

DADS THE MUSICAL



THREE NEW DADS, ONE HILARIOUS,
AND HEARTWARMING JOURNEY.

NOVEMBER 1-8, 2025
PUMPHOUSE THEATRE, PRESENTED
CALGARY

DIRECTED BY NICOLA PAYTON
WRITTEN BY ROBERT MORE
COMPOSED BY TOM DOYLE.

BY
Mis it
• Theatre •

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Welcome to Dads The Musical. If you are here because you are a Dad, have a Dad or know a Dad then this musical is for you. We present the stories of three new dads as they learn to cope with life at home with their children. If you are here because it is a musical then this is the show for you, Dads The Musical has a song for every musical taste. 1950's rock? Yes there is one of those. Country ballad? Yep. 1980's? Lullabies and

a nod to Rogers and Hammerstein? This show has it all.

If you are here because you are a diehard fan of the show, I suspect you may be exaggerating, because an internet search produces very few results! As with all lesser known shows, it is very difficult to find information about it, but when I was offered the chance to direct the show and the first words were "it has puppets" how could I refuse? I have been so fortunate to work with such a talented group of actors who have been able to bring both laughter and pathos to these very realistic stories, and their dedication to the show has been phenomenal. I am notoriously difficult to make laugh but this group managed it every rehearsal and I am sure they will make you laugh too.

Nicola Payton
Director

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



After 25 years on stage, I decided my next challenge would be from behind the scenes. How hard could directing be? As it turns out, keeping all the creative "balls in the air" is a special task unto itself! Why this play? As a father myself, I was immediately drawn to the layers of perspective, humor, and frustration baked into these relationships. The rewards of fatherhood are immeasurable—the first smile, the unexpected hug,

watching them discover the world. And the terror? That's the weight of knowing you're their protector, guide, and role model, and the constant fear of not getting it "right." Thank you to Nicola and the Misfit Team for the invitation and the trust to join you on this incredible journey.

Clark Adams
Apprentice Director

MISFIT THEATRE PRESENTS

The title 'DADS THE MUSICAL' is rendered in a bold, stylized font. 'DADS' is in a large, blocky, serif font with a 3D effect, while 'THE MUSICAL' is in a smaller, all-caps, serif font below it. The word 'DADS' is surrounded by eight five-pointed stars of varying sizes. Lines connect each star to a letter in 'DADS': the top star connects to the first 'D', the star to its left connects to the second 'D', the star to its right connects to the first 'A', the top star connects to the second 'A', the star to its right connects to the 'D', the star to its right connects to the 'S', the star to its right connects to the 'T', and the star to its right connects to the 'M'.

DADS
THE MUSICAL

Written by
ROBERT MORE

Composed by
TOM DOYLE

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SPECIAL THANKS

MORPHEUS THEATRE

ROBERT MORE

KARIZMA ARTS STUDIO

ADULT RECREATION CHOIRS

PUMPHOUSE THEATRE

KAT MCLAREN

BRAD SIMON

MCPHEE FAMILY



MCKENZIE LAKE

Chiropractic and Massage

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director

NICOLA PAYTON

Stage Manager

**CHEYENNE
CRANSTON**

Producer

KRISTA WILLOTT

Apprentice Director

CLARK ADAMS

Assistant
Stage Manager

MEG ALYWARD

Co-Producer

KARLEIGH INGRAM

Intimacy Director

**GILLIAN
KLASSEN**

Apprentice
Stage Manager

LACEY BARTKO

Costume Coordinator

BRENDA SPENARD

Program Designer

AUGUST JAMES

Lighting Designer

JASON CABUEÑOS

Choreography

NICOLA PAYTON

Set Design

CONOR MANEY

Props

**KRISTA WILLOTT
LACEY BARTKO**

Photographer

DORIN MCINTOSH

Set Decoration

KRISTA WILLOTT

Videographer

RENE MORALES



CAST

JOEY DINGLE MATT MCPHAIL

KIRK THOMPSON CONOR MANEY

CHARLES FIELDING CHRIS WILLOTT

WOMEN KAREN HANNA

JENNA ANDERSON

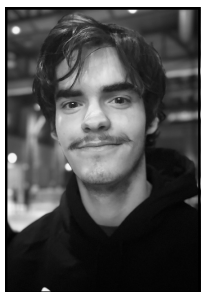
PUPPETEERS CHLOE PAYTON

MADI VERMEULEN

MUSICIAN JOSEPH FERNANDO



MEET THE ARTISTS



Andreas Hynes
Sound Design

I think I have AD-Hay
look a squirrel



August James
Program Designer

After his partner dragged him along to “paint chairs” for Misfit’s production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, August caught Krista’s eye with his above average artistic abilities and by the end

of load in, he somehow joined the crew as a stagehand, becoming Krista’s “gift from above”. Misfit couldn’t seem to get enough of him and decided to keep him around as a designer, where he has since made the programs for *Shakespeare*, *Guys and Dolls* and now *DADS* (aka the one you’re currently reading). You can find these past programs on Misfit’s website or with more of his work at [@pumpkin.ink.carvings](https://www.instagram.com/pumpkin.ink.carvings) on instagram.



Brenda Spenard
Costume Coordinator

This is Brenda’s first production with Misfit Theatre and is excited to be a part of it.

Brenda has participated in many community theater productions since she moved to Calgary in

2006. Prior to *Dads the Musical*, she was the costumer for Morpheus Theatre’s *Calendar Girls*.



Chloe Payton
Puppeteer

Having been an actress, stage manager, and director for Dewdney Players, Chloe took a break from theatre to complete her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Lethbridge and is

super excited to return to the stage with Misfit Theatre! This is her first time in the world of puppetry and she is very excited to share what she has learned! She would like to thank her family for putting up with her constantly talking about puppets for months!



Cheyenne Cranston
Stage Manager

Cheyenne has worn many hats in the theatre world, but finds stage management is the one she likes the best (and keeps getting asked to wear). She has stage managed at the Just For Laughs Festival

in Montreal as well as many plays and musicals. This is her second show in Calgary, the first being *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* with Front Row Centre Players. She has loved working with Misfit for the first time, and wants to thank all the dads out there for being their wonderfully awkward selves.

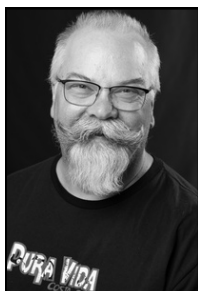




Chris Willott
Charles Fielding

As a father of three boys, Chris can confirm that that they burp and poop, a lot, but he's also tickled pink to finally have a baby girl to care for. Cajoled by his wife to join the production, he's thrilled he did, as it

has been a journey full of laughter and love. You can see Chris back at the Pumphouse again in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels next January.



Clark Adams
Assistant Director

Clark is thrilled to be taking his first foray into directing and sends a huge thank you to Nicola Payton for her guidance and mentorship. He is a familiar face on the Front Row Centre stage,

with recent acting credits including Something Rotten, The Sondheim Revue, and Follies. As you enjoy the show, remember: A comfort zone is a beautiful place, but nothing ever grows there.



Conor Maney
Kirk Thompson

Conor has had a passion for stage performing since his first taste of it in grade 6. Since then, trying to building a resume to become the most versatile performer he can be. Period accurate

Sword fighting, a little cello, Shaolin Kung Fu, ballroom dance, singing karaoke, with choirs and in musicals, watching streaming services for "research", etc. In effort to be the best 20-something dad he can be at this, the zenith of his career, or something.



Dorin McIntosh
Photographer





KUNG FU FUSION

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Mind/Body Equilibrium



Gillian Klassen Intimacy Director

Taking the stage direction ‘they kiss’ and turning it into a whole story - that’s what Gillian (she/her) enjoys in her work as an intimacy director and choreographer. An award-winning actor,

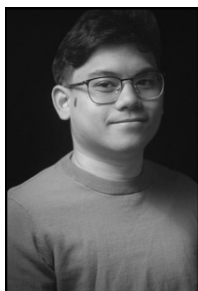
and all-around romance book lover from Mohkinstsis on Treaty 7 Territory (Calgary), Gillian is excited to be combining her interests of performing and intimacy in a new way. A student of the Principal Intimacy Professionals Training Program, Gillian’s movement coaching highlights human connection and storytelling. Previous intimacy credits include: Porcelain Dolls, Much Ado About Nothing (Full Circle Theatre), and The McAdo (Morpheus Theatre).



Jenna Anderson Woman

Despite having lived in Calgary less than a year, Jenna has found the time to perform in three shows so far, including her first role (or should we say “roles”?) in a musical here in Dads the

Musical. She’s also been murdered onstage as Claire in *Prescription: Murder*, and learned to tap dance (a little) for *Wizard of Oz*. Before coming to Calgary, Jenna played a 12-year-old British girl in the world premiere of *Agency* at the Winnipeg Fringe, reached Regionals in the 2024 *World Monologue Games*, and learned and performed 30 monologues in 30 days for *Last (Hu)man Standing*, among other work. Jenna’s training includes recent work with Lindsay Nance at North End Story Lab and extensive training with Jeff Skinner at the Actors’ Training Centre of Manitoba. Offstage, she can be found exploring Calgary’s parks with her pomchi Mocha, trying her hand at playwriting, or playing D&D. Follow along at @reallyjenna.



Jason Cabueños Lighting Designer

Jason Cabueños (He/Him) is a graduate from the University of Calgary School of Creative and Performing Arts. He’s very into lighting design and fight choreography, and is

freelancing for both under his handle (Firelight). He would like to thank Misfit Theatre for the opportunity to collaborate with them to make some magic happen with DADS the Musical!



Joseph Fernando Musician

Joseph Fernando has been doing music and orchestra roles in Calgary theatre for almost two years, including music directing Misfit’s previous show, “Guys and Dolls”, in April

2025. He has been auditioning for more onstage roles, and (literally) just finished his first acting role in Workshop Theatre’s “Spider’s Web”. He thought he had left music roles behind for good, but just when he thought he was out, they pulled him back in. He has been having a fantastic time working on the music for “Dads”, and he hopes you enjoy watching the onstage musical madness as much as he has enjoyed putting it together. He would like to thank the amazing cast and directing team for indulging his chaotic musical ideas, and letting him do his best Tame Impala impression on stage (iykyk). Joseph dedicates these performances to his niblings (it’s a real word, look it up) Jacinta, Adrian, Sophia, Cecilia and Gabriella, for giving him the chance to hang out with and watch some awesome tiny people grow up, without the whole “daily diaper changes” and “3am feedings” thing.





Karen Hanna
Woman

Karen is thrilled to perform in her third production for Misfit Theatre, following *Guys and Dolls* and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. You may also have seen her recently with other

local companies including: Take A Bow Theatre, Workshop Theatre, Nose Creek Players and Imagine Performing Arts. Karen would like to thank her warm and supportive cast and crew for making this a positive experience, especially Nicola, for trusting her with a solo, and Krista, for helping her pull it off.



Karleigh Ingram
Co-Producer

This is Karleigh's first time producing a show. She is an avid enjoyer of technical theatre and is thrilled to be a part of another musical. Karleigh has adored working with this talented group of

individuals and is grateful for all who take the time to come and see it!



Lacey Bartko
Apprentice S.M.

This is Lacey's first time on the other side of the table. She has enjoyed learning the ins and outs of how a production is put together and what goes on behind the scenes and now has a deeper

appreciation of all of the work it takes to make a show happen. She wants to thank Krista and Nicola for taking a chance on her and giving her this opportunity to learn and grow. They have been so welcoming and supportive and have made this a wonderful experience. It's such a wonderful cast and a great show!



Krista Willott
Producer /
Music Director

Krista is ecstatic to bring this hilarious, not well known but should be musical to Calgary. She was originally set to produce but the universe had other plans and this is her

Music Director Debut! Krista is ecstatic to bring this hilarious, not well known but should be musical to Calgary. She was originally set to produce but the universe had other plans and this is her Music Director Debut!





Madisson Vermeulen
Puppeteer

Madisson Vermeulen is a Calgary-based puppeteer, performer, and creative director passionate about bringing stories to life through movement, character, and imagination.

A longtime member of Misfit Theatre YYC, Madi combines her background in clown, physical theatre, and wellness arts to create heartfelt and dynamic performances. She previously directed the award-winning puppet adaptation of *Bambi* at the 2025 Calgary One Acts Festival and continues to explore new ways to merge theatre, puppetry, and community connection



Matt McPhail
Joey Dingle

This show is Matt's first with Misfit theatre! Joey has been such a fun character to bring to life, and this cast has been a dream to work with. Matt has no kids himself, but his sense of humour may belie

this fact. The following words/phrases have become indelibly imprinted on his brain: "video", "do it", "so sudden", and "boy oh boy oh boy". See if you can find out why! Past shows include "*Sweeney Todd*" (FRC), "*Something Rotten*" (FRC) and "*Into the Woods*" (Untold Stories). Please enjoy this hilarious musical romp through the joys of fatherhood!



Meg Alyward
Assistant S.M.

Meg is thrilled to be back working with Misfit YYC again - this time on the other side of the table. She sends a big thank you to family and friends for their patience in regards to her unruly schedule.



Nicola Payton
Director

Nicola has been involved in community theatre since before she was born and loves to help out wherever she is able, turning her hand to sound operation, makeup, set design and props. She

is an actress and CAT Award winning director (*The Peacock Season*, *Morpheus*) who most recently directed *Drinking Habits* (*Morpheus*) and is currently prop master for *The Great Gatsby* radio show (*Dewdney Players*). As always she thanks her family for their support; especially the Dad of her (now adult) children, whom without she couldn't do what she does.





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