



FEBRUARY 14-16 & 20-23, 2008
CULBRETH THEATRE • 8:00 PM



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

DRAMA

<http://www.virginia.edu/drama>

DEPARTMENT OF
DRAMA
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

presents

songs for a new world

Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

Directed by **Doug Schneider**

Musical Direction by **Greg Harris**

Choreography by **Boomie Pedersen**

Vocal Direction by **Doug Schneider**

Scenic Design by **Tom Bloom**

Costume Design by **Rachael Pickering**

Lighting Design by **R. Lee Kennedy**

Sound Design by **Kyle Gettleman**

Technical Direction by **Amber Blanks**

Production Stage Management by **Molly Coyle**

Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre, New York City, 1995
(Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)

Original Orchestration by Brian Besterman and Jason Robert Brown

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre
International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684

www.MTIShows.com

THE ENSEMBLE

Elizabeth Baxa
Kate Brennan
Myles Glancy
D.J. Lick
Jenna Pastuszek
Nathan Rogers
Lexi Witman

BAND

Dan Buckman (Drums)
Joe Bunts (Bass)
Greg Harris (Musical Director/Keyboard)
Sarah Nalls (Keyboard)

Act I

Opening—The New World Company
On the Deck of a Spanish Sailing Ship, 1492 . . . Myles, Nathan, D.J., Company
Just One Step Kate
I’m Not Afraid Jenna
The River Won’t Flow D.J., Nathan, Myles, Company
Transition—To “Stars and the Moon” Elizabeth
Stars and the Moon. Lexi
She Cries D.J., Myles
The Steam Train. Nathan, Company

Act II

The World was Dancing. Myles, Elizabeth, Company
Surabaya Santa Kate
Christmas Lullaby Elizabeth
King of the World Nathan
I’d Give it all for You D.J., Jenna
Transition—Into “The Flagmaker, 1775” Myles
The Flagmaker, 1775 Lexi, Elizabeth, Kate, Jenna
Flying Home D.J., Nathan, Company
Final Transition—The New World Company
Hear My Song Company

There will be one 15-minute Intermission.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I had been hearing this title periodically ever since I first heard Audra McDonald sing "Stars and The Moon" on her first solo album some years back. And like so many, I fell in love with that song and her amazing interpretation of it. And then a few voice students in past years wanted to work on songs from another Jason Robert Brown show called *The Last Five Years* and I liked those songs as well. And then as the time went on I heard a few more Jason Robert Brown songs, especially when I taught Drama 345 and 545. The accompanist for the class, Nate Patten, and I used to laugh because we said you could always tell a Jason Robert Brown song -- he's got a sound that is uniquely his own. And I liked all of the songs I heard and saw performed -- there was something warm and lush and theatrical in every one of them -- they always told an interesting, compelling story. And created such interesting and vibrant characters. But I had never listened to the entire cast album of *Songs For A New World* until I was asked to direct it. And after one listening I was completely hooked.

And found the prospect of directing this seemingly random piece of cabaret/theatre -- on the surface, more a revue than a musical -- both thrilling and daunting. How were these songs connected? Are they? Who are these people and why should we care about them? What is the point of the show as a whole? Is there one? How do I take a 4-person show and expand it to a 7-person cast and still make it intimate, heartfelt and relevant? And on such a large stage? In a word, oy!

Now a musical with no book or discernable story is not unusual. It's been done quite often and quite successfully. Think JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN PARIS.... truly one of the best of that ilk. I personally love musicals like that. They allow the singer to shine and to create a world out of each song. The songs themselves become miniature plays. A great song should be a great story.

A very young Jason Robert Brown -- he was only in his early 20's when he started writing these songs -- set out to do just that. He wanted to tell a story in each song that allowed the listener be a part of the struggles, the joys, the trials, the disappointments, and the euphoria of the character or characters telling the story. And he wanted it to be universal -- something to which we all can relate. He and his collaborator, director Daisy Prince, wanted the piece to be of a whole -- to tell a story of sorts, without actually writing a script. The songs would do that.

Songs For A New World is about exactly what it says: "one moment -- one second -- the moment before it all becomes clear". And it is about the journey we take to find that clarity and the times that we miss it and the times we succeed. It is the journey of a lifetime -- our lifetimes. No one is exempt from the struggle, from the pain, from the revelation, from the enlightenment. The journey can be rough and it can be dangerous -- but it can be brilliant and full of wonder -- and ultimately just amazing -- a precious gift. And at every turn, we make a choice and that is what keeps us moving on. We have no choice but to move on, and it is the choices we make that define our journey. Every choice leads us to a new discovery -- a new world.

In creating this wonderful production I have been blessed to work with the amazing Tom Bloom, Lee Kennedy, Rachael Pickering, Kyle Gettelman, Josh Burns, Cody Schindeldecker, Amber Blanks, Becca Foster, Steven Warner, Nate Wheldon, Adam Smith and Caitlin McLeod. They have tirelessly listened to my ideas, ramblings and half-formed ideas and helped me conceive a magical world in which this story can be experienced. And the team of stage managers, Russ Hicks and Kaitlin Carroll, headed by the incomparable Molly Coyle, kept the cast, crew -- and me -- on track. My dear friend and constant colleague of over 12 years, Greg Harris, and this wonderful band breathe beautiful life into this extraordinary score. And the truly remarkable and seemingly indefatigable Boomie Pedersen – with whom I have worked on countless wonderful projects -- brought so many of my concepts magically to seamless physical life – and only enhanced what was in the music and lyrics -- and what was in my head! She is my theatrical soul mate and I am honored to be her friend. And of course I had a dream cast: Elizabeth Baxa, Kate Brennan, Myles Glancy, D.J. Lick, Jenna Pastuszek, Nathan Rogers, and Lexi Witman – who brought love, commitment, joy, intelligence, heart and gorgeous singing to every moment of our time together. There are no words great enough to tell you what you all mean to me and what you have brought to my life.

So, now we give you *Songs For A New World*. Thank you for being here. It is a journey I hope you never forget.

Doug Schneider

WHO'S WHO IN SONGS

Elizabeth Baxa (3rd Year English/History): *Hair* (U.Va. Drama); *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Pippin*, *Once Upon a Mattress* (FYP); *Children of Eden*, *A Chorus Line*, *Grease!*, *The Secret Garden*, *Jake's Women*, *Our Town* (TPS). Thanks so much to the cast and crew. For the Grandmas.

Amber Blanks (4th year Drama): *Waiting for the Parade* (U.Va., Technical Director); *The African Company Presents Richard III*, *Hair* (U.Va., Assistant Technical Director)

Tom Bloom (Associate Professor, Scenic Design): *Ubu Roi* (with Rachel Witt and Dorothy Shepard), *The African Company Presents Richard III*, *Luminosity*, *Truth and Beauty*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (U.Va.); *Enchanted April*, *Nonsense*, *Lettice and Loveage*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Ragtime*, *Sweeney Todd* (Heritage Repertory Theatre). Chair, Department of Drama

Kate Brennan (3rd year Acting MFA Candidate): *Hedda Gabler*, *Hair*, *Arms & The Man*, *Truth & Beauty* (U.Va.); *Sunday in the Park with George* (HRT); *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, *Alpha Female*, *Angels in America* (BCKSEET Productions); *Yank!* (PGLTF - premiere); *A Year with Frog & Toad*, *Tooth & Claw* (Arden Theatre Co.); *Annie Warbucks* (Walnut Street Theatre) Thanks, Mom, Dad & Greg.

Molly Coyle (4th Year Drama/English): *Truth & Beauty* PSM (U.Va.); *Till We Have Faces* PSM (Lab Series); *A Number* PSM (Independent Student Project); *Arms & the Man* Run Crew (U.Va.)

Kyle Kevin Gettelman (3rd Year Technical Direction MFA Candidate): Sound Design: *Twelfth Night* (U.Va. Drama) Technical Direction: *Sound of Music*, *La Boheme* (Ash Lawn Opera Festival); *Defying Gravity*, *Scapin*, *The African Company Presents Richard III*, *Ubu Roi* (U.Va. Drama); *Enchanted April* (Heritage Repertory Theatre)

Myles K Glancy (4th year Psychology/Distinguished Music): *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (U.Va. FYP, Vocal Director); *Sound of Music*, *Noye's Fludde* (Ash Lawn Opera Festival, Cast/Project Coordinator); *Godspell* (Barksdale Theater); *Working*, *Joseph & the...*, *Pippin*, *Guys & Dolls* (Mills E. Godwin HS)

Greg Harris (Music Director) Founder and Artistic Director of New Lyric Theatre, has been Musical Director at Heritage Repertory Theatre, U.Va. Drama Department, Live Arts, Four County Players, New Lyric Theatre, and many others.

DJ Lick (3rd year American Studies/Psychology): *Gypsy*, *West Side Story*, *Oklahoma*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Music Man* (Riverside Center for the Arts); *The Fantasticks* (Spectrum Theater); *Pippin*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (FYP)

R. Lee Kennedy (Associate Professor, Lighting Design): *The Audience*, *First Lady Suite*, *Normal* (off-Broadway); *Julius Caesar*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Pericles* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); *Metamorphoses*, *Grapes of Wrath* (LiveArts); *Ragtime*, *The Spitfire Grill* (HRT); *The Secret Garden*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Once on this Island* (National Tours)

Jenna Pastuszek (3rd year Elementary Ed/History): *Pippin* (FYP), U.Va. *Sil'hoettes*, *The Music Man*, *Cinderella*, *Hello Dolly*, *Oklahoma*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Anything Goes* (Players Club of Swarthmore) Thanks to everyone for their love and support, and for being here tonight!

Boomie Pedersen (Choreographer): *Three Tall Women*, *Buried Child*, *Play About the Baby*, *The Underpants* (Live Arts, Director), *The Wild Party* (Live Arts, Choreographer), *Shadow of Honor* (Wintergreen Performing Arts, Director), *Martha* (*Virginia Woolf*), *Golde* (*Fiddler on the Roof*), *Sarah Jane Moore* (*Assassins*), *Margrette* (*Copenhagen*), *Melissa Gardner* (*Love Letters*), *Sonya* (*Uncle Vanya*), *Anna* (*Old Times*). Currently Co-Artistic Director, Hamner Theater, Nelson County.

Rachael Pickering (Education Support Specialist): Assistant Designer: *Oedipus*, *12th Night* (U.Va.); Designer: *And Miss Reardon Drinks A Little* (U.Va.)

Nathan Rogers (3rd year Biology): *Cabaret*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* Musical Director, Cast (FYP); *Kiss Me Kate* (Riverside Center for the Arts)

Doug Schneider (Director): *A Shadow of Honor* (Wintergreen Music Festival), *Uncle Vanya* (Hamner Theater), *Love Letters* (Hamner Theater), *Ragtime* (Heritage)

Repertory), *Copenhagen* (Live Arts), *The Underpants* (Live Arts), *Gypsy* (Heritage Repertory), *Falsettos* (Live Arts), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Live Arts), *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, HMS Picafore (New Lyric Theater), *Once on this Island* and *The Wild Party* (Director-Live Arts), Member Actor's Equity (AEA), Adjunct Faculty—U.Va. Drama 2005-2007, “BEST OF C-VILLE”—Best Actor 2007.

Lexi Witman (4th year French/Foreign Affairs): *Godspell* (FYP); U.Va. Sil'hooettes; *Gypsy*, *Evita* (Marshall Theatre); *Joseph and the...*, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch...* (St. Peter's Theatre)

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Manager Russ Hicks
 Assistant Stage Manager Kaitlin Caroll
 Department Technical Director Steven Warner
 Assistant Tech Director Steven Warner
 Scene Shop Foreman David Hale
 Scene Shop Staff Kyle Gettleman, Rebecca Foster, David Mims,
 Libby Majette, Adam Smith, Nate Whelden, Amy Desjadon,
 Drama 223 Students
 Props Artisans Olga Zeveleva
 Paint/Props Lisi Stoessel, Rachel Witt, Evva Gandy
 Assistant Costume Designer Josh Burns
 Costume Shop Manager Joshua Bond
 Wardrobe Supervisor Rachel Schuldenfrei
 Stitchers Brittney Belz, Rachel Schuldenfrei
 Faculty Costume Technology Advisor Marcy Linton
 Costume Shop Assistants Sharon Crews, Brittney Mobley,
 Allie Liddi, Drama 231
 Assistant Lighting Designer Cody Schindeldecker
 Master Electrician Ryan Bauer
 Light Board Operator Nate Whelden
 Lighting Hang and Focus Crew Ryan Logue, Alice Jackson,
 Tim Freeman, Katherine Pfister, Teresa Wood, Danny Cackley, Justin
 Freshwater, Michaela Rothschild, Paul Perschied, Rob Froetscher
 Sound System Engineer Mike Benonis
 Sound Board Operator Harrison Gibbons
 Business Manager James Scales
 Asst. Business Manager Jenny Mays
 Box Office Manager Molly Coyle

Box Office Staff Suzanne Casey, Julia Debo, Sarah Edwards,
Harrison Gibbons, Russ Hicks, Caroline Pugliese,
Becca Thompson, Yasminca Wilson
House Managers Portia Henry, Sarah Morgan
Concessions Managers Tanzima Chowdhury, Portia Henry, Samantha Kott
Front of House Staff Ashley Boney, Jessica Siling Deng, Vashti Harrison,
Cindy Li, Ezekiel Tan, Jeannette Williams, Leatrice Woods
Video Engineer Nate Whelden
Rehearsal Accompanists Alice Layman, Ran Lee, Sarah Nalls
Publicity Assistant Alexander Keevil
Production Coordinator Caitlin McLeod

SPECIAL THANKS
Ran Lee, Kim Whitman



FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

1. **CONCESSIONS** are on sale in the lobby before the show and at intermission. Please, no food or drinks in the theatre.
2. **SEATING.** As a courtesy to the other patrons and the performers, latecomers will be admitted at the discretion of the house manager.
3. **CELL PHONES AND WRISTWATCH ALARMS** can be very distracting to the audience and actors alike. Please turn yours off!
4. **PHOTOGRAPHIC AND RECORDING** devices are strictly prohibited in the theatre.
5. **EMERGENCY EXIT.** In case of emergency, patrons are requested to evacuate the theatre in a calm and orderly fashion. Please take a moment before the show begins to note your nearest exit. In the Culbreth Theatre, exits are located on both sides of the auditorium as well as at the rear. In the Helms Theatre, a second exit is located opposite the main entrance.