

VICTOR *Victoria*



Book by BLAKE EDWARDS
Music by HENRY MANCINI
Lyrics by LESLIE BRICUSSE
Additional Music by
FRANK WILDHORN

Originally produced on Broadway by Blake Edwards, Tony Adams,
John Scher, Endemol Theatre Productions, Inc.,
Polygram Broadway Ventures, Inc.

Based on the theatrical motion picture
owned and distributed by Turner Entertainment Co.



JUNE 10 - 25, 2022
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VICTOR/VICTORIA
is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC
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Our Vision

A community that has opportunities to engage in diverse artistic expression.

Our Mission

Front Row Centre Players Society is a charitable, volunteer-driven arts organization that provides a supportive environment for anyone to participate in and learn all aspects of musical theatre and delivers memorable theatrical experiences.

Our Values

Fun • Safety • Collaboration • Passion • Creativity
Equal Opportunity • Diversity • Sustainability

FRC's offices and production facilities are at the

Beddington Theatre Arts Centre

375 Bermuda Dr NW | Calgary, AB | T3K 2J5
403-246-8505 | info@frontrowcentre.ca
Charitable Registration #892438565R0001

Welcome to our first IN PERSON show in almost 29 months! I would be lying if I said we aren't a little nervous about (not to mention out of practice!) making theatre after such a long and difficult hiatus. The last 2.5 years have been challenging for our community, to say the least, and we couldn't be more excited to be back on stage doing what we love. Thank you so much for your support and for joining us today!

FRC is a volunteer-driven organization, and we are always looking for new volunteers interested in learning about musical theatre and participating in creating memorable experiences both for themselves and for the audiences coming to see our shows. To help us achieve this, we humbly ask that if you can, you contribute more than the price you paid for admission. Anything you can give will go a long way to helping us create memorable experiences for all involved.

We look forward to continuing to share our love for theatre with you as we get back into the swing of things fully next season – stay tuned!

Jenn Lanciault, President (Interim)

Calgary's Premier Community Musical Theatre Company



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Victor Victoria contains content that may not be appropriate for everyone. Parental guidance is recommended.

This production contains the use of period appropriate language including homophobic slurs which some people may find offensive or triggering. For more information, please see the Production Notes below.

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☺ Skylar Desjardins

☺ Margaret Harper

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☺

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED IN ANY WAY WITH THIS PRODUCTION BUT WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN OMITTED.

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge Moh'kinsstis, and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot confederacy: Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, as well as the Îyâxe Nakoda and Tsuut'ina nations. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3 within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. Finally, we acknowledge all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

This sacred gathering place provides us with an opportunity to engage in and demonstrate leadership on reconciliation. Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to join our team on the lands of Treaty 7 territory.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Thank you for joining us for *Victor/Victoria*. The characters in this story learn a lot about acceptance. They come to accept themselves for who they are, accept others for being themselves, and they find the opportunities in their given circumstances. Through this journey they may find love, new passions, everlasting friendships.

There was a lot of passion that went into the process of creating this show. For the cast, crew and production team working on the show it was often an uphill battle. This was not for lack of expertise, skill or enthusiasm. The uphill battle we faced was all due to one thing, COVID.

In early 2020 the theatre industry came to a halt. As theatre people, pretty much everyone involved in this show had been affected by that in one way or another. Atrophy, disappointment, and uncertainty had had almost two years to set in.

And then the call came. The process of putting these shows together typically begins three months before auditions start. In November of 2021 I got a call, three weeks before the set audition date, "Matt, the show has been given the green light. Are you in?" Of course I was! I had no idea what kind of adventure it would be. It was no less than a wild one.

For starters, many people who love to do theatre work were still not quite ready yet to get back into the game. The leadership team and producers of this show were ready, but we didn't know what to expect.

It was an adventure. We struggle to recruit a team. We do multiple calls and headhunting until we find everyone we need. We can't rehearse in person. We rehearse over zoom. We can't enter the building without a mask on. We act, sing and dance with our faces covered. We reschedule the show, causing issues with scheduling and team attrition. We continue to re-work and re-work and re-work our schedule and rebuild our team. Our cast members get COVID through the rehearsal process. We cancel multiple rehearsals and go here and there without full attendance. We push on, and increase our efforts beyond what we thought we were capable of.

I don't know if I've ever worked with such a dedicated cast. I've definitely never worked with a cast, crew and production team as resilient as everyone who worked on *Victor/Victoria*.

Creating theatre in this new world of COVID is something we've had to accept. And I'm glad we did, because we couldn't be more thrilled to present to you, *Victor/Victoria*.

Enjoy the show!

Matt Dewald, Director



MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

1. Overture
2. Paris by Night
3. If I Were a Man
4. Trust Me
5. *Backstage at Cassell's*
6. Le Jazz Hot
7. *The Tango**
8. Paris Makes Me Horny
9. Crazy World

Act Two

10. Entr'acte
11. Louis Says
12. King's Dilemma
13. *The Apache***
14. You and Me
15. Reprise: Paris by Night
16. Almost a Love Song
17. Chicago, Illinois
18. Living in the Shadows
19. Victor/Victoria
20. Bows/Exit Music

*Choreographed by JR McNeil

**** Apache, or La Danse Apache, is a highly dramatic dance associated in popular culture with Parisian street culture at the beginning of the 20th century. The name of the dance (pronounced ah-PAHSH, not uh-PATCH-ee, like the English pronunciation of the Native American tribe) is taken from the term for Parisian underworld of the time.**

The dance is sometimes said to re-enact a violent "discussion" between a pimp and a prostitute. It includes mock slaps and punches, the man picking up and throwing the woman to the ground or lifting and carrying her while she struggles or feigns unconsciousness. Thus, the dance shares many features with the theatrical discipline of stage combat. In some examples, the woman may fight back.

~ Excerpt from Wikipedia



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CAST

Victor/Victoria Grant	Caitlin Karpetz
Carroll "Toddy" Todd	Janos Zeller
Norma Cassidy	Hannah Unterschultz
King Marchand	Brad Simon
Squash Bernstein	Marco Quon
Henri Labisse / Sal Andretti	Patrick MacEachern
Andre Cassell	Jasmine Penner
Ensemble and Dance Ensemble	Bianka Bergeron,
	Bobbie-Jean Deurbrouck, Emily De Boer
Ensemble	Gary Silberg, Gina Stewart,
	Gudrun Schulze Ebbinghoff,
	Sofia Ciavardini, Zachary Remple
Dance Ensemble / Norma Cassidy (June 24-25)	Chelsea Howell-Fellows
Dance Ensemble	Emma Garrison, Ericka Esplin, Jocelyn Smith

ORCHESTRA

Orchestra Conductor	Richard Fossey
Piano	Brent Krawchuk
Piano (June 11)	Charlie Lee, Tim Oldham
Piano (June 25)	Mike Jarzecki
Reeds	Carson Dillon, Kimberly Linkert, Robert
	Seymour
Flute / Piccolo	Kelli Novak
Bassoon	Robyn Phillips
Trumpet	Drew Smith, Mark Paidra, Tim Bullen,
	Trudy Fossey
Trombone	Michael Harle, Nick Turnbull, Shelley
	Langdon, Tim Oldham
Drums	Kathy Ma
Keyboard	Lynn Kolling, Neil West
Violin	Manon Mitchell, Natalie Derkowski



PRODUCTION

TEAM

Director.....	Matt Dewald
Director Mentor/LGBTQ+ Representative	Jamie Eastgaard-Ross
Musical Director	Lurene Bates
Assistant Musical Director	Charlie Lee
Choreographer.....	Kym Butler
Assistant Choreographer.....	J.R. McNeil
Executive Producer	Jenn Lanciault
Producer.....	Jamie Eastgaard-Ross
Assistant Producer	Krista Willott
Stage Manager	Kathryn McLaren, Sarah Ruskowsky
Lighting Design	Kathryn McLaren
Lighting Design (Lighting Assistant).....	Skylar Desjardins
Set Design.....	Jamie Eastgaard-Ross
Master Carpenter	Harlan Sterner
Costume Design	Winnie Tran
Prop Design	Mikee Ames
Sound Design.....	Ross Wilson
Hair & Makeup Design	Christian Morneau
Assistant Stage Manager	Aqurii Harvey, Christine Reynolds
Assistant Stage Manager (Quick Change)	Rhonda Mottle
Running Crew Lead.....	James Tonkin, Jason Jubenville
Running Crew	Anna Harvey, David Wilkinson, Malique Rodriguez, Mark Wilkinson
Lighting Board Operator.....	Christine Reynolds, Jo Ackerman, Sutton Clarke
Follow Spot Operator.....	David Young, Mark Wilkinson, Sydney Schmaltz
Sound Operator	Aretha Smith, Rahim Manji
Costume Support	Beverly O'Brien, Christie Johnson, Clara Herbert, Emerlyn Jules, Jill Howell-Fellows, Jocelyn Smith, Karen Walker, Mike Johnson, Rhonda Mottle
Set Construction.....	Dean Howell-Fellows, James Tonkin, Jason Jubenville
Set Decoration	Jody Low
Fight Choreographer.....	Krista Willott
Dance Captain.....	Bobbie-Jean Deurbrouck
Intimacy Director	Anastasia St. Amand
Rehearsal Dance Assistant	Krista Willott
Load-In	Ian Walker, Karen Walker, Lindsay Walker, Taylor Nairn
Photography (Promotional).....	Karleigh Ingram, Sharon Olsen
Photography (Headshots)	Lyndsey Paterson, Sutton Clarke
Poster Design.....	Aimee Perreault
Program Design.....	Jenn Lanciault
Orchestra Conductor	Richard Fossey
Rehearsal Pianist.....	Don Kuchinski

Extra special thanks to the cast and crew for the long hours of move-in.

MEET THE CAST



BIANKA BERGERON (ENSEMBLE AND DANCE ENSEMBLE)

Bianka Bergeron is a French Canadian originally from Quebec. She has traveled and worked across the country on a multitude of TV shows and films as a set designer. She is now discovering musical theater, and loving every minute of it. You might have seen her recently starring in the Morpheus production of *Robin Hood and His Merry Men*.



SOFIA CIAVARDINI (ENSEMBLE)

This is Sofia's first show with FRC, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



EMILY DE BOER (ENSEMBLE AND DANCE ENSEMBLE)

After a 13-year break Emily is excited to get back on stage in both the dance and acting ensembles for *Victor/Victoria*. During that time Emily has enjoyed doing makeup for StoryBook Theatre and FRC in shows like *Shrek* and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. It's just like riding a bike... right?



BOBBIE-JEAN DEURBROUCK (ENSEMBLE AND DANCE ENSEMBLE, DANCE CAPTAIN)

This is Bobbie-Jean's first production with Front Row Centre, however she is no stranger to theatre and has been performing in musicals, plays, and dance performances from a young age. Having spent the past 8 years behind the curtain choreographing and assisting in stage management, costumes, and props she is excited to once again step out from backstage and be performing. Bobbie would also like to thank everyone for pushing through the hardships the pandemic has placed on the arts to get this production up and running! Enjoy the show!



ERICKA ESPLIN (DANCE ENSEMBLE)

After a lengthy hiatus from performing with FRC (*Singin' in the Rain*, 2012 & *Footloose*, 2014), Ericka is so excited to be back on stage doing what she does best. Over the past decade, Ericka has been involved with various dance companies including Calgary Dance Express, Tri-Tone Rhythm Ensemble, and Time Tap Dance Company (Seoul, South Korea). Thank you to everyone who came to see the show. We hope you enjoy it!!



EMMA GARRISON (DANCE ENSEMBLE)

Emma is a graduate student in Physics at the University of Calgary. They are passionate about making time for theatre during their studies. In their youth, Emma performed in numerous theatrical productions and danced competitively for seven years. More recently, Emma has performed in multiple shows with the University of South Carolina's Off-Off Broadway including as Jack in *Into the Woods*, as well as choreographing and directing shows. Since moving to Calgary, Emma performed in Morpheus's *Robin Hood* pantomime and in *The Wind in the Willows* with Untold Stories Theatre. Emma is so grateful and excited to participate in this show!



CHELSEA HOWELL-FELLOWS (DANCE ENSEMBLE / NORMA CASSIDY (JUNE 24-25))

Chelsea is so excited to be back on stage performing for live audiences! When not on stage, you can find her crocheting or playing with her two dogs. She graduated from CapU Musical Theatre last spring, and is so happy to see theatre up and running again in the community. Recent credits include *All Together Now* (FRC), *The Back Ups: A New Musical* (Flourish), *Into the Woods*, *A Chorus Line*, *Spring Awakening* (CapU). Chelsea would like to thank her parents for all their support! Enjoy the show...

MEET THE CAST



CAITLIN KARPETZ (VICTOR/VICTORIA GRANT)

Caitlin is thrilled to be playing Victor/Victoria in FRC's playful production. She'd like to thank her boyfriend, friends, family, and colleagues for their support and encouragement throughout the rehearsal process. Please grab your favourite wig, fan, & oxfords and enjoy the show!



PATRICK MACEACHERN (HENRI LABISSE / SAL ANDRETTI)

Patrick is ecstatic to be back for his 2nd show with FRC, it's been 22 years since his first, *Bye Bye Birdie*. In that time, Patrick has had the pleasure of working in film and television, theatre and radio. Some select credits include: *Kawasaki Exit* (One Yellow Rabbit), *Reasons to be Pretty* (GZT/Hit and Myth), *The Miracle Worker* (Theatre Calgary), *12 Angry Men* (Vertigo), *Wynonna Earp* (Syfy), *Hell on Wheels* (AMC), *Global Meltdown* (Amazon Prime) and *Psyborgs* (Beta Carbon).

It's an honour to be treading the boards again, in this magical space called theatre. Thanks for joining in the fun. MP.



JASMINE PENNER (ANDRÉ CASSELL)

Hi! This is Jasmine's first show with FRC! She started acting waaaaay back in middle school, her first show being *Wizard of Oz* playing Scarecrow. She loves the theatre because it gives her a chance to not be themselves for a little bit and instead be someone else completely different. She doesn't know what's going to happen next but she hopes to continue doing shows with FRC in the future!! She would like to thank Marco Quon for telling her about this show!



MARCO QUON (SQUASH BERNSTEIN)

Marco is a 25-year-old Non-Binary person who has loved theatre and been in love with theatre since they were 10 years old. After a short break from theatre, they were recommended to FRC for this show, and they've fallen back in love with the stage since. This will be Marcos first FRC show, and first ever show since 2016. They've spent the last 6 years cultivating their improvised theatre, math, and writing skills through Dungeons and Dragons, where they've played in multiple long term and short-term campaigns. Marco is so thrilled to be a part of this cast. They love everyone who has helped this show become a reality, and they love you, for coming to watch it! Thank you!!



ZACHARY REMPLE (ENSEMBLE)

Zac is an interdisciplinary artist and cultural worker based in Calgary. He has a background in theatre and dance, and has had the distinct honour of being a lead event performer for the Walt Disney Company. Zac started his training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and then followed suit with training in multiple styles including jazz, theatre and West African. He currently dances with DRSD Calgary, a company specializing in Afro-Caribbean modern dance. This is his first show with Front Row Centre, and he is eagerly looking forward to future performances with the company. Find him online @zacremple.



GUDRUN SCHULZE EBBINGHOFF (ENSEMBLE)

Gudrun believes in life-long learning and trying things to develop a more informed opinion. This has led to a career of interesting jobs, none of which have been in fields in which she actually has credentials. Theatre is no exception, having stumbled into an audition while seeking performing opportunities for one of her four children. She was last on stage in her grade-school choir but has recently been acting in tv and film. She's grateful to the board, production team, and her fabulous castmates at FRC for this incredible experience, and hopes you'll be inspired to try something new yourself.



GARY SILBERG (ENSEMBLE)

Gary is thrilled to participate in the first Front Row Players show since the pandemic began. This will be Gary's 10th show with FRC - selected previous shows include *City of Angels*, *The Producers*, *Chess*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Chicago*. Gary has recently retired and looks forward to the extra time to perform, travel, work in the garden, and have lots of fun with his 6 grandchildren.

MEET THE CAST



BRAD SIMON (KING MARCHAND)

Brad is a graduate from George Brown College and the Randolph Academy. Selected credits include *The Piper* (Downstage), *The Trial of Oscar Wilde* (Theatre Calgary - Fuse), *Pulp Fiction* (Qulum Productions) and *HAIR* (FRC).

Much love to K, C and my Alberta 'farm family' for all that they've provided during the pandemic and beyond.



JOCELYN SMITH (DANCE ENSEMBLE)

Jocelyn didn't expect to be here tonight... she answered a random audition email on a whim, solely for the fact that she had a Sunday afternoon free and thought it would be fun. No stranger to the stage, Jocelyn can usually be found performing on burlesque stages across the city and behind the scenes at Youth Singers. She would like to thank her cat for putting up with all her chaotic dance moves and apologizes for stepping on his tail.



GINA STEWART (ENSEMBLE)

Gina is glad to be returning to theatre after a long absence filled with children and roller derby. She worked with Front Row Centre way back in the early 2000s as part of the casts of *Evita* and *Camelot*, and she stage managed *My Fair Lady*. She is very pleased to be bringing several androgynous masculine types to life in *Victor/Victoria*.



HANNAH UNTERSCHULTZ (NORMA CASSIDY)

After a six-year hiatus from performing, Hannah is thrilled to take the stage as the ever-lovable Norma Cassidy. This is her second show with FRC, and while she is very excited to perform again, she's most excited to replace her headshot from 2008. Favourite roles: Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Geekenders), A... *My Name is Alice* (Skycorner) and almost playing Lulu in *Cabaret* with FRC in March 2020. Thanks to this amazing cast and crew for creating a safe space to play, and bearing with all the pandemic madness. Making art has been a huge spot of light in a crazy year. Love always to the fam and to T.



JANOS ZELLER (CARROLL "TODDY" TODD)

Janos has appeared onstage and behind the scenes in over 80 productions since he first entered the Calgary theatre scene back in 2002. An award-winning actor, director, producer and set designer, he is also an accomplished writer and songsmith and has also stage managed many a production. He spent over 13 years on the board of directors of Front Row Centre, with over 10 of those years as their Vice President. Janos has been blessed to work with over a dozen different companies in Calgary, including Front Row Centre, Morpheus Theatre, StoryBook Theatre, The Shakespeare Company, Calgary Opera, and most recently with SideNote Theatre. He is very excited to return to theatre with his dear friends at FRC and to be a part of this fantastic cast and crew of *Victor/Victoria*. Enjoy the show!



MEET THE ORCHESTRA



RICHARD FOSSEY (ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR)

Richard began playing trumpet in Grade 6 and has been playing ever since. He studied music (Trumpet Performance) at the University of Alberta and played professionally until he took his mom's advice and got a real job. Since then, he has been playing semi-professionally. However, this time around, Richard has taken on the role of Conductor for Victor Victoria. This will be Richard's seventh musical with Front Row Centre, and he is extremely excited to be conducting for this fantastic group of musicians.



BRENT KRAWCHUK (PIANO)

Brent does most of his work as an accompanist for several choirs, including the Youth Singers of Calgary, as well as pianist for vocalists and vocal students. He's also been lead piano for several musicals including FRC's *Catch Me If You Can* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. He is excited to be part of this current challenging show.



MIKE JARZECKI (PIANO (JUNE 25))

Mike is excited to jump right back on keys for FRC. Past credits with FRC include *Avenue Q* (Musical Director), *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Reefer Madness*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, and *City of Angels*. Mike hopes everyone is as happy to be back in a theatre as he is.



CARSON DILLON (REEDS)

Carson Dillon is 14 years old, this is his first show with the FRC. He is currently studying saxophone and piano as his focus but also has learned many other instruments. He will be attending a high school music focused program for the next school year. Carson was awarded Musician of the year for 2021-2022. Special thanks for the amazing support from teachers, mentors and family.



KIMBERLY LINKERT (REEDS)

Kim is thrilled to be back with FRC after a long two-year hiatus! When she's not in the pit, you can find Kim performing with the Calgary Wind Symphony, the Southern Stardust Big Band and Alberta Winds. She's also been a sub for the Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra and the Symphony of the Kootenays. *Profite du spectacle!*



ROBERT SEYMOUR (REEDS)

Robert began playing clarinet in grade school in Edmonton and has played ever since. As an adult, he added the saxophone and flute families to his abilities. He has performed a wide variety of music: folk, orchestral, classical chamber music, opera, big-band etc. He first musical theatre experience was as a teenager with members of the Edmonton Youth Orchestra performing Gilbert and Sullivan's *Mikado*. Now, over a 100 musical theatre shows later, and COVID restrictions behind us, Robert is thrilled to be performing in his 28th show with FRC



KELLI NOVAK (FLUTE / PICCOLO)

At age 10, Kelli begged her parents to let her quit piano and take up the flute, then never looked back. Kelli has played with countless concert bands, wind ensembles, orchestras, flute choirs and military bands in Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary over the years. She played for *Wizard of Oz* with FRC several years ago and is thrilled to be back in the pit at FRC for *Victor/Victoria*.

MEET THE ORCHESTRA



ROBYN PHILLIPS (BASSOON)

Robyn began playing bassoon when her Dungeons and Dragons group suggested it would be good for her character development. Results of this experiment have not yet been released, but both her bassoon career and her gaming group are both still going strong. Robyn has played many shows with FRC, and is so excited to be back in the pit and working with so many amazing people to make this fantastic show happen. Big thanks to her family and friends for supporting all her artistic adventures!



DREW SMITH (TRUMPET)

Monty Python's Spamalot was the last FRC musical; can't believe it's been 10 years. Fully retired from teaching secondary school music; Ontario 30 yrs, Calgary 5 years at the Calgary Arts Academy. While COVID slowed live music opportunities, it did bring busking into his life. Nothing like playing with a few friends outdoors and meeting smiling Calgarians of all ages.



MARK PAIDRA (TRUMPET)



TIM BULLEN (TRUMPET)

Tim Bullen is a recently moved to Calgary, retired band teacher from Nelson, BC. While teaching music at LV Rogers High School in Nelson, Tim has also been and is the principal trumpet for the Symphony of the Kootenays in Cranbrook, BC. As well, he has played in a variety of professional ensembles such as the 25, 6 to 4 Chicago tribute band, What It Is, Hornography, and Kootenay Soul. Since graduating from UBC in the early 80's, Tim has played in the pit for a variety of musicals throughout BC and the Yukon, such as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Sound of Music*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Magic Flute*, *Into the Woods*, *Hello Dolly!* and others. He is really pleased to join in this season's FRC's production of *Victor/Victoria*.



TRUDY FOSSEY (TRUMPET)

Trudy works as a teacher with the Calgary Board of Education and as a Clinician for many band classes in Calgary. She loves playing in The Pit for musicals at Front Row Center and Morpheus Theater. She is also active as a bugler with the Peace Keepers and Century Downs Horse Races. Trudy also performs regularly with Calgary Wind Symphony, Alberta Winds, Ambrose University Orchestra, and Calgary Civic Symphony. Trudy is an Executive Board Member for our very own Foothill Brass and has started a Calgary Youth Ensembles group. Recently she has added learning the String Bass to her musical endeavors, with the Calgary Community String Orchestra. Trudy loves to travel and has performed in many countries in Europe and many cities in Canada and the U.S.A. with various musical ensembles. Her hobbies include karate and teaching young children karate, leadership and personal safety. She is married to Richard and loves to spend time with her Grand kids!



MICHAEL HARLE (TROMBONE)

This is Michael's 1st show with FRC; it's also his 1st musical, although he has known orchestra and cast members over the years and been in the audience. Originally from Regina, Michael was fortunate to grow up in the local Lion's Band program learning the trombone. Long relocated to Calgary and now retired, Michael is normally found playing with some of the local big bands. Past fine arts participation has been the piano (didn't we all start there?) and adult Ukrainian dance (at over 40 and past doing the young peoples' silly moves). Thanks to his wife, Crystal, for letting him out of the house to give this a try.



NICK TURNBULL (TROMBONE)

Nick is thrilled to be involved with his 4th show with FRC, and even more thrilled to be making live musical theatre again. While he loves past roles as musical director *All Together Now!* (2021), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (2020-Cancelled), and orchestra director [*Evita* (2019), *The Wedding Singer* (2019)], Nick is very excited to be playing in the orchestra and making music with such incredible talent on and off stage. Nick is currently serving as the interim Treasurer for FRC, and looks forward to help bring live theatre and live music to our great, supportive community.

MEET THE ORCHESTRA



SHELLEY LANGDON (TROMBONE)

Shelley is excited to participate in a musical production for the first time. She has been playing trombone for over 45 years. She currently plays in Calgary's Hippocratic Oath Big Band, Midnight Blue Jazz Band, and Cappy Smart Concert Band.



TIM OLDHAM (TROMBONE, PIANO (JUNE 11))

Tim has played trombone for over 20 FRC shows since *Chicago* back in 2007. In 2015, he got back into playing piano after a 25-year hiatus from the instrument and is filling in for one show on piano. He rehearses and performs regularly with the Southern Stardust Big Band and Altius Brass. Tim is proud to support and work with his wife Lurene Bates as musical director.



KATHY MA (DRUMS)

Kathy is sooooo happy to be back playing drums! She has done over 30 shows with FRC and loving the hot jazz music of this show. She also plays with Calysto steel drum band and the Cappy Smart concert band. She has taken up pickleball in her retirement and is still trying to learn the fiddle. Thank you to Lurene and Richard for this fantastic orchestra. And happy opening night to the amazing cast and crew.



LYNN KOLLING (KEYBOARD)

This is Lynn's 8th show with FRC. When not playing keyboard stuff she plays in percussion sections with community concert bands. She has recently taken up watercolour painting and gets in the odd pickleball game.



NEIL WEST (KEYBOARD)

Neil is excited to be back performing with FRC. Neil has played or conducted numerous FRC shows dating back to 2017, and is always excited to join the talented cast, crew, and musicians. He recently performed in Morpheus Theatre's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Thanks to Richard and Lurene for their musical leadership. Much love to Stephen, and other family and friends for their love and support of Neil's theatre pursuits. Enjoy the show!



MANON MITCHELL (VIOLIN)

Hi! Manon Mitchell is a violinist who has been performing with the Calgary Civic Symphony for 32 years. Manon has performed in several musicals including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Evita*. Participating in this community-based performance of *Victor/Victoria* offers her a unique opportunity to play different repertoire and support a community-based multi-faceted artistic project.



NATALIE DERKOWSKI (VIOLIN)

MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM



BLAKE EDWARDS (BOOK)

BIO: [WIKIPEDIA.ORG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blake_Edwards); HEADSHOT: [THEGUARDIAN.COM](https://www.theguardian.com)

Blake Edwards (born William Blake Crump; July 26, 1922 – December 15, 2010) was an American film director, producer, screenwriter and actor. Edwards began his career in the 1940s as an actor, but he soon began writing screenplays and radio scripts before turning to producing and directing in television and films. His best-known films include *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Days of Wine and Roses*, *10, Victor/Victoria*, and the hugely successful Pink Panther film series with British actor Peter Sellers. Often thought of as primarily a director of comedies, he also directed several drama, musical, and detective films. Late in his career, he took up writing, producing and directing for theater.



HENRY MANCINI (MUSIC)

BIO: [WIKIPEDIA.ORG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Mancini); HEADSHOT: [IMDB.COM](https://www.imdb.com)

Henry Mancini (born Enrico Nicola Mancini; April 16, 1924 – June 14, 1994) was an American composer, conductor, arranger, pianist and flautist. Often cited as one of the greatest composers in the history of film, he won four Academy Awards, a Golden Globe, and twenty Grammy Awards, plus a posthumous Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995. His works include the theme and soundtrack for the Peter Gunn television series as well as the music for The Pink Panther film series ("The Pink Panther Theme") and "Moon River" from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. The Music from Peter Gunn won the inaugural Grammy Award for Album of the Year. Mancini enjoyed a long collaboration in composing film scores for the film director Blake Edwards. Mancini also scored a No. 1 hit single during the rock era on the Hot 100: his arrangement and recording of the "Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet" spent two weeks at the top, starting with the week ending June 28, 1969.



LESLIE BRICUSSE (LYRICS)

BIO: [WIKIPEDIA.ORG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie_Bricusse); HEADSHOT: [LESLIEBRICUSSE.COM](https://www.lesliebricusse.com)

Leslie Bricusse OBE (January 1931 – 19 October 2021) was a British composer, lyricist, and playwright who worked on theatre musicals and wrote theme music for films. He was best known for writing the music and lyrics for the films *Doctor Dolittle*, *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*, *Scrooge*, *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, *Tom and Jerry: The Movie*, the songs "Goldfinger", "You Only Live Twice", "Can You Read My Mind (Love Theme)" (with John Williams) from *Superman*, and "Le Jazz Hot!" with Henry Mancini from *Victor/Victoria*.



FRANK WILDHORN (ADDITIONAL MUSIC)

BIO: [WIKIPEDIA.ORG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Wildhorn); HEADSHOT: [MTISHOWS.COM](https://www.mtishows.com)

Frank Wildhorn (born November 29, 1958) is an American composer of both musicals and popular songs. His musical *Jekyll & Hyde* ran for four years on Broadway. He also wrote the #1 International hit song "Where Do Broken Hearts Go" for Whitney Houston.



MATT DEWALD (DIRECTOR)

Matt has worked with over a dozen theatre companies in Calgary in various roles including actor/improviser, lighting designer, producer, playwright and director. He was the artistic director of Big Th-er-sis, a theatre company producing shows in the mid-2000s. Matt has independently produced a number of shows since then as well. He has two degrees from the U of C, in drama and education. Matt wants to thank the incredible cast and crew for their dedication and hard work. Selected directing credits: *Tiny Replicas* - Sage Theatre Ignitel, *Rapunzel* - StoryBook Theatre, *Time Machine* - Workshop Theatre, *Treasure Island* - Loose Moose Theatre



LURENE BATES (MUSICAL DIRECTOR)

Lurene has been coming back to FRC annually for over 13 years and is grateful to *Victor/Victoria's* amazing production team and to every single cast, crew and orchestra member. She loves this show's exploration of identity, gender roles and sexuality, as well as the fun and gorgeous music. You can hear her singing with the Stardust Big Band, playing trombone with The Fox Band, and newly substitute teaching K-12 music! Lurene is profoundly grateful to Tim, her partner in life (and trombone duets), to Kalina and Theresa, her sunshines, and to Charise, her sister and babysitter.



CHARLIE LEE (ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR, PIANO (JUNE 11))

Charlie Lee is an arranger and copyist, and delighted to join the team for her first FRC production.

MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM



KYM BUTLER (CHOREOGRAPHER)

And 5! 6! 7! 8! Kym's resume is as random and eclectic as a Drag Queen's dressing room after a pageant. Her choreography has been featured in everything from music videos and television commercials to parades and flash mobs. She has worked with gymnasts, figure skaters, models, singers and drag performers providing movement and performance coaching. Kym is thrilled to be making her debut with FRC as Choreographer of *Victor/Victoria*. In conclusion, Pat MacEachern is awesome.



J.R. MCNEIL (ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER)

J.R. is a dancer, actor, singer, choreographer and circus aerialist from just outside St. Louis, Missouri. J.R. moved to Calgary at age 13, he fell in love with the Canadian city life, and he wrote, directed and choreographed a well-known YouTube full musical, *Undertale the Musical*. J.R. then took his training to The Young Canadians School of Performing Arts where he performed in two Calgary Stampede Grandstand Shows, and was also privileged to perform and be mentored at Disneyland. J.R. attended high school at Central Memorial (PVA) where he graduated as a dual disciplinary student (Dance/Dance Composition and Drama/Musical Theatre). He has recently completed his first year of the Professional Training Program at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD). This is J.R.'s first show with FRC that actually made it to the stage! (Rest in peace *Cabaret*)



JAMIE EASTGAARD-ROSS (PRODUCER, DIRECTOR MENTOR, SET DESIGN)

Jamie is thrilled to again be producing for FRC, not a frequent habitat for him but one that's not completely unfamiliar! At other times you may find him directing, performing, or working elsewhere on the creative team, or even running a festival booth introducing FRC to people across the city! Many thanks to everyone who's helped him tackle this behemoth, especially the cast, orchestra, and team of VV... It's been a rollercoaster of a ride, but we made it! Love as always to Mum, Dad, and Steve.



KRISTA WILLOTT (ASSISTANT PRODUCER, FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER)

Krista Willott has been doing musical theatre since 1994! She has been on professional stages in Toronto, amateur stages in Alberta and her favorite, community stages in Calgary. Krista taught Drama, technical theatre, musical theatre, dance and choral music for Catholic school district for 8 years and designed/directed 5 musicals while there. Unfortunately, she is not teaching students anymore but she still loves the theatre and volunteers when she can, and can't wait for her 3 boys to grow up enough to join her! Krista has a passion and love for musical theatre and can't wait to share it!!!



KATHRYN MCLAREN (STAGE MANAGER, LIGHTING DESIGN)

This is Kathryn's first experience stage managing outside of high school. Before graduating 3 years ago, Kathryn had a strong passion for stage management and all of technical theatre during her time at Lord Beaverbrook high school and participated in several productions while there. She continues to work there casually to run productions. Now she is very excited to be working with FRC for the first time and is looking forward to hopefully many more shows to come!



SARAH RUSKOWSKY (STAGE MANAGER)

This is Sarah's first show with FRC – enjoy the show!



HARLAN STERNER (MASTER CARPENTER)

Harlan has enjoyed building the set for *Victor/Victoria*. He says it is always a pleasure to work with the cast and crew on an FRC production. Harlan would like to thank his wife Tricia, for her support. He would also like to thank his dog Pascal for spending many hours in the garage faithfully supervising the construction.

MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM



WINNIE TRAN (COSTUME DESIGN)

Winnie is a first-time costumer with an endless fascination of theatre. As a newly graduated designer and sewing hobbyist, *Victor/Victoria* is their first-ever production and introduction to the space of theatre arts. Although new and inexperienced, she hopes you enjoy a show fuelled by hard work and passion. Winnie would like to thank the production cast and crew for an unforgettable experience, and those kind enough to lend her many helping hands including Christie, Karen, Mike, Margaret, Rhonda and many more



MIKEE AMES (PROP DESIGN)

Mikee has 20 billings with Front Row Centre in 14 shows; including 3 on stage. She would like to simultaneously apologize to and thank her spouse, Brad, for the perpetual craft workspace on their dining room table.

Love is love. ❤️



ROSS WILSON (SOUND DESIGN)

FOR FRC: *Evita*, *Avenue Q*, *The Wedding Singer*, *The Addams Family* ELSEWHERE: Select Credits Include: *Goosebumps*, *Sister Act*, *Matilda*, *The Sound of Music*, *Spongebob* (StoryBook), *A Christmas Carol* (Morpheus), *COSA2019* (Cowtown Opera), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (The Honest Collective). Ross was the recipient of the 2020 CAT award for Outstanding Sound Engineering/SFX of a Musical for his work on *The Addams Family*. He is thrilled to be joining FRC on this production!



CHRISTIAN MORNEAU (HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN)

Christian is thrilled to join the production team as Hair and Makeup Designer for FRC's production of *Victor/Victoria*. Christian has over 20 years of experience in the cosmetics industry, working with MAC, Estée Lauder, Dior, Laura Mercier, Nars, and Bumble & bumble. He led hair and makeup design for Theatre Croque-Monsieur in Montreal, for multiple stage and music video performances of *Revv52* in Calgary, and for the Park Luxe fashion show in 2016. Christian has also performed on stage as a singer and dancer with several theatre companies and was a member of the *Revv52* choir for many years. *Victor/Victoria* is the first movie he watched that inspired him to work in theatre. He would like to thank FRC and the cast and crew for their incredible patience and talent.



AQURII HARVEY (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

Aqurii Harvey is a young performing arts enthusiast who got into theatre when she was in high school at Bishop McNally High School. Aqurii was running crew for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Stage Manager for *Alice in Wonderland*; she performed as Head Cheerleader in *High School Musical*. Aqurii joined the *Victor/Victoria* team as an Assistant Stage Manager upon invitation from Krista Willott. At this time, Aqurii has not joined any other productions. Aqurii would love to say thank you to the entire *Victor/Victoria* team for welcoming her and being an amazing team to work with.



RHONDA MOTTLE (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

FRC: *Evita*, *The Pajama Game*, *Footloose* (Betty Blast), *My Fair Lady*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Legally Blonde*, ELSEWHERE: *Little Women* (Aunt March), *Titanic* (Edith Coors Evans), STORYBOOK: *Willy Wonka* (Grandma Georgina), *James and the Giant Peach*, *Busytown*, *Peter Pan*, *Shrek*, MORPHEUS: *Robin Hood*, *HMS Pinafore*, COWTOWN OPERA: *Ella Goes to Comic Expo* OF INTEREST: When not ensconced in theatre Rhonda is sharing her life with husband, Bruce, three children & two children-in-law: David, Alayna, Megan, Brad, & Brian, three grandchildren, and friends. Thank you to Bruce for supporting Rhonda!



JODY LOW (SET DECORATION)

Jody has over 40 years of experience in professional, educational and community theatre. She has trained with some of the world's leading theatre technicians and designers at the University of Lethbridge and the Banff Centre. She has previously filled the roles of Head Stage Carpenter at the University of Lethbridge; Resident Technician at the Yates Centre, Lethbridge, Technical Director for Centre Stage, Lethbridge, and Production Supervisor for StoryBook Theatre. Jody is a four-time CAT Award nominee and 2018 winner for Outstanding Lighting Design.

MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM



JAMES TONKIN (RUNNING CREW LEAD)

James is a long-time volunteer, and Jack of all trades – enjoy!



JASON JUBENVILLE (RUNNING CREW LEAD)

This is Jason's first show with FRC – enjoy the show!



CHRISTINE REYNOLDS (LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR, ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

Lighting op, sub ASM, sub backstage/running crew, etc., aka Jill of all trades!! This is Christine's first show with FRC in over 10 years, and so it is also her first time backstage in this location! She has thoroughly appreciated getting to know/work with such a talented, fun, and welcoming group of people!! She hopes you enjoy the show!!



JO ACKERMAN (LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR)



DAVID YOUNG (FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR)



MARK WILKINSON (FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR)

This is Mark's first show with FRC – enjoy!



SYDNEY SCHMALTZ (FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR)

MEET THE DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM



ARETHA SMITH (SOUND OPERATOR)

Aretha has done spot op for FRC's *The Wedding Singer* and *Avenue Q*, and sound operator for FRC's *The Boy from Oz*, *The Addams Family*, *Dogfight* and *Footloose*.

Elsewhere: She has done sound op for StoryBook Theatre's *Sister Act the Musical*, *Treasure Island*, and many others since 2012.

When Aretha is not at the theatre she relaxes at home and enjoys meeting new friends.



RAHIM MANJI (SOUND OPERATOR)



ANASTASIA ST. AMAND (INTIMACY DIRECTOR)

Anastasia is thrilled to be a part of the creative team on her fourth show with FRC (*Dogfight*, *Reefer Madness*, *Cabaret*). She works as an Intimacy Director & Coordinator and is an award-winning Fight Director. She treasures safety in directing movement for actors. Anastasia holds accreditation in Mental Health First-Aid, Psychological First-Aid as well as Standard First-Aid and CPR training. She's had the great fortune to hone her skills in Alberta's welcoming and energetic communities. Anastasia works with Principal Intimacy Professionals across western Canada on a variety of theatre, film, and television projects. She's also the Workshop Committee Chair for the National Society of Intimacy Professionals. Special thanks to the PIPs Pals and her loved ones for their ongoing support.



DON KUCHINSKI (REHEARSAL PIANIST)

Don grew up listening to the music of Henry Mancini. During the '60s, there was none more successful as a composer of television and movie scores as he. So many of his themes and songs from these became memorable and enduring standards. Because of his admiration for Mr. Mancini, Don was eager to participate in this production. This piano/conductor score was for him a clinic in jazz/swing orchestral orchestration and arranging. He was pleased to team up with co-music directors Lurene and Charlie. (Welcome to FRC, Charlie!). Don has been involved in community theatre since the mid-90s, primarily as a rehearsal pianist, an avocation he enjoys to this day.

FRONT OF HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Front of House Managers

Joey Sayer

Ushers

Donna Barnfield
Pam Beebe
Nella Benacchio
Daniella Benacchio
George Bibeau
Joan Blumer
Brenda Cosens
Nicole Dickinson
Susan Dormer

Gad Ittay Gijon

Tori Iles
Pete Jemus
Lorraine O'Neill
Sharon Olsen
Pam Ostick
Heather Palmer
Janice Patterson
Susan Patterson
Susan Rubin
Erwin Schoenfeldt
TBD
Gabriela Valenzuela
Jeri Wallis

Ticket Takers

Cheryl Aitkens
Donna Bibeau
Joan Blumer
Marlene Cain
Amber Dujay
Aura Felipe
Pete Jemus
Cathy Martin
Joanne Sampson
Ursula Serpico
Brian Unterschultz
Corinne Webb

Concession

Jason Bakaas
Donna Bibeau
Joan Blumer
Taylor Burton
Anna-Marie Delaney-iles
Alan Hamaliuk
Trina Huff
Carol Lacey
Jocelyn Laing
Tracy Smith

PRODUCER NOTES

Well folks, we're back! It's been a long road to get here, and the destination is a little different from what we expected when we programmed this show three years ago, but we're here, and by happy circumstance we're bringing you this production in Pride month! At first glance many of us probably view *Victor/Victoria* as a bit of a fluff piece... there's some fun music, a hearty Broadway romance, a farce scene, but there's so much more to it. At its heart this show is about being true to oneself and finding acceptance in a world that doesn't always open its arms willingly, and I can't think of a more appropriate theme for a show in Pride month.

Based on the 1933 film *Victor and Victoria*, set at the peak of the Weimar Republic's booming drag scene, Blake Edwards' cinematic adaptation and subsequent stage production moved the setting to 1934 Paris. By 1934, the Nazi regime had begun its dismantling of the LGBTQ+ community, and Bohemian Paris had opened its arms to those fleeing persecution, but even then, it was a "don't ask, don't tell" situation. I don't think it's by accident that Edwards chose this story in the early 80's just as the AIDS epidemic was starting to rip through the gay community. Blake Edwards and Julie Andrews were fierce LGBTQ+ allies and saw the effect AIDS had as it both devastated and stigmatized the community. It took a long time for us to recover from that, and the struggle isn't over. Theatre is at its best when it has a relevant story to tell, and one of the things I appreciate most about *Victor/Victoria* is its positive portrayal of equality and diversity for all. Edwards chose to tell a story of acceptance as the norm, where bigotry is villainized.

*** Trigger and Spoiler Warning ahead! ***

That's not to say the queer characters within this world don't struggle with the same basic things we still see today, complete with violent threats from traditionally "masculine" characters, and even internalized homophobia. Indeed, one of our struggles in bringing this script to life was with the use of a particular homophobic slur. I appreciate many are uncomfortable with the use of the word "f#ggot". I get it, I grew up as an out queer kid in the 90's, I had that word hurled at me as an insult daily, and it hurt. After a lot of debate, we came to understand the importance of Edwards choice. As you'll see tonight, the F word is used once only, and in a very specific context. It is weaponized in a moment of pure spite by one queer character to another. As it has been to so many of us, it's used to hurt him, but that's not the point for us as the audience. For us this word is used to set up the subsequent moment. The third character on stage, an ostensibly straight character, has an equally visceral reaction to this attack on their friend, immediately jumping to their defence. Edwards uses this moment, not for shock, there are plenty of other moments he could have used it if that's what he wanted to do, but to highlight the bigotry of the word. He specifically puts the word in the mouth of a gay character who knows how deeply it will cut. Could we have found a less offensive, less controversial word and swapped it out? Probably. But to do so would strip us of an opportunity to call out such bigotry on an ongoing basis. If we try to mute language such as this, even when used in an appropriate context, we not only minimize the work that has come before us, we risk softening the impact of that work, allowing bigotry and ignorance to fester out of sight. As contentious as these notes may be, I think we can all agree that ongoing conversation in an open environment is just as important now in 2022 as it was in 1982, and in 1934.

Jamie Eastgaard-Ross, Producer and LGBTQ+ Representative

With special thanks to



33 YEARS OF FRC

1988-1989

Jesus Christ Superstar

1989-1990

Tunes and Ticksles
Damn Yankees

1990-1991

Tunes and Ticksles Too
How to Succeed in Business Without
Really Trying

1991-1992

Tunes and Ticksles Three
Weather Report
The Fantasticks

1992-1993

Broadway on the Move
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
Chicago

1993-1994

Tunes and Ticksles IV
Oliver!

1994-1995

Tunes and Ticksles V: A Look Back
Annie Get Your Gun

1995-1996

The Butler Did it Singing
Annie

1996-1997

Godspell
Guys and Dolls

1997-1998

The Sound of Music
Fiddler on the Roof

1998-1999

Sugar
Music Man

1999-2000

Bye Bye Birdie
Bells are Ringing

2000-2001

The Rocky Horror Show
The Rocky Horror Show
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to
the Forum

2001-2002

Cabaret
Gypsy
South Pacific

2002-2003

Eating Raoul
How to Succeed in Business Without
Really Trying
My Fair Lady

2003-2004

Company
Jesus Christ Superstar
Kiss Me Kate

2004-2005

A New Brain
Man of La Mancha
Pippin

2005-2006

Leader of the Pack
Evita
Hair

2006-2007

Oklahoma
Chicago
Little Shop of Horrors

2007-2008

Nine
Camelot
Wizard of Oz

2008-2009

Godspell
Fiddler on the Roof
Grease

2009-2010

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of
Fleet Street
Hello Dolly!
Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits
Nunsense the Mega Musical

2010-2011

Chess
The Producers
Putting it Together
Brigadoon

2011-2012

The Rocky Horror Show
Assassins
Front Row Centre at the Movies
Gypsy

2012-2013

Singin' in the Rain
Monty Python's Spamalot
YESTERDAY • TODAY • TOMORROW
Legally Blonde

2013-2014

My Fair Lady
Footloose
Coming Attractions
Young Frankenstein
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

2014-2015

9 to 5: The Musical
Urinetown
Jesus Christ Superstar
Flights of Fancy
Anything Goes

2015-2016

The Mystery of Edwin Drood
The Who's Tommy
It's Good to be Bad
Catch Me If You Can
South Pacific
Opera in the Village Iconic Broadway

2016-2017

Jekyll & Hyde
Reefer Madness
Through the Decades
How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying
Little Shop of Horrors

2017-2018

The Pajama Game
City of Angels
Pearls of Wisdom
Dogfight
Priscilla Queen of the Desert

2018-2019

Monty Python's Spamalot
Evita
Grease
Avenue Q
The Wedding Singer

2019-2020

The Addams Family
The Boy From Oz

2020-2021

Front Row at Home for the Holidays
Hope Springs

2021-2022

All Together Now!



For more information on our past shows please visit www.frontroucentre.ca