

FRC HOT! Proudly Presents:

COMPANY

A MUSICAL COMEDY

Music and Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim
Book: George Furth



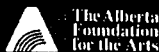
Nov. 5-15, 2003

Wed, Thurs, Fri & Saturday Shows

Director/ Music Director: Brian Holiday
Choreography: Kim Clarkson
Producer: Randall O'Connor
Victor Mitchell Theatre
2140 Pumhouse Ave SW

\$15 Adults, \$12 Seniors/ Students
Doors open 7:00 PM Curtain call 7:30 PM
For tickets call: 263-0079

Produced in special arrangement with
Music Theatre International



Alberta



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pumhouse
theater 1013

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2140 Pumhouse Ave SW
S1A 2S4, AB, CA

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

WARNING: THIS SHOW CONTAINS NO PLOT! That's probably what makes me love it so much. And what makes it so challenging to stage. Fragments of life are presented with no particular sequential order or logic as the characters examine marriage and commitment from every angle. The themes and observations are more important than the story itself.

When FRC's Artistic Director, Joey Sayer, first asked me to consider directing this wonderful Stephen Sondheim/George Furth musical, I had barely heard of it and knew nothing of its complexity, depth, and brilliance. I was certainly familiar with some of the incredible songs of Stephen Sondheim thanks to Barbara Streisand's Broadway albums, and the DVD recording of Sondheim's "Into The Woods" is one of my favourites. I also knew him to be the brilliant lyricist for "West Side Story" and "Gypsy."

Once I read the script and viewed the tape of the 1996 London version, I was hooked. The Cast recording of the 1996 Broadway Revival has rarely left my CD player and I read numerous books on Sondheim and the making of the show. It quickly became apparent to me that the themes and messages of this show, which was originally produced in 1970, are still relevant today, and so I set the action in the present day.

I knew immediately that the difficulty of the music would require extraordinary performers, so I called upon some tried and true theatre friends to come out for auditions last June. I was also blessed with some incredible (unknown to me) talent to round out our Company, including our fantastic pianist.

It has been an incredible journey, at times frustrating and challenging, but always rewarding. I believe everyone has had their talents stretched in some way and has become better at this craft of ours.

My heartfelt thanks to this great cast for their hard work and commitment: to Kim for her wonderful choreography and advice on song staging, to Greg for putting together the voice-overs and sounds, and to Steve Olson for staging the karate bits.

Thanks to Pasqualina and Angie for keeping the show clicking, to Vickie, Dave, and Erin for giving us such great sound to lay our vocals on, to Bill, Paul, and Ginny for buying into my vision and doing what they do so incredibly well.

And thanks to all of our significant others, whose commitment allows us the time to pursue this crazy hobby of ours, of Being Alive on and around the stage.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

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

You, too, can be part of FRC's growing future. Whether you are an aspiring thespian, a handyperson who can construct sets, or someone who has an itch to help others in a volunteer capacity, we openly invite you to contact us! For more information, call the FRC Office at 246-8505 and leave us a message or E-mail us at info@frontrowcentre.ca and someone will get back to you ASAP.

ABOUT "COMPANY"

Company, the landmark show about marriage, has music and lyrics written by Stephen Sondheim and book by George Furth. Setting new standards of sophistication and depth for the American musical, *Company* won the Tony Award for Best Book, Best Music, best Lyrics, as well as the prize for Best Musical. In creating the show, the authors, joined by director Harold Prince and choreographer Michael Bennett, crafted a concept musical in which the style of presentation was vital to the meaning of the show as the story itself.

Company tells the story of a marriage-avoiding thirty-five year old bachelor named Robert and is theatrical collage of his experiences with his married friends and with three women he is dating. A portrait of Robert's empty existence takes shape in a framework of fragmented time. The brilliant Stephen Sondheim songs define Robert's world, functioning as commentaries on the characters and the situations.

Vignettes about each of the couples examine the difficulty of sustaining meaningful emotional relationships in the complex world of contemporary urban America. The couples, which are all acquainted, observe each other's lives, and they wryly comment on each other, much in the manner of a Greek chorus. They form a community connected by the challenge of seeking love and commitment in a landscape where there is little permanence. Robert finally concludes, in spite of the imperfections of each the unions he sees, that life without a significant other is untenable.

As unconventional, complex and challenging work critics described *Company* as "simply in a league by itself," and "the season's best and most refreshingly original musical." Untraditional, inventive and groundbreaking, *Company* proved to be a major turning point in the evolution of the American musical.

THE CAST

ROBERT	<i>Dan Hall</i>
SARAH	<i>Judy Dunsmuir</i>
HARRY, Sarah's husband	<i>George Smith</i>
SUSAN	<i>Jenn Croteau</i>
PETER, Susan's husband	<i>Mike Johnson</i>
JENNY	<i>Christine Horne</i>
DAVID, Jenny's husband	<i>Ross Hodgson</i>
AMY*	<i>Kim Clarkson</i>
PAUL, Amy's fiancé	<i>JP Thibodeau</i>
JOANNE	<i>Terry Wood</i>
LARRY, Joanne's husband	<i>Greg Spielman</i>
MARTA, a girlfriend of Robert	<i>Allison Roth</i>
KATHY, a girlfriend of Robert	<i>Trina Nestibo</i>
APRIL, a girlfriend of Robert	<i>Heather Veres</i>

**Courtesy of Canadian Actor's Equity*

PRODUCTION CREW

Director	<i>Brian Holiday</i>
Producer	<i>Randall O'Connor</i>
Stage Manager	<i>Pasqualina Iapaolo</i>
Apprentice Stage Manager	<i>Angie Yzerman</i>
Choreographer	<i>Kim Clarkson</i>
Props	<i>Ginny Robblee</i>
Light Design	<i>Paul Hilton & Crew</i>
Set Construction	<i>Bill Brown – "Sets & Stuff"</i>
Lighting Operator	<i>Brandon Yzerman</i>
Pianist	<i>Vicky Chow</i>
Percussion	<i>Dave Ramsay</i>
Bass	<i>Erin Madill</i>
Box Office Manager	<i>Caren Archer</i>

SONG LIST

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

- #1 *Overture*
- #2 *Company*

SCENE 2

- #3 *The Little Things You Do Together*
- #4 *Sorry-Grateful*

SCENE 3

- #5 *You Could Drive A Person Crazy*
- #6 *Have I Got A Girl For You*
- #7 *Someone Is Waiting*

SCENE 4

- #8 *Another Hundred People*

SCENE 5

- #9 *Getting Married Today*
- #10 *Marry Me A Little*

- #11 *Entr'acte*

15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

SONG LIST

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

#12 *Side By Side By Side*

SCENE 2

#13 *Poor Baby*

#14 *Barcelona*

SCENE 3

#15 *Night Club*

SCENE 4

#16 *The Ladies Who Lunch*

#17 *Being Alive*

SCENE 5

#18 *After Being Alive*

#19 *Finale Ultimo*

#20 *Bows*

#21 *Exit Music*

CAST BIOS

Brian Holiday *This is Brian's third show as a Director for FRC and fourth overall! He has done strictly music direction for two other shows, including "Annie Get Your Gun" – which is currently in rehearsals for Bonavista Players. Brian has performed in numerous musicals and is looking forward to being in Calgary Opera's upcoming production of "Sweeney Todd" (also by Stephen Sondheim) in Feb. 2004.*

Allison Roth (or you may know her by her title, "The Singing Computer Scientist") *Allison has been performing in musical theatre for 13 years! Calgary audiences may have seen her work in FRC's "Cabaret" and "Gypsy." And Storybook Theatre's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat."*

Mike Johnson *"Company" will be Mike's 4th musical. He has performed in three Gilbert & Sullivan productions. He was Richard Dauntless, a sailor with a roving eye for the ladies in "Ruddigore," a pirate in "The Pirates of Penzance," and the laughable and lovable Duke of Plaza Toro in "The Gondoliers."*

Greg Spielman *Thank you to a great cast and crew for another glorious opportunity to be on the stage! This is such a fun hobby that I don't know why more people don't take advantage of the opportunity to perform on the stage. Next stop for Greg is the upcoming FRC production "Jesus Christ Superstar" in January 2004. I hope you catch that one!*

Ross Hodgson *Ross is delighted to be working with FRC for the first time. His last performance was with The Alberta Ballet in "Romeo and Juliet." In the midst of it all, he*

has been busy teaching and directing at Central Memorial High School of Performing and Visual Arts. A huge thanks goes out to Clinton and Bo for making this experience possible. Go "Company"!

Daniel L. Hall Dan has been a director, actor, and singer for many years. He is a member of the interactive murder mystery company, Shadow Productions and is the administrative director of Arts Trek. He is happy to be side by side with this group of talented actors!

Terry Wood Terry has been involved with FRC for over ten years in many capacities, including acting, directing, and behind the scenes. She is looking forward to performing in this production of "Company."

Heather Veres This is Heather's debut performance in musical theatre! She would like to thank everyone in the cast for all their guidance and support, especially Brian Holiday because she can drive a person crazy. In a special way, she would like to thank all of her friends and family for their love and encouragement.

Judy Dunsmuir Judy loves "Company"! She has been involved with various community theatre groups in Calgary for a couple decades and has treasured the friendships made through the years. She hopes you enjoy our visit into the world of Sondheim (and Robert, Angel!).

Christine Horne Christine is delighted to finally be singing Sondheim! "Company" marks her eighth show and her second with FRC. It has been a pleasure to work with Brian Holiday and this amazing cast and crew. "Life is Company; Love is Company."

Jennifer Croteau Jennifer has been doing mainly interactive theatre for over a decade, both in Regina and in Calgary. Recently, she has been seen in “Tony ‘n Tina’s Wedding” and numerous murder mysteries. She is thrilled to be back behind that forth wall and to be among such fabulous and talented “Company”!

Trina Nestibo Trina (a.k.a. Kathy) is delighted to be taking part in her second show with FRC Hot! and equally delighted that her role involves limited amounts of choreography! Trina has been on local stages as Frenchie in “Cabaret” and singing in various acoustic music venues around town.

Kim Clarkson Kim has been performing professionally for 20 years for various touring theatre & dance companies. She loves working for FRC and has been in and choreographed many of their productions. Kim is thrilled to be performing in “Company” and wishes to thank her family for all their love and support. Thanks for the faith Brian!

JP Thibodeau This is JP’s first production with FRC; in fact, it is his first production in Calgary. JP moved from southern Ontario last year with the “Oh Canada Eh?” dinner show in Canmore. His commutes have been great, especially with the “light” snow we’ve been having, but – in the end – it is the people who have made the experience worthwhile.

George Smith George has enjoyed directing, acting, and singing in Calgary for several years. Recent credits include Nicely Nicely in “Guys and Dolls” and Henry Higgins in “My Fair Lady.” He made his directorial debut with “Run For Your Wife.” Thanks to the cast, crew, and especially Greg!

FRONT ROW CENTRE PLAYERS SOCIETY
WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

Lighting Crew

Paul Hilton
Ron Martin
John Miller
Brad Casey
Samantha Hindle
Brandon Yzerman

Move In Crew

Brian Holiday
Mark Holbrook
Randall O'Connor
Ginny Robblee
Peter Walton
Angie Yzerman

Swans (Inglewood)
Caress Fine Lingerie

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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. For this reasonable price you can get membership voting status (for those 16 years of age and older), receive our quarterly *Spotlight Newsletter* filled with tidbits of information about our activities and the local community theatre scene, and an FRC lapel pin. Simply complete the form on the back of the programme and send it along with a cheque or money order payable to "Front Row Centre Players Society".

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Phone: (Home) _____ (Bus.) _____

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