YES THEATRE \$ 516

ANNIE

SUDBURY THEATRE CENTRE 170 SHAUGHNESSY STREET

LOVE

DIRECTED

BY

PETER

HINTON-DAVIS

OPENS NOVEMBER 20

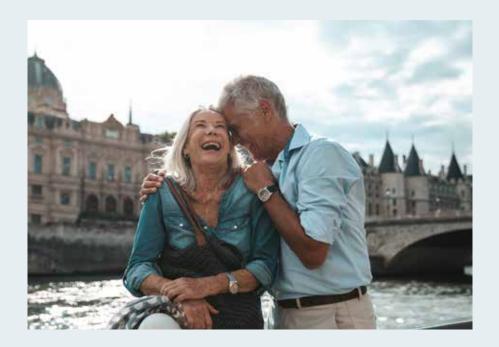
BOOK BY THOMAS MEEHAN MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE LYRICS BY MARTIN CHARNIN

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge this ki land on which we maawnjidwak gather

Maanpii here
Nongo Today
Bjiinaago Yesterday

And Waabang Tomorrow

Bmakmigaa be a stretch of land known today as
the Greater City of Sudbury
Kiins lands of the traditional territory of
the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Kiins cared for by the Atikamehsheng Anishnawbe,
the Sagamok Anishnawbek, and the Wahnapitae First
Nations

Kiins also cared for by the Métis and Inuit People

Mnaaj'aa honour

Nsidwinaajge recognize

Mnaadenmaa respect

Bemaadizig wiijiiwe maawnzondwak

Life is with people

MORGAN COOK, Oji-Cree Artist Residing in Sudbury of North Caribou Lake First Nation, Production Manager



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YES THEATRE

170 SHAUGHNESSY STREET, SUDBURY, ON P3E 3E7 CANADA

EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT FOR THIS PRODUCTION HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY **NEOMO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

PERFORMERS

GRAYSON BELOSLUDZEW — ALESSANDRO COSTANTINI* — ALICE CROPPER — JAKE DEETH ANJUL GEER — MATILDA GIBSON — HAYDEN GINSON — IGGY HINTON-DAVIS LINDA KASH* — NORAH LAVALLEE — COLE LEBLANC — GEORGIA MITCHELL DAMISI OGUNLEYE — EMI PERALTA CASTILLO — APRIL PERRIN* — REESE RESTOULE ISABELLA ROSE — LILOU SEELIG CASH — ER SIMBAGOYE — WILLOW ANN WILCOCK OGEEQUA WILLISTON OSAWABINE — ADRIENNE YOUNG — HAUI*

MUSICIANS

ALLEN COLE — BRITTANY GOLDBOROUGH — BENJAMIN KERSEY — MIKE MEILLEUR JOSH TURNBULL — JACOB STARLING — ARIANNA VERBREE — ALLAN WALSH

AT THE SUDBURY THEATRE CENTRE (170 SHAUGHNESSY STREET, SUDBURY, ON) IN



ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY MARTIN CHARNIN BASED ON THE "LITTLE ORHAN ANNIE" BY PERMISSION OF TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC BOOK BY THOMAS MEEHAN. MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE.

STAGE MANAGER

SARAH MILLER

SET DESIGN / COSTUME DESIGN CONSULTANT

ANAHITA DEHBONEHIE

COSTUME DESGINER / HEAD OF WARDROBE

NILOUFAR ZIAEE

SCENIC PAINTER / PROPS MASTER SHARA-LEE MILLER

SHOW RUN MUSIC DIRECTOR
BENJAMIN KERSEY

REHEARSAL MUSIC DIRECTOR
ALLEN COLE

SOUND DESIGNER
AARON HANNA

LIGHTING DESIGNER

CHOREOGRAPHER CAMERON CARVER

FRANK DONATO

DIRECTOR
PETER HINTON-DAVIS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

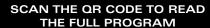
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
RUTHIE NKUT

GENERAL MANAGER
SCOTT DENNISTON

ALESSANDRO COSTANTINI









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LETTER FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: ALESSANDRO COSTANTINI



Welcome to YES Theatre!

Whether you're joining us from the cozy seats of the Sudbury Theatre Centre, or under the sky and stars the Refettorio, thank you for being here and supporting our work.

With each passing season I fall more deeply in love with our community. The theatre has been embraced so beautifully, so thoroughly, that our dreams and ambitions of turning Sudbury into one of the country's hot spots for theatre are coming to fruition. This is seen through the quality of the work, the relationship it has to the community, and the artists who are bringing these pieces to life on our stages.

Every day, despite challenges that are innate to a life in the theatre, there are grand moments of celebration. I feel remarkably fortunate and blessed to be working with people that I really love, in a place I really love, building something singular and radical.

The theatre is the great respite - certainly considering how whacky the world is in this current moment. Get in here, bring those closest to you... or come alone! (it's super great that way too), and be reminded that life is with people.

This year we will be making some big strides towards some big, crazy, exciting fantastical ideas - so please reach out, get involved and keep on coming to eat at the brilliant theatrical buffet that is a year at YES.

LOTS OF LOVE, SUDS! YOU'RE SO GREAT.

ALESSANDRO COSTANTINI

Artistic & Managing Director, YES Theatre

It's not just a Ford, it's a





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LETTER FROM YES THEATRE BOARD CHAIR: STEPHANIE VENTURI



Dear Theatre Lovers,

Welcome to another exciting season at YES Theatre, a theatre that continues to grow, evolve, and make a huge impact right here in our community. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am proud to share with you a lineup of performances that promises to captivate, challenge, and inspire. This season, we are

thrilled to present a bold selection of productions that reflect the creativity, passion, and vision of our talented artists.

As we look toward the future, we are energized by the growing community that surrounds YES Theatre. Your support, whether through your attendance, generosity, or advocacy, continues to be the lifeblood of our company. We are deeply grateful for your belief in the importance of the arts, and we are excited to embark on this journey together.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for joining us in what promises to be yet another exciting season. Together, we will continue to build something extraordinary.

With sincere appreciation, STEPHANIE VENTURI



A STANDING OVATION

CELEBRATING AN EXTRAORDINARY 2025 PRODUCTION SEASON

> As your proud Box Office Partner, we're thrilled to support you through a season filled with captivating moments, standing ovations, and success that lights up the marquee each night.



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LETTER FROM THE MAYOR OF SUDBURY: PAUL LEFEBVRE



I am truly proud of the community's engagement in the performing arts.

Our City's prosperous theaters provide a unique way for residents to explore storytelling. YES Theatre's ability to bring stories to life by harnessing the audience's emotions is extraordinary. The vocals and musical aptitude experienced in the theater are unparalleled. I believe live theater can change our perception of

the world and remind us of moments in our lives.

The captivating eight shows this season are sure to be powerful performances. Showcasing the local talent is important as our community enjoys the diversity of the art.

I encourage all the residents to support the dynamic productions with friends and family. Thank you to the cast members, the musicians, and the creative & production team for your efforts.

Congratulations to the Board of Directors and the entire team at YES Theatre! I look forward to enjoying many theater productions during the 2025 season.

PAUL LEFEBVRE

Mayor of Sudbury



DIRECTORS NOTES

I am thrilled to direct ANNIE and be a part of the movement that is YES theatre. It fulfils a life-long dream to reimagine this well- known piece of Broadway repertoire in a muscular, exuberant and surprising new way.

ANNIE is a musical about the necessity and perils of optimism with an eye on social and economic realities and acts as a stimulus for change.

The 'real' Orphan Annie was a girl named Mary Alice Smith, who was the inspiration for James Whitcomb Riley's 1885 poem, "Little Orphant Annie! The poem and its character are the basis for the Harold Gray comic strip, which in turn inspired the 1977 Broadway musical "Annie" and numerous adaptations. It's a show inspired from reality and turned into a comic strip, during the great depression of the 1930's,

then transformed again during the recession of the 1970's and revived today as a tonic for our own turbulent times.

ANNIE invites the question, 'What are Musicals for?" Do they help us escape our world and its problems, or do they in some way - give us guides to encounter our troubles and take them on. It's a production that fuses the populist with the political and tradition with innovation. Our goal has been to satisfy the steadfast fans, while introducing its energy to a new generation of theatre goersand maybe - just maybe, convert the doubters, who might not know - that ANNIE has more muscle and edge for all of our "hard knock" lives put together. I am inspired by Yes and its own optimistic call to join in! On some level, we are all orphans brought into this world and challenge society to uplift us all.





MARY ALICE SMITH
The original 'Orphan Annie'





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GRAYSON BELOSLUDZEW — ENSEMBLE

(he/him)

Grayson Belosludzew is a 10 year old grade 6 student from Chelmsford, ON. His love for the theatre started in 2022 when he was cast in his first musical *Disney's Decendents JR*, with Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre in his home town North Bay, ON. He continued on and was casted in more productions with Matilda being his favourite show. Grayson had the privilege to be in a total of 6 productions in 3 years. Grayson was honoured to be selected at YES Theatre to be part of the *Annie* cast and looks forward to working with the amazing YES Theatre company for years to come. He is excited for this exhilarating next step towards his love for theatre and often states he feels at home when there. When Grayson is not singing and dancing he likes to spend time with family, connect with his friends, enjoys school, is part of the school choir and cross country track team.



ALESSANDRO COSTANTINI* — MALE SWING

(he/him)

Alessandro is the co-founder and Artistic Director of YES Theatre. His work has brought him to stages across North America, including the National Tour of the Tony Award winning best musical, *Dear Evan Hansen*. He has been recognized for his work with a Dora nomination (Featured Performance in a Musical - *Dear Evan Hansen*/Mirvish Productions), a META nomination (Best Leading Performance - *Prom Queen*/Segal Centre), and nominations from the Ontario Arts Council for the John Hirsch Directors Award, the K.M Hunter Award, the Pauline McGibbon Award and the prestigious Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prize. Alessandro is a graduate of the George Brown Theatre School.



ALICE CROPPER — ENSEMBLE

(she/her)

Alice Cropper is a 13-year-old Indigenous performer from Atikameksheng Anishnawbek returning to YES Theatre in their production of Annie the Musical. She made her stage debut with the Sudbury Theatre Centre in Annie the Musical in 2020 and later appeared with STC in Dickens A Christmas Carol. She has since been seen in Oliver! and Matilda the Musical with YES Theatre. Being in Annie the Musical again, now playing different roles, has been a distinct and deeply rewarding experience that has helped her grow as a performer. A competitive dancer with Dance Evolution, Alice brings disciplined movement, strong stagecraft, and a warm, professional presence to every role. She is thankful for the guidance of her family, mentors, and teachers and for the continued support of her community as she works with the most talented cast and creative team. Alice thanks everyone supporting live theatre and hopes they enjoy the show.



JAKE DEETH - WARBUCKS

(he/him)

Jake Deeth was born and raised in Sudbury. A George Brown Theatre School graduate, Jake has worked with YES Theatre since their production of RENT (2011). Notable theatre credits include Herod (2012) and Ciaphas (2025) in Jesus Christ Superstar, Edna in Hairspray, Harry in Mamma Mia, Drew in Bed and Breakfast, Misha in Ride The Cyclone, Jack's Mother/The Wolf in Into The Woods, costume designer for Billy Elliot, Mamma Mia, Violet, and director of James and the Giant Peach (YES Theatre), Semyon in The Suicide (George Brown Theatre School), and Mephistopheles in Faust (Theatre by the Bay). Recently, Jake was a part of the album recording of Bad Hat's Peter Pan, reprising his role as Captain Hook. Jake is so excited to be taking part in Annie, one of his favourite musicals, and to be an Associate Artist with YES Theatre.



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ANJUL GEER — ENSEMBLE

(he/him)

Anjul is an actor, singer, and dancer from Sudbury, Ontario. Anjul made his debut with YES Theatre at the age of 9 when he played the "Small Boy," and "Young Billy" in *Billy Elliot*. Other credits with YES include Kurt Von Trapp in the Sound of Music, Joe Pesci in Jersey Boys, Fred in Groundhog Day, James/Chris Hadfield in One Small Step and Peter in Jesus Christ Superstar. Anjul is an elite level dancer and has competed in all dance disciplines since the age of 7. He can't wait to take the stage with the rest of the amazing cast of Annie.



MATILDA GIBSON — ENSEMBLE

(she/her)

Matilda is a 15-year-old Sudbury actor with a love for the stage and all the arts. She absolutely loves performing and has enjoyed every show she has been a part of. Matilda's YES Theatre credits include Oliver!, One Small Step, Matilda the Musical, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Beyond the stage, Matilda pursues her passion for visual art, having exhibited her work in the Art Gallery of Sudbury's "Emergence 2025" show earlier this year. She is grateful for the opportunity to learn and perform and hopes you enjoy the show!



HAYDEN GINSON — DUFFY

(she/her)

Hayden is thrilled to be performing as Duffy in this production of *Annie!* This marks her third stage performance, following her roles as a member of the Youth Ensemble in *Oliver!* (2024) and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (2023) as member of the Reindeer Ensemble. Hayden's love for performing shines both on stage and in the dance studio. She is a dedicated competitive dancer with Spotlight Dance Company, where she continues to develop her skills in multiple dance styles. Whether singing, dancing, or acting, Hayden brings energy, enthusiasm, and joy to every performance. She is grateful for the opportunity to share the stage with such a talented cast and for the encouragement of her family, friends, and teachers who inspire her to keep chasing her creative dreams.



HAUI* — ROOSTER

(he/they)

HAUI is a mixed-media artist creating cross-disciplinary work for stage, screen, and visual art. Born in the UK to Caribbean and European heritage, he trained at Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Acting program, receiving the 2023 Recent Alumni Award for his contributions to arts in Canada. A company member at the Shaw and Stratford Festival for the last decade, he's appeared in productions such as Pygmalion, Sweet Charity and the Canadian premiere of The Color Purple by Alice Walker having worked extensively across North America and the UK. As an award-winning director and published writer, his opera Aportia Chryptych: A Black Opera for Portia White premiered at the Canadian Opera Company earning the 2025 Dora Awards for Outstanding New Opera/ Musical and Ensemble. Other works include Associate directing Choir Boy (Canadian Stage) MixedUp (OUTtv), Private Flowers (Toronto History Museums), and his recent film Aunt Harriet. He was the 2025 Artist-in-Residence at The Watermill Center in New York and is a Chalmers Arts Fellowship recipient. Haui dedicates this show to his new niece Winona IIG: @woweehaui



LINDA KASH* — HANNIGAN

(she/her)

Linda Kash began her career at the Second City Theatre in Toronto, where she performed, directed and conducted workshops. She has appeared in and directed a number of plays, films and television shows throughout Canada, the US, Europe, Russia and New Zealand. Linda has also co-created several shows for TV including "Go Girl!" and "The Joe Blow Show" for The Comedy Network, which she also directed. More recent directorial projects include Colin Mochrie in "HYPROV" for Just For Laughs and the Edinburgh festival and a season of Love It or List It for W. Linda played Mariorie in the original production of Casey and Diana in Stratford and for Soulpepper in Toronto. She teaches acting and improv, co-founding a Performing Arts School called PAPA for kids, teens and adults. Linda is best known as The Philadelphia Cream Cheese Angel (a successful campaign which ran over 26 years) but her proudest work to date, by far, is her fabulous blended family. This performance is dedicated to the miracle that is grand-baby Levi, who will soon be officially adopted into the family. The sun came out.



COLE LEBLANC — ENSEMBLE

(he/him)

Cole is a Singer and Actor from Sudbury and has been passionate about the art of performing since he could walk. He started his journey with YES Theatre with his Debut in *Mary Poppins* (2019) as Micheal, and since then has taken part in shows such as, *Elf* (2022) Ensemble, *Matilda* (2023) Micheal/Ensemble, *Oliver* (2024) charley/Ensemble and has taken part in YES Theatre's Young Company education program with shows *One Small Step* (2024) Jonas, and *Choir!* (2025) Mary Dean. He is Thrilled to take on the challenge of such an intense show and also to work with so many amazing passionate artists.



NORAH LAVALLEE — TESSIE

(she/her)

Norah is in Grade 4 at Lasalle Elementary and is so excited to play Tessie in Annie! She began her theatre journey at the age of 7 and has loved every moment on stage since. This is her fourth YES Theatre production — she's been part of the children's choir in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, the youth ensemble in *Oliver!*, and played Charlie in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this summer. Norah also had a blast at YES Theatre's summer camp! She loves singing, dancing, and gymnastics, and has taken singing and violin lessons as well as acting classes with The Creative Loft. When she's not performing, Norah enjoys reading, writing, being outside, and spending time with her friends and family.



GEORGIA MITCHELL — JULY

(she/her)

Georgia Mitchell is 12 years old and a grade seven student. She is thrilled to be back on stage with YES Theatre, where she previously played Oliver in Oliver! and was an ensemble member in Jesus Christ Superstar. Georgia's past roles include Winifred in The Epic Quest of the Damsels in Distress and Charlie in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at school, as well as Clarice in Rudolph and Lydia in Beetlejuice Jr. with other local companies. When she's not performing, Georgia loves playing volleyball, baking, nail art and hanging out with her friends. She is grateful to YES Theatre for this opportunity and the amazing experience and she thanks her parents for their endless support and encouragement.



DAMISI OGUNLEYE — PEPPER

(she/her)

Damisi is a Grade 7 student at St. Charles College. In this production of Annie, she is playing Pepper, one of the orphans. Damisi has taken part in a few YES Theatre education programs, including the 2024 March Break camp, where she had lots of fun and learned more about performing. She loves singing, dancing, and being on stage. Being part of this show has been an amazing experience for her, and she's made great memories with the cast. Damisi is super excited for everyone to see the show and hopes you enjoy watching *Annie* as much as she's enjoyed being in it!



EMI PERALTA CASTILLO — ENSEMBLE

(she/her)

Emi is a talented Grade 10 student at Sudbury Secondary School. Originally from Chile, she arrived in Canada four years ago and has since embraced the arts as a central part of her life. She sings, plays instruments, and is very active in the world of musical theatre, one of her greatest passions. Emi has appeared in numerous local theatre productions, including *Madagascar, Annie Jr., Jesus Christ Superstar, Matilda*, and *Oliver*. In 2023 The City of Greater Sudbury and Sudbury. com recognized the Peralta Castillo family with the "Greater Together" award for their outstanding contribution to the arts and their positive impact on the community.



APRIL PERRIN* — LILY / DANCE CAPTAIN

(she/her)

April Perrin is an artist based in Northern Ontario. She has been fortunate to train in arts all around the world having earned her masters degree from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2021 for Musical Theatre. She has been working as a company member at YES Theatre for many years with her most notable roles being Tracy Turnblad in Hairspray, Constance in Ride the Cyclone and Mrs Wormwood in Matilda! She is incredibly passionate about education and when she is not performing on the theatre stage, she is behind the scenes or in the dance studio, training the next generation of artists here in Sudbury. "Thank you so much for supporting the arts here in Sudbury. Enjoy the show!"



REESE RESTOULE — KATE

(she/her)

Reese is a Grade 6 student at MacLeod Public School, thrilled to be playing the role of Kate! You may recognize her from YES Theatre's production of *Oliver!* where she appeared as part of the Youth Ensemble. Outside of school and the stage, Reese loves playing competitive soccer and hockey, and spending time with her friends and family. She has loved being part of the YES Theatre community—making new friends, learning about the magic of theatre, and growing as a performer. Reese hopes you enjoy the show as much as she's enjoyed being part of it!

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ISABELLA ROSE — ENSEMBLE

(she/her)

Isabella Rose is a young performer from Sudbury and is excited to be part of Annie. This marks her sixth production, with past ensemble roles in Elf, Matilda, Oliver and Jesus Christ Superstar!, as well as supporting roles in One Small Step and Choir. Bella has a deep passion for music, dance, and theatre. When she's not on stage, she enjoys art, track, sports, and spending time with friends. She's especially thankful to Alessandro for his continued support, and to her family for always believing in her and cheering her on.



ER SIMBAGOYE — GRACE

(he/they)

ER Simbagoye is a bilingual (French/English) freelance artist, originally from Burundi, born in Tio'tia:ke (Montreal) and raised in N'Swakamok (Sudbury). He holds a degree in Television Production from La Cité (2020) and a Bachelor's in Psychology from Laurentian University (2017). Based in Northern Ontario, they collaborate with English and French theatre communities. His artistic path began in 2020 with radio theatre in podcast form, leading to puppetry (Créations In Vivo: Charly dans le désert), and eventually to stage work with Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario (Sombre Divan, Solo Cup, Nickel City Fifs: which toured six Ontario communities: Hearst, Kapuskasing, Timmins, Hamilton, Kingston, and Ottawa in summer 2025). Since 2021, they have worked with YES Theatre (Chicago, Matilda, Jersey Boys). Recently, they've begun exploring writing, co-authoring Nuits Claires, a pan-Canadian creation by Mani Soleymanlou, Artistic Director of NAC French Theatre (2025). He feels at home at YES Theatre and is grateful to return as Grace Farrell in Annie, a story of resilience and hope.



LILOU SEELIG CASH — MOLLY

(she/her)

Lilou fell in love with performing the moment she walked into her first Saturday "Perform" class in London, UK, where she lived until recently. Her passion was further ignited by the many children's theatre, music and dance performances she got to see and particularly by a 6th birthday visit to Matilda the Musical in the city's West End. Lilou is so excited to be playing the role of orphan Molly and delighted to have discovered such a vibrant theatre and arts community in her new hometown of Sudbury. In her spare time Lilou loves dancing at Sudbury School of Dance, singing with the Young Sudbury Singers, playing with her friends and little brother, drawing, laughing and living by Matilda Wormwood's famous advice, "you mustn't let a little thing like little stop you!"



OGEEQUA WILLISTON OSAWABINE — ANNIF O

(she/her)

Ogeequa Williston Osawabine, age 12, is a proud Odawakwe from Wiikwemkoong First Nation. She's homeschooled and has been learning dance, singing, and figure skating since she was 3. She started acting at age 5 with Debajehmujig Theatre Group, and landed her first lead role at 9 in If I Listened, a collaboration with Debaj and Manifesto Poetico. Training with YES Theatre has been a game-changer for her. Playing Annie is a huge honor, and she knows it will shape her journey as an artist. She's deeply grateful to the Wiikwemkoong Band and Alessandro Costantini of YES Theatre for making this possible. Big love to the Zesty Besties: "You Are Inimitable!"



WILLOW ANN WILCOCK — ANNIE W

(she/her)

Willow is an energetic Grade 7 student at McLeod Public School. She discovered her love for performing at an early age and has been singing from morning to night ever since. Willow made her stage debut in her school's production of Wooing Red Riding Hood last year and returns this school year to perform in Happily Forever After. This winter, she's thrilled to be making her YES Theatre debut in Annie. Whether she's rehearsing, performing, or putting on shows for family and friends, Willow's passion for music and theatre shines brightly in everything she does.



ADRIENNE YOUNG — ENSEMBLE

(she/her)

Adrienne has been passionate about theater since the age of nine, when she first stepped on stage and discovered the joy of performance. Over the years, she has grown both an actress and a storyteller, bringing energy and heart to every role she takes on. Adrienne is grateful to have been part of several incredible productions, including *Oliver, Choir, No Fences, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *The Crucible*. Each show has helped shape her journey, and she extends heartfelt thanks to the cast, crew, directors, and her family who have supported her along the way. Being part of this latest production is a true honor, and Adrienne is excited to continue sharing her love of the stage with audiences. Enjoy the show!

* SPECIAL THANKS TO:

STRATFORD FESTIVAL, NICK BROWNLEE, DELARA ALMA BROWNLEE-DEHBONEHIE, JAMES MICOLTA & AZAR AHMADI FOR DONATING SPECIAL COSTUMES PIECES TO OUR PRODUCTION.

THANK YOU TO WIKWEMIKONG FIRST NATION FOR SUPPORTING OGEEQUA ON HER JOURNEY TO THE SUDBURY STAGE.



Desjardins Ontario Credit Union is proud to be a partner of YES Theatre.

By supporting YES, we are contributing to ensure a more inclusive, diverse and environmentally sustainable future for arts and culture in Sudbury.



MUSICIANS BIOGRAPHIES



ALLEN COLE — REHEARSAL MD

(he/him)

Allen has worked as composer, lyricist and musical director for The Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, the NAC and many other Canadian theatres. He's won numerous awards, including four Doras, eight Merritts and a Best Film Score Award from The Atlantic Film Festival. His musical Rockbound was nominated for the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia's Masterworks Award. Allen has co-created many musical theatre works for Two Planks, including Animal Farm, The Wind in the Willows and Chased By the Bear.



BENJAMIN KERSEY — SHOW RUN MD / KEYS

(he/him)

Benjamin Kersey is a Franco-Ontarian music director and pianist, known for his stylistic versatility within theatre and classical music. Recent credits include *Hadestown, Joseph..., & Juliet* (Mirvish); *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Words of War* (Stratford Festival); *My Fair Lady, Kabarett, Cotton Club* (Shaw Festival); *Silent Screen, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (National Ballet); *Emma Bovary* (National Ballet/NAC); *Kelly v. Kelly, Retold, Take the Moment* (Musical Stage); *Killy Willy* (Toronto Fringe/Second City); *Meat, Enchanting, Jesus Christ Superstar* (Theatre Sheridan); *Dion* (Coal Mine); *Chris Mrs.* (Boldly); *Sister Act* (Stage West Calgary), *Sondheim's Follies in Concert* (Koerner Hall), as well as concerts and cabarets across Ontario and NYC. Benjamin is a two-time Dora Award nominee and holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Toronto. He is proud to be a member of the AFM and to be represented by Talent House, and is forever thankful to those who have helped shape his artistry.



MIKE MEILLEUR — TRUMPET

(he/they)

Mike Meilleur (he/him) is a trumpet player from Sudbury, ON. This year, he has graduated from his Bachelor of Music in trumpet performance from Western University. Currently living in London, ON with his lovely girlfriend Cora, Mike is returning to Sudbury for his second production with YESTheatre, having previously played in their July 2024 production of *Chicago*. He is so excited to be back doing what he loves, and he hopes you enjoy the show and have lots of fun!!! <3



JACOB STARLING — GUITAR / BANJO

(he/him)

Jacob Starling is a guitar player and composer born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario. Jacob can be found playing at clubs and bars around the city, at the Sudbury Jazz Festival or with one of YES Theatere's productions.

MUSICIANS BIOGRAPHIES



JOSH TURNBULL — DRUMS

(he/him)

Josh Turnbull is a multi-instrumentalist and songwriter based in Sudbury. He has collaborated with various artists, including Faye Blais, Will Gillespie, Young Mother, and OX, and released a split album with Sara Ciantar under the name Field Test. A seasoned performer, Josh has toured extensively across Canada and internationally. This past summer he joined the cast of Never Break The Chain: The Music Of Fleetwood Mac. When he's not playing music he can be found in the shop building sets for film and television. Otherwise he's cherishing time at home with his wife and children, sharing his love of music.



ARIANNA VERBREE — BASS

(she/her thev/them)

Arianna Verbree (She/Her, They/Them) is a Bassist, multi-instrumentalist, and writer living in Sudbury, Ontario. After starting their musical life in punk rock bands in high school, she began to study music as a last-minute decision that has reverberated throughout her life. Described as a "passionate performer" by her former teachers, they have been a visible feature stage right for the Sudbury Symphony and the North Bay symphony, where she has been sitting as the Principal Bassist for many years.

She holds a Diploma in Music Performance from Cambrian College, a Bachelor's Degree in music from the University of Ottawa, a Master's Degree in Music Performance from the University of Akron, and an Artist's Certificate in Performance of Early Music from the University of Toronto. They are pleased to be a part of YES Theatre's production of Jesus Christ Superstar.



ALLAN WALSH — REED

(she/her)

Allan has performed on world stages including Carnegie Hall, The Montreux International Jazz Festival in Switzerland, and many concert halls across North America including The NAC and The Confederation Centre of the Arts. Allan was a member of the music faculty at Laurentian University and Cambrian College in Sudbury, Ontario for the past 35 years. He has appeared as a guest soloist with the 'Sudbury Symphony' and has played for numerous productions at the 'STC', 'Theatre Cambrian' and YES Theatre. As Artistic Director of Jazz Sudbury Festival Allan is passionate about the local music scene and promotes jazz music throughout the year with various concerts and club dates throughout Sudbury.







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PETR BALAZ — AUDIO 1

(he/him)

Petr Balaz is a skilled mixing engineer with over a decade of experience in Audio Engineering and Production. *Jesus Christ Superstar* marks his 12th production with YES Theatre! He is also a Guitarist/Songwriter with music that can be heard in Film/TV or locally in Sudbury



MORGAN COOK — PRODUCTION MANAGER

(She/Her, Oji-Cree; North Caribou Lake First Nation)

Morgan is an indigenous bilingual production manager from Sudbury, Ontario. A graduate of the Technical Theatre Production program at Cambrian College and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a specialization in Theatre Production from Laurentian University. Morgan has been working with YES Theatre since 2018 as a stage manager, production manager, and everything in between! Morgan would like to give a special shoutout to her cats at home; Baby, Weewoo and Punk, who have been so supportive throughout this whole process. Meow Meow.



CAMERON CARVER — CHOREOGRAPHER

(he/him)

Cam is thrilled to be back with YES theatre this season. Previous credits include: As Choreographer: Octet (Crows Theatre, Canadian Premiere) Cabaret (Grand Theatre); La Cage Aux Folles; The Diviners; Richard II (Stratford Festival of Canada); Alice in Wonderland (Soulpepper, MTYP & Tour); Sweeney Todd (TIFT, Toronto, UK & Buenos Aires); Something Bubbled, Something Blue (Outside the March, NAC); Spring Awakening (Redgrave Theatre); La Strada (UK Tour); Manhattan Parisienne with Alain Boublil (The Other Palace.) As Director/Choreographer: Groundhog Day: The Musical (YES Theatre- Canadian Premiere); No Place Like Home (Edinburgh Fringe): Little Mermaid (Theatre Royal Bath): The Addams Family, The Wizard of Oz, Sweet Charity (St. Lawrence College). Upcoming: Frozen (Globe Theatre), Come From Away (YES Theatre) More: Dora Award for Outstanding Choreography Alice in Wonderland (2023) & Sweeney Todd (2022); UK Theatre Award- Little Mermaid (Best Show for Young People) Social Media: Web: cameron-carver.com IG: @ cam carver



MAXWEL CULL — ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

(he/him)

Maxwel Cull is an emerging actor and artist born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario. After completing his BFA in Acting at the University of Ottawa in 2023, he returned to Sudbury and has been working with YES Theatre since then. 'Annie' marks Maxwel's 7th production with YES Theatre, but it's his first time working as Assistant Stage Manager. He hopes you enjoy this massive, beautiful, and deeply heartwarming story. Happy holidays!

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ANAHITA DEHBONEHIE
— SET DESIGN / COSTUME DESIGN CONSULTANT

(xx/xx)

Anahita Dehbonehie is an Iranian artist currently based in Toronto. Her practice extends across design, playwriting and direction. Her work has been featured internationally at the Prague Quadrennial, The Vilnius Capital of Culture, the Moscow Museum of Modern Art, and the St. Peter and Paul Fortress, among others. Design work on both stage and screen has been recognized nationally with multiple nominations and wins. In theater she has received Dora Awards, Toronto Theatre Critics awards, an Ontario Stage award and a Sterling Haynes Award. Anahita began creating work as a playwright in 2021 and was the recipient of the Urjo Kareda Award at Tarragon Theatre, where her first play will premiere in the coming season. She has been a member of the Gillespie House, Stratford Festival and Gros Morne playwright's retreats and is a resident artist with Outside the March. Anahita is committed to work that challenges positions of power and creates space for incendiary conversation.



GAIA DHATT — ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

(she/her)

Gaia is an 18-year-old artist whose practice has prominently been in theatre: acting, directing, and scenic/costume design. She plans on pursuing a career in directing, but in her day-to-day life, she does nothing but go for walks and daydream. Recently, she's co-directed both 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and Bad Hats Theatre's 'Peter Pan', and has performed in shows such as 'Oliver!', 'Jersey Boys', 'Elf!', and 'Into The Woods'. She has also designed 'One Small Step', 'She Kills Monsters', and 'Antigone', and is deeply grateful to continue her journey in theatre with the kindest and most generous people.



FRANK DONATO

— LIGHTING DESIGNER / TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

(he/him)

Frank Donato is a Lighting and Projection designer based in Sudbury, ON. Selected credits include: Oliver!, Chicago, 1939, Matilda, Jersey Boys, Ride the Cyclone (YES Theatre), The Goldberg Variations (NYC/Vancouver/Montreal), De Profundis, The Guide to being Fabulous, The Big Easy, Detroit, The Golden Record (Soulpepper), Redbone Coonhound (Tarragon), Daisy (Great Canadian Theatre Company). Frank has worked as an Associate or Assistant Lighting Designer for Mirvish, the Stratford Festival, the Canadian Opera Company and for brands such as Volkswagen and Disney. He is a graduate of the Production program at the National Theatre School of Canada.



AARON HANNA — SOUND DESIGNER

(he/him)

Aaron is happy to return to Suds for show #10 at YES Theatre. Over his 30+ years as a theatre professional Aaron has had the privilege of working in many facets of the industry, including years floating around the planet with Norwegian Cruise Lines, mostly as a FOH Mixer and Production Sound Engineer. Selected works: Sound Design: Ride the Cyclone, Elf, Jersey Boys, Matilda, Chicago, Oliver!, Groundhog Day, JCS (YES); FOH Mix: Jersey Boys (Dancap), WarHorse, Titanic, Simply Ballroom, Bat Out Of Hell, Dear Evan Hansen (Mirvish), Many Ross Petty Pantos; Production Sound Engineer: Disney's The Lion King, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (Mirvish), The Last Timbit, (Starts My Day). Aaron is a proud member of IATSE Local #58. He owes everything to his amazing wife Kate, and daughters Ruby, and Stella. You always say YES! to these crazy life adventures. I love you all to the moon and back.



PETER HITON-DAVIS — DIRECTOR

(he/him)

Peter Hinton-Davis has directed over 250 projects for theatre and opera since 1984. Recent directing credits include: Major Barbara, (Shaw Festival), Powers and Gloria, (Blyth Festival), The Shadow of a Doubt, (Shaw Festival) The Hooves Belonged to the Deer by Makram Ayache (Tarragon/In Arms Collective), Music theatre projects include, Das Rheingold, (Edmonton Opera), Hadrian by Rufus Wainwright/Daniel MacIvor (Canadian Opera Company). Dion, by Ted Dykstra and Stephen Mayoff, (Coal Mine), The Wrong Son by Allen Cole, (National Arts Centre), Into the Woods, (Stratford Festival), Cabaret, (Shaw Festival.)

Peter was Artistic Director of English Theatre at Canada's National Arts Centre (2005-2012). He is the recipient of numerous Canadian theatre awards, and was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2009.



SARAH MILLER — STAGE MANAGER

(they/them)

Sarah Miller is a dramaturg, stage manager, and theatre educator from Whitehorse, Yukon, and this is their second season with YES. They are a graduate of York University's Theatre Performance Creation program, with a specialization in Dramaturgy (2023). As someone who was once also a goofy little girl with big dreams, *Annie* has been a deeply fun and fulfilling project for Sarah. They hope audiences get to experience a little bit of childlike play and wonder while seeing the show. All the love and dedication to Em, always.



SHARA-LEE MILLER

— SCENIC PAINTER / PROPS MASTER

(she/they)

Shara-Lee Miller is a Sudbury born and raised maker of many things. Currently stationed in Toronto tinkering and working away with the Canadian Opera Company in the props shop. This is their second season doing Scenic Art and Props on Mainstage with YES Theatre.



(she/her)

Image Architect."

NILOUFAR ZIAFE - COSTUME DESIGNER / HEAD OF WARDROBE

Niloufar Ziaee is a Toronto-based multidisciplinary designer and artist working across costume, set, and production design. A graduate of George Brown College's Fashion Design program, she brings expertise in art direction, styling, scenic painting, and design. Driven by a passion for collective storytelling, her work has been featured on stages across Canada and on platforms including HBO. She has collaborated with leading theatre companies such as Soulpepper, Factory Theatre, Nightwood, Starvox, Aluna Theatre, and Outside the March, as well as film and media organizations including Hawkeye Pictures, Game Theory Films, and the Canadian Film Centre. Niloufar is a recipient of the Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Costume Design and a Dora Award nominee. In addition to performance and media, she has contributed to fashion product development and holds certification from the School of Style, having trained under celebrity stylist Law Roach, known as "The

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BRITTANY GOLDBOROUGH — MUSICIAN CONTRACTOR

My name is Colton Gobbo. I'm a founding company member of YES Theatre, born and raised in Sudbury. I've been lucky enough to return to this stage a few times since 2009, and I plan on returning in the near future.

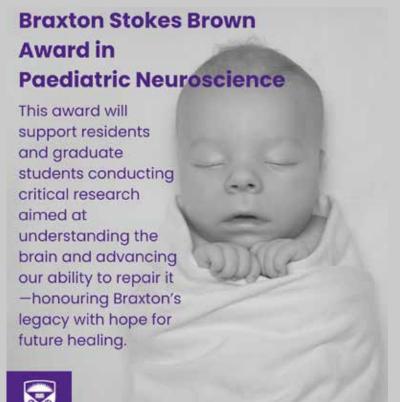
On June 23rd, 2024, my sister Shelby, and brother-in-law Spencer, welcomed Braxton to the world. Due to a catastrophic birth accident, he was diagnosed with severe H.I.E., which occurs when the brain is deprived of oxygen. For 44 days, Braxton fought hard until he tragically passed away on August 6th, 2024.

Although his life was cut heartbreakingly short, his legacy has the potential to be deeply powerful. With both deep sorrow and immense love, his parents created the Braxton Stokes Brown Award in Paediatric Neuroscience at Western University. This award supports residents and graduate students conducting critical research aimed at understanding the brain and advancing our ability to repair it.

Losing a child is one of the most unimaginable tragedies a parent can face, but Shelby and Spencer continue to battle their own grief for a project that will continue to provide hope and resilience to families battling similar tragedies. They are two of the strongest people I know. Through this award, Braxton's name will live on as a beacon of progress in paediatric neurology. It will honour his legacy with hope for future healing.

With much love.

Zio Cotton xo



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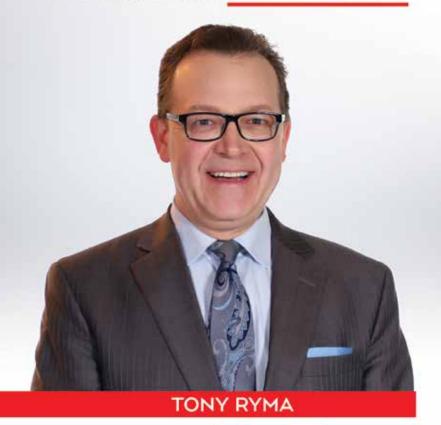
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