LPP THEATRICALS, LLC

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE starring Jamie Farr

Publicity Information

Production Bios

REJEAN CORNOYER, Mitch

Réjean Cournoyer is a French-Canadian actor born in Nova Scotia, partially raised in Québec, and has lived and worked across Canada.

He and Jamie enjoyed a very successful Canadian tour of Tuesday's with Morrie, and couldn't be happier to share this production with American audiences.  Selected theatre credits include Captain Von Trapp in "The Sound of Music", Javert in "Les Misérables", Sweeney Todd in "Sweeney Todd", Bill Sykes in "Oliver!", Ross in "A Few Good Men", Mr. Darcy in "Pride and Prejudice", and The Beast in "Beauty and the Beast".  He  has played leading roles at Canadian Stage, Neptune Theatre, The National Arts Centre, The Artsclub Theatre, Theatre Calgary, The Citadel Theatre, and close to every Regional Theatre from Newfoundland to British Columbia. His work in French includes Pélagie (Traduction Antonine Maillet), Don Quixote (L'Homme de la Mancha), Émile Nelligan (Glenn Gould Studio), and a bilingual recording of Jazz Standards and French Art songs, "The Very Thought of You".
Réjean has several nominations for various theatre awards in his home country, and one Actra Award for his work in the feature film, "The Event".

JAMIE FARR, Morrie

He was born Jameel Joseph Farah on July 1, 1934, in Toledo, Ohio, the only son of Samuel, a grocer and Jamilia, a seamstress.

His acting career began at 11 when he won $2 in a local talent contest. He graduated from Woodward High School with honors and was named Most Outstanding Student having served as President for three years. He also acted in and wrote various variety shows, was Features Editor of the school newspaper, President of the Radio Club and was a member of the National Honor Society. After graduating, he moved to Southern California where he attended the Pasadena Playhouse of Theatre Arts. He won his first film role as Santini in the MGM production “The Blackboard Jungle”. Jamie carved out a television career appearing as a regular on “The Red Skelton Show” before serving two years in the US Army where he was stationed in Korea. After discharge, he appeared as a regular on “The Danny Kaye Show” as well as CBS’s “the Chicago Teddy Bears”. Over the years Jamie has co-starred with Andy Griffith, Dick Van Dyke, Bob Hope, Milton Berle, Dean Martin and Lucille Ball.

During M\*A\*S\*H\*’s first season, Jamie was hired to play a phony transvestite bucking for a Section 8 Discharge. Something about the chomped cigar under the black veil and hairy legs under the flowing skirt immediately clicked with the producers and audience and Max Clinger was born. The weekly show would boast of 52 million viewers running 13 years and being voted *TV Guide’s* Best TV show of all time. The final two-hour episode aired on February 28, 1983 drawing a record 125 million viewers.

Jamie has appeared in numerous feature films including “The Greatest Story Ever Told” and the “Cannonball Run” films with Burt Reynolds and SCROOGED with Bill Murray.

He made his Broadway debut as Nathan Detroit in the long running revival of “Guys And Dolls” for which he received rave reviews. His other theatre credits include Scrooge in “A Christmas Carol”, Oscar Madison in the North American tour of “The Odd Couple”, Fagin in “Oliver”, George Burns in “Say Goodnight Gracie” and Morrie in the Canadian production of “Tuesdays With Morrie”.

Among the many awards Jamie has received is “The Ellis Island Medal of Honor”, honorary degrees from The University of Toledo and The Medical College of Ohio, “The Governor’s Award of Ohio”. He has a park in Toledo named after him as well as a Star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame. For 28 years he has hosted the LPGA’s Jamie Farr Classic at Toledo’s Highland Meadows Country Club attracting the best female golfers from around the world and raising millions of dollars for children’s charities in Northeast Ohio. Most recently, Jamie was honored with the Special Recognition Award at the 2016 Kahlil Gibran Sprit of Humanity Dinner.

Jamie has been married to Joy Richards for 50 years. They have two children, Jonas and Yvonne. In 2004 Jonas and his wife Pamela blessed Joy and Jamie with their first grandchild, Dorian.

**MITCH ALBOM-Author**

Mitch Albom is a best-selling author, a nationally acclaimed newspaper columnist (with the "Detroit Free Press"), a radio host (with WJR-AM), and a television commentator (with ESPN and ABC). His well-known book “Tuesdays With Morrie” is now the best-selling memoir of all time, with nearly ten million copies sold worldwide. Albom, along with playwright Jeffrey Hatcher, adapted the book into a hit play, which opened Off-Broadway in late 2002 and has been performed in regional theaters throughout North America. Albom’s first novel, “The Five People You Meet in Heaven,” was published in 2003 and was on the “New York Times” best-sellers list for two years. With a screenplay by Albom, “Five People” was adapted into an ABC movie that aired in December 2004 and starred Jon Voight, Ellen Burstyn, and Jeff Daniels. Albom has founded three charities in Detroit: “The Dream Fund,” “A Time To Help,” and “S.A.Y. Detroit,” which helps Detroit’s homeless. He serves on numerous charitable boards around the country and makes his home in suburban Detroit.

**JEFFREY HATCHER-Author**

Jeffrey Hatcher’s Broadway credits include: NEVER GONNA DANCE (book). Off-Broadway credits include: THREE VIEWINGS and A PICASSO at Manhattan Theatre Club; SCOTLAND ROAD and THE TURN OF THE SCREW at Primary Stages; TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE (with Mitch Albom) at The Minetta Lane; MURDER BY POE, THE TURN OF THE SCREW, and THE SPY at The Acting Company; NEDDY at American Place; and FELLOW TRAVELERS at Manhattan Punchline. Other credits/theaters include: COMPLEAT FEMALE STAGE BEAUTY, MRS. MANNERLY, MURDERERS, MERCY OF A STORM, SMASH, ARMADALE, KORCZAK'S CHILDREN, TO FOOL THE EYE, THE FALLS, A PIECE OF THE ROPE, ALL THE WAY WITH LBJ, THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR, DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE and others at The Guthrie, Old Globe, Yale Rep, The Geffen, Seattle Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, South Coast Rep, Arizona Theater Company, San Jose Rep, The Empty Space, Indiana Rep, Children’s Theater Company, History Theater, Madison Rep, Intiman, Illusion, Denver Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Rep, Repertory Theater of St. Louis, Actors Theater of Louisville, Philadelphia Theater Company, Asolo, City Theater, Studio Arena and dozens more in the U.S. and abroad. Film and Television credits include: “Stage Beauty,” “Casanova,” “The Duchess,” and episodes of “Columbo.” Grants/Awards: NEA, TCG, Lila Wallace Fund, Rosenthal New Play Prize, Frankel Award, Charles MacArthur Fellowship Award, McKnight Foundation, Jerome Foundation, and Barrymore Award Best New Play, IVEY Award Best New Play. He is a member and/or alumnus of The Playwrights Center, the Dramatists Guild, the Writers Guild, and New Dramatists.

**WILLIAM ROGERS-Producer**

Formerly the Artistic Director of Lake Pepin Players, Bill has produced successful North American tours of LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS starring Gary Burghoff from M\*A\*S\*H which he also directed, and THE ODD COUPLE starring Jamie Farr and William Christopher from M\*A\*S\*H\* (co-produced with Troupe America). During his 12 year run working with his wife Sally at Lake Pepin Players in Pepin, Wisconsin he co-produced productions of ANYTHING GOES starring Ron Palillo and Emmy winner Beth Maitland, THE FANTASTICKS starring Gary Sandy, THE NERD starring Ron Palillo, AN EVENING WITH DOC BAKER starring Kevin Hagen as well as LOVE LETTERS and HARVEY starring William Christopher.

THE STORY:

 TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE is the autobiographical story of Mitch Albom, an accomplished journalist driven solely by his career, and Morrie Schwartz, his former college professor. Sixteen years after graduation, Mitch happens to catch Morrie's appearance on a television news program and learns that his old professor is battling Lou Gehrig's Disease. Mitch is reunited with Morrie, and what starts as a simple visit turns into a weekly pilgrimage and a last class in the meaning of life.

**Reviews of the Toronto Production**

Jamie Farr… he’s absolutely amazing. Only someone with the lifetime of experience Farr has would know how to make Morrie so real, so funny and yet so profound at the same time. With Farr in control, there’s nothing maudlin on stage, and all of Morrie’s sage observations are couched in a dry wit that Farr delivers brilliantly.

Equally good is Rejean Cournoyer’s Mitch, a guy who’s become so successful in his career, he hasn’t had time to really live. Looking like a young Tom Hanks and acting full out, Cournoyer gives Farr a good, tough performance to play off, and the combination is killer.

 Ron Ulrich’s production, … doesn’t put a foot wrong.

**Reviews of the New York Production**

"Unforgettable! No matter how well you tell the story, the play makes it more vivid, more shattering, more humorous." —NY Magazine. "Making the language of the book crisper, cleverer and more palatable…aphoristic wisdom, expressed with gallows wit." —NY Times. "A touching, life-affirming, deeply emotional drama with a generous dose of humor." —NY Daily News. "I was unprepared for how moving and powerful TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE turned out to be…On this ground, the flowers of humanity grow." —NY Post. "You'll Laugh! You'll Cry!" —Variety. "The evening has an aura of celebration. Just what the doctor ordered, you are likely to be moved." —Journal News. "Rewarding. Go see it any day of the week." —WOR-AM.