

np northumberland players present

FOREVER PLAID

Dinner
Theatre



written and originally directed and choreographed by
STUART ROSS
musical continuity supervision and arrangements by
JAMES RAITT
originally produced by
GENE WOLSK

directed by
VALERIE RUSSELL
musical direction by
MARIE ANDERSON
choreographed by
ALINA ADJEMIAN
produced by
LUCY CALDWELL



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The Company

Jeff Biggar ... Sparky

Ian Everdell ... Frankie

Craig Martin ... Smudge

Bradley Ace Martinez ... Jinx

Musicians

Brad Halls ... Piano

PJ LeConte ... Bass

Tom Hall ... Drums

With Derrick Cunningham as 'the voice'

**Tonight's performance will run 90 minutes with
no intermission.**

February 9, 1964

En route to pick up their custom-made plaid tuxedos, The Plaids were slammed broadside by a school bus filled with eager Catholic teens. The teens were on their way to witness the Beatles make their U.S. television debut on the Ed Sullivan Show and miraculously escaped uninjured. The members of Forever Plaid were killed instantly. It is at that moment, when their careers and lives ended, that the story of FOREVER PLAID begins.

DEDICATION

Forever Plaid is dedicated to the "good guys"; to the guys who wheeled the projector carts for the AV club; to the guys who saved their allowance to give their parents a special night on the town for their anniversary; to the guys who carried an extra handkerchief; to the guys who never went beyond first base, and if they did, they didn't tell anyone. We Salute You!

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The Creative Team

Producer . . .	Lucy Caldwell
Director . . .	Valerie Russell
Stage Manager . . .	Katie Burnham
Musical Director . . .	Marie Anderson
Choreographer . . .	Alina Adjemian
Set Design . . .	Lauren Page Russell
Painting and Decor . . .	Lauren Page Russell
Set Builder and Carpenter . . .	Tim Russell
Props Design and Construction . . .	Neil Dallhoff, Lauren Page Russell
Stage Crew . . .	Marley Soutter, Claire Russell Anthea Goodwin
Costume Designers . . .	Barbara Henderson, Barbara Horscroft
Lighting Design . . .	David Hoare
Lighting Operator . . .	Evan Soutter
Sound Design . . .	Andy Thompson
Sound Operator . . .	Marie Anderson
Hair and Make-up . . .	Claire Russell
Show Photographer . . .	Neil Dallhoff
Poster and Program . . .	Lauren Page Russell
Set Load-In Builders and Free-loaders Crew . . .	Tim Russell, David McTavish Tony Walker, John Matthew Borden Taylor, Ken MacDonald, John Forder, Dave Clark, Klaus Schroeder, Frank Burns, Rick Morrison, Bill Moebus, Mike Vlajkov, Lauren Page Russell, Craig Martin, Jim Finan, Ricardo Canlas, Sharon Rathbone, Anthea Goodwin, Catherine Holland, Jack Boyagian, Bob Bailey, Claire Russell, Katie Burnham, Marley Soutter

Author's Note

When most of us think of the 1950s, we think of rock 'n' roll, greasers, hot rods, Elvis, Annette, Fabian, D.A., haircuts and teenage rebellion. But there was a flip side to this era – the side of harmony, innocence and the sincerity of dreams. It is the side that's been lost in the shuffle of progress. It was a time when most parents and kids listened and danced to the same music; when families partook of the ritual of gathering in front of the TV to watch their favorite variety shows, like the Ed Sullivan Show or the Perry Como Show. It was a time when every family worked to fulfill the American Dream.

It was a period when four-part guy groups harmonized their way across the airwaves, jukeboxes and hi-fis of the country. Throughout the land they would stand at a quartet of microphones, crooning a multitude of chaperoned prom-goers into dreamy romance.

They wore dinner jackets and bow ties (or perhaps cardigans and white bucks). Each move was drilled to precision. Each vocal arrangement soared to stratospheric heights of harmony. This sound crested right before rock 'n' roll stole the heartbeat of music across the globe.

During this time, guys across the country banded together to sing in the basement for fun. If things worked out they might be hired to sing at weddings, conventions, proms and country-club socials. Inspired by the success of the recording stars, they made plans to zoom into careers of fame and fortune. But the musical taste of the USA was changing and the country would not stop to listen to their dreams. This is the story of such a group – FOREVER PLAID.

– Stuart Ross

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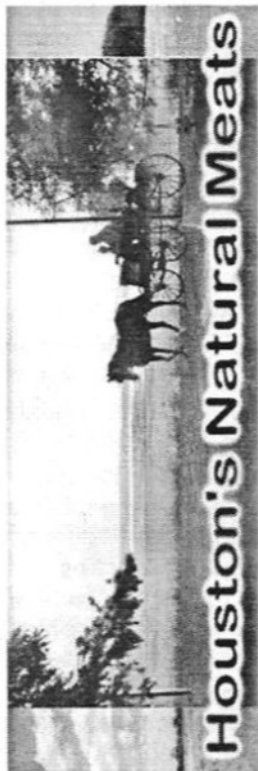
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Keith Richan

Craig Martin - Craig is very proud and excited to be a part of this production of *Forever Plaid*. Craig has joined the Northumberland Players for several musicals over the past seven years, including *Les Miserables* and *The Secret Garden*. He is thrilled to be back onstage, especially while singing some of his favourite music.

Ian Everdell - Ian's family ties to Port Hope meant he spent lots of time in the area as a kid, and he has great memories of summer programs with the Capitol Kids and Ganaraska Youth Theatre. *Forever Plaid* has been on Ian's bucket list of shows to be in for a long time, and after moving to Port Hope last summer and seeing that it was going up this season, he couldn't wait to audition! When he's not at rehearsals, you can find him at the curling rink, playing with his two year-old son Ben, building and fixing websites, or working on a home reno project.

Bradley Ace Martinez - Bradley Ace Martinez is a singer/songwriter from Castleton, ON who is excited to return to Cobourg for his Northumberland Players debut as, Jinx, in *Forever Plaid*. This twenty year-old aspiring musician has been part of many local productions including: *The Shelter Valley Folk Festival*, *Chazzapalooza*, *Words & Music: A Disney Festival (w/Brad Halls)* and the SMSS production of *Disco Inferno*. Outside of Northumberland, Bradley has also appeared on television, where he made it to the Top 16 of YTV's *The Next Star*, and runner-up on *The Next Star: SuperGroup*. Recently, Bradley has graduated from Metalworks Institute, began teaching vocal lessons at Port Credit Music Academy and is continuing his endeavours as a musician and performer.

Jeff Biggar - Jeff Biggar proudly hails from Cobourg and is honoured to be making his Northumberland Players debut as Sparky in *Forever Plaid*. Holding degrees in classical guitar performance and music education from McGill University, Jeff has toured Australia, New Zealand and the Caribbean as a cruise ship soloist, and can be found performing regularly in the Toronto area. No stranger to musical theatre, Jeff's previous productions include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *H.M.S Pinafore*, *Hair*, *Chess* and *The Mikado*. Jeff currently teaches music at Trinity College School.

Brad Halls - Brad Halls is very excited to be able to return to Cobourg to accompany this production of *Forever Plaid*. In his 35 years in Cobourg, Brad was involved in more than twenty Northumberland Players productions as pianist, actor, producer and director, as well as being the producer and principal performer in his "Words and Music" concert series which presented over 200 individual concerts over its 28-year run at Cobourg's Victoria Hall. Now living in Fergus, Ontario, Brad continues to play jazz at *Manhattans*, a popular Guelph nightspot, and is a singer with, and President of The Guelph Chamber Choir

Tom Hall - Tom has had a long career playing drums starting when he was 10 playing in the Cobourg's Goody Marching Band and Kiltie Band. He is a welcome addition to this area's musical family.

PJ LeConte - PJ is thrilled to be returning to the Northumberland Players where he played bass for numerous productions including *Evita*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *The Full Monty* and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. An accomplished bassist, PJ attended Humber College and has worked with the La Jeunesse Youth Orchestra and artists such as Bob Trennum, Brad Halls, The Big Easy 7 and many more.

Valerie Russell - An original founder of the Northumberland Players, Val is honoured to be directing in the 40th anniversary season! Recent credits include *The Secret Garden*, *Les Miserables*, *Twelve Angry Men* and *Calendar Girls*. Val has really enjoyed working with actors new to the Players, as well as older members who are exploring new roles in production or finding new characters to create. Thanks to my tireless friends and collaborators Marie and Alina, this incredibly dedicated team and of course, The Plaids.

Marie Anderson - As a voice teacher and choral director, it is a dream come true to get to work with these four wonderful singers on a show that is filled with glorious harmony! Through the songs, the audience learns so much about this group. Thanks to our director Valerie Russell, and choreographer Alina Adjemian, each Plaid member is believable and charming. Our production team led by Lucy Caldwell and Katie Burnham has attended to every detail. As always it is a pleasure to work on a Northumberland Players' show.

Alina Adjemian - Ms. Adjemian first introduction to musicals in the Northumberland area was with the Ganaraska Theatre here in Cobourg among the cast and as choreographer of *Camelot*. Since her involvement she has had the pleasure of choreographing musicals such as *The Secret Garden*, *Les Miserables*, *Peter Pan*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Cabaret*, *Annie*, *White Christmas*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Hair*, *Urinetown*, *The Full Monty*, *Joseph*, *Best Little Whore House in Texas*, *Forever Plaid*, *Dames at Sea*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Godspell*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and *Cinderella*, at Victoria Hall Concert Hall as well as The Cameco Capitol Arts center in Port Hope. Recently Ms. Adjemian has had the pleasure of adding the title of director to her creative endeavors as she directed her first show, *Love, Loss and What I Wore* written by Nora and Delia Ephron. Ms. Adjemian is honored to be working with such talented people from the Northumberland area and has had a great deal of fun remounting *Forever Plaid*. She hopes you enjoy the show and would like to thank Valerie Russell, Marie Anderson and the Plaids for this opportunity.

Lucy Caldwell - Lucy is really proud to be the producer of *Forever Plaid*, her first time in this role. It is a privilege to work with this exceptional cast and crew. Lucy began performing with The Northumberland Players at the age of eight in the production of *The King and I*. More recently, Lucy has appeared on-stage in *Les Miserables*, *The Secret Garden*, *Proof* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat*. Lucy also enjoys singing with two local choirs, Safe Harbour and The Oriana Singers.

Katie Burnham - Katie has loved musical theatre since her first exposure to it as a young girl when she performed in two shows. More recently she has been involved behind the scenes in many local productions including working on lighting for *Les Miserables* and *Young Frankenstein*, sound for *Shrek* and *White Christmas*, and last year as Assistant Stage Manager for *The Secret Garden*. She is very excited to be working as Stage Manager for the first time with such a talented cast and crew of Plaids.

Lauren Page Russell - Lauren lives and works in Brooklyn, New York where she freelances as a set and props designer and scenic painter. She proudly calls Canada and Northumberland her 'real' home, and is happy to have any opportunity to volunteer for the group where she got her start onstage and behind the scenes. Recent design credits for the Players include *Les Miserables* and *The Secret Garden*. Lauren was also production designer for R. Murray Schafer's *The Spirit Garden* presented by SONG last June in Northumberland. When she's in town working with the Players, you can usually find her at the shop having a healthy debate over minute set details with her right-hand man and frequent collaborator, Tim Russell. Next up, another Canadian production; Lauren will be on the production team for *Other Jesus* produced by Public Recordings and Tarragon Theatre in Toronto opening May 6th.

Tim Russell - Even though Tim retired a few years ago from a fourteen-year stint as Technical Director for The Capitol Theatre in Port Hope, he's still building sets, hanging lights and helping out in various areas of production in the local theatre community. Tim also acts and directs with the Players, with recent credits including *God of Carnage*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Twelve Angry Men*.

Neil Dallhoff - Neil has been involved with The Players as an actor, singer and photographer for the past three years. He most recently appeared as Archie in *The Secret Garden* and Tom in *The Glass Menagerie*. Currently, he is Directing and Producing a documentary on the great Canadian composer R. Murray Schafer. He's pleased to bring his passion for tinkering, and all things Plaid, to the props table for the first time for this production.

Barb Henderson - Barb has been sewing ever since her mom and dad offered her unlimited money for fabric as long as she wore the clothes she made. She is very blessed to have been mentored by two internationally acclaimed costume designers, Suzanne Mess and Delphine White-Crane.

Barbara Horscroft - Barbara enjoys needlework of all kinds and volunteers at the Costume House sewing for local productions. She plays bridge, loves photography, collects Canadian stamps and 1950's rhinestone jewellery and does scrapbooking. She is a retired calligrapher. She has 2 children, Peter and Gwyneth.

David Hoare - David has worked with the Players both on and off the stage for nearly 13 years. By day, he works as a mild-mannered tech teacher at Bowmanville High School. But by night, he's drawn to the theatre, where he hangs lights, makes music, and leaps around onstage generally making a fool of himself. This is the second time he has done lights for *Forever Plaid*, and he looks forward every night to working with these fantastic folks.

Andy Thompson - Andy's 45 year career as a composer, performer, audio engineer, music producer and video editor has resulted in over 200 film and video scores, a truckload of music recordings on vinyl, cassette and CD, numerous documentaries, promotional and music videos, performances and tours with the likes of George Fox, Susan Aglukark and The Arrogant Worms to name a few...but none of this ever got in the way of renovating houses or providing sound design for The Northumberland Players! Andy continues to produce music and video in his studio near Warkworth and is the in house audio tech for Westben Festival Theatre in Campbellford.

Claire Russell - Claire has been a member of the Players since the day she was born after coming into the world following a rehearsal for her mother's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Claire enjoys participating with the Players onstage as an actor and singer and off-stage as a member of the crew or hair and make-up team, among other positions. She also enjoys singing with local choir, Safe Harbour.

Marley Soutter - Marley is thrilled to be joining the crew of *Forever Plaid*! Marley first appeared onstage with the Northumberland Players in 2000. After appearing in 2015's production of *Les Mis*, Marley has been interested in learning about all aspect of the theatre and is thankful for this opportunity to work with this knowledgeable and talented cast and crew. Watching the Plaids never gets old. Enjoy the show!

Evan Soutter - Normally found getting hit with the lights he is now operating, Evan is excited to be part of this fantastic crew for this magnificent show! Doing his first show with the Northumberland Players back in 2014, he fell in love with the community and with the company itself. Enjoy The Plaids!

Anthea Goodwin - Anthea recently joined the Northumberland Players appearing in *Jospeh and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Her past involvement in theatre goes back over 20 years and includes being onstage in musicals such as *Brigadoon* and *Into the Woods*, to name a couple of her favourites! Her love of community theatre has drawn Anthea to this production, and she is excited to be working backstage on *Forever Plaid*.

Acknowledgements

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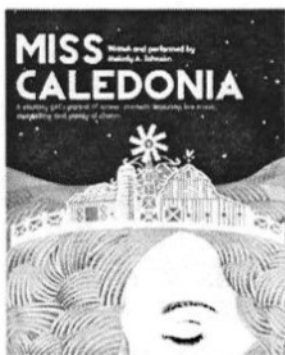


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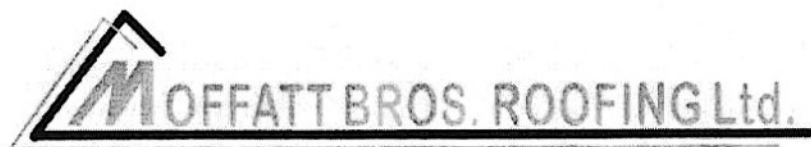
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