

Billy Bishop kicks off summer theatre series

Brampton Guardian

BRAMPTON— Starting off the 2014 Summer Theatre Series presented by the Rose Theatre is the historical musical Billy Bishop Goes To War— a timely piece to launch the series, said director Danny Harvey, considering this year is the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1.

The production— which is part musical, part drama and part history lesson— tells the fascinating story of Billy Bishop, a Canadian fighter pilot born in Owen Sound in 1894.

Bishop, who was revered for being Canada's greatest ace with 72 victories, came from humble beginnings and became a national hero.

A dramatization of Bishop's life during the First World War, Billy Bishop Goes To War offers a little piece of Canadiana set to incredible music and punctuated with clever humour.

Playing the lead role is Kyle Blair; taking on the musical component is Kirk Teeple.

Harvey promises this version will bring new, exciting elements to the stage, and will offer a different experience for those who saw it during the 2008 summer season.

"I like to try to surprise people as much as I can," he said, adding it runs in Studio Two July 4 to 19.

The four-show season runs in July and August for the 14th year, with Sleuth, Drinking Alone and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown to follow.

For tickets and information contact the Rose Theatre at 905-874-2800 or www.rosetheatre.ca.