

## Summer theatre starts with modern musical

*Brampton Guardian*

It's love story told over a five-year span— and in Brampton, it was last staged six years ago as the final show performed at the Heritage Theatre.

On July 6, Jason Robert Brown's Tony-awarding winning modern musical *The Last 5 Years*

will fill the Rose Theatre's Studio Two with fantastic music, an exciting story and a bit of nostalgia.

The play, which examines a young couple falling in and out of love, moves the two characters in opposite directions through time, explains director Danny Harvey who also directed the Heritage Theatre production.

"Cathy starts the show at the end of their relationship, and Jamie at the beginning, with songs alternating," he said. "I fell in love with this show, this is actually my second time directing it."

*The Last 5 Years*

was the last show ever performed at the Heritage Theatre, and I thought it would be fun to re-examine it six years later."

It has the right qualities to open the Rose Theatre's Summer Theatre Series, said Harvey— "funny parts, up-beat parts, moments when you love the characters or moments when you want to scream at them."

And then there's the music. The production features a five-piece band orchestra that includes two cellos, a violin, a piano and a guitar.

"There's no percussion, no horns or woodwinds, so the entire score has a fluid feel," said Harvey. "It rocks at times, it stirs emotions at other times."

Harvey said he has often describes composer Jason Robert Brown as a mix between Stephen Sondheim and Billy Joel.

"The lyrics are at once clever and introspective," he said. "I love it."

As are the themes of the story. The show examines topics like love, jealousy, success, failure and trust. It holds a mirror up to the audience— they can see themselves in pieces of it— and it makes us realize our own joys and pains. The way the story is constructed— with Cathy telling it from the end, and Jamie from the beginning— also adds another dimension for the audience. Harvey suggests that it allows viewers to put the pieces of the puzzle together themselves.

"The show opens just after the break-up, and we spend the duration of the show trying to find out what went wrong," he said.

"But, we want to see the journey even though we know how it ends."

Harvey said he is particularly excited to stage the show in the Studio, where the maximum capacity is 100 seats. It's a venue that makes the experience intimate and personal, he said.

It's the perfect space for a production that has both entertainment value, and makes you think about who you are as a person.

"I really, really think this show has mass appeal," said Harvey. "It's one of those shows that you may have never heard of, but you'll be glad you went."

Starring in the show are Rose Theatre veterans Jay Davis (

*The War Show*

,  
*Broadway Gold II*  
and

*tick...tick...BOOM!*  
) and Marisa McIntyre (

*I Love You, You're Perfect now Change*

,  
*A Christmas Carol The Musical*  
and

*The Last Resort*  
)

*The Last 5 Years*

runs July 6 to 28 with 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. shows (check the schedule for showtimes). Tickets are \$27 for general admission; or subscription packages are available for the season.

For more, visit [www.rosetheatre.ca](http://www.rosetheatre.ca) (<http://www.rosetheatre.ca>) or call the box office at 905-874-2800.



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