

GOTTA SING! GOTTA DANCE! GOTTA APPLY!



GOTTA SING! *Gotta Dance!*, the popular musical theatre summer camp, is now heading into its 25th fabulous year at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver!

Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! has in the past attracted hundreds of enthusiastic and talented participants age nine to 19, who love to sing, dance, act and perform, from throughout British Columbia and as far away as Whitehorse, Edmonton, Regina, Yorkton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, California, New York, Colorado, Virginia, Texas, Austria and Israel. Previous participants include opera star Simone Osborne; TV and movie actors Natalie Hall, Shannon Chan-Kent and Graham Verchere; and numerous musical theatre performers who have appeared on Broadway, off-Broadway and way-off Broadway.

Camp director Perry Ehrlich (who received the Canadian Bar Association's Community Service Award and Ovation

Award acknowledging his tireless dedication to working with children and musical theatre) each year assembles an impressive faculty of professional instructors (directors, musicians, choreographers, and actors, each working in his or her respective field).

The faculty last year included musical directors Wendy Bross Stuart and Diane Speirs; director Chris McGregor; choreographers Jason Franco, Nicko Giannakos, Keri Minty, and Meghan Anderssen; acting coach Advah Soudack; and Heather Barr and Mariana Munoz (set construction and costume coordinator).

The show this year is called *Hamilton... Ontario* and will feature an original script by Ehrlich and 30 songs from Broadway and movie musicals.

Peter Birnie, former theatric critic *The Vancouver Sun*, commented that "Perry Ehrlich is a proud father to two grown daughters, but 'uncle' to hundreds of children. Heck, they must number in the thousands, with many of them now grown to adulthood, as the Richmond lawyer's love of musical theatre led him to found the *Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance!* summer training camp. This year's script, as is always the case, is a crazy-quilt of old songs, new songs, bad puns, cheesy bridges and good – no make that great – opportunities for the cast to show off some newly acquired skills. I try to attend every year and always come away just as thrilled as the parents and families with the level of talent on display."

continued on page 8

photos: Hannes van der Merwe



Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! (continued from page 4)

David Connolly, who participated in the faculty for two years and is now associate artistic director at Drayton Entertainment, commented in an article written by Sara Horowitz in the *Huffington Post BC*, “I’m in awe of Perry and his commitment and his intention. His intention isn’t to produce stars, although that is a byproduct. His intention is to give those kids life skills that they bring with them wherever they go, in whatever they pursue.”

THE FINISHING SCHOOL will again be offered for serious musical theatre students attending the camp. *THE FINISHING SCHOOL* will feature instruction in audition technique, preparation of monologues and songs, dance workshops, and encounters with professionals in the theatre community.

The Camp is offered in two sessions –



Session I from July 2 to 25, 2019, and *Session II* from August 6 to August 29, 2019. Cost per session is \$850 (\$750 for Members of the JCC), and includes a DVD and two complimentary show tickets. The deadline for application is April 1, 2019. You can save \$75 by applying prior to December 31, 2018.

For more information about the Camp, contact the Jewish Community Centre at 604.257.5111 or ehrlich@kzellow.com or check out www.jccgv.com or *Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! Musical Theatre Summer Camp* on Facebook.

photo: Hannes van der Merwe

the Nutcracker

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Surrey Arts Centre, Surrey Fri, Dec 7 at 7 pm Sat, Dec 8 at 1 pm & 4 pm Sun, Dec 9 1 pm & 4 pm Box Office: 604-501-5566 https://tickets.surrey.ca	Centennial Theatre, North Vancouver Sun, Dec 23 at 1 pm & 4 pm Box Office: 604-984-4484 www.centennialtheatre.com

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