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A REMARKABLE, TRUE, CANADIAN STORY
ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11
MECCA PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENTS

COME FROM AWAY

7:30 Sept 10, 11, 12
3:00 Sept 13
WMCA

BOOK, MUSIC & LYRICS BY IRENE SANKOFF AND DAVID HEIN
DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER: TIANA VASCONCELOS
MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR: MITCH WEDGEWOOD
REHEARSAL PIANIST/RÉPÉTITEUR: DONNA LOWE
STAGE MANAGER: HANNAH PRICE

Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium

David Vasconcelos
204-724-0337
ROYAL LEPAGE

INFO AT MECCA-PRODUCTIONS.COM

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COME FROM AWAY

SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2026 WMCA

CAST

Rebecca Porteous – Diane
Lisa Vasconcelos– Hannah
Jenn Anderson – Janice
Erin Elliott – Beulah
Sarah Jane Maynard – Bonnie
Nicole McNarry – Beverly
Jordan Elliott – Oz
Trevor Barker – Kevin T.
Lucas Park – Kevin J.
Charles Adamu – Bob
John Tataryn – Claude
Clint McLachlan – Nick

BEHIND THE SCENES / CREATIVES

Director & Choreographer - Tiana Vasconcelos
Rehearsal Pianist & Répétiteur - Donna Lowe
Music Director & Orchestra Conductor - Mitch Wedgewood
Stage Manager - Hannah Price
Producer - Lisa Vasconcelos
Social Media, Program - Jenn Anderson
Set Design - Tiana Vasconcelos, Clint McLachlan
Properties - Jaycee Thexton, Shannon Bower
Costumes - Kiera Bowskill
Sound - Duane Macsymach, Studio Productions
WMCA Techs/Sound Support: PJ Clarke & Dayne Hunter
Front of House - Syndy Wright **Venue Manager - Susan Brechmann**
Costumes, Social Media, Sound Cues - Shannon Button
Stage Crew - Shannon McKenzie, David Vasconcelos
Spot Light: Brianna Dyck, Sparrow Sahli **Headshots: - Justin Anderson**
Set Dressing - Klaus & Susan Brechmann, Michelle Boudreau, Gisèle Perreaux, James Chambers, Angie Buydens, Sheri Connery, Arlo Connery-Dwyer, Ingrid Pulleyblank, Tegan Dietrich Pulleyblank, Will Pazdzior, Dylan Burrell, Cast & Crew, and the many, many folks who donated suitcases and chests
MAP - Sheri Connery, Karla Johnson, Lisa Park, Jacquie Pentney, Ingrid Pulleyblank, Rachelle Jutras, Kelsey Levandoski, Amberley Fischer

BAND

Donna Lowe – Keyboard 1 & Accordion
Shirley Martin – Keyboard & Bass
Ronan O'Flaherty – Flute & Whistle
Arlo Connery-Dwyer – Mandolin & Guitar
Paul Madryga – Guitar 2
Nick Moffatt – Drums
Janelle Wilts – Percussion
Carrie Wang – Fiddle
Michelle Boudreau – Guitar & Kitchen Party Guest

Book, Music & Lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For me, theatre has always been about more than putting on a show. It is about connection, community, and creating a space where people can feel inspired, challenged, celebrated, and truly at home. And it's a place where we tell stories that inspire, educate, and unite. Through sharing these stories in this form, we come together in a way like nothing else.
Being part of Come From Away—a story so deeply rooted in kindness, humanity, and the power of community—has been an especially meaningful experience.

It truly does take a community to bring these productions to life and in the case of Come From Away, our community grew and expanded. So many people inside and outside of our Mecca family have contributed to what you will see and hear tonight.

Many strangers answered the call for suitcases. The set is truly a community effort, and together we built something magical and unforgettable. It was an absolute pleasure to hear the stories that these suitcases (the foundation of our set) have lived. And as we spoke with the folks who dropped off their suitcases, it was clear each one was special to them because of what it represents. The story of each suitcase warmed our hearts. A graduation gift that travelled the world. A World War II bride who came to Canada with her belongings in a chest. Those trips and experiences formed core memories for the people who carried that luggage onto an airplane. And now that luggage lives on our set, with each piece representing someone's unique and personal story. These stories will be memorialized as a part of our productions through photos and memories that we carry forward from this magical journey.

Tonight we share the stories of the people who came to Gander infront of a visual reminder that in times of darkness, love lights the way. You cannot drown out darkness with more darkness. I hope you are as inspired by these story as we have been. I send a heartfelt thank you to my family and friends for their endless love and support. To the musicians, cast, and crew, thank you for taking my thoughts, ideas, hopes, and dreams and bringing them to life in such a meaningful, memorable, and beautiful way. To Hannah, Mitchell, Donna, and my mom, Lisa, thank you for holding my hand through every step (and every challenge) along the way—for sharing in the smiles, the laughter, the heartache, and the tears. And to Josh .

To those who came before, and those who will follow after, I am endlessly grateful for this experience. I will cherish it for all of my days. Much, much love.

Tiana Vasconcelos

Tiana Vasconcelos
Director & Choreographer



DIANE
REBECCA PORTEOUS



Rebecca joined Mecca Productions over 16 years ago; doing both performing and backstage/production roles (with her directing debut in Brandon happening in April of 2027!). She is honoured to tell this incredible story about generousity, kindness and love with such a talented group of performers. She feels audiences will love the amazing music, character switching, and 'chairography'-cause that is what makes it so fun! She would like to thank her daughter, Brianna, and her partner, Andrew, for their constant support. She also thanks you for supporting local theater and hopes you enjoy the show!!

HANNAH
LISA VASCONCELOS



Lisa Vasconcelos is no stranger to the WMCA stage - favourite roles include Donna (Mamma Mia), Killer Queen (We Will Rock You) and The Lady of the Lake (Spamalot). She is honoured to join the cast of this powerfully Canadian musical that has inspired thousands around the world. It's a privilege to bring this story to life with such an amazing cast and crew and is especially grateful to share this journey under the guidance of her daughter, and director, Tiana. CFA reminds us what it means to be a good neighbour because after all, 'we all come from away.' Love always and forever to T, L and D. Lisa hasn't tried Skreech yet, but she plans to check that off the bucket list when she travels to Newfoundland next summer!

JANICE
JENN ANDERSON



Jenn Anderson is honored to join the cast of Come From Away. As a newcomer to Canada, she feels a special connection to this story of kindness, generosity, and the sense of community that can make a new place feel like home. She joined the Mecca community in 2023 in the cast of Something Rotten! and is grateful for the opportunity to continue her passion for musical theatre here in Brandon. Most recently, she appeared as Sister Mary Patrick in Beautiful Plains Community Theatre's first-ever musical, Sister Act, and she looks forward to performing with the Who ensemble in Mecca Productions' How the Grinch Stole Christmas this November. Jenn would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the production team, cast, and crew for the incredible teamwork that brings this story to life. She would also like to thank her husband, Justin, and the Anderson family for their endless support and encouragement.

BEULAH
ERIN ELLIOTT



Erin couldn't be more thrilled to be part of Come From Away. This is one of her first musical productions but she has been involved in choral music for many years. She fell in love with Come From Away's hopeful and heartfelt story 9 years ago after seeing it live in New York with her family. It reminds us that even in life's most uncertain moments, kindness, compassion, and community have the power to bring people together.

BONNIE

SARAH JANE MAYNARD



Come From Away is **SJ**'s 13th production with Mecca Productions. She first fell in love with community theatre as a youngster in her hometown of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. She took a chance and relocated to Brandon in 2013 to teach French Immersion. The promise of a vibrant theatre community made for an easy choice. SJ would love to thank the cast and crew, made up of old friends and new, for a once-in-a-lifetime show!

BEVERLEY

NICOLE McNARRY



Nicole is thrilled to join this incredible cast in telling this beautiful Canadian story. She is no stranger to the WMCA stage most recently appearing in Mecca's productions of Frozen, RENT, and Something Rotten. You can also find her singing in a few local choirs. Nicole would like to thank her husband and kids for their support and patiently helping her run lines all summer long!

OZ
JORDAN ELLIOTT



This is **Jordan**'s 4th show with Mecca Productions since joining them for Rent in 2024. Most recently he had the chance to play the Monster in Young Frankenstein in April. Jordan has also appeared with a couple shows from Virden Theatre Productions, and will be performing with Konektis in their 26/27 season. Jordan is so excited to finally get to share the stage with his wife Erin, and thanks Mecca for giving them both this amazing opportunity to share this story.

KEVIN T
TREVOR BARKER



It has been 16 years since Trevor has been onstage in Brandon! He is thrilled to be back collaborating with this cast & crew on this beautiful show! As a former Brandon resident, he was previously in Mecca's productions of Footloose, High School Musical, Fiddler On The Roof, and Spamalot. In recent years, Trevor was seen on stage in Tycho Freakin' Brahe (Kiss The Giraffe Productions, Winnipeg Fringe), as Fred Casly in Chicago (Applauze Productions, Thunder Bay, ON), and as Mr. Price u/s Harry in Kinky Boots (Duluth Playhouse, Duluth, MN). Trevor is the Sole Proprietor and Artistic Director of Row i Theatre in Fort Frances, ON. He started it in 2022 and has directed The Drowsy Chaperone, 13 The Musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and A Charlie Brown Christmas.

KEVIN J
LUCAS PARK



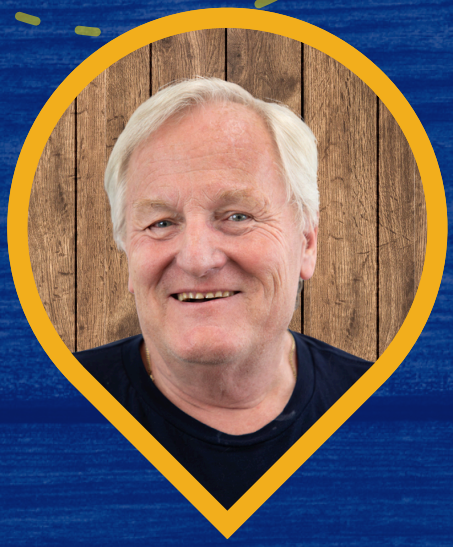
Lucas Park is former Mecca student who jumps at any chance to perform. Starting Mecca before he could count to 10, Lucas found himself a second home at Mecca Productions after close to 12 years of classes, musicals and summer camps. He hopes to one day find himself as a professional actor or to one day inspire others to sing and act, just like all of the musical role models in his life. Lucas is excited for the challenge that this musical and his roles bring to him and is hoping you have a great experience!

BOB
CHARLES ADAMU



Charles Adamu is really excited to bring Bob to life. Having been in Life is wonderful as Charlie, Mother Courage as Chaplain Gothus, and Twelfth Night as Orsino, he is honoured to be able to be part of this production. He cannot wait for you to experience the tempo of the show - it is non stop! Charles is a self-published poetry author and a filmmaker. He would like to thank Rochelle Douris and Graham Street for all their support and encouragement all through the years.

CLAUDE
JOHN TATARYN



John is a recently retired educator who now has more time for music and theatre, and he's having the time of his life. This is his fifth Mecca production, and his biggest role, by far. He also sings in Prairie Blend Low Voices Choir, and he once spent an evening drinking Guinness with a goat in a pub outside of Limerick, Ireland, which somehow seems relevant to Come From away. Or maybe he just likes telling people this fact. John would like to thank his wife Shelley for putting up with his nonsense, and his kids for convincing him to audition.

NICK
CLINT McLACHLAN



Clint McLachlan is glad to be part of such an amazing show that shows the power of community. Clint holds a Masters of Vocal Performance and Literature from the University of Western Ontario and can be found teaching Choir, Drama, and Musical Theatre at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School, conducting Novos Treble Choir, singing and conducting with Konektis Choir, and teaching at Mecca Productions. Clint would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support.

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

TIANA VASCONVELOS



Tiana is having an absolute blast stepping into the role of Director and Choreographer for Come From Away! While this marks her directorial debut (!!), she is certainly no stranger to the WMCA stage. Over the years, Tiana has had the joy of performing in dozens of musicals, with some of her favourite and most memorable roles including Elsa in Frozen, Maureen Johnson in RENT, Jo March in Little Women, Sophie Sheridan in Mamma Mia! (2019), Katherine Plumber in Newsies, and Esmeralda in The Hunchback of Notre Dame.

These days, Tiana can often be found on the other side of the curtain, bringing stories to life through choreography. Some of her favourite choreographic projects include Moana Jr., The Lion King Jr., We Will Rock You, and The Sound of Music, as well as working year-round with the incredibly talented young performers in Mecca Productions' one-of-a-kind Performance Troupe programs.

When she's not immersed in the world of musical theatre, Tiana loves to travel, playing pickleball and board games with family and friends, and making time to visit her family who live out of province. Tiana would like to extend her heartfelt gratitude to her family, friends, cast, creative team, and everyone who continues to support her love of theatre. She is incredibly grateful for every opportunity to create, perform, teach, and share stories with this wonderful community.



STAGE MANAGER
HANNAH PRICE



Hannah Price is very excited to help bring Come From Away to life! No stranger to the stage, Hannah loves all things theatre, and knew what a technical beast this show could be which brought her great excitement. A Stage Manager position is a very important in supporting all aspects of the show, but one she also takes very seriously is that of Bestie Support to Director/Choreographer Tiana Vasconcelos.

REHEARSAL PIANIST, RÉPÉTITEUR
DONNA LOWE



Donna grew up in the Parkland region, and the flooding that happened there this spring was devastating to witness. But through it all, Donna saw people gathering to help each other--to provide clean clothes and home-cooked meals and shoulders to lean on--because that's what Canadians do, whether they live in Manitoba or in Gander, NFLD. That Canadian passion and heart and earnest desire to care is infused in every note and word of this show, and embodied by a cast that will make you proud you're from this country. It's been an honour for Donna to work on this show with everyone involved, and a privilege to tell this story. Tonight there's a little Islander in all of us--enjoy the kitchen party!

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR

MITCHELL WEDGEWOOD



Mitchell Wedgewood is thrilled to join the creative team of Mecca Productions' Come From Away as Musical Director. A graduate of the Randolph College for the Performing Arts, Mitchell also holds degrees in Music and Education from Brandon University and currently teaches Band, Choir, Drama, and Musical Theatre at Vincent Massey High School. He has MD'ed youth productions previously and has recently appeared onstage as Igor in Young Frankenstein, Kristoff in Frozen, and Prince Fortinbras in Hamlet. Mitchell is incredibly grateful to the cast and creative team for their trust, talent, and tireless work in bringing this remarkable story to life. He hopes you enjoy your visit to the Rock!

SOCIAL MEDIA, COSTUME ASSISTANT, SOUND CUES

SHANNON BUTTON



Shannon is thrilled to be a part of bringing this show to life as Social Media Coordinator and backstage crew! She has loved Come From Away since seeing it on tour in Edmonton. Shannon has previously been onstage in the ensemble of many Mecca shows, a few favourites were Something Rotten, Young Frankenstein and Sound of Music! She is excited for audiences to see this incredibly powerful, heartfelt show, and would like to thank the cast and crew for all of their hard work, as well as her husband Mark for his continued support.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we enjoy the incredible story of people from all walks of life who supported those in need on 9/11, we recognize the members of our own community who serve the people of Brandon every day. The front row of our three evening performances was reserved for members of the following:

Thursday evening we honour: members of the Brandon Police Service
Friday, September 11th: members of Brandon Fire & Emergency Services
Saturday evening: veterans from the Canadian Armed Forces of the Royal Canadian Legion Brandon #003.

We thank you for your service.

COSTUMER
KIERA BOWSKILL



VENUE MANAGER
SUSAN BRECHMANN



PROPERTIES
SHANNON BOWER



PROPERTIES
JAYCEE THEXTON



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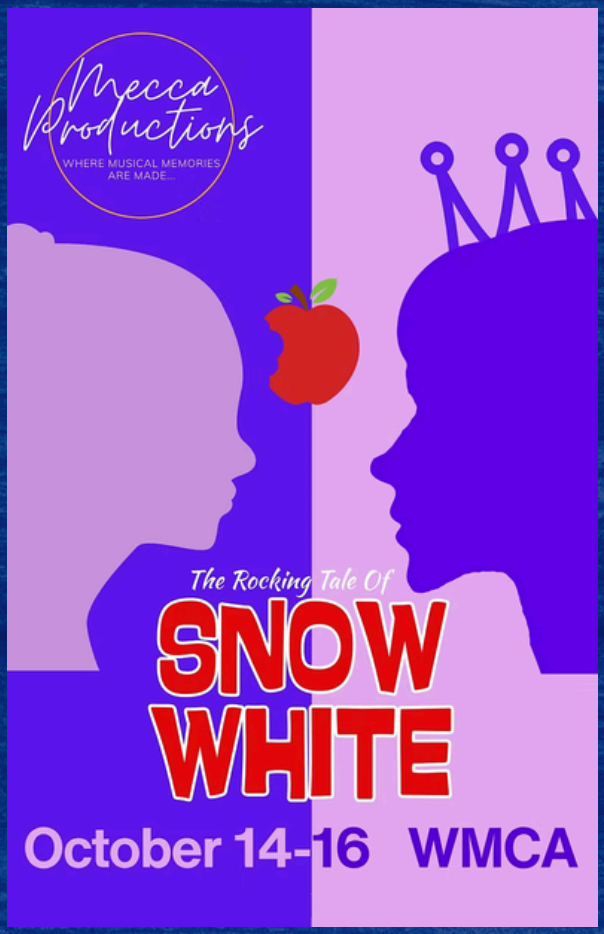
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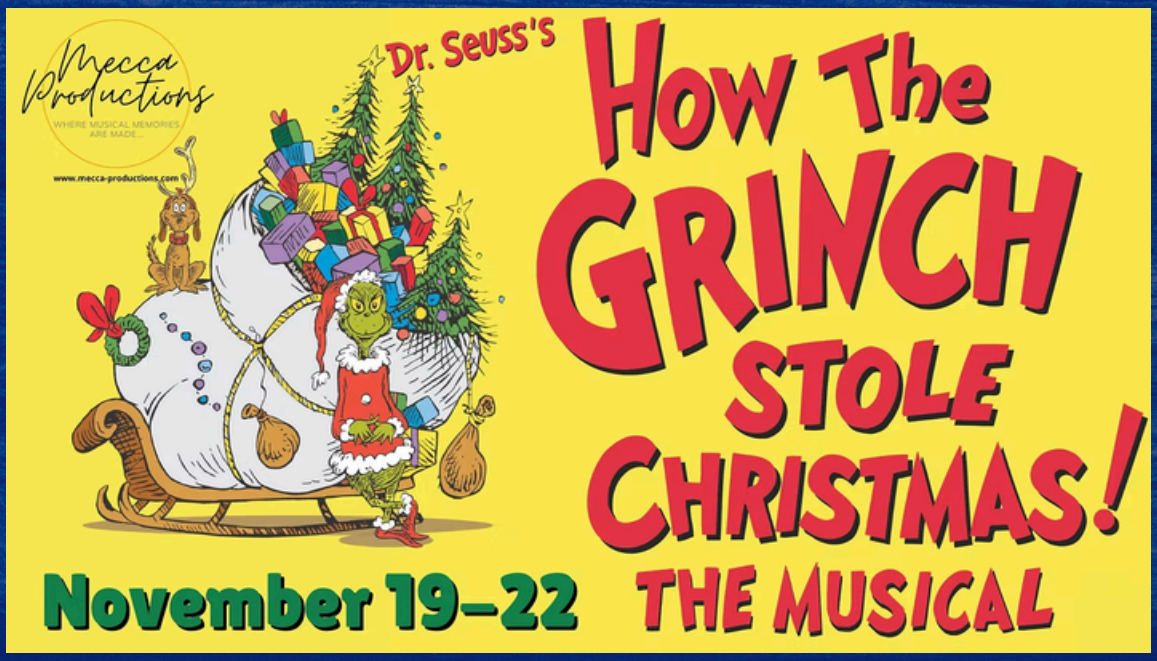
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COME FROM AWAY









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WMCA

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YOU have a role to play in our 2026/27 season!

Mecca Productions is widely recognized as westman's foremost theatre company, and our region's leading producer of live theatre and concerts at the WMCA. For more than two decades, "Mecca" has brought the best of Broadway to westman through 25 seasons of diverse productions.

Since 2001, Mecca Productions has united a dedicated group of community volunteers to bring the best of Broadway and beyond to westman audiences. Our season of community-led, professional-level live theatre is unique in cities our size in western Canada... because of the support of our community! Thousands of audience members see our shows each season!

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Mecca Productions - Bringing the Best of Broadway to Westman since 2001
Have another way to get involved? Email us at meccabdn@gmail.com or call Lisa at 204-573-7521