



## Enjoy summer at The Rose

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Patrons, who sample the summer entertainment at the Rose Theatre will most certainly go back following year, promise officials.

As it has been for 12 years, the Rose Theatre's artistic director Scott Lale, is getting ready to raise the curtain on two award-winning plays and two show-stopping musicals.

The Rose Summer Theatre season—which runs July 8 until Aug. 27 – will kick-off with John Buchan's *The 39 Steps* (July 8 - 30). The fast-paced intriguing comedy is based on an Alfred Hitchcock film.

Later, when the sweltering August heat hits the city, residents can cool-off with an uniquely Canadian offering— Michael Healey's *Drawer Boy* (Aug. 5 - 27). The play derives inspiration from a time when director Miles Potter, along with an actor and an artistic director headed into the rural heartland of southern Ontario to interview local farmers and their families to create: *The Farm Show*. That experience in turn became the building block for the *Drawer Boy*.

"*The 39 Steps* has been adapted for stage using three actors and one actress," explained Lale. "One main character plays one role, but the other three between them play some 120 characters. It's pretty hilarious and fun to watch the quick costume-changes."

"*The Drawer Boy* is probably one of the most popular Canadian plays," he continued. "As Canadians, we tend to write stuff that's funny and poignant. And this is very much the case with the *Drawer Boy*."

Two celebrated musicals from Broadway, *A chorus Line* ((July 22-30), a production that follows 17 dancers as they go through their big-break-audition and *Cabaret* (Aug 19-27), a timeless piece of musical theatre with both a story and substance, will be showcased on the main stage.

"We have got a nice line-up of entertainment and art which includes two Broadway blockbusters," said Lale.

"*Chorus Line* is a staple because I think everyone at some point has seen it and is familiar with it. *Cabaret* is a fantastic piece of art that makes people think. Both of these has show-stopping numbers as well."

Sweeney MacArthur, a local actor who has parts in *The 39 Steps* and *Cabaret*, believes the summer theatre acts like a great arts incubator for local talent. He said many theatres in North America are hoping to emulate the success of Rose Theatre. The success, he said, is largely due to innovative programming.

"I always feel like a homing pigeon when I perform at The Rose," said MacArthur, who's currently in Winnipeg performing *Calendar Girls*. "It's such a wonderful place to work. It feels like home. They always give a diverse mix of shows."

Tickets are now on sale for all summer theatre productions. Subscription tickets may be purchased from the Rose Theatre Box Office by visiting in person or calling 905-874-2800 or visiting, [www.myrosetheatre.ca](http://www.myrosetheatre.ca).



**Foot-tapping music.** Tickets are now on sale for all summer theatre productions. *Submitted photo*

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