



THE WIZARD OF OZ



YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE
FIFTY WONDER-FILLED YEARS

ALLEN MACINNIS
Artistic Director

NANCY J. WEBSTER
Executive Director

ON THE MAINSTAGE APR. 4 TO MAY 15, 2016



CITY OF
TORONTO

Mayor John Tory
and Members of Toronto City council
extend their warmest congratulations to

Young People's Theatre

on the occasion of your 50th anniversary.

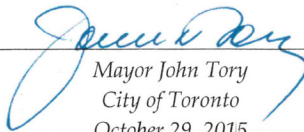
Toronto takes tremendous pride in knowing there are individuals and organizations that contribute to the social fabric of our city.

For the past five decades, Young People's Theatre (YPT) has served the needs of over five million children and youth in Toronto. Using theatre as a tool to enrich the intellectual, emotional and social development of children and youth, YPT places learning at the centre of everything it does.

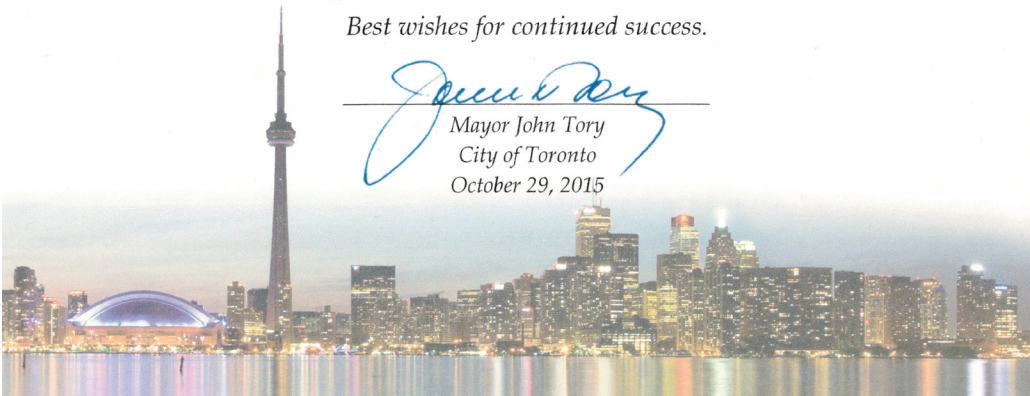
The success of our youth is a collective effort and YPT has demonstrated exceptional leadership in this regard, providing training and apprenticeship opportunities, educational initiatives for drama in classrooms and schools and workshops in local agencies and shelters.

This milestone anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on your many accomplishments and the tremendous difference you have made in many lives.

Best wishes for continued success.



Mayor John Tory
City of Toronto
October 29, 2015



YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

PRESENTS



By **L. Frank Baum**

With Music and Lyrics by **Harold Arlen** and **E.Y. Harburg**

Background Music by **Herbert Stothart**

Dance and Vocal Arrangements by **Peter Howard**

Orchestration by **Larry Wilcox**

Adapted by **John Kane** for the Royal Shakespeare Company

Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by **Turner Entertainment Co.**
and distributed in all media by **Warner Bros.**

Directed by **Joey Tremblay**

THE CAST

Lion	Justin Bott
Tinman	Matthew G. Brown
Toto	Nathan Carroll
Scarecrow	David Coomber
Uncle Henry	Jonathan Ellul
Jitterbug	Omar Forrest
Auntie Em/Wizard	Alana Hibbert
Wicked Witch	Amy Matysio
Glinda	Jamie McRoberts
Dorothy	Vanessa Sears

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Musical Director/Pianist	Reza Jacobs
Choreographer	Dayna Tekatch
Musical Arrangements	Allen Cole
Additional Arrangements	Reza Jacobs
Set Designer	David Boechler
Costume Designer	Robin Fisher
Lighting Designer	Louise Guinand
Sound Designer	Derek Bruce
Musician – Violin	Ali Raney
Musician – Banjo/Mandolin	Rob McLaren
Assistant Director	Rob Kempson
Stage Manager	Lisa Humber
Assistant Stage Manager	Kristin McCollum

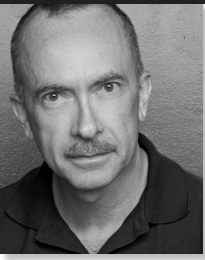
The play is presented by arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc., 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022

Photography, videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

The performance will run approximately 85 minutes.

Young People's Theatre is situated on the territories of the Mississaugas of New Credit and other Indigenous peoples, whom we acknowledge and respect.

A Message from the Artistic Director



I programmed *The Wizard of Oz* for our 50th Anniversary Season because of the wonderful ideas that director Joey Tremblay had for this production. His intimate and whimsical approach really appealed to me. If I've learned anything here, I've learned that our audiences love (and must) use their imaginations in order for our productions to really have impact. In some ways, the work audiences do with their own imaginations is the best part!

Think of what kind of world we would live in if human beings didn't have the ability to conceive ideas that reach beyond their own experience... It's likely nothing would ever change, improve, grow, resolve or surprise. This would be very dull for adults - but absolutely catastrophic for children, our most important citizens. Children make imagined experience real experience - it's one of the ways they develop. At YPT, we want to give young people the opportunity to grow into the unique and wonderful human beings they were meant to be.

As we wind up the programming for our 50th season, I hope you have experienced something wonderfully imaginative at YPT. I hope you and your family felt the vitality of this company and that, if you have, you will tell your friends and neighbours. More than anything, I want to believe that young people's imaginations will be alive and well and served by a vibrant YPT for another 50 years to come.

Thanks for joining us!

ALLEN MACINNIS

Young People's Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

The musicians and musical director engaged for this production are members of the Toronto Musicians' Association, Local 149 of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

A Message from the Director



In the original novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, writer L. Frank Baum paints a rather bleak and grim environment in which young Dorothy lives her life. It's a world where the sun and the wind forever torture the treeless landscape. It's a land that robbed the sparkle from Auntie Em's eyes and made Uncle Henry forget what joy was. Even in the movie version, Kansas is bleakly filmed in black and white, where the emphasis is on the daily drudgery of hard work and the constant threat of a potential cyclone.

What has always interested me about this journey is that the Land of Oz is truly a creation of Dorothy's extraordinary imagination. She conjures it all up in a dream where she invents an entire universe as a necessary escape from her harsh surroundings. So for me, this play is truly a celebration of the power of the imagination. This story shows us that the imagination not only allows us to invent landscapes, to reshape our world, and solve enormous problems, but the imagination is truly what defines us as human beings.

When I started working on the play and began discussing the early ideas with the design team, I wanted to make sure that our approach was always a delightful expression of the imagination and the importance of playing and make-believe. It was essential that many of the elements that make up Dorothy's world in Kansas be somehow re-interpreted and re-purposed in Oz. Much the same way when we dream, many elements from our real life are still present or familiar, but our imagination has altered them entirely. This allowed us to create the Land of Oz as a kind of 'imagination game' where we tried to find an equivalent element (a set piece or a prop) in the Kansas farmhouse that was re-invented in Dorothy's dream world. For example, an old oil lamp becomes the Oz Machine or the pot-bellied stove becomes the Tin Man.

This way, Dorothy is able to make an incredible journey away from her Kansas, but in fact she never actually leaves her house. This playful non-journey has shaped this entire production. We've built and rehearsed the show as though we were children playing in a single room, and using what few objects we have at our disposal, we travel and invent an epic voyage of the imagination.

This production of *The Wizard of Oz* is truly designed as an invitation for the audience to engage their imaginations and play a wonderful game of inventing a make-believe journey from Kansas to Oz and back home again.

JOEY TREMBLAY

Cast



JUSTIN BOTT
LION

Justin is incredibly happy to be making his YPT debut alongside this talented cast, crew and creative team. Fave credits include:

Wanda T. Grimsby (Kids Fringe); *The Last Resort*, *Aladdin: The Panto*, *Snow White: The Panto* (Drayton Entertainment); *Avenue Q*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Citadel), [title of show] (Angelwalk - Dora Nominated); *The Foursome* (Lighthouse); *Rob Ford: The Musical* (Factory) and commercials for the Superbowl and Honda. He would like to dedicate this show to all the young theatre-goers in the audience, especially his 13 nieces and nephews (11 of which he's certain will be in attendance at some point)! Thanks to Joey, Dayna, Reza and YPT for this opportunity. And to DeeDee, Elvis (the dog), family & friends for their love and support. Learn more about Justin at www.justinbott.com or follow him @jeybott.

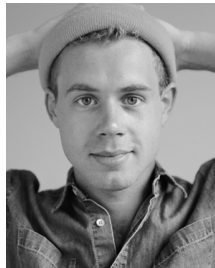


MATTHEW G. BROWN
TINMAN

Matthew is a Toronto-born actor, graduate of the Randolph Academy and an alumnus of the Canadian Film Centre Actors

Conservatory in Toronto. YPT credits include *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Cinderella (a RATical retelling)*, *Seussical* and *i think i can* (YPT, National Arts Centre). Other theatre credits include: *Grey Gardens* (Acting Up Stage); *The WHO's: Tommy*, *Fiddler on the Roof* (Stratford Festival); *The Postman* (Panamania, David Ferry); *Killer Business* (Next Stage Festival); *Hair* (The Grand); *Jersey Boys* (Dancap, Dodgers); *Dreamgirls* (Theatre Aquarius, MTC); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canadian Stage); *5 Guys Named Moe* (Theatre Cambridge). Selected Film & TV credits include: *Gridlocked* (Upcoming Feature Film); *The Kennedys* (History Television); *Dark Matter* (Syfy/Space); *Open Heart* (YTV); *Odd Squad* (PBS); *Hailstorm* (CFC); *Instant Star* (CTV); *Rattan* (CFC); *Mr. D* (CBC); *Covert Affairs* (CTV/USA Network); *Rookie Blue* (Global). Matthew's awards include the Dora Award for Outstanding Ensemble for

YPT's *Cinderella (a RATical retelling)*. Thank you God, Mom, cast/crew and my family, from JA to NYC to T.O and beyond! I love you all. Twitter: @Mr_M_G_B



NATHAN CARROLL
TOTO

Nathan has played on stages across Canada, from Vancouver to Charlottetown. His credits include the original Canadian

cast of *Once* (Mirvish); *The Drawer Boy* (Port Stanley); *The Two Gentlemen of Verona/The Tempest* (St. Lawrence Shakespeare); *Floyd Collins* (Talk is Free/Patrick St.); *Salt-Water Moon* (Common Roof); *A History of Summer* (Summerworks); *Forever Plaid* (Harbourfront, PEI); *The Sound of Music* (Citadel) and *The Book of Esther/Bordertown Cafe* (Blyth). He has workshoped new material for the Segal Centre, Theatre Aquarius, Acting Up Stage, the Belfry, Young People's Theatre, the Lighthouse Festival, Port Stanley and Theatre 20. Nathan is the Artistic Director of Common Roof, where he recently directed *Little One* by Hannah Moscovitch. He is a graduate of George Brown Theatre School and the Theatre Aquarius Performing Arts Programme.



DAVID COOMBER
SCARECROW

This is David's YPT debut. His recent theatre credits include: *This Hotel*, *Sunday in the Park with George* (Talk is Free Theatre).

Elsewhere: The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, *Cabaret* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre); *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* (Segal Centre); *Tartuffe*, *The Sound of Music*, *Enron* (National Arts Centre); *Next to Normal* (Clearwater/Tarragon); *Weekend Comedy* (Drayton); *Fortune and Men's Eyes* (Birdland Theatre); *Bullet for Adolf* (Off-Broadway, directed by Woody Harrelson); *Red* (Canadian Stage/Vancouver Playhouse/Citadel Theatre). David trained at Ryerson Theatre School.



JONATHAN ELLUL
UNCLE HENRY

Jonathan's selected credits include: Major Powell in *Corpse!*, Donnie in *The Foursome* (Lighthouse Festival); Ali

Hakim in *Oklahoma!* (Stratford Festival); Potiphar in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (The Grand); Oscar in *The Odd Couple*, *The 39 Steps* (Victoria Playhouse); Weenie in *Aladdin* (Ross Petty Productions); Frankie in *Forever Plaid* (Charlottetown Festival). Upcoming: *Spoon River* (Soulpepper/Charlottetown Festival). Jonathan appears in numerous television commercials. To my wonderful and talented wife Amelie, and our darling daughters Eloise and Rosalie: Thank you for your unending patience and support, kitchen dance parties, songs 'n songs, rainbows, unicorns and tea parties. I'm grateful for you every day.



OMAR FORREST
JITTERBUG

Omar's theatre credits include *Touch the Sky* (YPT); *The Producers*, *West Side Story*, *Sister Act* (Rainbow Stage); *Legally*

Blonde (Theatre Aquarius); *West Side Story* (Vancouver Opera Company); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Stage West Mississauga); *Peter Pan* (Neptune Theatre); *Lord of the Rings* and *The Lion King* (Mirvish Productions); *Cabaret* and *The Trojan Women* (Stratford). Film/TV credits include: *Mirror, Mirror* (Relativity Media); *Repo: The Genetic Opera* (Twisted Pictures); *Da Kink in My Hair* (Global); *Da Vinci's City Hall* (CBC); *Once Upon A Mattress* (Paramount); *Smallville* (Warner Brothers); *The L Word* (Showtime). Omar is a graduate of the University of Regina Theatre. I would like to thank my friends, YPT and the gang at TH for their support.



ALANA HIBBERT
AUNTIE EM/WIZARD

Alana is thrilled to embark on this journey through Oz! Most recently, she was seen in the Talk is Free Production of *Sunday in the*

Park with George. Prior to this, Alana spent a season at the Stratford Festival, starring as Nettie Fowler in *Carousel* and appearing in *The Sound of Music*. She has also spent three seasons at the Shaw Festival playing such roles as Camae in *The Mountaintop* (for which she received a Dora Nomination) and Sarah in *Ragtime*. Also for the Shaw Festival: *Trouble in Tahiti*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Major Barbara*. Other career highlights include: *Once on This Island*, *Caroline, or Change* and *Parade* (Acting Up Stage); four seasons with the Charlottetown Festival, as well as numerous productions in regional theatres across Canada. Alana was born and raised in British Columbia and is a graduate of Simon Fraser University.



AMY MATYSIO
WICKED WITCH

Amy is an award-winning actor, improviser, voice-over artist and creative producer. Theatre credits include *The*

Importance of Being Earnest, *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*, *Stuff Happens* (NAC, 2014/15 English Ensemble); *Bedroom Farce*, *The Dybbuk* (Soulpepper); *Venus in Fur* (Golden Apple Theatre); *Pith!* (The Theatre Department); *The Syringa Tree*, *Oh George!*, *Cinderella*, *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, *Dog Barked*, *Peter Pan* (Globe Theatre); *Mo and Jess Kill Susie* (Northern Light); *Rabbit Hole* (Persephone); *Hamlet*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (Shakespeare on the SK); and *The Road to Paradise* (Assistant Director, Human Cargo/Crow's Theatre). Select Film and TV credits include *WolfCop*, *Lawrence and Holloman*, *Rookie Blue*, *Single White Spenny*, *Just Friends*, *Divorce Photographer*, the Canadian Screen Award-winning *Space Riders: Division Earth* and the upcoming *WolfCop 2*. A multiple Canadian Comedy Award nominee, she is also the creator and title character of the award-winning digital series *inSAYSHABLE*.



JAMIE MCROBERTS
GLINDA

Jamie is more than excited to be back up on the stage at Young People's Theatre. She is a graduate of George Brown Theatre School and

has been performing in both theatre and musical theatre across Ontario. Past credits include: *i think i can* (YPT); *Drinking Alone*, *The Melville Boys*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Blood Brothers*, *The Full Monty*, *Cabaret*, *The War Show* and *A Christmas Carol* (The Rose Theatre); *All Shook Up* (Stage West Mississauga); *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (The Empire Theatre). Upcoming: *Crazy For You* (The Capitol Theatre). As well as being a classically trained actor, singer and dancer, Jamie is also an accomplished classical and jazz pianist. She has received the Second City Comedy Award while training at George Brown and since graduation has been nominated for Broadway World Awards numerous times for her work at The Rose Theatre. Enjoy the show!!!



VANESSA SEARS
DOROTHY

This is Vanessa's first show for Young People's Theatre and she is thrilled to be debuting as Dorothy! Vanessa's selected credits include: Nicola in

the Canadian premiere of *Kinky Boots*, for which she won the BroadwayWorld Award – Best Female in a Featured Role (Mirvish Productions); Nina in *In the Heights*, Loretta/LaRain in the Dora Award winning production of *Brantwood*, Minnie/Angela in *Parade* (Theatre Sheridan); Moll in *Moll, Marathon of Hope* (Canadian Music Theatre Project); *Parade in Concert* (Manhattan Concert Productions); *We Are Canadian* with the Confederation Centre Young Company (Charlottetown Festival); Maria in *West Side Story*, and Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* (Streetlight Theatre). Huge love to family, friends, the Guinea Pigs, Sheridan faculty, Rachel at NCA, and the whole YPT gang! Follow her on Twitter @NessaSears or insta @vanessa_sears.

Creative Team



JOEY TREMBLAY
DIRECTOR

Joey grew up in a very small hamlet called Ste. Marthe in Southeast Saskatchewan. He received a B.F.A. in Drama from the

University of Regina (1987) and a diploma from the Vancouver Playhouse Acting School (1989). After working several years as a freelance actor, Joey co-founded Noises in the Attic, a theatre company mandated to produce and create new Canadian plays on the fringe festival circuit across Canada. From 1996 to 2002, Joey became Artistic Co-director of Catalyst Theatre in Edmonton where he wrote, directed and produced (and sometimes performed in) the following plays: *Electra*, *The Abundance Trilogy*, *My Perfect Heaven*, *Elephant Wake*, *Songs for Sinners*, *The House of Pootsie Plunket*, *The Blue Orphan* and *Carmen Angel*, which, combined, have garnered more than 30 awards and nominations for outstanding work including two Scotsman Fringe First awards for outstanding writing. Currently Joey is living in

Regina and is the Artistic Director of Curtain Razors Theatre. For Globe Theatre, Joey has written and directed *The Alice Nocturne* and *George Dandin*. He devised and directed *Fusion I, II and III*. Joey was also a 3-time member of the National Arts Centre English Theatre Ensemble.



REZA JACOBS
MUSICAL DIRECTOR/
PIANIST

Reza is an award-winning composer, sound designer and music director. His credits include work for the Shaw

Festival, Stratford Festival, Factory Theatre, Tarragon, Passe Muraille, Volcano, Cahoots, Acting Up Stage, the Luminato Festival and Harbourfront's World Stage Festival. As Music Director, he has won Dora Mavor Moore Awards for *London Road* (Best Music Direction & Best Musical 2014), *Caroline, or Change* (Best Music Direction & Best Musical 2012) and *Assassins* (Best Musical, 2010).



DAYNA TEKATCH
CHOREOGRAPHER

Dayna's choreographic credits include: *Alice Through The Looking Glass* (Stratford/Citadel/MTC/NAC/Charlottetown);

Funny Girl (Segal Centre); *The Penelopiad* (Citadel); *Drowsy Chaperone* (NAC/Citadel/Vancouver Playhouse/1000 Islands); *The Wizard of Oz* (Globe); *Romeo & Juliet*, *nativity*, *Creation*, *A Christmas Carol* (NAC); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Palmer Park*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Stratford); *Buddy Holly*, *The Rocky Horror Show* (Aquarius). Directing credits include: *Avenue Q* (Citadel); *The 39 Steps* (Neptune/Stage West Mississauga/Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Oliver!* (NAC); *Same Time Next Year*, *Midlife: The Crisis Musical* (Orillia Opera House); *Tuesdays With Morrie*, *Driving Miss Daisy* (Starbright Festival). Dayna spent nine seasons at the Stratford Festival as an actor and choreographer, and six seasons at the National Arts Centre as a director, choreographer and actor. She lives on the Danforth with her inspirations - son Liam and husband Sean C. Robertson.



ALLEN COLE
MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Originally from Nova Scotia, Allen has worked variously as composer, musical director, lyricist and/or book writer on musical theatre works such

as *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang* (YPT); *The Wrong Son* (NAC); *Mimi* (with Rick Roberts and Melody Johnson); and *Anything That Moves* (with Ann-Marie MacDonald and Alisa Palmer). Allen has composed music for many theatre companies, including the Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival and Soulpepper. He has won numerous awards, including four Doras and a Best Film Score Award from the Atlantic Film Festival. His musical *Rockbound* won five Merritt Awards including Best New Play, Best Music and Best Production. His funk musical comedy, *The Bricklin*, premiered in Fredericton, New Brunswick in 2010, and played in Katowice, Poland in 2013 and 2015. His new musical based on *Alice in Wonderland* (with Peter Hinton) will premiere in the spring of 2016 at the Shaw Festival.



DAVID BOECHLER
SET DESIGNER

David has been designing sets and costumes across Canada for over twenty years, including

The Princess and the Handmaiden at YPT. Favourite productions include *Cinderella* (National Ballet of Canada); *quondam* (Royal Swedish Ballet); *South Pacific*, *Cabaret*, *My One and Only* (Stratford); *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Shaw); *La Traviata* (Pacific Opera); *Mary Poppins*, *The Producers* (Rainbow Stage); *Red* (Canadian Stage); *A Fitting Confusion*, *Macbeth*, *Trying* (Theatre Calgary); *Sweet Charity*, *Guys and Dolls* (Drayton). Upcoming: *Mamma Mia!* (Drayton). David's awards include two Sterlings, two Betty Mitchells and a Dora.



ROBIN FISHER
COSTUME DESIGNER

Robin's YPT credits include Set and Costume Design for *A Year With Frog and Toad* and *Cinderella (a RATical retelling)*;

Set Design for *Love You Forever... and More Munsch* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; Costume Design for *Minotaur* and *James and the Giant Peach*. Other select designs include Set and Costumes for: *Avenue Q* (Citadel Theatre); *The Dining Room* (Soulpepper); *Obeah Opera* (Culchaworks/Panama); *The Boy in the Moon* (Great Canadian Theatre Company); *Do You Want What I Have Got?* *A Craigslist Cantata* (Acting Up Stage); *Fiddler on the Roof* (Western Canada Theatre); *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon* (Globe Theatre); *Hand of Bridge/Telephone* (Canadian Opera Company); *The Tempest* (Canadian Stage) and Costume Design for *Dream a Little Dream* (The Grand Theatre). Robin is the recipient of three Dora Mavor Moore Awards and the 2015 Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award for Costume Design. www.robinfisher.ca



LOUISE GUINAND
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Louise's previous credits for YPT include *Alice, A Christmas Carol* (1990), *Separate Doors* and *The Last Voyage of the Devil's*

Wheel. Louise has designed lights for over 500 shows in theatres across Canada and in the U.S. including the Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Grand Theatre, Soulpepper, National Arts Centre, Globe Theatre, Western Canada Theatre Company, Theatre Aquarius and Neptune Theatre. Recent credits include *The Secret Mask* (Globe Theatre); *Fly Me to the Moon* (Grand Theatre); *Mary Poppins* (WCTC); *She Stoops to Conquer* (Stratford Festival); *Top Girls* and *Light Up the Sky* (Shaw Festival). Louise is delighted to be returning to YPT.



DEREK BRUCE
SOUND DESIGNER

Derek is excited to be returning to YPT where he used to operate sound many years ago. He has been working in the

theatre industry in Canada for the past 25 years as a Production Manager, Sound Designer and Technician. Derek has had the opportunity to design sound for such theatre companies as The Stratford Festival, Canadian Stage, Tarragon Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, Factory Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects, The Vancouver Playhouse, Citadel Theatre and Neptune Theatre. He has been nominated twice for a Dora Mavor Moore Award and won the Victoria Critics Choice Award for his Sound Design on *Earshot*. Currently Derek is the Production Coordinator at the Meaford Hall Arts & Cultural Centre.



ALI RANEY
MUSICIAN - VIOLIN

As four-time Canadian Country Music Award Fiddle Player of the Year nominee (2011, 2012, 2014 & 2015), Ali is in high demand as a fiddle player and

background vocalist. While completing her music performance degree in Toronto, Ali began gigging professionally in the music industry and over the last few years has had the pleasure of working with a variety of diverse and talented artists including: Barbra Streisand, Terri Clark, Ronnie Dunn (of Brooks & Dunn), Jason McCoy (of The Road Hammers) and Jess Moskaluke amongst others. Ali has played everywhere from the Air Canada Centre, to the Grand Ole Opry; from the 2010 Vancouver Olympics to the Calgary Stampede, Boots & Hearts Music Festival, the Ryman Auditorium and Big Valley Jamboree, to the smallest listening rooms, casinos and bars all over North America while on tour. Ali also has a background in musical theatre, having studied to be an actor at Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts before making the switch to the fulfilling music career she now enjoys. Ali has chaired the violin section of the world premiere of *Grumpy Old Men: The Musical* (Royal Manitoba Theatre) as well as *Anne of Green Gables* (Berkeley Street Theatre) in Toronto, and is very much looking forward to being part of her first YPT production - *The Wizard of Oz!* A songwriter and band leader in her own right, Ali maintains a busy touring and performance schedule locally and abroad, and also co-fronts her own band - the CCMA award-winning roots-country duo, The Lovelocks. (www.thelovelocksband.com)



ROB MCLAREN
MUSICIAN -
BANJO/MANDOLIN

Rob is a freelance musician, singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and music teacher based in Toronto.

He frequently performs with Union Duke (unionduke.com) and The Barrel Boys (barrelboysbluegrass.com), and has performed across Canada and the United States. Rob was born and raised in Red Deer, Alberta and received his Bachelor of Music from Humber College in 2013.



ROB KEMPSON
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Rob is a theatre artist and educator. A graduate of Queen's University, Rob works as a playwright, director and performer. His writing/directing

credits include: *Mockingbird* (Next Stage Theatre Festival); *SHANNON 10:40* (timeshare); *#legacy* (Harbourfront Centre); *In My Own Skin* (YRDSB); *The HV Project* (Community); *Intersections* (TDSB Arts Co-Op); *explicit* (Rhubarb Festival). Rob's directing credits include *Rose's Clothes* (Thousand Islands Playhouse) and *Songs for a New World* (Claude Watson). As a performer, he was most recently seen starring in his Dora-nominated musical *The Way Back to Thursday* (Theatre Passe Muraille). He was a member of the 2014 Stratford Festival Playwrights' Retreat and is currently the Associate Artistic Director at the Thousand Islands Playhouse. More info at www.robkempson.com or [@rob_kempson](https://twitter.com/@rob_kempson) on Twitter.

artist, social media specialist & producer with more than 10 years of experience. She has been on the faculty at the Banff Centre and is a member of the Theatre Production Professional Advisory Committee for Humber College.



KRISTIN MCCOLLUM
ASSISTANT
STAGE MANAGER

Kristin's previous credits at YPT include: stage manager for *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Annie*,

Cinderella, *Seussical* and *A Year With Frog & Toad* and assistant stage manager on *The Princess & the Handmaiden*. Kristin has worked with many theatre companies across Canada including: Soundstreams, Dancap, Necessary Angel, Theatre Passe Muraille, Theatre Direct Canada and Roseneath Theatre. Recent credits include ASM for *Apocalypse* (Luminato), as well as twelve seasons with the COC including *La Traviata*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Peter Grimes*, *Il Trovatore*, *Iphigenia in Tauris*, *The Nightingale* and *Other Short Fables*, and *Die Walküre* as part of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*. Kristin would like to thank her daughter, Ella, for her brains, heart and courage.



LISA HUMBER
STAGE MANAGER

Lisa's selected and most recent stage management credits include: *To Kill A Mockingbird* (YPT); *Grey Gardens* (Acting Up Stage); *Peter Pan in*

Wonderland (Ross Petty Productions); *Hooked* (Theatre Passe-Muraille); *It Comes in Waves* (PANAMANIA/Bluemouth Inc/Necessary Angel); *Dance Marathon-EU Tour* (Bluemouth Inc.); *The Heart of Robin Hood*, *Les Miserables*, *War Horse* (Mirvish Productions). Lisa is a stage manager,

About Young People's Theatre

YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE (YPT) is the oldest professional theatre company in Toronto and is a national producer and presenter of theatre for young audiences - the first and largest of its kind in Canada. Over the past 50 years YPT has staged many of the most important plays that form the canon of work for youth in our country. YPT continues to develop new work and create partnerships with theatre companies across the country and around the world.

But that's not all. The enriched learning experiences of YPT's Education & Participation Department provide young people with opportunities to develop their whole being. Through our workshops in community shelters and agencies, educational initiatives in Toronto classrooms, Drama School programs in four locations throughout the City, and training and apprenticeship opportunities, we place learning at the centre of everything we do.

At Young People's Theatre we strive for a positive and lasting impact on the emotional, social, and intellectual development of young people - giving them the chance to grow into the unique and wonderful people they were born to be.

Here are some questions for discussion

- Why is *The Wizard of Oz* still popular 100 years since it was first written? Why do people still enjoy the story?
- The Wizard tells Dorothy he is a “good man but a bad wizard”. What do you think he means by this? Do you agree?
- If the Wizard of Oz could grant you any characteristic, what would it be? Why?
- Why does Miss Gulch take Toto away? How does that make Dorothy feel?
- How old is Dorothy? Does she act her age?

ON SALE NOW!

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For more information, please contact
Carlene Tung, Development Coordinator at
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*Partially funded through the Professional Development program of The George Cedric Metcalf Foundation.

**Stage Employees of YPT are represented by Local 58 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

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JOIN THE TEAM! YPT has the best Volunteers!

Do you have a passion for theatre? Do you enjoy working with children and meeting new people? Then join our team of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. You can gain experience, practice language and develop new skills. Our program is for everyone!

For information on how you can join our Community Volunteer team contact
Norah O'Donnell
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
416.363.5131 x241
nodonnell@youngpeoplestheatre.ca

THE ADA SLAIGHT EDUCATION CENTRE AT YPT

Young People's Theatre received an extraordinary gift of \$3 million from the Slight Family Foundation for the creation of The Ada Slight Education Centre at YPT.

This gift allows YPT to extend access to our shows and increase the number of Drama School bursaries for young people who might not have the means to attend or participate. It also provides the opportunity for YPT to expand its participatory theatre programs in the community, its training programs and its professional theatre apprenticeships.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Join us at **YPT's Cultural Gym**, a family friendly drama program on Wednesday evenings. The next session entitled: "Secrets of Scenic Painting" begins on Wednesday, April 20th (ages 12 and up).
- YPT, in partnership with the TDSB, is delivering a **Playwriting Festival** in which students from two different schools create their own original pieces with the guidance of a professional playwright. The Festival will take place on Monday, May 9th.
- YPT is partnering with The Hincks-Dellcrest Centre – Gail Appel Institute to host their **Parent Seminar Series**. There will be session a on Monday, April 11th.
- Registration is open for full-day workshops YPT is providing on **PA Days (TDSB/TCDSB)** from 9:00am to 3:30pm for Grades 1–3 on Friday, April 15th and Grades 1–6 on Friday, June 10th.
- Sprucecourt Public School, one of YPT's Member Schools, is participating in a research project with us to learn about all that goes into creating a professional theatre production.
- Check out our Events Calendar to remain up-to-date on all YPT events. <http://www.youngpeoplestheatre.ca/events/>

**VISIT YOUNGPEOPLESTHEATRE.CA
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Our Generous Supporters

Children from YPT's Drama School program were asked this summer to use their imaginations and give us their perceptions of donor giving levels.

We've compiled the results and have named some of our donor giving levels to reflect the children's creative ideas.

Ada Slight Education Centre at YPT \$500,000+

The Slight Family Foundation

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Young People's Theatre (YPT) is very grateful to all of the individuals, corporations, foundations and government agencies who contribute to our continued growth and success.

Education is vital to all children but not all learning takes place in the classroom. The dynamic and exciting theatre experiences that YPT has to offer promote creativity, critical thinking and confidence in young people.

Our donors enrich the life of children and youth by giving them access to the magic of live theatre and exceptional programming. The generosity of donors keeps YPT accessible for all young people and their families.

To help us achieve our mission please contact:
James Parker, Development Coordinator
 416.363.5131 x248 or jparker@youngpeopletheatre.ca



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