



The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM A Musical Thriller

From an Adaptation by CHRISTOPHER BOND Book by HUGH WHEELER

Originally Directed On Broadway by HAROLD PRINCE

rchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Originally Produced on Broadway by Richard Barr, Charles Woodard, Robert Fryer, Mary Lea Johnson, Martin Richards in Association with Dean and Judy Manos

SWEENEY TODD is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

## May 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

Victor Mitchell Theatre • Pumphouse Theatres

FrontRowCentrePlayers

frontrowcentre.ca









# fice

#### Executive Committee 2024-2025

President	Jenn Lanciault
Vice President	Samantha Bellamy
Treasurer	Cathy Martin
Secretary	Joey Sayer
Artistic Director	Jeremy Walker
Artistic Associate	Stephen West
Inventory & Technical Director	Fred Amdur
Volunteer Director	Danielle Desmarais

#### Members at Large

Emily De Boer, James Bellamy

We are looking for committed, fun—loving individuals to join our committees this year. Please reach out to <u>volunteer@frontrowcentre.ca</u> 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, volunteerdriven 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 are at

1-4619 6 St NE | Calgary, AB | T2E 3Z6 403-246-8505 | info@frontrowcentre.ca Charitable Registration #892438565RR0001

#### President's Message

Welcome to our final show of our 2024-2025 season, and again welcome back to The Pumphouse Theatre! While we will all take some time to (re)acquaint ourselves with this theatre, returning to here really does feel like coming home. We are also excited to share that we now have our very own office, rehearsal and storage space in the Greenview Industrial Park! There is some construction to do before everything is full useable, but we are well on the way to enjoying our own space for the first time in a LONG time!

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, that you please 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

**Donate to FRC:** 



#### Calgary's Premier Community Musical Theatre Company

### FRONT ROW CENTRE PLAYERS PRESENTS



### **A MUSICAL THRILLER**

# Music and Lyrics by Book by STEPHEN SONDHEIM HUGH WHEELER

From an Adaptation by CHRISTOPHER BOND

#### **Originally Directed on Broadway by HAROLD PRINCE**

**Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick** 

#### Originally Produced on Broadway by Richard Barr, Charles Woodward, Robert Fryer, Mary Lea Johnson, Martin Richards, In Association with Dean and Judy Manos

SWEENEY TODD is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. <u>www.mtishows.com</u>

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

**Sweeney Todd** contains content that may be disturbing for some viewers, including sexual assault / violence, pedophilia / incest, animal cruelty / death, self-harm / suicide, blood, violence and mental illness / ableism. Viewer discretion is strongly advised.

In the spirit of reconciliation, Front Row Centre Players Society acknowledges that we live, work and create on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta, Districts 5 & 6, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. They were the original occupants of this land and continue to be here to this day. We are grateful to have the opportunity to present in this territory.



#### Major Players (\$10,000+)



Anonymous Fund at Calgary Foundation

**Dewdney Players** 

Arts Commons

Theatre Calgary

StoryBook Theatre

#### Elizabeth and Gene Maurice Fund

at Calgary Foundation

Players in the Front Row (\$5,000+)

**Tower Cleaners** 

Distinguished Players (\$1000+)

**Denis Couturier** 

#### Players of Note (\$100+)

**Beverley & Ronald Gray** 

**Legacy Gifts** 

Ms. Jo-Ann Marcella de Repentigny

#### **Special Thanks**

**Carl and Colleen Bishop** 

**Morpheus Theatre** 

The Pumphouse Theatre

Orange Frog Productions Inc.

**University Theatre Services** 

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

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

**Front Row** 

Centre

Players



@frontrowcalgary

# Director's Notes



My initial exposure to *Sweeney Todd* was at the end of my first year in Theatre school at MacEwan University, when I was cast as Mrs. Lovett! Of course, being 23, I did not appreciate the nuance and complexity of the character, or the musical. Now, with years of experience and reflection, I am thrilled to approach *Sweeney Todd* again, this time in the director's chair.

When FRC approached me with the opportunity to direct *Sweeney Todd*, I was excited to delve deeper into this complex, layered exploration of obsession. *Sweeney Todd* is a powerful exploration of how we, as humans, can become so consumed by our own desires that we lose sight of what truly matters. Todd's obsession with revenge, Mrs. Lovett's infatuation with a man who she barely knows, the Judge's obsession with Johanna and the tragic descent of the characters, are a stark reminder of how unchecked desires can erode our connection to our humanity—something that feels all too familiar in the world we live in today.

We live in a time when it is easy to become fixated on what we want and refuse to listen and understand an alternate point of view. *Sweeney Todd* invites us to consider the devastating consequences of losing connection with the things that truly matter—the bonds of love, the importance of empathy, the need for community. This is not just a story about a man who seeks revenge, it is a story about the dehumanizing effects of obsession, and how our actions, however small, can lead us down a dark and irreversible path.

In approaching this production, I've focused on the tension between perception and truth, obsession and awareness, and how the characters' actions reflect a larger societal commentary. The ensemble, acting as our modern-day Greek Chorus, will serve as a reminder of the struggles we currently face that are not too dissimilar to Sweeney and Lovett. The emotional landscape of the show reflects the ever-present struggle between what we want and what we need. It is a tragedy, but also a powerful reminder to pay attention—to examine ourselves and the world around us, and to recognize the profound consequences of our choices.

*Sweeney Todd* is a show that asks us to witness the unfolding of a tragic tale, and to question our own relationship with a single-minded obsession and vengeance. It challenges us to ask: What happens when we are so blinded by our desires that we forget what makes us human? And what happens when we, too, become complicit in the tragedy by not paying attention?

I am incredibly excited to bring this production to life, and I hope it resonates with you in a way that feels both timely and timeless. I invite you to step into this dark world, ATTEND to the chorus of voices around you, and consider the powerful, tragic story that is about to unfold before your eyes.

— Lindsay Kurtze Director



#### Act One

- 1. The Ballad of Sweeney Todd
- 2. No Place Like London
- 3. The Barber and His Wife
- 4. The Worst Pies in London
- 5. Poor Thing
- 6. My Friends
- 7. Green Finch and Linnet Bird
- 8. Ah, Miss
- 9. Johanna
- 10. Pirelli's Miracle Elixir
- 11. The Contest
- 12. Johanna (Mea Culpa)
- 13. Wait
- 14. Kiss Me (Part I)
- 15. Ladies in Their Sensitivities
- 16. Kiss Me (Part II)
- 17. Pretty Women
- 18. Epiphany
- 19. A Little Priest

#### Act Two

- 20. God That's Good
- 21. Johanna Act II Sequence
- 22. By The Sea
- 23. Not While I'm Around
- 24. Parlour Songs
- 25. City on Fire!
- 26. Final Sequence
- 27. The Ballad of Sweeney Todd

Sweeney Todd will have one 20-minute intermission



Sweeney Todd	Mike Sornberger
Sweeney Todd Mrs. Lovett	Krista Willott
Anthony Hope	Boden Broadhead
Johanna	Jillian Hannah*
Tobias Ragg	Charlie Schaffner
Judge Turpin	Brad Simon
Judge Turpin The Beadle	Chris Willott
Beggar woman	Kevann Carter
Adolfo Pirelli	Kerrick Chavarria
Jonas Fogg / Understudy - Judge Turpin	Bruce Fraser
Ensemble / Understudy - Sweeney Todd	
Ensemble / Alternate - Mrs. Lovett	
Ensemble / Understudy - Johanna	Olivia Zurawiecki
Ensemble / Understudy - Tobias Ragg	
Ensemble / Understudy - The Beadle / Adolfo Pirelli	Matthew McPhail
Ensemble Cherie Lee, Dave Merkosky, Di	
Jackie Gelfand, Jacqueline Gi	bney, Jeri Wallis, Kelly Misko,
Mae Cuthbertson,Mark Wallace, Mu	ırray Melnychuk, Zoe Pepper
Understudy - Beggar Woman	Lindsay Kurtze

\*Appearing with the permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

DID YOU LIKE WHAT YOU EXPERIENCED HERE TODAY? NOMINATE US FOR A CAT AWARD!

2025 CALGARY COMMUNITY THEATRE AWARDS VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE PERFORMANCES

OF THE 2024-2025 SEASON ONLINE AT

WWW.CALGARY-ACTS.COM





Orchestra Director	Joanne Sampson
Reed 1 (Flute / Recorder / Piccolo)	Gillian Newburn, Terri Shouldice
Reed 2 (English Horn / Oboe)	Claire Gendron, Elena Hark
Reed 3 (Bb/Eb Clarinet / Flute / Piccolo)	Kimberly Linkert
	Elaine Cheung
Reed 5 (Bassoon)	Robyn Phillips
	Yoko Ruigrok
	Robert Seymour
Trumpet	Joel Warren, Mark Paidra
French Horn	Robert Calderwood, Simon Dawkins, Steve Lenz
Trombone	John Person, Michiel Karsseboom, Ron Strem
Trombone (sub)	Gary McPhee
	JP Salcedo, Mar James
Percussion Sub	Kathy Ma
Keyboard (Organ / Harp Sub)	Darren Pawlik, Nina Cen
Harp	Kari Calderwood
	Andrea Carless, Andrea Elias, Daniel Chen, Diana Piggott,
	Katarina Wollmann, Sonya Frebold, Stephania Luciuk
Viola	Bridget McLeod, Naomi Wilson, Nemo Fairlight
Viola Sub	Stephania Luciuk
Cello	Erin Beach, Eva Ambrose, Natalie Harder
String Bass	Deanna Manson





Director	Lindsay Kurtze
Musical Director	Anne Roggensack
Orchestra Director	Joanne Sampson
Choreographer (Poor Thing)	Danielle Desmarais
Producer	Jenn Lanciault
Assistant Producer	Minh Badau
Stage Manager	Cheyenne Cranston
Lighting Design	Kathryn McLaren
Set Design	Kate Sunderland
Scenic Artist	Krista Willott
Master Carpenter	Tim Cranston
Costume Design	Yvonne Ustick
Prop Design	Emily De Boer
8	Kat Kellner
	Inderjit Dhanjal
	Jess Goc-ong, Madison Hossack, Moira Taylor
•	Kat Kellner, Kathryn McLaren
	, Jackie Gelfand, Rhonda Mottle, Rohnen Peters, Zoë Musselman
	ey, David Lanciault, Erin Hynes, Harlan Sterner, Jason Jubenville,
	Patrick Nicholls, Paul Ustick, Samantha Bellamy, Samuel Nichols
	Beatrix Adams, Charlie Schaffner, Danica James, Faunus Adams,
	Liv Dunow, Olivia Zurawiecki, Rowyn Walz
	Jason Jubenville
•	Charlie Schaffner, Kirsta Willott, Nyah Nichols
5 5 1	lan Pond
•	Zoe Pepper
-	Colleen Bishop
	Cheyenne Cranston, Madi Hossack
-	Kevann Carter
	Fred Amdur, Yvonne Ustick
	Doug Childs
0 1 3	Brittany Doucet-Lewis
8	Fred Amdur
0 0	Jenn Lanciault
Marketing	Angela Jobs





#### **BODEN BROADHEAD (ANTHONY HOPE)**

Boden is thrilled to be back on stage with FRC - enjoy the show!



#### BRAD SIMON (JUDGE TURPIN)

This is Brad's 6th or 7th FRC show onstage over the past 20 years. Selected credits include *A Chorus Line* (Zach), *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Frollo), and can be seen this July as yet ANOTHER villain in Tory Doctor's *Off the Beaten Path*. Much love to our fantastic lighting designer, and K and C back home with the cats. A theatre graduate of George Brown College and the Randolph Academy, this performance is dedicated to Ben Blue, who wouldn't have seen this show anyways.



#### BRAEDAN HARK (ENSEMBLE / UNDERSTUDY - SWEENEY TODD)

Braedan is excited to be making his Calgary and FRC theatre debut in *Sweeney Todd*, his second theatre production. Todd is a stark contrast to his previous show, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and the learning experience of performing two musically opposite shows has been engaging and valuable.



#### BRUCE FRASER (JONAS FOGG / UNDERSTUDY - JUDGE TURPIN)

Bruce grew up as a musician, vocalist and actor and has been performing in Calgary Community theatre since 2012 He is thrilled to be joining this stellar group for Sondheim's Magnum Opus. Highlights for FRC include: *Catch Me If You Can, The Who's Tommy, Anything Goes, Young Frankenstein*. Elsewhere: *The Music Man, Hairspray, White Christmas* (SBT), *Love Letters* (Imagine PA), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Morpheus), *A Wedding to Die For* (Heritage Park). Recently retired, Bruce enjoys his grandchildren, travelling, and puttering. He is ever grateful for his wife's continued support.



#### **CHARLIE SCHAFFNER (TOBIAS RAGG)**

Charlie is so excited for his first billing with FRC and that it is his dream role of Tobias Ragg. Charlie would like to thank the entire FRC team for entrusting him with this role and hopes he did them proud. He would like to thank his mom, dad and brothers Matthew and Chris for putting up with his theatrics and for flying all the way from Toronto to see him perform. He loves you guys. He would like to thank Krista and Mike for being the best messed up family he could have ever asked for. To his partner Mae thank you for believing in him even when he didn't. Every bow is for you. Enjoy your time in Fleet Street!



#### CHERIE LEE (ENSEMBLE)

Cherie (she/her) has been performing on stage since age 9. She has a BFA in Theatre from SOU. Favourite shows include: Phyllis Stone in *Follies*, Violet in 9 to 5 and Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Enjoy the show!



#### **CHRIS WILLOTT (THE BEADLE)**

Chris has 24 billings with Front Row Centre in 22 shows; including 20 on stage. His first show with FRC was *The Sound of Music* in 1997. He is thrilled to return to *Sweeney Todd*, having also been in FRC's last production. Much love to Krista and the boys. Enjoy the show!





#### DARWIN GELFAND (ENSEMBLE / UNDERSTUDY - TOBIAS RAGG)

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



#### DAVE MERKOSKY (ENSEMBLE) Dave has been in multiple shows around Calgary, but this is his first with FRC. He hopes you enjoy the show!



#### DIANA VENZI (ENSEMBLE)

More Hot Pies! Diana's first show with FRC was 2009's *Sweeney Todd*, and now she's back for seconds. Previous FRC credits also include *Chess* (Ensemble), *Putting It Together* (Chris), and *Legally Blonde* (Enid). She thanks the team for giving her a chance to be a part of this production.



#### **GEORGE THOMSON (ENSEMBLE)**

George is delighted to be in *Sweeney Todd* as his third FRC show, rather more sinister than his first two, *The Addams Family* and *Something Rotten*. Enormous thanks to the Production crew for putting this monster of a show together and to the Backstage crew for holding it together. So many people, so much time, so many challenges. This truly is a demonic show!



#### JACKIE GELFAND (ENSEMBLE / COSTUME ASSISTANT)

Jackie is thrilled to be in her first FRC production, and to cross off her last show bucket list item. This was a dream cast of incredibly talented actors, musicians, and crew under the brilliant direction of Lindsay, Anne and Joanne! Some of her past shows as an actor and/or costumer include *The Gondoliers, The Mikado, HMS Pinafore, Cinderella, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (all Morpheus Theatre) as well as *Oliver*! and *Jacob Two-Two Meets The Hooded Fang* (both StoryBook Theatre). Jackie is grateful to have so much love and support from her family, friends and co-workers.



#### JACQUELINE GIBNEY (ENSEMBLE)

Thrilled to return to the stage for *Sweeney Todd*, this is Jacqueline's 3<sup>rd</sup> show with FRC. She previously appeared in *Follies* and *Nunsense*. Enjoy the show!



#### JERI WALLIS (ENSEMBLE)

Jeri is excited to be back on stage with this amazing cast and crew for *Sweeney Todd* (the first community theatre production she ever saw). It was at that time she knew she wanted to be a part of this theatre world and one day sing the ballad of Sweeney Todd. Shows include *Legally Blonde, Jesus Christ Superstar* (FRC), *Rent, The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Cappuccino), *The Sleeping Beauty, Pirates* (Morpheus), and *Guys and Dolls* (Bonavista). Many thanks to her family and friends for their continued love and support and much love to her husband, Rob, who is incredibly patient and supportive. <3

Meet The Gast



#### JILLIAN HANNAH\* (JOHANNA)

Jillian is a Calgary based actor who has been singing since the age of 5, and has performed across Canada and the United States. She attended university in the United States and received her BFA in Music Theatre at Elon University. Favourite credits include: *The Secret Garden, Billy Elliott* (Theatre Calgary), Janet-*The Rocky Horror Show* (Ovation Productions), Rona Lisa Peretti-*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mill Mountain Theatre) Ensemble/Anne u/s-*A Little Night Music* (Berkshire Theatre Group), Huge thanks to her family, Chris, and her dog Harper for their constant support!



#### KELLY MISKO (ENSEMBLE)

Kelly is becoming a regular with this crowd. Recently she has been seen on stage in FRC's production of *Nunsense* as Mother Superior and in *Follies* as Sally Durant Plummer. You may have seen her as Mickey in Workshop Theatre's production of *The Odd Couple* - a female version. *Pajama Game, Jesus Christ Superstar* (FRC), *Clue - the musical, War of the Worlds* (Dewdney), *Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinafore* (Morpheus), Improv (Loose Moose/Kinkonauts) are a few of her acting credits. She sends much love to her dots, the boy, her family, and friends for being her biggest fans!



#### KERRICK CHAVARRIA (ADOLFO PIRELLI)

Kerrick is thrilled to return to the stage with such a stellar cast. A passionate analyst of Latin American literature, he hopes to revitalize its depth and complexity through both his poetry and his craft as an actor. Previous credits with FRC include *Sondheim Tribute Revue*, *The Addams Family*, and *Evita*. He would like to thank his family for their unwavering support in the pursuit of a good, noble, and just life.



#### KEVANN CARTER (BEGGAR WOMAN / WIGS)

Kevann returns to FRC's stage after previously participating in Sondheim Tribute Revue. She is thrilled to bring Sweeney Todd to life – enjoy the show!



#### KRISTA WILLOTT (MRS. LOVETT / SCENIC ARTIST)

This experience has been nothing short of a dream come true for Krista. Being told you'll never do the thing you love again after an injury is challenging but after 7 years and a stubborn determination, here she is. Taking on one of the hardest roles out there with the undying support of all the amazing talented team, cast, crew and musicians. Many thanks to her family for all their support. When someone says you can't, reply with, challenge accepted! Enjoy the show!



#### MAE CUTHBERTSON (ENSEMBLE)

Mae is excited to be a part of not only her first show with FRC, but her first Sondheim as well! Mae started her journey with musical theatre very young and has always had a love of shows that included darker themes and complex music. She is excited to be able to once again share the stage with her partner Charlie and is grateful for his love and support throughout this beast of a show. So please, sit back, grab a meat pie, and enjoy the show!



#### MARK WALLACE (ENSEMBLE)

After acting in some University productions, Mark began his musical journey last year. Since then, Mark has fallen in love with the art and the community and is very excited to do his first show with Front Row Centre. As his third show in Calgary, Mark is excited to learn all he can from all the amazing talent involved with *Sweeney Todd*!





#### MATTHEW MCPHAIL (ENSEMBLE / UNDERSTUDY - THE BEADLE / ADOLFO PIRELLI)

Matt is excitedly, overjoyedly thrilled to use as many bio tropes as possible to describe his excited overjoyed thrill at being a part of this exciting, joyous (maybe not...) thrilling show. Past shows with FRC include *Something Rotten*, *The Addams Family* and *Avenue Q*. Enjoy!



#### MICHELLE RAWLINGS (ENSEMBLE / ALTERNATE - MRS. LOVETT)

This is Michelle's first show with FRC and we hope it won't be the last - enjoy the show!



#### **MIKE SORNBERGER (SWEENEY TODD)**

To say that Mike is a little obsessed with this role would be an understatement. He has previously had the opportunity to play Judge Turpin twice before (AUTS McGill, 2012; Storybook 2023) and is eternally grateful to Lindsay and Anne for the opportunity to play the title role this time around. Mike also gives a huge thanks to Meg for creating the time and space to commit to the whole process, and to O for coming along on a few rehearsals. Mike has previously played comedic roles in *Curtains* (2023); *Spamalot* (2018); *City of Angels* (2018) and *Young Frankenstein* (2014) and hopes you enjoy his villain era.



#### **MURRAY MELNYCHUK (ENSEMBLE)**

Murray is proud to be working with such a talented cast. You may have seen Murray in FRC's past productions of Follies, 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.



#### OLIVIA ZURAWIECKI (ENSEMBLE / UNDERSTUDY - JOHANNA / SET PAINTING)

Hi! This is Olivia's first show with FRC! She's always been drawn to theatre for its creativity and connection, and joined FRC to finally step into that world. She is so grateful for the amazing friends she has made here and the chance to grow alongside such a talented group.



#### ZOE PEPPER (ENSEMBLE / VOCAL AND DANCE CAPTAIN)

Zoe is grateful to be part of the show, her first with FRC. Enjoy!





#### ANDREA CARLESS (VIOLIN)

Andrea Carless is a music enthusiast whose first pit orchestral experience was in high school (*Guys and Dolls* (2012), *The Boy Friend* (2013)). She currently works as a sound designer and new media artist. In her free time, she enjoys martial arts and quality time with her Samoyed. A recent newcomer to Calgary, Andrea is excited to be a part of the FRC team.



#### ANDREA ELIAS (VIOLIN)

Born & raised in Winnipeg, Andrea first picked up the violin in the late 1900s. She has only recently ventured into musical theatre, and has 2 billings with Front Row Centre. Her first show was *Follies* in 2023; *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street is* her second. Andrea also plays with New West Symphony & Chorus and Centre Street Church Orchestra.



#### **BRIDGET MCLEOD (VIOLA)**

Bridget is originally from Toronto and lived in many parts of Canada before making Calgary her home. She has played the viola since switching from the violin in high school because she realized that every group could always use more violas. Bridget's first show with FRC was *South Pacific* in 2016, and she is so excited to be a part of the band for *Sweeney Todd*!



#### CLAIRE GENDRON (REED 2 (ENGLISH HORN / OBOE))

Claire is excited to be part of her third show with FRC! She is an elementary music teacher who hopes all her students go on to join band in junior high and beyond as it offers so many exciting possibilities throughout life, such as playing in a pit orchestra for a musical! Claire is a member of the Calgary Wind Symphony and Rocky Mountain Concert Band. She would like to thank Joanne, the other members of the orchestra and the cast, for making this such a fun experience! Enjoy the show!



DANIEL CHEN (VIOLIN) Enjoy the show!



#### DARREN PAWLIK (ORGAN / HARP SUB)

Darren is thrilled to be performing *Sweeney Todd* for a second time (and on a different instrument). He has been involved with community theatre and FRC for multiple decades now and is excited to be working with such an incredible orchestra, cast & crew. He would like to thank his family for their ongoing support and for picking up the slack every night he goes out to have fun making music!



#### DEANNA MANSON (STRING BASS)

This is Deanna's 12th show with FRC since moving to Calgary in 2017. What a gift it is to be part of such an amazing company - it truly fills my bucket! Deanna is the hugest of Broadway musical fanatics (ask her anything about musicals or NYC) and has been known to get on stage on occasion in addition to being in the pit. She and her wife April met whilst doing musical theatre in Yellowknife during a run of *Les Mis*. Deanna can also be found fiddling around at the Calgary Civic Symphony and by day is a proud military veteran and federal public servant.

# Meet The Band



#### 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, and plays with the Rocky Mountain Symphony. This will be her fifth show, previous ventures having included *Evita* and *Pirates of Penzance*. She is excited to be working with Joanne Sampson again, and looking forward to this crazy show.



#### ELAINE CHEUNG (REED 4 (BB CLARINET / BASS CLARINET))

This is Elaine's second show with FRC and second time playing *Sweeney Todd*. In the Calgary community, Elaine is a therapist who uses counselling as well as music and its qualities to affect change within a therapeutic relationship. Thanks for coming and hope you enjoy the show!



#### ELENA HARK (REED 2 (ENGLISH HORN / OBOE))

Elena moved to Calgary last summer, and this is her first show with FRC! She has been involved in community theatre since high school as an actor, and this is her second show as a musician. She heard about FRC through her husband, Braedan (who is in the cast!), so she would like to thank him for bringing her to this group.



ERIN BEACH (CELLO) Enjoy the show!



EVA AMBROSE (CELLO) Enjoy the show!



#### GARY MCPHEE (TROMBONE (SUB))

This will be Gary's sixth show with Front Row Centre and he really hopes you enjoy the show as much as he does.



#### GILLIAN NEWBURN (REED 1 (FLUTE / RECORDER / PICCOLO))

Gillian has a degree in flute performance from the University of Victoria, and has played most recently in the pit for *Something Rotten, Fiddler on the Roof, Beauty and the Beast,* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,* as well as served as the assistant music director for Into the Woods. Gillian studies privately with Lauren Eselson at the Mount Royal Conservatory, teaches private flute lessons at the Chinook School of Music, and is a member of the Calgary Wind Symphony.

Meet The Band



#### JOEL WARREN (TRUMPET)

Joel is one of Calgary's up and coming jazz and classical trumpeters. Native to Calgary, Joel has studied under trumpet greats Jim Murray, André Wickenhieser, and Adam Zinatelli. He is currently working towards completing a Bachelors in Music from Ambrose University. From playing in jazz combos across the city to being a winner of the 2025 Edwin Gnandt Concerto Competition, Joel has seen it all. This will be his second show with FRC (his first being *A Chorus Line* in 2024). Joel would like to thank his parents, sister, girlfriend, and instructors for their continued support in his musical endeavours.



#### JOHN PERSON (TROMBONE)

John has been playing trombone in Calgary for the past 25 years and is currently with the Southern Stardust and Westwinds Gold Jazz South Big Bands. John played previously with the Chinook and Foothills Concert Bands, and Ambrose Jazz Band. Sweeney Todd is John's third show with FRC, following *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Something Rotten*!



#### JP SALCEDO (PERCUSSION)

JP is excited to be back with the orchestra pit for his fourth production with Front Row Centre Players. Previously seen (or rather heard) in *The Addams Family* (2019), *Evita* (2019), and *Sweeney Todd* (2009), he's thrilled to make more noise with this talented team! A versatile and passionate percussionist who enjoys performing and collaborating with fellow musicians and artists, he's honoured to contribute to another vibrant and dynamic show!



#### KARI CALDERWOOD (HARP)

Enjoy the show!



#### KATARINA WOLLMANN (VIOLIN)

Katarina is a classically trained violinist with experience playing in groups of all skill levels and sizes. She currently plays with the Calgary Civic Symphony, and has performed with the Rocky Mountain Symphony and Symphony of the Kootenays in the recent past. She enjoys the collaboration and excitement of theatre, and always loves a good musical challenge!



#### KATHY MA (PERCUSSION SUB)

Enjoy the show!



#### KIMBERLY LINKERT (REED 3 (BB/EB CLARINET / FLUTE / PICCOLO))

Kimberly is excited to be playing for this production of *Sweeney Todd*, her third musical this season. Kimberly also performs with the Calgary Wind Symphony, Alberta Winds and the Southern Stardust Big Band. It has been a privilege to collaborate with the dedicated cast, crew and orchestra to bring this cutting-edge musical to life. Kimberly hopes you have a bloody good time!

Meet The Band



#### MAR JAMES (PERCUSSION)

Growing up in a musical family, Mar fell in love with musicals at a young age and played percussion in her first one (*Evita*) in high school for Centre Stage in Lethbridge. She was delighted to play in *Annie, Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Sweeney Todd*, and decided to join the cast for *Guys and Dolls*, all for Centre Stage. Mar is Principal Timpanist of the Red Deer Symphony, Juno award winning Rosa Barroca, and Altius Brass. For fun, she plays Bass Trombone in the Fox Big Band and freelances in Calgary.



#### MARK PAIDRA (TRUMPET)

Originally from Kingston, Ontario, Mark plays trumpet with the Calgary Wind Symphony and the Southern Stardust Big Band. This is his eighth show with FRC, which demonstrates either his love of musical theatre or his inability to say no. He is very excited to be performing this Sondheim classic, especially with such a talented orchestra and brilliant cast.



#### **MICHIEL KARSSEBOOM (TROMBONE)**

Mike started playing in musical theatre productions early in his life and has been passionate about the art ever since. He jumped at the opportunity to get involved with FRC when a substitute trombone was required during the preparation for *A Chorus Line*. Since then Mike has played in *Something Rotten* and currently in *Sweeney Todd*. Previously Mike has performed in *Mame, A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* and *Mack & Mabel*. Mike would like to thank his family for their understanding during the preparation and performance stages of the show.



#### NAOMI WILSON (VIOLA)

From my first violin lesson at the age of 6, I've been captivated by music! I've enjoyed teaching and playing in orchestras and worship teams for 30 years! Loving the lower strings rich sound, I've added Viola to my repertoire as well! Music is my life!







NEMO FAIRLIGHT (VIOLA) Enjoy the show!



NINA CEN (ORGAN / HARP SUB) Enjoy the show!





#### **ROBERT CALDERWOOD (FRENCH HORN)**

Enjoy the show!



#### ROBYN PHILLIPS (REED 5 (BASSOON))

Robyn has been playing bassoon for 23 years, and this is her 16th show with FRC. This show is particularly special for her, as her first show with FRC was *Sweeney Todd* in 2009! Outside of musicals, Robyn regularly plays with Alberta Winds, and the Ambrose Chamber Orchestra. She is extremely happy to be back in the pit band for this fantastic show with so many incredible people. Huge thanks to Mom, Gavin, and her Level-headed Beneficial Crew for their endless support in all her endeavours!



RON STREM (TROMBONE) Enjoy the show!



#### SIMON DAWKINS (FRENCH HORN)

Simon Dawkins studied horn performance at the UVic School of Music and Audio Engineering at dBs Music Berlin. After starting his career in music software, he transitioned to data science and has spent the last four years as an instructor at Lighthouse Labs. Simon remains deeply connected to music as an active copyist, transcriber, and arranger/orchestrator, specializing in pedagogical transcriptions of 90s Cuban music. When not teaching, he can occasionally be found in the orchestra pit, having recently played horn for productions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.



#### SONYA FREBOLD (VIOLIN)

Sonya Frebold has been playing professional violin for 20 years. She holds a violin performance degree at Western University and has played in many musicals. She's excited to be part of *Sweeney Todd*.



#### STEPHANIA LUCIUK (VIOLIN / VIOLA SUB)

Stephania has played violin/viola across Canada, including with the Regina, Ottawa and PEI Symphony Orchestras, Nova Sinfonia in Halifax, Symphony of the Kootenays in BC as well as Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra in Calgary along with other local ensembles. She loves Ukrainian folk music - performing with Ukrainian choirs/instrumental groups, arranging music and jamming with her family.



#### **STEVE LENZ (FRENCH HORN)**

Steve has played horn with Calgary's Centre Street Church Orchestra and New West Symphony & Chorus for over thirty years. He's worked on many artistic projects in Calgary & amp; NYC including *Pirates of Penzance; Follies; South Pacific,* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.* As an occupation, he is a Food Scientist with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. On weekends, you will find him on a trail hiking or skiing the majestic Rockies.





#### TERRI SHOULDICE (REED 1 (FLUTE / RECORDER / PICCOLO))

Terri is a 4th generation Calgarian and graduated from the University of Calgary with a BMusic. She has performed with many ensembles over the years including the Calgary Wind Symphony, the Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra, UofC Operetta, Morpheus Theatre, Civic Symphony, Alberta Winds as well as many chamber groups. Terri loves loves loves Musicals! Playing her flutes and piccolo in Pit Orchestras is a huge treat! She has performed some FRC gems: *Evita, Follies, A Chorus Line* and *Something Rotten* so is very excited for *Sweeney Todd*!



#### YOKO RUIGROK (REEDS 5 (BASSOON))

Yoko is originally from Tokyo, Japan, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in music. This is her first show, and she is very grateful for the opportunity to perform with FRC.





#### ANNE ROGGENSACK (MUSICAL DIRECTOR)

It was an absolute pleasure to tackle this legendary score with our incredibly talented cast, orchestra, and team for our awesome leader Lindsay. For FRC: Sondheim Tribute Revue (MD), Kinky Boots (MD), Mamma Mia! (Asst MD), MTI's All Together Nowl, The Boy From Oz (Asst MD), Evita, Chess. Anne is an experienced choral singer, most recently with Blend Vocal and the Calgary Phil Chorus. When not making music, Anne is a physician and U of C educator. She thanks her very supportive and understanding husband Doug and her twins M&J for their love and support. For my mom Muriel, who was not at all a fan of Mr. Sondheim, but would have cheered the loudest anyway.



#### CHEYENNE CRANSTON (STAGE MANAGER / FIGHT CAPTAIN)

Born and raised in Alberta, Cheyenne has recently returned to Calgary from Montreal and is so excited to get to stage manage her dream show, *Sweeney Todd*, as her first show in the city. In Montreal she worked with the Montreal Fringe Festival, Just For Laughs, and stage managed and produced many productions throughout the city. Some highlights include *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Spring Awakening*, and an original musical, *Kill For This Roll*. She would like to dedicate her work on this show to her grandmother, who was always her biggest theatrical cheerleader.



#### COLLEEN BISHOP (INTIMACY DIRECTOR)

Enjoy the show!



DANIELLE DESMARAIS (CHOREOGRAPHER (POOR THING)) Enjoy the show!





#### EMILY DE BOER (PROP DESIGN)

Emily has always had a knack for making things—sometimes beautiful, sometimes terrifyingly lifelike. For *Sweeney Todd*, she's leaned into the latter. Previously, she styled wigs and faces for *Kinky Boots*, produced *A Chorus Line* without losing (too much) sleep, and strutted the stage in *La Cage Aux Folles*. When she's not elbow-deep in glue, glitter, or fake blood, Emily enjoys dancing and crafting whatever oddities her imagination conjures up. She hopes you enjoy the show—and that you brought a mop.



IAN POND (FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER) Enjoy the show!



Enjoy the show!

INDERJIT DHANJAL (HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN)



#### JENN LANCIAULT (PRODUCER / PROPS ASSISTANT / PROGRAM DESIGN)

Jenn does far too much theatre to list here. She has credit of some sort in over 45 productions with FRC, and multiple others with companies across Calgary and in her native New Brunswick. She'd like to thank her husband, David, and daughters, Sutton and Iris, for being so supportive of what she loves to do the most.



JESS GOC-ONG (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) Enjoy the show!



#### JOANNE SAMPSON (ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR)

Joanne is a passionate musician who has played and conducted with FRC since 2004. After moving to Calgary, she quickly became active in the musical theatre scene and also performs with the New West Symphony & Chorus. She is honoured to lead this talented pit and cast, deeply grateful to her husband, pup, and team for their unwavering support.



#### KAT KELLNER (SOUND DESIGN / OPERATOR)

Kat Kellner was born to press buttons. Whether it be the knobs on a sound board, the valves on a French horn, or the Dr. Pepper selection on a vending machine, she's ready. Kat comes from a world of classical music and filmmaking, with experience as a composer, director, sound designer, screenwriter, and producer. This is Kat's second show with Front Row Centre, after working on *La Cage Aux Folles* this past January. Come back in September to hear more of Kat's sound design in FRC's *Rock of Ages*!





#### KATHRYN MCLAREN (LIGHTING DESIGN / SOUND OPERATOR)

Enjoy the show!



#### LINDSAY KURTZE (DIRECTOR / UNDERSTUDY - BEGGAR WOMAN)

A Calgary based performer, Lindsay has performed/directed and musically directed in over 30 productions in Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. Some of the shows with FRC include *Something Rotten, Follies, Mamma Mia, Grease, Jekyll & Hyde, Urinetown, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Lindsay holds a BA and BFA from the University of Calgary and a diploma in Musical Theatre from Grant MacEwan University. Lindsay would like to thank her family for supporting her while she plays on stage. Special thanks to Oscar for taking over the Mom Taxi duties!



#### MADISON HOSSACK (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER / FIGHT CAPTAIN)

Enjoy the show!



#### MINH BADAU (ASSISTANT PRODUCER)

Minh is so happy to be back with FRC, this time, for the first time, behind the scenes. Minh has been on stage for Calgary community theatre since 2016. Select credits include Gigi from *Miss Saigon* in SetList (UST), Tanya in *Mamma Mia!* (FRC), Cynthia in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (FRC), and Hua Mulan in *Disenchanted!* (CMT). Outside of theatre, Minh has been performing on stage since the age of 14. You can still catch her at casino showrooms and pubs around the city from time to time. Minh thanks her family for relentlessly supporting her in all these crazy endeavours that fill her heart outside of the corporate work life.



#### MOIRA TAYLOR (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

This is Moira's 3rd production with Front Row Centre. Starting with Props for *Carrie* and *A Chorus Line* and is excited to be invited to work as one of the Assistant Stage Managers (ASM) for *Sweeney Todd*. Moira was away from theatre for 30 years and has worked on 13 plays, with hair and make-up, props, lighting board operator, and ASM since returning to the Calgary Theatre scene 3 years ago. She is grateful for all the amazing learning and support and truly values each opportunity.



#### YVONNE USTICK (COSTUME DESIGN)

This is Yvonne's first show with FRC. She is so honored to be working with such a talented and inspirational group of artists. Previously she has worked with Morpheus Theatre, Misfit Theatre YYC and Jupiter Theatre, on these shows... *Guys and Dolls, Puss in Boots, Works of William Shakespeare Abridged, The Rocky Horror Show, The Peacock Season* and *Frankenstein*. Yvonne wants to thank her husband for his support and help. Welcome into our world on Fleet Street.

# Meet The Writers



#### **STEPHEN SONDHEIM (MUSIC AND LYRICS)**

STEPHEN SONDHEIM (1930-2021) 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 Forgs (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), Road Show (2008) and HERE WE ARE (2023), as well as the lyrics for West Side Story (1957), Gypsy (1959), Do I Hear A Waltz? (1965) and additional lyrics for Candide (1973). Side By Side By Sondheim (1976), Marry Me A Little (1981), You're Gonna Love Tomorrow (1983), Putting It Together (1993/99), Moving On (2001), Sondheim On Sondheim (2010) and Old Friends (2023) are anthologies of his work as composer and lyricist. For films, he composed the scores of "Stavisky" (1974), co-composed the score for "Reds" (1981), and wrote songs for "Dick Tracy" (1990). He wrote songs for the television production "Evening Primrose" (1966), co-authored the film "The Last of Shelia" (1973) and the Jarde (1996) and provided incidental music for the plays The Girls of Summer (1956), Invitation To A March (1961), Twigs (1971) and The Enclave (1973).

He won the Tony Award for Best Score for Company, Follies, A Little Night Music, Sweeney Todd, Into the Woods, and Passion, all of which won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, as did Pacific Overtures and Sunday In The Park With George, the latter also receiving the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (1985).

Stephen Sondheim was born and raised in New York City. He graduated from Williams College, winning the Hutchinson Prize for Music Composition, after which he studied theory and composition with Milton Babbitt. He served on the Council of the Dramatists Guild, the national association of playwrights, composers and lyricists, and served as its president from 1973 to 1981. In 1983 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in 1990 was appointed the first Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University. He was awarded the Kennedy Center Honors in 1993, the National Medal of Arts in 1996, the MacDowell Medal in 2013 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. 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 the Broadway theatre, formerly known as Henry Miller's Theatre was renamed in his honor, and in 2019 he became the first living artist to have a theatre named in his honor on Shaftesbury Avenue when the refurbished Queen's Theatre in London's West End was renamed the Sondheim Theatre to commemorate his 90th birthday, by Sir Cameron Mackintosh.



#### HUGH WHEELER (BOOK)

Hugh Wheeler was a novelist, playwright and screen writer. He wrote more than thirty mystery novels under the pseudonyms Q. Patrick and Patrick Quentin, and four of his novels were transformed into films: Black Widow, Man in the Net, The Green-Eyed Monster and The Man with Two Wives. For films he wrote the screenplays for Travels with My Aunt, Something for Everyone, A Little Night Music, and Nijinsky. His plays include Big Fish, Little Fish (1961), Look: We've Come Through (1961) and We Have Always Lived in the Castle (1966, adapted from the Shirley Jackson novel), he co-authored with Joseph Stein the book for a new production of the 1919 musical Irene (1973), wrote the books for A Little Night Music (1973), a new production of Candide (1973), Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street (1979, based on a version of the play by Christopher Bond), and Meet Me in St. Louis (adapted from the 1949 MGM musical), contributed additional material for the musical Pacific Overtures (1976), and wrote a new adaptation of the Kurt Weill opera Silverlake, which was directed by Harold Prince at the New York Opera. He received Tony and Drama Desk Awards for A Little Night Music, Candide and Sweeney Todd. Prior to his death in 1987 Mr. Wheeler was working on two new musicals, Bodo and Fu Manchu, and a new adaptation of The Merry Widow.



Front of House Managers Cathy Martin Joey Sayer

Ushers

Kathy Bauer Donna Bibeau Fran Bradley Deb Finkleman Carine Fossez Alan Hamaliuk Louise Hamilton Fabio Heredia-Casalins Ross Hodgson Grace Lu Deborah Mayko Shandra McQueen Catherine Miranda Shelley Moon Janice Morton Zoë Musselman Sharon Olsen Donna Pearson Ghaile Pocock Peggy Porisky Joshua R. Read Shaunessy Roettger Marnie Juel Shaw Jasmine Tse Cassy Warren Corinne Webb Angela Woodard

Ticket Takers Donna Barnfield Zoe Bechtold Nella Benacchio Daniella Benacchio George Bibeau Dennis Daly Ashley Douglas Amber Dujay Tim Elliott Trina Huff Dawnene Huff Clinton Hughes Andrea Katz Trudy Kinsman Kalpana Kumari Jessica Norgaard Lorraine O'Neill Kira Pearson Rohnen Peters Peggy Porisky Samantha Read Rowena Romero Susan Rubin Betty Taylor Cassy Warren Cam Warren Taryn Willow BOOK, MUSIC & LYRICS BY JONATHAN LARSON

### June 6-28 2025

Evening performances at 7:30pm and weekend matinees at 2:00pm

Beddington Theatre Arts Centre <sub>Calgary</sub>, AB

> RENT is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

The Honest

Collective

but today

Presented by









### Join us for our 2025-2026 Season!

*Save My Seat* pass renewals starting July 8<sup>th</sup> New *Save My Seat* passes on sale July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Individual Tickets on sale August 1st