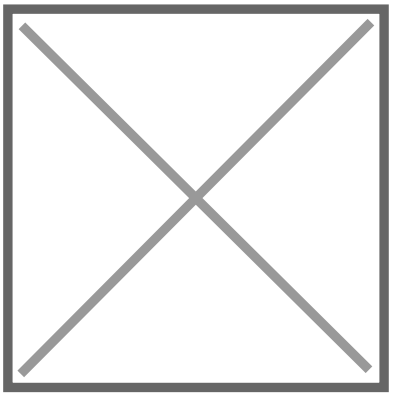


Come From Away the Musical: Where Compassion Takes Flight

Description

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SALT LAKE CITY, UTâ??Nestled in the heart of Salt Lake City, Utah, the **Eccles Theater** hosts a remarkable true story that transcends geographical boundaries and touches the depths of the human spirit. *Come From Away*, a musical touring with Broadway Across America, brings to life the heartwarming narratives of individuals from around the world who found themselves unexpectedly grounded in Gander, Newfoundland, in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy. Featuring a captivating book, music, and lyrics by Olivier, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award winners **Irene Sankoff** and **David Hein**, *Come From Away* is directed by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, with musical staging by Olivier Award winner **Kelly Devine**, and music supervision by Olivier Award winner **Ian Eisendrath**. The tour is directed by Daniel Goldstein, with musical staging by Richard J. Hinds, based on the original Broadway direction and choreography. Many may not know that this musical is based on the book *The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland,* by **Jim DeFede**, which I highly recommend.

> Cover of The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland by Jim DeFede, showing
> Cover of *The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland* by **Jim DeFede**

Check out the book here

Set against the backdrop of the September 11 attacks, *Come From Away* is a powerful testament to humanityâ??s resilience in the face of adversity. The musical offers a heartwarming portrayal of the kindness and compassion that emerged in the small town of Gander, where thousands of stranded travelers found refuge. One of the most striking aspects of *Come From Away* is its ensemble cast, who skillfully portray multiple characters with depth and authenticity. The diverse range of personalities and backgrounds adds richness to the storytelling, allowing the audience to connect with each characterâ??s individual struggles and triumphs. The production reminded me of *Peter and the Starcatcher* in its use of a deliberately simple set and costumes, placing the imaginative weight on the ensemble rather than spectacle. Objects transform, roles shift, and the audience is invited to meet the story halfway through collective imagination. That sense of theatrical magic crystallizes when the back wall suddenly opens to reveal the side of a plane and an actor steps through. Throughout the performance, the ensemble remains in constant motionâ??changing costumes in full view, moving

fluidly between Gander locals and visitors, and expanding the perceived size of the cast. Even the musicians join the visual storytelling, filling the stage during the opening and closing numbers.

> Two women talk excitedly in front of the seated ensemble of the touring production of Come From A
> Touring Cast and Band Members of COME FROM AWAY 2023, PC: Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade

Led by standout performances from **Andrew Hendrick**, **Candace Alyssa Rhodes**, **Kristin Litzenberg**, **Jason Tyler Smith**, **Shawn W. Smith**, **Addison Garner**, and **Hannah Kato**, the cast brings authenticity and depth to each character, portraying the diverse emotions and challenges faced by those caught in the midst of a global crisis. The seamless ensemble work enhances the narrative, allowing audience members to empathize with the individuals whose lives intersect in the small town of Gander. The productionâ??s innovative set design by **Beowulf Boritt**, complemented by **Howell Binkley**â??s evocative lighting design, creates a dynamic visual landscape that transports viewers from airport terminals to intimate moments of connection and reflection. **Toni-Leslie James**â??s costume design further enhances the charactersâ?? identities, while the live band, under the direction of **Sarah Pool Wilhelm** and **Bronwen Chan**, infuses the music with energy and emotion. The minimalist set effectively evokes Ganderâ??s rustic charm while keeping the focus on the characters and their relationships.

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While *Come From Away* excels in capturing the spirit of generosity and solidarity that emerged after 9/11, some critics argue that it glosses over the complexities of the event itself. They suggest the musical romanticizes the response in Gander, presenting a somewhat idealized version of community solidarity that may not fully reflect reality. Additionally, some viewers may find the lack of a central protagonist or traditional narrative structure a drawback. The story unfolds through a series of vignettes rather than a linear plot. While this approach allows for a broader exploration of the charactersâ?? diverse experiences, it can also make it challenging for audiences to fully invest in any single storyline.

> The ensemble of Come From Away dances across the wooden-plank set under warm stage lights.
> Touring Cast and Band Members of COME FROM AWAY 2023, PC: Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade

However, this musical balances its heavier moments with humor. Several times during the performance, I noticed people around me sniffling, and it made me pause to consider their personal stories. Was I sitting next to a firefighter or someone who had lost a loved one on 9/11? I appreciate that *Come From Away* shares the experiences of not only Americans but also Muslims, Canadians, Jews, mothers who lost their sons, pilots who lost co-workers, and countless others. While it acknowledges pain and tragedy, it ultimately focuses on compassion.

Donâ??t miss your chance to witness the magic of *Come From Away* at the Eccles Theater in Salt Lake City. Secure your tickets now for this limited engagement and embark on a journey of hope, healing, and the triumph of the human spirit.

Overall, *Come From Away* is a moving and uplifting theatrical experience that celebrates the power of human connection during times of crisis. While it may not offer a comprehensive examination of 9/11, its message of hope and solidarity resonates deeply with audiences. This extraordinary production, nominated for multiple Tony Awards, stands as a testament to the enduring power of storytelling and the universal language of humanity. Whether youâ??re a seasoned theatergoer or new to the stage,

Come From Away is a must-see experience that will leave you deeply moved and inspired.

Headshots of six Come From Away touring cast members and the roles they play.

Headshots of six more Come From Away touring cast members and the roles they play.

Show Info

Zions Bank Broadway at the Eccles is delighted to announce the highly anticipated return of the national tour of *COME FROM AWAY*, a Broadway sensation recounting the heartwarming true story of a small townâ??s extraordinary act of kindness in the face of adversity. Returning to the Eccles Theater for a limited engagement of five performances from **April 26 to 28, 2024**. Tickets are available at Broadway-at-the-Eccles.com or by calling 801.355.2787 (ARTS).

- **Venue**: The George S. and Dolores DorÃ© Eccles Theater, 131 S Main St, Salt Lake City, UT 84111
- **Dates and Times**:
  - April 26â??27, 8:00 PM
  - April 27, 2:00 PM
  - April 28, 1:00 PM and 6:30 PM
- **Tickets**: $69â??159
- **Contact**: 801.355.2787

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Photo Credit: Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade
Come From Away, music and lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein. Presented by NETworks Presentations and Broadway at the Eccles.

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