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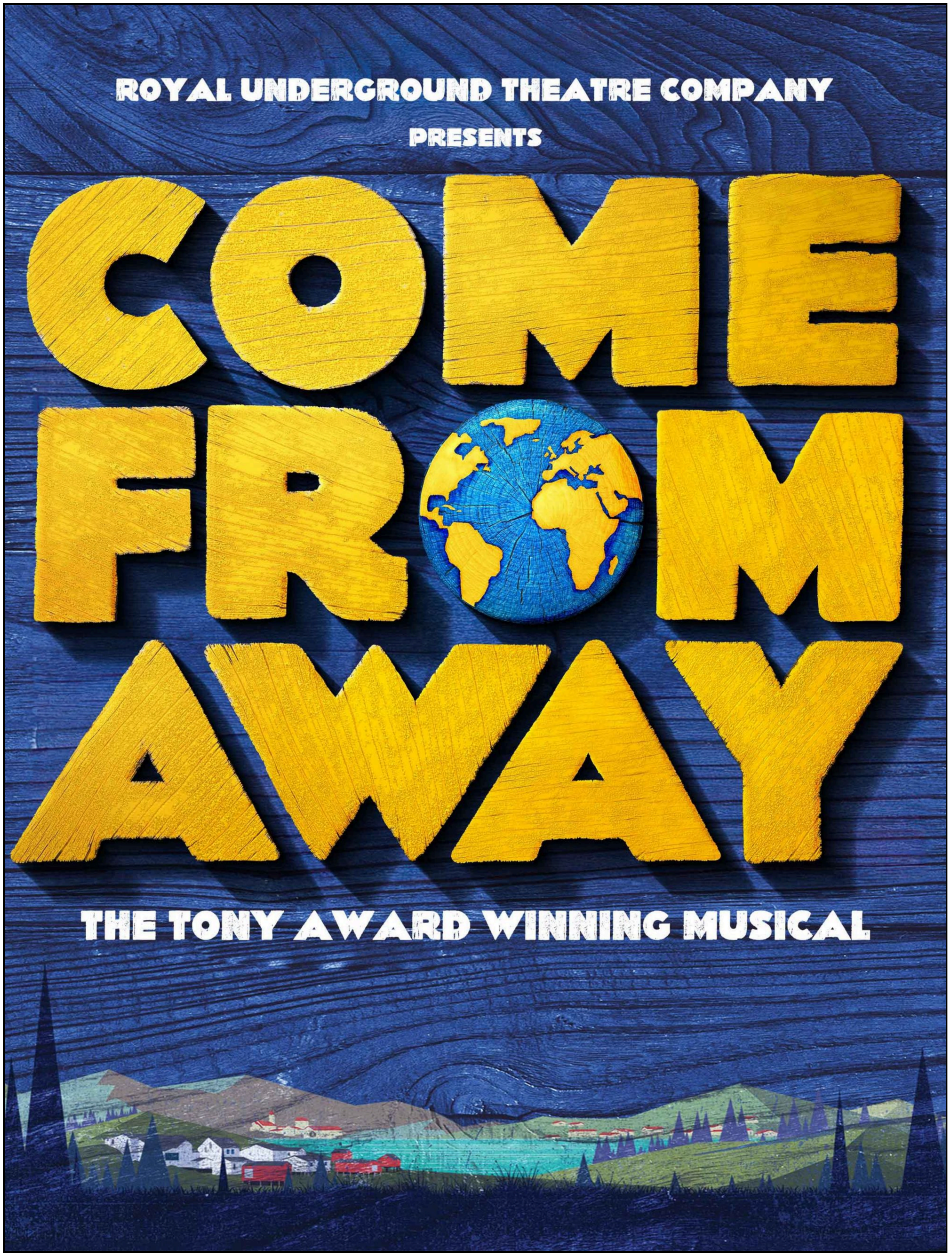
The Royal Underground Theatre Company
Revival Hall
Oakland, CA



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The Royal Underground Theatre Company

Revival Hall

PRESENTS

COME FROM AWAY

Book, Music and Lyrics by
Irene Sankoff and David Hein

Original Broadway Production produced by Junkyard Dog Productions
Orchestrations by August Eriksmoen
Arrangements by Ian Eisendrath
with

Melody Payne Alonzo	Harrison Alter	Arup Chakrabarti
Tyler Crosby-Jolliffe	Shiv Harris	Tyler Hedrick
Cassidy Hill	Nicole Naffaa	Olivia Quinn
CJ Strickland	Abigail Wissink	Gilead Wurman

Producer Jerianne Banson	Executive Producer Jenny Banson	Casting Director Maria Banson, MFB Casting
Production Designer Christopher Jones	Lighting Design Asley Munday	Production Stage Manager / Costume Supervisor Maggie Carpenter
Sound Supervisor Jonathan Rico	Music Director Aaron Tan	Movement & Choreography Michelle Freschi
Director Enrico Banson		

Come From Away was originally co-produced in 2015 by La Jolla Playhouse and Seattle Repertory Theater and presented in 2016 by Ford's Theatre.

Come From Away (NAMT Festival 2013) was originally developed at the Canadian Music Theatre Project, Michael Rubinoff Producer, Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, and was further developed at Goodspeed Musicals' Festival of New Artists, in East Haddam, Connecticut. The Canada Council for the Arts, The Ontario Arts Council, and The Fifth Avenue Theatre, Seattle, Washington, also provided development support. Come From Away was originally co-produced in 2015 by La Jolla Playhouse and Seattle Repertory Theater and presented in 2016 by Ford's Theatre

Come From Away is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.co.uk • www.mtishows.com • www.mtishows.com.au

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Beverley/Annette & Others	Melody Payne Alonzo
Claude & Others	Harrison Alter
Nick/Doug & Others	Arup Chakrabarti
Oz & Others	Tyler Crosby-Jolliffe
Beulah & Others	Shiv Harris
Kevin T/Garth & Others	Tyler Hedrick
Hannah & Others	Cassidy Hill
Diane & Others	Nicole Naffaa
Janice & Others	Olivia Quinn
Bob & Others	CJ Strickland
Bonnie & Others	Abigail Wissink
Kevin J/Ali & Others	Gilead Wurman

Creative Team

Director	Enrico Banson
Music Director	Aaron Tan
Movement & Choreography	Michelle Freschi
Producer	Jerianne Banson
Executive Producer	Jenny Banson
Production Stage Manager / Costume Supervisor	Maggie Carpenter
Production Designer	Christopher Jones
Lighting Design	Asley Munday
Sound Supervisor	Jonathan Rico
Casting Director	Maria Banson, MFB Casting
Dialect Consultant	Nathan Crocker
Production Assistant	Oliwia Baney

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Welcome to the Rock	Company
38 Planes	Company
Blankets and Bedding	Company
28 Hours/Wherever We Are *	Company
Darkness and Trees	Company
On the Bus	Company
Darkness and Trees (Reprise)	Company
Lead Us Out of the Night	Company
Phoning Home	Company
Costume Party	Diane, Hannah, Kevin T., Kevin J., Company
I Am Here	Hannah
Prayer **	Kevin T., Company
On the Edge	Company
In the Bar/Heave Away	Company
Screech In *	Company
Me and the Sky	Beverley
Stop the World	Nick, Diane
Somewhere in the Middle of Nowhere	Beverley, Company
Something's Missing	Company
Finale	Company

COME FROM AWAY

WILL BE PERFORMED WITHOUT AN INTERMISSION

THE BAND

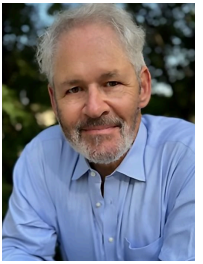
AARON TAN - Conductor/Keyboard/ Electric Guitar/Music Director, SAM TSITRIN - Electric Bass/Double Bass, JERIANNE BANSON - Drums/Percussions

ACTOR-MUSICIANS

ARUP CHAKRABARTI - Guitar/Banjo, SHIV HARRIS - Accordion, TYLER HEDRICK - Whistle/Flute, CASSIDY HILL - Guitar, OLIVIA QUINN - Violin, ABIGAIL WISSINK - Mandolin

HEADSHOTS


Melody Payne Alonzo


Harrison Alter


Arup Chakrabarti


Tyler Crosby-Jolliffe


Shiv Harris


Tyler Hedrick


Cassidy Hill


Nicole Naffaa


Olivia Quinn


CJ Strickland


Abigail Wissink


Gilead Wurman

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Late summer of 2016, I was working at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. with a Canadian colleague. Every day we walked past Ford's Theatre, where a new musical about 9/11 was playing. One morning my friend said, "That show's gonna be big." I said, "A musical about 9/11? Really?" He'd seen it the night before. "Mark my words."

He was right (please don't tell him I said so). I started following *Come From Away*, saw it on Broadway the next year, and left knowing I had to direct it.

Directing it is another story. This show has a special talent for making a director a little crazy. There are the chairs. There are dozens of real people and their stories, played by a dozen actors, and every single one has to land. Thankfully, I had perhaps the most talented, smartest cast and creative team ever, and I leaned on every one of them.

When this show came into my life, the story of Gander showed me the capacity we all have for kindness. These days, I think we could use the reminder. In the coming year, many of our fellow Bay Area theatre companies will be telling this story too, and I can't wait to see their versions. We wanted ours to stand out, so we set the production in a community center. I wanted you in the room with these characters, as if you're right there in the gym at Gander Academy 25 years ago. We kept the staging as raw as we could. We didn't hide the theatricality of the piece, and you can see exactly how the story is being told, with nothing between you and the people on stage. Doing it this way had its own challenges, and I hope we rose to meet them. They don't compare to what the real people lived through, and getting to tell their story is enough.

To our cast: thank you for the heart, the humor, and the stamina you bring every night. You're the reason this works. To our music director, Aaron Tan, and our movement director, Michelle Freschi, thank you for making twelve people sound and move like a whole town. To our crew, who keep everything running where nobody can see you, thank you from the bottom of my heart. To Revival Hall, thank you for being our Gander. And to my sister Jerianne and my mom, who started this theatre company almost 25 years ago: we've now gotten to cross another bucket list musical off the list together. Thank you for seeing this one through with me.

To you, our audience: thank you for coming, for listening, and for sharing this story with us. *Come From Away* is my favorite show and on behalf of everyone involved, we're humbled. It isn't complete until you're in the room, and we're so grateful you are.

Welcome to the Rock. We're so glad you're here.

Enrico Banson
Director

WHO'S WHO

Melody Payne Alonzo

Beverley/Annette & Others

(she/her) is honored to be making her Royal Underground Theatre debut! Melody has been singing her whole life and acting and dancing for two decades. She trained with All Access Productions in Long Island, NY and with private coaches throughout the years. She recently finished a run of *Steel Magnolias* as Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie (Town Hall Theater). Prior to that, Melody portrayed Thalia in *Gods of Comedy* (Masquers Playhouse), Cecile/Boylan Sister in *Annie* (Berkeley Playhouse) and *Mrs. Wormwood* in Matilda (Novato Theater Company). Other favorite roles include the title role in *Sylvia*, Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show*, and Penny Pingleton in *Hairspray* (Elly Award winner). Melody works in children's theater and is a partner dance instructor with her husband, Justin."

Harrison Alter

Claude & Others

(he/him) Dr. Harrison Alter is so happy to be back with the Royal Underground, and to be performing this rousing, timeless-yet-timely show among this stellar cast and crew. Harrison was recently seen with Royal Underground as Col. Jessup in *A Few Good Men* (2026), Leonard in *Seminar* (2025) and as Sigmund Freud in *Freud's Last Session* (2024). He has also recently appeared in *Catch Me If You Can* (Masquers, 2025) and *The People vs. Mona* (Masquers, 2023). Other credits include *A Pride Line* (workshop, 2024), *It Runs in the Family* (OSVP, 2023) and *To Master the Art* (CCCT, 2023). Harrison was born and raised in Chicago, and lives in Berkeley with his partner Dee Dee, to whom he is so grateful to for her love and support.

Arup Chakrabarti

Nick/Doug & Others

(he/him) Arup cannot believe that he is performing in *Come From Away*! To him, this show represents the best of humanity, and is a good reminder that the majority of people in this world are pretty amazing. Arup's previous credits include: *A Few Good Men* (Royal Underground Theatre Company), *Catch Me If You Can*, *Spring Awakening*, *The People Vs. Mona* (Masquers Playhouse), *Doomers* (The Brooklyn Center for Theatre Research), *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *RENT* (Marin Musical Theatre Company). Arup would like to thank his Yak fam and his actual family for all of their love and support.

WHO'S WHO

Tyler Crosby-Jolliffe

Oz & Others

(he/him) Tyler, a come-from-away himself, is thrilled to make his Bay Area theater debut with Royal Underground in a bucket list show and role. Previous favorite roles include Prof. Harold Hill in *The Music Man* (The Footlight Club), Anatoly Sergievsky in *Chess* (MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players), Charles Guiteau in *Assassins* (MIT Musical Theater Guild), and The Chairman in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (The Lilac Players), all in his former home of Boston, MA. Mere words cannot express the admiration and gratitude he has for his spouse, Meghan, who is due with their first child the day after the show closes. They live in Oakland with their mean cat, Garnet.

Shiv Harris

Beulah & Others

(she/her) Shiv is delighted to be making her debut with the Royal Underground! You may have caught her before in Onstage Theatre Company's *Boeing Boeing* (Gretchen) or *Blithe Spirit* (Elvira), Ghostlight Theatre Ensemble's *Urinetown* (Penny Pennywise), or, most recently in Orinda Starlight Village Players' *Present Laughter* (Monica Reed). When not treading the boards, she can be found traveling, writing music (check out her debut album, Tell the Wolves!), and generally making a mess.

Tyler Hedrick

Kevin T/Garth & Others

Tyler (he/him) could not be more thrilled to be performing in *Come From Away* and sharing the stage with this incredible cast. Past performances include *A Few Good Men* (The Royal Underground), *Sound of Music* (Berkeley Playhouse), *A New World Cabaret* (self produced), *Guys and Dolls* (Woodminster), and *The Last 5 Years* (self produced). When Tyler's not on stage, you will probably find him singing at Martuni’s, reading a good fantasy novel at Dolores Park, or playing Magic the Gathering. Tyler wants to thank his friends and family for supporting him, and The Royal Underground for this wonderful opportunity. Welcome to The Rock! (Instagram: @the_drick)

WHO'S WHO

Cassidy Hill

Hannah & Others

(they/them) is no stranger to the stage, both as a musician and an actor. Credits include: Eamon in *Once* at Berkeley Playhouse, Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast* (OneStage Theatre), Betty in *Pickpocket* (Musical Cafe), Rafiki & Dr. Facilier in *Wish Upon a Star* (Peter Pan Foundation), Jane Seymour in *HER-Story-Mix* (Peter Pan Foundation), Ronnette in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Masquers Playhouse),and more! Special thanks to their wife Danika and to Richard Jennings, their incredible vocal coach!

Nicole Naffaa

Diane & Others

(she/her) Nicole is thrilled to be back with The Royal Underground Theatre Company after her recent TRU debut as Bernadette in POTUS. Other recent credits include *Improvised Clue* (Synergy Theater), Hagar in *A Country Made of Salt* (Golden Thread Productions - staged reading), Jean in *Good People* (Altarena Playhouse) which won SFBATCC Awards for Best Ensemble and Best Entire Production, East Bay, Marvalyn/Waitress in *Almost, Maine* (Backyard Players), which she also co-directed, Natasha Pendleton in *Summer of Peace Love and Murder* (Plethos Productions), Dalilah Jeckle in *Circus Menagerie* (Plethos Productions), and Estelle Harte in *The Nuptials* (Plethos Productions). She performed with The Berkeley Players (improv troupe) for over 10 years and has also done a handful of short films, web series, and commercials. She completed a two-year intensive acting program at Empowerhouse Acting Studio with Melissa Thompson Esaia (Meisner Technique), and has been trained in sketch comedy and musical theater as well. May the spirit of generosity, solidarity, and kindness that is at the heart of *Come From Away* continue to inspire us all!

Olivia Quinn

Janice & Others

(she/her) Olivia Quinn is excited to be part of her first production with The Royal Underground! She was most recently seen in *The Hello Girls* at Ross Valley Players. She is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with this talented cast and crew and looks forward to sharing this production with the audience. A special thanks to her loved ones!

WHO'S WHO

CJ Strickland

Bob & Others

(he/him) CJ is excited to be joining the Royal underground theatre family!! You may have seen him in *Legally Blonde* (Ray of Light), *Chicago* (Plethos), or *Little Shop of Horrors* (Chanticleers)! After not being in a show for a year he's ready to get back into the swing of things and put his heart on the stage!! Shout out to his Mom and shout to my friends who became my family!! Insta @cjmanning17

Abigail Wissink

Bonnie & Others

(they/them) Abigail is a North Bay actor, musician, and teaching artist, and they are so excited to be part of the band in another actor musician show. Recent favorites include *The Wizard of Oz* (The Mountain Play), *The Hello Girls* (Ross Valley Players) and *The Tempest* (Berkeley Shakespeare). Big thank you to their family, Evan, Milo, and Jam. www.abigailwissink.com

Gilead Wurman

Kevin J/Ali & Others

(he/him) Gilead (pronounced “gilAHD”, a curiosity for which he blames King James) has been performing operas in the Bay Area for over five years. He is ecstatic to be making his musical theater debut in *Come From Away* with The Royal Underground! His recent roles include Barone Douphol in *La Traviata*, William Tell in *Guglielmo Tell*, Hortensius in *La Fille du Regiment*, and Don Profondo in *Il Viaggio a Reims*. When he is not singing, Gilead works for a large aerospace company, and is a commercial pilot and flight instructor. He freely admits to singing in those settings too, often to the chagrin of his flight students and coworkers. He would like to thank his loving and immensely tolerant wife and two sons, for all their patience and support while he pursues his passions!

WHO'S WHO

Enrico Banson

Director

(he/him) Enrico is a filmmaker, actor, and stage director whose work spans film, TV, theatre and commercials. His feature-length indie films *The After* and *Some Night* screened at numerous festivals including the LA Int'l Film Festival and Miami Int'l Film Festival. Film/TV directing credits include *Ghostly Getaways* for ParaFlixx, *The Perfect Couple* on Amazon Prime and upcoming *The Crossing*. Recent stage directing credits include *Eureka Day (CCCT), Few Good Men (RUTC) Catch Me If You Can* (Masquers), *Seminar* (RUTC), *Freud's Last Session* (RUTC), *The People Vs. Mona* (Masquers) and *Amélie* (Masquers). Selected stage acting credits: Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Lincoln Center, NYC), Roger in *RENT* (Bay Area Regional Premiere, Fort Mason), Iago in *Othello*, Roma in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, both at Hudson Theatre, LA. Proud Screen Actors Guild and Writer's Guild (WGA) member. Love to family, and friends. enricobanson.com

Aaron Tan

Music Director

(he/him) Aaron's first show was *Next to Normal* with Enrico and Royal Underground Theatre was in 2017. He is excited to venture onstage with them again for this production of *Come From Away*. He loves actor/muso productions, it really brings out another level of complexity and enjoyment to musical theater. And traditional musicals just aren't crazy and overwhelming enough! He has been playing the piano for 30 years, and musical-theater-ing for 20. Other recent productions include *Amelie* (Masquers Playhouse) and *Freaky Friday* (DVC).

Michelle Freschi

Movement & Choreography

(she/her) Michelle is excited to make her Royal Underground Theatre production team debut! Having performed in shows throughout the Bay Area for over 20 years, she is thrilled to bring her love of dance and theater to the creative side of the stage. Some of her favorite productions include *Miss Saigon*, *West Side Story*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Catch Me If You Can*. When she's not at the theater, Michelle teaches fourth grade and enjoys taking dance classes, reading, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. Michelle is thankful for the talented cast and creative team and for everyone who continues to keep live theater thriving. She is especially grateful to help tell a story that celebrates the best of humanity. Enjoy the show!

WHO'S WHO

Jerianne Banson

Producer

(she/her) Jerianne is a producer, director, Writer's Guild (WGA) screenwriter, creative artist, musician, songwriter, photographer, and media storyteller. A creative force behind Royal Underground Theatre, she brings the eye of an artist and the discipline of a producer, shaping bold, emotionally resonant work with vision, rigor, taste, and heart. She is also the founder of The Perpetualist, a lifestyle and storytelling brand rooted in faith, culture, healing, travel, music, style, and reinvention. JerianneBanson.com | Perpetualist.com

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our first thank you goes to the people of Gander, Newfoundland, and the neighboring communities who opened their homes, kitchens, and hearts to thousands of stranded strangers in September 2001. You showed the world what kindness looks like when nobody's keeping score. This show exists because of you, and we're honored to share your story.

The Royal Underground Theatre Company also extends our deepest gratitude to everyone who helped bring this production to life. Thank you to Finnish Hall in Berkeley, our rehearsal home and a loyal supporter of the local arts community. Thank you to Glen Riggs and everyone at Tri-Valley Theatre Company, the wonderful team at Revival Hall, and Phil and the staff at Oakland Grove. Thank you to the Borsontino family and Josefa Bordon for their generosity, to Mara Norleen, Shay Oglesby-Smith, and Masquers Playhouse for their help with costumes, and to Lumos Films for promotional media and production photography.

To our patrons, thank you for showing up, buying tickets, spreading the word, and believing that live theatre still matters. To the artists, technicians, volunteers, designers, builders, and the larger Bay Area theatre community, thank you for keeping this ecosystem alive with your talent, labor, and care.

Nobody builds a show like this alone. It takes trust, borrowed resources, shared know-how, and people who say yes when theatre needs them. Gander taught us what that looks like, and you showed us you already knew. To everyone who came from near and far to help bring this story to the stage, thank you.

THEATRE BAY AREA HOMEGROWN RECOGNITION FOR *COME FROM AWAY*



The Royal Underground Theatre Company is a proud member of Theatre Bay Area and the American Association of Community Theatres (AACT)

The Royal Underground Theatre Company would like to acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation. We honor their stewardship of this land and offer our respect and gratitude.

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PRODUCTION PHOTOS



"Somewhere in the Middle of Nowhere" - Photo by Mike Padua



"Screech In" - Photo by Mike Padua



"Me and the Sky" - Photo by Mike Padua



"Welcome to the Rock" - Photo by Mike Padua

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