

Oh What A Ride! Productions Inc.
In association with
Crow's Theatre and The Toronto Stage Company
present



DANCER

a musical in ten furlongs

Book and Lyrics by **Jim Betts**
Music Composed by **Marek Norman**
Supervising Music Director and Orchestrations by **Mark Camilleri**
Director and Choreographer **Stacey Tookey**
Starring **Keanu Uchida** as Northern Dancer

The incredible true story of the little Canadian colt
who went up against the giant Americans, and won!

Opening Night: Wednesday, **October 14, 2026**

The Terminal Theatre in the Queen's Quay Terminal, Toronto

Photos of Keanu Uchida by Dahlia Katz.



Photo of Kate and Jim captured on location at LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society by Dahlia Katz.

Welcome to our proudly Canadian production of *Dancer (A Musical In Ten Furlongs)*. We are excited to celebrate this inspirational story of Canadian resilience and determination, one which feels particularly relevant given our current political climate. Northern Dancer became a national hero in 1964 by taking on the best in the world, and succeeding beyond all expectations. We are equally determined to prove that a Canadian musical, about a Canadian hero, created and produced in Canada by Canadians, can exemplify the same spirit that made Northern Dancer an international phenomenon. Thanks to everyone who has helped us get this far. And thank you for joining us on this ride. We hope this production will make you proud.

Kate Barris & Jim Betts

Executive Producers, Oh What A Ride!

**This production is
dedicated to the
memory of**

**Joe Rosenthal
and to John McKellar, Nona MacDonald Heaslip,
Jefferson Mappin and Donald Ross**

Run time: 100 minutes no intermission

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The Cast

Northern Dancer **Keanu Uchida**

Winnie Taylor **Barbara Barsky***

Hoofbeat **Danny Cannis***

Dance Company **Melanie De Melo**

Dance Company **Madison Foley**

Hoofbeat **JJ Gerber***

Bill Brevard **Sterling Jarvis***

Dance Company **Jayden Lau**

Dance Company **Jackson Lee**

Dance Company **Lexi Lehr**

Dance Company **Jia Yi (Judy) Luo**

Dance Company **Kieran Macdonald**

Hoofbeat **Suzanne McKenney***

E.P. Taylor **Tyler Murree***

Dance Company **Daniel Palladino**

Hoofbeat **Eva Petris***

Dance Company **Shelby Patterson***

Dance Company **Lucas Popowich***

Dance Company **Jude Richardson**

Hoofbeat **Lara Angela Roda**

Daryl (the Track Announcer) **Sam Rosenthal***

Horatio Luro **Kent Sheridan***

Dance Company **Mason Smitheram**

Dance Company **Mélodie Suganami**

Hoofbeat **Daniel Williston***

The Orchestra

Conductor & Keyboard **Mark Camilleri**

Associate Conductor **Jeannie Wyse**

Trumpet **Dave Dunlop**

Woodwinds **Tara Davidson**

Trombone **Zach Smith**

Cello **Rachel Pomedli**

Guitar **Justin Abedin**

Bass **Peter Bleakney**

Drums **Steve Heathcote**

Orchestration and Keyboard Programming **Mark Camilleri**



All musicians in the DANCER orchestra are members of the Toronto Musicians' Association, Local 149 of the American Federation of Musicians.

The Creative Team

Bookwriter & Lyricist **Jim Betts**

Composer **Marek Norman**

Supervising Music Director and Orchestrations **Mark Camilleri**

Director And Choreographer **Stacey Tookey**

Set, Props and Video Designer **Julia Kim****

Costume Designer **Alessia Urbani****

Lighting Designer **Chris Malkowski****

Technical Sound Designer **Aaron Hanna**

Associate Director and Choreographer **Anna Marchisello***

Associate Music Director **Jeannie Wyse**

Associate Lighting Designer **Alex Sykes**

Head Of Wardrobe **Kalina Popova**

Head Of Props **David Hoekstra**

Assistant/Intern **Anna Njegovan-Rosenberger**

Assistant/Intern **Hayley Scherman**

Designer Emerita **Astrid Janson**

Cutter **Kathleen Preston**

Stitcher **Gwyneth Whalen-Hughes**

Stitcher **Mags Canning**

Wig Styling **Jacqueline Robertson Cull**

Dresser **Keara Hicks**

Dresser **Aria Core**



**Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, Local ADC659.

The Production Team

Executive Producer **Kate Barris**
Executive Producer **Jim Betts**
General Manager **Liza Hersh**
Production Manager **Crystal Lee**
Associate Production Manager **Carlos Varela**
Technical Director **Aidan Shepherd**
Stage Manager **Dustyn Wales***
Assistant Stage Manager **Molly Mück***
Apprentice Stage Manager **Max Craven**
Company Manager **Janelle Hutchison**
Associate Producer **Sam Rosenthal**
Associate Producer/Artistic **Tom Diamond**
Consulting Producer **Derrick Chua**
General Management Consultant **Robyn Hoja**
Media Relations and Communications **Suzanne Cheriton, Red Eye Media**
Marketing and Communications **Carrie Sager, FLIP Publicity**
Financial Management **Doug Blair**
Videography **Peter Riddihough, Hoffworks**
Photography **Dahila Katz Photography** and **Racheal McCaig**
Graphic Design **Suzy Malik, Light Up The Sky**
Website Design **Linn Oyen Farley, Drollic Design**

First Day of Rehearsals photo by Dahlia Katz



MUSICAL NUMBERS

Prologue – Open Fields

“Freedom/Fences”

First Furlong

September 16, 1962,
Windfields Farm’s Annual Yearling Sale

“The Parade Of the Yearlings”

“Put It In The Hat”

“Run, Dancer”

Second Furlong

August 2, 1963, Fort Erie Racetrack

“The Fort Erie Maiden”

Third Furlong

Fall, 1963, 24 Sussex Drive

“Six Hundred Horses”

Fourth Furlong

Fall, 1963

“On Track/The Whip”

“Distant Pasture, Green”

“The Grand Señor”

Fifth Furlong

November/December 1963

“The Quarter-Crack Races”

“Little Giant”

“This Won’t Hurt A Bit”

Sixth Furlong

February 1964, Hialeah Track, Florida

“Unbroken”

Seventh Furlong

February 11-15, 1964, Running Again

“Dance, Nijinsky”

“You And Me”

Eighth Furlong

February 24-April 4, 1964, Florida

“The Ride”

Ninth Furlong

April 28 to May 1, 1964,
In and Around Churchill Downs

“Kentucky Rose”

“The Finish Line”

Tenth Furlong

May 2, 1964, The Kentucky Derby

“Photo Finish”

Epilogue

“Distant Pasture Green/Run Dancer/The Ride [Reprises]”



Company Biographies



JIM BETTS

Bookwriter/Lyricist

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Jim has been working with Marek Norman on developing *Dancer* since 2010.

Select Theatre Credits: Jim's Canadian musicals include *Colours In The Storm*, *Extraordinary*, *Sunshine Sketches*, *Bluenose*, *Thin Ice*, *The Shooting Of Dan McGrew*, and the Dora awarding *Jacob Two-Two Meets The Hooded Fang*. He is also a Chalmers Award winning playwright and aspiring novelist, and has served as Artistic Director of Theatre Orangeville, Smile Theatre, and ScriptLab.

Upcoming Projects: *Bluenose* - a new musical with composer John Estacio.

Education/Training: Studied with the legendary Lehman Engel and Gordon Delamont. Founded the Canadian Musical Theatre Course at Sheridan College.

Thank You: To Kate Barris. And to all the friends, family and colleagues who have encouraged Marek and me along all these many furlongs!

Social Media: jimbetts.ca, northernriver.com



MAREK NORMAN

Composer

Hometown: Vancouver, BC

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Since the very beginning of DANCER

Select Theatre Credits: (as Composer) *The Great Adventure*, *DRACULA - A Chamber Musical*, *Emily*, *Larry's Party*, *Wanderlust* ... (as Musical Director) *Assassins* (Canadian Premiere), *The Last Five Years* (Canadian Premiere), *Colours In The Storm*, *Les Misérables*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Oh What A Lovely War* ...

Upcoming Projects: *Ballycroy* (Theatre Orangeville, Spring '27)

Thank You: Jim Betts, Stacey Tookey, John McKellar, Karen Kain, David Bradstreet, Rick Fox, Mark Camilleri, Jeannie Wyse - and Barbara Barsky.

Social Media: mareknorman7@gmail.com





STACEY TOOKEY

Director and Choreographer

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown/Current Town: Originally and proudly from Edmonton resides in Maplewood, NJ.

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Choreographer for 2011 workshop, 2016 workshop, Director and Choreographer for the 2023 Toronto Fringe.

Select Theatre Credits: Moments Defined LA & NYC, Dancer 2023 Fringe.

Select Dance Credits: World Expo Dubai 2020, Los Angeles Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet.

Select Film/TV Credits: Three-time Emmy Nominated Choreographer and Guest Judge on *So You Think You Can Dance Canada* and US, *Dancing with the Stars*, James Corden Show, Shia LaBeouf, musical feature film *I'm Not Gay*, and *Fair Market Value*.

Upcoming Projects: Creator and Artistic Director of The Bridge Movement and Protégé Movement mentoring dancers and helping bridge them to their professional careers. Choreographer for a new musical *Pump Up the Volume* coming fall of 2027.

Education/Training: Proud to be Tookey-trained by my Mom and grateful for the many incredible educators & mentors I have had throughout my life.

Thank You: Jim and Marek for trusting me with this beautiful show. The endless support of my husband Gene, daughter Harper, and of course Roxy.

Social Media: @sjtookey @Thebridge.movement



MARK CAMILLERI

Supervising Music Director/Orchestrator

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: Dozens of musicals with Mirvish Productions, HGJTC, Starvox, Dancap, and Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company, and Canadian Stage.

Select Concert Credits: Pianist/Music Director/Conductor for The Tenors, Payadora, Joyride, Royal Conservatory Orchestra.

Select Film/TV Credits: Owner of IMAGINE Sound Studios.

Upcoming Projects: Concerts with Rufus Wainright, the Christmas Pantomime in Toronto.

Education/Training: Royal Conservatory of Music.

Social Media: www.imaginesound.com





KEANU UCHIDA

Northern Dancer

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown/Current Town: Ottawa/Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: 2016, 2023, 2026. Dancer spans my entire career, pretty much!

Select Dance Credits: *Ginny and Georgia*, *The Umbrella Academy*, *89th Academy Awards*, Lorde, Muse, Guggenheim Museum, *Jonas Brothers Christmas Movie*, Peloton x Hudson Williams, FIFA World Cup 2026 Opening Ceremony at BMO Field.

Education/Training: University of Toronto.

Thank You: It's a dream and a half to be on this team and to bring this story to life. I hope you love it as much as we do. If you don't... please throw something other than tomatoes; I'm allergic.



BARBARA BARSKY

Winnie Taylor

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown/Current Town: Winnipeg/Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Appeared as Winnie at the 2023 Toronto Fringe production.

Select Theatre Credits: *Mama Rose/Gypsy*, *Mrs. Lovett/Sweeney Todd*, *Sara Jane Moore/Assassins* (Dora Award), *Norma Desmond/Sunset Boulevard*, *Madame Thénardier*, *Les Misérables*, *Elegies*, *Falsettos*, *Ms. Byrd/Closer Than Ever*, *Maria Callas/Masterclass*, *Penelope Pennywise/Urinetown*, *Golde/Fiddler On The Roof*, *Berthe/Boeing Boeing*, *The Second City*.

Select Film/TV Credits: *Clowns* (Actra Award Nomination), *The Rivals*, *The Mathmakers* (Host), *Loving*.

Upcoming Projects: *Ballycroy/Mary Fanning* (Spring Of 2027)

Other: Seven Dora Award Nominations/Sas Award Nomination/Jessie Award Nomination/Tyrone Guthrie Award.

Social Media: @barskybarbara



DANNY CANNIS

Hoofbeat, Auctioneer Harry Green

Horatio Luro Understudy

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast* (Neptune Theatre), Buzz Lightyear in *Toy Story: The Musical* (Disney Cruise Line), Captain Viz in *The Effectors*, and John in *The Beautiful Dream* (Royal Caribbean), Sir Lionel in *Camelot* (U.S. National Tour/Drayton Entertainment), Guido Contini in *Nine*, and Manny Munoz in *City of Angels*.

Education/Training: Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts and Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts.

Thank You: Agents at Hero Artists, and Mark Camilleri, Jim Betts, Marek Norman.

Social Media: @imadannycannis



MELANIE DE MELO

Dance Company

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut!

Select Dance Credits: As a member of Conteur Dance Company, Melanie has performed at Breaking Ground Dance Festival in Phoenix, Arizona, and Smash the (In)Fertility Stigma Gala in Toronto. Melanie has also appeared in music videos for Barenaked Ladies, The Beaches, and has worked as a guest choreographer at The Heart of Riverdale in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Education/Training: Following competitive dance, Melanie has continued her training across North America, attending intensives with Arts Umbrella, Ballets Jazz Montréal, and RUBBERBAND. She also holds an Honours Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from McMaster University.

Thank You: The opportunity to work with Stacey Tookey, Anna Marchisello, Jim Betts, and the entire creative team, while sharing this experience with an immensely talented cast, has been incredible and greatly meaningful.



MADISON FOLEY

Dance Company, Rainy Monday, Derby Shoemaker

Pronouns: She/Her

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: 2023 Fringe Production.

Select Dance Credits: Won Best Choreographer at the national The Dance Awards.

Select Film/TV Credits: *Riverdale*, *Backstage*, *The Next Step*, along with several nationwide commercial campaigns.

Education/Training: In 2022, Madison completed the Intensive Training Program at Harbour Dance Centre in Vancouver.





JJ GERBER

Hoofbeat, Willie Shoemaker

Bill Brervard Understudy

Pronouns: He/They

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *Wait Until Dark*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *My Fair Lady*, *Kabarett*, *Footlights*, *Brigadoon*, *The Clearing*, *The Amen Corner*, *1922 in Concert*, *Damn Yankees*, [Shaw]; *Soul of Motown*, *Hollywood Hits*, *Stage West*; *The Wizard of Oz*, *A Few Good Men*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, [Drayton Entertainment]; *Hairspray*, [Theatre Aquarius]; *Chicago*, [Globe]; *Guys and Dolls*, [Capitol Theatre]; *Cinderella Panto*, [Torrent Productions]; *Anne of Green Gables*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Martin Guerre in Concert*, [Charlottetown]; *Mamma Mia!*, [Citadel]; *Grease*, [Winter Garden] Theatre; *A Chorus Line*, *Hypochondriac*, [Stratford]; *Parade*, [Lincoln Center].

Select Film/TV Credits: *My Little Pony G5 & G6*, *Transformers: BotBots*, *Hello Luna*, *Never Doubt I Love*, *Blues Clues*, *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*, *Take Note*, *Ollie's Pack*, *RockKids TV*.

Upcoming Projects: *9-5*, *The Grand*.

Education/Training: Sheridan College

Social Media (Music): @JonoJosh on streaming platforms.



STERLING JARVIS

Bill Brevard

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown and/or Current Town: Born in Digby, Nova Scotia but raised in Toronto.

For Oh What a Ride Productions: Been with DANCER from the very beginning in its first workshop.

Select Theatre credits: *Book of Mormon* on Broadway and the US Tour, *The Lion King*, *We Will Rock You*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, and *Caroline, or Change* for which he received a Dora Award for Best Actor in a Principal Role. Most recently he received rave reviews for his portrayal of Montrellous in the Canadian Stage production of *Glyde's*.

Select Film/TV credits: *The West Wing*, *The Sentinel*, *The Border*, *Covert Affairs*, *Aaliyah*, *Lost Girls*, *Suits*, *The Boys* and *Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora*.

Other: Sterling has sung anthems for the Blue Jays, the Raptors and the Toronto Maple Leafs and can be heard on many TV and radio commercials as well as singing the themes for the popular kids shows *Donkey Kong Country*, *Wild Kratts*, and *Zaboomafoo*.

Thank you: Sterling would love to thank Sylvia, Aisha as well as his family and friends for all of their loving support.

Social media: @sterlingjarvis





JAYDEN LAU

Young Northern Dancer

Northern Dancer Alternate: October 17, 2:00pm,
October 21, 7:30pm, October 24, 2:00pm

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Hometown: Toronto

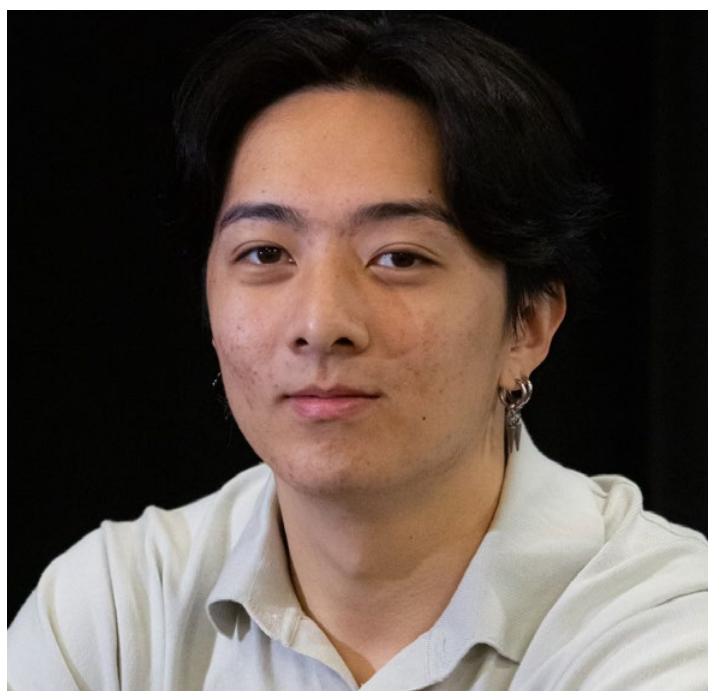
For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Dance Credits: Jayden's dance credits include Top 4 Senior Male Best Dancer at The Dance Awards 2024, DJ Karaba's music video *Sinking*, choreographed by Jade Whitney, *Solar Fusion*, directed by Tyler Hutchings and Taylor Collis, in works by Michael Prince and Brooke Gilmour, and *Rise and Fall*, directed by Michael Prince, featuring choreography by Kirsten Russell, Scott Autry, and Brandon Croisetiere.

Education/Training: Jayden trained as a competitive dancer at Vlads Dance Company and currently attends the University of Toronto in his third year of Architecture

Thank you: A big thank you goes to my family, friends, and the entire creative team of DANCER!!

Social Media: IG jayden.lau_



JACKSON LEE

Dance Company

Swing

Hometown/Current Town: Markham

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Dance company/swing in Toronto Fringe 2023.

Select Dance Credits: Current member of Conteur Dance Company.

Select Film/TV Credits: Disney's *The Next Step* and Disney original film *SPIN*.

Education/Training: Trained at Performing Dance Arts.

Thank You: My family, girlfriend and friends.

Social Media: IG @_jacksonlee





LEXI LEHR

Dance Company

Swing

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select theatre credits: Dancer & Director of original show *Are We Still Playing* in 2024, Choreographic Assistant for Festival Place's production of *Elf* in 2022.

Select Dance Credits: Assistant for Nuvo Dance Convention (Current), Dancer for Willow Garden Gala Fundraiser 2025 & 2024

Select Film Credits: Dancer for short dance film *Funky Town* 2025, Dancer for short dance film *i'll see you when i'll see you* 2024.

Education/Training: Grew up at "Shelley's Dance Company", after graduating went to Stacey Tookey's "The Bridge Movement" program which I graduated from in 2024.

Thank you: Thank you to all of my mentors throughout the seasons of my life, each of you has impacted me in ways I'm so immensely grateful for always. The largest thank you to my parents and family who made it possible to live a life filled with my dreams.

Social media: @lexilehrr



JIA YI (JUDY) LUO

Dance Company

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown and/or Current Town: Wuyishan, China/Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Dance Credits: Rambert2 Dance Company (UK), Fall for Dance (NYC), Liam Francis Dance Company (UK), Anne Plamondon Productions (Montreal), Dreamwalker Dance Company (Toronto/Vancouver), Peggy Baker (Toronto).

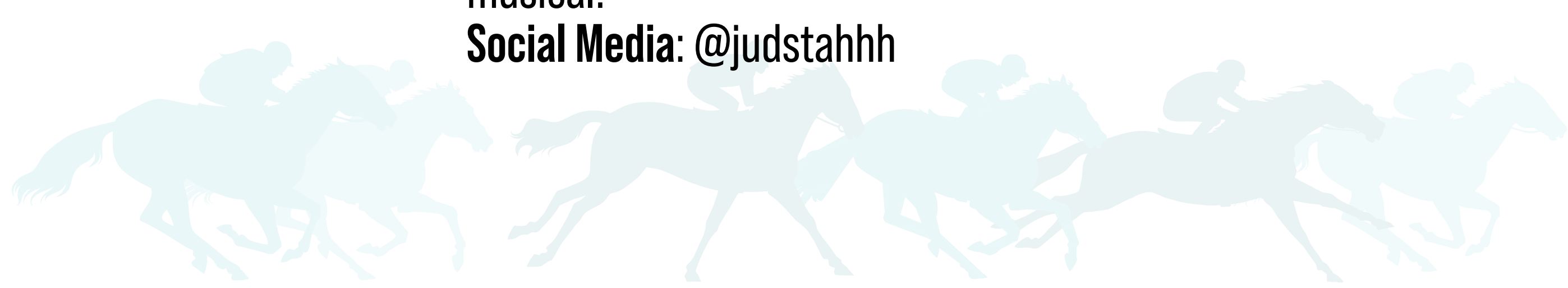
Select Film/TV Credits: *Dancing Through the Shadows* (dir. Leif Bristow), *Block Party* (dir. Megan Lawson), *Les mêmes yeux que toi* (dir. Derek Branscome).

Upcoming Projects: *Colour Theory* - world premiere Spring 2027, Sadler's Wells East (UK).

Education/Training: BFA in Performance Dance - Toronto Metropolitan University, Acting for Film/TV - coach Nadine Wright.

Thank You: My family, my 外婆, my friends who pulled up and are reading this, Cynthia Fisher, mentors Andrea Nann and Amy Wright, and this incredible team of *DANCER*, for my first ever musical!

Social Media: @judstahhh





KIERAN MACDONALD

Dance Company, Ussery

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Kieran is thrilled to be making his debut in *Dancer*!

Select Dance Credits: *Alanis Morissette: The LA Residency*, *Alanis Morissette: Las Vegas 2025* (Asst. Choreographer); *Christmas in the Air* (Creative Dir.); *Cats* national tour (Dance Captain/Swing, u/s Mistoffelees); *Grease* regional tour (Assoc. Choreographer/Dance Captain); *Cats* (Mistoffelees); *Fiddler on the Roof* (Bottle Dancer/Ensemble).

Select TV/Film and other credits: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, Gucci, Alessia Cara, and Shawn Hook.

Thank you: Big love to MSA, Stacey, the entire *Dancer* team, and my family for their endless support!

Social Media: @iamkieranmacdonald



SUZANNE MCKENNEY

Hoofbeat

Winnie Taylor Understudy

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown/Current Town: Kansas City, Missouri/Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: Some recent fave shows...Ms. Trunchbull in *Matilda* (North Stage), Housekeeper in *The Man of La Mancha* (Magnus Theatre), *A Grand Night for Singing* (North Stage), Stella in *Meet My Sister* (Magnus Theatre).

Select Film/TV Credits: Hallmark movies *The Perfect Setting* and *My Sweet Austrian Holiday*, Judge Ralls, in *Suits* (seasons 5 & 7), *Odyssey 5*, two seasons as host of *Toolbox Challenge* (HGTV), documentaries *1-800 Missing* and *Pretend You Don't See Her*.

Upcoming Projects: Ongoing performances with her Toronto Band Rock-It Science.

Education/Training: BFA-SMSU, Year Apprentice at Burt Reynolds' Jupiter Theatre, and with teachers Uta Hagen, Charles Nelson-Reilly, Avery Schreiber, Burt Reynolds, Howard Orms.

Thank You: My oh-so-entertaining husband, Allan Royal.

Social Media: suzannemckenney.com; rock-it-science.bandvista.com
FB [@suzanne.mckenney.1](https://www.facebook.com/suzanne.mckenney.1); IG [@oozezay](https://www.instagram.com/oozezay)





TYLER MURREE

E.P. Taylor

Hometown/Current Town: Glengarry, ON/been a Torontonion for 25 years!

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *A Gentlemen's Guide To Love and Murder* (Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding Actor in a Musical); (Stage West and Drayton); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Capitol Theatre); *Les Misérables* (Broadway & Mirvish Productions); *The Lion King* (National Tour), *The Lord of the Rings: The Musical*, *Dirty Dancing* (Mirvish Productions); *Discovering Allan Sherman* (HGJT)....

Select Film/TV Credits: *Law & Order: Toronto* (City TV), *Generation Wolf*, *Neagley*, *Vought Rising* (Amazon), *Boston Blue* (CBS), *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC), *Mayday* (Discovery).

Upcoming Projects: *EXP* (Indie Film), *Twisted Metal* (Paramount +).

Education/Training: Queen's University

Thank You: This show is dedicated to my wife, Tanya: the most incredible dancer, supportive partner, and gorgeous human a guy could ever have the privilege of being married to. "I Love you" is not enough to describe my affection.



DANIEL PALLADINO

Dance Company

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta

For Oh What a Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *How Will I Remember This* by Reed Luplau.

Select Dance Credits: Performed with Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Ballet Hispánico, appearing in major productions such as *Carmen* by Gustavo Ramírez at New York City Center, *TITAS* in Dallas, and *NOBA* in New Orleans.

Select Film/TV credits: FIFA 2026 Opening Ceremonies (Team Canada), TakTakShoo (Opera Philadelphia), The Magicians tv show (Musical Episode).

Upcoming projects: *On Broadway* film.

Education/Training: Trained at The Boston Conservatory, Point Park University, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Springboard Danse Montréal. Daniel earned his BFA in Dance from the University of the Arts on a full-tuition scholarship.

Thank you: To my family, mentors, and loved ones for the constant support and love.

Social Media: IG d_palladino





EVA PETRIS

Hoofbeat,

Lester Pearson Understudy

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: Sister Mary Robert in *Sister Act* (Stage West Calgary); *Life After* (Ed Mirvish Theatre); Ali in *Mamma Mia!* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); Ascalaphus/Greek Chorus in *Mythic: An Immortal Rock Musical* (Segal Centre); Rogers & Hammerstein's *A Grand Night for Singing* and Mrs. Phelps in *Matilda* (North Stage); Nerva in *Fatal Charade* (Elkabong Theatre); two seasons as Philippa Gordon in *Anne & Gilbert: The Musical* (The Guild, PEI); the title role in *Captain Aurora: A Superhero Musical* (Montreal Fringe & Wildside Festivals); Val in *A Chorus Line*; and *Godspell* (BCT).

Other: Co-founder of In Harmony Productions, the team behind *Millennial Mixtape* and *Christmas Clichés: A Sisterly Cabaret*.

Thank You: Eva is deeply grateful for the unwavering love and support of her mother Helen, husband Reilly, Thea D, and her entire family. She also sends a heartfelt thank you to Rick Gerrits and the entire NCA team!



SHELBY PATTERSON

Dance Company

Dance Captain

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown and/or Current Town: Grew up in California and currently residing in New Jersey

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: The 2023 Toronto Fringe Festival production.

Select Dance Credits: Danced two contracts with Royal Caribbean Cruises. Professional assistant with NUVO Dance Convention. Works for The Protégé and Bridge Movement in various roles.

Education/Training: Graduated as Commercial Dance Valedictorian at Orange County School of the Arts in 2018 and studied at Stacey Tookey's post-secondary program The Bridge Movement in 2021

Thank You: A huge thank you to my family who have been supporting me in this career ever since I did my first twirl. Thank you to Stacey who has believed in me since the start, honoured to be on this journey with you!

Social Media: IG: @_shelbypatterson





LUCAS POPOWICH

Hoofbeat

Swing

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown/Current Town: Regina/Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *Shrek* (Globe Theatre), *Stan Rogers: A Matter of Heart* (Neptune Theatre), *Parade: In Concert* (Lincoln Center).

Select Film/TV Credits: *Stage Mother* (eOne),

Upcoming Projects: *Les Misérables* (Neptune Theatre).

Education/Training: Sheridan Musical Theatre.

Thank You: Thanks to Allie, and this one's for you Nick!



JUDE RICHARDSON

Dance Company, Hill Rise

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: 2023 Fringe Festival production.

Select Theatre Credits: *Aladdin: A Musical Spectacular*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Disney's Seas The Adventure*.

Select Dance Credits: World of Dance Toronto, NYC A.C.E. awards, Jordan Hart's music video.

Upcoming Projects: My original music/videos.

Education/Training: Cardinal Carter Academy For The Arts, Performing Dance Arts, The Bridge Movement.

Thank You: To my mama and everyone who saw something in me and believed in me from the start.

Social Media: IG @jude_richardson_ TikTok @judeerichard



LARA ANGELA RODA

Hoofbeat, Lester Pearson

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown and/or Current Town: Originally from Calgary AB, now based in Toronto!

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *PUNCH – A New Musical* (Eclipse Theatre Company), *Heathers: The Musical* and *Something Rotten!* (Theatre Sheridan), *Vibrant Waveforms* (Mythos Musicals).

Education/Training: Honours Bachelor in Music Theatre Performance – Sheridan College (2025).

Thank You: Thank you to the incredible creative team, cast, and crew of this beautiful show! Truly honoured to work alongside you all!

Social Media: @lythxxlara





SAM ROSENTHAL

Daryl (the Track Announcer)

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto, Ontario

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: 2016 workshop at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre; 2023 Toronto Fringe production.

Select Theatre Credits: *Caroline, or Change* (Musical Stage Company); *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* (Segal Centre); *Beauty and the Beast* (Neptune Theatre).

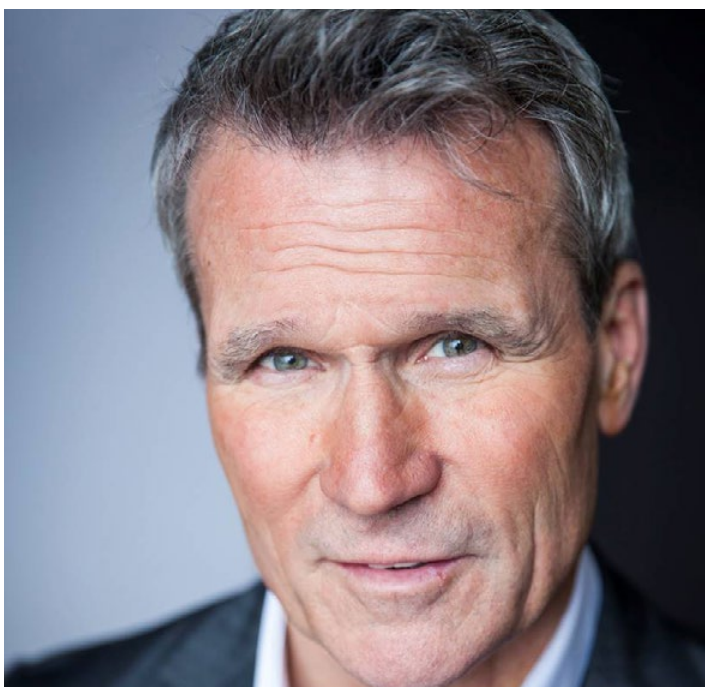
Select Film/TV Credits: *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*; *The Apprentice*; *Hanukkah on Rye*.

Upcoming Projects: Directing *The Price of Love*, an immersive production at The Campbell House in February 2027, produced by The Hogtown Collective.

Education/Training: Ryerson Theatre School Acting Program; York University BFA Directing Program.

Thank You: My thanks to the incredible Jim Betts and Kate Barris for giving us all the opportunity to dream big; to my amazing wife, Michelle; and, of course, to my Dad, who introduced me to the world of horse racing. **I dedicate this performance to his memory.**

Social Media: samrosenthalnarrator.com



KENT SHERIDAN

Horatio Luro

Hometown/Current Town: Port Perry

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: As Director: *Chicago*, *Into the Woods*, *Oklahoma*, *Will Rogers Follies*, *South Pacific*, *Grease*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella*. On Stage: *Mamma Mia!*, *Dirty Dancing* (Mirvish), *Grease* (American Tour) *Starlight Express* (Germany), *Will Rogers Follies*, *Oklahoma*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Chicago* (Croswell Opera House, Michigan), *A Chorus Line* (various), *Grease* (various), *Rock of Ages* (Toronto and various), *9 to 5* (T.I.P), *Kiss Me Kate*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and many, many more.

Select Film/TV Credits: *Something Very Bad is Going to Happen* (Netflix, "Uncle Lee"), *Vought Rising* (Soldier Boy's Father), *Chesapeake Shores* (in 2 seasons as "Donovan Wiley") *Suicide Squad*, *Terminal List*, *Writing a Love Song*, *Hudson and Rex*, *Orphan Black*, *Tiny Home Christmas* (and a whole bunch more of those Christmas movies we binge on!)

Upcoming Projects: *Margaritaville* (Drayton, Spring 2027)

Education/Training: Wexford School of the Arts

Thank You: Achievement most proud of: Hunter, Skyler, and Summer (Thanks Sue!)

Social Media: Instagram @kentsheridan





MASON SMITHERAM

Dance Company

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Hometown/Current Town: Scarborough

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *The Empire Strips Back: Star Wars Burlesque Parody* (Chewie), MSC Cruise Line — *Rock Circus / The Rise of Houdini*, CAFTCAD Awards Show, *RENT* (Wexford Performing Arts).

Select Dance Credits: Toronto Raptors North Side Crew, Toronto Tempo Rhythm Section, Toronto Argonauts A-Team, WNBA Canada Game, Jilly Black, Deborah Cox, and FIFA 2026 World Cup Opening Ceremony.

Select Film/TV Credits: Osmow's 2025 Super Bowl Commercial, *Crash The Server* Concept Video.

Education/Training: Centennial College Dance Performance Program, Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts.

Social Media: @masonsmithram



MÉLODIE SUGANAMI

Dance Company, Bill Hartack, Young Winnie

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown/Current Town: Winnipeg/New York City.

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: Rainbow Stage Production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* 2026.

Select Dance Credits: Mentor for The Rutherford Movement Exchange. Has most recently appeared in Marymount Manhattan College's, now known as Northeastern University, staging of José Limón's *A Choreographic Offering*, and Keerati Jinakunwiphat's staging based on the New York City Ballet *Impeccable Quake*.

Education/Training: Currently in third year at Northeastern University completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Dance intensives with Ballet Jazz Montreal, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Akram Khan—Orsolina 28, and The Rutherford Movement Exchange.

Other: Eagerly developing her artistic voice by spreading her love and passion through dance and other interdisciplinary forms.

Social Media: @melodiesuganami





DANIEL WILLISTON

Hoofbeat, Doc Bane

E.P. Taylor Understudy

Pronouns: he/him

Hometown: Moose Jaw, SK

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *Tell Tale Harbour* (Charlottetown/Mirvish), *The Full Monty* (Mayfield/Capitol), *Into The Woods* (Ovation), *Once* (Grand Theatre/RMTC/TiP) *Robin Hood*, *Lil' Red Robin Hood*, *Wizard of Oz* (Ross Petty Productions), *Ring of Fire* (Citadel, Aquarius), *Kinky Boots* (Mirvish, Australian Tour), *Shrek The Musical* (Globe Theatre/Capitol Theatre), *Spoon River*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Barber of Seville*, *The Crucible*, *Death of a Salesman* (Soulpepper) *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Starvox).

Select Film/TV Credits: *V/H/S 94* (Shudder), *Odd Squad* (PBS), *Good Witch* (Hallmark), *Jupiter's Legacy* (Netflix), *Dark Matter* (SYFY/Bell Media), *Heroes Reborn*, *Dark Matters* (NBC), *Gangland Undercover* (The History Channel) *Simulant* (Mongrel Media), *1Up* (Lionsgate), *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC/UKTV), *Most Dangerous Game 2* (Roku), *Trust Me, I'm A Doctor* (Park Cities Film), *I, Object* (Scythia Films).

Thank You: Daniel would like to thank his parents and Debbie for their support and encouragement.

Social Media: IG @danielwilliston TikTok @thedanielchronicles



DAVE DUNLOP

Trumpet

Hometown/Current Town: London, ON/Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *MJ the Musical*, *Chicago*, *Fosse*, *West Side Story*, *42nd Street*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Crazy for You* (and a whole bunch more).

Select Dance Credits: You don't want to see me dance.

Select Film/TV Credits: Band Extra in the movie *Pixels*.

Select Music Credits: "I've been fortunate to back up many great artists, Gino Vannelli, Aretha Franklin, Michael Bublé, Roger Daltrey, & Aaron Neville have been a few of my favourites." Some of the Jazz greats Dave has played with are Tito Puente, Maynard Ferguson, John Pizzarelli, & Diana Krall. He has had a successful career in studios, theatre, and live shows throughout the world and has played on Juno & Grammy award-winning albums.

Upcoming Projects: Working on my 4th recording.

Education/Training: Humber College.





TARA DAVIDSON

Woodwinds

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown and/or Current Town: Mississauga

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *Chicago* (Mirvish and Stratford Festival), *Some Like It Hot* (Mirvish), *Annie* (Stratford Festival), *Grease* (Drayton Entertainment), *Grey Gardens* (Musical Stage Company).

Education/Training: University of Toronto (Jazz Performance).



ZACH SMITH

Trombone

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown/Current Town: Ottawa/Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: Sub - *Wicked*, *Mean Girls* (Mirvish Productions), *Matilda* (Dreamtheatre Productions), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Shifting Ground Collective), *The Addams Family* (St. Lawrence College, Brockville) *Cats*, *West Side Story* (Glass Half Full Productions), *Sweeney Todd*, *Cabaret*, *Guys & Dolls* (First Act Productions).

Upcoming Projects: Actively performing with Big Smoke Brass (co-founder/leader), among other freelance performance work.

Education/Training: BMus (Hons), University of Toronto (2017).

Thank You: Oh What a Ride! Productions, Dancer Pit Orchestra/Mark Camilleri, William Carn, my family & friends.

Social Media: @zachs951, @bigsmokebrass



RACHEL POMEDLI

Cello

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown/Current Town: Saskatoon/Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *& Juliet*, *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Hadestown*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Moulin Rouge*, *The Sound of Music*, *If/Then*, *Newsies*, *The Wizard of Oz* (Mirvish Productions).

Select Film/TV Credits: *Interview with the Vampire*, *Frankie Drake*, *Umbrella Academy*, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.

Education/Training: Yale University, University of Toronto.

Thank You: Peter, the cats, my family & friends.





JUSTIN ABEDIN

Guitars

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *& Juliet, The Lion King, Wicked, Book of Mormon, Hamilton, Dear Evan Hansen* (Mirvish Productions).

Select Music Credits: Member of Juno award-winning band, Jacksoul; performed and/or recorded with Amanda Marshall, Nelly Furtado, Molly Johnson, Olivia Rodrigo, Sabrina Carpenter, Sarah Slean, Serena Ryder, Lights, Shad, Justin Hines, Banners, Art of Time Ensemble, Stephan Moccio, Snow, Divine Brown and many more; guitarist in *Canadian Idol* house band (2006-2008 on CTV).

Upcoming Projects: Upcoming releases as music producer for/ from U.N. Jefferson and David Leask.

Education/Training: University of Toronto (B Mus Jazz Perf)

Thank You: Mom, Ethan, Cody, Lisa Humber, Bob Foster



PETER BLEAKNEY

Bass

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown/Current Town: Oakville

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: Mirvish: *Mamma Mia!, Kinky Boots, We Will Rock You, Water For Elephants, Beautiful, Mrs. Doubtfire, Come From Away; Ross Petty Panto; Jersey Boys.*

Upcoming Projects: *Cinderella* (Canadian Stage).



STEVE HEATHCOTE

Drums and Percussion

Hometown: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: The Toronto Fringe Festival debut of *DANCER* in 2023.

Select Theatre Credits: *The Last Ship, The Book of Mormon, Kinky Boots, The Lion King, Jersey Boys, Come From Away, We Will Rock You, Mamma Mia!, Jesus Christ Superstar, Dirty Dancing, and Billy Elliot.*

Select Music Credits: The Tenors, Anne Murray, Colm Wilkinson, Lighthouse, David Clayton Thomas, Janelle Monae, Natalie MacMaster, Manhattan Transfer, Petula Clark, Rich Little, Shirley Bassey, Bob Newhart, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.





JULIA KIM

Set, Props and Video Designer

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown / Current Town: Seoul, South Korea & Coquitlam, BC/
Toronto, ON

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: Set & Costume Design: *Kim's Convenience* (Grand Theatre); *Jade Circle* (Rice & Beans Theatre); *Woking Phoenix* (Silk Bath Collective & Theatre Passe Muraille). Set & Projection Design: *The Supine Cobbler* (GCTC). Set Design: *Go For Gold, Audrey Pham* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Botticelli in the Fire* (Downstage Theatre); *The Baking Show Show: The Play* (Ruby Slippers Theatre). Costume Design: *Mamma Mia!* (Thousand Island Playhouse).

Select Dance Credits: Costume Design: *MOEM - BODY, Resonance, Chasing the Path* (Human Body Expression).

Select Film/TV Credits: Costume Design: *Misfit M. (Short)*, Art Direction: *Heart of Gold (Short)*.

Upcoming Projects: Set & Costume Design: *Little Elves*.

Education/Training: TMU - Performance Design & Production

Thank You: My parents and my partner, Fred, for all the support and unconditional love. Every member of this company for creating such a fun and positive collaborative environment.

Social Media: @yeon._.studio, www.yeon.studio



ALESSIA URBANI

Costume Designer

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: Set/Costume/Props Designer *All The Cows Are Dead* (Talk is Free Theatre); Costume/Set Designer *Iris (Says Goodbye)* (Mixtape Projects); Costume Designer *Into The Woods, Million Dollar Quartet* (The Grove Theatre); Costume Designer *Killing Time* (Mixtape Projects). Co-Costume/Set Designer *Viva La Mamma, Lucretia* (UofT Opera); Co-Costume Designer *Three Islands, Cendrillon, Il capello di paglia di Firenze, A Tale of Two Cities* (UofT Opera); Assistant Set/Costume Designer *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* (Stratford Festival); Assistant Costume Designer *As You Like It* (Stratford Festival).

Select Dance Credits: Costume Designer *Enemy Lines* (Aeris Körper); Costume Designer *not with a bang but a whimper* (Alysa Pires Dance Projects at TMU).

Upcoming Projects: Co-Set and Costume Designer *Fall River: The Legend of Lizzie Borden* (UofT Opera).

Education/Training: BFA in Performance Production and Design at Toronto Metropolitan University.

Thank You: Love to Jake.





CHRIS MALKOWSKI

Lighting Designer

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *The Surrogate*, *Measure for Measure*, *Gloria* (Crow's Theatre), *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Chitra* (Shaw Festival), *King Lear* (Stratford Festival) *Orpheus & Eurydice* (Pacific Opera) *HMS Pinafore* (Vancouver Opera), *Maanoomaa My Brother* (Belfry Theatre), *Feast* (Tarragon Theatre), *Microphone Controller* (Citadel+Compagnie), *Songs for Bones Flesh Sweat*, *FACE RIDER*, *Odd Sensual* (Toronto Dance Theatre).

Upcoming Projects: *Cabaret* (Canadian Stage).

Education/Training: Ryerson University.

More: Dora Award Nominee, Toronto Theatre Critic Award Winner.

Thank You: liiy

Social Media: IG @cmalkows / www.chrismalkowski.com



AARON HANNA

Technical Sound Designer

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown and/or Current Town: Trenton

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: Recent Sound Design: *Come From Away*, *Way Out There*, *Annie*, *JCS*, *Groundhog Day* (YES Theatre).

Production Audio: *Disney's The Lion King*, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Mirvish). FOH Mixer: *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Bat Out of Hell*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *Titanic* (Mirvish).

Select Film/TV Credits: Broadcast A2 for Toronto Tempo, Toronto Sceptres, Toronto Argonauts, TFC.

Upcoming Projects: *Disney's Frozen* (YES Theatre).

Education/Training: Sheridan College Theatre Arts Technical Production.

Thank You: Kate, Ruby, and Stella. I love you more than the Moon and all the Stars in the Sky.

Aaron is a proud member of IATSE Local 58.





ANNA MARCHISELLO

Associate Director and Associate Choreographer

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown/Current Town: New York, NY

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Fringe 2023 Production

Associate Choreographer, Dance Captain, Ensemble.

Select Dance Credits: Journey of the 50 at Expo 2020 in Dubai, SilentGreen Kulturquartier, “Simulation” short film created in collaboration with Heather Lang, Purdie Baumann, and Norma Kamali.

Select Film/TV Credits: Advil, Ingrid Michaelson

Upcoming Projects: An upcoming dance theatre production and new immersive work in NYC.

Education/Training: BFA NYU

Thank You: Thank you to my dear friends and mentors Stacey Tookey and Heather Lang for amplifying my creativity, encouraging my sense of play, and the abundance of opportunities you’ve granted me. Thank you to my family and community who nourish and fuel me every day. Thank you to the entire *DANCER* community for welcoming me with open hearts and trusting me to help bring this incredible story to life!

Social Media: @a.marchisello



JEANNIE WYSE

Associate Music Director

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *Shrek*, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (*Dora nominated*), *Seussical* (YPT), *42nd Street*, *Evita*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*, *Holiday Inn*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Anything Goes*, *Chicago*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Mary Poppins* (Drayton Entertainment), *Jersey Boys* (Dancap), *The Sound of Music* (Mirvish), *Nine*, *Kiss Me Kate* (Theatre Sheridan), *The Full Monty* (Rose Theatre), *Hair* (The Grand), *Urinetown*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Fame*, *Wonderful Town*, *Into The Woods*, *The Rocky Horror Show* (Randolph College).

Select Dance Credits: Jeannie has toured North America with *Riverdance - The Show*.

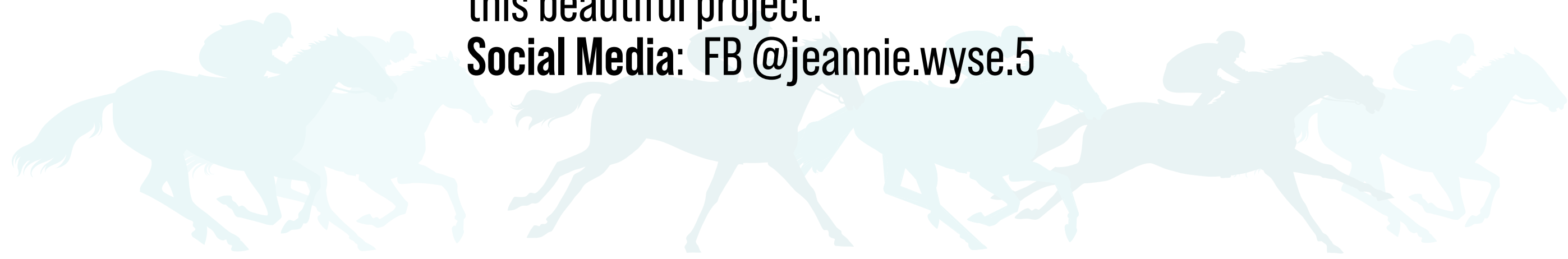
Select Film/TV Credits: *Over The Rainbow*, *Copper*, *Comfort & Joy*.

Upcoming Projects: *Finding Nemo*, (YPT) *Come From Away*, *Sweeney Todd* (Drayton).

Education/Training: A.Mus. (Piano and Voice), RCM Organ, AIMS Opera program (Graz, Austria).

Thank You: Thank you to Mark, Marek and Jim for including me on this beautiful project.

Social Media: FB @jeannie.wyse.5





ALEX SYKES

Associate Lighting Designer

Pronouns: He/Him

Hometown/Current Town: St. Catharines

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *Jeeves & Wooster In Perfect Nonsense*, *Ohio State Murders*, *A New Work In Progress*, *Perfect Pairings*, *Murder-On-The-Lake*, (Shaw Festival); *Pinkerton Comes To Prospect*, *A Women's Love List*, (Lighthouse Festival Theatre); *Calling The Rock Home*, *Pat The Dog*; *PULSE*, (RnR Productions); *Euchre Night*, *Screwball Comedy*, *Melville Boys*, (The Foster Festival).

Upcoming Projects: *Love is For Poor People / Or You Can Do Nothing*, Theatre Orangeville; *People, Places and Things*, Brock University; *A Christmas Carol*, Shaw Festival/Harbourfront Centre; *Why Don't We Together @ Lights On Stratford*, Dear Bear Multi-Arts.

Education/Training: Production, Design & Technical Arts, The National Theatre School & BA Dramatic Arts, Brock University.

Thank You: Thanks to my family and friends for supporting me on my theatre journey!



JANELLE HUTCHISON

Company Manager

Pronouns: she/her

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *Dead Right* (Helena), *White Christmas* (Martha Watson), *Oliver!* (Widow Corney), *Les Misérables* 1400 performances, original Canadian production (Mme. Thénardier), *Company* (Amy), *Isn't It Romantic* (Janie), *Gypsy* (Tessitura), *Crimes of the Heart* (Chick).

Arts Admin: *Bright Star* (Company Manager), NYU Tisch Drama (New Studio on Broadway Founding Administrator - twice nominated for NYU Distinguished Administrator of the Year), Casting Director (10 years), Meridian Hall (formerly O'Keefe Centre) (Associate Manager, Programming), Stratford Festival (Assistant to the Producer).

Select Film/TV Credits: Actor: *All That She Wants*, *The Westies*, *Relationship Goals*, *Young Werther*, *The Handmaid's Tale*. *Saw VI*, *Being Erica*, *Hairspray*.

Upcoming Projects: Novels: *Stella*, *Ending Up*.

Education/Training: Canadian Film Centre's Alliance Atlantis Film Resident Programme (Writer Alumna), TMU School of Image Arts (Screenwriting), George Brown, U of T, Western.

Thank You: A bevy of family, friends and colleagues - you know who you are.

Social Media: IG @janellehutchison





DUSTYN WALES

Stage Manager

Pronouns: He/Him

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut.

Select Theatre Credits: *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Newsies*, *Shrek*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Sound of Music*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Kinky Boots*, *Prom*, *Mary's Wedding (Drayton)*; *Waitress*, *Lehman Trilogy*, *Yaga (RMTTC)*; *Come From Away*, *Groundhog Day (YES)*; *Once*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Doubt (Thousand Islands)*; *Goblin:Macbeth (Spontaneous Theatre)*; *Revolutionary Women in Jazz*, *Billy Bishop*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Faith Healer*, *Travesties*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (Soulpepper)*; *Blackout*, *Take the Moment*, *Light in the Piazza*, *Craigslist Cantata (Musical Stage)*; *You Dance (National Ballet)*; *Musical of Musicals (Mirvish)*; *Rocky Horror*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Into the Woods*, *The Tempest (Hart House)*; *Soldier On (UK Toronto Tour)*.

Upcoming Projects: *Goblin:Christmas Carol (Spontaneous Theatre)*, *Billy Elliot*, *Sweeney Todd (Drayton)*.

Thank You: Love to Nick and my family!



MOLLY MÜCK

Assistant Stage Manager

Pronouns: She/Her

Hometown/Current Town: Baden, ON

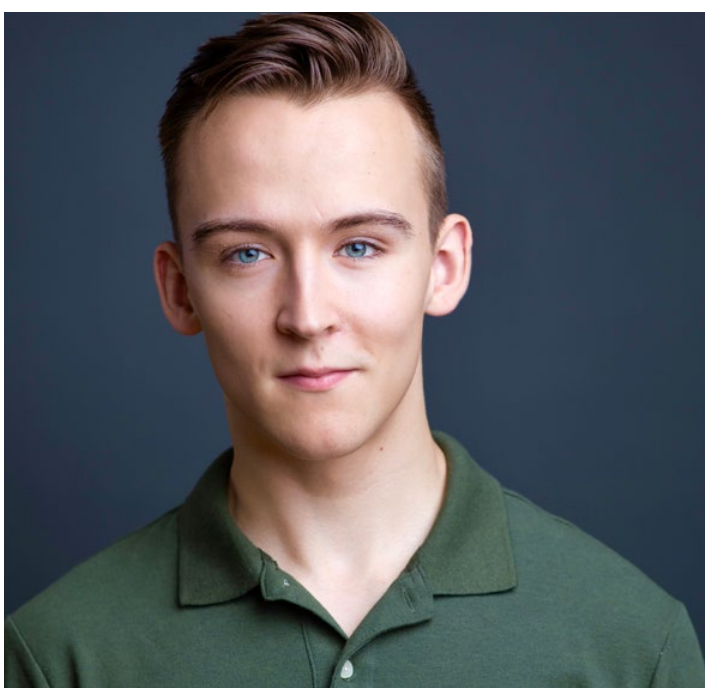
For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut

Select Theatre Credits: *Finding Neverland*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *The Full Monty*, *Flight Risk (Drayton Entertainment)*; *Gaslight (Capitol Theatre)*.

Education/Training: George Brown Theatre School.

Thank You: To my family and my friends for the endless support.

Social Media: @molmie



MAX CRAVEN

Apprentice Stage Manager

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Hometown/Current Town: Saskatoon, SK

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Debut. Max is so excited to be joining the SM team for this new production of *Dancer!*

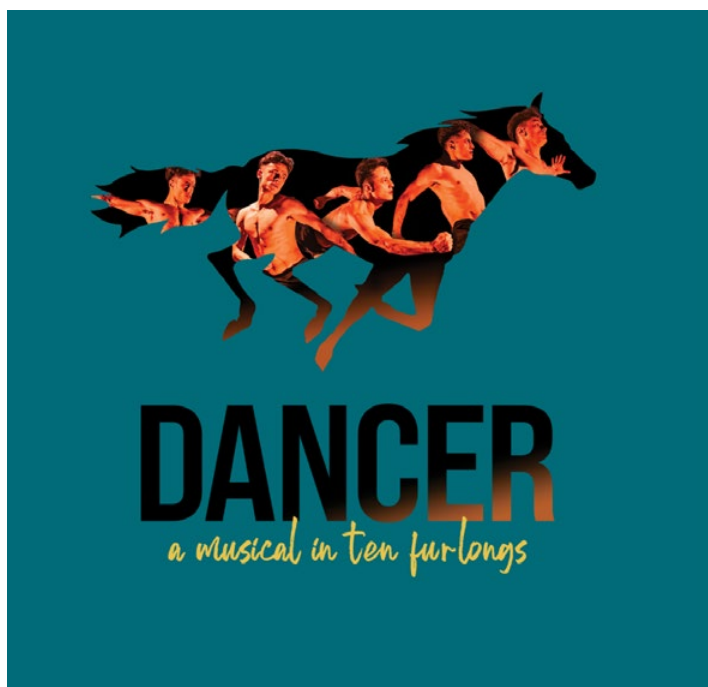
Select Theatre Credits: North American Tour of *CATS*.

Upcoming Projects: SM Apprentice for *Frozen* at Drayton Entertainment.

Education/Training: American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

Thank You: My Mom and Dad for always supporting me, and Dustyn and Molly for their guidance through this process!





KATE BARRIS & JIM BETTS

Executive Producers, Oh What A Ride! Productions Inc.

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto

For Oh What A Ride! Productions: Founded Oh What A Ride! in 2023 to produce *Dancer* at the 2023 Toronto Fringe Festival.

Select Theatre Credits: Jim & Kate have produced a number of shows together, including an original musical at their own wedding!

Select TV Credits: Kate is an award-winning writer and story editor for dozens of children's TV series, including *Today's Special*, *Mr. Dressup*, *Sharon Lois & Bram's Skinamarink TV*, *Canadian Sesame Street*, *The Hippo Tub Company*, *The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That*, and *Max & Ruby*.

Thank You: To Jim's sister Margaret Betts and to Kate's brother and sister-in-law Ted Barris & Jayne MacAulay, who have done so much to make this possible. And to the countless friends and family who have supported us, buoyed us up, and rarely told us how crazy we are! And thank ***you*** for coming to see the show.

Social Media: dancerthemusical.ca @dancerthemusical





Woodbine extends a standing ovation to
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DANCER Production History

Dancer (A Musical In Ten Furlongs) first broke from the gate back in 2010, when Marek Norman and I decided to try writing a musical together.

Marek and I had been colleagues and friends – and in our own mutual admiration society - for many years, but we had never collaborated as songwriters. The story of Northern Dancer’s incredible run to the 1964 Kentucky Derby excited both of us, and we searched for a compelling and uniquely theatrical approach to the storytelling.

The smartest decision we ever made was to invite the wonderful Stacey Tookey to join us as choreographer and director, and together we developed the concept of having Northern Dancer, and all the other horses in the story, played by dancers. And we are quite proud of having developed a piece of musical theatre where the central character never speaks or sings, communicating only through movement and dance.

Thanks to the support of producer and philanthropist John McKellar, and later from legendary producer Marlene Smith, we started a 15-year development process, with major workshops in 2011 and 2016. Then, encouraged by an award from the Pat and Tony Adams Freedom Fund For The Arts, and with the financial support of friends and family, Kate Barris and I produced what turned out to be a sold-out run at the 2023 Toronto Fringe Festival.

Based on the success of that run, we continued to hear – constantly! – about how much the community wanted to see the show return, both from people who had seen the Fringe version and from people who were desperate to see what everyone else was talking about.

Producing an independent production of a large-scale musical in Toronto is a daunting task. But if Northern Dancer could defy the odds in 1964, we thought, maybe, 62 years later we could too.

We hope you enjoy the show, and that it makes you proud to be Canadian!

Jim Betts - with Marek Norman and Kate Barris



Special Thanks

The producers would like to acknowledge this team of Canada's most talented and generous creative artists who have joined them in this seemingly impossible challenge. Their names are proudly listed in this program, and we thank each and every one of them. We also thank the many artists who contributed along the way, in readings and workshops and late-night conversations. We particularly thank Morris Panych, John Stefaniuk, and Rick Fox for their help in shepherding the show through its early development.

LongRun Thoroughbred

Retirement Society

Copy Cat Reproductions

Crow's Theatre

Dark Horse Coffee

David Bradstreet

John Stefaniuk

Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame

Luminato Festival

Marlene Smith

Micah Champagne

Buddies In Bad Times

Moonhorse Dance Theatre

Morris Panych

Nightwood Theatre

Rick Fox

Soulpepper

Studio 180 Theatre

Tapestry Opera

The Musical Stage Company

The Terminal Theatre

The Toronto Fringe Festival

The Toronto Stage Company

U of T Opera

Woodbine Racetrack

Young People's Theatre

JT Pickering

Fayez 1 Dance Academy

Yoan Holder

Elaine Wong

George Moore

Andrew Heffron

Westend Offset Plate

Chris at Nexuswrks

Joe Sutherland Rentals

Jennifer Anstey - Horse Media Group



Northern Dancer in The Winner's Circle, Churchill Downs, 1964.

Thank You Angels

**Margaret Betts
Ted Barris & Jayne MacAulay
Sheila Croft
Alan Gotlib and Michael Piper
Jefferson & Sally Mappins
Dean Turner**

**Doug Blair
Michelle Buuck
Sue Foster & Sam Broverman
Sheila Goldman
Sonny Goldstein
Ariel Rogers
Laurence & Judith Siegel
Willmott Bruce Hunter Fund
Stacey Hersh & Faye Cohen**

**Pat & Tony Adams
Jan Armstrong
Dorcas Beaton
Matt Brooks & Paula Arciniega
Jan Dorland & Rob Burton
Grant Burton
Jane Gardner
Doug Gahm
Susan Harbin
Claire Hopkinson
Carl Lyons
Adrian Merchant Macdonald
Briane Nasimok
Diane & Jerry Puigdomenech
Greg Reed & Heather Howe
Katherine Siminovitch
Vinetta Strombergs
Ilana Waldston**

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Jon Chaters

Theatre Manager

Amy Slattery

Theatre Technicians

Alan Day, Head Technician

Everett Dalingwater, Sound

Eric Sutton, Sound/Deck

Box Office

Alicia Reid

Front of House Assistants

John Acuna

Katelyn Hoang

Lexie Agarawala

Alex Hutson

Meek Bauer

Yvette LeClair

Eddie Chamberlin

Andrew Johnston

Nola Chaters

Fionn Kellas

Sarah Costen

Jordan Pangan

Shashikant Doddi

Livia Pravato

Robert Follows

Rory Ridler

Linh Halewood

Bernadette Salmon



Backstage employees are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 58 (or I.A.T.S.E. 58).

In acknowledgement of the fact that this land was, since time immemorial, the territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, we are making a donation to Indspire. This is a national Indigenous registered charity that invests in the education of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people for the long-term benefit of these individuals, their families, their communities and Canada.

With a vision to enrich Canada through Indigenous education and by inspiring achievement, Indspire educates, connects and invests in First Nations, Inuit and Métis people so they will achieve their highest potential. If you agree that the best way to acknowledge Indigenous rights is to act, we encourage you to support Indspire or another organization dedicated to supporting Indigenous peoples.

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