



Virginia Repertory Theatre

www.va-rep.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Virginia Rep presents Tony-Award winning *Come From Away*

**The incredible true story of almost 7000 passengers diverted to a
small Canadian town following the events of 9/11**

Thursday, June 18 - In the days following 9/11, 38 planes were diverted to the small town of Gander, Newfoundland following the historic closing of American airspace. What unfolded was an extraordinary display of compassion and community, as the residents of Gander opened their homes and hearts to these stranded strangers for five, life-changing days. *Come From Away* celebrates the power of human connection in the face of unimaginable adversity. Called a "...celebration of the best of humankind" by the Daily Beast - this remarkable true story is brought to life with a memorable, moving score by Tony® nominees Irene Sankoff and David Hein.

The production runs June 18 - August 2, 2026 on the Arenstein Stage in the November Theatre in downtown Richmond.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

An ensemble show of twelve actors playing characters both the "plane people" and local residents of Gander, this production features a blend of Virginia Rep debut performances and familiar favorites.

Familiar Richmond favorites include **Alia Bisharat Glidden** (Beverley & Others), who was most recently seen in VA Rep's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, **Durron Marquis** (Bob & Others), also last seen in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, **Emelie Faith Thompson** (Bonnie & Others), most recently seen as Jenna in last summer's *Waitress*, and **David Wakins** (Kevin J. & Others). They are joined by several cast members from VA Rep's smash hit, *A Christmas Carol*, including **Thomas A. Simpson** (Nick & Others), **Susan Sanford** (Beulah & Others), and **Eddie Webster** (Kevin T. & Others).

Making their debut on the Arenstein stage are Helen Hayes Award Winner **Sherri L. Edelen** (Diane & Others), theater educator, director, and intimacy coordinator **Ti René Ames** (Hannah & Others), NYC based actress **Ashlee Beary** (Janice & Others), UVA Drama's **James Scales** (Claude & Others), and **Erich Schroeder** (Oz & Others) - who recently performed the role on the North American National Tour of *Come from Away*.

The creative team will be led by **Rick Hammerly** (Director), who is artistic director of VA Rep and the director of recent VA Rep hits *A Christmas Carol* and *Waitress*. He is joined by Emmy-Award winner **Ellie Kahn** (Music Direction) and NYC's **Brandon Kelly** (Choreographer).

TICKETS AND PERFORMANCES

Tickets are on sale and now at www.va-rep.org or by calling the box office at (804) 282-2620.

Performances are available Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays at 7:00 PM, select Saturdays at 2PM, Sundays at 3PM, and select Wednesday evenings and matinees. The theatre is located at 114 W Broad St in Richmond.

ABOUT VIRGINIA REPERTORY THEATRE

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a not-for-profit professional theater headquartered in downtown Richmond, and one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. With programming for all ages, including the Jessie Bogese Family Series, performances are held at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre on the Marjorie Arenstein stage, at the historic Hanover Tavern in Hanover, VA, and in the Theatre Gym - a more intimate theatre located in the November Theatre complex.

In addition to their season programming, Virginia Rep's Educational Team delivers professional theatre education programs to students K-12 in the Richmond area, including camps, mobile programs, workshops, and in-school enrichment.

Virginia Rep acts as a community partner by offering other theatre companies the opportunity to produce shows in the Theatre Gym free of charge, participation in the Virginia Commission for the Arts Passport Program - where recipients of Women, Infants, & Children

(WIC) benefits in Virginia can access up to six free tickets per title, community ticket grants, and pay-what-you-will opportunities. The theatre is also returning sensory friendly performances and continuing their work with VirginiaVoice for audio-described performances and is now certified with KultureCity and VisitAble.

FULL CAST AND CREATIVE

Come from Away

Book, music and lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein

Directed by Rick Hammerly

Music Direction - Ellie Kahn

Choreography - Brandon Kelly

Scenic Design - Chris Raintree

Costume Design - Kendra Rai

Lighting Design - Joe Doran

Projection Design - Mark Costello

Sound Design - Jonathan Pratt

Stage Management - Abby Bobb*

CAST LIST

Ti Reneé Ames - Hannah & Others

Ashlee Beary - Janice & Others

Sherri L. Edelen* - Diane & Others

Alia Bisharat Glidden - Beverley & Others

Susan Sanford* - Beulah & Others

James Scales - Claude & Others

Erich Schroeder - Oz & Others

Thomas Adrian Simpson* - Nick & Others

Emelie Faith Thompson* - Bonnie & Others

Durron Marquis Tyre - Bob & Others

David Lyve Watkins* - Kevin J. & Others

Eddie Webster - Kevin T. & Others

Jianna Hurt - Swing (Hannah, Janice)

Aaron Thomas Moore - Swing (Claude, Nick, Oz)

David Ramirez - Swing (Kevin T, Kevin J, Bob)

Alanna Wilson - Swing (Bonnie, Beulah, Diane)

*Members of the Actor's Equity Association

