

FENCE POST PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

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“It’s THE social event of the pre-school season!”

- Amy, *Nursery School Musical*

“Bright, witty and fun!”

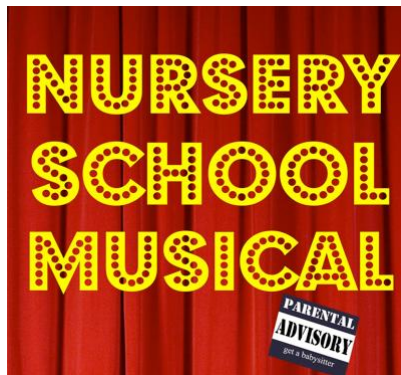
Toronto Star

“The satire is hard and hilarious!”

Houston Press

*“Hilarious and rather outrageous, **Nursery School Musical** pokes fun at the conventions of modern life among small children, their doting parents, and the trauma for both on the first day of school. A must see!”*

“Front Row”, National Public Radio



Book and Lyrics by Brett & Racheal McCaig
Music by Anthony Bastianon

The Smash Hit Returns Home to Toronto!

Toronto, ON... If you saw it before, you’ll want to see it again. If you didn’t see it, here’s your chance! Second City meets “South Park” meets “Sex and the City” in the critically-acclaimed ***Nursery School Musical***, one of the most successful productions in Toronto Fringe Festival history. After a two-month, sold-out run in Texas (Theater LaB Houston), this side-splitting musical about the trauma for both parents and children on the first day of nursery school now returns for a limited engagement at the Berkeley Street Theatre Upstairs.

Co-creators (and real-life Daddy and Mommy team) **Brett and Racheal McCaig** have managed to find a babysitter in order to bring ***Nursery School Musical*** home to delight Toronto audiences again. It was the top-selling show at last year’s **20th Anniversary Toronto Fringe Festival**, chosen as Critic’s Pick in the Globe & Mail, Toronto Star and NOW Magazine, and named both “Pick of the Fringe” and “Best of the Fringe” overall.

Newly-expanded and revamped, the full-length version of **Nursery School Musical** features new songs and script; half an hour of material has been added to the original 50-minute Fringe show.

The McCaigs also wrote the 2004 Fringe hit *Waiting for Trudeau: The Return of the King*, which was one of the best-selling shows of the Festival that year (topped only by another show starring **Ms. McCaig!**), making Critic's Pick in the Globe & Mail, Toronto Star and NOW Magazine.

Ms. McCaig will direct while **Mr. McCaig** (*Joseph, Forever Plaid, Top Gun: The Musical!*) will appear as Andrew/Kyle along with fellow original Toronto Fringe cast members **Paul Constable** (Second City, Canadian Comedy Award nominee) as Cody, **Kylee Evans** (Second City Toronto/Detroit, "Billable Hours", "Deal or No Deal Canada") as Ms. Epstein, and **Aaron Walpole** (Stratford Festival, "Canadian Idol", Grand Theatre) as Hank. Attending nursery school for the first time this fall are **Diana Coatsworth** (Second City, Stratford Festival, CanStage's *The Overcoat*, "Hairspray") as Monika, **Lindsey Frazier** (Ross Petty's *Cinderella* and *Peter Pan, Anne of Green Gables* for Charlottetown Festival/Dancap Productions) as Amy and **Cailin Stadnyk** ("Once Upon a Mattress" with Carol Burnett, "Battlestar Galactica") in her Toronto debut as Hailey/Emma.

Joining the creative team led by **Ms. McCaig** is musical director **Anthony Bastianon**, choreographer **Valerie Stanois** ("Oz" in *We Will Rock You*), lighting designer **Jennifer Lennon**, set designer **Eric Bunnell** and stage manager **Jennifer Stobart**.

ABOUT BRETT & RACHEAL McCAIG

A city girl and a country boy (he was born on a buffalo farm, yes, the big woolly animal), they met in rehearsals doing summer stock in Muskoka and have been together ever since.

Though he started as a stand-up comic in New York City, Brett eventually switched to musical theatre (Racheal's really glad he did!). After getting married they moved to Florida where they both had extensive stage careers. The highlight was playing opposite each other as Philia and Hysterium in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.

In 2002 Racheal became pregnant while creating the role of Goose in Top Gun! the Musical at Factory Theatre. Daughter Molly was born six weeks before the remount (mind out of the gutter, please) and she was backstage during the sold-out run. She also got to tag along when Brett joined the show for their off-Broadway run in the inaugural season of the American Musical Theatre Festival.

Their first show, Waiting for Trudeau: The Return of the King, was a musical satire of Canadian history and politics, and was the second-biggest hit of the 2004 Toronto Fringe Festival. The McCaigs received critical accolades and audience enthusiasm as well as an endorsement from Ian Hanomansing.

While Brett went on to charm audiences across the country as Smudge in Forever Plaid and the King himself, the Pharaoh, in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Racheal was at home trying to write their follow up show. Hanging with babies definitely

puts a hamper on your time, so she began writing articles instead. First published in the Globe and Mail, she then went on to be a regular contributor for Erica Ehm's Yummy Mummy Club.

By 2006, son Fergus had completed the family and Molly was in nursery school. Racheal was leading a mother's group at the same time and the McCaigs were firmly ensconced in the world of parenthood. Once they got through the sleepless nights, Brett felt a new musical coming on.

They started sketching out ideas while both were performing in the Canadian premiere of the American hit Midlife: The Crisis Musical! at Stage West. The music director for the show was their good friend Anthony Bastianon, himself a father of two. They convinced Anthony to join their team, and work on Nursery School Musical went into full swing.

What was meant to be a 50-minute workshop turned out to be the best-selling show of the 20th Anniversary season of the Toronto Fringe Festival. Opening night was the first time anyone had seen the material and it was an overwhelming hit.

It was quickly picked up by a theatre company in Houston and the trio went back to the writing table to complete the show. It made its American debut at Theater LaB in February 2009. It was a resounding hit with a sold-out run.

Meanwhile, in October 2008, Racheal was commissioned by Energizer Batteries to write a mommy column for them. It took three days for her and Brett to come up with the name "The Energizer Mummy" and she's been going and going ever since. (Check out EnergizerMummy.com)

When not writing, she can be found taking production stills, portraits or on industrial photo shoots. Her photography work has been published in every major newspaper across the county. An exhibit of her work will be presented by the Toronto Public Library in February 2010.

She also proudly sits on the board of the Harold Green Jewish Theatre as well as the boards of PAL Canada and PAL Toronto.

Brett balances steady theatre work and starring roles with volunteering at their children's nursery school. Currently finishing a run as Nathan Detroit in Guys and Dolls, Brett will be seen stepping into a habit for Nunsense following the run of Nursery School Musical.

Already hard at work on two new musicals, the McCaigs show no signs of slowing, though Racheal is mildly concerned about what Brett will do when Molly hits high school and meets boys. She hopes it's not Restraining Order: The Musical.

School starts **September 17** and runs until **October 3, 2009** with one preview performance on September 16, 2009. Tickets are general admission and **ON SALE NOW!**

REMEMBER, this hilarious smash hit is **NOT a show for kids**. It's for anyone who has kids, is thinking of having kids, or has a crush on Stewie from "The Family Guy". Book the babysitter now!

For more information, to purchase tickets or to inquire about sponsorship and/or volunteer opportunities, visit www.nurseryschoolmusical.ca.

PRODUCTION SPONSOR: Energizer
CLOTHING SPONSOR: Roots Canada
MEDIA SPONSOR: Yummy Mummy Club

DETAILS

PREVIEWS: September 16, 2009

PLAYS: **September 17 to October 3, 2009**

SCHEDULE: Tuesday-Saturday 8 p.m.; show runs 80 minutes with no intermission.
Mommy Matinees Wednesday at 2 p.m. (stroller parking available and "babes in arms" admitted free of charge)

TICKETS: \$27.80 (not including applicable fees & taxes)

LOCATION: **Berkeley Street Theatre Upstairs**, 26 Berkeley Street (Front & Parliament)
NOTE: Berkeley Theatre Upstairs is NOT wheelchair accessible.

BOX OFFICE: Tickets are available in person at the **Canadian Stage Company Box Offices**, 26 Berkeley St. or 27 Front St. E., by telephone at **416-368-3110**, and online via www.nurseryschoolmusical.ca.

Special Corporate Rates Available. Call Corporate Sales Manager **Lanrick Bennett Jr.** at **416-569-4899** or lanrickbennettjr@gmail.com for details.

AUDIENCE ADVISORY: *Contains subject matter, humour and language that some may find offensive. This is NOT a show for kids – get a babysitter!*

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For further media information, artist interviews and high-resolution photography, please contact:

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www.nurseryschoolmusical.ca