

Rose Theatre chats about upcoming season

Brampton Guardian

There are only a few weeks until the Rose Theatre kicks off its 2012-2013 season.

The Guardian

's Ashley Goodfellow chats with Genevieve DeMerchant, the Rose Theatre's Coordinator of Programming, Marketing & Development, about what we can expect for the theatre's seventh season.

AG: What were your thoughts and intentions when programming the season?

GD: Our goal is to program a well-rounded, dynamic season that is as inclusive as possible in order to appeal the Brampton community. We also do our best to honour the values of our patrons, who deserve top-quality presentations at the best prices we can get. We also strive to present artistically exciting new works in each season. For instance, the live action graphic novel,

Intergalactic Nemesis

or the renowned New York based dance company Aszure Barton & Artists.

AG: I noticed a lot of the shows are ones we've seen before at the Rose — Colin James, Arlo Guthrie, Windjammers, George Canyon, Boyz II Men, for example. Why bring back so many seen-before shows?

GD: Part of our mandate at The Rose is to promote artist development and you can't do that without bringing an artist back more than once. However, patrons shouldn't expect a repeat performance and the acts we have lined up this year all have great new material to showcase. For instance, Boyz II Men are on a 20th anniversary tour and they just released their first new material in almost a decade. Then look at Arlo Guthrie, he's celebrating the 100th year anniversary of his dad Woody Guthrie so it's a really special tour that fans will be thrilled about. Windjammers actually had to be postponed last season so this is a rescheduled date.

Then of course we have to consider that people just love some of these artists and they ask to see them again. So we do our best to combine new programming with some audience favourites.

AG: What kind of programming is the Rose audience after? And how do you know?

GD: While there is some crossover of course, every show attracts a slightly different group of individuals. However, if we're going to generalize I will say that Rose audiences like to laugh and they love classic rock. We know that by looking back at sales and from patron feedback. We've really tried to develop an open dialogue with the community and welcome any comments or feedback.

AG: Last year featured a lot of family and comedy— I don't see as much of that this season. This season seems very musical...can you comment on that?

GD: Family programming is so important, particularly in Brampton where as you know, we have a younger than average demographic. So we do in fact have quite a lot of it in the season. Shows that are designed to appeal to young audiences and to families include LaserSpectacular in 3D,

The Nutcracker

,
A Christmas Carol

, Leahy Family Christmas,

Sing-A-Long-A Sound of Music

, Mummenschanz,

Intergalactic Nemesis



Colin James



Mummenschanz



Boyz II Men

and in the studio we've got Pekka for the really little ones. As well, many programs are family appropriate depending on the interests of the kids such as The Blues Brothers Revue, any of the Classic Albums Live shows, The Midtown Men, George Canyon, The Mikado and Pavlo.

There are actually only a handful of events this year that aren't appropriate for the family such as some of the comedy shows. Speaking of comedy, I think you'll find there is plenty of that too—

Women Fully Clothed

, Just for Laughs and an entire Comedy Studio Series of five shows put together with our partners at Yuk Yuk's. Additionally, there is some great comedy theatre including

The Full Monty

,

Suddenly Mommy

and

Late Nite Catechism

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A lot of programs aren't as straight forward as you might think at first glance. For instance Blues Brothers is music and comedy, Laser Spectacular and Mummenschanz are more spectacle in nature, and

Sing-A-Long-A Sound of Musi

c is a totally fun interactive film experience.

AG: What are the big shows you anticipate a huge reaction to? Why?

GD: That's such a tough question because really every show has the potential to cause a huge response to a different person. Isn't that the amazing thing about art and live entertainment? It's so personal. I'm really excited for Aszure Barton & Artists myself. There aren't a lot of opportunities in Brampton or even the GTA to experience really stellar modern dance, so this will be a very special night. I know as well that our subscribers are really excited by a lot of the shows and a couple that are really taking off are The Midtown Men and Randy Bachman.

AG: Is there anything new or different this year, in terms of the way the programming is structured?

GD: Yes there is. We've partnered with Yuk Yuks this year on the comedy club and we're pretty excited about the top-notch Canadian comedians you will see including Ron Josol, Glen Foster and more.

There is also a slew of brand new shows that have never been seen at The Rose, including: Ramin, Blues Brothers Revue, Broken Images, Windjammers, Midtown Men, Aszure Barton,

Sing-A-Long-A Sound of Music

,

The Full Monty

, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Voca People,

Intergalactic Nemesis

, Rain, The Mikado and this is the first time Pavlo has headlined his own show— you can expect it to be spectacularly entertaining! Oh and the whole studio line-up is new too.

AG: What are the shows you think are not-to-be-missed shows?

GD: Every last one of them. Like I said before, there is something for everyone so each performance will be special to the audience that chooses to be there.

This season features 34 main stage shows and 12 studio two performances. Tickets and subscriptions are available. To purchase, call 905-874-2800 or visit www.rosetheatre.ca (<http://www.rosetheatre.ca>)

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