

PLAYBILL

NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

EVITA

MUSIC BY:
**ANDREW
LLOYD
WEBBER**



LYRICS BY:
**TIM
RICE**

NOVEMBER 4, 5 & 6, 2021

The NIAGARA PROSCENIUM ALUMNI PLAYERS of NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
proudly presents

EVITA

Music by
**ANDREW LLOYD
WEBBER**

Lyrics by
TIM RICE

Choreography by
**SUSAN
MARCOLINI**

Directed by
**DENNIS
WILSON**

Vocal Direction and Conducted by
**TOM
VITELLO**

Orchestra Audio by
JAMES MOSES

Student Choral Director
VERONICA SCHUCKER

Technical Direction by
**RICH
MERANTO**

Sound and Lighting by
**RANDY RIEKER
and NICK FAGIANI**

Produced by
TOM VITELLO

Welcome to the Niagara Falls High School Performing Arts Center!

*Please familiarize yourself with the following reminders
as a courtesy to yourself, other patrons and the performers:*

- **Restrooms** are located in the front lobby. Please be discreet if you have to leave during the performance.
- Please **turn off all cellular phones and other electronics** as a courtesy to other patrons and the performers. Cellular frequencies will interfere with the wireless audio system used in this theatre.
- Please **remain seated through the entire act** of the performance to avoid distracting the performers and patrons.
- The use of **flash photography, video and audio recording including via mobile device is strictly prohibited**, as it is hazardous to the performers and a contract violation. Please help us by observing this rule.
- While we appreciate your enthusiasm, please be mindful of proper theatre etiquette as this is not a sporting event.
- **Thank you and enjoy the show!**

EVITA

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

A Cinema in Buenos Aires The Orchestra
Requiem Chorus and Orchestra
Oh What a Circus Che, Eva and Chorus
On This Night of A Thousand Stars Magaldi, Eva, Che,
Eva's Family and Chorus
Buenos Aires Eva and Dancers
Goodnight and Thank You Eva, Che and Lovers
The Art of the Possible President, Perón, Officers, Eva and Chorus
Charity Concert Magaldi, Eva, Perón and Chorus
I'd Be Surprisingly Good For You Eva and Perón
Another Suitcase In Another Hall Eva, Mistress, Che and Chorus
Perón's Latest Flame Che, Eva, Aristocrats, Army and Heavies
A New Argentina Eva, Perón, Che, Officials, Workers and Chorus

ACT II

Entr'acte The Orchestra
On the Balcony of the Casa Rosada/
Don't Cry for Me Argentina Eva, Che, Perón, Officer and Chorus
High Flying, Adored Che and Eva
Rainbow High Eva and Chorus
Rainbow Tour Perón, Che, Eva, Admiral, Officers and Chorus
The Chorus Girl Hasn't Learned Eva, Che and Aristocrats
And the Money Kept Rolling In Che and Chorus
Santa Evita Che, Chorus and Workers
Waltz for Eva and Che Che and Eva
You Must Love Me Eva and Soloist
She Is A Diamond Perón and Officers
Dice Are Rolling Eva and Perón
Eva's Final Broadcast Eva and Che
Montage Che, Perón, Magaldi and Chorus
Lament Eva, Mourners and Chorus

EVITA

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Young Eva Duarte Julia Pitarresi (NFHS 2021)
Adult Eva Duarte de Perón.....Audrianna Yates (NFHS 2007)
CheJB Becton (NFHS 1993)
Juan Perón Dennis Wilson (LSHS 1985)
Agustín Magaldi Phillip Buffone (LSHS 1978)
The Mistress.....Julie Doerr (NFCSD Employee)

THE ENSEMBLE

Forever Adams**	Ashley Nagelhout**
Keyonah Allen**	Nancy Pitarresi (LSHS 1980 and NFCSD Employee)
Kendall Arbatosky**	Julia Pitarresi (NFHS 2021)
Phillip Buffone (LSHS 1978)	Amaya Printup**
Julia Condino**	Camilla Ralands**
Adrianna Miller-Dabrowski**	Alejandro Heredia-Rodriguez**
Julie Doerr (NFCSD Employee)	Collette Rosier (NC 1980)
Nicole Dutton (NFCSD Employee)	Andy Routhier**
Aaliyah Freeman**	Erika Stevens (NFHS 2017)
Javelion DJ Hernandez**	Madyson Tolfa**
Amelia Jacob**	Elmily Trosky**
Connor Kinney**	Jason Tubbins, Jr.**
Brianna London**	Lenore (Frazier) Uhrich (NFHS 1990)
Vinny Lucchetti**	Precious Vails**
Katherine Sirianni-Morock (NFHS 1995 and NFCSD Employee)	Jeremiah Whitlow**
Hayley Mundy (NFHS 2021)	Audrianna Yates (NFHS 2007)
Jack Nadrowski (NFHS 2019 and NFCSD Employee)	
Angela Nagelhout (NFHS 1994)	

** Current NFHS Student

EVITA

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Dennis Wilson (*LSHS 1985*)
Vocal Director/Conductor..... Tom Vitello (*NFCSD Employee*)
Choreographer..... Susan Marcolini (*NFCSD Employee*)
Student Vocal Director..... Veronica Schucker (*NFCSD Employee*)
Orchestra Audio Coordinator..... James Moses (*NC 2005*)
Conductor..... Tom Vitello (*NFCSD Employee*)
Dance Captain Aaliyah Freeman**
Producer Tom Vitello (*NFCSD Employee*)
Stage Manager Katelin Nagelhout (*NFHS 2020*)
Technical Director Rich Meranto (*LSHS 1985/NFCSD Employee*)
Lights and Sound..... Randy Rieker and Nick Fagiani (*NFCSD Employee*)
Programs and Posters..... Tom Vitello (*NFCSD Employee*)
Tickets Tom Vitello (*NFCSD Employee*)
Box Office Jacob Kopera (*NFHS 2006*)
Barbara Rodgers (*LSHS 1969*)
Judy Rodgers (*LSHS 1972*)
50/50 Tickets and Raffle..... Volunteers

** Current NFHS Student

THE CREW

STAGE MANAGER

Katelin Nagelhout

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Charity Hosler

Kaelyn Walter

STAGE HANDS

Darlene Cabrera

Kierra Cox

Leah Scrivano

LIGHTING OPERATOR

Robert Perna

HAIR AND MAKE-UP ASSISTANT

Hannah Byrd

EVITA

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

THE CAST

JB BECTON (Che) James, a US Army Veteran, an alumni of Gaskill Middle School, Niagara Falls High School class of 1993 and Niagara University class of 1997 with subsequent training through Stella Adler, Matthew Corozine Studios, and Shakespeare & Co. in Lenox, MA is beyond enthused to be back home to breathe life into Che' in this Alumni Production of *Evita*! His over 30 years of experience within the arts community is as diverse as it is eclectic ranging in roles from The Orange Honker to Ritchie, from Judas to Jesus, from Sparky to Teen Angel, from Tiresias to Odysseus, from Jack Worthington to Lord Goring, from Louis Till to Ira Aldridge, from the King of Ethiopia to Marc Antony, from Brutus to Edmund and the list goes on. He considers it incredibly fortunate to be back in town to perform as he is the Executive Artistic Director of The Becton, International Black Theater & Arts Consortium, LLC, and hopes to have open dialogue with the community and local government to discuss Niagara Falls NY, being it's home. For questions of interest feel free to reach out: Becton@TheBecton.com

PHILLIP BUFFONE (Magaldi/

Chorus) Phil has appeared in NFHS Alumni production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Theater in the Mist productions of *Tony n' Tina's Wedding* (Sal the Photographer) and *Making God Laugh* (Richard). Over the last few years he has worked as a background actor in movies such as *Marshall*, *The True Adventures of Wolfboy*, *Crossbreed*, *G.O.D-Givers of Death*, *Heartbreak Falls*, featured extra, *The Royal Christmas Engagement*, *Assault On VA-33*, *Pana*, *Staged Killer*, *Fiancé Killer*, *Killer In-Laws*, and *Good Times Never Come*. He also recently appeared in a Big Tim Kellams music video, *Wanna Live*. Thank you to Tom and Dennis, my fellow cast members, Niagara Falls High School, my family and friends. A special thanks to my wonderful son, Peter.

JULIE A. DOERR (The Mistress/Ensemble) is the Director of Communications and Public Relations for the Niagara Falls City School District. Julie spent 10 years as an on-air news reporter and anchor for the (former) WGRNewsradio 55 and as an assignment editor at WGRZ-TV. After her career in broadcast news, Doerr has spent several years working in public relations. She studied voice, tap, ballet and jazz

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dance at David De Marie Dance Studio, Michigan State University and the Community Music School of Buffalo. She attended Williamsville North High School and Michigan State University (broadcast journalism). Her favorite musicals include *Evita*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Les Miserables* and *The Lion King* and her favorite play is *Psycho Beach Party*.

DENNIS WILSON (Juan Perón/Director) Dennis, the production director and theatre arts teacher, is stepping in to the role of Juan Perón with only four rehearsals before opening night due to a need to replace a former cast member.

Dennis was born and raised in Niagara Falls, NY. He attended La Salle Senior High School and received a BA in English and Theatre Arts from Niagara University and a MEd in Education Administration from Grand Canyon University. Upon graduation from NU, Dennis became heavily involved in community theatre in Buffalo, NY. He relocated to New York City in 1995 and was immediately cast in theatrical productions. The next few years found Dennis engrossed in a professional acting career. He was blessed to be able to become a member of Actor's Equity

Association (AEA).

Dennis has performed in productions of: The National and Canadian Touring Companies of *Five Guys Named Moe* (Little Moe). Regional Credits include: *Once On This Island* (Papa Ge), *Toys In The Attic* (Gus), *Ain't Misbehavin* (Andre), *The Zoo Story* (Peter), *A Chorus Line* (Mike), *Cabaret* (Kit Kat Girl), *West Side Story* (Luis), *Dutchman* (Clay), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Apostle), *Hair* (Tribe Member). Dennis is an accomplished choreographer, having staged productions of *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Ragtime*, *The Wiz*, *Cabaret*, *West Side Story*, *The King and I*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. In 2005, Dennis founded Dendewil Productions, a theatrical company whose mission is to engage audiences minds long after they have left the theatre. Dennis also humbly adds the title of author to his list of credits, having written and self-published three books: *My Void My Voice* (Poetry 2012), *Eros Dennis* (Poetry 2013) and *Morning Coffee Thoughts* (Positive Affirmations 2016). Fun Fact about Dennis: Most recently, Dennis wrote his first web series, *The Therapist*, which had its world premiere on October 25, 2021. He wrote, directed and

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produced the series over the course of the past year. Subscribe to Dennis Anthony Wilson on YouTube to see the full season! He is also the self-proclaimed number one fan of Cheryl Ladd. Dennis currently teaches theatre arts at Niagara Falls High School. In his spare time, He loves to spend time with his two dogs Oliver (Ollie) and Thomas Henry (TH). LF Tink!!!!!!

JULIA PITARRESI (Young Eva Duarte). A 2021 NFHS graduate, Julia now attends The University of Buffalo where she majors in Theatre Performance. She has been enthralled with *Evita* since she was young, and is thrilled to be a part of this show! Julia performed in numerous productions during her time at NFHS, most notably playing the role of Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*; other NFHS productions include *Once on this Island* (Agwe), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Blanche) and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Community theatre credits include *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel) and *Beauty and the Beast* (*Theatre in the Mist*) and Teal's Niagara Theatre's production of *The Little Mermaid* (Ursula), to name a few.

AUDRIANNA YATES (Adult Eva Duarte de Perón) is ecstatic to be on the stage again! She is a Niagara

Falls High School graduate of the class of 2007. Throughout high school, she spent all of her time doing musicals and taking classes in theater/dance education. She was one of three students from Niagara Falls to have gone to the New York Summer School of the Arts (NYSSA) in NYC. After graduation, Audrianna went on to be a theater major with a dance minor. In college she danced with the Tanzen Dance Company, Buffalo Contemporary, and the Nakita Monet Dance Project. She then went on to work for the entertainment department for Busch Gardens Sea World for 6 seasons. Currently she is a dance teacher at Jaclyn Carols Dance Academy as well as a Director for the Niagara Experience Players. You may have seen her in former alumni shows such as *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Mary Magdalene) and *Smokey Joe's Café*. Other stage credits include *Anything Goes* (Erma), *Winnie the Pooh* (Rabbit), *Den of Thieves* (Maggie), *A Funny Thing...* (Tintinabula), *Les Misérables* (Eponine), just to name a few of her favorites. She is always so grateful for any chance to get on the stage. She would like to thank Dennis, Tommy, and Sue for this opportunity to not only get to do live theater again, but to be able to

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

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perform with some of her students and former students. She would also like to thank her friends and family for all of their love and support especially her parents! And of course a special thank you to my little guy, Cory, for being my number one fan, even though you think I sing to loud in the car.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

SUSAN MARCOLINI (Choreographer) is delighted to once again, join the talented students at NFHS. Some of her past credits include, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *A Chorus Line*, *Ragtime*, *Mame*, *Pippin*, and several more. She enjoyed working with the Niagara Experience Players for many years and holds a B.A. in dance from the University at Buffalo. She began choreographing for Niagara Falls High School in 1989 for a production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She is currently employed by the Niagara Falls City School District as a speech language pathologist.

RICH MERANTO (Technical Director) is in his 29th year of teaching at Niagara Falls High School. He teaches media production and helps the student in the program run the Our Schools

Channel, OSC. Rich is also the head coach of three Varsity sports at NFHS (Girls Soccer, Indoor and Outdoor track). As a tech director, Rich has built apartments, high school gyms, swimming pools, houses, apartments for homeless people, cruise ships, sports cars, small Russians villages (again), giant hairspray cans, schools, night clubs, burger stands, radio stations, courtrooms, French barricades, bridges, trains, libraries, restaurants, a town in Iowa, embassies, and even four hair salons . When he isn't doing all that he's probably watching Doctor Who. Most recently, Rich began with his family, Meranto Media, Inc., a company that helps cities, towns, school districts, churches, theatres, and small businesses design, create, and install a small media production studio which can produce and broadcast their events and programming for platforms like Facebook, YouTube, cable access channels and websites. <http://www.merantomedia.com>.

VERONICA SCHUCKER (Student Vocal Director) is currently the choral music director at NFHS after a long tenure teaching elementary vocal and choral music. Veronica has a Bachelor of Science (1990) and

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Masters of Music (1995) in Music Education, both from the State University College at Fredonia. Veronica has directed and vocal directed many elementary musicals as well as being Children's Vocal Director of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (2008) and Vocal Director of *Fiddler on the Roof* (2018) and *Once on this Island* (2019). She played keyboard in the pit orchestra for *Hairspray* (2017). Veronica is enjoying her work as vocal/choral director and class of 2019 Advisor at Niagara Falls High School and is thankful to work with energetic and creative students. Enjoy the show!

TOM VITELLO (Music and Vocal Director/Producer) is currently a Spanish teacher at Niagara Falls High School. Tom graduated from the State University of New York College at Buffalo in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Spanish Secondary Education and a Master of Science Degree in Education in May of 2000. Tom is also a 1995 graduate of Niagara County Community College where he earned an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts/Humanities - Social Science. Tom's has over 100 theatre credits to his name including: *Anything Goes!*, *The Pajama Game*, *Guys and Dolls*, *A Chorus Line*, *Forum*,

The Music Man, *Grease*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Godspell*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Company*, *Pippin*, *The Man of La Mancha*, *Evita*, *Children of Eden*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Annie*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Barry Manilow's Copacabana*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Ragtime*, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Addams Family*, *Hairspray* and *West Side Story*. Other music credits include: Handel's *Messiah*, Berlioz' *Messe Solennelle*, Mahler's *Symphony 8 - Symphony for a Thousand*, Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, and other selected works all performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Holy Trinity Lutheran Concert Choir. Tom served as the Music Director, Arranger and Studio Musician for two CD recordings, *My Father's Hymns* and *Broadway and Beyond*, by local artist Lee Stevens. In 2008, Tom performed in concert with Grammy Award Winner Kenny Loggins at Artpark. Tom has worked with the Drama Clubs of Lewiston-Porter, Starpoint, and Niagara Falls High School and has been on the production staff for several musical theatre productions at NCCC. Tom served as the Drama Club Advisor / Director for

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Niagara Catholic from 2000 to 2006. For the Fall 2005 semester, Tom was the Musical Director for the theatre department of Niagara County Community College. Tom proudly is co-founder of the Niagara Falls City School District Theatre Hall of Fame. In 2019, he was Co-Vocal Director at City Honors School in Buffalo for their production of *Mamma Mia!* Most recently, Tom was the Executive Producer of a new web series on YouTube that was written by his friend and colleague, Dennis Wilson, entitled, *The Therapist*, for which he also composed and recorded all the underscoring and theme song. Subscribe to Dennis Anthony Wilson on YouTube to see the full season of the *Therapist*. He would like to thank his husband, Jacob for being so supportive and patient with always needing to be at work so late and for always working the box office for every one of the NFHS theatre productions.

DENNIS WILSON (Director/Juan Perón) - See Cast Biographies

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mr. Mark Laurie, Superintendent of Schools
Members of the Niagara Falls Board of Education

Mrs. Cynthia Jones, Chief Educational Administrator

Mr. Bryan Rotella, Administrator

Mr. Ed. Ventry, Administrator

Mrs. Cheryl Vilaro, Administrator

Mrs. Veronica Schucker

Mr. James Moses

Mr. David Benko

Students of the NFHS Theatre and Media Classes

Mr. Randy Rieker and Mr. Nick Fagiani

Mr. Jacob Kopera, Ms. Barbara Rodgers and Ms. Judy Rodgers

Alumni and Parent Volunteers

NFHS Security Officers

Mr. Robert Touchette

EVITA

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRODUCER

Good evening, everyone! We're baaaack! Welcome to our 3rd annual alumni production. After what seemed like an eternity to performers everywhere around the country and around the world, live theatre is back! Although things are a little different, performers around the world are getting back to their craft making beautiful theatre art for audiences, including right here at our own Niagara Falls High School with this year's production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita*. Once again, we have a talented cast of alumni, faculty, staff, and even current students to bring this awesome production about the life of one of the world's most controversial women in history, former First Lady of Argentina, Eva Duarte de Perón. Rehearsals began roughly a month ago where the cast came together two to three times a week to learn the music and choreography. The process of assembling the cast during the ongoing pandemic was about as chaotic as the Perón era! Our cast is comprised of current theatre/chorus students and alumni including one from New York City who literally joined the cast two weeks ago, the day after his out-of-town theatre gig wrapped up in Wisconsin. Despite the chaos that usually comes with putting a production like this together, in addition to the great performances, the bridging of various alumni years of the various schools and the new friendships that are made are unbelievable. We have alumni from old NFHS, LaSalle Senior and Niagara Catholic that graduated in the 1970's 1980's and 1990's that have made great friends with our "new" NFHS graduates from the 2000's through as recent as 2021. In addition, they serve as mentors for our current students, showing them the value in theatre and how they can continue to perform and create after their high school graduation.

These alumni productions and all the alumni members of the cast volunteer to participate. The money raised from these shows contribute to the funds needed to sustain our current theatre program allowing us to do multiple productions and events during the year. In addition, the Theatre Department awards multiple scholarships to our outgoing seniors.

Moving forward, we hope to continue to bring alumni productions to the Niagara Falls City School District community. Dennis, Sue and I have a list of so many hopeful projects for the future, but we cannot do it without alumni. So if you are interested, we ask you to follow our alumni page on Facebook called "The Alumni Players of Niagara Falls High School". We post

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRODUCER (Continued)

all of our performance and audition information there. We know that auditioning is the most un-natural, nerve-wrecking experience a performer goes through. For our alumni productions, especially the musicals, we ask that those interested in participating come to auditions so that we can meet you and see where to place you in the show. Everyone that is a graduate of old and new Niagara Falls High School, LaSalle Senior High School, Trott, Niagara Catholic and/or is a current or retired employee of the Niagara Falls City School District is welcome to join us! We hope that you will join us in our future endeavors. We need you!

Before I close, I ask that you look at the back cover of this program and mark your calendars for our upcoming student productions of *Clue* (based on the the 1985 box office hit movie of the same title) in January and *Annie* in March featuring our high school students as well as students from the Prep and Elementary levels. Please come and see the tremendous talent that we have Niagara Falls High School Theatre Department. Just about everyone you will see tonight started in these high school productions. Please come and encourage them to continue their passion for theatre after they graduate. The students and production staff thank you in advance for your continued support.

So without further ado, please sit back and enjoy this theatrical concert experience of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Evita*!

Enjoy the show!

Tom Vitello, 2021



2021-2022 NFHS THEATRE SEASON COMING SOON!!!

Annie



LYRICS BY:
**MARTIN
CHARNIN**

MUSIC BY:
**CHARLES
STROUSE**

BOOK BY:
**THOMAS
MEEHAN**

**March 24 and 25, 2022 - 7PM
March 26, 2022 - 1PM and 7PM**

**Based on The Paramount Pictures Motion Picture
Based on the Hasbro board game CLUE**

Clue

Based on the screenplay by
Jonathan Lynn

Based on the screenplay by
Jonathan Lynn

January 13, 14 and 15, 2022 - 7PM