

## Summer theatre season stocked with history, mystery, music and more

*Brampton Guardian*

BRAMPTON— For less than \$130, you can spend your summer taking new adventures that promise history, mystery, laughter and music— and you don't have to leave the city.

That's the price of admission to see all four shows in the upcoming Summer Theatre Series presented by the Rose Theatre, which runs in July and August for the 14th year.

"It's a really approachable season," said Danny Harvey, who shares the role of artistic director alongside Rob Woodcock. "The shows all have characters that feel real or can give you a very cool nostalgic feeling."

Kicking off the series is the historical musical

*Billy Bishop Goes To War*

— a timely piece to launch the series, said 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 Sweeney MacArthur; taking on the musical component is Kirk Teeple.

Harvey, who directs the show, 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 second installment in the 2014 season is the riveting thriller/mystery

*Sleuth*

, which runs in Studio Two July 25 to Aug. 9.

Full of surprises— including some twists in the delivery of the play— Anthony Shaffer's

*Sleuth*

will have viewers on the edge of their seats while they try to piece together a tangled tale.

Deceit, jealousy, drama, intrigue and a dash of comedy make for a whirlwind adventure that features stage favourites Dan Karpenchuk and Brampton's own Scott Carmichael (both of last season's

*12 Angry Men*

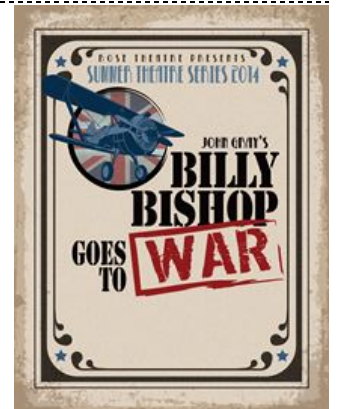
) as two of the actors in this production.

Woodcock sits in the director's seat for this show, and says those who have seen the original film version will have a good idea of what to expect; however, seeing it performed live is an entirely different experience.

"It's one of these show where the audience will leave talking about it," he said. "People want to see different things and sometimes be surprised (by our programming). This (play) is interesting— and rewarding— to follow from beginning to end."



The 2014 Summer Theatre Series at the Rose Theatre presents...



The 2014 Summer Theatre Series at the Rose Theatre presents...



The 2014 Summer Theatre Series at the Rose Theatre presents...

Another Canadian production makes an appearance in the third slot of the summer season, when Norm Foster's

*Drinking Alone*

runs in Studio Two Aug. 15 to 23.

Directed by Harvey, this Foster piece examines the dysfunction of families and alcohol while being witty, clever and comical— typical fare of the Canadian playwright.

“People always enjoy Norm Foster,” said Harvey, “and I think

*Drinking Alone*

is one of Foster's slightly darker plays.”

It's a situational comedy, but like most Foster plays it addresses “real issues”, said Harvey.

“You'll feel like you are sitting in on a group of friends, or at least that you know these people,” he said.

Rounded out with a well-stocked cast— MacArthur, Karpenchuk, Erin MacKinnon, Karen Wood and Jamie McRoberts— the play promises to be a hit.

A family-friendly show closes out this year's Summer Theatre Series when

*You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*

takes the main stage Aug. 20 to 23.

“This was the first show I directed here, back in 2003,” said Woodcock, adding he's worked on the show a handful of times during his career.

The musical is based on the Peanuts characters, and features popular vignettes based on the comic strip created by Charles M. Schulz.

“It's a typical day in the life of Charlie Brown,” said Woodcock, adding you'll see a baseball game and Snoopy flying the Red Baron.

Carmichael takes on the role of Snoopy, and is joined by cast members Jeremy LaPalme (Charlie Brown), Colin LePage (Schroeder), Stephanie Wilson (Lucy), Joseph O'Toole (Linus), and Anna Hurshman (Sally).

Also recently updated, the music has been jazzed up from the original 1967 version, and Woodcock thinks “the songs are really cool” in this production.

It's also a good opportunity for families to enjoy live theatre together.

“I really think this is going to be a really good run this summer,” said Harvey.

The season offers several choices for selecting tickets and shows: there are single tickets (\$32 Studio shows, \$36 main stage shows); as well as three different subscription bundles starting at \$87.

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



The 2014 Summer Theatre Series at the Rose Theatre presents...