

Come From Away

Book, Music, and Lyrics
by **Irene Sankoff** and **David Hein**

Directed and choreographed by **Karen Azenberg**

April 24 - May 9, 2026

SPOTLIGHT STUDY GUIDE
For Teachers and Students



Pioneer Theatre Company's Student Matinee Program is made possible through the support of Salt Lake County's Zoo, Arts, and Parks Program, The Simmons Family Foundation, and The Meldrum Foundation Endowment Fund.





SETTING: Gander, Newfoundland- September 2001

SYNOPSIS: 7,000 Stranded Passengers. One Small Town. A Remarkable True Story. *Come From Away* is the real-life story of the 7,000 air passengers from all over the world who were grounded in Canada during the wake of 9/11, and the small Newfoundland community that invited these 'come from aways' into their lives with open hearts. Spirited locals and global passengers come together to forge friendships that will stay with them forever. The first female American Airlines captain, the quick-thinking town mayor, the mother of a New York firefighter and the eager local news reporter are among the many real characters caught at the start of the moment that changed the course of history and whose stories became a true celebration of hope, humanity and unity.

CHARACTERS

Come From Away is an ensemble show where 14 actors portray about roughly 70 individual roles, representing characters from all over the world – America, the Middle East, Europe, and more in addition to Newfoundland – with accents to match.

While some characters in *Come From Away* are fictional characters based on the combined accounts of many inhabitants of Gander and those traveling on 9/11, several of the characters featured in the musical are real people; sometimes lovingly referred to as “the Reals” by those closely associated with the show. Here are the show’s featured “Reals” (biographies contain spoilers):



Oz Fudge: Oz Fudge served as a police officer in Gander for over 30 years and, as seen in the musical, was known for his likelihood to dole out foul-mouthed warning tickets to speeding motorists. When Fudge and his daughter discovered there were sick kids from England headed to Disney World on one of the planes, they postponed a birthday celebration and instead bought cake for 350 people, and his daughter and two of her friends dressed as fairytale princesses to greet the children. Fudge is now retired from police work, but he continues to serve his community as a counselor.

Beulah Cooper: Beulah Cooper is quick to undersell her work to ensure that those who came to Gander on 9/11 had what they needed. As she puts it, “My name is Beulah Cooper and I made trays of sandwiches.” In actuality, Cooper coordinated and provided many essentials including food and clothing, and she offered comfort and friendship to those who needed it—including the real-life Hannah O’Rourke, whose plane was re-routed to Gander and whose firefighter son was killed while responding to the attacks at the World Trade Center. Cooper prepared food, took come-from-aways shopping for clothing, and even welcomed people into her own home so they could shower.



Nick Marson and Diane Kirschke: Nick Marson of Britain and Diane Kirschke— now Marson—of Texas really did meet and fall in love while they were stranded in Newfoundland in the days after the 9/11 attacks. Both out of relationships and with grown children, Nick and Diane were on the same plane and were both housed at the Society of United Fisherman Lodge 47 and had neighboring cots. They took walks together and quickly became such good friends that people assumed they were married—to which Diane’s response was “Why not?!” Diane insists she was only joking, but they were married within a year of meeting each other, honeymooned in Newfoundland where they met, and started their life together in Houston, where they still live today.

Claude Elliott: Long-serving mayor of Gander, Claude Elliott was instrumental in setting up response operations and coordinated communications with community organizations regarding the state of emergency. He is an enthusiastic supporter of *Come From Away* and frequently travels to speak at touring and regional productions of the show to speak about his experiences. Elliott speaks passionately about the hospitality and generosity of Newfoundlanders. “Most people I talk to in Gander say they wished we could have kept them here because if we kept them, we would know they were safe. The hardest thing was seeing them leave. On day one we had 7,000 strangers, on day three we had 7,000 friends, and on day five we lost 7,000 family members.”



CHARACTERS (cont.)



Bonnie Harris: Bonnie Harris served as the manager for Gander's SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and was told there were no animals aboard any of the planes that landed at Gander Airport—but she and her husband Doug, who worked at the airport, didn't believe it. With her husband's help, Harris rescued 12 dogs (including an anxious rottweiler), five cats (including one cat with a seizure disorder), and two Bonobo apes, and fed, walked, and cared for all of them for the entire five days the planes were grounded in Gander. One of the apes, Unga, later birthed three offspring, including a male Bonobo ape named Gander after Unga's stay with Bonnie in Newfoundland. Harris was there for the first performance of the show performed at the local hockey arena—which served as a food freezer in the days after 9/11—and she also flew to Australia for the opening of the Melbourne production, where \$40 of every ticket sold for the final preview performance went to an Australian-based charity for guide dogs in Bonnie's honor.



Beverly Bass: Bass grew up hunting on horseback with her father in the Florida Everglades. Her love of airplanes began around age 9 when she saw a handwritten ad for plane rides charging riders by their weight at a penny per pound—and collected three quarters so she could ride. While in college, she began flying lessons with the same man who wrote that advertisement. Her first job was flying bodies for a mortician. She

was later hired as the third-ever woman pilot for American Airlines and was also the first woman ever named a captain for the airline and led an all-female crew. Bass married Tom Stawicki, manager of the pilot pension fund for the airline, and together they had two children. Her love of aviation even inspired her daughter to follow in her footsteps to become a commercial pilot. Bass has developed a close friendship with the actor who originated the role of Beverly in *Come From Away*, Jen Colella, and has seen the show dozens of times.



Kevin Tuerff: As a frequent flyer, Kevin Tuerff was one of the few people who knew almost instantaneously that something was not right about the flight he was on. Despite his nerves, he became overwhelmed with the kindness that was shown in Gander. This inspired him to create the Pay It Forward 9/11 campaign which encourages random acts of kindness for strangers. Unlike in the musical, Tuerff did not break up with his partner, Kevin Jung, during their time in Gander, but they did end their relationship several years later. Tuerff has said that he can appreciate that the Kevins' breakup in the musical reflects the effects of devastation and mental anguish felt by so many Americans at that time. After *Come From Away* opened, Kevin wrote a memoir about the events in Gander titled *Channel of Peace* detailing more stories of compassion and generosity. He is an official ambassador for the organization Charter for Compassion and has provided personal support to individuals seeking asylum in reaction to the global refugee crisis.



THE "I AM AN ISLANDER" PROJECT

Mirroring how stories were gathered and shared in the creation of *Come From Away*, the **I Am An Islander Project** encourages students to conduct interviews on a topic or issue affecting the respective community.



St. Paul's Intermediate - Gander, Newfoundland

In prior years this project was done through school pairs in NYC, four stops and Newfoundland. It furthers the message of the show by encouraging participants to tell their personal generosity narratives to inspire others to "Pay it Forward." Topics have included snow storms, community infrastructure, local and national elections and violence in schools.

ACTIVITY: Think about a time you were a recipient of an act of kindness, no matter if it was large or small.

- Who was this person who exhibited the act of kindness? What is their relationship to you?
- What made this encounter special?
- Did this person expect you to show gratitude?
- How did being a recipient of kindness make you feel?
- Did this experience change your way of thinking?
- If you could return an act of kindness to this individual, what would you do?

The original Broadway Cast of COME FROM AWAY
Photo by Matthew Murphy, 2016



Welcome to “The Rock”

HISTORY

Gander was chosen for the construction of an airport in 1935 because of its location close to the northeastern tip of North America. In 1936, workers began clearing land. At the time of its completion in 1938, the then ‘Newfoundland Airport’ was the largest airfield on the planet, with four huge paved runways. These tarmacs equaled one square mile. Captain Douglas Fraser made the first landing at “Newfoundland Airport” now known as Gander International Airport on January 11, 1938. With the onset of WWII, as many as 12,000 British, Canadian and American servicemen lived in crowded barracks beside and between the runways. Gander became a strategic post for the Royal Air Force Ferry command. After the war, efforts were made to move residents a safer distance away from the runways. Construction began in the 1950s on the current town site. Most of the streets in Gander are named after famous aviators, including Alcock and Brown, Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, Eddie Rickenbacker, Marc Garneau and Chuck Yeager.

During the post-war/Cold War era, Gander emerged as the hub of commercial transatlantic Aviation and was a preferred emergency landing point for aircraft facing on-board medical or security issues. This is how it gained the name the “Crossroads of the World.”

The island of Newfoundland is known as “The Rock.” “The Rock” is where our story takes place. When the U.S. shut down its airspace, Canada offered to house inbound planes flying from Europe. Planes were diverted to fly into Gander International Airport.

Gander and its neighboring towns Glenwood, Lewisporte, Appleton, Gambo, and Norris Arm all welcomed into their homes the “Come From Aways”- a term used in Canada’s Atlantic provinces for someone who has moved to the area from somewhere else.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Gander lies in the northeastern tip of the island of Newfoundland in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador



10,000
APPROXIMATE GANDER
POPULATION IN 2001

38
NUMBER OF PLANES
DIVERTED TO LAND IN
GANDER

7000
AIRLINE PASSENGERS ON
THE DIVERTED PLANES

100
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED BY THE
PEOPLE GROUNDED IN
GANDER

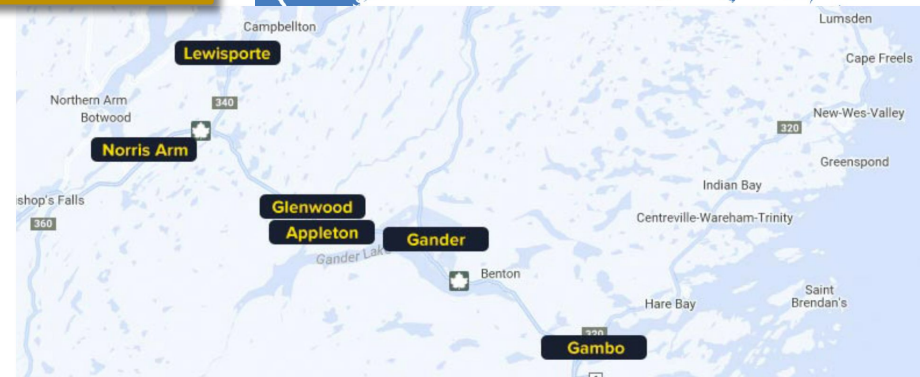
ACTIVITY: What other places are “Crossroads of the World?”
Why or how do people end up in different places or countries?

CULTURE

As a result of its international heritage, Gander’s residents include individuals and families from countries on five different continents. Gander is primarily an English-speaking community, though many residents also speak French. Warm and friendly, the people of Gander are famous for their hospitality. Newfoundland and Labrador was named one of the top 10 friendliest cultures in the world according to Macleans magazine. The community treats non-Newfoundlanders (known to Newfoundlanders as “come from aways”) as family.

In St. John’s Newfoundland, you can find moose wandering about. Because of this, residents advise tourists not to drive on the highway at night.

FUN FACT: A crater on the surface of Mars has been named for the town of Gander, in recognition of the airport town’s history of pioneering aviation and aerospace technologies.



An Unexpected Morning



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

On September 11, 2001 the world stopped. In North America, anyone born before 1995 will remember exactly what they were doing when they heard the news of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City and, later that day, the Pentagon.

September 11, 2001 was a day when people started their routines, just like any other day, but were suddenly confronted with one of the greatest tragedies in American history. Hijacked planes crashed into both towers of New York City's World Trade Center as well as into the Pentagon in Washington D.C. 2,977 lives were lost in a matter of hours and the American and British cultural landscapes changed forever.

OPERATION YELLOW RIBBON

Meanwhile, as a direct consequence of these events, on the East coast of Canada thousands of lives were also being altered for good.

Operation Yellow Ribbon was commenced by Canada to handle the diversion of civilian airline flights in response to the September 11 attacks in 2001 on the United States. Canada's goal was to ensure that potentially destructive air traffic be removed from United States airspace as quickly as possible, and away from potential U.S. targets.

Instead of U.S. soil, those aircraft headed into the U.S. were placed on the ground in Canada, at military and civilian airports in the Canadian provinces of Newfoundland, Newfoundland and Labrador, and British Columbia (and also several in New Brunswick, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec) where any destructive potential could be better contained and neutralized. None of the aircraft proved to be a threat, and Canada and Canadians hosted thousands of passengers stranded in Canada until U.S. airspace was reopened.

Canada began the operation after the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), implementing Security Control of Air Traffic and Air Navigation Aids (SCATANA), grounded all aircraft across the United States, an unprecedented action. The FAA then worked with Transport Canada to reroute incoming international flights to airports in Canada.

During the operation, departing flights—with the exception of police, military, and humanitarian flights—were cancelled, marking the first time that Canadian airspace had been shut down. In total, as a result of Operation Yellow Ribbon, 255 aircraft were diverted to 17 different airports across the country. 45,000 people were displaced.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 – AN UNEXPECTED MORNING

- **7:59 AM EST** American Airlines Flight 11, with 92 people aboard, takes off from Boston's Logan International Airport for Los Angeles.
- **8:14 AM** United Airlines Flight 175, with 65 people aboard, takes off from Boston, headed to Los Angeles.
- **8:19 AM** Flight attendants aboard Flight 11 alert ground personnel that the plane has been hijacked; American Airlines notifies the FBI.
- **8:20 AM** American Airlines Flight 77 takes off from Dulles International Airport (outside of Washington, D.C.) to Los Angeles with 64 people aboard.
- **8:46 AM** Flight 11 crashes into floors 93-99 of the North Tower of the World Trade Center, killing everyone on board and hundreds inside the building.
- **8:47 AM** The City of New York Police Department and The New York City Fire Department forces dispatch units to the World Trade Center, while Port Authority Police Department officers on site begin immediate evacuation of the North Tower.
- **8:50 AM** White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card alerts President George W. Bush that a plane has hit the World Trade Center; the president is visiting an elementary school in Sarasota, Florida at the time.

THE WORLD TURNS ITS ATTENTION

- **9:02 AM** Port Authority officials, who manage the building, broadcast orders to evacuate the South Tower of the World Trade Center.
- **9:03 AM** Hijackers crash United Airlines Flight 175 into floors 75-85 of the World Trade Center's South Tower, killing everyone on board and hundreds inside the building.
- **9:26 AM** The Federal Aviation Administration closes down air traffic to the U.S. All flights from Europe diverted.
- **9:37 AM** Hijackers aboard Flight 77 crash the plane into the western façade of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., killing 59 aboard the plane and 125 military and civilian personnel inside the building.
- **9:59 AM** The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses.
- **10:28 AM** The World Trade Center's North Tower collapses, 102 minutes after being struck by Flight 11.
- **8:30 PM** President Bush declares that America, along with its friends and allies would "stand together" to win the war against terrorism.

An Unexpected Morning (cont.)

Exactly 38 planes, with over 6,579 passengers were stranded in Gander, a remote town in Newfoundland referred to as “The Rock.” The locals opened their hearts and homes, hosting this international community of strangers – spurring unexpected camaraderie in extraordinary circumstances.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001**

9:26 AM

9:26 AM

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) makes the decision to shut down its airspace, forcing over 4,000 planes to land at the nearest airport. Inbound flights from Europe are diverted to Canada.

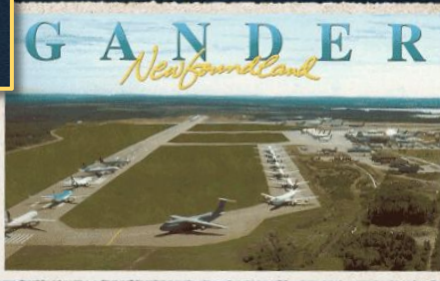


12:00 PM

12:00 PM

Gander International Airport is told 18 planes will be flying into the airport.

Passengers are not allowed to leave the plane.



12:15 PM

12:15 PM

13 additional planes land at Gander International Airport.



4:30 PM

A total of 38 planes have landed in Gander, carrying 6,579 passengers and crew.

For a town like Gander with a population of 10,000 people, this was an extraordinary challenge to take on.

4:30 PM

5:17 PM

Passengers are allowed to leave the plane.

It's been over 5 hours since they've first landed and have stayed inside the plane on Gander's runway.

The “Come From Aways” are driven to Salvation Army centers, churches, schools, and community centers in Gander and in neighboring towns.

5:17 PM



An Unexpected Morning (cont.)

The town was up to the challenge. In what became known as Operation Yellow Ribbon residents of Gander and surrounding communities volunteered to house, feed, and entertain the travelers. To quote a New York Times article written a few months after September 2001:

“Jake Turner, the town manager, went into action as soon as the planes started landing. Des Dillon of the Canadian Red Cross was asked to round up beds, along with Maj. Ron Stuckless of the Salvation Army, who also became the coordinator of a mass collection of food that emptied refrigerators for miles around.

Employees from the local co-op supermarket arrived with a refrigerated truck full of meat and other provisions.

At St. Martin’s Anglican Church, Hilda Goodyear spent 48 mostly sleepless hours organizing bedding and priming the parish hall’s kitchen for a Lufthansa flight.

People from as far away as Twillingate, an island off the Keweenaw Coast of Newfoundland, prepared enough sandwiches and soup for at least 200 people and drove an hour and a half to Gander to deliver it to dazed and frightened passengers being herded off planes without luggage and under intense scrutiny.

Responding to radio announcements, the residents and businesses of Gander and other towns supplied toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, blankets and even spare underwear, along with offers of hot showers and guest rooms.

Newtel Communications, the telephone company, set up phone banks for passengers to call home. Local television cable companies wired schools and church halls, where passengers watched events unfolding in New York and realized how lucky they were.”

Five days later, the majority of the “plane people” were on their way home. Gone – but certainly not forgotten.

ACTIVITY: Do you believe “community” something that exists or something that is created?

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

1:05 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2001

1:05 PM

All remaining “Come From Aways” arrive at Gander International Airport for takeoff.



6:20 PM

The final diverted plane takes off.



6:20 PM

The rescue team poses in front of the last plane to leave Gander on Sept. 15, 2001. (AP)

THE IMPACT OF 9/11 IN THE USA

9/11 significantly altered life in the US in many ways. Security measures in airports significantly increased since the attacks. Before 9/11, you could comfortably bring your bottled water with you past security, you could have things like small scissors, nail clippers or tweezers in your carry-on and you did not have to limit the amount of liquids (shampoo, conditioner, creams, etc) you carried with you. Now, you are only allowed to go through security with 100ml or 3.4 oz of liquid in 100ml containers.

Perhaps a more significant consequence of 9/11 was an increase in racial profiling against Muslim people. Racial profiling is a term used when law enforcement officials target individuals for suspicion of crime based on the individual’s race, appearance, ethnicity, religion or national origin. Given that the attackers on September 11th were Muslim, many people around the globe started to perceive all Muslims as terrorists. Crimes against people from Arabic countries increased by 500% between 2001-2009 and discrimination against Muslim people in the workplace increased 150%. One example of racial profiling involved Ahmed Mohamed who was arrested in 2015 in Texas for bringing a clock to school that, to teachers, looked like a bomb.

Meet the Creators: *David & Irene*

Some musicals are developed with each creative team member responsible for particular parts of the show from playwriting to directing to choreography. Others are more collaborative in nature. The path of the musical, *Come from Away* to becoming a Broadway musical was fairly traditional once it was conceived. However, its conception was the unique aspect and perhaps that why audiences love it so much. In this particular case, the composer and lyricists are also the playwrights. This doesn't occur very often.

What is equally fascinating is the creative team's personal connection to the story. The setting is in their home province of Newfoundland, Canada. The team didn't realize there was a story to be told until ten years later when they were approached to write the show.

MAKING A MUSICAL

How does the story of Gander, Newfoundland on September 11, 2001 transform into a new musical? That is where David Hein and Irene Sankoff, Canadian husband-and-wife writing team, enter. In 2010, they wrote and performed in their first show together, *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding*. It was the hit of the Toronto Fringe Festival and it was later picked up by Mirvish Productions for an extended run. Michael Rubinoff, who later founded the Canadian Musical Theatre Project and is the Associate Dean at Toronto's Sheridan College, attended a performance of MMLJWW. Impressed with the couple's work, he presented the idea for a new show: the story about how a small Newfoundland community welcomed 7,000 passengers on 38 planes that were diverted to their town on 9/11.

Not only are David and Irene Canadian writers, but David also holds dual citizenship and the couple lived in New York during 9/11. They recognized this story as one not about 9/11, but set against that backdrop. David and Irene traveled to Newfoundland in September 2011 for a benefit concert in on the 10-year anniversary commemorating the pilots and "Plane People" that had returned to Gander.

The concert, held at the Gander Hockey Rink, felt like a reunion for those who were there in 2001. Many of the "plane people" returned to Gander for the event, and everyone in attendance at the concert were up on their feet dancing to the music, including corporate executives from large commercial airlines. The style of music played at the concert, which is very specific to the region, inspired Hein and Sankoff to write much of the score (the term for the music in a musical) with that same sound and with the same kinds of instruments.

With the help of the Canadian government, Hein and Sankoff stayed in Gander for a month, interviewing residents and returnees alike, speaking with each

person for 4-5 hours at a time. Residents offered home cooked meals to eat, places to stay, and personal stories to share.

From there, they sorted through the interviews, documentaries, and letters from around the world. This surplus of material needed to be streamlined. Even after isolating themes and condensing many stories, the first draft of the show was still 5 hours long! The playwrights asked themselves, "What is the story? What is the through line?"



"We're taking two groups of protagonists: We're taking the people coming to a strange place but we're also taking the people who live in the strange place and showing how they were both changed, and they both came together. That's what makes us whole is realizing that it's not 'us' and 'them,' it's all of us." —David Hein

THE BEGINNINGS OF A SHOW

In 2012, David and Irene were asked to workshop the beginnings of the show for the inaugural year of the Canadian Music Theatre Project at Sheridan College. They presented 45 minutes of material, essentially the first half of the show. Fourteen student actors played over 100 characters, and sang the music from Newfoundland and around the world. The couple hoped that audiences would be inspired by the stories and music from Newfoundland, just as they were.



To Broadway and Beyond

It took almost a decade from its beginning for *Come From Away* to become an international smash hit. That's about average for a musical, which is considered to be among the most complex of theatrical forms to create. Making a show relies on many different layers of collaboration amongst a small army of artists and designers.



La Jolla Playhouse, 2015. Photo by Kevin Berne.

2015

Come From Away had its first fully staged professional debut in 2015, a collaboration between La Jolla Playhouse and the Seattle Repertory Theatre, directed by Christopher Ashley.

The cast of the show had been cut down to twelve and the stories consolidated into one act. It was also musically expanded to an eight-piece band. The production was both a critical and financial success, breaking box office records at both theatres leading to the announcement that the the production would transfer and open on Broadway.

2017

Come From Away opened on Broadway at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre on March 12, 2017. While on Broadway, the show earned the Tony Award for "Best Musical Direction" and ran for 1,669 performances until closing on October 2, 2022.



Tony Awards 2017 Performance, Broadway Cast

2012

David Hein and Irene Sankoff present their 45-minute workshop performance at Sheridan College's first Canadian Music Theatre Project.



Canadian Music Theatre Project, 2012. Photo by John Jones.

2016

Before its Broadway debut, Pre-Broadway engagements included the Ford Theatre in Washington, DC and the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto. While in Canada, the demand for tickets was so intense that standing room locations at the back of the orchestra level were set up and extra performances added. It was obvious that Toronto audiences demanded even more performances, but the company was booked to play Broadway. Discussions began for the show to return to Toronto.

But it was also important for the community that had inspired the musical to see it. The Broadway-bound company adapted the show into a concert version and travelled to Gander to perform two special benefit concerts at the local sports arena for the citizens of Gander on October 29, 2016.



Gander benefit concert, October 29, 2016. Photo by Darren Calabrese.

2019 and onward



Gwanglim Art Center, S. Korea, 2024.

Numerous sit-down replica productions followed around the world including Canada, UK, Ireland, and Australia. A Korean production even opened in January of 2024 and a Japanese production opened at the Nissay Theatre in Tokyo on March 7, 2024. Thanks to the success of its initial productions and its

tours, the musical *Come From Away* is now being performed by regional and smaller theaters all over the world.

People, Places, and Things

"That morning, I drop my kids off at school and head to the **SPCA**, where I'm greeted by my other kids, all barking and meowing"- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. An animal shelter

"I starts my day at **Tim Hortons**"- a popular coffee/breakfast chain with Canadian origins



"I heard Don Burton and his wife won the **Super 7!**"- a lottery game

"**FAA** won't give us a timeline for reopening airspace"- Federal Aviation Administration. The primary civil aviation authority in the US, regulating and overseeing all aspects of civil air travel. It also operates internationally and collaborates with other countries on aviation matters

"...headed to Disneyland with 90 **Wish kids**"- children with the Make-a-Wish Foundation. This organization helps grant life-changing experiences to children facing critical illness

"The **RCMP** is gonna handle it"- Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Responsible for federal law enforcement and providing local policing services in many provinces and territories



"So I go down to **Shoppers** and the manager says take what I want off the shelves"- a local grocery store in Gander

"We'd been sitting there for 14 hours when we pull out the **Grey Goose**" - a brand of vodka

"Would you like some **Xanax**? Because you are freaking out!"- a prescription medication used to manage anxiety

"The airport looks like something left over from the **Cold War**"- a time of prolonged tension and hostility between the US and the Soviet Union, which lasted from the end of World War II until the late 1980s



"Lined up alongside the road by the **NewTel** building"- a telephone and internet service provider in Newfoundland

"Omelettes....fried bologna....something called '**toutens**'"- a traditional Newfoundland pancake-like dish of risen bread dough fried in pork fat, often served with molasses. It's pronounced like "OUT-in"



"The **Rotary Club** is looking for some fish dishes....passengers down at the **Moose Club** who'd like to try elk...sorry, that's the **Elk's Club** that's looking for moose."- These clubs are all fraternal organizations that focus on philanthropy, community building, and charitable giving

"Turns out he's an Orthodox Jewish Rabbi and he only eats **Kosher** food"- foods prepared and handled according to Jewish dietary laws known as kashrut

"I mean, are they charging for these 'free' showers? Or are they gonna go all '**Norman Bates**'?"- the murderous main character in the horror novel and film Psycho, who kills his victim in a shower



"**Health Canada** says all this food needs refrigeration"- the department of the Canadian government responsible for national health policies

"During **El-Fagir**, when most people are asleep it is easier to pray. But at **El-Dhuhr**, I can feel them watching me."- The first (also known as El-Fajr) is a Muslim prayer that takes place early in the morning; the latter is an afternoon prayer



"**Hurricane Erin** is making landfall by tomorrow"- the first hurricane of the of the 2001 Atlantic season, narrowly missing landfall in New York City on 9/11, and later impacting the East Coast further north

"Everyone's going to the **Legion** for a drink"- The Royal Canadian Legion Gander Branch 8. The Legion is a Veteran support organization that doubles as a social gathering spot

"A couple of the local b'ys get up with their accordions and fiddles - and someone brings out an **ugly stick**."- a traditional Newfoundland percussive folk instrument, made from recycled household items such as bottle caps and tin cans connected to a broom handle with a boot at the base. It's played by stomping the boot on the ground while tapping rhythms on the noisemakers



"I got my first job flying for a mortician in a tiny **Bonanza**"- a small, single-engine aircraft

"We find a gorgeous lookout: the **Dover Fault**."- a geological feature that is a major break in the Earth's crust; a dividing line of the Newfoundland Appalachians

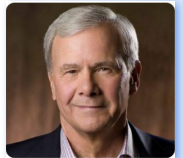


BBC- British Broadcasting Corporation

CBC- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

CTV- Canadian Television Network

"**Tom Brokaw** phones me. He's doing a documentary."- a well-known American news anchor, author, and journalist



Al Jazeera- a 24-hour news network originally conceived for delivering Arabic news, but now has networks across the globe

Rogers TV- network that broadcasts to Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Ontario

ACTIVITY: Are there ways to communicate without language?
Are there universal languages?

People, Places, and Things (cont.)

"This is **Screech** ... Back in World War 2, an officer was offered some of this stuff." - a brand of Jamaican rum that is bottled in Newfoundland. It also refers to the ceremony where visitors to the island take a shot of the alcohol and "kiss the fish"

"Go on – **kiss the fish!**"- Part of the Screech-in ceremony involves reciting a Newfoundlander verse and then kissing a codfish.



THE SCREECH-IN

Visit Gander, and you might find yourself involved in a screech-in ceremony. Kissing the cod or a "Screech-in" is a Newfoundland tradition used to welcome newcomers, so it is fitting that the "Come From Aways" were welcomed in this way.

The ritual is typically performed at a pub by a Newfoundland resident.

The newcomer kisses a codfish and is asked by a resident, "Is ye a Screecher?" The newcomer must reply "Deed I is, me old cock, and long may your big jib draw!" which translates to "Yes indeed, my friend, may there always be wind in your sails." At that point, they consume a shot of Screech (a type of rum) and receive their certificate from the Royal Order of Newfoundland Screechers signifying the visitors have become honorary Newfoundlanders.

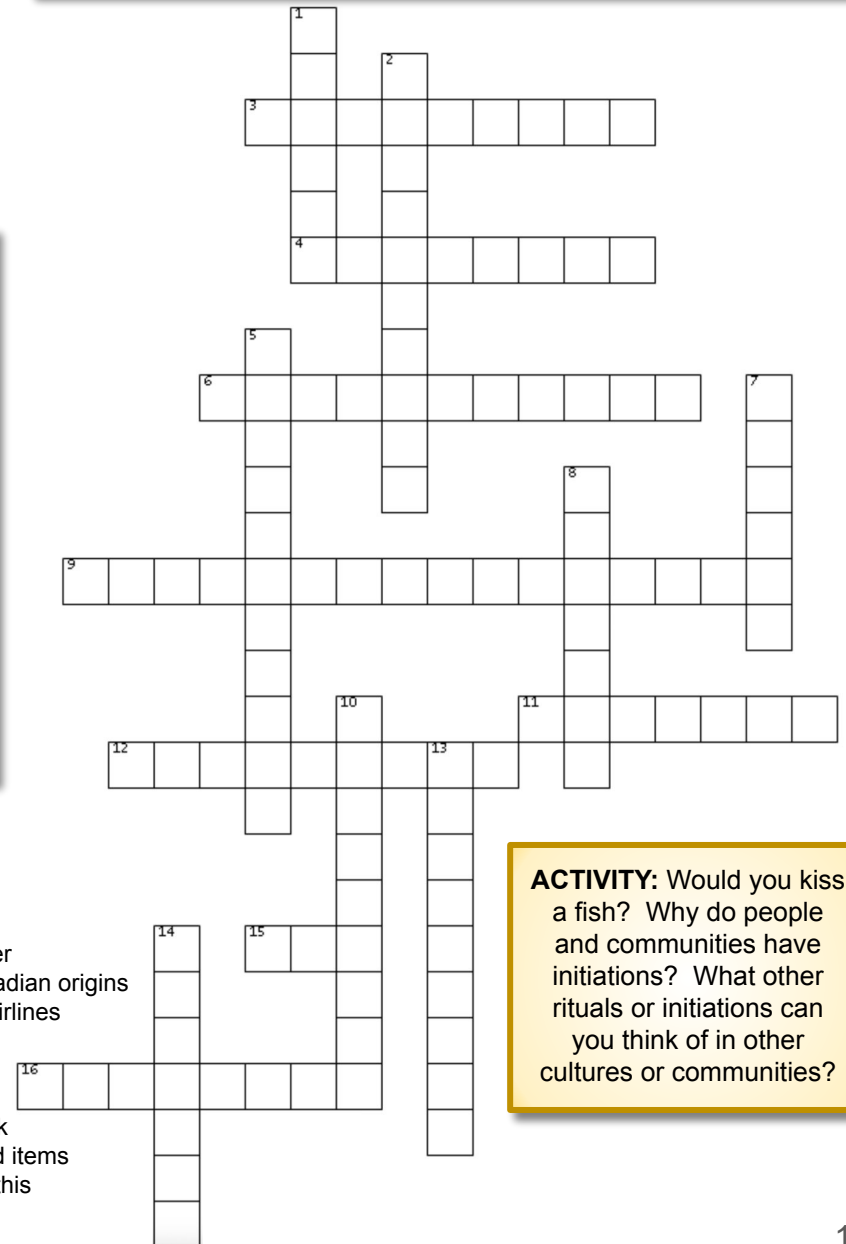
ACROSS

3. Co-writer with Irene Sankoff
4. A local grocery store in Gander
6. The location of the World Trade Center
9. *Come From Away's* Broadway Theatre
11. Was a police officer in Gander for over 30 years
12. One of the fraternal organizations that focus on philanthropy and charitable giving
15. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
16. The college of the Canadian Music Theatre Project

DOWN

1. 38 of these were diverted to land in Gander
2. A popular coffee/breakfast chain with Canadian origins
5. The third-ever woman pilot for American Airlines
7. Country where Gander is located
8. A small, single-engine aircraft
10. Kissing the cod ceremony
13. A traditional Newfoundland percussive folk instrument, made from recycled household items
14. The island of Newfoundland is known as this

The Crossword Puzzle for Gander: the "Crossroads of the World"



ACTIVITY: Would you kiss a fish? Why do people and communities have initiations? What other rituals or initiations can you think of in other cultures or communities?

How to Speak Like a Newfoundlander

This remote community has a colorful language all its own as seen by the words and phrases below.

NOW THE ONCE

In a minute

COME FROM AWAY

A traveler to Newfoundland - someone who wasn't born there

COME ON, WE GO'S

Let's go

BEST KIND

To express satisfaction

STUNNED

Really stupid.

SWEET JESUS IN THE GARDEN!

An expletive

BUDDY, B'W, M'SON, M'DARLING, M'LOVE, DUCKY, COCKY, TROUT

Terms of endearment

STAY WHERE YOU'RE TO 'TILL I COMES WHERE YOU'RE AT

Stay there until I get there

YES, B'Y

Good for any use in any instance

HAVING A TIME

Enjoying yourself
Having a party.

LONG MAY YOUR BIG JIB DRAW

May you have good fortune.

RIGHT

Synonym for "very" - She's right pretty, It's right cold outside

WHERE Y'LONGS TO?

Where do you come from?

THE ARSE IS GONE RIGHT OUT OF HER

It's all gone wrong.

A SCOFF AND A SCUFF

Dinner and a dance.

CROOKED AS SIN

Really grumpy

WHO KNIT YA'?

Who's your mother/parents?

HE/SHE'S GOT ENOUGH MOUTH ON HER FOR THREE LIPS

He/She won't stop talking/is a big gossip

CHUMMY JIGGER

A thingamajig

GOD LOVE YOUR COTTON SOCKS

Thank you

NOT FIT

Exceptionally bad weather.

PROPER THING

They got what they deserved

BIVERIN'

Really cold weather - imagine the sound of chattering teeth

BUDDY WHASSISNAME

Someone you can't remember

I DIES AT YOU

You're funny

LIKE A BIRCH BROOM IN THE FITS

Messy hair

I'M GUTFUNDERED, FIRE UP A SCOFF

I'm hungry, make me some food

'OW'S SHE GETTING ON?

How are you doing?

Meet the Cast



LUCY ANDERS* (Janice & Others) New York Theatre: *The Bachelor Girls*, *Hip Hop Cinderella*, *Baby* (Lizzie). First National Tour: *Something Rotten!* (Ensemble/Portia u/s). Regional: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Hair*, *Jersey Boys* (Mary Delgado), *Natasha... of 1812* (Princess Mary), *Ragtime* (Bridget), Disney's *Newsies* (Katherine), *The Prom*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Grease*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Love Story*, *The Musical*, *Richard III*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Little Night Music*, *Starmites*, *The Sound of Music*, *Oliver!*, *A Chorus Line*, *Follies*. BWM "Thanks to Uncle Phil, Karen, and BRS/Gage." @luscqueal



PAMELA BOB* (Diane & Others) Broadway: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Hand to God*. Off-Broadway: *House of McQueen* (Emily Skinner u/s), *Cracked Open* (BroadwayWorld Best Actor nomination), *Silence! The Musical*, *How to Save the World and Find True Love*, *The Extraordinary Ordinary*, *People Like Us* (Talkin' Broadway Best Actress). Regional: Paper Mill Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse, Asolo Theatre, Engeman Theater, Barrington Stage, Peterborough Players, NJ Rep, and North Carolina PAC. TV: *FBI*, *Good Ol' Girls* (PBS), *What Would You Do?* (NBC), *Date Night* (AMC). Pamela is an award-winning screenwriter whose series *Living On a Prairie* screened at the Tribeca TV Festival and won Best Series and Best Actress at the Los Angeles International Film Festival, HollyWeb Festival, and Lift-Off Global Network Film Festival. She co-hosts the *Little House on the Prairie* 50th Anniversary Podcast with Nellie and Almanzo! IG: @ThePamelaBob @PrairieTV.



GALYANA CASTILLO* (Hannah & Others) Broadway: *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. National Tour: *Waitress*; Regional: *Leader of the Pack* (Bucks County Playhouse); *Come From Away* (Theatre Aspen); *Something Rotten!*; *Once on This Island* (Pioneer Theatre Company); *Rock of Ages* (Theatre Aspen); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Fulton Theatre); *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* (The Prizery); *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Forestburgh Playhouse), *Chicago* (Forestburgh Playhouse). AEA. @galygee



LENNY DANIEL* (Doug & Others) Choreographed *Mary Poppins* (Utah Shakespeare Festival) and *Spamalot* (Geva Theatre Center and Arkansas Repertory Theatre). Directed and choreographed *Mid-Life! The Crisis Musical* (TexARTS); choreographed *The Little Mermaid* (Forestburgh Playhouse); assistant directed *The Wizard of Oz* National Tour starring Mickey Rooney and Eartha Kitt; assistant choreographed *Gigi* (Papermill Playhouse), assisted Ann Reinking and performed in *Here Lies Jenny* starring Bebe Neuwirth (NYC & SF). Performing credits include Broadway: *Cats* (final original company) and *The Wizard of Oz*. NYC: *Sinatra* (Radio City Music Hall), *Wonderful Town* (NYC Opera). Tours: *Spamalot*, *Chicago*, *South Pacific*, *Camelot*, *Jekyll & Hyde*. Favorite Regional: *Something Rotten!*, *Jersey Boys*, *Great Comet*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Newsies*, *Chess*, *The Last Ship* (PTC), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Mary Poppins*, *Peter Pan* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *Gigi*, and *Evita* (Paper Mill Playhouse).



MARY FANNING DRIGGS* (Beulah & Others) is thrilled to be back on the PTC stage this season, having appeared in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (*Genie Klein*) last season. Other PTC shows include ...*The Great Comet of 1812* (Marya Dimitrievna), *Bonnie and Clyde* (Cumie Barrow), *Elf* (Emily Hobbs), *Mamma Mia!* (Rosie), *The Last Ship* (Regional Premiere), *Sweeney Todd*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Rona Lisa Peretti), Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* (Martha Watson), *Once* (Baruska), *The Music Man* (Mrs. Paroo), and *Les Misérables* (Mme Thenardier/ ensemble). Film and TV: Hallmark's *The Holiday Stocking*, *Love Across Time*, *The Roads We Travel*, *Beauty and the Billionaire*. When she's not performing you can find her cooking, baking, growing things, and playing with her amazing grandchildren. For Jeanie. Instagram @marydriggs



BRIAN O'BRIEN* (Nick & Others) is honored to be making his Pioneer Theatre Company debut. A Broadway veteran with a career spanning more than 26 years, he has appeared in numerous acclaimed productions including *Steel Pier*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Pirate Queen*, and *Promises, Promises!*. He was also a long-running cast member of the hit musical *Chicago*, where he portrayed both Billy Flynn and Fred Casely. Brian toured nationally with *Monty Python's Spamalot*. In addition to his extensive stage work, he has appeared on television in *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU*, and *FBI: Most Wanted*.

Meet the Cast



NATHAN ANDREW RILEY* (Kevin J. & Others) is thrilled to return to Pioneer Theatre Company, having been seen here with *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and in the virtual ensemble of *Dear Evan Hansen*. Most recently, Nathan was touring the country as a Swing in the National Tour of *Disney's The Lion King*. Favorite credits include: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (1st & 2nd National Tours); *Love Life*, *High Button Shoes* (Encores! at New York City Center), *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular* (Radio City Music Hall); *The Color Purple* (Denver Center Theatre); *Ragtime*, *Addams Family*, *Waitress* (Broadway at Music Circus); *The Scottsboro Boys* (Phoenix Theatre Company). Love to mio inamorato MK!



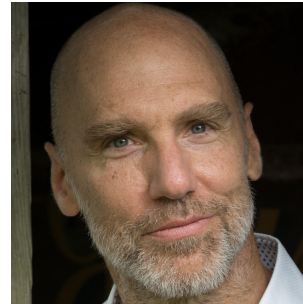
NIC ROULEAU* (Kevin T. & Others) makes his Pioneer Theatre Company debut! Nic starred as Elder Price in *The Book of Mormon* for over 2600 performances on Broadway, in the West End of London and in Chicago. Other credits include Cornelius in the National Tour of *Hello, Dolly!* starring Betty Buckley and Emmett in the National Tour of *Legally Blonde*. On Television, Nic can be seen as Tyler Hawkins in the Showtime series *Uncoupled* starring Neil Patrick Harris and as Daddy's Boy in *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* (Netflix). He was a featured performer at *The 66th Annual Tony Awards* in 2012 on CBS and can be seen on the recent PBS Concert Series, *Broadway's Leading Men: A Musical Celebration* streaming now. @nicrouleau



DAVID ROWEN* (Bob & Others) is a Helen Hayes Award-nominated actor and musician from New York City. He was in the original Broadway cast of *Swept Away*, and he appeared Off-Broadway in *Bob Marley's Three Little Birds*. Other NYC: Carnegie Hall, Prospect Musicals, and Transport Group. Regional highlights: Berkeley Repertory Theatre (*Galileo*), M&T Bank Exchange (*Ceildh*), Signature Theatre (*Diner*), Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park (*Ring of Fire*), Ford's Theatre (*Shout, Sister, Shout!*), and Shakespeare Theatre Company (*Measure for Measure*). TV: *Fosse/Verdon* (FX). David's YouTube channel showcases music videos featuring his arrangements and covers of pop and Broadway songs; with nearly 18,000 subscribers and over five million views, his work has been praised by Playbill, Broadway.com, and theatre legend, Stephen Schwartz. Love and gratitude abounds! @davidrowen_



JESSICA RUSH* (Beverley & Others) Pioneer Theatre Company debut! Most recently Off-Broadway in *This World of Tomorrow* with Tom Hanks. On Broadway, she originated the role of Rhonda Graam in *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*, and appeared in *Dear Evan Hansen* (Cynthia/Heidi standby), *Summer* (Joyce Bogart), *Gypsy* with Patti LuPone (Louise standby), *Guys & Dolls*, and was the longest running Lorraine in *Jersey Boys*. A Jefferson Award-winning performer, television appearances include *Billions*, *White Collar*, three Tony Awards telecasts, and she can soon be seen co-starring in the short film *Skin Deep*. A multi-hyphenate, passionate advocate for artist mothers, Ms. Rush is the founder of the support group Broadway Baby Mamas, co-host of the top rated podcast *Mamas Talkin' Loud*, and creator of the bespoke bracelet business Ivy & Clarke. @jessisarush



JOHN SCHIAPPA* (Claude & Others) Broadway; Original companies of *Girl from the North Country*, *Rocky*, *The Other Place*, *Blood Brothers*, *Women on the Verge...*, the Tony Award-winning musical *Assassins*, and Tony Award-winning play *Take Me Out*. Also *Wicked*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Starlight Express*. Tour: *Girl from the North Country*. Off Broadway & Regional: David Byrne's *Joan of Arc: Into the Fire* (NY Public), Frank Wildhorn's *Count of Monte Cristo* (Pioneer), Barry Levinson's *Diner the Musical* (Signature), and Sir Michael Tippets opera *New Year* (HGO), *Jerry Springer the Opera* (Carnegie Hall), *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. (Geva), *Three Musketeers* (NSMT), *Company* (Huntington), *Romeo & Juliet the Musical* (Goodspeed), *Little Shop of Horrors* (ATC). Film & TV: *Stray Dolls*, *What Just Happened*, *The Equalizer*, *The Americans*, *The Blacklist*, *The Big C*, *I Just Want My Pants Back*, *Kidnapped*, *L&O*, *Third Watch*, *L&OCI*, *Monsters*. Much love to Patricia, Jake and Shaw for their unwavering love, support and joy. JohnSchiappa.com

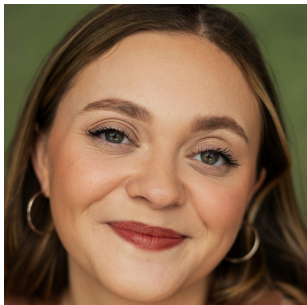
Meet the Cast



ANGIE SCHWORER* (Bonnie & Others) So happy to return to Pioneer Theatre Company! Broadway: *Some Like it Hot* (Minnie), *The Prom* (Angie), *The Producers* (Ulla), *Something Rotten*, *Big Fish*, *Catch Me if You Can*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Chicago*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Crazy For You*, and *The Will Rogers Follies*. Met Opera: *The Merry Widow* (Jou Jou). Regional: *Beautiful* (Genie Klein), *Crazy for You* (Irene), *42nd Street* (Dorothy Brock), *The Cher Show* (Georgial/ Lucille Ball), *Mamma Mia!* (Tanya), *The Sting* (Mrs Hilliard), *Disaster the Musical* (Jackie), *Always a Bridesmaid* (Monette), *Chicago* (Roxie), *Sweet Charity* (Nikki), *Damn Yankees* (Lola), *The Full Monty* (Vicki), *Minsky's* (Ginger), *The Will Rogers Follies* (Z's Fav). TV: *Palm Royale*, *Smash*, *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, *The Rosie O' Donnell Show*, *Dana Carvey Show*, *Queer Eye*, *As the World Turns*, *The Kennedy Center Honors*. Film: *The Producers*.



MATTHEW STOCKE* (Oz & Others) Original Broadway companies of *Titanic*, *The Full Monty*, *The Boy From Oz* with Hugh Jackman, *The Wedding Singer*, Sting's *The Last Ship*, and *Pretty Woman*. Broadway cast of *Rock of Ages* and the original L.A. production of *Wicked*. New York Public Theater: original companies of Stephen Sondheim's final fully written and produced musical *Road Show* as well as Michael John LaChiusa's *Giant*. TV: *The Americans*, *Person of Interest*, *Law & Order*, *The Sopranos*, *All My Children*, *Chappelle's Show*, *SVU* and *30 Rock*. Performed for Queen Elizabeth on the Royal Variety Show and for President and Michelle Obama at the *Kennedy Center Honors*. Proud Carnegie-Mellon Tartan; Love to CJ, my hottie wife/best friend; Every day remembering the Nice Lady~



JORDAN SOPER (Micky & Others) is thrilled to be making her Pioneer debut! She has been participating in Pioneer's Internship Program this spring, and loving every second. Jordan will be graduating with her BFA in Musical Theatre Performance in May from the University of Utah. Some of her favorite theatre credits include Elle Woods (*Legally Blonde*, U of U), Jerusha Abbott (*Daddy Long Legs*, U of U), Katherine (*Newsies*, CPT) and *Little Red* (*Into the Woods*, CPT). A special thank you to all her teachers at the U for pushing her to bigger and brighter things, and to her husband, Jeff, for always being her greatest cheerleader. Insta/TT: @thejordansoper

The Crossword Puzzle for Gander: ANSWER KEY

