

Panasonic Theatre

Programme

June 2017





Panasonic Theatre

JAMES SEABRIGHT, KEVIN McCOLLUM,
COREY ROSS/STARVOX AND JULIUS GREEN

by arrangement with
SUZANNA ROSENTHAL FOR SHOWSTOPPER PRODUCTIONS

present

SHOWSTOPPER!

THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL

Created by
ADAM MEGGIDO and DYLAN EMERY

Musical Director
DUNCAN WALSH ATKINS

Set Design
SIMON SCULLION

Sound Design
TOM LISHMAN

Lighting Design
TIM MASCALL

Costume & Prop Design
GABRIELLA SLADE

Performers
RUTH BRATT, JUSTIN BRETT, DYLAN EMERY, PIPPA EVANS,
SUSAN HARRISON, ALI JAMES, SEAN McCANN
ADAM MEGGIDO, ANDREW PUGSLEY, LUCY TRODD

Musicians
CHRIS ASH, ALEX ATTY, JORDAN CLARKE, DUNCAN WALSH ATKINS

Lighting Improviser
DAMIAN ROBERTSON

Company Stage Manager
JENNIFER LEE

Marketing
STARVOX/TWENTY6TWO

Press Representative
DEBORAH KNIGHT PR

General Management
SEABRIGHT PRODUCTIONS

See you at intermission

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INTRODUCING SHOWSTOPPER!

IN 2007, WE WERE PART OF A GROUP WORKING WITH LEGENDARY BRITISH THEATRE maverick Ken Campbell. Ken had just returned from Canada and was so impressed by the quality of improvisation he had seen that he immediately made us dabble in the dark art of making-things-up-on-the-spot.

We went on to create Showstopper! with a troupe of comedians, improvisers, musicians and actors. The aim was to develop a show that felt like a real musical but just happened to be created spontaneously. Not an improv show with songs, but a musical. It launched at the 2008 Edinburgh Fringe and was sold out from day one. We were all very surprised.

As soon as people started to think it wasn't improvised we felt we were doing something right. Over the years, all sorts of crazy conspiracy theories have cropped up about the show. People accused us of using stooges in the audience; thought we were being fed information through earpieces by a team of writers backstage; or believed we only ever performed one rehearsed story, swapping a few references to the setting each night. (All nonsense – and all much more difficult than actually improvising a musical!)

After nine years of touring the UK, regularly returning to the Edinburgh Festival, three West End runs in London, and a series on BBC Radio 4, we are thrilled to bring the show to Canada. We hope you enjoy it and secretly hope you don't think it's improvised. (By the way– it totally is!)

Adam Meggido and Dylan Emery
Creators/directors, *Showstopper!*

THE SHOWSTOPPERS



RUTH BRATT

Ruth has just finished the 4th series of BAFTA-winning show *People Just Do Nothing* (BBC2). She wrote and performed *Trodd En Bratt Say Well Done You* with Lucy Trodd (BBC Radio 4). She is a regular guest with The Comedy Store Players, and is part of The Glenda J Collective. Credits include *Derek* (C4), *Mongrels* (BBC3), and *Man Down* (C4).
@ruthbratt



JUSTIN BRETT

Justin trained at CSSD London. Recent theatre includes: *Johnny Cash in Million Dollar Quartet* (West End); *Blue/Orange* (Best Actor nominee, Manchester Evening News Awards). TV includes: *Peep Show*, *Pulling*, *Eastenders*. Film includes: *War Horse*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *The Fallen*, *Brothers*. Justin also co-runs Duke's Comedy Club.
@thejustinbrett



DYLAN EMERY

Dylan has performed at the National Theatre, Royal Court, Shakespeare's Globe, the Bristol Old Vic and many times at the Edinburgh Fringe as well as chairing the Showstoppers' BBC Radio 4 series. He co-founded comedy outfit Grand Theft Impro, is half of *Ghost Couple* along with Ruth Bratt, is a member of 'hard-bardics' troupe The School of Night and runs TheCrunchyFrogCollective.com, a web site dedicated to improvisation in the UK.
@dylanemery



PIPPA EVANS

Pippa is a comedian, an improviser and the creator of *Improv Your Life!* She has done radio (*The Now Show*, Josh Howie's *Losing It*, *15 Minute Musicals* (all BBC Radio 4)) been on TV (*Drunk History* (Comedy Central), *As Yet Untitled* (Dave), *Tonight at The London Palladium* (ITV1)) and toured her stand-up from Manchester to Melbourne. She has received accolades including Best Newcomer Nominee (Edinburgh Comedy Awards), Best Musical Act (Chortle) and been reviewed as "Little less than a comic genius" (London Telegraph).



SUSAN HARRISON

Susan is an actress, improviser and award-winning character comedian. Credits include *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (West End) *Elephantom* (National Theatre), DNN (CBBC) and *Class Dismissed* (CBBC). She improvises with the UK version of *Monkeytoast* and "BEINGS".
@SueHarrison123



ALI JAMES

Ali most recently played Cathy in the *Last Five Years*. She performs comedy improv with Scared Scriptless. Credits include *Whistle Down the Wind* (West End), *Tell Me On A Sunday* and *Evita*. She has created musicals in the UK with Perfect Pitch and annually joins the London 50 Hour Improvathon. @Ali_James22



SEAN McCANN

Sean has improvised at Shakespeare's Globe (with The School of Night), Royal Court, Soho Theatre, West End and Elsinore Castle Denmark. Also BBC Radio 3 and 4. He is the veteran of 18 Improvathons (multi-day shows without sleep) in London, Bristol, Liverpool, Canada and Ireland, including the Toronto 55 Hour in December 2013–the world's longest-ever long-form. As a director, recent work includes collaborations with *Instant Broadway* (Andre Theatre, Oslo), *Blue* (for Bugiardini, Rome), and both *Singing in the Dark* and *Shakespeare Inedito* (Italy, touring).



ADAM MEGGIDO

Adam recently directed the Olivier-nominated comedy *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (West End and UK tour). He has improvised at The Royal National Theatre, Royal Court, Shakespeare's Globe, BBC TV and radio, with The Society Of Strange, The School Of Night, Ken Campbell and Rhapsodes. He's a world record holder in improvisation (55 hours in Toronto, 2013) and creator of the annual *London 50 Hour Improvathon*. Adam's musical *Burlesque*



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won Best New Musical at the 2012 Offies.
@adammelegido



ANDREW PUGSLEY

Andrew trained in musical theatre at Circle in the Square Theatre School, New York. He's recently been performing internationally with improvised horror show The Society of Strange and improv comedy troupe Panthercannon. Other theatre: *Game Theory* (Tristan Bates); *The Mikado* (Tabard); MC for *Singalong Oliver!* (Royal Festival Hall); *Wind in the Willows* (Brewhouse). Voiceover: *The Prisoner of Zenda* (Naxos). @andrewpugsley



LUCY TRODD

Lucy has performed in 13 improv marathons (including the 53 hour Soap-A-Thon in Edmonton, Alberta).

Originating on the Edinburgh Fringe, Lucy wrote and performed in *Trodd En Bratt Say 'Well Done You'* (now two BBC Radio 4 series). She was a finalist in the Sky/Funny Women awards with her sitcom, *Twitching*. Lucy has started filming on *Lee and Dean* (Channel 4 semi-improvised comedy). Screen credits include: *Tripped*, *Fool Britannia*, *Doctors*, *Fast & Loose*, *Attachments* and *Hot Fuzz*. @lucytrodd

THE MUSICIANS



CHRIS ASH

Chris was awarded Artist of Choice 2016-17 by the Kevin Spacey Foundation. As composer, musical director, sound designer, he has worked with West Yorkshire Playhouse, Soho Theatre, Birmingham Rep, Spitalfields Festival, Trestle Theatre, amongst others. Other improv includes: RFT's *Improvaganza*, *Austentatious*, *Mischief Theatre*, *Society of Strange*, and guest appearances with *i Bugiardini* and *Hip.Bang!*

musician playing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for five years and has toured the world with *Showstopper!* including Hong Kong, Mumbai, New York, Norway and Singapore.



JORDAN CLARKE

Jordan is a composer, musical director and accompanist. Credits as a musician include: *Ragtime* (Bishopgate), *Loserville*

(Union), *London Road* (Bridewell), *Songs for a New World* (Courtyard), *Urinetown* (Shoreditch), and *Bare* (Riverside). He's also been lucky enough to work internationally on numerous revues, cabarets, concerts and showcases.



ALEX ATTY

Alex trained in classical percussion and timpani at the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Alex has performed widely as a professional



DUNCAN WALSH ATKINS

Duncan has been musical director of The Showstoppers since 2009. His other impro credits include the BBC TV series

Fast and Loose and appearances with Mike McShane and Paul Merton. He also coaches musical theatre-based improvisation at classes and workshops around the UK.

Oxford's Pegasus Theatre, and toured Britain with numerous comedy and theatre productions.

JENNIFER LEE

Production Stage Manager

Originally from Alberta, Lee came to Toronto to study dance. While completing her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance from York University she discovered an interest in stage management. Lee has been stage managing and assistant

stage managing for dance, theatre, musical theatre and clown productions for six years. Select companies include, dance: made in canada/fait au canada, Dreamwalker Dance Company, Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre, Foo Productions, Julia Sasso Dances, Kaha:wí Dance Theatre, Mermaid Collective, Native Earth Performing Arts, Nictophobia Films, Potted Productions, ProArte Danza SIP, Signal Theatre, and Toronto Dance Theatre.

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

SIMON SCULLION

Set Design

Simon trained at Wimbledon School of Art and was Theatre Design Finalist for the Linbury Prize. Recent credits include *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (tour), *And Then There Were None* (tour), *Piaf* (Curve), *The Father* (Belgrade Theatre Coventry), *Eric and Little Ern* (Vaudeville and St James), *Potted Sherlock* (Vaudeville), *Murder on the Nile* (UK tour), *Alarms and Excursions* (UK tour), *Peppa Pig Live* (tour), *Lazytown Live!* (tour), *Quartermaine's Terms* (UK tour), *Quartet* (UK tour), *Larkrise* (tour). Simon designed the recent feature film "Bill" featuring the cast of BBC's *Horrible Histories*.

GABRIELLA SLADE

Costume and Prop Design

Gabriella graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with a First class BA (Hons) degree in Theatre Design. Gabriella was nominated for an Off-West End Award for best Costume Design for *In The Heights*, 2015. Gabriella was shortlisted as one of the final 20 candidates for the prestigious The Linbury Prize for Stage Design, 2013. She was also a finalist in the JMK award in association with the Young Vic, 2014. www.gabriellaslade.co.uk

TIM MASCALL

Lighting Design

Previous credits at the Panasonic include: *Without You*, *Potted Potter*, *Julie Madly Deeply*, *Boy With Tape On His Face* and *Upside Downton*. Other credits include *Lionboy* (Complicite) *The Truth, My Fair Lady*, *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf*, *A Little Night Music* (Central Theatre, Budapest), *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Kill Jonny Glendening*, *A Taste Of Honey*, *Union*, *Jumpy* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh) *Cunning Little Vixen* (Garsington Opera) *Aida* (Opera Holland Park) *The Gamblers*, *Peter Grimes* (Royal Festival Hall, London). West End credits include: *Why The Whales Came*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Well*, *Ruby Wax: Losing It*, *Derren Brown: Enigma*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, *Infamous* and *Miracle*.

DAMIAN ROBERTSON

Lighting Improviser

Damian has been Showstopper's lead technician since 2011, operating lights on tour, at five Edinburgh Fringes and its West End shows at the Apollo and Lyric Theatre. Other improv groups he has teched include *Austentatious*, *Lights Camera Improvise* (Mischievous Theatre), *School of Night*, *The Society of Strange*, and London's annual 50 hour Improvathons. He has also worked in-house at Newbury Corn Exchange and

PRODUCERS

JAMES SEABRIGHT

Producer and General Manager

James Seabright is a London based producer and won the Olivier Award for the West End season of *Showstopper! The Improvised Musical*. At the Panasonic, he has previously produced *Potted Potter* (three seasons), *Upside Downton*, *Julie Madly Deeply* and *The Boy With Tape On His Face*. James is chairman of London's renowned King's Head Theatre, and sits on the board of the League of Independent Producers.

KEVIN MCCOLLUM

Producer

Kevin has received three Tony Awards for Best Musical for *In the Heights* (2008), *Avenue Q* (2004), and *Rent* (1996), which was also awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. He also produced Canada's own Broadway hit *The Drowsy Chaperone* (2006, winner of 5 Tonys), and most recently the Tony-nominated shows *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Hand To God*, *Something Rotten!*, and *Motown the Musical*. He is proud to have collaborated with Canadian artists including Jacob Richmond and Brooke

Maxwell (*Ride The Cyclone*) and Rebecca Northan (*Blind Date*). *Something Rotten!* and *Motown the Musical* are currently touring America, and *Motown* can also be seen on London's West End.

COREY ROSS

Producer

Corey Ross founded Starvox Entertainment, which produces, manages, represents and promotes cross-over performing arts shows that tour across Canada and the United States, as well as México, China, the Middle East and Europe. Titles include *Potted Potter*, *Evil Dead*, *Disenchanted* and *Hair*.

JULIUS GREEN

Producer

Julius Green has produced and managed productions in the West End, on Broadway and on tour in the UK, America, Asia and throughout Europe. He has served on the Board of Management of the Society of London Theatre (SOLT) and the Board of Directors of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, is a Director of the Academy of Circus Arts and is Creative Director of *Cirque Berserk*.

SUZANNA ROSENTHAL

General Manager for Showstopper Productions

Suzanna is managing director of Something for the Weekend – in-house general managers and promoters for The Showstoppers – and Meadow Rosenthal Ltd. Productions/co-productions include

J.B. Priestley's *When We Are Married* (West End), R.C. Sherriff's *Journey's End* (West End), *Everything is Illuminated* (Hampstead) and *An Evening with Sir Roger Moore* (five UK tours & Royal Festival Hall). She is also founding producer of London's Free Open-Air Theatre Season on London's south bank.

CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FOR SHOWSTOPPER! THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL

SEABRIGHT PRODUCTIONS LTD

Producer JAMES SEABRIGHT
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Administrator RICHARD PORTMAN-SMITH
Assistant Producer LUCY GRUDNIEWICZ
(Stage One Trainee Producer)
Press Associate SUSIE SAFAVI

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LUCAS McMAHON

JACK EIDSON EMMA HORWITZ DARNETHA M'BAYE
THOMAS SCHERMERHORN JESSICA TROY

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Marketing Director CARLA SELZER
Associate Producer JESSICA JOHNSTON

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General Manager MADELINE ESPINOZA
Production & Marketing Assistant RHIANNON MORRIS

The producers would like to thank Mark Lavaway, Chris Prideaux and all at Mirvish Productions, everyone at the Panasonic Theatre, and Colin Mochrie.

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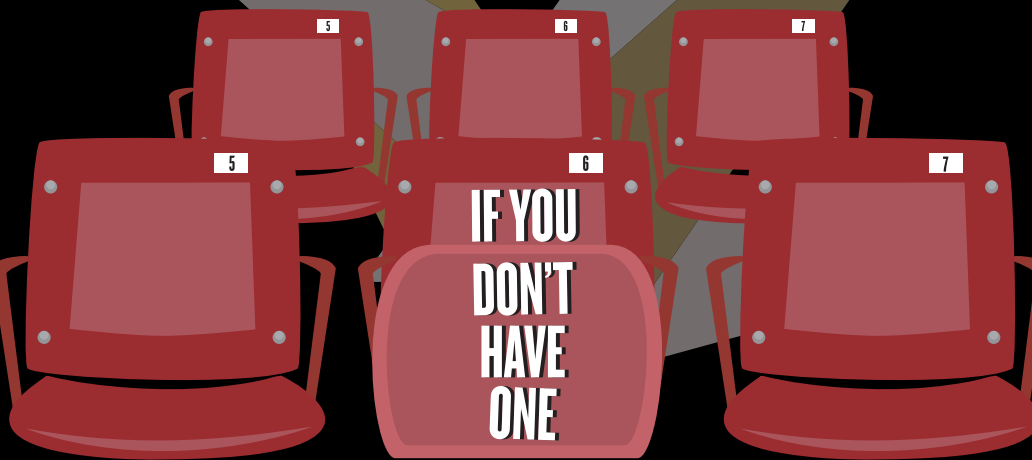
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