



VAGABOND PLAYERS PRESENTS

THE LAST ROMANCE

by Joe DiPietro

Directed by Denise Brookson



What if you had one more chance...

FEBRUARY 8 - 25, 2024

THE LAST ROMANCE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection (www.dramatists.com)

The premiere production of THE LAST ROMANCE was presented by Dennis D. Hennessy and Richard Carrothers at The New Theatre, Overland Park, KS.

Cast

Ralph Bellini	Tyler Q. Felbel
Carol Reynolds.....	Mary Adams
Rose Tagliatelle	Kathleen Driscoll
The Young Man	Croy Jenkins

Production Team

Director	Denise Brookson
Stage Manager	Karen Ostroff
Production Managers	Alice Woodbury & Suzanne Biehl
Set Design	Denise Brookson, Miles Lavkulich
Set Decoration	Bev Pride
Costume Design	Cindy Dean
Lighting Design & Projections	Miles Lavkulich
Sound Design	Croy Jenkins
Properties	Elaine Francis
Set Construction.....	George Edwards, Doug Joel, Warren Johnson, Terry Loos
Set Painters.....	Pam Bennett, Cindy Dean, Lindsey Munson, Sandra Walton
Musical Consultation	Allan Thorpe, Elaine Francis
Poster Design	Ray Boulay
Program Design and Layout	Suzanne Biehl
Photographer.....	Craig Premack
Publicity	Doug Joel, Valerie Lawlor, Bev Pride
Technical Assistance	Scott MacDonald
Special Thanks	Stage 43 at Evergreen Cultural Centre

The Locale: Hoboken, New Jersey

Act 1	Scene 1 & 2	A dog park
Act 2	Scene 1	The dog park, 2 days later
	Scene 2	Tony's letter
	Scene 3 & 4	Ralph's apartment
	Scene 5	Lobby of Carol's apartment
	Scene 6	The dog park

There will be one 15 minute intermission

Operatic Selections

“Mattinata”
by Leoncavallo

“Fin ch’han dal vino”
from *Don Giovanni* by Mozart

“E Fra Quest Ansie”
from *Pagliacci* by Leoncavallo

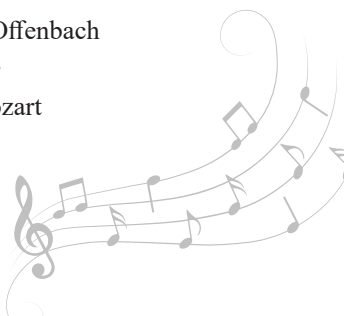
“Vision fugitive”
from *Herodiade* by Massenet

“Diamond Song”
from *Tales of Hoffman* by Offenbach

“Donne mie, la fate a tanti”
from *Così fan tutte* by Mozart

“E Sonio? O Realta”
from *Falstaff* by Verdi

“Torna A Surriento”
by Ernesto De Curtis



The Cast



Tyler Q. Felbel – Ralph Bellini

Tyler is a long-time New Westminster resident who has appeared in numerous community theatre productions around Metro Vancouver, many of them musicals. This is his first time working with Vagabond Players, and his first romantic leading role. He also enjoys singing and can play several instruments. He would like to thank our director, Denise, for casting him, and the great cast and creative team of this excellent play. His thanks also go out to you, the audience, for supporting live theatre.



Mary Adams – Carol Reynolds

Mary is so happy to be on stage again! Her past favourites here at Vagabond Players include *Over the River and Through The Woods*, *The O'Conner Girls*, *The Importance of Being Uncle Roscoe*, and *Shadow of Murder*. She has also had the pleasure of working/playing in Langley, White Rock, Burnaby, Vancouver, and long-ago in Salmon Arm. Mary gives a big thank you to Denise for casting her, and for putting such a wonderful group of people together to bring this show to life! Wow, wow, wow!!! As you leave the theatre, Mary hopes you, the audience, take with you the hope and joy that can come from new beginnings.



Kathleen Driscoll - Rose Tagliatelle

By day, Kathleen is getting to know the semi-retired life of a preschool teacher. By night, Kathleen transforms into an enthusiastic theatre nut. Always busy acting in plays and musicals around the Lower Mainland (over 49 plays in the last 26 years), she has also worked back stage with costumes, make-up, and as a technical operator. An award winning, true community theatre member, Kathleen hopes you enjoy the show.



Croy Jenkins – The Young Man / Sound Designer

Croy started singing opera in 2009 at the Vancouver Academy of Music. Croy has been on stage with numerous community groups ranging from: theatre, opera, Gilbert & Sullivan, choir, reader's theatre and pantomimes. While he hadn't done any stage productions since last year, 2019 ;) he is excited to return to the stage in a show about rekindling romance as he has rekindled his own romance with singing opera.

Director's Message

What if you had another chance at love? Ralph, in his 80's, changed his routine one afternoon and walked in a different direction. He was smitten when he saw Carol, who takes her dog to this new park everyday. He feels he has been jump-started and could live for another fifty years with just one touch. His sister Rose, who lives with Ralph, is concerned not only about Ralph's health but also her future if there is a budding romance. Ralph's earlier future was quashed when he was not able to fulfil his lifelong dream of being an opera singer at the New York Met. Enjoy the operatic selections performed onstage by young Raphael Bellini weaving the story of larger-than-life love and heartache. *The Last Romance* shows us characters struggling with the conflicts of family responsibilities and self fulfillment. A dilemma at any age.

The Production Team



Denise Brookson - Director

Having spent many years focusing on drama for seniors, Denise is happy to be directing *The Last Romance* for Vagabond Players. Being a part of this theatre company has provided her many great opportunities to work both on and off the stage over many years both mentoring and being mentored by such talented artists and passionate thespians. She is honoured to be working with such a talented, hardworking cast and crew who are dedicated to bring this beautiful story to life. As always, she would like to thank her family and friends for their love & support.



Karen Ostroff – Stage Manager

Karen welcomes the opportunity to be involved in this charming play, *The Last Romance*. Many thanks go out to Denise Brookson, a wonderful director, and to the warmly welcoming cast and crew, all of whom are truly gifted. Karen has stage managed many productions over the years, primarily with Stage 43 in Coquitlam and more recently with Pivot Theatre and Emerald Pig in Bard on the Bandstand's production of *King Lear*. Her sincere thanks go out to family and friends who offer encouragement, strength and support. Enjoy the show!





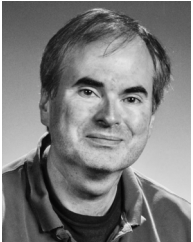
Cindy Dean – Costumes

Cindy has enjoyed all aspects of volunteering since joining Vagabond Players with her sister Pam in December 2022, when she started with Front of House and set painting. She then moved on to help with props for *Rumors* and *The Marvelous Wonderettes* and to doing costumes for *Our Town*. She is looking forward to continuing to volunteer and learn new aspects of theatre production.



Elaine Francis - Properties / Italian Language Coach

Normally Elaine can be found performing on various stages across the Lower Mainland. However, with this production, she has traded hats to gather props as well as coach actors with their Italian pronunciations. Although different, it has been a fun experience working with the actors and director in this new way. Ciao!!



Miles Lavkulich – Lighting Design & Projections

Miles has been involved with Vagabond Players and the local theatre community for several years. At home both on and off the stage, he has acted in, designed lighting, and directed numerous productions. A sampling of credits include *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (lighting), *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, and the upcoming *Play On!* (directing).



Bev Pride - Set Decoration

Bev has worn all the hats at Vagabond Players and other community theatres in the Lower Mainland. Among them, acting, directing, producing, decorating sets, costumes, props and being on the Board of Directors. Oh wait...has she done lighting and sound? Check.



George Edwards - Set Construction

George prefers to stay well behind the scenes doing the tasks that are the foundation of any production - creating the physical set. In addition to being able to build just about anything, he is the Resident House Manager and ensures that all the Front of House positions are filled.



Alice Woodbury – Co-Producer

Alice has been on stage at Vagabond Players in *Dear Santa* and *Fawlty Towers*. She has now turned her attention to behind the curtains as co-producer. Thank you to the talented cast and crew for making this a rewarding experience. Enjoy the show.



Suzanne Biehl – Co-Producer

Since joining Vagabond Players in 2008, Suzanne has performed a variety of off-stage roles (set decoration, properties, Front of House) and ventured on stage for a few small, but fun, roles in *Dear Santa* and *Fawlty Towers* (with Alice), and *Amadeus*. She's delighted to work with this wonderful cast and crew.



Why is La Scala so famous?

What is La Scala? The Teatro alla Scala in Milan is among the world's most famous opera houses. Most of the greatest singers of the past 200 years have appeared here. It was inaugurated on 3 August 1778 and was originally known as the New Royal-Ducal Theatre alla Scala.

The Metropolitan Opera is the largest classical music organization in North America. The Met's performing company consists of a large symphony orchestra, a chorus, children's choir, and many supporting and leading solo singers. The Met's roster of singers includes both international and American artists, some of whose careers have been developed through the Met's young artists programs.



Up Next! With hilarious mishaps as every turn, this play-within-a-play comedy is a love letter to community theatre.

VAGABOND PLAYERS PRESENTS

PLAY ON!



A Comedy by Rick Abbot

**DIRECTED BY
MILES LAVKULICH**



APRIL 18 - MAY 5

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY - 8PM, SUNDAY 2PM

BERNIE LEGGE THEATRE, QUEEN'S PARK, NEW WESTMINSTER

VAGABONDPLAYERS.CA/TICKETS OR 604-521-0412

"PLAY ON!" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com