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○ 34TH SEASON | ○ DECEMBER | ○ 2010

Lyric *notes*

REGINA LYRIC MUSICAL THEATRE
WWW.REGINALYRIC.COM

Brunch auditions December 2; gift certificates available for Christmas!

Auditions for Lyric's annual musical brunch will be held Thursday, December 2, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., at Lakeview United Church, 3200 McCallum Ave. Use the west front entrance. Bring a song that shows off your voice; an accompanist will be provided.

This year's brunch, once again directed by Jane Ursan, is titled *From Camelot to Cabaret: The 1960s Broadway Revolution*.

Says Jane, "The 1960s produced some of the most successful and loved Broadway musicals of all time. These shows featured songs that have been recorded by

many well known singers of the day, including Frank Sinatra, Dionne Warwick, Sammy Davis Jr. and The 5th

Dimension. This year's brunch is about those songs—"The Impossible Dream," "What Kind of Fool Am I," "Try to

Remember," "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," "Put on a Happy Face," "Aquarius"—and many more.

The show runs February 6 and 13 at the Hotel Saskatchewan Radisson Plaza. Tickets are \$45, and will be available at Bach & Beyond in January...but why not purchase a gift certificate *now* as a Christmas present?

E-mail ticket manager Diane Stephenson at d.stephenson@sasktel.net to arrange for *your* gift

certificate.

They make great stocking stuffers!



Bravo Bernstein!
February 2005

LYRIC NOTES

Editor: Edward Willett

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In May, Lyric's having a *Baby!*

Lyric's spring show, running May 25 to 29 at the University Theatre, Riddell Centre, will be *Baby*, directed by Robert Ursan.

Auditions are scheduled for Thursday, February 17, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Lakeview United Church.

With music by David Shire and lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr., a book by Sybille Pearson, and based on a story developed with Susan Yankowitz, *Baby* is, as Musical Theatre International (www.mtishows.com) puts it: "...the story of three couples on a university campus as they deal with the painful, rewarding and agonizingly funny consequences" of having a baby.

Says MTI: "There are the college students, barely at the beginning of their adult lives; the thirty-somethings, having trouble conceiving but determined to try; and the middle-aged parents, looking forward to seeing their last child graduate from college when a night of

unexpected passion lands them back where they started."

Cast requirements

The cast size is flexible, and has many featured roles and roles for both younger and older performers, plus a strong chorus component.

Characters include:

- A BRIEFLY-SEEN NARRATOR
- A DOCTOR
- A NURSE
- ALAN, 48, older man, a college administrator
- ARLENE, 48, his wife with a new empty nest
- DANNY, 20, young idealistic musician, tenor
- FLIZZIE, 20, young independent student
- NICK, 30, a coach
- PAM 30, a coach, a bit neurotic
- FRIENDS
- TOWNSPEOPLE

Synopsis

Here's the story, from guideto-musicaltheatre.com:

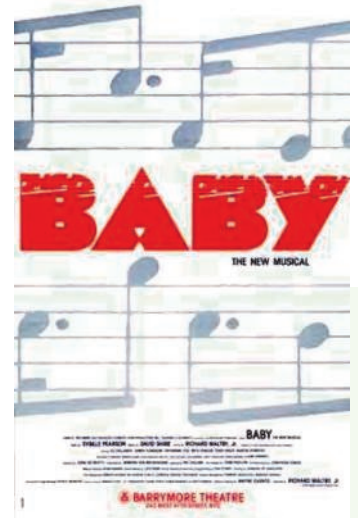
Baby is set on a college campus and takes place over a period of nine months, spanning the seasons from March to November. Danny and Lizzie, both 20, are students studying music. They share a basement flat and are close to graduating. Alan (48) who is a dean of the college, and his wife Arlene (43) are returning from holiday. Pam and her husband, Nick—both 3—are sport coaches. All three women have good reason to believe that they are accidentally pregnant, and each couple feels on the verge of great changes.

Given their situation, Lizzie and Danny are a little apprehensive about the future, although Lizzie does not see a baby as reason enough to marry. Alan and Arlene reflect on their own situation with three children who have already flown the nest. They give themselves a week to decide whether or not to go through with the pregnancy. Pam and Nick are simply overjoyed and all over each other.

The three women meet in the doctor's waiting room, reconciling their broodiness with their other ambitions. Meanwhile, Danny and Nick meet to express their doubts and reinforce their certainties. With great confusion and anguish, Pam finds that she is not pregnant at all, and that Nick may be virtually sterile. The doctor recommends a guidebook on bedroom practices.

The three men meet at a ball game. Danny says he is to join a punk band called the Magnets in order to earn some money for the unexpected arrival. All look forward to the sacrifices they will make.

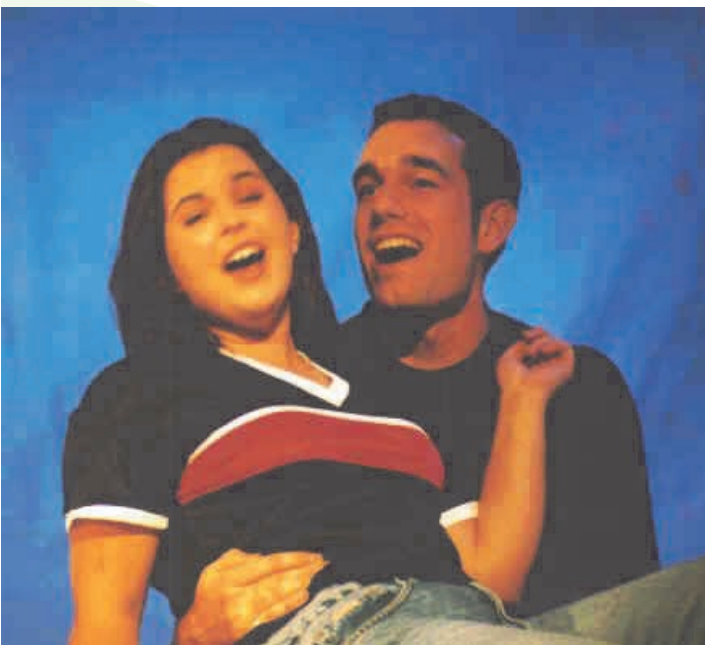
Nick and Pam begin to use their guidebook and Alan and



Arlene decide to have the baby. Danny is to tour with the band for several months and Lizzie bids goodbye to him at the bus station. Danny symbolically "weds" her with an old ring before he leaves.

Time passes for Lizzie and, left by herself one day, she feels her baby move for the first time. By mid-August, Lizzie is heavily pregnant and finds herself stopped by other women telling her their own birth experiences. Danny at last returns. They are delighted to discover that they now both want to get married.

Nick and Pam finally give up on the guidebook, which has made their lovemaking a misery. Nick suggests maybe she should find a man who can guarantee to make her pregnant, but they both know that what they have together is too precious to sacrifice. Arlene and Alan come to see that her "accidental" pregnancy was actually something they had both wanted, because their love had become predictable. Realising their new potential, the experiences of all three of the couples are inter-played as Lizzie finally gives birth to her baby at the hospital.



Naomi Williams as Lizzie and Brian McBride as Danny in Lyric's 1997 production of *Baby*.

Jessica Scheuer receives Bob Simons Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Scheuer, who says she was “practically raised on Regina Theatre,” is the winner of this year’s Bob Simons Memorial Scholarship, presented annually in memory of Lyric’s former ticket manager to a deserving Lyric member who is going on to continue post-secondary education in Musical Theatre or Music Education.

“In love with musical theatre”

In her successful application, Jessica wrote, “Since Grade 2 I have been in love with musical theatre. After performing my first musical, *The Sound of Music*, with my elementary school, I vowed that I would continue to learn and grow from performing in musicals, in hopes that someday I could give others the same experience of joy theatre had given me.

“Though I did not get my start with Lyric, participating in Do



It With Class for nine years had allowed me to learn and grow, while opening the door to Lyric performance opportunities and audience experiences. After seeing various Lyric productions I was no longer able to sit back and enjoy from the audience, and decided I needed to audition as a Lyric cast member.

First Lyric show *Oklahoma!*

“My first Lyric performance was in *Oklahoma!*, and I have participated in each spring show since, the last being this year’s production of *Gypsy*. I have also been able to perform in three of Jane’s Lyric brunches, giving me a more intimate type of musical experience. I hope over the years I have contributed to the Lyric experience both as a cast member and in the audience as a supporter, for I know I have loved every minute of it!

“Since graduating from both high school and DIWC, I was able to make Lyric my musical theatre community. I am extremely thankful for the family atmosphere and many opportunities the Lyric musical theatre organization has given me over the last few years! We are so lucky to have an organization that gives theatre opportunities to such a vast age

range, and I am constantly thankful that Lyric has given me a chance to continue to perform within the community.”

Jessica is currently in her fourth year of the arts education program at the University of Regina, majoring in drama, with a minor in visual art, and says, “I feel as though every theatrical experience I have had will help me to be the best drama educator possible. I can’t wait for the day I can direct a musical with my students, and can share with them all I have learned over the years from my performance experiences. I hope that by finishing the Arts Education program at the University of Regina, I am better prepared and able to bring my love of musical theatre to students of the future.”

Congratulations, Jessica!

So You Think You Can Dance Canada top-eight finalist had Lyric connection

Although it doesn’t get any play in his official biography, Mackenzie Green, the 20-year-old Regina native who made the top eight in this fall’s season of *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*, had a Lyric connection: he was in the cast of Lyric’s 2004 production of *The Pajama Game*.

The then-teenaged dancer (at left in the photo) performed the number “Steam Heat” with fellow dancer Matt Alfano and Marina Mayell, who played Gladys.

Mackenzie, the first *So You Think You Can Dance Canada* competitor from Saskatchewan, went on to train with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Banff Dance Centre to expand his ballet technique before moving into contemporary dance, and now lives in Vancouver.



The Times, They Are A-Changin’

Lyric’s fall show had audiences clapping and singing along

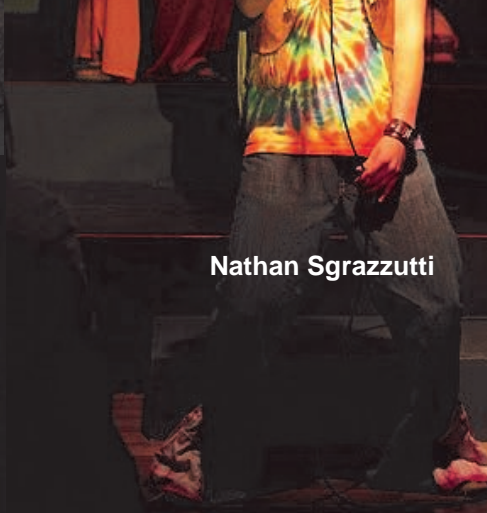
Photos by Norris Bjorndahl



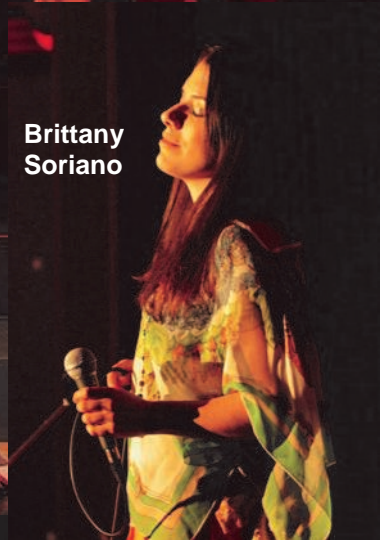
Andrea and Rob Armstrong



Ryan Hicks
Director and
Show Creator



Nathan Sgrazutti



Brittany Soriano



Ron Blechinger

Carolyn Speirs

Dwayne Bechtold