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JEREMY WEBB artistic director

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MUSICAL

January 21 -
February 9, 2020

THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Written and Composed by **Jason Robert Brown**

Originally Produced for the New York stage by Arielle Tepper and Marty Bell.
Originally Produced by Northlight Theatre, Chicago, IL.

Aidan de Salaz & Heather McGilgan
Directed by Malicia Kash



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presents

THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Written and Composed by **Jason Robert Brown**

Originally Produced for the New York stage by Arielle Tepper and Marty Bell.
Originally Produced by Northlight Theatre, Chicago, IL.

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*The approximate running time for this production is
90 minutes (no intermission).*

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CAST

Aidan deSalaiz	Jamie
Heather McGuigan	Cathy

CREATIVE TEAM

Marcia Kash	Director
Lisa St. Clair	Musical Director
Brian Dudkiewicz	Set Designer
Helena Marriott	Costume Designer
Jessica Lewis	Lighting Designer
Aaron Collier	Projection Designer
Joe Micallef	Sound Designer
Anna Shepard	Assistant Director (RBC Chrysalis Participant)
Shane O'Regan	Assistant Musical Director (RBC Chrysalis Participant)
Carmen Lee	Assistant Lighting Designer (RBC Chrysalis Participant)
Lily Falk	Assistant Sound Designer (RBC Chrysalis Participant)
Colin Matthews	Cello
Heather Lewis	Stage Manager
June Zinck	Assistant Stage Manager




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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to *The Last Five Years*.

I first saw this show about 11 years ago in Kitchener-Waterloo, starring my pal Julie Martell, soon after she'd played Belle

here at Neptune in *Beauty and The Beast*. I fell in love with it for its simplicity, pain, joy, gorgeous music and how it tore the audience apart depicting a relationship forming, and breaking into a thousand pieces.

I welcome the cast and crew to Neptune; I know you are in great hands with Marcia Kash at the helm and Lisa St. Clair by her side. They have assembled a great cast and creative team.

The Last Five Years, written by Jason Robert Brown, premiered at Chicago's Northlight Theatre in 2001 and was then produced Off-Broadway in March 2002. Since then it has had so many productions internationally. I am delighted to finally have it on the Neptune stage.

The way in which the story is told is gripping and accentuates the place we can all find ourselves in within a relationship: so close to someone and yet so alone at the very same time.

See you at the theatre.

Jeremy Webb
Artistic Director

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Happy January and welcome to Neptune Theatre for *The Last Five Years* by Jason Robert Brown. This intimate musical will pull at your heartstrings and take you on an emotional

rollercoaster—we appreciate you venturing on this journey with us.

As Neptune looks forward to the year ahead, we are endeavouring to achieve specific goals for the theatre. Our long-term objective is to continue to ensure the financial health and wellbeing of the theatre and to reaffirm its position

on the national stage. The success of these undertakings cannot be accomplished alone. Over the course of the season and beyond, I will be reaching out to fellow donors and subscribers to enlist their help in realizing these goals.

I believe a vibrant and progressive city needs a dynamic theatre, a place where the community gathers to see the best it has to offer and to celebrate the talent right here in our community.

I hope you will join me with this important work.

Paul Laberge
Chair, Neptune Theatre Foundation

A large photograph of a young woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a purple and white patterned top. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and yellow flowers.

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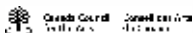


GHOST LIGHT

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY SHAWN WRIGHT

DIRECTED BY THOMAS MORGAN JONES

March 17 – April 5, 2020



HALIFAX

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year and welcome to an exciting second half of the 2019-2020 season—a great time to “Get Hooked” on live theatre.

Over the next couple of months, we will be gathering feedback

from patrons and donors to capture their thoughts about Neptune. This process will help us better identify ways of enhancing your experience. This is one of a series of initiatives designed to connect the theatre to the community. Additionally, we have a

number of community outreach programs planned for the balance of the season and we encourage you to check out our website (neptunetheatre.com) to see what we have in store.

The staff is hard at work on our season launch event; we are looking forward to sharing details of the 2020–2021 season with you on February 14.

Thank you for supporting Neptune Theatre and arts in our community.

Lisa Bugden
General Manager




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AIDAN DESALAIZ

Role: Jamie **Neptune:** *Having Hope At Home*. **Other Theatre:** (Selected): *The Best Brothers* (Western Canada Theatre/TNW); *Into The Woods* (TIFT); *A Christmas Carol* (Grand Theatre); *Red, Legally Blonde* (Theatre Aquarius); *The Wedding Singer* (Stage West); *Lucky Stiff* (Drayton); *Lies My Father Told Me* (Segal); three seasons at Stratford Festival. **Other:** Graduate of Ryerson University, Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre Training (Stratford). **Other:** Endless gratitude to my family, Heather, and Billy.



HEATHER MCGUIGAN

Role: Cathy **Neptune:** *Mary Poppins, Shrek, A Year with Frog and Toad*. **Other Theatre:** Over 50 professional productions across North America including Shaw, Stratford, Mirvish, Broadway National Tours, Charlottetown, Drayton, Aquarius, Segal Centre, Rainbow Stage and Chemainus among others. **Other:** All my love to this creative team, Aidan and Neptune Theatre. This show is dedicated to my Mom and Dad, for their never ending support and love.



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MARCIA KASH

Role: Director **Neptune:** (Selected): *The Price, The Sound of Music, Annie, Rumors*. **Other Theatre:** Director/playwright/actor—Marcia has worked in the UK, the US and across Canada for nearly four decades. Her plays have been published and produced internationally. This spring she will direct the Canadian premiere of her new play *A Belly Full*—written with Mary Colin Chisholm—at Theatre Aquarius. She is married to former Neptune artistic director Ron Ulrich.



LISA ST. CLAIR

Role: Musical Director **Neptune:** Christmas 1988 to present (pre-body mics/computer boards). A steady career nationally. **Recently at Neptune:** *Peter Pan*. **Neptune Highlights:** *Sincerely A Friend, My Fair Lady*. **Awards:** ECMA co-producer of *Anne and Gilbert*, and many nominations. **Teaching:** private, Dalhousie, Acadia. **Other:** Love and thank you to Ronan, for thriving through “all that jazzin’ around.”



BRIAN DUDKIEWICZ

Role: Set Designer **Neptune:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *Newsies, Rocky* (Drayton); *Titanic* (The Grand); *Never Not Once* (Theatre Aquarius); *Indecent, Million Dollar Quartet* (Segal Centre); *Bad Jews* (Harold Green); *Into the Woods* (St. Petersburg Opera); *Hal&Bee, Room of my Own, Lifex3, Unseamly*, and many more (Off-Broadway). **Other:** Brian holds a Bachelor in Architecture from McGill University and an MFA in design from Yale University. www.briandudkiewicz.com



HELENA MARRIOTT

Role: Costume Designer **Neptune:** 20+ productions—recent favorites include *Peter Pan, Cinderella, Noises off, KAMP* (co-production with Eastern Front Theatre). **Other:** Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo.



JESSICA LEWIS

Role: Lighting Designer **Neptune:** Lighting Designer: *Dickens' A Christmas Carol, Little Thing, Big Thing, Shakespeare in Love, In A World Created By A Drunken God, Drowning Girls* (DMV Theatre). **Other Theatre:** (Selected): Lighting Designer: *Slowly I Turn, How Small How Far Away* (Zuppa Theatre); *Broadway on Argyle* (Off The Leash). Production Manager: *Tiny, This Is Nowhere* (Zuppa Theatre); Stages Theatre Festival (EFT), Obey Convention.


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APRIL 14 - JUNE 7, 2020

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MTI BIOGRAPHY

Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser, and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form.

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AARON COLLIER

Role: Projection Designer **Neptune:** *The Last Wife, Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)*. **Other Theatre:** *One Discordant Violin* (2b Theatre); *Atlantic Blue* (Charlottetown Festival); *Bed & Breakfast, Odd Ducks* (Ship's Company Theatre); *Princess Rules, New Waterford Boy, The Princess Show, NATION* (Heist). **Awards:** Robert Merritt Award for Outstanding Sound Design (2013, 2017, 2018). **Other:** Aaron is a co-founder of Heist, a live art company in Halifax.



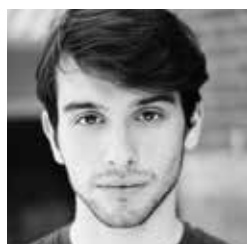
JOE MICALLEF

Role: Sound Designer **Neptune:** *Peter Pan, It's A Wonderful Life, Miracle on 34th Street, A Christmas Story*. **Other Theatre:** *Eighteen* (Neptune/Eastern Front); *Chasing Champions, The Romeo Initiative, Habit of Murder, Our Eliza* (Ship's Company Theatre); *Litmus Road* (Us vs Them). **Electronic Music Design:** *Mamma Mia!, The Color Purple, Shakespeare in Love, Shrek, The Addams Family, Mary Poppins, A Christmas Carol, Elf* (Neptune). **Other:** Chappyshtat (2013–15).



ANNA SHEPARD

Role: Assistant Director (RBC Chrysalis Participant) **Neptune:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** Direction: *This is For You, Anna* (Motyer-Fancy Theatre). Asst. Direction: *One Discordant Violin* (2b theatre company); *The Curse of The House of Atreus* (CYPT). Design: *Tiny* (Zuppa Theatre); *How the Light Lies On You* (New Pants Project); *Miss N Me* (Eastern Front Theatre); *One Discordant Violin* (2b theatre company). **Other:** Love to the team!



SHANE O'REGAN

Role: Assistant Musical Director (RBC Chrysalis Participant) **Neptune:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito* (Carousel Players); *We Will Rock You* (Starvox Entertainment); *We Will Rock You, Piano Man, Avenue Q, Urinetown, Rocketman, The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Stephenville Theatre Festival). **Other:** Glowing with thanks to be home and working with the theatre that started it all. Much love xx.



CARMEN LEE

Role: Assistant Lighting Designer (RBC Chrysalis Participant) **Neptune:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** Founded "Theatre du Poulet" with puppetry, mask and physical theatre; *The Extinction of Hong Kongers, Settle Elsewhere*. **Training:** First Class Honours in Arts, Events and Stage Management from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. **Award:** *The Extinction of Hong Kongers*—The Theatre Centre Emerging Artist Award in the Toronto Summerworks Festival 2018.

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LILY FALK

Role: Assistant Sound Designer (RBC Chrysalis Participant).

Neptune: Debut. **Other:** Lily Falk is excited to be joining *The Last Five Years* as the Chrysalis emerging sound designer. An emerging artist based in Halifax, she's the artistic co-director of Gale Force Theatre with work spanning playwriting, audio storytelling, and devised creation. Her first play, *Crypthand*, was developed at the 2019 PARC Colony and won the Best Original Script award at the 2019 Halifax Fringe Festival.



COLIN MATTHEWS

Role: Cello **Neptune:** Debut. **Other:** After musical studies at Dalhousie and McGill, Colin took up a career as both a Chamber and Orchestral cellist in Montréal. Returning to Nova Scotia he has split his time between teaching and performing. Colin is a member of both the Gatto Dolce and Basso Nova ensembles. Theatre goers may have seen and heard Mr. Matthews in the hit musical play *The Satchmo Suite*.



HEATHER LEWIS

Role: Stage Manager **Neptune:** SM highlights include: *The Last Wife*, *The Color Purple*, *Noises Off*, *Cinderella*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Seeds* (Porte Parole), *Stan Rogers, Once*, *Shrek*, *Addams Family*, *Billy Bishop Goes To War*, *West Side Story*. ASM: Too many shows, not enough space! **Other Theatre:** SM/ASM for Charlottetown Festival, Soulpepper, Angels & Heroes, 2b, Two Planks, Eastern Front, Shaw Festival, LunaSea, Mulgrave, Centaur. **Film/TV:** Producer's Assistant, *Cavendish* (CBC). **Other:** Love and gratitude to my family, always.



JUNE ZINCK

Role: Assistant Stage Manager **Neptune:** Assistant Stage Manager: *The Last Wife*, *Noises Off*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Mamma Mia!*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *2 Pianos 4 Hands*, *Stag and Doe*; Stage Manager: *The Argyle Street Kitchen Party* (2019), *KAMP the Musical* (a co-production with EFT). **Other Theatre:** As Stage Manager: *Kronberg 1582*, *Glenda's Kitchen*, *Spoon River* (Charlottetown Festival); *West Woods* (Mulgrave Road Theatre).

JASON ROBERT BROWN is the ultimate multi-hyphenate—an equally skilled composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, director and performer—best known for his dazzling scores to several of the most renowned musicals of our time, including the generation-defining **“The Last Five Years”**, his debut song cycle **“Songs for a New World”**, and the seminal **“Parade”**, for which he won the 1999 Tony Award for Best Score.

Jason Robert Brown has been hailed as “one of Broadway’s smartest and most sophisticated songwriters since Stephen Sondheim” (Philadelphia Inquirer), and his “extraordinary, jubilant theater music” (Chicago Tribune) has been heard all over the world, whether in one of the hundreds of productions of his musicals every year or in his own incendiary live performances. The New York Times refers to Jason as “a leading member of a new generation of composers who embody high hopes for the American musical.” Jason’s score for **“The Bridges of Madison County,”** a musical adapted with Marsha Norman from the bestselling novel, received two Tony Awards (for Best Score and Orchestrations). **“Honeymoon In Vegas,”** based on Andrew Bergman’s film, opened on Broadway in 2015 following a triumphant production at Paper Mill Playhouse. A film version of his epochal Off-Broadway musical **“The Last Five Years”** was released in 2015, starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan and directed by Richard LaGravenese. His major musicals as composer and lyricist include: **“13,”** written with Robert Horn and Dan Elish, which opened on Broadway in 2008 and was subsequently directed by the composer for its West End premiere in 2012; **“The Last Five Years,”** which was cited as one of Time Magazine’s 10 Best of 2001 and won Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics (and was later directed by the composer in its record-breaking Off-

Broadway run at Second Stage Theatre in 2013); **“Parade,”** written with Alfred Uhry and directed by Harold Prince, which won both the Drama Desk and New York Drama Critics’ Circle Awards for Best New Musical, as well as garnering Jason the Tony Award for Original Score; and **“Songs for a New World,”** a theatrical song cycle directed by Daisy Prince, which has since been seen in hundreds of productions around the world since its 1995 Off-Broadway debut, including a celebrated revival at New York’s City Center in the summer of 2018. **“Parade”** was also the subject of a major revival directed by Rob Ashford, first at London’s Donmar Warehouse and then at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Jason conducted his orchestral adaptation of E.B. White’s novel **“The Trumpet of the Swan”** with the National Symphony Orchestra, and recorded the score for PS Classics. Future projects include a new chamber musical created with Daisy Prince and Jonathan Marc Sherman called **“The Connector”**; an adaptation of Lilian Lee’s **“Farewell My Concubine,”** created with Kenneth Lin and Moisés Kaufman; and a collaboration with Billy Crystal, Amanda Green, Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel on a musical of **“Mr. Saturday Night”**. Jason is the winner of the 2018 Louis Auchincloss Prize, the 2002 Kleban Award for Outstanding Lyrics and the 1996 Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Award for Musical Theatre. Jason’s songs, including the cabaret standard **“Stars and the Moon,”** have been performed and recorded by Ariana Grande, Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Billy Porter, Betty Buckley, Renée Fleming, Jon Hendricks and many others, and his song **“Someone To Fall Back On”** was featured in the Walden Media film, **“Bandstand.”**

As a soloist or with his band The Caucasian Rhythm Kings, Jason has performed concerts around the world. For the past four years (and ongoing), his monthly

sold-out performances at New York's SubCulture have featured many of the music and theater world's most extraordinary performers. His newest collection, **"How We React and How We Recover"**, was released in June 2018 on Ghostlight Records. His previous solo album, **"Wearing Someone Else's Clothes"**, was named one of Amazon.com's best of 2005, and is available from Sh-K-Boom Records. Jason's 2012 concert with Anika Noni Rose was broadcast on PBS, and he was the featured soloist for a live episode of "Friday Night Is Music Night," broadcast live from the London Palladium and featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra. His collaboration with singer Lauren Kennedy, **"Songs of Jason Robert Brown"**, is available on PS Classics. Jason is also the composer of the incidental music for the Broadway revival of "You Can't Take It With You," David Lindsay-Abaire's "Kimberly Akimbo" and "Fuddy Meers," and Kenneth Lonergan's "The Waverly Gallery," and he was a Tony Award nominee for his contributions to the score of **"Urban Cowboy the Musical."** He has also contributed music to the hit Nickelodeon television series, "The Wonder Pets" as well as "Sesame Street." Jason spent ten years teaching at the USC School of Dramatic Arts, and has also taught at Harvard University, Princeton University and Emerson College.

For the musical **"Prince of Broadway,"** a celebration of the career of his mentor Harold Prince, Jason was the musical supervisor and arranger. Other New York credits as conductor and arranger include "Urban Cowboy the Musical" on Broadway; "Dinah Was," off-Broadway and on national tour; "When Pigs Fly" off-Broadway; William Finn's "A New Brain" at Lincoln Center Theater; the 1992 tribute to Stephen Sondheim at Carnegie Hall (recorded by RCA Victor); Yoko Ono's "New York Rock," at the WPA Theatre; and Michael John



LaChiusa's "The Petrified Prince" at the Public Theatre. Jason orchestrated Andrew Lippa's "john and jen," Off-Broadway at Lamb's Theatre. Additionally, Jason served as the orchestrator and arranger of Charles Strouse and Lee Adams's score for a proposed musical of "Star Wars." Jason has conducted and created arrangements and orchestrations for Liza Minnelli, John Pizzarelli, and Michael Feinstein, among many others.

Jason studied composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., with Samuel Adler, Christopher Rouse, and Joseph Schwanter. He lives with his wife, composer Georgia Stitt, and their daughters in New York City. Jason is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the American Federation of Musicians Local 802. Visit him on the web at www.jasonrobertbrown.com.

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The Last Five Years is written by American Tony award-winning musical theatre composer, lyricist and playwright Jason Robert Brown. In 2001, the show first premiered at the Northlight Theatre in Chicago and then was produced Off-Broadway in March 2002.

The musical is woven together in a unique telling of the five-year relationship, an emotional journey between aspiring novelist Jamie Wellerstein and struggling actress Cathy Hiatt. Through Cathy's

perspective, the audience witnesses the story in reverse chronological order (the breakdown of the relationship) while Jamie's is told from just after the couple met.

The play was inspired by the playwright's own failed marriage to Theresa O'Neill.

A film adaptation of the show starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan was released in February 2015.



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