SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre,
New York City, 1995
(Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)

Original Orchestration by
Brian Besterman and Jason Robert Brown

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The unknown can be frightening.

At some point in our lives, we all have to make decisions that will have unknown consequences. Whether or not to break up with a partner. To leave a comfortable job for an exciting offer. To take a stand for what you believe to be right, even if it is not popular.

*Songs for a New World* investigates the most basic human fear, the fear of the unknown, and celebrates this point of no return, the moment at which one must decide whether they will plunge forth into a “new world,” or remain in their comfort zone.

These are the moments that allow us to discover what we are truly made of. After all, there are few things more human than an existential crisis.

My sincerest thanks to Redeemer Lutheran Church for allowing us to bring these stories to life inside this beautiful sanctuary. This building was built in the early 1900s by immigrants who had just arrived to the literal “new world” themselves. If you look up at the ceiling, you’ll notice it was designed (very purposefully) to look like the bottom of a wooden ship.

It is a physical reminder that we, as humans, are all in the same boat together. There are plenty of things that divide us—physical boundaries, economic status, race, politics—but despite all of this, there are more things about us that are alike than not.

While the four actors in this show technically play different characters in each song, the genuine feeling of each of their stories and the arcs their characters nonetheless take all strike a very familiar chord, because many of us have had to face the same decisions as these characters and enter the same “new world.”

From the top of a Manhattan high-rise to the Brooklyn slums, from the North Pole to the Christmas Eve comfort of your home, from the Old World to the New, *Songs for a New World* shows us that no matter who you are, where you’re from, what you have or what you don’t, we’re all in the same boat.

Let’s journey into the unknown together.

Tim Backes, Director
A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Thank you for joining us for the first show of our fourth season, “Discoveries”.

Our first three seasons have brought us plenty of successes and challenges. As we continue to work toward our goal of becoming a mainstay in Milwaukee theater, giving local artists a place where they can hone their craft, we are also still discovering who we are as a company.

Throughout this season, we hope to work on new types of shows, perform in new types of venues and collaborate with brand new actors and artists. Sometimes we might step out of our comfort zone, but it is only through pushing ourselves into the unknown that we can grow as artists and as a company.

We thought it appropriate that as we continue to explore who we are as a company, we also explore shows that focus on self-discovery and growth as well. Therefore, all of the shows we have chosen this season feature characters who make various discoveries of their own.

Tonight and all season long we are excited to enter “new worlds” of artistry. We hope you will join us on the journey.

Tim Backes
Niko King
Beth Lewinski
Robby McGhee
Alex Scheurell
CAST

Woman 1 ................................................................................................................................. Jamie Mercado
Woman 2 ................................................................................................................................. Laura McDonald
Man 1 ................................................................................................................................. Indalecio de Jesus Valentin
Man 2 ................................................................................................................................. Patrick Jones

CREATIVE TEAM

Director ......................................................................................................................... Tim Backes
Music Director ............................................................................................................... Tom Reifenberg
Assistant Music Director ............................................................................................. Alison Bekolay
Choreographer ............................................................................................................... Stephanie Staszak
Assistant Director ........................................................................................................ Adam Qutaishat
Costume Designer ......................................................................................................... Molly Mason
Technical Director/Lighting Designer ........................................................................ Jim Padovano
Stage Manager ............................................................................................................... Allison Kasprovich
Production Manager .................................................................................................... Beth Lewinski

ORCHESTRA

Conductor/Keyboard ....................................................................................................... Tom Reifenberg
Keyboard 2 .................................................................................................................... Alison Bekolay
Guitar ............................................................................................................................... Liz Parsons
Bass ................................................................................................................................. David Wickert
Drums .............................................................................................................................. Bob Troemel
ACT 1

Opening/The New World (Full Company)
Even when everything feels secure, a big change or decision is just “one moment” away from upturning our lives and bringing us into a new world.

On the Deck of a Spanish Sailing Ship, 1492 (Man 1, Company)
A ship’s captain prays for strength as he guides the men and women aboard his ship to the new world.

Just One Step (Woman 2)
A privileged, but neglected Manhattan housewife climbs out onto the window ledge of her 57th-story apartment to get her husband’s attention.

I’m Not Afraid (Woman 1)
A young woman preparing to move in with her boyfriend attempts to quell feelings of insecurity and self-doubt as she prepares for this exciting new stage of her relationship.

The River Won’t Flow (Man 2, Man 1, Company)
Two men from different sides of the tracks share stories about their ill and decide it is their responsibility to make their own luck.

Transition I (Woman 1)
Stars and the Moon (Woman 2)
A woman who has grown tired of the shallowness of her high society life enjoys a brief escape from a cocktail party and reflects on the decisions and the men that led her here.

She Cries (Man 2)
A man who is reluctant to love describes the power a woman nevertheless holds over him.

The Steam Train (Man 1, Company)
A young man from a poor New York neighborhood believes basketball is his ticket out, and amid his bravado also shows his desperation.
ACT 2

The World Was Dancing (Man 2, Woman 1, Company)
A man describes how his father’s own personal struggles and failures have influenced him and led him to leave his fiancee.

Surabaya-Santa (Woman 2)
A scorned Mrs. Claus decides she will no longer accept the cruel and neglectful treatment of her spouse.

Christmas Lullaby (Woman 1)
A newly single young woman discovers she is pregnant and compares her situation to that of the Virgin Mary.

King of the World (Man 1)
A man seen as a leader and activist in his poor neighborhood is imprisoned and demands to be set free.

I’d Give it All for You (Man 2 and Woman 1)
After spending some time apart, a man and woman meet each other again and decide to rekindle their relationship.

Transition II (Man 1)
The Flagmaker, 1776 (Woman 2)
A woman whose husband and son have not returned home from war attempts to keep hope alive, while also determining she can be strong by herself.

Flying Home (Man 1, Company)
A man who has died fighting for his beliefs submits his final request: that the people who knew him carry on his crusade.

Final Transition: The New World (Company)
Hear My Song (Company)
Having gained strength and understanding through their hardships and journeys, the company passes on the wisdom they have gained to those who will follow in their footsteps.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.
Jamie Mercado (Woman 1) will be making her All In Productions debut in Songs for a New World! She has been performing since she was a little kid and later went on to study musical theater at Pace University in NYC. Past theater credits include Extraordinary Girl in AMERICAN IDIOT (Milwaukee Rock Theatre), Adella in THE LITTLE MERMAID (Greendale Community Theatre), and Lupita in LUCHADOR (First Stage). She would like to thank her family, friends, coworkers, and the AIP team for being so supportive and inspiring throughout the journey of this show - time to fly!

Laura McDonald (Woman 2) is thrilled to make her AIP debut with such an amazing ensemble of actors and musicians. Often seen on stage at Greendale Community Theatre and Racine Theatre Guild, she’s excited to be back in Milwaukee. Recent roles include Lucille Frank (PARADE), Diana (NEXT TO NORMAL), and Berthe (BOEING BOEING). Thank you to everyone for supporting the arts!

Indalecio de Jesus Valentin (Man 1) received his BFA in Musical Theatre from UW-Milwaukee in 2016 under the instruction of Dr. Tanya Kruse-Ruck. Valentin was just initiated into the Florentine Opera Chorus through their most recent baroque double bill performance of VENUS & ADONIS and DIDO & AENEAS. Past credits include Purcell’s DIDO & AENEAS as Aneas, Ben in Solana Ramirez-Garcias’ original production of PLATONIC, Prince Charming in CINDERELLA and Taxi Driver in WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN. With AIP Valentin has performed in the Against Type fundraiser and as Fector in DOGFIGHT. Valentin enjoys organic collaboration with other young and open-minded artists and holds high value in his training and fluid ability to perform as a “hybrid-singer”.

Patrick Jones (Man 2) is thrilled to return to the stage in Milwaukee after spending the last four years in Minneapolis, MN. This is Patrick’s first production with All in Productions and he is ecstatic to be able to perform in a bucket list show. Recent credits for Patrick are
Caleb in SPIFIRE GRILL and Collins in RENT, both productions at Lyric Arts Main Stage in the Twins Cities. You may have also seen Patrick as Ethan in THE FULL MONTY and Gabe in NEXT TO NORMAL, both at Greendale Community Theatre. Thanks to Tim and the production team for the opportunity of a lifetime. Patrick wants to dedicate his performance to his loving wife Hannah and adorable daughter Olivia. Love you both forever and always.

Tim Backes (Director) is the Associate Artistic Director of All In Productions, and has worked on most of the company’s shows in some capacity, most recently directing NEXT TO NORMAL this past September. He has appeared in AIP’S THE LAST FIVE YEARS (Jamie u/s) and has been on stage for a wide variety of other area productions, most recently IF/THEN with Greendale Community Theatre. Tim is also a member of Chant Claire Chamber Choir and 5 AM A Cappella. Special thanks to: Katie and the kids (cats, dog and upcoming baby); this supportive and talented production team; Pastor Lisa, Aris Townsend and Redeemer Lutheran Church. Thanks to all in the audience for supporting our work.

Tom Reifenberg (Music Director) is co-founder of Greendale Community Theatre and has directed over 60 musical theatre orchestras in the past 20 years. He is in his 17th year as Director of Bands at Greendale High School, leading the band to 13 consecutive state marching band championships and an appearance in the 2016 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. Tom has been recognized nationally as his band program was awarded the 2017 Sudler Shield, presented to a very small group of the top marching bands around the nation. He also has received the WSMA Michael George Distinguished Service Award (2017) and was named a Kohl Education Foundation Fellowship Award recipient (2015). He is pleased to be working with AIP on one of his favorite shows!

Alison Bekolay (Assistant Music Director/Rehearsal Accompanist) is extremely honored to back with the All In Productions team. She is by day a sales rep, and by night a musician in the Milwaukee area - primarily playing in pit orchestras as a pianist or cellist. She would like to thank the immensely talented cast, production team, and musicians for their dedication and passion throughout this process and wants to congratulate them on putting together an incredible piece of art to be proud of. She also thanks her family, friends, and David for their continuous patience and support. And of course, she extends the utmost thanks to All In Productions for their confidence and trust in offering her yet another wonderful opportunity. Many thanks to all of you, as well, for supporting local theatre. Enjoy the journey!

Stephanie Staszak (Choreographer) is thrilled to be back at AIP for the second time, previously choreographing WILD PARTY. When not rehearsing with these cool cats, Stephanie choreographs for various high school and community theaters around the Milwaukee area. Also a performer, she has been seen on both the Skylight and In Tandem stages, performs in TONY N DINAS WEDDING at Turner Hall as the bridesmaid Donna, and could recently be seen singing with puppets in the short film ANGELAAAA at the Milwaukee Film Festival. A huge thanks to Tim for asking her to work on this project, and to Mike for supporting her insane schedule.

Adam Qutaishat (Assistant Director) is happy to be working with All In behind the scenes after appearing as the Doctors in NEXT TO NORMAL last fall. Adam is a freelance teaching artist in Milwaukee
working in music, theatre, and theatre tech. His next project is music direction of SVADBA-WEDDING with Milwaukee Opera Theatre May 8-10.

Molly Mason (Costume Designer) is excited to be back working with All In Productions! Molly is a graduate of Carthage College and currently works as wardrobe supervisor and costume shop assistant at Skylight Music Theatre. After designing constellations with AIP she is happy to be back working with another great cast on SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD. Thanks to her friends and family for their support!

Jim Padovano (Technical Director/Lighting Designer) is pleased to be making his debut with All In Productions, as lighting designer for SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD. He has designed lighting for many Milwaukee Theatre companies as well as many area high schools and is also one of the areas most respected stage managers. Jim has stage managed world premieres of A THOUSAND TIMES GOODNIGHT with Theatre RED as well as LUCY and THANK YOU, NEXT? both with Milwaukee Opera Theatre. Earlier this season he designed the setting for the Wisconsin premiere of CORALINE, the musical. Next month he will design the sets and lights for Bridges of Madison County for Lake Country Playhouse. Jim is a proud member of the National Stage Managers Association. He is president of Encore Theatrical Lighting, LLC. Jim also serves on the board of directors of Milwaukee Opera Theatre. Enjoy the show!

Allison Kasprovich (Stage Manager) is making her AIP debut with SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD. Recent SM credits include BOEING BOEING and EXIT LAUGHING at the Racine Theatre Guild. Allison graduated from Carthage College in 2016 with a BA in Theatre and is currently pursuing her Master’s in Education at Alverno. She works as a CLC Teacher and Teaching Artist for First Stage Children’s Theater.

Beth Lewinski (Production Manager) is an actress, writer, director, producer, and member of the AIP Board of Directors. You may have seen her in numerous productions and shows (scripted and unscripted) with the Alchemist Theatre, ComedySportz Milwaukee, Radio WHT, Sketch 22, Schmitz and Giggles, V-Core productions, Mojo Dojo, and others. She regularly performs with and is Associate Producer of Dinner Detective Milwaukee. You can next see her as Katelyn in KATELYN’S WASTELAND at the Alchemist in June and as Lady Macbeth in THE COMEDY OF MACBETH…KINDA SORTA at Tenth Street Theatre this August. She thanks you for being here, and hopes you enjoy the show!

SPECIAL THANKS

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Anne Van Deusen
Mitch Weindorf
Mike Van Dreser

David Robins
Patrick Schmitz
Judy Standiford
SHREK THE Musical

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