



# COME FROM AWAY

**STORYHOUSE, CHESTER**  
**15-18 APRIL 2026**

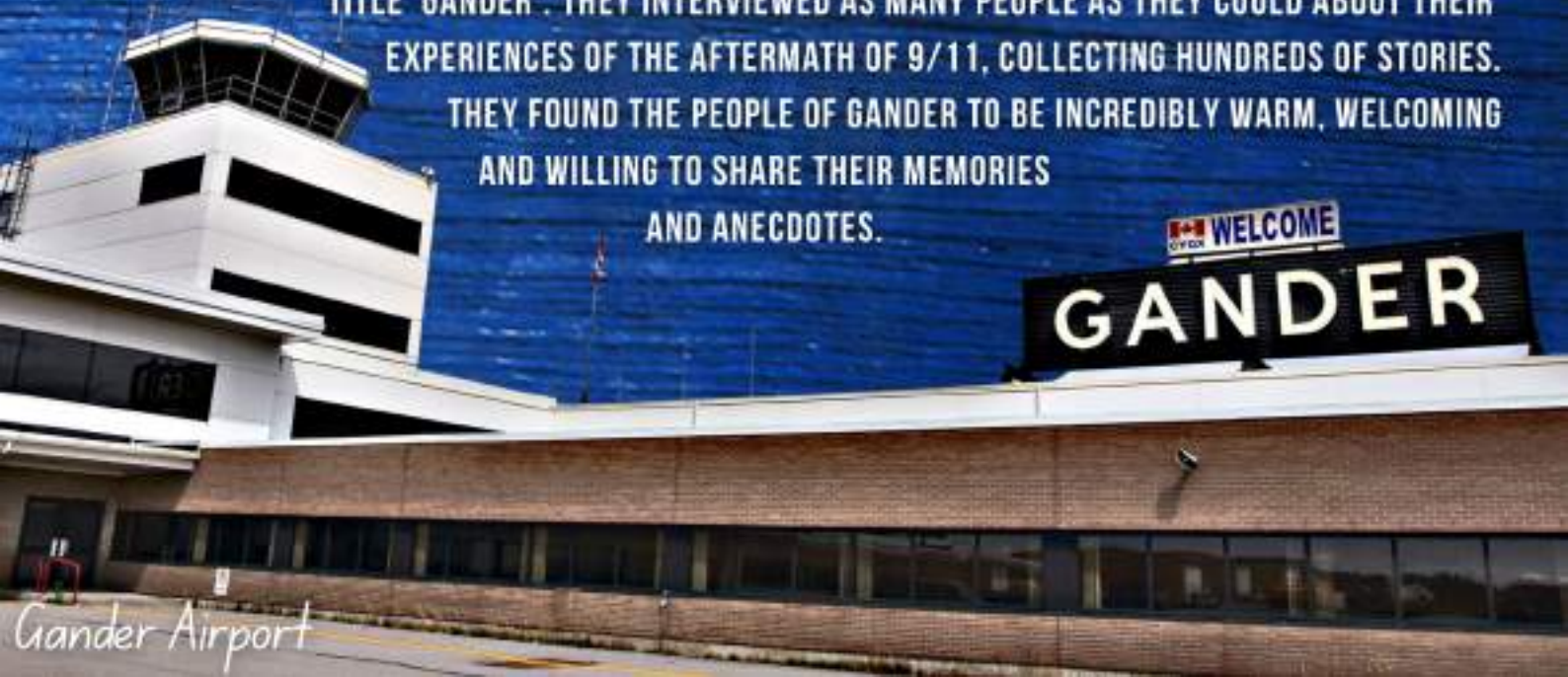
# COME FROM AWAY

NOT JUST A MUSICAL, BUT A MOMENT IN HISTORY; COME FROM AWAY TELLS THE TRUE STORY OF HOW THE BEST OF HUMANITY SHONE IN THE WAKE OF ONE OF THE DARKEST DAYS IN RECENT MEMORY.

THE TERM 'COME FROM AWAY' IS A COLLOQUIAL PHRASE USED IN NEWFOUNDLAND TO DESCRIBE A VISITOR OR NEWCOMER - ANYONE NOT ORIGINALLY BORN IN THAT LOCAL AREA.

WHEN U.S. AIRSPACE WAS CLOSED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 - A DATE THAT WILL FOREVER BE ETCHED IN OUR MINDS - 38 PLANES WERE FORCED TO LAND UNEXPECTEDLY IN THE SMALL TOWN OF GANDER, NEWFOUNDLAND, TEMPORARILY DOUBLING THE POPULATION WITH 6,579 OF THESE 'COME FROM AWAYS'. TOGETHER WITH THE COMMUNITIES OF GLENWOOD, LEWISPORTE, APPLETON, GAMBO AND NORRIS ARM, THE RESIDENTS OF GANDER WELCOMED STRANGERS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD INTO THEIR HOMES WITH OPEN ARMS, PROVIDING NOT ONLY THE PRACTICAL HELP OF SHELTER, FOOD AND BASIC NECESSITIES, BUT ALSO COMFORT AND SUPPORT IN THE FACE OF PROFOUND LOSS AND UNCERTAINTY. LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS WERE FORGED IN THOSE FOUR TO FIVE DAYS BEFORE PASSENGERS COULD RE-BOARD THEIR PLANES, AS KINDNESS AND COMPASSION UNITED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, TRANSCENDING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DIFFERENCES, AT A TIME WHEN FEAR THREATENED TO DIVIDE.

TEN YEARS AFTER THE EVENTS OF 9/11, WRITERS IRENE SANKOFF AND DAVID HEIN MADE THEIR OWN JOURNEY TO GANDER TO DO SOME RESEARCH FOR THEIR NEXT PROJECT- A MUSICAL WITH THE WORKING TITLE 'GANDER'. THEY INTERVIEWED AS MANY PEOPLE AS THEY COULD ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES OF THE AFTERMATH OF 9/11, COLLECTING HUNDREDS OF STORIES. THEY FOUND THE PEOPLE OF GANDER TO BE INCREDIBLY WARM, WELCOMING AND WILLING TO SHARE THEIR MEMORIES AND ANECDOTES.



Gander Airport

FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11, MANY OF THE 'COME FROM AWAYS' RETURNED TO GANDER, SO SANKOFF AND HEIN WERE ABLE TO MEET WITH RESIDENTS AND 'PLANE PEOPLE' ALIKE. ARMED WITH THOUSANDS OF NOTES, PHOTOCOPIES, VOICE RECORDINGS, MEMORABILIA AND MORE, THE TWO THEN BEGAN THE IMMENSE TASK OF PIECING TOGETHER THIS BEAUTIFUL STORY. WITH SO MANY PERSPECTIVES FROM THOSE FEW UNIMAGINABLE DAYS, CONDENSING THE MATERIAL INTO A STAGE PRODUCTION PROVED DIFFICULT. THE FIRST READ-THROUGH WAS ALMOST 4 HOURS LONG! TO BE ABLE TO HONOUR AS MANY VOICES AS POSSIBLE, EACH OF THE CHARACTERS IS MADE UP OF MULTIPLE PEOPLE'S STORIES, AND EACH CAST MEMBER PLAYS MANY DIFFERENT CHARACTERS THROUGHOUT THE PIECE. THE BEAUTY OF MULTI-ROLING IN THIS WAY IS THAT IT HIGHLIGHTS A CENTRAL THEME IN THE SHOW; HOW, AT ANY TIME, WE COULD FIND OURSELVES IN EACH OTHER'S SHOES. IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE WE CAN GO FROM HELPING OTHERS TO NEEDING HELP OURSELVES, FROM HAVING EVERYTHING TO HAVING NOTHING.



Some of Irene Sankoff's copious notes from interviews with the residents of Gander and the come from aways!



Transport of rare chimpanzees delayed in Gander



Irene Sankoff and David Hein interviewing Kevin T.

THE DESIGN OF COME FROM AWAY IS INTENTIONALLY MINIMAL. THE CREATORS DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO FEEL PERFORMATIVE, OR DISTANCE THE AUDIENCE FROM THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE STORIES BEING TOLD. ACTORS CAN CHANGE FROM ONE CHARACTER TO ANOTHER WITH JUST THE ADDITION OF A HAT, A CHANGE OF POSTURE, AND THE AUDIENCE ARE WITH THEM. THE NATURE OF THE STAGING NATURALLY FOSTERS A STRONG SENSE OF ENSEMBLE WORKING TOGETHER. WHEN SOMEONE REPOSITIONS A CHAIR, IT ISN'T FOR THEM TO SIT ON, BUT FOR THE PERSON IN FRONT OF THEM. THE JACKET THEY MOVE IS NOT FOR THEM TO WEAR BUT TO ASSIST SOMEONE'S COSTUME CHANGE. EVERY DETAIL OF THIS SHOW RELIES ON ULTIMATE TEAMWORK; A REFLECTION, ALBEIT AT A FRACTION OF THE SIZE, OF THE REMARKABLE GENEROSITY AND UNITY OF THE GANDER COMMUNITY.

YOU  
ARE  
HERE

at the start  
of a moment

**Look around. A room full of strangers.**

**Give it two hours and we'll have shared  
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and the same lump in the throat.**

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**GROUP**

# CREATIVE TEAM



**SIMON PHILLIPS - CO-DIRECTOR & MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

SIMON IS A MUSIC AND DRAMA PRACTITIONER WITH OVER 25 YEARS' EXPERIENCE WORKING ACROSS THEATRE, MUSIC EDUCATION AND PERFORMANCE. HE HAS APPEARED IN, DIRECTED AND MUSICALLY DIRECTED ALMOST 120 PRODUCTIONS FOR THEATRE COMPANIES, SCHOOLS AND YOUTH THEATRE ORGANISATIONS ACROSS CHESTER AND THE WIDER REGION, INCLUDING BILLY ELLIOT, CATS, SPAMALOT, THE WIZARD OF OZ, EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE AND LES MISÉRABLES.

SIMON IS THE CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER OF ON THE MARK YOUTH THEATRE, WHERE HE HAS SPENT THE PAST EIGHT YEARS HELPING YOUNG PERFORMERS DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE ON STAGE. ALONGSIDE HIS THEATRE WORK, HE HAS BEEN A SECONDARY SCHOOL MUSIC AND DRAMA TEACHER FOR OVER 20 YEARS, TEACHING CLASSROOM LESSONS AND DIRECTING MANY SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS.

HE IS ALSO AN ABRSM EXAMINER, ASSESSING INSTRUMENTAL AND SINGING EXAMINATIONS BOTH IN PERSON AND DIGITALLY. SIMON IS DELIGHTED TO BE INVOLVED WITH COME FROM AWAY FOR TIP TOP PRODUCTIONS.



**RHIAN LYON - CO-DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER**

RHIAN HAS BEEN PART OF TIP TOP PRODUCTIONS SINCE THE AGE OF 7, WHERE SHE DEVELOPED HER LOVE FOR ALL THINGS THEATRE. SHE LATER TRAINED AT THE NORTHERN SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE IN LEEDS, MAJORING IN CHOREOGRAPHY, WHICH FURTHER SHAPED HER STYLE AND APPROACH TO MOVEMENT.

HER CHOREOGRAPHY CREDITS WITH TIP TOP PRODUCTIONS INCLUDE ANNIE, SWEET CHARITY, CALENDAR GIRLS, THE SHOW MUST GO ON, MY FAIR LADY, THIS IS MY MUSICAL, LOVE STORY, AND GREASE, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS PANTOMIMES, INCLUDING CINDERELLA, DICK WHITTINGTON, ALADDIN, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK, AND SNOW WHITE.

RHIAN IS THRILLED TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON SUCH AN EXCITING PROJECT AND FEELS HONOURED TO HELP BRING THIS TRUE STORY OF KINDNESS AND HUMANITY TO AUDIENCES.



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# MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. WELCOME TO THE ROCK .....CLAUDE & COMPANY
2. DIVERTED .....
3. 38 PLANES .....COMPANY
4. BLANKETS AND BEDDING .....COMPANY
5. 28 HOURS / WHEREVER WE ARE .....COMPANY
6. DARKNESS AND TREES .....COMPANY
7. COSTUME PARTY .....DIANE, KEVIN T, BEVERLEY, HANNAH & COMPANY
8. PRAYER .....KEVIN T, HANNAH & COMPANY
9. ON THE EDGE .....COMPANY
10. SCREECH IN .....CLAUDE & COMPANY
11. ME AND THE SKY .....BEVERLEY
12. STOP THE WORLD .....NICK & DIANE
13. 38 PLANES REPRISE / SOMEWHERE .....COMPANY
14. SOMETHING'S MISSING .....COMPANY
15. FINALE .....CLAUDE & COMPANY
16. BOWS / EXIT MUSIC .....

## THE BAND

- KEYS .....SIMON PHILLIPS  
WHISTLE .....SARAH SHERWOOD  
FIDDLE .....JEM BRADLEY  
GUITAR .....DOMINIC RIVEROL  
MANDOLIN .....IAN SHERWOOD  
BASS GUITAR .....JOSIE FORSEY  
DRUMS .....NEIL MIDDLETON  
PERCUSSION .....CAITLIN MONAGHAN

# CAST

## IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



### ABI HOARTY - JANICE

ABI IS JUST STARTING HER CAREER IN THE ARTS AFTER FINISHING HER TRAINING AT THE HAMMOND IN 2024! THERE SHE PLAYED FRIEDA IN HER END OF YEAR PRODUCTION OF CARRIE.

ABI HAS ALSO WORKED WITH TIP TOP PRODUCTIONS OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS AND HAS BEEN A PART OF SHOWS SUCH AS JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT, ANNIE AND DICK WHITTINGTON. SHE HAS ALSO PERFORMED AS LEAH IN BEAUTIFUL THING WITH DISLEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS.



### CLARE THOMPSON - BEULAH

CLARE IS A VOCAL SPECIALIST WHOM, HAVING COMPLETED HER BA HONS MUSIC DEGREE AT BRETTON HALL COLLEGE, THEN STUDIED HER PGCE TEACHING QUALIFICATION IN MANCHESTER AND IS CURRENTLY HEAD OF MUSIC IN UPTON-BY-CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL. SHE IS AN ACTIVE PERFORMER WITH LOCAL GROUPS, AND WITH OVER 40 YEARS STAGE EXPERIENCE, SHE HAS MUSICAL THEATRE, OPERA, PANTO, ORATORIO, SOLO SONG, FARCE AND SHAKESPEARE IN HER REPERTOIRE. CLARE HAS ALSO TAUGHT SINGING AT THEATRE TRAIN CHESTER.

CLARE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT MUSICAL THEATRE, MOST RECENTLY PERFORMING WITH TIP TOP PRODUCTIONS AS ANNIE IN CALENDAR GIRLS THE MUSICAL, AUGUST 2022. SHE HAS ALSO TOURED THE MIDLANDS AND NORTH WEST WITH A NEW PRODUCTION, THE PORRIDGE OPERA BY THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED COMPOSER PAUL GRAHAM BROWN.

CLARE IS SUPER EXCITED TO PORTRAY THE CARING, HELPFUL CHARACTER OF "BEULAH" IN THIS INCREDIBLE STORY AND HAS BOTH LAUGHED AND CRIED HER WAY THROUGH REHEARSALS, WITH SUCH A FANTASTIC TEAM.



### KATE GORDON - BEVERLEY

KATE IS ABSOLUTELY THRILLED TO BE MAKING HER TIP TOP DEBUT IN THIS HEARTWARMING AND INSPIRING MUSICAL.

SHE HAS APPEARED IN NUMEROUS PRODUCTIONS OVER THE YEARS, WITH FAVOURITE ROLES INCLUDING HOLLY IN THE WEDDING SINGER, POLLY IN CRAZY FOR YOU, VIOLET IN 9 TO 5, AND MOLLY IN GHOST AT STORYHOUSE IN 2024.

KATE HAS ALSO PERFORMED IN THE NEW MUSICAL LIVER BIRDSONG AT THE EPSTEIN THEATRE IN LIVERPOOL, WORKED AS PART OF THE SHOW TEAM ON CRUISE SHIPS, AND TRAVELLED THE COUNTRY AS PART OF AN ABBA TRIBUTE.

SHE IS DELIGHTED TO BE RETURNING TO THE STORYHOUSE STAGE ALONGSIDE SUCH A TALENTED CAST, AND HOPES YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH COME FROM AWAY JUST AS MUCH AS SHE HAS.

# CAST

## IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



### LAUREN RAMSAY - BONNIE

LAUREN TRAINED IN MUSICAL THEATRE AT THE HAMMOND SCHOOL OF DANCE BEFORE BEGINNING HER PROFESSIONAL CAREER AS A SINGER AND DANCER. AFTER GRADUATING, SHE PERFORMED INTERNATIONALLY ACROSS THE CANARY ISLANDS AND THE MEDITERRANEAN ON TWO SIX-MONTH CONTRACTS WITH PEEL TALENT ABOARD THE THOMSON MAJESTY, APPEARING IN PRODUCTION SHOWS FEATURING MUSIC FROM LES MISÉRABLES, OLIVER!, MARY POPPINS AND CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG.

HER STAGE CREDITS INCLUDE PERFORMANCES AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL, THE SHAW THEATRE IN LONDON'S WEST END AND THE LOWRY, WITH CONCERTS INCLUDING THE BAND THAT JACK BUILT AND SPRING AWAKENING. TELEVISION CREDITS INCLUDE BLUE MURDER AND WATERLOO ROAD.

LAUREN LATER GRADUATED WITH A FIRST CLASS BA (HONS) IN THEATRE FROM THE GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING AND NOW WORKS AS A SECONDARY DRAMA TEACHER. SHE IS DELIGHTED TO BE BACK ON STAGE.



### LUKE DISLEY - OZ

AS A SINGER, LUKE HAS FREQUENTED SOME OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS VENUES THE UK HAS TO OFFER, HAVING RECORDED AND PERFORMED WITH BIG NAME ARTISTS SUCH AS SAM SMITH, ELLIE GOULDING, GORILLAZ AND DURAN DURAN.

HE HAS BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED IN LOCAL AMATEUR THEATRE FOR OVER A DECADE NOW, PRODUCING AND PERFORMING IN DOZENS OF SHOWS FOR TIP TOP PRODUCTIONS AND OTHER COMPANIES AND OFTEN JOKES THAT HE'S "RETIRED FROM THE STAGE". HE IS ALSO FINANCE DIRECTOR ON THE COMMITTEE AT TIP TOP.

IN 2023, LUKE LAUNCHED DISLEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS, STAGING CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED VERSIONS OF TICK, TICK... BOOM!, ROALD DAHL'S THE BFG, BEAUTIFUL THING AND IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE. NEXT UP - ART AT THEATR CLWYD.

@DISLEYTHEATRICALPRODUCTIONS



### NATALIE MEYERS - HANNAH

NATALIE HAS BEEN PERFORMING IN MUSICAL THEATRE FOR 26 YEARS; HER FIRST ROLE WAS WITH TIP TOP AS PEPPER IN ANNIE WHEN SHE WAS 12 AND HER FAVOURITE ROLES SINCE THEN HAVE BEEN GERTIE IN OKLAHOMA, SARA IN GIRLS NIGHT OUT, MARTHA IN COMPANY AND THE INFAMOUS LEAD DIVA IN PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT WHERE SHE WAS SEEN FLYING FROM THE CEILING OF THEATR CLWYD!

HER PASSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN WORKING AS PART OF AN ENSEMBLE; WHICH IS WHAT DREW HER TO THIS AMAZING SHOW! OFFSTAGE, NATALIE HAS QUALIFICATIONS IN DANCE AND THEATRE STUDIES AND HAS ALSO BEEN A CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH NURSE FOR THE PAST 14 YEARS, WHICH SHE LOVES. NATALIE HASN'T PERFORMED IN 6 YEARS BUT IS THRILLED THAT HER RETURN IS PART OF SUCH AN INCREDIBLE AND SUPPORTIVE CAST, AND SHE WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE THIS PERFORMANCE TO HER LATE MUM, CHERYL.

# CAST

## IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



### PHIL CROSS - KEVIN J

PHIL HAS HAD A VARIED CAREER IN THE ARTS. HE PERFORMED WITH BILL KENWRIGHT'S JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT AS BENJAMIN AND APPEARED IN HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN. HE HAS ALSO WORKED AS CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR ON PROFESSIONAL SHOWS SUCH AS 'OLIVER!' AND THE LION KING IN THE WEST-END. MORE RECENTLY PHIL HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THEATRE PORTO AS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CREATING AND PERFORMING IN FAMILY SHOWS JACK FROST'S SNOW TIME ADVENTURE AND THE DIVINATION TENT, WHICH HAD A SUCCESSFUL RUN AT EDINBURGH FRINGE LAST YEAR, AND IS CURRENTLY ON A LOCAL TOUR.

PHIL HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF TIP TOP PRODUCTIONS SINCE CHILDHOOD AND HAS DIRECTED/CHOREOGRAPHED SEVERAL SHOWS FOR US, INCLUDING THIS IS MY MUSICAL, THE BOY WHO FELL INTO A BOOK, SOAP OPERA, THE MUSICAL, THE WITCHES, THE TWITS, 3 LITTLE PIGS, MY FAIR LADY, THE SHOW MUST GO ON, AND, LAST YEAR, ANNIE.

PHIL ALSO FOUNDED CHESTER WIZARD SCHOOL; A SELL-OUT IMMERSIVE EVENT FOR FAMILIES AT HALLOWEEN.



### ROB LYON - NICK

ROB TRAINED AS AN ACTOR AT MOUNTVIEW ACADEMY OF THEATRE ARTS. HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF MUSICALS & PLAYS AT THE FORUM, STORYHOUSE, THEATR CLWYD, ST MARY'S, AND GROVE PARK THEATRE, INCLUDING: THE FULL MONTY, THE WITCHES, GREASE, AVENUE Q, COUPLING, THIS IS MY MUSICAL, LOVE STORY, MEN BEHAVING BADLY, MY FAIR LADY, THE SHOW MUST GO ON, CALENDAR GIRLS, SWEET CHARITY, IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, FRANTIC ASSEMBLY'S LOVESONG, AND ANNIE.

ROB WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CAST & CREATIVE TEAM FOR ALL OF THEIR SUPPORT, AND HERE'S TO A GREAT SHOW!



### ROB TOLEFREE - CLAUDE

ROB HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY THEATRE FOR LONGER THAN HE CARES TO REMEMBER. WITH TIP TOP PRODUCTIONS, SOME OF ROB'S FAVOURITE ROLES HAVE INCLUDED OLIVER WARBUCKS (ANNIE), ALFRED DOOLITTLE (MY FAIR LADY), DAVE (THE FULL MONTY) AND JOHN AND ROD IN THE PLAY AND MUSICAL VERSIONS OF CALENDAR GIRLS.

HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF THE COME FROM AWAY CAST WILL BE ANOTHER TREASURED MEMORY.

WITH OTHER COMPANIES, FAVOURITES HAVE INCLUDED THE TITLE ROLE IN SWEENEY TODD, JUD FRY (OKLAHOMA!) AND THE BISHOP OF DIGNE IN THE RECENT 40TH ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION OF LES MISÉRABLES AT LIVERPOOL EMPIRE.

AT THE OTHER END OF THE MUSICAL SPECTRUM ROB IS PROUD TO PERFORM REGULARLY WITH THE HALLÉ CHOIR IN MANCHESTER.

# CAST

## IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



### ROBIN CROWLEY - KEVIN T

ROBIN BEGAN HIS THEATRE CAREER AS A MEMBER OF THE LATE PETER DORNFORD MAY'S CHESHIRE DRAMA COURSE AND HAS APPEARED IN THE CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS AND WEST SIDE STORY. FOLLOWING THIS ROBIN STUDIED DRAMA AT MOUNTVIEW ACADEMY OF THEATRE ARTS IN LONDON. FOLLOWING GRADUATION HE APPEARED IN PINOCCHIO FOR LAMPWICK ARTS THEATRE AND BBC PLAYDAYS. HE THEN WENT ON TO JOIN SEDOS WHICH IS ONE OF LONDON'S PREMIER AMATEUR THEATRE GROUPS WHERE HE APPEARED IN MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG, GRAND HOTEL, AND INTO THE WOODS. HE HAS ALSO DIRECTED HEARTBEAT, A PLAY FOR THEATRE IN EDUCATION. ROBIN'S CAREER THEN GRAVITATED TOWARDS RADIO WHERE HE BECAME A PRODUCER ON PROGRAMMES FOR CLASSIC FM, BBC 5 LIVE, TALK RADIO AND JAZZ FM. LATTERLY HE WAS PROGRAMME DIRECTOR FOR GAYDAR RADIO WHERE HE WON THE SONY RADIO AWARD, ARQIVA AWARD AND BT DIGITAL MUSIC AWARD FOR DIGITAL STATION OF THE YEAR. LATTERLY ROBIN HAS BECOME INVOLVED WITH LOCAL THEATRE IN LLANGOLLEN PLAYING IN ALAN AYCKBOURN'S SEASON'S GREETINGS AND DIRECTED THE DOLLY PARTON MUSICAL 9 TO 5 FOR LLANGOLLEN OPERATIC SOCIETY.



### SANDRA JONES - DIANE

SANDRA HAS BEEN PERFORMING IN THEATRE FOR OVER 40 YEARS, HAVING TRAINED AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF MUSICAL THEATRE. HER LOVE FOR THE STAGE HAS ONLY GROWN THROUGHOUT HER CAREER, AND SHE IS THRILLED TO BE RETURNING TO TIP TOP AT STORYHOUSE TO PLAY THE ROLE OF DIANE, FOLLOWING HER PREVIOUS APPEARANCE AS CORA IN CALENDAR GIRLS. WORKING WITH A SMALL, CLOSE-KNIT CAST HAS BEEN A PARTICULARLY SPECIAL EXPERIENCE FOR SANDRA, GIVING HER THE CHANCE TO RECONNECT WITH OLD FRIENDS WHILE ALSO FORMING NEW FRIENDSHIPS THAT SHE KNOWS WILL LAST A LIFETIME.

OVER THE YEARS, SHE HAS ENJOYED A WIDE VARIETY OF ROLES ACROSS MUSICAL THEATRE AND DRAMA, WITH CREDITS INCLUDING ANNA (THE KING AND I), DOLLY LEVI (HELLO, DOLLY!), FLORENCE VASSY (CHESS), SCIENCE OFFICER (RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET), LAURIE (OKLAHOMA!), SALLY (ME AND MY GIRL), CARRIE (CAROUSEL), JOANNE (COMPANY), AND VICKI (THE FULL MONY)



### WESLEY RAY - BOB

THIS IS WESLEY'S FIRST SHOW WITH TIP TOP. HE IS CURRENTLY PREPARING FOR PHD STUDIES BEGINNING NEXT YEAR. WESLEY HAS HAD A BREAK FROM PERFORMING SINCE ADOPTING HIS RESCUE DOG, FRANKIE.

WESLEY IS A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH, SUPPORTING LOCAL GROUPS IN THE NORTH WEST. HE WOULD LIKE TO THANK HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR COMING TO WATCH, AND A BIG THANK YOU TO TIP TOP FOR ALL THE SUPPORT IN CREATING THIS EPIC SHOW. WELCOME TO THE ROCK!



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# PRODUCTION CREDITS

CO-DIRECTOR / MUSICAL DIRECTOR .....	SIMON PHILLIPS
CO-DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER .....	RHIAN LYON
PRODUCER .....	JONI RUSLING
LIGHTING DESIGN & OPERATION .....	PAUL EDWARDS
SOUND DESIGN & OPERATION .....	TOM MAURICE
SOUND 2 .....	LAUREN CHANG
COSTUME CO-ORDINATOR .....	CLARE THOMPSON
PROPS CO-ORDINATOR .....	FIONA RACKHAM
PROPS .....	LITTLE THEATRE COMPANY
SET .....	SHOWTIME SOLUTIONS
DIALECT COACH .....	ASHLEY FAYTH
STAGE MANAGER .....	OLLIE PRICE
DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER .....	ELLE MOULSON
STAGE CREW .....	ANDRÉ ADAMS, CHLOE DWAN & MARK SHENTON
MARKETING .....	PHIL CROSS & ALICE WALTER
PHOTOGRAPHY .....	MARK CARLINE
PR .....	PAUL CROFTS FOR CURTAIN UP PR
PROGRAMME DESIGN .....	NATALIE HAYES
PROGRAMME PRINTING .....	MUSTARD PRINT

SPECIAL THANKS TO AMANDA HENDERSON, CHARLIE RACKHAM, CHRISTLETON HIGH SCHOOL, ELISHA HARRIS, IEUAN MEYERS, NICK ROBERTS, SOPHIA BUNNING-WILLIAMS, TASH DENCH & THE TIP TOP COMMITTEE

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION ELEMENTS UTILISED FOR THIS PRODUCTION OF COME FROM AWAY WERE PROVIDED BY CHRISTOPHER ASHLEY (DIRECTION), KELLY DEVINE (MUSICAL STAGING AND CHOREOGRAPHY), BEOWULF BIRITT (SCENIC DESIGN), TONI-LESLIE JAMES (COSTUME DESIGN), HOWELL BINKLEY (LIGHTING DESIGN) AND GARETH OWEN (SOUND DESIGN)



**TIPTOP**  
Productions

## COMMITTEE

Steve Davies  
Luke Disley  
Rhian Lyon  
Rob Lyon  
Phil Cross

Mark Shenton  
Alice Walter  
Sophia Bunning-Williams  
Joni Rusling  
Tash Dench

# IN REHEARSAL



*Rehearsals began on 22 February 2026, and now here we are 7 weeks,  
14 chairs, 1 fish and 100+ directors' notes later...*

*Welcome to the Rock!*



# IN REHEARSAL



*Rehearsal photos taken by Phil Croes, Alice Waller  
and Elle Moulson*



# Get your copy of Des Hinks' new book - and support a fellow Tip Topper!



**Des Hinks, who's appeared in a number of previous productions with Tip Top such as *Bouncers*, *Girls Night Out* and *Brassed Off* (and is currently gearing up to get his kit off at Theatr Clywd in *The Full Monty* in June!) has recently published his first book 'Back Where We Belong'.**

If you're a football fan, you'll love the book! It's the tale of the 2024-25 season in which Des attended every Stockport County game, home and away. From Louie Barry's Goal of the Season in August, to the heartbreak of a play-off semi-final defeat in May, Des experienced all the highs and lows over a 10-month 56-game adventure.

The book doesn't just cover football, though. There's little bits of culture, comedy, lifestyle and travel dotted throughout, plus amusing anecdotes from Des's 40 years travelling round the country watching his hometown team, from childhood to adulthood. *And by purchasing a copy you'll be supporting a fellow Tip Topper!*

**Email Des at [thescarfmyfatherwore@substack.com](mailto:thescarfmyfatherwore@substack.com)  
or call/text 07816 111150 if you'd like a signed copy of the book posted out.**



# DID YOU KNOW?

THE ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION OF COME FROM AWAY FEATURED TWO BROKEN TREES TOWARDS THE BACK OF THE STAGE. THESE TREES SUBTLY REPRESENTED THE TWIN TOWERS. THERE WERE INITIALLY THREE, INTENDED TO REFLECT THREE BROKEN BEAMS IN THE RUBBLE OF GROUND ZERO, BUT THIS WAS LATER REDUCED TO TWO, AND DESIGNERS FELT IT WAS MORE POIGNANT AND SYMBOLIC.

'STFD' tickets from Oz (referenced in the opening number of the show) have become prized possessions! Some people speed through town hoping to receive one!

WRITERS HEIN AND SANKOFF BUTTED HEADS OVER WHETHER COME FROM AWAY SHOULD BE A PLAY OR A MUSICAL. UPON ATTENDING A BENEFIT CONCERT IN GANDER, WHERE THE WHOLE CROWD JOINED IN WITH THE SONG "THE ISLANDER" (LATER ONE OF THE INSPIRATIONS FOR "WELCOME TO THE ROCK"), IT BECAME CLEAR THE SHOW HAD TO BE A MUSICAL.

Beverly Bass (the real one, who inspired the character in the show) and her husband Tom have seen the show more than 120 times. Tom has taken to introducing himself as 'No-I'm-fine-Tom, I'm Fine' Tom.



Writers Sankoff and Hein don't like to think of Come From Away as a '9/11' musical, but rather as a '9/12 musical', where they tell "some of the good stuff that happened afterward".

PRIOR TO 9/11, ONE FLIGHT ATTENDANT CLAIMS THAT THE MOST AIRCRAFT SHE'D EVER SEEN ON THE GROUND AT GANDER AIRPORT WAS THREE, AND SHE'D REFERRED TO THAT AS 'RUSH HOUR'. ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, THIRTY EIGHT PLANES LANDED ON THOSE RUNWAYS.

The real Diane says that her and Nick's story is portrayed so accurately in the musical that "it's like renewing your vows in the theater every night".

SO MUCH TOILET PAPER WAS DONATED TO ST JOHN'S ACADEMY DURING THE DAYS THAT COME FROM AWAY IS SET, THAT ONCE THE VISITORS HAD LEFT, THE SCHOOL HAD ENOUGH TO LAST THEM THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR!



Some of the true stories that didn't make the final cut were omitted because they were deemed too nice to be believable. What a world we live in!

WHEN THE WRITERS FIRST MET THE REAL BEULAH, SHE INVITED THEM TO THE LEGION THAT NIGHT TO BE 'SCREECHED IN' (YOU'LL LEARN WHAT THAT IS IN THE SHOW) ALONGSIDE THE REAL LIFE NICK, DIANE, BEVERLEY AND TOM, AND OFFICIATED BY CLAUDE. QUITE THE INITIATION! SANKOFF COULD NOT BRING HERSELF TO KISS THE COD, SO CLAUDE EVENTUALLY SAID "YOU CAN KISS THE COD OR YOU CAN KISS ME", AND SHE PROMPTLY KISSED HIM. THIS MADE ITS WAY INTO THE SHOW THROUGH THE CHARACTERS OF NICK AND DIANE.

Originally Sankoff and Hein had only interviewed Kevin T. (of the two Kevins), and he'd asked that they respect Kevin J's privacy, so they changed many details including the characters names. Later, Kevin J. contacted the actor playing him, saying "I believe you're playing me in a musical?!" He saw the show and loved it. Both Kevins got in touch and insisted the names be changed back to Kevin.

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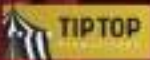


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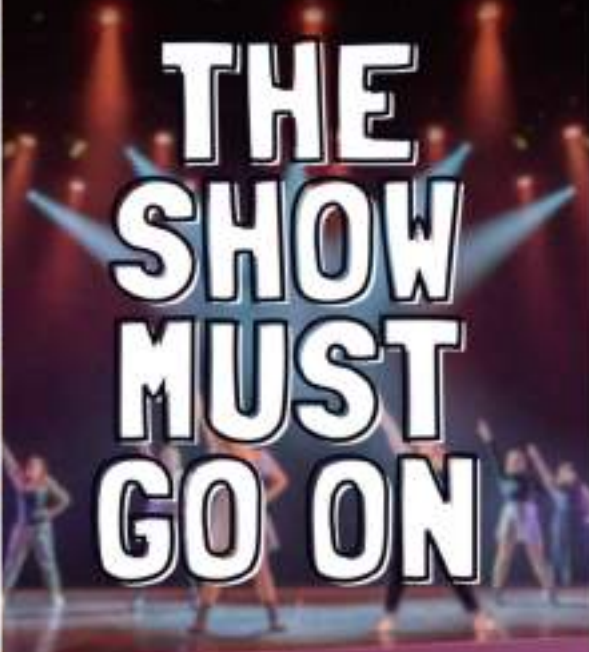
Book and Lyrics by Jake Brunger      Music and Lyrics by Pippa Cleary

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