

November 8—
December 4
2016

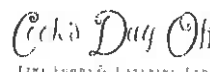
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I Think I'm Fallin'

*The Songs
of Joni Mitchell*

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The Belfry Theatre presents

I Think I'm Fallin'

The Songs of Joni Mitchell

Conceived by Michael Shamata and Tobin Stokes

Please
join us for an
Afterplay discussion
following this evening's
performance.
(See page 26 for details)

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Jonathan Gould

Brent Jarvis

Evangelia Kambites

Linda Kidder

Anton Lipovetsky

Director **Michael Shamata**

Musical Director and Arranger **Tobin Stokes**

Assistant Musical Director **Anton Lipovetsky**

Set and Costume Designer **Cory Sincennes**

Lighting Designer **Alan Brodie**

Sound Designer **Paul Tedeschini**

Choreographer **Laura Krewski**

Stage Manager **Amy Jewell**

Assistant Stage Manager **Christopher Sibbald**

Assistant Director **Deborah Williams**

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

I Think I'm Fallin', The Songs of Joni Mitchell is staged by arrangement with Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, 424 Church St. Suite 1200, Nashville, TN 37209.

The use of video or audio recording devices is strictly prohibited at all times.

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Joni Mitchell – Early Music Career

Singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell was born Roberta Joan Anderson on November 7, 1943, in Fort Macleod, Canada. At the age of 9, Mitchell contracted polio, and it was during her recovery in the hospital that she began performing and singing to patients. After teaching herself how to play the guitar, she went off to art college and quickly emerged as one of the leading folk performers of the late 1960s and '70s.

At the beginning of her career, Mitchell's compositions were highly original and personal in their lyrical imagery. It was this style that first attracted attention among folk-music audiences in Toronto while she was still in her teens. She moved to the United States in the mid-1960s, and in 1968, she recorded her first album, *Joni Mitchell*, produced by David Crosby.



Joni Mitchell – Photo by Jack Robinson/Getty Images

Experimental Explorations

Other highly successful albums followed. Joni Mitchell won her first Grammy Award (best folk performance) in 1969, for her sophomore album, *Clouds*. Her third album, *Ladies of the Canyon*, was a mainstream success for the folk singer, becoming her first gold album, which included the hits “The Circle Game” and “Big Yellow Taxi.” It was during this time she was already starting to experiment with pop and rock genres.

Her album *Court and Spark* (1974) signaled her foray into jazz and jazz fusion and was lauded by critics; it ended up becoming her most commercially successful project to date and was nominated for four Grammy Awards, with Mitchell winning for best instrumental arrangement accompanying vocalist(s).

Over the past four decades, Mitchell has garnered several Grammys in various categories, including traditional pop, pop music and lifetime achievement. Her other notable successful recordings include *Blue* (1971), *The Hissing of Summer Lawns* (1975), the highly experimental *Hejira* (1976) and *Turbulent Indigo* (1994).

Mitchell wasn't the only one making hits with the songs she wrote. Other musicians have recorded successful covers of her songs, including Judy Collins; the Counting Crows; and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

Later Work

Mitchell's later albums include *Taming the Tiger* (1998), *Both Sides Now* (2000) and the compilation albums *Dreamland* (2004) and *Songs of a Prairie Girl* (2005). In addition to her own extensive body of work, she has been an enormous influence on several other artists with her unique guitar styling and expressive lyrics.

Mitchell was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997 and the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2007.




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Please turn off your cellphones and pagers when you enter the theatre. If you need to be contacted in an emergency, please leave your name and seat number with our House Manager.

Latecomers & Re-admission

The Director of each production designates moments in the show when the seating of latecomers will cause the least amount of distraction for actors and audience members. Should you leave the theatre, our House Manager will not be able to reseat you until one of these breaks.

Babes in Arms

The Belfry is proud to produce adult contemporary theatre. Our productions are not suitable for children 10 and under, including babes in arms.

Recording Devices

No cameras or recording devices are permitted in the theatre.

Audience Advisories and Running Times

We make every effort to advise you of strong language, subject matter or extreme technical effects (strobe lights, fog). Please look for signs at the entrances to the theatre. Advisories and running times are available at the Box Office as of the first preview.

Food & Drinks

Please feel free to take only food and/or drinks you've purchased from the Belfry bar into the theatre. Our goodies are packaged so that they don't make a lot of noise and disturb your fellow audience members.

Perfume & Cologne

Please refrain from using perfume and cologne when you come to the theatre. Some of our patrons are highly allergic to scents.

Electronic Cigarettes

Please refrain from using electronic cigarettes in the theatre, to avoid distraction for other patrons and the Artists on stage.

Thank you for your consideration.
Enjoy the performance.

Photo by Jo-Ann Richards, Works Photography



Artistic Director's Notes

Dear Audience Member –

Thank you for making *The Last Wife* such a resounding success! You made it clear, yet again, that the Belfry has the best audience in the country – intelligent, curious, and committed to great writing and strong productions.


The performance you are about to see is built on a foundation of love: love of collaborating, love of performing, and love for Joni Mitchell's remarkable music and breathtaking lyrics.

The five musicians/singers/actors onstage threw themselves into the creative process, jamming together, under the expert guidance of Tobin Stokes,

in a room filled with contributing artists, and on a stage transformed by brilliant scenic, lighting and sound designers.

Despite the years that she has spent in the States, we all count Joni as one of our own. Her words certainly burrow their way into our souls; they are so recognizable, so evocative, and so moving. Her melodies haunt us, and her words push buttons in an immediate way.

May some of the joy that we found assembling this piece be yours at this performance – and beyond.

Thank you again for your support of this unique theatre! Sincerely, 

Notes from the Executive Director

I was a boy when Joni Mitchell released her second album but still I remember hearing "Chelsea Morning" on AM radio when my cousin and I used to play disc jockey. The theatre and music have an extraordinary capacity to stir in us a variety of emotions and memories. We allow ourselves in a collective space to be touched by the experiences of the characters on the stage or the lyrics of a tune. They both have the power to transport us to other places, times and worlds. They are experiences and emotions we share publicly with a family of like-minded people. I think that is why we refer to you as part of the Belfry family and why we call this beautiful building our home.

As stewards of this home, we have a duty of care to ensure that it is comfortable for our family. That it provides a place to house our collective cultural needs. We want it to be the place where our family can be serious, joyful, thoughtful, creative and content. We want it to be a container for our memories.

We want this beautiful theatre to be your home, and want to make you comfortable, and so we embark on plans to continue the work that has transformed this space over 40 years to accommodate our changing, growing and maturing family. Thank you for taking the voyage with us, both on this musical trip down memory lane, and on our journey in continuing to improve your home.





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Jonathan Gould

Brent Jarvis

Evangelia Kambites

Rehearsal photography by Peter Pokorny

Jonathan Gould

After graduating from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts with a BFA in Classical Theatre, Jonathan has gone on to perform across North America as an actor, singer and multi-instrumentalist, including here at the Belfry Theatre in last season's *Chelsea Hotel*. Also several seasons with the Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival, Grand Theatre, Citadel Theatre, Soulpepper Theatre, Firehall Arts Centre, Theatre New Brunswick, Theatre Passe Muraille, St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, Magnus Theatre, Lincoln Center Institute and The Kennedy Center. Past Film and TV credits include *Buck Calder Experience*, *Beyblade*, *Budrus* and *Baby Brain*. Based in Toronto, Jonathan was also a contributor to the Juno Award winning album *Music Soup*. He currently voices the role of Dave in the animated series

Scaredy Squirrel for YTV and Disney Channel, and as Sergeant Abs in the new animated series *Wishfart* for Teletoon.

Brent Jarvis

Brent Jarvis is a Canadian jazz pianist living in Victoria. Brent's music has been described as "...captivating...a collaboration between the sensual and the intellectual..." Laura Fernandez JAZZ FM91 Toronto. Brent has released five albums, the most recent being *The Medium*, loosely based on Marshall McLuhan's book *The Medium is the Message*. Since completing a Bachelor of Music degree in jazz performance at the University of Toronto, Brent has been an active member of the music community in Victoria, not only as a pianist but as a teacher, producer, sometime drummer and recording engineer.

Evangelia Kambites

Evangelia Kambites is a performing artist based in Toronto. Notable stage credits include the Sterling Award-winning production of *Hairspray* (Mayfield Theatre), *Buddy—The Buddy Holly Story* (Theatre North West), the Jessie Award-winning production of *Avenue Q* (Arts Club), *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God* (National Arts Centre/Centaur Theatre/Black Theatre Workshop). Television: *Minority Report* (FOX), *Heroes Reborn* (NBC), *Incorporated* (CBS). Evangelia is a graduate of the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts, and holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Music and Drama from Queen's University. Many thanks to her family, friends, and her better-half for their constant support.

Acting Company



Linda Kidder

Linda Kidder

Linda is thrilled to be making her Belfry debut. Linda's passion for her work is evident in all her endeavours and performances. Her singing/recording credits range from Raffi, Rita MacNeil and Gary Fjellgaard to k.d. lang and Bon Jovi. Having sung literally hundreds of jingles, you can hear Linda's voice from Barbie to Safeway commercials and everything in between. She has toured throughout Canada, the U.S and Europe with k.d. lang's *Ingenue* Tour, Gary Fjellgaard, and George Jones. Linda has been nominated and won eight awards by the BCCMA, the CMA and Junos for vocalist and bass player of the year with Gary Fjellgaard. Theatre credits include: sub drummer in *Cabaret* for Studio 58, *Sweet and Hot*, *Baby Boomer Blues*, *Old, New, Borrowed and Blue*, *Rogues and Romances* and *Cruisin' with the*



Anton Lipovetsky

Boomers for Jupiter Theatre Productions. Linda recently had one of her songs placed in a Hallmark Movie. www.lindakidder.com

Anton Lipovetsky

Anton's previous roles at the Belfry include King James in *Equivocation* and Bob Cratchit in last year's *A Christmas Carol*. Born in Vancouver, Anton is an actor, writer, and composer who has worked for many of BC's theatre companies, including four seasons performing at Bard on the Beach. He has won two Jessie Awards and received the 2011 Mayor's Arts Award for Emerging Theatre Artist. This spring, a production of his original musical collaboration with Dave Deveau, *Elbow Room Cafe* (ZeeZee Theatre) will premiere at Vancouver's York Theatre. Anton is a graduate of Studio 58.

Creative Team



Michael Shamata

Michael Shamata

Director

Michael is Artistic Director of the Belfry Theatre, where his credits include *Speed-the-Plow*, *Venus in Fur*, and *Home Is A Beautiful Word*. He is the recipient of a Jessie Award (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), and two Calgary Critics' Awards (*The Light in the Piazza* and *Mary Poppins*), and his productions have won awards in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Ottawa. This December, he will remount his production of *A Christmas Carol* at Soupepper Theatre, where it is an annual Toronto tradition. Michael was Artistic Director of Theatre New Brunswick (1989–1995), and the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario (1995–1999).

Rehearsal photography by Peter Pokorny



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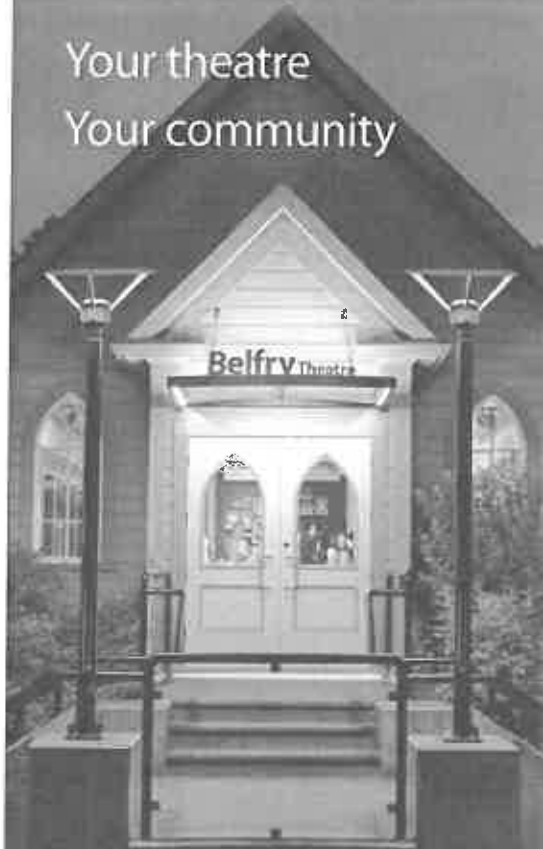


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Creative Team



Tobin Stokes



Cory Sincennes



Alan Brodie

Tobin Stokes

Musical Director and Arranger

Tobin is stoked to be back at the Belfry again! Since the late 1980s, he's been lurking here as a performer, arranger, musical director, composer, and sound designer for many productions. Past musical projects at the Belfry have featured the music of Leonard Cohen, Patsy Cline, Harry Chapin, and his own opera, *The Vinedressers*. This spring his opera, *Fallujah*, premiered with Long Beach Opera in California. It runs again in November in New York with New York City Opera. He has also written an opera with Margaret Atwood: *Pauline*, commissioned by City Opera Vancouver, which premiered at the York Theatre in Vancouver. Tobin is now beginning scoring work for a new series of nature documentaries coming to *The Nature of Things* on CBC, fall 2017.

Cory Sincennes

Set and Costume Designer

Previous Belfry credits include: *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Puttin' on the Ritz*. Other credits include: *Evangeline*, *Bittergirl: The Musical* (Charlottetown Festival), *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Make Mine Love* (Citadel), *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Les Miserables*, *Mary Poppins*, *Where the Blood Mixes* (Western Canada Theatre Company), *Mump and Smoot* (Alberta Theatre Projects), *The Huron Bride* (Vertigo Theatre), *Julius Caesar*, *The Tempest* (Freewill Shakespeare Festival), *The Last 5 Years*, *Let the Light of Day Through*, *Little One*, *Woman in Black* (Theatre Network). Cory holds a degree in Architectural Studies from Carleton University and a MFA in Theatre

Design from U of A. He is a member of Associated Designers of Canada.
www.corysincennes.com

Alan Brodie

Lighting Designer

Alan is delighted to return to the Belfry, where his previous productions include *A Christmas Carol*, *Equivocation*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *The Syringa Tree*, *Mary's Wedding*, *When We Were Singing*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Two*, *Skylight*, *Come Rain or Come Shine*, *Anatol* and *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*. A member of the Associated Designers of Canada, Alan holds a BFA in design from UBC and an MFA in directing from UVic. He lives in Vancouver with his wife Michele and their boxer Ellie. Later this season at the Belfry, Alan will design the lighting for *Alice Munro Stories*.
www.alanbrodie.ca

Creative Team



Paul Tedeschini



Laura Krewski

Deborah Williams

Rehearsal photography by Peter Pokorny

Paul Tedeschini

Sound Designer

Paul is so very, very happy to be back at the Belfry. Belfry designs include *Mom's The Word*, *Puttin' On The Ritz*, *Vanya and Sonia* and *Masha and Spike* and *Home Is A Beautiful Word*. Other selected credits include *Into The Woods* (Canadian College of Performing Arts), *39 Steps, Noises Off* (Western Canada Theatre Company), *Gaslight* (Blue Bridge Theatre), *Ring Of Fire – Project Johnny Cash*, *Les Miserables*, *Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story* (Chemainus Theatre Festival), *Fresco* (Shadbolt Centre/The Cultch), *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Arts Club Theatre). As always, thank you to Nicolle and Isidoro.

Laura Krewski

Choreographer

Laura is thrilled to return to the Belfry after *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Home Is A Beautiful Word*. Choreography credits include *West Side Story*, *Spamalot* (Citadel Theatre), new musicals *Vigilante*, *Hunchback*, *Nevermore*, *Frankenstein* and *Fortune Falls* (Catalyst Theatre), *Enron* (National Arts Centre), *Chicago* and *Footloose* (The Mayfield), *Next To Normal* (Citadel Theatre/Theatre Calgary), *Rich* and *Rapa Nui* (Manitoba Theatre for Young People) and her new work *The Yellow Wallpaper*. Laura is a guest instructor for The Canadian College of Performing Arts, Grant MacEwan and Citadel/Banff Professional Theatre Program. Enjoy the show!

Deborah Williams

Assistant Director

Deb Williams is a multi award-winning actress, producer, writer and one of the creators of the *Mom's the Word* series of plays. She has been a resident artist at the Belfry Theatre for a number of years, recently starring in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and will be back in February to perform *Taking Off*. She is the co-creator/producer/host of *The Flame* in Victoria and Vancouver, a monthly storytelling event, annual TV special and weekly program on Roundhouse Radio. Deb has worked on stages across Canada for the past 30 years, is a community activist, event planner, gardener, knitter, 27-year wife and a proud mother of a couple of wonderful adult scientists.

Creative Team



Amy Jewell

Christopher Sibbald

*Rehearsal photography
by Peter Pokorny*

Amy Jewell

Stage Manager

For the Belfry: Debut. Most Recently: Assistant Stage Manager for *Alice in Wonderland* (World Premiere), *Uncle Vanya* (Shaw Festival). Selected Elsewhere: Stage Manager for *Aladdin* (Capitol Theatre), *Snow White*, *Peter Potter Panto* (Moonpath Productions), *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre North West), *Forever Plaid* (Huron Country Playhouse). Three seasons at Carousel Players. Assistant Stage Manager for *Bordertown Café* and *The Book of Esther* (Blyth Festival), Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Grand Theatre) and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Opera Saskatchewan). Seventeen seasons at the Shaw Festival, favourites include: *Guys and Dolls*, *Born Yesterday*, *Wonderful Town*, *Follies: In Concert*, *Saint Joan* (Shaw Festival/Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *You Never Can Tell*, *Pygmalion*.

Christopher Sibbald

Assistant Stage Manager

Christopher is very excited to be back at the Belfry this season. A graduate of the University of Victoria's theatre program, he has worked for theatres across the country, including the Stratford and Charlottetown Festivals and Pacific Opera Victoria. Selected credits include: *And Slowly Beauty*, *The Trespassers*, *Puttin' On The Ritz* (Belfry Theatre), *Blithe Spirit*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stratford Festival), *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* (Charlottetown Festival), *Das Rheingold*, *Otello*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Simon Boccanegra* (Pacific Opera Victoria).

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The Belfry Theatre gratefully acknowledges the financial support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council and the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, the Capital Regional District Arts Development Office and the City of Victoria.



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