

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In 1980, fresh off of their success with *Evita*, lyricist Tim Rice suggested writing a musical about Chess to Andrew Lloyd Webber. The idea was inspired by the 1972 chess match between American Bobby Fischer and Russian, Boris Spassky. When Lloyd Webber proved too busy with *CATS*, he turned to ABBA duo Benny Anderson and Björn Ulvaeus to write the music.

A concept album was released in 1984 to huge acclaim and the song “One Night in Bangkok” became a Top 40 hit for Murray Head. The West End production, produced at a budget of \$12 million, opened in 1986 and ran for three years. It was nominated for three Olivier Awards, including Best Musical, which ironically, it lost to Lloyd Webber’s *Phantom of the Opera*. The show was radically rewritten, prior to its opening on Broadway in 1988, with a new book by Richard Nelson. The production was a massive critical and box office failure, closing after only 68 regular performances.

Chess has continued to be reworked and rewritten in major professional and amateur productions around the world. The licensed script contains the following note from Tim Rice: “Anyone mounting a production of *Chess*, should not be afraid of changing the order of the songs and scenes. In particular, referencing the original recording of the work may inspire some alternate choices to the version presented in this book.” In the dramaturgy for this production, I spent months looking at scripts for five major versions of *Chess*, including the West End, Broadway, US National Tour (with revised book by Richard Coe), the 1990 Melbourne, Australia production (which has numerous new songs, never recorded or notated) and the Royal Albert Hall concert in 2009. Our production is a hybrid of all of these shows, and as instructed by Rice, we found our ending in the original concept album.

The story has been streamlined with a focus on the chess match and the love triangle between Florence, Freddie, and Anatoly. Confusing subplots and musical numbers involving the CIA, the KGB, Cold-War Politics, and Florence’s father, have been reduced.

As part of our re-imagination of *Chess*, Michael Rubinoff, Associate Dean of Visual and Performing Arts and Producer at Theatre Sheridan presented myself and set designer Tyler Sainsbury with the exciting idea of challenging the space of MacDonald Heaslip Hall. Tyler’s exquisite design, which you see before you, was inspired by traditional Thai Buddhist temples, the Bangkok Oriental Hotel and the Tanya Moisevitch thrust stage at the Stratford Festival.

The collaboration with Tyler influenced not only the physical world of the production but the story as well. Created in the mega-musical era, the licensed script has 29 locations in two different countries. To streamline our storytelling, we condensed the time frame, set all of the action in Bangkok, occurring at nine locations at the Bangkok International Hotel. None of this would have been possible without invaluable insight from Choreographer, Julie Tomaino and Music Director, Adam White, who had to piece together a score from various productions and create new arrangements for our band.

It has been a joyous collaboration re-imagining *Chess* with the extraordinary performance and production students, instructors, and staff at Theatre Sheridan. We hope you enjoy the show!

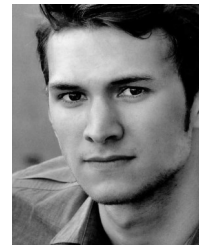
CAST



Daniel Byrne



Rachel Drance



Jeffrey Follis



Jonathan Gysbers



Nicola Hadjis



Arinea Hermans



Jordan Kenny



Cameron Kneteman



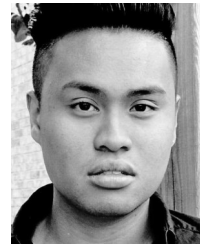
Kelsey Lacombe



Mychele Lebrun



Blaire Lorrison



Nestor Lozano Jr.



Andrew MacNaughton



Kate Madden



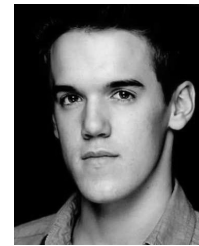
Jonah McIntosh



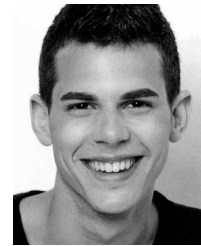
Melanie Paiement



Gillian Reed



Jacques St. Pierre



Jordan Shore



Greg Solomon



Gavin Tessier



Benjamin Ward



Jessica Watters

Florence.....Arinea Hermans
 Freddie.....Jonathan Gysbers
 Anatoly.....Andrew MacNaughton
 Molokov.....Cameron Kneteman
 Svetlana.....Rachel Drance
 Walter.....Greg Solomon
 Arbiter.....Jeffrey Follis

Ensemble

Daniel Byrne, Jordan Kenny, Nestor Lozano Jr., Jonah McIntosh, Jordan Shore, Jacques St. Pierre, Gavin Tessier, Benjamin Ward, Nicola Hadjis, Kelsey Lacombe, Mychele Lebrun, Blaire Lorrison, Kate Madden, Melanie Paiement, Gillan Reed, Jessica Watters

Assistant Director: Jacques St.Pierre

Dance Captain: Kelsey Lacombe

Assistant to the Musical Director: Mychele Lebrun

Fight Captain: Jordan Shore

And a special thank you to Matthew Payne



STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE:

1. Prologue
2. Story of Chess
3. Freddie's Entrance
4. Where I Want to Be
5. Diplomats
6. Arbiter's Song
7. Chess #1
8. Quartet
9. Florence and the American
10. Nobody's Side
11. Terrace Duet
12. Who'd Ever Think It?
13. Hymn to Chess
14. Chess #2
15. Florence Quits
16. Pity the Child
17. Heaven Help My Heart
18. Reporters
19. Anthem

ACT TWO:

1. Golden Bangkok
2. One Night in Bangkok
3. Someone Else's Story
4. You and I
5. Where I Want to Be / You and I Reprise
6. Freddie Goes Metal
7. I Know Him So Well
8. Endgame
9. Chess Music
10. You and I Reprise
11. Heaven Help My Heart Reprise
12. You and I Reprise

TECHNICAL CREW

Stage Manager.....Jennifer Newnham
Assistant Stage Manager.....Kyrie Meyer
Carpentry Crew.....Jolina Calayag, Corey Cohen, Stephen Downey,
Kailey Kacaba, Emily Larose, Grant Quinn,
Jjustice Reyes
Head Lighting Technician.....Sterling Barry
Lighting CrewKelly Boudreau, Bradley Dunn, Daniel Gignac,
Callum Grant, Connor Hanley, Ryan Lepage,
Eveyn Pageau, Mary Reddon, Austin Wilson
Properties Crew.....David Imiolo, Leland Lamb, Janine Oblak
Scenic Paint Crew.....Abigail Decaire, April Fresh-McEwan, Ashley
Lindsay, Annabel Schulte, Emilie Shanks, Mason
Soars, Kathryn Urbanek, Jessica Wu
Wardrobe Crew.....Natalie Burtch, Carolyn Brennan, Stefanie
Lorette, Madelaine McCullough, Tara McNeil,
Rhianna Rothwell, Katherine Stone, Kenzie Ten
Eyck, Naomi Timmer
Audio Crew.....Mat Armstrong, Megan Lavis, Scott Monteith,
Jeffrey Pybus
Technical Assistants.....Jessy Stephens, Robert Spithoff
Assistant Technical Director....Tristan Goethel

RUNNING CREW

Crew Chief.....Corey Mohamed
Live Audio Mix.....Scott Monteith
Monitor Mix.....Mat Armstrong
Lighting Board Operator.....Bradley Dunn
Followspots.....Callum Grant, Ryan Lepage
Projections Operator.....Corey Cohen
Stage Hands.....Kelly Boudreau, Abigail Decaire, Janine Oblak
Deck Audio.....Eveyn Pageau, Jeffrey Pybus
Dressers.....Natalie Burtch, Carolyn Brennan

Theatre Sheridan

CHESS

Music by **Benny Anderson** and **Björn Ulvaeus**

Lyrics by **Tim Rice**

Based on an idea by **Tim Rice**

Book by **Richard Nelson**

Directed by **Darcy Evans**

Choreography by **Julie Tomaino**

Musical Direction by **Adam White**

Set Design by **Tyler Sainsbury**

Costume Design by **Laura Gardner**

Lighting Design by **Kirsten Watt**

Sound Design by **Todd Charlton**

Band Leader/Keyboard	Adam White
Keyboard	Doug Price
Guitar	Bob McAlpine
Bass	Steve Lucas
Drums	Robin Claxton

April 14 - 26, 2015