

FRE HOT! PROUDLY PRESENTS

CABARET

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb Book by Joe Masteroff

Based on the play "I am a Camera" by John Van Druten

and the stories by Christopher Isherwood



September 13 - 22, 2001

IN HERE, LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL...

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In 1930, Christopher Isherwood began a prolonged stay in the German capital city of Berlin, during which time he made the acquaintance of several individuals who would form the basis of his "Berlin Stories", which in turn went through various metamorphoses to eventually emerge as the musical *Cabaret*.

Just as Isherwood's stories have experienced many changes, so too has the musical itself, in various different rewritten incarnations between 1966 and the present day. What hasn't changed is the power of the story and its basic thematic material.

In this production I have allowed myself to be informed by the original Isherwood stories. Where interpretation was needed, I looked to the original 1937 story *Sally Bowles* as a starting off point in developing my vision for the show.

For me, the hallmark of a successful dramatic production is in seeing a cast and production team take my original vision for the show and work with me to create something far greater than originally conceived. Theatre is the ultimate cooperative venture, with so many disparate elements striving towards a cohesive whole. The professionalism I have witnessed from the enormously talented team of creative people that is FRC Hot!'s *Cabaret* has produced the show you see here on the Victor Mitchell Stage.

And now... so many people to thank, so little room. I'd like to particularly mention Becky and Pasqualina who, in their rather unique capacities as co-Stage Managers and co-Producers, helped turn my sometimes pipe-dream and envelope-pushing concepts into reality and who helped keep me grounded as the yangs to my yin.

Scott has done tremendous work in adapting the music of *Cabaret* into a form workable for a production of our size and with the constraints under which we work as community theatre. Karen's wonderful, fun and sly choreography has helped bring the Kit Kat Klub to life. Frank, Jane and Paul have brilliantly provided the show's eye candy.

And I can't say enough about the wonderful cast that I've been fortunate enough to work with on this show. Sex and chocolate, everyone!!

The thematic material of *Cabaret* is far-reaching, and the audience as well are to be thanked for their indulgence: if there is one question I hope to begin addressing with this production, it is: "How could the Holocaust have been allowed to happen?" By putting the audience in the role of the average German citizen in pre-World War II Germany, hopefully this question can be partially answered.

It's been an incredible, exciting, thought-provoking excursion to 1930s Berlin. But for now, auf wiedersehen... à bientôt...

—Joey Sayer, Director.

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September 13 - 22, 2001

Victor Mitchell Theatre, Pumphouse Theatres

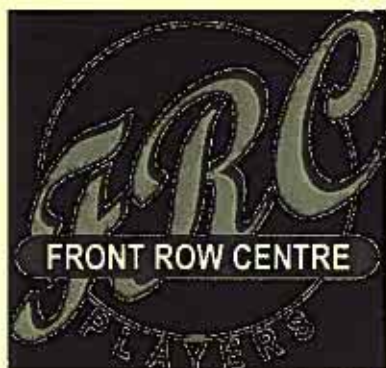
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HOT!

Front Row Centre Players Society, Calgary's premiere community musical theatre group, is a charitable organization dedicated to making musical theatre experiences available to as many people as possible — affording an outlet for creative expression on stage and behind the scenes. Our auditions are always open to the public, announced through Calgary's free media. Everyone associated with the company is a volunteer. Our only pre-requisite for participation is ENTHUSIASM!

Front Row Centre Players developed in the spring of 1987 from the St. Giles Presbyterian Church Choir, who presented a version of *Godspell*. Success created a desire to formalize the company and FRC was born. The first season included a fundraising show and a production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Since then, Calgary has been entertained by our numerous comedy review shows and major musicals, including *Chicago*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Sound of Music*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Music Man* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

Our mission statement: "We are a community-based theatre society providing opportunities for members of the community to develop skills in all aspects of musical theatre through presentation of quality, affordable, family-oriented performances."

In 2000, in order to perform different types of shows that do not fall under our mandate, *FRC Hot!* was created, with *The Rocky Horror Show* being our premiere production, with two successful runs. *Cabaret* continues this new tradition of "hot" theatre.

CABARET — MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

WILLKOMMEN.....	Emcee, Kit Kat Girls, Kit Kat Boys, Sally
SO WHAT.....	Fräulein Schneider
WILLKOMMEN (reprise).....	Emcee
DON'T TELL MAMA.....	Sally, Kit Kat Girls
MEIN HERR.....	Sally, Kit Kat Girls
PERFECTLY MARVELOUS.....	Sally, Cliff
TWO LADIES.....	Emcee, Lulu, Bobby
IT COULDN'T PLEASE ME MORE....	Fräulein Schneider, Herr Schultz
TOMORROW BELONGS TO ME.....	Child's Voice
WHY SHOULD I WAKE UP?.....	Cliff
SITTING PRETTY/	
MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND.....	Emcee, Kit Kat Girls, Hans, Victor
MARRIED.....	Herr Schultz, Fräulein Schneider, Chanteuse
TOMORROW BELONGS TO ME (reprise).....	Fräulein Kost, Ernst, Party Guests

ACT TWO

ENTR'ACTE.....	Emcee
MARRIED (reprise).....	Herr Schultz
IF YOU COULD SEE HER THROUGH MY EYES.....	Emcee, Gorilla
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?.....	Fräulein Schneider
I DON'T CARE MUCH.....	Emcee
CABARET	Sally
FINALE.....	Cliff, Emcee, Fräulein Schneider, Herr Schultz, Sally, Max, Ernst, Fräulein Kost, Kit Kat Girls, Kit Kat Boys

CABARET

BILL BAKSA - HERR SCHULTZ This is Bill's second production with FRC, having previously played "Erronius" in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Other recent productions include Maple Salsa's *The Blue Room*, and Storybook Theatre's *The Prince and the Pauper*. Hi, Mom! ♥

ROB BIEBER - HANS, SAILOR, PARTY GUEST, BODYGUARD Rob has studied acting, dance, voice & music at the U of A, and has been seen in such productions as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Diviners*, *Love According to John* and has mounted his own shows in Edmonton's Fringe Festival.

RYAN BOUCHER - HERMANN, SAILOR, PARTY GUEST, BODYGUARD Ryan is very excited to be part of FRC's *Cabaret*. Though he dismisses his numerous previous accomplishments as "nothing notable", he assures us that this will be an outstanding accomplishment in Calgary theatre and looks forward to many more.

ANN L. CAVANAUGH - ROSIE, PARTY GUEST Ann extends heartfelt thanks to Joey and Scott for the opportunity, to Karen for her perseverance, to Frank for his "accommodations" and to the rest of the cast & crew of *Cabaret* for giving their very best. She dedicates her performance to "Mo" and her guardian angels, and to Mary Jo who showed the way.

DOUG CHAMBERS - CLIFF BRADSHAW By day, a mild-mannered bookkeeper, Doug dedicates his performance to his 11-year-old son. Sorry, Jerrin. Maybe I'll let you see my next production.

DIANE LEBLANC - FRÄULEIN SCHNEIDER Diane has been acting for many years. This is her third appearance with FRC. Though acting is her main love, she has been producer, director, stage manager, costumer and properties. Diane can be found juggling time between theatre and Alberta Gold Chorus.

KATE LEINWEBER - TEXAS, PARTY GUEST Growing up on a southern plantation in sunny Georgia, Kate was more accustomed to debuts, ice cream socials and sipping mint juleps on the porch. She is very excited to be exploring boundaries here at the Kit Kat Klub.

BRENT LOWENBERG - MAX *Cabaret* marks Brent's return to the stage after a two-year hiatus following the birth of his son. Previous shows for Brent include *Sugar* and *The Music Man*.

ERIN MADILL - HELGA, PARTY GUEST Though this is my first time acting, I have played bass for other shows. I enjoy long walks on the beach, trotting horseback and uneven loads of laundry. I love being seen in *Cabaret*... I love being seen... Look at me, Godammit! LOOK AT ME!!!

Cast Biographies

CHRIS MUNROE - BOBBY, PARTY GUEST

Chris Munroe is astonished by the pool of talent assembled for *Cabaret* and is honoured to share a stage with them. Acting is the field he hopes to devote his life to, and he sincerely hopes that you've enjoyed the show. He certainly has.

TRINA NESTIBO - FRENCHIE, CHANTEUSE, PARTY GUEST

Trina is enchanted to be playing the role of "Frenchie". She is enjoying performing in her first Calgary musical so much that she fears that it might become a habit.

CAMERON PETERS - VICTOR, SAILOR, PARTY GUEST

Cameron's previous roles include "Jean Valjean", "Javert" and "Marius" during last week's performance of *Les Misérables* in his car. Outside of the theatre, Cameron passes himself off as a software developer.

ALLISON ROTH - SALLY BOWLES

Allison Roth is not Liza Minelli. She feels this not-being-Liza talent she's cultivated gives her performance of "Sally Bowles" an advantage over other, less not-Liza interpretations. You may have previously seen her use this amazing ability in FRC's *Sugar*.

CHRIS SIMMS - LULU, PARTY GUEST

Chris is very pleased to be in yet another FRC Hot! Show. You may all know her as the notorious skank, "Columbia", in *The Rocky Horror Show*. Watch as she blows your mind once more.

KRISTA VANDERNEUT - FRITZIE, PARTY GUEST, GORILLA

Krista is originally from Toronto and is thrilled to be part of *Cabaret*, her first show with FRC. Previously, Krista was a Young Canadian. Her Toronto theatre credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Music Man* and *Joseph* with Donny Osmond at the Hummingbird Centre. Krista looks forward to many more shows with FRC.

RYAN WAGNER - EMCEE

You may remember Ryan's stellar performance as "Nathan Detroit" in *Gyps and Dolls*. If you do, we're puzzled, as he has sadly never been in *Gyps and Dolls*. So, anyone who's casting *Gyps and Dolls*, you're welcome in Ryan's dressing room after the show.

CHRIS WILLOTT - ERNST LUDWIG

This is Chris's umpteenth show with FRC, and he's thrilled to be back. Look for him in the Calgary Opera Chorus or around the U of C, but do not approach. He is believed to be two-armed and dangerous.

MICHELE WOODWARD - FRÄULEIN KOST

Michele has recently undergone extensive field work in preparation for her role as Fräulein Kost. When she's not strutting her wares on stage, she can be found teaching movement classes to first-time dancers, or spending time with her nieces.

THE GERMANY OF CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD

A "CABARET" TIMELINE

- 1906** Christopher Isherwood, upon whose experiences *Cabaret* is based, is born.
- 1914 - 1918** World War I is waged, a war which left Germany with enormous debts to the victorious nations.
- 1919** Adolf Hitler joins the "German Workers Party". In 1920, the party, under Hitler, is reorganized as the "National Socialist German Workers' Party" or "Nazi Party".
- 1923** While 1/3 of employable Germans are out of work, inflation reaches ridiculous heights. Whereas in the summer of 1921 \$1.00 US was worth 4.20 marks, by November, 1923, the exchange rate stood at 4,200,000,000 marks.
- 1923 - 1924** After his failed "Beer Hall Putsch" revolution, Hitler is imprisoned. During this time he writes his propaganda-filled, antisemitic call to arms, *Mein Kampf*, published in 1925.
- 1929** Christopher Isherwood visits Berlin for the first time
- 1930 - 1933** Isherwood begins an extended stay in Berlin, during which time he will keep diaries that will become the basis for his two best-known works, *Mr. Norris Changes Trains* and *Goodbye to Berlin*.
- 1933** Hitler comes to power in Germany, as Chancellor of the German Reich.
- 1937** *Sally Bowles*, based on Isherwood's friend Jean Ross, is published in a small press edition.
- 1938** Anti-semitism in Germany reaches a boiling point, with "Kristallnacht", during which most synagogues are destroyed and many Jews murdered. Antisemitism will continue to grow under Hitler, until by the end of World War II, an estimated 6,000,000 Jews (along with enormous numbers of gypsies, homosexuals, trade unionists and others) will have been exterminated.
- 1939** Isherwood's *Goodbye to Berlin*, which includes the short novel *Sally Bowles*, is published, introducing the world at large to the characters upon whom *Cabaret* is based.
- 1939 - 1945** World War II is waged.
- 1951** *I am a Camera*, a play written by John Van Druten and based primarily on *Goodbye to Berlin* is produced on Broadway.
- 1966** *Cabaret*, a musicalized adaptation of *I am a Camera*, is first produced on Broadway.

WHO WAS WHO IN **CABARET**?



The source material for “**Sally Bowles**” was provided by **Jean Ross**, an Englishwoman who lived for a time in the same boarding house (run by **Meta Thureau** -- see below) as **Christopher Isherwood**. Her carefree ways inspired the best-loved of all Isherwood’s various characters, although he admits that, after being immortalized in print and portrayed on stage and screen by such actresses as **Julie Harris**, **Jill Haworth** and **Liza Minelli**, he could not recall much of how he met Jean Ross. By the time he wrote candidly and truthfully of his Berlin experiences in his 1975 autobiography *Christopher and His Kind*, his memories of the fictional “**Sally**” had overpowered those of Jean.

Isherwood remained friends with Jean Ross until her death in 1973. She was survived by her daughter, noted pipe-smoking mystery writer **Sarah Caldwell**.

“**Sally**”’s last name was borrowed from Isherwood’s friend, the musician and novelist **Paul Bowles**.

It is upon **Christopher William Bradshaw Isherwood**’s autobiographical works that *Cabaret* is based, and he himself was the model for “**Clifford Bradshaw**”. The character actually appeared with the “Isherwood” name in *Goodbye to Berlin* and the play *I am a Camera*, but the name was changed to “Bradshaw” for *Cabaret*, some say because Isherwood himself wanted to distinguish the very heterosexual “Cliff” character of the 1966 production from his own, openly gay self.

Christopher Isherwood was a noted writer, whose close friends included other notables such as **W. H. Auden** and **E. M. Forster**. In the early 1950s, Isherwood was involved in the pioneering gay rights organization, **One, Inc.** He met his lifelong partner, acclaimed artist **Don Bachardy** (then 18 years old; 29 years his junior!), in 1953.

Christopher Isherwood died in 1986.

(See the timeline on the opposite page for more information.)



Various other characters in *Cabaret* have been inspired by real people. Isherwood’s Berlin landlady when he lived on the **Nollendorfplatz** was **Meta Thureau**, who became “**Fräulein Schroeder**” in *Goodbye to Berlin*, and “**Fräulein Schneider**” in *I am a Camera* and *Cabaret*. Isherwood remained in touch with her after World War II, right into the 1950s.

“**Bobby**” was named for a bartender who also lived in **Meta Thureau**’s boarding house, and the personality of “**Victor**” was partially based on “**Otto Nowak**” (pictured above right; Isherwood never revealed his real name), with whom Isherwood had an affair during his stay in Germany. (According to *Christopher and His Kind*, it was actually **Otto** who shared his room while he lived on the **Nollendorfplatz**, not “**Sally**”!)



CABARET

JOEY SAYER - DIRECTOR

Joey Sayer has previously appeared in FRC Hot's production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, as well as with the Terry Shane Murder Mysteries. He has directed various different shows in Calgary, including *Torch Song Trilogy*, *The International Stud* and *WEX*.

REBECCA DUMOULIN - CO-STAGE MANAGER/CO-PRODUCER

Trying to ensure certain people keep their clothes on can be tiring, especially when there are many sailors involved! Becky keeps everyone in line and things running smoothly for this show. The cast certainly appreciates her talents in this area.

PASQUALINA IAPAOLLO - CO-STAGE MANAGER/CO-PRODUCER

Pasqualina has been involved in the technical side of community theatre with FRC for five years. This is her first and last time as co- (or any other kind of) producer. She helps Becky keep everyone in line, and things running smoothly.

SCOTT PICKETT - MUSIC DIRECTOR

Voi, che per gli occhi miei passaste al core / E svegliaste la mente che dormia, / Guardate a l'angosciosa vita mia, / Che sospirando la distrugge Amore... Brilliant cast. Wise Director. Truly, a great privilege...

KAREN IWANSKI - CHOREOGRAPHER

Karen has had several years of dance training and experience, with a background performing in musical theatre, including such productions as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *West Side Story* and *Applause*. In her spare time, she teaches ballet, tap and jazz with her company, West Side Dance.

COSTUMES - FRANK MACLEOD

Frank MacLeod has been dressing actors for years. This is his second production with FRC, the first being *The Rocky Horror Show*. Both shows have proved to be challenging yet fulfilling. In future, Frank would like to take a long rest and do a show that's **EASY!**

PROPS AND SETS - JANE WINTON

LIGHTING DESIGN - PAUL HILTON

MAKEUP DESIGN - JERRY RENOUF

REHEARSAL PIANIST - JULIA SUNAY

Julia is thrilled to be playing piano in *Cabaret*. Aside from her junior year in High School, she works part-time as an accompanist and is working diligently towards her ARCT for piano. Julia dances with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks and teaches piano. She would like to thank her family for all their support. (Thanks, Mom! ♥)

Production & Crew

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER - Tim Elliott

FRONT OF HOUSE VOLUNTEERS - Mike Baxter, Shary Cooper, Lynda Elliott, Sean Elliott, Shannon Elliott, Anita Hades, Val Hedges, Lisa Knechtal, Jessica Legacy, Pam Ostick, Sylvia Schmidt, Evelyn Wall

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION - Linda Clark, Olga Coronado, Shelley Dickson, Joan Duerholt, Maxine Leinweber, Frank MacLeod, Lisa Madill, Mayhem, Leslie Diane Montgomery, Raymond Ouellet, Dianne Saunders, Rudy Yagos

PHOTOGRAPHY - Ken Meisner

LIGHT AND SOUND OPERATORS - Becky Dumoulin, Pasqualina Iapaolo

RUNNING CREW - Dennis Daly, David Young

AUDITION ACCOMPANIST - Judy Dunsmuir

DANCE REHEARSAL ASSISTANT - Chris Simms

PUBLICIST - Ann L. Cavanaugh

ASSOCIATE PUBLICIST - Sue Platts

KIT KAT KLUB ORCHESTRA

B-FLAT CLARINET - Robyn Richardson

DRUMS - Dave Ramsey

PIANO - Julie Sunay

TROMBONES - Mark Leigh, Brett Madill

SOUND CONSULTANTS: Master William Hardie, Mike Markiw

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Pat Dumoulin, Dave Leblanc, Mike Shewchuk, Amber Meyer, FRC Artistic Director Kevin Currie, Brian Schmidt (Baldwin Piano and Organ), Cory Yanciw, Brian Thomas, Heritage Antique Mall, Western Keyboard, Betty Wall, Lake Bonavista Players, Kinko's, Digital Jungle, Cappuccino Singers, the Staff of the Pumphouse Theatres and anyone else we may have accidentally forgot to include...

CHOREOGRAPHY
in memory of my dad,

RICK IWANSKI

1934 - 2001

Thanks for the chance to dance.
-- Karen.

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lifts and dips and
unexpected turns...**

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*-- Susan Strohman
2000 Tony Awards*

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FRC HOT! SHOWS

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
CABARET

YOU TOO CAN BE PART OF FRC'S GROWING FUTURE!

Whether you are an aspiring thespian, an accountant who wants to do the books, a handyperson who can construct sets or just someone with an itch to help others in a creative way, but hasn't found the right niche, we openly invite you into our fold. FRC is also in the process of developing a mentoring program for interested persons to gain practical experience working on the production end of a show, including such areas as directing, stage managing and producing. For more information, call our pager at 234-2611 and leave a message, or email us at frontrow@frontrowcentre.ca and someone will get back to you.

MEMBERSHIP

You can have even more fun by becoming a member of the **Front Row Centre Players Society**. Membership is a steal of a deal at only \$10.00 per person, with voting privileges for those 16 years of age and older. For this reasonable price you also get our quarterly *Spotlight Newsletter* filled with tidbits about our activities and the local community theatre scene, and an FRC lapel pin.

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