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**Canadian Broadway Star CHILINA KENNEDY and
Award-Winning Israeli Actor SASSON GABAY
Head the North American Tour of the
Tony® Winning Best Musical THE BAND'S VISIT
That will play Toronto's Ed Mirvish Theatre, **September 17 - October 20, 2019****

"Breaking news for Broadway: IT IS TIME TO FALL IN LOVE AGAIN! One of the most ravishing musicals you will ever be seduced by. It is called **THE BAND'S VISIT**."

– Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*

"BREATHTAKING. A remarkable and boundlessly compassionate and humanistic piece of theater."

– Chris Jones, *Chicago Tribune*

"THE BEST NEW MUSICAL ON BROADWAY! Beautiful music, beautiful story, beautiful acting.

Even in a world overrun with superlatives, "beautiful" is the one you're compelled to use to describe **THE BAND'S VISIT**."

– Peter Marks, *The Washington Post*

**WINNER OF 10 TONY AWARDS – INCLUDING BEST MUSICAL
WINNER OF GRAMMY AWARD FOR BEST MUSICAL THEATER ALBUM**

The Tony® Award-winning producers of **THE BAND'S VISIT** announced [today](#) the leads of the North American touring production of their multi-award-winning musical. Reprising the role of "Tewfiq", which he originated in the 2007 film the musical is based on and then played again in the musical on Broadway, will be award-winning Israeli film actor **Sasson Gabay**. Joining him for the tour in the role of "Dina" is critically acclaimed actress **Chilina Kennedy**, a star of musical theatre both in Canada and on Broadway and famous for her brilliant portrayal of title character in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*.

The Toronto engagement of THE BAND'S VISIT will begin September 17 and play through October 20, 2019 at the Ed Mirvish Theatre. Tickets will go on sale Monday May 27, [mirvish.com](#). THE BAND'S VISIT is the first show in the 2019/20 Mirvish Theatre Subscription Season.

The Israeli star of stage, TV and screen, **Sasson Gabay** recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Israeli cinema at the Israeli Film Festival. Gabay is one of the most respected and outstanding actors in Israeli film with work spanning five decades, including some of Israel's most popular and critically-acclaimed films as well as international hits such as *Rambo III*, *Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem*, *Delta Force One: The Lost Patrol* and *The Band's Visit* (Israel's top-grossing film in the US).

Chilina Kennedy is known for her role as "Carole King" in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* on Broadway. She has starred as "Mary Magdalene" in Des McAnuff's Broadway revival of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and headlined many productions around the world including, the first national tour of *Mamma Mia!*, Atlantic Theater Company's *This Ain't No Disco* and three seasons at the Stratford Festival, including "Maria" in Gary Griffin's *West Side Story*.

"We are honored to have **Sasson Gabay** and **Chilina Kennedy** headline our national tour. In the history of Broadway, I don't believe an actor has ever originated a role on film, played it on Broadway and then continued with the tour. This speaks to Sasson's artistry and his commitment to this particular work." says producer Orin Wolf. "It is also fitting that he will be seen opposite Chilina Kennedy whose world class talent is already known to Broadway fans all over the world. Seeing these two artists together promises to be one of the great theatrical events of the season. How exciting that this has been assembled exclusively for Broadway audiences nationwide who hunger for world class entertainment."

The cast will also include **Jennifer Apple** as "Anna," **Mike Cefalo** as "Telephone Guy," **Adam Gabay** as "Papi," **Marc Ginsburg** as "Sammy," **Kendal Hartse** as "Iris," **Joe Joseph** as "Haled," **Sara Kapner** as "Julia," **Pomme Koch** as "Itzik," **Ronnie Malley** as "Camal," **James Rana** as "Simon," **Or Schraiber** as "Zelger," and **David Studwell** as "Avrum," along with **Danny Burgos**, **Loren Lester**, **Nick Sacks**, **Hannah Shankman** and **Bligh Voth**.

Sasson Gabay and Adam Gabay are appearing with the support of Actors' Equity Association.

"The producers, casting directors, and creative team have spent many months carefully building this cast for our national tour. We are excited and proud to have these wonderful actors take the story of **THE BAND'S VISIT** out into the world," says director David Cromer.

The tour will launch at the Providence Performing Arts Center on [June 25](#), 2019 and continue on to play Washington, DC beginning on [July 9](#), 2019. **THE BAND'S VISIT** will play over 32 cities in its first season including Chicago, Dallas, Boston, and Los Angeles.

About THE BAND'S VISIT

THE BAND'S VISIT tells a delightfully offbeat story, set in a town that's way off the beaten path, a band of musicians arrive lost, out of the blue. Under the spell of the desert sky, and with beautiful music perfuming the air, the band brings the town to life in unexpected and tantalizing ways. Even the briefest visit can stay with you forever.

With a Tony- and Grammy-winning score that seduces your soul and sweeps you off your feet, and featuring thrillingly talented onstage musicians, **THE BAND'S VISIT** rejoices in the way music makes us laugh, makes us cry, and ultimately, brings us together.

THE BAND'S VISIT world premiere opened to critical acclaim at the Atlantic Theater Company on December 8, 2016, where the sold-out, limited engagement extended twice, playing its final performance on [Sunday, January 8, 2017](#). The show then opened at Broadway's Ethel Barrymore Theatre (243 West 47th Street) on [Thursday, November 9, 2017](#), and went on to play 589 regular performance and 36 previews before closing on [April 7, 2019](#). **THE BAND'S VISIT** broke the all-time box office record at Broadway's Barrymore Theatre twice.

With music and lyrics by Tony and Drama Desk Award winner **David Yazbek**, and a book by Tony, NY Drama Critics Circle, Lortel and Outer Critics Circle award winner **Itamar Moses**, **THE BAND'S VISIT** has won "Best Musical" awards from the Tony Awards, Drama League, New York Drama Critics' Circle, the Outer Critics Circle, the Lucille Lortel and the Obies. It is based on the screenplay by **Eran Kolirin**, and is directed by Tony, Drama Desk, Lortel & Obie Award winner **David Cromer**.

The creative team also includes **Patrick McCollum** (Choreography), **Scott Pask** (Set Design), **Sarah Laux** (Costume Design), Tony Award winner **Tyler Micoleau** (Lighting Design), Tony Award winner **Kai Harada** (Sound Design), **Maya Ciarrocchi** (Projection Design), **Charles G. LaPointe** (Hair Designer), Tony Award winner **Jamshied Sharifi** (Orchestrations), **Andrea Grody** (Music Supervisor & Additional Arrangements) and **Dean Sharenow** (Music Supervisor & Music Coordinator).

THE BAND'S VISIT is produced on tour by **Orin Wolf, StylesFour Productions, Evamere Entertainment, Atlantic Theater Company, David F. Schwartz, Barbara Broccoli, Frederick Zollo, Grove•REG, Lassen Blume Baldwin, Thomas Steven Perakos, Marc Platt, The Shubert Organization, The Baruch/Routh/Frankel/Viertel Group, Robert Cole, DeRoy-Carr-Klausner, Federman-Moellenberg, FilmNation Entertainment, Roy Furman, FVSL Theatricals, Hendel-Karmazin, HoriPro Inc., IPN, JAM Theatricals, The John Gore Organization, Koenigsberg-Krauss, David Mirvish, James L. Nederlander, Al Nocciolino, Once Upon A Time Productions, Susan Rose and Paul Shiverick**. The Executive Producers for **THE BAND'S VISIT** are **Allan Williams** and **Seth Wenig**.

THE BAND'S VISIT original Broadway cast album received the 2019 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album. The musical is also the recipient of a 2019 Daytime Emmy Award for a performance of "Answer Me" on NBC's ["Today"](#).

TheBandsVisitMusical.com
[@TheBandsVisit](https://www.instagram.com/TheBandsVisit)

CAST BIOS:

Chilina Kennedy (*Dina*) Broadway: "Carole King" in *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* (over 1000 performances) and "Mary Magdalene" in Des McAnuff's *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Off-Broadway: Originated "Binky" in Stephen Trask and Peter Yanowitz's *This Ain't No Disco* (Atlantic Theater

Company). 1st National Tour: "Sophie" in *Mamma Mia!*. Selected Regional: "Pheobe D'Ysquith" in *A Gentleman's Guide To Love And Murder* (CT and San Diego Critics' Circle Nominations), "Evangeline" in *Evangeline* (original production and album), "Philia" in Des McAnuff's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Toronto/Mirvish), Ross Petty's *Pantomime*, *The Little Mermaid* (Toronto Theatre Critics' Award), three seasons at the Stratford Festival including "Maria" in Gary Griffin's *West Side Story*, three seasons at the Shaw Festival and *The Lord of the Rings* (World Premiere Mirvish/Toronto). Chilina is currently developing a show that she composed and co-wrote with Eric Holmes, *Call It Love*. She is also the Artistic Producer of Toronto's Eclipse Theatre Company.

Sasson Gabay (*Tewfiq*) was born in Baghdad 1947 to a Jewish family, immigrated to Israel at the age of three, and grew up in Haifa. After his military service, he studied theatre and psychology at the Tel Aviv University (B.F.A). Sasson is one of the most prominent and leading actors in Israeli theatre, television and cinema, and has had an exceptionally remarkable career for over forty years. For the last twenty years, Sasson has been the leading actor of the Beit Lessin Theatre company in Tel Aviv, starring in their productions of: *Uncle Vanya*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Rain Man*, *Cyrano de Bergerac* and many other Israeli plays. His career in television embraces all genres: drama, comedy and satire. He has starred in many Israeli series including: "Kastner Trial," "Siton," "Shtisel" and the political satire "Polishuk," for which he won an Israeli Television Academy Award for Best Lead Actor in a Comic Series. Sasson has had an outstanding career in the Israeli cinema, and also participated in films abroad. Some of the highlights include: *Restoration*, *Rambo III*, alongside Sylvester Stallone, *When Pigs Have Wings* and the much acclaimed *The Band's Visit*. Most recently he appeared in, *Hunting Elephants* and *Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem*, directed by Ronit Elkabetz and her brother Shlomi Elkabetz. The latter role earned him an Ophir Award for Best Supporting Actor. Other favorite credits include: *Kidon* and *The Kind Words* by Shemi Zarhin and more. Sasson has been granted awards from the Israeli Academy for Theatre, Israeli Academy for Film and Television, as well as numerous honorary awards and International Film Festival awards. He was exceptionally applauded in Israel and around the world for his role in the film *The Band's Visit*. For his portrayal of "Tewfiq", he won including the European Film Award for Best Actor in Cinema in 2007. He was a member of the international juries at A.P.S.A (Australia) and the Haifa International Film Festival.

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