

MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

DEFYING GRAVITY

A MEGA MUSICAL CABARET

FEATURING MUSIC FROM SUCH MEGA-HIT SHOWS AS

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

LES MISERABLES

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

AND WICKED.

ADDED PERFORMANCE: 2PM NOVEMBER 26TH!

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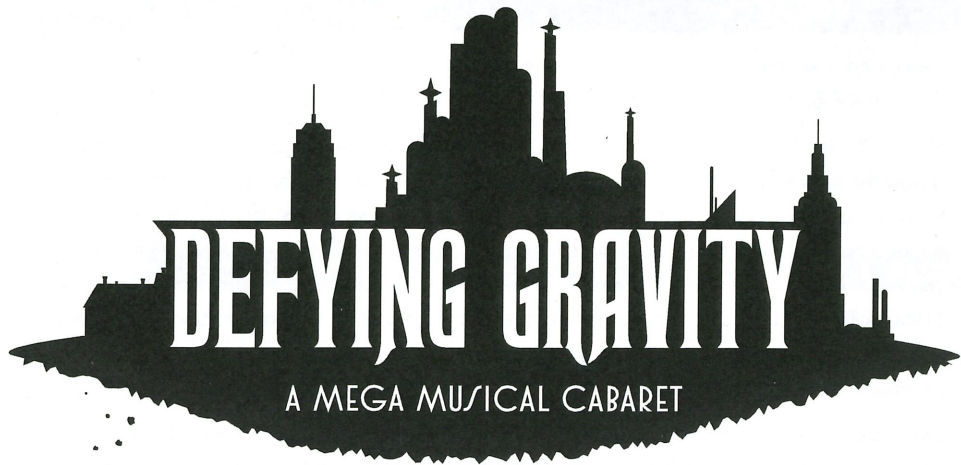
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Musical Theatre Productions Presents



ARTISTIC TEAM

Producer Susan McKone
Director Kristina Baron-Woods
Musical Director Alexandra Kane
Choreographer Shannon Maguire
Production Manager Duane Woods

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I am so pleased to welcome you to *Defying Gravity: A Mega Musical Cabaret*. It has been an absolute thrill to create and rehearse this show with the mega-sized cast. Now I get to step back and enjoy with you what the cast, crew, and musicians have been working on for the past few months. It's a particular joy for me to see so many cast members who are taking the stage of an MTP show for the first time - I hope they have all felt a warm, welcoming embrace into the MTP family!

Even though I only pitched the idea for this cabaret to the MTP board nine months ago, I feel like this show has been percolating in my brain for decades. I fell in love with *Annie* when I was a little girl, and *Cats*, *Les Mis*, and *Phantom* not long after. The idea for the show was to present all the fabulous, soaring music that we love to sing and hear from the mega-musical genre, but that a community theatre generally can't do because of the epic scale of a full production. Who cares if we don't build a barricade, crash a chandelier, or make a green woman fly, when we can hear the stirring melodies that are inspired by those events? Ultimately, it's the music that matters.

I hope that you all love these songs and performances as much as I do. When we get to the finale, please feel free to sing and dance along - I know I will!

Kristina Baron-Woods

there will be a fifteen minute intermission

No photography or recording of the production is permitted

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, and welcome to the first production of Musical Theatre Productions' 28th Season. Our 2016-2017 Season brings you a collection of Broadway's favourites.

We are thrilled to kick-off our season with *DEFYING GRAVITY: A Mega Musical Cabaret*. This is now the third edition of our exciting benefit concert that allows our brilliant local performers to showcase their passion for the stage in song and dance. We are thrilled to bring together a mega cast with performers of all ages for a tribute to Broadway's biggest hits. We hope you enjoy this electrifying celebration of the mega musical. Have a drink, purchase one of our 50-50 tickets, and be sure to bid on one of the exciting prizes in our silent auction. All proceeds from this event will be put towards the fulfillment of our mission to serve the community and the continuation of our exciting season.

Our season continues this February as we invite you to follow us under the sea with Ariel and all of her friends in *Disney's THE LITTLE MERMAID*. Join us this Family Day for a magical story of love and longing based on the beloved Hans Christian Andersen fable and the classic animated film, with songs from the Oscar-winning team of Alan Menken and Howard Ashman. This magical production sets sail February 17-26 at the McManus Studio at the Grand Theatre, with a special Family Day matinee on February 20th and lots of magical surprises for the whole family. Visit our website or sign-up to our mailing list for announcements on this dazzling production and other exciting events.

MTP is so grateful for the support of all of our artistic team members, our cast and crew, our dedicated volunteers, our sponsors and donors, and of course our patrons like you for making amazing shows like this possible and providing opportunities for so many talented individuals to embrace their love of musical theatre. We now invite you to be our guest and embrace the music of the night.

Joe Recchia,
President of the Board of Directors,
Musical Theatre Productions

MTP BOARD MEMBERS

Joe Recchia • Rick Smith • Andrew Rethazi-Recchia • Phil Hallman
Kristina Baron-Woods • Laura Hounsell • Alexandra Kane • Lia Karidas
Tom Smyth • Duane Woods • Adam Zess



SUE MCKONE - PRODUCER

For MTP: Gladys in *Pajama Game*, Mimi in *Guys & Dolls*, Mrs. Merkle in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Electra in *Gypsy*, Dot in *Night of Noir*, Ensemble in *South Pacific*, *Nunsense*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and six MTP Cabarets. Served for two terms on MTP's Board of Directors.

Other theatre: *Wizard of Oz* for Thistle Theatre. *Sound of Music* for ITOPA. *Spring Awakening* for Theatre Western.
Susan steps off the stage for her first role as Producer. She would like to thank Joe and Nicole for their guidance and immeasurable support.



KRISTINA BARON-WOODS - DIRECTOR

For MTP: Sally in *Follies*, Amalia in *She Loves Me*, *Songs for a New World*. Directed [title of show] for Fringe, produced *Drowsy Chaperone*. **Other theatre:** *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *Phantom National Concert Tour*, Pacheco Theatre's *Sweeney Todd*, directed/produced *The Fantasticks* with Shrew'd Business Collective (Best Show Fringe 2012), past musical director for Original Kids Theatre Company, currently musical directing *The Addams Family* for LYTE. Kristina is thrilled to be working with this spectacular cast, getting to hear their glorious voices. Special love and thanks go to Duane who got dragged along on this ride, but doesn't seem to mind.



ALEXANDRA KANE - MUSIC DIRECTOR

For MTP: Susan in [title of show], Audrey in *Night of Noir*, Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid* (Feb 2017).

Alexandra is very excited to be Music Directing her first MTP cabaret. She runs the troupe Glee London through her performing arts studio, AK Arts Academy. Love to Ryan, Mom and Dad. Enjoy the show!



SHANNON MAGUIRE - CHOREOGRAPHER

For MTP: Debut.

Other theatre: *American Idiot*, *Legally Blonde*, *Lovelash*.

This is Shannon's first time choreographing and performing in an MTP show and she is super excited about it!



DUANE WOODS - PRODUCTION MANAGER

For MTP: Georg in *She Loves Me*, Herbie in *Gypsy*, George in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Producer for [title of show].

Other theatre: *The Normal Heart* (LCP), *Book of Days* (Theatre Emanation), *Miniputt* (Theatre Orangeville), *Shear Madness* (Drayton Entertainment).

Duane is proud to work alongside his wife Kristina on this "mega" cabaret. Thanks for joining us today!



SOMMER FOSTER - PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

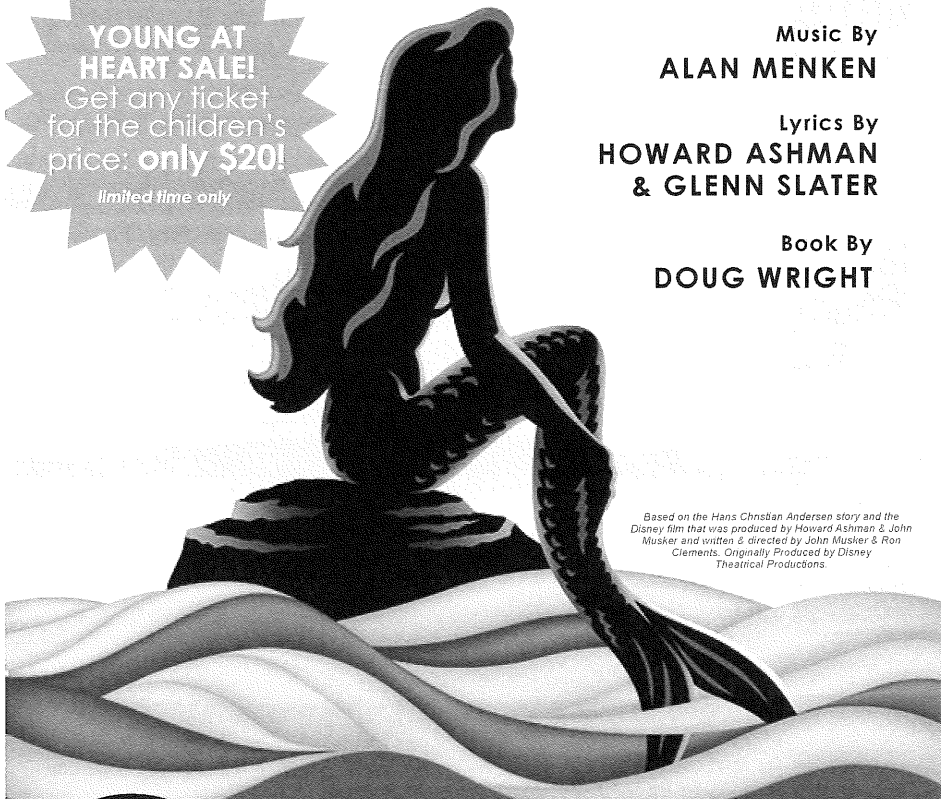
For MTP: This is Sommer's first theatrical experience!

Sommer is delighted to be working alongside an amazingly talented cast and tireless artistic team! Many thanks to her family and friends for their love and support in this new adventure!

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THE SONGS – ACT ONE

— BEAUTY AND THE BEAST —

Belle Kate Deman, Evan Jones, Full Ensemble
Home Kate Deman
Be Our Guest Rick Smith, Susan Dean,
John Rapacz, Full Ensemble

— ANNIE —

Maybe Sarah Ouellet, Leah Gliddon, Annie Ensemble
Little Girls Bronwyn Powell, Annie Ensemble
Hard Knock Life Annie Ensemble
Tomorrow Riley DeLuca

— CATS —

Grizabella Thaesha Buckley, Julia Sebastien, Katie Harris
Memory Bronwyn Powell, Allison Lattanzio

— LES MISERABLES —

Master of the House Rick Smith, Ruth Noonan, Ensemble
Castle on a Cloud Amber Sellars
In My Life Preston Cooper-Winder, Emma Vanderkuyl,
Terence Vince, Jesslyn Hodgson
Heart Full of Love Preston Cooper-Winder, Jesslyn Hodgson,
Emma Vanderkuyl
On My Own Jesslyn Hodgson
Bring Him Home Terence Vince
Stars Andrew Cherry
Empty Chairs Preston Cooper-Winder
One Day More Full Ensemble

THE SONGS – ACT TWO

— PHANTOM OF THE OPERA —

Masquerade Evan Jones, Rick Smith, Ensemble
Think of Me Sophie Jones, Braven Warren
Angel of Music Allison Lattanzio, Andrew Cherry, Sophie Jones
Phantom of the Opera Andrew Cherry, Sophie Jones, Ensemble
Music of the Night Andrew Cherry
All I Ask of You Sophie Jones & Braven Warren

— WICKED —

What is This Feeling? Sarah Abbott, Andrea Ferrett, Adult Ensemble
Popular Sarah Abbott, Andrea Ferrett
Defying Gravity Sarah Abbott, Andrea Ferrett
For Good Sarah Abbott, Andrea Ferrett, Full Ensemble



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SARAH ABBOTT - GLINDA

For MTP: Louise in *Gypsy*, Amy/Ensemble in *Songs for a New World*, Fontine/Ensemble in *Dare to Dream*. **Other Theatre:** *The Last Five Years* with Forest City Theatre. *Duchess of Malfi* with London Community Players. *Chicago* with Pacheco Theatre. *Cabaret* with Fuse Theatre. *Othello* with Theatre Nemesis. *My Fair Lady* with Thistle Theatre. *The Weir* with By the Book Theatre. Sarah would like to thank MTP, as well as the cast and crew of this show for a spectacular experience. Thanks to the Malfia, Terri and her fam jam "I know I'm who I am today, because I knew you."



MATTY ANGELOPOULOS - ANNIE ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début.
Other theatre: *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.
Upcoming: *Fosse*.
Matty is very excited to be a part of her first MTP Cabaret. Thanks mom, Sue and dad, Nick for all the support.



THAESHA BUCKLEY - FEATURED CAT / ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début.
She is thrilled to be part of an MTP show and to be working with such a wonderful cast and crew! Thaesha would like to thank her family, friends and vocal teachers for their continuous support which has helped Thaesha to make it where she is today.



ANDREW CHERRY - PHANTOM / JAVERT

For MTP: Début.
Other theatre: *Grease*, *Les Misérables*, *Happy Days*, *Back to the 80's*, and *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* with Lindsay Little Theatre (LLT). Director and founder of LLT Youth Group.
Andrew is very excited to be a part of MTP's *Defying Gravity* tonight. Thank you to Jack and Carol Cherry for all your help and support!!!



PRESTON COOPER-WINDER - MARIUS

For MTP: Ensemble / J.D. understudy in *Heathers*, Ensemble in *She Loves Me*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Dare To Dream*, and *Night of Noir*.
Other theatre: *Les Misérables* with the Grand Theatre High School Production. *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* with Parkside Collegiate Institute.
St. Thomas bred Scorpio, proficient in Microsoft Word. Casual listens to "One Day More" are starting to hurt the brain.



SUSAN DEAN - MRS. POTTS / ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début. **Other theatre:** *Mikvah Monologues & What is Torah*, *The Thirteenth One*, *Corner Café Coffee House*, *So You Think You Can Daaven*, *Looking for Hayim*, & *Look Up: From Rock n' Roll to the Recliner*. To the MTP cast & crew - thank you for the experience of being involved in this amazing production! A big shout out to my family and friends who continue to support me and especially to John, whose unfailing love & encouragement buoys me every day.



RILEY DELUCA - ANNIE

For MTP: Début.
Other Theatre: *Willy Wonka*, *Fracture*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *GLEE London*.
When she is not at school or playing with her sister and friends, Riley enjoys honing her performance skills at AK Arts Academy.



KATE DEMAN - BELLE

For MTP: High Priest in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Songs for a New World*, Shelly in *Bat Boy*, *Seussical* and *White Christmas*.
Other theatre: *Birth*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Evil Dead*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Rent*, and *Hairspray*.
Kate would like to thank Adam, Ian and her family for all of their love and support.



ANDREA FERRETT - ELPHABA

For MTP: Ngana in *South Pacific*, *Songs For A New World*.
Other theatre: *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* for the Grand Theatre. *Urinetown* for Confidential Music Theatre Project Toronto, Featured Vocalist for Royal Caribbean, NCL & Princess Cruises.
Andrea is a graduate of Sheridan College's Music Theatre Program. Blowing kisses to Claire & love to Adam for your continued support.



LEAH GLIDDON - ANNIE ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début.
Other theatre: *Anne of Green Gables*, and *Peter Pan: A Panto* with Drayton Entertainment. *Flat Stanley Jr.*, *Winnie The Pooh*, and *Disney's Peter Pan Jr.* with Original Kids Theatre Company. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* with AK Academy.
Leah is grateful for the opportunity to be a member of MTP. She thanks her parents and family for their wonderful support.



KATIE HARRIS - FEATURED CAT / ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Simon Zealot in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.
Upcoming: *Atina* in *The Little Mermaid*.
Katie is thrilled to be able to work with MTP again joining this mega-talented cast and crew. A huge thanks goes out to Sam, her parents and her two amazing boys for all their love and support.



JESSLYN HODGSON - EPONINE

For MTP: Heather Macnamara in *Heathers*, and Young Vanessa in *Follies*.
Other Theatre: *Of Mice and Men* with By the Book Theatre, *The Family Creetin* with Banished by the King, and *Little Shop of Horrors* with King's Players.
Jesslyn is excited to be playing one of her favourite musical characters in this year's cabaret.



EVAN JONES - ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début.

This is Evan's first MTP performance and his first musical. His last performances on stage were many years ago in University and he's excited to be back. Many thanks to Johanna, Anneke and Merrick for singing along with all the rehearsals at the piano!



SOPHIE JONES - CHRISTINE

For MTP: Début. **Other Theatre:** *Sense and Sensibility* with Beal. *Godspell*, *Swing!*, *Once On This Island*, *Changing Minds*, *Cinderella*, *Fame*, *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Jungle Book*, and *Aladdin* with Original Kids Theatre Company. **Upcoming:** *Seussical* (OKTC) and *Pippen* (Beal). **Television:** *Driving Me Crazy* (YTV). Sophie is thrilled to be making her debut with MTP! Love to Kate, Jack and everyone for their on-going support. Special thanks to Jocelyn Rasmussen for the gift of her vocal instruction.



ALLISON LATTANZIO - MEG / JEMIMA

For MTP: Début.

Meg Giry and Jemima are Allison's debut roles with MTP. Allison sends her love to her whole family. Thanks for the inspiration and support!



LUKE LEE YOUNG - ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début. **Upcoming:** *The Little Mermaid*.

Other theatre: *Les Misérables* and *Julius Caesar* with the Grand Theatre High School Project. *High School Musical*, *Avenue Q*, *Seussical*, and *Footloose* with Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School. Various productions with Original Kids Theatre Company. **Upcoming:** *Elf* at Mother Teresa C.S.S.

Luke is very happy to be a part of the MTP Cabaret this season and would like to thank his friends, teachers, and family for being very supportive of his hectic schedule.



OLIVIA LITTLE - ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début. **Other Theatre:** *The Trojan Women* with Passion Fool. *Almost Alice* with Funeral Pyre Theatre. *Midsummers Night's Dream*, *Drop Dead Juliet*, *MacBeth*, and *Alice in Wonderland* with the LYTE Program. *Peter Pan* with Medway High School.

Olivia is very excited to do her first cabaret and work with all of the great people at MTP. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their continued love and support.



SHANNON MAGUIRE - ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début.

Other theatre: *American Idiot*, *Legally Blonde*, *LoveLash*.

This is Shannon's first time choreographing and performing in a MTP show and she is super excited about it!



CHASE MARTIN-LEE - ANNIE ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début. **Other theatre:** *Glee London*, *The Roundhouse London*.

Other: Competitive dancer, model (Blowe magazine and Poster Child magazine), and actor (commercials include Brightlings and Spin Master Hedgies).

Chase is very excited to be performing in her first MTP production. Thank you to MTP for allowing me this opportunity. Also thanks to my mom and dad for their support.



RUTH NOONAN - MME THENARDIER

For MTP: Début.

Other theatre: *Lucky Stiff*, *Into the Woods*, *Big!*, and *Gypsy* with South Simcoe Theatre.

Ruth is very excited to be performing in her first MTP show. Lots of love to her family, especially her husband Devon and her beautiful baby girl Ruby!



SARAH OULETTE - ANNIE ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début. **Other Theatre:** *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Annie*, *Who Turned Off the Light?*, and *New Year's Rockin' Eve* with GLEE London with AK Arts Academy. *Dear Edwina Jr.* and *Cinderella* with Original Kids Theatre Company. *London Dance Ensemble* with Victoria Carter London Dance Centre.

It is such a thrill to perform with so many talented people! Hugs and kisses to Mommy, Daddy, Emma, and Alex. Thank you so much for all your support!



BRONWYN POWELL - GRIZABELLA / MISS HANNIGAN

For MTP: *Follies*, and *Zorba*. **Other Theatre:** *Sweeney Todd* with Pacheco Theatre. *Jenny's House of Joy* with Theatre Soup. *Picnic*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank* with London Community Players.

Bronwyn appreciates the opportunity and the camaraderie Defying Gravity has provided for her foray back on the boards! Big love to family and friends for their steadfast support. She dedicates "Memory" to her late husband, David Wasse.



ALANA RAPACZ - ENSEMBLE

For MTP: *Madame Hortense* in *Zorba*, *Emily Whitman* in *Follies*, *Mayor's wife* in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Kitty* in *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Other theatre: *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *The Wedding Singer*. Including several years with Fanshawe Chorus and church choirs.

Alana is excited to be back with MTP and to be sharing the stage with her eldest son John.



JOHN RAPACZ - ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début.

This is John's first experience with doing any shows and he's very excited to be in this with such a talented cast.



JULIA SEBASTIEN - FEATURED CAT / ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Featured cat in "Grizabella". **Other theatre:** *Alice and Wonderland: an Opera, Les Misérables, Wicked*, a fourth grade production of *High School Musical*, other cabarets. Julia is extremely grateful to have found MTP and loves rehearsing for this cabaret! The first musical she saw was the *Lion King*, but her favourites are *Wicked* and *Les Mis*. Love to her family who always supports her musical activities!



AMBER SELLARS - YOUNG COSETTE

For MTP: Début.
Other: *Les Misérables* with the Grand Theatre's High School Project. *Aladdin: The Panto*, Children's Chorus, Youth Music Theatre Camp with Drayton Entertainment. Stratford Shakespeare School's Queens Company.
A special thanks to my family for supporting me with all I do, to my fantastic vocal coach, Tom Oliver, to my wonderful accompanist, Marque Smith and...hello to Jason Isaacs!



AVA SILCOX - ANNIE ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début. **Other Theatre:** This is Ava's first appearance for a theatre company performance. She has danced in many performances with North London Dance Centre and Sutherland Studio of Dance, and has sung and performed with her school, Lester B Pearson School for the Arts.
Ava is absolutely thrilled and feels super grateful to be in this show and wants to thank all her family and friends for the support!



RICK SMITH - LUMIERE / M. THENARDIER

For MTP: *42nd Street, Music Man, South Pacific, Anything Goes, Gondoliers, Bye Bye Birdie, Dare to Dream. Director: Broadway to the Max, Virtual Broadway, The Drowsy Chaperone, Gypsy, She Loves Me.*
Other theatre: *The Last Resort, The Fantasticks, Laughter on the 23rd Floor.*
Thank you to Kathy and Mathew for sharing me with the stage.



SHAE SOLOMON - ANNIE ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Children's ensemble in *Oklahoma*.
Other theatre: Seven years with Original Kids Theatre Company. *The Wizard of Oz, Annie, Peter Pan: The Pantomime*, and *Snow White: The Pantomime* with Drayton Entertainment. *Into The Woods*, and *Peter Pan Jr.* with Youth Performing Arts. **Upcoming theatre:** *Footloose* with Original Kids Theatre Company.
Thanks to Original Kids for keeping me interested in theatre and thank you to my friends and family for all of the support!



LINDSAY STOCKS - ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début.
Other theatre: *Oklahoma, High School Musical, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Sound of Music, Once Upon a Mattress, Seussical.*
Lindsay is very excited to be returning to the stage and performing in her first show with MTP! Much love and many thanks to all her family and friends for their support.



EMMA VANDERKUYL - COSETTE

For MTP: Début.
Other theatre: *Mary Poppins, The Secret Garden, King Lear, Ready Steady Go.*
Emma is very excited to be doing her debut performance for MTP in *Defying Gravity*. Thanks to Mom and Nan for being the best support a girl could ask for!



TERENCE VINCE - JEAN VALJEAN

For MTP: Début.
Other theatre: *Legally Blonde, Jesus Christ Superstar. Directing Credits: The Porno Play, American Idiot, RENT. Music Directing Credits: Cabaret, Hairspray, Fugitive Songs, Buddy.*
Terence would like to thank his mom for being his harshest critic and biggest fan, as well as Sha for your continued love and support.



BRAVEN WARREN - RAOUL

For MTP: Début.
Other Theatre: *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, Hello Dolly, Don't Be Cruel High School, Grease, Les Misérables.*
Braven is delighted to be doing his first MTP cabaret. Special thanks to Lindsay, Claire and Glen.



GRACE WORSLEY - ANNIE ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début
Other theatre: *Annie, Oliver, and Peter Pan*, all with Drayton Entertainment.
Grace is very excited to be performing in her first Cabaret. A big shout out to my Mom!



DANIEL WYZYNSKI - ENSEMBLE

For MTP: Début.
With eleven years of experience playing the saxophone in concert bands and small ensembles, I have finally ventured into a new terrain of the arts: musical theatre! While this genuinely frightens the daylight out of me, I have come to acknowledge that musical theatre is a way of life. I am so excited to be a part of MTP's *Defying Gravity* Cabaret, and hope you enjoy the authenticity of this theatrical piece!

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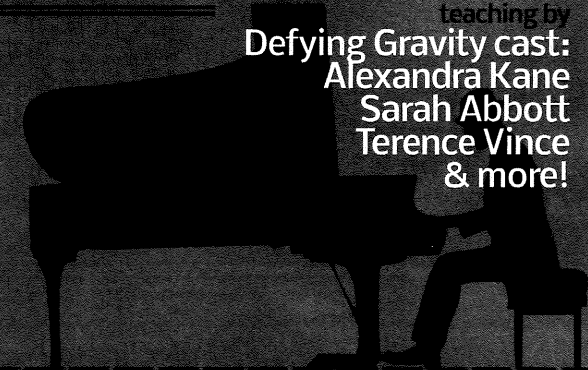


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OUR CREW

Producer	Susan McKone
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ORCHESTRA

Piano	Alexandra Kane
Keyboard/Saxophone	Phill Hallman
Drums	Dereyk Goodwin
Percussion	Keegan Marshall
Violin	Anna Olchowec
Trumpet	Jerry Zhong Mélanie Cosman
Bass	Aidan Wasse

SUPPORT MTP AND OUR SHOWS

MTP has created an individual giving program to ensure we are able to continue producing the high quality and large scale musicals you love! We rely on the generous donations of our patrons to support the ongoing operations and show productions we stage during our season.

Our shows offer an outstanding opportunity for all theatre lovers to be involved, whether on the stage or off. Please consider a contribution to MTP when planning your donations.

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- Your name listed in our programmes
- Your name listed on our website
- Four (4) complimentary tickets to any performance
- Two (2) invitations to all opening night parties
- Two (2) invitations to attend a dress rehearsal
- Income tax receipt (\$400.00)

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- Your name in our production programmes
- Your name/logo listed on our website
- Six (6) complimentary tickets to any performances
- Two (2) invitations to all opening night parties
- Two (2) invitations to attend a dress rehearsal
- Income tax receipt (\$850.00)

Donations may be made in the following ways:

Online: www.mtplondon.ca

During a show: Cheque/Cash payment at our 50-50 table

Email: money transfer to sponsor@mtplondon.ca [use password: mtpdonor]

Gifts may be made in any amount and are greatly appreciated.

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ABOUT MTP

Musical Theatre Productions is a charitable, not-for-profit organization that was formed in 1988. Our mission is to consistently produce and advocate for high-quality community musical theatre in London, Ontario, Canada and the surrounding area. For more information, please visit www.mtplondon.ca

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