Get ready to visit “The Rock” and feel the compassion, music and laughter of COME FROM AWAY! This issue of the Subscriber newsletter will bring you up to speed with the show since it departed Toronto in January, let you know who’s in the cast of the Canadian production and how you can get your hands on additional tickets (we recommend buying early!).

Your COME FROM AWAY tickets have been sent separately to give you the first opportunity to exchange your tickets and purchase additional tickets before the general public at the end of September. The remainder of your season tickets will be sent at a later date.

Please make sure you have received your tickets for COME FROM AWAY and make note of the date and time of your performance. If you requested print @ home tickets, check your inbox and print your tickets before coming to the theatre. If you require a change to the date of your performance, please call Mirvish Subscriptions and enjoy the benefit of free ticket exchange.

Performances Begin February 13, 2018
Royal Alexandra Theatre
Running Time: 100 minutes, no intermission

Original Toronto Cast photos by Matthew Murphy
We are pleased to announce the Canadian cast of the Tony Award®-winning production of

COME FROM AWAY

A NEW MUSICAL

Book, Music and Lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein
Directed by Christopher Ashley

THE CANADIAN CAST FEATURES

Saccha Dennis, Steffi Didomenicantonio, Barbara Fulton, Lisa Horner, James Kall, George Masswohl, Ali Momen, Jack Noseworthy, Cory O’Brien, Kristen Peace, Eliza-Jane Scott, Kevin Vidal, Susan Dunstan, Kate Etienne, Amir Haidar, Jeff Madden, David Silvestri, and Cailin Stadnyk

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO INSPIRED THE CHARACTERS OF COME FROM AWAY

The characters in the musical COME FROM AWAY are composite characters based on the experiences of real people and actual events of September 11 through September 15, 2001.

In 2011, on the 10th anniversary of 9/11, COME FROM AWAY creators David Hein and Irene Sankoff traveled to Gander and recorded hours of interviews with local citizens and “come from aways”.

Those interviews became the seeds of David and Irene’s stunning, critically-acclaimed musical. Read on to find out more about the real people who inspired the show.

**CLAUDE**

Claude Elliott was elected mayor of Gander in 1996 and continues in that post today. Like he does in COME FROM AWAY, Mayor Elliott starts his days by going down to the Tim Horton’s in town to keep in touch with the townspeople—and he really was fighting with school bus drivers who came off the picket lines in order to help transport the thousands of passengers who arrived in town on 9/11. He was instrumental in orchestrating all the efforts across Gander and the rest of Newfoundland throughout the week.

**BONNIE**

Bonnie Harris was the manager of the animal shelter in Gander and had worked at the local chapter of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for five years. Harris was the first to ask officials to look at the plane manifests to see how many animals were on board, and on September 12, she and two other women from the SPCA, Vi Tucker and Linda Humby, were the first to venture into the holds of the stranded planes to assist those animals.

It took the women 10 hours in cramped, unsanitary conditions to visit all the animals in all the planes—including one epileptic cat with a pill strapped to its crate and, yes, two rare Bonobo apes. Eventually officials were convinced to allow them to move the animals to the hangar where they could be cared for. Local veterinarian Doug “Doc” Tweedie, also helped
care for the animals.

Luckily for the women, the two rare apes had a handler who tended them.

**BEULAH AND HANNAH**

Beulah Cooper was the Treasurer of the ladies’ auxiliary for the Royal Canadian Legion in Gander on 9/11 and she served the “COME FROM AWAY” guests at the Legion hall when they arrived.

Hannah O’Rourke’s husband, Dennis, took Beulah up on her offer of a shower, but Hannah wouldn’t leave the phone in the Legion hall. Hannah and Dennis’s son, Kevin, was a fire fighter in Brooklyn—just across the bridge from Manhattan and the twin towers—and he was missing on 9/11. Hannah felt that if she stepped away from the phone, even for a minute, she might miss the call.

Just like in the musical COME FROM AWAY, Beulah did her best to comfort Hannah by telling her bad jokes. Beulah could empathize with Hannah, because her own son was a volunteer fire fighter in Gander. The two women formed a friendship that continues to this day.

**OZ**

In 2001, Oz Fudge was one of two town constables in Gander. While the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (the so-called “Mounties”) handled major criminal investigations, Fudge handled community-oriented enforcement, including traffic tickets, public disorderliness and the like.

Throughout the week after September 11, Fudge responded to any and all needs of the passengers, just as he does in COME FROM AWAY.

**BEVERLEY**

Beverley Bass was the third female commercial airline pilot hired by American Airlines in 1976, and went on to become the very first female captain in 1986. Bass co-founded the International Society of Women Airline Pilots a few years after she was hired—which today has hundreds of members from all over the world—and served for 16 years as a Check Airman (the position on the flight team that performs the pre-flight checks). Bass retired in 2008, after a career that spanned 32 years.

And, as she says in the signature song, “Me and the Sky,” she really did get her start earning $5 per hour flying dead bodies for a mortician in Fort Worth, Texas. She was 21 years old at the time.

**NICK AND DIANE**

The chaos of September 11 in Gander gave two people with very different lives the chance to come together and find love. Just as happens in COME FROM AWAY, Nick and Diane were really on the same plane from London to Dallas. Diane was flying home to Dallas and Nick, an Englishman who worked in the oil industry, was traveling to Texas for business.

They and fellow passengers stayed at the Society of United Fishermen Hall in the small town of Gambo, about 30 miles outside of Gander. During the four days they were stuck in Newfoundland they became friends, went sightseeing around the island, and of course, participated in a “screech in” ceremony.

**THE KEVINS**

The gay couple who befriends Nick and Diane in COME FROM AWAY are also based on real people. Kevin Tuerff and his partner (also named Kevin) were traveling back to Texas, where Tuerff was CEO and co-founder of Enviromedia, an environmentally and socially conscious marketing firm.

Tuerff was so inspired by the compassion and kindness he experienced in Newfoundland that the following year on the anniversary—and every year since—he has sent his employees out onto the streets of Austin in pairs, armed with $100 and instructions to do good deeds for strangers. Today, that initiative has become the Pay-It-Forward 9/11 foundation, which encourages people everywhere to remember the generosity of the people of Newfoundland by doing three good deeds on September 11.

Heather Hoagland is former Exhibitions and Collections Manager for Ford’s Theatre Society. She holds an M.A. in Museum Studies from The George Washington University.
WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING WITH COME FROM AWAY SINCE IT LEFT TORONTO?

After its sold out run at the Royal Alexandra Theatre this past season and opening on Broadway in the spring, COME FROM AWAY has seen tremendous success with numerous award nominations and wins, a visit by the Prime Minister and the announcement of a North American tour. Here is a time-line of what has happened with the show since departing Toronto in January.

JANUARY 8, 2017
Final Performance in Toronto

FEBRUARY 18, 2017
New York, New York!
First preview performance at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre on Broadway!

MARCH 10, 2017
Listen to the Tunes!
Broadway cast recording released featuring the original Toronto cast!

MARCH 12, 2017
Opens on Broadway

MARCH 15, 2017
Trudeau Watches New York Performance
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks to a surprised cast and audience before watching the performance.

MAY 15, 2017
Helen Hayes Awards
Winner!
Outstanding Direction, Musical
Outstanding Production, Musical
Outstanding Ensemble in a Musical
Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical

MAY 29, 2017
North American Tour Announced!
Touring production set to launch in Seattle in 2018.

MAY 25, 2017
Outer Critics Circle Awards
Winner!
Outstanding New Broadway Musical
Outstanding Book of a Musical
Outstanding Director of a Musical
Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical
Outstanding Sound Design

JUNE 4, 2017
Drama Desk Awards
Winner!
Outstanding Musical
Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical
Outstanding Book of a Musical

JUNE 11, 2017
Tony® Awards
Winner!
Best Direction of a Musical

JUNE 27, 2017
Dora Awards
Winner!
Outstanding Production
Outstanding New Musical
Outstanding Performance

FEBRUARY 13, 2018
Returns to Toronto!
Welcome to the Rock
The show’s rousing opening number, led by Gander Mayor Claude Elliott, introduces us to the town’s resilient residents and what they were doing on that fateful day in September 2001—and to “the Rock,” Newfoundland itself.

DARKNESS AND TREES
This ominous number captures the trepidation of the passengers—still unaware of what has happened—as they’re shuttled from the airport to the town in the middle of the night. Somehow, there’s humour amid the gloom, particularly when they discover the biggest threat in Newfoundland is a moose in the road.

SCREECH IN
Drinking song no. 2. The Newfoundlanders put on a raucous dance party for the “plane people,” complete with traditional screech-swigging and cod-kissing—an occasion for Sankoff and Hein to indulge in some classic Newfoundland folk à la Great Big Sea.

ME AND THE SKY
It’s perhaps the show’s most moving and memorable number, superbly performed by Jenn Colella (Original Toronto Cast) as Beverley. She shares her love of flying and the trajectory that led her to become American Airlines’ first female captain. The song’s ironic final twist will leave a lump in your throat.

SOMEBODY IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE/ SOMETHING’S MISSING
The exhilarating farewell song “Somewhere in the Middle of Nowhere”—sung as the plane people finally take to the skies again after five days in Gander.

IT’S WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR!
EXTRA TICKETS FOR COME FROM AWAY!

Mirvish Subscribers can now purchase extra tickets to COME FROM AWAY for performances from February 13 – May 6, 2018.

Make sure to book early! COME FROM AWAY is in high demand and prices may go up and seating will become limited.

TUE/WED/THU/FRI 8 PM
Subscribers Pay
$119 | $99 | $89 | $69
Premium Seats: $150

WED 1:30 PM
Subscribers Pay
$109 | $89 | $79 | $59
Premium Seats: $135

SAT 2 & 8 PM & SUN 2 PM
Subscribers Pay
$139 | $115 | $95 | $69
Premium Seats: $175

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The Broadway cast recording is available for purchase and digital download where music is sold.

recently published their list of the best songs from COME FROM AWAY

Excerpts from the original article published in Toronto Life on March 30, 2017. By Martin Morrow.
COMING TO THE THEATRE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS IS THE BEST WAY TO ENJOY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

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