



All Canadians should see the Broadway smash hit *Come from Away*

By *Alexandra Cohen*

Come from Away (www.comefromaway.com), the new Broadway musical by Canadian husband and wife duo Irene Sankoff and David Hein, tells the often-forgotten story of the 38 planes that were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland on September 11, 2001. While the tragedy of 9/11 does not sound like the most uplifting premise for a musical, the show's creators refer to it instead as a story about 9/12 and the days that followed. *Come from Away*, to put it simply, is a 100-minute musical celebrating human empathy and kindness. It is showing at Broadway's Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre (236 West 45th Street).

The small town of Gander nearly doubled its population, turning itself upside down to accommodate the visitors, many of whom spoke different languages and came from different cultural backgrounds. *Come from Away*, which was nominated for seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, features an outstanding ensemble of actors who work together to tell this deeply moving story. Each performer plays multiple roles, and they transition seamlessly from Newfoundlanders to the people on the planes under the expert direction of Tony Award-winner Christopher Ashley.

Of particular note in the cast is Tony-nominee Jenn Colella, who amongst other roles, plays Captain Beverly Bass. Bass was, as sung by Colella, "the first female American captain in history," and her plane flying from Paris to Dallas was one of the 38 di-

verted to Gander. She has been to see *Come From Away* a whopping 61 times thus far. "I never get tired of it," Bass told the *New York Times*, also adding "I can't believe I've seen it that many times – but I'm ready to go back."

Leaving the theatre following the show, I couldn't help but feel exceptionally proud to be Canadian. *Come from Away* is laced with inside jokes meant just for us, like references to Tim Hortons and Molson beer, along with stereotypical jokes like a moose standing in the middle of the road and the communal disappointment felt when hockey is cancelled. While history largely forgot about the incredible people of Gander, that cannot be said anymore. In June, it was announced that for their hospitality and kindness, the town of Gander will be honored as the first municipality to win an international humanitarian award from the Values-In-Action Foundation.

Come from Away will also launch a North American tour across the United States and Canada at Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre in October 2018, and a third production has been announced to play Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre beginning on Tuesday, February 13, 2018.

The theatre is not completely wheelchair accessible. While there are no steps into the building from the sidewalk, there are within the facility. Seating is accessible to all parts of the Orchestra without steps. There are



The cast of Come from Away.

no steps to the designated wheelchair seating location. On the Mezzanine level, there are approximately two steps down per row (entrance to Mezzanine is behind row K). Handrails are available at the end of every stepped seat row in the Mezzanine. A wheelchair accessible restroom (unisex) is located on the main level.

MOMA

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MoMA recognizes the diversity of the general public's abilities and needs, and offers a variety of programs and services to ensure the accessibility of the Museum and its collection. All public areas of the Museum and entrances are wheelchair accessible. Entrances with power assist doors are located on Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth streets between Fifth and Sixth avenues. Wheelchairs are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis and are located in the checkroom in the main lobby. Motorized wheelchairs are permitted. Wheelchair-accessible restrooms, each situated next to a water fountain, are located on all floors except the Theater 2 level and the entry level of The Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Education and Research Building. Elevators are located throughout the Museum. FM assistive listening devices (headsets and neck loops) are available for all Gallery Talks. Sign language interpretation is available for all events with at least two weeks

advance notice and CART captioning is available for all events with at least three weeks advance notice. MoMA Audio is T-Coil compatible, and transcripts of all audio programs are available upon request from the audio desks. All MoMA theaters, lobby desks, ticketing desks, audioguide desks, and one of The Edward John Noble Education Center's classrooms are equipped with induction loops that transmit directly to hearing aids with T-Coils. Foreign-language films include English captioning. Public telephones with volume control and TTY are located on the ground floor, in the vestibule of the public restrooms. The floor plan and select special-exhibition brochures are available in large print and Braille from the lobby information desk. Service dogs are welcome. An audio program for blind and partially sighted visitors that provides detailed descriptions of key works from the Museum's collection—is available free of charge at the audio desks. Transcripts of this and all audio programs are available in large print upon request.

MoMA is open seven days a week at 11 West 53rd Street. For more details and to find out about present and upcoming exhibitions log on to www.moma.org.

WHERE TO STAY

Is there really any better place to stay in New York City than the historic Algonquin Hotel (www.algonquinhotel.com). On our most recent trip, we were fortunate enough to secure reservations again. Located in the

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