

Music and Lyrics by Book by
Bobby Cronin Crystal Skillman

Based on a film by Adam Elliot

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.

with each other towards email and text, we are seeing less and less letters, invitations, or even monthly bills land in our mailboxes. Who remembers the art of writing or typing a letter (on a typewriter not a computer), folding the piece of paper into an envelope, licking the glue lined flap, addressing the envelope, and placing a stamp on the top right corner? The ritual was stirring.

s technology continues to propel our connections and correspondence

Then there was the anticipation and/or surprise about receiving a letter! Poet, W.H. Auden once said that "...none will hear the postman's knock without a quickening of the heart." Once you retrieved your letter, did you tear it open or did you carefully place a letter opener inside the small corner of the envelope's flap to begin the delicate process of slicing open the top of the envelope? Since I never wanted to accidentally tear the envelope, when I was in my teens, my mother gave me a letter opener – I still use it today.

The next step in the ritual was unwrapping the letter, opening it up, and beginning to read it. How many of us saved the envelope and carefully placed the letter – re-folded in the exact same way as it was originally folded – back into the envelope? There might even be some members of the audience who remember spraying a letter, prior to sending it, with a spritz of perfume in hopes of awakening the senses of the person receiving it. Talk about a true sensory experience – sight, touch, and smell.

I am confident that some of us still have a love letter, a birthday greeting, or a faded postcard that we've preciously saved in a drawer. Since technology has advanced far quicker than our hearts, the simple act of human connection is getting lost in the interweb. Mailing a letter at the post office is now referred to as "snail mail". I remember running home every day after school in anticipation to see if any mail had arrived for me. I always thought it was a special treat to receive something in the mail. Now that excitement is gone, because I can now receive (and read) most correspondence on my watch or phone.

Mary and Max takes place before email, texts, or messaging became part of our everyday lives. The musical celebrates how friendships begin, develop, transform, and are redefined through the "old-fashioned" and ritualistic experience of letter writing. It is a heartwarming story that reminds me of the power of connection – by whatever means necessary.

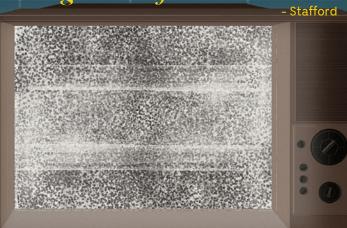
Thank you for connecting with Theatre Calgary, friends.



Stafford Arima

Artistic Director

"A multimedia, one-man show that takes us into the fascinating world of Generation X.'





Kidoons in association with Theatre Calgary and The 20K Collective presents

BOOMIX

Written, Directed & Performed 2019 by Rick Miller

Executive Producer: Jeff Lord, Multimedia: Irina Litvinenko Projection: Nicolas Dostie, Lighting: Bruno Matte Composer and Sound: Creighton Doane Set, Costumes, and Props: Virginie Leclerc Production Manager: Olivier Bourque Stage Manager and Director of Outreach: Craig Francis

Guarantee Your Seat. **Buv Your Tickets Today!** theatrecalgary.com | 403-294-7447























Authors' Notes

handful of years ago Bobby saw a claymation film that made him laugh as hard as it did cry.

Mary & Max tells the true story of 10 year-old Australian Mary Daisy Dinkle whose parents call her an accident and bears a birthmark on her forehead the color of poo -- and 44 year-old New Yorker Max Jerry Horowitz who has recently been diagnosed with Asperger's. It's a story about friendship with the most unlikely of souls, set in the 70s/80s, a time before email and iPhones.

Right after seeing the film Bobby made a phone call to his agents saying, "I have to adapt this film into a musical. Can you help me get the rights?" Soon, Bobby was Skyping with the brilliant creator of the film, Academy Award winner Adam Elliot. The three hour conversation ended with his approval for a musical adaptation. But Bobby still needed to get the approval from the film's producer, which finally occured a year later over coffee in London.

Over brunch in Manhattan, Bobby approached his very close friend and frequent collaborator playwright Crystal Skillman and director Stafford Arima. Crystal and Stafford both watched the film - and also cried and laughed just as hard. We all felt passionately about bringing this story to life on stage.

We are so grateful to every actor, and theater artist, who supported our journey over the past five years and we are so grateful to be sharing this premiere in Stafford's first season as Artistic Director of Theatre Calgary.

We hope this piece about friendship and kindness in these complicated times will give audiences hope in their own lives to find their own connections.

Nothing is an accident.



interACTive

Enhance Your Experience

TALK THEATRE THURSDAY

OCTOBER 18 - in our upper lobby Composer and Lyricist **BOBBY CRONIN and Bookwriter** CRYSTAL SKILLMAN OCTOBER 25

tc Mentee (Musical Direction) SARAH WHFFI DON

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 staff.

TALKBACK TUESDAY

OCTOBER 23, 30, NOVEMBER 6 in our theatre

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

SPOTLIGHT SATURDAY

OCTOBER 27 - in our upper lobby Autism Aspergers Friendship Society - DEAN SVOBODA, URIAH LEDERHOS. IAN McCI FI I AN

Join us pre-show to hear about the work the Autism Aspergers Friendship Society of Calgary is doing in our city.

SENIOR SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 3 - in our upper lobby **Actor ANTHONY GALDE**

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.

EDUCATORS CIRCLE

Are you an educator? Do you love theatre and need a break from marking or planning? Join our Educators' 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 Learning and Engagement

(403) 294-7440 ext. 1122 cstockton@theatrecalgary.com Max Bell Theatre at Arts Commons October 16 to November 11, 2018

theatre:

presents

WORLD PREMIERE

MARY & MAX

— A New Musical —

Music, Lyrics, and Vocal Arrangements by

Bobby Cronin

Book by

Crystal Skillman

Based on a film by Adam Elliot

Director Stafford Arima

Orchestrations and Music Supervisor Anna Ebbesen

Music Director, Dance Arrangements Joshua Zecher-Ross

and Additional Orchestrations

Choreographer Jenn Rapp

Set and Costume Design Bretta Gerecke

Lighting Design Kimberly Purtell

Projection Design Sean Nieuwenhuis

Sound Design Peter McBoyle

Voice and Dialect Coach Jane MacFarlane

Theatre Calgary gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Broadway Dreams and Artistic Champions Margo & Brant Randles, and Craig & Cara Senyk.

Musicians

Music Director, Keyboards,

Keyboard Programming Joshua Zecher-Ross

Reeds (Piccolo, Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone) Jeremy Brown

Violin 1 Laura Reid

Violin 2 **Janna Sailor**

Cello Morag Northey

Bass Aretha Tillotson

Keyboards, Rehearsal Pianist Mark Limacher

Guitars, Banjo Neil McVey

Drums, Percussion **Jeff Fafard**

Orchestra Contrator Dave Reid

Music Preparation Michelle Grégoire

Subs: Reeds **Gerry Hebert**

Violin 1 Elisa Milner

Violin 2 **Diane Valentine**



Members of the cast and creative team of Mary and Max - A New Musical. Photo by Jeff Yee.

The Cast

Damian, Ensemble

Noel. Ensemble

The Moon

Mary, Ensemble

Max

Vera. Ensemble

Mother Chocolate, Ensemble

Young Mary

Lady Noblet, Ensemble

Vanity Noblet, Ensemble

Nick Adams

Kevin Aichele

Chase Crandell

Lauren Elder

Anthony Galde

Susan Gilmour

Alana Hibbert

Katie McMillan

Kelsev Verzotti

Eric Wigston

Setting

Mount Waverley in Melbourne, Australia, and Manhattan, NYC. Our story begins in 1970.

Stage Manager

Patti Neice

Assistant Stage Manager

Apprentice Stage Manager

Emma Brager Chandler Ontkean

Head of Lighting

Catharine Crumb Bronwyn Bowlby

Head of Sound RF Technician

Chris Jacko Scott Morris Head Stage Carpenter

Head Dresser

Rachel Michelle Sheridan

Video

Marc Lavallee

Stage Hands

Andrew Kerr, Andrew Rafuse Mike Booth, Trisha Herbert

Follow Spot Operators Wigs

Brenda Boutet

Dresser

Mollie Eliza Robertson

TC Mentors program:

Direction

Andrew G. Cooper

Music Direction

Sarah Wheeldon

Mary and Max – A New Musical has one 20-minute intermission.

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.

Mary and Max A New Musical

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

"Shine On"	THE MOON, ENSEMBLE
"Borrowing Day"	VERA, ENSEMBLE
"Accidents"	YOUNG MARY, THE MOON, ENSEMBLE
"The Friend Song"	MAX, YOUNG MARY, ENSEMBLE
•	YOUNG MARY, MAX, ENSEMBLE
"Lucky"MAX, YOUNG	MARY, DR. HAZELHOFF, MAX'S MOTHER, ENSEMBLE
"Smiling"	YOUNG MARY, ENSEMBLE
"Bubbles & Butts"	VERA
"Chocolate Heaven"	MOTHER CHOCOLATE, MAX, YOUNG MARY,
	STEWART, KATHERINE, ENSEMBLE
"Packages and Letters"	LEN, MAX, YOUNG MARY, MARY, ENSEMBLE
"Boyfriend"	DAMIAN
	MARY, MAX, DR. HAZELHOFF, ENSEMBLE
	DR. LONG, DR. HAZELHOFF, MAX, ENSEMBLE
"Maybe It's Me"	MARY, THE MOON, VERA, NOEL, YOUNG MARY
"Sensible"	IVY, ENSEMBLE
	MAX
"Crying"	MARY, MAX, ENSEMBLE
	ACT TWO
"Shine On (Reprise)/Don't Get St	ressed"THE MOON, MAX, ENSEMBLE
"Try a New Way"	MAX, THE NOBLETS
	MARY, DAMIAN, ENSEMBLE
"I Never Thought I'd Miss You"	VERA
"I Found My Words Around You"	DAMIAN, MARY
"Heaven Help Me"	THE MOON, MAX, DAMIAN, MARY, ENSEMBLE
"Confidence"MARY, DAMIA	AN, DR. HAZELHOFF, MAX, YOUNG MARY, ENSEMBLE
"Mary Daisy Dinkle"	MAX, ENSEMBLE
"Less Letters"	LEN, DAMIAN, MARY
"You Never Told Me"	MARY, YOUNG MARY, ENSEMBLE
"Sidewalks"	MAX
"Finalo"	ENCEMDIE



QUALITY S OUR TYPECAST

THE BEST PEOPLE BUILDING THE BEST PROJECTS. WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT THEATRE CALGARY.





Calgary's Premiere Art & Craft Event



ART MARKET
art & craft sale

Over 200 Canadian Artisans

November 15th-18th, 2018
Calgary Telus Convention Centre

Thurs & Fri 10am-9pm Sat 10am-7pm Sun 10am-5pm

artmarketcraftsale.com

Nov Dec

A Christmas Carol Celebrating

By Charles Dickens Adapted and Directed by Dennis Garnhum

Tickets are selling quickly. Get yours now! 25 YEARS of Stephen Hair as Scrooge



theatrecalgary.com 403-294-7447

Associate Director: Simon Mallett, Set and Costumes: Patrick Clark, Lighting: Kevin Lamotte, Composer: Jeremy Spencer, Music and Vocals: Allison Lynch, Sound: Chris Jacko, Dramaturg: Shari Wattling, Fight Choreographer: Karl H Sine, Choreographer: Anita Miotti, Skating Choreographers: Andrea St. Cyr, Monique Wasmann

Relaxed Performance December 1

This production is made possible by the generous support of the Cal Wenzel Family Foundation Wenzel



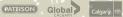




























Nick Adams

Kevin Aichele

Chase Crandell

Nick Adams — Damian, Ensemble, Dance Captain

Theatre Calgary debut. Nick originated and starred as Adam/Felicia in the Tony winning Broadway musical *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (winner of two Broadway Audience Choice Awards, American Theater Hall of Fame Honoree, Astaire Award nominee) and is the final actor to star as Fiyero in the First National Tour of *Wicked*. Other Broadway: *A Chorus Line* (Larry), *Guys and Dolls* (Liver Lips Louis, ORC), *Chicago* (Mary Sunshine standby), *La Cage Aux Folles* (2010 Tony Winning Revival, OBC), and *The Pirate Queen* (OBC). TV/Film: *The Other Two* (Comedy Central), *Sex and the City 2, An Englishman in New York, Smash, As the World Turns, Guiding Light, Dancing with the Stars*, Kennedy Center Honors, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, The Tony Awards, *Go-Go Boy Interrupted*. Recordings: *Priscilla Queen of the Desert, La Cage Aux Folles, The Pirate Queen, Sex And The City 2, Dee Does Broadway, Crossroads* Broadway album. BFA Boston Conservatory. NicholasAdams.com @thenickadams

Kevin Aichele — Noel, Ensemble

For Theatre Calgary: Mary Poppins (Citadel co-pro). Selected credits include: The Little Mermaid (Drayton); Million Dollar Quartet (Theatre Aquarius); Into The Woods (Opera On The Avalon); Mamma Mia (Western Canada Theatre); From Here To Eternity: North American Premiere (Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival); Bedtime Stories (Orillia Opera House); Buddy Holly Story (The Grand); The Last Resort (Globe Theatre); Closer Than Ever (Gateway Theatre); Les Miserables, Beauty and The Beast (Rainbow Stage); Evangeline (Charlottetown Festival); Spamalot (Citadel Theatre); Sweeney Todd *Betty Mitchell/Critics Choice Award (Vertigo Theatre); Jesus Christ Superstar (Stage West); Urinetown (Persephone Theatre); Annie Get Your Gun (Massey Hall); My Fair Lady (MTC); Film/TV: Sunnyside, The Pinkertons, Faces in The Crowd, Something Beneath, and True Crime: Concrete Evidence.

Chase Crandell — The Moon

Theatre Calgary debut. Chase is extremely proud and honored to be a part of this show. His friends Bobby, Crystal, Anna, and Stafford have made this come to fruition, and they deserve the world. Hope you enjoy.







Lauren Elder

Anthony Galde

Susan Gilmour

Lauren Elder — Mary, Ensemble

Theatre Calgary debut. Lauren Elder is an actress, singer-songwriter, and world champion whistler living in New York City. Broadway: Side Show, Hair; West End: Hair; NYC Theater: Hair (Shakespeare in the Park/NY Public Theater), The Village of Vale (Lincoln Center), Orange Star Smasharoo; Regional: Side Show (Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse), Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival; TV: Law & Order SVU, Louie, Boardwalk Empire. Lauren is also a children's performer, director, and teacher at NY Film Academy. She performs regularly in nightclubs around NYC, including 54 Below, Joe's Pub, Birdland, and Club Cumming. Her debut album can be found on iTunes and Spotify! Thank you to my dear friend Bobby Cronin for taking me on this journey. Bringing Mary to life is a dream come true! laureneldermusic.com Twitter: @lalabirdlauren Instagram: @lauren elder

Anthony Galde — Max

Theatre Calgary debut. His Broadway credits include *Starlight Express, The Prince of Central Park, King David, Civil War, South Pacific* and *Wicked*. National and International productions include *The Who's Tommy, Joseph... Technicolor Dreamcoat, Starlight Express, The Fix, Hot Mikado* and *A Funny Thing Happened... Forum*. Anthony is the co-creator of *WICKED: Behind the Emerald Curtain*, a behind the scenes look at the making of *Wicked* and has had the honor of producing and directing around the world. He is also co-founder of Orbit Arts Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. Thank you Stafford, Bobby, Crystal, Anna and Jenn for trusting me with Max. To my husband and son, Brad and Justin, and my family and friends... Thank you for your unending love and support.

Susan Gilmour — Vera, Ensemble

For Theatre Calgary: The Secret Garden, Crazy For You (Citadel co-pro), The Light in the Piazza, Mary Poppins (Citadel co-pro), Evita (1993). Elsewhere: HONK, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Sister Act, Anne of Green Gables, Footloose (Drayton); Gravitational Pull Of Bernice Trimble (Theatre Network); Spamalot, The Sound of Music, Little Women, The Drowsy Chaperone, Oliver!, Man of La Mancha (Citadel); CATS (Aquarius, Rainbow Stage); Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Drayton, Stage West); Into The Woods, Three Penny Opera, My Fair Lady (Stratford Festival); Pelagie, Larry's Party (Canadian Stage, NAC); Les Miserables (Toronto, Broadway, L.A., Asian/African Tour); Broadway and Beyond (Broadway). Awards: Calgary Theatre Critics Awards – Light In The Piazza, Mary Poppins. Toronto Theatre Critics Award – Wild Party.









Alana Hibbert

Katie McMillan

Kelsey Verzotti

Eric Wigston

Alana Hibbert — Mother Chocolate, Ensemble

Theatre Calgary debut. Born and raised on the west coast, Alana has appeared nation-wide on many of Canada's stages. Highlights include: multiple seasons at the Shaw and Stratford Festivals starring in Ragtime, Trouble in Tahiti, Guys and Dolls, Major Barbara, Carousel and The Sound of Music, as well as five seasons at the Charlottetown Festival. Other favorites are Parade, Caroline or Change, Once on This Island (Musical Stages Company); Amadeus, The Music Man, Sunday in the Park With George (TIFT); Bittergirl (MTC); The Wizard of Oz (YPT); Hairspray (Arts Club); Hair (Canadian Stage); and The Mountaintop (Obsidian/Shaw) for which she received a Dora nomination for best performance in a play. @ar_hibbs

Katie McMillan — Young Mary

Theatre Calgary debut. Other theatre: Into the Woods, The Wizard of Oz, West Side Story, Grease, Rent, Les Miserables, Annie (Storybook); Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Stage West); The Paperbag Princess (Forte). Katie grew up watching Theatre Calgary shows, and is thrilled and honoured to now be on the Max Bell Stage. She would like to thank her family and friends for their overwhelming love and support.

Kelsey Verzotti — Lady Noblet, Ensemble

Theatre Calgary debut. Kelsey is thrilled to be back in her hometown taking part in the world premiere of *Mary and Max* with this incredibly talented team! She was last seen as Jade in the world premiere of *Ai Yah! Sweet and Sour Secrets* (Lunchbox). Kelsey is a proud graduate of Sheridan College's Musical Theatre program, where she originated the role of Lucia in the Canadian premiere of *Senza Luce*. Other theatre credits include: Hannah in *Life After* (Canadian Stage/Musical Stage Company), Chirp in *Pinocchio a Merry Magical Pantomime* (Torrent Productions). Television: Top 10 Dorothy on *CBC's Over the Rainbow*. Kelsey is so grateful for the love and support from her friends, Seth and Kola, and her wonderful parents.

Eric Wigston — Vanity Noblet, Ensemble

For Theatre Calgary: The Secret Garden, Twelfth Night, Touch Me: Songs for a (dis)Connected Age (tc UP CLOSE w/Forte Musical Theatre), One Man, Two Guvnors, A Christmas Carol (2014). Elsewhere: Romeo & Juliet (The Shakespeare Company); Lest We Forget, That Men May Fly (Lunchbox); Jeremy de Bergerac (Forte); Evil Dead: The Musical (Hit and Myth Productions); Romeo and Juliet, A Christmas Carol (Citadel); Spring Awakening (Artist Collective Theatre); Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Shear Madness (Mayfield); The Soul Collector (Catalyst); Cause & Effect, The Adulteress (Teatro La Quindicina). He would like to thank his family for all of their love and support and to the best wife ever, Emma.







Bobby Cronin

Crystal Skillman

Stafford Arima

Bobby Cronin — Composer and Lyricist, Vocal Arrangements

Theatre Calgary debut. Bobby is the award-winning composer/lyricist of: *Mary and Max* (Pace New Musicals winner 2017/2018, MUT Critic's Prize in Germany 2018, and 2017 finalist for SigWorks, DC); *The Concrete Jungle* (London, International Cast Recording); *Til Death Do Us Part* with Bookwriter Caroline Prugh (winner 2018 SDSU New Works Award); *Daybreak* (US & London, winner NJ Playwrights Award); currently writing book, music & lyrics for *#W2ML a new pop-rock musical* and *Psykidz* (A Class Act NY commission); and the music for Christine Toy Johnson's *Till Soon, Anne*. Bobby has written scores/songs for many award-winning short films and webseries. He did a European Concert Tour in 2017 and has had his songs performed all over the world from China to Australia, Japan to Germany, Canada to France, and on stages such as Lincoln Center and Symphony Space. He was part of the *From Broadway with Love* concert at Florida's Stoneman Douglas School, is on the upcoming album *So Much To Say: Songs for Everytown*, and his first album *Reach The Sky* is on all digital platforms. On faculty at NYFA. Graduate of Yale University where he won the Michael P. Manzella Award for Excellence in the Arts, Scholastics, and Character. Dedicated to my Dad. BobbyCronin.com

Crystal Skillman — Bookwriter

Theatre Calgary debut. Crystal Skillman is the author of the plays *Geek!*, *Cut*, *King Kirby* (NYTimes Critics' Picks), *Rain and Zoe Save the World* (2018 EMOS Prize), and *Pulp Vérité* (upcoming Playwrights Foundation Workshop). New Musicals Include: *Olishnach* (composer Bobby Cronin); *Postcard American Town* (composer Lynne Shankel and director Stafford Arima) selected for this year's 2018 Rhinebeck Writers Retreat; and new works with Paul Scott Goodman and Matthew McCollum. Awards include the 2018 MUT Award (Critics' Prize) for *Mary and Max*, Clifford Odets Ensemble Play Commission, and the New York Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Play. *King Kirby*, co-written with Fred Van Lente, made its Canadian Premiere in Calgary at Sage Theatre Company (Director: Jason Mehmal), and was nominated for a 2016 Calgary Critter Award. Her digital webtoon comic book, *Eat Fighter*, also co-written with Fred Van Lente, launches this fall. crystalskillamn.com Twitter: @CrystalSkillman

Stafford Arima — Director

For Theatre Calgary: *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 Sondheim* (Boston Pops); *Saturday Night* (Off-Broadway); *Two Class Acts* (Off-Broadway); *Poster Boy* (Williamstown Theatre Festival); *Guys and Dolls* (Paper Mill Playhouse, NJ); *The New World* (Bucks County Playhouse, PA); *Bright Lights, Big City* (Prince Music Theater, PA); *Total Eclipse* (Toronto); 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







Anna Ebbesen

Joshua Zecher-Ross

Jenn Rapp

Anna Ebbesen — Orchestrator and Music Supervisor

Theatre Calgary debut. Anna Ebbesen has made a career commitment to fostering new voices in the industry. Her orchestrations can be heard on nearly twenty original movie musicals currently on the film festival circuit, including scores by Zoe Sarnak (2018 Jonathan Larson Award), Anna K. Jacobs (7 Helen Hayes nominations), Bobby Cronin, Daniel Lincoln and Avi Amon. Anna recently music directed and orchestrated the winning song for the American Theatre Wing Songwriting Challenge under the mentorship of Max Vernon (2018 Richard Rodgers Award). She has worked with Tony Award winner Steven Sater on developing new works as well as Emily Gardner Xu Hall (2018 Lilly Award). Thank you, Bobby, for trusting me with your music. Love to J and J. annaebbesen.com

Joshua Zecher-Ross

— Music Director, Dance Arrangements, Additional Orchestrations

Theatre Calgary debut. Joshua Zecher-Ross has worked on 100s of productions in New York and around America as a music director, conductor, arranger, and orchestrator, and he is honoured to be at Theatre Calgary. New York work includes *Sweetee* directed by Patricia Birch (The Signature), songs in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and many shows at 54 Below, Joe's Pub, Laurie Beechman and others. Joshua's musical and vocal arrangements have been performed and recorded nationally and around the world. Regional credits include Barrington Stage Company, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, George Street Playhouse, Sharon Playhouse, The Mac-Haydn Theatre, and The Little Theatre on the Square (Resident Music Director and Artistic Director). Joshua is a musical theatre instructor at the NY Film Academy and holds a Bachelor's of Music in vocal performance from the Steinhardt School at NYU. Many thanks to Anna, Bobby, Stafford, and the incredible cast and team of *Mary and Max*. Love to Sam and to Mom and Dad. JoshuaZR.com

Jenn Rapp — Choreographer

Theatre Calgary debut. BROADWAY: *The Illusionists* (Associate Director). US TOUR: *D Cappella*, Disney A Cappella group (Choreographer/Associate Director) OFF-BROADWAY: *Squash* (The Flea), *Found* (Atlantic Theatre Company), *Indian Ink* (Roundabout), *Bare* (Martian Entertainment), *Carrie* (MCC), *Lucky Guy* (Alchemy Productions). NYC: *The Secret Garden & Ragtime* (MCP, Lincoln Center), *Prison Dancer* (NYMF, Outstanding Choreography Award), *Outlaws* (NYMF), *Song For A Future Generation & Taiga In The Berkshires* (WTF). Norwegian Cruise Line (Director/Choreographer): *Le Cirque Bijou & Jersey Boys*. TOUR: *The Illusionists* (International), *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Live!* (US Tour), *PJ Masks Live!* (Round Room Presents). TELEVISION: *The Knick* (Cinemax), *Royal Pains* (USA), *Z: The Beginning of Everything* (Amazon). SDC Member. JennRapp.com







Bretta Gerecke

Kimberly Purtell

Sean Nieuwenhuis

Bretta Gerecke — Set and Costume Design

For Theatre Calgary: *The Little Prince – The Musical, Enron, Lost – A Memoir, Beyond Eden.* Bretta is a Set, Lighting and Costume designer for Theatre, Circus, and Opera. She is the resident designer at Catalyst Theatre where she creates and tours new Canadian musicals. Bretta also designs for companies such as Cirque du Soleil, The National Arts Centre, Edmonton Opera, The Royal Shakespeare Company, Calgary Opera, The Citadel and The Grand Theatre. She is the recipient of over 25 awards and Avenue Magazine's Top 40 under 40, Global Television's Woman of Vision Award, IPL Best Emerging Artist, a nominee for the Lucille Lortel Award (Costume Design, Off Broadway) and three times short-listed for the Siminovitch Prize. She recently represented Canada in Prague at the Scenography Quadrennial and her costume designs have been exhibited in Moscow, Beijing, and Taipei. bretta-gerecke.com

Kimberly Purtell — Lighting Design

For Theatre Calgary: *The Humans, The Drowsy Chaperone*. Elsewhere: Kimberly is a Toronto based lighting designer for theatre, opera and dance. Her designs have been critically acclaimed across Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Prague, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Moscow and Mongolia. Most recently she designed *Prom Queen: The Musical* (Grand Theatre), *Snow Child* (Arena Stage, DC), *Sisters* (Soulpepper), *Mamma Mia* (Citadel Theatre), *Bronte: The World Without, Timon of Athens, The Virgin Trial, The Madwoman of Chaillot* (Stratford Festival), *The Madness of George III, Androcles and the Lion* (Shaw Festival), *Life Reflected* (National Arts Centre Orchestra). She recently toured Canada and the US with Emily Haines and the Soft Skeleton. Upcoming designs include *Anything Goes* (Arena Stage, Washington DC) and *Oslo* (Mirvish/Studio 180), *The Wedding Party* (National Arts Centre). Kimberly has received three Dora Mavor Moore Awards, the Pauline McGibbon Award and a Montreal English Theatre Award.

Sean Nieuwenhuis — Projection Design

For Theatre Calgary: The Little Prince – The Musical, The Mountaintop. Selected Credits: SUMMER, Dr. Zhivago, Jesus Christ Superstar (Broadway), Rear Window (Hartford Stage), Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots, Sideways (La Jolla Playhouse), A Word or Two (Ahmanson), The Who's Tommy, Evita, Cabaret, Wanderlust, Jesus Christ Superstar (Stratford Festival), Macbeth (LA Opera), Faust (Metropolitan Opera), Manchurian Candidate (Minnesota Opera), Nixon in China (Royal Swedish Opera, WOO Dublin, San Francisco, Kansas City, Vancouver Opera), Handmaid's Tale, Going Home Star (Royal Winnipeg Ballet), Anne of Green Gables (Confederation Centre), Marathon of Hope (Drayton), 2014-2018 Calgary Stampede Grandstand Show, 2017 Invictus Games Opening & Closing, Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games Opening & Closing. Upcoming: Madama Butterfly, Whiteley for Opera Australia. Member of the Associated Designers of Canada & United Scenic Artists 829.









Peter McBoyle

Iane MacFarlane

Patti Neice

Emma Brager

Peter McBoyle — Sound Design

For Theatre Calgary: *Crazy for You, The Little Prince – The Musical, Mary Poppins* (Citadel copro), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Citadel co-pro), *West Side Story* (Citadel co-pro). Elsewhere: Peter has worked at most of the major Canadian theatres and in US cities such as New York, Las Vegas, Boston, Dallas and Atlanta. He lives in Stratford where he has spent 23 seasons at the Stratford Festival. His Broadway credits include *Come Fly Away* and *Barrymore* and his tours include *Sister Act, Catch Me If You Can, Come Fly Away, West Side Story* and *Legally Blonde*. He has a Bachelors and a Masters of Music from McGill University and is currently on the faculty at Humber College. Recent projects include *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Music Man* for Stratford, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Anne of Green Gables* for Charlottetown and the world premiere of the critically acclaimed musical *Life After* in Toronto.

Jane MacFarlane — Voice and Dialect Coach

For Theatre Calgary: More than 45 productions since 2000 including *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, Pride and Prejudice, Enron, To Kill a Mockingbird, Much Ado About Nothing, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,* 7 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.

Patti Neice — Stage Manager

For Theatre Calgary: Stage Manager – The Secret Garden, Twelfth Night, A Christmas Carol (2015-17), 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).

Emma Brager — Assistant Stage Manager

Select Theatre Calgary credits include: Sisters: The Belles Soeurs Musical (Segal Centre), Crazy for You (Citadel co-pro), King Lear, Mary Poppins (Citadel co-pro), A Christmas Carol







Chandler Ontkean Andrew G. Cooper Sarah Wheeldon

('08 – '14), The Kite Runner (Citadel co-pro), Cats, Much Ado About Nothing, Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare in the Park), The Comedy of Errors (Shakespeare by the Bow). Other credits include: August: Osage County, Death of a Salesman (Citadel); Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Venus in Fur, The Motherf**ker with the Hat (ATP); Undercover, The Hollow (Vertigo); Blind Date (Spontaneous Theatre/ WCT). Emma would like to thank her family for keeping the home fires burning, and her husband Eric for everything!

Chandler Ontkean — Apprentice Stage Manager

Theatre Calgary debut. Chandler is excited to be working for the first time with Theatre Calgary! Previous credits include: *The Lonely Diner, Undercover, Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily* (Vertigo); *Tribes* (University of Lethbridge). Big thanks to her amazing parents and friends for their continued support and unending love.

Andrew G. Cooper — TC Mentors – Direction

Theatre Calgary debut. Andrew holds his Bachelor of Arts from Thompson Rivers University and is the recipient of the Kamloops Mayor's Emerging Artist Award. He has won two awards for Outstanding Choreography for his work with the Academy of Dance and is the founding Artistic Managing Director of Chimera Theatre. Previous directing credits include *Perseus & Andromeda, Mockus, Frankenstein* (Chimera Theatre), *The Disordered Mind, Crossroads* (Tranquille Tunnel Theatre), and *The Grind* (Western Canada Theatre's High-wire Festival). Next, Andrew will be working as the assistant director of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberly* at Citadel Theatre in Edmonton and in the spring, he is creating a new puppet show called *The Robber Bridegroom* with Chimera Theatre in Kamloops. @AndrewGCooper22

Sarah Wheeldon — TC Mentors - Music Direction

For Theatre Calgary: Actor – *Silence: Mabel & Alexander Graham Bell* (FUSE 2016). Sarah has been an Actor, Director, Music Director and Musician across Alberta for over 18 yrs. She is delighted to be given the once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of this amazing new work. Selected MD and Directing credits include: *Seussical, Cinderella, A Boy's Own Jedi Handbook* (Storybook); *All's Well That Ends Well* (The Shakespeare Company); *The Sound of Music* (St Peter's Players) and *Munschapalooza* (Centre Stage Theatre). Sarah is also an actor on many Calgary stages, most recently in *Charlotte's Web* at ATP, and works in film, television and radio across the country. She will be appearing at Vertigo Theatre in 2019 in *Might As Well Be Dead*. She lives in Calgary but loves to travel and explore the world of pastry arts. Much love to all her supportive family/friends and remember to Shine On everyone!





Special Thanks & Acknowledgements

Denise Barbarita at MONOLisa Studios; James Beresford; Matt Crandell; Cyndi Crandell; Gerry Cronin; Marge "Nana" Cronin; Dramatists Guild & Dramatists Guild Foundation; Adam Elliot; Judy Kent; Carter McGowan & Mark Sendroff; Mark Olsen & New York Film Academy; Mark Orsini; Andi & Lesley Poch; Amy Rogers & Pace New Musicals; Russell & Marie Skillman; Annette Tanner & Broadway Dreams; University of Calgary; Kara Unterberg; Fred Van Lente.

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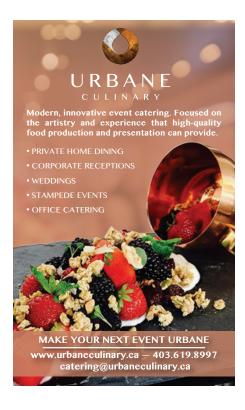
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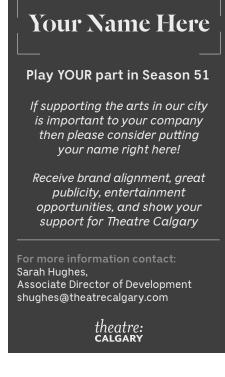
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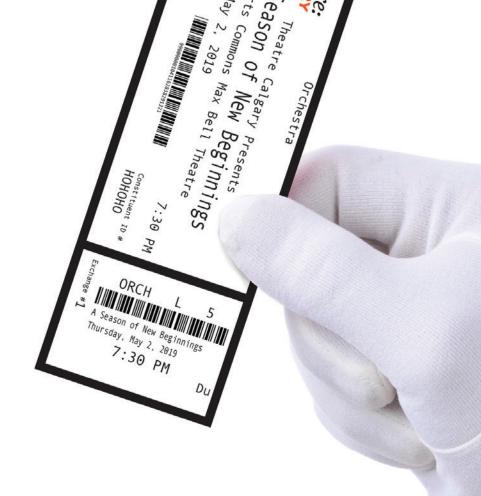
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From Celluloid To Center Stage

By Jenna Turk

he impetus for the creation of *Mary and Max – A New Musical* came from Bobby Cronin (Composer & Lyricist). A friend of his insisted he watch the original 2009 stop-motion animated film, "Bobby it's YOU! Your heart. Your life experiences. It even sounds like you!" So, he watched it, only intending to watch ten minutes and go to bed. But two hours later, he says, "I was on the floor in a puddle of tears texting my agents to help me get this property." Cronin had certainly connected emotionally to the movie's subject matter, but he had also seen its potential as a musical. "Because the film is so visual and uses a narrator, I yearned to hear the internal and external thoughts coming more from the mouths of the characters. To me, this screamed 'song'." Early collaborator and now director Stafford Arima agreed, "The film, in a way, sings. It's not a movie musical; however, the heightened circumstances and the odd, but accessible, characters are necessary ingredients for a musical."

The source material for *Mary and Max – A New Musical* came from the fascinating mind of filmmaker Adam Elliot. An auteur who solely works on his own film projects, Elliot usually spends around five years crafting a new work. Prior to *Mary and Max*, his film, *Harvie Krumpet*, won the 2004 Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film. He calls each of his movies a "Clayography" – an animated clay biography. His own heart and soul is reflected in each film, and *Mary and Max* was no different. Inspired by Melbourne-based Elliot's real twenty year pen-pal correspondence with a New Yorker who was diagnosed with Asperger's, the film is a deeply personal story for the filmmaker. Elliot acknowledges, "*Mary and Max* is probably the most factual film I have made with many elements based on actual events." His first feature film (his next one is due out in 2020), the project used a team of six animators and a crew of 120 people. Each prop, set, and character was handcrafted – Elliot does not use any digital imagery to enhance his visual aesthetic. The film featured the celebrity voices of Philip Seymour Hoffman as Max and Toni

Collette as Mary, and it premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Since then, the animated film has developed something of a cult following and is currently one of 250 best rated films on IMDB. Set and Costume Designer for Mary and Max - A New Musical Bretta Gerecke counts the film among her favourites. "I saw it about seven years ago on YouTube...and I have watched it over and over since. It is so beautiful, so heartbreaking, and yet so full of hope." As a fan. Gerecke wants to be sure the musical is original in itself, but also wants to honour the film. Cronin concurs, "There's a great responsibility that comes with an adaptation...these are not my characters: They are Adam Elliot's." Luckily, Cronin has the filmmaker's trust. Elliot enthuses, "I really wanted Bobby to totally interpret and develop the project in the best way he saw fit. I have always trusted him and know he cares as much about the story and characters as I do."

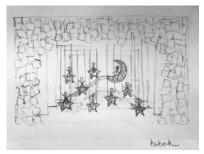
Arima believes that the primary difference between the original film and the new musical adaptation is their use of varying storytelling techniques. While the film version used animation (stop-motion, Claymation technology) as its narrative tool, "the stage adaptation will utilize human beings and song as its narrative tool."





The animated Mary and Max as depicted in the film.





Set & Costume Designer Bretta Gerecke's maquette featuring the Noblets' TV, and her original sketch of the Moon.

He clarifies, "Very different, but at the end of the day, the essence of the film, the story of Mary and Max will be in the stage production." Having previously directed two

musicals based on novels (Stephen King's "Carrie" and E.L. Doctorow's "Ragtime"), Arima knows that the detail in a novelist's approach to narrative and character is very different from a librettist's responsibilities. "So in the development of a new work, based on an existing film, novel, poem, etc., it's crucial that the adaptation stays true to the medium the writer is writing for." He shares, "I remember during the early writing process, I told Crystal Skillman (Bookwriter) to forget about the movie. I felt that Crystal was being too true to the film, and the script for the stage was being hampered by an author's desire to stay true to the original source. Once Crystal let go of the film, and wrote from the heart of the characters, the script soared."

Skillman learned that while key moments must be kept, they need to be chosen wisely, because in theatrical storytelling there is a finite amount of space and time. She explains, "The arc of Max and Mary's relationship, their obstacles, and how they overcome them is what drives this musical. In theatre, an audience invests in relationships and human behavior, so in adapting, we had to ask ourselves: What plays best on stage? What is the essence of what we need? And, how does that translate to theatrical storytelling that will move an audience moment to moment?" No small task. Fortunately, the



The official 2009 film poster for Mary and Max.



Theatre Calgary's poster for *Mary and Max – A New Musical*. (Art direction & graphic design by Camp Pacific. Illustrations by Andrea Ucini)

collaborators were able to come to a consensus on a few notable elements from the film to highlight even further in the new musical: The Noblets (characters from

Mary and Max's favourite TV show) come to life; Max's tears appear as bottle upon bottle of saved up saltwater hanging in the air; the Moon has become our honey-voiced storyteller; and the duo's metaphorical crossing sidewalks spring to life in a true heart song.

One might, perhaps, think that an obvious difference between the animated film and the new musical might be THE MUSIC, but Anna Ebbesen (Music Supervisor & Orchestrations) found much inspiration in the source material. In fact, while the film is in no way a movie musical, creator Adam Elliot did select songs prior to writing it. "The 'essence' or the 'feel' that his soundtrack evokes was important for me to follow," Ebbesen says, "it was important for me to preserve in the orchestrations." Elliot is excited, "I have heard a few of the songs and LOVE them. I can't wait to hear all the others."

The other huge difference between the film and the musical is the use of real live humans! There is no Claymation in the stage version, but Ebbesen was actually inspired by the Claymation movement of some of the characters. She explains, "Some of the characters' movement helped determine the internal tempo of their orchestrations." The music is as complex and round as its characters and as full of life (joyous and melancholic together) as their lives.

The creators of Mary and Max - A New Musical may have taken inspiration from Adam Elliot's original creation and added their own flavour, but all parties involved have remained committed to the heart of the piece. Skillman confesses, "For us, it is about connection. Mary and Max's story is timely, but also timeless. With all that is going on in the world today, a piece about kindness, and about the importance of friendship, is something we feel an audience really needs."

SOURCES

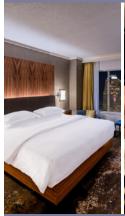
Mary and Max. Dir. Adam Elliot. Perf. Toni Collette, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Bethany Whitmore. Icon Entertainment International, 2009. Film.

Poster and images from the film, *Mary and Max*, via IMDB Photo Gallery: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0978762/mediaindex?ref_=tt_pv_mi_sm

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With Amy Johnson, General Manager, Hyatt Regency Calgary

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Why has your hotel chosen to be a sponsor of Theatre Calgary?

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Do you feel that your guests that stay at your hotel will benefit from any of these benefits?

I think they will. We want to showcase to our guests that we do have a variety of activities to offer and one of those is a vibrant arts scene. We're integrating that information with our guest check in procedure to let them know what shows are on at your theatre. Given the lineup of shows you have we strongly believe that offering will add positively to our hotel guests experience with us.

How do you think Theatre Calgary benefits from this sponsorship?

I'm hoping you see us as a resource you know you can count on to help whenever you need something, whether it's your team's travel or something here in the city. We want you to know you can count on us to take special care of those important guests you have coming to the city to work on your shows. We want to help to keep your costs down so that you can bring the absolute best to the stage.

What importance do you feel the arts play in our community?

We want to have people see Calgary as not only having the Stampede but as also having a diverse selection of arts activities to offer. Attendees to our hotel not only want to know about the meeting space we offer, they want to know what else the city has to offer as a way to entertain their clients. We believe the arts are an important pillar in our city.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Theatre Calgary and the arts are critical to the city, because if you look at the consumer looking at Calgary, they are looking for unique experiences. We have a responsibility to help showcase the unique experiences this city has to offer to the guests that come to our hotel.

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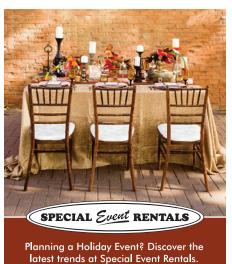


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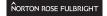


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