**Come From Away**

**by Irene Sankoff and David Hein**

**Programme notes for Audio Described Performance**

**The Abbey Theatre, 19th January 2019, 2pm**

Welcome to the introductory notes for thisproduction of **Come From Away** by Irene Sankoff and David Hein. The play is directed by Christopher Ashley, musical staging by Kelly Devine. Musical supervision and Arrangements by Ian Eisendrath, scenic design by Beowulf Boritt, Costume Design by Toni-Leslie James, Lighting Design by Howell Binkley, Sound Design by Gareth Owen, Hair Design by David Brian Brown, Orchestrations by August Eriksmoen, the Dialect Coach is Joel Goldes.

The performance lasts for one hour and forty minutes without an interval.

**ABOUT THE SET**

The set is sparse and has a rustic feel to it. A bare wooden scuffed floor. A handful of wooden logs set vertically on either side of the stage represent trees, two of these "trees" have been snapped off about halfway so that we see the pale, jagged wood within. At the back of the stage a wooden slatted wall. Wooden chairs are used to set the different scenes – rows of chairs represent an aeroplane, many chairs fill the space along with neon lighting to represent the airport control rooms around. Chairs are moved again to form the shape of a bus and a coastal line. The movement of chairs also transports us into a bar and a town hall. Small wooden tables are brought in and out. Musicians are tucked into the back left and right remaining largely unseen depending on where you are seated in the auditorium. A stand up piano, guitar, bodhrán, accordion, fiddle.

A door opens on the back wall to represent the inside of a cargo hold.

The lighting is mostly naturalistic, sometimes clouds are projected onto the back wall. In moments of high drama lights brighten or darken.

**ABOUT THE CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES**

A cast of 12 represent 17,000 residents and passengers, actors morph from Gander resident to international passenger or simply part of the crowd. An eclectic bunch of people age ranging from twenties to sixties. Different body types and ethnicities. Mostly changing discreetly onstage, aided by other actors who hand them the clothing to represent their character.

**Beulah** is played by **Jenna Boyd.**  Beulah is a local teacher in her late forties perhaps. She wears loose clothing of brown slacks and peach coloured shirt over the brown slacks and white runners. She has rosy cheeks and often wears a smile. Her face framed by dusty blonde hair which curls under when it hits her shoulders.

**Nathanael Campbell** plays a flight passenger named **Bob**, a New Yorker in his thirties who moves with cautious movements, on high alert. He wears faded jeans with a grey t-shirt with the letters NY embossed upon it and runners on his feet. Later on in the play he puts on a brown checked shirt.

**Claude** played by **Clive Carter,** is the mayor of Gander, in his sixties. Broad shouldered with a slight paunch. He wears dark brown slacks held up with a leather belt, tan brogues, lemon-yellow polo shirt with a grey and blue checked jacket. His hair is white, fashioned into a short back and sides. Claude moves confidently, owning the space.

**Mary Doherty** plays **Bonnie,** a Gander resident of approximately forty years of age. She wears blue jeans, a blue polo t-shirt and a mustard coloured cardigan, on her feet grey runners. Her long, wavy auburn hair hangs loose and rests just below her shoulders. Bonnie is a mother of three and an animal welfare activist.

**Nick** and **Doug** are played by **Robert Hands.** When he plays Doug he wears a casual outfit of dusty pink shirt with light brown chino trousers and brown brogues. A man in his forties, hair thinning a little, he is the husband of Bonnie and an air-traffic controller by profession. He also plays a passenger called Nick, an English guy in a more conservative outfit of dark blue suit adorned with brass buttons on the cuff and he wears glasses. Later he puts on a red baseball jacket.

**Diane,** played by **Helen Hobson,** is also a passenger, from Texas. She is a woman in her forties who holds herself confidently. She wears a smart casual outfit of black slacks and black blouse with a tan flowered pattern and black flat pumps on her feet. Long, blonde hair frames her strong features and her kind eyes twinkle. Later she puts on an over-sized woollen cardigan which has purple trimming with orange, purple, brown and cream pattern. The cardigan clashes with the outfit she wears underneath!

**Kevin J** and **Ali** are played by **Jonathon Andrew Hume.** A man in his late thirties, early forties with shaved hair. As Kevin he plays the boyfriend and secretary of Kevin T, and wears jeans and a blue fitted polo t-shirt which enhances his muscular arms. When playing Ali he wears a prayer cap called a kufi.

**Oz** played by **Harry Morrison** Oz is the local constable wearing dark blue jeans, black short-sleeved shirt, brown runners, black baseball cap with white lettering which spells out POLICE and large glasses.

**Janice** played by **Emma Salvo**. Janice plays an enthusiastic, local journalist. She wears smart dark bootleg jeans, crisp white shirt and heeled tan boots under the jeans. Her long, blonde hair is held away from her face by a hair comb either side.

**Kevin T** and **Garth** are played by **David Shannon**. Garth is the head of the union in Gander. A man in his forties with a smart short back and sides haircut. He wears smart dark blue jeans, with well-polished brown brogues and a tan coloured shirt. As Kevin T – the head of an environmental energy company and boyfriend to Kevin J he wears a smart, black leather jacket over his clothes.

**Hannah,** played by **Cat Simmons** a woman in her fifties with a fire-fighter son wears blue bootleg jeans with brown shoes, a purple fitted top and a silver cross upon a chain around her neck. Brown framed glasses resting on her nose, sometimes they hang loose around her neck upon a chain. Hannah’s hair is fashioned in long, dark-brown, thin dreadlocks.

**Beverley** and **Annette** are played by **Rachel Tucker.** Beverley is the pilot. She also plays Annette the local librarian and Gander resident. A petite woman who as Annette wears dark bootleg jeans, white fitted t-shirt and a colourful waistcoat of orange, green and black. On her feet dark coloured ankle boots with a small heel. Her auburn hair is shaped into a smart shoulder length bob. As Beverley she wears a navy-blue fitted pilot’s uniform which consists of trousers and a jacket with four gold stripes on the bottom of each sleeve, underneath the white t-shirt.

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That concludes the introductory notes for this production of **Come From Away**. They were prepared by Máirín Harte who, along with Bríd Ní Ghruagáin, will be audio describing the show. Audio description at the Abbey Theatre is provided by Arts & Disability Ireland with support from The Arts Council.

Thank you. Go raibh maith agaibh.



