

# PRESENTS

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# Executive Director's Note



Welcome to the first show to be presented by The Premiere Playhouse. Well at least it's the first show that we have presented under that name. You may have noticed that we have rebranded and you may be wondering why?

While the core values of the organization remain consistent, there has been a significant change to the theatre's look and presence as a brand.

The Premiere Playhouse is focusing heavily on improving the quality and professionalism of its productions. I initiated the rebranding as part of a process meant to develop a professional image and the creation of a professional theatre organization specifically designed to serve and offer opportunities to local volunteers and the community at large.

The theatre's new name serves to remind the community of its history. We chose to pay homage to those who pioneered the way for us when choosing our new name. Many of our patrons to this day still refer to us as The Playhouse.

Use of the word "premiere" is intended to reflect the theatrical connection with the opening night of a show and the vision of establishing ourselves as the Premiere theatre company in the community. We will continue to thrive as the heart and soul of community theatre in Sioux Falls and the surrounding areas, offering access to some of the finest and most exciting productions in the region.

Coincidentally from a naming perspective after making the decision to rebrand as The Premiere Playhouse we were thrilled that as part of their dedication to ensure that community theatre will continue to grow and evolve in the region, First Premier offered to sponsor our next four seasons. This generous gesture will help us to continue our improvement and deliver quality live theatre in the future

Over the past three seasons we have made dramatic changes and our progress is nothing short of breathtaking. We cannot stop there however, we must push forward and continue to grow our team, increase our footprint, be innovative, inclusive, collaborative, daring and resilient. Although we are now a much more professional company we continue to be a community theatre that strives to deliver high quality affordable live theatre. In so doing we aim to inspire, cultivate and develop a rich pool of local talent thereby making our community an even more amazing place in which to live.

# Robin Byrne

Executive & Artistic Director

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# Director's Note



This show means a lot to me on a very personal level. I was a child growing up in the North of England at exactly the same time that we see the kids in this show also growing up in the North of England. I knew kids exactly like these characters. I grew up alongside them in the sixties. I was one of them.

I never just take on a play or musical and lift it off the page then drop it on the stage. I always look to do something different with it and the cinematography is an example of that treatment. Another example is based on the location for this story. The author Willy Russell set the show in his hometown of Liverpool, England in the early sixties. The Beatles were emerging and playing The Cavern Club in Liverpool. To tie in the Beatles to this storyline I have hidden 12 references to The Beatles, their songs, and lyrics within the show. Some are very subtle, and some will slap you in the face, but can you spot them all? They may be in the set, the action, the dialogue or the audio-visual material. They are there and I will post all 12 on social media at the end of the show's run for you to tick off the ones that you spotted.

The cast and crew on this show are to be commended on their talent and hard work. They were so easy to work with and have made directing it a pleasure. This musical was nominated for 6 Emmy's and won The Lawrence Olivier Award for Best Musical. It's easy to see why. I hope that you think we have done it justice.

# Robin Byrne

Director



# Courtesy Policy

- Audio/Video taping and photography of this production is strictly forbidden.
- · Please turn off or silence all electronic devices.
- Please make sure that when you parked your car, you paid attention to all posted warnings. If you do not adhere to the posted warnings, your car may be towed at your own expense.
- Enjoy the show and please help spread the news about this production. Share with others on Facebook and Twitter. Please include #HeyPremiere in your tweet!



5704 W 41st St, Sioux Falls, SD 605-361-9288

# Cast



### **Mrs. Johnstone**

Alexondrea Thong Vanh

### **Narrator**

Tristan Chasing Hawk

### **Mrs. Lyons**

Rose Ann Hofland

### Mr. Lyons

Tyler Raehsler

### **Mickey**

Shawn Shannon II

### **Edward**

Nathan Sparks

# Sammy, Ensemble

Jackson Heiberger

### Linda

Marisa Moser

### **Ensemble**

Addyson Kimball

Bekki Kniep

India Johnson Joselyn Williams

Joshua Allen

Joshua Sauer

Luke Salerno

Macey Wigg

Sam Anderson



# Production

**Director** Robin Byrne

**Associate Director** Jesse Jensen

Music Director / Accompanist Karl Graber

**Choreographer** Magen Richeal

Stage Manager Jazlynne Williams

Assistant Stage Manager Luke Salerno

Sadie Mickelson

Scenic Designer Jill Clark

Sound Designer / Mixer Malia Lukomski

**Lighting Designer** Adam Rye

Costume Designer Kendra Dexter

**Assistant Costume Designer** Janet Liesinger

Cinematography / Multimedia Gavin Wigg

Nicholas Weiland

Master Carpenter John Harris

Paint Charge Alexondrea Thong Vanh

Sam Lopez

Props Master Luke Salerno

**Audio Production** Brian Masek

Volunteer Paint Kevin Cole

# Crew



**Light Board Operator** Mercedes Arnett

Sound Board Operator Maddie Lukomski

**Run Crew** Aurora Forbes

**Spotlight Operators** Tina Gonzalez Vega

Bob Nelson

Carpentry Crew Corey Rush

Tad Lacey Todd Nelson

Camera Operator Quinn Masek

**Special Thanks** Amy Williams and Family

Habitat Restore Shawn Shannon

University of Sioux Falls

# Band



**Keyboard** Karl Graber

Bass Brian Masek

**Drums** Jade Bolin

Soprano & Alto Saxophone, Benjamin Ostrem
Clarinet

Electric & Acoustic Guitar Sean Egan

Violin, Acoustic Guitar, James Schrag Keyboard

**Trumpet** Grant Hein





# Addyson Kimball / Ensemble

Addyson is a nursing student at Augustana University making her debut on The Premiere Playhouse stage after leaving Rapid City's Seraphim Theatrical Entertainment. In her spare time she enjoys knitting and playing both tabletop and video games with her friends and partner, often with the unwelcome assistance of their two cats.



# Alexondrea Thong Vanh / Mrs. Johnstone

Alexondrea is thrilled for this Premiere Playhouse production! Alex moved back from New York City and is incredibly grateful to have performance opportunities here in Sioux Falls. She is a graduate of both American Musical Dramatic Academy New York and University of South Dakota, where she holds a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Theatre. Some of her favorite, recent theatre roles include *The Fantasticks* (Bellomy) with Good Night Theatre Collective, *The Odd Couple Female Version* (Olive) with SECT, *Deathtrap* (Helga Ten Dorp) and *Steel Magnolias* (Truvy Jones) with Paul Bunyan Playhouse, *Into The Woods* (Jack's Mother), and *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Marty) with University of South Dakota. Alex also stars in local commercials with KCAU 9 and Johnson & Richter Creative. Offstage, Alex enjoys painting, singing to her son Reveo, and dancing with her husband Andy. www.alexondreadi.com @alexondreadi



# Bekki Kniep / Ensemble

Bekki is so excited to grace the stage during this Premiere Playhouse production!

Previous shows include SECT's *Footloose* (Principal Clark/Betty Blast), SECT's *Mamma Mia!* (Sophie's Chorus), and *IWCC's The Wedding Singer* (Holly). Bekki is a full time

Cosmetologist at a busy spa and enjoys being a day maker for locals and travelers alike. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family, sitting down with a good book, and continually seeking the secrets of baking a perfect macaron.



### India Johnson / Ensemble

India is happy to be back performing; her last show was SECT's *Peter Pan* back in 2019 when she was the role of Peter. When she's not on stage, India loves to draw, write songs, collect Legos, and make silly TikToks. India currently isn't going to college, but in the meantime, she wants to do plenty of theatre. She'd like to thank Robin for welcoming her back on the stage, and her family for always supporting her.



### Jackson Heiberger / Sammy, Ensemble

Jackson is amped to be back on stage for his third appearance with The Premiere Playhouse! He was previously seen on stage in *Footloose* as Lyle over the summer, and as an ensemble member in *Mamma Mia!* in the fall of 2019. Off stage, Jackson can be found working full time overnights at the Glory House, and in his free time playing video games, reading, playing piano, and/or being politically active. Jackson would like to thank his brother, Christian, for all his support and encouragement in rejoining the theatre lifestyle. He couldn't have done it without him.



# Joselyn Williams / Ensemble

Joselyn is super excited to perform in this Premiere Playhouse musical. She was thrilled to play the role of Chip in *Beauty & the Beast*. Joselyn fell in love with theatre during her first performance at SECT in *Oliver* as an orphan and since falling in love with theatre, Joselyn has been involved in a couple school plays: *The Show Must Go Online* and *Zombie Apocalypse*. Joselyn enjoys being outdoors and spending time with her family and friends. She loves to read, listen to music, and sing and she is a Degree 2, Level 1 Black Belt in Taekwondo. Joselyn is thankful to have the support of her family. She would love to thank all of you for your continued support in The Premiere Playhouse. Enjoy this amazing performance!



# Joshua Allen / Ensemble

Joshua is excited to get back on stage after 9 years, and for the first time with The Premiere Playhouse! In his spare time Josh enjoys going to the gym, and takes personal health and development as a life changing priority. Josh also plays and runs Dungeons and Dragons, as well as being an active member in the Sioux Falls board game IONS, giving an opportunity to help bring the community together and raise in the most fun ways possible. Josh has spent a long time on stage and backstage in high school and college and is very excited to be back, hopefully for many more performances to come.



### Joshua Sauer / Ensemble

Joshua is excited to continue his acting career with The Premiere Playhouse, after having just come off the heels of *Footloose* as Chuck Cranston, and performing in *Kim Bartling's "Broadway & Beyond"* as Beetlejuice. In his free time, Joshua loves to watch horror films, and make plans for Halloween. He also has a blast playing video games with his friends. He also enjoys a fun night out, to get closer to friends, family, and cast mates. He hopes you and your fellow attendees are held at the edge of your seat for this amazing musical!







# **Luke Salerno** / Ensemble, Assistant Stage Manager, Props Master

Luke is thrilled to be working with The Premiere Playhouse and appearing onstage with the company for the first time! Luke graduated from the University of Central Florida in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Studies. Luke's previous backstage roles include Footloose, Beauty and The Beast, A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder, Titanic, and Oklahoma!. Luke would like to thank his family, his loving girlfriend, Jazlynne, and his fellow cast and crew members for supporting him as he prepares to make his on-stage debut!



# Macey Wigg / Ensemble

Macey is a 14-year-old actress and singer, who has participated in many musicals/plays. She has been in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (Willy Wonka), *Aladdin* (Magic Carpet), and was also in the chorus in elementary school in *101 Dalmatians* (2014), *Peter Pan* (2015), *The Wizard of Oz* (2016), and *The Lion King* (2017). Macey is an 8th grader at George McGovern Middle School, and is in her school's show choir, regular choir, band, cross country, and track team. Her hobbies include writing, singing, playing instruments, (clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, and piano) and reading.



### Marisa Moser / Linda

Marisa is excited to be onstage for *Blood Brothers*! Her previous work includes Florence Unger in *The Odd Couple: Female Version* (SECT), Destiny in *A Girl Named Destiny* (Little Monstrous Theatre Company), and Kirsty in *When The Bang Comes* (King's College London Literary Society). She is a graduate of King's College London and Stewart School, and the recipient of the 2021 Sioux Falls Stage Award for Best Actress in a Play or Musical, for Sioux Empire Community Theatre's *It's A Wonderful Life* (Lana Sherwood/Violet Bick/Ernie). Marisa would like to thank the community for their continuing support of the arts in Sioux Falls, and her directors, castmates, and crewmates past and present, for their support, guidance, knowledge, and friendship.



## Nathan Sparks / Edward

Nathan is very excited to be in a show with The Premiere Playhouse. His last production was Oliver! when he played Bill Sikes. His other recent productions include Charlie Cox Runs With Scissor as Wally, A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play as Harry Jazzbo Haywood, and Ada and the Engine as Charles Babbage, which were done with the Mighty Corson Art Players. He is very thankful for the constant support and encouragement from his family, friends, and theatre community.



## **Rose Ann Hofland / Mrs. Lyons**

Rose Ann is excited to be performing again. She was last seen in *Les Miserables* and has worked behind the scenes previously as a director for *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *How I Became a Pirate*. Rose Ann has also performed locally for the Olde Towne Dinner Theatre and directed for the Dakota Academy of Performing Arts and the Monstrous Theatre Company. She received her theatre degree from the University of South Dakota and has been working in arts education and community engagement in South Dakota since that time, currently serving as the Director of Community Engagement for Levitt at the Falls. She is a board member of the Black Hills Playhouse and an avid arts appreciator who loves gardening, cooking, and spending time with her husband, Josh, and chow chow mix, Fozzie.



### Sam Anderson / Ensemble

Sam is very excited to be on stage with The Premiere Playhouse, this is her first show ever! When she's not on stage Sam is at school or roller skating with friends! Although Sam cannot do anything too fancy on skates, she has been skating since she was little! Sam is attending the new Jefferson high school, and she's very excited to join Jefferson's theatre department! Besides school or roller skating, Sam is probably sitting at home reading a book or playing video games like Animal Crossing or The Legend of Zelda.



# Shawn Shannon II / Mickey

Shawn has been in the community theatre scene since his debut in *Peter and The Starcatcher* (Captain Robert Falcon Scott) in 2018. Since then, he has been in *Oliver!* (Ensemble) and has helped with set construction and load-ins and load-outs on numerous other shows. Shawn's most recent stage appearance was in a production of *Melancholy Play* (Lorenzo) put on by The Monstrous Little Theatre Company, and he is beyond excited to be on stage with The Premiere Playhouse for this production of *Blood Brothers*.



## Tristan Chasing Hawk / Narrator

Tristan is thrilled to be making his Premiere Playhouse debut in *Blood Brothers* after enjoying success in competitive collegiate speech and slam poetry competitions. In addition to performance, he has previously coached collegiate speech and trained with graduates from the Yale School of Drama and the Academy for Classical Acting. He is excited to translate his skills and knowledge to the stage. Tristan earned his Communications degree from the University of South Dakota. When he isn't acting, he enjoys reading, coaching collegiate speech, and spending time with loved ones.







# Tyler Raehsler / Mr. Lyons

Tyler is excited to hit the Belbas stage for the opening show of The Premiere Playhouse's 21/22 season! After growing up in central Minnesota, Tyler moved to Sioux Falls in 2011 and graduated from Augustana with majors in English/Secondary Education, as well as minors in Journalism/Communications. This is Tyler's fifth show with SECT, his first was How I Became a Pirate way back in March, 2012. Tyler was last seen playing Reverend Moore in SECT's summer production of Footloose, but he also directed Beauty and the Beast on the Orpheum stage back in April, his seventh show as a director. When not involved with theatre, Tyler enjoys movie marathons, hopping on the bike trail for jogs, and chilling on the couch with Dewey, his 11 year old rescue dog.





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# Meet The Crew



### Janet Liesinger / Assistant Costume Designer

Janet is keeping her retirement busy with her love for theatre. While she will tell you she is not creative, she sure has a knack for creative costumes. When not backstage working as a super talented seamstress she spends most of her time with her 5 grandchildren who all live close by.

# Jazlynne Williams / Stage Manager

Jazlynne welcomes you to The Premiere Playhouse's debut production of *Blood Brothers*! Jazlynne works full-time at The Premiere Playhouse as the Deputy Production Manager and Resident Stage Manager, and she is grateful to Robin, the Board Members, and all the other staff that welcomed her and helped her fulfill her dream of working fulltime in theatre! Jazlynne proudly holds a BFA in Stage Management from the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Please enjoy this hilarious yet heart-wrenching production that takes us back to the 1960s in Liverpool, England.



"Enjoy the art in yourself, and not yourself in the art." - Constantin Stanislavski

To find out Jazlynne's past production credits, please visit www.JazlynneWilliams.com

## Jesse Jensen / Associate Director, Production Manager

Jesse made his SECT acting debut in the 2018 production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Black Stache) and has previously directed *Beauty & the Beast Jr., God of Carnage*, and *Of Mice and Men.* Jesse brings years of experience in both professional theatre and children's productions and has worked with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Raven Theatre Company, and Piven Theatre Workshop in Chicago, IL; and City Circle in Iowa City. His wife, Melissa, is a physician at Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls and they have three children - Prentice, Maddux, and Camden. Jesse graduated with a BFA in Acting from the University of South Dakota.

# Jill Clark / Scenic Designer

Jill is very excited to be working with The Premiere Playhouse for their first show of the season. She has designed for this wonderful company several times, most notable productions being Mary Poppins, The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, Steel Magnolias, The Odd Couple Female Version, Beauty and the Beast, and Footloose. She is a graduate of lowa Lakes Community College and University of South Dakota where she designed Cinderella and The Goat, or Who is Sylvia, respectively; While at USD Jill worked as a scenic painter for The Black Hills Playhouse during their 2013 season. Since school she frequently works as a scenic/props designer for the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival and has designed shows such as MacBeth, Comedy of Errors, Richard 3, Midsummer Night's Dream, and Twelfth Night Or What You Will. Jill grew up in Estherville, IA and currently resides in Vermillion, SD where she works as a freelance artist and bartender at The Varsity Pub.





# Meet The Crew

# John Harris / Master Carpenter

John grew up in Yankton, SD, and graduated from Mount Marty College with a BA in Business Administration. He has resided in Sioux Falls since 1972 and the skills he has acquired over the years serve him well as the Master Carpenter. He visits New York to see his daughter each year, which usually includes seeing a Broadway production. Unfortunately, his loving wife, Deb, passed away in 2012. He enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren, trying to pass on his other major skill as a cook and baker which he started learning from his mother at an early age. On top of that, John is also an avid motorcyclist. His past work with The Premiere Playhouse includes *Noises Off, Les Misérables, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Little Shop of Horrors*, and many more. He would like to personally thank all the volunteers who helped with set production, as many hands make light work.



# Karl Graber / Music Director, Accompanist, Keyboard

Karl grew up on a farm between Marion, Freeman, and Parker and is currently serving as the church pianist at Spirit of Peace UCC Church in Sioux Falls. Karl graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2002 and has performed at the Ameropa Chamber Music Festival in Prague, Czech Republic, as well as with the Cherokee (IA) Symphony and UNL Orchestra with duo piano partner, Angela Shafer. He spent six years as the staff accompanist for the Theatre department at the University of South Dakota. On top of that, Karl has served as a pianist, violinist or conductor for many musicals, with favorites such as *Into the Woods, Avenue Q, The Last Five Years*, and *Next to Normal*. When he isn't working as a freelance pianist or painter, Karl enjoys playing golf, playing trombone (and occasionally violin) in the local ska band Donnybrook Brawlers, and tinkering with anything he can get his hands on.



# Kendra Dexter / Costume Designer

Kendra is the owner of Designs By Dexter, and has made everything from wedding gowns to Irish dance costumes. Her recent achievements include work on a short film project and an American College Theater Festival Award for her design work on *Much Ado About Nothing* (Fall 2016) at the University of Sioux Falls. Kendra runs her business and is the Costume Director for the University of Sioux Falls and O'Gorman High School. Kendra has costumed more than 75 shows in South Dakota, several of which were right here at your local theatre. A new recipient of her Master's in Theater from Regent University, Kendra Dexter is thrilled to bring new skills to The Premiere Playhouse during *Blood Brothers*.



# Magen Richeal / Choreographer

Magen is excited to be part of *Blood Brothers*! She made her Premiere Playhouse debut as choreographer and part of the ensemble in *Beauty and the Beast*, and was a member of the ensemble in *Footloose*. Magen is a graduate of USD, a dance instructor and studio owner, as well as a competitive cheerleading coach. She would like to thank all of the wonderful people of The Premiere Playhouse for their encouragement and shared love of music and performance.

# Meet The Crew



### Malia Lukomski / Sound Designer, Mixer

Malia is so excited to be a part of *Blood Brothers*! Malia is a 2020 graduate of Augustana University, where they received degrees in Theatre and Media Studies. While at Augustana, they served as a regular sound designer for both main stage and student-led productions, was elected as the Business Manager (2017 - 2018) and the Executive Director (2018 - 2019) of the Augustana Collaborative Theatrical Society, and was a two-time Irene Ryan Scholarship nominee. They recently graduated from the SALT Institute for Documentary Studies in Portland, Maine, where they studied audio production and earned a graduate certificate in Radio and Podcast Production. Malia would like to thank their friends, family, and Doordash for all their support. For information about past and upcoming adventures, visit www.malialukomski.com



### Sadie Mickelson / Assistant Stage Manager

Sadie couldn't be more delighted to be starting off the new season with *Blood Brothers*. She has been doing theatre her whole life and plans on continuing with it into her adulthood and career. She wants to thank everyone involved with The Premiere Playhouse for the opportunity as well as her friends and family for supporting her.





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# Meet The Band

# Benjamin Ostrem / Soprano & Alto Saxophone, Clarinet

Ben grew up in Montezuma, Iowa. He got his degree in music at Luther College in 2019 (emphasis on jazz saxophone), and subsequently got his degree in instrument repair in 2020 from Minnesota State College Southeast.v Ben also works full time as a repair tech at Schmitt Music here in town.

### Brian Masek / Bass, Audio Production

Brian is from Sioux Falls and is excited to be joining *Blood Brothers* both as a bass player in the band and to assist with production of the live music. He has previously played bass in *Footloose, Oliver!*, and *Sister Act* with SECT, several musicals with USF, is the bass player for Kory and the Fireflies and subs bass on gigs with various jazz groups, touring oldies bands and the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra. He's worked as recording engineer in Sioux Falls and Los Angeles and has produced half a dozen CDs of his own bands including a new release which is coming out in the next several months. Brian is an old guy and is inspired by all the talented younger people involved with The Premiere Playhouse. Sioux Falls theatre is in great hands!

# Sean Egan / Electric & Acoustic Guitar

Sean is excited to be joining the incredibly talented cast and crew of The Premiere Playhouse for the first time. This will be his seventh musical production playing either guitar or bass. He works as a Software Developer and is also an active musician in the Sioux Falls area. He lives in Sioux Falls with his wife Lora, and they have one adult son, Josh. When he isn't working, he enjoys camping, learning new languages, music, spending time with his family, traveling and volunteering in the community.



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# Rights & Information

## **Blood Brothers**

is presented in arrangement with:

### **Concord Theatricals**

www.concordtheatricals.com

Book, Music, & Lyrics By Willy Russel

# Warning

Please be aware that this production contains the use of strong language, live blank gun shots, and fog.





# Meet Our Staff

Artistic & Executive Director Robin Byrne

**Production Manager** Jesse Jensen

**Deputy Production Manager** Jazlynne Williams

**Education Coordinator** Alex Newcomb Weiland

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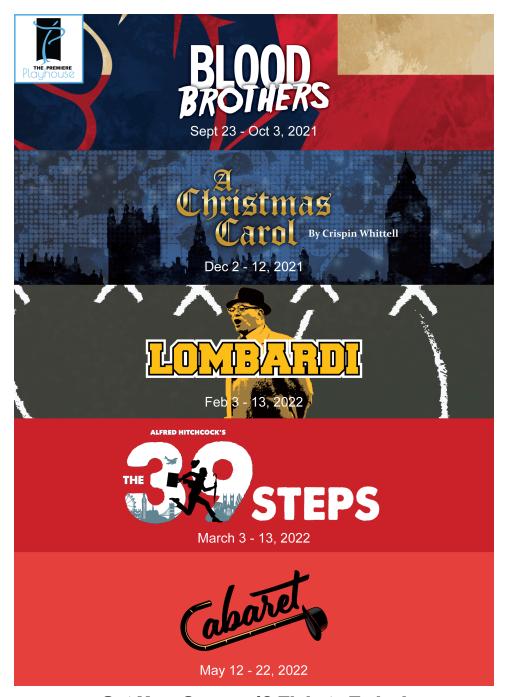
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