

THE CABARET THEATRE

25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



Directed By Alice Daken
Music & Lyrics By Pete Townshend



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Music Theatre International

Cast

(In order of appearance)

MRS. WALKER	ROSE FRITZKY
CAPTAIN WALKER	MATHEW REIFFE
UNCLE ERNIE	JOSEPH TRELOAR
LOVER	JOHN ROCHETTE
NARRATOR / TOMMY	JON MATTHIAS
TEN-YEAR-OLD TOMMY	COURTNEY MERLO
COUSIN KEVIN	PATRICK KELLY
HAWKER	JESSE FROLA
ACID QUEEN	CRISTY HUPPACH
SALLY SIMPSON	JENNIFER O'BRIEN

ENSEMBLE

CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY	KATIE HAYES
DARCY LoGRASSO	CHRIS MATTHIAS
MARK URTULA	ANNIE HOWE
CARL GRIESSER	SARAH BREAN
THERESA RICCARDI	
Dance Captain	

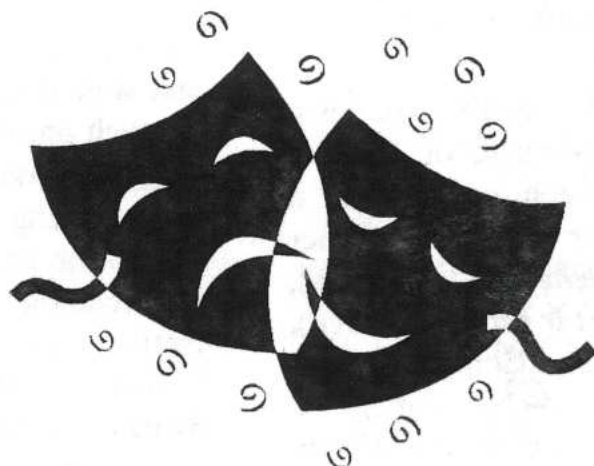
Staff

DIRECTOR.....	ALICE DAKEN
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	SEAN MORRIS
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....	PATRICK McGLONE
STAGE MANAGER.....	ALEXIS BOYD
CHOREOGRAPHER.....	KYLE ARLINGTON
COSTUME MISTRESS.....	MELISSA ELIAS
REHEARSAL PIANIST.....	CHRISTYNN CARDINO

Orchestra

SEAN HESS.....	GUITAR 1
KEVIN AURILIO.....	GUITAR 2
MARC DONDERO.....	DRUMS
CHRISTYNN CARDINO.....	PIANO
SEAN MORRIS.....	CONDUCTOR

There will be a 15-minute intermission after
“Pinball Wizard”

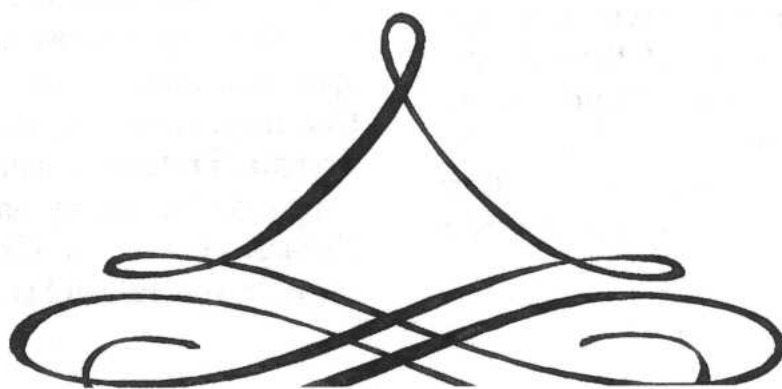


A Note from the Director:

The Story of Tommy—the deaf, dumb, and blind pinball champion—has been told and retold through medium after medium. It has been a sell-out rock and roll phenomenon for The Who, a production by the London Symphony Orchestra, a Canadian Ballet, a hit movie, and finally a Broadway Musical—everything short of “Tommy on Ice.” And now, it is the Cabaret Theatre Season Opener. “Tommy” can be told by one person with a guitar, or by the largest Broadway cast, as long as the message remains the same: It is through other people that we experience life. The answer is not to shut ourselves away, going deaf, dumb, and blind, it is, as Peter Townshend put it, that “freedom lies here in reality.” Our lives are stories that are written not by us, but by the people we encounter and interact with. Because, as the song goes...

*“Listening to you, I get the music.
Gazing at you, I get the heat.
Following you, I climb the mountain.
I get excitement at your feet.”*

--Alice Daken



Who's Who in the Cast

In No Particular Order:

Patrick Michael Kelly (Cousin Kevin)- a recent graduate of Rutgers College was last seen on tour as a featured dancer for N'SYNC. Other Credits include *Sweeney Todd* (Tobias), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Pontius Pilate), The Rutgers Opera Company, and Kirkpatrick Choir. In November, he will begin filming *Waiting for Guffman II: Back to Blain* with his idol Christopher Guest. He would like to thank everyone for their love and support, including his wonderful family, 104 Louis Street, 64 Louis Street, Eugene, Liana, and Debbie.

Cristy Huppach (Acid Queen) is very excited about pole dancing in *Tommy*. Previous credits include *Sweeney Todd* (Johanna), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Simon), *Into the Woods* (Witch), *All My Sons* (Ann), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel). Christy would like to thank Alice and Sean for giving her this opportunity as well as her family and friends for their love and support. Much love to 64 B and Brian. I love my red boots.

Annie Howe (Ensemble) (Yes you read right: "Anyhow") Have you ever seen *Cats* on Broadway? *Les Miserables*? Well so has Annie. Was she in them? Nope. But you can catch her on Broadway this January in *Miss Saigon* as Kim. Love to Ricardo Montalban and little green men named Keanu or Rajiv. Shout outs to Mom, Dad, and everyone else from back home.

Courtney Merlo (Young Tommy) As a freshman, this is Courtney's first performance at the Cabaret Theatre. She would like to thank friends and family who have been there since the beginning. Love to all of the cast and crew—especially the "Late Night Crew" (4 AM Baby!), you know who you are, and Darcy (Yeah Butt Buddies). To all that inquired: "Not gonna happen!!"

Rose Ellen Fritzky (Mrs. Walker) will be playing Tommy's basket case of a mother. Rose is a first-year at Rutgers and was grateful for the opportunity to do such an awesome show! She'd like to thank Doug—for calling her a fool and making her go to call-backs, John—for accompanying her, Mark—for lending her his lucky number twelve, and all of her family and friends—for being so wonderful.

Mathew Reiffe (Captain Walker) Mat is a 6th year senior majoring in Swimming. This is his third year gracing Cabaret's stage. You may remember his past roles as "Peter" in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (On Broadway) and "Jerome" from *Merrily We Roll Along* (European Tour). He would like to thank his friends, his family, and his girlfriend Sugar.

Jon Matthias (Tommy) is excited to get his rock on with such a great cast. Previous Cabaret credits include: co-writing and directing *Santa's Not Real and Other Fairy Tales* with Christopher Buckley. Thanks to everyone who came to see him. Also: thanks to anyone who had a really good excuse. Come see *Theater ADD* in December.

Jennifer O'Brien (Sally Simpson) Jennifer is recently returning from a world tour with Christina Aguilera. If you didn't catch her on the tour, you may have seen her in past productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Into The Woods*. She would like to thank her family and friends, especially Bea Arthur for her inspiration—thank you for being a friend.

Darcy LoGrasso (Ensemble) Darcy is a first-year at Rutgers. She's having an amazing first experience with Cabaret Theatre, and would like to thank everyone who kept her up all hours of the night—you know who you are. A special thanks to her family, Shayna, Courtney: screaming in elevators.

Joseph Treloar (Uncle Ernie) I am happy to be doing another show at Cabaret. I was in *Crazyface*, which none of you remember. And for those

of you who do....props. I would like to take this opportunity to make it clear that I am NOT like my character in the least. I am actually the antithesis, I am an angel (cue really cool angel sounds). That being said, sit back and engross yourself in a night of theater. (Remember, I'm really sweet...truly I am).

John Rochette (Lover) This is John's debut performance at Cabaret, and he's excited to be the one who "makes it" with Tommy's Mom and starts all the trouble. You may remember him from such classics as *Cloud Nine* and *Sweeney Todd* from last year. This year, he will be understudying the *Phantom* on Broadway, and this summer he will be touring as frontman with Van Halen, F-off David Lee Roth!!!

Mark Urtula (DJ / Ensemble) Mark has been performing at Cabaret for almost six years. One never knows when he'll pop up again. Maybe when or if he gets his senior gift, which is two years late now, he may stop auditioning. (Hint, Hint)

Chris Matthias (Ensemble) Chris just wandered in for the popcorn, and now he's in the show. Extra special thanks to Kerri for all her support. I love you.

Sarah Brean (Ensemble) Sarah likes the Smurfs (and her first show at Cabaret). Hey, admit it, you do too. Come on, we all did when we were kids. What was that cat's name anyway? Oh yeah, Azrael. Let's all praise him. Thanks to my wonderful family and to Dan for always loving and supporting me.

Theresa Riccardi (Ensemble/Dance Captain) Hey, how are you doing? (This is where you ask how I'm doing...) I am doing quite well, thanks for asking. Actually, I'm really excited to be part of this production. And here is where I shall thank those involved (meaning the cast, the crew, even you!). Thank You! Enjoy the show.

Jesse Frola (Hawker / Specialist) Hi! I'm Jesse, and I like theater, acting,

singing and dancing. My experience involves lots of plays and choir singing, as well as martial arts and raving (both have improved my dancing exponentially). I shall send "shout outs" to my family, my loving girlfriend Arielle, and my High School guidance counselor. (I should have listened and gone into theater) I need to go find some sugar and glowsticks now! Candy Kids of the world unite!

Carl Griesser (Ensemble) Carl grew up in Canada, where he was an apprentice to a shoe cobbler. After 15 years of rigorous hockey training, Carl transferred to Rutgers and soon realized that it lacked a hockey team. Downtrodden, but not disheartened, Carl decided to partake in what Canadians do best: acting in its purest and simplest form. He will soon join the ranks of Robert Stack, Michael J. Fox, and Alex Trebec. This is his first Rutgers performance.

Christopher Buckley (Ensemble) Christopher was last seen as Jen O'Brien in *The Life and Times of Annie Howe*. No thanks to the Bitchin for constantly breaking down. Thanks to 91/2 conduct and love to Stephanie and the Family. I still like tacos. Come see *Theater ADD* which Chris co-wrote and is co-directing. Shout out to Katie Hayes. Chris also co-wrote and directed last year's *Merely Players* and *Santa's Not Real (And Other Fairy Tales)*.

Katie Hayes (Ensemble) Katie only accepted her role in *Tommy* after her dreams of becoming the next Spice Girl were brutally shattered—yeah Jen O'Brien. You may have seen her last year in *Sweeney Todd* eating lots of pies. Katie had loads of fun with the cast and shakin' what her Momma gave her. Shout out to Chris Buckley. Love and thanks to her family, friends, cast and crew, and Patrick Kelly for those thoughts about her. And YES, she does have an accent.

Who's Who in the Crew

Alice Daken (Director) Alice is thrilled to be returning to the Cabaret Theatre with such a talented cast and crew. Mom & Dad—hope I made you proud. Kenny, Lex, and Patrick—thank God for theater, how else would we have met? Sean and Christynn—I'd feed you all the time if I could. Kyle—You would have made Lil' Kim, the future Mrs. Arlington, proud. Melissa—next time, everyone in black. Chris—it's no Godzilla Fest, but it's all you're getting. 3 down, you know the rest.

Sean Morris (Musical Director) This is Sean's fourth time musically directing and he is thrilled to be working with such a talented cast and crew. This is his favorite show and he hopes he can do it justice. Now, actual thanks to my family & friends for putting up with my absence. And to my lovely Christynn, I love you. It's true, It's true!

Patrick McGlone (Technical Director) Patrick is excited to be designing another show with Alice, Alexis, Kyle, Melissa, Mark and Kenny. To the cast: You guys are amazing. Great Job! To Kyle and Melissa: I can fix that with lighting. To Alice and Alexis: The dynamic trio managed to survive another show! To Sean and Cristynn: ROCK ON! To my friends and family: "You're the reason I feel so alive." Patrick's previous technical design credits include *Godspell*, Six Flags Great Adventure, Hamilton Theatre, Grice Theatre, *Peter Pan*, and others.

Alexis Boyd (Stage Manager) I did it all for the nookie?

Kyle Arlington (Choreographer) Kyle is excited to be working with the talented cast and crew of *Tommy*. In addition to this Cabaret production, Kyle has choreographed such shows as *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Joseph*, *West Side Story*, and *Godspell*. Kyle would like to thank the dancers for all their hard work.

Melissa Elias (Costume Mistress) Melissa is thrilled to be working again with Alice, Kyle, Alexis, Patrick, and Kenny. Acting as costume mistress for *Tommy* has been a different experience than her last musical, *Godspell*. Melissa would like to say "Thank You" to the cast and crew, and thank God that they are not naked!

Christynn Cardino (Rehearsal Pianist) This is Christynn's first time working with Cabaret Theatre. Thanks to Mum and Dad for love, support, and free laundry, Mara and Lisa, Alice, Alexis for the sugar rushes, and the rest of the lovely cast and crew, Special thanks to Pete Townshend for not being Stephen Soundheim. Biggest thanks to Sean for being such a great teacher, friend, and boyfriend. (It's True, It's True) I Love You.

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At this time, the cast and crew of "Tommy" wish to extend their sincere gratitude to all of our benefactors and sponsors. A special thanks to The O'Connors, Mr. Reiffe, Brian Hanscom, Julie Sinistore, Laura Creamer, Ariana Martinez, Carolyn Thomas, and all others who made this production possible.

Thank You.

Cabaret Staff

2000 – 2001

Stephanie Wolf.....	Producer
Kenneth Lew.....	Associate Producer
Paul Sluck.....	Artistic Director
Cristy Huppach.....	Secretary
Michael S. Brown.....	Technical Director
Alexa Shaughnessy.....	Business Manager
Brian Hanscom.....	Master Electrician
Chris Dingman.....	Audio Engineer
Christopher Buckley.....	Special Projects
Kerri Allen.....	Special Projects
Jon Matthias.....	Marketing Director
Chris Dingman.....	Web Master
Inga Meire.....	Writer's Program
Alan Joos.....	Director's Program
Kate Lanz.....	Director's Program
Jenn Womack.....	House Manager
Melissa McColluch.....	House Manager
Eileen Malone.....	House Manager
Michelle Eannucci.....	Box Office
Vijay Ramanathan.....	Box Office
Jenn Womack.....	Box Office
Michelle Shin.....	Cast Manager

Mission Statement

“Cabaret Theatre is a non-profit organization located on the Douglas Campus of Rutgers University. Entirely student managed, the Cabaret Theatre receives no financial assistance from the University, and is dependent upon receipts from previous events to fund its new productions. Since 1975, the Cabaret Theatre has been committed to providing the University and its surrounding community with a wide variety of theatrical experiences, as well as offering a forum for students to learn about acting, directing, writing, business-management, design and construction through various workshops and hands-on experience.”