

## Rose's summer theatre is all heart

*Brampton Guardian*

A season for the heart and soul is what the city's in-house production company has planned for the 2012 Rose Theatre Summer Theatre roster.

The four shows lined up to thrill audiences in July and August features music, comedy and classic themes in the program's two musicals and two plays.

Danny Harvey said although he and Robert Woodcock (both Supervisors of Theatre Productions) didn't program the season with a particular theme in mind, one seems to have evolved organically.

"Robert Woodcock and I wanted everything to have a little bit of heart and a little bit of comedy. If we were to give it a theme it would be heart and soul, however that would be by happy accident rather than design," said Harvey.

The season kicks off July 6 in the Studio Theatre with the fresh and contemporary musical,

*The Last Five Years*

. Running until July 28, this modern musical written by Tony award-winner Jason Robert Brown takes an introspective look at love.

"It mixes the emotional roller coaster of love and marriage with light bits of comedy and stirring poignancy," explains Harvey, the show's director. "The two-person musical begins at opposite ends of the story, with Cathy telling her storm from end to beginning and Jamie telling his from beginning to end."

It stars two Rose Theatre stage favourites, Jay Davis and Marisa McIntyre, and is a refreshing love story told from each of the lovers' perspectives.

The first show to take the Rose Theatre's main stage for the summer season is *Forever Plaid*

, a "hilarious and goofy" musical that follows four young singers revived from a car crash to perform the show that never was. Running July 13 to 28, the show is directed by Woodcock and features musical direction by Rosalind Mill and choreography by Melissa Jane Shaw. Starring Kraig Waye, Jon Alex MacFarlane, Rob Torr and Sweeney MacArthur, it promises to please both the ears and the funny bone.

On Aug. 3 to 25, the Rose Theatre's Studio space will "be transformed into a classic Ontario cottage scene" for legendary playwright Norm Foster's

*Storm Warning*

. Harvey leads direction on this poignancy romantic comedy that features Sweeney MacArthur and Erin MacKinnon.

*Storm Warning*

is a Norm Foster romantic comedy taking place in the early '50s about Jack, a WWII veteran who has retreated to live in a cabin in Pigeon Lake, and Emma, a brassy big band chart writer who comes to stay next door," said Harvey. The two play polar opposites, and as in most Foster features, hilarious mayhem ensues.

The season's final installment, taking place on the main stage Aug. 17 to 25, is Neil Simon's

*Barefoot in the Park*

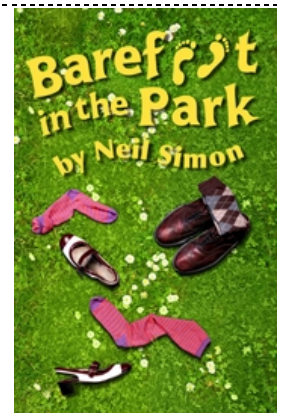
. This hilarious romantic comedy, directed by Woodcock, follows young newlyweds Paul and Corie Bratter as they build a new life of marital bliss—with loopy in-laws, a leaky roof and an odd-ball neighbour to contend with. "Every one of these shows has at least some comedy," said Harvey. "It is the summer and people want to laugh."

Harvey said the city's Summer Theatre Season brings a boost of culture to the downtown core—and has done so for the past 12 years.

"The longevity of the Summer Series can be accredited to the city's incredible support for the arts as well as the thirst for excitement in the City of Brampton,"



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he said. "People love that there is something going on, making Brampton a true destination and an excellent experience."

He adds that the season is particularly outstanding for its affordability— for under \$100, a patron can see four professional shows.

### **Shakespeare in the Square**

This summer, the annual Shakespeare in the Square event will return to Garden Square with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*— the inaugural play for the series that started in 2000. It opens Tuesday, July 17 and runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday every week, weather permitting, until Aug. 23.

There are no shows on Aug. 7, 8, or 9, due to The Art of Jazz Festival.

#### **Tickets**

Tickets are available now in singles and subscription packages and can be purchased from the Rose Theatre Box Office by visiting in person, calling 905-874-2800 or by faxing orders directly to the Box Office at 905-874-3612.

Extras: Post-Show Talk Backs will take place following the performance each Wednesday.

Saturday Socials (light reception) will be held following the performance on the first Saturday of each production.

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



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