



FAME

THE MUSICAL

MARCH 31 - APRIL 8, 2023

GAS STATION ARTS CENTRE

PRESENTED BY

WINNIPEG
STUDIO
THEATRE

WINNIPEG

STUDIO

THEATRE

Conceived and developed by
David De Silva
Book by Jose Fernandez
Lyrics by Jacques Levy
Music by Steve Margoshes
Title Song FAME written by Dean Pitchford
and Michael Gore



WINNIPEG STUDIO THEATRE

Artistic Director – Erin McGrath

Theatre School Director –

Brenda Gorlick

Administrator – Rebekah Jones

FAME CREATIVE TEAM

Director – Erin McGrath

Choreographers –

Matthew Armet & Tyrell Witherspoon

Music Director – Paul Rodermond

Set & Costume Designer –

Daina Leitold

Lighting Designer – Jaxun Maron

Stage Manager – Kyra Krassnigg

Assistant Stage Manager –

Amber Reimer

CAST

Josh Bellan (Schlomo)
Victoria Exconde (Carmen)
Chris Friesen (Goody)
Megan Fry (Iris)
Haeln Gebre (Lambchops)
Katie German (Ms. Sherman)
Joyce Jugo (Serena)
Devin Lowry (Joe)
Rachael McLaren (Ms. Bell)
Jean van der Merwe (Nick)
Ray Padua (Mr. Sheinkopf)
Sam Plett (Mr. Myers)
JJ Scherr (Tyrone)
Charlotte Thompson (Mabel)

BAND

Duncan Cox
Devon Gillingham
Tetyana Haraschuk

WST BOARD

Tracy Goltsman
Aaron Maister
Ray Padua
Evan Wechnenko
Abbie Buenafe
Victor Bargaen
Eugenia Lehman
Sarah Luby

Kayla Gordon
Artistic Director Emeritus

**Pre-Show
Performing
Mentees
Studio Works
Academy**

Chloe Waldi
Geoffrey Heal
Philip Rogalsky
Taryn Martin
Zoë Fanja

FAME

THE MUSICAL



ERIN MCGRATH
(she/her)
DIRECTOR



THE WITHERMETS
(he/him) & (he/him)
CHOREOGRAPHERS



PAUL RODERMOND
(he/him)
MUSIC DIRECTOR



JAXUN MARON
(he/him)
LIGHTING DESIGN



DAINA LEITOLD
(she/her)
SET/COSTUME DESIGN



DEVON HELM & KATIE TYSON
(they/them) & (she/her)
DESIGN MENTEES



ERIN McGRATH (Director)

I am honoured to be the current Artistic Director of Winnipeg Studio Theatre. I am a director, actor, educator, and graduate of the Randolph College for the Performing Arts and have been so fortunate over the years to direct and perform in major regional theatres across the country. It has been an honour to work with this cast and creative team, thank you for your work. WST has now launched our research initiative with FAME!!! My heart is full. Christopher and Oliver, I LOVE YOU!

THE WITHERMETS - Choreographers

Matthew Armet and Tyrell Witherspoon are husband-and-husband performers and creators with over 30 years of combined experience in the entertainment industry. Recent credits for Matthew include White Christmas (Shaw), Wizard of Oz, The Hockey Sweater (Rainbow Stage), The Porter, Skymed (CBC) and coming up will be the choreographer for Rent at Rainbow Stage this summer. Recent credits for Tyrell include Banni / Cancelled (unisTV), Wizard of Oz, The Hockey Sweater (Rainbow Stage), Deliver with Pride (Skip the Dishes) and Bring it On: Cheer or Die (SyFy). The pair have also started their own production company, Withermet Productions, with a goal to foster, create, and produce queer content in any entertainment medium. They also provide education and enrichment in their community through workshops, classes, and mentorships. To learn more, follow them at @withermetprod or visit **withermets.net**.

PAUL RODERMOND - Music Director

Growing up in Calgary, Paul developed a love for theatre through golden-age movie musicals like *An American in Paris* and *Oklahoma*. Though cursed with two left feet, he happened to have two right hands and has been extremely fortunate to work as a pianist in places such as the Shaw Festival, Opera on the Avalon, and the Stephenville Theatre Festival. Aside from music directing, Paul has been exploring composition and sound design, believing that a holistic understanding of theatre is important for all those involved. He's thrilled to return to Winnipeg for Fame.

JAXUN MARON - Lighting Designer

Jaxun is an emerging Lighting Designer from Salt Spring Island, BC. Jaxun spent the last 7 years in theatre training, at the University of Victoria, the Banff Centre and the National Theatre School of Canada. Jaxun's lighting designs have been seen in Montreal, on Vancouver Island and in Newfoundland. He is currently working at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre as Assistant Technical Director and is very excited to get to know the Winnipeg theatre community.

DAINA LEITOLD (Set & Costume Designer)

Daina Leitold (she/her) is a theatre-maker living and working on Treaty 1 Territory, in Winnipeg. Favourite design credits: Red Earth* (One Trunk Theatre & Theatre Projects Manitoba), Hamlet and Timon of Athens (Shakespeare in the Ruins), Awaken (Zone41 and SIR), Edward II (Theatre by the River), The Cherry Orchard (TBTR and Echo Theatre).

*Eve Award for Outstanding Production Design

This season, Daina's design work can also be seen in Dark Lady and Twelfth Night (Shakespeare in the Ruins) and Rent (Rainbow Stage).

Daina also works as an actor - please come check out Space Girl at Prairie Theatre Exchange!

DEVON HELM (Design Mentee)

Devon Helm (she/they) is a stage manager and designer located on Treaty 1 territory. They are a 2021 University of Winnipeg graduate for Stage Management & Production. Recent engagements include Everybody (Set Designer, UW), Alunsina's Love (Stage Manager, UW), Climate & Main (Stage Manager, TPM), and Trouble in Mind (Apprentice Stage Manager, RMTC). They are thrilled to be working with Winnipeg Studio Theatre to help with the design process for 2023's production of FAME."

KATIE TYSON (Design Mentee)

Katie is a current student at the University of Winnipeg, studying stage Design. She's worked on many of the University's shows, including designing for their 2022 production of "I Think We Are Alone". They have also assisted in set decorating for EagleVisions upcoming short films "Testament" and "Afterschool"

KYRA KRASSNIG Stage Manager

THEATRE (selected)
Stage Manager: New Beginnings in a New World (2022) A Million Dreams for ANCOP, Antigone (2022), Black Hole Theatre. Assistant Stage Manager: Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder (2022), Dry Cold Theatre, And The World Goes 'Round (2022) Royal MTC - Lawyers Play.

TRAINING Graduate of the University of Manitoba with a BMus in Classical Voice and Music Education - Minor in Theatre. Accredited with gold medal in Music Education (2022).

ET CETERA Thanks to my partner, Shauldon, my dog, Stella, and my friends and family for your endless support. To my Fame Fam, thank you for making magic!



AMBER REIMER **Assistant Stage Manager**

Amber Reimer is very excited to be joining the team for Winnipeg Studio Theatre's Fame as an Assistant Stage Manager. Recently, she worked with Director Erin McGrath as the Stage Manager for MTYP's She Kills Monsters. Amber attended the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film at the University Of Winnipeg where she completed the Honours Stage Management, Acting, and Production programs. Over her time at the Asper Centre she worked on nearly 15 total productions including Love's Labour's Lost, People, Places, and Things, and Frankenstein, while also working on various productions for Winnipeg Fringe Festival, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, and more. Otherwise working as a Training and Development Manager, Amber is over the moon to be getting back to live theatre!



CAST



JOSH BELLAN (Schlomo)

Josh is excited to be a part of WST's production of Fame. Josh is a local Actor and Musician who graduated from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Music. Previous credits as an actor include Strike (Rainbow), Kiss of The Spider Woman (Dry Cold), South Pacific (WSO) American Idiot (WST), Reefer Madness (WST). Upcoming Josh will be acting and Playing guitar in Breaking Up With Me with JHG Creative.



VICTORIA EXCONDE (Carmen)

(she/her) is a Filipino artist based in Winnipeg, MB and graduated with a BAH in Dance and Theatre from the University of Winnipeg. Victoria has been a company dancer with Nafro Dance Productions and a co-leader of Hip Hop dance Crew, BOSS Dance Team. She has been an active participant in the development of Joseph Sevillo's new musical, Ma-Buhay!, and plays Maria in the new sitcom, Maria and the Mennos. Just as much as Victoria loves to perform, she is passionate about sharing her skills and knowledge with her community through teaching dance classes, workshops, and choreographing.



CHRIS FRIESEN (Goody)

Chris Friesen is an actor originally from Grande Prairie, Alberta, who recently moved to Winnipeg. He studied acting at Rosebud School of the Arts in southern Alberta. He is also a musician/songwriter and has recorded two solo albums as well as an album with his wife, Esther, as "The Lazy Sundays" - and he also teaches private music lessons. You can find out more about him by visiting chrisfriesen.net.



MEGAN FRY (Iris)

Megan Fry is a Winnipeg artist, who loves to tell stories through movement, music, and text. She grew up dancing at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and recently completed two wonderful years with the Village Conservatory for Music Theatre. Last summer, Megan was a part of The Wizard of Oz at Rainbow Stage and is looking forward to working with Dry Cold Productions in their National Premiere of The Prom this spring. She is beyond excited to be a part of this incredible production of FAME the Musical working alongside such talented artists.



HAELN GEBRE (Lambchops)

Haeln Gebre (she/her) is so excited to be a part of this show! She completed the Honours Acting Program at the University of Winnipeg last spring (credits include, I Think We Are Alone, Love and Information, and 365 Days/365 Plays). She has most recently been studying with The Village Conservatory and has trained with Rise Musical Theatre Intensive. Haeln recently got into knitting, so if you have any advice please let her know. She hopes you enjoy the show!



KATIE GERMAN (Ms. Sherman)

Katie is a Métis director, performer, educator and mother. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Katie is currently the owner and director of Junior Musical Theatre Company (JMTC), the Assistant Program Director of Pimootayowin Creators Circle with the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and is a mother to a creative 7-year-old and a joy-filled 2-year-old. Recent performance credits include: Rez Sisters, Into The Woods (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre), Hockey Sweater, Breaking Up Is Hard to Do (Rainbow Stage), A Year With Frog And Toad, Seussical The Musical (MTYP), Wolf Joe Cartoon (Voice Director & Character Voice, Media Rendezvous & Amberwood Entertainment).



JOYCE JUGO (Serena)

Joyce Jugo (she/her) is a Canadian-Filipina artist based on Treaty 1 Territory (Winnipeg). A graduate from the University of Winnipeg, majoring in both Criminal Justice and Theatre - Acting Stream, and alumni of the Rise Musical Theatre Company, Joyce works towards a path in music theatre that is truthful, intentional and passion driven. Her recent credits include: Louise in Ghost (P3) and Belt Fest (UNI'T Productions). Joyce is immensely honoured to be making her professional theatre debut with Winnipeg Studio Theatre this season. Much love and gratitude to all the supports in her life for making this possible. IG: @joycejugo_/@joycesings_



DEVIN LOWRY (Joe)

Devin is thrilled to be a part of WST production of 'FAME: The Musical'! Originally from Darlingford, Manitoba; Devin is a graduate of The University of Winnipeg Theatre and Film Honours Program in 2019. Recent performance credits include: The Hockey Sweater (Rainbow Stage); Middletown, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Frankensein, Fragile Things, You Are (T)here (UofW). Inhibition Exhibition (The Village Conservatory). He would like to recognize that he would not be here following his passion without the love and support of his friends, family and fur babies. Enjoy the show!



RACHAEL MCLAREN (Greta Bell)

Rachael is thrilled to be making her Winnipeg theater debut with WST's production of FAME. Theater credits include Mamma Mia! Toronto (Ensemble & u/s Ali, Mirvish Prod.) Rachael's USA based career as a concert dance artist and teacher spanned 14 years, 11 as a Principal Dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She's currently based in Winnipeg raising her 2 daughters, teaching dance, acting and performing stunts in film & television. I dedicate my performance to the late Denise Jefferson, who welcomed me with open arms and helped me fight for my own dreams.



JEAN van der Merwe (Nick)

Jean van der Merwe is a queer, non-binary theatre-maker, opera singer and clown based in Winnipeg on Treaty 1 territory. They are a graduate of the University of Manitoba, where they obtained both an Undergraduate Degree, and a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Music, Vocal Performance. Whether it's their home-town of North Battleford, SK, or their new home in Winnipeg, MB, Jean takes pride in their prairie roots. When not performing, they can be found playing D&D with friends, cuddling with their cat Lilith, or watering their house-plants (of which they have far too many).



Ray Padua (Mr. Sheinkopf)

Ray, is proud to be making his debut with Winnipeg Studio Theatre! Ray has performed with Rainbow Stage, Gilbert & Sullivan, MB Opera and at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival. Favorite roles include Harold Hill (Music Man), Joseph (Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Count Dmitrescu (Bloodsuckers - The Musical).



SAM PLETT (Mr. Myers)

Sam Plett is an autistic performer with a passion for storytelling, particularly with music. Over the last 18 years, he has performed in musicals, operas, and oratorios across the country, as well as locally with Rainbow Stage, Dry Cold Productions, and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Winnipeg. Favourite roles include Smudge - Forever Plaid (Harbourfront Theatre, Rainbow Stage), Old Deuteronomy - CATS (Theatre Calgary, Rainbow Stage) and Cinderella's Prince/The Wolf - Into the Woods (Winnipeg Studio Theatre)



JJ Scherr (Tyrone)

JJ Scherr (he/him) is a Jamaican/Métis Canadian Musician & Performer. Born in Winnipeg MB, JJ started Acrobatics and Music training at a young age, igniting his passion for Live Performance! JJ has previously been seen at Rainbow Stage in the productions Beauty & the Beast (2018) and the Wizard of Oz (2022). JJ is overjoyed to make his debut with Winnipeg Studio Theatre and thanks the talented cast and crew for this opportunity!



Charlotte Thompson (Mabel)

was born and raised on Treaty 1 territory, growing up in Portage La Prairie. She is a graduate of The Canadian College of Performing Arts, where she received an Enriched Diploma in Performing Arts and the Company C" Studio Ensemble Diploma. At CCPA she came into her own as a triple threat, while learning new disciplines like stage combat, clowning, and devised theatre. Charlotte received further training with The Village Conservatory where she had the privilege of creating her own original work. She has worked across Canada with company's like The Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival and Dry Cold Productions.

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