

THE LONDON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

and

THE CREATORS

Present

PERFECT WORLD



Book by Alan Edmunds
Music by Richard Winzeler
Lyrics by Alan Edmunds & Richard Winzeler

PALACE THEATRE

LONDON COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENT
Our 2022/23 Post-Covid Season

Halfway There

by Norm Foster

September 15—25, 2022

Finding Hyde

By Sean Brennan

October 20—30, 2022

Cinderella

By Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

November 24—December 4, 2022

Speed Dating for Sperm Donors

By Natalie Meisner

January 19—29, 2023

The Black Bonspiel of Willie MacCrimmon

By W. O. Mitchell

February 16—26, 2023

The Donnellys

By Peter Colley

May 4—14, 2023

Shows subject to change



The
London Community Players
and the Creators
are proud to present

Perfect World

Book by Alan Edmunds

Music by Richard Winzeler

**Lyrics by Alan Edmunds
and Richard Winzeler**

Director

Mark Mooney

Musical Director

Marque Smith

We acknowledge that this is sacred land upon which we are privileged to live and work. We recognize the deep connection and the long-standing relationship between Indigenous peoples and the land of Southwest Ontario and of London. The land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee and Lunaapeewak peoples who have longstanding relationships to the land, water and resources of this area.

The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee-Delaware Nation. We recognize our role in honouring the treaties and contributing towards the Calls to Action brought forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

LIBRETTIST'S NOTES Did you ever have that experience where you get a crazy idea and it suddenly takes over your whole life? I was researching Barbara Follett at Columbia University in 2010. Standing on the subway platform to see La Cage aux Folles on Broadway, that crazy idea exploded. I couldn't get to my seat fast enough. I scrawled a rough draft of PERFECT WORLD on my knee while the 35-minute ride downtown passed in the blink of an eye. That night, I watched La Cage aux Folles but I was thinking Perfect World. We did table readings (2011/2013) but due to life circumstances, not much else happened. Finding a truly good composer is not easy, but in 2017 Richard agreed, and we were off. Whether we worked in St. Thomas or Santa Barbara, the show always came first. That meant ignoring some wacky ideas, talking stuff out until the wee hours, editing like crazy, and discarding songs and scenes we initially thought were gems. Good food, gym sessions, friendship and our warm camaraderie enhanced that single-mindedness. A table reading in California (2019) and much input from experts has brought us to this point. They say you never really write a musical, you merely rewrite until it works. We look forward to seeing how well it works.

Alan Edmunds

COMPOSER'S NOTES As a composer/lyricist, I tried to capture the energy and emotion of both the specific scene and how the characters are revealed in the moment. Rather than start with an overall vision of style, I tried to trust that the narrative would dictate style and substance, believing that the score would emerge. After listening to and studying all the classic and current musicals, I hope that the songs are effective and especially memorable, blending both traditional and pop sensibilities. The score was composed orchestrally, but even in its barest form, hopefully the power of melody, harmony and lyrics comes through. I was especially moved by Barbara's journey and the relevance of her story almost one hundred years later. Times change, but the human challenges remain the same, but with a possible greater urgency.

Richard Winzeler

Director's Notes: I love musicals – especially musicals about the lives of artists trying to realize their craft – theatre classics like *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Man of La Mancha* and *Mack and Mabel* and more recent hits like *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* or *Tick, Tick, Boom* spring to mind. Getting the opportunity to help with the development of this show was a joy and a challenge I was proud to accept. A piece of theatre does not magically appear in its final perfect form for its audiences to rave about. It takes writing, rewriting, readings, workshops, trial runs and so on. Scenes and songs get added, deleted, reworked.

The famous composer Richard Rodgers (of Rodgers and Hammerstein fame) had a melody that he first wrote for a cowboy (*Oklahoma*), cut it and tried it again for a soldier (*South Pacific*), cut it again, tried it in more musicals until he and his partner found the right place for it: *The Sound of Music*. The melody was used for the song, *I Am Sixteen, Going on Seventeen*. For musical fans now going crazy trying to think of the song that replaced it in those other musicals: I'm sorry. And you're welcome.

The point is: musicals need to be tried out – to be seen and heard. This performance was originally just supposed to be a seated reading of the script and songs. I felt that to get a better idea of the flow of the show we needed to inject some theatricality to eliminate the reading of stage directions and set descriptions. You, the audience, would only get to hear the spoken words and songs in a fully realized and staged production; everything else is something visual (sets, costumes, props, etc.) that fills in the details for your imagination.

We have a committed and talented cast of community theatre creators who have accepted the task to present this story for you today. I hope you will appreciate our efforts and look forward to your thoughts after the performance.

Mark Mooney

Musical Director's Notes I am very honoured to be part of this phenomenal project. This new musical is based on a true story of a woman whose goal was for all those to have a harmonious life. Alan Edmunds (writer) and Richard Winzeler (lyricist and composer) have created something so beautiful. The cast and crew have been absolutely amazing and I have enjoyed collaborating with them all. May this production aspire and inspire. Please share the beauty and bounty of Barbara Follett who is a constant reminder to be a beacon. Warmest and wonderful wishes to all.

Marque Smith

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

“We Are Told/What If?”	Ensemble/Barbara
“Words”	Young Barbara/Barbara/Ensemble
“Lost”	Helen/Ensemble
“Typewriter”	Young Barbara/Sophie/Young Anne
“Perfect World”	Young Barbara/Sophie
“Farksoo”	Young Barbara/Sophie
“Imaginary Friend”	Sophie/Young Barbara
“The Story Is Here”	Sophie/Young Barbara
“Partnership”	Young Barbara/Wilson
“She Always Runs to Him”	Helen
“Over The Moon”	Young Barbara/Helen/Wilson/Sophie
“Dreams You Have to Pass On”	Wilson
“Partnership - Reprise”	Young Barbara
“Just When/It’s Up to Me Now”	Young Barbara/Barbara

ACT TWO

“The Nautical Life”	Barbara/Anne/Ensemble
“There’s Gotta Be Rain”	Anderson
“There’s Gotta Be Rain - Reprise”	Barbara
“Do I Dare?”	Anderson/Barbara
“Where is my Rainbow?”	Barbara
“Somewhere Down the Road”	Helen/Wilson
“An Adventure”	Barbara/Nick
“Do I Dare? - Reprise”	Barbara
“Where Do Birds Go?”	Barbara
“So Many Stories”	Captain Stahl
“A Most Extraordinary Person”	Ensemble
“Perfect World - Epilogue”	Sophie/Barbara

RUN TIME IS APPROXIMATELY 120 MINUTES

THERE WILL BE ONE 20 MINUTE INTERMISSION

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS ON ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

CAST

Narrator	Stephanie Simonetta
Young Barbara	Miraya Agrawal, Marley Slaght
Barbara	Nicola Klein
Helen	Becca Zadorsky
Wilson	Joel Dell
Sargent Brown, Radio Announcer 2	Michael Heath
Captain Stahl	Don Craig
Sophie	Jiya Agrawal, Marina Kriek
Young Anne, Radio Announcer 1	Adeline Beynon, Hannah Slaght
Mr. Bradley, Captain Weasley, Police Official, Editor	Steve Hobbs
Mrs. Bradley, Adult Anne	Brooke Renaud
Margaret	Becky Lenko
Anderson	Ben Kennes
Lewis, Man, Radio Announcer 3, Police Clerk	Jack Sizeland
Reporter, Paperboy	Alexandra Pierce
Nick	Matt Butler

ARTISTIC STAFF

Book and Lyrics	Alan Edmund
Music and Lyrics	Richard Winzler
Director	Mark Mooney
Musical Director	Marque Smith
Stage Manager	Anne Mooney
Lighting Design	Mark Mooney
Lighting Board Programmer	Scott Smalley
Lighting Operator	Peg Spurgeon
Costume Coordination	Becky Lenko
Sound Technician	Bobby Creasor
Mic Technicians	Gladys Adams, Pam Slaght

RUN TIME IS APPROXIMATELY 2HOURS 30 MINUTES

THERE WILL BE ONE 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

Cast/Crew Bios

Miraya Agrawal (Young Barbara) is a grade 7 student at Lester B. Pearson School for the Arts. She has always loved music, particularly vocal performance, and plays both violin and piano. She has been part of the Junior Amabile Singers and in 2019 travelled to Canterbury Cathedral to sing in the International Children's Choir Festival. She also participates in the Kiwanis Festival for piano, voice and strings. At school, Miraya is a member of Pearson Singers and plays in Vivace and the Strings Quartet. She is also a member of the Social Justice Club and serves on Student Council. In her spare time, she enjoys running, swimming, and playing tennis. She is thrilled to be part of the cast and ensemble for Perfect World.

Jiya Agrawal (Sophie) is a grade 5 student at Lester B. Pearson school for the Arts. She loves singing, playing piano and violin, and participates in the Kiwanis Festival for piano and voice. She has also been a part of the Junior Amabile Singers. When she is not practicing her music, Jiya loves to do anything crafty! During online school, she taught herself to knit and crochet by watching YouTube videos. She is launching an online business to sell some of her creations and will donate the proceeds to charity. Recently, Jiya was able to create warm scarves and hats for Ukrainian refugees. She is very excited to be cast in Perfect World.

Adeline Beynon (Young Anne) is really excited to be performing for the first time at the Palace Theatre in "A Perfect World". Adeline has been singing with the Amabile Choirs of London for the past 5 years. In her spare time, she studies vocal, piano and the clarinet. Adeline also enjoys her weekly dance classes and playing with her friends and cousins.

Matt Butler (Nick) has been doing theatre for a bit over a decade now, but maybe it's just a phase. Rehearsing is basically his social life, so he's very glad and fortunate to be surrounded by such a loving community. He hopes you enjoy stepping into this Perfect World we've created for you!

Joel Dell (Wilson) Joel's love of theatre and music span over 50 years. LCP productions include Sullivan and Gilbert, Enchanted April, Cosi, Treasure Island, Inherit the Wind, Oh What a Lovely War and more. He has also been on the Palace Stage with MTP's Follies, Gypsy, Annie Get your Gun and Oklahoma. Thank you to Alan and Richard for the opportunity to become part of your creative world.

Alan Edmunds (book and lyrics) has been enthralled by musicals for more than 30 years, but playing Orin Scrivello (Little Shop of Horrors) was one of the funniest things he's ever done. On stage or back stage, nothing is as thrilling as that quiet moment just before the curtain goes up. Perfect World is a labour of love that has finally found its way. I could not have asked for a better Co-creator than my dear friend, Richard, and I am deeply indebted to our fabulous artistic team of Mark, Marque and Anne. BRAVA!!!

Michael Heath (Brown, Nick) is extremely excited to be part of bringing this new musical to life. They have also been in Damn Yankees (LCP), The Who's Tommy (Pacheco Theatre), The Wedding Singer (MTP). We hope you enjoy the show!

Steve Hobbs (Mr. Bradley, Captain Weasley) has been behind the scenes building sets at The Palace for a few years now but has always dreamed of being ON stage. He was cast in the New Stage's production of Disney's Little Mermaid in 2020, but it was cancelled due to Covid 19. Steve is a member of the Broadway Singers choir. Thanks to all the cast and crew and to you, our audience, for witnessing the birth of this brand-new musical, Perfect World!

Ben Kennes (Anderson) is excited to finally get back out there and perform for people! Credits: Heathers, Rocky horror show, The Little Mermaid, Nothing Sacred, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, Annie, The Sound of Music, Arcadia, Chicken Feather, The Cheese Poet, Beauty and the Beast, Hunchback of Norte Dame, Sweeney Todd, Pride and Prejudice. Thank you to all my friends and family for your continuing support. I love you all. Now take your seats and enjoy the show!

Nicola Klein (Barbara) is a graduate of the Don Wright Faculty of Music with a Bachelor's degree in Voice Performance. You may have seen her at the Palace Theatre last November for *All Together Now*, or as a Silly Girl/Napkin in *Beauty and the Beast* with LCP. She is very excited to take on a new challenge and share this fascinating work with an audience for the first time!

Marina Kriek (Young Sophie) is so excited to take part in this beautiful show. It's such a moving story and feels honoured to be part of telling it!

Becky Lenko (Costume Co-ordination, Margaret) is thrilled to be part of this beautiful production, sharing the stage with her husband Joel Dell. Becky is a multiple Brickenden, Dish and WODL award winner for costume design and has appeared on the Palace stage in numerous roles. This is Becky's first -time being part of the process of refining a show for future production on other stages and is delighted to be working with so many talented children and adults.

Anne Mooney (Stage Manager) has worked in community theatre for over 35 years. She has worked with London Community Players, Theatre Kent (Chatham), Pull Chain Theatre (Sault Ste. Marie), St. Marys Community Players, Theatre Woodstock and Double D Productions. She was a member of the Canadian crew at the AACT World Fest 2014 in Venice, Florida. I love you, Mark.

Mark Mooney (Director) has been involved with community theatre in Southwestern Ontario since the mid 1980s as an actor, director, and designer (sets and lighting). He has created theatre in gymnasiums, museums, art galleries and city parks as well regular staged. He has directed productions for London Community Players, Theatre Woodstock, Elgin Theatre Guild (St. Thomas), and St. Marys Community Players. He has adjudicated plays for community theatres and high schools across Ontario and into the northern USA. He loves the dynamics of working with new plays. This production began during the pandemic, and it has been a pleasure to see it finally through to its conclusion. As always, love and thanks to my wife Anne.

Alexandra Pierce (Ensemble) is very excited to be making her on stage debut with the wonderful cast of *A Perfect World the Musical*. As a creative 5th grader Alex loves to read, write and sing. Outside of school she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, and loves to perform as a member of London's Junior Amabile Girls Choir. She looks forward to a future in the arts and is grateful to everyone involved with this wonderful production, especially Mark, Marque and Alan for the opportunity. It has been a most rewarding experience!

Brooke Renaud (Anne, Mrs. Bradley) is lot like Anne. She grew up loving to sing dance make people laugh and entertain. Brooke went to school starting at Fanshawe for the theatre arts to help her refine her craft and then continued her education and aesthetics and then medical aesthetics. She is a lifelong learner in arts and culture, and is very happy that you are here today enjoying the show!

Stephanie Simonetta (Narrator) This is Stephanie's fourth appearance on the Palace stage. Previous works include Mame, The Hunchback of Notre Dam and All Together Now! Stephanie is excited to be part of the creative process of Perfect World!

Jack Sizeland (Lewis, Police Clerk) is excited to make their debut with LCP with such a hard-working group in a quickly evolving piece of new theatre. While studying at Western University they performed with Theatre Western (A Chorus Line, 2017) and Kings Players (Heathers, 2020; Catch Me if You Can, 2019; First Date 2018). In the community you may have seen them perform with Alvegoroot Theatre, Where do We Begin (workshop), London Pro Musica, St. James Westminster Anglican Choir or as a featured Soloist with various groups and venues.

Hannah Slaght (Young Anne) is a 13 year old grade 8 student at St. Mary's Choir and Orchestra Catholic School. She has been singing with the Amabile choir in London for 6 years. Hannah also enjoys playing volleyball and playing the cello.

Marley Slaght (Young Barbara) is a 12 year old grade 6 student at St. Mary's Choir and Orchestra Catholic School. Marley's love of performing started with the Amabile choir in London where she has been singing for 5 years. She also enjoys playing the violin.

Marque Smith (Musical Director) was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. He studied classical piano at The Royal Conservatory of Music and jazz piano at Humber College. Since moving to London, Ontario in 2007, he has been the music director for plays with Musical Theatre Productions, Original Kids Theatre Company, London Youth Theatre Education, The London Fringe Festival, Pacheco Theatre and London Community Players to name a few. He is also a very experienced choral musician and has been a member of The Karen Schuessler Singers, The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, The Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir and The Canadian Children's Opera Chorus. He was also the Recipient of the 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Governor General for dedicated service to his peers, his community and to Canada.

Peg Spurgeon (Lighting Operator) Peg has enjoyed using her various skills backstage weather sewing, painting, building sets, ASM and now sound. Having theatre back is what we all needed.

Richard Winzeler (Composer) began his love affair with musical theater at age 5, performing in a Peoria IL summer stock production of "The King and I". He continued exploring his passion for musicals through acting in high school and college productions, often jumping into the pit to accompany those onstage. After years of working as a professional actor and pop songwriter, he finally circled back around to composing for musical theater. Initially with a musical version of Dickens' classic "Great Expectations", and now fortunately with "Perfect World." He is thankful for Alan Edmunds, as a co-writer and friend, for Alan's initial conception of the show, and for bringing Richard on to the project. To be in a creative channeling flow space with the ultimate goal of service to others is his highest calling. He would like to express his appreciation to all those who have joined our vision-our actors, and especially our generous creative production team. Gratitude is his anchor.

Becca Zadorsky (Helen) - Having performed in the community theatre scene locally and in Toronto for the past fifteen years, Becca is thrilled to be back on stage! Favourite past roles include Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady, Maria in WSS, and Carla Albanese in NINE. When Becca is not on stage you will find her living her best Mermaid life and traveling the globe with her beloved backpack, Bertha.

PALACE THEATRE

Palace Theatre Arts Commons Presents



FringeBinge2022

6 Plays, 6 Days!

August 16 – 21, 2022

With Performances by

Divergent Movement Theatre

First Steps Theatre

Liam Grunte Theatre

My Neighbour's Attic

Pointe Tango

Star Forrest Productions



LYTE's 3rd Annual Fundraising
& Performance Gala

Tuesday June 28, 2022

7:00pm

Palace Theatre

Tickets
Adults: \$25
Youth: \$20

Performances by LYTE's Senior Company
and LYTE Alumni