The Last Five Years

Written and composed by Jason Robert Brown

Originally produced for the New York stage by Arielle Tepper and Marty Bell

Originally produced by Northlight Theatre, Chicago, IL

Sept 22 – October 8, 2017

Direction
Catherine Davis

Music Direction
Christie Chiles Twillie

Scenic Design
David Erck

Costume Design
Martha Shuford

Lighting Design
Steve Nickerson

Sound Design
Robert Hornbostel

Stage Manager
Samantha Theilman

Master Carpenter
Ben Lipinski

Co-Producers
Peter Rasey and Debbie Szczesniak

The Last Five Years is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIshows.com

Big Noise Theatre Company is a division of Winnetka Theatre. The use of recording devices as well as flash photography is strictly prohibited.

847.604.0275*www.bignoise.org*info@bignoise.org
CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Cathy .................................................................................................................................................. Meghan Shanahan
Jamie ..................................................................................................................................................... Jeff Wright

On September 29/Understudies:
Cathy.................................................................................................................................................. Clare Kennedy
Jamie................................................................................................................................................... David Moreland

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Still Hurting .............................................................................................................................................. Cathy
Shiksa Goddess ....................................................................................................................................... Jamie
See, I’m Smiling ..................................................................................................................................... Cathy
Moving Too Fast ...................................................................................................................................... Jamie
A Part of That ......................................................................................................................................... Cathy
The Schmuel Song .................................................................................................................................. Jamie
A Summer in Ohio ..................................................................................................................................... Cathy
The Next Ten Minutes ................................................................................................................................. Jamie/Cathy
A Miracle Would Happen/When You Come Home to Me ........................................................................ Jamie/Cathy
Climbing Uphill ........................................................................................................................................ Cathy
If I Didn’t Believe in You ............................................................................................................................ Jamie
I Can Do Better Than That ......................................................................................................................... Cathy
Nobody Needs to Know .............................................................................................................................. Jamie
Goodbye Until Tomorrow/I Could Never Rescue You ................................................................................ Cathy/Jamie

** The Last Five Years is performed without an intermission. **

FROM THE DIRECTOR

What happens to love? In The Last Five Years, Cathy and Jamie narrate the answer to that question in the most unique type of storytelling. Cathy, a struggling actress, tells the story of the relationship in reverse chronological order—starting at the end of their marriage, and Jamie, an aspiring writer, tells the story in chronological order—starting after their first date. You witness their love, dreams, hopes, struggles and blame for the failure of their marriage equally from both sides. One of the qualities that drew me to directing this play is the brilliant subtlety of the writing. So delicate and understated—sans narrative and shared dialogue—the story unfolds as snapshots in time rather than the traditional arc found in most plays and musicals. Hence the set was created in the style of a series of story boards representing each of the last five years, filling in the blanks, giving information and details that narrative and dialogue would have provided. Also, I found fascinating the reoccurring concept of time in The Last Five Years. Although Cathy and Jamie experience the same last five years together, the format punctuates how the couple is out of sync with each other, showing the two having completely different experiences even when sharing the same moment in time. The Last Five Years presents a unique perspective of the evolution and deterioration of a relationship, from both sides, showing in this case, what happens to love.

--Catherine Davis
PRODUCTION STAFF

Producers ............................................................................................................. Peter Rasey, Debbie Szczesniak
Director .................................................................................................................. Catherine Davis
Music Director/Conductor .................................................................................. Christie Chiles Twillie
Stage Manager ................................................................................................. Samantha Thielman
Scenic Designer ................................................................................................ David Erck
Costume Designer ............................................................................................. Martha Shuford
Lighting Designer ............................................................................................... Steve Nickerson
Sound Designer ................................................................................................ Robert Hornbostel
Master Carpenter .............................................................................................. Ben Lipinski
Properties Mistress .......................................................................................... Debbie Szczesniak
Assistant Stage Manager .................................................................................. Dana Palka
Box Office .......................................................................................................... Gail Soberski
Website/Graphics .............................................................................................. Ann Stuart, Brad Kisner
Publicity ............................................................................................................. Ashley Kammrath, Brent Walker
House Manager ................................................................................................. Marian Kaderbek

ORCHESTRA

Christie Chiles Twillie ..................................................................................... Piano and Conductor
Irene Schweizer ................................................................................................ Cello
Natalia Chernysh ............................................................................................... Violin
Kurt Henning ..................................................................................................... Bass
Dan McLean ....................................................................................................... Guitar

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Shelli Sarg and the Prairie Lakes Community Center
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Jon Cunningham

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All Shows at Prairie Lakes Community Center Theater
515 E. Thacker Street / Des Plaines, IL 60016

TICKETS 847.604.0275
Visit us at bignoise.org

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Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb
THE CAST

CLARE KENNEDY (Cathy understudy) is a sophomore at Northwestern University, majoring in Theatre and also pursuing the Music Theatre Certificate. Previous roles include: Susan in Tick, Tick... Boom! (Northwestern University Struble Project), Heather McNamara in Heathers: The Musical (Up and Coming), Aida in Aida (IHSMTA Best Actress Finalist), Joanne in the Illinois All-State production of Rent, Fantine in Les Misérables, and Grizabella in Cats. She thanks her family, friends, and God for providing her with unconditional love and support... And also her dog/soulmate, Lily.

DAVID MORELAND (Jamie understudy) is new to Chicago and loving every minute of it. Originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, David moved here at the beginning of this year. David appeared as Will Bloom in BNT’s spring production of Big Fish, and just finished a run of Jacques Brel’s Lonesome Losers of the Night at Theo Ubique Theatre. Enjoy the show!

MEGHAN SHANAHAN (Cathy) is elated to be working with Big Noise Theatre for the first time, especially in playing the role of Cathy. Since arriving in Chicago two years ago, Meghan has had the pleasure of working on a multitude of projects and creative endeavors, favorites including Heathers (Kokandy Productions), Rent (AGB Chicago), and “The Waitress” in the long standing and iconic Chicago production of Bye Bye Liver. She has sung all around town including Uptown Underground, Uncommon Ground, Mary’s Attic, Silvies, and The Underground, just to name a few. In her time away from the stage, Meghan is a casting director for Artists Giving Back as well as a co-host on the Podcast Peeved and a proud dog mom. Much love to my friends and family for their continued love and support.

JEFF WRIGHT (Jamie) is still in disbelief to be playing Jamie in The Last Five Years with his new Big Noise family. Previously he was Benny Southstreet in Guys and Dolls, Paul in A Chorus Line, Prince John in Robin Hood and others. He lives in Chicago and has studied with John Komasa, Janelle Snow, and Patrick Mulvey after graduating from Illinois State University’s School of Theatre. Jeff wants to thank his family, the pit orchestra, his African Queen, Jason Robert Brown, and his beyond talented powerhouse co-star Meghan. Enjoy the show!!
CATHERINE DAVIS (Director) is honored to be directing the Big Noise production of *The Last Five Years* for whom she happily directed *The Mousetrap*, *Beau Jest*, *Butterflies Are Free*, *Born Yesterday*, *Alone Together*, and *Love, Loss and What I Wore*. Professionally, Catherine has been extremely fortunate to be able to work as a director and educator since earning an MA in theatre, accumulating approximately 150 full-length productions to her directing credit, serving as a Joseph Jefferson Awards Committee member, coordinating Suburban SEASON OF CONCERN-Chicago theatre community fights AIDS, creating improvisation troupes, putting together original mime shows, and touring / creating / writing / directing children’s theatre. She retired from teaching theatre after doing so for thirty plus years. She recently completed writing her first full length play, *Ahead of the Game* and hopes you will check it out at www.stageplays.com. The finest productions of her lengthy career, in collaboration with her retired architect husband David -set designer for *The Last Five Years*- are their two accomplished, beautiful, and amazing daughters, Lauren and Alexa, and subsequently their S-I-Ls and grandson.

CHRISTIE CHILES TWILLIE (Music Director/Conductor) is a Chicago based Music Director, pianist, and choreographer. In 2014, she founded the production company Music for Theatre CHICAGO. Recent credits include Lippa’s *Wild Party* (Music for Theatre Chicago), *Spoon River Anthology* (EDGE Theatre), *Big Fish* (Big Noise), *Spring Awakening* (Music for Theatre Chicago), *West Side Story* (Music on Stage), *Into The Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Urinetown*, *Cabaret*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *A Little Night Music* (Devonshire Playhouse). Christie is a Piven Theatre Teaching Artist. Her original score for Fleetwood Jourdain’s production of *Yellowman* earned a “Best Music Direction’ nomination by BTAC and led way to her composing the score for Northwestern University’s production of *In the Red and Brown Water*. Christie is a West Virginia University piano performance and dance alumna.

SAMANTHA THIELMAN (Stage Manager) received her Associates in Fine Arts from Harper College and then attended Northern Illinois University for her Bachelors in Theatre Studies. Some of her works include: *Bartleby the Scrivener* with Organic Theatre, *The Dumb Waiter* with Kate Productions, *Legally Blonde*, *Hair*, *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, *Cabaret*, *Seussical*, *The Mousetrap*, and *Big Fish* with Big Noise and *Sunset Boulevard* with LZP Productions. This will be her fourth year working with Big Noise Theatre and could not be any happier to return. Sam is also a member of the Big Noise Board of Governors.

### THEATER AND A MEAL

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- Giacomo’s / 740 N Wolf Rd. Des Plaines
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DAVID ERCK (Scenic Design) is a retired architect, having served as the Director of Architecture for Walgreen Co. for thirty years. In retirement, he has enjoyed the opportunity to design sets for several of his wife, Catherine Davis’ plays, most recently Avenue Q, The Mousetrap, Alone Together, and now The Last Five Years. Their greatest production however is their family, two daughters, two sons-in-laws, and one glorious grandson.

MARTHA SHUFORD (Costume Design) Martha is happy to return to Big Noise and join this talented group of actors and staff for The Last Five Years. BNT credits include Big Fish, The Mousetrap, Seussical, Legally Blonde, Enchanted April, Alone Together, Born Yesterday, Butterflies Are Free, and Beau Jest. Martha has costumed for Wilmette Children's Theater, The North Shore Theater of Wilmette, and The Starlight Theater for the past several years. A few credits include Billy Elliott, The Producers, The Little Mermaid, Brigadoon, Guys and Dolls, and Blithe Spirit. Martha is the new President of Big Noise Board. “Congratulations to the cast and staff on a great show!”

STEVE NICKERSON (Lighting Design) Although he has been designing lights for over twenty years, Big Noise is pleased to welcome Steve for our first collaboration together with The Last Five Years. Having worked with Catherine for many shows in the past at other venues, he is feeling happy to work with her in this show.

ROBERT HORNBOSTEL is thrilled to return to Big Noise after working with the company for Cabaret! Robert is a Sound Designer, Engineer, and tinkerer living in Chicago. He is originally from Crystal Lake, and graduated from Illinois State University. Samples of his previous work, as well as rental information, can be found at TechmagicDesigns.com. He would like to thank Emily and his family for their patience and support. Enjoy the Show!

BEN LIPINSKI (Master Carpenter) is a Chicago based Scene Designer recently graduated from Webster Conservatory with a BFA in Scene Design. He is happy to return to Big Noise to build The Last Five Years. Recent designs include Timber Lake Playhouse’s Peter Pan, Greater Tuna, Joseph, Hairspray, and Big River. Additional work includes Big Noise’s Big Fish, Wilmette Park District’s Guys and Dolls, as well as Webster University’s Stage Door and Hay Fever.

PETER RASEY (Producer) has produced or co-produced Big Noise Theatre’s productions of The Mousetrap, Love, Loss, and What I Wore, Enchanted April, Alone Together, Born Yesterday, Butterflies Are Free, Beau Jest, Sunday in the Park with George, Lost in Yonkers, Amadeus, and Chess, as well as Little Shop of Horrors for Up and Coming Theatre. A member of BNT’s Board of Governors, he has also appeared in a number of their shows over the years, most recently in Ragtime. Many thanks to all those involved.

DEBBIE SZCZESNIAK (Producer) is happy to be making her Producer debut with Big Noise. She has been involved in many productions in the past with Big Noise as stage manager, props master, and board member. She has also worked with various other companies in the surrounding area.
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