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4th Line Theatre announces the cast for its upcoming production *Christmas Comes to Mind*

Millbrook, ON ... 4th Line Theatre is thrilled to announce the casting for its world premiere production for Christmas 2021—*Christmas Comes to Mind: A Night of Story & Song* created by accomplished actors/musicians **Rebecca Auerbach** and **Jack Nichol森**.

“While we were looking for a group of artists to present this collection of unique songs and humorous, poignant albeit oddball stories about Christmas, we had two qualities foremost in our minds: authenticity and chemistry,” co-creators Auerbach and Nichol森 explain. “We found plenty in this outstanding ensemble of performers.”

Included in this exciting performing ensemble are Nichol森 and Auerbach themselves and 4th Line favourites - the busy and multi-talented musician, actor and storyteller **Beau Dixon**; multi-instrumentalist and music supervisor **Justin Hiscox**; actor/musician **Mark Hiscox**; the wonderful singer/musician **Melissa Payne**; and instrumentalist **Saskia Tomkins**. And audiences will have the opportunity to see **Kim Blackwell** rounding out the cast. This will be Blackwell’s first acting appearance in a 4th Line show since 1998.

The Production team for *Christmas Comes to Mind: A Night of Story & Song* includes Sound Designer and Technician **Alan Stanley**, Lighting Designer **Esther Vincent**, Stage Manager **Tristan Peirce** and Production Assistant **Riley Boughen**.

DETAILS

Christmas Comes to Mind: A Night of Story & Song

Written & Directed by Rebecca Auerbach and Jack Nichol森

Music Supervisor - Justin Hiscox with arrangements by Jack Nichol森 & Rebecca Auerbach

Lighting Design - Esther Vincent

Sound Design and Technician - Alan Stanley

Stage Manager - Tristan Peirce

Production Assistant - Riley Boughen

BIOGRAPHIES



Rebecca Auerbach, Co-Playwright/Actor/Musician

Rebecca is an award-winning actor, singer, writer, music and theatre maker. She has performed across the country at The National Arts Centre, Bard on the Beach, The Arts Club, Caravan Farm, The Grand Theatre, Theatre Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects, RMTC, WJT, Factory Theatre, Summerworks, Musical Stage Company, Studio 180, Nightwood, Globe Theatre, nine seasons with The Blyth Festival among many others. Highlights include: *The Pigeon King* (Blyth Festival/National Arts Centre); *The Wild Party* (Musical Stage/Obsidian/Dora Award nomination); *Onegin* (Musical Stage/National Arts Centre/Dora Nomination); *Bittergirl* (Charlottetown Festival/The Citadel/MTC). Rebecca is currently developing a show about the women of CKNX for Blyth Festival as well as her solo piece, “Discount Dave and the Fix”

about our obsession with celebrity, and what it means to be a “good-time gal”. She has been nominated for three Jessie Awards, two Dora Awards, a Betty, a Calgary Critics Award and was the recipient of the Jessie Award for Most Promising Newcomer. Rebecca is a graduate of Studio 58.

Kim Blackwell, 4th Line Theatre’s Managing Artistic Director/Actor

Kim Blackwell is 4th Line Theatre’s Managing Artistic Director and is a veteran 4th Line director/producer – 2022 will mark her 28th season with 4th Line Theatre where she has directed 26 productions including 14 world premieres. Selected credits include: Artistic Director (2014 - Present), Artistic Producer (2009 – 2014), Artistic Associate (2001-2009), directing: *The Verandah Society in Residence at 4th Line Theatre* (2021); *Bedtime Stories & Other Horrifying Tales* (2020); *The Fool of Cavan: A Christmas Caper*, *Bloom: A Rock ‘n’ Roll Fable* (2019), *The Other: A Strange Christmas Tale* (2018), *The Shadow Walk of Millbrook* (2016, 2018), *Who Killed Snow White?* (2018), *The Hero of Hunter Street* (2016), *The Bad Luck Bank Robbers* (2015, 2016), *The Real McCoy* (2013), *Queen Marie*, *St. Francis of Millbrook* (2012), *The Berlin Blues* (2011), *The Right Road to Pontypool* (2009, 2010), *Schoolhouse* (2007, 2008), *The Art of Silent Killing*, *That Summer*, *Crow Hill*, *The Cavan Blazers*, *Attrition*, *Gimme That Prime Time Religion* and many development workshops. She directed plays across Canada and the US. Her play *A Daughter* had its world premiere in 2020 as a part of the Open Spaces Theatre Festival and was selected to be a part of the International Rural Women’s Studies Conference hosted by University of Guelph in 2021.





Beau Dixon, Actor/Musician

Beau Dixon is an award-winning, self-taught actor, musician, singer/songwriter, playwright, music director and sound designer. As an actor and musician, he's performed on numerous theatre stages throughout Canada, the U.S and Europe. He has received two Dora Mavor Moore Awards, a Calgary and Toronto Critic's Award, and he has been a finalist for the KM Hunter Award. His most recent play *Bloom: A Rock 'n' Roll Fable*, was produced at 4th Line Theatre in summer of 2019. Beau has also been inducted into Peterborough's Pathway of Fame for his leadership in the arts. You can find his music on iTunes and other streaming services.

www.beaudixon.com

Justin Hiscox, Musical Director/Musician

Justin is thrilled to be working again, in general and at 4th Line Theatre, in specific. He is a composer, pianist, low brass player, seashell player and board game enthusiast. When life is at its most normal, Justin is company the Music Director and Composer for 4th Line Theatre, Music Director for Trent University's Anne Shirley Theatre Company, and has music directed shows for both The Peterborough Theatre Guild and St. James Players, as well as co-music directed for Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School's Music Theatre program. He is also one of five conductors who lead ensembles with Peterborough New Horizons Bands, a band composed of people who have returned to music after a long hiatus or are totally new to music. He also leads a New Orleans-style Jazz Band called The Honeylambs, with whom he has played at 4th Line Theatre events.

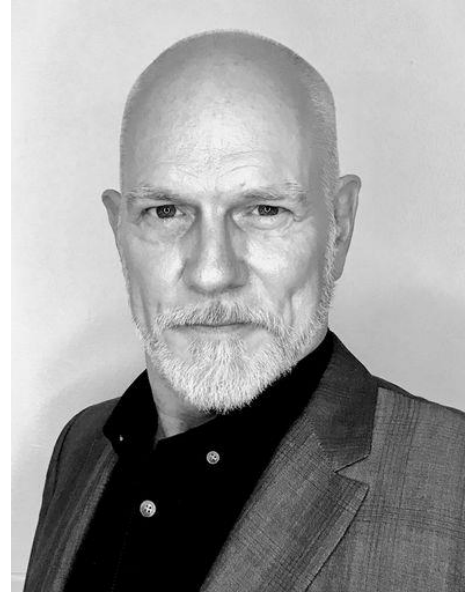


Mark Hiscox, Actor/Musician

Mark has been involved with 4th Line Theatre since 1999, both in the summer and the off-season productions. He most recently appeared in *Bedtime Stories & Other Horrifying Tales*. Mark is an actor, conductor, music director and musician. He was honoured to be inducted into Peterborough's Pathway of Fame in 2016. Mark wishes to thank Robert, Kim, Lindy and his loving family for their endless support.

Jack Nichol森, Co-Playwright/Actor/Musician

An award-winning stage actor with a career spanning 30+ years, Jack has appeared in theatres across Canada and internationally and has appeared in over 50 roles for film and television. He has been a collaborator and writer on a number theatrical offerings including, most recently, *The Pigeon King* presented at The National Arts Centre. Jack is also a founding member of and songwriter for the 1991 Juno Award-winning band The Leslie Spit Treeo and traditional country artists The Cameron Family Singers. Jack has appeared in 4th Line Theatre's 2019 productions of Beau Dixon's *Bloom: A Rock 'n' Roll Fable*, Ian McLachlan and Robert Winslow's *Carmel*, Lindy Finlan's *The Fool of Cavan: A Christmas Caper* and the 2020 production of Kim Blackwell and Lindy Finlan's *Bedtime Stories & Other Horrifying Tales*. This past summer Jack directed Rebecca Auerbach in the one-woman show *Jewel* by Joan MacLeod on the new Harvest Stage at Blyth Festival. Jack and Rebecca are the founders and members of the roots band Regal Road.



Melissa Payne, Actor/Musician

Ennismore, Ontario's Melissa Payne has truly left her mark on the musical landscape, and she's just getting started. Her background in old time fiddle and traditional Celtic music has evolved into a blossoming solo career, including three full length albums including her most recently released album "Darker Than Your Dark". Her live performances have garnered her critical acclaim, and notable guest collaborators like Blue Rodeo's Greg Keelor, James McKenty, Matt Mays, Natalie

MacMaster, cellist Nathaniel Smith and Jimmy Bowskill of The Sheepdogs, have her working with some of the biggest names in Canada, and beyond. Payne appeared as Audrey in 4th Line Theatre's 2019 production of Ian McLachlan and Robert Winslow's *Carmel*.



Saskia Tomkins, Actor/Musician

This is Saskia's seventh production at 4th Line Theatre - it feels good to be back! Saskia is a master musician of Violin/Fiddle Viola, Cello and Nyckelharpa. She is classically trained with a folk background and a B.A.(Honours) degree in Music (Jazz), and she won All Britain Champion Irish Fiddler. Saskia recently was called a Swiss army knife of strings, and has had the privilege of working with many names including more recently: Sultans of String, Jimmy Bowskill, "Jabbour", Ted Staunton, James McKenty, Kate Suhr, and David Newland. Her theatre work includes: Originating the "Celtic-ifying" of the

Broadway hit *Come From Away*; The English Shakespeare Company and Michael Bogdanov; 4th Line Theatre; Sadler's Wells Theatre, London UK. Saskia's current personal projects include Steafán & Saskia with Steafán Hannigan, the instrumental jazz/roots duo 2ish, with Brandon Scott Besharah; the jazz trio Marsala and the Imports, and a bowed-string chamber band Medusa. She is currently principle 2nd violin for Quinte Symphony Orchestra. Saskia also teaches privately from her home near Cobourg and runs workshops at festivals.

Our productions are made possible by the generosity of our donors and sponsors including:

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