

April 9 - May 12, 2019

theatre:
CALGARY



The Theatre Calgary Production of

Billy Elliot The Musical

Book and lyrics by
Lee Hall

Music by
Elton John

Originally directed
by Stephen Daldry

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Dreams live within us, and those dreams need to be discovered, nurtured, and acted upon. Billy Elliot is a young boy from Northern England who has such dreams, and it is the discovery of one specific dream that is the basis of the story you're about to see. Can you believe that we have traversed through a season of new beginnings, and that it's all coming to a close with *Billy Elliot The Musical*?



I have learned so much in my first season here at Theatre Calgary, and am forever grateful for your continued feedback, support, and passion for the theatre. Each show this past season has seen a plethora of dreams come to fruition: playwright Tara Beagan got to see her highly personal work, *Honour Beat*, on Theatre Calgary's main stage directed by Gemini award-winning artist, Michelle Thrush. After five years of development, creators Bobby Cronin and Crystal Skillman saw the fruits of their labours in the World Premiere of *Mary and Max – A New Musical*. Rick Miller brought the sequel to *Boom* to the stage where it all began with *Boom X*. Plus, a talented group of actors got the opportunity to work with the incomparable director Micheline Chevrier in seven dream roles in an unconventional adaptation of *The Scarlet Letter*.

Every person connected to Theatre Calgary - backstage, onstage, in the design shops, in the administrative office, on our Board, and most importantly you, the audience – has helped make a number of people's dreams come true this season. In 2019-2020, even more dreams will be weaved, and I look forward to us celebrating them together.

Stafford Arima

Artistic Director

Theatre Calgary gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the City of Calgary through Calgary Arts Development, the Government of Alberta through The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Government of Canada through the Canada Council, Canadian Heritage, and all corporate and private contributors.

Theatre Calgary is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres, and operates within the jurisdiction of The Canadian Theatre Agreement. Theatre Calgary employs technicians under a collective agreement with the I.A.T.S.E.



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Canada

Theatre Calgary is a resident company of Arts Commons, operating out of Arts Commons Max Bell Theatre.



At Theatre Calgary we strive to create a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for diverse communities.

To formally open our productions, Theatre Calgary will pay tribute and recognize the Indigenous people of the Treaty 7 region as the past, present and future stewards of this land where our performance takes place.

In response to the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, the act of giving territorial or land acknowledgement has now become best practice across Canada. In our efforts to embrace the language and spirit of reconciliation, we recognize that our practice will evolve as Theatre Calgary strengthens our relationships within local Indigenous communities and with artists. Theatre Calgary is committed to maintaining regular engagement with Indigenous and community leaders for consultation on best practices.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Welcome to Theatre Calgary.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that this performance is taking place on Treaty 7, signed at Blackfoot Crossing in 1877. We are on the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7 including the three Blackfoot Nations: consisting of the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai Nations; the Stoney Nakoda Nations: consisting of the Bearspaw, Wesley and Chiniki Nations; and the Tsuu T'ina Nation. The city of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to present in this territory.

Max Bell Theatre at Arts Commons – April 9 to May 12, 2019

The Theatre Calgary production of

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL

Book and Lyrics by

Lee Hall

Music by

Elton John

Originally directed by

Stephen Daldry

Orchestrations by

Martin Koch

Executive Producers (original production)

Angela Morrison

David Furnish

Producers (original production)

Tim Bevan

Eric Fellner

Jon Finn

Sally Greene

Originally presented in London by

Universal Pictures Stage Productions, Working title Films and Old Vic Productions
in association with **Tiger Aspect**

Based on the Universal Pictures/Studio Canal Film

Director

Stafford Arima

Choreographer

Yukichi Hattori

Music Director

Don Horsburgh

Set and Projection Design

Scott Reid

Costume Design

Cory Sincennes

Lighting Design

Alan Brodie

Sound Design

Joshua D. Reid

Associate Music Director

Mark Limacher

Associate Choreographer

Brock Jellison

Voice and Dialect Coach

Jane MacFarlane

Acting Coach – Billy

Braden Griffiths

Fight Director

Karl H. Sine

Dance Captain

Amber Bissonnette

Fight Captain

Kevin Corey

—

TC Mentors program:

Voice and Dialect

Alexa Elser

Direction

Julie Tomaino

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.MTIShows.com

interACTIVE

Enhance Your Experience

TALK THEATRE THURSDAY

APRIL 11 – in the Upper Lobby
Costume Designer
CORY SINCENNES

APRIL 18 – in the Upper Lobby
Set and Projections Designer
SCOTT REID

Get an insider's perspective on the process of making theatre. Meet an artist from the production's creative team before the show, in conversation with a member of Theatre Calgary's artistic staff.

TALKBACK TUESDAY

APRIL 16, APRIL 23, APRIL 30,
MAY 7 – in our Theatre

Join us for a lively post-show discussion with members of the cast.

SPOTLIGHT SATURDAY

APRIL 20 – in the Upper Lobby
Choreographer
YUKICHI HATTORI

Join us pre-show to hear about the importance of dance and movement in expressing yourself.

SENIOR SATURDAY

APRIL 27 – in the Upper Lobby
Actor CAITLYNNE MEDREK

Before the performance begins, Senior Saturday patrons are invited to enjoy some snacks followed by an engaging chat with a theatre professional or relevant expert, providing insight into the performance.

EDUCATOR'S CIRCLE

Are you an educator? Do you love theatre and need a break from marking or planning? Join our Educator's Circle. Benefits include: Tickets to all five mainstage shows, ability to exchange tickets to another date, and purchase additional tickets at 20% off*. Visit www.theatrecalgary.com to register today!

*some conditions apply

GO BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Go beyond being an audience member and see what else we have to explore. Theatre Calgary offers a number of additional theatrical experiences such as Workshops, Panel Discussions, Industry Nights, and Play Guides.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We are always looking for ways to engage with all citizens of the City of Calgary and surrounding area. If you have a community event, project or initiative that you think Theatre Calgary could partner with, contact us to start the discussion today!

GET ONLINE

Find further details about our programming at www.theatrecalgary.com
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram:

@theatrecalgary
#tcInteract
#tcMaryandMax



For all of these programs,
and any other learning or
community engagement
inquiries,
please contact:

Chris Stockton
Senior Manager of
Education & Outreach
(403) 294-7440 ext. 1122
cstockton@theatrecalgary.com

The Cast

Miner's Wife, Ensemble	Amber Bissonnette
George, Ensemble	Kevin Corey
Debbie/Ballet Girl	Jaya Del Greco
Billy Elliot	Dex Drewitz
Jackie Elliot	Dennis Robert Dubbin
Michael Coffrey	Marc-Émile Fallu
Clipboard Lady, Ensemble	Jillian Hannah
Grandma	Kathryn Kerbes
Posh Boy, Ensemble	Fionn Laird
Older Billy, Ensemble	Ryan Maschke
Mrs. Wilkinson	Caitlynn Medrek
Mr. Braithwaite (understudy)	Glen Mills
Lesley, Ensemble	Katelyn Morishita
Miner, Ensemble	Steven Morton
Angela, Ballet Girl	Robyn Neumann
Posh Dad, Ensemble	Scott Olynek
Dead Mum, Ensemble	Michelle Rawlings
Mr. Braithwaite, Ensemble	Joel Schaefer
Tony Elliot	Alex Smith
Tracey, Ballet Girl	Julianne Smith
Big Davey, Ensemble	Connor Suart
Billy Elliot	Rhett Udsen
Julie, Ballet Girl	Kelsey Woodard
Keeley, Ballet Girl	Nicole Woodard
Susan, Ballet Girl	Siena Yee

Setting

1984-85, Easington, North East England.

Stage Manager	Jennifer Swan
Assistant Stage Manager	Patti Neice
Assistant Stage Manager	Carissa Sams
Apprentice Stage Manager	Nicole Olson Grant-Suttie

Head of Lighting	Catharine Crumb
Head of Sound	Bronwyn Bowlby
RF Technician	Chris Jacko
Head Stage Carpenter	Scott Morris
Head Dresser	Rachel Michelle Sheridan
Video	Marc Lavallee
Stage Hands	Andrew Kerr, Eric Hindley
Follow Spot Operator	Mike Booth
Dressers	Mollie Eliza Robertson, Carley Powell
Young Company Chaperone	Alix Edwards

Cameras and audio/visual recording devices are not permitted in the theatre.
Video and audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

We ask that you please refrain from using your cell phone, in any capacity, during the performance.

Billy Elliot The Musical has one 20-minute intermission.



PRINCE'S ISLAND PARK
JUN 27 - AUG 18, 2019
SHAKESPEARE BY THE BOW

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

BY **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

ADAPTED BY **TED DYKSTRA AND JENNA TURK**

DIRECTED BY **TED DYKSTRA**

Designer Rebecca Toon | Composer Ted Dykstra

This summer, come together with the Calgary community to celebrate and support Alberta's emerging artists in a gorgeous natural setting. One of Shakespeare's most popular works, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* follows four young lovers and a group of six amateur actors through the forest as they are influenced and manipulated by a band of forest-dwelling fairies. Join us in Prince's Island Park for this thrilling chase of love, identity, and passion.

ADMISSION IS PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL

FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE PERFORMANCE INFORMATION:

THEATRECALGARY.COM

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t @SHAKESBOW

@THEATRECALGARY

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT



PHOTO BY TRUDIE LEE

Billy Elliot The Musical

Musical Numbers

ACT 1

Overture	MINERS
The Stars Look Down	COMPANY
Shine	MRS. WILKINSON, BALLET GIRLS
Grandma's Song	GRANDMA
Solidarity	MRS. WILKINSON, MINERS, BALLET GIRLS, POLICE, ENSEMBLE
Expressing Yourself	MICHAEL, BILLY, ENSEMBLE
The Letter	MRS. WILKINSON, BILLY, DEAD MUM
We Were Born to Boogie	MRS. WILKINSON, BILLY, MR. BRAITHWAITE
Angry Dance	BILLY

ACT 2

Merry Christmas, Maggie Thatcher	GEORGE, BALLET GIRLS, MINERS, ENSEMBLE
Deep Into the Ground	JACKIE, BILLY, ENSEMBLE
He Could Be a Star	JACKIE, TONY, BIG DAVEY, ENSEMBLE
Electricity	BILLY
Once We Were Kings	COMPANY
The Letter (Reprise)	BILLY, DEAD MUM
Finale	COMPANY

MUSICIANS

Music Director & Keyboard 1	Don Horsburgh
Associate Music Director, Keyboard 2	Mark Limacher
Reed 1 (Alto Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute, Piccolo)	Jeremy Brown
Reed 2 (Alto Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute)	Richard Harding
Reed 3 (Clarinet, Soprano Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone)	Cedric Blary
Trumpet 1 (Cornet, Flugelhorn, Trumpet)	Jim Murray
Trumpet 2 (Cornet, Flugelhorn, Trumpet)	Leanne Paisley
Horn	Douglas Umana
Euphonium, Trombone	Dave Reid
Guitars, Banjo	Neil McVey
Bass	Jeremy Coates
Drums	Jeff Fafard
Orchestra Contractor	Dave Reid
Subs: Reed 1	Gerry Hebert
Reed 2	Mike Gardner
Reed 3	Barbara Hume
Horn	Boris Bonchev
Euphonium, Trombone	Alden Lowrey
Keyboard 2	Willy Joosen

THIS SUMMER, WE'RE HEADED TO CALGARY!



CALGARY

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**Amber
Bissonnette**



Kevin Corey



Jaya Del Greco

Amber Bissonnette — Miner's Wife, Ensemble, Dance Captain

Theatre Calgary debut. Performance Faves: *Legally Blonde*, *Rock of Ages*, *80's Solid Gold I and II* (Stage West); *Hair*, *Hairspray*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Mayfield); *The Scent of Compulsion*, *The Euphorians* (Teatro la Quindicina), *Mack and Mabel* (Plain Janes); *Featuring Loretta*, *End of Civilization* (Punctuate!); *The Leisure Society* (Theatre Network); *Boy's Own Jedi Handbook*, *Evil Dead* (H&M/GZT); *Company* (StoryBook). Choreography Faves: [title of show] (Birnton Theatricals); *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid* (Zurich International School); *Rent*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Citadel/Robbins Academy); *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Evil Dead* (H&M/GZT); *Little Red Riding Hood* (StoryBook); *The Toxic Avenger* (Broadway West); *Putting it Together*, *Andrews Brothers*, *Life Could be a Dream* (Cornerstone); Seasons 4 & 5 of *Caution: May Contain Nuts* (Mosaic Entertainment). Amber is grateful to share her first Theatre Calgary show with her husband, Jeff Fafard, who is the heartbeat of the *Billy Elliot* orchestra and the heartbeat of her life.

Kevin Corey — George, Ensemble, Fight Captain

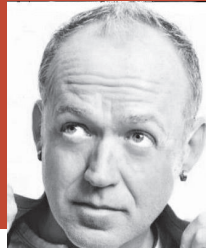
For Theatre Calgary: *The Crucible*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*. Elsewhere: *Zorro*; *Family Code, Glory* [Betty Mitchell Award for ensemble], *Charlotte's Web*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Tyland* (ATP); *Deathtrap*, *The Hollow*, *Dial M for Murder*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *The Ends of the Earth*, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (Vertigo); *Old Nick*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Caravan Farm Theatre); *A Christmas Carol*, *Julius Caesar*, *Hamlet*, *A Few Good Men* (Citadel). Kevin has also won Betty Mitchell Awards for his roles in *One Man, Two Guvnors* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He would like to thank Vanessa, Kaiya and Brenny for all their support.

Jaya Del Greco — Debbie, Ballet Girl

Theatre Calgary debut. Jaya was born in Toronto and moved to Calgary in 2017. She is very excited about her first appearance with Theatre Calgary. Jaya has been dancing competitively for the past four years and has a keen interest in the arts. When not at her dance classes, Jaya likes to draw, sing, and spend time with her dog, friends, and family. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Dex Drewitz



**Dennis Robert
Dubbin**



Marc-Émile Fallu

Dex Drewitz — Billy Elliot

For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2016). Elsewhere: *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Cinderella Kids* as well as junior productions of *Peter Pan* and *Singin' in the Rain*. Having previously played Tiny Tim at Theatre Calgary, Dex is honoured and excited for the opportunity to play Billy alongside this amazing cast! He is in Grade five at École Percy Pegler, Okotoks, and is proud to play for the Atom AA Green in the Okotoks Minor Hockey League. He has received his dance training at Drewitz Dance Productions and has achieved the title of 'Mini Overall Dancer' at competition for the past two years. He thanks his family for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!!

Dennis Robert Dubbin — Jackie Elliot

For Theatre Calgary: *Camelot*, *Evita* (1993). Elsewhere: *Les Misérables* (First National Tour), *Man Of La Mancha* (Edmonton, Toronto), *Miss Saigon* (Toronto, Germany), *The Who's Tommy* (Toronto, National Tour), *Passion* (Toronto), *Crazy For You* (Montreal), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Calgary). High-lights: Dennis was given the honour of being the first caucasian in Germany, and 6th in the world to play the role of "John", in *Miss Saigon*. Dennis then went on to play the iconic role of "Jean Valjean" in *Les Misérables*, also in Germany. After traveling to all seven continents at least three times on a luxury cruise ship, I'm ecstatic to be back in Calgary with my family and friends, to work on this incredible piece of theatre. In Honour of 1088. My Dad, My Hero. Hi Ma!!!

Marc-Émile Fallu — Michael Coffrey

Theatre Calgary debut. Marc-Émile (Marc) was born in Montreal and moved to Alberta at the age of six. As a huge fan of Michael Jackson, he started dancing in a studio and attending dance competitions. He has taken music lessons since he was very young and most recently discovered an interest for singing as well. Marc has developed a passion for musicals as he likes to perform combining voice and dance while acting. He has performed in *Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr*, *Peter Pan Jr*, and *Singing In The Rain Jr*. Marc is a student at Calgary Arts Academy and is training as an Intermediate Singer and Dancer with The Young Canadians School of Performing Arts. He feels honoured to play this exceptional role.



Jillian Hannah



Kathryn Kerbes



Fionn Laird



Ryan Maschke

Jillian Hannah — Clipboard Lady, Ensemble

For Theatre Calgary: *The Secret Garden*. Jillian is thrilled to be returning to Theatre Calgary to be a part of this incredible production. Since graduating with her BFA in Music Theatre, Jillian has been performing professionally across Canada, as well as the United States. Past credits include: *The Rocky Horror Show* (Ovation Productions), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *White Christmas* (Mill Mountain Theatre), *A Little Night Music*, *Design For Living* (Berkshire Theatre Group). A proud member of Elon MT16. Huge thanks to Mom, Dad and Cassie for always supporting me, and all my love to my dog, Harper!

Kathryn Kerbes — Grandma

For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2006-2010), *Enron*. Elsewhere (selected): Vertigo Theatre: *Spider's Web*, *Snake in the Grass*, *The Hollow* (Betty Mitchell Award), *Sherlock Holmes and The American Problem* (Betty Mitchell Award Nomination); Chemainus Theatre Festival: *Anything Goes*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Harvey*, *Glorious!*, *Outside Mullingar*; Alberta Theatre Projects: *Who Has Seen the Wind*, *Half Life*, *Shakespeare's Dog*, *The Penelopiad*, *Wizard of Oz*; Theatre Northwest: *A Joyful Noise*; Stage West: *Grease*, *Deathtrap*, *Shear Madness*; Lunchbox Theatre: *Book Club* (Betty Mitchell Award, Calgary Critic's Award, Ensemble), *Flight Risk*. Of interest: Kathryn and her partner, Hal, are co-recipients of the Harry and Martha Cohen Award for significant and sustained contribution to theatre in Calgary. Kathryn is a proud mom and grandma.

Fionn Laird — Posh Boy, Ensemble

For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2017, 2012-15). Elsewhere: *Mamma Mia!* (Central Memorial PVA); *Julius Caesar* (The Shakespeare Company and Ground Zero Theatre); *Macbeth*, *Richard III* (The Shakespeare Company and Hit & Myth); ATB Financial 'Pass the Puck' Commercial (Joe Media Group); *Let's Talk Science* PSA (Shaw Communications). Fionn is thrilled to tread the boards again on the Max Bell Stage for Theatre Calgary. He is a student in the Centre of Performing and Visual Arts Program at Central Memorial High School where in addition to studying Theatre Arts, he plays the trumpet in the Symphonic Band and is a member of the Concert Choir. @fn.laird

Ryan Maschke — Older Billy, Ensemble

Theatre Calgary debut. Ryan is very excited to be part of Theatre Calgary's *Billy Elliot: The Musical*. Previous credits include: *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Wizard of Oz* (StoryBook); *Into The Woods*, *West Side Story*, *Grease* (SSIP). Ryan would like to thank his family and friends for the extensive support through the years and for feeding his obsession with giraffes. Enjoy the show!



Caitlynnne Medrek



Glen Mills



Katelyn Morishita

Caitlynnne Medrek — Mrs. Wilkinson

For Theatre Calgary: *The Crucible*, *A Christmas Carol* (2001, 2002). Selected Theatre: *Becky's New Car*, *Picking Up Chekhov* (ATP); *Seussical the Musical*, *Charlie Brown*, *Pinkalicious!* - Director (StoryBook); *A Christmas Carol* (Persephone); *Pinkalicious!* (Vital Canada); *I Ought to be in Pictures* (Globus Theatre); Film/TV: *Fargo 3*, *The Detour*, *Hell On Wheels*, *Wynona Earp*, *Out With Dad*, *Arthur*, *Total Drama*, *Dragon Ball Z/GT*. Awards: Best Break Out Performance, Indie Series Awards NYC (*Out With Dad*), Canadian Screen Award Nominee (*Out With Dad*). Caitlynnne is the Creator and Co-Owner of YYC PRINCESS, and a player in Calgary's completely improvised soap opera - Dirty Laundry. She is so grateful for the people who support her! Mom, Dad, Matt, Jordan, Sara, Brianna, Peejay and Todd, just to name a few.

Glen Mills — Mr. Braithwaite (understudy)

Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Bloodless: The Trial of Burke and Hare* (Panasonic Theatre), *Forever Plaid* (Orillia Opera Playhouse), *Cabaret* (Hart House Theatre), *Grease* (Theatre St. Johns). Glen is honoured to be joining the cast and team of Theatre Calgary's *Billy Elliot*. He studied Acting at Red Deer College and Musical Theatre at Sheridan College. You may have seen him as a "Master Class Graduate" on CBC's *Triple Sensation: Season 2*. Brother to a pro hockey player, a recording artist, a business executive, and a mother of four, he truly is the underachiever of the family. Much Love to Brad, Mark, Ian, Jennifer, and always Donna. I love you Mum!

Katelyn Morishita — Lesley, Ensemble

Theatre Calgary debut. Select credits include: *Bare: A Pop Opera* (The Honest Collective), *Canada the Musical* (Carter Ryan Productions), *Rudolph* (Birnton Theatricals), *Junie B Jones the Musical* (StoryBook), *The Hits Reimagined* (Broadway Dreams), *Rapunzel* (Birnton Theatricals), *Madagascar the Musical*, *Seussical the Musical*, *In The Heights*, *A New Brain* (StoryBook). Sending a heartfelt thank you to my wonderful family for always supporting me in my passion.



Steven Morton



Robyn Neumann



Scott Olynek

Steven Morton — Miner, Ensemble

Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Titanic*, *In the Heights*, *Company*, *Mary Poppins* (StoryBook); *Wonderful Town*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Les Misérables* (Lethbridge Symphony); Will Todd's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* – North American Premiere, *Opera Disrupted!* (Cowtown Opera); *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado* (Okanagan Vocal Arts Festival); *Così fan Tutte*, *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Lyric Opera Studio Weimar). Steven received his BMus in voice from the University of Lethbridge – cum laude. He also works as a music instructor, choral director, church soloist and graphic designer. In addition to music ask him about hand-lettering, movement culture, or the word 'facetiously.' He has never been in a coal mine.

Robyn Neumann — Angela, Ballet Girl

Theatre Calgary debut. Robyn has been dancing for eleven years and attends the Alberta Ballet School where she trains in their professional division. She is also a member of the elite dance team, YYC Dance Project. Robyn has performed alongside the Alberta Ballet Company in *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, and *Our Canada*. She placed third at the World Ballet Arts Competition Grand Prix Semi-Finals. Robyn also has an interest in musical theatre. She was cast in lead roles in her school's productions of *Shrek*, *The Lion King*, and *Annie*. Robyn's musical interests also include the violin, where she is the assistant principal second violinist with Mount Royal University Conservatory Sinfonia.

Scott Olynek — Posh Dad, Ensemble

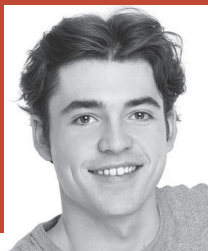
For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2010, 2009, 2006). Scott was last seen with Forte in *Naughty but Nice: The Big V*, and before that in *[Title of Show]*. He has been active in the theatre community, including productions in Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, and Los Angeles. Some of his favourites include: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Gameshow* (Stage West); *Sweeney Todd*, *Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Vertigo); *Seussical the Musical* (ATP); *Twelfth Night* (Globe Theatre); *Goodness* (Downstage); *Measure for Measure* (Citadel); *The Big League* (Quest Theatre). Select film/tv: *The Revenant*; *Mystery, Alaska*; *iCarly*; *Mentors*; *Honey I Shrunk The Kids*; *Noah*; *Intern Academy*. Awards: Betty Mitchell Award Musical Production (*Naughty but Nice*), Betty Mitchell nomination for Outstanding Ensemble (*Naughty but Nice*), Calgary Critics Choice nomination for Best Actor in a Musical (*Naughty but Nice*).



Michelle Rawlings



Joel Schaefer



Alex Smith



Julianne Smith

Michelle Rawlings — Dead Mum, Ensemble

Theatre Calgary debut. Michelle is originally from the southern coast of England and graduated at the London School of Musical Theatre. Since leaving the UK, Michelle has circled the globe performing in a variety of shows with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Select performing theatre credits include: *Featured Singer* (International Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines); *Hope* (a new musical, Bridewell Theatre); *Alice In Wonderland* (LSMT Studios); *Sweeney Todd*, *Carmen*, *Les Misérables*, *We Will Rock You* (Workshop Theatre); *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks*, *Raging Queens* (Churchill Theatre); *Rodgers & Hammerstein* (Chichester Festival); *“L of a Night”* (Nuffield Theatre). Michelle would like to thank her family and husband for their constant love and support.

Joel Schaefer — Mr. Braithwaite, Ensemble

Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Slipper: A Distinctly Calgarian Cinderella Story* (ATP); *Beauty and the Beast* (Young People’s Theatre); *The Nutcracker* (National Ballet of Canada); *Dog Park Jamboree* (New Sunshine Festival); *Urinetown*, *Under the Ground* (Edinburgh Fringe); *Into the Woods*, *Stuff Happens* (Randolph College); *The Ding Dong Girls* (Toronto Fringe). Joel is a proud graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Randolph College for the Performing Arts. It has been his dream to work at Theatre Calgary since he was 13. Thanks for being a part of making his dreams come true!

Alex Smith — Tony Elliot

Theatre Calgary debut. Select credits include: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* [Joseph], *Madagascar* [Alex the Lion], *Urban Jungle Book* [Connor], *Willy Wonka* [Mike Teavee] (StoryBook); *West Side Story*, *The Music Man*, *Children of Eden* (U of C); *Stranger Soaps* (Dirty Laundry); *Mamma Mia* (The Muny, St. Louis). Film/TV: *Heartland* (CBC); *The Reckoning* (Hallmark); *The Next Star: Supergroup* (YTV). In 2017 Alex was a recipient of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Young Artist Award. He sends thanks to his family, friends, and mentors for all of their love and support.

Julianne Smith — Tracey, Ballet Girl

For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2017-18). Elsewhere: *Miscast*, *Mary Poppins* (StoryBook). Julianne is a grade eight student at Nickle School. She studies voice at Serpas Vocal Arts. In 2018, Julianne represented Calgary at the Alberta Music Festival and was awarded the provincial championship in classical voice. She dances at The Dance Factory where she trains in all disciplines. Julianne is thrilled to be back on stage at Theatre Calgary. Thanks to her family and friends for always cheering her on.



Connor Suart



Rhett Udsen



Kelsey Woodard



Nicole Woodard

Connor Suart — Big Davey, Ensemble

For Theatre Calgary: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Shakespeare by the Bow). Connor Suart is a performer from Calgary. After graduating from the University of Alberta - BFA Acting program, he is happy to be back in his hometown! Select credits include: *School For Scandal*, *The Lower Depths*, *Doll House* (Studio Theatre/University of Alberta); *As You Like It*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *The Cerebral Soiree* (University of Alberta); *Doll and Oats* and *Unedited Footage of a Ghost* (Play The Fool Clown Festival). He would like to thank his mentors, family and friends for their enormous support over the years!

Rhett Udsen — Billy Elliot

Theatre Calgary debut. Rhett has been training and dancing competitively since the age of seven. Most recently, he trained at H/W School of Ballet in preparation for the role of Billy. He is currently in his third year of training as a singer and dancer with The Young Canadians School of Performing Arts. Rhett has been fortunate to perform in London, England, in two Calgary Stampede Grandstand Shows, on the WEDAY stage, and with the Dave Kelly Live Christmas Show. Additionally, Rhett is a classically trained pianist and will be attending Central Memorial High School in the fall to further his arts training. He is excited to be playing the role of Billy Elliot!

Kelsey Woodard — Julie, Ballet Girl

Theatre Calgary debut. Kelsey has danced for the past 10 years and is currently in the Youth Training Program at DJD. Kelsey plays grade five RCM piano and studies acting and improvisation with Ania Danylo. As a member of Tri Tone Rhythm Tap Ensemble, Kelsey had the opportunity to work with tap master Brenda Bufalino from NYC during the Rhythm, Body and Soul Tap Festival in Calgary. A student at Simon Fraser School, Kelsey enjoys writing, photography, and math. A big shout out to Mum and Dad for everything they do! @nicole.kelsey.yyc

Nicole Woodard — Keeley, Ballet Girl

Theatre Calgary debut. Nicole began dancing at the age of four, competing at the age of nine, and is currently in the Youth Training Program at DJD. She studies acting and improvisation with Ania Danylo and will take her RCM grade five piano exam this spring. A member of Tri Tone Rhythm Tap Ensemble, Nicole had the opportunity to work with NYC tap master Lisa La Touche during the Rhythm, Body and Soul Tap Festival in Calgary. A student at Simon Fraser School, Nicole enjoys French, math and skiing. She would like to thank her mum, dad, family and friends for their support, and for the opportunity to share the stage with her twin sister! @nicole.kelsey.yyc



Siena Yee



Stafford Arima



Yukichi Hattori

Siena Yee — Susan, Ballet Girl

For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2015-18). Elsewhere: 2026 Calgary Olympic Bid (commercial), *Break on Through* (movie), *Rock Bottom* (Independent short film), *The Paper Bag Princess* (Calgary Young People's Theatre), Pumphouse Theatre Drama Camp. School Productions: *Beauty and The Beast*, *Oliver Twist*, *Narnia*, *Aladdin*, *Broadway Santa*. Siena is in grade nine, and she dances for YouTube artists and Dance Explosions. She also loves to swim, model, play various instruments (piano, zither, and flute), dance (modern, ballet, jazz and acrobatic), and sing (folk and pop). Siena is thrilled to be part of *Billy Elliot* and would like to thank her family and friends for their support!

Stafford Arima — Director

For Theatre Calgary: *Mary and Max - A New Musical*, *The Secret Garden*. Elsewhere: *Allegiance* (Broadway); *Ragtime* (West End); *Carrie* (Off-Broadway); *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living In Paris* (Stratford Festival); *Red Velvet* (The Old Globe, CA); *The Tin Pan Alley Rag* (Roundabout Theatre Company, NYC); *Altar Boyz* (Off-Broadway); *bare* (Off-Broadway); *Candide* (San Francisco Symphony); *Bowfire* (PBS television special); *A Tribute to Stephen Sondheim* (Boston Pops); *Saturday Night* (Off-Broadway); *Two Class Acts* (The Flea Theatre, Off-Broadway); *Poster Boy* (Williamstown Theatre Festival); *Guys and Dolls* (Paper Mill Playhouse, NJ); *Children's Letters to God* (Off-Broadway); *The New World* (Bucks County Playhouse, PA); *Bright Lights, Big City* (Prince Music Theater, PA); *The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea* (San Diego Rep); *Total Eclipse* (Toronto); *Spring Awakening - The Musical* (UC Davis); and *Marry Me A Little* (Cincinnati Playhouse). Stafford served as associate director for the Broadway productions of *A Class Act* and *Seussical*. He is the Artistic Advisor for Broadway Dreams and an adjunct professor at UC Davis. He studied at York University in Toronto. staffordarima.com

Yukichi Hattori — Choreographer

Theatre Calgary debut. Yukichi Hattori was a principal dancer with the Hamburg Ballet and then with Alberta Ballet. His career as a choreographer started in 2001, when he received the encouragement prize for his solo *Piece* at the Prix Dom Perignon choreographic competition in Hamburg, Germany. Since then he has been choreographing internationally from Tokyo to Hamburg to Calgary. Some of the pieces that he created for Alberta Ballet include *Tubular Bells*, *Seven Deadly Sins*, *Pomp Without Circumstance*, *Temple*, *Carmen*, and *Rite*. Yukichi continues pushing the boundaries of performing arts, bringing dance to any venue, mixing styles, and working with other artists and collaborators. His wish is to make dance a part of life for everyone. Yukichi is a founder and the Artistic Director of H/W School of Ballet in Calgary.



Don Horsburgh



Scott Reid



Cory Sincennes

Don Horsburgh — Music Director

For Theatre Calgary: *The Secret Garden*, *Crazy for You* (Citadel co-pro), *Mary Poppins* (Citadel co-pro), *Next to Normal* (Citadel co-pro), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Citadel co-pro), *Guys and Dolls* (Citadel/MTC co-pro), *West Side Story* (Citadel co-pro), *Into the Woods*, *Anne of Green Gables* (1994), *Fire* (1989), *Pal Joey*. Elsewhere: *Mamma Mia*, *West Side Story*, *Evangeline*, *Avenue Q*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Penelopiad*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Little Women*, *Hunchback*, *Citadel*; *The Threepenny Opera*, Stratford; *Hairspray*, *White Christmas*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, MTC; *Into the Woods*, *A Little Night Music*, *Once On This Island*, Canadian Stage; *The Sound of Music* and *Aspects of Love*, North American tours. Don has also provided original music for *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Penelopiad*, *August: Osage County*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *The Constant Wife*. Awards: Recipient of five Dora Awards, two Betty Mitchell Awards, and three Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Awards.

Scott Reid — Set and Projection Design

For Theatre Calgary (selected): *Mom's The Word: For Crying Out Loud*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Gaslight*. Elsewhere: *The New Canadian Curling Club*, *The Virgin Trial*, *The Last Wife*, 1979 (ATP); *Dracula: The Bloody Truth*, *The Thin Man*, *The Lonely Diner*, *Nine Dragons*, *The Drowning Girls* (Vertigo); *Eugene Onegin*, *South Pacific*, *Die Tote Stadt* (Calgary Opera); *Our Canada*, *Class Acts* (Alberta Ballet); *Better Get Hit in Your Soul*, *Modern Vaudevillians*, *Juliet and Romeo* (DJD). Scott has also designed for such companies as Quest Theatre, Lunchbox, and The Shakespeare Company.

Cory Sincennes — Costume Design

For Theatre Calgary: *The Secret Garden*, *Crazy for You* (Citadel co-pro), *'da Kink in my Hair*, *Bad Jews*, *Liberation Days* (WCT co-pro), *Mary Poppins* (Citadel co-pro), *Next to Normal* (Citadel co-pro). Elsewhere: *Mamma Mia*, *Evangeline*, *Bittergirl: The Musical* (Charlottetown); *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Citadel); *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Les Misérables*, *Mary Poppins*, *Where the Blood Mixes* (WCT); *Mump and Smoot* (ATP); *The Huron Bride* (Vertigo); *The Last 5 Years*, *Let the Light of Day Through*, *Little One*, *Woman in Black* (Theatre Network). Cory holds a degree in Architectural Studies from Carleton University and a MFA in Theatre Design from UofA. He is a member of Associated Designers of Canada. corysincennes.com



Alan Brodie



Joshua D. Reid



Mark Limacher

Alan Brodie — Lighting Design

For Theatre Calgary: *The Light in the Piazza*, *Major Barbara*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Beyond Eden*, *7 Stories*, *Vigil*, *The Overcoat*, *Glorious!*, *Humble Boy*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Rough Crossing*. Alan Brodie is a Vancouver-based lighting designer and stage director. He has designed for English-language theatres and opera companies across Canada, as well as for numerous theatre and dance companies in the USA and Europe. Recent design credits include *The Shoplifters* for The Centaur Theatre, *Mustard* at the Belfry and Arts Club, *Hir* for Pi Theatre and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* for the Shaw Festival. Recent directing credits include *Wit* for Peninsula Productions, *The Open House* for Sticks and Stones Theatre, and *A Few Good Men* for Ensemble Theatre Company. Upcoming productions include lighting *La Cenerentola* for Vancouver Opera and *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Coriolanus* for Bard on the Beach. Alan received his training at UBC (BFA-design) and UVic (MFA-directing).

Joshua D. Reid — Sound Design

For Theatre Calgary: *The Secret Garden*. Elsewhere: Recent designs include *Girlfriend* (TheatreWorks Hartford), *A Christmas Carol* (Geffen Playhouse, LA Drama Critics Circle Nomination), *NOEL* (National Tour), *The Royal Family of Broadway* (Barrington Stage), *Jerry Springer: The Opera* (The New Group), *A Time Like This* (Carnegie Hall), The New World (Bucks County Playhouse), *The Pride* (Wallis Annenberg PAC, LA Ovation nomination), *Beardo* (Hewes Design nomination) and resident designer for Eugene O'Neill Cabaret Festival. Broadway Associate Design Credit selections include: *Iceman Cometh*, *Falsettos*, *The Color Purple*, *American Psycho*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *The Visit*, *Act One*, *House of Blue Leaves*, and *Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles*. Additional credits listed at ReidSoundDesign.com

Mark Limacher — Associate Music Director

For Theatre Calgary: Musician – *Mary and Max* – *A New Musical*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Anne of Green Gables*. Mark Limacher is an active member of the Calgary music community, performing regularly as a pianist and keyboardist with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Theatre Calgary, and many other ensembles. He is a graduate of The New School University in New York City, has studied composition privately with Linda Catlin Smith (Toronto), Laurence Crane (London), and served as apprentice to composer Bunita Marcus in Brooklyn, NY. His music has been performed in the United States and Canada. He co-founded the weekly radio program *Unprocessed* on CJSW, 90.9 FM with Laura Reid. marklimacher.com



Brock Jellison



Jane MacFarlane



Braden Griffiths

Brock Jellison — Associate Choreographer

Theatre Calgary debut. Brock grew up in his mother's dance studio in the small town of Fort St John. He began teaching at the age of 11 and by the age of 12, he began choreographing competitive tap pieces. After high school, Brock toured throughout the US with the hit show *Tap Dogs*. He later started his own dance/production company, Ruckus Company Productions. He wrote, composed, designed, choreographed, and performed in original shows, including *77 Minutes*, *Ricochet*, and *Blue*. Brock was the Lead Tap Choreographer and Featured Tap Soloist for the Vancouver Winter Olympic Opening Ceremonies as well as a featured soloist for the 2014 Calgary Stampede Grand Stand Show. He is currently in the pre-production phase of his next full-length production, *Red Umbrella Girl*. His longtime presence is known and felt throughout the tap, theatre and music world.

Jane MacFarlane — Voice and Dialect Coach

For Theatre Calgary: More than 45 productions since 2000 including *The Scarlet Letter*, *Mary and Max – A New Musical*, *Honour Beat*, *The Secret Garden*, *Twelfth Night*, *Blow Wind High Water*, *The Audience*, *Skylight*, *Bad Jews*, *The Crucible*, *Liberation Days* (WCT co-pro), *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *The Mountaintop*, *Enron*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, seven seasons of Shakespeare by the Bow and 15 years of *A Christmas Carol*. Elsewhere: Jane has also worked for ATP, is the Voice & Dialect Consultant for Vertigo Theatre and the Voice & Text Coach for The Shakespeare Company. She has taught at such institutions as York University, Harvard University, Southern Methodist University, MRU, UofC, and UofA.

Braden Griffiths — Acting Coach - Billy

For Theatre Calgary: Actor – *A Christmas Carol* (2012-18). Braden has been an actor, playwright and arts educator for over a decade. Since beginning his career, teaching theatre with Quest, arts education has always been a part of his professional life. He has worked with and taught young-people of all ages, ranging from toddlers to university students. Recently, he has been an educator, for three consecutive years, as part of ArtsTrek, a theatre education program for high school age students looking for university level theatre training. As an actor and playwright he has been nominated for multiple Betty Mitchell Awards, winning in 2015 for his performance in *The Last Voyage of Donald Crowhurst*. Thanks to Rhett, Dex, Marc-Émile, Julianne, Sienna, Jaya, Robyn, Kelsey, Nicole, Fionn and all the young people who Braden has taught or worked with over the years; the thing is, they made him a better artist too.



Karl H. Sine



Jennifer Swan



Patti Neice

Karl H. Sine — Fight Director

For Theatre Calgary: Fight Director (selected) – *The Scarlet Letter*, *A Christmas Carol* (2016-18); *As You Like It*, *Hamlet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare by the Bow); *King Lear* (Bard on the Beach co-pro), *Liberation Days* (WCT co-pro). Actor – *A Christmas Carol* (2011, 2013-17), *The Crucible*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Enron*, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Elsewhere: Selected Fight Director – *Macbeth*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Equivocation*, *Othello* (The Shakespeare Company); *I'll be Back Before Midnight*, *The Game's Afoot* (Vertigo); Selected Actor – *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Vertigo). *Macbeth*, *Equivocation*, *Othello* (The Shakespeare Company). Karl has received four Betty Mitchell Awards – three for Fight Direction and Best Actor for *The Crucible*. Karl is a Certified Fight Director with the Academy of Fight Directors Canada. Thanks to Lindsey and their wonderful kids Olivia, Charlie and Zachary.

Jennifer Swan — Stage Manager

For Theatre Calgary: *The Kite Runner*, *The Little Prince the Musical*, *The Light in the Piazza*. Elsewhere in Calgary, Jen has stage managed *Gracie* for Alberta Theatre Projects, and *The Last Voyage of Donald Crowhurst* for Ghost River Theatre/Alberta Theatre Projects. Based in Victoria, she has been the unofficial resident stage manager at the Belfry Theatre for twelve seasons. Other Canadian theatres worked at include the Vancouver Playhouse, Arts Club Theatre Company, Vancouver Opera, Caravan Farm Theatre, Electric Company Theatre, Great Canadian Theatre Company, Prairie Theatre Exchange, the National Arts Centre, and Canadian Stage. In addition to stage management, Jen has been a part of Electric Company Theatre in Vancouver as their Company and Financial Manager since 2008.

Patti Neice — Assistant Stage Manager

For Theatre Calgary: Stage Manager – *Mary and Max - A New Musical*, *The Secret Garden*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Christmas Carol* (2015-18), *Blow Wind High Water*, *The Audience*, *'da Kink in my Hair* (NAC co-pro), *Bad Jews*, *The Shoplifters*, *Dear Johnny Deere*. Assistant Stage Manager – *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *The Mountaintop*, *A Christmas Carol* (2012-14), *Anne of Green Gables – The Musical*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Elsewhere: Stage Manager – *1979* (ATP); *Calamity Town* (Vertigo); *The Surrogate*, *Shopaholic Wedding Bells*, *Whimsy State* (Lunchbox); *The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites* (Mermaid Theatre tours of Canada/USA/Ireland/South Korea & Singapore); *How it Works* (Mulgrave Road). Assistant Stage Manager – *The Last Voyage of Donald Crowhurst*, *Dust*, *The Valley*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Drama: Pilot Episode*, *Thinking of Yu* (ATP); *Marion Bridge* (The Company Theatre); Calgary Stampede Grandstand Show (2012-18).



Carissa Sams



**Nicole Olson
Grant-Suttie**



Alexa Elser



Julie Tomaino

Carissa Sams — Assistant Stage Manager

For Theatre Calgary: Stage Manager – *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet* (Shakespeare by the Bow), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare in the Park). Assistant Stage Manager – *The Humans*, *Skylight*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Bad Jews*. Apprentice Stage Manager – *Dear Johnny Deere*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *BOOM* (High Performance Rodeo). Chaperone – *A Christmas Carol* (2012 -16, 2018), *Mary Poppins*. Elsewhere: Assistant Stage Manager – *39 Steps*, *Our Man in Havana*, *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*; Apprentice Stage Manager – *The Haunting*, *In the Heat of the Night* (Vertigo); *The Surrogate* (Lunchbox); Stage Manager – *Smoke* (Downstage), *The Good Bride* (Handsome Alice).

Nicole Olson Grant-Suttie — Apprentice Stage Manager

For Theatre Calgary: *Guys and Dolls*. Nicole Olson Grant-Suttie is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada who works as a lighting designer and stage manager in Calgary. She is excited to be a member of the *Billy Elliot* crew, and grateful for this opportunity to expand her skills as part of the stage management team. Nicole would like to thank her husband Miles, her family, and her friends for their continued support.

Alexa Elser — TC Mentors program - Voice and Dialect

For Theatre Calgary: *As You Like It*; *Victors, Villains, and Vixens* (Shakespeare by the Bow). Alexa is a Calgary-based actor, dancer, singer, musician, clown, and instructor of dance and drama. She has always cultivated an interest in the world of voice and dialect work and has had a wonderful season working with Jane MacFarlane as part of the TC Mentors program. Alexa looks forward to continuing her own journey in voice and dialect and sends many thanks to Theatre Calgary for this opportunity to learn and *listen!* @alexa.elser

Julie Tomaino — TC Mentors program - Directing

Theatre Calgary debut. Julie is grateful for the opportunity to be working with and learning from Stafford! She lives in Toronto and works as a director and choreographer across Canada and the US. Recent directing credits: *On The Town* and *Crazy For You* at Theatre Sheridan, *Hair* at Hart House Theatre, and *Marvelous Wonderettes* at Cortland Rep. Recent choreography credits: *Buddy Holly* (The Globe), *Once* (Citadel), *We Will Rock You* and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Magnus), *Grease* and *Footloose* (Cheminus), and *Sleeping Beauty* (Ross Petty Panto). She also occasionally choreographs for film and TV, most recently working with Idina Menzel on the *Beaches* remake. Julie is a former Radio City Rockette and winner of the 2015 Jessie Award for significant artistic achievement in choreography for her work on *Crazy For You* at The Gateway Theatre in Vancouver. www.julietomaino.com

Global News at 5 & 6
Linda Olsen



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Author Biographies

Lee Hall — Book and Lyrics

Lee Hall was born in Newcastle Upon Tyne in 1966 and studied English Literature at Cambridge University. He has worked as a writer in theatre, TV, radio and film. He has been writer in residence at the Royal Shakespeare Company and Live Theatre, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Theatre: *Wittgenstein on Tyne*, Live Theatre 1996; *Bollocks*, RSC Fringe, 1998; *Genie*, Paines Plough, 1998; *Cooking With Elvis*, Live Theatre/West End 1999 - nominated for an Oliver Award for Best Comedy; *Spoonface Steinberg*, Ambassadors Theatre, London 2000; *Two's Company*, Live Theatre/Bristol Old Vic, 2001; *Billy Elliot the Musical*, 2004 - Oliver Award Best Musical; *Pitmen Painters*, Live Theatre, Newcastle/Royal National Theatre/ National tour/Broadway, 2007-2010. Theatre adaptations: *Leonce and Lena* (Buchner), The Gate Theatre, 1997; *Mr Puntilla and his man Matti* (Brecht) Almedia Theatre, 1998, *A Servant to Two Masters* (Goldoni) RSC/ Young Vic 1999; *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (Collodi), Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, 2000; *Mother Courage* (Brecht), Shared Experience/Ambassadors Theatre; *The Good Hope* (Heijermans) Royal National Theatre, 2001; *The Barber of Seville* (Beaumarchais), Bristol Old Vic, 2003. Opera: Adaptation of *Il Pagliacci/The Comedians* for the English National Opera, 2008. TV: *Spoonface Steinberg* 1997, BBC; *A Prince of Hearts* 1998, BBC; *Wind in the Willows* 2007 BBC. Film: *Billy Elliot*, Working Title Films, 2000. His screen play for *War Horse* directed by Steven Spielberg came out in 2011.

Elton John — Music

The monumental career of international singer/songwriter and performer Elton John has spanned more than three decades. He is one of the top-selling solo artists of all time, with 35 gold and 25 platinum albums and more than 250 million records sold worldwide. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has awarded Elton multiple GRAMMY® Awards, including the GRAMMY® Legend Award. In the early 1990s, Elton collaborated with lyricist Tim Rice on the soundtrack for *The Lion King*, winning him an Academy Award®. The album produced two top-selling, award-winning singles: *Can You Feel the Love Tonight* and *Circle of Life*. The TONY Award®-winning Broadway productions of *The Lion King* and *Aida* both awarded Elton with GRAMMY® Awards for Best Musical Show Album. *Billy Elliot* was nominated for a record-tying 15 TONY® Awards and won 10 including Best Musical. In 1992, Elton established the Elton John AIDS Foundation, which today is one of the leading nonprofit HIV/AIDS organizations. In 1998, the Queen of England knighted him Sir Elton John, CBE. In 2004, Elton received the Kennedy Center Honor for his lifetime contributions to American culture and excellence through the performing arts. In 2013, Elton was honored as the first recipient of the prestigious BRITs Icon Award, and released *The Diving Board*, his first solo studio album in seven years, to stellar reviews.

Music Theatre International

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Calgary's Country



COUNTRY 105

Yukichi Hattori Raises The Barre

By Jenna Turk, Artistic Associate

When Artistic Director Stafford Arima thought of programming *Billy Elliot The Musical* at Theatre Calgary, he knew he would only do it with Yukichi Hattori by his side. Arima wanted to create a *Billy Elliot* with completely new choreography – not the standard steps that have been used everywhere from the film version to Broadway and the West End. He wanted something exciting and edgy. He also wanted the show to be a celebration of Calgary’s remarkable talent with each cast member being a local – and with Hattori undoubtedly being Calgary’s most famous ballerino, he was the perfect fit to take on the role of choreographer.

Born in Suginami-Ku, Tokyo, Japan, to actor-parents, Hattori initially had little enthusiasm for the performing arts, but funnily enough it was musical theatre that changed everything. While attending a performance of *Annie*, he reveals, “That’s when something sparked inside me.” But his parents knew that while acting and singing could come later, that dance was something to be started at a young age, so they enrolled him in ballet lessons first. “I was six years old then, and I fell in love with ballet.” He laughs, “So, I am still waiting to be in *Annie* one day.”

After beginning his studies in Tokyo, Hattori continued his training at the Hamburg Ballet School in Germany, and then joined the company of the Hamburg Ballet where he quickly rose to the rank of soloist. In 2006, he came to Calgary and joined Alberta Ballet as a principal dancer. In his decade-long history with Alberta Ballet, Hattori endeared himself to audiences by way of his compelling stage presence and

awe-inspiring athleticism. Some of his most famous roles include Elton Fan in *Love Lies Bleeding*, Puck in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Mozart in *Requiem*. Hattori also grew his choreographic repertoire at Alberta Ballet with *Tubular Bells*, *Seven Deadly Sins*, *Temple*, *Carmen*, and *Rite*, among others.

Since retiring from Alberta Ballet in 2016, Hattori has continued to create new work, but has dedicated himself to establishing his own ballet school, the Hattori/Williamson School of Ballet, which he founded with his wife Galien Johnston-Hattori and colleague Tara Williamson. Each of them successful dancers, they have approached their school with the shared desire of expanding ballet's reach to a wider audience and adapting the discipline to the 21st century. Hattori reflects, "I studied performing arts in Europe, where the art form is respected just as much as serving in the military. You work for the people and betterment of humanity. You are a respected citizen and get great amount of credit for what you do. Therefore, the quality of the craft is very high. Europeans are not forgiving to complacent artists and that drives us. Here in Canada or Asia, most of us are struggling to pay rent, payed less than a cashier at a supermarket. I want to cultivate a real understanding of the importance of art, the importance of physical activity combined with emotion and purpose. I feel like an apostle spreading the gospel."

Along with choreographing the entire production of *Billy Elliot*, Hattori has also been training the two boys bringing the young dancer to life: Dex Drewtiz and Rhett Udsen. Hattori simply believes he has been helping them to realize their full potential. "Without a strong body, you can't

express all the emotion and thought you want to say...there is no special magic involved in creation. You prepare your body and mind,



Yukichi Hattori in rehearsal with Dex Drewtiz and Rhett Udsen.

forget everything, and let the piece take you where we need to go.” For months prior to rehearsals they have been meeting to prepare their bodies for the demands of the role. Hattori confirms, “They are very committed and susceptible to everything I throw at them. The drive and discipline definitely is there. They are a pleasure to work with.”

The story of young Billy is certainly one Hattori can identify with, as the journey of a professional dancer is never easy. An artist needs their advocates and Hattori recognizes the strength of his supporters: “First were my parents, whom I observed from day one doing their thing on stage. Second was my first ballet teacher in Japan who taught me how rigorous yet pleasurable dance can be. Third is the Hamburg Ballet School and Hamburg Ballet, where I learned just how much inspiration you can give to the people around you with your performance. Last, but not least, are my students who remind me of the power of potential.” When asked which character in the musical he identifies with most, he says, “Billy for sure, but since I am a parent and a teacher also, I identify myself with dead mum and Mrs. Wilkinson as well. ‘The Letter’ always gets me.”

Working on *Billy Elliot* seems to have taken Hattori full circle with a return to what first sparked his interest in the performing arts: musical theatre. The collaboration between he and Arima is one that Theatre Calgary hopes will inspire future cross-disciplinary collaborations within the city’s arts community. Hattori enthuses, “I have always believed that the performing arts are all one and the same, so when Stafford offered me the job, I did not hesitate to say yes.” Stafford says the choice was an easy one, “The universe truly conspired to make it happen with Yukichi’s busy schedule.” The two seem to share a kinship, both artists working at the top of their fields with Arima taking the helm of Theatre Calgary after 20 years directing in New York. Hattori says, “I am very curious to work with Stafford, who is an expert of a whole different genre that I know very little about. Excited to see the chemistry between us and how the actors will channel that.” With a company of talented locals behind them, their pas de deux will surely be electric.

Calgary Ballet Teacher Recalls Training Real Billy Elliot

By Kim Jackson, Alberta Ballet

Alberta Ballet School teacher Murray Kilgour has taught hundreds of aspiring young dancers in his ballet career, but only one has had a successful theatre production and a film made about his life.

The story you're about to see is based on the real life experiences of a young British boy who had a natural passion for dance that ran so deeply, even his instructors knew he was special from the moment they met him. (Out of consideration for this student's privacy, we won't use his real name, so for the purposes of this article, we will call him Billy.) "He was just a nice young lad, he was very musical, and was always very polite and always seemed to be happy. It was a combination of his musicality and his enthusiasm that drew you to him," said Murray who taught the student at both the junior and senior schools of London's Royal Ballet in the mid-80's.

In the movie, Billy's father makes him take boxing lessons, but he secretly takes ballet instead. In real life, Murray said, Billy was a twin whose brother was the boxer. Something that was portrayed very accurately in the film and on stage though was his overwhelming love of dance.

"In students, you hope that you see that energy and enthusiasm because that is what is going to help drive them forward," he said. "He had this in him and that helped to develop himself as a dancer."

Murray started dancing at a young age and danced with the National Ballet of Canada before moving to the U.K. He danced with the Royal Ballet in London for 10 years and then taught at the Royal Ballet School for another nine. His wife Nancy also danced with the National Ballet of Canada and taught at the Royal Ballet. They returned to Canada together and became teachers with Alberta Ballet School. Nancy has retired, but Murray continues to train young dancers today.

This boy isn't the only connection Murray has to the Billy Elliot story. The actor who appears as the older Billy at the end of the film, performing in the all-male version of Swan Lake, was also a Royal Ballet student trained by Murray.

"It's very rewarding to watch your students go on to reach their goals," Murray said. "I am grateful to be teaching at Alberta Ballet School. We are fortunate to have a school of this calibre in this province that is able to produce world-class dancers."

For more information on Murray, or professional and recreational classes at Alberta Ballet School, please visit albertaballetschool.com.



Murray Kilgour teaching in China during an exchange trip in the mid-80s that 'Billy' attended with him.

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— Spotlight on MEMBERSHIP

With Sarah Hughes,
Director of Partner Relations
at Theatre Calgary

Sarah has been with Theatre Calgary for four seasons in the Partner Relations Department. Her department is responsible for the stewardship of our donors, members and partners amongst other areas of fundraising, including events and sponsorship.

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What are memberships and who might want to sign up for one?

Memberships are a way that our patrons can help elevate Theatre Calgary's work, step closer to the art, and join our family at the theatre.

What sort of benefits do the members get?

To show our gratitude to our members, we strive to elevate their time with us by offering experiences designed exclusively for them. Depending on the level of your support it can be access to our member's only lounge, behind the scenes events, opportunities to meet the artists, attend rehearsals, dinner on stage, or an invitation to travel on a Theatre Calgary curated travel experience.

Why does Theatre Calgary offer these memberships?

We have built our membership programs up over the last number of years in response to demand. We have learned that some patrons are looking for an even closer relationship with Theatre Calgary and those programs are a way that the theatre benefits from much needed enhanced support and the members benefit with more access to the things they enjoy.

Why does Theatre Calgary need this support?

As with all arts organizations in Calgary, Theatre Calgary is a charity that relies on our supporters to “help raise the curtain”. Our subscription and ticket sales generate approximately 60% of our operating revenue, the remainder comes from donors, members, and other forms of funding. We are truly grateful for all these forms of support and our supporters belief in the arts.

Which memberships are new for the coming season?

For the 2019-20 season we are pleased to introduce some new memberships to our program to ensure more people can join us. Starting from \$150 we have the Discovery Circle, \$250 Backstage Circle, \$750 Cast Circle, and we have renamed our Adopt-A-Play to the Curators Circle, still at \$500 per play. These levels build into our existing membership programs of Dress Circle all the way to our Producers Circle. Each level has its own set of benefits, and all receive tax receipts for the eligible amount.

Can memberships be put on the same payment plan that is offered for subscriptions?

Absolutely, in response to growing demand we are able to offer payment plans for our memberships too; we have a number of options from installments to monthly plans. We are finding that more and more people prefer this method.

Can someone upgrade their membership partway through the season?

Throughout the season our members often decide they want to increase their support as they begin to enjoy their elevated experiences. We are very flexible in being able move people's memberships as desired.

What do members get to see or learn about in the behind the scenes events?

Over the past couple of seasons our members have tap-danced with the cast and choreographer of *Crazy for You*, they have sat in on a technical rehearsal for *The Secret Garden*, they have had an audience with Stephen Hair, spent an evening in the Wardrobe Department learning about costuming, and had a full stage tour of the set of *A Christmas Carol*. We try and ensure that all our experiences are unique every season, so they experience new and wonderful things each time they attend one of our events.

Does a tax receipt come with these memberships?

Along with the benefits and experiences, our members do receive a tax receipt for their support, less the value of the benefits. Some of our members opt to not receive the benefits, but receive a full tax receipt, which is always an option.

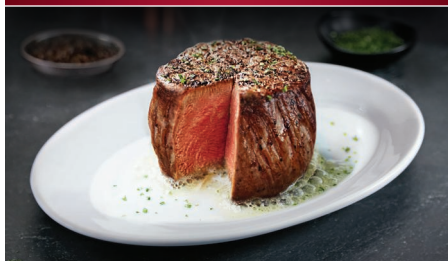
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