

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
NOVEMBER 26, 2021
GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY
395 MAIN STREET, STONEHAM, MA

MEDIA CONTACT:
MARKETING DIRECTOR, VANESSA DE ZORZI
VANESSA@GREATERBOSTONSTAGE.ORG
781-587-7901



ALL IS CALM: THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914
A HISTORICAL STORY OF HOPE AND THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT



The work is written by Peter Rothstein with vocal arrangements by Erick Lichte and Timothy C. Takach and music direction by Matthew Stern. ***All is Calm*** recalls an

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astounding moment in history when Allied and German soldiers met in “No Man’s Land” and laid down their arms to celebrate Christmas together.

"The message of *All is Calm* is universal - one of peace. Come to see a beautiful story, hear wonderful music, enjoy fantastic performances - and share the spirit of the season live, in-person with your fellow audience members," says Robbins.

The production combines period songs and firsthand accounts of this remarkable event. This cast features ten actor/singers who beautifully blend WWI patriotic tunes, trench ballads, medieval melodies, and Christmas carols from England, Wales, France, Belgium, and Germany. Featured songs include: *It's A Long Way to Tipperary*, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Good King Wenceslas*, *O Holy Night*, *Auld Lang Syne*, and other holiday favorites. Robbins in particular is “looking forward to collaborating with the actors on *Stille Nacht* and *The Truce*.”

For the past twenty years, Greater Boston Stage Company’s holiday play has been a season highlight for audience-goers. *All is Calm* presents a unique take on the yearly tradition. “Honestly, I like that this is not your typical holiday fare” notes Robbins. “I like that it is a quiet show - a play with music rather than a musical extravaganza. It makes one think while still enjoying the sounds of the holiday season.”

Join us for an unforgettable evening of storytelling, camaraderie, music, and peace. Get your tickets for *All is Calm* today. **Single Tickets:** \$62-67 Adults; \$57-62 Seniors; \$20 Students (with valid ID). For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Box Office at Greater Boston Stage Company at (781) 279-2200, or visit greaterbostonstage.org.

We are committed to keeping Greater Boston Stage Company a safe and welcoming space for everyone. Masks are required for all visitors, as well as proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours. For more information, please visit greaterbostonstage.org/health-and-safety.html.

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DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Ilyse Robbins[^] happily returns to work on her 35th production here at GBSC (give or take a few BTM pieces and pandemic performances!). Ilyse just directed GBSC’s return to live theater on the mainstage, *The 39 Steps*. Prior to the pandemic, Ilyse choreographed and staged the world premiere of *Swan Lake in Blue: A Jazz Ballet* for which she won the Elliot Norton Award for Best Choreography. Throughout the pandemic, Ilyse continued to perform in and direct virtual theater as well as teach playreading courses and lecture on the history of the American musical via Zoom.

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Favorite directing credits at GBSC include *The 39 Steps*; *Million Dollar Quartet* (first female director); *Being Earnest* (East Coast Premiere); *She Loves Me* (IRNE Award—Best Direction); *Dames at Sea* (IRNE Award—Best Choreography); *How to Succeed...* (IRNE Award—Best Choreography); *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Elliot Norton Award— Best Director); *42nd Street* (IRNE Award—Best Choreography). Other credits include United Solo Festival NYC, Peterborough Players, SpeakEasy Stage Co., Hanover Theatre, Lyric Stage, New Rep, Underground Railway, Modern Theatre, Hope Rep, Fiddlehead Theatre, Overture Productions, Jewish Theater NE, American Stage Festival, Boston Theatre Works, Wheelock Family Theatre, Museum of Science, Publick Theatre, Reagle Music Theatre, UpStage Lung Cancer, Boston Women on Top. Ilyse most recently choreographed Lisa Rafferty's documentary-drama *Onward* at the Boston Public Library. Ilyse holds a B.S. in Communications/Theatre from Northwestern University, certification from the British American Drama Academy and an Ed.M. from Harvard University. She coaches presentation skills for Mohr Collaborative and Ovation. Ilyse is an Associate Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Caleb Chew is ecstatic to be making his debut with the Greater Boston Stage Company. He recently graduated from the University of Vermont with a BA in Theatre, where some of his favorite roles included Jason/Tyrone in *Hand To God*, Ned Weeks in *A Normal Heart*, and Will Shakespeare in *Shakespeare in Love*. During his time in Vermont, he also appeared in productions with Vermont Stage (*Winter Tale*) and St Michael's Playhouse (*Laughter on the 23rd Floor*).

Christopher Chew* returns to Greater Boston Stage Company after narrating last season's *A Christmas Carol Radio Play*. Other credits with GBSC include *Onegin*, *Jonah and the Whale*, *A Secret Garden*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Pete n Keeley*, *The Girl in the Frame*, and *Lizzie Borden*. Christopher earned his B.F.A. in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University, an M.A.T. in English from Fitchburg State University, and an Ed.D. from Northeastern University.

Alexander Holden* is happy to be making his Greater Boston Stage debut. Alexander's Boston credits include *Pacific Overtures* (Lyric Stage of Boston), *Rocky Horror Show* (Moonbox Productions), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Dream Role Theater Company). Alexander Studied vocal performance at Carnegie Mellon University.

David Jiles, Jr.* is a Boston-based professional actor, singer, and teaching artist. He is an Assistant Professor at Berklee College of Music where he teaches voice and musical theatre. He also teaches theatre at Emerson College. He has recently been seen in productions at Greater Boston Stage Company, Wheelock Family

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Theatre, and Speakeasy Stage. David serves on the board of StageSource. He is a proud member of Actors Equity and Musical Theatre Educators Alliance.

Michael Jennings Mahoney* is thrilled to return to GBSC after previously appearing in *Altar Boyz*, *Being Ernest*, *Onegin*, and *Miracle on 34th Street*. For more info check out: michaeljenningsmahoney.com

Stephen Markarian* is thrilled to be making his Greater Boston Stage Company debut. International/National Tours: *Disney On Classic* (The Orchestra Japan) and *Bunnacula: The Musical* (Theatreworks USA). Regional: *Violet* and *Carrie the Musical* (Speakeasy Stage Company), *Shrek the Musical* (Wheelock Family Theatre), *The Producers* (Celebration Theatre), *Grease* and *Route 66* (Sierra Repertory Theatre). Television: Nickelodeon's *Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide*, *Drake & Josh* and CBS's *Listen Up!* Proud graduate of The Boston Conservatory. Stephen also teaches private voice, musical theatre classes and directs at The School At RTW in Hyde Park.

Zachary McConnell From a small town in West Michigan, Zachary D. McConnell is thrilled to be back on stage and making his Greater Boston Stage Company debut! Notable professional roles include: Four-Eyed Moe in *Five Guys Named Moe* at the Mason Street Warehouse Theatre in Michigan, Mitch Mahoney in *...Spelling Bee* and Richie in *A Chorus Line*, both at the Wagon Wheel Theatre in Indiana. Website: zmcon.com

Bryan Miner* GBSC credits include *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Altar Boyz*, *Lucky Stiff*, *The Addams Family*, *Wait Until Dark*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Highwayman*, and *Mother Goose's Grave*. National tours include *The Wizard of Oz*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Skippyjon Jones*. B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory.

Gary Thomas Ng* is ecstatic to be back on stage at GBSC. His last show, before the pandemic, happened to be right here at GBSC in *Miracle on 34th Street* as Alfred. Other regional credits include *Pacific Overtures* (Lyric Stage), *1776* (New Rep) and *Allegiance* (Speakeasy – IRNE Nomination).

Brad Peloquin is grateful to be making his Greater Boston Stage Company debut in *All is Calm*. New England credits include *Parade* (Moonbox Productions), *Brecht on Brecht*, *Assassins*, *Marry Me a Little* (New Repertory Theatre). *Guys and Dolls* (Reagle Music Theatre, IRNE Nomination); *A Christmas Carol* (Hanover Theatre); *Die Fledermaus* (New England Light Opera); *Follies* (Overture Productions); and *The Mikado* (Huntington Theatre Company/North Shore Music Theatre).

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

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GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY'S SEASON 22 MAINSTAGE SHOWS

Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

March 3 – 20, 2022

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Part of *Giving Voice: The Foundation Trust Drama Series*

Written by Katie Forgette

Directed by Weylin Symes

A good Irish Catholic Family in the 1970's delivers shenanigans, sins, and some sage advice.

19-year old Linda introduces us to the O'Shea household during a crucial four days of her life in 1973. Follow the family as they navigate relationships, the facts of life, and their Priest, Father Lovett, at the same time. A comedy for anyone who has experienced – as Linda says – “Catholic guilt. Also known as Jewish guilt, Methodist guilt, Baptist guilt, Lutheran guilt and atheist guilt” – and made it out alive.

Miss Holmes Returns

April 21 – May 8, 2022

WORLD PREMIERE Commissioned by GBSC

Part of the *Don Fulton New Works Project*

Written by Christopher Walsh

Directed by Weylin Symes

Featuring Marge Dunn, Shonna Cirone, Cheryl McMahon, Shelly Bolman, and Alexander Platt

She's the world's greatest detective and she's back on the case.

Sherlock and Watson are back, along with much of the original cast, in this riveting follow-up to our 2018 smash hit *Miss Holmes*. Murder, mystery, betrayal, and a dose of social justice are all on the docket this time around for the unstoppable crime-fighting duo.

Ain't Misbehavin'

June 9 – 26, 2022

Musical Adaptations, Orchestrations & Arrangements by Luther Henderson

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Directed by Maurice Emmanuel Parent
Co-produced by The Nora@Central Square Theater, The Front Porch Arts
Collective, & Greater Boston Stage Company

Sassy, sultry, and celebratory!

The humor and infectious energy of the inimitable Thomas “Fats” Waller shines through this Tony Award winning musical! The Harlem Renaissance arrives at The Cotton Club and Greater Boston Stage Company as Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Lena Horne, and the Dandridge Sisters shape an artform alongside men such as Thomas “Fats” Waller. Join us for an evening of music that encapsulates the love, longing, and zest for life of the era.

ABOUT GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY

We bring vibrant professional theatre and dramatic education beyond the boundaries of Boston, featuring world and regional premieres alongside fresh interpretations of familiar work. Within this setting, we uniquely foster the artists of tomorrow by providing ongoing performance and employment opportunities to our company of current and former students. Now in its 22nd Season of live theatre in Stoneham, MA, Greater Boston Stage Company produces five Mainstage shows, presents a series of Special Events, and runs year-round classes, lessons, and fully staged productions through The Young Company for students in grades 1–12.

Box Office: (781) 279-2200; boxoffice@greaterbostonstage.org

Box Office Hours: Mondays – Fridays, noon to 6pm

Location: 395 Main Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

Website: greaterbostonstage.org

Flagship Season Sponsors: Mass Cultural Council, Salem Five Charitable Foundation, and StonehamBank