccolo.....	Jody Rach, Terri Shouldice
Oboe	Claire Gendron
Bassoon	Robyn Phillips
Trumpet 1.....	Mark Paidra
Trumpet 2.....	Tim Bullen
Trumpet 3.....	Joel Warren
Trombone 1	Michael Harle
Trombone 2.....	Robert McManus
Trombone 3/Bass Trombone	Gary McPhee
Trombone Sub	Mar James, Mike Karseeboom
Trombone Rehearsal Sub	John Pearson
Percussion	David Ramsey
Drums	Kathy Ma
Keyboard 1.....	Sarah Corrigan
Keyboard 2.....	Daniel Schramm
Keyboard 3.....	Neil West
String Bass.....	Deanna Manson



Director	Danielle Desmarais
Director Apprentice	Ranelle Huwald
Musical Director	Chelsea Wellman
Orchestra Director	Joanne Sampson
Choreographer	Danielle Desmarais
Producer	Emily De Boer
Stage Manager	Daisy Pond
Lighting Design	Fred Amdur
Set Design	Jason Jubenville
Costume Design	Brittany Doucet-Lewis
Prop Design	Moira Taylor
Sound Design	Andrew Broughton
Hair & Makeup Design	Becky Salmond
Assistant Stage Managers	Aleena Khalek, Olivia Dunow
Sound Operators	Marc Verones, Rahim Manji
Lighting Board Operator	Fred Amdur
Follow Spot Operator	Alyssa De Boer, Celine De Capite, Jeremy Walker, Mary Flores
Costume Assistant	Gloria Doucet
Costume Support	Andrew Russell, Christie Johnson, Emily De Boer, Karen Walker
Set Construction	Harlan Sterner, Jason Jubenville, Marc Verones
Set Decoration Lead	Emily De Boer
Set Decoration	David Lanciault, Jenn Lanciault, Samantha Bellamy
Dance Captain	Stephen West
Vocal Captain	Tanis Laatsch
Sound Design Assistant	Marc Verones
Photography	Brittany Doucet-Lewis
Poster Design	Winnie Tran
Program Design	Jenn Lanciault
Rehearsal Pianist	Neil West

MEET THE CAST



ALINA COX (JUDY TURNER)

Alina's excited to be back on stage with FRC, previously seen in *Mamma Mia!*, *The Wedding Singer* and *Evita*. Other times, she's danced with Maven Movement, pantomimed with Morpheus Theatre or sat on the board for Untold Stories Theatre. She wants to thank her friends, family and partner for supporting her in what gives her so much joy in life, performing.



ALISON GOVIER (LOIS)

Alison is thrilled to be a part of FRC's *A Chorus Line*! She was previously seen on the FRC stage in *Carrie* and *Mamma Mia*. She has been dancing and performing for over ten years, with groups like St. Francis High School, Turner DanceWorks and the MRU Cubs Dance Team. She would like to thank Hunter, her friends, and her family for their support!



ANDREW RUSSELL (MARK ANTHONY)

Drew is so proud to be stepping back on the FRC stage for his 8th show on stage! You might have seen Drew in *Kinky Boots* last year as Essex, the referee drag angel, after a break from theatre. As well during the pandemic Drew had been fulfilling his love for performance with drag as Tana Nuff. But it's time for Drew to be back on stage wigless and with a lot less eyeliner and glitter! Sit back and enjoy *A Chorus Line* but once the show is done follow Drew's drag journey @tananuff



ANNA LUPEKO (TRICIA)

Anna was born in Ukraine to an actors' family. Her parents had their own small theatre, so she grew up behind the scenes of theatrical life. She has music and high acting education (master's degree in animation theater). Now Anna lives in Calgary and enjoys working with FRC where she can bring together everything she loves – dancing, singing and acting.



BRAD SIMON (ZACH)

Brad is a theatre graduate of the Randolph Academy and George Brown College (Toronto, ON). Selected credits include *HAIR* (FRC), *The Piper* (Downstage Theatre), and *Shining City* (Liffey Players).



CONNOR MAY (BOBBY MILLS)

This is Connor's second show with FRC and he is so excited! Connor has always had an immense love of theatre and he is so excited to showcase that once again! Connor has had many theatre experiences in the past including some highlights being, *Rodger & Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Carrie The Musical*, *The Story Of Us* and *Trains, Planes, and Automobiles!* He is so excited for everyone to see the hard work him and his incredible cast mates have done and hope you love the show!



DOUGIE SHARABURA (FRANK)

After eight summers at Calgary Actors' Studio, and one previous show at FRC (*Carrie*), Dougie is excited to be back on stage with *A Chorus Line*! Having done nine years of dance training, he is stoked to be dancing on stage again. He'd like to thank Dan, Tory, Susan, Leon, Alexa, Ian, Edge Studios, and his family for all their training and support to help get him here.

MEET THE CAST



DWAIGNE QUIERRA (ROY)

Dwaigne is ecstatic to be in his second show with FRC after playing Freddy in last year's production of *Carrie*. Dwaigne has been previously seen on stage as Kratnoff in *High School Musical* and Charlie Brown in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* at Bishop McNally High School. In his free time, Dwaigne releases original music, which he hopes to do more this year. Dwaigne would like to thank the phenomenal cast and crew for all their hard work in bringing this show together and for the chance to dance.



EMMA GARRISON (BUTCH)

Emma is a graduate student in Physics. Emma was a competitive dancer for seven years and their theatre credits include *Into the Woods*, *Robin Hood*, and *The Wind in the Willows*. Emma is excited to participate in this awesome show!



GINETTE SIMONOT (VAL CLARK)

Ginette is a Calgary-area actor, singer, dancer and Theatre Administration professional. She's been "playing pretend" and dressing up in costumes for as long as she can remember, and loves tell stories about the human experience! Favourite FRC credits include: Columbia (*The Rocky Horror Show*), Brooke Windham (*Legally Blonde*), Gladys Hotchkiss (*The Pajama Game*) and Morticia Addams (*The Addams Family*). Check out her new website at www.ginettesimonot.com!



HARRISON BENTLEY (GREG GARDNER)

Harrison is absolutely GOBSMACKED, this has been a bucket list show that he never dreamed he'd ever get to do. He's so proud of the end result that they've all put together, this experience has been an absolute dream come true, and he's sure he won't shut up about it for years to come ha ha. Previous credits include - *Kinky Boots*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Boy From Oz*, *The Addams Family*, *The Wedding Singer* (FRC). *The SpongeBob Musical*, *MisCast 2019*, *Grease* (StoryBook Theatre).



ISAAC BARRAGAN (PAUL SAN MARCO)

Isaac is very excited to be part of this show, this is the first big Broadway show he ever saw and couldn't be more thankful to be part of this talented cast. Originally from Mexico. Part of his earlier credits include: *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Mamma Mia*, *Matilda*, *Into the Woods*.



KATIE BERNARDO (VICKI)

Katie is SO excited to be a part of her first production with Front Row Centre! She has degrees in Drama and English from the University of Calgary - where she co-founded Musical Theatre UCalgary! Some of her most recent credits include *Grease* with MTUCalgary, *The Baker's Wife* in *Into the Woods* and Frenchie in *Grease* at Bishop O'Byrne. Katie has been dancing for as long as she can remember and will continue to dance for as long as she possibly can. She would like to thank her dad for all of his unconditional support, and Megan for convincing her to audition for this show!



LIZ LIPTON (KRISTINE URICH (DELUCA))

Liz is so excited to be back on stage with FRC surrounded by so many talented people. This is Liz's 10th production with FRC (...already?!) & wow, are you in for a treat. The opportunity to be in a beast of a show like *A Chorus Line* doesn't come along every day and she could not be more honored to be in this cast. She wants to thank her friends & family for always being the loudest cheering squad in the theatre as well as her beautiful wife for her endless love & encouragement. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as everyone is going to enjoy performing for you! Ready? - 5, 6, 7, 8!

MEET THE CAST

LUCIA SANABRIA (TOM)



Lucia had been looking for a time and a place where she could revive her dancing talent. From a very young age in Colombia she participated in various events and competitions. Her dream was always to be a professional dancer. Unfortunately, since she moved her life as a dancer changed. But one day a friend of hers proposed the idea of participating in the Broadway show and she thought it was an excellent idea. She is super happy to learn another talent such as performing in front of thousands of people. Lucia is prepared to give 100% of her effort for this show!

LYNDSEY PATERSON (SHEILA BRYANT)



Lyndsey was last seen in *Carrie* in 2023 as Margaret White, and although there may be a lot less blood in *A Chorus Line*, she is excited to get back to dancing on stage, especially with this unbelievable cast. Lyndsey would like to thank her family and friends for their support and love. Life Is a Cabaret!

MATTHEW McDONALD (AL DELUCA)



Matthew is thrilled to be back on the stage for *A Chorus Line*. His recent credits include *Mamma Mia* with FRC and *Night of The Living Dead Live!* with Scorpio Theatre. He would like to thank his incredible wife for holding down the fort with their two little ones at home. He cannot wait for you all to see the incredible talent on and off the stage this evening.

MEGAN KERRIGAN (MAGGIE WINSLOW)



Megan (she/her) reigns from Southern California. She has an AA in Musical Theatre Fullerton College and a BFA in Drama from U of C. At U of C, she founded Musical Theatre UCalgary, a SU Club that invites all students to continue their passions in theatre and technical design. Recently, she was seen as Sophie in FRC's *Mamma Mia* where she was nominated for the CAT award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical. Other credits include: *Legally Blonde*, *Heathers*, *Into the Woods*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Candy Cane Kids*. Follow her! @megatronkerrigan

ROCHELLE VIRAY (DIANA MORALES)



Born and raised in Winnipeg, Rochelle has been performing since she was 3 years old. Past credits include: Annie in *Annie Jr.*, Blousey Brown in *Bugsy Malone Jr.*, The Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Baroness Elsa in *The Sound of Music*. Rochelle has been part of performing groups and choirs since she was young, and is thrilled to be part of her first Front Row Centre show. Rochelle wants to thank her family and friends for being so supportive of her musical endeavours, as well as the entire Front Row Centre team, and looks forward to more shows!

SAMUEL JONES (RICHIE WALTERS)



Samuel will be making Front Row Centre debut. He would like to take this time to thank all the people that "persuaded" him to take on the role of Richie...All jokes aside, he is thrilled to be a part of this grand adventure once more and looks forward to what the future holds. StoryBook Theatre: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* - The Toymaker, Untold Stories: *Cinderella* - Ensemble

SANDY HE (CONNIE WONG)



Sandy is delighted to be part of another FRC show! *A Chorus Line* holds a special place in her heart for its authentic portrayal of diverse stories on Broadway at the time. Having recently been featured in *Kinky Boots* with FRC and making her debut in *The Wind in the Willows* with Untold Stories, Sandy expresses gratitude to her friends, family, and partner for their unwavering support as she continues her musical theatre journey.

MEET THE CAST



STEPHEN WEST (MIKE COSTA, DANCE CAPTAIN)

Making their stage debut with Front Row Centre, Stephen is very excited to be joining a chorus line in a dream role of Mike Costa. After 20 years of being retired from the stage, Stephen is back with a vengeance. Other credits include direction and choreography for *Kinky Boots*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *The Addams Family*; also hair, and make up for *The Wedding Singer*. They are so excited to share the stage with so many talented humans. Much love to their husband Neil West.



TANIS LAATSCH (CASSIE FERGUSON, VOCAL CAPTAIN)

Tanis (she/her) is happy to be back on the FRC stage with such a talented group of performers. She hopes you enjoy these wonderful characters leaving their raw emotions on stage. Recent credits include *Sweeney Todd* (StoryBook Theatre), *35 mm* (Cappucino), *The Burning Pestle* (Scorpio), *The Wedding Singer* (FRC), and *Women Playing Hamlet* (Scorpio). Tanis would like to thank Ophelia's grandmas for babysitting and making it possible for her and Danielle to take part in this iconic show.



THOMAS ZIMA (DON KERR)

Thomas is excited to be joining FRC for their production of *A Chorus Line*. After graduating from RDC's Theatre Performance and Creation Program, he moved to Calgary to pursue performing. Some recent credits include: *May We All* (42nd Street Productions), *Pippin*, *Curtains*, *The Lightning Thief* (StoryBook Theatre), *Hair* (Brown Cow Collective). When not performing, Thomas enjoys spending time with his fiancée, Maggie, and cat, Beans. He hopes you enjoy the show.



VALENTÍN ZAPIÉN (LARRY)

Valentin started his theatre journey in Calgary in 2010 taking the role of Carmen Ghia in FRC's *The Producers*, and since then he has joined productions full of strange and odd characters, like the Scorpio Theatre's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and many FRC productions such as the steampunk *My Fair Lady*, *South Pacific*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *The Addams Family*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Kinky Boots*, and now *A Chorus Line*. So many productions and experiences that show that community theater is what he did for love.



VICKI TRASK (BEBE BENZENHEIMER)

FRC Credits Include: *Evita*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *City of Angels*, *The Who's Tommy*; Other Credits Include: *The Neverending Story*, *Sister Act the Musical*, *The Little Mermaid* (StoryBook), *It Came From Mars* (Scorpio), *South Pacific* (Calgary Opera). Dance Instructor for F.A.C.E. and lover of Disney. It feels like coming home.

FRONT ROW
CENTRE PLAYERS



@frontrowcalgary

MEET THE BAND



CLAIRE GENDRON (OBOE)

Claire is excited to be playing in her second show with FRC! Along with teaching music at Sundance School, Claire has been a member of the Rocky Mountain Concert Band for over 20 years and has recently started playing with the Calgary Wind Symphony. Claire would like to thank her family for supporting her in her musical endeavours, as well as all the members of "the pit" who make playing in these shows so much fun!



DANIEL SCHRAMM (KEYBOARD 2)

Daniel has been involved in theatre and music from a young age. This being his first show with FRC, he came across the theatre simply by searching for ways to get involved in a community with similar interests. His favourite experiences include the children's company in *Oliver!* with Rosebud Theatre, playing Friedrich in *The Sound of Music* with Kaleidoscope Theatre, and the Pirate King in his college's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. He has also released his first album **Make a Move** on Spotify and on CD. Daniel would like to thank FRC, his family and friends for supporting him every step of the way.



DAVID RAMSEY (PERCUSSION)

David is pleased to be playing such a well-known show with a terrific band in support of such an experienced cast. (and relieved that he doesn't have to memorize any dance steps). After decades of playing concerts one at a time, he finds a two-week run to be such a relief. His house has the appearance of having been decluttered. He has the opportunity to clean up after all those musical dust catchers. And after the run the joy returns that only accumulation can bring.



DEANNA MANSON (STRING BASS)

This is Deanna's 7th show with FRC – in the pit for *City of Angels*, *Dogfight*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *ILYYPNC*, *Follies*, and *Kinky Boots*. She started playing in pit orchestras in community theatre in her hometown of Cornwall, ON and has played with community orchestras wherever her career took her, 21 different orchestras in 11 cities across Canada and the US. She also managed to climb out of the pit while living in Yellowknife, NT learning to sing and dance in *Les Miserables*, *Mary Poppins*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, and *The Sound of Music*. Love to April and thanks for putting up with nightly rehearsals and performances!



GARY MCPHEE (TROMBONE 3/BASS TROMBONE)

This is Gary's fifth show with Front Row Centre. After playing the only trombone part in *Evita*, *The Addams Family*, and *Cabaret*, and the Bass trombone part in *Follies (Concert Version)*, Gary says he enjoys this particular show because the Bass trombone part "really honks". When not chasing his Grandkids, Gary plays with the Calgary Wind Symphony and the Rocky Mountain Concert Band. Enjoy the show!



JODY RACH (FLUTE/PICCOLO)

Jody is delighted to be a part of another outstanding FRC production. She'd like to thank for family for their unwavering support, and the way they ignore all the wrong notes when she practices.



JOEL WARREN (TRUMPET 3)

Joel is one of Calgary's up and coming trumpet players. He is currently working towards completing a Bachelor of Music in jazz performance at Ambrose University. Joel is the lead trumpet for the Jazz YYC lab band, a member of the KASCI Jazz Combo, and the Director for the First Alliance Church Orchestra. When not playing trumpet, Joel can often be found binge watching Star Wars or on the Baseball Diamond as an international level umpire. Joel would like to thank his instructors for their constant call for him to grow and be better, and his family for their continued support in his musical journey.

MEET THE BAND



KATHY MA (DRUMS)

Kathy is ecstatic to be playing for *A Chorus Line*. It was her first (and so far only) show she saw in New York. She has the record (yes, vinyl LP) and the VHS tape of the movie (yes, she is that old). Kathy has played over 30 shows with FRC, with the last being *Kinky Boots*. She did a band tour last summer to Trinidad & Tobago and bought a steel pan so hoping to use that in a show some day. Thanks to Joanne for the amazing band and happy opening to this awesome cast and crew!



KIMBERLY LINKERT (REED 2)

5,6,7...13! That's how many shows Kimberly has been lucky enough to do with Front Row Centre! Kim is an active member of the community music scene, performing with the Calgary Wind Symphony, Alberta Winds, the Southern Stardust Big Band, the Sweet City Sax Quartet and occasionally with the Symphony of the Kootenays in Cranbrook, BC. She wishes to thank the incredibly talented musicians, cast and crew of this show and she hopes that you enjoy FRC's production of *A Chorus Line*!



LARRY BLENKIN (REED 4)

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 & Dolls*, *Anne of Green Gables* and *Bye Bye Birdie*. Larry enjoyed playing in the pit for *Follies* and hope you enjoy *A Chorus Line*, as he is enjoying the performance experience.



MALCOM MCKAY (REED 4 SUB)

Malcolm is thrilled to have the opportunity to be in his first FRC show. He performs with the Fox Big Band and other Calgary ensembles and has appeared as an on-stage musician with Theatre Calgary, Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay and Ptarmigan Ptheatrics in Yellowknife.



MAR JAMES (TROMBONE SUB)

With a passion for many types of music, Mar is the Principal Timpanist with the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra, Rosa Barocca, and Altius Brass. She enjoys big band jazz playing Bass Trombone with the Fox Big Band, and was in Spiritus Chamber Choir, winning the Healy-Willan Prize while with the choir. Mar has played percussion in many musicals including *Sweeney Todd*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Annie*, *West Side Story*, and was on stage in the Mission Band in *Guys and Dolls*. She continues to play in many Calgary ensembles and as a Veteran with the HMCS Tecumseh Navy Band.



MARK PAIDRA (TRUMPET 1)

A self-confessed trumpet nerd, Mark plays in the Calgary Wind Symphony, the Doug Fox Big Band, and the Southern Stardust Big Band. This is his fourth show with FRC, having performed most recently in *Kinky Boots*. (No, not wearing kinky boots, in the show *Kinky Boots*, although he has rocked high heels for charity on a couple of occasions...). This is Mark's second time playing in *A Chorus Line*; the first was in Kingston, Ontario in August, 1998, his last gig in his home town before moving to Calgary.



MICHAEL HARLE (TROMBONE 1)

Good evening. *A Chorus Line* is Michael's third show with FRC. Growing up in Regina, Michael got his trombone start with the Lions Band. Now retired, he may be heard playing in some of the big bands in town. Many thanks to Crystal for letting him come out to play. Enjoy the show.

MEET THE BAND



MIKE KARSSEBOOM (TROMBONE SUB)

Mike has been playing Trombone for more than 50 years. Over this period he has played many different styles of music in numerous jazz bands, concert bands, brass bands and orchestras. Mike has also played in pit bands for the productions of *Mame*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Mack and Mabel*. Mike recently relocated to the Calgary area, and this is his first production with FRC.



NEIL WEST (KEYBOARD 3, REHEARSAL PIANIST, PIT TECH)

This is Neil's ninth production with FRC, most recently having played in and directed the orchestras for *Carrie* and *Kinky Boots*. He enjoyed rehearsing with the cast as the rehearsal pianist as well as joining this talented orchestra on keyboard. Thank you to Mom, Dad, Erin, and Stephen for your support.



ROBERT MCMANUS (TROMBONE 2)

Since first picking up a trombone at age 11, Robert has consistently looked for ways to be involved in the music and performing arts scene in Calgary; playing in FRC's *A Chorus Line* is one way he keeps up with his music life now that his career has taken him down a different path. *A Chorus Line* is Robert's third musical theatre production with FRC, having previously performed in *City of Angels* (2018) and *Kinky Boots* (2023). Robert was a member of the Calgary Stampede Showband (2014-17), and is now a proud member of their alumni group, the Calgary Stampede Band of Outriders.



ROBERT SEYMOUR (REED 1 & 3)

Robert is on Clarinet, Alto and Tenor Sax for this production. He is eternally grateful to the Alberta School Music Programs and their many inspirational teachers. He began clarinet in grade school in Edmonton and later added 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 a 100 musical theatre shows later, Robert is enjoying the New Year as part of FRC's *A Chorus Line*.



ROBYN PHILLIPS (BASSOON)

Robyn began playing bassoon at age 12, when her social group demanded more high-class entertainment. They loved her so much they renamed themselves the Local Bassoon Commune. Robyn's been playing shows with FRC for 15 years and is thrilled to be back in the pit with another fantastic group of dedicated artists. She'd like to thank LBC for their unending support, and Gavin for being a steady rock and a fantastic loving partner to this frantic busy bassoonist.



SARAH CORRIGAN (KEYBOARD 1)

This is the second FRC show for Sarah. She fell asleep on her keyboard in *Carrie* and woke up in *A Chorus Line*. Lining up chord shots with dialogue makes her happy.



TERRI SHOULDICE (FLUTE/PICCOLO)

A 4th generation Calgarian, Terri graduated from the University of Calgary with a BMus and has been blessed to perform in many ensembles and chamber groups over the years including The Calgary Concert Band, Civic Symphony, Alberta Winds, Ambrose Orchestra, UofC Operetta (where her love of Pit Orchestras began) and accompany many choirs. She currently performs with the Calgary Wind Symphony and Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra. Terri had so much fun playing in FRC's *Evita* and *Follies*, she jumped at the chance when Joanne asked her to join in *A Chorus Line*. Ready...5,6,7,8!

MEET THE BAND



TIM BULLEN (TRUMPET 2)

Recently retired from his role as the music director for both LV Rogers Secondary School and Trafalgar Middle School in Nelson, BC, Tim is enjoying his new role as the conductor of the Rocky Mountain Concert Band. A seasoned trumpeter, he is enjoying this opportunity to work with and perform with the cast, fellow musicians and crew of FRC's production of *A Chorus Line*.

FRONT OF HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Front of House Managers

Steven Eastgaard-Ross
Jenn Lanciault
Joey Sayer

Bartenders

Donna Bibeau
Trish Farrow
Monica Goulet
John Gray
Sheryl Guillaume
Angela Jobs
Jocelyn Laing
Grace Lu
Kelly Misko
Susan Rubin
Kim Sharabura
Joanne Smith
Monti Tanner

FOH Floats

Cheryl A Wheat
Lisa Antichow
Marianna Farafoszyn
Alana Gowdy
Clinton Hughes
Lorraine O'Neill
Peggy Porisky
Connie Sharabura
Meaghan Walsh
Janos Zeller

Ushers

Cheryl A Wheat
George Bibeau
Marlene Cain
Rhonda Clarke
Carine Fosseze
Alan Hamaliuk

Ross Hodgson
Pete Jemus
Myrna Malanik
Sharon Olsen
Susan Patterson
Mai Tanaka
Cam Warren
Corinne Webb
Angela Woodard

Ticket Takers

Cheryl A Wheat
Samantha Bellamy
George Bibeau
Janet Brown
Amber Dujay
Aura Felipe
Louise Hamilton
Alexa Jobs
Joy Mamer

Laura May
Sharon Olsen
Peggy Porisky
Kim Sharabura

50/50 Sellers

Lisa Antichow
Kathy Bauer
Dennis Daly
Deb Finkleman
Donna Gerbrandt
Trudy Kinsman
Cathy Martin
Ghaile Pocock
Peggy Porisky
Christine Reynolds
Denise Rivet
Wendy Trueman



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MEET THE WRITERS



MICHAEL BENNETT (CONCEPTION, ORIGINAL DIRECTION AND CHOREOGRAPHY)

Michael Bennett (1943–1987) was an American musical theatre director, writer, choreographer, and dancer. He won seven Tony Awards for his choreography and direction of Broadway shows and was nominated for an additional eleven.

Bennett's choreography credits include *Henry, Sweet Henry*; *Promises, Promises*; *Coco*; and *Company*. He directed and choreographed *Follies*, *Seesaw* and *Ballroom*, among several others. In 1976, he won the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical and the Tony Award for Best Choreography for *A Chorus Line*. Under the aegis of producer Joseph Papp, Bennett created *A Chorus Line* based on a workshop process which he pioneered. In 1982, Bennett directed and, with Michael Peters, co-choreographed *Dreamgirls*, winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Choreography.



JAMES KIRKWOOD (BOOK)

James Kirkwood (1924–1989) was an American playwright, author and actor. In 1976 he received the Tony Award, the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his work on *A Chorus Line*.

Born in Los Angeles, Kirkwood began his career as an actor, appearing on television in *Valiant Lady* and *Perry Mason*, and on Broadway in *Small Wonder* and *Dance Me A Song*, among others. As an author, he penned the semi-autobiographical novel *There Must Be a Pony*, along with *P.S. Your Cat Is Dead*, *Good Times/Bad Times*, *Some Kind of Hero*, and *Hit Me with a Rainbow*. In 1970, he wrote the non-fiction *American Grotesque*, about the trial of Clay Shaw. His comedic play *Legends!* toured the United States starring Mary Martin and Carol Channing. He later wrote an account of the experience, titled *Diary of a Mad Playwright: Perilous Adventures on the Road with Mary Martin and Carol Channing*.

Kirkwood died of AIDS-related complications in 1989. In his memory, friends and admirers established the James Kirkwood Literary Prize to honor new generations of fiction writers for their literary achievements.



NICHOLAS DANTE (BOOK)

Nicholas Dante (1941–1991) was an American dancer and writer, best known for having co-written the book of the musical *A Chorus Line*. Born Conrado Morales in New York City, Dante began his career as a dancer and performer, appearing on Broadway in *Applause*, *Ambassador* and *Smith*, among others.

In 1974, Michael Bennett invited Dante to participate in interview sessions with Broadway dancers who, almost anonymously, serve as a backdrop behind star performers. Those sessions provided ample material for a Broadway musical. Collaborating with Bennett and James Kirkwood Jr., Dante created *A Chorus Line*, which earned him the 1976 Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for Best Book of a Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The character of Paul, a gay Puerto Rican dancer whose early career consisted of working in a drag show, was based primarily on Dante. Sammy Williams, who originated the role, won the 1976 Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical. Dante later assumed the role himself.

In 1991, at age 49, Dante died in New York City from AIDS-related complications.

MEET THE WRITERS



MARVIN HAMLISCH (MUSIC)

June 2, 1944—August 6, 2012

As composer, Marvin Hamlisch won virtually every major award that exists: three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, a Tony, three Golden Globe awards and the Pulitzer Prize (won by *A Chorus Line*). Only Hamlisch and Richard Rodgers have won a “PEGOT” (P.E.G.O.T. = Pulitzer, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony awards).

For Broadway, Hamlisch wrote the music for his groundbreaking show, *A Chorus Line*, as well as *They're Playing Our Song*, *The Goodbye Girl* and *Sweet Smell of Success*. Additional theatrical scores include *Jean Seberg* (1983) and *The Nutty Professor* (2012).

He was the composer of more than 40 motion picture scores, including his Oscar-winning score and song for *The Way We Were* and his adaptation of Scott Joplin's music for *The Sting*, for which he received a third Oscar. His prolific output of scores for films include original compositions and/or musical adaptations for *Sophie's Choice*, *Ordinary People*, *The Swimmer*, *Three Men and a Baby*, *Ice Castles*, *Take the Money and Run*, *Bananas*, *Save the Tiger* and *The Informant!*, starring Matt Damon and directed by Steven Soderbergh.

At the time of his passing, he had just finished his last musical score for film, *Liberace—Behind the Candelabra*. Directed by Soderbergh and starring Michael Douglas and Damon, the movie was shown at the 2013 Cannes Festival and later aired on HBO to great reviews. It went on to win several Emmys, including Best Actor for Douglas.

Hamlisch was Musical Director and arranger of Barbra Streisand's 1994 concert tour of the U.S. and England as well as of the television special, *Barbra Streisand: The Concert* (for which he received two of his Emmys).

Hamlisch held the position of principal pops conductor for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony and Pops, Seattle Symphony, San Diego Symphony, The Buffalo Philharmonic and The National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. At the time of his death he was preparing to assume responsibilities as Principal Pops Conductor for The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Hamlisch was a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music and Queens College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He believed in the power of music to bring people together.



EDWARD KLEBAN (LYRICS)

Edward Kleban (1939-1987) was the lyricist of *A Chorus Line*, for which he won the 1975 Tony Award, the Pulitzer Prize and the Drama Desk and Olivier Awards. His score for the musical *A Class Act*, produced posthumously, was nominated for the 2001 Tony and Drama Desk Awards and won an Obie Award. *A Class Act* is a musical biography of Kleban, with a score comprised of his own music and lyrics. A New York revival is scheduled for February 2022.

Mr. Kleban was a graduate of the High School of Music and Art and of Columbia College, where he wrote the music for the Varsity Show of 1960 with a book by Terrance McNally. Upon graduation from Columbia, Kleban was hired as a record producer by Columbia Records. Throughout the sixties he produced original cast albums while developing his own musicals in Lehman Engel's BMI Musical Theatre Workshop. Every song that he wrote for *A Chorus Line* was tested in the BMI Workshop. During the 1980s he carried on Mr. Engel's tradition and taught songwriting in the workshop.

Mr. Kleban died in December 1987 at the age of 48, after a two-year bout with a cigarette-related cancer. In his will, he created and endowed The Kleban Prize, a unique grant that is bestowed not for a writer's previous achievements, but for the promise of creativity to come, chosen by a panel of Broadway's most respected artists. Recipients have gone on to garner four Tony Awards, 30 Tony nominations, 10 Drama Desk Awards and four Obies.

MEET THE TEAM



ALEENA KHALEK (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

Aleena is thrilled to be a part of *A Chorus Line*. This will be Aleena's third show with FRC after her last show, *Carrie*. She is grateful to be involved in another show.



ANDREW BROUGHTON (SOUND DESIGN)

Andrew is a veteran of the sound industry, doing sound for bands, festivals, corporate events, broadcast and yes, even theatre for the past 4 decades. Having the pleasure of working on Broadway with Abe Jacob (the original sound designer of *Hair*, *BeatleMania*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and of course *A Chorus Line*) while mounting *Rain - A Tribute to the Beatles* in 2011, he was introduced to the world of large-scale, high budget, live theatre, and how the "masters" do it. Being no stranger to the sorts of challenges mounting a large production presents, he was excited to be asked to join the team for Front Row Centre's production of *A Chorus Line*. There is an enormous amount of talent on this stage, and he just wants to make sure they're heard! FRC have a FANTASTIC team and it's been a real pleasure to be involved. Now, go Break a Leg!



BECKY SALMOND (HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN)

Becky is thrilled to be getting back to her hair and makeup roots! Previous credits include *Carrie* (FRC), *Back to Square One*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Untold Stories Theatre). She'd like to thank: her parents for saying "You Can Do That", her friends for listening to her "Sing", and finally to Jeffery and "What He Did For Love."



BRITTANY DOUCET-LEWIS (COSTUME DESIGN)

Brittany is the sparkling sensation who joined FRC in the 2022/2023 season as a photographer, capturing the magic of *Mamma Mia!*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and *Follies (Concert Version)*, *Kinky Boots* and continuing this season with *Carrie*. But wait, there's more! Driven by a passion for wardrobe mayhem, Brittany couldn't resist the allure of sparkles and spandex. Armed with a measuring tape and her trusty sewing machine, she bravely stepped into the role of Costume Coordinator for *Kinky Boots* and now Costume Designer for *A Chorus Line*! Enjoy the show!



CHELSEA WELLMAN (MUSICAL DIRECTOR)

A Chorus Line is Chelsea's seventh production with Front Row Centre, with previous FRC credits including *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Musical Director/Dance Ensemble), *Anything Goes* (Purity), *The Who's Tommy* (Musical Director), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Edwin Drood/Alice Nutting), *Reefer Madness* (Musical Director) and *The Wedding Singer* (Musical Director). Having taken a theatre hiatus, Chelsea cannot think of a more talented or passionate group of people to have worked with on her first show back! Thanks to the cast, band, production team and crew for such a wonderful and fulfilling experience!



DAISY POND (STAGE MANAGER)

Daisy is excited to be a part of another FRC show. From working as a lighting op, an ASM, a Stage Manager, and the former 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 DESMARIS (DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER)

Danielle is so excited to be back in the director's chair with FRC tackling this amazing dance musical! She studied at the Canadian College of Performing Arts in Victoria BC and has since been choreographing for theatre companies around town sharing her passion for musical theatre. Recent credits: *Naughty but Nice - Xmas* (Forte), *Ella Enchanted: The Musical* (StoryBook Theatre), *Little Women* (Theatre Calgary).

MEET THE TEAM



EMILY DE BOER (PRODUCER / SET DECORATION)

Emily has enjoyed lending her creative talents to FRC since 2018. Working to bring characters to life through Hair and Makeup, and Prop Design. She is proud to be taking on two new roles in this show: Producer and Set Decorator. Emily fell in love with *A Chorus Line* as a teenager and was lucky enough to see the revival on Broadway in 2007. She hopes you enjoy this "Singular Sensation" as much as she has enjoyed working on it.



FRED AMDUR (LIGHTING DESIGN)

Thrilled to be illuminating such a brilliant crop of performers, *A Chorus Line* is Fred's first time designing lighting for a production. Usually found behind the sewing machine, he is thankful to FRC for the opportunity to give the new medium a try. No stranger to technical theatre, you might have seen Fred's costumes in FRC's last production, *Carrie*. Or perhaps you caught him on stage in this past June's production of *Kinky Boots*. But it's in the booth, pressing [GO] on his lighting cues, that you can find Fred this time around. Be sure to catch Fred's drag alter ego locally and on Instagram @thejulienecarrots



JASON JUBENVILLE (SET DESIGN)

They say if you build it, they will come and dance! Jason is honoured to work with such wonderful talent in *A Chorus Line* putting together this set. Previously assisting Set Construction on shows such as *Carrie* and *Victor/Victoria*, this is his first role as Set Design.



JOANNE SAMPSON (ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR)

This is Joanne's 20th anniversary of conducting or playing in the pit for FRC shows. *A Chorus Line* has been one of her favourite musicals since it was released on vinyl in 1975. She is very excited to participate in this show leading a talented and committed group of musicians who are providing the live music for the show. Joanne thanks the fantastic production team and talented cast who have made this experience one to remember.



MOIRA TAYLOR (PROP DESIGN)

Moira has previously worked on *Rumors*, *Treasure Island* and *Yeomen of the Guard* starting out as a Prop assistant then moving into Prop Master. She has also designed hair and make-up for *Rumors* and *Calendar Girls*, and made her first on stage appearance as a Chorus member with *Yeomen of the Guard* last year. This is Moira's 2nd production with Front Row Centre, with her first one being Props Master for FRC's season opener, *Carrie*. She is grateful for the opportunity to work on props with *A Chorus Line* as it is one of her favorite productions.



OLIVIA DUNOW (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

Liv, or Olivia Dunow is currently *A Chorus Line*'s assistant stage manager. She's done multiple shows, yet this is her first time working as an assistant stage manager, and only their second time working on a show outside of a school setting. Liv's past shows include (*Taylor's version*), a Baker Miller Pink production, and shows done by Robert Thirsk High school. Liv is very thrilled to be working alongside this incredibly talented cast and crew



RANELLE HUWALD (DIRECTOR APPRENTICE)

This is Ranelle's assistant directing debut with FRC. You may have seen her previously onstage in FRC's productions of *Mamma Mia*, *The Wedding Singer* or *Grease*. She wants to give all of the credit to Danielle and truly aspires to have the passion, work ethic, grace and talent that Danielle portrays on a daily basis.

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35 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 (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 Spamlot
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 Spamlot
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

2022-2023

Mamma Mia!
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
Follies (Concert Version)
Kinky Boots

2023-2024

Carrie: The Musical

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