### UNCOVERED

STEVIE WONDER & PRINCE

MUSIC DIRECTION, VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS & ORCHESTRATIONS BY REZA JACOBS

#### **NOVEMBER 4-7**

KOERNER HALL, TELUS CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE AND LEARNING 273 BLOOR STREET WEST PRODUCED BY

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MUSICALSTAGECOMPANY.COM



# Cue the lights Raise the curtain Get ready for an unforgettable performance!

CIBC is pleased to support The Musical Stage Company's 13<sup>th</sup> annual signature concert spotlighting the hit songs from two hugely influential musical artists, Stevie Wonder and Prince, as part of our continued commitment to the arts. Together, we are fostering a vibrant musical theatre community in Toronto.

### WELCOME TO UNCOVERED: STEVIE WONDER & PRINCE



When Prince died at the age of 57 in April 2016, Stevie Wonder delivered emotional tributes on CNN, CBS, and in Rolling Stone. During his life, Prince called Stevie Wonder "a role model," and those sentiments were

returned in spades through Wonder's poetic and profound eulogies. Revealing a deep and personal friendship, Wonder noted: "I'm just glad I was able to say to him'I love you' when I last saw him."

Celebrity artists like Stevie Wonder and Prince serve as inspirations to millions of listeners. But we rarely stop to think about who inspires the artists that move us. While Stevie Wonder and Prince played together publicly a handful of times (including in a top-secret performance for Barack and Michelle Obama in 2015), Wonder's tearful interviews at a time of great tragedy illuminate the deep friendship and mutual admiration that existed between the two artists. Pairing Stevie Wonder with Prince in **UNCOVERED** gives us the

opportunity to not only revel in the music of two of the most bold and important artists of our time, but to imagine how each was shaped by the work of the other.

In **UNCOVERED**, we celebrate great music while focusing on story, letting our musical approach be inspired and led by the lyrics. In the case of both Stevie Wonder and Prince, the stories they told in their songs are astoundingly rich and singular. How lucky we are that thanks to their individual artistry and mutual admiration, we get to forever experience these glorious masterpieces.

Enjoy the show!

Mitchell Marcus

THE ROGER & KEVIN GARLAND
ARTISTIC & MANAGING DIRECTOR,
THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Musical Stage Company performs in venues both traditional and surprising. With gratitude and respect, we acknowledge that Toronto is in the "Dish With One Spoon Territory." The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe Nation, Mississaugas of the New Credit, and Haudenosaunee Confederacy that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans, and all newcomers, have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect. We recognize the presence and endurance of all Indigenous people on and off this land, both recorded and unrecorded, upon which we are privileged to be able to live, work, and play.

#### PERFORMANCE NOTE

As part of **UNCOVERED**, we ask actors to perform quotes from the featured songwriters, bringing the essence and spirit of these iconic artists to the evening, without striving for impersonation.

#### In UNCOVERED: STEVIE WONDER

& PRINCE, we recognize that Stevie Wonder's lifelong blindness is a key aspect of his life. While tonight, a seeing actor will wear sunglasses to evoke Stevie Wonder's iconic look, the actor will not be playing blind. While we do not wish to erase Wonder's disability, we also do not wish to perform disability with non-disabled actors.

#### The Musical Stage Company presents

# UNCOVERED STEVIE WONDER & PRINCE

Music Direction, Vocal Arrangements & Orchestrations by REZA JACOBS\*

Dramaturgy by MITCHELL MARCUS\*\* & KEVIN WONG

#### **STARRING**

THOM ALLISON, COLIN ASUNCION, AIMEE BESSADA, JULLY BLACK, DIVINE BROWN, LYDIA PERSAUD, JACKIE RICHARDSON & CARY SHIELDS

with background vocals by MICHELLE BOUEY & ALANA HIBBERT†

and SARAH AFFUL as Stevie Wonder and CHY RYAN SPAIN as Prince

#### **ORCHESTRA**

Piano & Conductor

Percussion

JAMIE DRAKE\*\*\*

Basses JUSTIN GRAY Cellos
FRIKA NIFI SFN

#### **CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM**

Staging ELENNA MOSOFF & MITCHELL MARCUS

Script

JASON SPETTER & KEVIN WONG

Lighting Design Supervisor

MATT BIRNBAUM

Lighting Designer CHRIS MALKOWSKI

Stage Manager

AJ LAFLAMME

Music Assistant

Stylist
CHANTELLE HINDS
for SHARON ANGEL A

Blind Disability Dramaturg
JESSICA WATKIN

Production Assistant ROBYNNE HARDER

- \* The Fine Furneaux Director of Music
- \*\* The Roger & Kevin Garland Artistic & Managing Director
- \*\*\* Additional orchestrations, drum, and percussion arrangements by Jamie Drake

† The 2019–20 Diana Bennett & Spencer Lanthier Featured Performer



The Musical Stage Company engages, under the terms of

the Independent Theatre Agreement, actors and stage managers who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA).



Stage Company is a member

of the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA).



The musicians engaged in this production are members of the Toronto Musicians' Association (TMA) Local 149 of the Canadian

Federation of Musicians and American Federation of Musicians.

#### SONGS FEATURED IN UNCOVERED

SONGS ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

#### STEVIE WONDER

For Once in My Life JACKIE RICHARDSON

I Wish

DIVINE BROWN

Knocks Me Off My Feet

THOM ALLISON

Living for the City / Village Ghetto Land
THOM ALLISON, COLIN ASUNCION, JULLY BLACK,

ΔΙ ΔΝΔ HIBBERT

My Cherie Amour

JULLY BLACK

Part-Time Lover

Saturn

**CARY SHIELDS** 

Shoo-Be-Doo-Be-Doo-Da-Day

LYDIA PERSAUD

Sir Duke

**FULL CAST** 

Superstition

COLIN ASUNCION

#### **PRINCE**

How Come U Don't Call Me Anymore?

Kiss

DIVINE BROWN\*

Little Red Corvette

AIMEE BESSADA

Manic Monday
THOM ALLISON

Nothing Compares 2 U

CARY SHIELDS, LYDIA PERSAUD

Purple Rain

JACKIE RICHARDSON

Raspberry Beret

**CARY SHIELDS** 

When Doves Cry

AIMEE BESSADA, DIVINE BROWN, LYDIA

PERSAUD

\*movement created by DIVINE BROWN in collaboration with TRAVIS KNIGHTS

The text featured in **UNCOVERED**: **STEVIE WONDER & PRINCE** has been curated from actual quotes spoken by Stevie Wonder & Prince.

All vocal arrangements have been created in collaboration with the performing artists. Background vocals co-created and performed by MICHELLE BOUEY & ALANA HIBBERT.



Running time is approximately 120 minutes. There will be one 20 minute intermission.



As a courtesy to the audience and artists, latecomers will be seated at an appropriate break in the performance, if possible.

Sarah & David

Macdonald

Barb Onrot



Cell phones and other electronic devices are distracting for actors and audience members, please turn them off during the show.



Videotaping or other video/audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Sara Baker Megan Deeks Clare Dennis

Travis Knights

John & Patti Loach

Alison Rampersad

Jason Spetter

Kledia Verria Fred Yurichuk The Staff at RCM & the TELUS Centre for Performance & Learning

#### THE HISTORY OF UNCOVERED

For 13 extraordinary years, The Musical Stage Company has UnCovered the catalogues of The Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel, Michael Jackson, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, Carole King, James Taylor, Sting, The Police, Billy Joel, Elton John, Queen, David Bowie, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, and Prince.

## AL HA

#### **SPRING 2009**

**FALL 2007** 

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL'S BLOG.

The first UNCOVERED concert is held at the now-closed Diesel Playhouse as a one-night only concert benefit, featuring the songs of The Beatles interpreted for an audience of 387.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RANDOLPH THEATRE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE BATHURST ST. THEATRE).

Following the great success of UNCOVERED: THE BEATLES, UNCOVERED returns with a reimagined look at the catalogues of Simon & Garfunkel, this time at the Bathurst Street Theatre, bringing the concert to 500 people.

#### SPRING 2010-2011



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY.

UNCOVERED becomes an annual fundraiser for The Musical Stage Company, spotlighting Michael Jackson in 2010 and Joni Mitchell & Leonard Cohen in 2011.

#### **SPRING 2012**



KOERNER HALL AT THE TELUS CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE AND LEARNING.

UNCOVERED moves to the stunning and acoustically magnificent Koerner Hall for a one-night-only concert, featuring the music of John Lennon & Paul McCartney, reaching 1000 Toronto music lovers.

# FALL

#### **FALL 2012**



PHOTO BY JOANNA AYKOL.

The Musical Stage Company transforms UNCOVERED from a fundraiser into a fully conceived original concert each season, and UNCOVERED: CAROLE KING & JAMES TAYLOR opens the 2012-13 Musical Stage Company season at Koerner Hall.

#### 2013-2017



PHOTO BY JOANNA AYKOL.

UNCOVERED returns to Koerner Hall, growing from a onenight-only event to a three-night series as The Musical Stage Company's signature annual concert, reaching 3000 patrons.

#### FALL 2017-2018



PHOTO BY JONATHAN CASTELLING.

Following extraordinary demand, UNCOVERED adds performances at the George Weston Recital Hall. and tours to the Burlington Performing Arts Centre and Mississauga's Living Arts Centre, reaching 4000 people from across the GTA.

#### **FALL 2019**



PHOTO BY DAHLIA KATZ.

UNCOVERED returns for an unprecedented six nights across Koerner Hall and the George Weston Recital Hall as one of the most anticipated cultural events of the fall in Toronto, connecting an anticipated 5000 music lovers to the songs of Stevie Wonder & Prince.

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**



#### SARAH AFFUL Stevie Wonder

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**. Currently based in Toronto, Sarah Afful has

graced some of Canada's biggest stages, including six seasons at the Stratford Festival. Credits in Toronto include Obsidian Theatre's Canadian premiere of HANG and the title role in Soulpepper's ORLANDO, for which she was nominated for a Dora Award for Outstanding Performance. Up next, you can catch her in Crow's Theatre's production of JULIUS CAESAR.



#### THOM ALLISON

Performer

For The Musical Stage Company: **UNCOVERED: STING & THE POLICE**; **ELEGIES** (2007, 2014);

A NFW BRAIN. Thom Allison can be seen as "Pree" in the hit series KILLJOYS. Thom has appeared on Broadway in PRISCILLA, **OUEEN OF THE DESERT** and in the original Canadian companies of MISS SAIGON, THE WHO'S TOMMY and RENT. At The Stratford Festival: ROMEO AND JULIET, MY FAIR LADY, THE KING AND I, KING HENRY VIII, and INTO THE WOODS. At the Shaw Festival: RAGTIME. WONDERFUL TOWN, A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC. and FOLLIES: IN CONCERT. Additional credits include THE WIZARD OF OZ (Young People's Theatre), CABARET (Theatre Calgary), ANNIE (Grand Theatre), EVITA (Theatre Calgary/Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre) and THE DROWSY CHAPERONE (The Vancouver Playhouse, The Citadel, National Arts Centre, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre). TV/Film: MURDOCH MYSTERIES, KIM'S CONVENIENCE, CBC's OVER THE RAINBOW, I ME WED, ROAD TO CHRISTMAS, LEAVING METROPOLIS, His CD. A WHOLE LOTTA SUNLIGHT, is available on iTunes, www.thomallison.com



#### COLIN ASUNCION

Performer

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT.** Colin Asuncion is a Toronto-based singer

and cabaret artist. He has produced a number of solo cabarets and was a 2018 Broadway World Toronto nominee for Best Cabaret Performance. Selected theatre credits: Juicy in PRISON DANCER (Citadel Theatre), Jack in INTO THE WOODS (Hart House Theatre), Angel in RENT (Fallen Rock Productions), Mitch Mahoney in THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE (Easy Street Productions). Television: Season 3 Competitor on THE GREAT CANADIAN BAKING SHOW (CBC), Guest commentator on THE AFTER SHOW (MTV Canada).



#### AIMEE BESSADA

Performer

For The Musical Stage Company: UNCOVERED: JONI MITCHELL & CAROLE KING. Aimee

Bessada is a composer, songwriter, and performer currently residing in Los Angeles. A recent alumni of the prestigious CFC Slaight Music Lab, she has quickly added a number of projects to her growing portfolio as a composer. She has created original music for the Hulu series HOLLY HOBBIE as well as the CBC web series HOW TO BUY A BABY (nominated for a 2018 International Emmy), both in their second season. Additionally she has written music for the films LATE NIGHT, AMERICAN WOMAN, as well as the 2019 revamped FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL as assistant to composer Lesley Barber.

### "THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY IS INDISPENSABLE."

J. Kelly Nestruck, The Globe and Mail



# Their Someday is the freedom to pursue their passion.

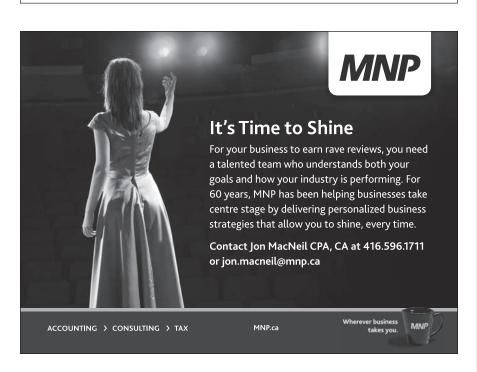
The hard work, perseverance and vision of emerging artists demonstrate the power of having – and the joy of realizing – a Someday®. Together with programs like the apprentice program at The Musical Stage Company, we support a diverse range of Canadian talent in communities across the country through the RBC Emerging Artists Project.

Let's Make Someday Happen



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#### **BIOGRAPHIES**



#### MATT BIRNBAUM

Lighting Design Supervisor

For The Musical Stage Company: 13 seasons of **UNCOVERED** (Lighting

Designer); JOHN & JEN (Assistant Stage Manager); ELEGIES: A SONG CYCLE; A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE (Associate Producer). Matt is thrilled to be joining The Musical Stage Company for his 13th season. When he is not lighting these shows, Matt spends his days as the General Manager for the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company. Many thanks to Mitchell for inviting him back year after year and much love to Ryla and Blake.



#### JULLY BLACK Performer

For The Musical Stage Company: CAROLINE, OR CHANGE (upcoming); UNCOVERED: JONI

MITCHELL & CAROLE KING. Jully Black is a platinum-selling singer, songwriter, performer, international recording artist and multiple Juno Award winner. She has collaborated with industry heavyweights such as DESTINY'S CHILD and SEAN PAUL, has shared the stage with superstars such as CELINE DION. ELTON JOHN and ETTA JAMES, to name a few. As CEO of Jully Black Entertainment Inc., Jully continues to contribute to the music landscapes that she has helped define throughout her illustrious 20+ year career as Canada's Queen of RnB/Soul. Jully is a phenom in Canadian entertainment, lifestyle and public speaking arenas. It is with purpose driven ideals and boundless spiritual fortitude that she continues to refine and reinvent her artistry. Early 2020 marks Jully's next, highly anticipated, full-length recording project titled 2020, along with her musical theatre debut and starring role in the Tony Award-winning musical CAROLINE, OR CHANGE.



#### MICHELLE BOUEY

Performer

For The Musical Stage Company: 2018–19 BANKS PRIZE RECIPIENT: UNCOVERED:

JONI MITCHELL & CAROLE KING. Michelle Bouey, singer/songwriter/actor, hails from Charlottetown, PEI. Since her graduation from the Music Theatre program at Sheridan College, she has been busy on a number of fronts. Some of her favourite theatre credits include ROSE (Soulpepper), GREASE (Winter Garden Theatre), FREAKY FRIDAY (Theatre Aguarius), THE WIZARD OF OZ (Grand Theatre), RENT (CAA Theatre), ALADDIN: THE PANTO (Drayton Entertainment), Film/TV: THE MOBLEES (CBC), ODD SOUAD (PBS/TVO), THE HANDMAID'S TALE (MGM/Hulu), JAPANIZI: GOING, GOING, GONG! (YTV/DisnevXD), and Top Ten on OVER THE RAINBOW (CBC). In 2018, Michelle was nominated for a Juno Award with THE MOBLEES, and she is currently recording and writing her own music. Her first three singles are streaming on iTunes and Spotify, and her debut music visual is streaming on YouTube. Shoutout to my family, best friends, and TH! Enjoy the show!



DIVINE BROWN

Performer

For The Musical Stage Company: UNCOVERED: QUEEN & BOWIE; UNCOVERED: DYLAN &

SPRINGSTEEN; PASSING STRANGE. Select theatre credits include RENT (Mirvish); AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' (Canadian Stage); LIFE, DEATH AND THE BLUES (Theatre Passe Muraille); OBEAH OPERA (Nightwood); FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (Soulpepper). On television, she has most recently appeared in the CBC series SCHITT'S CREEK for 3 seasons as a Jazzagal.



#### JONATHAN CORKAL

Music Assistant

For The Musical Stage Company: **REPRINT** (Accompanist/Copyist);

#### UNCOVERED: JONI MITCHELL & CAROLE KING; DR SILVER: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

(Music Assistant). Additional credits as Music Director include DRAMA 101 (Toronto Fringe); SPRING FEVER (Smile Theatre); HAIR, and THE PENELOPIAD (Hart House). As Associate Music Director: HEATHERS (Hart House); THE PREPOSTEROUS PREDICAMENT OF POLLY PEEL (Toronto Fringe); Training: Sheridan College's Music Theatre Performance program. Jonathan is a Torontobased music director, accompanist, copyist and actor. He is forever thankful to his family in Chile and Canada for their constant support, and to the UNCOVERED team for the wonderful opportunity to work on another inventive year of reimagined music. Enjoy!



#### JAMIE DRAKE

Percussion & Additional Orchestrations, Drum, and Percussion Arrangements

For The Musical Stage Company: 12 seasons

of UNCOVERED, NEXT TO NORMAL; FUN HOME: LIFE AFTER: FDGES, Selected additional credits: LONDON ROAD (Canadian Stage); MATILDA (Mirvish); SANCTUARY SONG (NAC): SEUSSICAL, JACOB TWO-TWO (YPT). and incidental music for the Shaw Festival. Jamie is a Toronto-based percussionist, drummer, and composer, who is known for his stylistic diversity. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Toronto and has premiered works by Christos Hatzis. Nicole Lizée, and John Luther Adams, As a member of TORO PERCUSSION QUARTET, he has been a featured soloist with the Toronto Symphony, Montreal Symphony, and the Buffalo Philharmonic, He also serves as the percussionist for the renowned Hamilton

Children's Choir, with whom he's performed on three continents. He is the drummer/ percussionist and bandleader for cabaret superstar **SHARRON MATTHEWS** and plays in the Motown band **THE BIG SOUND**. Jamie is a proud Yamaha Canada artist. jamiedrake.ca @opus\_32



#### **JUSTIN GRAY**

Basses

For The Musical Stage Company: **NEXT TO NORMAL**; **FUN HOME**, 6 seasons of **UNCOVERED**.

Justin Gray is a Toronto-based award-winning bassist, composer, producer and educator. His main influences include jazz, R&B, Indian classical and world music. Justin is currently on faculty at Humber, Sheridan and Centennial College. Throughout this career, Justin has received a number of awards and distinctions, most recently a nomination for Instrumental Solo Artist of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards, In 2010, Justin invented and co-created a new hybrid instrument, the Bass Veena, and is now emerging as the first artist to perform on it worldwide. Justin currently leads his own contemporary world music ensemble, JUSTIN GRAY & SYNTHESIS, which recently released their debut album New Horizons. www.JustinGraySynthesis.com.



#### ROBYNNE HARDER

**Production Assistant** 

For The Musical Stage Company: 3 seasons of UNCOVERED, ONE SONG GLORY (2016 Stage

Manager). Robynne Harder is a Toronto based director, producer, filmmaker, and amateur ukulele player. Selected credits include: Director/Producer of MEANT and EURYDICE (Styx and Stones Productions); Director of TRANSFERRING KYLE (The InspiraTO Festival); Directing Apprentice, THE MILLENNIAL MALCONENT (Tarragon Theatre); Production Assistant (Yonge Street Theatricals). Robynne holds a B.F.A. from the Ryerson School of ▶

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

Performance in Theatre Production and is a graduate from the Commercial Theatre Institute's producing intensive in New York. Robynne is the Production Manager of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and the Co-Creator and Co-Artistic Director of Styx and Stones Productions.



#### **ALANA HIBBERT**

Performer

The 2019–20 Diana Bennett & Spencer Lanthier Featured Performer

For The Musical Stage Company: **CAROLINE**,

OR CHANGE (upcoming); ONCE ON THIS ISLAND; CAROLINE, OR CHANGE (2012); PARADE. Alana is a Dora-nominated actor and singer who has appeared on many stages across Canada. She recently appeared as Gertrude in the world premiere of the newly re-imagined KRONBORG-THE HAMLET ROCK MUSICAL (Charlottetown Festival), Selected credits include MARY AND MAX (Theatre Calgary); CAROUSEL, THE SOUND OF MUSIC (Stratford Festival); THE MOUNTAINTOP, RAGTIME, GUYS AND DOLLS, TROUBLE IN TAHITI, MAJOR BARBARA (Shaw Festival); THE WIZARD OF OZ (YPT): six seasons with the Charlottetown Festival; and HAIR (Canadian Stage). She will be appearing next in INTO THE WOODS (TIFT).



#### **REZA JACOBS**

Music Director, Vocal Arranger, Orchestrator The Fine Furneaux Director of Music

For The Musical Stage Company: **CAROLINE**,

OR CHANGE (upcoming); 12 seasons of UNCOVERED; FUN HOME; LIFE AFTER; CAROLINE, OR CHANGE (2012); and more. Reza is an award-winning music director, arranger, composer, and sound designer. Reza won his third Dora Award for Outstanding Musical Direction for LIFE AFTER (The Musical Stage Company/Canadian Stage/Yonge Street Theatricals). Credits include: Sound Design

and Composition for The Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival, Young People's Theatre, Factory Theatre, Tarragon, Theatre Passe Muraille, Volcano, Cahoots, Luminato Festival & Harbourfront's World Stage Festival.



#### AJ LAFLAMME Stage Manager

For The Musical Stage Company: CAROLINE, OR CHANGE (upcoming); NEXT TO NORMAL;

ONEGIN; YOU ARE HERE. Selected stage management credits include THE OVERCOAT. DECLARATIONS, LIV STEIN, CHIMERICA, JULIE, LONDON ROAD, THE ARSONISTS, RED (Canadian Stage); THE BOOK OF LIFE, A BEAUTIFUL VIEW, ANOTHER AFRICA, THE AFRICA TRILOGY (Volcano Theatre); THE BOY IN THE MOON, A&R ANGELS (Crow's Theatre); MUSIK FUR DAS ENDE (Soundstreams); THE BALLAD OF STOMPIN' TOM (Sudbury Theatre Centre): BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY. MAGGIE & PIERRE, INTO THE WOODS, PIRATES OF PENZANCE (Thousand Islands Playhouse); ROCKING HORSE WINNER (Tapestry Opera); ALL SHOOK UP (Globe Theatre); THE UNPLUGGING, BINGO! (Factory Theatre); WAITING ROOM (Tarragon Theatre): IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, KIM'S CONVENIENCE, SPOON RIVER, LA RONDE, TRUE WEST (Soulpepper); TOSCA, LA TRAVIATA, DIE ZAUBERFLOTE, LA TRAGEDIE DE CARMEN (Highlands Opera Studio). Upcoming: TREEMONISHA (Volcano Theatre).

#### "THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY IS SO ON A ROLL."

Karen Fricker, Toronto Star

Supporting Canadian talent, **locally**.



BMO is proud to sponsor **The Musical Stage Company** and the **Launch Pad Program**.

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**



#### CHRIS MALKOWSKI

Lighting Designer

For The Musical Stage Company: **NEXT TO NORMAL** (Lighting Assistant).

Chris Malkowski is a professional lighting designer based in Toronto and designs lights for dance, drama, opera, musical theatre and live events across the world. Selected credits include: THE BLACK DRUM (Lighting Designer, Soulpepper/Deaf Culture Centre), BACKBONE Europe Tour (Lighting Director, Red Sky Performance), AMAL, LAST 15 SECONDS (Associate Design, Tunisia/ Egypt Tour), MIDDLETOWN (Associate Design, Crow's Theatre), MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS International Tour (Associate Design. Shaw Festival), IN THE CONTINUUM (Black Ink Collective), ANTIGONE, PANTALONE'S PALACE (Brock University), COME DOWN FROM UP RIVER (TNB, Foster Festival), DIRECTOR'S PROJECT (Shaw Festival), FAR AWAY (Best of Fringe 2016). Chris is a graduate of the Ryerson University Performance Production Program and an Associate Member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



#### ELENNA MOSOFF Staging

For The Musical Stage Company: 10 seasons of **UNCOVERED**. Elenna Mosoff is a theatrical

director and leadership coach who has worked in Canada, the US, and Europe. As the former Associate Artistic Producer for The Musical Stage Company (2010–2013), Elenna is very proud to be part of The Musical Stage Company culture and family. Selected theatre credits as director include ZED.TO, VISITATIONS (The Mission Business); EQUUS, REEFER MADNESS: THE MUSICAL (Hart House Theatre). Elenna also produced Outside the March's acclaimed 2015 production of MR. BURNS: A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY. With her own company, The Mission Business, she has produced and created experiences for many corporations

across North America. She is sometimes known as Camp Counsellor of the Universe. She creates events and experiences that bring people together for deeper connections. Find out more at www.elennamosoff.com



#### ERIKA NIELSEN Cellos

For The Musical Stage Company: **ONEGIN**. Canadian cellist Erika Nielsen enjoys

a dynamic career as a collaborative artist, chamber musician, orchestral player, and educator, spanning Baroque and Classical to New Music and contemporary genres. Erika has performed with KANYE WEST and JOHNNY REID, and is a Dora Award nominee for her performance in **ONEGIN**. She was Principal Cellist of the SUDBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, and performs with CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE, Motown band THE BIG SOUND, REZONANCE BAROOUE ENSEMBLE, and FLO tribute STRANGE MAGIC. She can be heard on many albums, such as The Trews, Jennifer Castle, and The Weather Station. Erika is a graduate of The Glenn Gould School and Oueen's University and is on faculty at National Music Camp of Canada. She maintains a busy private studio, and is also a visual artist and author. Her first book, Sound Mind (Trigger Publishing 2019) is an Amazon #1 bestseller. www.celloerika.com@celloerika



#### LYDIA PERSAUD

Performer

For The Musical Stage Company: **ONE SONG GLORY** (2006). Lydia Persaud is a Brampton-

born, Toronto-based singer-songwriter. Her debut album **LET ME SHOW YOU** was released in May of 2019 and features the songs "Honey Child", "With You" and "Well Wasted". The lead single "Low Light" cracked the top 10 of the CBC Music Top 20. Lydia also performs with **DWAYNE GRETZKY** and has sung with **LEE FIELDS**, **GORDON LIGHTFOOT**, **ROYAL WOOD** and more.



#### JACKIE RICHARDSON

Performer

For The Musical Stage Company: 5 seasons of **UNCOVERED**. Jackie is

one of Canada's foremost singers of gospel, blues, and jazz. Selected theatre: SPOON RIVER, COOKIN' AT THE COOKERY (Dora Award), AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' (Dora Award), BIG MAMA! THE WILLIE MAE THORNTON STORY (Jessie Award), ADVENTURES OF A BLACK GIRL IN SEARCH OF GOD, and ST. CARMEN OF THE MAIN. Selected film and TV: TURNING TO STONE (Gemini Award), THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE BLUES (Gemini Award). SINS OF THE FATHER (NAACP nomination). HALLELUJAH GOSPEL SERIES (as host & performer for 24 episodes), DEAR VIOLA (TV movie), Ms. Richardson has received The Canadian Actors' Equity Lifetime Achievement Award, The African Canadian Achievement Award, and The Toronto Blues Society Lifetime Achievement Award.



#### CARY SHIELDS Performer

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**. Cary Shields is honoured to join the cast of **UNCOVERED** 

and sing the music of two of his favourite artists. Shields is a Toronto born singer/ songwriter and actor. Selected theatre credits include Roger in RENT (Broadway), Marcus in TABOO (Broadway), Stacey Jaxx in ROCK OF AGES (Stage West) and the musical revue HOLLYWOOD HITS (Stage West). Most recently he performed his original one man show, I SHOT THE ALBATROSS, which chronicles a decade of his life through music and storytelling. As always, he dedicates this show to his family and TLW.



#### CHY RYAN SPAIN

Prince

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**. Chy Ryan Spain is a black, queer, gender non-

binary multi-disciplinary artist, performer, activist, organizer, and educator. Spain was nominated for a Dora Mayor Moore Award in 2013 along with their fellow ensemble members for their work in OF A MONSTROUS CHILD: A GAGA MUSICAL (FcceHomo), In 2018, Spain and the cast of POOL (NO WATER) (Cue6) took home a Dora Award for Best Ensemble in the Independent Theatre category. They regularly perform with Toronto's premiere women of colour burlesque troupe, LES FEMMES FATALES, and hold the inaugural title of Toronto's Bent Beauty Supreme. Other select theatre credits include: SERENITY WILD (Katie Sly), ROPE RUNNING OUT (lemonTree), SMALL AXE (Project Humanity), THE QUEER BATHROOM STORIES (Libido Productions), THE PASTOR PHELPS PROJECT: A FUNDAMENTALIST CABARET (Ecce Homo), and their original solo performance piece THE PRICE OF BLEACH (Rhubarb 2007).

#### "THEATRE THAT RISKS MUCH AND WINS BIG."

John Coulbourn, Toronto Sun

## SAVE THE DATE FOR UNCOVERED 2020

November 16-19, 2020 at Koerner Hall



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- Reception spaces with customizable catering options
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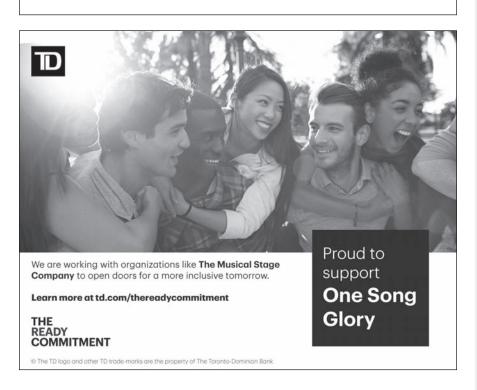
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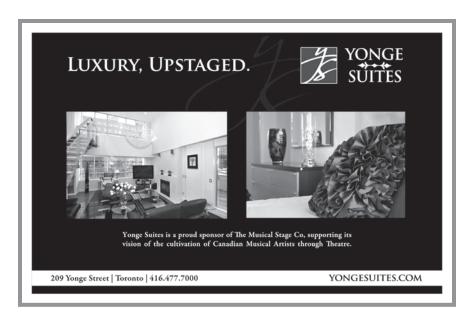
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